

A large, stylized house icon in a dark purple color, featuring a gabled roof, a large arched doorway, and a window with four panes. It is positioned in the upper half of the cover.

Focus on Homelessness

Mid-West

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Challenging homelessness. Changing lives.

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Introduction

Focus Ireland and the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin have collaborated for over a decade to bring high quality and up-to-date research on homelessness to a wider audience and into the core of public policy formation. This series ‘Focus on Homelessness’ aims to build on the success of our research partnership by making the now substantial body of data published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and other State Agencies working in the area of Housing and Homelessness, available in an accessible format.

Since 2020, Focus on Homelessness has provided an overview of key trends in the number of households experiencing homelessness in Ireland in recent years, the number of entries into and exits from emergency accommodation, length of stay in emergency accommodation and the expenditure on these services. Special editions of Focus on Homelessness have examined Adult-Only Homelessness, Gender and Homelessness, patterns of homelessness in each of the nine regions and ‘A Decade of Homelessness’ data. All previous editions of Focus on Homelessness can be found [here](#).

This Focus on Homelessness edition will take a closer look at homelessness around the country by providing a detailed report for each of the nine Local Authority administrative regions that organise homelessness services, covering the period from mid-2014 to mid-2025. A combined report will also be published which will draw general observations on trends in homelessness in Ireland over this eleven-year period.

This is the second iteration of regional analysis of homelessness in the Focus on Homelessness series. The previous Focus on Homelessness edition on regional trends analysed the changes between 2014 and 2021. This iteration will compare figures in 2025 to both 2021 and 2014. Current figures are compared to two separate points in time as it shows how the introduction and subsequent ending of certain COVID-19 policies have impacted homelessness¹. This edition will also analyse a number of new data trends around aspects of homelessness that have become available since 2022.

This report looks at homelessness in the Mid-West region of Ireland. This includes Limerick and Clare.

1 The two most relevant temporary measures were a moratorium on evictions and a rent freeze. The moratorium on the termination of rental tenancies on all grounds was in place between March and August 2020. Evictions were permitted under limited circumstances during the 2nd and 3rd lockdowns, from October 2020 to November 2020 and from January 2021 to April 2021 respectively.

Prevention²

Figure 1 shows the number of adults who were assessed³ as homeless under Section 2 of the *Housing Act, 1988* by the two Mid-West Local Authorities, but were provided with other housing options and so were prevented from entering emergency accommodation between 2022 and 2025. The average number of such preventions per quarter in 2025 so far, was 41 – a 35.9% reduction from 2024’s quarterly average of 64 but an increase from 2022 and 2023. While there is variance, the largest number of preventions have generally been through Approved Housing Body (AHB) lettings and Local Authority (LA) lettings. In Q2 2025, 40.5% (n=17) of preventions came from LA lettings, followed by AHB lettings (35.7%, n=15) and the Private Rented Sector (PRS) (23.8%, n=10).

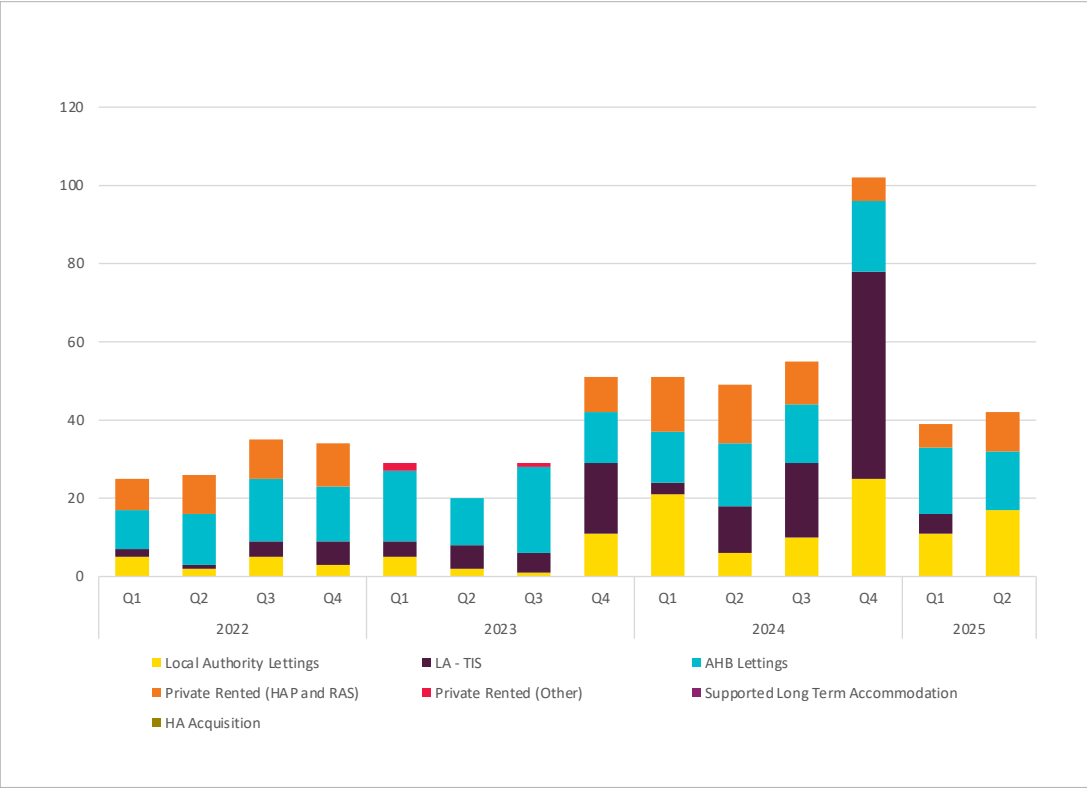


Figure 1: Adult Preventions from Entering Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

2 Data on prevention is only available from Q1 2022 onwards.

3 Note that legislation uses the term ‘regarded ... as being homeless’ rather than ‘assessed’.

Presentations to Emergency Accommodation

Figure 2 shows the number of adult individuals who were assessed as homeless under Section 2 of the *Housing Act, 1988* by the two Local Authorities in the Mid-West and *provided with emergency or temporary accommodation*. In 2024, an average of 149 adults were provided with emergency accommodation per quarter in the Mid-West, compared to 74 per quarter in 2021 and 135 per quarter in 2014. In the first half of 2025, 148 adults were provided with emergency accommodation on average per quarter.

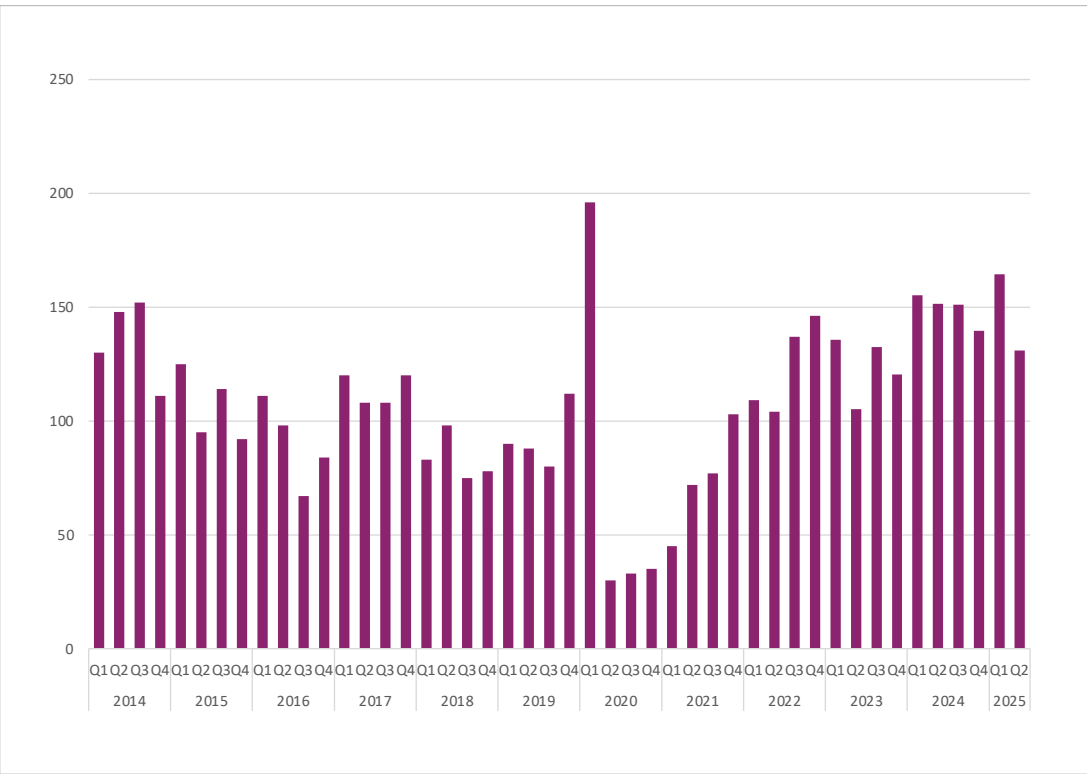


Figure 2: New Adult Presentation to Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

Drivers of Entries to Emergency Accommodation

Figure 3 shows two of the most frequent explanations given by *households* for becoming homeless and entering emergency accommodation: Leaving Direct Provision and No-Fault Notices of Termination (NoTs)⁴. In Q2 2025, 25 households (20.8%) stated a No-Fault Notice of Termination (NoT) as their reason for presenting as homeless and entering emergency accommodation in the Mid-West, while no households stated it was due to leaving Direct Provision.

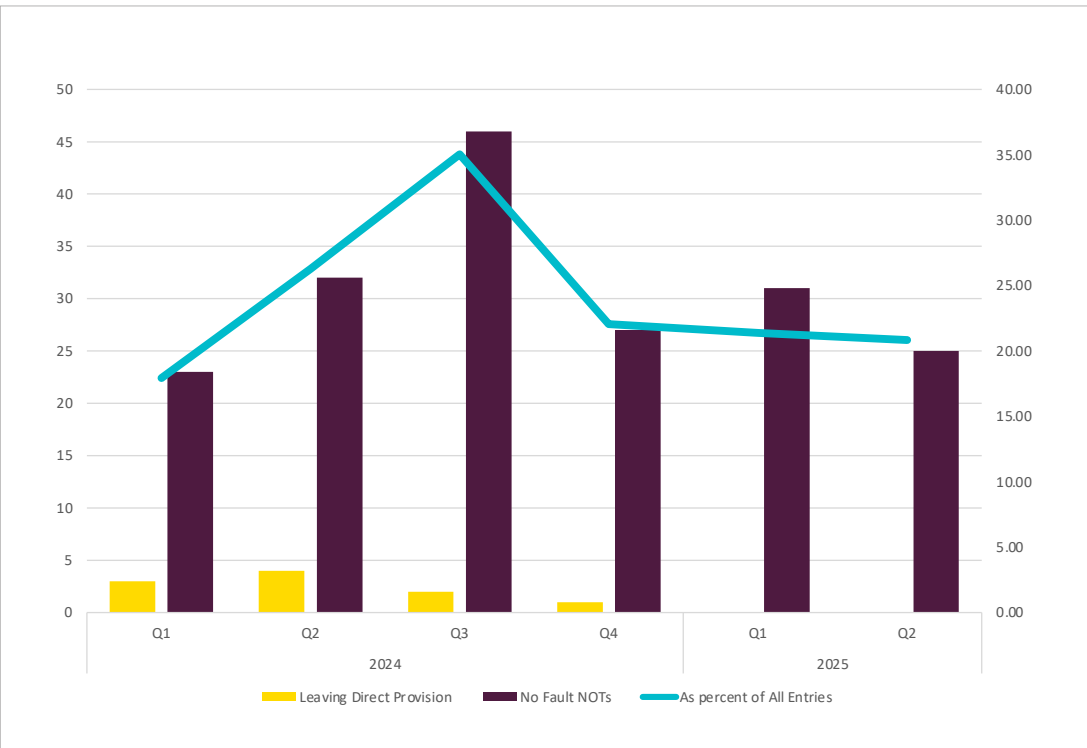


Figure 3: No Fault Terminations of Tenancy and Leaving Direct Provision as Reasons for Households Entering Emergency Accommodation, and as a Percentage of all Entries in the Mid-West Q1 2024-Q2 2025⁵

While the number of people entering emergency accommodation because of Direct Provision is extremely low in the Mid-West (highest was 4 households in Q2 2024), No-Fault NoTs consistently represent around a fifth of households entering emergency accommodation in the Mid-West (highest point was 35% in Q3 2024).

⁴ While there are a number of reasons given for entering emergency accommodation, we are highlighting Leaving Direct Provision and No-Fault NoTs as these are objective explanations and are not themselves the result of other longer-term issues – e.g. a household may cite family circumstances as a reason for entering emergency accommodation, but they may have been staying with family for some time before contacting homeless services as a result of a No Fault NoT.

⁵ Data is only available from Q1 2024 onwards.

Household Composition of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 4 shows the number of *adult-only households* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West at a point-in-time (the third week of each month), and as a percentage of all homeless adult-only households in Ireland. The number of adult-only households in emergency accommodation have experienced periods of increase and decrease since 2014 but experienced a relatively steady period of increase in 2024. Since the beginning of 2025 the numbers have dropped slightly, from 394 in January 2025 to 362 in June 2025.

The number of adult-only households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West has increased by 48.3% since June 2021 (n=244) and 69% since June 2014 (n=214). There were 362 adult-only households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West in June 2025.

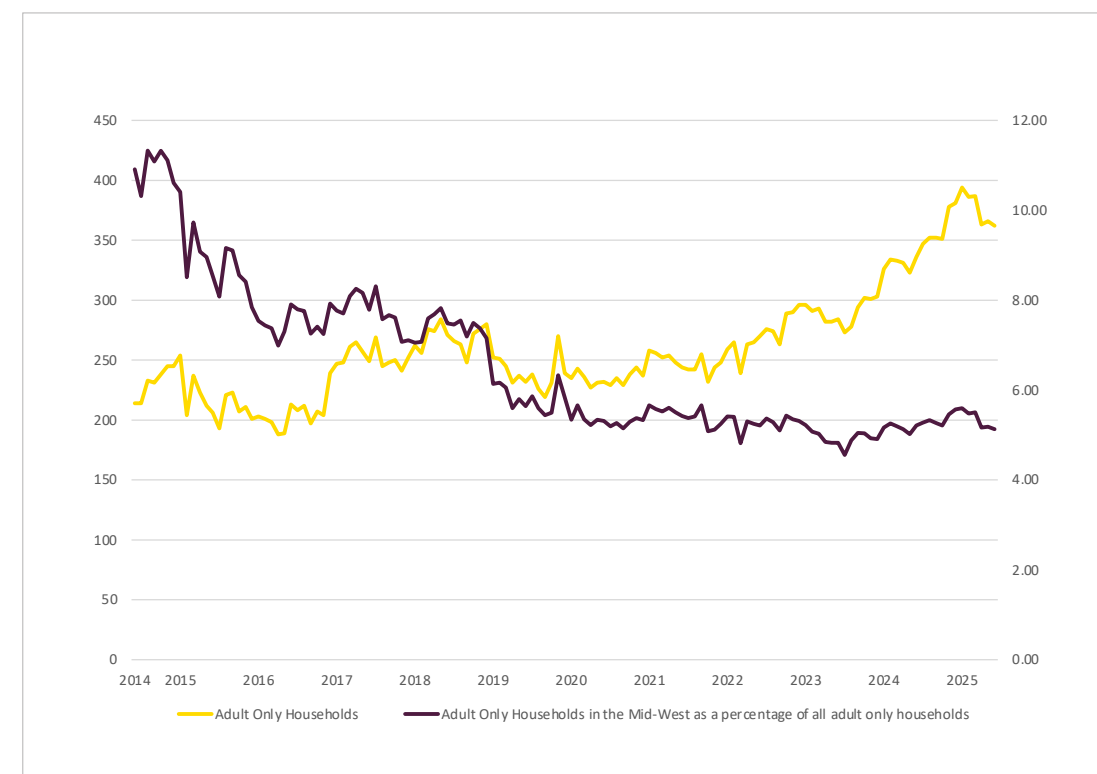


Figure 4: Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West and as a Percentage of all Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

Adult only households in the Mid-West make up 5.1% of all adult-only households in Ireland as of June 2025. This percentage has reduced slightly since June 2021 (5.4%) and June 2014 (10.9%) - indicating that adult-only homelessness is increasing more slowly in the Mid-West than in other parts of the country.

Figure 5 shows the number of *families* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West, as well as homeless families in the Mid-West as a percentage of all families in emergency accommodation in Ireland. The number of families in homeless services has risen since 2014, although it experienced a temporary large reduction in 2020-2022 (with the decline starting prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating over the period when pandemic protection measures were in place⁶), before experiencing a significant rise after these protections ended.

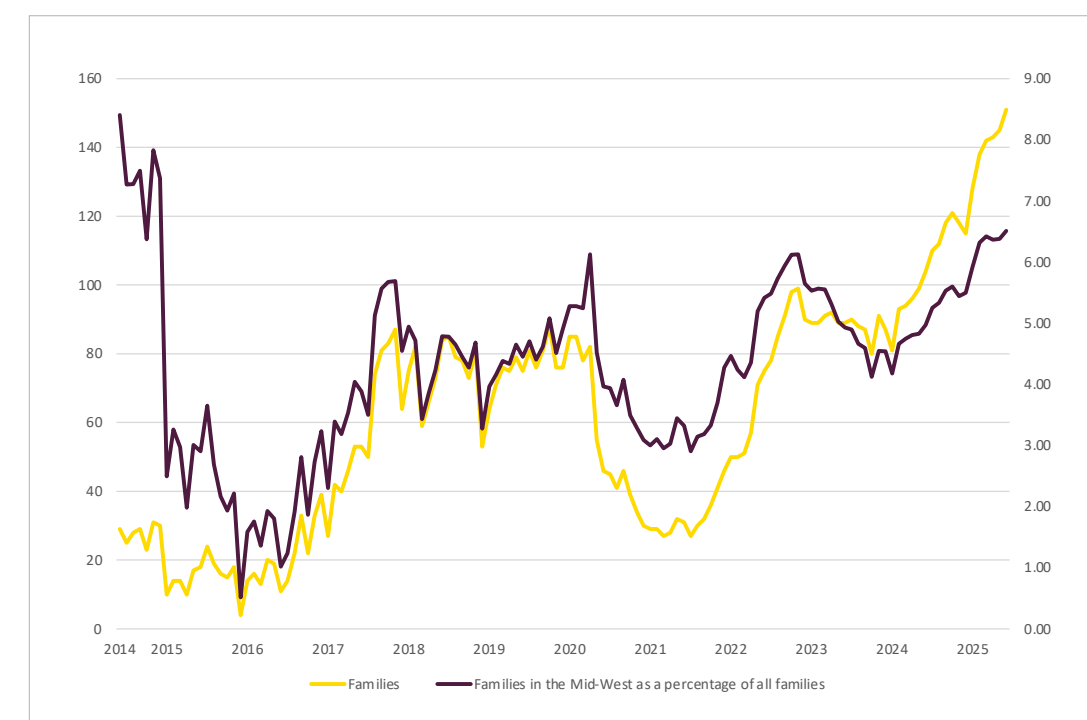


Figure 5: Families in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West and as a Percentage of all Families in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

The number of families in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West has increased by 387.1% since June 2021 (n=31) and 420.7% since June 2014 (n=29). In June 2025 there were 151 families in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West.

Families in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West make up 6.5% of all families in emergency accommodation nationally as of June 2025. This is a higher proportion than in June 2021 (3.3%) but a lower proportion than June 2014 (8.4%).

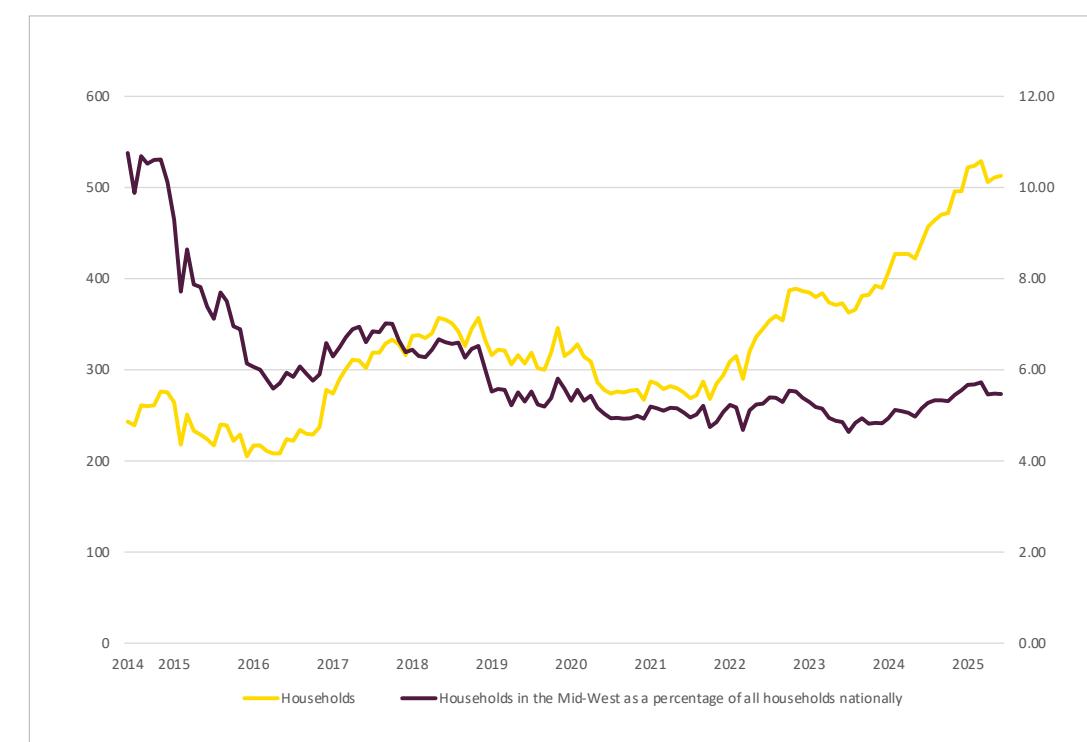


Figure 6: Households in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West and as a Percentage of Households in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

⁶ See the previous iteration of Focus on Homelessness: regional trends for further discussion.

Figure 6 shows the total number of *all households* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West, and the number of households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West as a percentage of all households in emergency accommodation in Ireland. Household numbers experienced a small reduction 2019-2021 (largely due to the temporary reduction in families as noted above) but have seen increases since then.

The number of households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West has increased by 86.5% since June 2021 (n=275) and 111.1% since June 2014 (n=243). There were 513 households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West in June 2025

Households in the Mid-West make up 5.5% of the total households in emergency accommodation nationally as of June 2025. This a slight increase from June 2021 (5.1%) but a decrease from June 2014 (10.76%).

Figure 7 shows the number of child dependents in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West and the number of child dependents in the Mid-West as a percentage of all child dependents in emergency accommodation in Ireland. The trend of child dependents follows a similar pattern to families, with a large decrease occurring 2020-2021 and increases from 2022-2025.

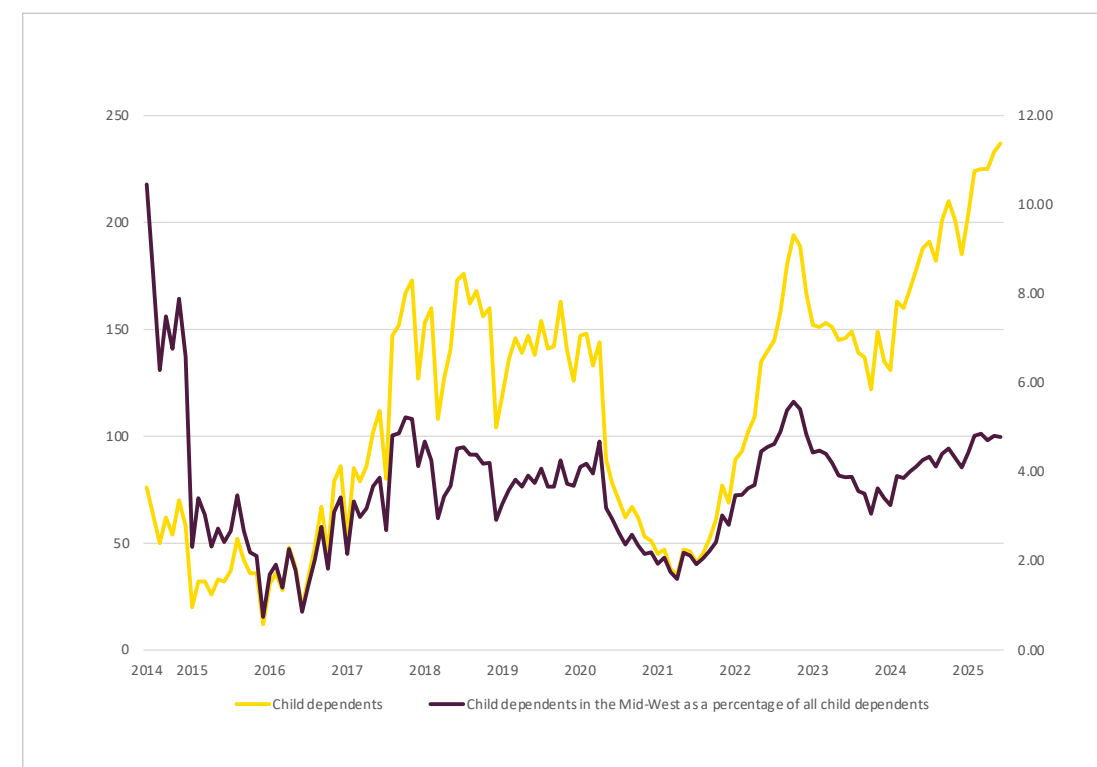


Figure 7: Child Dependents in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West and as a Percentage of all Child Dependents Nationally, 2014-2025

The number of child dependents in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West has increased by 415.2% since June 2021 (n=46), and 211.8% since June 2014 (n=76). There were 237 child dependents in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West in June 2025.

Child dependents in the Mid-West make up 4.8% of child dependents in emergency accommodation nationally. This is an increase since June 2021 (2.1%), but a reduction since June 2014 (10.5%).

Age profile of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 8 shows the age profile of those in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West region. 25-44 year olds make up the majority of adults in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West, at 54.5% in June 2025 – a slight decrease from 60.9% in June 2021. The 65+ category remains the smallest age category, with a slight decrease from 1.8% in June 2021 to 1.4% in June 2025.

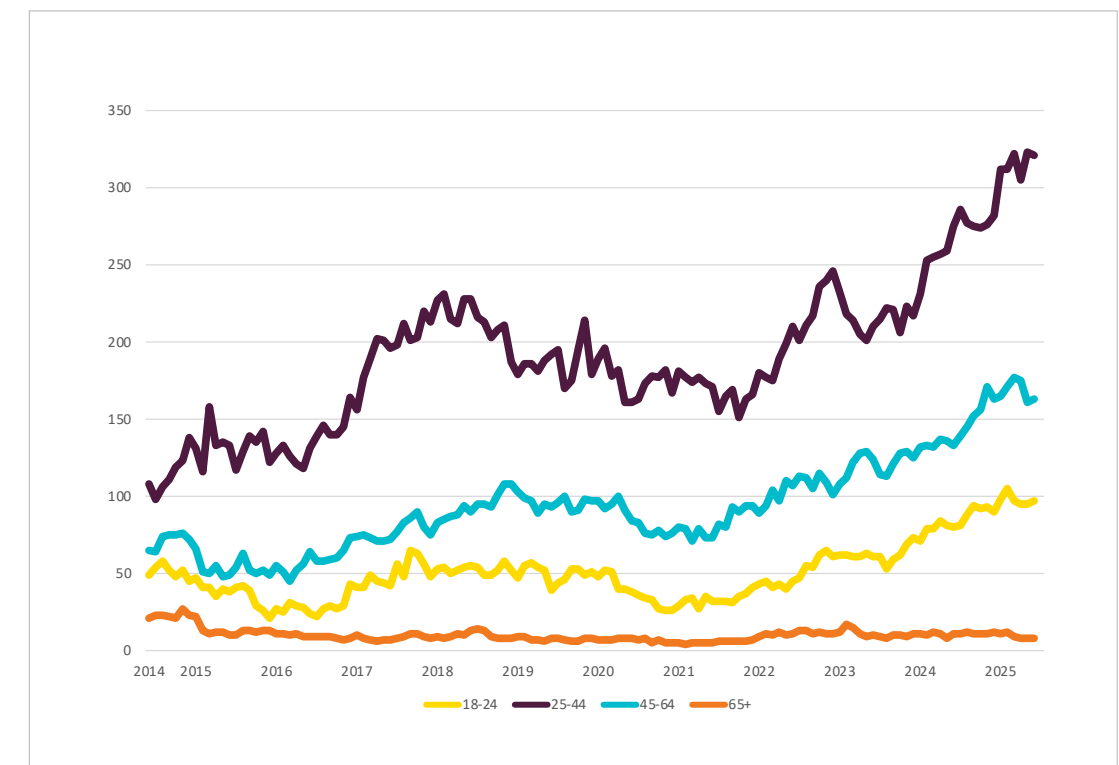


Figure 8: Age Profile of Adults in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West, 2014-2025

The number of **18-24 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 97 in June 2025 – an increase of 203.1% since June 2021 (n=32) and 98% since June 2014 (n=49).

The number of **25-44 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 321 in June 2025 – an increase of 87.7% since June 2021 (n=171) and 197.2% since June 2014 (n=108).

The number of **45-64 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 163 in June 2025 – an increase of 123.3% since June 2021 (n=73) and 150.8% since June 2014 (n=65).

The number of **65+** in emergency accommodation was 8 in June 2025 – an increase of 60% since June 2021 (n=5) and a decrease of 61.9% since June 2014 (n=21).

Gender and Emergency Accommodation

Figure 9 shows the gender breakdown of *all adults* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West. As of June 2025, there were 312 men and 277 women in emergency accommodation, which is a ratio of 53:47. The proportion of women in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West was higher in June 2025 (47.3%) than in June 2021 (30.6%) and June 2014 (35.39%).

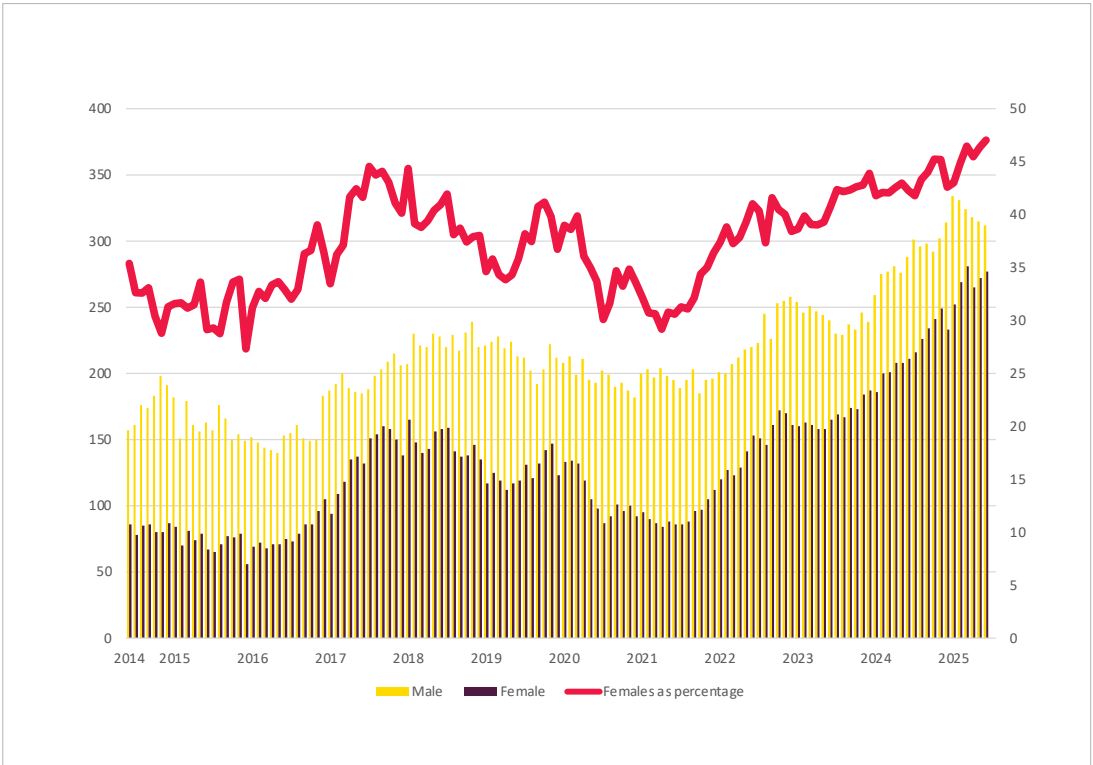


Figure 9: Adults in Temporary and Emergency Accommodation by Gender, and Females as a Percentage of all Adults in the Mid-West, 2014-2025

The number of men in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West has increased by 60% since June 2021 (n=195) and by 98.7% since June 2014 (n=157). In comparison the number of women in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West has increased by 262.8% since June 2021 and June 2014 (n=86⁷).

7 There were the same number of women (n=86) in emergency accommodation in both June 2014 and June 2021.

Citizenship of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 10 shows the citizenship breakdown of *all adults* in emergency accommodation between April 2022 and June 2025⁸. In June 2025 there were 451 Irish citizens (76.6%), 55 UK/EEA citizens (9.3%) and 83 non-EEA citizens (14.1%) in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West.

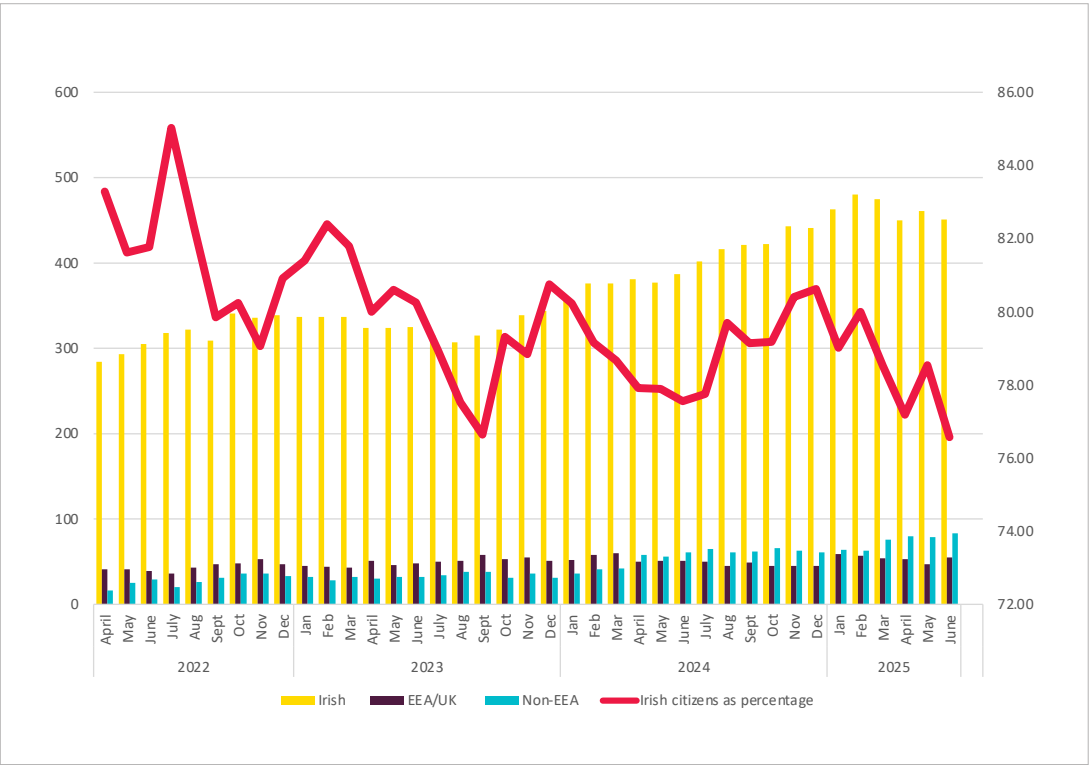


Figure 10: Citizenship of Adults in Local Authority Funded Emergency and Temporary Accommodation in the Mid-West, April 2022-July 2025

Non-EEA citizens have seen the largest increase, from 16 in April 2022 to 83 in June 2025 – a 418.8% increase in 3 years.

While the number of Irish citizens in emergency accommodation has risen since 2022, they represent a declining proportion of the total number of adults in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West, falling from 83.3% in April 2022 to 76.6% in June 2025.

8 Data only available from April 2022 onwards.

Emergency Accommodation providers

Figure 11 shows the types of emergency accommodation in use in the Mid-West. There are three types⁹ of emergency accommodation reported. *Private Emergency Accommodation* (PEA) includes hostels, B&Bs and other residential facilities that are privately owned and have been contracted by local authorities on a temporary or long-term basis to be used as emergency accommodation. *Supported Temporary Accommodation* (STA) primarily comprises of congregate shelters and Family Hubs, which have onsite professional support and are operated by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), and are wholly or partially funded by Section 10 funding via the relevant local authority. *Temporary Emergency Accommodation* (TEA) includes emergency accommodation with minimal to no supports and are operated both by NGOs and private operators. The recorded use of TEA is low and so is included in the graph along with the STA figure.

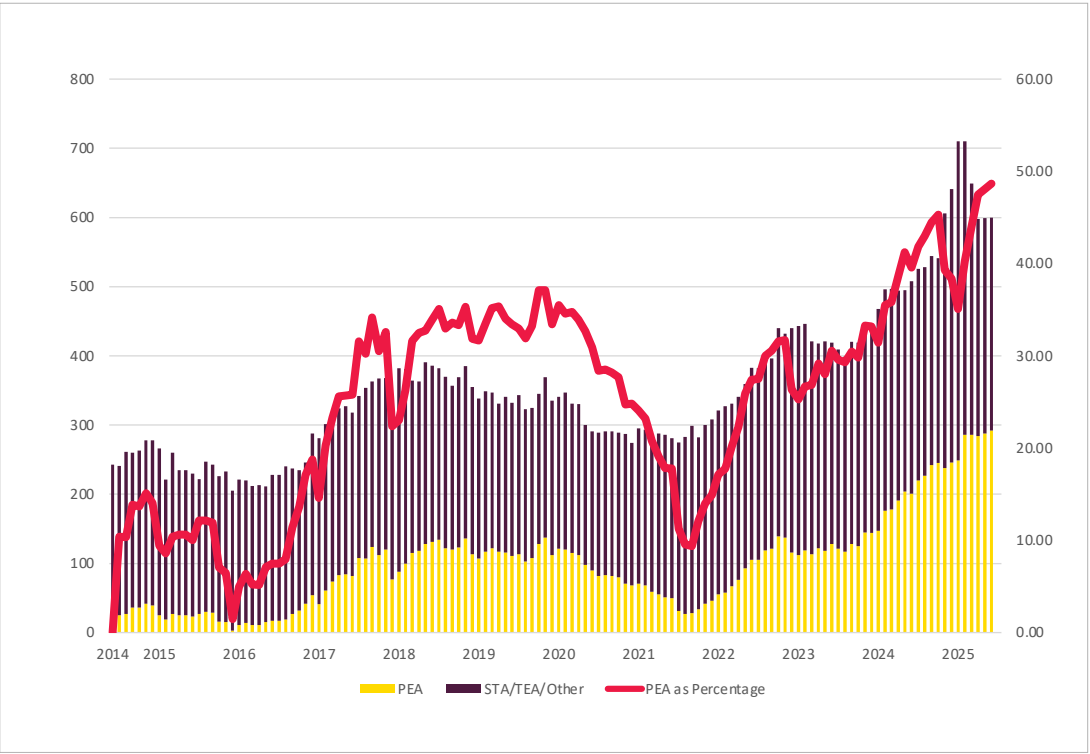


Figure 11: Emergency Accommodation Type in the Mid-West, and PEA as a Percentage of all Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West, 2014-2025

Figure 11 shows that there is a large variance in the percentage of emergency accommodation that PEA makes up. As of June 2025, PEA makes up 48.7% (n=292) of the total emergency accommodation beds in the Mid-West, compared to 17.19% in June 2021 (n=50) and 10.37% in July 2014¹⁰ (n=25). PEA accommodation beds in the Mid-West have increased by 484% since June 2021 and 1,068% since June 2014. In comparison, STA/TEA/Other has increased by 33.3% since June 2021 (n=231) and by 26.7% since June 2014 (n=243).

⁹ There is a very small number of housing under the 'Other' category, which is included in the STA/TEA group for the purposes of this analysis.

¹⁰ There was no PEA reported in the Mid-West in June 2014, so July 2014 is used as the first reference point.

Exits from Emergency Accommodation to Housing

Figure 12 shows the number of adults exiting emergency accommodation to housing in the Mid-West in each quarter since 2014. LA refers to *Local Authority housing*, AHB/LTSA is for housing provided by *Approved Housing Bodies* and PRS refers to exits to the *Private Rented Sector*, largely supported by HAP payments.

In Q2 2025 20 adults (23.3%) exited into LA housing, 58 (67.4%) into AHBs/LTSA housing and 8 (9.3%) into the PRS. The number of exits into the PRS has reduced significantly between 2021 and 2025. In Q2 2021 38.8% of exits were into the PRS (n=19), which fell to 9.3% in 2025.

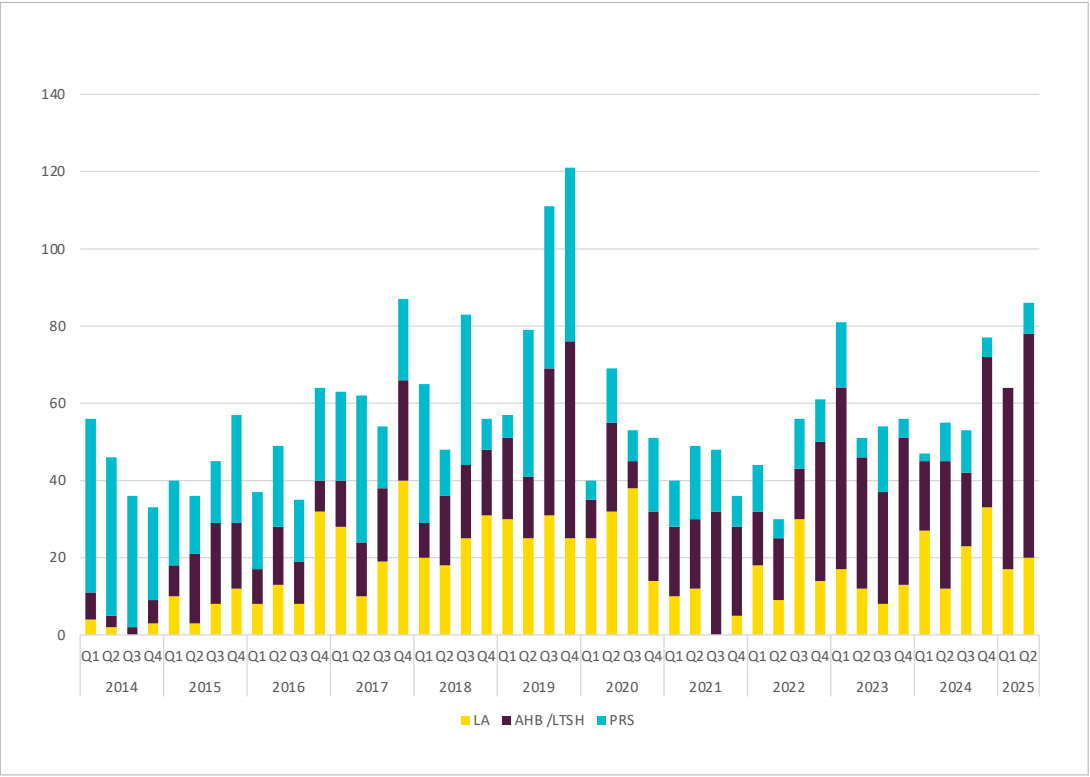


Figure 12: Adult Exits to Housing from Emergency Accommodation by Type in the Mid-West, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

Between Q3 2021 and Q2 2025 there were 899 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the Mid-West: 28.7% to LAs (n=258), 55.2% to AHB/LTSA (n=496) and 16.1% to the PRS (n=145). Between Q1 2014 and Q2 2025 there were 2,621 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the Mid-West: 30.9% to LAs (n=794), 37.2% to AHB/LTSA (n=975) and 32.5% to the PRS (n=852). Compared to the last iteration of this paper AHB/LTSA represent a much larger proportion of adult exits to housing, and are generally the largest category out of the three.

Figure 13 shows the breakdown of exits to Social Housing Tenancies (Local Authority and Approved Housing Bodies) versus Social Housing Support (Private Rental Tenancies supported by rent subsidies such as HAP and RAS).

In Q2 2025 there was a 91:9 ratio of tenancies to support. This is a large decrease in the proportion of Social Housing Support exits compared to Q2 2021, which had a 61:39 ratio of tenancies to support.

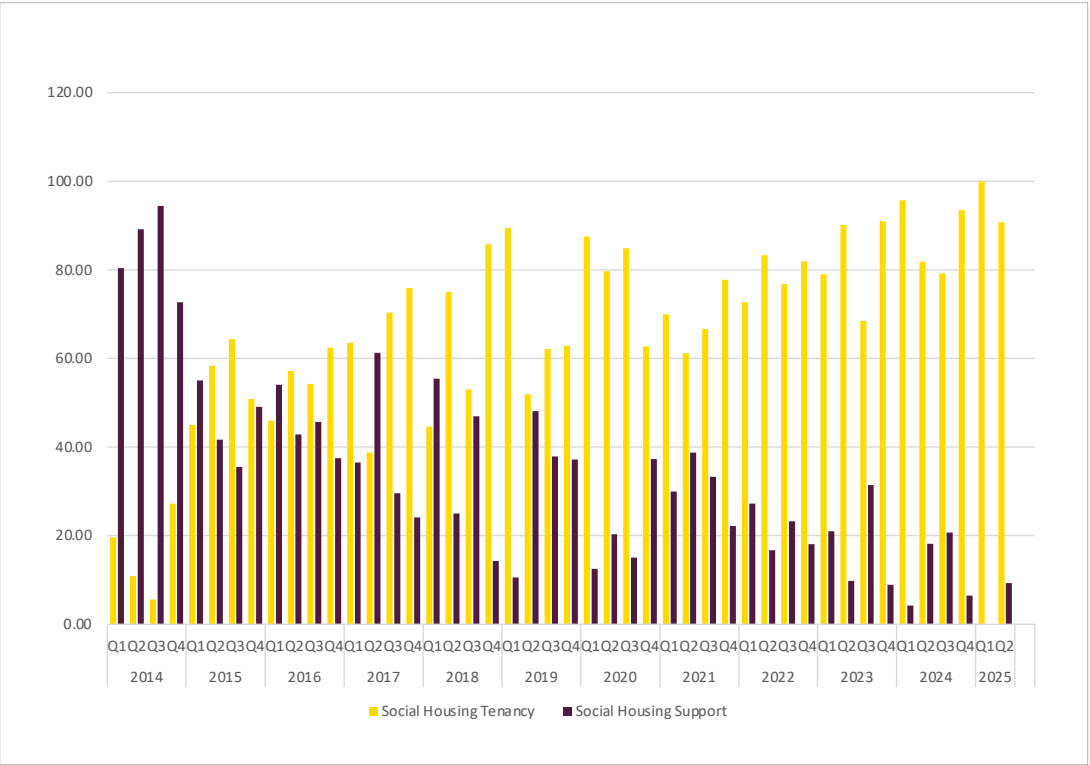


Figure 13: Adult Exits to Housing from Emergency Accommodation by Tenancy/Support in the Mid-West, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

Duration in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 14 shows the average duration of stay in emergency accommodation for *adult-only households* between Q1 2022 and Q2 2025¹¹. While the number of adult-only households in emergency accommodation has increased since 2022, the average duration of stay has stayed largely the same. In Q2 2025 53.5% of households stayed in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months (n=190); 19.7% for 6-12 months (n=70); 8.2% for 12-18 months (n=29); 7.6% for 18-24 months (n=27) and 11% for 24+ months (n=39).

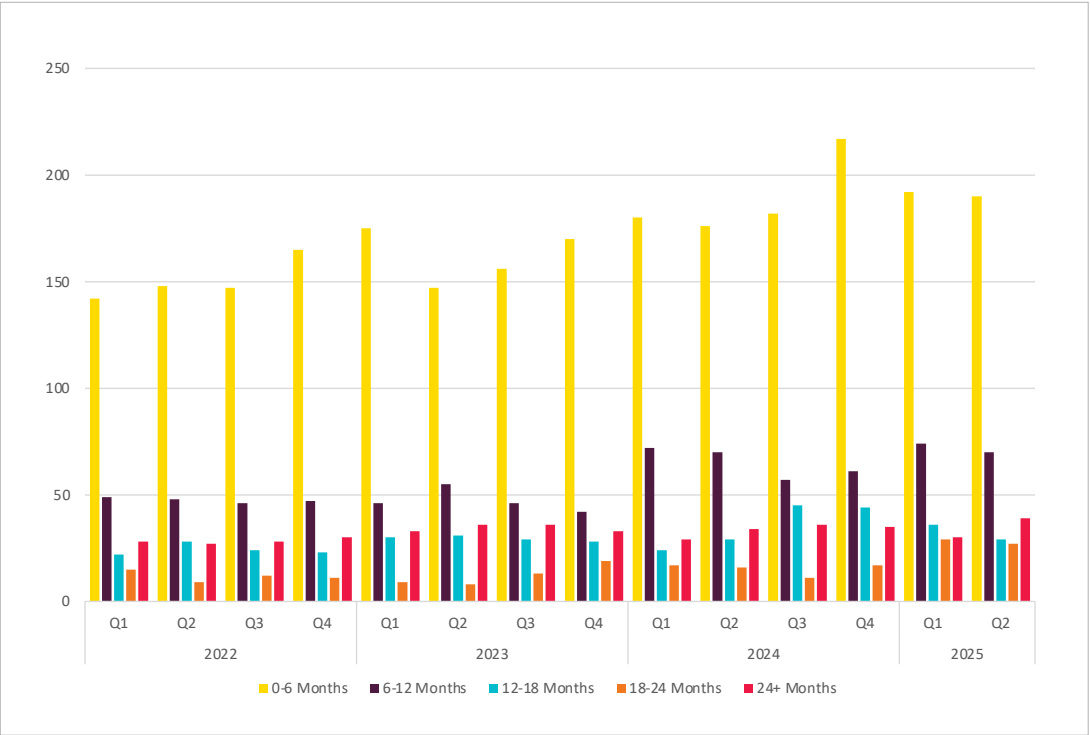


Figure 14: Duration of Stay by Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

Figure 15 shows the duration of stay for *families* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-West. In Q2 2025 44.4% (n=64) of families stayed in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months, a large reduction from 75% (n=42) in Q1 2022. Families in emergency accommodation for 12-18 months have seen the biggest increase, from 3.6% (n=2) in Q1 2022 to 14% (n=21) in Q2 2025.

In Q2 2025, 29.2% (n=42) of families were staying in emergency accommodation for over 12 months. In Q1 2022 this was 7.1% (n=4).

¹¹ Figures are shown from 2022 onward, as the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage changed the presentation of the length of stay options from <6 months or >6 months to 0-6 months, 6-12 months, 12-18 months, 18-24 months and 24+ months.

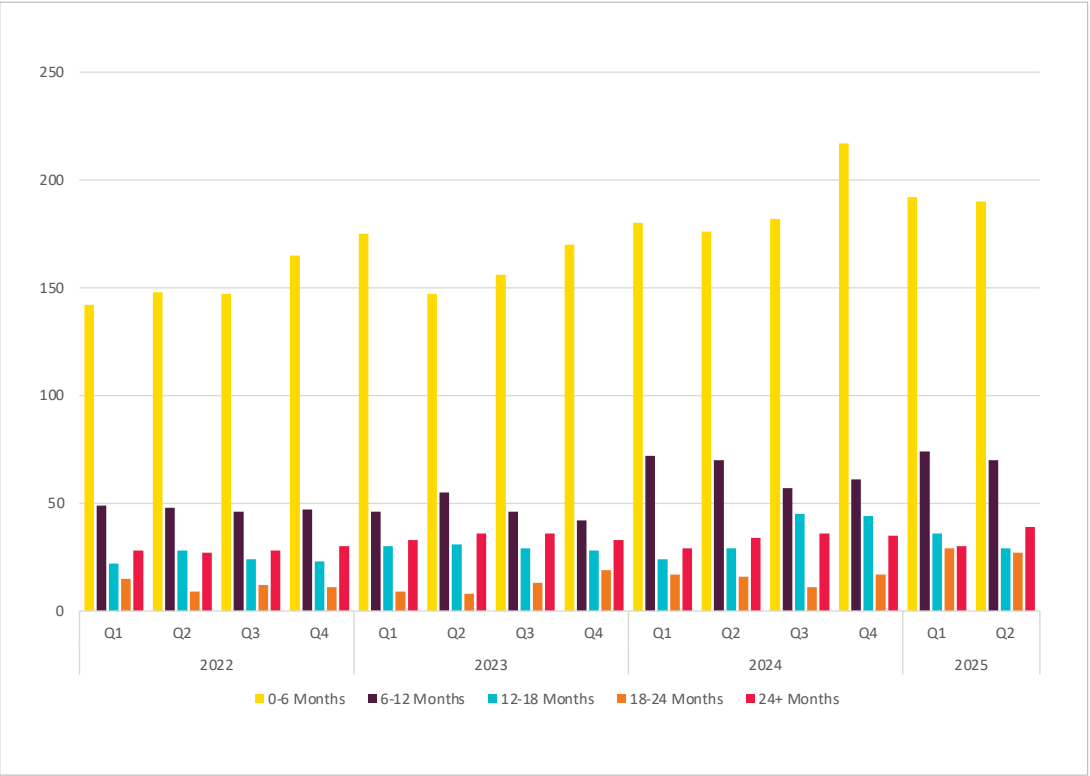


Figure 15: Duration of Stay by Families in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-West, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

Housing First

Figure 16 shows the number of Housing First tenancies created in the Mid-West since 2020. 2025 has seen a reduction in the number of Housing First tenancies created compared to 2024. 3 tenancies were created in both Q1 and Q2 2025, a 72.7% decrease from its peak of 11 in Q4 2024. There was an average of 6 tenancies created per quarter in 2024, compared to 3 per quarter so far in 2025. Since 2020 a total of 70 Housing First tenancies have been created in the Mid-West.

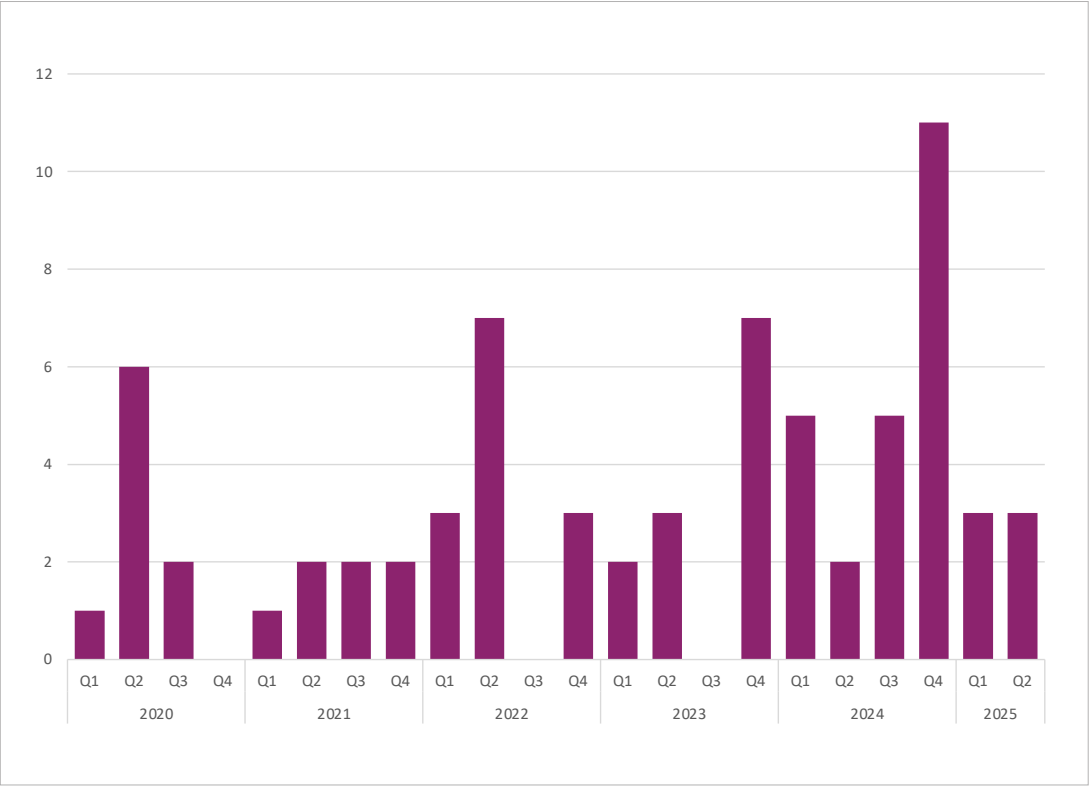


Figure 16: Number of Housing First Tenancies Created in the Mid-West, Q1 2020-Q2 2025

Expenditure on Homeless services in the Mid-West

Figure 17 shows the expenditure by the 2 Mid-West local authorities on services for households experiencing homelessness in the Mid-West region was €18.2m¹² in 2024 – the majority of this (77.1%) being in Limerick County Council. The Mid-West local authorities’ annual expenditure on homelessness has seen a 58.1% increase since 2020 (€11.5m) and a 412.5% increase since 2009 (€3.6m).

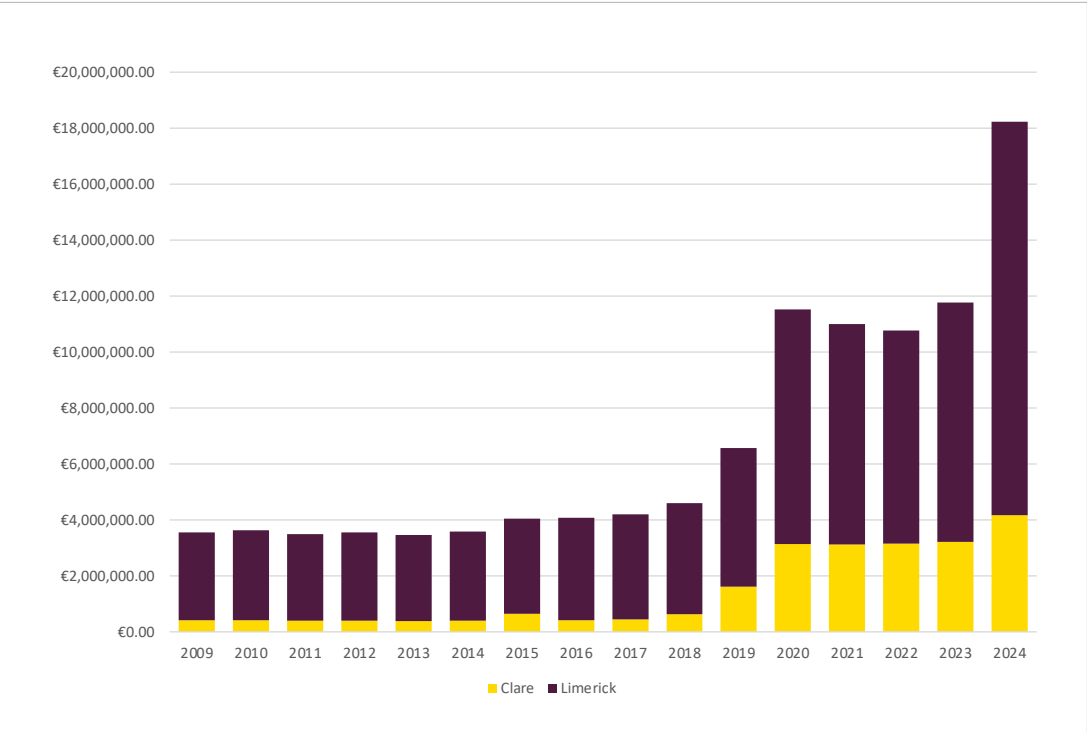


Figure 17: Expenditure on Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness by Local Authorities in the Mid-West, 2009-2024

12 See Focus on Homelessness report on Public Expenditure of Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness (2025).

Figure 18 shows *Section 10* expenditure on homelessness services in the Mid-West, that is for services funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under *Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1988*. In 2024, this amounted to €17.2m, the vast majority of this (82.1%) on emergency accommodation. €14.1m was spent on emergency accommodation in 2024, an increase of 89.7% since 2020 (€7.4m) and 499.3% since 2013 (€2.4m). In comparison, expenditure on all other services combined has increased by 39.3% since 2020 and 190.5% since 2013.

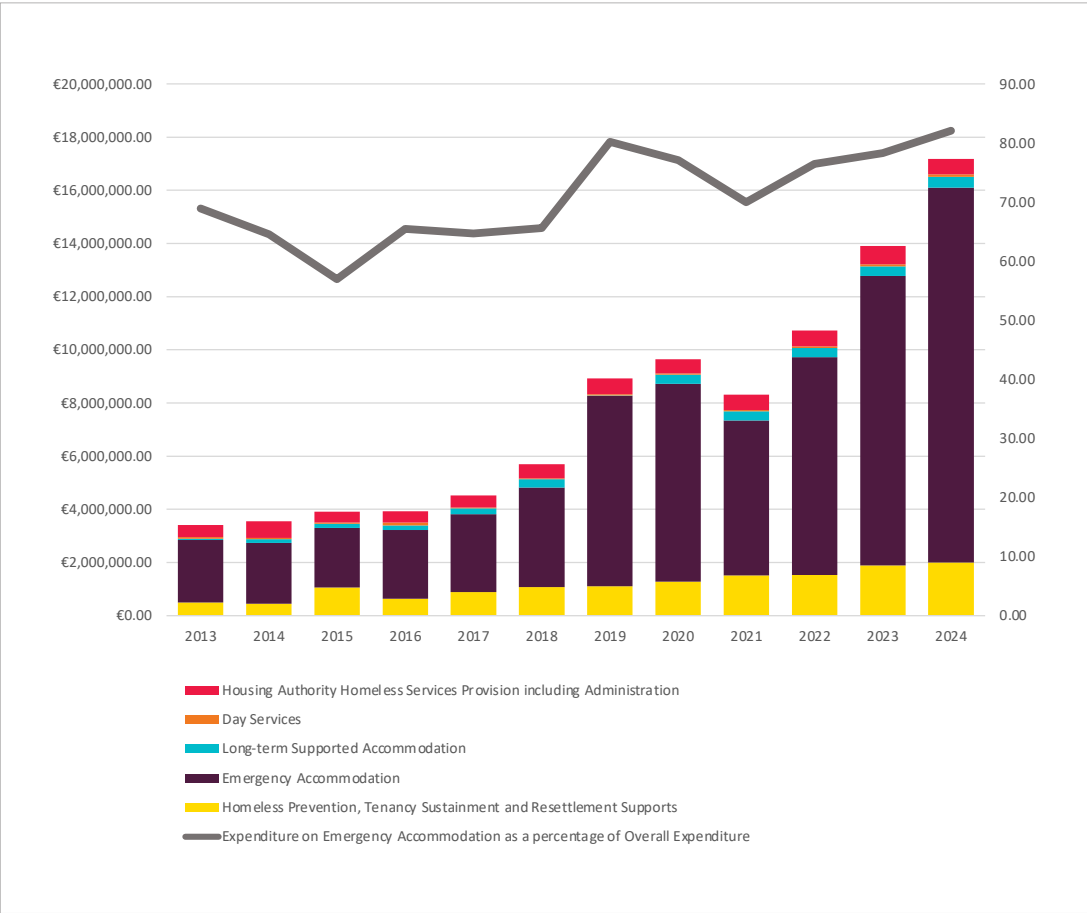


Figure 18: Section 10 Expenditure on Homeless Services in the Mid-West, 2013-2024

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Publication date December 2025

ISBN: 978-1-9996896-4-3

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