

Counted in 2002

The report of the assessment of
homelessness in Dublin

prepared for the Homeless Agency by
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Contents

Preface	4
Acknowledgements	6
List of Tables and Figures	7
Chapter 1 Introduction, Objectives and Methodology	11
1.1 Introduction	11
1.2 Report Structure	12
1.3 Definitions and Objectives	12
1.4 Methodology	14
1.5 Issues arising from the Methodology	16
1.6 The Rough Sleeper Count	18
1.7 Summary	19
Chapter 2 Survey Results	21
2.1 Introduction	21
2.2 Single Person Households	24
2.3 Households with Children	30
2.4 Couple only Households	35
Chapter 3 Summary and Conclusions	39
3.1 Introduction	39
3.2 Summary of Results	40
3.3 Review of Issues arising in the Research	42
Appendix 1: Reweighting the Data	45
Appendix 2: Tables A1 to A20	48
Appendix 3: The Questionnaire	59
Appendix 4: List of Participating Agencies	61

Preface

This report of the assessment of homelessness in Dublin 2002 has been prepared by the ESRI on behalf of the Homeless Agency. The Agency was established as part of the government strategy on homelessness and is responsible for the management and coordination of services to people who are homeless in Dublin.

This is the second time that the assessment has been carried out using this particular approach and for the first time comparisons can be made between the situation at two points in time and inferences made about the impact of policy and other changes during the time. The results also indicate areas for further investigation.

The assessment was based on questionnaires returned on people using homeless services and/or on a local authority list as homeless during the last week in March. As the report shows, the number of people found to be homeless over the two assessments has remained static, at 2,920 individuals (2,560 households) in 2002, compared to 2,900 or (2,690 households) in 1999.

As in 1999 the majority of people returned by local authorities as homeless were not staying in emergency accommodation or using other services for homeless people. Conversely, the majority of people in emergency accommodation or using other homeless services were not registered as homeless with a local authority.

For the most part, these households in 1999 were registered as staying with friends or family, because they had no where else to go. In 2002 they were mostly registered as staying in bed and breakfast or hostel accommodation, but were not returned by the accommodation providers. It is possible that some of them were staying in emergency accommodation at the time they registered, had since moved on and not notified the local authority. It is also possible that returns from accommodation providers were not comprehensive. However, the number of emergency beds available in Dublin during the week of the assessment was roughly 2,300 — far short of what would be needed to accommodate the 2,920 individuals and 1,140 children returned in the assessment. It is clear that a question arises about the status of the 1,090 households included in the assessment from local authority lists only. This is an issue which is now being further examined.

While the overall figure is static, the group of households in emergency accommodation or using other homeless services has increased by almost 200, up to 1,470 in 2002 from 1,290 (1,350 individuals). While the majority of service users continue to be single people, they have fallen as a proportion, down to 80 from 87 per cent. There has also been a slight decrease in their number, down by 40 to 1,140. The number of families who are using services has increased significantly from 70 to 230 and it is this group which accounts for most of the overall increase in service users. The majority of families who are using services are lone parents at 65%. Couples using services have also increased numerically, from 40 to 100.

It is difficult to understand why there should be such an increase in the number of families. In general, single people are much more disadvantaged in terms of housing options and it would be expected that, given the housing situation, homelessness among single people would have increased by the same amount, if not more, than families. This is an issue worthy of further investigation.

Overall, only 25 per cent of the service users were registered with a local authority, although over half of them thought that they were. The large number of single homeless people who are not registered with a local authority is to some extent understandable. Many do not apply for housing because they know they are unlikely to be housed, others feel settled in hostel accommodation, albeit inadequately. What is puzzling is the high number of families who are not on a housing list. New procedures have now been put in place by Dublin City Council to ensure that people placed in emergency accommodation automatically make housing applications.

The incidence of rough sleeping is slightly higher than in 1999. This is disappointing given that a range of measures directly targeting rough sleepers, including additional accommodation and increased street outreach services have been put in place. Up to 312 people were reported to be sleeping rough for the week of the assessment, compared to 140 who were found on the one night street count. While the street count is undoubtedly the minimum number sleeping rough, it is unlikely that as many of 172 would have been so well hidden as to have been missed in the count.

While this methodology is robust, there are some problems inherent in it. Its usefulness is dependent on the accuracy of returns made by local authorities, health boards and voluntary service providers. As the report shows, this information is not always reliable. Self reporting is also potentially problematic in homelessness surveys. Since they are excluded from aspects of normal life it can be difficult for people who are homeless to recall information relating to time and sequence of events. People who are homeless have probably experienced difficulties and frustrations with services which may prompt them to report the worst case scenario, embellishing their situation. This may lead to a higher reporting of rough sleeping or of duration of homelessness than is actually the case. In this assessment 723 people reported that they had been homeless for three years or more. However, only 275 were common to both the 1999 and 2002 surveys.

In the last assessment report, it was suggested that an information system should be developed to ensure the collection of accurate information on people who are homeless, on an ongoing basis. The Homeless Agency has now developed such a system, which is gradually being applied to all services for people who are homeless. When it is fully operational, it will provide information on an ongoing basis, and at any point in time, on people who are homeless, obviating the necessity for a periodic assessment.

Mary Higgins

Director
Homeless Agency

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This report is based on questionnaires completed by workers and volunteers in the voluntary service providers and the local authorities throughout the greater Dublin area. The authors would like to take the opportunity to thank the interviewers, whose work was carried out in a professional and comprehensive fashion — often under difficult circumstances.

The speed and efficiency of the staff in the ESRI's Survey Unit; General Office and Print Room at all stages in the process is, as usual, much appreciated.

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The usual disclaimer applies. The views and comments expressed in the report are those of the authors alone.

List of Tables

1.1	Response rates for 2002 survey	17
2.1	Distribution of households according to local authority area, 2002	22
2.2	Distribution of households according to type and source of information 1999 and 2002	22
2.3	Homeless households classified by source of information, 2002	23
2.4	Distribution of single person homeless households according to age category and gender, 2002	24
2.5	Distribution of single homeless persons aged 20 or less according to age category and gender, 2002	25
2.6	Single homeless person households who were not born in Ireland, 2002	25
2.7	Distribution of single person households according to cumulative duration of homelessness over the 5 years preceding the survey, 2002 and 1999.	27
2.8	Distribution of homeless single person households according to current duration of homelessness, 2002	28
2.9	Single Homeless persons classified according to accommodation type and gender, 2002 and 1999	29
2.10	Distribution of homeless households with children classified according to source of information, 2002 and 1999	31
2.11	Homeless households with children classified according to duration of homelessness in the 5 years preceding the survey, 2002 and 1999	34
2.12	Homeless households with children classified according to length of current spell of homelessness, 2002	34
2.13	Homeless Households with children classified according to accommodation type, 2002	35
2.14	Number of Couple only Households classified by service users and local authority list only 2002 and 1999	36
2.15	“Couple only” households classified according to (a) whether or not at least one of the partners was born outside Ireland; (b) country of birth and (c) year of arrival in Ireland	36
2.16	“Couple only” households classified according to cumulative duration of homelessness in the 5 years preceding the survey, 2002 and 1999.	37
2.17	“Couple only” Households classified according to length of current spell, 2002	37
2.18	“Couple only” Households classified by accommodation type used in survey reference week, 2002	38

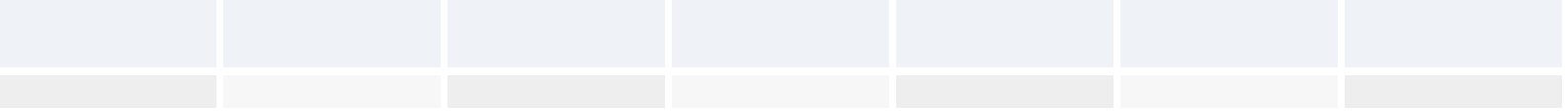
List of Figures

Figure 2.1	Homeless households classified by source of information, 2002	23
Figure 2.2	Single person households classified by source of information, 2002	24
Figure 2.3	Country of origin of single person households who were not born in Ireland, 2002	26
Figure 2.4	Single homeless persons not born in Ireland classified according to year of arrival, March 2002	26
Figure 2.5	Homeless households with children classified by source of information, 2002	30
Figure 2.6	Dependent children classified by age, 2002 and 1999	31
Figure 2.7	Dual/lone parents with at least one member who was not born in Ireland, 2002	32
Figure 2.8	Distribution of homeless households with children according to whether the parent(s) were not born in Ireland classified according to country of birth, 2002	32
Figure 2.9	Distributions of households with children where the parent(s) were not born in Ireland classified according to year of arrival, 2002	33

List of Appendix Tables

Table A1	Distribution of households identified in the survey according to type of unit, 1999,2002	48
Table A2	Distribution of homeless persons in single person household classified according to average age, 2002	48
Table A3	Distribution of homeless persons in single person household classified according to age category and gender, 2002	48
Table A4	Distribution of homeless persons in single person household's aged 20 or less, 2000 classified according to age category and gender 2002	49
Table A5	Distribution of homeless persons in single person households classified according to whether or not they were born in Ireland	49
Table A6	Homeless persons in single person households who were not born in Ireland classified according to country of birth	49
Table A7	Homeless persons in single person households who were not born in Ireland classified according to year of arrival	50
Table A8	Distribution of homeless single person households according to cumulative duration of homelessness over the 5 years proceeding the Survey 2002 and 1999	50

Table A9	Distribution of homeless single person households according to current duration of homelessness	51
Table A10	Homeless persons in single person households classified according to (a) accommodation and (b) gender, 2002 and 1999	52
Table A11	Distribution of homeless households with children classified according to source of information	53
Table A12	Households with children classified according to (a) whether or not at least one of the partners was born outside Ireland; (b) country of birth and c) year of arrival in Ireland	53
Table A13	Homeless households with children classified according to duration of homelessness in the 5 years preceding the survey	54
Table A14	Homeless households with children classified according to length of current spell of homelessness	54
Table A15	Homeless households with children classified according to accommodation type	55
Table A16	Number of "Couple only" households classified by source of information, 2002 and 1999	56
Table A17	"Couple only" households classified according to (a) whether or not at least one of the partners was born outside Ireland; (b) country of birth and (c) year of arrival in Ireland	56
Table A18	"Couple only" households classified according to cumulative duration of homelessness in the 5 years preceding the survey.	57
Table A19	"Couple only" households classified according to length of current spell	57
Table A20	"Couple only" households classified by accommodation type used in survey reference week	57



chapter one

Introduction, Objectives & Methodology

1.1 Introduction

This report of the 2002 assessment of homelessness in Dublin was prepared by the ESRI on behalf of the Homeless Agency. It provides a snapshot of homelessness in Dublin in the last week of March 2002, based on a survey of homeless households who were in contact with a service for homeless people and/or accepted as homeless by a local authority. The survey collected information on age, gender, family status, country of origin, duration of homelessness and whereabouts, using a unique identifier for each individual to ensure that there was no duplication. The same methodology was used in the assessment in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow in 1999, allowing for comparisons to be made between the two assessments.

Measuring the extent of homelessness is not a simple task. It involves addressing a series of major conceptual, methodological and operational issues. By their very nature, people who are homeless are hidden within society and some have no fixed base, which makes it difficult to access them. Given these difficulties, there has generally been a dearth of available statistics, both nationally and internationally, on the number or characteristics of homeless persons. Generally, official assessments of homelessness in Ireland have relied on administrative records held by local authorities. Such assessments generated debate based on concern at their potential to underestimate the extent of homelessness.

The methodology used in the current assessment was developed to address these concerns and to provide meaningful information with the potential of informing the planning of services, which is the fundamental purpose of the assessments. The methodology comprises a survey of people who are homeless, conducted over a one-week period. Drawing on international best practice, this form of assessment was developed by the Homeless Initiative and was first used in 1999 (see Williams and O Connor, 1999: 10-13).

This methodology provides a snapshot of the stock of homelessness at a single point in time. It does not, and cannot, provide a comprehensive picture of the dynamic of homelessness nor of the flows in and out of homelessness over time. This would require more intensive and extensive research on people who are homeless. The methodology adopted provides a picture of the extent of homelessness at a particular point in time, and in doing so provides a base line against which trends in homelessness and areas for further investigation can be identified. Notwithstanding its limitations, this methodology compares most favourably with other means of enumerating homelessness developed in other countries.

1.2 Report Structure

This report is divided into three main sections. In this chapter, we discuss the definition of homelessness, objectives used for the study, details on the methodology and issues arising from it. Chapter two presents the main results of the survey and includes a detailed analysis of the three homeless household types, namely single person households, dual/lone parent households and couple only households. Chapter three of the report presents an overview and summary of the main findings.

1.3 Definitions and Objectives

The Housing Act, 1988 requires that each local authority carry out periodic assessments, usually every three years, of the numbers of people who are homeless in their administrative area. The Act also sets out a definition of homeless, stating in Section 2 that a person is regarded as homeless by the relevant local authority if:

- (a) there is no accommodation available which, in the opinion of the authority he, together with any other person who normally resides with him or who might reasonably be expected to reside with him, can reasonably occupy or remain in occupation of, or
- (b) he is living in a hospital; county home, night shelter or other such institution and is so living because he has no accommodation of the kind referred to in paragraph (a) and he is, in the opinion of the authority, unable to provide accommodation from his own resources.

Using this working definition, the national assessments of homelessness conducted in 1989, 1991 and 1993 returned totals of 1,491, 2,371 and 2,172 persons, respectively. In 1999, the ESRI assessment (Williams and O Connor, 1999) found that there were 2,900 people homeless in the Eastern region.

The current assessment follows the legislative definition of homelessness, as was the case in 1999. However, people in hospitals, county homes and prisons were not included. The rationale for excluding them is that while some of them may be homeless on discharge, they were not *actually* homeless at the time of the assessment.

As noted above, the current report has been commissioned by the Homeless Agency to provide a sound point-in-time statistical estimate of the number of homeless persons in Dublin City and County. The 1999 report related to the then Eastern Health Board area encompassing Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow, for which the Homeless Initiative had responsibility. The remit of the Homeless Agency relates to Dublin only and this assessment does not include Kildare and Wicklow ¹.

To ensure comparability with the 1999 report, the same methodology and definitions have been used in this assessment. The terms of reference for the report are as follows:

- An enumeration of the actual homeless (in contrast to potential) population in the Dublin area;
- The definition of homelessness follows that legally defined in the 1988 Housing Act; excluding people in institutions but including people sleeping rough
- As in 1999, the population in question will be enumerated on the basis of: one, a survey administered by homeless services in Dublin and two, a questionnaire completed for each person accepted as homeless by the relevant local authorities;
- The reference period for the study will extend over one week - from the 20th to 26th of March 2002;
- In contrast to the previous assessment, a rough sleeper count will also be undertaken on one night over the period of the survey. This will be co-ordinated by the Homeless Agency and undertaken by employees and volunteers from voluntary and statutory homeless and related services. The count will not record information on the characteristics of those identified but will simply be a head count.
- The data are to be recorded at the level of the individual to allow an estimate of the number of adults, family units or households and dependent children to be made.
- The principal focus of the study will include:
 - a headcount of the homeless population;
 - basic profiling of that population by age, gender, duration of homelessness;
 - information on the type of accommodation used in the week preceding the study;
- Issues such as routes into homelessness or service users evaluation of homeless services will not fall within the remit of the study as inclusion of these issues would have potentially adverse effects on response levels.

¹ The exclusion of Wickow and Kildare has minimal impact on the estimated number of homeless persons. In the 1999 enumeration only 20 persons from the total of 2,900 were identified in these latter two countries.

² A full discussion of the methodological approaches used internationally in the assessing homelessness is contained in Counted In (Williams and O'Connor, 1999).

1.4 Methodology

We now turn our attention to a description of the data sources used in this assessment ². The questionnaire, the importance of de-duplication and relevant interpretational issues arising from the methodology are addressed. Technical issues relating to response rates and the statistical adjustment of the data to ensure that they represent the totality of the homeless population in the study area are considered.

As can be seen from the Terms of Reference outlined earlier, the present study attempted, as far as was feasible, to maintain comparability with the 1999 assessment undertaken by the ESRI. The current study relies on two distinct approaches to the measurement of the number of homeless persons at a single point in time. This involved the following:

- Questionnaire surveys completed in services either specifically targeting people who are homeless or likely to be used by people who are homeless people.
- Questionnaire surveys completed by local authorities from their administrative records in the form of homeless or housing lists

The approach involved attempting to carry out a complete census of all homeless persons in the reference week.

1.4.1 Involvement of Services

Each homeless service in the Dublin area was asked to complete a questionnaire in respect of every individual or homeless household in contact with their service during the week of the assessment, 20th to 26th March 2002. Homeless services included all emergency accommodation, street outreach teams, day and food services, settlement services, and advice and information services provided by voluntary or statutory bodies. In addition, a number of other services such as drug treatment services, Accident and Emergency Departments in hospitals, local community services and youth services were invited to participate in order to maximise the number of contact points with people who may be homeless. (A full list of providers is included in *Appendix 1*).

Not surprisingly, returns were predominantly made by direct homeless services, including hostel and other accommodation providers, food centers, advice centres and services for those with addiction and dependency problems etc. In all, returns were made by 80 of the 106 services. This does not represent a response rate in the usual sense but rather a reflection of the actual numbers of services in contact with people homeless during the period of the assessment. Returns included both completed questionnaires and records of the number of persons who refused to participate in the survey ³.

1.4.2 Involvement of Local Authorities

There are four local authorities in the Dublin area, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin County Councils and Dublin City Council. For the assessment, each of the four local authorities returned a questionnaire in respect of every household registered with them as homeless during the week in question. Instructions from the Department of Environment and Local Government required that housing and homeless applicants be verified for the assessment.

³ This information was used to statistically adjust the data to provide population estimates of all homeless persons in the study region.

The three county areas, with relatively small numbers of homeless applicants, include them in their general housing waiting list. By contrast, Dublin City Council maintains a separate list of people who are homeless. When someone is included on that list, they receive overall priority for housing, without reference to points, as is the case with the general housing waiting list.

1.4.3 Information and Support

In an effort to maximise participation by people who were homeless, the Homeless Agency distributed posters to services, explaining when, why and how the assessment would be carried out. These were displayed in services.

The Homeless Agency held a training seminar for targeted services to explain the methodology and how to complete the questionnaire. Detailed written instructions were also provided and support was made available throughout the week of the assessment from the Homeless Agency. Staff from the Agency administered questionnaires in some centres where it was not possible for staff or volunteers to do so.

1.4.4 The Questionnaire

The questionnaire was developed to maximise the amount of information that could be collected while minimising the burden it presented to interviewer and respondent. A questionnaire that was too long or demanding for the respondent would, undoubtedly, have had an adverse effect on response rates. A further consideration in designing the questionnaire was the need to maintain consistency with that used in the 1999 survey to allow comparability of results.

With these constraints in mind, the questionnaire used in the survey contained 7 sections as follows:

- **Unique identifiers** – these were based on the gender; date of birth and initials of each respondent and were used to de-duplicate the computer file of respondents
- **Whether the respondent was seeking asylum** – in which case the questionnaire was not continued beyond this question
- **Country of Origin** – used to establish the extent of homelessness of people not of Irish origin
- **Whether or not registered with a Local Authority** – used to establish the extent to which the homeless population, self-report as being registered with a local authority
- **Accommodation type used in week preceding the interview** – this included sleeping rough, in a hostel, refuge, B&B, staying with a friend or relative because they had nowhere else to go, staying in own house/ flat/ other accommodation and sleeping elsewhere
- **Duration of homeless** – details were recorded on duration of *current* spell and also *cumulative period of homelessness* in the 5 years preceding the survey.
- **Family / Household Structure** – this recorded whether the respondent was single or part of a couple or family. In the case of couples and families, unique identifiers were recorded for the other partner and dependent children

1.4.5 De-duplicating the data

Once the computer files of respondents were prepared, it was necessary to de-duplicate them to ensure that just one record existed for each individual. As noted above, services were requested to administer a questionnaire in respect of everyone who used their services in the course of the week in question. As people who are homeless may use a number of different services, it was possible that the same person could be interviewed on a number of occasions in the reference week. One of the introductory questions related to the completion of a questionnaire in other centres and where this was the case, the interview finished at that point. Respondents who refused to be interviewed were returned separately as refusals.

De-duplication of returned questionnaires was undertaken using the composite identifier based on gender; date of birth and initials of the respondent. In generating a file based on household or family composition it was also necessary to de-duplicate in respect of adults who appeared in their own right on a questionnaire and who also appeared as part of a family unit on a spouse s or partner s questionnaire.

1.5 Issues arising from the methodology

As already discussed, measuring the numbers of homeless persons is particularly problematic. The authors would draw the reader s attention to a number of difficulties inherent in the approach of combining returns from services and those generated by the administrative lists. Such problems included the following:

Strategic Response and Self-Reporting

The information recorded was entirely self-reported by the respondent and not surprisingly, therefore, is open to inaccuracies and contradictions.

Recording Refusals

The authors acknowledge that there may well have been some tendency towards under-reporting of refusals in some centers. Although there is no way of measuring whether or not this was, in fact, the case we found that the recorded refusal rate was extremely low.

Use of administrative lists

In using the two data sources, the assumption was that there would be a high level of duplication between the two. In other words, it was expected that the majority of homeless service users would be registered as homeless with one of the local authorities, and conversely, that the majority on the local authority lists would be shown to be using homeless services over the course of the week in question. Similar to 1999 this turned out not to be the case, with a very low rate of cross over.

Arising from this, and in an effort to ensure that the enumeration was comprehensive and thorough, a further examination of the Dublin City Council administrative records was conducted by the Homeless Agency. In the course of that examination, it was found that information held was, in very many cases, not current and, indeed, often several months out of date. A further indication of the problematic nature of these lists emerged from a matching exercise (also carried out by the Homeless Agency) using returns made by Bed and Breakfast landlords to Dublin City Council relating to residents staying in their accommodation in the week of the assessment. Where available from the returns made by the Bed and Breakfast providers, the unique identifier was used to conduct a matching exercise between the

two data sources to establish how many of those returned as staying in Bed and Breakfast accommodation were included on the local authority list, and then, with respect to those on the list, to examine whether their recorded accommodation status was accurate. In general, this matching exercise revealed a high rate of discrepancy.

1.5.1 Response Rates and Reweighting the Data

A total of 3,297 completed or partially completed survey forms were returned to the ESRI for analysis. Table 1.1 overleaf, presents details on how this total was broken down in terms of duplication, refusals etc. People who were staying in transitional accommodation were surveyed but were subsequently excluded from the assessment, as were people who were asylum seekers. This is in keeping with the approach taken in the 1999 assessment. The rationale for excluding people in transitional housing is that they have a secure tenancy, generally a minimum of six months. Therefore, they were considered not to be *actually* homeless at the time of the assessment. Asylum seekers are included because their needs are provided for outside of the homeless sector.

Panel A of the table starts with the 3,297 questionnaires returned to the ESRI. Panel B breaks these down in terms of the number of occurrences of duplicates as identified by the composite unique identifier based on gender, date of birth, and initials. From this one can see that a total of 2,447 questionnaires appeared once only, a further 326 appeared twice; 51 appeared three times and so on. This means that a total of 2,835 uniquely identified questionnaires were returned in the survey.

Table 1.1: Breakdown of number of questionnaires, refusals and “dependent” adult returned in the survey				
A. No of Questionnaires Returned			3279	TOTAL
Appearing		Occurrences		
B.	Once	2447	2447	
	Twice	326	652	
	Three times	51	153	
	Four times	10	40	
	Five Times	1	5	
C.	Uniquely completed=2835		Total occurrences = 3297	3297
D.	Unusable		43	- 43
E.	De facto Questionnaires			2792
F.	Refusals		78	+78
G.	Unusable (partially completed)		43	+43
H.	Target Population			2913
I.	Of which not Homeless:		231	
	7 nights in transitional		32	
	7 nights in own home		67	
	Asylum seekers		330	-330
J.	Valid homeless identified from questionnaires			2583
K.	Dependent adults not identified as having completed a questionnaire		335 +335	
	Total homeless population			2918*

* rounded to 2,920

On inspection of the completed questionnaires it was found that 43 were only partially completed to the extent that they were unusable for analysis and were thus treated as a de facto refusal. As is mentioned below and discussed in detail in *Appendix 1*, these were subsequently accommodated within the re-weighting scheme used to statistically adjust the data prior to analysis. From Panel F of Table 1.1, the figures indicate that 78 persons were returned as refusals on the Refusal Record Sheets. This means that a total of 121 refusals (78 refusals and 43 de facto refusals) were identified in the course of fieldwork.

Therefore the total target population (defined as those who accessed the services in question or derived from a local authority administrative list within the reference week) stood at 2,913 persons (Panel H of Table 1.1). This was made up 2,792 completed and usable questionnaires, with the addition of the 78 refusals and 43 *de facto* refusals. Within the 2913 persons we found a total of 330 who were either asylum seekers; had spent 7 nights in their own home or 7 nights in transitional housing. Those were deducted from the total. Once these 330 were deducted, however, we had to add a total of 335 uniquely occurring dependent adults from among the completed questionnaires. This left a total of 2,918 adult individuals who were identified in the survey as being homeless. It was thus necessary to adjust the 2,792 usable questionnaires (Panel E of Table 1.1) in such a way as to ensure that it adequately represents the 2,918 persons in the target population. This process of adjustment is referred to as re-weighting the data.

A standard statistical procedure undertaken in sample surveys involves adjusting the completed sample of questionnaires in such a way as to be representative of the total population from which the sample has been selected. In the present survey this meant adjusting the 2,792 completed questionnaires to represent the total figure of 2,920. The full technical details of the re-weighting scheme used in the survey are contained in *Appendix 1* to the report.

1.6 The Rough Sleeper Count

In an attempt to verify the estimate of rough sleeping produced by the survey, it was decided to conduct an independent rough sleeper count on one night of the survey week. Taking the figure in the formal assessment as a lower bound estimate, it was considered that the result of an independent count could be used as a more accurate assessment of the size of the rough sleeper group. Such counts are conducted periodically in British and American cities and towns and are often used to compare the situation in Dublin.

The rough sleeper count was planned and co-ordinated by the Homeless Agency, with the assistance of the street outreach teams from Focus Ireland and Dublin Simon. The objective was to conduct a thorough search of the entire Dublin region over a 2 hour period (between 2 and 4 am) on one night, (21st March) to include all who were bedded down in a car, open building (sheds, bus/railway station, etc.), park/green, cemetery, and so on. The selection of the time period related to the perception of the earliest time that the majority of rough sleepers would be bedded down; the aim was to exclude those who were on the streets until late but may not ultimately be sleeping out.

Planning the count involved the division of the Dublin region into 14 areas. Within each, detailed maps were used to select streets, roads, parks and so on, where rough sleepers were likely to be found. Sheets were prepared for enumerators who were instructed on a system of recording rough sleepers by group size and type of location. Assistance was sought and generously provided by the Gardai both in terms of planning where to search and, on the night of the count, as a security backup for each team of enumerators.

The count was publicised in the weeks prior to the assessment with a view to recruiting volunteer enumerators. A good response was received and training was provided to the one hundred volunteers and area co-ordinators on the logistics of the count. Area co-ordinators were based in a central venue in each of the 14 areas. They provided training to enumerators on the night of the count, provided phone assistance where required, received all returned sheets, and reported on the number of rough sleepers and the experience of the enumeration on completion of the count.

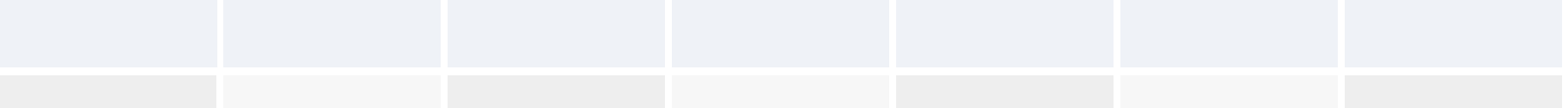
In total, 140 rough sleepers were identified. Breakdown by local authority area was as follows:

Table 1.2: Rough Sleeper Count by Dublin Local Authority and Number Identified	
Dublin Local Authorities	No. of Rough Sleepers Identified
Dublin City Council	79
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	5
Fingal County Council	6
South Dublin County Council	50
TOTAL	140

We will return to a discussion of the figure identified in the formal assessment in the final chapter.

1.7 Summary

In this chapter we presented the objectives and terms of reference for the current enumeration of homelessness in Dublin followed by a discussion of the methodology and related issues. It is important to reiterate that we are referring throughout to a *stock* measure of homelessness at a single point in time — the period in question was the week of 20th-26th March 2002. Although, as noted, there are some interpretational and methodological issues arising from the combination of two distinct data sources, (questionnaires completed by services on a face to face basis with their service users and those returned in respect of persons on a local authority list). This issue is adequately addressed in the next chapter where we begin to discuss the results of the survey.



chapter two

Survey Results

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, we present the findings on the total number of individuals and households who were identified as being homeless in the final week of March 2002. In homelessness, need is most easily understood at the level of the household rather than in terms of each individual member of the household. For this reason, the unit of analysis in this report is primarily the household. So, while findings in the first section of this chapter refer to the individual, this is the only part of the report that includes that information. In the remainder of this chapter findings relating to the three predominant household types is presented.

A total of 2,920 homeless adults were identified in Dublin in the course of the 2002 survey. This compares with a total of 2,900 identified in 1999, distributed across Dublin (2,890 or 99.4 per cent), Kildare (10 or 0.3 per cent) and Wicklow (10 or 0.3 per cent) in 1999. Given these marginal returns from Kildare and Wicklow, we can conclude that the size of the population is virtually unchanged. As stated in Chapter One, these results relate to numbers counted only.

The findings in Table 2.1 show that the majority (89 per cent) of all homeless individuals identified are in the Dublin City Council local authority area. Since 1999, this represents a decrease of 6 percentage points in the relative importance of this sector. The other significant change in the intervening three years has been an increase in the numbers identified in the three remaining Dublin County Council areas. The numbers in Dun Laoghaire have more than trebled from 40 to 140 and in South Dublin have more than doubled from 60 to 130. In percentage terms this represents a proportionate increase from 1 to 5 per cent for Dun Laoghaire and an increase from 2 to 4 per cent for South Dublin. Finally the numbers in Fingal have increased from 30 in 1999 to 60 in 2002. This represents a proportionate increase from 1 to 2 per cent.

Table 2.1: Distribution of homeless persons classified according to local authority area 2002		
Local Authority Area	All Homeless Persons N	All Homeless Persons %
Dublin City Council	2590	89
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	140	5
South Dublin County Council	130	4
Fingal County Council	60	2
TOTAL (N) 2002	2920	100

2.1.1 Typology of Homeless Households

Respondents were asked questions on their family circumstances. This resulted in a four-fold household classification as follows:

- **Single person household** — a single person with no dependents
- **Dual parent household** — a couple with dependant child(ren)
- **Single/lone parent household** — a single parent with dependant child(ren)
- **Couple only household** — no dependant child(ren)

The total of 2,920 homeless individuals enumerated in the course of the survey comprises 2,560 family units. Comparing the current situation with 1999, the findings reveal that single person households continue as the dominant homeless household type in Dublin, with 7 in 10 of all households in this category.

In the three years since the previous assessment, the percentage share of single person households has decreased by 6 percentage points (Table 2.2). As the number of single person households has decreased (by 270), households with children have increased by 100 and couple only households have increased by 40. In percentage terms, households with children constitute the second largest category, at one quarter of all households. Looking more closely at the two types of households included in this category, namely lone and dual parent households, the findings show a twofold increase (from 4 to 9 per cent) in the share that the dual parent category form of the total of all households and an unchanged situation in respect of the lone parent group. Finally, couple only households constitute the least common type of household at 5 per cent (140 households). In 1999 their percentage share was marginally lower at 4 per cent (100 households). In addition to household type, the following three groups were identified:

Table 2.2: Distribution of households according to type and source of information, 1999 and 2002				
	1999		2002	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Single Person	(2050)	76	(1780)	70
Dual Parent	(120)	4	(220)	9
Single Parent	(420)	16	(420)	16
Couple Only	(100)	4	(140)	5
TOTAL	(2690)	100	(2560)	100

- (1) **Service Users Only:** This refers to households using homeless services, including emergency accommodation and/or other services (for example, information and advice; food centres) and who were not on a local authority list.
- (2) **On a Local Authority List only:** This refers to an administrative list of people who have applied and are accepted as homeless by the local authority. The findings show that this list comprises significantly more households with children and couples than single person households.
- (3) **Both Service Users and on a Local Authority List:** This refers to households who used services and were also on a local authority list.

In 2002, just 14 per cent (370) of all homeless households were both service users and on a local authority list only (Figure 2.1). This compares with 10 per cent, (260 households) an increase of 4 percentage points since 1999. While the remainder were equally divided between service users only and on a list only at 43% in the current assessment this was not the case in 1999. At that time, just over half (52% or 1400 households) were on a list only while 38% (1030 households) were service users only.

In terms of the four household types, while single person households are over-represented among service users only, they are under-represented in relation to the on a list only group (Table 2.3). Specifically, 80 per cent of service users are single, compared to 59 per cent of those on a list only. The opposite of this pattern applies to households with children. Here 24 per cent of those on a list only are households with children, compared to 12 per cent of service users only and 25 per cent overall. The couple only group is more evenly distributed across the three categories.

Figure 2.1: Homeless households classified by source, March 2002 (N=2,560)

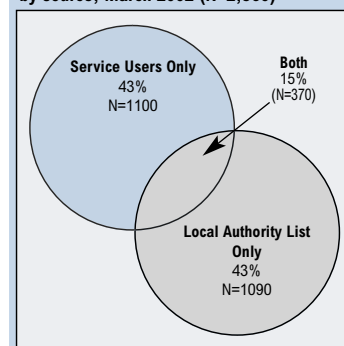


Table 2.3: Homeless Households classified by type and source of information, March 2002

Household Type	Service Users Only	On a local authority list only	Service users and on a local authority list	All households
			%	
Single Person Household	80	70	59	70
Dual Parent Household	5	5	13	9
Single Parent Household	7	19	24	16
Couple only Household	7	6	4	5
TOTAL (N) 2002	(1100)	(1090)	(370)	(2560)

An examination of the age profile of all homeless households in 2002 shows that the average age is 36 years and this does not vary by the on a list only or service user groups.

The analysis that follows in this chapter primarily uses a two-way breakdown by service users and on a local authority list only. The reason for a two-way rather than a three-way analysis is that the numbers involved were too low in many instances to consistently use the more detailed breakdown identified above. However, the tables containing this information are included in Appendix 2.1.

2.2 Single Person Households

This section describes the characteristics of single person households in terms of gender and age, their country of origin, duration of homelessness and type of accommodation used. As shown in Figure 2.2, two thirds of all single homeless are service users while just over one third (36 per cent) are on a local authority list. The percentage of single homeless households who are service users and also on a local authority list is low at 15 per cent.

Overall, single person households comprise the largest category at 70 per cent. Since the last enumeration in 1999, this represents a decrease of 270 individuals or 6 percentage points of the share in the overall population of homeless households.

2.2.1 Demographic Characteristics

In general, the findings in Table 2.4 show that this group are overwhelmingly male (1140 persons representing 81% of the total) and typically aged 38.9 years. Comparing the age profile of service users with those on a list, the former are on average 2 to 3 years younger than the latter group. The current aggregate average age is consistent with 1999, when the average age was 39.8 years. In 1999, those on a list are on average 2 years older while service users are 2 years younger.

In terms of gender, single females are on average 5 years younger than their male counterparts. Within the two main classificatory groups, gender differences also apply; specifically, female service users are substantially younger than their male counterparts and are also younger than both males and females on the local authority lists.

2.2.2 Under 20 Years of age

As shown in Table 2.15, the current assessment points to a reduction (from 210 to 140) in the size of this group. In terms of the proportion of the total population, this represents a decrease from 12 to 8 per cent.

In terms of gender, the findings show that the majority (64 per cent) of the 20 and younger age group is also male. Here, females tend, on average, to be younger than their male counterparts with as many as 39 per cent of them under 18, compared with 19 per cent of males.

Single person households in this age group are predominantly homeless service users rather than on a local authority list. This is possibly due to the

Figure 2.2: Single person households classified by source, March 2002 (N=1,780)

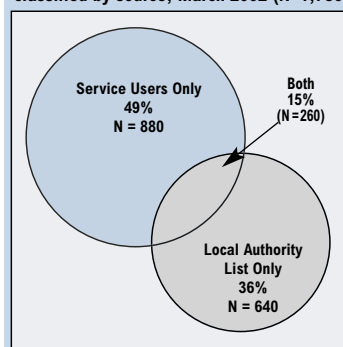


Table 2.4: Distribution of homeless single person households classified according to age and gender

Age Category	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Single Person Households		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
20 years or less	8	20	11	4	13	5	6	18	8
21-25 years	13	21	15	9	14	10	12	19	13
26-39 years	32	31	31	37	29	36	34	30	33
40-64 years	42	23	38	45	32	43	43	26	40
64 years +	5	5	5	5	12	6	5	7	5
TOTAL (N) 2002	910	230	1140	530	110	640	1440	340	1780
TOTAL (N) 1999	950	230	1180	670	200	870	1620	430	2050
AVERAGE AGE (YEARS)									
2002	39.4	32.8	38.1	40.9	38.9	40.6	39.9	34.8	38.9
1999	41.3	38.0	40.6	39.7	35.5	38.7	40.6	36.8	39.8

fact that young homeless people under 18 years of age are the responsibility of health boards and would not generally have entitlement to local authority housing.

Table 2.5: Distribution of homeless persons in single person households aged 20 years or less									
Age Category	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Single Person Households		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
16 years or less	18	37	25	0	0	0	14	29	20
17 years	7	13	9	0	0	0	5	10	7
18 years	20	19	20	26	14	21	22	18	20
19 years	18	22	20	32	29	30	21	23	22
20 years	37	9	26	42	57	49	38	20	31
TOTAL (N) 2002	70	(40)	(110)	(20)	(10)	(30)	(90)	(50)	(140)
TOTAL (N) 1999	80	(60)	(140)	(40)	(30)	(70)	(120)	(90)	(210)

2.2.3 Country of Origin

Questions on the country where people were born and, for those not born in Ireland, the year when they arrived here, were included in the assessment for the first time in 2002. Table 2.6 shows the results for single person households. Overall, just 8 per cent (N=140) of single homeless people reported having been born outside Ireland and this does not vary for males and females.

Looking at service users and the local authority list only groups, single homeless are approximately three times more likely not to have been born in Ireland than those on a local authority list and this applies equally to males and females.

Table 2.6: Distribution of homeless persons in single person households classified according to whether born in Ireland									
Born in Ireland?	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Single Person Households		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No	10	10	10	3	3	3	8	8	8
TOTAL (N) 2002	90	20	110	20	10	30	110	30	140

Turning to the specific countries where respondents were born, the findings in Figure 2.3 show that the vast majority (66 per cent) were born in Britain. A higher percentage of service users are British born compared to those on a list only. Those on a list only are more evenly distributed across the different categories than is the case for service users.

FIGURE 2.3: Country of origin of Single person households who were not born in Ireland

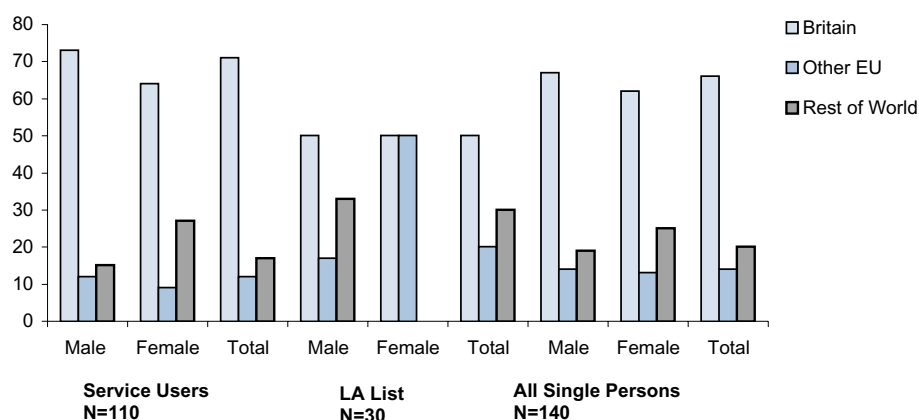
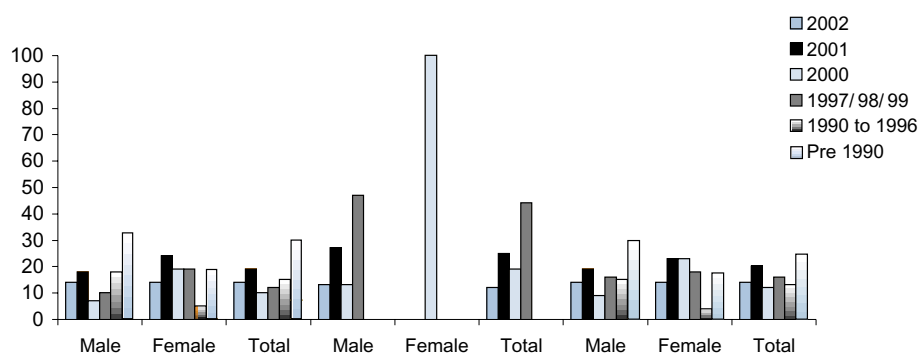


Figure 2.4 shows that the majority (54 per cent) arrived in Ireland 3 or more years ago (prior to 1999). Specifically, the single largest category refers to those who arrived prior to 1990 and this applies particularly to males. The opposite gender pattern applies to more recent arrivals (i.e. in the last three years). Here, 60 per cent of females compared to 42 per cent of males fall into this category.

FIGURE 2.4: Single homeless persons not born in Ireland classified according to year of arrival



¹In interpreting information on duration the reader is advised that an issue often referred to as right-censoring of the data should be considered. This refers to the fact that at a given point in time spells of homelessness have not been completed. Each current spell may have (indeed will have) very different actual (but as yet indeterminable) lengths. Consider, for example, 2 adults each of whom is currently experiencing a spell of homelessness of 2 months. For one of these adults the spell may eventually turn out to have a total duration of 3 months. For the other it could last 36 months. Accordingly, although both have experienced a spell of 2 months to date at the time of the survey this figure can say nothing about the final total duration of the spell in question. It is important therefore, that one differentiates between total duration to date over the last 5 years and the total length of current spell to date.

2.2.4 Duration of Homelessness

Information on two aspects of duration of homelessness was examined in the survey, namely how long people had been homeless in the preceding five years and when their current spell of homelessness began. The former question was intended to elicit a cumulative total duration, with the caveat that it does not take into account movement in and out of homelessness and could apply to a single period or a number of separate periods¹.

Cumulative Duration over preceding Five Years

In the sections in this chapter referring to duration of homelessness the terms very short (less than 6 months), short (6 months to less than 1 year), medium (1 year to less than 3 years) and long (3 to 5 years) are used. These terms are not intended to reflect the qualitative experience of homelessness of any duration. They have been employed to facilitate the discussion and interpretation of the findings.

In terms of the particular measure of cumulative duration used, namely that looking at homelessness in the preceding five years, our findings generally indicate that the single homeless are more likely to have experienced spells

of a medium (between 1 and 3 years) to long (three to five years) duration rather than very short to short (less than 1 year). As Table 2.7 shows, two thirds (62%) report that they fall into this category. This is a pattern that also applied in 1999, albeit somewhat accentuated in the intervening three years (from 55 to 62 per cent).

In 2002, the findings show that only 14 per cent of those on a local authority list report a duration of homelessness of 3 years or more, compared with 41 per cent of service users. In other words, homelessness tends to be longer term among service users than among people on the local authority list. The situation in 1999 was virtually identical; at that time the relevant statistics were 11 and 43 per cent.

In terms of gender, the only difference that applies in the current assessment is that single men are somewhat more likely to be over-represented among the long-term (3 plus years) homeless compared to women; the relevant statistics are 32 and 27 per cent. Conversely, single women outnumber single men (by 5 percentage points) in the less than one-year category. In 1999, the opposite applied, with women outnumbering men in the long-term category (33 and 27 per cent, respectively). Otherwise, the only noteworthy gender difference across the two assessments relates to service users. In 2002, women were over-represented compared to men in two categories, namely the less than 6 months and 1 to 3 years and under-represented in the 3 years and longer group, while the opposite applied in 1999.

Duration of Current spell

Our second measure of duration relates to the current spell (Table 2.8). Overall, half (51 per cent) of the total report a current spell of medium (1 to under 3 years) to long (3 plus years) duration. The relevant figures are 27 and 24 per cent, respectively. Of the remainder, those who have experienced a very short (less than 6 months) spell of homelessness outnumber the short (6 months to under 1 year) group by 2 to 1.

Table 2.7: Distribution of homeless single person households according to cumulative duration of homelessness over the five years preceding the survey, 2002 and 1999

Cumulative duration of preceding five years, March 2002	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Single Person Households		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than 6 months	21	25	21	30	24	29	24	25	24
6 – under 12 months	11	13	11	18	24	19	13	17	14
1 – under 3 years	25	31	27	39	32	38	31	31	31
3 – 5 years	43	31	41	13	20	14	32	27	31
TOTAL (N) 2002	910	230	1140	530	110	640	1440	340	1780
Cumulative duration of preceding five years, March 1999	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than 6 months	24	18	22	30	29	30	26	23	26
6 – under 12 months	11	11	11	30	31	30	20	20	20
10 – under 3 years	25	21	24	30	27	29	27	24	26
3 – 5 years	41	50	43	10	13	11	27	33	29
TOTAL (N) 1999	950	230	1180	670	200	870	1620	430	2050

As Table 2.8 shows, the current spell of homelessness is, on average, substantially longer for those using services than for those on a local authority list only, to the extent of 18 months. Specifically, the average current spell for the service users was approximately 35 months compared to 17 months for those on a list.

Women on average report a current spell of slightly shorter duration (by 4 months) than is the case for men in the single group. This also applies to service users; here the difference is more striking, with the average spell for females being approximately 9 months shorter than that for males. In contrast, this pattern does not hold when we look at the second of the two groups, namely those on a local authority list, where females report a current spell which is, on average, 4 months longer than it is for males.

Table 2.8: Distribution of homeless single person households according to current duration of homelessness									
Duration of current spell	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Single Person Households		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Less than 6 months	33	39	35	34	22	32	34	33	34
6 – under 12 months	13	10	12	20	26	21	15	16	15
1 – under 3 years	23	24	23	34	34	34	27	28	27
3 – 5 years	31	27	30	12	18	13	24	23	24
TOTAL (N) 2002	910	230	1140	530	110	640	1440	340	1780
AVERAGE AGE CURRENT SPELL (months)									
2002*	36.6	28.0	34.9	16.1	20.2	16.7	28.6	25.1	28.0

2.2.4 Accommodation Type

Respondents were asked to indicate how many of the preceding 7 nights they spent in each of the following types of accommodation:

- **Rough sleeping**
- **In a hostel**
- **In a refuge**
- **In a Bed & Breakfast**
- **In a friend/relative's house**
- **Elsewhere**

This information on number of nights was used to classify households into the 9 categories contained in Table 2.9. Categories 1 to 4 relate to rough sleepers and hostel dwellers, respectively. These have been broken down according to number of nights spent in each to reflect the intensity of usage of the options in question. Categories 5 to 8 relate to those who spent all 7 nights of the reference week in, respectively: a refuge; Bed & Breakfast accommodation, with a friend or relative or in other forms of accommodation. The final category refers to respondents who used some combination of accommodation types e.g. 3 nights in a hostel, 3 nights rough sleeping and 1 night with a friend or relative.

Hostels are clearly the most important form of accommodation for single people, with just over half (53 per cent) spending all of the last seven nights in one. An examination of the gender distribution and average age of single service users who report having stayed in hostels during the reference week in question shows that the majority (86 per cent) are male and on average 42.7 years. Here males are older than females at 44.1 and 35.6 years, respectively. Rough sleeping ranked second as the most common option for the single group, at 16 per cent. An examination of the gender distribution and

Table 2.9: Single homeless persons classified according to accommodation and gender, 2002 and 1999									
Accommodation type, March 2002	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Single Person Households		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
7 nights rough sleeping	20	12	18	5	1	4	14	8	13
4-6 nights rough sleeping	5	5	5	0	0	0	3	3	3
7 nights hostel	49	39	47	67	42	63	56	40	53
4-6 nights hostel	5	2	5	0	0	0	3	2	3
7 nights refuge	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
7 nights B&B	7	28	11	15	37	19	10	31	14
7 nights relative/friends	5	6	5	11	16	12	7	9	7
7 nights other	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	3
Other combinations	6	6	6	0	0	0	4	4	4
TOTAL (N) 2002	910	230	1140	530	110	640	1440	340	1780
Accommodation type, March 1999									
7 nights rough sleeping	16	9	14	8	3	7	12	7	11
4-6 nights rough sleeping	5	5	5	2	2	2	4	3	4
7 nights hostel	59	59	59	36	26	34	49	44	48
4-6 nights hostel	5	3	5	1	0	0	3	1	3
7 nights refuge	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	3	1
7 nights B&B	0	5	1	4	24	9	2	14	5
7 nights relative/friends	6	5	5	44	35	42	21	18	21
7 nights other	3	4	4	4	5	4	3	5	4
Other combinations	6	7	6	2	2	2	4	5	4
TOTAL (N) 2002	950	230	1180	670	200	870	1620	430	2050

average age of this group of single service users shows that the majority (84 per cent) are male and are on average 32.1 years. Here males are also older than females at 32.9 and 27.2 years, respectively. Comparing rough sleepers and hostel dwellers, the findings show that the former are on average younger than the latter. In total, 14 per cent reported having stayed in Bed & Breakfast accommodation. Together these 3 options accounted for almost 9 in 10 of the group of single homeless.

The pattern outlined here is broadly in line with the 1999 assessment. The main difference that has occurred is that the percentage of the group in Bed & Breakfast accommodation has almost trebled (albeit from a low base of 5 per cent). This increase is offset by a corresponding decrease in the importance of relatives and/or friends as an accommodation option (from 21 to 7 per cent).

Looking across the two groups in 2002, some clear differences emerge. First, those in contact with services are substantially more likely to be rough sleepers than those on a list (23 and 4 per cent, respectively). Second, while the most common option for the two groups is staying in a hostel, fewer service users report using this option in the previous week than their counterparts (52 and 63 per cent, respectively). Bed & Breakfast is the second most important option for those on a list (19 per cent); this and staying in a hostel accounts for more than 8 in 10 of this group. For service users, Bed & Breakfast accommodation ranks third, however, after hostels and rough sleeping, at 11 per cent. Finally, staying with relatives and friends is mentioned by twice as many people on a list as service users (12 and 5 per cent, respectively).

Comparing the situation for single service users between 1999 and 2002, the findings suggest that while hostels are still the most commonly used accommodation option, usage has decreased (by 12 percentage points). The main change that has occurred for this group over three years is that a higher percentage is sleeping rough, but also and more significantly, a higher percentage is using Bed & Breakfast accommodation (an increase from 1 to 11 per cent). For the group on a list, the difference across the two assessments is more striking, particularly in relation to the use of hostels. While just more than one third (34 per cent) were using this accommodation option in 1999, the proportion had increased to two thirds by March 2002. Previously, staying with relatives and/or friends was the single most important option (at 42 per cent) used by this group. However, this now ranks third after hostels and Bed & Breakfast at 12 per cent.

In gender terms, male service users are shown to have a much higher tendency to sleep rough compared to females in this group, while the opposite applies to Bed & Breakfast residents. A comparison with 1999 reveals an identical pattern.

In the three years since 1999, male service users are less likely to be hostel dwellers (64 compared to 54 per cent, respectively). This decrease is accompanied by a rise in the percentage of men using Bed & Breakfast accommodation over the period in question (from 0 to 7 per cent).

2.3 Households with Children

In this section we discuss the main characteristics of single and dual parent families with children. We begin by outlining the number of households in question. Following this, we present the findings on the country of birth, duration of homelessness, and accommodation used.

2.3.1 Number, Gender and Age

A total of 640 homeless families with children were identified in the course of the survey (Figure 2.5). In total, this group account for one quarter of all (2,560) homeless households. Taking the group as a whole, 36 per cent fall into the service users category while 64 per cent are on a list only, indicating the much greater likelihood for homeless families to be on a list and not using services. As is the case for all households, a minority (14 per cent) were shown to be using services and on a list (Figure 2.5).

In the current assessment, lone parents account for the majority (two-thirds) of households with children and this holds irrespective of which of the two groups is involved. Lone parents are mainly female at 94%. The number of lone parent households has remained static since 1999. The increase (of 100) since 1999 in the total number of homeless families is accounted for entirely by dual parent households. Looking across the two groups of service users and those on a list, the findings show few if any differences in the distribution between lone and dual parents.

As Table 2.10 shows, within these two groups, significant changes have taken place between 1999 and 2002. In 2002, a very substantial increase has occurred in the number of service users with children, (70 to 230). This

Figure 2.5: Homeless households with children classified by source, March 2002 (N = 640)

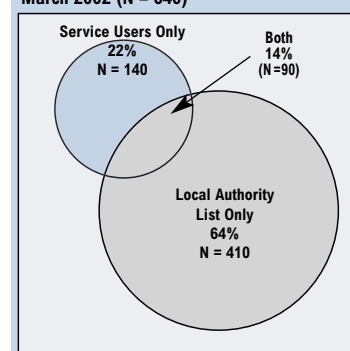


Table 2.10: Distribution of homeless households with children classified according to source of information, 2002 and 1999									
	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Households with children		
	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
March 2002 (%)	65	35	100	65	34	100	66	34	100
March 1999 (%)	71	29	100	79	21	100	78	22	100
TOTAL (N) 2002	150	80	230	270	140	410	420	220	640
TOTAL (N) 1999	50	20	70	370	100	470	420	120	540

increase applies to both lone and dual parent households, with a trebling in the number of lone parents and a fourfold increase in the number of dual parents. On the other hand, while the overall number of families on a local authority list has decreased from 470 to 410, dual parents have increased in number from 100 to 140 and lone parents decreased in number by 100 households (370 to 270).

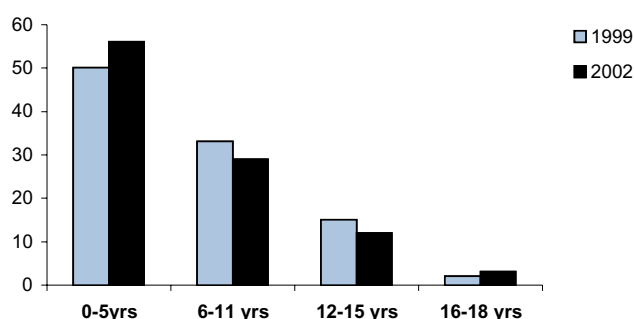
A breakdown of the group of lone parents by gender shows that lone mothers are on average younger than lone fathers (28.0 compared to 37.4 years). In order to present an age profile of the homeless parent(s), we computed an average statistic using the age of the parent in question. Overall, the findings suggested an average age of 29.7 years for dual parent families and 28.3 years for lone parent families. An examination of lone parents by the two groups reveals no difference while for dual parents those on a list are on average aged 30.3 years compared to 28.6 years for service users.

2.3.2 Dependant Children

In 2002 we identified a total of 1,140 dependent children distributed across 640 households. This represents an increase of 150 in the number of children identified in the survey over the 3 years in question (Figure 2.6).

The substantial increase has already been noted in the proportion of dual parent households over the period 1999-2002. In 1999, a total of 79 per cent of dependant children identified in the survey were in lone parent families. By 2002 this had fallen to 63 per cent. On the other hand, the percentage of dependant children in dual-parent households increased substantially—from 21 per cent in 1999 to 37 per cent in 2002.

Figure 2.6: Dependant children classified by age (2002, N=1140; 1999, N=990)



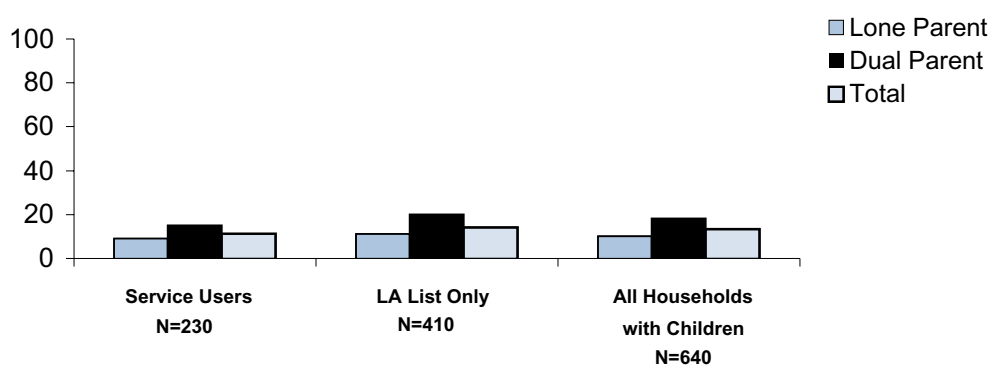
2.3.3 Country of Origin

For single parent families the classification of whether or not the parent is born in Ireland is unambiguous. There is, however, some degree of ambiguity

in the case of dual parent families. For this latter group the classification relates to whether or not *either* of the two parents was not born here.

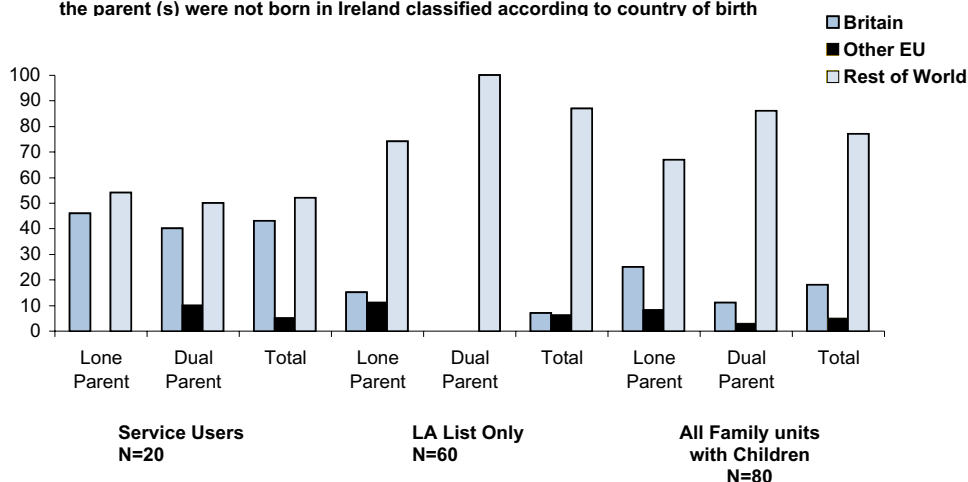
Overall, a total of 13 per cent of households with children reported that they were not born in Ireland, and this is higher for the dual parent than the single parent group (18 per cent and 10 per cent respectively). The quite low incidence of birth outside the jurisdiction (coupled with the relatively small initial base) means that the actual number of relevant households with children is small. Looking across the two groups, there is very little difference to speak of. Within each of the two groups, the findings show that a higher percentage of dual parents than lone parents were born outside Ireland.

Figure 2.7: Dual/Lone parents with at least one member who was not born in Ireland



The most important country of birth for homeless households with children is what we describe here as the Rest of the World; this accounts for almost 4 in 5 of all the families in question (Figure 2.8). While Britain assumes a much greater importance for the service users than is the case for their counterparts on a Local Authority list (43 per cent and 7 per cent respectively), Britain assumes a substantially lower relative importance for homeless families than was the case among single person homeless households.

Figure 2.8: Distribution of homeless households with children according to whether the parent (s) were not born in Ireland classified according to country of birth

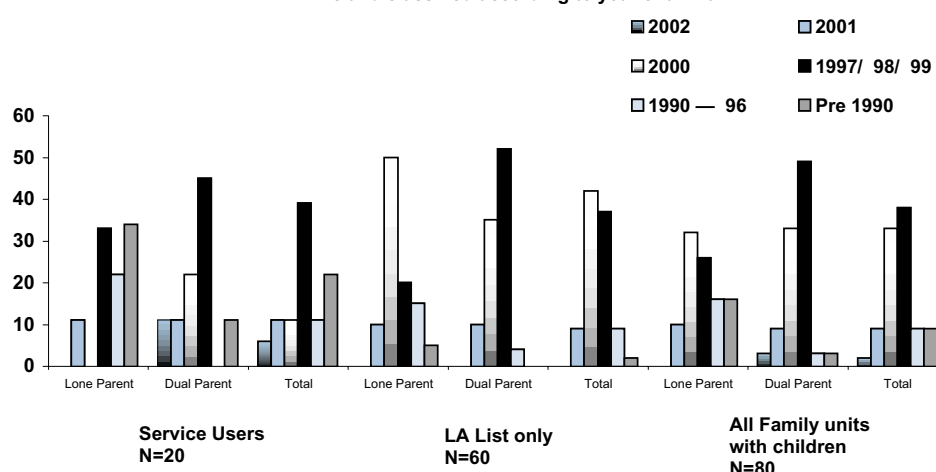


In terms of year of arrival in Ireland, the most notable finding is the extent to which the vast majority of the families in question have been here for a

number of years (Figure 2.9). Specifically, 89 per cent have been here since 1999 or earlier. There is evidence to suggest that a higher percentage of those on a list arrived in Ireland more recently (since 1999) than service users (51 and 28 per cent, respectively).

Within the two groups, some differences are apparent. Of those on a list, lone parents are substantially more likely than dual parents to have arrived since 1999 (60 and 44 per cent). The opposite applies in relation to service users, where 44 per cent of dual parents are shown to have arrived since 1999 compared to 11 per cent of lone parents. The authors wish to draw the reader's attention to the fact that the numbers here are very low and so the findings must be interpreted with this caveat in mind.

Figure 2.9: Distribution of households with children where the parent (s) were not born in Ireland classified according to year of arrival



2.3.4 Duration of Homelessness

In 2002, just over half of all homeless families reported a short (less than 12 months out of the previous 5 year period) cumulative duration of homelessness and this applied to a higher percentage of lone compared to dual parent families (55 and 44 per cent, respectively) (Table 2.11).

Since 1999, this represents a significant reduction in short-term cumulative homelessness. This has been accompanied by a concomitant increase in long (3 to 5 years) and medium-term (1 to 3 years) homelessness (by 4 and 13 percentage points, respectively, over the period in question).

Comparing the two groups in 2002, those on a list are more likely to experience short-term cumulative homelessness than service users (53 and 48 per cent, respectively). However, the main difference relates to homelessness of 3 to 5 years cumulative duration where more than twice as many service users as those on a list are in this category (19 and 7 per cent, respectively). This was also the case in 1999 (19 and 4 per cent).

Examining the distribution of lone and dual parents within service users and those on a list, some differences emerge. In relation to service users, lone parents are significantly more likely to be short-term homeless compared to dual parents (53 and 36 per cent, respectively). This also mirrors the pattern established in 1999. The pattern for those on a list is broadly similar, albeit that the difference is more attenuated.

Table 2.11: Homeless households with children classified according to duration of homelessness in the 5 years preceding the survey, 2002 and 1999

Cumulative duration of homelessness	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Households with children		
	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than 6 months	28	21	26	25	19	23	26	20	24
6 – less than 12 months	25	15	22	30	30	30	29	24	27
1 – to less than 3 years	30	41	33	40	40	40	36	41	38
3 – 5 years	17	23	19	5	11	7	9	15	11
TOTAL (N) 2002	150	80	230	270	140	410	420	220	640
MARCH 1999									
Less than 6 months	31	18	24	48	40	45	45	33	41
6 – less than 12 months	27	11	19	29	29	29	29	24	27
1 – to less than 3 years	33	43	38	20	26	22	22	30	25
3 – 5 years	9	30	19	3	6	4	4	12	7
TOTAL (N) 1999	50	20	70	370	100	470	420	120	540

In aggregate terms, lone parent families record shorter durations of current spells of homelessness than do dual parent families (65 and 52 per cent, respectively) (Table 2.12). While the average duration for lone parents is 13 months, the corresponding figure for dual parents is 18 months.

The differential is more pronounced for lone parents and dual parents within the group of service users (13 and 24 months, respectively) than it is for those on a local authority list (12 and 14 months, respectively).

Table 2.12: Homeless households with children classified according to length of current spell of homelessness

Current Spell	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Households with children		
	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than 6 months	45	29	39	32	28	31	37	28	34
6 – less than 12 months	21	14	19	32	30	31	28	24	26
1 – to less than 3 years	23	40	29	33	33	33	29	36	32
3 – 5 years	11	17	13	3	9	5	6	12	8
TOTAL (N) 2002	150	80	230	270	140	410	420	220	640
Average spell (months) 2002									
2002	13.5	23.6	17.0	12.1	14.0	12.8	12.6	17.6	14.3

2.3.5 Accommodation Type

In aggregate terms, the single most important type of accommodation in 2002 for homeless families with children is Bed & Breakfast accommodation (Table 2.13). Just less than 9 in 10 spent all 7 nights of the reference week in this type of accommodation, and this applies to both lone and dual parent families. Ranked second in this context is 7 nights with a relative/friend, accounting for 4 per cent of the total.

If one compares the situation for those on a list with service users, one can see that the same general pattern applies, although Bed & Breakfast accommodation would appear to be marginally more important for the former (91 and 86 per cent).

Table 2.13: Homeless households with children classified according to accommodation type, 2002 and 1999									
Accommodation type	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			All Households with children		
	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total	Lone Parent	Dual Parent	Total
7 nights rough sleeping	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
4-6 nights rough sleeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4-6 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 nights refuge	3	0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2
7 nights B&B	87	81	86	89	96	91	88	91	89
7 nights relative/friend	3	3	3	6	3	5	5	3	4
7 nights other	2	6	3	1	1	1	1	3	2
Other combinations	4	9	6	0	0	0	1	3	2
TOTAL (N) 2002	150	80	230	270	140	410	420	220	640
MARCH 1999									
7 nights rough sleeper	2	7	5	1	1	1	1	2	2
4-6 nights rough sleeper	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
7 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4-6 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 nights refuge	18	7	13	5	0	3	6	2	5
7 nights B&B	56	52	55	53	66	57	53	63	56
7 nights relative/friend	7	4	6	38	27	35	35	22	30
7 nights other	2	7	5	1	1	1	1	2	1
Other combinations	13	22	17	2	4	3	3	8	5
TOTAL (N) 2002	50	20	70	370	100	470	420	120	540

In terms of a comparison with 1999, perhaps the most striking finding is the very substantial increase in the relative importance of Bed & Breakfast accommodation as an emergency response to homeless households with children. In aggregate terms, while 56 per cent of all households in this category spent 7 nights in a Bed & Breakfast in 1999, this had increased by 34 to 89 per cent in 2002. This very substantial increase in the relative importance of Bed & Breakfast accommodation is evident for both household types. In general, this increase would seem to be largely associated with a reduction in the use of accommodation with friends/relatives, from 30 per cent in 1999 to 4 per cent in 2002. The diminishing importance of relatives/friends applies more to those on a list (35 compared to 5 per cent) than to service users (6 compared to 3 per cent).

2.4 Couple only households

Finally, we present the findings on the third category of homeless households, namely couples with no dependent children. The structure follows that of the previous two sections, outlining the number of such households, the incidence of at least one of the couple having being born outside Ireland, the duration of homelessness and the accommodation types used.

2.4.1 Number and Age

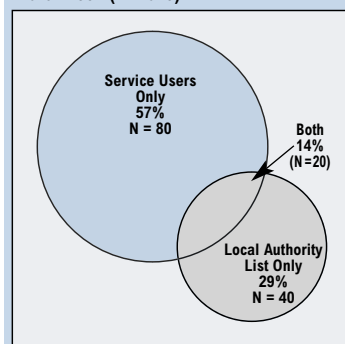
In 2002, a total of 140 couple only households were identified. Although in percentage terms this represents a minority (5 per cent) of all homeless households one can see from Table 2.14 that the number of the households in question grew considerably (from 100 to 140) since 1999.

Table 2.14: Number of Couple-only households classified by service users and local authority list only			
	Service Users	Identified from Local Authority List Only	All Couple-only households
March 2002 (%)	71	29	100
March 1999 (%)	40	60	100
TOTAL (N) 2002	100	40	140
TOTAL (N) 1999	40	60	100

In terms of age, an average age statistics was computed using the age of the male as a proxy for the couple. The findings show that couples are on average aged 28.4 years. Couples on a list are marginally older than service users (29.3 compared to 28.1 years).

Figure 2.10 shows that couple only homeless households are substantially more likely to be service users only than on a list only (57 and 29 per cent, respectively). Here, just 14 per cent of all couple only households are both using services and on a list. This is consistent with the proportion of other homeless household types in this crossover group.

Figure 2.10: Homeless households with children classified by source, March 2002 (N = 640)



2.4.2 Country of Origin

Table 2.15 provides details on (a) the percentage of couple only households in which at least one member of the couple has been born outside Ireland; (b) country of birth of relevant household and (c) year of arrival in Ireland.

In 8 per cent of the 140 households, at least one of the partners had been born outside Ireland and this is consistent for both service users and those on a local authority list. Given the small number of cases in this group, we present the absolute number of cases in Table 2.15 but do not provide any commentary in the text.

Table 2.15: Couple-only households classified according to (a) whether or not at least one of the partners was born outside Ireland; (b) country of birth and (c) year of arrival in Ireland			
	Service Users %	Identified from Local Authority List Only %	All Couple-only households %
A. Born in Ireland?			
No	8	8	8
TOTAL (N) 2002	100	40	140
	Service Users (N)	Identified from Local Authority List Only (N)	All Couple-only households (N)
B. Country of birth of those not born in Ireland			
Britain	6	1	7
Other EU	1	0	1
Rest of World	0	2	2
TOTAL (N) 2002	7	3	10
	Service Users (N)	Identified from Local Authority List Only (N)	All Couple-only households (N)
C. Year of Arrival			
2002	1	0	1
2001	1	1	2
2000	1	2	3
1997/ '98 / '99	1	0	1
1990-1996	0	0	0
Pre 1990	3	0	3
TOTAL (N) 2002	7	3	10

2.4.3 Duration of Homelessness

Approximately one-third of the 140 households report having experienced less than 12 months homelessness over the preceding 5 years; one-third between 1-3 years and the remaining one-third for more than 3 years (Table 2.16). Since 1999, this represents a reduction in short-term (less than 12 months) homelessness by 21 percentage points and a corresponding increase in medium and long-term homelessness (by 13 and 8 percentage points, respectively).

Table 2.16: Couple-only households classified according to cumulative duration of homelessness in the 5 years preceding the survey

	Service Users %		On Local Authority List Only %		All Couple-only Households %	
	2002	1999	2002	1999	2002	1999
Less than 6 months	15	17	20	33	17	27
6 – less than 12 months	17	13	27	42	20	31
1 – to less than 3 years	29	20	40	18	32	19
3 – 5 years	39	49	13	7	31	23
TOTAL (N) 2002	100	40	40	60	140	100

In 2002, the figures show those on a list having a slightly shorter cumulative duration of homelessness than service users (47 and 32 per cent). This was also the case in 1999 but to a much greater degree (75 compared to 30 per cent). In terms of long-term cumulative duration of homelessness, in 1999 service users were 7 times more likely than those on a list to have a lengthy experience of homelessness. By 2002, this differential has decreased substantially to a factor of 3.

On the length of the current spell, just over 50 per cent of all relevant households reported having been homeless for less than 1 year (Table 2.17). Considerably higher percentages of service users were experiencing longer spells than was the case among those on a Local Authority list. This trend is clearly illustrated by the average duration of the current spell of homelessness, which for service users is twice that experienced by those on a local authority list (26 and 14 weeks respectively).

Table 2.17: Couple-only households classified according to length of current spell

Duration of Current Spell	Service Users %	Identified on Local Authority List only %	Total %
Less than 6 months	34	27	32
6 – less than 12 months	17	32	21
1 – 3 years	24	35	27
3 years +	25	6	19
TOTAL (N) 2002	100	40	140
Average Length of Current Spell (months) 2002			
2002	25.7	13.8	22.2

Table 2.18: Couple-only households classified by accommodation type used in survey reference week, 2002 and 1999

	Service Users %		Identified only from Local Authority Lists %		All Couple-only Households %	
	2002	1999	2002	1999	2002	1999
7 nights rough sleeping	6	26	0	13	4	18
4-6 nights rough sleeping	10	4	0	4	7	4
7 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0
4,5,6 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 nights refuge	0	3	0	0	0	1
7 nights B&B	78	32	98	47	84	42
7 nights relative/friends	2	12	2	35	2	27
7 nights other	1	3	0	0	1	1
Other contributions	3	19	0	1	2	8
TOTAL (N) 2002	100	40	40	60	140	100

2.4.4 Accommodation Type

In aggregate terms, the most important type of accommodation for couple only households in 2002 is Bed & Breakfast (Table 2.18). A total of 84 per cent of the couple only households spent all 7 nights there. The only other option where homeless couples were found to any appreciable degree was rough sleeping, used by 11 per cent of relevant households (approximately 15 couples). It is clear from the table that rough sleeping is confined entirely to service users.

A comparison with 1999 shows a doubling of the importance of Bed & Breakfast accommodation for this group of households over the period in question. This is accompanied by a reduction (to the point of virtual elimination) of the option of staying with friends/relatives, from 27 to only 2 per cent.

chapter three

Summary and Conclusions

3.1 Introduction

The purpose of this report was to quantify the number of homeless persons in the Dublin region as part of the statutory requirement for the enumeration of homelessness carried out every three years by the local authorities. The report presented the findings from the survey, which was carried out in the week of 20th — 26th March 2002. This was the second enumeration of this sort to have been undertaken by the ESRI. The first was published in 1999 as *Counted In* by the then Homeless Initiative. The current report is a follow-up to that earlier study. All aspects of the 2002 enumeration were conducted in a manner consistent with that in 1999 to ensure comparability throughout.

It is particularly appropriate that a re-enumeration of the homeless population should have taken place at this time. The period 1999-2002 has seen some quite substantial changes in the macroeconomic environment. Unprecedented levels of GNP growth in the region of 7-8 per cent were experienced throughout the period in question, moving Ireland from one of the least developed members of the EU to a position where it enjoyed a GNP per capita in line with the EU average. Unemployment over the period also experienced a significant fall from 6 per cent in 1999 to 4 per cent in 2001.

Growth of this nature, however, often comes at a cost. House prices over the period have continued to increase. This has largely been due to the mismatch in supply and demand. This, in turn, has placed upward pressure on housing costs in the private rental sector. Coupled with a set of demographic trends in the Dublin region this has further exacerbated demand for private rentals to an extent where many households may have been pushed out of the private rental sector completely — some, unfortunately, into homelessness.

Not only economic factors operated over the period 1999-2002 to impact adversely on levels of homelessness. Increasing problems of addiction and more general social problems including the incidence of marital breakdown may also have exacerbated the problem.

On the positive side some important policy initiatives were clearly of major significance over the last number of years. The most important of these is probably the introduction of the government integrated strategy on homelessness in 2000. This was devised and is being implemented on an interdepartmental basis. The objectives of the strategy are to take a comprehensive approach to tackling homelessness incorporating all relevant responses to it, including accommodation, health and welfare, education and the introduction of preventative measures. A similar strategy has also been published targeting young homeless people (under 18 years of age).

Arising from the government strategy, an action plan in Dublin aims, among other things, to ensure an adequate supply of emergency accommodation for people who are homeless. Between 2000 and 2002, an additional one hundred emergency beds were provided for single people and families by the voluntary sector, assisted by state funding, and approximately 600 beds were added to the stock of bed and breakfast accommodation, bringing the total emergency provision in March 2002 to about 2,300.

Given the context of these major changes both in the general socio-economic environment of homelessness and also in terms of the policy response it is particularly timely that a new enumeration should have been undertaken.

In the remainder of this chapter our purpose is two-fold. First, we summarise the main trends identified in Chapter two. In particular, we focus on the main differences between those identified as using services and those identified on a local authority list only. Secondly, we make some observations regarding issues which arose in the course of the survey and which one should possibly take into consideration if the exercise were to be repeated in the future.

3.2 Summary of Results

In Chapter two, we saw that one of the most striking features of the 2002 enumeration is the relative stability in terms of the net position regarding the size and characteristics of the stock of homeless as compared with the situation in 1999. In 2002 a total of 2,920 *persons* was identified as being homeless. This was unchanged as compared with the level from the 1999 survey (2,880 persons in the Dublin region). There was very little difference in the breakdown of these homeless individuals in terms of their age or gender distributions. These 2,920 homeless *persons* constituted a total of 2,560 households. A total of 70 per cent of these were made up of single person households.

While single people continued to be the largest group In absolute terms, their relative importance has fallen by 2002 from 76 per cent to 70 per cent. This proportionate reduction is largely due to the substantial increase in families and in particular dual parent families. This latter category accounted for 4 per cent of all family units in 1999. By 2002 this had risen to 9 per cent. Exactly one-quarter of homeless families have children — 16 per cent are lone parents and 9 per cent are dual parent families. The remaining 5 per cent of households are made up of couple only households.

The increase in families is matched by an increase in children. In 2002 we found a total of 1,140 dependant children — an increase of 150 since 1999.

Although average durations remain largely similar to those identified in 1999 the accommodation used by families has changed somewhat. The most significant aspect of this change is the major growth in the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation with a commensurate decrease in the informal staying with friends and relatives option.

In the course of the report we focused separately on the characteristics of the main household types viz. single person households; lone parent, dual parent families; couple only households.

Single Person Households

The largest category of homeless families (accounting for 1,780 homeless households — 70 per cent) was the single person household. A total of 81 per cent of these was male. The average age was 39 years. In general males were 5 years older than females. A total of 140 independent homeless persons in 2002 were aged 20 years or less. This represents a fall of 70 in the number of young homeless persons from the situation in 1999 when there were 210.

In terms of country of birth a total of 8 per cent of homeless single person households were born outside Ireland with Britain being relatively the most important country of birth. There was very clear evidence to indicate that the majority of those households which were not of Irish origin were not recent arrivals to Ireland but had generally been here for a number of years.

We found that the average duration of current spell of homelessness was 28 months. This was somewhat longer for males than females and was also longer for those who used services than those on a local authority list.

The most commonly used accommodation type among homeless single-person households is hostels — 53 per cent spent all 7 nights of the reference week in a hostel. Rough sleeping was also of substantial importance among single person households. Perhaps of greatest significance in terms of changing accommodation profiles for this category over the period 1999-2002 is the substantial growth in the incidence of Bed & Breakfast accommodation. Only 5 per cent had spent all 7 nights of the reference week in Bed & Breakfast accommodation in 1999. By 2002 this had increased to 14 per cent.

Households with Children

This group of households rose from 540 in 1999 to 640 by March 2002. Just over two-thirds were lone parent families. The incidence of not having been born in Ireland among families with children was 13 per cent. This rate stood at 10 per cent for lone parents and was high as 18 per cent for dual parent families.

Current durations among lone parents were some 5 months shorter than among their Dual Parent counterparts (12.6 months and 17.6 months respectively). The importance of the Bed & Breakfast sector was clear among families with children. As many as 89 per cent of this group were reported as having spent all 7 nights in Bed & Breakfast accommodation. The most important aspect of trends in accommodation types used by families with children was the major growth in the Bed & Breakfast sector over the period 1999-2002. This grew from 56 per cent in 1999 to 89 per cent by 2002. This increase in use of the more formal Bed & Breakfast sector was clearly at the

expense of informal accommodation types, in particular staying with friends and relatives.

“Couple Only” Households

This group of families grew by 40 in number, from 100 in 1999 to 140 in 2002. Only 8 per cent (10 couples) had been born outside of Ireland. Average current duration of homelessness was 22 months. More than 8 in 10 of all couples used Bed & Breakfast accommodation.

3.3 Review of Issues Arising in the Research

Having completed the second report in this series the authors would make a number of observations regarding several aspects of the methodology.

As noted throughout the report, the survey-based approach adopted in the enumeration involved completing a questionnaire with all persons who used services in the reference week¹. In addition, a questionnaire was completed by local authorities in the Dublin area in respect of those who were on their relevant homeless or housing lists.

A question can be raised as to how current are some of the entries on the local authority lists. In discussions with some of the authorities it would appear that many people on the lists may have registered with them several months prior to the survey reference week. All the data completed by the authorities on the questionnaire relating to these individuals and their situation may consequently relate to a point in time several months before the actual reference week of the survey. Many of those registered may have made the transition out of homelessness in the interim.

The degree to which this may have happened can, of course, only be guessed at. It would go some way, however, to explaining why such a relatively high percentage of those identified on a list had not been identified as using services, including emergency accommodation, in the reference week. In the extent to which some of the information may be out-of-date, the inclusion in the results of the assessment of the households in question, will artificially inflate the scale of the problem.

If this survey-based approach were to be repeated as part of the next enumeration the authors would recommend that the returns by the local authorities should be restricted to those who are verified as being homeless at the time of the assessment. This would include those who made live contact with the authorities in the reference week for the survey as well as those who are registered as being homeless and whose position as such in the reference week could be verified by the authority.

A self-reporting survey of the nature implemented in this study may be susceptible to strategic response on the part of some respondents. Some may tend, for example, to exaggerate their duration of homelessness or the difficulty of their accommodation (e.g. there may be an overestimation of the intensity of rough sleeping).

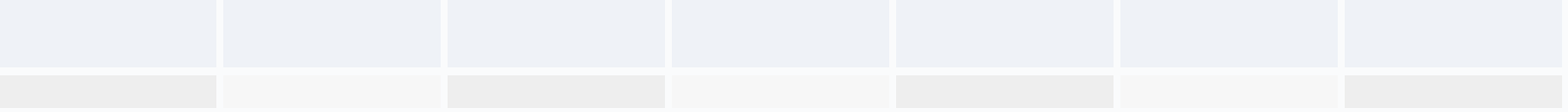
Consideration should be given to a non-survey methodology of assessing homelessness. One alternative would be the introduction of a computerised tracking system for those who use homeless services. The authors understand that the Homeless Agency has developed such a system and that

¹ The authors would like to express their appreciation to both the respondents who participated in the survey and also to the interviewers who completed the questionnaires. The homeless is a much researched group in society. Notwithstanding this they nonetheless agreed to give generously of their time to provide data for this report. The interviewing for the survey in some cases took place under extremely difficult circumstances e.g. perhaps with rough sleepers; persons with drug or other addition dependency problems etc. Notwithstanding these problems the work was carried out by the interviewers (most of whom were volunteers) in a most professional fashion.

this is in the process of being piloted in a number of services. The system involves the registration of everyone who accesses homeless services, using a unique identifier.

The reader should note that even if one were to use a tracking system of this nature, one would encounter the same problems with regard to returns being made by local authorities - unless these were restricted to live contacts in the survey reference or validated as proposed above. In other words, unless the tracking system was extended to the local authorities as well as service providers, the same problems of the non-current nature of data from the former would still have to be addressed. If the tracking system were to be adopted in the local authorities then the validation of non-current contacts would still have to take place.

The reader is reminded that the tracking system would only be taking the place of the paper record, which is returned in the form of the questionnaire. Until such a computerised system is applied to all services, the best option for measuring current homelessness would seem to be a survey-based approach similar to that adopted for the present report.



Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Reweighting the Data

REWEIGHTING THE DATA AND FINAL ADJUSTMENT TO THE HOMELESS DATABASE

A standard statistical procedure undertaken in sample surveys involves adjusting the completed sample of questionnaires in such a way as to be representative of the total population from which the sample has been selected. This involves assigning a weight to each of the completed questionnaires in such a way as to ensure that the completed sample is representative of the complete population from which it has been derived. In the present survey this means adjusting the 2,792 completed questionnaires to represent the total figure of 2,913. These so-called weights are principally used to account for sample selection probabilities and also non-response levels within the chosen sample. In the current context we attempted to undertake a *census* of all those who accessed the service providers in the week in question in contrast to a *sample* or subset of users. Consequently, in terms of adjusting or reweighting the data one need not adjust to account for sample selection probabilities. The only adjustment necessary is to account for refusal or non-response among those who should have completed a questionnaire but who did not. In other words, it is necessary to reweight the data to bring it from the 2,792 completed and usable questionnaires to the identified target population of 2,913 persons.¹

¹ One would usually adjust a sample to an externally determined population frame. Because there are no population estimates of the number of homeless persons available, we derive the population frame internally from the survey, based on completed forms, de facto refusals and actual refusals.

To carry out this reweighting procedure a standard statistical technique referred to as ratio weighting was used. This involves comparing the completed sample with the population according to a number of dimensions of particular importance to the study in question. In the present survey a three-fold reweighting matrix was used. This was based on (i) type of service provider in which the person was identified; (ii) gender; (iii) age category.

A total of seven broad categories of service provider where the final questionnaire was completed were identified as follows:

- Local authorities and Eastern Health Board
- Hostels and Refugees
- Food Centres
- Day/Advice/Other Centres
- Transitional/Supported Housing
- Rough Sleepers
- Alcohol/Drug Units

This means that a total of 7 dimensions for type of service provider was used for reweighting purposes.² Gender of respondent provided a further two dimensions and age category yielded five dimensions as follows:

- (24 years or less)
- (25-34 years)
- (35 years — 49 years)
- (50 or more)
- (Age unknown)

In total, therefore, we had 70 cells in the reweighting matrix (7 centre types 2 by genders, 5 age categories). To carry out the adjustment we compared the number of actual, completed questionnaires in each of these cells with the corresponding numbers in the population. In summary, therefore, the 2,792 completed and usable questionnaires were reweighted or adjusted in such a way as to be fully representative of the total identified target population of 2,913 persons who accessed the service providers in the week in question.

Final Adjustment to the homeless database

When the data were reweighted to represent the target population of persons using the homeless service (i.e. to the 2,913 questionnaires referred to above) two further adjustments were made to the data. The first of these was the exclusion of the three groups who used the services providers. The second is the addition to the database of dependent adults who were recorded on a partner's questionnaire but who were not identified in the dataset in their own right.

As discussed in Section 3.3 above, three categories of respondent were excluded. First, we excluded those who spent the 7 nights of the reference week in their own home. Their exclusion was based on the assumption that these were people with a home but who used the services of food or advice centres in the week in question. A total of 32 persons were excluded from the database on this basis.

The second exclusion related to those who accessed the service providers in the week in question but who had spent all 7 nights of the reference week in transitional or supported housing. These people have quite a substantial degree of security of tenure, having a one-or two-year lease agreement. Most of those who use these accommodation services have made the first step in the transition from homelessness to a more settled lifestyle. Accordingly, although they used some aspect of the services provided for homeless persons in the reference week they are not, in the strict sense, homeless.³ A total of 231 persons was excluded from the database on this basis.

The third exclusion was asylum seekers. This was undertaken on the basis that the services provided to them are somewhat different to those provided to other homeless persons. (All three exclusions are included in Panel F of Table 4.1). A total of 67 persons were excluded from the database on this basis.

¹ One would usually adjust a sample to an externally determined population frame. Because there are no population estimates of the number of homeless persons available, we derive the population frame internally from the survey, based on completed forms, de facto refusals and actual refusals.

² The authors realise that in aggregating service providers to 7 main types for reweighting purposes there may have been some leakage as between one type and another. For example, a respondent who principally sleeps in a hostel may in fact have been interviewed in a food centre. The effect of any such leakage on the final estimates will be minimal. The reader is reminded that the weights are being used only to bring the figures from 3,056 to 3,298.

³ There are a number of persons in the database who spent some but not all seven nights in the reference week in supported housing. These respondents were left in the database. This could to some extent represent persons who had just moved into this type of relatively secure accommodation throughout the week of the survey. The inclusion of these individuals will result in a very minor overestimate of the numbers identified as homeless. The numbers involved, however, are insignificant.

When these three exclusions were taken into account we were left with a total of 2,583 persons in the database. This represents those who used the service providers at some point in the reference week and whom we defined as being homeless as well as those registered as homeless by a local authority. The final adjustment to this database of homeless persons⁴ was to add back in the partners of respondents who were identified as being homeless but whom we did not successfully interview in their own right. To account for such individuals respondents were asked (in Q10a of the questionnaire) to record whether or not they had a partner or any children in the same family group at the moment *who was in the same position as themselves regarding homelessness*. The initials, date of birth and gender of other such individuals were then recorded. These 3 pieces of information were then used to generate the unique identifier which had been used to de-duplicate the general database. A total of 335 adults was recorded at the end of the questionnaire. Their unique identifiers were matched with the main body of the database to eliminate those who were recorded as dependents in a homeless state but who also appeared in the database in their own right as having completed a questionnaire. This final adjustment resulted, therefore, in a total of 335 persons being added to the main database (panel H of Table 4.1).

Because we only recorded basic identifying information on the dependent adults who were also homeless we incorporated them into the homeless database using a second set of weights which were comparable to (but quite independent of) those used in the adjustment for refusal/non-response. A three-fold reweighting matrix was used to adjust for dependent adults. This matrix was based on the following dimensions:

- (i) whether host-questionnaire was classified at Q10a as having (a) partner only or (b) a partner and child(ren) — (2 categories);
- (ii) gender of dependent adult — (2 categories);
- (iii) age of dependent adult — (4 categories)

This left 16 cells in the reweighting matrix (2 by 2 by 4). By host-questionnaire at (i) above we are referring to the completed questionnaire of the partner on whose form the dependent adult is identified.

These various adjustments, exclusions and additions as outlined in Table 4.1 resulted in our estimate of 2,920 adults whom we identified as having accessed the base of service providers in the week in question and whom we defined as homeless, using the working definitions outlined in Section 3.3 above.

⁴ The data were initially reweighted to those who accessed the service providers in the reference week. When we exclude both those who spent the previous week in their own home or in supported housing we can start to refer to it as a database of homeless persons.

APPENDIX 2

Tables

Table A1: Distribution of households identified in the survey according to type of unit

March 2002	1999		2002	
	(N)	%	(N)	%
Single Person Household	2050	76	1780	70
Dual Parent Household	120	4	220	9
Single Parent Household	420	16	420	16
Couple Only Household	100	4	140	5
TOTAL	290	100	20	100

Table A2 Distribution of homeless persons in single person households classified according to average age, 2002

	Service Users	On Local Authority List Only	Service Users and on LA List	All Single Person Family units
Average Age				
Single Person	37.8	40.5	38.6	38.9
Dual Parent	28.6	30.2	28.7	29.7
Single Parent	28.3	28.7	28.4	28.5
Couple Only	28.5	29.3	26.5	28.4
Average 2002	36.0	35.9	35.5	35.9
TOTAL (N) 2002	1100	1090	0	2560

Table A3 Distribution of homeless persons in single person households classified according to age category and gender, 2002

	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on Local Authority list %			All Single Person Family units %		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Age (Years)												
20 or less	10	25	13	4	13	5	2	4	2	6	18	9
21-25	13	19	15	9	14	10	13	28	16	12	19	13
26-39	29	32	30	37	29	36	40	24	37	34	30	33
40-64	42	20	37	45	32	43	43	34	41	43	26	40
64+	6	4	5	5	12	6	2	10	4	5	7	5
TOTAL N 2002	700	10	0	530	110	60	210	50	260	10	30	170
TOTAL N 1999	770	190	960	670	200	70	10	0	220	1620	30	2050
Average Age (Yrs)												
2002	39.5	31.4	37.8	40.9	38.9	40.6	38.8	37.8	38.6	39.9	34.8	38.9
1999	41.7	38.7	41.1	39.7	35.5	38.7	39.5	33.6	38.6	40.6	36.8	39.8

Table A4 Distribution of homeless persons in single person households aged 20 or less 2000 classified according to age category and gender 2002

Age Category	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on Local Authority list %			All Single Person Households %		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
16 years or less	19	39	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	29	20
17 years	7	13	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	7
18 years	22	18	20	26	14	21	-	50	17	22	18	20
19 years	16	23	19	32	29	30	50	-	33	21	23	22
20 years	36	7	25	42	57	49	50	50	50	38	20	31
TOTAL N 2002	70	40	110	20	10	30	*	*	*	90	50	140
TOTAL N 1999	70	60	130	40	30	70	10	*	10	120	90	210

*Rounds to zero

Table A5 Distribution of homeless persons in single person households classified according to whether or not they were born in Ireland

Born in Ireland?	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on Local Authority list %			All Single Person Households %		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
No	10	11	10	3	3	3	13	10	12	8	8	8
TOTAL N 2002	700	180	880	530	110	640	210	50	260	1440	340	1780

Table A6 Homeless persons in single person households who were not born in Ireland classified according to country of birth

Country of Origin	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on Local Authority list %			All Single Person Households %		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Britain	71	76	72	50	50	50	73	20	64	67	62	66
Other EU	14	6	13	17	50	20	12	20	13	14	13	14
Rest of World	15	18	15	33		30	15	60	22	19	25	20
TOTAL N 2002*	70	20	90	20	10	30	20	*	20	110	30	140

* Details on length of country of birth were not collected in the 1999 enumeration.

Table A7 Homeless persons in Single Person households who were not born in Ireland classified according to year of arrival

	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on Local Authority list %			All Single Person Households %		
Age Category	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
2002	14	6	12	13	-	12	14	25	15	14	14	14
2001	17	25	19	27	-	25	18	25	19	19	23	20
2000	10	19	12	13	100	19	5	25	8	19	23	12
1997/98/99	11	19	12	47	0	44	9	25	12	16	18	16
1990-96	17	6	15	-	-	-	18	-	15	15	4	13
Pre-1990	31	25	30	-	-	-	36	-	31	27	18	25
TOTAL N 2002*	70	20	90	20	10	30	20	*	20	110	30	140

*Details on country of birth was not collected in the 1999 enumeration

Table A8 Distribution of Homeless Single Person households according to Cumulative Duration of homelessness over the 5 years proceeding the Survey 2002 and 1999

March 2002	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on local authority list %			All single Person households %		
Cumulative Duration of preceding 5 years	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Less than 6 months	20	25	21	30	24	29	22	27	23	24	25	24
6- under 12 months	10	13	11	18	24	19	13	15	13	13	17	14
12 months-under 3 years	25	30	26	39	32	38	29	31	29	31	31	31
3-5 years	45	32	42	13	20	14	36	27	35	32	27	31
TOTAL N 2002	700	180	880	530	110	640	210	50	260	1440	340	1780
March 1999	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on local authority list %			All single Person households %		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Less than 6 months	24	18	23	30	29	29	19	19	19	26	23	26
6 under 12 months	10	9	10	30	31	30	15	19	16	20	20	20
12 months under 3 years	23	21	22	30	27	29	32	23	30	27	24	26
3-5 years	43	52	45	10	13	11	33	39	34	27	33	29
TOTAL N 1999	770	190	960	670	200	870	180	40	220	1620	430	2050

Table A9 Distribution of homeless single households according to current duration of homelessness

March 2002	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on local authority list %			All single Person households %		
Duration of Current spell	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Less than 6 months	33	39	34	34	22	32	35	41	36	34	33	34
6- under 12 months	11	10	11	20	26	21	16	11	15	15	16	15
10 months- under 3years	22	25	22	33	34	34	27	22	26	27	28	27
3-5 years	34	26	33	13	18	13	22	26	23	24	23	24
TOTAL N 2002	700	180	880	530	110	640	210	50	260	1440	340	1780
Average Current Spell (months)												
2002	39.6	27.6	37.4	16.1	20.2	16.7	27.2	28.0	27.4	28.6	25.1	28.0

Table A10 Homeless persons in single person households classified according to (a) accommodation and (b) gender, 2002 and 1999

	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on local authority list %			All Single Person households %		
March 2002	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
7 nights rough sleeping	23	13	21	5	1	4	11	4	9	14	8	13
4-6 nights rough sleeping	5	6	5	0	0	0	6	2	5	3	3	3
7 nights hostel	45	42	45	67	42	63	60	29	54	56	40	53
4,5,6 nights hostel	5	3	5	0	0	0	5	0	4	3	2	3
7 nights refuge	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
7 nights B&B	7	22	10	15	37	19	8	48	16	10	31	14
7 nights relative/friends	5	6	5	11	16	12	2	6	3	7	9	7
7 nights other	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	3
Other combinations	6	6	6	0	0	0	7	8	7	4	4	4
Total N 2002	700	180	880	530	110	640	210	50	260	1440	340	1780
	Service Users Only %			On Local Authority List only %			Service Users and on local authority list %			All Single Person households %		
March 1999	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
7 nights rough sleeping	17	10	15	8	3	7	9	3	8	12	7	11
4-6 nights rough sleeping	5	5	5	2	2	2	4	0	3	4	3	4
7 nights hostel	57	60	57	36	26	34	66	51	64	49	44	48
4,5,6 nights hostel	5	3	4	0	0	0	7	0	6	3	1	3
7 nights refuge	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	24	4	0	3	1
7 nights B&B	0	2	0	4	24	9	5	6	5	2	14	5
7 nights relative/friends	6	5	5	44	35	42	3	6	5	21	18	21
7 nights other	3	3	3	4	5	4	3	9	4	4	5	4
Other combinations	7	7	7	2	2	2	4	6	4	4	5	4
TOTAL N 1999	770	190	960	670	200	870	180	40	220	1620	430	2050

Households with Children

Table A11: Distribution of homeless households with children classified according to source of information

	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			Service users and on LA List			All Households with Children		
	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %
March 2002 (%)	57	43	100	66	34	100	78	22	100	66	34	100
(N)	80	60	140	270	140	410	70	20	90	420	220	640
March 1999 (%)	75	25	100	79	21	100	67	33	100	78	22	100
(N)	30	10	40	370	100	470	20	10	30	420	120	540

Table A12 households with children classified according to (a) whether or not at least one of the partners was born outside Ireland; (b) where relevant, country of birth and (c) where relevant, year of arrival in Ireland.

	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			Service users and on LA List			All Households with Children		
	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %
Born in Ireland?												
No	10	17	13	11	20	14	8	10	9	10	18	13
TOTAL (N) 2002	(80)	(60)	(140)	(270)	(140)	(410)	(70)	(20)	(90)	(420)	(220)	(640)
	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			Service Users and on LA List			All Households with Children		
	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %
Country of Birth												
Britain	17	25	21	15	-	7	80	100	86	25	11	18
Other EU	-	12	7	11	-	6	-	-	0	8	3	5
Rest of World	83	63	72	74	100	87	20	-	14	67	86	77
TOTAL (N) 2002	(10)	(10)	(20)	(30)	(30)	(60)	()	()	()	(40)	(40)	(80)
	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			Service Users and on LA List			All Households with Children		
	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %
Year of Arrival												
2002	0	14	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
2001	17	14	15	10	9	9	0	0	0	10	9	9
2000	0	29	15	50	35	42	0	0	0	32	33	33
1997/ 98/ 99	50	29	39	20	52	37	0	100	40	26	49	38
1990 96	33	0	16	15	4	9	0	0	0	16	3	9
Pre 1990	0	14	7	5	0	2	100	0	60	16	3	9
TOTAL (N) 2002	(10)	(10)	(20)	(30)	(30)	(60)	()	()	()	(40)	(40)	(80)

Table A13: Homeless households with children classified according to duration of homelessness in the 5 years preceding the survey

Cumulative duration of homeless	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			Service Users and on LA List			All Households with Children		
	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %
Less than 6 mths	32	21	27	25	19	23	23	24	24	26	20	24
6 — less than 12 mths	19	16	18	30	30	30	31	14	27	29	24	27
1 — less than 3 yrs	31	41	35	40	40	40	30	38	32	36	41	38
3 - 5 yrs	18	22	20	5	11	7	16	24	17	9	15	11
TOTAL (N) 2002	(80)	(60)	(140)	(270)	(140)	(410)	(70)	(20)	(90)	(420)	(220)	(640)
MARCH 1999												
Less than 6 mths	31	0	16	48	40	45	30	43	37	45	33	41
6 — less than 12 mths	37	12	25	29	29	29	10	9	9	29	24	27
1 — less than 3 yrs	20	56	38	20	26	22	55	24	39	22	30	25
3 - 5 yrs	11	32	22	3	6	4	5	24	15	4	12	7
TOTAL (N) 1999	(30)	(10)	(40)	(370)	(100)	(470)	(20)	(10)	(30)	(420)	(120)	(540)

Table A14: Homeless households with children classified according to length of current spell of homelessness

Current duration	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			Service Users and on LA List			All Households with Children		
	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %
Less than 6 mths	53	30	43	32	28	31	34	25	32	37	28	34
6 — less than 12 mths	18	13	16	32	30	31	25	15	23	28	24	26
1 — less than 3 yrs	19	40	28	33	33	33	28	45	32	29	36	32
3 - 5 yrs	10	17	13	3	9	5	13	15	13	6	12	8
TOTAL (N) 2002	(80)	(60)	(140)	(270)	(140)	(410)	(70)	(20)	(90)	(420)	(220)	(640)
Average Spell (months)												
2002	12.8	26.4	18.5	12.1	14.0	12.8	14.2	15.9	14.6	12.6	17.6	14.3

Table A15: Homeless households with children classified according to accommodation type

Current duration	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			Service Users and on LA List			All Households with Children		
	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %
7 nights rough sleeper	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4-6 nights rough sleeper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4-6 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 nights refuge	3	0	2	4	0	2	4	0	3	4	0	2
7 nights B&B	88	80	85	89	96	91	86	85	86	88	91	89
7 nights relative/friend	3	0	1	6	3	5	4	40	5	5	3	4
7 nights other	1	8	4	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	3	2
Other combinations	5	10	7	0	0	0	3	5	3	1	3	2
TOTAL N 2002	(80)	(60)	(140)	(270)	(140)	(410)	(70)	(20)	(90)	(420)	(220)	(640)
Current duration	Service Users			On Local Authority List Only			Service Users and on LA List			All Households with Children		
	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %	LP %	DP %	T %
March 1999												
7 nights rough sleeper	0	6	3	1	1	1	5	5	5	1	2	2
4-6 nights rough sleeper	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
7 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4-6 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 nights refuge	22	6	14	5	0	0	10	10	10	6	2	5
7 nights B&B	47	50	49	53	66	57	73	60	67	53	63	56
7 nights relative/friend	6	0	3	38	27	35	10	10	10	35	22	30
7 nights other	3	12	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1
Other combinations	19	26	23	2	4	3	0	15	8	3	8	5
TOTAL (N) 1999	(30)	(10)	(40)	(370)	(100)	(470)	(20)	(10)	(30)	(420)	(120)	(540)

COUPLES ONLY

Table A16.: Number of Couple only households classified by source of information, 2002 and 1999

	Service Users	Local Authority List only	Service Users and on LA List	All Couple Only Households %
March 2002 (N)	80	40	20	140
(%)	57	29	14	100
March 1999 (N)	30	60	10	100
(%)	30	60	10	100

Table A17: Couple only households classified according to (a) whether or not at least one of the partners was born outside Ireland; (b) country of birth and (c) year of arrival in Ireland

A. Born in Ireland?	Service Users %	Local Authority List only %	Service Users and on LA List %	All Couple Only Households %
No	6	8	15	8
TOTAL (N) 2002	(80)	(40)	(20)	(140)
B. Country of Birth of those not Born in Ireland	Service Users (N)	Local Authority List only (N)	Service Users and on LA List (N)	All Couple Only Households (N)
Britain	(4)	(1)	(2)	(7)
Other EU	(1)	(0)	(0)	(1)
Rest of World	(0)	(2)	(0)	(2)
TOTAL (N) 2002	(5)	(3)	(2)	(10)
C. Year of Arrival	Service Users (N)	Local Authority List only (N)	Service Users and on LA List (N)	All Couple Only Households (N)
2002	(1)	(0)	(0)	(1)
2001	(1)	(1)	(0)	(2)
2000	(1)	(2)	(0)	(3)
1997/ 98/ 99	(1)	(0)	(0)	(1)
1990- 96	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Pre 1990	(0)	(0)	(3)	(3)
TOTAL (N) 2002*	(4)	(3)	(3)	(10)

*Information on country of birth was not recorded on the 1999 survey

Table A18 “Couple only” households classified according to cumulative duration of homelessness in the 5 years preceding the survey.

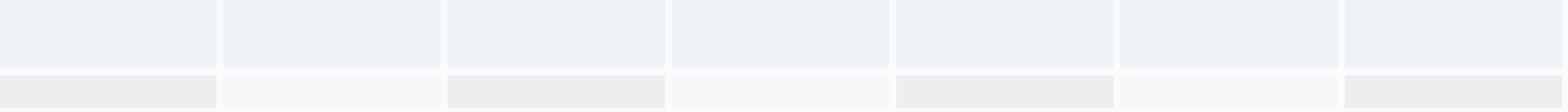
	Service Users %		On a Local Authority List only %		Service Users and on LA List %		All Couple Only Households %	
	2002	1999	2002	1999	2002	1999	2002	1999
Less than 6 mths	13	15	20	33	25	23	16	27
6 less than 12 mths	19	13	27	42	10	12	20	31
1 less than 3 yrs	29	21	40	18	30	17	31	19
3 -5 yrs	39	50	13	7	35	47	23	23
TOTAL (N) 2002	(80)	(30)	(40)	(60)	(20)	(10)	(140)	(100)

Table A19 “Couple only” households classified according to length of current spell

Duration of Current Spell	Service Users %	Local Authority List only %	Service Users and on LA List %	All Couple Only Households %
Less than 6 months	34	27	37	32
6 less than 12 month s	17	32	16	21
1-3 years	24	35	21	27
3+ years	24	5	26	19
TOTAL (N) 2002	(80)	(40)	(20)	(140)
Average Length of Current Spell (months)				
2002	26.2	13.8	23.3	22.2

Table A20 “Couple only” households classified by accommodation type used in survey reference week

Accommodation Type	Service Users %		Local Authority List only %		Service Users and on LA List %		All Couple Only Households %	
	2002	1999	2002	1999	2002	1999	2002	1999
7 nights rough sleeping	6	23	0	13	5	31	4	18
4-6 nights rough sleeping	10	4	0	4	10	12	7	4
7 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4,5,6 nights hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 nights refuge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7 nights B&B	77	30	98	47	85	5	84	42
7 nights relative/friends	3	14	2	35	0	6	2	27
7 nights other	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other combinations	4	25	0	1	0	0	2	8
TOTAL (N) 2002	(80)	(30)	(40)	(60)	(20)	(10)	(140)	(100)



APPENDIX 3: Questionnaire



6 St. Andrews Street, Dublin 2
Phone: (01) 670 5173 Fax: (01) 670 5174



4 Burlington Road, Dublin 4
Phone: (01) 667 1525 Fax: 668 6231

SURVEY ON HOMELESSNESS, 20th - 26th MARCH 2002.

CENTRE NAME:

CENTRE
ID

Interviewer's Initials:

DATE _____

We are conducting a very short survey on homelessness over the course of this week and would like you to help us by completing a very short questionnaire. I will only take about 2 minutes of your time.
All the answers you give will be on a *strictly confidential* basis.

Q1 What are: (a) your initials (b) your date of birth and (c) gender?

(a) (b) D.O.B. (c) Male...☐₁ Female..☐₂
Initials Day Month Year

[INTERVIEWER: PLEASE ENSURE THAT (a), (b) & (c) ABOVE ARE FILLED IN AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE]

Q2 Did you fill out one of these questionnaires at any time over the last week in any hostel, refuge, day centre, Health Board office, Local Authority office etc?

Yes☐₁ → Where → [END INTERVIEW]
No.....☐₂ → Go to Q3 Don't know☐₃ → Go to Q3

Q.3 Are you currently an asylum seeker? Yes☐₁ ⇒ [END INTERVIEW] No.....☐₂

Q.4 Were you born in Ireland? Yes...☐₁ No...☐₂

Q.5a Where were you born? _____ Q.5b What year did you come to Ireland? _____

Q.6 Are you currently on a Local Authority housing or homeless list?

Yes ☐₁

Q.7 Which Local Authority's list or lists?

Since When?

[Tick all that apply]

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. Dublin Corporation | ☐ ₁ ⇒ | _____ mth _____ Yr |
| 2. Dun Laoghaire/
Rathdown C.C. | ☐ ₂ ⇒ | _____ mth _____ Yr |
| 3. Fingal C.C. | ☐ ₃ ⇒ | _____ mth _____ Yr |
| 4. South Dublin C.C. | ☐ ₄ ⇒ | _____ mth _____ Yr |

[C.C. = County Council]

No ☐₂

Q.8 Why not? [Tick most important reason – one only.]

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. There is no point. | ☐ ₁ |
| 2. Barred by Local Authority. | ☐ ₂ |
| 3. Arrived in Dublin only recently. | ☐ ₃ |
| 4. Allocated accommodation which I
didn't like or was unsafe. | ☐ ₄ |
| 5. Other reason. <i>Please Specify</i> ↓ | ☐ ₅ |

PLEASE CONTINUE OVERLEAF →

Q.9 In the last week did you have to sleep rough; sleep in a hostel; sleep in a refuge; sleep in a Bed and Breakfast; or sleep in a friend's house because you have nowhere else to sleep?

Yes.....☐₁ No.....☐₂

Q.10 I would like you to think back over the last week. How many nights have you: (a) slept rough; (b) slept in a hostel; (c) slept in a refuge; (d) slept in a B & B; (e) slept in a friend's house because you had nowhere else to sleep; (f) slept in your own house/flat/other accommodation etc. (including rented accommodation, mobile home etc.); (g) slept in transitional/supported housing (h) slept elsewhere?

	No. of Nights
a) Slept rough	
b) Slept in a hostel	
c) Slept in a refuge	
d) Slept in a B & B	
e) Slept in friend/relative's house because you had nowhere else to sleep	
f) Slept in your own house/flat/other accommodation etc.	
g) Slept in transitional/supported housing	
h) Slept elsewhere. Specify: _____	
Total	Must sum to 7 nights

Q10.b1 Do you stay in a hostel most of the time or only now and again?

Most of the time ... ☐₁ Now and Again ... ☐₂

Q10.b2 Since when? _____ (mth) _____ (yr)

Q10.b3 When you stay in hostel(s) do you mostly stay in one hostel or do you move around from one hostel to another?

Mostly in one hostel ☐₁

Move around hostels ☐₂

Q10.b4 Which one(s)? _____

Q.11 Over the last 5 years, approximately how long in total would you say you have been homeless?

Never..... ☐ ₁	6 to under 9 months..... ☐ ₅	3 to less than 4 years..... ☐ ₉
Less than 1 month..... ☐ ₂	9 to under 12 months..... ☐ ₆	4 to less than 5 years..... ☐ ₁₀
1 to under 3 months..... ☐ ₃	1 to less than 2 years..... ☐ ₇	All that time (i.e. 5 years)..... ☐ ₁₁
3 to under 6 months..... ☐ ₄	2 to less than 3 years..... ☐ ₈	

Q.12 When did you become homeless this time (i.e. start of current spell)? [Record month and year]

_____ (mth) _____ (year)

Q.13a Do you have a partner or any children in your family group AT THE MOMENT, who are in the same position as yourself regarding homelessness?

Partner only: ☐₁ Children only: ☐₂ Partner and children: ☐₃ No: ☐₄ ⇒ [END INTERVIEW]

Q.13b IN ADDITION TO YOURSELF, how many homeless adults (persons aged 18 years and over) are in your family group at the moment? _____ Adults [INT: THIS FIGURE SHOULD NOT INCLUDE THE RESPONDENT]

Q.13c What are: (a) the initials (b) the dates of birth and (c) the gender of these OTHER adults in your family group ?

1.Initials		DOB		Male ... ☐ ₁	Female... ☐
2.Initials		DOB		Male ... ☐ ₁	Female... ☐ ₂
3.Initials		DOB		Male ... ☐ ₁	Female... ☐ ₂

Q.13d How many children (persons aged 17 years or less) in your family group are in the same position as yourself regarding homelessness at the moment? _____ Children

Q.13e What are these childrens': (a) initials; (b) dates of birth and (c) gender ?

1.Initials		DOB		Male ... ☐ ₁	Female... ☐ ₂
2.Initials		DOB		Male ... ☐ ₁	Female... ☐ ₂
3.Initials		DOB		Male ... ☐ ₁	Female... ☐ ₂
4.Initials		DOB		Male ... ☐ ₁	Female... ☐ ₂

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDIX 4

Services invited to participate in survey

Accident and Emergency Departments

Beaumont Hospital
James Connolly Memorial Hospital
Loughlinstown Hospital
Mater Hospital
St James Hospital
St Vincents Hospital

Community Services

Blakestown and Mountview Youth Initiative, Dublin 15
LAB Project, Loughlinstown, County Dublin
Mounttown Neighbourhood Youth Project, Dun Laoghaire
Ronanstown Youth Project, Clondalkin
St Andrews Resource Centre, Dublin 2
Springboard, Ballybrack, County Dublin
Tower Programme, Clondalkin
Youth Support and Training Programme, Clondalkin

Drug Services

Baggot Street Drug Clinic, Dublin 2
Bawnogue Youth and Family Support Group, Tallaght
Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme, Clondalkin
Merchants Quay Ireland, Drug Outreach Service, Dublin city

Food and Day services

Capuchin Day Centre, Bow Lane, Dublin 7
Care, Dun Laoghaire
Centrecare, Dublin 1
Failtúi, Merchants Quay, Dublin 8 (Merchant s Quay Ireland)
Focus Ireland, Coffee Shop, Eustace Street, Dublin 2
Focus Ireland Family Programme, Dublin 8
Focus Ireland Nursery, Dublin 8
Focus Ireland Extension, Dublin 8
Focus Ireland, The Loft, Dublin 8
Guild of the Little Flower, Meath Street, Dublin 8
Homeless Persons Unit, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2
Homeless Persons Unit, St James Street, Dublin 8
Mendicity Institute, Dublin 8
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Longford Lane, Dublin 2
St Brigid s Food Centre, Holles Row, Dublin 2
St Joseph s Penny Dinners, Nth Cumberland Street, Dublin 1
St Vincents Trust, Eccles Street, Dublin 1
Tallaght Homeless Advice Unit, Dublin 24
Threshold, Mary s Abbey, Dublin 7
Trust, Bride Road, Dublin 8

Emergency Accommodation

Single Men

Back Lane Hostel, Dublin 8 (SVP)
Cedar House, Dublin 1 (Salvation Army)
Clancy Shelter, Islandbridge, Dublin 8 (De Paul Trust)
Crosscare Night Shelter, Dun Laoghaire
Crosscare Night Shelter, Longford Lane, Dublin 2
Dublin Simon Shelter, Dublin 8
Elm House, Dublin 1 (Dublin City Council)
Iveagh Hostel, Bride Street, Dublin 8
Morning Star, Dublin 7 (Legion of Mary)
Sancta Maria, Charlemont Street, Dublin 2
York House, York Street, Dublin 2 (Salvation Army)

Families and Women

Aylward Green, Finglas, Dublin 11 (Focus Ireland)
Haven House, Morning Star Avenue, Dublin 7 (Northern Area Health Board)
Missionary Sisters of Charity, SCR, Dublin 8
Regina Coeli, Morning Star Avenue, Dublin 7 (Legion of Mary)

Refuges

Aoibhneas, Coolock, Dublin 17
Womens Refuge, Rathmines, Dublin 6

Private Sector Bed and Breakfast and Hostel Accommodation

Health Board Services

Homeless Domestic Violence Social Work Service, Dublin city
Homeless Persons Unit, Wellington Quay
Homeless Persons Unit, St James Street
Homeless Persons Unit Freephone
Multi Disciplinary Health Outreach Team

Local Authorities

Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Dublin 8
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council, Town Hall, Dun Laoghaire
Fingal County Council,
South Dublin County Council, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Service for young people

Aislinn After Care Service Dun Laoghaire)
Balcurris Boys Home (Arrupe Society)
Belvedere Social Services, Dublin 9
Crosscare Residential Project, Dublin 7
Don Bosco House, Dublin 9
Focus Ireland, Off the Streets, Dublin 7
Focus Ireland, Young Womens Project, Dublin 7
Fr McVerry's Hostel, Dublin 9 (Arrupe Society)
Lefroy House, (Single Girls Units), Dublin 1 (Salvation Army)
Nightlight, Dublin 1 (Salvation Army)
Out of Hours Service, (Health Board)
Parkview Residential Unit, Dublin 1 (Health Board)
Sherrard House, Dublin 1

Settlement Services

Dublin City Council Settlement Team
Dublin Simon Settlement and Training Project
Focus Ireland Community Settlement Programme
Merchant s Quay Ireland, Settlement and Integration Service

Street Outreach Services

Dublin City Council Night Bus
Dublin Simon street outreach team
Dublin Simon Soup Run
Focus Ireland street outreach team

Transitional Accommodation

Belevedere Road, Dublin 1 (Dublin City Council)
Daisy House, SCR, Dublin 8
Cuas, Dorset Street, Dublin 1(Dublin Simon)
Ecclesville, Dublin 6 (Miss Carr s Housing Association)
Elm House, Dublin 7 (Dublin City Council)
Focus Ireland, Georges Hill, Dublin 7
Focus Ireland, Stanhope Green, Dublin 7
Interaid, Co Dublin
Lefroy House, (Family Units) Dublin 1 (Salvation Army)
Maple House, Dublin 1, (Dublin City Council)
Pim Street, Dubin 7 (Dublin City Council)
Sonas (Ranelagh, Killester)
Sophia Housing
Vincentian Housing Partnership, Dublin 1

Long term Supported Housing

The Aids Fund, Dublin 1
Dublin Simon, NCR, Dublin 7
Dublin Simon, Sean MacDermott Street, Dublin 1
Focus Ireland, Stanhope Street, Dublin 7
Focus Ireland, Georges Hill, Dublin 7
HAIL Housing
Oak House, Benburb Street, Dublin 7 (Dublin City Council)

