



# **Family Homelessness in Dublin: New Entries in 2024 and Trends Over Nine Years (2016–2024)**

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Feidhmeannacht um Dhaoine ar Easpa  
Díðine Réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin Region Homeless Executive





## Acknowledgements

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Pathie Maphosa and her dedicated research team for their unwavering commitment to advancing understanding of family homelessness in the Dublin region. Through rigorous analysis and evidence-based insights, their work continues to inform policy and practice aimed at addressing one of the most pressing social challenges in the region.

This 2024 report builds on the strong foundation laid by previous DRHE publications covering the period 2016–2023, adding depth and clarity to the evolving dynamics of family homelessness. The insights provided in this series are invaluable in shaping effective interventions and guiding strategic responses to prevent and reduce homelessness.

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# Summary Key Findings

## 2024 new family entries

- **909 families** entered homelessness for the first time in 2024, including 1,231 parents and 1,977 dependents (1,837 children under 18 and 140 adult dependents): 3,208 people in total.
- An **average of 76 families per month** entered emergency accommodation, higher than the previous year 2023 average of 72 families per month.
- **Seasonal pattern** was on trend - peaking in January (101 families) and easing in December (42 family entries).
- **For every adult entering homelessness** in a family household, there were **1.3 children**.

## Demographic profile

- **Household composition:** **65%** of the families were lone parent families (587) and **35%** were couples (322).
- **Family size:** Families had an average of **2.2 dependents per household**. Couples were larger (**2.6 dependents**) than lone parents (**1.9**). Two thirds of all families had **one or two** dependents.
- **Gender of parents:** **71%** of parents were **women** (874), and **94%** of lone parent households were Female headed.
- **Citizenship - Parents:** **43% Irish, 24% EEA, 33% non EU**. Irish parents were more often lone parents; EEA and non EU parents were more often in couples.

## Reasons for homelessness

- **Primary driver: Private rental sector Notices of Termination (NOTs) (40%, 366 families)** were the single largest cause. Among couples, NOTs accounted for 52% of entries versus 34% among lone parents. The most common NOT subtype was 'property to be sold' (46%), followed by rent arrears (17%) and landlord/family use (13%).
- **Family circumstances: 22% (198 families)** cited familyrelated reasons, disproportionately affecting lone parents (26% of lone parent entries vs 14% of couples). The dominant subreason was relationship breakdown with a parent (71%).
- **Other reasons: 38% (345 families)** cited various pathways into homelessness, led by overcrowding (22%) and domestic violence (20%), followed by family reunification (12%), recent arrivals in the state <6 months (9%), leaving informal tenancy (9%), and leaving Direct Provision (8%).

## Young families (aged 18–24 years)

- **139 families (15% of all new families)** had heads aged 18–24; 71% were lone parents (all female) and 29% couples. Young families were smaller (average 1.41 dependents; 71% had one child).
- **Reasons for presenting: Family circumstances were dominant (60%),** with parental relationship breakdown accounting for 88% of those cases (53 young lone parents and 20 young couples). NOTs were only 12% among young families. Other reasons (29%) were led by overcrowding (45%) and domestic violence (18%); there were also cases leaving HSE Aftercare services (13%).
- **Citizenship profile:** Young parents were **predominantly Irish (72%),** with **22% EEA** and **6% non EU**. Non Irish young parents were concentrated in **couple** households (48%+ non Irish among young couples compared to 12% among young lone parents)



## Housing pathways in 2024 (same year outcomes)

- **Exits to tenancies:** 157 families (17% of 2024 entrants) exited to housing same year of entry, with HAP 44%, Local Authority lettings 34% (supporting the largest households), and AHB 22%. Lone parents exited at roughly twice the rate of couples (21% vs 10%).
- **Remaining in EA at year end:** 650 families (72%) were still in emergency accommodation on 31 Dec 2024; couples were more likely to remain (80% of couples vs 67% of lone parents), and those remaining were larger households on average.
- **Exited without housing outcome:** 102 families (11%) left EA without a tenancy outcome.
- **Prevention success:** 1,320 families at risk were rehoused to avoid entry in 2024: about 1.45 preventions per new entry and 708 families exited homelessness to housing overall during the year (not limited to the 2024 entrants).

## Changes in 2016–2024 trends

- **Volume of New entries:** Post COVID19 pandemic, entries have increased year on year from an average of 58 in 2020 to 76 entries in 2024. Children's entries have followed the same trend from pandemic trough average of 108 per month in 2020 to 155 per month in 2024.

## Reasons for homelessness

- **Pre 2020:** NOTs and family circumstances together accounted for 94% of entries (averages 2016–2019: NOTs 47%, Family 46%, Other 7%).
- **Post 2020 reset:** 'Other reasons' increased to an average of 36% in the period 2020–2024) while NOTs averaged 30% and Family circumstances 34%. By 2024, NOTs partially recovered to 40%, Family circumstance decreased to a series low (22%), and Other remained high (38%).

## Household composition & gender

- **Composition - Stable mix:** Across 2016–2024, entries have been consistently dominated by lone parent families (62%), with modest fluctuations year to year; 2024 sits at 65% lone parents / 35% couples, close to 2016 levels.
- **Parent gender:** Women were a majority among parents (71% long run), decreasing to 67% in 2021 before returning to 71% in 2024.

## Family size

- **Shift toward larger families:** Since the 2020 low point (when 53% of new families had one dependent), the share with one dependent has fallen to 41% in 2024, while three dependent families reached a series high (19%) and fourplus returned to 14% indicating larger family units at entry in recent years.

## Citizenship

- **Rising internationalisation:** Irish parents fell from 75% (2016) to 43% (2024). Non EU parents rose from 15% to 33%, with most of the increase concentrated in 2023–2024; EEA shares peaked midperiod and eased to 24% in 2024. By 2024, a majority (57%) of parents were non Irish.

## System dynamics (flows)

- **Monthly averages (2017–2024):** In 2024, entries averaged 76/month and exits 59/month — a strong recovery from 2022–2023 (exits 38–39/month) but still below entries (net +17/month). Prevention activity surged to 110/month (up from 65/month in 2023), lifting the Preventions to Entries ratio to 1.45.

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) continues to systematically monitor family homelessness across the region by measuring emergency accommodation (EA) usage each month and quarter including tracking new entries into EA. The region's data shows an increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness

# Introduction: Understanding Family Homelessness in Dublin (2024)

across all age groups and household types.

This report is part of a continuing series examining new family entries into homelessness in the Dublin region. It presents detailed insights into the volume and monthly trends of new entries throughout 2024, alongside an analysis of the underlying causes of homelessness and the demographic characteristics of affected families. Furthermore, the report extends the longitudinal understanding of family homelessness by situating the 2024 data within a nine-year timeframe, covering the period from 2016 to 2024.

## Research Objective

This report aims to add to the understanding of family homelessness in the Dublin region during 2024. Specifically, it examines the pathways into homelessness by analysing the reasons for entry and the demographic profiles of affected households. In addition to tracking new entries into emergency accommodation, the report compares these figures with the number of households prevented from entering homelessness through housing interventions, as well as those who successfully exited homelessness into stable housing. This comparative analysis provides insight into the interaction between entry, prevention, and exit dynamics. Furthermore, the 2024 data is assessed for emerging patterns or deviations from established trends, contributing to a broader longitudinal perspective on family homelessness.

## Data Sources and Methodology

This analysis is based on administrative data for the Dublin Region, drawn from the national homeless Pathway Accommodation & Support System (PASS). The dataset includes all recorded new family entries into emergency accommodation across the twelve months of 2024. A 'new entry' is defined as a household with dependents that has been assessed as homeless and is entering

homelessness for the first time within the region.

The analysis focuses on the reasons for homelessness and the demographic characteristics of these families, with the aim of identifying key trends and informing targeted policy and service interventions.

## Data Preparation

Prior to analysis, the following steps were undertaken to prepare the dataset:

- **Deduplication:** Removal of duplicate records to ensure accuracy.
- **Household Structuring:** Clustering of adults (aged 18 and over) by household, including identification of adult dependents.
- **Child Demographics:** Counting and categorisation of children by age and age range.

## Limitations

Several limitations were identified in the dataset:

- **Incomplete Ethnicity Data:** Ethnicity was not recorded for some individuals, as this field is non-mandatory in PASS.
- **Missing Specifics on Homelessness Causes:** In some cases, detailed reasons for homelessness were absent - for example, the type of Notice of Termination was not specified.
- **Ambiguity in Reported Reasons:** Some presenting reasons may obscure underlying causes. For instance, entries marked as:

'no income source' may reflect recent arrivals to the state, while cases involving **domestic violence** or **exits from Direct Provision** may be recorded as 'staying with a friend' or 'overcrowding'.

**‘Relationship breakdown’** – parent can relate to families who *may* have lost their own tenancies in the private rental sector and initially move back into the parental home as a temporary measure, either to avoid emergency accommodation or in the expectation of finding an alternative housing solution. In such cases, subsequent homelessness may arise when these arrangements become untenable due to overcrowding or lack of space, rather than direct conflict. The ‘relationship breakdown’ label may therefore reflect the point at which informal living arrangements fail, rather than the original cause of homelessness.

These examples highlight the importance of interpreting presenting circumstances with caution, as they may reflect immediate triggers rather than deeper structural or personal factors.

Despite these constraints, PASS remains the most authoritative and comprehensive source of homelessness data in Ireland, providing a robust foundation for evidence-based analysis and policy development.

## Data Processing and Analysis

All new family entries recorded in 2024 were aggregated into a single dataset to facilitate analysis of overall totals, monthly averages, demographic profiles, and reasons for presentation. Reasons for homelessness were grouped into three broad categories based on PASS classifications:

1. **Notices of Termination**
2. **Family Circumstances**
3. **Other Reasons**

Sub-categories within each group were analysed by frequency and expressed as percentages of the category total. Additional breakdowns included family type (lone parents vs. couples) and overall proportions across all families.

Further analysis was conducted on young families to explore their specific profiles and pathways into homelessness. Housing pathways, both prevention and exits to housing, occurring during 2024 were also examined to understand their interaction with new entries. Finally, the 2024 data was integrated into the existing longitudinal dataset, extending the trend analysis to cover a nine-year period from 2016 to 2024.





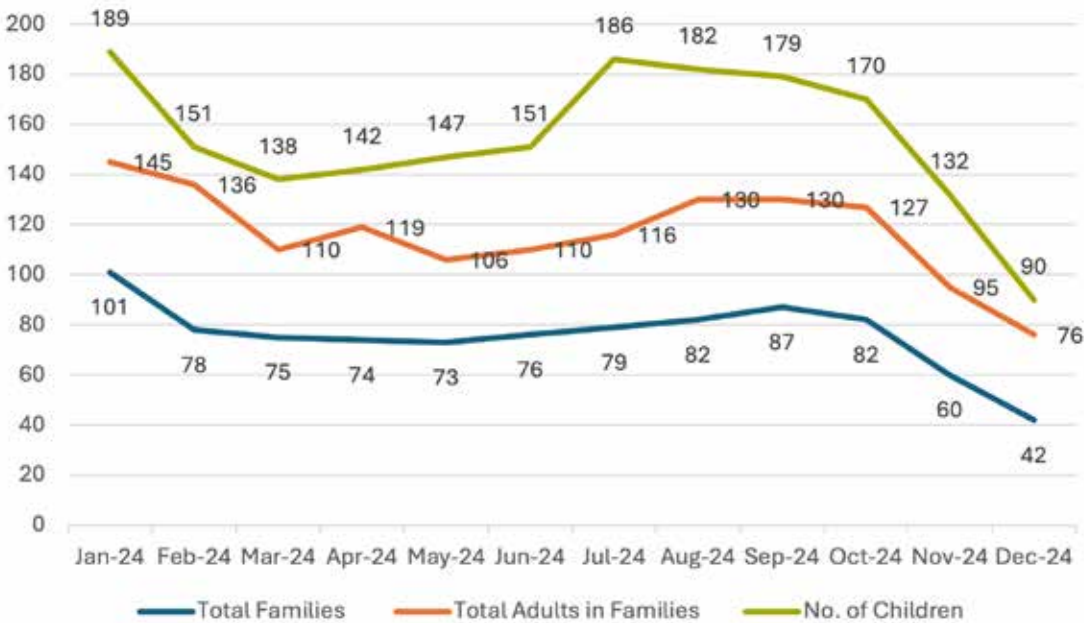
# Overview of Family Homelessness in Dublin (2024)

In 2024, the Dublin region saw a substantial inflow of families entering homelessness for the first time. A total of 909 families became homeless during the year, comprising 1,231 parents, 140 adult dependents, and 1,837<sup>1</sup> children under the age of 18. This means that 3,208 individuals experienced family homelessness for the first time in 2024. In addition, 31 new adults joined families who were already accessing homeless services. Of the 909 families, 139 were young families headed by young parents (n179) in the age-range 18-24 years,

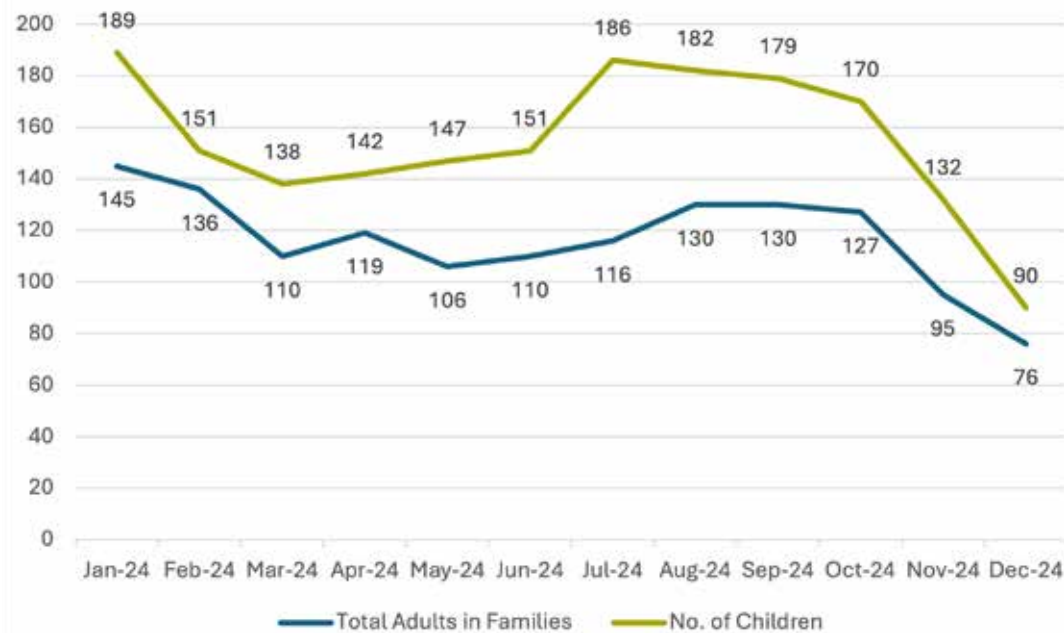
accompanied by 196 children.

Monthly reported data show that, on average, 76 families entered homelessness each month in 2024, equating to approximately 117 adults and 155 children newly presenting to homeless services every month. Peaks were recorded in January (101 families) and September (87 families), followed by a pronounced seasonal decline to 42 families in December.

Figure 1: Monthly New Family Entries into Emergency Accommodation (2024)



<sup>1</sup> As PASS operates as a dynamic system, data validation revealed a minor discrepancy: 1,837 children were accounted for in the new families dataset compared to the reported total of 1,857. This variance reflects system updates and adjustments during placement.

**Figure 2: Adults vs Children in New Family Homelessness Entries (2024)**

## Key Drivers of Family Homelessness in 2024

The following analysis sets out the main reasons reported by the 909 families, distinguishing between three categories: rental sector evictions (Notices of Termination), family circumstances/family conflict, and 'other reasons' for homelessness

### Notices of Termination (NOTs)

NOTs accounted for the largest single category overall, representing 366 families (40.3%). This reason was particularly significant among couples, where more than half (51.6%) of presentations were linked to notices of termination, compared to 34.1% among lone parents. Although lone parents still made up most cases in absolute terms (200 families), couples were proportionally more likely to become homeless due to rental sector exits.

## Family Circumstances

This category including relationship breakdown and loss of home following death of family member, was cited by 198 families (21.8%) of all families. The category was more prevalent among lone parents, accounting for 26.1% of their presentations, compared to 14.0% among couples. Lone parents represented over three-quarters of all families in this category (77.3%), highlighting the exposure of single-parent households to family-related housing loss.

### Other Reasons

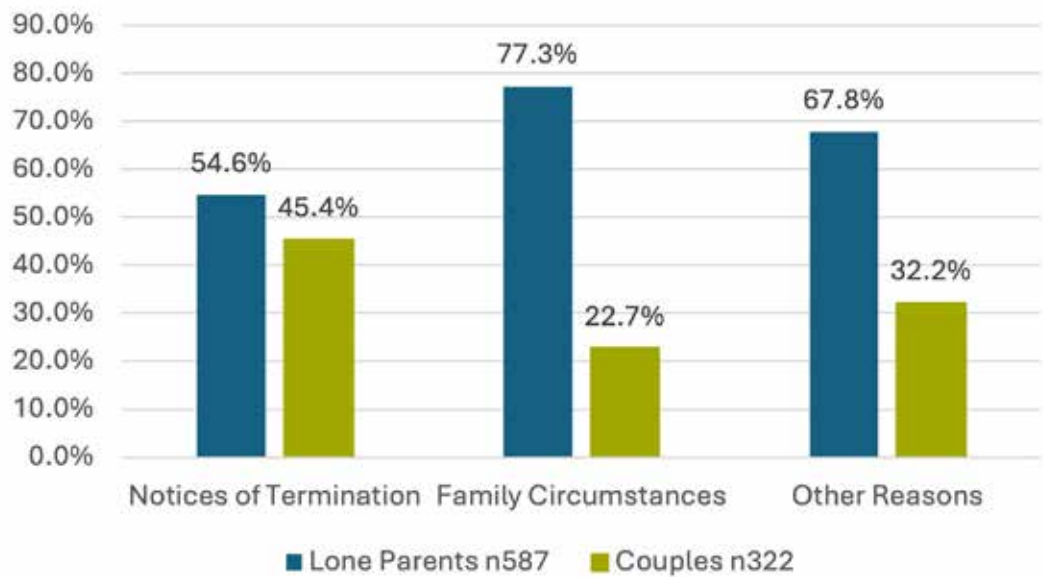
The remaining 345 families (38.0%) of all families, fell under **Other Reasons**, a diverse cluster of homeless drivers outside NOTs or family circumstances. This was the largest category for lone parents (39.9%) and the second largest for couples (34.5%). Lone parents comprised nearly 68% of this group (234 out of 345 families).

Table 1: Main Reasons for presentation by category and family type

Reasons for presentation	Lone Parents n587	Reason as % of all lone parents	Couples n322	Reason as % of all couples	Total families	% of all reasons
Notices of Termination	200	34.1%	166	51.6%	366	40.3%
Family Circumstances	153	26.1%	45	14.0%	198	21.8%
Other Reasons	234	39.9%	111	34.5%	345	38.0%
Total	587	100.0%	322	100.0%	909	100.0%

Overall, the data revealed distinct patterns: couples were disproportionately affected by private rental sector terminations, while lone parents were more likely to present due to family breakdown or other multifaceted issues.

Figure 3: Distribution of Homelessness Reasons by Family Type (2024)





Sub-Reasons for Homelessness

The following section expands on the three broad categories of reasons for family homelessness identified: Notices of Termination, Family Circumstances, and Other Reasons by presenting a granular view of the specific factors driving presentations within each group.

Notices of Termination Sub-Reasons

Of the 366 families presenting due to a notice of termination, the main driver was sale of property – cited by 46% of the families. Rent arrears accounted

for 62 cases (17%), highlighting affordability pressures, while landlord’s own or family use was recorded in 48 cases (13%). Other notable reasons included unsuitable accommodation (31 cases; 9%) and new Part 4 tenancy terminations (26 cases; 7%). A residual group of 31 cases (9%) involved less frequent causes such as anti-social behaviour or breaches of tenant responsibilities. Structural factors, particularly property sales (46%) and landlord withdrawals from the sector (13%) – therefore drive over half of all tenancy terminations, while financial factors and other tenancy changes accounted for most of the remainder.

Table 2: Notices of Termination n366

Reason for Presentation	Total	Percentage
NOT - Property to be Sold	168	46%
NOT - Rent Arrears	62	17%
NOT - Landlords Own or Family House	48	13%
NOT- Unsuitable Accommodation	31	9%
NOT - New Part 4 Tenancy	26	7%
Other NOTs (less than 10 cases each)	31	9%
Total	366	100%



### Family Circumstances Sub-Reasons

Family-related factors accounted for 198 family presentations in 2024, with the largest sub-category recorded as relationship breakdown with a parent (140 families; 71%). While this is the most frequently cited reason within the category, it is important to note that this classification may encompass a range of circumstances beyond interpersonal conflict<sup>1</sup>.

Other sub-reasons within this category included breakdown with other family members (29 families; 15%) and partner separation (25 families; 13%), with a small residual group (4 families; 2%) citing other family circumstances.

Table 3: Family Circumstances n198

Reason for Presentation	Total	Percentage
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	140	71%
Relationship Breakdown - Other family members	29	15%
Relationship Breakdown - Partner	25	13%
Family Circumstances	4	2%
Total	198	100%

### ‘Other Reasons’ for Homelessness Sub-Reasons

The ‘Other Reasons’ category accounted for 345 family presentations, reflecting a wide range of circumstances that do not fall under notices of termination or family breakdown. The largest sub-reason was overcrowding, cited by 75 families (22%), closely followed by domestic violence, which affected 70 families (20%), together representing more than two in five cases in this category. Family reunification was the third most common factor (42 families; 12%); followed by newly arrived from abroad (< than six months): 32 families (9%).

Other notable reasons included leaving informal tenancies (30 families; 8.7%) and leaving Direct Provision for 29 families (8.4%). Smaller clusters (less than 10 cases each) had combined percentage of 16%. The share of lone parents citing domestic violence increased by 2% from 18% in 2023. The category ‘Other Reasons’ illustrates the multiple pathways into homelessness.

Table 4: Other Reasons for Homeless n345

Reason for Presentation	Total	Percentage
Overcrowding	75	22%
Domestic Violence	70	20%
Family Reunification	42	12%
Newly arrived from abroad - less than 6 months	32	9%
Left informal tenancy	30	9%
Leaving Direct Provision	29	8%
Left PR tenancy without valid NTQ	11	3%
Remainder Other reasons (less than 10 cases each)	56	16%
Total	345	100%

<sup>1</sup> See further explanation in *Ambiguity in Reported Reasons* - Limitations section.

## Summary

Notices of Termination property sales remain the main driver of homelessness in the private rental sector whilst for Family Circumstances, relationship breakdown between parents and adult children was the most prevalent. The Other Reasons category also continued to highlight a diverse set of drivers, led by overcrowding and domestic violence, alongside migration-related drivers and informal tenancy arrangements.

Together, the findings show that family homelessness in 2024 continues to be shaped by a combination of structural market pressures, interpersonal dynamics, and complex social factors. The following section examines the reasons of homelessness for the 139 young families that entered homelessness in 2024.





# Detailed reasons for homelessness among young families (aged 18–24 years), 2024

Of the 139 young families entering EA for the first time, family circumstances were the dominant reason for presentation, cited by 83 families (60%), followed by Other reasons at 40 (29%) and Notice of Termination at 16 (12%). Within family types, Notice of Termination were more common among young couples than young lone parents (18% compared to 9% of each group), whereas family circumstances reasons were the majority among lone parents (63% compared 53%).

Table 5: Reasons for Homelessness by Category and Family Type, n139 young families (18-24 years old)

Reasons for presentation	Lone Parents	Reason as % of all lone parents	Couples	Reason as % of all couples	Total families	% of all reasons
Notices of Termination	9	9%	7	18%	16	12%
Family Circumstances	62	63%	21	53%	83	60%
Other Reasons	28	28%	12	30%	40	29%
Total	99	100%	40	100%	139	100%

## Detailed Sub-Reasons for homelessness - young families

In the Notice of Termination category, NOT subtype 'property to be sold' (5 families; 31.2% of all NOT cases) was the most prevalent NOT. The remaining smaller subtypes each contributed one or two NOTs.

Within family circumstances, majority cited relationship breakdown involving a parent (73 families or 53 % of all young families and 88% of the family circumstances category). Lone parent households accounted for nearly three quarters of the parentrelated breakdowns (73%) or 53 lone parents; however, the reason was cited in the majority in both family types 85% in lone parents and 95% in young couples indicating that relationship instability with parents was the single most common pathway into homelessness in this category regardless of household type

Table 6: Family Circumstances by Family Type, n83 young families

Family Circumstances n83: 18–24-year-old families	Lone Parents	%	Couples	%	Total Families	Total families
Relationship breakdown – parent	53	85%	20	95%	73	88%
Relationship breakdown – other	6	10%	1	5%	7	8%
Relationship breakdown – partner	3	5%	0	0%	3	4%
Total	62	100%	21	100%	83	100%

The Other reasons category comprised 40 families (29% of all young families). Within this category overcrowding was the most common reason accounting for 18 families (45% of the category; 13% of all young families). The 18 families included 12 lone parent families and 6 couple families, which represent 12.1% of all lone parent families (n=99) and 15% of all couple families (n=40) in the overall total for young families.

Domestic violence was cited by 18% of the category - all of which were lone parent households. Three of these presented from refuge, indicating pathways linked to urgent housing need. Additional pathways include leaving HSE Aftercare services (5 families; 13% of the category; 3.6% of all young families) and a small cluster of remaining reasons affecting 10 families or 25% of the category, each cited by less than five families.

Table 7: Other Reasons for Homelessness by Family Type, n40 young families

Other Reason for Presentation – young families	Lone Parents	%	Couples	%	Total families	%
Overcrowding	12	43%	6	50%	18	45%
Domestic Violence	7	25%	0	0%	7	18%
Leaving HSE Aftercare services	4	14%	1	8%	5	13%
All remaining reasons total n10 (less than 5 cases for each reason)	5	18%	5	42%	10	25%
Total	28	100%	12	100%	40	100%

### Summary

Family homelessness in 2024 was driven primarily by Notices of Termination (40%), followed by Family Circumstances (22%) and a diverse set of Other Reasons (38%). Notices of Termination were disproportionately associated with couples (52% of NOTs), while lone parents were more likely to present due to family-related breakdowns (26%) or complex social factors grouped under Other Reasons (40%). Within NOTs, property sales were in the majority (46%). Among Family Circumstances, relationship breakdown with a parent accounted for 71% of cases, making it the single most significant interpersonal driver. Other Reasons highlighted crisis pathways such as overcrowding (22%), domestic violence (20%), and migration-related factors including family reunification and leaving Direct Provision.

Young families (aged 18–24 years) showed a markedly different profile. Family Circumstances were the major reason (60%), far exceeding the overall share, with relationship breakdown with a parent cited by 88% of the young families, confirming parental conflict as the primary pathway for younger households. Notices of Termination were far less common among young families (12% vs 40% overall), while Other Reasons accounted for 29%, led by overcrowding (45%) and domestic violence (18%), all affecting lone parents. These patterns indicate that young families enter homelessness through interpersonal and crisis-driven routes rather than structural rental market exits, contrasting sharply with older cohorts.

# Demographic Characteristics of Families Entering Homelessness (2024)

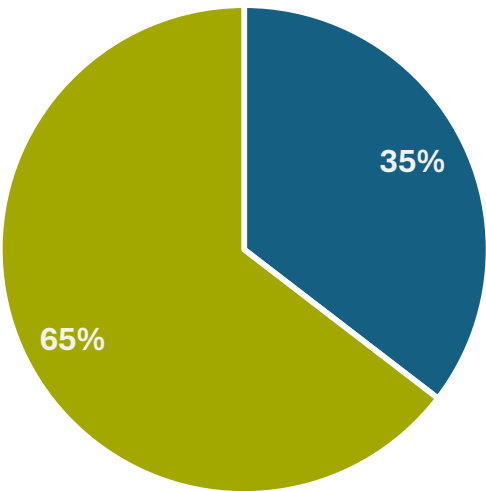
The data that follow provide a detailed breakdown of the demographic characteristics of families entering homelessness, offering a clearer picture of the households most affected.

## Family Composition

There was no deviation from the overall known trend of family homelessness being dominated by lone parent households in the region. Of the 909 families that entered homelessness for the first time in 2024, almost two thirds were lone parent households (n587), while couple households accounted for just over a third (n322). The lone parent share was 2% higher than observed in 2023 (63%).



Figure 4: Family composition of new family entries into homelessness, 2024

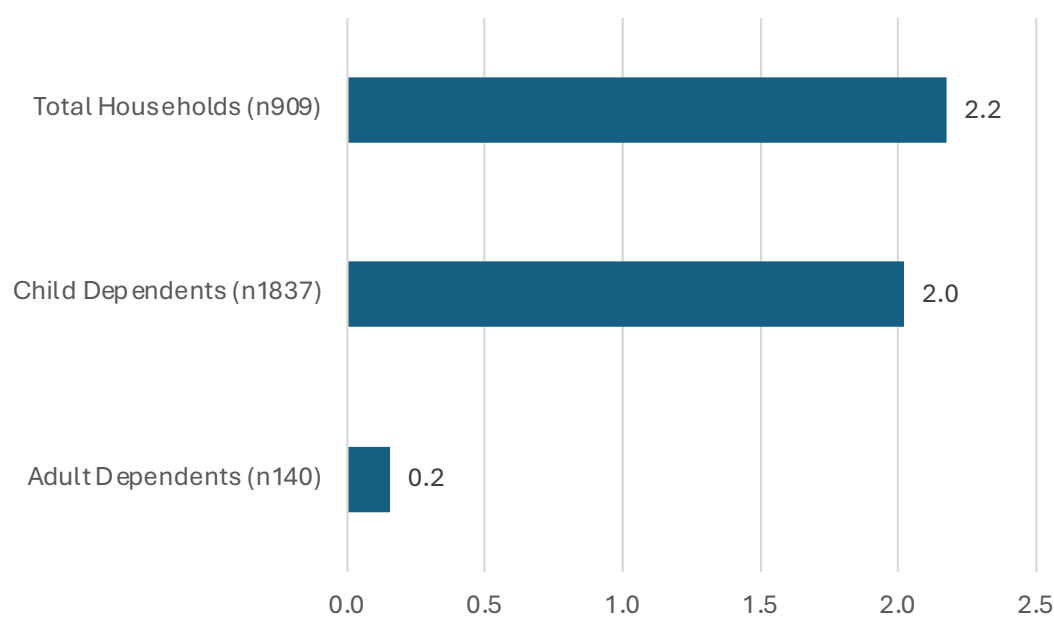


■ Couples (n322)   ■ Lone parents (n587)

Although couples comprised a smaller share of households, they tended to be larger in size, which is reflected in their higher share of dependents described (Figure 6). Across the 909 families there were 1,977 dependents, the vast majority of whom were children under 18 (93%), with a smaller cohort of adult dependents aged 18+ (7%).

The average showed that families had 2.2 dependents per household, with the vast majority being children. Specifically, there were 2.0 child dependents under 18 per household, compared to just 0.2 adult dependents aged 18 and over.

Figure 5: Dependents per household, n909 family new entries



Average number of children by household composition

Lone parent households represented 65% of all households yet accounted for 58% of all children and 56% of adult dependents, indicating fewer dependents per household compared to couples. In contrast, couples made up only 35% of households but

contributed 42% of children (774) and 44% of adult dependents (62), implying larger family sizes. Overall, couples accounted for about 42% of total dependents (836) and lone parents for about 58% (1,141).

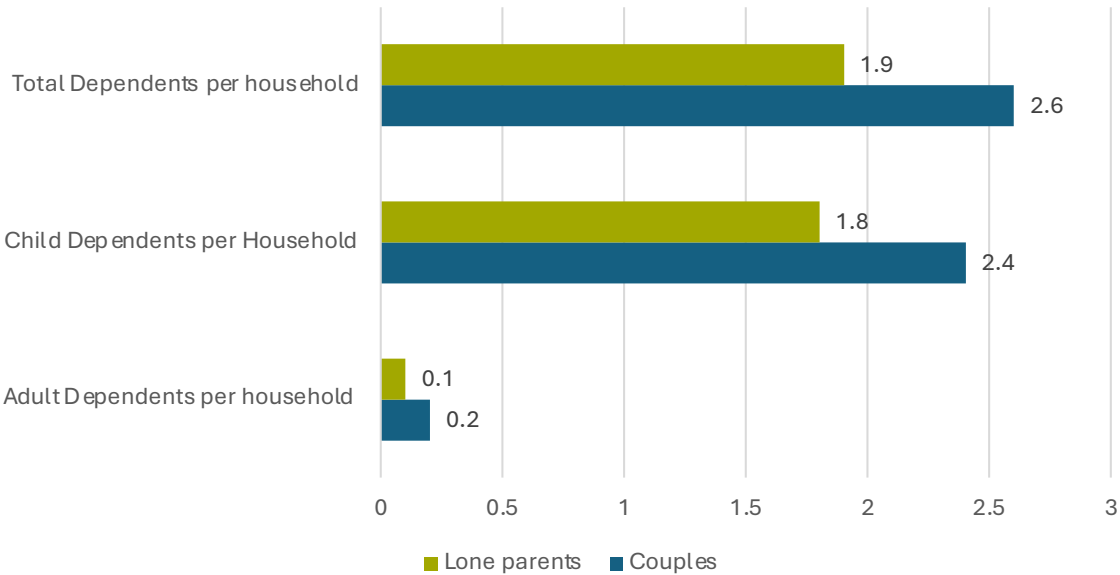
Table 8: Number of Dependents by Household Composition

Family Composition	Total Households	As %	Number of Adult Dependents 18 and over	As %	Number of Dependents under 18 years	As %	Total Dependents
nCouples	322	35%	62	44%	774	42%	836
Lone parents	587	65%	78	56%	1063	58%	1141
Total	909	100%	140	100%	1837	100%	1977



Couple households had an average of 2.6 dependents per household (2.4 children and 0.2 adult dependents), compared with about 1.9 among lone parent households (1.8 children and 0.1 adult dependents).

Figure 6: Dependents per household-by-Household Composition



**Family Size by household composition**

Family size (measured by number of dependents) was concentrated at the lower end: 41% of the families had one dependent, 26% had two, and 19% had three. Remaining 14% had 4 or more dependents. Therefore total, two thirds (67%) of families had one or two dependents, while one third (33%) had three or more.

Family size in couple households: Family size in couple households was more heavily weighted toward larger families. While 30% of couples had one dependent and 24% had two, a substantial 46% had three or more dependents (Table 9). The median couple family had two dependents, and an average of about 2.6 dependents per family (see figure 6).

Family size in lone parent households: Lone parent families were typically smaller: 48% had one dependent and 26% had two, with 26% having three or more. As

with couples, the median was two dependents, but the average was lower at about 1.9 dependents per family (see figure 6).

**Comparative analysis (couples vs lone parents)**

Couples were nearly twice as likely as lone parent families to have four or more dependents (22% vs 10%), and markedly more likely to have three or more (46% vs 26%). Conversely, lone parent families were more likely to have just one dependent (48% vs 30%). This pattern yields an average difference of approximately 0.7 dependents between couples and lone parent families (2.6 vs 1.9), indicating a higher concentration of larger families among couples and a predominance of smaller family sizes among lone parent households.

Table 9: Family size by household composition

Number of Dependents	Couples	Couples as %	Lone parents	Lone parents as %	Total Families	Total Families as %
1 Dependent	95	30%	279	48%	374	41%
2 Dependents	78	24%	154	26%	232	26%
3 Dependents	77	24%	98	17%	175	19%
4 Dependents	40	12%	34	6%	74	8%
5 Dependents	17	5%	11	2%	28	3%
6 - 12 Dependents	15	5%	11	2%	26	3%
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Family size in lone parent households by gender

Most lone parent families were headed by women (94%), with men accounting for 6%. The distribution of family size by gender was broadly similar: among women, 47.6% had one dependent and 26.1% had two; among men, 45.7% had one dependent and 28.6% had two, with 20.0% of male headed families having three dependents and no cases recorded with six

to seven dependents. In both groups the median was two dependents. Given the small male sample (n=35), observed differences at higher family sizes should be interpreted with caution, but the overall pattern indicates that lone parent families are predominantly small in both female and male headed households.

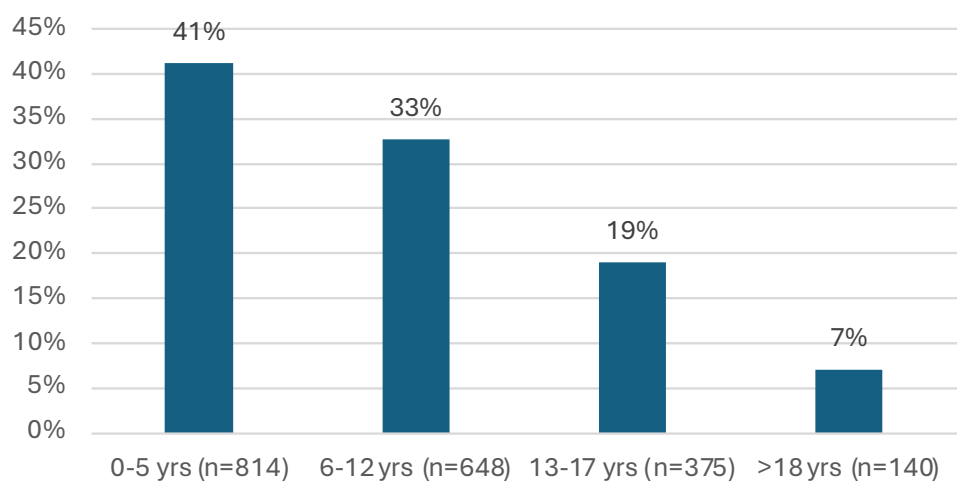
Table 10: Lone parent households by gender

Number of Dependents	Female	%	Male	%	Total Lone parents	%
1 Dependent	263	47.6%	16	45.7%	279	47.5%
2 Dependents	144	26.1%	10	28.6%	154	26.2%
3 Dependents	91	16.5%	7	20.0%	98	16.7%
4 Dependents	33	6.0%	1	2.9%	34	5.8%
5 Dependents	10	1.8%	1	2.9%	11	1.9%
6 - 7 Dependents	11	2.0%	0	0.0%	11	1.9%
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>As %</b>	<b>94%</b>		<b>6%</b>		<b>100%</b>	

### Overall Number of Dependents by Age Range

Analysis of age of the 1,977 dependents, revealed a pronounced concentration in younger age groups. Children aged 0–5 years accounted for 41 % of all dependents, while those aged 6–12 years represented 33%. Teenagers aged 13–17 years comprised 19%, and older dependents aged 18 years and above made up just 7%. This age profile underscores that nearly three-quarters (74%) of dependents were under 13.

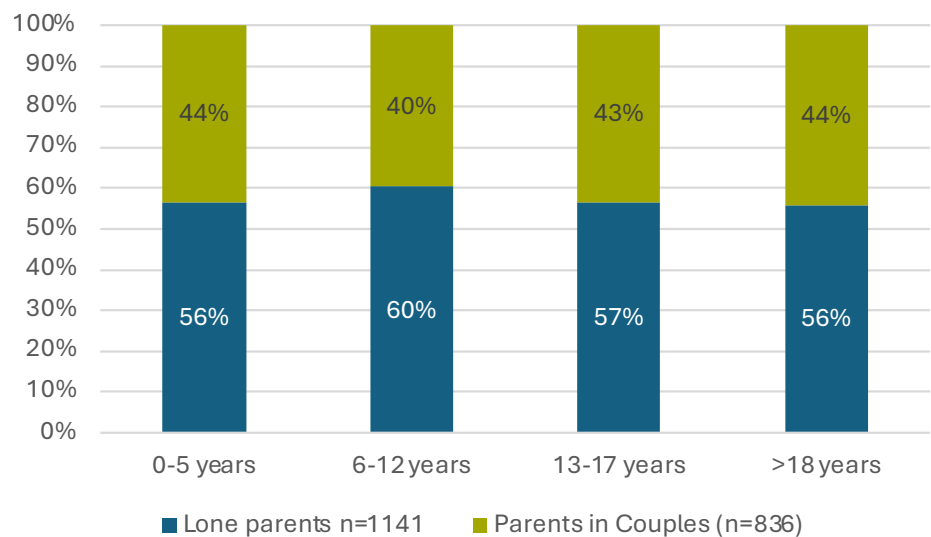
Figure 7: Number of Dependents by Age n=1977



### Number of Dependents by Household Composition

Household composition analysis showed that lone-parent families accounted for 58% of all dependents (1,141), compared to 42% in couple families (836). Lone parents consistently outnumbered couples across all age bands, with the largest gap observed among children aged 6–12 years, where lone parents represented 60% (392) versus 40% (256) in couple households.

Figure 8: Number of Dependents by Household Composition



## Dependents Age Distribution Within Each Family Composition n=1977

Within lone-parent families, the age distribution was heavily weighted toward younger children: 40% were aged 0–5, 34% aged 6–12, 19% aged 13–17, and 7% aged 18 and above. Couple families showed a similar structure, with 42% aged 0–5, 31% aged 6–12, 19% aged 13–17, and 7% aged 18 and above.

Both household types were dominated by early-years and primary-school-aged children, but lone-parent families had a slightly higher proportion of school-aged dependents, while couple families leaned marginally toward pre-schoolers and teenagers.

Table 11: Age range distribution within each family composition

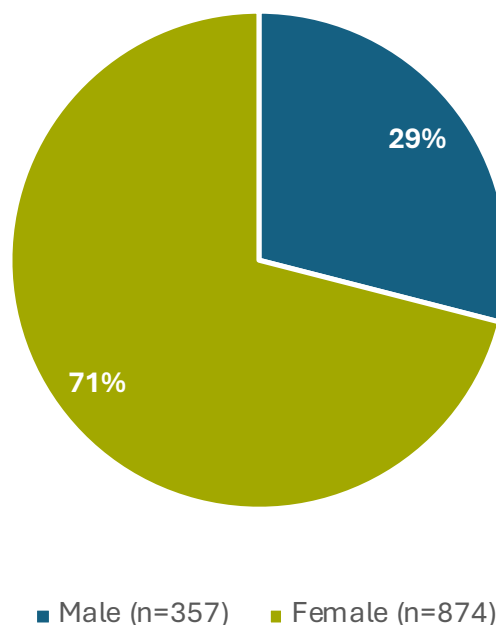
Number of dependents by age range	Within Lone Parents	Within Couples
0-5 years	40%	42%
6-12 years	34%	31%
13-17 years	19%	19%
≥18 years	7%	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>836</b>

## Gender of parents new to homelessness n=1,231

Of the 1,231 new parents - the majority were female (874 or 71%), while male parents accounted for 29% (357). This gender pattern was even more pronounced within lone parent households: of the 587 lone parent families, 94% were headed by women and only 6% by

men (Table 10). These figures highlight that women are disproportionately represented among parents, particularly in lone parent households, which make up nearly two thirds of all family entries into homelessness.

Figure 9: Gender of parents new to homelessness, 2024





### Age profile of new parents n=1,231

Most new parents were in the prime parenting age group of 25–44 years, accounting for 794 individuals (64%). A further 209 parents (17%) were aged 18–24 years, while 223 (18%) fell within the 45–64 age bracket, and only five parents were aged 65 years or

older. This distribution shows that family homelessness predominantly affected parents in their midlife and early adulthood in 2024, with relatively few parents among older age groups.

Table 12: Age profile of new parents, including gender

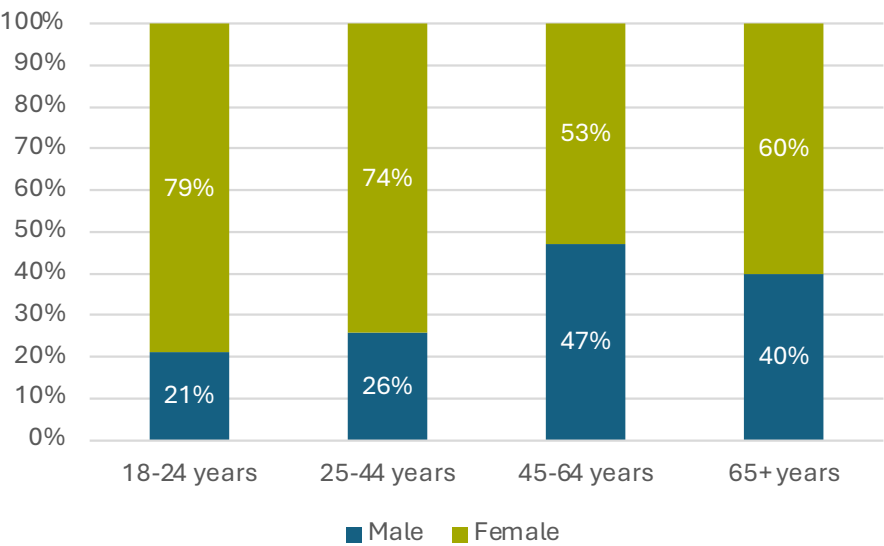
Age of parents	Male	Female	Total	Total parents as %
18-24 years	44	165	209	17%
25-44 years	206	588	794	65%
45-64 years	105	118	223	18%
65+ years	2	3	5	0%
Total	357	874	1,231	100%

### Age and gender patterns

Gender differences were evident across age categories (Table 12 and figure 10). Women outnumbered men in every age group, but the gap was widest among younger parents: in the 18–24 age group, women accounted for 165 individuals (79%), compared to 44 men (21%). In the 25–44 age group, women represent 74% (588 vs 206 men), while in the 45–64

bracket, the gender split narrowed (118 women vs 105 men). At ages 65+, numbers were negligible for both genders. Younger lone parent families were majorly Female headed, while older age groups showed a more balanced gender distribution, though women remained the majority overall.

Figure 10: Gender distribution percentage within each age-group

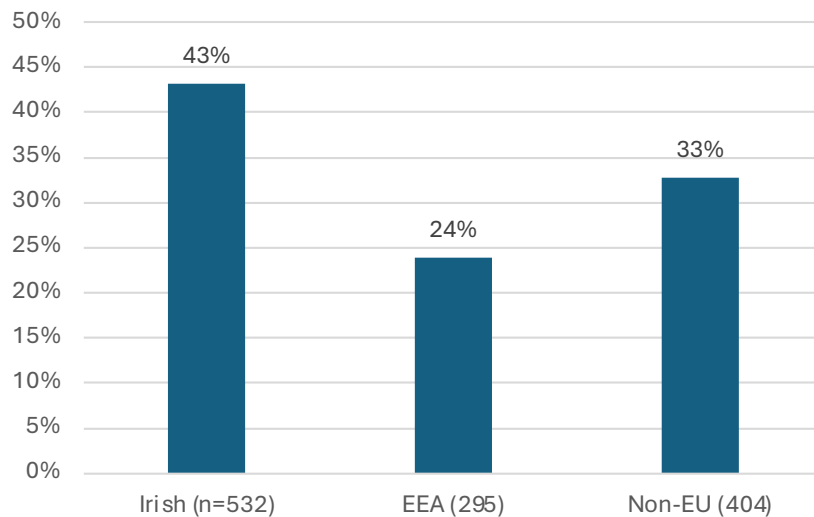


## Citizenship of all parents n=1,231

Citizenship analysis of the 1,231 parents in new families showed that just over 43% were Irish citizens, nearly one third were non-EU citizens (33%), and about one quarter were citizens of other EEA countries (24%).

This mix showed a diverse cohort, however when non-Irish nationals are combined, they make up with 57% of the new parents indicating a substantial migrant population experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Figure 11: Citizenship of parents in new families, 2024

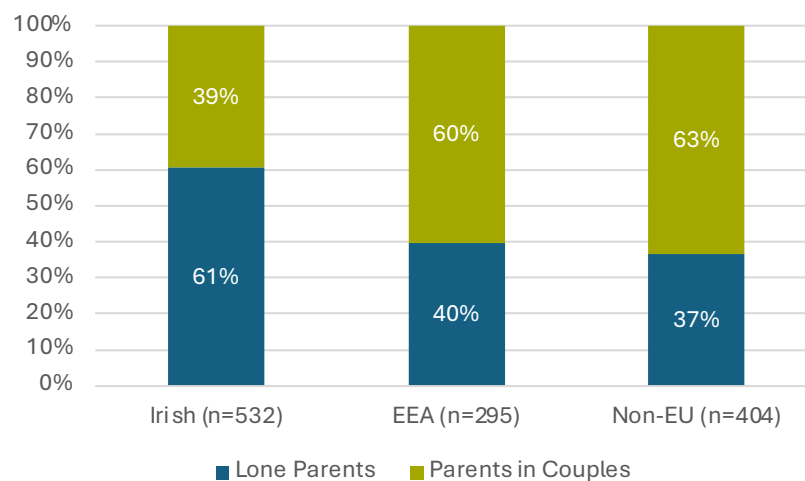


## Citizenship by household composition

Analysis of household composition showed that Irish parents were more likely to be in lone parent households: 61% or 322 of the Irish parents were lone parents compared to 39% (210) in couple households.

By contrast, EEA and non-EU parents were more likely to be in couple households, 60% or 178 of EEA parents and 63% or 256 of non-EU parents were in couples.

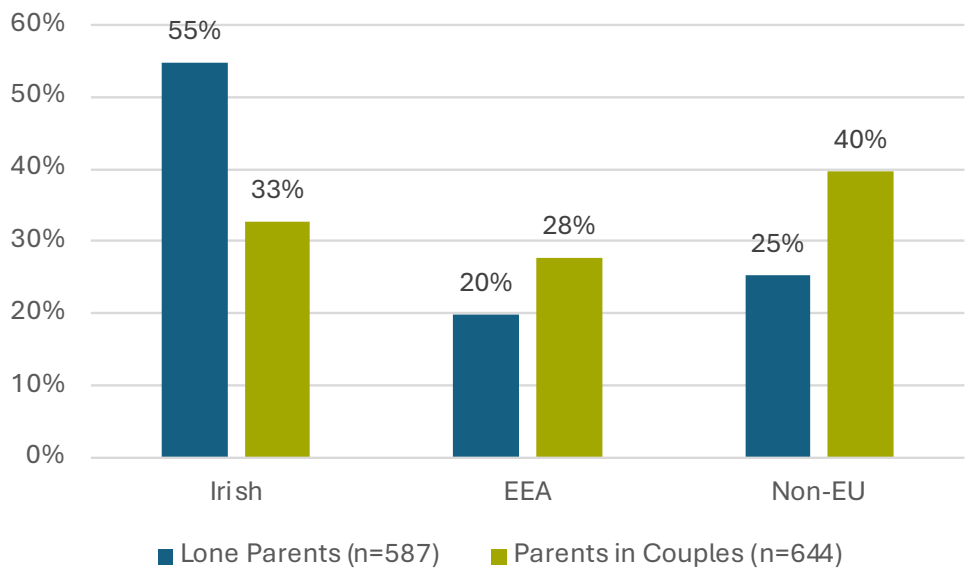
Figure 12: Household composition share in each citizenship group



This pattern was reflected in the makeup of each household type: within lone parent families, 55% Irish, 20% EEA, and 25% non-EU; within couple families, 33% Irish, 28% EEA, and 40% non-EU. Overall, the

lone parent cohort was predominantly Irish, while the couple cohort was more internationally diverse, with a larger non-EU share.

Figure 13: Citizenship within each household composition



Citizenship of Parents by Gender

Women were the majority within every citizenship group, though to varying degrees: Irish parents were 76% female, EEA parents 69% female, and non-EU parents 66% female. Looking at citizenship within each gender cohorts, male parents were most commonly non-EU (136 or 38%), followed by Irish (129 or 36%)

and EEA (92 or 26%). Female parents were most commonly Irish (403 or 46.1%), then non-EU (268; 30.7%) and EEA (203; 23.2%). Overall, this pattern indicates a strong female majority across all citizenships, with Irish women especially prominent among new parents.

Table 13: Citizenship of parents by gender

Citizenship of all parents	Male	Male %	Female	Female %	Total
Irish	129	24%	403	76%	532
EEA	92	31%	203	69%	295
non-EU	136	34%	268	66%	404
Total	357	29%	874	71%	1231

### Citizenship of Lone Parents n=587

Among the 587 lone parent families, the largest group were Irish citizens (322), followed by non-EU citizens (148) and EEA citizens (117). While Irish citizens made up the majority, 45% of lone parent families were headed by parents from outside Ireland, reflecting a significant level of diversity within this cohort.

Table 14: Citizenship of lone parents n=587

Citizenship of all parents	Total	Total parents as %
Irish	322	55%
EEA	117	20%
non-EU	148	25%
Total	587	100%

### Citizenship and gender of lone parents

Lone parent families were overwhelmingly female headed across all citizenship groups. Of the 552 female lone parents, 308 were Irish, 110 were EEA citizens, and 134 were non-EU citizens. Among the 35 male lone parents, the distribution was more balanced: 14 Irish, 7 EEA, and 14 non-EU, meaning male lone parents were proportionally more likely than females to be non-EU citizens (40% vs 24%). Overall, these figures highlight that lone parent homelessness is predominantly experienced by Irish women, but with notable representation from women of EEA and non-EU backgrounds, alongside a small but diverse group of male lone parents.

Table 15: Citizenship of lone parents by gender

Citizenship of lone parents	Male (n=35)	Female (n=552)
Irish	40%	56%
EEA	20%	20%
non-EU	40%	24%
Total	100%	100%

### Ethnicity profile of parents among new family entries in 2024 n=1,231

Of the 1,231 parents across 909 families), 397 or 23% had no ethnicity recorded. Among named groups, White-Irish was the largest (271; 22%), followed by Black-non-EU (220; 18%) and White-EU (158; 13%). Collapsing categories, non-EU ethnicities (White and Black) account for 23% of all parent records (283 of 1,231) and rise to 33.9% when Unknowns are excluded (283 of 834 known), while Irish identified ethnicities (White-Irish, Traveller-Irish, Black-Irish) make up 26.2% overall and 38.6% of known cases; EU (non Irish) ethnicities are 14.9% overall and 22.1% of known. Read alongside the citizenship profile for 2024 (Irish 43%, EU/EEA 24%, non-EU 33%), the ethnicity split among known cases broadly mirrors citizenship



- especially the one third non-EU presence indicating consistency between the two measures once missing ethnicity is set aside. Within the named groups, Black–non-EU stands out as the second largest single category (18%), emphasising the contribution of non-EU families of Black ethnicity to the inflow. Travellers represented 2% of all parents (rising to 3.5% of known cases).

While this is a small share of the parents, it is higher than Travellers’ share of the national population: less than 1% (about 6 per 1,000 in Census 2022) and aligns with evidence that Travellers are a vulnerable group and overrepresented in homelessness; interpretation should still be cautious given the high Unknown rate and the parent rather than family level counting.

Table 16: Ethnicity of Parents n=1,231

Ethnicity	Total	%
Unknown	397	32%
White - Irish	271	22%
Black - non-EU	220	18%
White - EU	158	13%
White - non-EU	63	5%
Traveller - Irish	29	2%
Black - EU	26	2%
Other	23	2%
Asian/Chinese	22	2%
Black - Irish	22	2%
Total	1231	100%

# Demographics of Young families 18-24 years old, n=139

Of the 1231 parents entering homelessness in 2024, 17% or 209 parents were in the age range 18-24 years. Majority of the young parents (86% or 179 young parents) were heads of households with remainder 14% or 30 young parents having a partner above the age-range 18-24 years. The following analysis of young families is based on the 179 young parents.

The 179 young parents made up a total of 139 young families where all heads of household were 18-24 years. This cohort accounted for 15% of all new families in 2024. Majority (11%) or 99 of the young families were lone parents and remaining 4% or 40 families were young couples. All 99 lone parents were female.

## Young families n=139 (aged 18–24 years), 2024

Analysis of the 139 young families showed that 71% were lone parents while couples accounted for 29%. Relative to the overall 2024 profile (65% lone parents; 35% couples), young families are more heavily lone parent: roughly +6% and correspondingly less often couples.

Family size among young families was concentrated at the lower end. One dependent households accounted for 98 of 139 (71%), with two dependents in 29 families (21%) and three or more dependents in

12 families (9%). The young family cohort had 196 dependents in total, an average of 1.41 children per family (median 1). Composition varied by family type: young parents had average 1.28 dependents and about a quarter (23.2%) had two or more dependents, whereas young couples averaged 1.73 dependents and nearly half (45%) have two or more, including 17.5% with three or more. Of all dependents in young families, about 65% (127) live with lone parents and 35% (69) with couples.

Table 17: Young parents by family size, n=139 families

Number of Dependents	Lone parents	%	Couples	%	Total Families	%
1 Dependent	76	77%	22	55%	98	71%
2 Dependents	18	18%	11	28%	29	21%
3 -Dependents	5	5%	4	10%	9	6%
4 Dependents	0	0%	2	5%	2	1%
5 Dependents	0	0%	1	3%	1	1%
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100%</b>

Citizenship of young parents n=179 (aged 18–24), 2024

Among the 179 young parents associated with the 139 young families identified in 2024, the citizenship profile was predominantly Irish, with 129 parents (72%) holding Irish citizenship. EEA citizens account for 40 parents (22%), while non-EU citizens make up 10 parents (6%). In aggregate, non Irish young parents therefore comprised 28% of the subgroup.

The distribution differed sharply by family type. Among young lone parents (*n* = 99), Irish citizens represented 88%, with EEA 10% and non-EU 2%. Among young parents in couples (*n* = 80), the profile was more international: Irish 52.5%, EEA 37.5%, and non-EU 10.0%. Put another way, the share of non Irish citizenship was almost four times higher in couples than in lone parent households (47.5% vs 12.1%; a +35.4% difference; 3.9× ratio). Non Irish young parents were also disproportionately found in couple households:

of the 50 non Irish parents, 38 (76%) were in couples and 12 (24%) were lone parents. Within the non Irish group, EEA citizens made up four fifths (80%) of cases, indicating that most of the international component among young parents was EEA rather than non-EU.

Relative to the overall 2024 parent cohort (all ages), young parents are far more likely to be Irish citizens and far less likely to be non-EU. The overall profile across all new parents in 2024 is Irish 43%, EU/EEA 24%, non-EU 33%; for young parents it was Irish 72% (+29%), EEA 22% (roughly in line, -2%), and non-EU 6% (-27%). This contrast indicates that the internationalisation observed in the broader inflow was much less pronounced among the youngest parent cohort, and when present, it skewed toward EEA citizens in couple households rather than non-EU lone parents.

Table 18: Citizenship of young parents n=179 (age 18-24 years)

Citizenship	Lone parents	Parents in Couples	Total	Total Citizenship Share
Irish	87	42	129	72%
EEA	10	30	40	22%
Non-EU	2	8	10	6%
Total	99	80	179	100%

Ethnicity of young parents (age18–24), 2024

The data of the 179 young parents had a significant ‘Unknown’ component - 83 records (46%), which potentially affects interpretation. Including all records, the single largest named group was White–Irish with 58 parents (32%), followed by White–EU with 23 (13%)

and Traveller–Irish with 9 (5%). Smaller categories (less than 9 individuals) included Black–non-EU (2%), Black–EU (1%), White–non-EU (1%), and Black–Irish (1%).

Table 19: Ethnicity of young parents, 18-24 years old including 'unknowns' n=179

Ethnicity	Ethnicity Share (n=179)
Black - EU	1%
Black - non-EU	2%
Black - Irish	1%
Traveller - Irish	5%
White - Irish	32%
White - EU	13%
White - non-EU	1%
Unknown	46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Because nearly half the records were Unknown, analysis was repeated on the 96 recorded ethnicities. White-Irish represented 60% of known responses, White-EU 24%, and Traveller-Irish 9%, while all Black ethnic categories combined accounted for 5% and White-non-EU for 1%. Taken together, the 2024 evidence indicates that the young parent cohort was predominantly of Irish ethnicity, with a meaningful EU

component and a small non-EU presence among those who reported. However, the 46% Unknown rate means the true distribution could differ if data were available, therefore while the pattern among known ethnicity aligns with the citizenship profile of young parents, conclusions about the exact ethnic mix for the entire cohort must be drawn with caution.



### Demographic Summary

In 2024, 909 families entered homelessness for the first time, dominated by lone-parent households (65%), with couples accounting for 35%. These families included 1,977 dependents, majority being children under 18 (93%), and most parents were women (71%) in the prime parenting age of 25–44 years. Citizenship and ethnicity data revealed a diverse cohort: 57% of parents were non-Irish nationals, with non-EU citizens forming the largest share among couples, while lone parents were predominantly Irish.

Young families (aged 18–24 years) representing 15% of all new families showed distinct characteristics. They were more heavily lone parent (71% vs 65% in overall total), and their family size was markedly smaller: 71% had only one dependent compared to 41% overall, and the average number of dependents per household was 1.4 versus 2.2 in the full cohort. Gender differences were even more pronounced: 100% of young lone parents were female, highlighting the risk to homelessness for young women in early parenthood.

Citizenship patterns diverged sharply: young families were predominantly Irish (72%), with far less non-EU representation (6% vs 33% overall), and when non-Irish parents were present, they were concentrated in EEA couples rather than lone parents. Analysis of known Ethnicity mirrored this trend, skewing toward White–Irish and EU backgrounds, with minimal non-EU presence. In conclusion, young families entering homelessness were smaller, more likely to be Irish, and overwhelmingly female-headed, with fewer migration-related complexities.

The following section provides insights on new family entries and housing pathways.



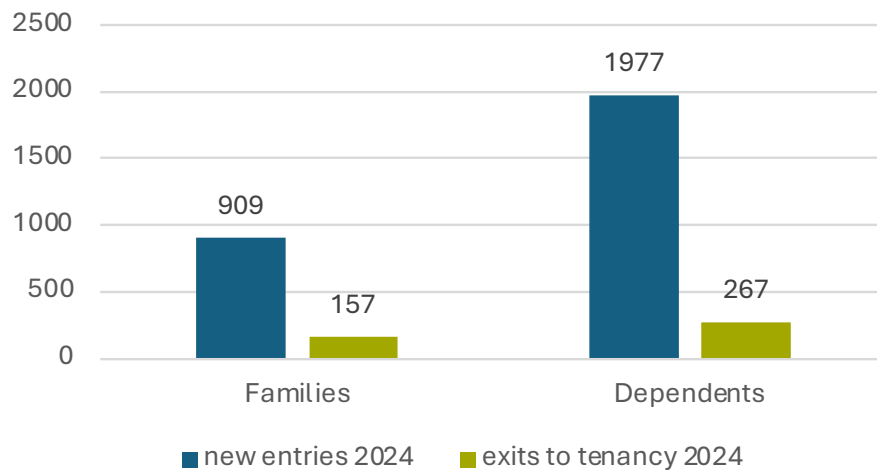
# Dynamics of Family Homelessness in 2024

## Housing Exits in the same year of entry, 2024

Of the 909 families who entered homelessness for the first time in 2024, 157 families exited to a tenancy within the same year - an overall family exit rate of 17%. The exiting families included 267 dependents, equivalent to 14% of all dependents in new entry families (267 of 1,977).

Exiting households were, on average, smaller than the overall entry cohort: 1.70 dependents per exiting family (267/157) compared with 2.17 dependents per family among all new entrants, indicating that smaller families were more likely to move into tenancies within the year.

Figure 14: Family and Dependents Entries vs Exits to Tenancy, 2024



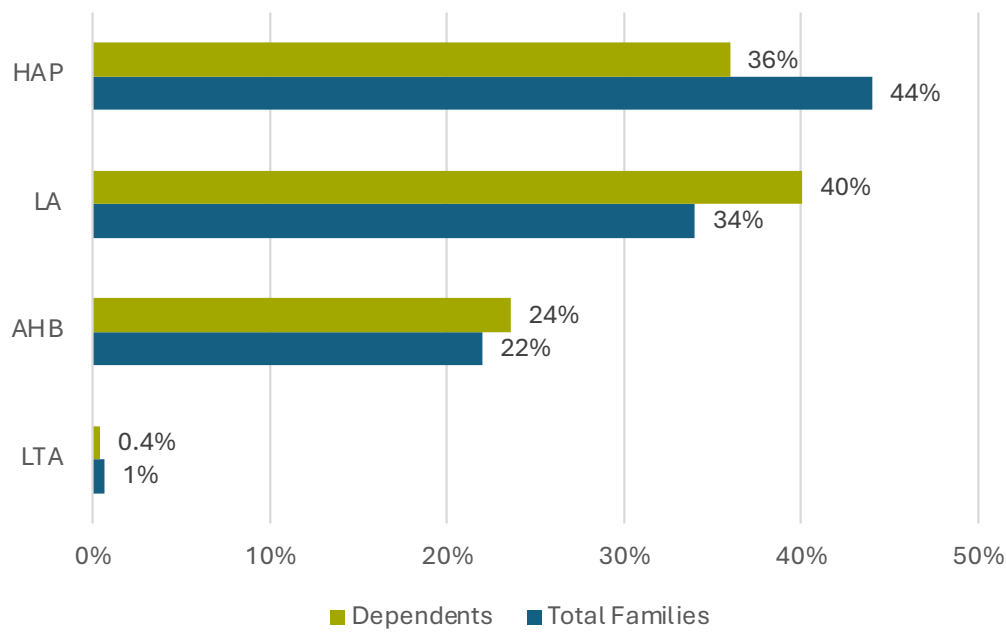
## Overall exits by tenancy type<sup>2</sup>

Exits were achieved through a mix of tenancy routes, led by HAP with 69 families (44%) and 96 dependents (36%). Local Authority (LA) lettings accounted for 53 families (34%) but housed the largest share of dependents, 107 (40%), pointing to LA lettings supporting relatively larger households (approximately

2.02 dependents per family). AHB tenancies supported 34 families (22%) and 63 dependents (24%), while LongTerm Accommodation (LTA) housed 1 family (1 dependent). Average dependents per exiting family by route underscore these differences: LA (2.02), AHB (1.85), HAP (1.39), LTA (1.00).

<sup>2</sup> Tenancy acronym definitions: Housing Assistance Payment (HAP); Local Authority (LA); Approved Housing Body (AHB).

Figure 15: Comparison of Family Entries and Housing Exits (2024)



Comparative analysis by family composition

Lone parent families accounted for 124 of the 157 exits (79%), a higher share than their 65% share of new entries and exited at roughly double the rate of couples: 21% of lone parent entrants exited to tenancy versus 10% of couples. Measured by dependents, 18% of dependents in lone parent families exited compared

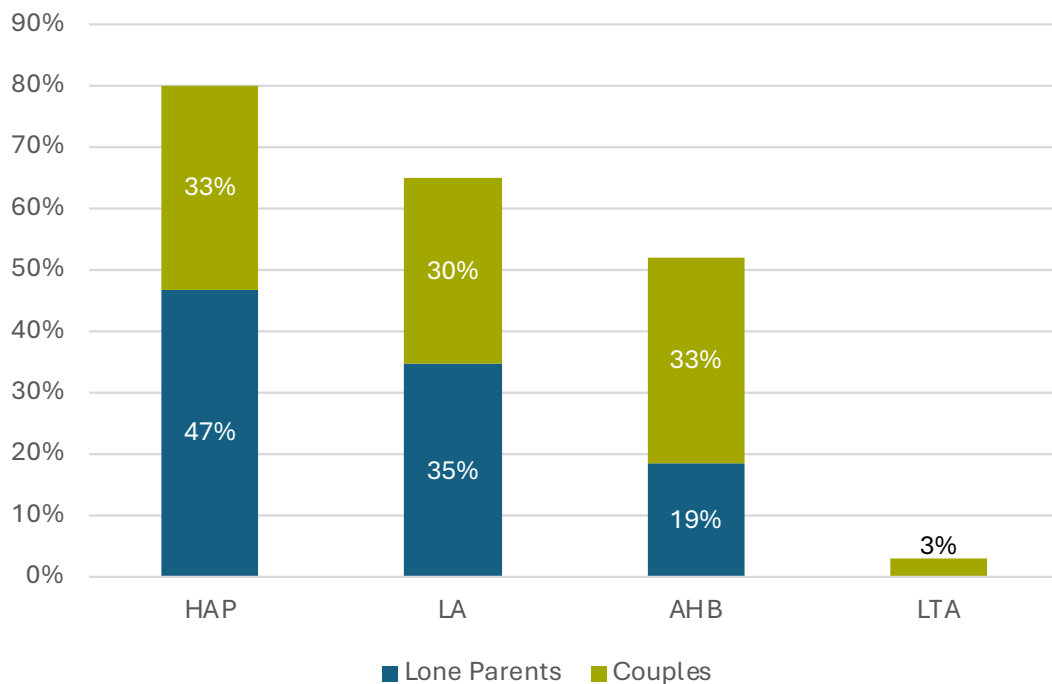
with 8% in couple families. Couples who exited tended to be slightly larger than lone parents exiting to housing (1.91 vs 1.65 dependents per family), but both were smaller than the average newentry household, reinforcing the pattern that smaller families exited more quickly to tenancies in 2024.

Table 20: Housing Exit Rates by Family Composition, 2024

	Lone Parents	Dependents in lone parent families	Couples	Dependents in couple families	Total Families	Total Dependents
Exits to tenancy	124	204	33	63	157	267
New entries 2024	587	1141	322	836	909	1977
Exits to tenancy in 2024 as % of all new entries	21%	18%	10%	8%	17%	14%

Within lone parent exits, the primary route was HAP (47%), followed by LA (35%) and AHB (19%). Among couple families, exits were evenly spread across AHB (33%), HAP (33%), and LA (30%), with a small number via LTA (3%).

Figure 16: Family Exits by Tenancy Type and Composition



## Summary

The analysis of families exiting to tenancy in the same year of entry in 2024 highlights both progress and consistent constraints in housing availability. While 157 families, representing 17% of new entrants, secured tenancies within the same year, the overall exit rate remained modest given the scale of family homelessness. Exits were concentrated among lone-parent households, which accounted for nearly four out of five tenancies, reflecting both their prevalence at both entry into EA and exit housing. Conversely, couple households exited at roughly half the rate of lone

parents, and those that did exit tended to be larger, showing challenges of rehousing bigger families.

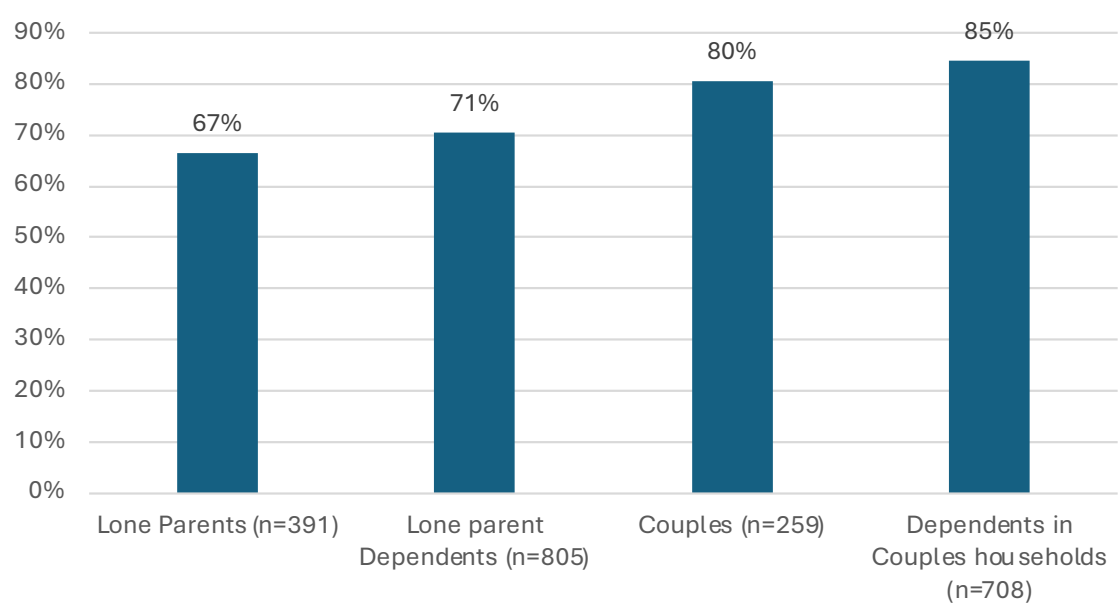
Tenancy pathways were dominated by HAP and Local Authority lettings, together supporting nearly four in five exits, while AHB tenancies played a smaller but significant role. The variation in average household size across tenancy types suggests that Local Authority and AHB routes play a major role in accommodating larger families, whereas HAP is more commonly associated with smaller households.

### Families Still in Emergency Accommodation at Year-End (2024)

By year end, 650 of 909 families (72%) remained in emergency accommodation, comprising 1,513 of 1,977 dependents (77%). Within this group, lone parent families accounted for 391 families (67% of lone parent entrants) and 805 dependents (71% of lone parent dependents). Couple families were more likely to still be in EA: 259 families (80% of new couple

entries) and 708 dependents (85% of dependents in couple families). Average household size among those remaining in EA was 2.33 dependents per family overall, higher for couples (2.73) than for lone parents (2.06), indicating that larger households, especially couples, were more likely to be in EA at year end.

Figure 17: Families and dependents remaining in EA on 31st December 2024



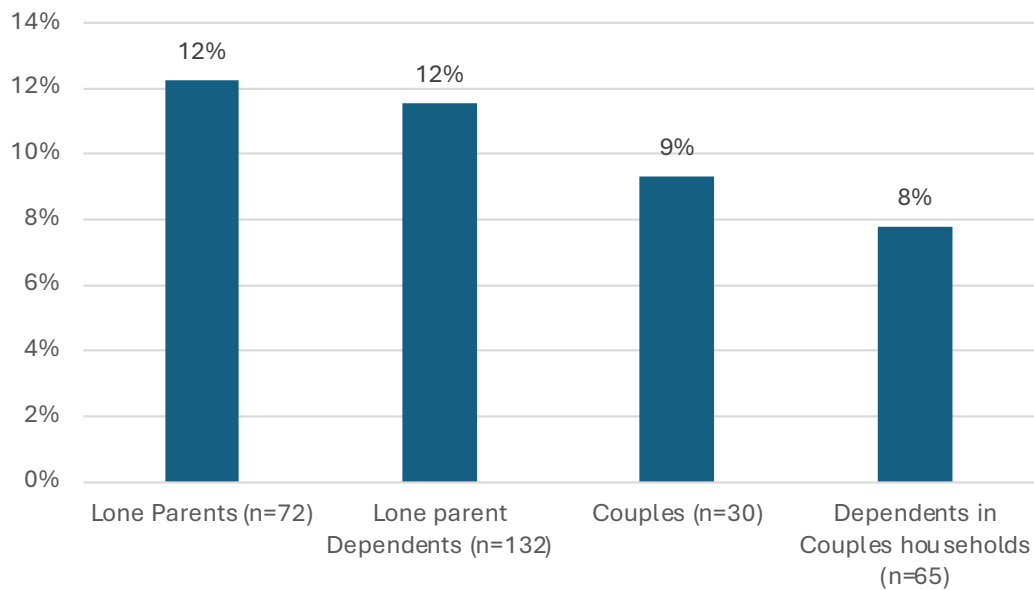
### Families Leaving EA Without a Housing Outcome (2024)

A total of 102 families (11%) of all new families had exited without a housing outcome, including 197 dependents (10%). This group included 72 lone parent families (12% of lone parent entrants) with 132 dependents (12%), and 30 couple families (9% of couple entrants) with 65 dependents (8%). Average

size among families exiting without an outcome was 1.93 dependents per family (lone parents 1.83; couples 2.17), indicating that non tenancy exits were more common among smaller lone parent households, with a modest presence of larger couple households.

For reasons at exit – see Appendix Tables: Table 4

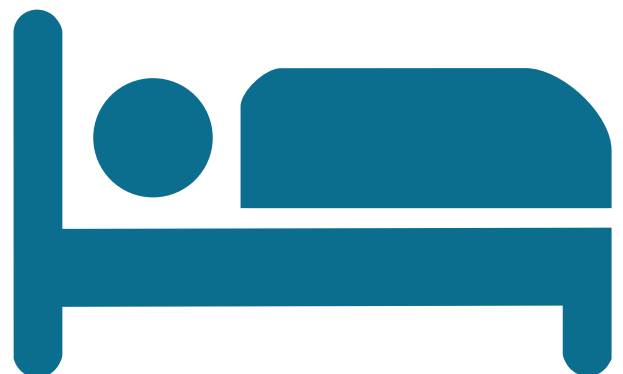
Figure 18: Families exited without a housing outcome, 2024



## Summary

Exits to housing; exits without outcome; and those remaining in EA in the 2024 new family cohorts showed a clear distribution by 31 December: 72% remained in EA, 17% exited to tenancy, and 11% exited without an outcome. For dependents, the pattern skewed even more toward continued EA use: 77% remained, 14% exited to tenancy, and 10% exited without outcome.

Composition matters: lone parents exited to tenancy at twice the rate of couples (families: 21% vs 10%; dependents: 18% vs 8%) yet also had a slightly higher share of exits without outcome. In contrast, couple families were markedly more likely to remain in EA at year end, and those who did remain tended to be larger.





### Prevention Outcomes vs New Entries (2024)

In 2024, 909 families entered homelessness for the first time, while 1,320 families were successfully prevented from entering emergency accommodation through targeted interventions. This means that for every family entering homelessness, approximately 1.45 families

were rehoused to avoid entry, indicating that prevention measures accounted for a substantial share of efforts to reduce demand on emergency accommodation.

### Entries and Exits (2024)

Alongside new entries, 708 families exited homelessness to housing during the year, representing a substantial throughput within the system. While the number of exits did not fully offset new entries, the scale of rehousing demonstrates significant progress in creating

pathways out of homelessness. However, the gap between entries (909) and exits (708): 78 exits for every 100 new entries into homelessness highlights ongoing pressure on emergency accommodation.

### System Dynamics: Entries, Preventions, and Exits (2024)

The combined data revealed a complex dynamic: 1,320 preventions, 909 new entries, and 708 exits to housing. Prevention activity exceeded new entries, indicating that upstream interventions were working effectively to reduce inflows. Yet, the persistence of nearly

one new entry for every 1.3 preventions signals that structural drivers of family homelessness remain strong. Meanwhile, exits to housing accounted for 78% of new entries, suggesting that while rehousing capacity is significant, it is not sufficient to fully absorb demand.



# Section 2



# Long-Term Trends in Family Homelessness (2016–2024)

While the 2024 figures underline the immediate scale of family homelessness, it is equally important to place these findings in a longer-term perspective. Examining trends over the nine years from 2016 to 2024 provides valuable insight into the nature of family homelessness, the impact of external shocks such as the pandemic, and the consistent pressures that continue to drive families into homelessness in the Dublin region.

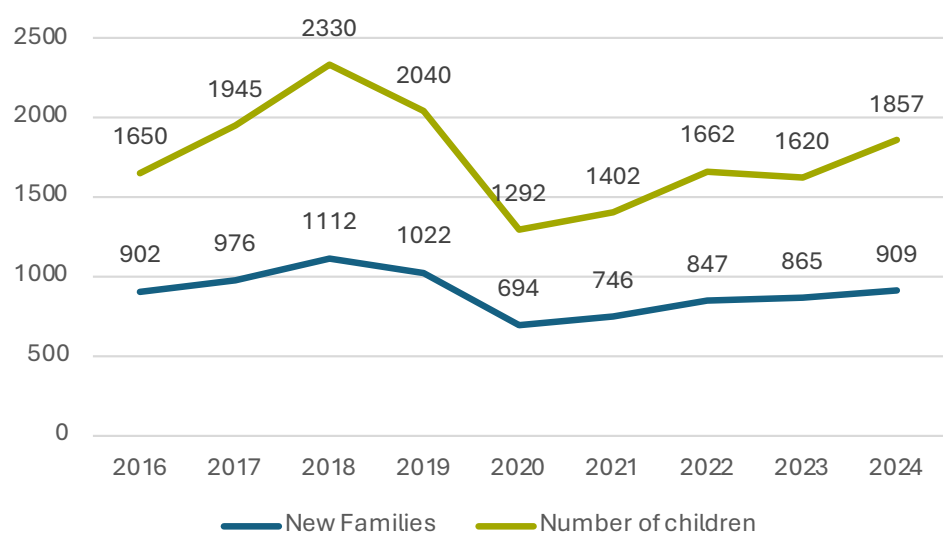
The nine-year trend data reveal a pattern of consistent and recurring family homelessness, shaped by both structural housing pressures and temporary interventions. Between 2016 and 2018, the number of new families entering homelessness rose sharply, reaching a peak of 1,112 families and 2,330 children in 2018. This represented the highest inflow of families over the period, preceding the pandemic.

The onset of COVID-19 brought a notable decline. In 2020, only 694 families with 1,292 children entered

homelessness, the lowest levels recorded in the series. This reduction was closely linked to temporary emergency measures such as eviction moratoria and rent freezes, which provided short-term protection for many households. The decline in entries during 2020 was temporary, with numbers rising again from 2021 onward.

From 2021 onwards, the numbers began to rise steadily once again, increasing to 909 families and 1,857 children by 2024. While these figures have not yet reached the 2018 peak, they signal a clear return to upward pressure. The consistency of children’s numbers across the series is particularly striking, with levels remaining high throughout and showing that children are disproportionately represented within family homelessness.

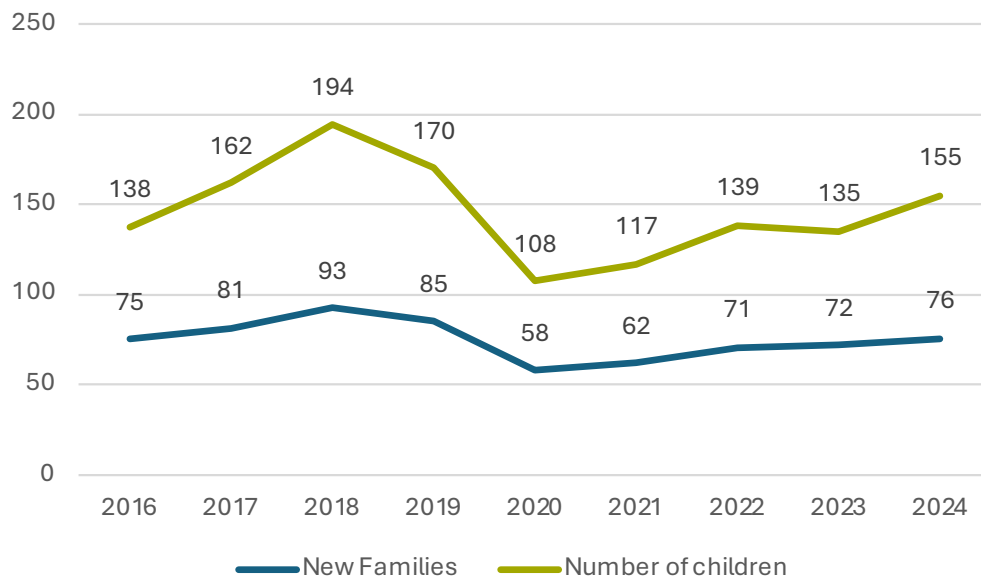
Figure 19: Trends in New Family and Child Homelessness (2016–2024)



## Average new entries each month, 2016-2024

The 2024 average number of families (76) and children (155) entering EA showed an increase over the 2023 averages of 72 families and 135 children. Furthermore, the average was the highest since post-COVID-19 period, however still lower than the pre-COVID-19 period.

Figure 20: Average number of new families and children entering EA each month, 2016-2024



## Reasons for Homelessness trends, 2016-2024

Comparing the 2024 to the 2023 period showed that the profile of reported reasons shifted modestly toward the NOTs from private rental sector. NOT related entries rose from 34% to 40% (+6%), Family Circumstances fell from 27% to 22% (–5%, the lowest share in the series), and ‘Other Reasons’ decreased from 39% to 38% (–1%, while remaining elevated by historical standards.

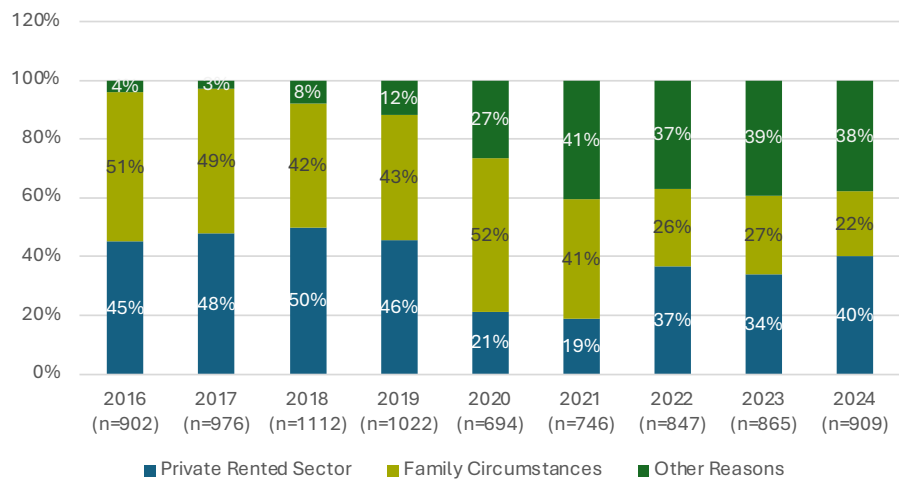
Before 2020, NOTs and Family Circumstances were co-dominant drivers. On average across 2016–2019, NOTs accounted for 47.3%, Family Circumstances 46.3%, and Other Reasons 6.8%. The period showed a mild rebalancing: NOTs rose to a high of 50% in 2018 before easing to 46% in 2019; Family Circumstances declined from 51% (2016) to 43% (2019); and ‘Other Reasons’ grew from 4% to 12%, still a minor share by 2019.

Averaging the post 2020 period (2020–2024) underscores the reset: Other Reasons lead at 36.4%, followed by Family Circumstances at 33.6% and NOTs

at 30.2%. Compared with the pre 2020 baseline: –17.1% for NOTs, –12.7% for Family Circumstances, and 29.7% for Other, there is a pronounced redistribution toward the ‘Other’ category.

Over 2016–2024, the trend moves away from a pre 2020 NOTs /Family Circumstances duo dominance toward a tripolar pattern with a consistently elevated ‘Other Reasons’ share. By 2024, NOTs had recovered to 40% but remained 7.3% below its pre 2020 average; Family Circumstances fell to 22%, a 24.3% drop from its earlier average; and ‘Other Reasons’ at 38% sat 31.3% above the pre 2020 norm. The post 2020 period thus represents a structural shift rather than a temporary fluctuation, with 2024 showing partial NOT normalisation, continued decrease in Family Circumstances driven entries, and a durable, high contribution from ‘Other Reasons’ of homelessness.

Figure 21: Trends in Reasons for Homelessness (2016–2024)



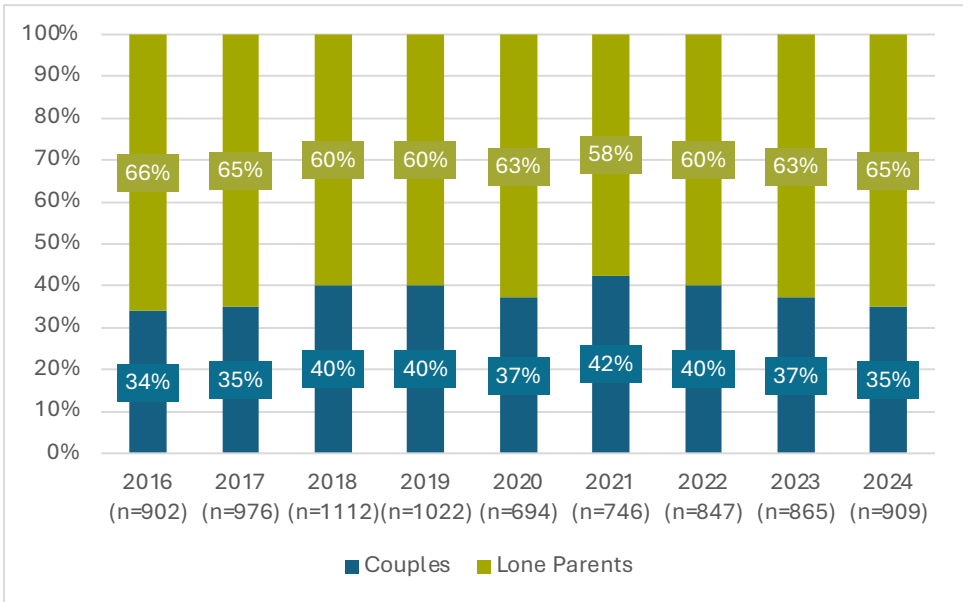
Family composition of new family entries, year 2016 – 2024

In 2024, the balance between couples and lone-parent families among new entries to emergency accommodation shifted slightly compared with 2023. Couples accounted for 35% of new family entries, down 2% from 37% in 2023. Lone parents correspondingly rose to 65%, up 2 points from 63%. The mix therefore moved modestly back toward lone-parent families in 2024, although the change is small and remains within the range seen in recent years.

Looking across the full period from 2016 to 2024, the composition has been remarkably stable around a two thirds lone parent share. Lone parents ranged between 58% (the low in 2021) and 66% (the high in 2016), while couples ranged from 34% (the low in 2016) to 42% (the high in 2021). The midperiod

peak for couples in 2021 (42%) corresponded to a trough for lone parents (58%), but that shift largely reversed by 2023–2024. Over the whole series, the average composition was approximately 38% couples and 62% lone parents, and a simple linear trend shows only a very slight tilt toward couples over time (+0.2 percentage points per year for couples, –0.2 for lone parents); however, the fit is weak and the pattern is better described as oscillating within a narrow band rather than trending strongly. Year to year movements are typically modest ( $\pm 2$ –3 points), with the largest step changes of  $\pm 5$  points occurring around 2017–2018 and 2020–2021. By 2024, the mix (35% couples / 65% lone parents) is effectively back near its starting point in 2016 (34% / 66%), underscoring the long run stability of this demographic profile.

Figure 22: Family composition of new family entries, 2016-2024





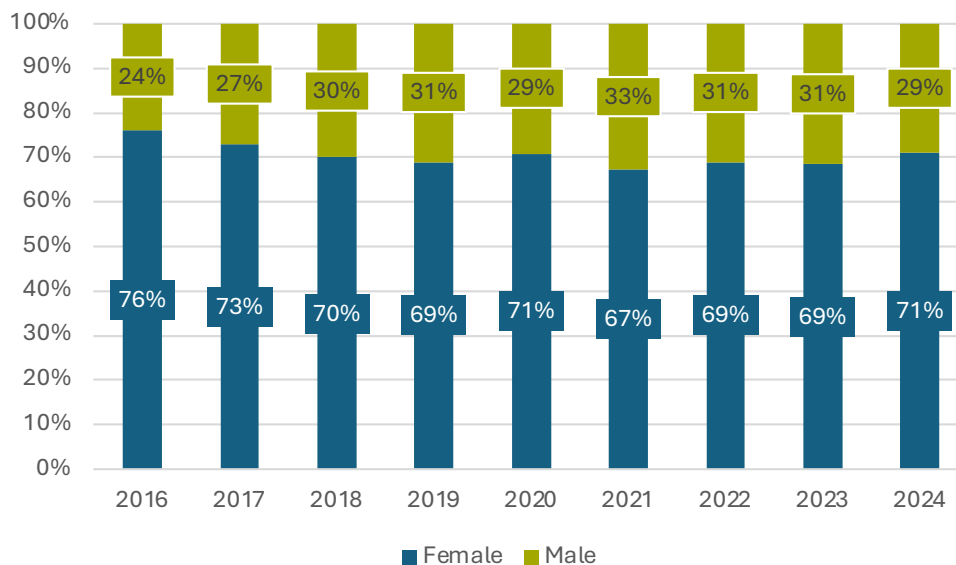
## Gender of parents among new family entries, 2016–2024

In 2024, the gender among parents in new family entries to emergency accommodation shifted modestly compared with 2023. The share of female parents rose to 71%, up 2 % from 69% in 2023, while the male share declined to 29%, down 2 % from 31%. This small movement pushes the profile back toward the longerrun average in which roughly seven in ten new family entries are headed by a female parent. As with other demographic splits in this dataset, the year on year change is limited and remains well within recent variation.

Taking the longer view from 2016 to 2024, the series shows a gentle, directional drift: female representation has edged down from 76% in 2016 to 71% in 2024 (a net change of –5%), mirrored by a +5% rise in the

male share (from 24% to 29%). The largest single year movement occurred between 2020 and 2021, when the female share fell by 4 points (71% to 67%) and the male share rose by 4 points (29% to 33%), marking the period's female dip (67% in 2021) and male peak (33% in 2021). Since then, the profile has partially reversed, with females returning to 69% in 2022–2023 and 71% in 2024. Across the nineyear period, the composition stayed within a relatively narrow band: 67%–76% female and 24%–33% male, with long run averages of approximately 71% female and 29% male. A simple linear trend suggests a gradual shift of about 0.6 percentage points per year away from female and toward male parents, but the pattern is still best described as moderate drift with periodic fluctuations rather than a sharp, sustained rebalancing.

Figure 23: Gender of parents among new family entries, 2016–2024



## New family entries by number of dependents, 2016–2024

In 2024, the distribution of dependents among new family entries shifted noticeably compared with 2023, pointing to larger family sizes at entry. Families with one dependent fell to 41% (down 6% from 47%), while those with two dependents rose to 26% (up 2 points), three dependents increased to 19% (up by 4%), and four dependents edged up to 14% (up by 1%). Taken together, the balance moved away from singlechild families toward households with two or more children, lifting the estimated average number of

dependents per new family from about 1.92 in 2023 to around 2.06 in 2024, the highest level in the series.

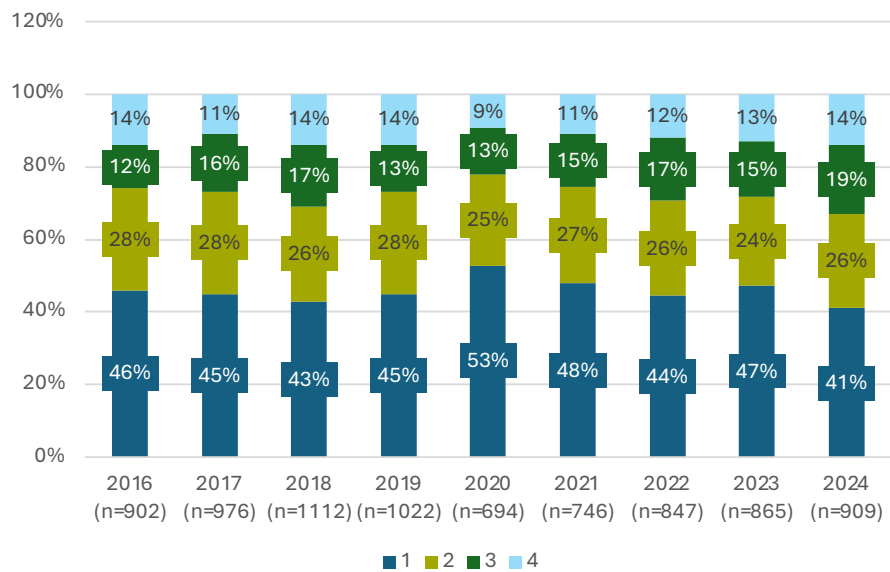
Over the longer period, 2016–2024, the composition has fluctuated within a moderate band but with a gradual post 2020 drift toward larger families. The share of one dependent families began the series at 46% in 2016, peaked in 2020 at 53%, and then trended downward to 41% in 2024 (a 5% decrease from 2016 and 12% fall from the 2020 peak). Two



dependent families have been largely stable, fluctuating narrowly between 24% and 28% and were 26% in 2024, just 2 points below 2016. By contrast, threedependent families show the clearest upward movement: from 12% in 2016 to a series high of 19% in 2024 (up 7%), with interim highs at 17% in 2018 and 2022. Fourdependent families have varied

modestly: from a low of 9% in 2020 to 14% in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2024, ending the period back at their earlier high. Reflecting these shifts, the implied average family size dipped to a low around 1.78 dependents in 2020, then increased steadily to 2.06 in 2024, indicating a recent increase in larger family entries.

Figure 24: New families by number of dependents, 2016-2024



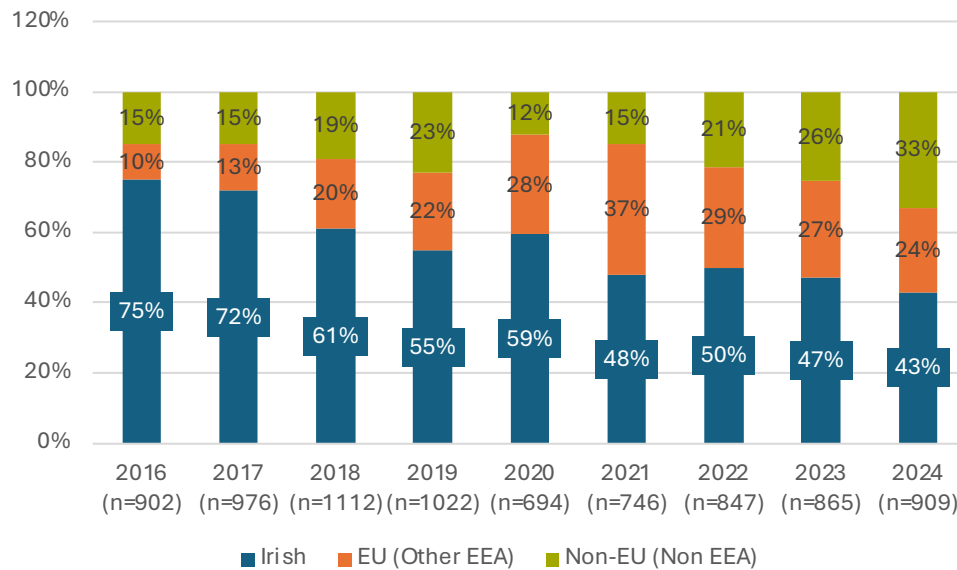
Citizenship of parents among new family entries, 2016–2024

In 2024, the citizenship profile of parents entering emergency accommodation continued to diversify relative to 2023. The Irish share fell to 43%, a 4% decline from 47% the previous year and the lowest point in the series. EU (other EEA) parents also eased back, from 27% to 24% (–3%). Offsetting these reductions, non-EU (non EEA) parents rose sharply from 26% to 33% (+7%), becoming the single largest source of year on year change. The combined effect is that, in 2024, a majority (57%) of new parent entries were non Irish citizens, with roughly one third from outside the EU/EEA and just under one quarter from other EU/EEA countries.

Across the full period, 2016–2024, the data show a marked and sustained shift away from Irish citizenship and toward non Irish cohorts. Irish parents decreased from 75% in 2016 to 43% in 2024 a 32% drop,

interrupted only briefly by a temporary uptick around 2020 (59%) before resuming a downward trend to a series low in 2024. EU (other EEA) shares rose through 2021, peaking at 37%, but have since declined to 24% in 2024, suggesting that the midperiod surge has partially unwound. The most pronounced lateperiod change was among non-EU (non EEA) parents: after decreasing to a series low of 12% in 2020, their share more than doubled to 33% by 2024 (a +21% increase from the 2020 low and +18% from 2016), with strong increases in 2023 (+5%) and 2024 (+7%). Over the nineyear period, the averages were approximately 57% Irish, 23% EU (other EEA) and 20% Non-EU (non EEA), but the trajectory is clearly toward greater internationalisation, culminating in 2024 with Irish citizens in the minority and the non-EU share at its highest level in the series.

Figure 25: Citizenship of parents among new family entries, 2016–2024



## Summary of Demographic Trends Among New Family Entries (2016–2024)

Across the nine-year period, the profile of families entering emergency accommodation has remained broadly stable in some respects while shifting significantly in others.

Family composition shows enduring dominance of lone-parent households, averaging about two-thirds of entries, with only minor fluctuations around this level; couples have hovered near one-third, and 2024 (35% couples, 65% lone parents) is almost identical to 2016. Gender of parents similarly reflects continuity, with female-headed families consistently forming the majority. While the female share declined from 76% in 2016 to 71% in 2024, the change is gradual and the male share remains under one-third, despite a brief peak at 33% in 2021.

By contrast, family size has shifted more noticeably. After peaking in 2020 with over half of families having only one dependent, the trend reversed: single-dependent families fell to 41% in 2024, while larger families gained ground, three-dependent households reached a series high of 19%, and four-dependent

families returned to 14%. This pushed the average number of dependents to its highest level in the series (about 2.06 in 2024), indicating a recent move toward larger family units.

The most pronounced change is in citizenship. Irish parents, who accounted for three-quarters of entries in 2016, now represent just 43%, marking a 32% decline. EU (other EEA) shares rose sharply mid-period (peaking at 37% in 2021) but eased to 24% in 2024. Meanwhile, non-EU (non-EEA) parents surged from 15% in 2016 to 33% in 2024, overtaking EU shares and driving the internationalisation of the cohort. By 2024, a clear majority of new family entries were non-Irish, with the non-EU cohort at its highest recorded level.

In summary: while family composition and gender remain relatively stable, family size and citizenship trends point to structural changes with larger families and a more diverse, international population reshaping the profile of new entrants to emergency accommodation.

# Families at Risk of Homelessness: 2024 in Context and Long-Term Trends

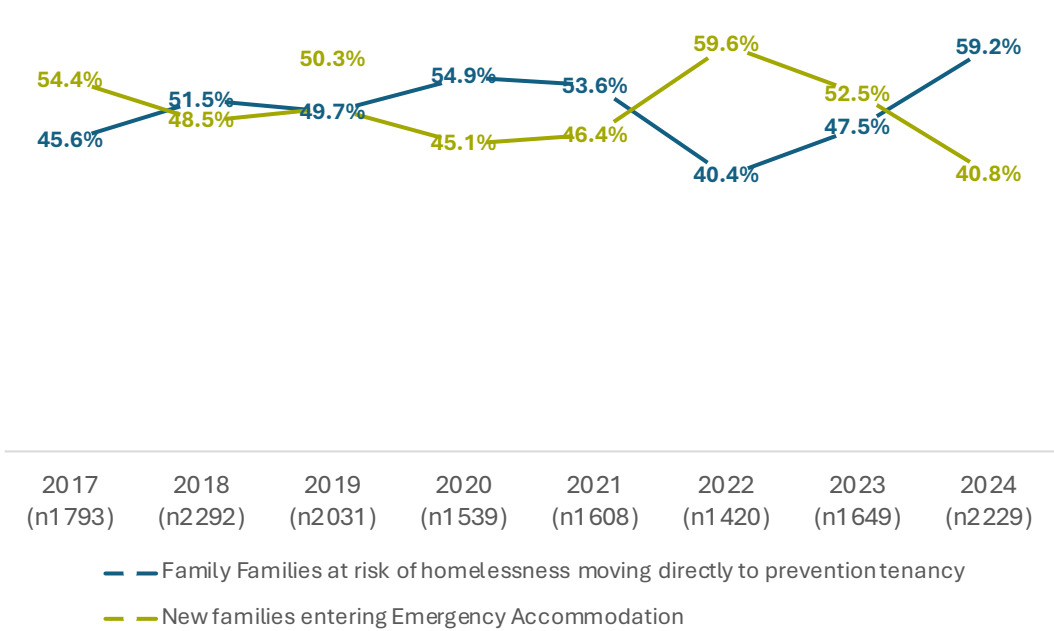
In 2024, a total of 2,229 family households were identified as at risk of homelessness in the region. Of these, 59.2% (n=1320) were successfully prevented from entering homelessness through rehousing interventions, while 40.8% (n=909) unfortunately entered emergency accommodation for the first time. This marks a significant improvement compared to 2023, when 47.5% of at-risk families were diverted from homelessness and 52.5% entered emergency accommodation. The shift between 2023 and 2024 represents a 11.7% increase in prevention success, reversing the adverse trend seen in 2022, when prevention fell to its lowest level (40.4%) and new entries peaked at 59.6%.

Looking at the broader period 2017-2024, the total number of family households at risk (preventions + entries) has fluctuated considerably. Annual figures

show 1,793 households in 2017, rising sharply to 2,292 in 2018, before moderating to 2,031 in 2019 and 1,539 in 2020. The post 2020 period saw relative stability, however with overall families at risk trending upward: 1,608 in 2021, a dip to 1,420 in 2022 before increasing to 1,649 and 2229 in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

**In 2024, almost 6 in 10 families at risk of homelessness were rehoused immediately (59.2%), the highest rate since 2017, with 1.45 preventions for every family entering emergency accommodation.**

Figure 26: Family preventions vis entries, 2017-2024



# Monthly Dynamics of Family Homelessness: Entries vs Exits (2017–2024)

Analysing annual flows as average per month provided a clearer picture of the operational pace of change in emergency accommodation (EA). In 2024, an average of 76 families per month entered EA, while 59 per month exited to housing. Compared to 2023 (72 entries and 39 exits per month), entries rose modestly by +4 per month (+5%) but exits increased sharply by +20 per month (+51%). This improvement reduced the net monthly growth in EA occupancy from +33 families per month in 2023 to +17 per month in 2024, effectively halving the rate of accumulation, though exits still fell short of entries.

Looking across 2017-2024, entries peaked in 2018 (93 per month), fell to 58 per month in 2020, and stabilized in the low-to-mid 70s since 2022. Exits, by contrast, were strongest in 2019-2020 (95–102 per month), years when exits exceeded entries, producing net reductions in EA occupancy of –10 and –44 families per month, respectively. From 2021 onward, exits lagged behind entries, with the gap widening significantly in 2022 (+33) and 2023 (+33) before narrowing in 2024 (+17).

Table 21: Monthly Average Entries and Exits to Housing, 2017-2024

Year	New families entering EA	Families exiting EA to housing	Net Change (EA Growth per month)
2017	81	72	10
2018	93	65	28
2019	85	95	-10
2020	58	102	-44
2021	62	58	4
2022	71	38	33
2023	72	39	33
2024	76	59	17

# Family preventions, entries and exits out of homelessness, 2017 – 2024

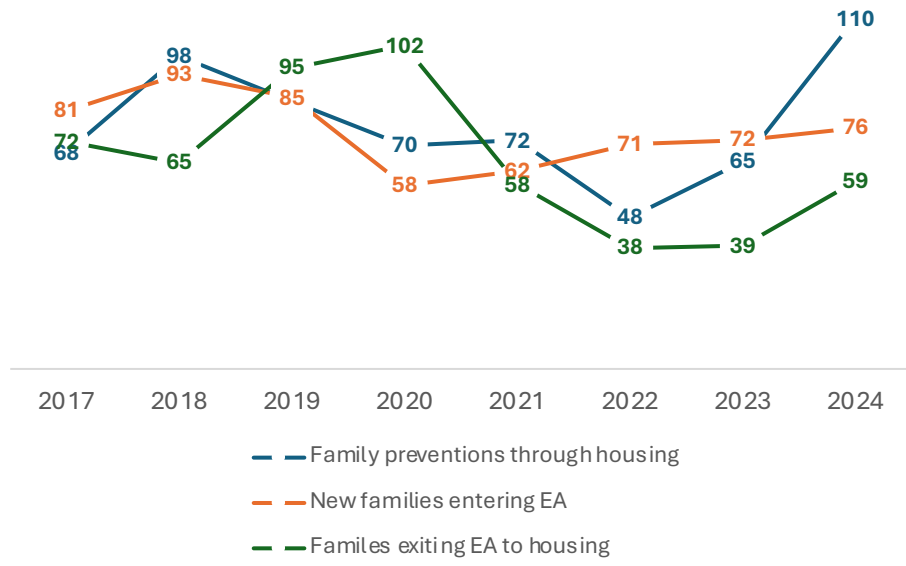
In 2024, the system prevented an average of 110 families per month from entering homelessness, while 76 per month newly entered EA and 59 per month exited to housing. Compared with 2023 (65 preventions, 72 entries, 39 exits per month), this represents a 69% rise in preventions and a 51% increase in exits, alongside only a modest 5% uptick in entries. The effect halved the net monthly growth in EA from +33 families in 2023 to +17 families in 2024. Two ratios show the shift: the Preventions to Entries (P/E) ratio climbed from 0.90 in 2023 to 1.45 in 2024, indicating stronger upstream diversion, while the Exits to Entries (Ex/E) ratio improved from 0.54 to 0.78, showing a partial recovery in rehousing capacity though still below the breakeven threshold of 1.0.

Analysed across 2017–2024, monthly averages showed three distinct phases. In 2017–2018, entries were elevated (81–93/month) and exits insufficient (65–72/month), producing net growth in EA of +9 to +28 families per month despite solid prevention in 2018 (98/month). In 2019–2020, exits decisively outpaced entries (95–102 vs 85–58/month), yielding net reductions in EA of –10 and –44 families per month, respectively, with prevention also comparatively strong (84–70/month). From 2021–2023, exits fell below entries (58; 38; 39/month) and preventions weakened (72; 48; 65/month), driving renewed growth in EA (+4 to +33 per month). The 2024 figures marked a turning point, prevention increased to 110/month and exits rose to 59/month, narrowing but not closing the gap with entries (76/month).

Most importantly, the threeway analysis clarifies how these three factors interact. Preventions operate upstream to suppress inflow; exits operate downstream to reduce the existing EA stock; entries are the pressure both must counter. A combined indicator<sup>4</sup> i.e.  $(\text{Preventions} + \text{Exits}) \div \text{Entries}$ , summarises overall resolution capacity: it rose from 1.44 in 2023 to 2.22 in 2024, reflecting much stronger system response. Yet because exits alone still trailed entries (0.78), EA occupancy continued to grow, albeit more slowly. On current entry volumes (76/month), stabilisation would require exits to increase by 17 per month (to 76, about +29%), or a comparable reduction in entries (to 59, about –22%), while sustaining elevated prevention to keep future inflow in check.

<sup>4</sup> The combined indicator is designed to show the overall resolution capacity relative to inflow. If the ratio is greater than 1 – this means the system resolved more cases of homelessness through prevention and exits combined than the number of new entries. If the ratio is less than 1 – the system resolved fewer cases of family homelessness and EA occupancy will continue to grow unless exits accelerate and entries fall. Note: A high combined indicator shows strong system effort, but **stabilisation depends on exits matching or exceeding entries**. Preventions reduce future inflow; exits reduce current EA stock.

Figure 27: Families - Monthly averages, Preventions, New Entries and Exits to Housing (2017-2024)



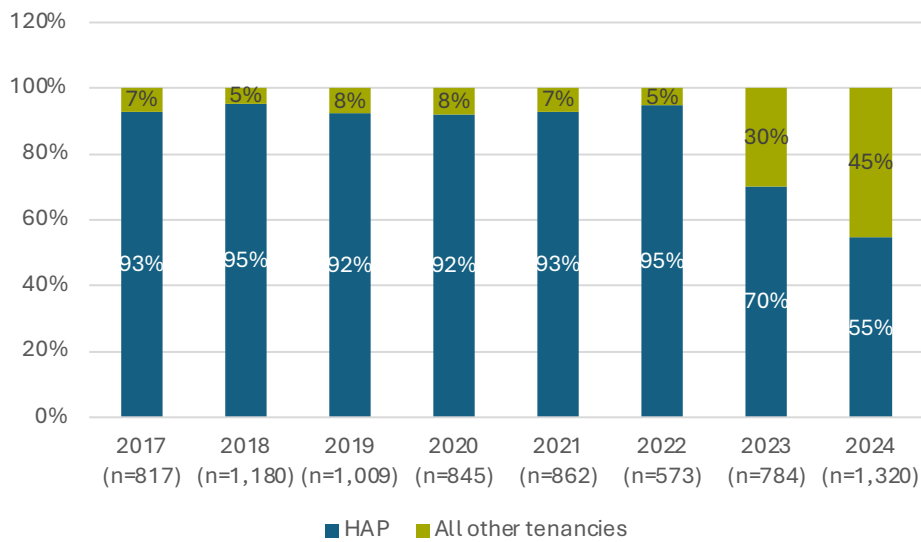


# Families prevented from homelessness through housing by tenancy type, 2017 – 2024

Across 2017–2024, family homelessness prevention through housing expanded in volume and diversified markedly away from nearexclusive reliance on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). From 2017–2022, HAP accounted for an average 93.3% of all prevention tenancies (ranging 92–95%), with total preventions bottoming out at 573 in 2022. The trend shifted significantly in 2023–2024: HAP’s share fell to an average 62.5% (70% in 2023; 55% in 2024) as ‘all other tenancies’ scaled rapidly. Crucially, this was not a substitution away from HAP so much as growth on both fronts - total preventions increased from 784 (2023) to

a series high 1,320 (2024; +68.4%), with the absolute number of HAP preventions also reaching its highest level (726 in 2024, up from 549 in 2023). The majority of the 2024 uplift, however, came from nonHAP options (594 in 2024 vs 235 in 2023), contributing 67% of the year on year increase. Over the full period, about 84% of all 7,390 preventions were via HAP (6,207 households), showing its central role, while the recent broadening of pathways beyond HAP - evident in 2023–2024 shows an increase in social housing delivery.

Figure 28: Families prevented from homelessness through rehousing by tenancy type, 2017-2024

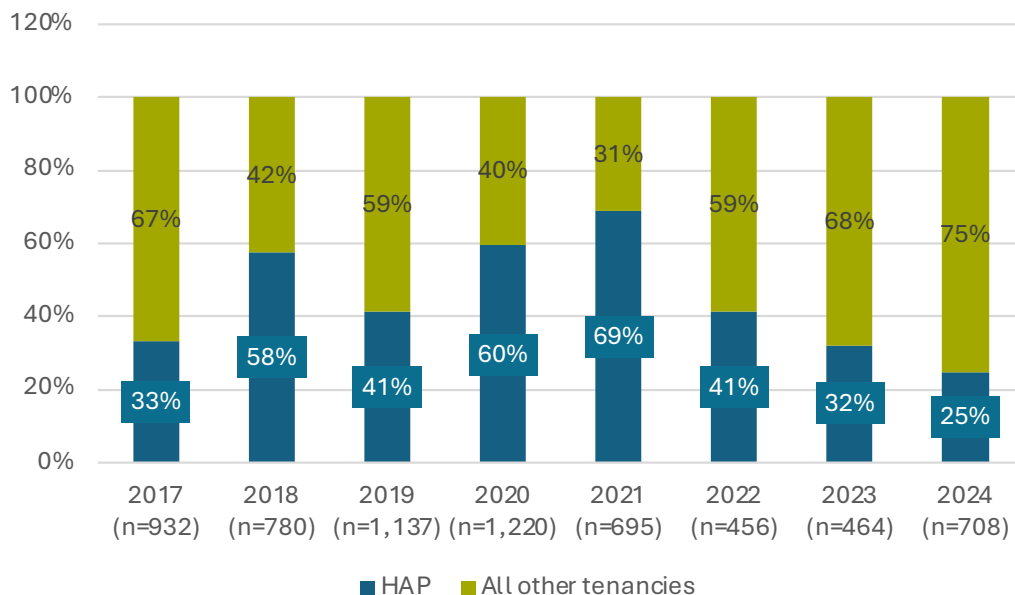


# Families Exiting Emergency Accommodation to Housing: Trends and Tenancy Type (2017–2024)

Between 2017 and 2024, a total of 6,392 families exited EA to housing. Of these, HAP-supported tenancies accounted for 2,944 exits (46%), while other tenancy options made up 3,448 exits (54%). The pattern of exits varied significantly over time. In 2017, HAP represented just 33% of exits, but its share rose sharply in subsequent years, peaking at 69% in 2021. The highest overall exit volume occurred in 2020, with 1,220 families, of which 726 were HAP-supported. However, this dominance was not consistent: HAP's share fell to 41% in 2022, and from 2023 onward, the trend reversed. By 2024, HAP accounted for only 25% of exits, while other tenancy pathways surged to 75% (532 families) - the highest non-HAP figure in the series.

This diversification coincides with a partial recovery in overall exit volumes after two years of decrease. Exits declined from 1,220 in 2020 to just 456 in 2022, before recovering to 464 in 2023 and 708 in 2024. The 2024 increase of 244 exits (+53%) compared to 2023 was driven almost entirely by non-HAP pathways, which contributed 80% of the year-on-year growth.

Figure 29: Family Exits from EA to Housing by Tenancy Type, 2017-2024



# Prevention and Exits by Tenure Type (2017-2024)

The analysis of family homelessness prevention and exits from emergency accommodation (EA) to housing between 2017 and 2024 showed two shifts shaping system resilience. First, prevention efforts, historically dominated by the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) at over 90% of tenancies, have diversified significantly since 2023. While HAP remains central, its share fell to 55% in 2024, as alternative tenancy options (including tenancy-in-situ) expanded to absorb rising demand. This change coincided with increase in overall prevention volumes, reaching 1,320 households in 2024, the highest in the series.

Second, exits from EA to housing showed a different pattern. From 2017 to 2020, HAP did not consistently account for most exits, though its share rose significantly in 2018 and peaked at 60% in 2020, when total exits reached 1,220 families - the highest level in the series. However, from 2021 onward, HAP's dominance declined sharply: its share fell to 69% in 2021, then dropped to 41% in 2022, and by 2024, only 25% of exits were via HAP, while non-HAP tenancies increased to 532 households, driving the recovery in total exits to 708 after two years of historic lows. Over the full period, exits were almost evenly split between HAP (46%) and other tenancies (54%), reflecting a clear shift toward alternative housing pathways in recent years.

Overall, the 2017–2024 trend in preventions and exits from emergency accommodation reflects a decisive shift in housing solutions. While HAP dominated early years, its share has fallen sharply since 2023.

# Conclusion

The data indicate that family homelessness in the Dublin region involves multiple contributing factors. A total of 909 families, comprising over 3,200 individuals entered emergency accommodation for the first time - with lone-parent households continuing to dominate the inflow (65%). Children represented a higher share of those entering homelessness, with an average of 1.3 children for every adult. Notices of termination in the private rental sector remained the leading cause of homelessness, particularly among couples, while lone parents were more likely to present due to family breakdown or complex social factors. Young families (aged 18–24) showed a distinct profile, entering homelessness primarily due to interpersonal conflict - especially with parents, and were mostly female-headed and Irish citizens.

Despite significant efforts, only 17% of new families exited to housing within the same year, and 72% remained in emergency accommodation by year-end. However, prevention measures showed marked improvement, with 1,320 families diverted from homelessness: 1.45 preventions for every new entry, indicating strengthened upstream interventions. The exit-to-entry ratio also improved (0.78), though still below the threshold needed to stabilise emergency accommodation occupancy.

When placed in the context of the 2016–2024 period, the 2024 figures reflect both continuity and change. The demographic profile of new entrants dominated by lone parents and female-headed households has remained remarkably stable. However, family size has increased, and the citizenship profile has shifted significantly: Irish citizens now represent a minority among new parents, with non-EU nationals forming the fastest-growing group. The reasons for homelessness have also evolved. While private rental sector evictions have partially increased, the share of entries due to family circumstances has declined sharply, and 'Other Reasons' including overcrowding, domestic violence, and migration-related factors have become durable and elevated contributors.

Overall, the nine-year trend reveals a system under sustained pressure, with temporary gains during the pandemic offset by renewed inflows in subsequent years. The 2024 data suggests that while prevention and exit pathways are improving, they remain insufficient to fully counterbalance new entries. Future projections suggest that exits would need to increase relative to entries to stabilize emergency accommodation occupancy.

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# Appendix – Tables

**Table 1 – Reasons for Presentation: All families n909**

Reason for Presentation	Total	Category Total as % of all Reasons	Reason as % of Category	Reason as % of all reasons
NOT - Property to be Sold	168	40%	46%	18%
NOT - Rent Arrears	62		17%	7%
NOT - Landlords Own or Family House	48		13%	5%
NOT- Unsuitable Accommodation	31		9%	3%
NOT - New Part 4 Tenancy	26		7%	3%
Other NOTs (less than 10 cases each)	31		9%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>		<b>100%</b>	
Reason for Presentation	Total		Reason as % of Category	
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	140	22%	71%	15%
Relationship Breakdown - Other family members	29		15%	3%
Relationship Breakdown - Partner	25		13%	3%
Family Circumstances	4		2%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>		<b>100%</b>	
Reason for Presentation	Total		Reason as % of Category	
Overcrowding	75	38%	22%	8%
Domestic Violence	70		20%	8%
Family Reunification	42		12%	5%
Newly arrived from abroad - less than 6 months	32		9%	4%
Left informal tenancy	30		9%	3%
Leaving Direct Provision	29		8%	3%
Left PR tenancy without valid NTQ	11		3%	1%
Other reasons n14 (less than cases each)	56		16%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>		<b>100%</b>	
<b>All Reasons for Homelessness</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>100%</b>



Table 2: Reason for Presentation by Household Type: All families n909

Reasons for presentation	Lone Parents n587	Reason as % of all lone parents	Couples n322	Reason as % of all couples	Total families	% of all reasons
Notices of Termination	200	34.10%	166	51.60%	366	40.30%
Family Circumstances	153	26.10%	45	14.00%	198	21.80%
Other Reasons	234	39.90%	111	34.50%	345	38.00%
Total	587	100.00%	322	100.00%	909	100.00%

Table 3: Reason for Presentation by Household Type: Young families n139

Reasons for presentation	Lone Parents	Reason as % of all lone parents	Couples	Reason as % of all couples	Total families	% of all reasons
Notices of Termination	9	9%	7	18%	16	12%
Family Circumstances	62	63%	21	53%	83	60%
Other Reasons	28	28%	12	30%	40	29%
Total	99	100%	40	100%	139	100%

Table 4: Exits from EA without a housing Outcome

Exits from EA without a housing Outcome	Total	%
Did not return to service	39	38%
Returned to family	35	34%
Exited to Transitional Housing (OFD)	11	11%
Client Cancelled booking and refused accommodation	6	6%
Relocated to another country	3	3%
Antisocial behaviour	2	2%
Moved to another region	2	2%
Exited to source rent in the PR sector (Not HAP)	2	2%
Moved to halting site	1	1%
Moved to IPAS accomm	1	1%
Total	102	100%





**Feidhmeannacht um Dhaoine ar Easpa**  
**Díðine Réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath**  
Dublin Region Homeless Executive