



New single adults entering emergency accommodation in the Dublin region **2020 - 2024**

Philomena Murphy



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



Acknowledgments

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution of Philomena Murphy, Research Officer, in producing this first-of-its-kind analysis on single adults entering homelessness in the Dublin region between 2020 and 2024. This report provides vital insights into the scale, profile, and pathways of single adult homelessness and marks an important step in strengthening evidence-based responses to homelessness.

We also acknowledge the continued importance of the PASS homeless database, which remains instrumental in enabling robust analysis and understanding of homelessness trends. The insights drawn from PASS data in this report will inform policy development and service planning, ensuring that interventions are responsive to emerging needs.

The DRHE is committed to continuing this work and will build on this analysis to monitor and understand patterns of new single adult homelessness in the years ahead.



Contents

1. Introduction	8
2. Research Objective	9
3. New single adult presentations 2020 - 2024	10
4. Reasons for homelessness, 2020 - 2024	14
5. Singles Demographics 2020 - 2024	20
6. Singles exits to housing and non-housing exits, 2020 - 2024	23
7. Duration of homelessness amongst new singles, 2020 - 2024	29
8. Homeless prevention through housing and entries into homelessness 2020 - 2024	34
9. Single adult entries into homelessness and exits to secure housing, 2020 - 2024	36
10. Conclusion	37
11. References	40
12. Appendix	41

List of Tables

Table 1: New singles entering emergency accommodation each month, 2020 - 2024	10
Table 2: Categories of reasons for singles homelessness by percentage, 2020 - 2024	15
Table 3: Breakdown of Family Circumstances category, 2020 - 2024	15
Table 4: Breakdown of Notices of Termination (NOTs) by NOT type, 2020 - 2024	16
Table 5: Breakdown of Other reasons for homelessness category, 2020 - 2024	18
Table 6: Household composition by percentage, years 2020 - 2024	20
Table 7: Age range of new single adults, 2020 - 2024	22
Table 8: Singles exits to housing in same year of EA entry, years 2020 - 2024	23
Table 9: Exits secured by new singles through HAP, years 2020 - 2024	24
Table 10: Singles non-housing exits from EA in same year of EA entry, 2020 - 2024	24
Table 11: All exits to housing for 2020 new singles (n1,624), years 2020 - 2024	25
Table 12: All exits to housing for 2021 new singles (n1,806), years 2021 - 2024	26
Table 13: All exits to housing for 2022 new singles (n2,023), years 2022 - 2024	26
Table 14: All exits to housing for 2023 new singles (n1,963), years 2023 - 2024	27
Table 15: All exits to housing for 2024 new singles (n2,151), year 2024	27
Table 16: New singles remaining in EA post year of entry, 2020-2024	29
Table 17: Duration in EA, new singles who presented in 2020 (n1,624)	30
Table 18: Duration in EA, new singles who presented in 2021 (n=1,806)	31
Table 19: Duration in EA, new singles who presented in 2022 (n=2,023)	31
Table 20: Duration in EA, new singles who presented in 2023 (n=1,963)	32
Table 21: Duration in EA, new singles who presented in 2024 (n=2,151)	32
Table 22: Duration in EA as % of new singles entries each year, years 2020 - 2024	33
Table 23: Singles vulnerable to homelessness, 2020 – 2024	34
Table 24: Average rate of preventions through housing and new singles presentations per month, 2020 - 2024.	35
Table 25: Flow in and out of homelessness (singles entries and exits), 2020 - 2024	36
Table 26: Average rate of new singles entries and exits per month, 2020 - 2024	36

Acronym List

AHB	Approved Housing Body
DRHE	Dublin Region Homeless Executive
EA	Emergency Accommodation
HAP	Housing Assistance Payment
LA	Local Authority
LTA	Long Term Supported Accommodation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PASS	Pathway Accommodation and Support System
PRS	Private Rental Sector

Summary key homeless statistics 2020-2024

Single adult entries into homelessness

- **9,567 single adults became homeless for the first time in the Dublin region during the period 2020 – 2024.**
- Covid-19 moratoriums on evictions and rent increases had an effect on the number of single adults that became homeless between 2020 and 2024.
 - On average **159 new single adults entered homelessness each month.**
 - During 2020 (at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic), there was a slight deviation from the known seasonal pattern of homeless entries. A significant decrease in the number of new single adult entries was recorded between March and June of 2020.
 - Entries in December 2020 increased by 8.6% instead of the expected seasonal decrease in that month.

Reasons for homelessness

- **Family circumstances accounted for 31.6% of all reasons for homelessness** in the period 2020 – 2024.
 - **Relationship breakdown with parents** accounted for an average of **45.0% of family circumstances**, followed by relationship breakdown with partner (28.1%), relationship breakdown with other family members (15.0%), and other family circumstances (11.9%).
- **NOTs accounted for 10.4% of all reasons for homelessness** in the period 2020 – 2024.
 - NOTs due to **landlords selling properties** were the largest cohort within this group, at an average of **33.9% of all NOTs.**
 - NOTs relating to the landlord requiring the property for their own use averaged at 11.8%, followed by NOTs relating to rent arrears (11.3%), and NOTs for Other reasons (including Part 4 tenancies) [10.2%].
 - Type of NOT was not indicated for 14.1% of NOTs
 - The remaining types of NOTs were below six percent each and accounted for 18.8% when combined.
- **Other reasons' for homelessness accounted for 57.9% of reasons for homelessness** in the period 2020 – 2024.
 - **Leaving Direct Provision** had the highest average percentage in this category at **15.5%** followed by **overcrowding** at **14.2%**, new arrivals from abroad at 14.1%, rough sleeping at 7.5%, and leaving an informal tenancy at 6.7%.
 - Remainder reasons had percentages of five percent or less and a combined total of 41.9%.

Demographics

- **On average 93.8% of new singles were single individuals (and not part of a couple)**
 - Gender analysis showed that overall new single adults were **predominantly male at an average of 73.3%**. This corresponds with international trends on homelessness amongst single adults.
- **The majority of new singles were Irish (55.1%)**, with 23.8% with non-EU citizenship, and 21.2% from the EU (EEA) [including the UK].
 - The percentage of new singles with non-EU citizenship increased each year and more than doubled from 15.6% in 2020 to 40.0% at the end of 2024.
- **The majority (51.3%) of new singles were in the age range 25 – 44 years**. The **average age of new single adults was 36.6 years**.

Housing and non-housing exits from EA

- Of all new singles entries, on average **9.6% successfully exited EA to housing in the same year of EA entry**.
 - **70.0%** of these tenancies were achieved through **Homeless HAP**
 - A further **26.5% (n2,531)** of new singles had a **non-housing exit** from EA in the **same year of entry**.
 - Of these, **75.5% (n1,911)** **did not provide a reason** at exit, **7.0% (n178)** **returned to family**, **2.0% (n51)** relocated to another country, while 4.0% returned to a different region in Ireland and the remaining 11.5% exited for other reasons.
 - By December 2024, **22.5% (n2,156)** of single adults who became homeless **between 2020 and 2024** had **successfully exited to housing** and did not return to EA.
 - By December 2024, **37.9% (n3,624)** of single adults who became homeless between 2020 and 2024 had **successfully sustained a non-housing exit** and did not return to EA.

Singles remaining in EA post year of entry

- **The majority (64.0%; n6,119) of new single adults remained in EA past their year of entry** in the period 2020 - 2024.
 - 2020 had the lowest percentage of new single adults remaining in EA post year of entry (52.3%). Thereafter this percentage increased year-on-year, with 72.6% of the 2024 new single adults remaining in EA post their year of entry.

1.0 Introduction

This research focuses on single adults who became homeless during the period 2020 to 2024. Single adults in this context refers to adults who are entering homeless services by themselves, or as part of a couple, with no dependent children. Homelessness amongst single adults in the Dublin region has continued to increase, as evidenced by the rising number of single individuals entering homelessness for the first time each month.

Reasons for homelessness amongst single adults have included, but not been limited to, tenancy loss in the private rented sector, relationship breakdown in family settings or between partners, overcrowding, or lack of sufficient funds to meet rent costs. In recent years there has been a sharp increase in the number of single adults presenting to homeless services after recently leaving Direct Provision, living in unsustainable overcrowded living situations, or having recently moved to Ireland from abroad. At the root of the majority of presentations is the structural issue of a lack of affordable housing.

Over the years, the government has implemented various action plans and strategies to address homelessness in Ireland (Baptista et al, 2022, page 21)¹. Informed by national policy, the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) has continued to plan and implement ways of preventing and addressing homelessness in alignment with government goals, as evidenced by the region's three-year action plans².

The findings presented in the following report are based on homeless administrative data gathered through the homeless database (i.e. the PASS system). The administrative data provides an opportunity to understand issues contributing to homelessness amongst single adults, demographic information relating to service users, the length of time individuals are spending within homeless services, in addition to the rate of tenancy and non-tenancy exits from homeless services.

In 2016, the DRHE began using homeless administrative data to produce reports on families becoming homeless for the first time in the Dublin region, and several reports have been published to this effect since³. The following report is the first time the DRHE have examined homelessness amongst single adults in the Dublin region.



¹ Baptista, I., Culhane, D., Pleace, N., O'Sullivan E. (2022) *From Rebuilding Ireland to Housing for All: International and Irish lessons for tackling homelessness*. Focus Ireland Dublin. Page 21, Table 1.

² Dublin Region Homeless Executive (2025) *Homelessness Action Plan 2025-2027 A Framework for Dublin*, Dublin: Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)

³ Maphosa (2024). *New families entering emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region, years 2020-2023*. Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)

2.0 Research Objective

The main objectives of this report are to:

- Determine the scale of new single entries into emergency accommodation (EA) during the period 2020 – 2024
- Analyse the reasons for homelessness provided at the point of entry and demographics
- Review exits to tenancy, non-tenancy exits, and duration of homelessness
- Review the rate of entries into homelessness compared with preventions from entering EA and exits from EA into housing

Reviewing the data across the years enables analysis of any new emerging trends or any deviations from known patterns.

This report, whilst adding to existing knowledge on homelessness amongst single adults, will provide updated evidence for reviewing current strategies to mitigate homelessness.

2.1 Methodology

This research uses local authority administrative data on new single adults who entered homeless services in the period 2020 – 2024 in the Dublin region. The data is collected during the assessment process and entered on the homeless database (PASS), then downloaded for analysis. The analysis follows the same method established in previous DRHE published research on family homelessness for the years 2016 – 2023 and youth homelessness 2023⁴.

Following methodology used in previous research, the new singles' datasets collated each month for the period 2020 to 2024 were

merged into yearly datasets and any duplicate clients were removed. The anonymous auto-generated PASS ID number was used as the primary identifier for each individual. For demographics such as age, gender and citizenship, the primary key identifier was each unique adult's identifier known as 'PASS ID' on the homeless database. The datasets were thereafter analysed using the Excel statistical package.

2.2 Research limitations

The research is based on administrative data collected by staff in each local authority in the Dublin region. There can be inconsistencies in collecting the data, particularly in relation to the reason for homelessness, with some records having missing data. The length of time each individual experienced homelessness before presenting to homeless services is unknown and

limits our understanding of other living situations experienced before contacting the local authority. The local authority only documents the reason provided at the point of assessment. This research is based on data extracted from PASS at a point in time, any changes thereafter are not accounted for.

⁴ Maphosa, P. & Mayock, P. (2025) *Youth Homelessness in the Dublin Region, 2023*. Dublin: Dublin Region Homeless Executive.

3.0 New single presentations 2020 – 2024

The following section provides details of the new single adults that entered emergency accommodation each month in the Dublin region during the period 2020 to 2024 and forms the basis of this report.

9,567 single adults became homeless for the first time in the Dublin region in the five-year period between 2020 and 2024. This figure

includes a total of 295 couples with no children (6.2%).

In 2020, single adults entering homelessness (n=1,624) declined by 13.2% compared to the 1,870 single adults that became homeless in 2019. Thereafter singles entering homelessness increased year-on-year (with the exception of 2023) to the end of year 2024.

Table 1: New singles entering emergency accommodation each month, 2020 - 2024

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	% increase or decrease
2020	212	159	108	97	119	103	166	134	132	152	116	126	1,624 ⁵	
2021	148	126	148	135	152	165	151	169	165	139	182	126	1,806 ⁶	11.2%
2022	171	161	175	164	179	180	164	169	154	158	196	152	2,023 ⁷	12.0%
2023	162	141	188	132	164	184	156	155	173	171	193	144	1,963 ⁸	-3.0%
2024	216	156	160	172	207	151	223	176	174	203	177	136	2,151 ⁹	9.6%
Total	909	743	779	700	821	783	860	803	798	823	864	684	9,567	

⁵ In 2020, 36 'no shows' and duplicate singles were identified and removed. The affected months were January (n3), February (n1), April (n2), May (n4), June (n2), July (n10), September (n3), October (n4) and December (n7).

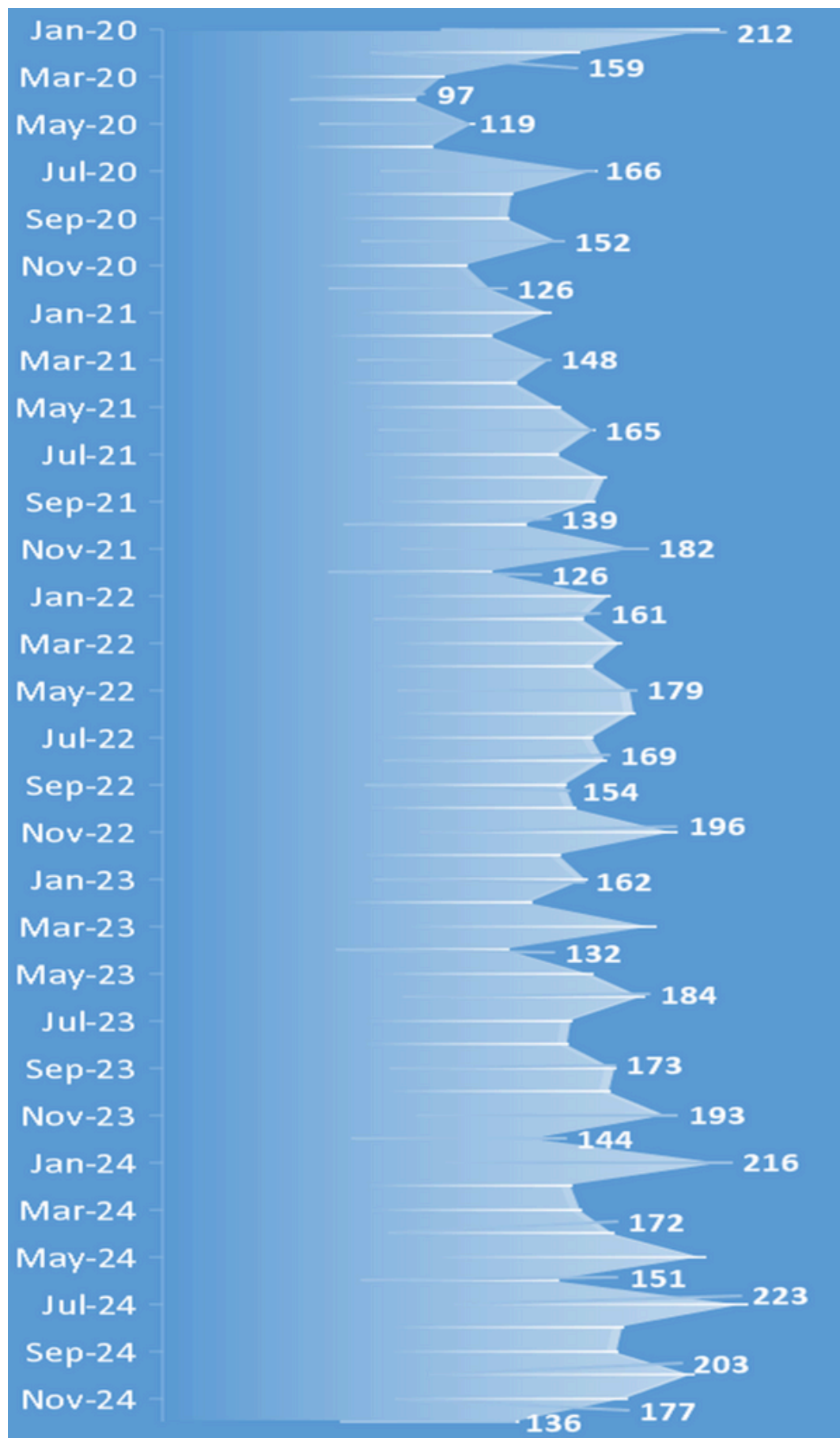
⁶ In 2021, 23 'no shows' and duplicate singles were identified and removed. The affected months were January (n1), April (n2), May (n2), June (n6), July (n5), August (n2), September (n2), October (n1), and November (n2).

⁷ In 2022, 36 'no shows' and duplicate singles were identified and removed. The affected months were January (n1), February (n1), March (n4), April (n1), May (n2), July (n4), August (n7), September (n6), October (n1), November (n4) and December (n5).

⁸ In 2023, 7 'no shows' and duplicate singles were identified and removed. The affected months were March (n1), May (n2), July (n1), October (n1), November (n1) and December (n1).

⁹ In 2024, 1 'no show' was identified and removed. The affected month was July.

Figure 1: Trends in new singles entering emergency accommodation by month, 2020 - 2024



3.1 Seasonality in new presentations, 2020 – 2024

In the period 2020 – 2024, slight deviations from the known pattern of entries into homelessness were evident. There was an increase of 8.6% in single adult entries in December 2020, instead of the expected seasonal decrease in that month. The variations were related to Covid-19 measures in place at the time. Thereafter, the entries reverted to known pattern of decreases in December and increases in January for the years 2021 to 2024.

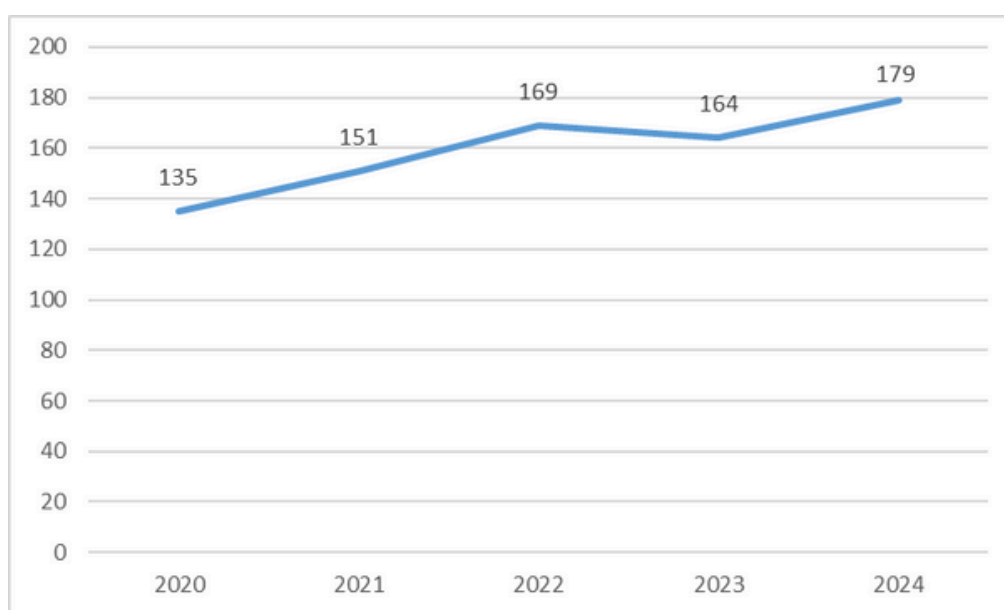
A significant decrease in the number of new single adult entries was recorded between March and June in 2020. Covid-19 restrictions on population movement were implemented on the 27th of March 2020 and played a role in the reduction of new entries during this period

3.2 Average new presentations per month, 2020 - 2024

Year 2020 had the lowest average number of new entries into homelessness. The decline was partially attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic

restrictions. The monthly average increased hereafter and had risen by 32.6% at the end of year 2024.

Figure 2: Monthly average for new singles entering emergency accommodation, 2020 - 2024



3.3 Summary

A total of 9,567 single adults entered homelessness for the first time in the Dublin region during the period 2020 to 2024.

During 2020 (at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic), there was a slight deviation from the known seasonal pattern of homeless entries, before reverting to known patterns between 2021 and 2024. Additionally, there was an overall reduction in the number of single adults newly presenting as homeless in 2020, most likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

In the period 2020 to 2024, the average number of new single adults entering homelessness each month increased each year (with the exception of 2023). The monthly average was lowest in 2020 (n=135) which was an outlier due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. In 2024 the monthly average (n=179) was 32.6% higher than the 2020 average.

The next section provides a comprehensive analysis of the reasons for homelessness data provided by the new single adults.



4.0 Reasons for homelessness, 2020-2024

This chapter details the reasons for homelessness provided by the 9,567 new single adults who entered emergency accommodation between 2020 and 2024. There are three primary reasons available on PASS

- 'Family Circumstances',
- 'Notice of Termination (NOT)' (from private rented accommodation)' and
- 'Other reasons'

In addition, staff select sub-headings under these primary headings on PASS, which facilitate a more detailed review of the data. A reason for homelessness was recorded on PASS for 97.4% or 9,323 new singles and these informed the reason for homelessness analysis. Data was unavailable for 2.6% or 244 new singles on PASS.

Across all five years of the study period, 'Other Reasons' were the primary reason for homeless presentations for more than half of newly homeless single adults. 'Other reasons' includes non-tenancy or non-family related issues such as overcrowding, having recently left Direct Provision, having insufficient funds to pay for private rented accommodation, or having recently moved to Ireland from abroad.

In recent years there has been a sharp increase in the number of single adults presenting to homeless services after recently leaving Direct Provision, or having previously lived in overcrowded living situations, or having recently moved to Ireland from abroad. At the root of the majority of presentations is the structural issue of a lack of affordable housing.

In 2020, 54.6% of all new single adults presented for 'Other' reasons, before decreasing slightly to 52.2% in 2021. Year 2022 saw this percentage increase to 56.4%, before increasing by a further 1.8 percentage points in 2023. In 2024, more than two-thirds (68.1%) of newly homeless single adults presented to homeless services for 'Other' reasons.

'Family Circumstances' were the second-largest reason for homelessness amongst single adults across all five years of the study. Relationship breakdown with parents accounted for the majority of family circumstances, followed by relationship breakdown with partner. However, this category has decreased significantly over the study period, falling from 35.1% in 2020 to 21.6% in 2024.

The percentage of 'NOTs' were 10.2% and 8.4% for the years 2020 and 2021 respectively. The low figures during 2020 and 2021 can be attributed to the Covid-19 moratorium on evictions, which was introduced during the pandemic. In 2022, NOTs increased by 4.6 percentage points to 13.0%, before decreasing to 10.3% in both 2023 and 2024.

Table 2 shows the percentage breakdown of the reasons for homelessness amongst single adults in each year across the five-year period 2020 – 2024¹⁰. Appendix 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the reasons for homelessness under each category for the years 2020 - 2024.

¹⁰ Records with missing 'reason for homelessness' have been excluded from the calculation of percentages in the table. The percentages for missing reasons were 3.8%, 3.5%, 3.7%, 2.0% and 0.2% for years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively. Missing reasons arise when clients do not engage with the local authority for assessment or have left EA prior to the assessment taking place.

Table 2: Categories of reasons for singles homelessness by percentage, 2020 - 2024

Reason for Homelessness 2020 - 2024					
Category of Reason for Homelessness	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Other Reasons	54.6%	52.2%	56.4%	58.2%	68.1%
Family Circumstances	35.1%	39.3%	30.6%	31.5%	21.6%
PR - Notices of Termination (NOTs)	10.2%	8.4%	13.0%	10.3%	10.3%
Total	100% (n=1,624)	100% (n=1,806)	100% (n=2,023)	100% (n=1,963)	100% (n2,151)

4.1 Family Circumstances, 2020 – 2024

Relationship breakdown with parents was the main reason for homelessness reported by single adults under the family circumstances category for years 2020 – 2024. The percentage increased by 5.4 percentage points between 2020 and 2021 before decreasing slightly to 43.9% in 2022. Year 2023 saw this percentage increase to 47.4% before decreasing slightly to 45.8% in 2024.

Percentages of partner relationship breakdown also increased through the years 2020 – 2024 from 23.1% in 2020 to 32.0% in 2024, representing an 8.9% increase in single adults experiencing partnership conflict.

Percentages of relationship breakdown with other family members (such as grandparents, aunts, uncles or siblings) varied. In 2020 18.8% of single adults reported a relationship breakdown with other family members. In Year 2021, the percentage decreased to 13.0% before increasing to 16.9% in 2022. This percentage fell to 13.6% in 2023, before decreasing slightly to 12.7% in 2024.

Other types of family circumstances (e.g. death of a family member, sale of the family home) decreased each year, from 16.9% in Year 2020 to 9.5% in 2024, representing a decrease of 7.4 percentage points for this reason.

Table 3: Breakdown of Family Circumstances category, 2020 - 2024

Family Circumstances	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Relationship breakdown - parent	41.2%	46.6%	43.9%	47.4%	45.8%
Relationship breakdown - partner	23.1%	26.6%	27.8%	31.2%	32.0%
Relationship breakdown - other family	18.8%	13.0%	16.9%	13.6%	12.7%
Family Circumstance - Other	16.9%	13.9%	11.4%	7.8%	9.5%
Total	549	685	597	605	463

4.2 Private Rented Sector - Notices of Termination, 2020 – 2024

A reason for the NOT served by landlords was recorded for the majority of single adults on PASS. NOTs served due to 'sale of property' was the most common reason recorded each year. The percentage increased from 24.4% in 2020

to 25.2% in 2021, and 43.5% in 2022. Thereafter the percentage decreased by 10.8 percentage points in 2023 to 32.7%, before increasing again to 43.7% in 2024.

Table 4: Breakdown of Notices of Termination (NOTs) by NOT type, 2020 - 2024

Private Rented	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NOT - Property to be Sold	24.4%	25.2%	43.5%	32.7%	43.7%
NOT - Landlords Own or Family House	5.6%	12.9%	13.0%	15.1%	12.6%
NOT - Rent Arrears	12.5%	7.5%	13.8%	11.1%	11.7%
NOT - Other (incl. Part 4 tenancies)	13.1%	1.4%	0.4%	20.1%	15.8%
NOT - Unsuitable Accommodation	11.9%	4.1%	8.3%	1.5%	2.3%
NOT - Substantial Renovations	6.3%	2.0%	3.6%	5.5%	3.2%
NOT - Anti Social Behaviour	1.3%	8.8%	0.8%	5.0%	2.3%
NOT - Breach of Tenant Responsibilities	0.0%	3.4%	1.2%	2.5%	4.1%
NOT - First Six Months	0.6%	2.0%	2.8%	0.0%	0.5%
NOT - Landlord Bankrupt/Receivership	1.9%	0.7%	0.4%	1.5%	0.5%
NOT - Change of Use	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.0%	1.4%
NOT - Breach of Landlord Obligations	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NOT - Victim of anti-social behaviour	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NOT - Unknown (General)	20.6%	31.3%	11.1%	5.0%	2.3%
Total NOTs	160	147	253	199	222



4.3 Other reasons for homelessness, 2020 - 2024

The category 'Other reasons' reveals that there were a growing number of other reasons for homelessness amongst single adults. Between 2020 and 2024, 'Other Reasons' were the primary reason for homeless presentations for more than half of newly homeless single adults, as previously shown in Table 2.

'Leaving Direct Provision' was the most frequently stated 'other reason'. The percentages increased sharply, starting with 3.5% in 2020 before increasing to 5.3% in 2021, and 9.9% in 2022. In 2023, this percentage stood at 20.5%, before rising to 38.5% in 2024.

'Overcrowding' was the second most reported 'other reason' between 2020 and 2024, however this reason has experienced a decline, decreasing from 17.0% in 2020 to 7.1% in 2024. 'Newly arrived from abroad' was the third most reported 'other reason', peaking at 20.9% in 2022, before falling to 7.7% in 2024.

'Rough sleeping' was the fourth most reported 'other reason' between 2020 and 2024, however this reason has experienced a notable decline in recent years, peaking at 18.9% in 2020 before falling to 2.2% in 2022, and rising to 6.6% in 2024. The next most reported reason was 'left informal tenancy', which experienced a steady increase over the five-year study period, starting with 3.2% in 2020, before increasing to 7.1% in 2022, and peaking at 10.6% in 2024.

All other remaining reasons also contributed to the overall increase in the 'Other reasons' for homelessness category. Remainder reasons had percentages of five percent or less and a combined average total of 41.9% across the five-year study period.



Table 5: Breakdown of Other reasons for homelessness category, 2020 - 2024

'Other' Reasons Provided	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Leaving Direct Provision	3.5%	5.3%	9.9%	20.5%	38.5%
Overcrowding	17.0%	16.8%	15.1%	15.2%	7.1%
Newly arrived from abroad - less 6 months	10.1%	16.0%	20.9%	15.6%	7.7%
Rough Sleeper	18.9%	6.7%	2.2%	3.2%	6.6%
Left informal tenancy	3.2%	5.3%	7.1%	7.1%	10.6%
Insufficient funds / Affordability of P.R.	1.9%	3.6%	9.0%	8.8%	1.8%
Presenting from outside Dublin region	4.3%	8.7%	5.6%	3.6%	2.9%
Release from prison	4.9%	4.9%	4.0%	2.9%	2.8%
Release from general hospital	4.9%	2.6%	3.0%	2.6%	5.9%
Irish resident returning from abroad	4.0%	3.8%	3.0%	2.8%	1.6%
Leaving HSE childcare services	2.9%	2.5%	2.3%	2.7%	3.1%
Leaving Addiction Treatment	4.1%	5.4%	1.9%	1.3%	0.4%
Domestic Violence	2.7%	3.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.1%
No Income Source	3.5%	2.4%	2.5%	1.3%	0.0%
Victim of anti-social behaviour	2.3%	2.9%	1.7%	0.9%	0.8%
Substance Addiction	2.3%	0.9%	1.9%	2.2%	1.2%
Family Reunification	0.9%	1.1%	2.6%	2.3%	1.0%
Mental health problems	2.3%	1.1%	1.4%	0.7%	0.9%
Other - Left PR Tenancy (No NOT)	1.4%	2.2%	0.5%	0.6%	1.4%
Illegal Eviction	0.7%	1.2%	0.9%	0.4%	0.7%
Release from psychiatric care	0.7%	1.1%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Other - Damage to Property (House Fire)	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%
Property Repossessed	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%
Placed on Humanitarian Grounds	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	1.2%
Other - Property Uninhabitable (No NOT)	0.9%	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%
Other - Miscellaneous	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
Surrendered LA Tenancy	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%
NOT - LA Tenancy	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Other Reasons Total	854	910	1,099	1,119	1,461

4.4 Summary

The reason for homelessness data for years 2020 to 2024 showed that there is no one specific consistent cause of homelessness amongst single adults, pointing to the complexity of homelessness.

Across all five years of the study period, **'Other Reasons' were the primary reason for homeless presentations.** 'Other reasons' accounted for **more than half (57.9%)** of newly homeless single adults, outnumbering both family circumstances and NOTs for private rented accommodation. Leaving Direct Provision had the highest average percentage in this category (15.5%), followed by overcrowding (14.2%), new arrivals from abroad (14.1%), rough sleeping (7.5%), and leaving an informal tenancy (6.7%).

Family circumstances accounted for 31.6% of all reasons for homelessness in the period 2020 – 2024. Within the category 'family circumstances', parental relationship breakdown

was the primary reason for single adults becoming homeless, accounting for an average of 45.0% of family circumstances, followed by relationship breakdown with partner (28.1%).

NOTs accounted for 10.4% of all reasons for homelessness in the period 2020 – 2024. NOTs due to the landlord selling the property were the most common type of NOT served to homeless singles, followed by NOTs relating to the landlord requiring the property for their own use (11.8%), followed by NOTs relating to rent arrears (11.3%).

The following section provides information on the demographics of the new single adults entering homelessness in the period 2020 to 2024.



5.0 Singles Demographics 2020 - 2024

This section reviews demographic data for the new single adults who accessed emergency accommodation in years 2020-2024 to include

analysis on household composition, gender, age and citizenship.

5.1 Household composition year 2020 - 2024

Analysis of the household composition for the 9,567 new singles who entered homelessness in the period 2020 to 2024 showed that the

majority of individuals (93.8%) were single adults and not part of a couple.

Table 6: Household composition by percentage, years 2020 - 2024

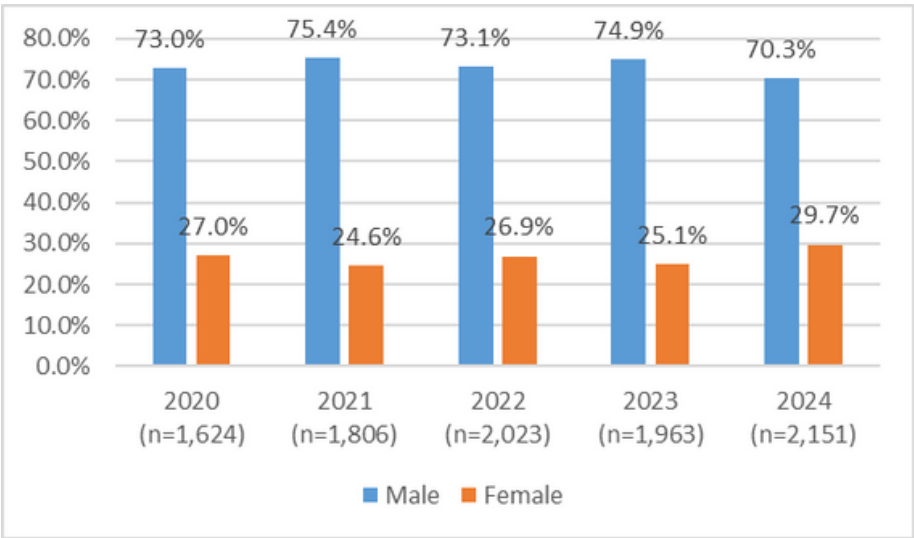
Household Composition as %	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Single Adults	93.0%	92.6%	94.5%	95.1%	93.8%
Part of Couples	7.0%	7.4%	5.5%	4.9%	6.2%
Total	100% (n=1,624)	100% (n=1,806)	100% (n=2,023)	100% (n=1,963)	100% (n=2,151)

5.2 Gender of singles new to homelessness 2020 – 2024

On average, the vast majority of new single adults were male (73.3%) while the remaining 26.7% were female across the years 2020 to

2024. The higher percentage of male single adults corresponds with established trends on homelessness amongst single adults¹¹

Figure 3: Gender of new single adults entering EA, 2020 – 2024



¹¹ O’Sullivan, E., Byrnes, E., and Allen, M. (2024) *Focus on homelessness: adult-only households*. Dublin: Focus Ireland.

5.3 Citizenship of new single adults accessing EA

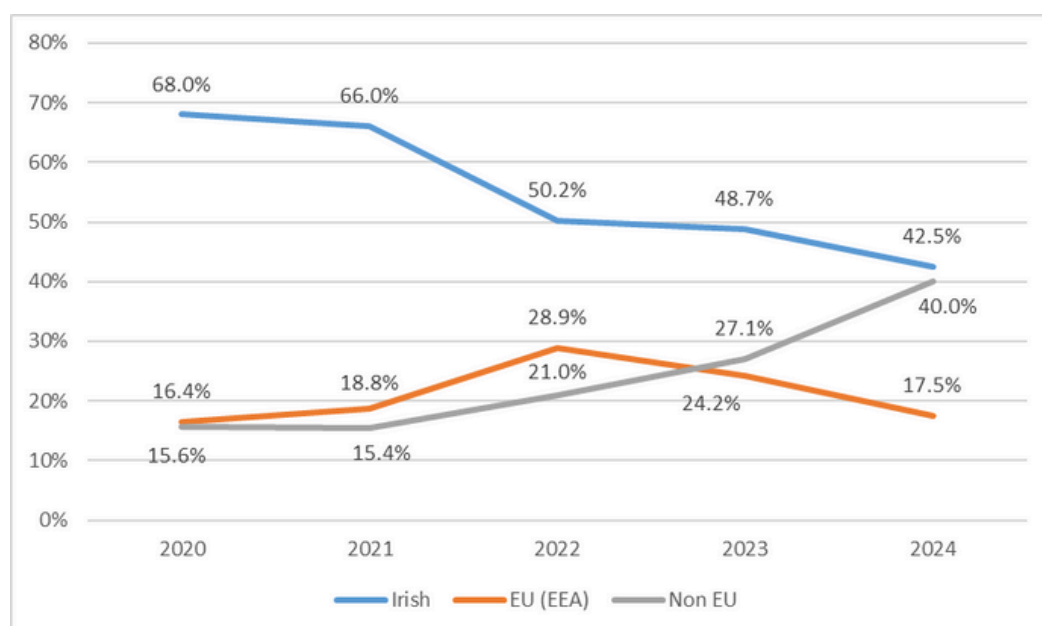
Individuals with Irish citizenship represented 55.0% of all single adults, followed by individuals with non-EU citizenship at 23.8%, and individuals with EU citizenship at 20.2% in the period 2020 - 2024. Less than 1.0% of new single adults had UK citizenship during this period. The trend in this period showed an overall decrease in single adults with Irish citizenship from 68.0% in 2020 to 42.5% at the end of 2024.

Conversely, percentage levels of non-EU single adults increased consistently during this same period, more than doubling from 15.6% in

2020 to 40.0% in 2024. The growth in non-EU single adults was partially related to the rise in exits from direct provision during years 2022, 2023 and 2024 (see appendix 1).

Finally, the percentage levels of new single adults with EU citizenship (including UK citizenship) peaked at 28.9% in 2022, before declining to 24.2% in 2023 and 17.5% in 2024. This can be partly explained by the high proportion of single adults who were 'newly arrived from abroad' during years 2021, 2022 and 2023 (see section 4.3 and appendix 1).

Figure 4: Citizenship of new single adults entering homelessness, years 2020 – 2024



5.4 Age of new single adults, 2020 – 2024

The **average age of new single adults** entering homelessness in the period 2020 to 2024 was **36.6 years**. In 2020, the average age of new single adults was 37.6 years, before decreasing slightly to 36.0 years in 2024.

In the period 2020 to 2021 (during the pandemic years), the percentage of new single adults in the age range 18 – 24 years increased from 20.1% in 2020 to 22.2% in 2021, before declining to 20.8% in 2024.

New single adults in the age range 25-44 years remained the majority age group, recording a steady increase in percentage levels throughout the five years of the study (with the exception of a slight decrease in 2022). The average percentage of new single adults in the age range 25 – 44 years during the period 2020 to 2024 was 51.3%.

The percentage of new single adults in the age range 45 – 64 years decreased over the period 2020 to 2024, from 26.4% in 2020 to 21.5% in 2024, representing an 4.9% decrease.

The number of new single adults in the age range 65 and over also decreased during the period 2020 to 2024, from 3.9% in 2020 to 2.8% in 2024, representing a 1.1% decrease.

Table 7: Age range of new single adults, 2020 - 2024

Age Range	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
18-24 years	20.1%	22.2%	22.2%	21.9%	20.8%
25-44 years	49.6%	50.9%	48.7%	52.6%	54.9%
45-64 years	26.4%	25.1%	26.7%	23.2%	21.5%
65+ years	3.9%	1.8%	2.3%	2.3%	2.8%
Total	100% (n=1,624)	100% (n=1,806)	100% (n=2,023)	100% (n=1,963)	100% (n=2,151)
Mean age	37.6	36.5	36.6	36.1	36.0

5.5 Summary

This section reviewed the demographic data for the 9,567 single adults that entered homelessness for the first time in the Dublin region between 2020 to 2024. Single individuals (that were not part of a couple) formed the majority among new single adults who entered homelessness, accounting for 93.8% of individuals.

Male single adults were more vulnerable to homelessness at 73.3% of total single adults. The higher percentage of male single adults corresponds with established trends on homelessness amongst single adults.

Citizenship analysis showed that new single adults were predominantly Irish, in line with previous trends on family homelessness. The

percentage levels of this cohort decreased significantly across the five years of this study, falling from 68.0% in 2020 to 42.5% at the end of 2024, representing a decrease of 25.5 percentage points. Conversely, single adults of non-EU citizenship increased consistently during this same period, more than doubling from 15.6% in 2020 to 40.0% at the end of year 2024. The percentage of single adults of EU (Other EEA, including UK) citizenship peaked in 2022 at 28.9% before falling to year 2020 percentage levels thereafter.

The average age of new single adults entering homelessness in the period 2020 to 2024 was 36.6 years. The average age was slightly higher in 2020 (37.6 years) before decreasing to 36.0 years in 2024.

6.0 Exits to housing and non-housing exits amongst single adults, 2020 – 2024

The following chapter will examine both housing and non-housing exits from emergency accommodation (EA) for single adults who became newly homeless in the Dublin region between years 2020 and 2024. This chapter is divided into two parts. **Sections 6.1 - 6.3** will

cover both **housing and non-housing exits** from emergency accommodation in the **same year of entry to EA**, while **section 6.4** will cover **housing exits** from emergency accommodation **across all five years of the study period**.

6.1 Exits to housing in same year of EA entry, 2020 – 2024

Single adults who enter EA can move on to secure housing in the same year as becoming homeless. However, the number of single adults exiting homelessness to secure housing in the same year of entry into EA declined year-on-year during the period 2020 to 2023, falling from 19.9% (n323) in 2020 to 13.2% (n239) in 2021.

This rate declined further in 2022, falling to 5.2% (n106), representing a decrease of 8 percentage points, before a further slight decrease in 2023 to 4.8% (n95). However, this rate improved in 2024, with 7.2% (n154) of single adults that entered homelessness successfully exiting to secure housing within the same year.

Table 8: Singles exiting to housing in same year of EA entry, years 2020 - 2024

Year	HAP	LA	AHB	LTA	Other	Total Exits	Total Entries	Exits as % of Entries
2020	246	44	17	6	10	323	1,624	19.9%
2021	204	17	8	4	6	239	1,806	13.2%
2022	60	21	19	2	4	106	2,023	5.2%
2023	49	24	16	1	5	95	1,963	4.8%
2024	83	41	21	2	7	154	2,151	7.2%
Total	70.0%	16.0%	8.8%	1.6%	3.5%	917	9,567	9.6%

6.2 Exits secured through HAP tenancies in same year of EA entry, 2020 – 2024

In the period 2020 to 2024, HAP accounted for 70.0% (n642) of new singles exits to housing in the same year as entering homeless services. Analysis showed that HAP tenancies were in decline from 2021, when 85.4% (n204) of

single adults secured a HAP tenancy, to 2024 when 53.9% (n83) of single adults secured a HAP tenancy, reflecting the increased difficulties in securing HAP properties.

Table 9: Exits secured by new singles through HAP, years 2020 - 2024

Year	HAP	All other tenancies	Total new singles exiting to housing	HAP as % of all exits in same year of EA entry
2020	246	77	323	76.2%
2021	204	35	239	85.4%
2022	60	46	106	56.6%
2023	49	46	95	51.6%
2024	83	71	154	53.9%
Total	642	275	917	70.0%

6.3 Other non-housing exits from EA, 2020 – 2024

An additional 2,531 new single adults (26.5% of new singles) left EA in the same year of EA entry through a non-housing exit¹². Of the single adults, 75.5% (n1,911) left without providing a reason for exit, 7.0% (n178) returned to family, 2.0% (n51) relocated to another country, while a further 4.0% (n100) returned to another county within Ireland. 4.3% (n110) of singles chose to cancel their EA booking, while 1.1% (n27) of new single adults passed away while using EA services in the same year of EA entry.

The remaining 6.1% (n154) were split across various reasons, such as exits from EA for anti-social behaviour (3.2%; n80), admission to residential treatment (1.6%; n40), imprisonment (0.8%; n21), admission to hospital (0.3%; n8), or moving to an independent hostel [non-Section 10 funded] (0.2%, n5). It was outside the scope of this research to determine the outcomes of those who left without a reason or cancelled their EA booking.

Table 10: Singles non-housing exits from EA in same year of EA entry, 2020 - 2024

Year	Left without reason	Returned to family	Relocated to another country	Returned to another region	Client cancelled booking	Other reason	Client Deceased	Total Other Exits	Total Entries	Exits as % of Entries
2020	68.6%	11.1%	4.0%	4.9%	4.0%	6.0%	1.5%	452	1,624	27.8%
2021	75.8%	7.9%	2.4%	3.9%	3.0%	5.8%	1.1%	534	1,806	29.6%
2022	82.5%	3.6%	1.7%	3.6%	3.9%	3.8%	0.9%	583	2,023	28.8%
2023	79.3%	5.3%	1.5%	2.8%	4.9%	5.7%	0.4%	527	1,963	26.8%
2024	68.3%	8.5%	0.5%	4.8%	6.2%	10.1%	1.6%	435	2,151	20.2%
Total	75.5%	7.0%	2.0%	4.0%	4.3%	6.1%	1.1%	2,531	9,567	26.5%

¹² Although some individuals who exited EA through a non-tenancy exit did not return to EA, others returned after a period of absence. These individuals have been reported in chapter 7,

6.4 All exits to housing from EA, 2020 - 2024

The majority of the new single adults (64.0%) or 6,119 singles remained in EA past their year of entry resulting in a longer duration of homelessness. The following section will look at the exit to housing pathways of the 2020 to 2024 new singles who had successfully exited to secure housing as of December 2024¹³.

The figures presented in tables 11 to 15 are based on the total number of sustained housing exits by single adults as of December 2024. As such, the figures for the **housing exits for 2020 new singles** cover a **five-year period**, while the figures for the **2024 new singles** housing exits cover a **one-year period only**.

6.4.1 All exits to housing for 2020 new singles, 2020 - 2024

For the single adults who entered homelessness in 2020, 31.6% (n513) had exited to housing by the end of year 2021. An additional 3% (n48) had exited to housing by the end of 2022.

By the end of 2024, 41.3% (n671) had successfully moved on to housing. This is more than twice the proportion that had exited to housing in the same year they entered EA (19.9%; n323)¹⁴. HAP accounted for 61.4% (n412) of these housing exits, while Local

Authority tenancies accounted for 20.6 (n138). An additional 11.0% (n74) of housing exits were achieved through AHB tenancies.

A further 4.2% (n28) of housing exits were achieved through long-term supported accommodation for people with additional needs; while 1.2% (n19) of housing exits were provided by the private rented sector or RAS tenancies.

Table 11: All exits to housing for 2020 new singles (n1,624), years 2020 - 2024

Year	HAP	LA	AHB	LTA	Other	Total Exits	Exits as % of Entries
2020	222	44	16	6	9	297	18.3%
2021	160	33	15	5	3	216	13.3%
2022	18	19	4	6	1	48	3.0%
2023	7	18	17	6	1	49	3.0%
2024	5	24	22	5	5	61	3.8%
Total	61.4%	20.6%	11.0%	4.2%	1.2%	671	41.3%

¹³ The figures in tables 11 to 15 focus on tenancies which were sustained as of December 2024. As such, tenancies which had closed as of December 2024 were removed from these tables.

¹⁴ Although 323 (19.9%) of the 2020 new single adults had exited to a tenancy in 2020, 297 individuals (18.3%) had managed to sustain their tenancies as of December 2024.

6.4.2 All exits to housing for 2021 new singles, 2021 - 2024

For the single adults who entered homelessness in 2021, 20.5% (n370) had exited to housing by the end of year 2022. An additional 4.7% (n85) had exited to housing by the end of 2023.

By the end of 2024, 30.6% (n553) had successfully moved on to housing. HAP accounted for 60.4% (n334) of these housing exits, while Local Authority tenancies accounted

for 17.7% (n98). An additional 14.8% (n82) of housing exits were achieved through AHB tenancies.

A further 4.3% (n24) of housing exits were achieved through long-term supported accommodation for people with additional needs; while 2.7% (n15) were provided by the private rented sector or RAS tenancies.

Table 12: All exits to housing for 2021 new singles (n1,806), years 2021 - 2024

Year	HAP	LA	AHB	LTA	Other	Total Exits	Exits as % of Entries
2021	191	17	8	4	5	225	12.5%
2022	88	25	23	7	2	145	8.0%
2023	30	25	21	7	2	85	4.7%
2024	25	31	30	6	6	98	5.4%
Total	60.4%	17.7%	14.8%	4.3%	2.7%	553	30.6%

6.4.3 All exits to housing for 2022 new singles, 2022 - 2024

For the single adults who entered homelessness in 2022, 13.1% (n266) had exited to housing by the end of year 2023. By the end of 2024, a total of 22.2% (n449) had moved on to housing. This is more than four times the proportion that had exited to housing in the same year they entered EA (5.2%; n106)¹⁵.

HAP accounted for 50.1% (n225) of these housing exits, while Local Authority tenancies accounted for 20.3% (n91). An additional 22.7% (n102) exits were achieved through AHB tenancies, while 3.3% (n15) individuals exited EA via long-term supported tenancies.

Table 13: All exits to housing for 2022 new singles (n2,023), years 2022 - 2024

Year	HAP	LA	AHB	LTA	Other	Total Exits	Exits as % of Entries
2022	56	21	19	2	4	102	5.0%
2023	93	33	28	5	5	164	8.1%
2024	76	37	55	8	7	183	9.0%
Total	50.1%	20.3%	22.7%	3.3%	3.6%	449	22.2%

¹⁵ Although 106 (5.2%) of the 2022 new single adults had exited to a tenancy in 2022, 102 individuals (5.0%) had managed to sustain their tenancies as of December 2024.

6.4.4 All exits to housing for 2023 new singles, 2023 - 2024

For the single adults who entered homelessness in 2023, 16.8% (n329) had moved on to housing by the end of 2024. This is more than three times the proportion that had exited to housing in the same year they entered EA (4.8%; n95)¹⁶. HAP accounted for 52.0% (n171) of these housing exits, while Local Authority tenancies accounted for 20.7%(n68).

An additional 21.9% (n72) of housing exits were achieved through AHB tenancies, while 1.8% (n6) individuals were housed via long-term supported accommodation for people with additional needs. The remaining 3.6% (n12) of housing exits were provided by the private rented sector or RAS tenancies.

Table 14: All exits to housing for 2023 new singles (n1,963), years 2023 - 2024

Year	HAP	LA	AHB	LTA	Other	Total Exits	Exits as % of Entries
2023	48	24	16	1	5	94	4.8%
2024	123	44	56	5	7	235	12.0%
Total	52.0%	20.7%	21.9%	1.8%	3.6%	329	16.8%

6.4.5 All exits to housing for 2024 new singles, year 2024

For the single adults who entered homelessness in 2024, 7.2% (n154) had moved on to housing at the end of 2024. HAP accounted for 53.9% (n83) of these housing exits, while Local Authority tenancies accounted for 26.6% (n41). An additional 13.6% (n21) were achieved

through AHB tenancies, while 1.3% (n2) individuals were housed via long-term supported accommodation for people with additional needs. The remaining 4.5% (n7) of housing exits were provided by the private rented sector or RAS tenancies.

Table 15: All exits to housing for 2024 new singles (n2,151), year 2024

Year	HAP	LA	AHB	LTA	Other	Total Exits	Exits as % of Entries
2024	83	41	21	2	7	154	7.2%
Total	53.9%	26.6%	13.6%	1.3%	4.5%	154	7.2%

¹⁶ Although 95 (4.8%) of the 2023 new single adults had exited to a tenancy in 2023, 94 individuals (4.8%) had managed to sustain their tenancies as of December 2024.

6.5 Summary

This section has provided data on exits to housing, in both the same year of entry to emergency accommodation and across the five year study period. This section has also reviewed non-housing exits within the same year of entry into homelessness.

In the period 2020 to 2024, 9.6% (n917) of single adults who entered EA successfully exited to housing in the same year of entry. Homeless HAP facilitated 70.0% (n642) of these exits. By December 2024, 22.5% (n2,156) of single adults who became homeless between 2020 and 2024 had successfully exited to housing and did not return to EA. HAP accounted for more than half (56.8%; n1,225) of these tenancies.

Data also showed that some single adults who entered EA exited without securing housing. 26.5% (n2,531) single adults who entered EA in the period between 2020 and 2024 had a non-housing exit in their first year of entry. The outcomes for individuals who left EA without providing a reason (75.5%; n1,911) were unknown. By December 2024, 37.9% (n3,622) of single adults who became homeless between 2020 and 2024 had successfully sustained a non-housing exit and did not return to EA.

The following section examines data on new single adults who remained in EA post first year of EA entry (64.0%; n6,119) to determine the length of time they spent living in emergency accommodation.

7.0 Duration of homelessness amongst new single adults, 2020 – 2024

Of the 9,567 single adults that entered homelessness in the period 2020 – 2024, 9.6% (n917) were able to secure an exit out of homelessness into housing in the same year of entering EA, while an additional 26.5%

(n2,531) exited homelessness to other living situations. The majority of the new single adults (64.0%) or 6,119 singles remained in EA past their year of entry resulting in a longer duration of homelessness.

Table 16: New singles remaining in EA post year of entry, 2020-2024

Year	Singles entering EA	Exits to housing in same year as entry	Exits to housing as % of Entries	Exits to other exit in same year as entry	Singles exiting to other exit	Remaining in EA in year of entry	Remaining in EA as % of new single entries into EA
2020	1,624	323	19.9%	452	27.8%	849	52.3%
2021	1,806	239	13.2%	534	29.6%	1,033	57.2%
2022	2,023	106	5.2%	583	28.8%	1,334	65.9%
2023	1,963	95	4.8%	527	26.8%	1,341	68.3%
2024	2,151	154	7.2%	435	20.2%	1,562	72.6%
Total	9,567	917	9.6%	2,531	26.5%	6,119	64.0%

7.1 Duration of homelessness, new singles 2020 – 2024

Singles exits from homelessness, whilst premised on availability of a secure housing, are also dependent on several other variables including area of choice where household would like to live, and availability of suitable affordable accommodation. Any of these factors can affect duration of homelessness.

Of the single adults that remained in emergency accommodation at the end of their year of entry (Table 16, n=6,119), an analysis was carried out on duration in EA as of the month of December of each year. This analysis found that a small proportion of service users (less than 7% for

each year of the study) **had returned to EA after previously exiting EA to housing or a non-housing exit**. These individuals had a gap of at least 2 months in their EA usage and have been reported in their own **separate column 'Returned to EA after 2+ month absence'**.

Because these individuals had a gap in their EA usage **this report will focus solely on individuals who used EA in December of each year** in the study period **when reporting 'duration of homelessness' figures**.

7.1.1 Duration of homelessness, 2020 new singles

At the end of 2020, 52.3% or 849 new single adults who entered EA in that year remained in EA and all were less than a year in EA at that point. By the **end of 2024, 85.1% (n1,383)** of the new single adults **who entered EA in 2020 had exited**, of which **41.3% (n671) had exited to housing**, while **43.8% (n712) had a non-housing exit**. However **8.8% or 143 singles remained in EA** and had **duration of four or more years** at that point.

An additional **6.0% (n98) of new single adults** who entered EA in 2020 were still within the homeless system as of December 2024. However, since this cohort had **returned to EA after previously exiting EA** at an earlier stage during the five-year study period they have been reported separately. This cohort had a **gap of 2 months or more** in their EA usage.

Table 17: Duration in emergency accommodation, new singles who presented in 2020 (n=1,624)

Duration	Point in time check	Still in EA in December	Returned to EA after 2+ month absence	Exited to housing	Non-housing exit
less than a year	in EA Dec 2020	52.3%	0.0%	19.9%	27.8%
1 year plus	in EA Dec 2021	24.0%	3.8%	34.2%	37.9%
2 years plus	in EA Dec 2022	17.3%	6.9%	36.4%	39.4%
3 years plus	in EA Dec 2023	13.1%	7.1%	38.4%	41.4%
4 years plus	in EA Dec 2024	8.8%	6.0%	41.3%	43.8%

7.1.2 Duration of homelessness, 2021 new singles

For new single adults that came into EA in 2021, 57.2% (n1,033) remained in EA after their first year of entry and 79.9% (n1,444) had exited EA as of December 2024. For those who had exited EA, **30.6% (n553) had exited to housing**, while **49.3% (n891) had a non-housing exit**. **13.4% (n242) remained in EA** and were now in EA for **three years or more** at that point.

An additional **6.6% (n120) of new single adults** who entered EA in 2021 were still within the homeless system as of December 2024. However, since this cohort had **returned to EA after previously exiting EA** at an earlier stage during the four-year study period they have been reported separately. This cohort had a **gap of 2 months or more** in their EA usage.



Table 18: Duration in emergency accommodation, new singles who presented in 2021 (n=1,806)

Duration	Point in time check	Still in EA in December	Returned to EA after 2+ month absence	Exited to housing	Non-housing exit
less than a year	in EA Dec 2021	57.2%	0.0%	13.2%	29.6%
1 year plus	in EA Dec 2022	32.9%	3.7%	21.4%	41.1%
2 years plus	in EA Dec 2023	21.7%	6.7%	25.7%	46.0%
3 years plus	in EA Dec 2024	13.4%	6.6%	30.6%	49.3%

7.1.3 Duration of homelessness, 2022 new singles

Analysis of the 2022 new single adults showed that the majority (65.9%; n1,334) remained in EA after their first year of entry and all were less than a year in EA at that point. By the **end of 2024, 64.8% (n1,311)** of the new single adults who entered EA in 2022 **had exited**, of which **22.2% (n449) had exited to housing**, while **42.6% (n862)** had a **non-housing exit**.

As of **December 2024, 29.2% or 590 singles remained in EA** and were now **in EA for two years or more** at that point. This percentage was higher than new single adults remaining in EA at that point in time, with no breaks in their EA usage, in 2020 (17.3%; n281) and 2021 (21.7%; n392).

An additional **6.0% (n122) of new single adults** who entered EA in 2022 were still within the homeless system as of December 2024. However, since this cohort had **returned to EA after previously exiting EA** at an earlier stage during the three-year study period they have been reported separately. This cohort had a **gap of 2 months or more** in their EA usage.

Table 19: Duration in emergency accommodation, new singles who presented in 2022 (n=2,023)

Duration	Point in time check	Still in EA in December	Returned to EA after 2+ month absence	Exited to housing	Non-housing exit
less than a year	in EA Dec 2022	65.9%	0.0%	5.2%	28.8%
1 year plus	in EA Dec 2023	43.7%	3.6%	13.3%	39.3%
2 years plus	in EA Dec 2024	29.2%	6.0%	22.2%	42.6%

7.1.4 Duration of homelessness, 2023 new singles

Analysis of the 2023 new single adults showed that the majority **(68.3%; n1,341)** remained in **EA past their year of entry** and all were less than a year in EA at that point. By the **end of 2024, 53.7% (1,053)** of the new single adults who entered EA in 2023 **had exited**, of which **16.8% (n329)** had exited to housing, while **36.9% (n724)** had a non-housing exit.

As of December 2024, **43.7% or 858 single adults remained in EA** and were now in EA for **one year or more** at that point.

An additional **2.6% (n52)** of new single adults who entered EA in 2023 were still within the homeless system as of December 2024. However, since this cohort had **returned to EA after previously exiting** EA at an earlier stage during the two-year study period they have been reported separately. This cohort had a **gap of 2 months or more** in their EA usage.

Table 20: Duration in emergency accommodation, new singles who presented in 2023 (n=1,963)

Duration	Point in time check	Still in EA in December	Returned to EA after 2+ month absence	Exited to housing	Non-housing exit
less than a year	in EA Dec 2023	68.3%	0.0%	4.8%	26.8%
1 year plus	in EA Dec 2024	43.7%	2.6%	16.8%	36.9%

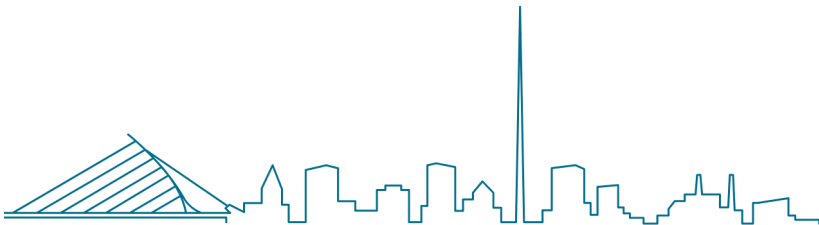
7.1.5 Duration of homelessness, 2024 new singles

Analysis of the 2024 new single adults showed that the majority **(72.6%; n1,562)** remained in **EA past their year of entry** and all were **less than a year in EA at that point**.

The remaining 27.4% (n589) had either **exited EA to housing (7.2%; n154)** or **non-housing exit (20.2%; n435)**.

Table 21: Duration in emergency accommodation, new singles who presented in 2024 (n=2,151)

Duration	Point in time check	Still in EA in December	Returned to EA after 2+ month absence	Exited to housing	Non-housing exit
less than a year	in EA Dec 2024	72.6%	0.0%	7.2%	20.2%



Tables 18 to 21 show a decline in the percentage of single adults exiting EA in the same year of entry, with the majority of single adults experiencing longer spells of homelessness. In years 2020 and 2021, over 40% of new single adults departed EA within their first year of entry. The percentage of single adults who remained in EA longer than a year following EA entry in years 2022 and 2023

increased to 32.9%, 43.7% and 43.7% respectively, compared to 24.0% in 2020. Similarly, the percentage of single adults staying two years and longer from the 2021 and 2022 singles entries was higher (21.7% and 29.2% respectively), compared to 17.3% in 2020 indicating an increased lack of exit pathways.

Table 22: Duration in EA as percentage of new singles entries each year, years 2020 - 2024¹⁷

Duration in EA	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Remaining in EA year of entry	52.3%	57.2%	65.9%	68.3%	72.6%
1 year post year of entry	24.0%	32.9%	43.7%	43.7%	
2 years post year of entry	17.3%	21.7%	29.2%		
3 years post year of entry	13.1%	13.4%			
4 years post year of entry	8.8%				

7.2 Summary

Analysis of duration shows that the percentage of single adults staying longer than a year in EA post entry increased each year between 2020 and 2023. The proportion of single adults staying longer than two years was higher for the 2021 and 2022 singles entries (21.7% and

29.2% respectively), compared to 17.3% in 2020 indicating an increased lack of exit pathways. From the 2020 cohort of new singles, 8.8% were now in EA for four years or longer as of December 2024.

¹⁷ Individuals who returned to EA after previously exiting EA at an earlier stage during the study period have been excluded from Table 20.

8.0 Homeless prevention through housing and entries into homelessness 2020 - 2024

This section provides data on the single adults who contacted local authorities in the Dublin region because they were at risk of homelessness and were (i) prevented from becoming homeless through the provision of alternative housing and (ii) those who entered homelessness for the first time. Between 2020

and 2024, 3,566 single adults at risk of homelessness were re-housed into alternative tenancies without having to access emergency accommodation. In the same period 9,567 single adults entered homelessness for the first time in the Dublin region.

Table 23: Single adults vulnerable to homelessness, 2020 – 2024

Household Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Singles prevention tenancies	723	767	543	611	922	3,566
Singles prevention tenancies %	30.8%	29.8%	21.2%	23.7%	30.0%	27.0%
Singles entering homelessness	1,624	1,806	2,023	1,963	2,151	9,567
Singles entering homelessness %	69.2%	70.2%	78.8%	76.3%	70.0%	73.0%
Total Single Adults	2,347	2,573	2,566	2,574	3,073	13,133

8.1 Ratio of preventions to EA entries, 2020 - 2024

The monthly average ratio of preventions to entries into homelessness shows a marked difference between the rate of preventions versus entries over the years, mirroring the percentage trends. In 2020, there were more than two entries for every single adult prevented from entering homelessness.

The ratio of entries versus preventions continued to increase in 2021, before peaking

at a rate of more than three entries for every prevention in both 2022 and 2023. The ratio of entry into EA versus prevention for single adults decreased in 2024, at a rate of more than two entries for every successful prevention. **Across the five-year study period, an average of 2.7 single adults entered EA for every one adult** that was successfully prevented from entering homelessness.

Table 24: Average rate of preventions through housing and new singles presentations per month, 2020 - 2024.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Average monthly singles prevention rate	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Average monthly singles entry rate	2.2	2.4	3.7	3.2	2.3

8.2 Summary

The number of single adults entering EA remained consistently higher than the number of singles that were successfully prevented from entering EA over each of the five years in the study period, ranging between a ratio of 2.2 to 3.7, indicating challenges in mitigating homelessness and the shortage of available tenancies suitable for single adult households.

However, there was a significant increase in the number of single adults that were successfully prevented from entering homelessness in 2024 (n922). This was the highest number of single adults prevented from entering homelessness over the five-year period in this study.

9.0 Single adults entries into homelessness and exits to secure housing, 2020 - 2024

The number of single adults entering homelessness in the period 2020 – 2024 was almost 2.5 times higher than exits. The lowest

number of singles entries was recorded in 2020 (n1,624), while the lowest number of singles exits was recorded in 2022 (n504).

Table 25: Flow in and out of homelessness (singles entries and exits), 2020 - 2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Singles entering homelessness	1,624	1,806	2,023	1,963	2,151	9,567
Singles exiting EA to tenancies	1,006	967	504	557	821	3,855

Further analysis of entries and exits by ratio revealed that in year 2020 1.6 single adults entered EA for every single that exited EA to housing. The ratio of entries compared with exits remained consistently higher for entries for

all five years in the study period, peaking at a rate of 4 entries for every exit in year 2022. This ratio fell somewhat by year 2024, with 2.6 single adults entering EA for every single that exited to housing.

Table 26: Average rate of new singles entries and exits per month, 2020 - 2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Average monthly singles entry rate	1.6	1.9	4.0	3.5	2.6
Average monthly singles exit to housing rate	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4

9.1 Summary

There was a significant gap between entries into and exits out of homelessness amongst single adults across all five years of the study period, with **the number of entries consistently surpassing the rate of exits**. However, there was a relative reduction in this rate in year 2024, with 2.6 single adults entering EA for every single that exited to housing. Year 2020 had the highest number

(n1,006) of singles exiting to housing during the five-year study period, however this figure fell to 504 in year 2022, before increasing to 821 in year 2024. Year 2024 had the highest number (n2,151) of singles entering into homelessness during the five-year study period, with a ratio of 2.6 entries into homelessness for every single adult that exited to housing.

10.0 Conclusion

This report is the first time the DRHE have examined homelessness amongst single adults in the Dublin region. The main objective of the report was to provide context into the scale and profile of new single adult entries into emergency accommodation during the period

2020 to 2024. The research reviewed the entry rates, reasons for homelessness and the demographic profile of the new single adults in each year, including the dynamics between entries into, preventions from, and exits out of homelessness.

10.1 New single adults entries into homelessness

Between 2020 and 2024, **9,567 single adults became homeless in the Dublin region for the first time**. During this period, the average rate of entries into emergency accommodation increased year-on-year (with the exception of a slight decrease in 2023). Across the five-year study period, year 2020 had the lowest average rate of entry and this was largely associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. The known

seasonality of entries into emergency accommodation remained the same, with decreased entries in December and peaks in January, July and August, apart from year 2020 when Covid-19 restrictions on population movement played a role in the reduction of new entries during this period. Since 2021, the number of new single adult entries increased (with the exception of 2023).

10.2 Singles Demographics

With regards to demographic information, the **vast majority (93.8%) of new single adults** entered homelessness as **single individuals**, with **6.2% entering EA with their partners**. Between 2020 and 2024, newly single adults were **predominantly male (73.3%)**, had **Irish citizenship (55.1%)**, and were **aged between 25 – 44 years (51.3%)**.

The **average age** of new single adults during this period was **36.6 years**. Although the majority of new single adults were Irish, there was a significant increase in non-EU singles presentations during the study period, increasing from 15.6% in 2020 to 40.0% at the end of 2024.

10.3 Ratio of preventions to EA entries, 2020 - 2024

Between 2020 and 2024, the number of single adult households entering EA remained consistently higher than the number of single households that were successfully prevented from entering EA. Between 2020 and 2024, an average of **2.7 single adults entered EA for every one adult that was successfully prevented from entering homelessness**.

The ratio of entries to preventions was higher in years 2022 and 2023, with more than three entries into homelessness for every one single adult successfully prevented from entering EA. This ratio decreased in 2024 with a rate of more than two entries for every successful prevention.

10.4 Reasons for presentation

Across all five years of the study period, **'Other Reasons' were the primary reason for homeless presentations** for more than half **(57.9%) of newly homeless single adults**, outnumbering both family circumstances and NOTs for private rented accommodation. Leaving Direct Provision had the highest average percentage in this category (15.5%), followed by overcrowding (14.2%), new arrivals from abroad (14.1%), rough sleeping (7.5%), and leaving an informal tenancy (6.7%).

Family circumstances accounted for 31.6% of all reasons for homelessness between 2020 and 2024. Within the category 'family circumstances', parental relationship breakdown

was the primary reason for single adults becoming homeless, accounting for an average of 45.0% of family circumstances, followed by relationship breakdown with a partner (28.1%).

Finally, **NOTs accounted for 10.4% of all reasons for homelessness** during the study period. NOTs due to landlords selling the property were the most common type of NOT served to homeless singles, followed by NOTs because the landlord required the property for their own use (11.8%), followed by NOTs because of rent arrears (11.3%).

10.5 Exits to housing

On average, **just under one-tenth** of single adults (9.6%) who entered EA **exited to housing in the same year of entry**. A further **26.5% had a non-housing exit** in the same year of entry to homelessness. The **vast majority** of single adults **(64.0%) remained in EA beyond their first year of entry**.

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) continued to be the main route of securing housing for many single adults at risk of homelessness and those exiting emergency accommodation between 2020 and 2024. This

was similar to trends for newly homeless families in the Dublin region. However, the number of HAP tenancies has been in constant decline and since 2022, fewer than 17¹⁸ single adult households have been housed through HAP each month.

The tenant-in-situ scheme has been a positive additional intervention measure for those at risk of homelessness due to landlords selling the private rented property, and where the local authority has successfully acquired the property and kept the tenant in their home.

¹⁸ Between January 2022 and December 2024, a total of 594 single adult households exited EA through a HAP tenancy.

10.6 Ratio of exits to housing to EA entries, 2020 - 2024

During the same period, the rate of entry into EA was consistently higher than the number of single adults exiting EA to housing, with an average of **just under 2.5 single adults entering EA for every single adult who exited to housing**.

Similar to the ratio of entries to preventions, the ratio of entries to exits to housing was also highest in years 2022 and 2023, with 4 entries into EA for every exit in 2022, and 3.5 entries for every exit in 2023. This ratio decreased in 2024 with a rate of 2.6 entries for every successful prevention.

10.7 Duration of homelessness

Duration of stay also showed that **single adults were increasingly staying longer in EA**. One year post-entry, 24.0% of new single adults entering homelessness in 2020 were still in EA. The one-year EA duration percentage stood at 32.9% (an increase of 8.9 percentage points) for singles who had entered EA in 2021, before rising to 43.7% for singles who had entered EA in years 2022 and 2023.

Some single adults experienced a longer duration of homelessness. For instance, 17.3%

of single adults who entered EA in 2020 remained in EA after two years and **8.8% of single adults who entered EA in 2020** were in EA for **at least four years** at the end of 2024. For the 2021 new single adults, 21.7% remained in EA after two years, while 13.4% remained in EA after at least three years at the end of 2024.

Of the single adults who entered EA in 2022, 29.2% were in EA for at least two years at the end of 2024.

10.8 Homelessness prevention and exits from homelessness

This report also showed further complexities of homelessness when the entries were analysed alongside preventions and exits from EA. Between 2020 and 2024, the number of **single adult households entering EA remained consistently higher** than the number of single households that were successfully prevented from entering EA.

A similar pattern was observed when the number of single households entering EA were compared with the number of single households that successfully exited to housing, with the number of entries consistently surpassing the rate of exits for all five years in the study period.

10.9 Concluding comments

Overall, this report has provided insights into the dynamics of single adult homelessness in the Dublin region during the period 2020 to 2024. The report has revealed a shift in reasons for homelessness as well as the citizenship profile of new single adults. Over time, there has also been a decrease in available HAP

properties, making reliance on HAP as a housing strategy challenging. These findings provide insight into homelessness amongst single adult households in the Dublin region and provide opportunities for re-strategising and strengthening existing measures on homeless prevention and housing.

References

1. Baptista, I., Culhane, D., Pleace, N., O'Sullivan E. (2022) *From Rebuilding Ireland to Housing for All: International and Irish lessons for tackling homelessness*. Focus Ireland Dublin. Page 21, Table 1.
2. Dublin Region Homeless Executive (2025) *Homelessness Action Plan 2025-2027 A Framework for Dublin*, Dublin: Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)
3. Maphosa (2024). *New families entering emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region, years 2020-2023*. Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)
4. Maphosa, P. & Mayock, P. (2025) *Youth Homelessness in the Dublin Region, 2023*. Dublin: Dublin Region Homeless Executive.
5. O'Sullivan, E., Byrnes, E., and Allen, M. (2024) *Focus on homelessness: adult-only households*. Dublin: Focus Ireland.

Appendix: Reasons for homelessness

Reason for homelessness	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Private Rented					
NOT - Property to be Sold	24.4%	25.2%	43.5%	32.7%	43.7%
NOT - Landlords Own or Family House	5.6%	12.9%	13.0%	15.1%	12.6%
NOT - Rent Arrears	12.5%	7.5%	13.8%	11.1%	11.7%
NOT - Other (incl. Part 4 tenancies)	13.1%	1.4%	0.4%	20.1%	15.8%
NOT - Unsuitable Accommodation	11.9%	4.1%	8.3%	1.5%	2.3%
NOT - Substantial Renovations	6.3%	2.0%	3.6%	5.5%	3.2%
NOT - Anti Social Behaviour	1.3%	8.8%	0.8%	5.0%	2.3%
NOT - Breach of Tenant Responsibilities	0.0%	3.4%	1.2%	2.5%	4.1%
NOT - First Six Months	0.6%	2.0%	2.8%	0.0%	0.5%
NOT - Landlord Bankrupt/Receivership	1.9%	0.7%	0.4%	1.5%	0.5%
NOT - Change of Use	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.0%	1.4%
NOT - Breach of Landlord Obligations	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NOT - Victim of anti-social behaviour	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>NOT - Unknown (General)</i>	20.6%	31.3%	11.1%	5.0%	2.3%
Total NOTs	160	147	253	199	222
Family Circumstances					
Relationship breakdown - parent	41.2%	46.6%	43.9%	47.4%	45.8%
Relationship breakdown - partner	23.1%	26.6%	27.8%	31.2%	32.0%
Relationship breakdown - other family	18.8%	13.0%	16.9%	13.6%	12.7%
Family Circumstance - Other	16.9%	13.9%	11.4%	7.8%	9.5%
Total Family Circumstances	549	685	597	605	463
'Other' Reasons Provided					
Leaving Direct Provision	3.5%	5.3%	9.9%	20.5%	38.5%
Overcrowding	17.0%	16.8%	15.1%	15.2%	7.1%
Newly arrived from abroad - less 6 months	10.1%	16.0%	20.9%	15.6%	7.7%
Rough Sleeper	18.9%	6.7%	2.2%	3.2%	6.6%
Left informal tenancy	3.2%	5.3%	7.1%	7.1%	10.6%
Insufficient funds / Affordability of P.R.	1.9%	3.6%	9.0%	8.8%	1.8%
Presenting from outside Dublin region	4.3%	8.7%	5.6%	3.6%	2.9%

'Other' Reasons Provided (Continued)					
Release from prison	4.9%	4.9%	4.0%	2.9%	2.8%
Release from general hospital	4.9%	2.6%	3.0%	2.6%	5.9%
Irish resident returning from abroad	4.0%	3.8%	3.0%	2.8%	1.6%
Leaving HSE childcare services	2.9%	2.5%	2.3%	2.7%	3.1%
Leaving Addiction Treatment	4.1%	5.4%	1.9%	1.3%	0.4%
Domestic Violence	2.7%	3.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.1%
No Income Source	3.5%	2.4%	2.5%	1.3%	0.0%
Victim of anti-social behaviour	2.3%	2.9%	1.7%	0.9%	0.8%
Substance Addiction	2.3%	0.9%	1.9%	2.2%	1.2%
Family Reunification	0.9%	1.1%	2.6%	2.3%	1.0%
Mental health problems	2.3%	1.1%	1.4%	0.7%	0.9%
Other - Left PR Tenancy (No NOT)	1.4%	2.2%	0.5%	0.6%	1.4%
Illegal Eviction	0.7%	1.2%	0.9%	0.4%	0.7%
Release from psychiatric care	0.7%	1.1%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Other - Damage to Property (House Fire)	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%
Property Repossessed	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%
Placed on Humanitarian Grounds	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	1.2%
Other - Property Uninhabitable (No NOT)	0.9%	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%
Other - Miscellaneous	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
Surrendered LA Tenancy	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%
NOT - LA Tenancy	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Total Other Reasons	854	910	1,099	1,119	1,461
Subtotal	1,563	1,742	1,949	1,923	2,146
No Reason Listed on PASS	61	64	74	40	5
Total Single Adults	1,624	1,806	2,023	1,963	2,151



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