

Week long assessment of rough sleepers in the
Dublin Region

March 6th to 12th, 2023

Spring Count

Spring 2023 Count of Rough Sleepers in the Dublin Region

The Rough Sleeper Count takes place bi-annually to measure the level of street homelessness in the Dublin Region and to enhance our understanding of the reasons for rough sleeping. Since Autumn 2020, the count has taken place over a full week, during which the Dublin Simon Outreach team engage in a full region assessment of the people met sleeping rough, or at risk of sleeping rough.

The Spring 2023 count was conducted over the week of March 6th to the 12th 2023. Additional staff were deployed to ensure more thorough coverage of the city centre areas. They communicated with the Gardaí and staff in all four Dublin Local Authorities to ensure they were fully informed about any individuals who were known to be rough sleeping, particularly in isolated areas. This follows the approach taken in November 2020, April and October 2021, and April and November 2022, where over the 7 days, the Outreach teams visited all areas in the region at least once.

Please note that the statistics below represent the total unique individuals over a seven day period, and should not be compared with the figures from the single-night counts published prior to November 2020. Where useful, figures have been compared with the November 2022, April 2022, October 2021, April 2021, and November 2020 counts as they all used the same methodology.

During the course of the week long count, the Outreach team encountered 83 individuals, of which 75 (90%) had PASS IDs. This is a decrease of 8 individuals on both the November 2022 and April 2022 counts.

Summary of key points from the Spring 2023 count of rough sleepers:

- There were 83 individuals found to be rough sleeping, of which 75 (90%) had PASS IDs.
- Most individuals (68%; n=51) were aged 26-45.
- The majority (71%; n=53) of those found were male, while 29% (n=22) were female.
- Of those known to homeless services (n=75), 48% (n=36) were using tents, while the remaining 52% were not (n=39).
- The majority of individuals (92%; n=69) were associated with one of the four local authorities within the Dublin Region.
- 5% (n=4) had an active tenancy on PASS. A further 5% (n=4) had recently lost their tenancies.
- 39% (n=29) of individuals had an Emergency Accommodation booking on PASS on the day they were met by the Outreach team. Of these, 24% (n=18) did not present at their accommodation that night (i.e. were no-shows).
- During the course of the count week, 48% (n=36) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation on another night during the count week. However, only 32% (n=24) presented at their accommodation while the rest were no-shows (16%, n=12).
- After the week of the count, 43% (n=32) of those the Outreach team engaged with had a booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 13% (n=10) were no-shows.
- 73% of individuals (n=55) had booked Emergency Accommodation at some stage in the three months prior to the count, of which 15% (n=11) were no-shows.
- The majority (79%, n=59) of individuals who were found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region during the March 2023 count were Irish, while a further 19% (n=14) had EU citizenship. The remaining 3% (n=2) had non-EU citizenship.

Findings

Table 1 – Total unique individuals found during the week of the count

Count	March 2023	November 2022	April 2022	October 2021	April 2021	Difference on April 2022
Total found	83	91	91	94	125	-8
<i>Of which with PASS IDs</i>	75	87	72	82	110	+3

Of the 83 found rough sleeping, 75 individuals (or 90%) had active PASS records or had PASS records created during the week of the count. Several of those identified at the beginning of the week as not registered were registered over the course of the week or soon after. The following summary statistics were taken from the 75 individuals who were registered on PASS.

Table 2 – Age profile of individuals found during week of count

Age group	March 2023	% March 2023	% November 2022	% April 2022	% October 2021	% April 2021
18-25	5	7%	9%	8%	11%	7%
26-45	51	68%	63%	67%	68%	70%
46-61	17	23%	25%	25%	17%	23%
62+	2	3%	2%	0%	4%	0%
Total	75					

The youngest person found rough sleeping during the count was 22 years old, and the oldest found was 69 years. More than two-thirds of rough sleepers (68%, 51 individuals) were aged between 26-45 years. Those aged 18-25 accounted for 7% of the count (5 individuals). The percentage distribution for the Spring 2023 rough sleeper count is similar to that of the Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 counts, where the majority were also aged between 26 and 45 years old (63% for Winter 2022 and 67% for Spring 2022).

Table 3 – Gender profile of individuals found during the week of count

Gender	March 2023	% March 2023	% November 2022	% April 2022	% October 2021
Male	53	71%	72%	64%	79%
Female	22	29%	28%	36%	21%
Total	75				

The March 2023 count shows a slight increase in the percentage of females found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region. The March 2023 count shows the proportion of females found rough sleeping was 29% (22 individuals), an absolute increase of 1% on the November 2022 count. The proportion of male rough sleepers in March 2023 was 71% (53 individuals), a 1% absolute decrease on the November 2022 count.

Table 4 – Comparison of those found rough sleeping with and without tents during the week of count

Tents	March 2023	November 2022	April 2022	October 2021	April 2021
Number found with tents	36	21	22	37	65
Number found without tents	39	66	50	45	45
Total	75	87	72	82	110

Data relating to those rough sleeping with tents was introduced in the April 2021 count. In March 2023, just under half (36 individuals, 48%) of those found rough sleeping were using tents, an increase of 15 individuals on the November 2022 count. The number of individuals found rough sleeping not using tents was 39 (or 52%), a decrease of 27 individuals on the November 2022 count.

Table 5 – Individuals found on both the March 2023 count and the November 2022 count

Number of those found in Rough Sleeper Count in both March 2023 AND November 2022	18
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Of those with PASS IDs, 18 individuals (24%) found in the March 2023 count were also found in the November 2022 count.

Table 6 – Number of engagements with individuals over the week (for those with PASS IDs only)

No. of engagements	March 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021	% Nov 2020
1	52	69%	60%	71%	95%	75%	61%
2	15	20%	24%	18%	5%	17%	24%
3	5	7%	9%	3%	0%	6%	10%
4	3	4%	3%	4%	0%	2%	3%
5 or more	0	0%	3%	4%	0%	0%	2%
Total	75						

While the majority (69%, or 52 individuals) had only one engagement over the week, 31% (23 individuals) required multiple engagements as the team worked with them to find a suitable alternative to rough sleeping. This is reflected in Table 10, where it can be seen that 48% (36 individuals) had an Emergency Accommodation booking at some stage over the count week, and 43% (32 individuals) had an Emergency Accommodation booking after the count week had ended.

Table 7 – Local Authority area recorded on PASS for the individuals found over the count week

Local Authority	March 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021	% Nov 2020
DCC	24	32%	63%	53%	23%	24%	21%
DLRCC/FCC/SDCC	45	60%	16%	25%	61%	51%	40%
Outside Dublin Region	6	8%	11%	6%	15%	16%	4%
Unknown	0	0%	9%	16%	1%	9%	35%
Total	75						

Of those found during the count week, the majority (92%, or 69 individuals) were associated with one of the four local authorities within the Dublin region. The remaining 8% (6 individuals) were from outside the Dublin region.

Table 8 – Individuals with a tenancy found rough sleeping during the week of the count

Tenancy	March 2023	Nov 2022	April 2022	Oct 2021	April 2021
Yes	4	1	9	2	10
No	71	86	63	80	100
Total	75	87	72	82	110

Of those found rough sleeping during the count week, 4 individuals (5%) had active tenancies on the PASS system. The remaining 71 individuals (95%) did not have an active tenancy listed on PASS. Of these, 4 individuals (5%) had lost their tenancies within the previous 6-month period.

Table 9 – Housing Needs Assessments recorded on PASS for individuals found during the count week

Housing Needs Assessment	March 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021
Completed	59	79%	87%	53%	43%	55%
Not completed	16	21%	13%	47%	57%	45%
Total	75					

The vast majority found during the count (79%, or 59 individuals) had a completed Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), while the remaining 21% (16 individuals) had 'not completed' or 'not accepted HNA' recorded on PASS.

Table 10 – Emergency Accommodation usage by individuals found during the count week

Emergency Accommodation use	March 2023	November 2022	April 2022	October 2021	April 2021
Had booking on night of engagement	29	20	11	29	32
Had booking over week of engagement	36	36	20	35	44
Had booking after week of engagement	32	31	33	32	45
Used Emergency Accommodation in the three months prior to week of count	55	53	44	43	78
Had used EA any time prior to week of count	73	82	66	66	99

Of those found during the March 2023 count, 29 individuals (39%) had an active Emergency Accommodation booking on PASS on the day they were met by the Outreach team. Of these, 18 individuals (24%) did not present to their Emergency Accommodation provider (i.e. were no-shows). This is significantly up on the November 2022 count, where the number found rough sleeping with an existing booking was 20 individuals (23%).

The number of individuals with an Emergency Accommodation booking at any stage during the count week was identical to that of the November 2022 count. In March 2023, 36 individuals (48%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation during the week of the count. However, only 24 individuals (32%) arrived at their Emergency Accommodation while the remaining 12 individuals (16%) were no-shows. This is a significant improvement on the previous count where 29 individuals (33%) were no-shows at their Emergency Accommodation provider during the count week. After the count week, 32 individuals (43%) the Outreach team engaged with had a booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 10 individuals (13%) were no-shows.

In the three months prior to count week, 55 individuals (73%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 11 individuals (15%) did not present (i.e. were no-shows). This is a significant improvement in Emergency Accommodation uptake on the previous count where 53 individuals (61%) had an Emergency Accommodation booking, of which 29 individuals (33%) did not present (i.e. were no-shows).

The vast majority (73 individuals, 97%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation at some stage prior to the count week, which is in line with the November 2022 count. Of these, 5 individuals (7%) were no-shows, compared with 18 individuals (21%) in the previous count. Just 2 individuals (3%) had never had an emergency accommodation booking on PASS, a decrease of 3 individuals on the November 2022 count.

Table 11: Citizenship recorded on PASS for those found during the count week

Citizenship	March 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021	% Nov 2020
Irish	59	79%	69%	90%	85%	83%	83%
EU	14	19%	28%	10%	12%	10%	10%
Non-EU	2	3%	3%	0%	1%	4%	4%
Unknown	0	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	3%
Total	75						

In the March 2023 count, the vast majority of those found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region had Irish citizenship (79%, or 59 individuals). This is an absolute increase of 10% on the November 2022 count, and an 11% absolute decrease on the April 2022 count. 19% of those found (14 individuals) had EU citizenship, an absolute decrease of 9% on the November 2022 count. The remaining 3% (2 individuals) had non-EU citizenship, the same proportion as found in the November 2022 count.