

External Report

Week long assessment of rough sleepers in the
Dublin Region

April 8th to 14th, 2024

Spring Count

Spring 2024 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 2024 count was conducted over the week of April 8th to the 14th 2024. 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 for the previous 7 rough sleeper counts since November 2020 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 2023, March 2023, November 2022, April 2022, and October 2021 counts as they all used the same methodology.

During the course of the week long count, the Outreach team encountered 128 individuals, of which 118 (92%) had PASS IDs. This is an increase of 10 individuals on the November 2023 count, and 45 individuals on the March 2023 count.

Summary of key points from the Spring 2024 count of rough sleepers:

- There were 128 individuals verified as rough sleepers, of which 118 (92%) had PASS IDs.
- Most individuals (64%; n=75) were aged 26-45.
- The majority (66%; n=78) of those found were male, while 34% (n=40) were female. 13 unique couples comprising of 26 individuals (22% of individuals with PASS IDs) were found rough sleeping in the April 2024 count.
- Of those known to homeless services (n=118), 42% (n=49) were using tents, while the remaining 58% were not (n=69).
- The majority of individuals (85%; n=100) were associated with one of the four local authorities within the Dublin Region.
- 2.5% (n=3) had an active tenancy on PASS. A further 3% (n=4) had recently lost their tenancies.
- 34% (n=40) of individuals had an Emergency Accommodation booking on PASS on the day they were met by the Outreach team. Of these, 18% (n=21) did not present at their accommodation that night (i.e. were no-shows).
- During the course of the count week, 34% (n=40) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation on another night during the count week. However, only 20% (n=23) presented at their accommodation while the rest were no-shows (14%, n=17).
- After the week of the count, 53% (n=62) of those the Outreach team engaged with had a booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 14% (n=17) were no-shows.
- 59% of individuals (n=70) had booked Emergency Accommodation at some stage in the three months prior to the count, of which 9% (n=11) were no-shows.
- The majority (74%, n=87) of individuals who were found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region during the April 2024 count were Irish, while a further 18% (n=21) had EU citizenship. The remaining 8% (n=10) had non-EU citizenship.
- The 128 individuals found during the Spring 2024 count does not include International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) clients since these individuals are under the remit of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth.

Findings

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

Count	Apr 2024	Nov 2023	March 2023	Nov 2022	April 2022	Oct 2021	Difference on March 2023
Total found	128	118	83	91	91	94	+45
<i>Of which with PASS IDs</i>	118	114	75	87	72	82	+43

Of the 128 individuals found rough sleeping, 118 individuals (92%) 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 118 individuals who were registered on PASS.

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

Age group	April 2024	% Apr 2024	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021
18-25	16	14%	6%	7%	9%	8%	11%
26-45	75	64%	69%	68%	63%	67%	68%
46-61	21	18%	23%	23%	25%	25%	17%
62+	6	5%	2%	3%	2%	0%	4%
Total	118						

The youngest person found rough sleeping during the count was 19 years old, and the oldest found was 68 years. Almost two-thirds of rough sleepers (64%, 75 individuals) were aged between 26-45 years. Those aged 18-25 accounted for 14% of the count (16 individuals). The percentage distribution for the Spring 2024 rough sleeper count is similar to that of the Winter 2023 and Spring 2023 counts, where the majority of individuals found were also aged between 26 and 45 years old (69% for Winter 2023 and 68% for Spring 2023). There was a significant increase in the proportion of young individuals aged between 18 and 25 years old (14% for Spring 2024 compared with 6% for Winter 2023 and 7% for Spring 2023).

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

Gender	April 2024	% Apr 2024	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021
Male	78	66%	65%	71%	72%	64%	79%
Female	40	34%	35%	29%	28%	36%	21%
Total	118						

The April 2024 count shows a slight increase in the percentage of males found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region. The proportion of males found rough sleeping in the April 2024 count was 66% (78 individuals), an absolute increase of 1% on the November 2023 count. The proportion of female rough sleepers in April 2024 was 34% (40 individuals), a 1% absolute decrease on the November 2023 count, and a 5% absolute increase on the March 2023 count. The data showed that a significant number of couples were found rough sleeping in the April 2024 count, a total of 13 couples comprising of 26 individuals (22% of individuals with PASS IDs). This is an increase on the November 2023 count where a total of 11 couples were found rough sleeping, comprising of 22 individuals (19% of individuals with PASS IDs).

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

Tents	Apr 2024	% April 2024	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021
Number found with tents	49	42%	39%	48%	24%	31%	45%
Number found without tents	69	58%	61%	52%	76%	69%	55%
Total	118						

Data relating to those rough sleeping with tents was introduced in the April 2021 count. In April 2024, over two-fifths (42%, 49 individuals) of those found rough sleeping were using tents, an absolute increase of 3% on the November 2023 count. The proportion of individuals found rough sleeping not using tents was 58% (69 individuals), an absolute decrease of 3% on the November 2023 count.

Table 5 – Individuals found on both the April 2024 and November 2023 count

Number of people found in both April 2024 and November 2023 Rough Sleeper Count	25
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Of those with PASS IDs, 25 individuals (21%) found in the April 2024 count were also found in the November 2023 count.

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

No. of engagements	Apr 2024	% Apr 2024	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021
1	81	69%	66%	69%	60%	71%	95%
2	22	19%	22%	20%	24%	18%	5%
3	11	9%	10%	7%	9%	3%	0%
4	3	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	0%
5 or more	1	1%	1%	0%	3%	4%	0%
Total	118						

While the majority (69%, or 81 individuals) had only one engagement over the week, 31% (37 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 over one-third (34%; 40 individuals) had an Emergency Accommodation booking at some stage during the count week, and more than half (53%; 62 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	Apr 2024	% Apr 2024	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021
DCC	81	69%	58%	60%	63%	53%	23%
DLRCC/FCC/SDCC	19	16%	24%	32%	16%	25%	61%
Outside Dublin Region	18	15%	18%	8%	11%	6%	15%
Unknown	0	0%	1%	0%	9%	16%	1%
Total	118						

Of those found during the count week, the majority (85%, or 100 individuals) were associated with one of the four local authorities within the Dublin region. The remaining 15% (18 individuals) were from outside the Dublin region.

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

Tenancy	Apr 2024	Nov 2023	March 2023	Nov 2022	April 2022	Oct 2021
Yes	3	2	4	1	9	2
No	115	112	71	86	63	80
Total	118	114	75	87	72	82

Of those found rough sleeping during the count week, 3 individuals (2.5%) had active tenancies on the PASS system. The remaining 115 individuals (97%) did not have an active tenancy listed on PASS. Of those without an active tenancy, 4 individuals (3%) 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	Apr 2024	% Apr 2024	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021
Completed	64	54%	68%	79%	87%	53%	43%
Not completed	54	46%	32%	21%	13%	47%	57%
Total	118						

More than half of those found during the April 2024 count (54%, or 64 individuals) had a completed Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), while the remaining 46% (54 individuals) had ‘not completed’ or ‘not accepted HNA’ recorded on PASS. This is an absolute decrease of 14% compared with the November 2023 count where 68% of individuals found had a completed Housing Needs Assessment.

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

Emergency Accommodation use	Apr 2024	Nov 2023	March 2023	Nov 2022	April 2022	Oct 2021
Had booking on night of engagement	40	37	29	20	11	29
Had booking over week of engagement	40	39	36	36	20	35
Had booking after week of engagement	62	34	32	31	33	32
Used Emergency Accommodation in the three months prior to week of count	70	64	55	53	44	43
Had used EA any time prior to week of count	102	100	73	82	66	66

Of those found during the April 2024 count, 40 individuals (34%) had an active Emergency Accommodation booking on PASS on the day they were met by the Outreach team. Of these, 21 individuals (18%) did not present to their Emergency Accommodation provider (i.e. were no-shows). This is up on the November 2023 count, where the number found rough sleeping with an existing booking was 37 individuals.

The number of individuals with an Emergency Accommodation booking at any stage during the count week was marginally higher than that of the November 2023 count. In April 2024, 40 individuals (34%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation during the week of the count, compared with 39 individuals in November 2023. However, while over half of these (23 individuals, 20%) arrived at their Emergency Accommodation, the remaining 17 individuals (14%) were no-shows.

After the count week, 62 individuals (53%) the Outreach team engaged with had a booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 17 individuals (14%) were no-shows. This is a significant increase compared with the November 2023 count where only 34 individuals (30%) had an Emergency Accommodation booking after the count week, of which 14 individuals (12%) were no-shows.

In the three months prior to count week, 70 individuals (59%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 11 individuals (9%) did not present (i.e. were no-shows). This is an improvement in Emergency Accommodation uptake on the previous count where 64 individuals (56%) had an Emergency Accommodation booking, of which 11 individuals (10%) did not present (i.e. were no-shows).

The vast majority (102 individuals, 86%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation at some stage prior to the count week, which is similar to the November 2023 count. Of these, only 6 individuals (5%) were no-

shows, compared with 10 individuals (9%) in the previous count. 16 individuals (14%) had never had an emergency accommodation booking on PASS, an increase of 2 individuals on the November 2023 count.

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

Citizenship	Apr 2024	% Apr 2024	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021
Irish	87	74%	81%	79%	69%	90%	85%
EU	21	18%	15%	19%	28%	10%	12%
Non-EU	10	8%	4%	3%	3%	0%	1%
Unknown	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Total	118						

In the April 2024 count, the vast majority of those found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region had Irish citizenship (74%, or 87 individuals). This is an absolute decrease of 7% on the November 2023 count, and a 5% absolute decrease on the March 2023 count. 18% of those found (21 individuals) had EU citizenship, an absolute increase of 3% on the November 2023 count. The remaining 8% (10 individuals) had non-EU citizenship, an absolute increase of 4% on the November 2023 count.