



Housing and Homelessness Crisis in numbers

August 2016

- During one week in July 2016 (latest available figures), there were 6,525 men, women and children in emergency accommodation across the country; a 40% increase from July 2015. This included 2,667 adults with no dependents in their care and 1,130 families made up of 1,510 adults and 2,348 children. (DECLG, 2016).
 - On Census Night, 24th April 2016, there were 171 people without a place to sleep in Dublin City. This included 102 people sleeping rough and 69 people sheltering at the Nite Café. Unfortunately, Dublin is the only area where an official rough sleeper count takes place, making it difficult to get a countrywide rough sleeping picture. (DRHE 2015).
 - Figures from Cork Simon Community indicate that rough sleeping in Cork City increased nine-fold in four years (2011-2015) from 38 people sleeping rough in 2011 to 345 people sleeping rough in 2015.
 - Homelessness and housing insecurity are more acute and visible in our cities but the Simon Communities are working at capacity countrywide – in urban and rural areas.
 - There are at least 90,000 people on the social housing waiting list. (Housing Agency, 2014).
 - Social housing commitments will take time to begin to deliver housing. This is far too long for the people we work with and those at risk of homelessness. Social housing output for 2015, reached 1,030 new builds and acquisitions with new builds accounting for 75 units. (DECLG, 2016). This is below the Social Housing Strategy target of 18,000 new units for the period 2015-2017.
 - Rents increased by 32.2% and the number of properties available to rent has reduced by approximately 77% since April 2012 with the average national rent now €1,037 (Daft.ie Rental Report Q2 2016).
 - *Locked Out of the Market III* (Jan 2016 Simon Communities) found that 95% of rental properties are beyond the reach for those in receipt of state housing support. Of all the properties available to rent in the eleven regions studied, only one was available for a single person see <http://www.simon.ie/Publications/Research.aspx>
 - 41.2% of all accounts in mortgage arrears are in arrears of over two years. (Central Bank of Ireland, 2016).
 - At the start of the year there were 23,344 or 17% of buy-to-let properties in arrears of more than 90 days and there were 668 buy-to-let properties in lenders possession. At the end of March 2016 there were 14,924 buy-to-let properties in arrears over 720 days. During quarter 1 2016 rent receivers were appointed to 751 buy-to-let properties. A total of 302 buy-to-let properties were taken into possession by lenders during quarter 1 2016, which represented a record high for the volume of repossession in a quarter since the series began in 2012.
 - 750,000 people are living on poverty in Ireland (*Poverty, Deprivation and Inequality* (July 2016) Social Justice Ireland Policy Briefing).
 - Since 2007 the deprivation rate, which looks at the number of people forced to go without at least 2 of 11 basic necessities examined, in Ireland has doubled - 29% of the population or 1.3 million people are experiencing deprivation (Social Justice Ireland *ibid*).
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