



Since the beginning of 2020, national data has been showing a significant and welcome reduction in the number of households (in particular families) residing in emergency accommodation throughout the country. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin Region at the end of **May 2021**. The situation remains challenging however and there is considerable work to be done to further lower the numbers experiencing homelessness and reduce the duration spent in emergency accommodation.

*Number of individuals in Emergency Accommodation in the **Dublin Region** – from May 2020 to May 2021, as published nationally:*

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals
May 2021	688	1,025	1,659	3,029	4,054	5,713
April 2021	699	1,047	1,719	3,040	4,087	5,806
Mar 2021	681	1,020	1,669	3,073	4,093	5,762
Feb 2021	716	1,083	1,760	3,046	4,129	5,889
Jan 2021	742	1,121	1,823	3,054	4,175	5,998
Dec 2020	755	1,131	1,864	3,027	4,158	6,022
Sep 2020	865	1,257	2,008	2,994	4,251	6,259
July 2020	862	1,269	2,017	2,919	4,188	6,205
May 2020	893	1,309	2,065	2,855	4,164	6,229

## 1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of May 2021, there were **688** families in emergency accommodation. The figure for May represents a decrease of **11** on the April 2021 number and a total decrease of **205** families when compared to May 2020, when there were **893** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of May was **1,659**. This represents a decrease of **60** on the April 2021 figure, with this number reducing steadily since September 2019, when the figure reached **2,872**. It also represents a decrease of **406** when compared to May 2020, when there were 2,065 children in emergency accommodation.

### 1.1. Reducing the Use of Commercial Hotels:

We continue our efforts to reduce the use of commercial hotels. By the end of May, there were **90** families residing in commercial hotels. This is the lowest number of families in hotels since September 2014. In May 2020, the number was **413**. This is a reduction of **323** families. The highest number was in March 2017 when it reached **871**. In relation to the **90** families, this is broken down between contracted hotels (46) and self-accommodation (44).

It is important to note that self-accommodation now refers to any accommodation not under contract with the DRHE. Families are no longer sourcing this accommodation themselves and booking renewals are monthly in the main. There has been a steady reduction in the use of self-accommodation from 584 at its highest point in 2018 to 44 at the end of May 2021. The main reasons why we have retained some non-contracted Emergency Accommodation usage include a lack of alternative accommodation in an area or rooms that allow for larger family sizes. 5 of the families are placed by DCC with the remaining 39 placed by Fingal and South Dublin County Councils.

### 1.2. New Family presentations - May 2021:

**62** families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in May 2021, which is a reduction of 17 from the previous month. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021
25	59	56	78	71	64	56	60	54	47	53	79	62

### 1.3. New Family Presentations – Nationality and reasons for homelessness

32 of the new family presentations were related to family circumstances, 15 were related to private rented issues and the remaining 15 presentations related to other situations.

### 1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In May 2021, **84 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (75) and Social Housing tenancies (9). The prevention figure does not include tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service or other prevention services.

### 1.5. Families – Exit to Tenancies

In May 2021, **78 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 48 moved to HAP, and 30 to Social Housing.

### 1.6. Support to Families

Residents in family hubs receive onsite support and families in private operated emergency facilities (PEAs) receive housing advice and social support from NGO/DRHE Housing teams as well as in-reach support from HSE and TUSLA. Support to families PEAs comes from a combination of Focus Ireland’s Family Hat Team and DRHE Housing Support Officers. There is also inreach by HSE and TUSLA fund Family Support Workers on the Focus Ireland team.

## 2. Single Adult Homelessness

As indicated in previous reports, the situation in relation to **single persons** is currently much more challenging. There were **3,029** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of May.

### 2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – May 2021

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time has remained high, the number in May was **154**. That represents an increase of **17** on the previous month and an increase of **31** on May 2020.

May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021
123	105	176	134	135	156	116	133	149	126	148	137	154

We continue to manage presentations from other counties and from other countries. In cases where the person has access to better outcomes in their local authority of origin we liaise with the Local Authority, the Outreach Team and the individual to achieve the best outcome. We have sufficient emergency capacity for now and we have maintained a level of excess capacity.

### 2.2. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In May 2021, **63 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (42), Social Housing (20) and LTA (1). This is additional to tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service and other prevention services. In DCC these include Older Persons at risk of homelessness as prioritised for housing under the changes to the adopted 2018 Scheme of lettings priorities.

### 2.3. Single Adult Homeless – Exit to Tenancies

**168 single adults** exited to tenancies in May 2021: **74** (HAP), **29** (AHB/LA), **1** (LTA).

### 2.4. Housing Support Officers and Other Supports to Private operated facilities (PEA)

The efforts to improve the range of supports to single adults in PEAs, either through Local Authority Housing Support Officers or visiting support teams from HSE and NGO teams has continued. The focus has been on health referrals and addiction services on an in-reach basis. It is welcome to have floating supports more widely available across PEAs, gradually expanding the opportunities for health or housing interventions and case management.

HSE funded Private Emergency Accommodation Supports:

These include:

- 5 nurses (4 ALDP and 1 Coolmine)
- 3 nurses (De Paul Ireland)
- 3 Dual Diagnosis Workers - addiction and mental health(DePaul Ireland)

The HSE are supporting the DRHE with a training programme for PEA Operators. This is not to replicate the work of NGOs but to ensure there is awareness and knowledge to refer/highlight cases needing greater supports to the inreach teams described above.

### **3. Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP):**

The Homeless HAP Scheme has continued to operate successfully, with our Housing Support Officers and Place-Finders assisting households to move out of emergency accommodation. **239** new Homeless HAP tenancies were set up in May 2021.

#### ***Breakdown of family type and previous accommodation of those accessing HHAP in May:***

15	Families leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
33	Families leaving Supported emergency accommodation
75	Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)
40	Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
34	Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
42	Singles/Couples who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)

### **4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation:**

#### **4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services**

As mentioned in the February report, the Housing Support Officer team has focussed specifically on families using emergency accommodation more than 2 years. The numbers of families in in emergency accommodation has fallen dramatically in every category except the 24+ months where there is only a small reduction. See figures below for May 2021.

<b>Duration in EA – May 2021 (as at 31/05/2021)</b>	<b>Total Families</b>	<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>Number Dependents</b>
24+ months	154	230	443
18-24months	58	90	181
12-18 months	75	113	188
6-12 months	130	210	324
6 months or less	241	344	462
<b>Total</b>	<b>658*</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>1,598</b>

\* This figure is lower than the 688 figure for May because it is calculated using a point in time. The monthly family figure is calculated by counting all families using emergency accommodation over the final week of each month.

#### 4.2. Single Adults – Duration in Services

<b>Duration in EA</b>	<b>Total Single Adults</b>
24+ months	628
18-24months	180
12-18 months	347
6-12 months	520
6 months or less	1,227
<b>Total Adults (Singles)</b>	<b>2,902</b>

The Housing First Programme, works with persons experiencing chronic homelessness as well as with rough sleepers. Dublin City Council nominates for singles/couples who have experienced long-term homelessness for Housing First as well as rough sleepers. This is based on length of time in emergency accommodation and need for the support levels provided for by Housing First.

## 5. Deaths in Service

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, the DRHE received an 'Interim Report on Mortality in Single Homeless Population 2020'. The report will be finalised when death certificates and inquest reports and data from Central Statistics Office on deaths in the general population becomes available.

Recommendations are subject to the completion of the report once coroner records are available and are made in four separate categories.

1. Recommendations on data collection and analysis of data.
2. Recommendations on Learning from Deaths in Homelessness.
  - i. Implementation of a Critical Incident Analysis Framework.
  - ii. Five Yearly Reports on Mortality Trends.
  - iii. Introduction of a Rapid Review Process for Clusters of Deaths.
3. Recommendations seeking to reduce Mortality of People experiencing homelessness.
  - i. Reduce Long-term Homelessness. The Housing First model is the optimum approach to achieve this objective.
  - ii. Multi Agency Committee to Review Five Yearly Mortality Reviews.
  - iii. Ensure Access to Primary Care Services in PEAs. During the Covid-19 Pandemic there were nursing, mental health and drug case workers services developed for the PEAs. These should be maintained and augmented with GP services.
  - iv. Improve Access to Mental Health Treatment in particular those with Dual Diagnosis.
  - v. Reduction of Overdose Fatalities:
    - Improve access to Naloxone.
    - Supervised fixed/mobile injecting centres
    - Access to OST for PEH to be maintained as low as possible.
    - Develop protocol for Overdose Risk Assessment.
    - Develop protocol for review of Non-Fatal Overdoses.
4. Research Recommendations. Research to be conducted to ascertain:
  - i. Why chronicity of homelessness is linked to a higher mortality rate.

The report has suggested changes to the reporting of deaths by the DRHE to exclude all long-term accommodation and tenancies. See below for deaths to date. The horizontal line reflects the service the person was registered to be using at the time of death and the vertical line records where the death occurred.

Deaths of Homeless Persons Year to Date 2021						
Service Type/ Location of Death	STA	Shielding	PEA	Outreach	Not Service User	Total
Onsite	9	4	7	0	0	20
Hospital/Hospice	1	2	2	0	1	6
Offsite	1	1	1	2	2	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>

## **6. Covid-19**

Shielding continues to be provided for most at-risk persons experiencing homelessness. The Housing Support Team engages directly with all clients and key workers to identify longer-term accommodation solutions. This work requires a multi-agency approach and we are working closely with the HSE, the 4 Dublin Local Authorities and NGO providers to progress people to tenancies from shielding.

The number of COVID-related deaths has not changed at 3 residents from Long-Term Supported Housing. As of 31<sup>st</sup> May there were **296** confirmed (cumulative) cases within Dublin Homeless Services.

We are gratified to see the numbers of positive cases reducing in recent weeks and anticipate the benefits the vaccine rollout will bring. The priority will be shielding and LTA units. As ever, we express our thanks to all frontline staff for keeping homeless services running and for their resilience throughout the emergency response.

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**Director,**

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**July 2021**