



European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland

Press Statement - for immediate release

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Latest CSO report shows a decrease in poverty however a significant number of households risk being left behind.

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland welcomes the drop in poverty levels since 2016 however stresses there is significant work to be done to ensure that the households most in need are not left behind.

The CSO's Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2017 shows that:

- In 2017, 15.7% of the population, or over 752,000 people, were living below the poverty line (at risk-of poverty) of €12,521 per annum. This down from 16.2% in 2016.
- 18.8% experienced deprivation in 2017 because they could not afford at least two of eleven basic essentials. This is down from 21% in 2016. However, while deprivation levels also fell for those with incomes below the poverty line, more than four in ten of them (42.8%) experienced deprivation in 2017.
- Those who are in consistent poverty because they are living below the poverty line and experiencing material deprivation fell to 6.7%, or 321,000 people in 2017, down from 8.2% in 2016. Consistent poverty levels for children was 8.8%, The Government target is to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2020.
- Consistent poverty for some in society remains much higher than for the general population. For example for those who were unemployed 24.1%, those not at work due to illness or disability 24% and single parent families 20.7%.

A comparison of selected at-risk of poverty, deprivation and consistent poverty statistics for 2008, 2016 and 2017 can be seen in the table below.

Paul Ginnell, Director, EAPN Ireland, stated that *"Whilst we welcome the decrease in poverty rates since 2016, we believe the government has a duty to recognise the high numbers of people on social welfare or low-income jobs who struggle to meet the cost of living and cannot afford the minimum essential standard of living. Households with unemployment, lone parents, and people with disabilities, consistently show high levels of poverty, with statistics also showing ongoing increases in poverty for those under 65 years of age living alone."*

Mr Ginnell added *"the Programme for Government has committed to an integrated plan to address inequality and poverty so we now need to see that plan developed and implemented and real progress begin made towards the 2% target for consistent poverty by 2020. We look forward to seeing in 2019*

the new Nation Action Plan for Social Inclusion which can enable a meaningful move towards meeting this goal.”

Ends.

Please find further information on the CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2017 at:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/psilc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditionssilc2017/>

Notes:

Note: official ways of measuring poverty

- **At Risk of Poverty** or relative income poverty, is having an income that is less than what is regarded as the norm in society. This is the share of persons with an equivalised disposable (after tax) income below a given percentage (usually 60%) of the national median income. The rate is calculated by ranking persons by equivalised income from smallest to largest and then extracting the median or middle value. Anyone with an equivalised income of less than 60% of the median is considered at risk of poverty. In 2017 this at-risk of poverty line was €12,521 per annum.
- **Material Deprivation:** Those in material or enforced deprivation in Ireland are those who cannot afford at least two of the eleven goods or services considered essential for a basic standard of living. The current 11 indicators are:
 1. Two pairs of strong shoes
 2. A warm waterproof overcoat
 3. Buy new not second-hand clothes
 4. Eat meals with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day
 5. Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week
 6. Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money
 7. Keep the home adequately warm
 8. Buy presents for family or friends at least once a year
 9. Replace any worn out furniture
 10. Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month
 11. Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight, for entertainment
- **Consistent Poverty** is the measurement preferred by the Irish Government and developed independently by the Irish Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). This measure identifies the proportion of people who are both at-risk of poverty (less than 60% of median income) and who are materially deprived because they cannot afford two of the eleven agreed items.

Some statistics from today's release for 2017

A table of selected relative, deprivation and consistent poverty statistics for 2008, 2016 and 2017

		Relative Poverty			Living in Deprivation			Consistent Poverty		
		2008	2016	2017	2008	2016	2017	2008	2016	2017
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
		State	14.4	16.2	15.7	13.8	21.0	18.8	4.2	8.2
Gender	Males	14.0	15.9	15.0	13.3	20.2	18.2	4.0	7.6	6.3
	Females	14.9	16.6	16.4	14.3	21.8	19.5	4.5	8.7	7.2
Age	0-17 years	18.0	19.1	18.4	18.1	25.0	23.0	6.3	10.9	8.8
	18-64 years	13.5	16.4	16.2	12.8	21.0	19.1	3.9	8.4	7.0
	65 years +		9.8	8.6		13.1	9.7	1.7	1.8	1.7
Economic Status	At work	6.7	5.8	5.4	6.6	12.7	11.9	1.1	2.1	1.4
	Unemployed	23.0	39.2	42.0	37.0	42.5	41.0	9.7	23.4	24.1
	Home Duties	21.7	25.3	25.5	17.5	26.9	23.6	6.9	12.0	10.4
	Not at work due to illness or disability	25.5	39.2	35.4	36.4	47.0	45.9	13.2	25.9	24.0
Household Composition	1 adult aged 65+	11.0	12.8	10.0	11.7	19.9	14.9	0.9	3.7	2.4
	1 adult aged <65	25.7	35.3	34.2	20.6	29.1	32.1	9.8	17.0	20.0
	1 adult with children aged under 18	36.4	39.4	39.9	35.9	48.3	44.5	17.8	23.2	20.7
Number of persons at work in the household	0	32.7	40.8	40.3	30.5	37.8	34.2	13.2	23.6	21.3
	3+		2.8	2.1	5.9	15.0	10.5	0.9	1.9	0.0
Tenure status	Rented at below the market rate or rent free	29.6	33.9	31.2	40.1	44.1	37.6	16.4	21.1	16.6
Urban/rural location	Urban	11.9	15.9	15.1	14.3	22.5	20.2	4.2	8.8	7.4
	Rural	18.7	16.9	17.2	13.0	17.8	15.9	8.3	7.0	5.3
Region	Northern and Western	-	21.7	21.8	-	18.8	17.3	-	9.4	6.4
	Southern	-	16.8	16.8	-	21.1	18.7	-	7.9	7.1
	Eastern and Midlands	-	13.8	12.8	-	21.7	19.5	-	7.9	6.6

Full statistics are available at

<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/presspages/2018/surveyonincomeandlivingconditions2017/>