



European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland

Press Statement - for immediate release

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Latest CSO report shows a decrease in poverty rates however a significant number of households are not experiencing a recovery.

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland welcomes the drop in poverty rates since 2016 however stresses that 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:

- The at-risk of poverty rate was 15.7% in 2017, down from 16.2% in 2016.
- The deprivation rate was 18.8% in 2017 down from 21% in 2016.
- The deprivation rate for those at risk of poverty was down from 50.4% in 2016 to 42.8% in 2017.
- The consistent poverty rate was 6.7% in 2017, down from 8.2% in 2016,

A comparison of selected relative, deprivation and consistent poverty statistics for 2015, 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 majority of people on social welfare or minimum income employment who struggle to pay for and access basic goods and services 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 showing ongoing increases in poverty for single adult households under 65"*

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 how the new Nation Action Plan for Social Inclusion 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, giving a lower than normal standard of living. This is the share of persons with an equivalised disposable income below a given percentage (usually 60%) of the national median income. It is also calculated at 40%, 50% and 70% for comparison. 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 at a 60% level.
- **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, 2015 and 2016

		Relative Poverty			Living in Deprivation			Consistent Poverty		
		2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
		State	16.9	16.9		25.5	21.0		8.7	8.3
Gender	Males	16.9	16.1		24.4	20.2		8.3	7.7	
	Females	16.9	16.8		26.7	21.8		9.1	9.0	
Age	0-17 years	19.5	19.3		31.4	25.2		11.5	11.1	
	18-64 years	17.1	16.6		25.1	20.9		8.7	8.1	
	65 years +	10.7	10.2		15.4	13.1		2.7	2.1	
Economic Status	At work	5.8	5.6		16.4	12.6		2.1	1.9	
	Unemployed	43.5	41.9		45.5	42.6		26.2	25.2	
	Home Duties	24.9	25.7		30.2	26.6		12.5	12.3	
	Not at work due to illness or disability	34.8	39.1		53.2	46.7		22.4	26.3	
Household Composition	1 adult aged 65+	14.7	13.0		15.9	19.9		3.8	3.8	
	1 adult aged <65	34.8	35.7		31.9	29.0		17.7	17.4	
	1 adult with children aged under 18	36.2	40.2		57.9	50.1		26.2	24.6	
Number of persons at work in the household	0	39.6	42.1		42.3	37.7		23.6	24.4	
	3+	0.5	1.9		14.0	13.7		1.0	1.1	
Tenure status	Rented at below the market rate or rent free	39.0	34.5		52.5	44.0		24.9	21.8	
Urban/rural location	Urban	16.3	16.1		26.3	22.6		8.9	9.7	
	Rural	18.2	17.3		24.1	17.6		8.3	7.0	
Region	Border, Midland and Western	20.8	22.3		27.3	21.6		9.9	10.6	
	Southern and Eastern	15.5	14.4		24.9	20.8		8.3	7.6	