



**European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland**

**Press Statement - for immediate release**

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**Latest poverty data for 2019 shows mixed results. However EAPN Ireland warns that the statistics do not reflect the negative impacts of COVID-19 on people experiencing poverty.**

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland welcomes the publication of the CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions, however stresses that there is significant work to be done to ensure that the households more at risk will not be further left behind due to the economic fallout of Covid-19.

The CSO's Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2019 shows a decrease in those at-risk of poverty and increase in material deprivation and that those who experience both of these and are in consistent poverty showed almost no change. In detail the SILC showed that:

- In 2019, 12.8% of the population were living below the poverty line (at risk-of poverty) of €14,723 per annum or €275.72 per week. This is down from 14% in 2018.
- 17.8% experienced deprivation in 2019 because they could not afford at least two of eleven basic essentials. This is up from 15.1% in 2018.
- The consistent poverty rate is 5.5%, not significantly down from 5.6% in 2018. This is over 270,000 people. The Roadmap for Social Inclusion aims to reduce the national consistent poverty rate to 2% or less and to make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive States in the EU by 2025.
- Consistent poverty levels for children for 2019 is 8.1% up from 7.7% in 2018. The Roadmap for social inclusion aims to establish and updated target for reducing child poverty.
- Consistent poverty for some in society remains much higher than for the general population. For example, those who were unemployed are at 20.2%, those not at work due to illness or disability 18.1% and for lone parent families it is 17.1%.
- Poverty levels for those living in rented accommodation, which includes those in Local Authority housing, is much higher than for those who are owner-occupiers.

A comparison of selected at-risk of poverty, deprivation, and consistent poverty statistics for 2008, 2018 and 2019 can be seen in the table below.

Paul Ginnell, Director, EAPN Ireland, stated that *"We welcome areas where there was progress in 2019. However the impacts of COVID-19 coupled with no increase in core welfare rates for over two years will result in more people falling deeper into poverty in the next 12 months. We do not want to see a return to one third of the population experiencing deprivation as happened during the last*

*economic crisis. The Government needs to act now to prevent this through a combination of adequate income supports and access to services for those in society who are most at risk of poverty.”*

*Mr Ginnell added “It is also worrying to once again see ongoing high rates of poverty for particular households, such as the unemployed, people who cannot work due to illness or disability and those in lone parent households. These groups experience much higher rates of poverty relative to the general population. The lack of increases to core welfare rates in budget 2021 has not recognised the groups in society who are most at risk of poverty. These findings are persistently shown in the SILC results year on year. We question why the Government is ignoring these statistics and is failing to address poverty amongst these groups, including through increases to core welfare supports and a firm commitment to benchmarking social welfare to adequacy as a means of addressing poverty.”*

**Ends.**

Please find further information on the CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2019 at:  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditionssilc2019/>

## **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 2019

A table of selected relative, deprivation and consistent poverty statistics for 2008, 2018 and 2019

		At Risk of Poverty			Living in Deprivation			Consistent Poverty		
		2008	2018	2019	2008	2018	2019	2008	2018	2019
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
		State	14.4	14.0	12.8	13.8	15.1	17.8	4.2	5.6
<b>Gender</b>	Males	14.0	13.0	12.6	13.3	14.7	17.4	4.0	5.1	5.4
	Females	14.9	14.9	12.9	14.3	15.6	18.3	4.5	6.2	5.6
<b>Age</b>	0-17 years	18.0	15.9	15.3	18.1	19.7	23.3	6.3	7.7	8.1
	18-64 years	13.5	13.7	12.3	12.8	14.8	17.1	3.9	5.6	5.1
	65 years +		11.4	10.5		8.2	11.2	1.7	1.7	2.3
<b>Economic Status</b>	At work	6.7	5.1	4.6	6.6	9.5	11.4	1.1	1.6	1.3
	Unemployed	23.0	47.3	34.5	37.0	41.6	36.0	9.7	27.6	20.2
	Home Duties	21.7	23.2	22.8	17.5	21.0	24.2	6.9	8.4	9.9
	Not at work due to illness or disability	25.5	47.7	37.5	36.4	36.7	43.3	13.2	21.3	18.1
<b>Household Composition</b>	1 adult aged 65+	11.0	19.7	17.6	11.7	13.8		0.9	3.5	4.1
	1 adult aged <65	25.7	34.0	28.8	20.6	23.9		9.8	13.6	10.0
	1 adult with children aged under 18	36.4	33.5	29.7	35.9	42.7		17.8	19.2	17.1
<b>Urban/rural location</b>	Urban	11.9	13.6	16.2	14.3	16.0	19.8	4.2	5.5	6.5
	Rural	18.7	14.7	12.7	13.0	13.4	13.5	8.3	5.8	3.1
<b>Region</b>	Northern and Western	-	20.1	18.6	-	17.2	19.5	-	7.8	6.9
	Southern	-	15.0	13.3	-	15.2	17.1	-	6.5	5.7
	Eastern and Midlands	-	11.1	10.4	-	14.4	17.7	-	4.2	4.8