



**European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland**

# **Press Statement of the Poverty (SILC) data for 2020**

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## **European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland calls on the Government to take more urgent action if it is serious in achieving the poverty reduction target.**

Data published today shows that 5% of the Irish population is living in consistent poverty as they have income below the poverty line and are experiencing enforced deprivation. With the Government committed to reducing consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025, the European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland is calling for more urgent measures to be taken.

The CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) also shows that some households continue to experience higher levels of poverty than the general population including those who are unemployed, those unable to work due to long-standing health problems or in lone parent households. Others such as adults under 65 years, those in rented or rent-free accommodation and households with no-one in work are also at high risk of poverty and enforced deprivation. Some other groups and communities with a high risk of poverty cannot be shown by the SILC survey including people with disabilities, Travellers, Roma, other minority groups and communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

Some key findings from the survey are:

- The 60% poverty line for 2020 was €14,205 per annum or €272.23 per week and 13.2% of the population (over 647,000 people) had incomes below this line and were at risk of poverty.
- 15.6% of the population (over 776,000 people) experienced enforced deprivation as they could not afford two of the eleven agreed essential items.
- 5% (over 249,000 people) were in consistent poverty as they had incomes below the poverty line and also experienced enforced deprivation.
- The cost of renting has a major impact on the risk of poverty with almost half of those who rented from a local authority and 55.9% of those renting with other forms of social housing supports (such as the Housing Assistance Payment, Rent Supplement or the Rental Accommodation Scheme) at risk of poverty after the cost of rent was deducted from their income.

- Due to a change in how poverty data is being captured from 2020 onwards it is not possible to compare data with previous years. However, a separate Poverty Insights report shows that the at risk of poverty levels remained almost unchanged between 2018 and 2020, with Covid-19 income supports preventing many falling into poverty.

Paul Ginnell, the Director of EAPN Ireland, stated that *“The levels of poverty in our country are unacceptably high and we are consistently being made aware that there are many people who cannot afford the cost of living. Little if any progress is being made on tackling this, with next year’s welfare increases already being overtaken by inflation.”*

Mr Ginnell concluded *“The current Roadmap for Social Inclusion, which includes the poverty targets and measures to achieve it, needs to be delivered and greatly strengthened in the review which is to take place next year. The policy responses need to be adequate to the crisis faced by so many people across our society.”*

**ENDS**

**Notes:**

- The CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2020 is available [here](#).
- The CSO Poverty Insights - Income Reference Periods 2018 to 2020 is available [here](#).

<b>At risk of poverty, deprivation and consistent poverty rates 2020</b>			
	<b>At risk of poverty rate</b> %	<b>Deprivation rate</b> %	<b>Consistent poverty rate</b> %
<b>State</b>	13.2	15.6	5.0
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	13.0	14.7	4.8
Female	13.3	16.4	5.2
<b>Age group</b>			
0-17	16.9	20.3	8.0
18-34	12.5	15.8	4.0
35-49	11.7	15.5	5.2
50-64	14.8	14.5	5.3
65+	7.9	8.7	0.9
<b>Principal Economic Status (aged 16 years and over)</b>			
Employed	6.3	9.9	1.7
Unemployed	32.0	35.3	16.6
Retired	8.1	7.3	1.0
Unable to work due to long-standing health problems	33.7	39.3	17.0
Student, pupil	20.2	17.9	6.5
Fulfilling domestic tasks	19.4	18.2	5.9
<b>Highest education level attained (aged 16 years and over)</b>			
Primary or below	16.5	24.3	6.6

Lower secondary	18.6	22.3	7.5
Higher secondary	14.9	15.8	5.4
Post leaving cert	15.3	18.0	5.6
Third level non degree	10.1	10.7	2.7
Third level degree or above	5.9	7.0	1.5
<b>Household composition</b>			
1 adult aged 65+	15.8	11.4	1.9
1 adult aged <65	30.7	23.7	12.2
2 adults, at least 1 aged 65+	3.8	7.0	0.4
2 adults, both aged <65	8.9	13.9	4.1
3 or more adults	6.7	8.9	0.8
1 adult with children aged under 18	31.8	47.8	21.6
2 adults with 1-3 children aged under 18	10.7	13.0	3.5
Other households with children aged under 18	19.3	21.0	8.4
<b>Number of persons at work in the household</b>			
0	28.4	26.5	12.3
1	15.7	21.1	6.1
2	4.9	6.9	1.3
3+	3.2	8.3	0.0
<b>Tenure status</b>			
Owner-occupied	7.1	7.4	1.5
Rented or rent free	27.6	35.2	13.5
<b>Urban/rural location</b>			
Urban areas	13.5	17.4	5.8
Rural areas	12.5	12.0	3.4
<b>Region</b>			
Northern and Western	18.2	12.7	4.2
Southern	15.3	16.0	5.8
Eastern and Midland	10.1	16.3	4.8