

# YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN THE DUBLIN REGION, 2023



**Feidhmeannacht um Dhaoine ar Easpa**  
**Dídine Réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath**  
Dublin Region Homeless Executive

BLOCK 1, FLOOR 2, DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL CIVIC OFFICES, DUBLIN 8

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# Foreword

Since the roll out of the homeless database PASS in 2013, the region has been able to gain more insights into the profile of the homeless population in the region. The PASS system has provided opportunities to gather, draw evidence and produce reports on homelessness in the region that have impacted on homeless service provision and provided policy makers with regular monthly and quarterly reports on levels of homelessness. Over the decade that PASS has facilitated homelessness measurement in the region, the nature of homelessness in itself has evolved. The Dublin Region has experienced increased homelessness in both single and family households. In December 2015, the region reported 2,506 adults accessing emergency accommodation and this number had increased to 6,754 in December 2023, reflecting a 170% increase in the adult population over nine years. In the same period, youths in the age range 18-24 years experiencing homelessness increased from an average of 383 in 2015 to an average of 1,128 in December 2023, a 195% increase over the nine year period.

This report is a ground breaking piece of research in the context of youths and emergency accommodation usage in the Dublin region. It is the first of its kind using PASS data to highlight the multifaceted nature of youth homelessness in the region. The report assesses the dynamics in the profile of young adults in the age group 18-24 years accessing emergency accommodation in year 2023 and the reason for homelessness for those that became homeless for the first time in that year. The report provides an opportunity to acknowledge the heterogeneous nature of youth homelessness and explore targeted pathways for homeless prevention, tailored to each specific group so as to effectively intervene and curtail youth homelessness from occurring in the first place.



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## Abbreviations

AHB - Approved Housing Body  
 DRHE – Dublin Region Homeless Executive  
 EA – Emergency Accommodation  
 HAP - Housing Assistance Payment  
 LA – Local Authority  
 NOT - Notice of Termination



# Summary Findings

## All Young People, Aged 18-24 years, Accessing Emergency Accommodation (EA)

An average of 1,128 young adults aged 18-24 years accessed emergency accommodation (EA) each month in the Dublin region in 2023, making up 18% of all adults in EA.

- Between 2015 and 2023, there was a 195% increase in the average number of youths accessing EA in the Dublin region.
- Between January 2023 and December 2023, the number of youth aged 18-24 years, accessing EA increased by 11.4%.
- Gender analysis shows that 52.1% of young people accessing EA each month were male and 47.9% were female.
- Citizenship analysis shows that 52.9% of young people accessing EA held Irish citizenship, while 24.2% and 22.5% held non-EU and EU (EEA) citizenship, respectively, with 0.4% holding UK citizenship.
- There are **two distinct groups of young adults accessing EA**: (1) those accessing EA with other family members (50.8%) and those accessing EA as single individuals (49.2%).

## Single Young People, Aged 18-24 years, Accessing EA (49.2%)

- An average of 555 single individuals in the age group 18-24 years, constituting 49.2% of all 18-24-year-olds, accessed EA each month in 2023.
- Of these, 64.4% were male and 35.6% were female.
- Citizenship analysis shows that 57.1% of all single adults were Irish citizens, 25.8% were non-EU citizens, 16.7% were EU (EEA) citizens, while 0.2% were from the UK.

## Youth Aged 18-24-year-olds Accessing EA as a Family Unit (50.8%)

- In 2023, an average of 574 young people aged 18-24 years accessed EA each month as a family unit.
- Females represented 59.9% of young people who accessed EA as a family unit.
- Citizenship analysis shows that youth with Irish citizenship constituted 48.8% of all young people who accessed EA as a family unit, followed by EU (EEA) citizens at 28.0%, non-EU citizens at 22.7%, and the UK at 0.5%.
- The group of 18-24-year-olds accessing EA as a family unit has additional sub-groups, including young people who are adult dependents living with a parent(s) (51.9%) and young people who are themselves parents (48.1%).

## New Entries to EA, Aged 18-24 years: Singles, One-parent households and Couples

- 585 new households headed by 626 individuals in the age group 18-24 years entered homelessness for the first time in 2023, including single households (430), one-parent households (n89) and couples with children (n66).
- A majority (56.7%) were single. Parents accounted for 25.8% and the remaining young people (17.4%) were adult dependents.
- While 52% had Irish citizenship, there is evidence of an upward trend in the number of young people with non-EU citizenship accessing EA for the first time.
- Young people entering EA as a family unit were either adult dependents or young parents, with a majority of young parents being female (77.6%).



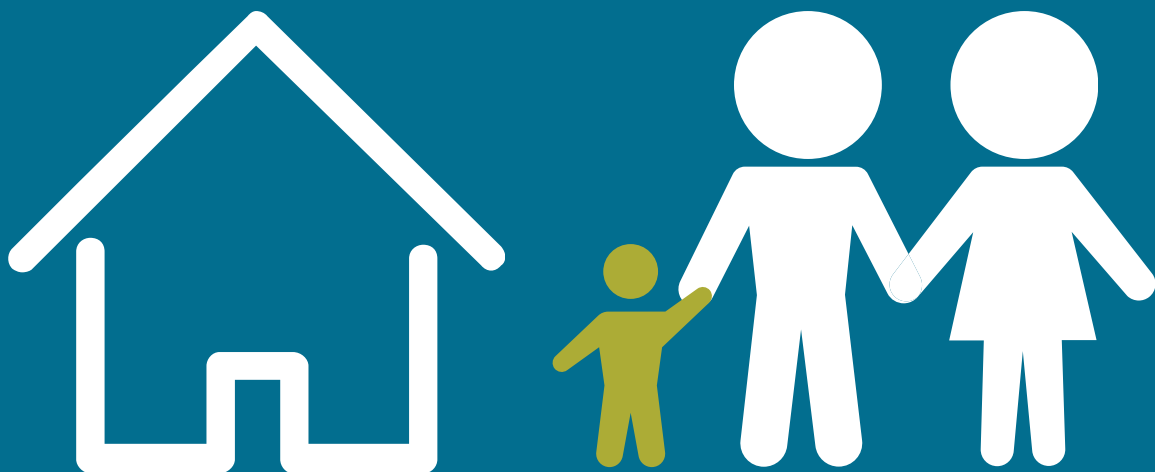
# Summary Findings

## Reasons for Homelessness: New Entries to EA, aged 18-24 years

- For all new entries to EA in 2023, the dominant reason cited by young people for their homelessness was **relationship breakdown** with a parent (27.8%), which increased to 36.5% when conflict with other family members, partners and family circumstances were included.
- Analysis of reasons for homelessness for sub-groups – including singles, adult dependents living with a parent(s), one-parent households, couples with children and young people (18-24 years) with a partner aged 25+ years – who entered homelessness for the first time in 2023, shows that relationship breakdown in family settings was the dominant cause for homelessness for most of these sub-groups.
- For all groups, other reasons cited, including but not limited to family reunification, overcrowding, exit from Direct Provision and State care, and domestic violence.
- For 18 and 19 year-olds entering homelessness for the first time, the dominant reasons for their homelessness included relationship breakdown and leaving State care.

## Homelessness Prevention and Exits from Homelessness

- A total of 270 young people aged 18-24 years were prevented from entering homelessness in 2023. Of these, a majority (124) were adult dependents in a family unit, while 82 were young parents and 64 were single.
- A total of 232 young people exited emergency accommodation to housing in 2023. Just over half (50.9%) exited to social housing, while 47.0% availed of the Housing Assistance Payment.



# 1.0 Introduction

Youth homelessness is a growing problem in countries across Europe and one strongly associated with young people's exclusion from housing markets.<sup>1</sup> It is widely recognised that the circumstances and needs of youth who experience homelessness<sup>2</sup> are different from those of older adults and that their paths to homelessness have distinct characteristics<sup>3</sup>.

Homelessness can have profound negative impacts on multiple aspects of a young person's life – on their mental and physical well-being, relationships, schooling, employment prospects, their ability to access basic needs and their futures<sup>4</sup>. Frequently, these impacts are interlinked and can become more marked over time, making it more challenging for young people to carve a route out of homelessness.

Mirroring trends in several European countries, the number of young people experiencing homelessness in Ireland has increased significantly in the past decade. November 2022 saw the publication of Ireland's second youth homelessness strategy, *Housing for All, Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023–2025*<sup>5</sup>. The three core aims set out in the Strategy are: 1) To prevent young people from entering homelessness; 2) To improve the experience of young people in accessing emergency accommodation; 3) To assist young people in exiting homelessness.

Like the previous youth homelessness strategy<sup>6</sup>, strong emphasis is placed on prevention and, significantly, the aim of assisting young people to exit homelessness is explicitly articulated for the first time.

This report presents an analysis of Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) data related to young people aged 18-24 years who accessed emergency accommodation (EA) in the Dublin region in the year 2023. The aim is to provide a comprehensive profile of youth experiencing homelessness based on the available data, focusing on gender and citizenship as well as on two distinct cohorts within the youth homelessness population: single young people accessing EA and youth accessing EA as a family unit, respectively.

A detailed analysis of young people accessing EA as a family unit in 2023 is also presented, with further sub-groups in this cohort identified. New entries to homelessness among 18–24-year-olds are examined, as are the reported reasons for homelessness among young people who entered homelessness for the first time in 2023. Data on the prevention of homelessness and homeless exits among youth aged 18-24 years are also presented. The report concludes by discussing key aspects of the findings presented and their implications for policy.

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1 Eurofound (2023) *Unaffordable and Inadequate Housing in Europe*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. Available at: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/publications/2023/unaffordable-and-inadequate-housing-europe>

2 'Youth' homelessness is understood in this report to refer to young people aged 18-24 years.

3 FEANTSA (2020) *European Framework for Defining Youth Homelessness*. Brussels: FEANTSA. Available at: [https://www.feantsa.org/download/framework-for-defining-youth-homelessness\\_final\\_pdf3614092469143708469.pdf](https://www.feantsa.org/download/framework-for-defining-youth-homelessness_final_pdf3614092469143708469.pdf)

4 Milburn, N.G., Rice, E. and Petry, L. (2024) Understanding homelessness among young people to improve outcomes. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, 24, pp. 457-479.

5 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (2022) *Housing for All Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025*. Dublin: Government of Ireland. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/69597-youth-homelessness-strategy/>

6 Department of Health and Children (2001) *Youth Homelessness Strategy*. Dublin: Stationery Office. Available at: [https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/5070/1/DOHC\\_youth\\_homeless.pdf](https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/5070/1/DOHC_youth_homeless.pdf)

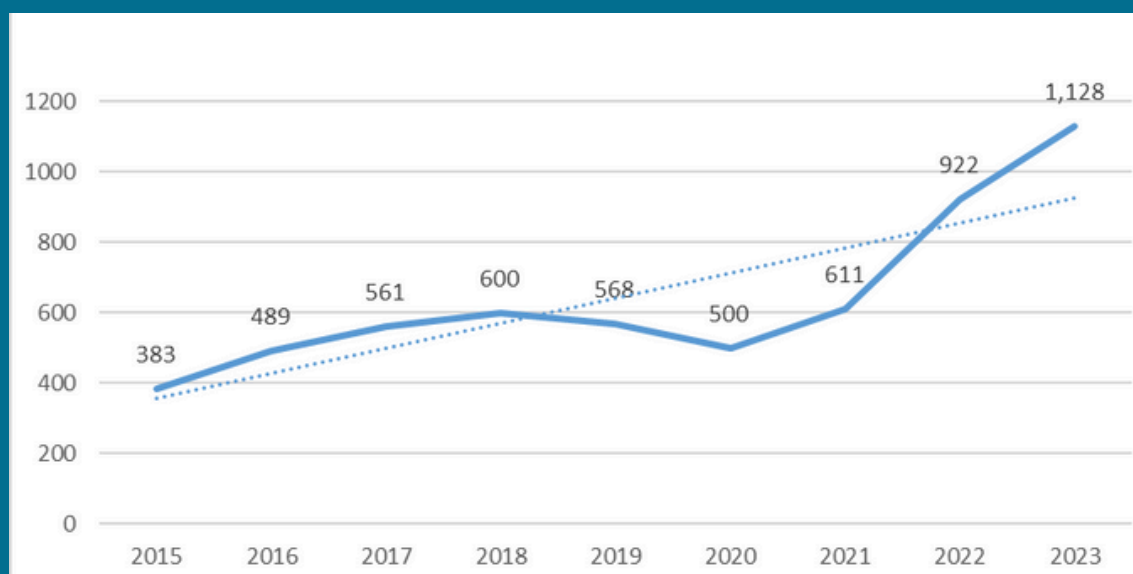


## 2.0 Youth Homelessness in the Dublin Region, 2015–2023

We start by documenting trends in emergency accommodation (EA) usage among 18–24-year-olds for the period 2015–2023. Youth homelessness has increased steeply in the Dublin region over

the past decade. In 2015, an average of 383 adults aged 18–24 years accessed EA and, by the end of 2023, the number had risen to 1,128, representing an increase of 195%.

Figure 1: Age 18–24 years, monthly average EA usage, 2015–2023



Analysis of the various age groups accessing EA indicates that the numbers in all groups increased between 2015 and 2023 (Table 1). Youth aged 18–24 years recorded a stronger

increase compared with those aged 25–44 years who, in terms of absolute numbers, accounted for the largest number accessing EA.

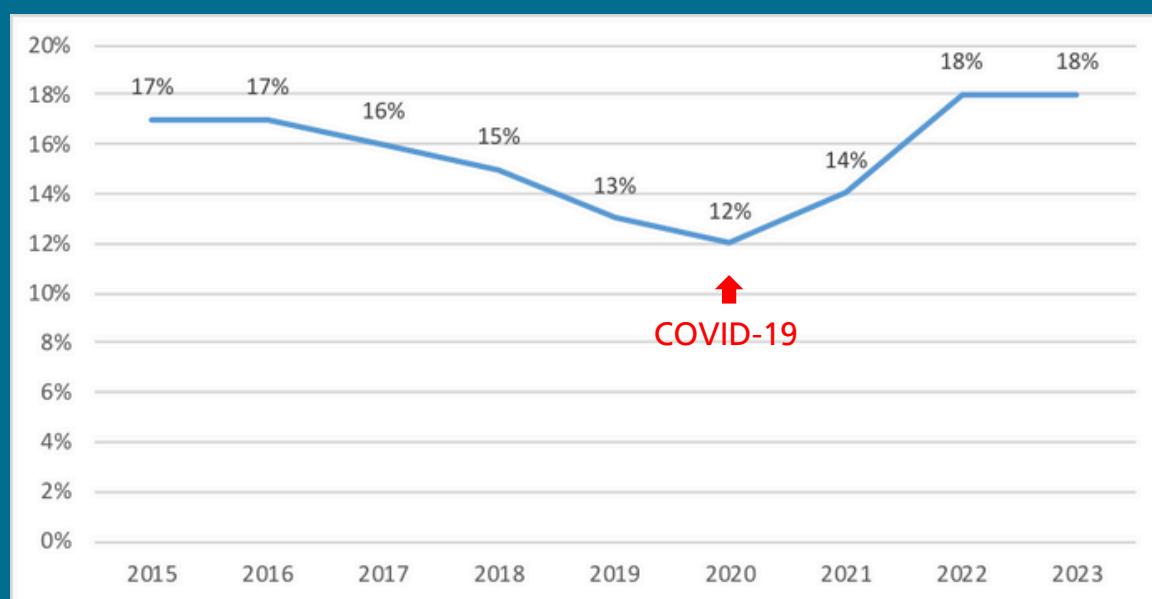
Table 1: Average adult population in EA each month by age group, 2015 and 2023

Age Group	2015	2023	Percentage Increase/Decrease
18–24	383	1,128	195%
25–44	1,403	3,397	142%
45–64	406	1,763	334%
65+	28	101	261%

Figure 2 presents average EA usage for young people aged 18-24 years as a percentage of the total adult homeless population in the Dublin region for the period 2015–2023, which ranged from 12% to 18%. The lowest percentage recorded was in the year 2020 (12%). There is evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the overall number of young

people accessing EA in 2020 and 2021, with the numbers decreasing during that period. However, this trend did not endure and an increase is again evident in the number of 18-24-year-olds accessing EA 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the age group 18-24 years comprised 18% of the total adult population.

Figure 2: 18-24 year olds accessing EA as percentage of total adult homeless population



## 2.1 Summary

The number of young people aged 18-24 years accessing emergency homelessness accommodation in the Dublin region increased significantly during the period 2015–2023, with the average number accessing EA each month rising from 383 to 1,128. Comparison with other age groups shows that the percentage increase among

youth aged 18-24 years was significantly higher than for the age group 25-44 years, which is the largest adult sub-group in the homeless population. These figures signal a need for additional resources and supports that specifically target young people aged 18-24 years at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

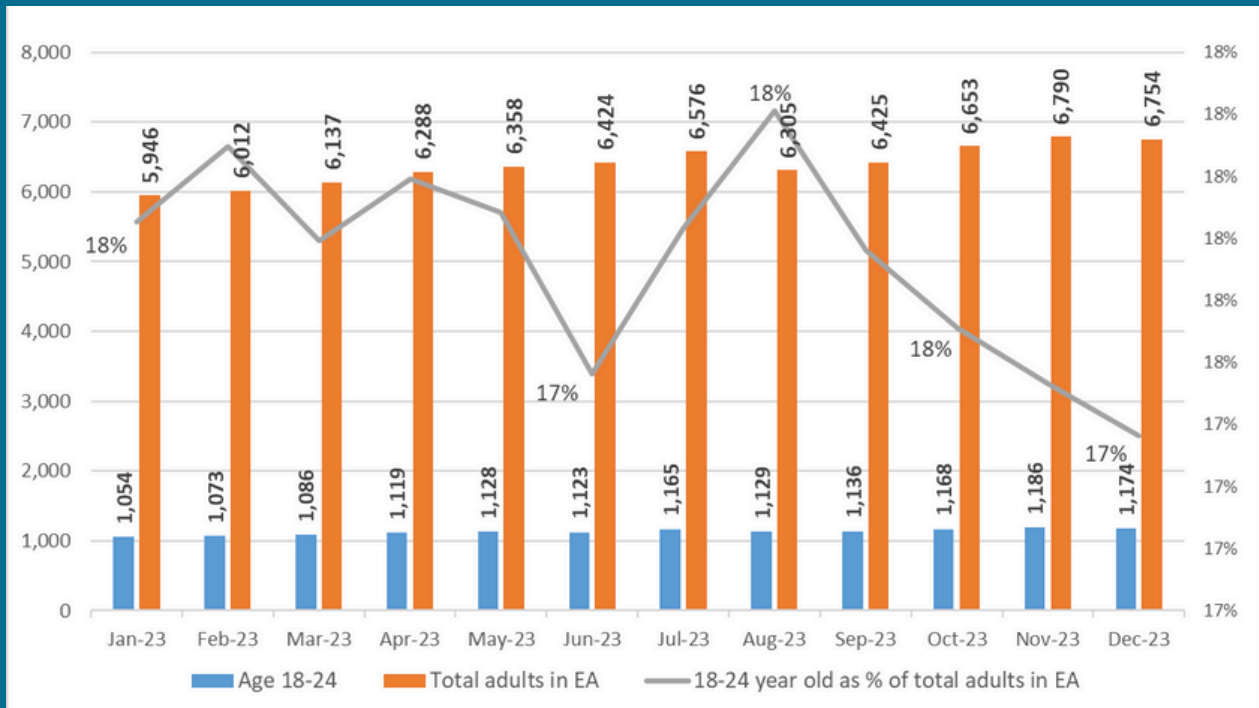




### 3.0 Young People Aged 18-24 Years: Emergency Accommodation Usage, 2023

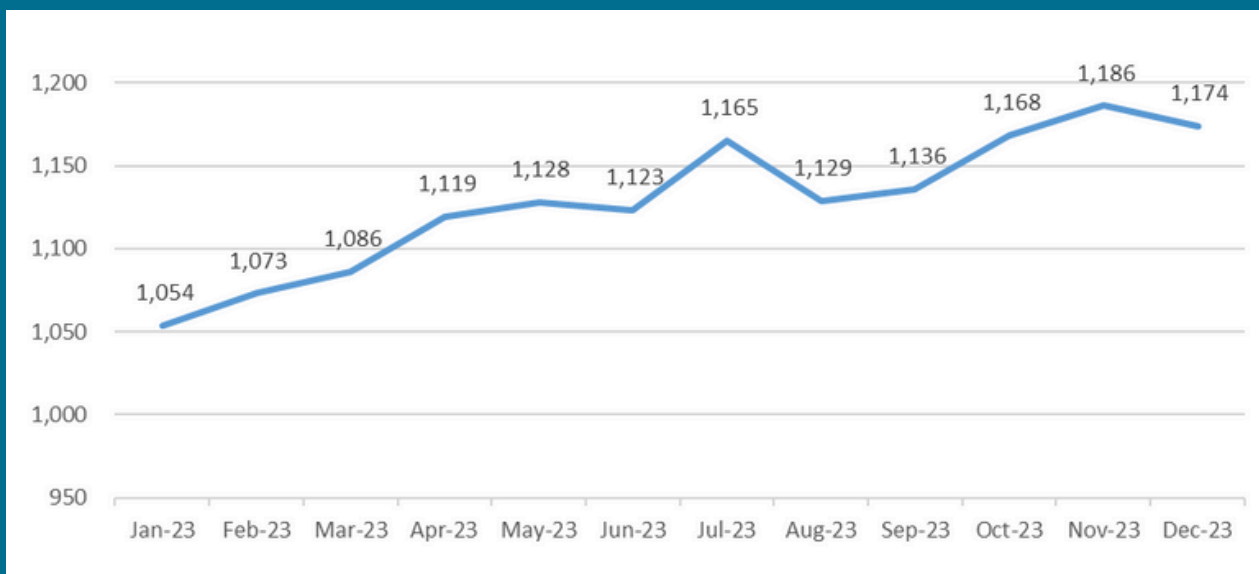
In 2023, the percentage of young people in EA fluctuated between 17% and 18%. However, on average, 18–24-year-olds accessing EA in that year represented 18% of the total adult population in the Dublin region.

Figure 3: EA usage for youth aged 18–24 years, Dublin region, 2023



Between January 2023 and December 2023, the number of youth aged 18-24 years accessing EA increased by 11.4% (Figure 4)

Figure 4: 18–24-year-olds accessing EA, Dublin region, January–December 2023



Analysis of **gender** shows that a monthly average of 52.1% of young people aged 18-24 years accessing EA were young men, while 47.9% were young women (Figure 5). These figures contrast with the gender breakdown for the total adult population

in the Dublin region during the same period when 63% were male and 37% were female. Table 2 presents a monthly breakdown of the number of young people accessing EA by gender.

Figure 5: Percentage of 18–24-year-olds accessing EA by Gender, 2023

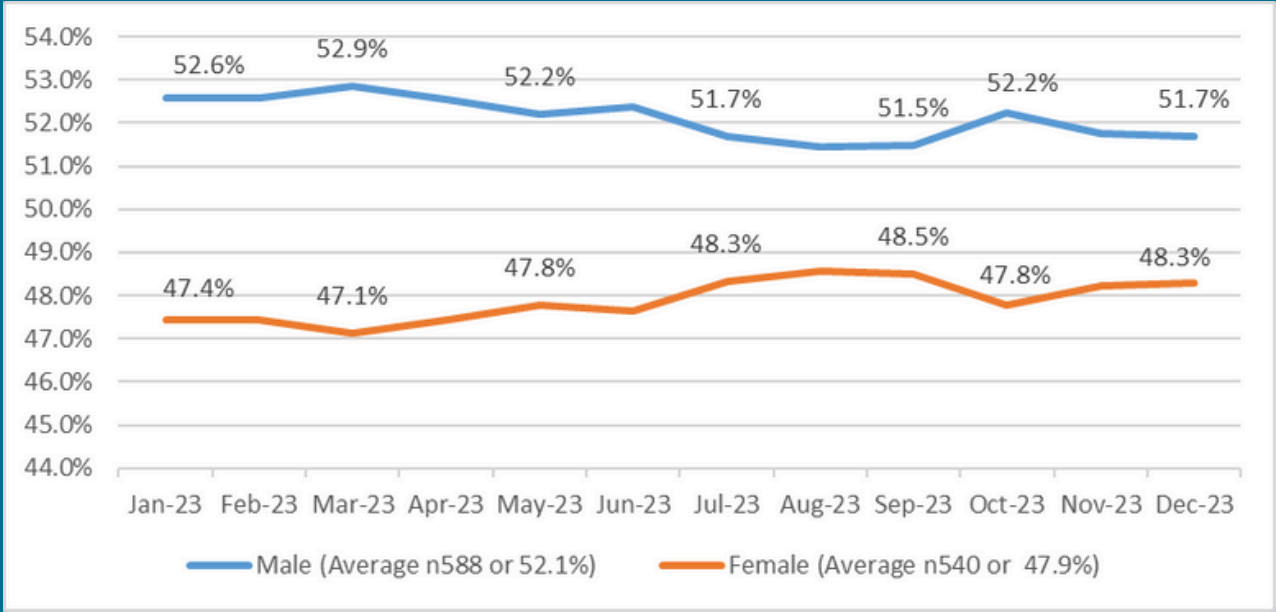


Table 2: Number of 18–24-year-olds accessing EA by Gender, 2023

Month	Male	Female	Total
Jan-23	554	500	1,054
Feb-23	564	509	1,073
Mar-23	574	512	1,086
Apr-23	588	531	1,119
May-23	589	539	1,128
Jun-23	588	535	1,123
Jul-23	602	563	1,165
Aug-23	576	553	1,129
Sep-23	585	551	1,136
Oct-23	610	558	1,168
Nov-23	614	572	1,186
Dec-23	607	567	1,174
Monthly Average	588	540	1,128
Percentage/Month	52.1%	47.9%	100%

Analysis of **citizenship** shows that a monthly average of 53.0% of young adults accessing EA held Irish citizenship, while 24.1% and 22.5% held non-EU and EU (EEA) citizenship, respectively, with 0.4% holding UK citizenship (Figure 6). Of note is the increase in the number of young people

holding non-EU citizenship, which rose by almost 8% between January and December 2023. In the same period, the EU population decreased slightly by 0.3%, while those with Irish citizenship decreased by almost 8%.

Figure 6: Percentage of 18–24-year-olds accessing EA by Citizenship, 2023

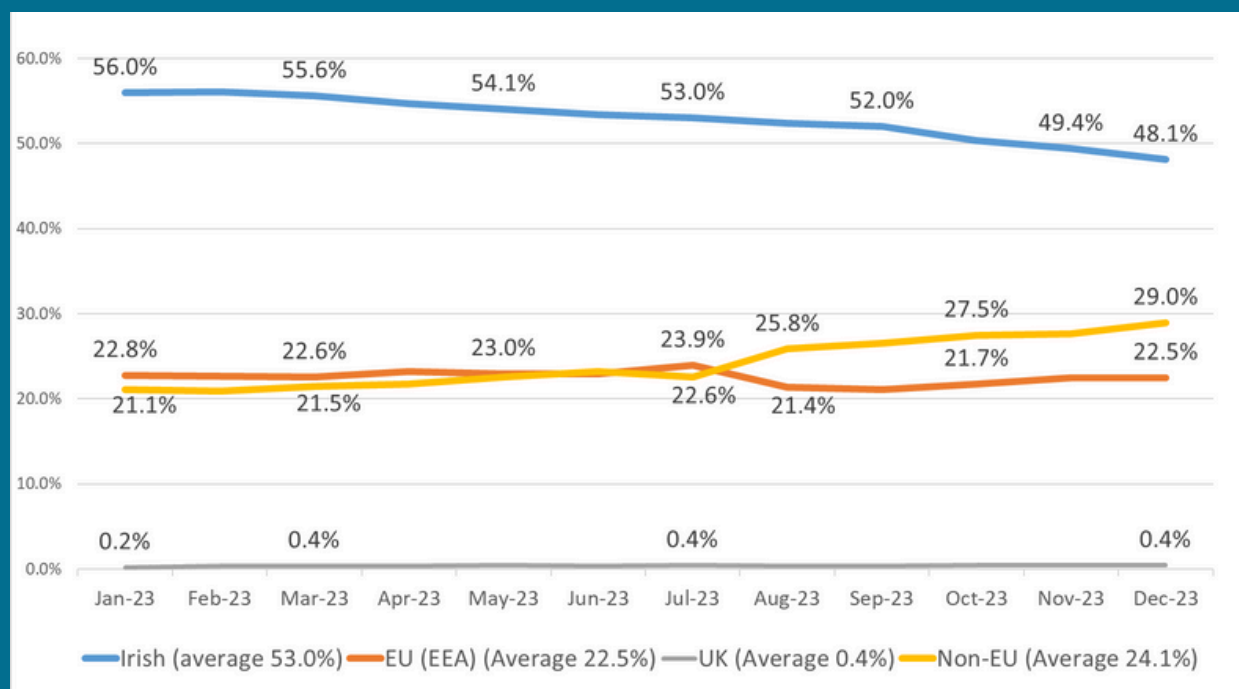


Table 3 presents a monthly breakdown of the number of Irish, EU (EEA), UK and Non-EU young people aged 18-24 years who accessed EA in 2023.

Table 3: Number of 18–24-year-olds accessing EA by Citizenship, 2023

Month	Irish	EU (EEA)	UK	Non-EU	Total
Jan-23	590	240	2	222	1,054
Feb-23	602	243	4	224	1,073
Mar-23	604	245	4	233	1,086
Apr-23	612	260	4	243	1,119
May-23	610	259	5	254	1,128
Jun-23	600	258	4	261	1,123
Jul-23	618	279	5	263	1,165
Aug-23	599	241	4	285	1,129
Sep-23	591	240	4	301	1,136
Oct-23	588	254	5	321	1,168
Nov-23	586	267	5	328	1,186
Dec-23	565	264	5	340	1,174
Monthly Average	596	254	4	273	1,128
Percentage/Month	53.0%	22.5%	0.4%	24.1%	100%



### 3.1 Young People Aged 18-24 years in EA: Singles and Families

Further analysis indicates that young people aged 18-24 years accessing EA comprise two distinct cohorts: those accessing EA as singles (that is, with no other household member) and those accessing EA as a family unit either with a

child or children or, alternatively living in EA as a young person aged 18-24 years with a parent(s) and possibly siblings. Table 4 presents a monthly breakdown of the numbers accessing EA for both the single and family unit cohorts.

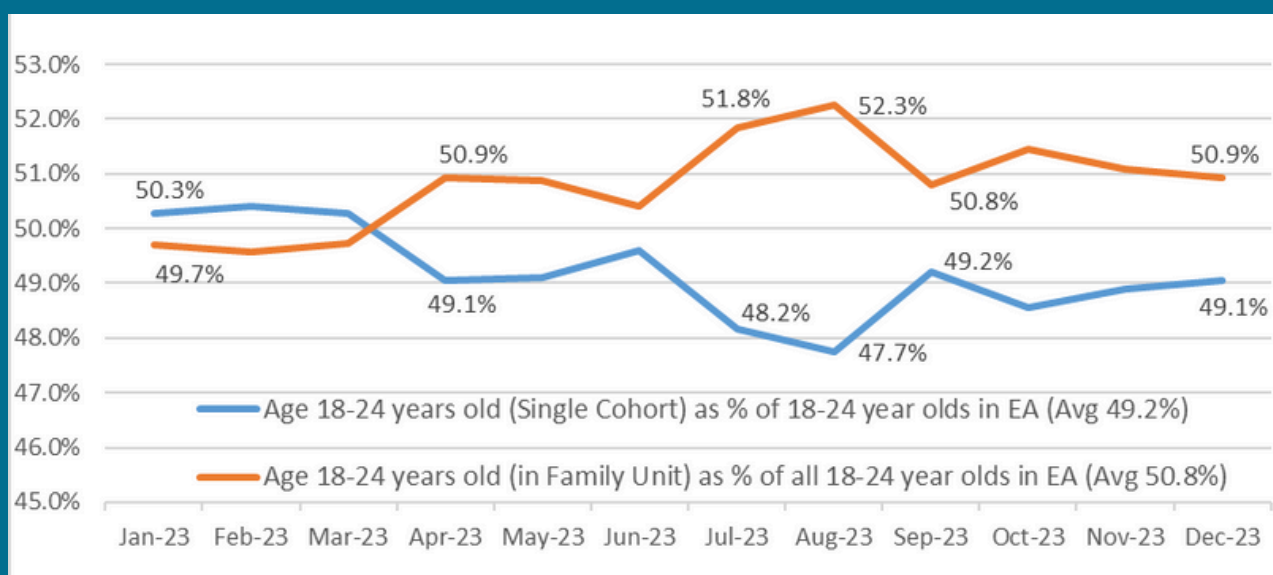
Table 4: Single and family cohorts aged 18-24 years accessing EA, 2023

Month	Age 18-24 years (Single Cohort)	Age 18-24 years (Family Unit Cohort)	Total
Jan-23	530	524	1,054
Feb-23	541	532	1,073
Mar-23	546	540	1,086
Apr-23	549	570	1,119
May-23	554	574	1,128
Jun-23	557	566	1,123
Jul-23	561	604	1,165
Aug-23	539	590	1,129
Sep-23	559	577	1,136
Oct-23	567	601	1,168
Nov-23	580	606	1,186
Dec-23	576	598	1,174
Monthly Average	555	574	1,128
Percentage/Month	49.2%	50.8%	100%

As the data presented in Figure 7 indicate, those accessing EA as a family unit were in a slight majority in 2023, at an average of

50.8%, while those accessing EA as single individuals represented 49.2% of all young people aged 18-24 years.

Figure 7: Single and family cohorts aged 18-24 years accessing EA by household type, 2023



Clearly, young people aged 18-24 years experiencing homelessness are not a homogenous group. The following sections examine the profile of both the single and family unit cohorts in relation to gender

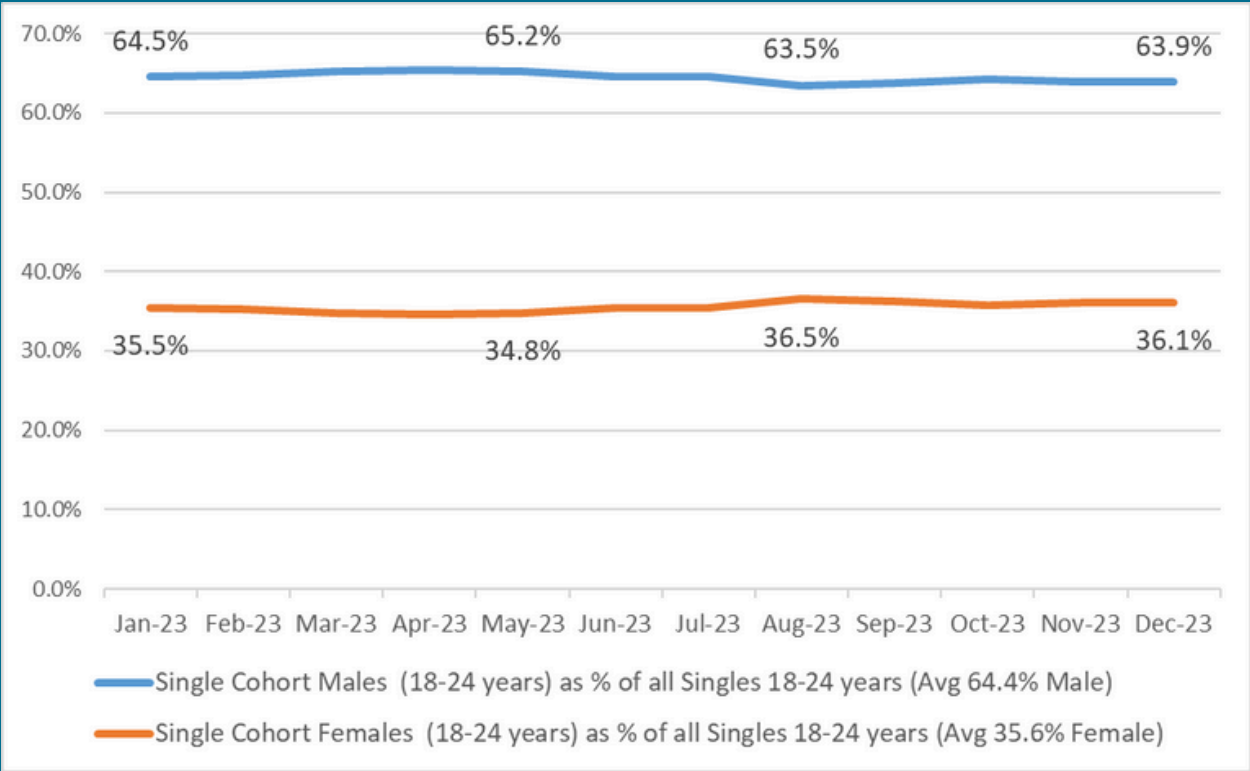
and citizenship. We start by presenting a more detailed profile of single young people accessing EA in terms of gender and citizenship.

### 3.2 Singles aged 18-24 years accessing EA: Gender

As illustrated in Figure 7, singles aged 18-24 years represented an average of 49.2% of all young people accessing EA. Analysis of this age group by gender indicates that 64.4% were male and 35.6% were female

(Figure 8), suggesting a pronounced gender disparity and heightened vulnerability to homelessness among males in the singles cohort.

Figure 8: Singles cohort age group 18-24 years by gender, 2023

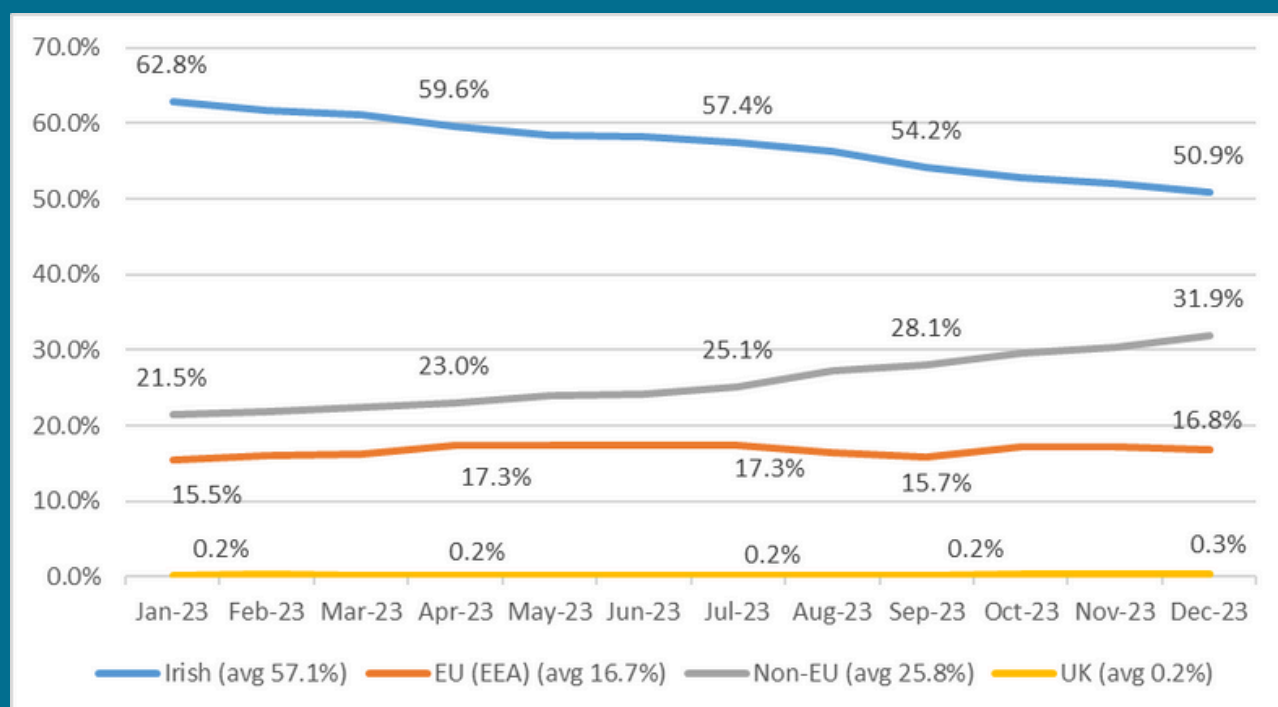


### 3.3 Singles aged 18-24 years accessing EA: Citizenship

Analysis of the singles cohort by citizenship indicates that, on average in 2023, singles with Irish citizenship constituted 57.1% of all single young adults in the age range 18-24 years, followed by non-EU youth at 25.8%, EU (EEA) youth at 16.7%, with young people from the UK constituting 0.2% (Figure 9). A significant increase is evident in the number of non-EU singles in

this age group during the year 2023 (from 21.5% to 31.9%). Also worthy of note is that the percentage of non-EU youth was higher than for the EU (EEA) population throughout the year (31.9% versus 16.8% in December), a nuance that is not apparent when the *total* number of 18-24-year-olds accessing EA is disaggregated by citizenship (*see Figure 6*).

Figure 9: Singles aged 18-24 years accessing EA by Citizenship, 2023

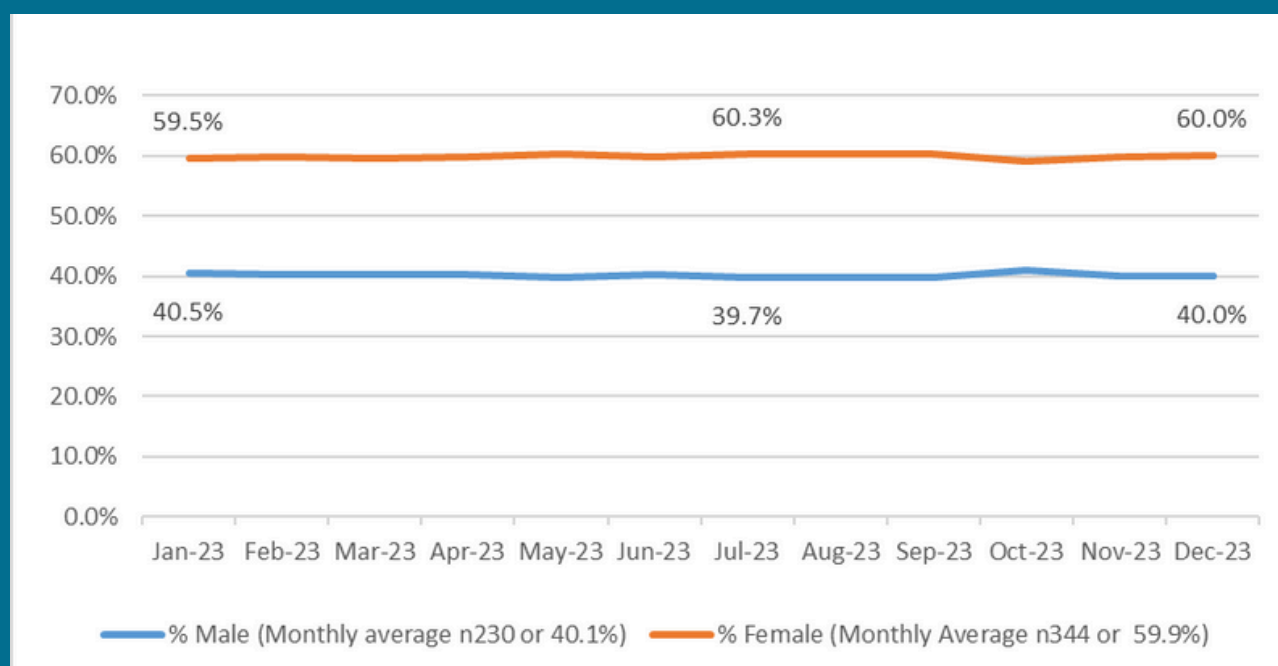


### 3.4 Young people accessing EA as a family unit: Gender

Looking then at the cohort of young people accessing EA as a family unit, who comprised 50.8% of all young people aged 18-24 years (Figure 7). For this sub-group, analysis by gender reveals a contrasting profile to that observed among singles accessing EA. The monthly average shows

that, on average, females represent 59.9% of young people accessing EA a family unit, with males representing 40.1% (Figure 10). There is therefore a far higher representation of females aged 18-24 years accessing EA as a family unit compared to singles.

Figure 10: 18-24-year-olds in family household by Gender, 2023



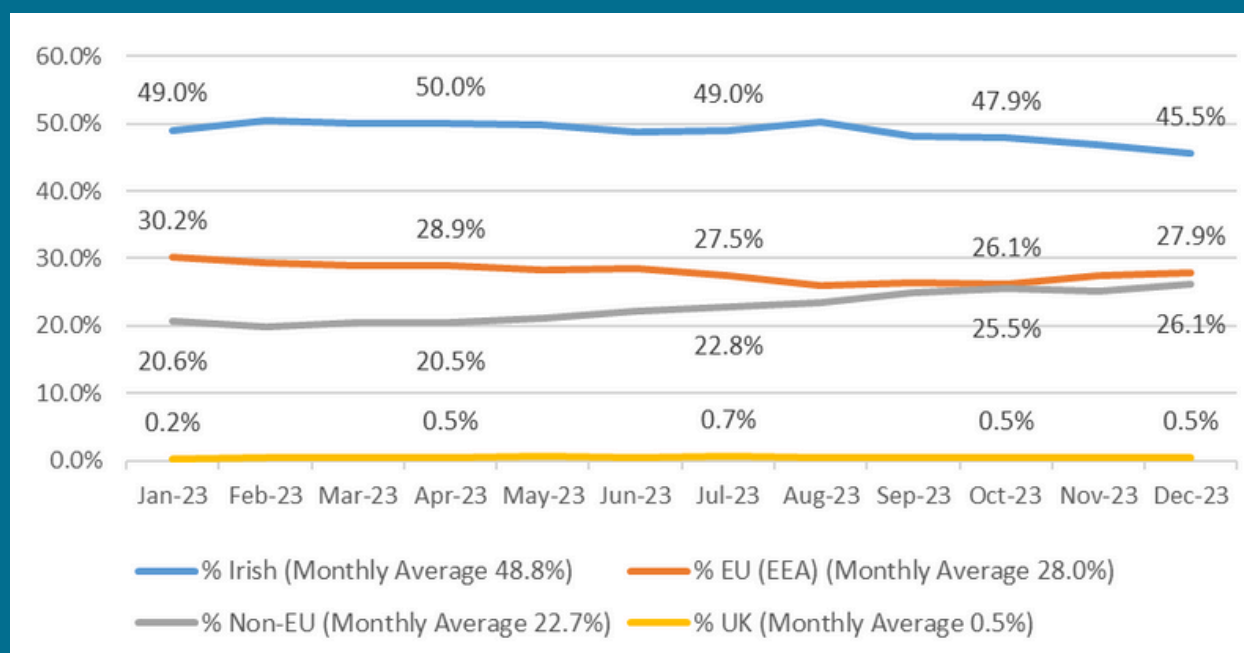


### 3.5 Young people accessing EA as a family unit: Citizenship

For young people accessing EA as a family unit, analysis by citizenship (Figure 11) indicates that although the number with Irish citizenship fluctuated during 2023, there was a slight overall decline in the population percentage (from 50.4% to 45.5%), which is similar to the trend evident in the singles cohort. Similarly, EU (EEA) citizenship percentages ranged from 25.9% to 30.2%, with a small percentage decrease evident for most of the year; however, in

November and December 2023, the percentage rose slightly but remained lower than that observed at the beginning of the year. The non-EU population percentage rose throughout 2023 from 20.6% at the beginning of the year to 26.1% in December. This trend mirrors that of the singles cohort, indicating a steady rise in the number of non-EU youth experiencing homelessness.

Figure 11: 18–24-year-olds in family households by Citizenship, 2023



### 3.6 Summary

For all youth aged 18-24 years accessing EA in 2023, 52.1% were male and 47.9% were female. A majority (52.9%) held Irish citizenship, while 24.2% and 22.5% held non-EU and EU (EEA) citizenship, respectively.

The analysis reveals noteworthy differences in the profile of youth accessing EA as singles and as a family unit. There are, for example, clear gender disparities between these two cohorts, with males dominating the singles cohort (64.4%) and the females (60%) dominating in the family unit cohort.

In terms of citizenship, similarities are evident between the two cohorts in that both evidenced a decline in the proportion of youth who held Irish citizenship during

2023. This decrease is, however, more pronounced in the singles cohort. Overall, an increase in the percentage of non-EU citizens is observed in both cohorts. However, in the singles cohort, the percentage of non-EU citizens was significantly higher than for EU (EEA) citizens throughout 2023 while, in the family cohort, this group, although also rising in percentage terms, remained lower than the EU (EEA) cohort.

Singles aged 18-24 years accessing EA and of non-EU citizenship therefore appear to be increasing at a faster rate than those accessing EA as a family unit. The following section examines young people accessing EA as a family unit in greater detail.

## 4.0 Young People Aged 18-24 Years Accessing EA as a Family Unit

Further analysis of young people accessing EA as a family unit reveals additional complexities, with youth in these households comprising two distinct sub-groups:

- young people who are adult dependents living with a parent(s) and;
- young people who are themselves parents.

Young people who are adult dependents living with a parent(s), who comprise 51.9% of those accessing EA as a family unit, belong to one of the following household types:

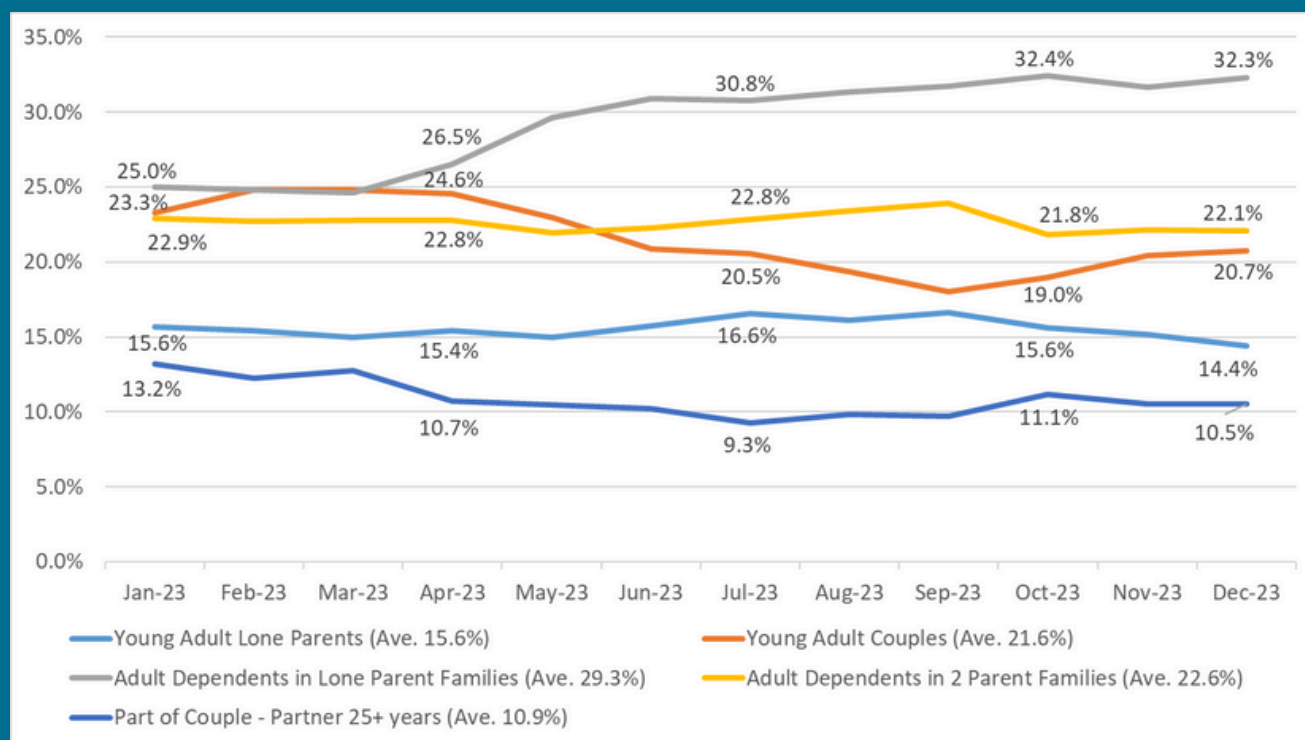
- Adult dependents in one-parent families (29.3%)
- Adult dependents in two-parent families (22.6%)

Young people who are themselves parents, who comprise 48.1% of those accessing EA as a family unit, belong to one of the following household types:

- Young couples, aged 18-24 years (21.6%)
- Young one-parent households, aged 18-24 years (15.6%)
- Young couples, one parent aged 18-24 years and one parent aged 25+ years (10.9%)

As illustrated in Figure 12, the largest percentage of youth accessing EA as a family unit are adult dependents in one-parent households (29.3%) and in two-parent households (22.6%). This is followed by young couples with a child(ren) (21.6%), young one-parent households (15.6%) and young people aged 18-24 years with a partner aged 25+ years (10.9%). Adult dependents in a family unit therefore make up a slight majority of the cohort of young people accessing EA as a family unit, at a monthly average of 51.9%.

Figure 12: 18–24-year-olds in family households accessing EA, 2023: Household Composition

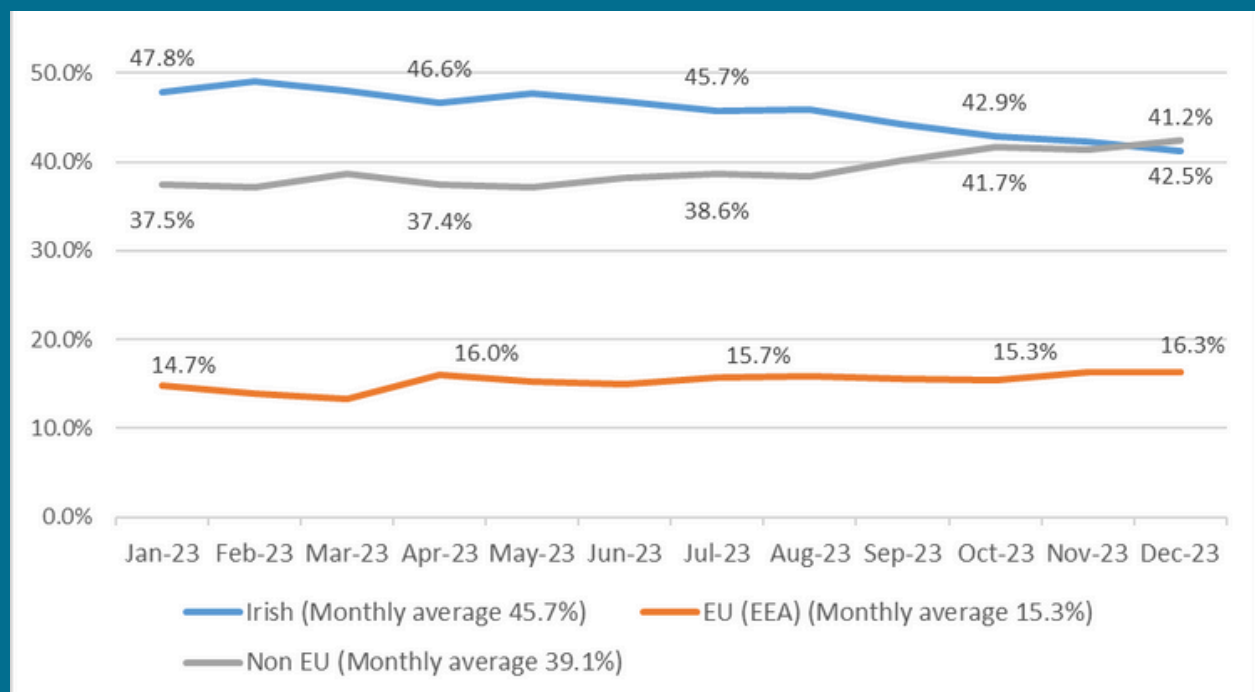


## 4.1 Adult dependents, aged 18-24 years, accessing EA as a family unit

As detailed above, adult dependents, including those living in one- and two-parent families, make up 51.9% of young people accessing EA as a family unit. Male young adults accounted for 54% of all adult dependents, while 46% were female. Citizenship analysis shows that 45.7% of these young people had Irish citizenship, followed by 39.1% with non-EU citizenship, while the EU (EEA) cohort was at 15.3% (Figure 13). The high representation of

adult dependents in EA strongly suggests that a lack of exit pathways to housing can result in young people transitioning to adulthood while residing in homelessness services. Furthermore, while adult dependents with Irish citizenship declined during 2023, a small increase is evident in those with non-EU citizenship. The number with EU (EEA) citizenship increased in April and, thereafter, remained largely constant compared to those with non-EU citizenship.

Figure 13: Adult dependent accessing EA, 2023: Citizenship



## 4.2 Young couples, aged 18-24 years, with children accessing EA each month, 2023

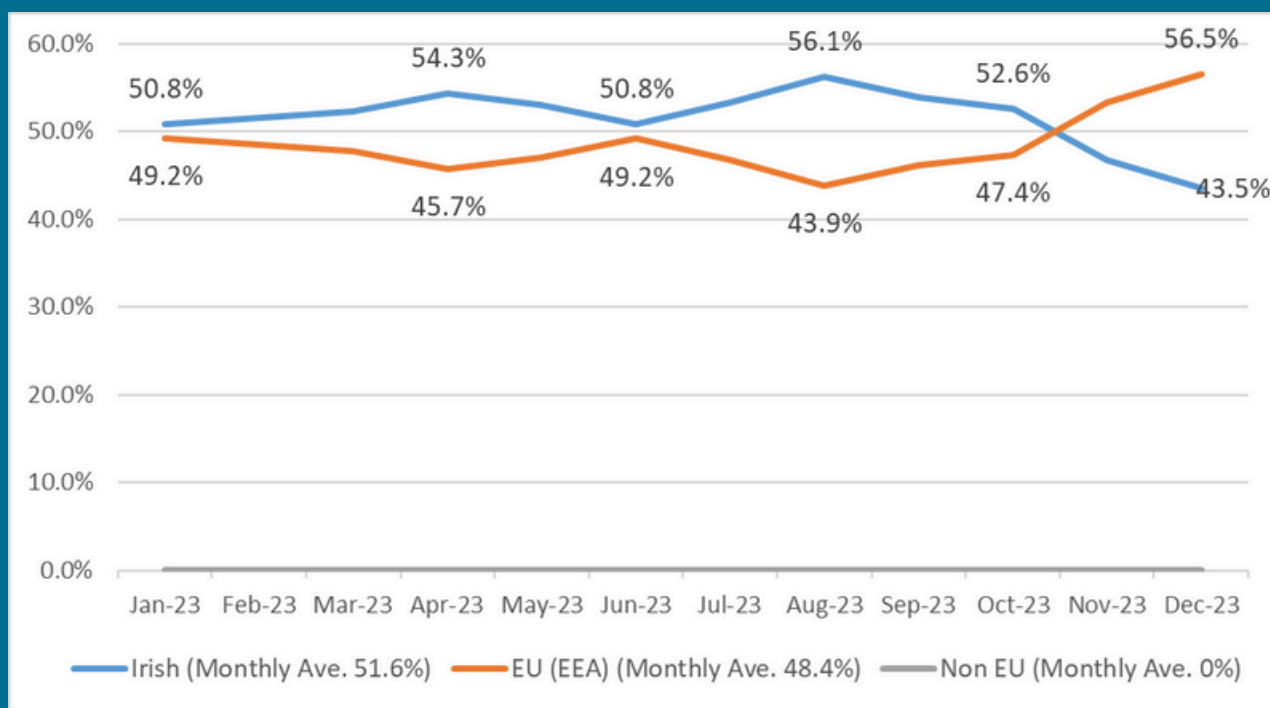
Of those young people accessing EA as a family unit who were themselves parents (48.1%), 21.6% were young couples aged 18-24 years. An average of 62 couples in this age range accessed EA each month. Citizenship analysis shows that these couples were either of Irish (51.6%) or of

EU (EEA) (43.5%) citizenship, with none holding non-EU citizenship. A slight decrease is observed in young couples with Irish citizenship from September to December 2023 and, conversely, an increase in the number with EU (EEA) citizenship is observed over the same period (Figure 14).





Figure 14 Young couples aged 18-24 years with children accessing EA 2023: Citizenship

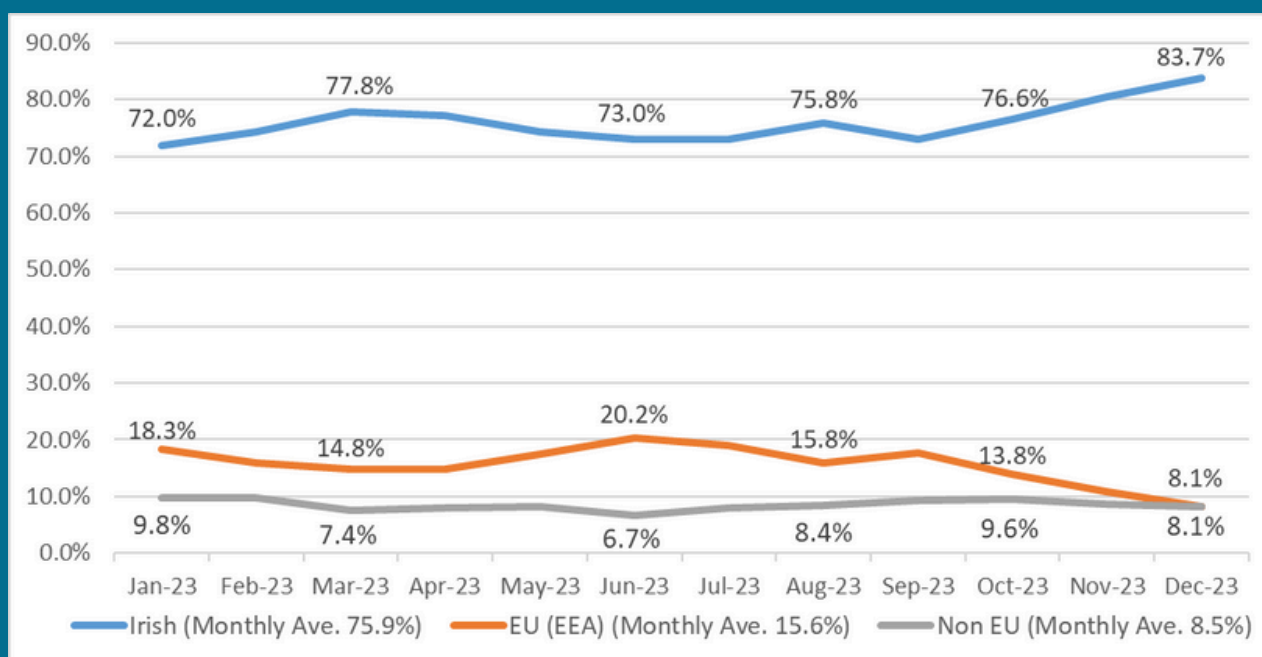


### 4.3 Young one-parent households, aged 18-24 years, accessing EA each month, 2023

Of those young people accessing EA as a family unit who were themselves parents (48.1%), 15.6% were one-parent households aged 18-24 years. On average, 89 young one-parent households accessed EA each month in 2023. The vast majority of one-parent families were female headed (99%) and, for the first five months of the year, the cohort was 100% female.

Male one-parent households entering EA during the remainder of the year constituted 1%. Citizenship analysis of young one-parent households shows that, on average, more than three-quarters (75.9%) held Irish citizenship, followed by EU (EEA) citizens at 15.6%, with non-EU one-parent households constituting 8.5% (Figure 15).

Figure 15: One-parent households aged 18-24 years accessing EA, 2023: Citizenship

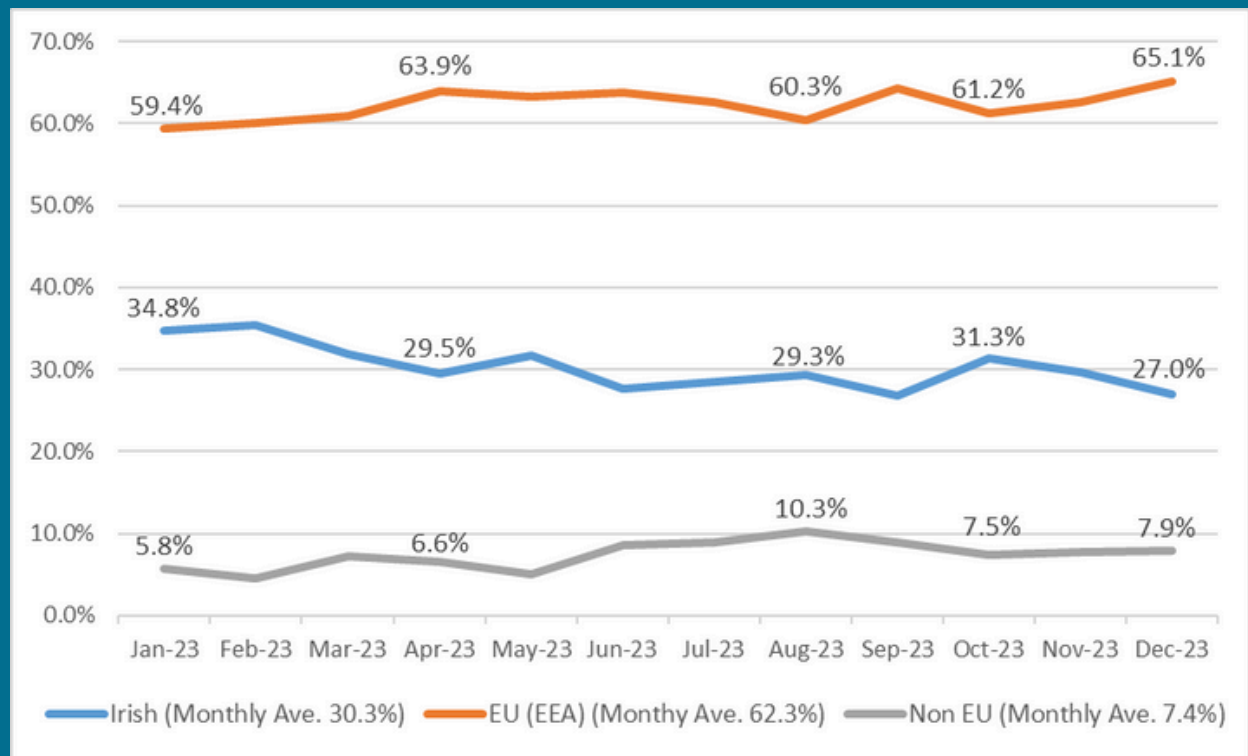


## 4.4 Young parents aged 18-24 years with a partner aged 25+ years

A small proportion of young people aged 18-24 years accessing EA (11%) were young parents with a partner aged 25 years or older. Of this cohort, 91.7% were female, with the remaining 9.2% being male.

Citizenship analysis shows that a majority (62.3%) were of EU (EEA) citizenship, followed by those with Irish citizenship (30.3%) and, lastly, those with non-EU citizenship (7.4%).

Figure 16 Young parents aged 18-24 years with a partner aged 25+ years accessing EA



## 4.5 Summary

Analysis of young people aged 18-24 years accessing EA as a family unit uncovered considerable diversity in the composition of these households. Two distinct sub-groups were identified: a) young people who were adult dependents living with a parent(s) and; b) young people who were themselves parents.

Of those adult dependents living with a parent(s), 29.3% lived in one-parent families and 22.6% in two-parent families. Young people who are themselves parents comprised 48.1% of those accessing EA as a family unit and belonged to one of the following household types:

- Young couples, aged 18-24 years (21.6%)
- Young one-parent households, aged 18-24 years (15.6%)
- Young couples, one parent aged 18-24 years and one parent aged 25+ years (10.9%)

Young one-parent households were mainly Irish, at over 70% and, likewise, a majority of young couples with children were Irish, at 51.6%. Notably, the proportion of youth with EU (EEA) citizenship increased during the last two months of 2023 and surpassed those with Irish citizenship. There were no young people with non-EU citizenship in this cohort. Young parents with a partner 25 years or older were mainly female (91.7%) and mostly of EU (EEA) citizenship (62.3%).



## 5.0 New Entries to EA: Youth Aged 18-24 Years, 2023

This section examines new entries to EA for young people aged 18-24 years in 2023. The data presented in Sections 3 and 4 strongly suggest that homeless youth in the age

range 18-24 years are not a homogenous group. Analysis also indicates diversity among new entrants to the homeless service system in 2023.

### 5.1 Young people entering homelessness for the first time, 2023

As the data presented in Table 5 indicates, 758 young people aged 18-24 years entered homelessness for the first time in the Dublin region in 2023 from a variety of household

types. A majority (56.7%) were single young adults while 25.8% were parents and the remaining 17.4% were adult dependents living with a parent(s).

Table 5: New 18–24-year-old entrants to EA, 2023

Household Type	New 18–24-year-olds	%
Singles	430	56.7%
Adult Dependents	132	17.4%
One-Parent Households	89	11.7%
Couples with Children	82	10.8%
Young Parents, aged 18-24 years, with a Partner aged 25+ years	25	3.3%
<b>Total New 18–24-year-olds</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 5.1.1 18–24-year-olds entering EA, 2023: Gender

Of the 758 young adults entering EA, 51.1% were male and 48.9% were female. Table 6 presents new entries for each household type by gender. Males entering EA for the first time in 2023 tended to belong to single

and adult dependent households. It is noteworthy that almost all one-parent households entering EA were headed by a single female (98.9%).

Table 6: 18–24-year-olds entering EA, 2023: Gender

Household Composition	Male as % of Household Composition	Female as % of Household Composition	Total by Household Composition
Singles	64.0%	36.0%	430
Adult Dependents	51.5%	48.5%	132
One-Parent Households	1.1%	98.9%	89
Couples with Children	50.0%	50.0%	82
Young Parents, aged 18-24 years, with a Partner aged 25+	8.0%	92.0%	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>758</b>
<b>Gender Percentage</b>	<b>51.1%</b>	<b>48.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>



### 5.1.2 18–24-year-olds entering EA, 2023: Citizenship

Citizenship analysis shows that a majority of newly homeless youth in 2023 had Irish citizenship (53.4%), with the remaining young people split between those with non-EU (26.5%) and EU (EEA) (20.1%) citizenship.

Table 7: 18–24-year-olds entering EA, 2023: Citizenship

Citizenship	New 18–24-year-olds	%
Irish	405	53.4%
Non-EU	201	26.5%
EU (EEA)	152	20.1%
Total	758	100%

### 5.1.3 18–24-year-olds entering EA, 2023: Age

A majority of new entries were in the age range 20–24 years (73.3%), with the remaining 26.7% being teenagers aged 18 or 19 years. Teenagers were mostly singles and adult dependents (82.8%), with far fewer being parents (17.2%). Among those aged 20 years and older, 71% were singles and adult dependents while the remaining 29% were parents. Overall, a majority of all 18–24-year-olds entering EA for the first time were singles or adult dependents (562 or 74.1%), with the remaining 196 (25.9%) being parents.

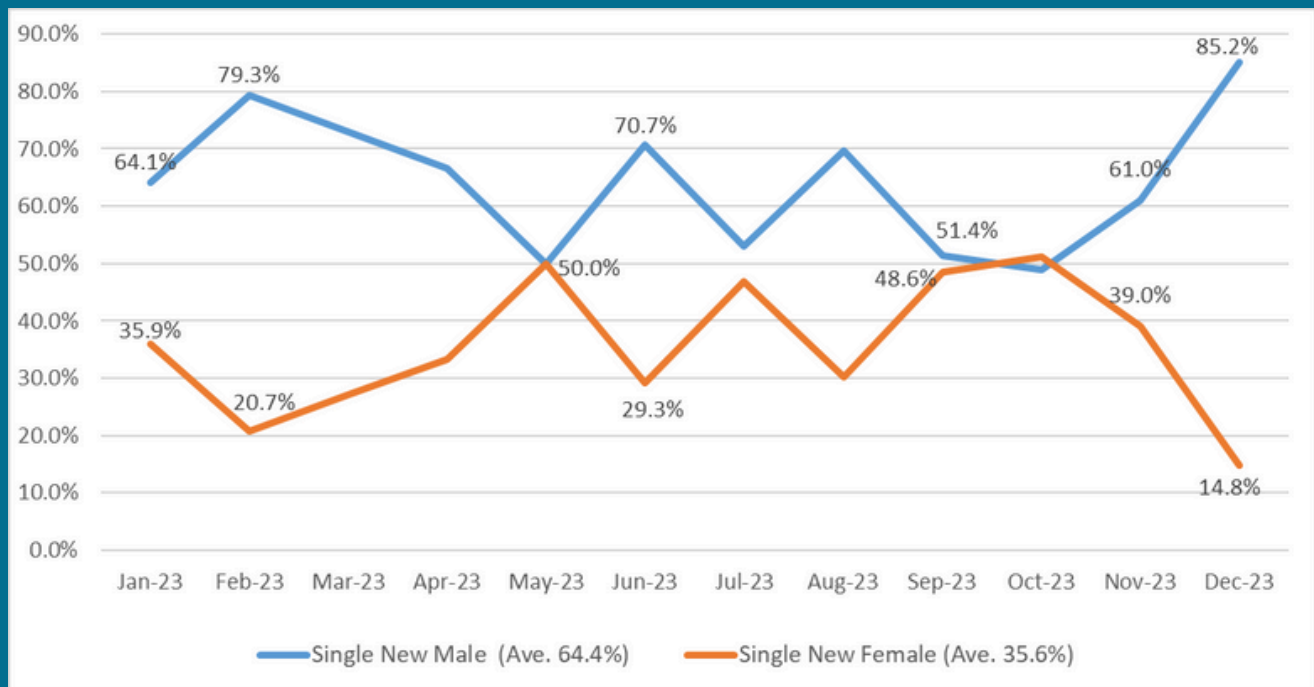
Table 8: 18–24-year-olds entering EA, 2023: Age

Age Breakdown	Singles	Adult Dependents	One-Parent Households	Couples with Children	Part of a Couple 25+	Total	%
18	46	46	3	12	1	108	14.2%
19	43	33	7	11	1	95	12.5%
20	49	19	15	10	2	95	12.5%
21	58	12	14	15	2	101	13.3%
22	75	9	13	16	14	127	16.8%
23	90	7	18	9	5	129	17.0%
24	69	6	19	9	0	103	13.6%
Total	430	132	89	82	25	758	100%
Household Type %	56.7%	17.4%	11.7%	10.8%	3.3%	100%	

## 5.2 New singles aged 18–24 years, 2023

As detailed above, a majority (430 or 56.7%) of new entries to homelessness services among 18–24-year-olds were single young people. These new entries were dominated by young men, at an average of 64.4% compared to young women at 35.6%. This gender profile mirrors that for all singles accessing EA each month in 2023 for the age group 18–24 years (see Section 3.2).

Figure 17: New singles aged 18-24 years accessing EA, 2023: Gender



### 5.2.1 New singles aged 18-24 years entering EA: Age and Gender

Of the 430 new singles in the age range 18-24 years who entered homelessness for the first time in 2023, 89 (20.7%) were

teenagers aged 18 or 19 years. A majority of these teenagers were male (56.2%), with the remainder (43.8%) being female.

Table 9: New singles aged 18-24 years, 2023: Age and Gender

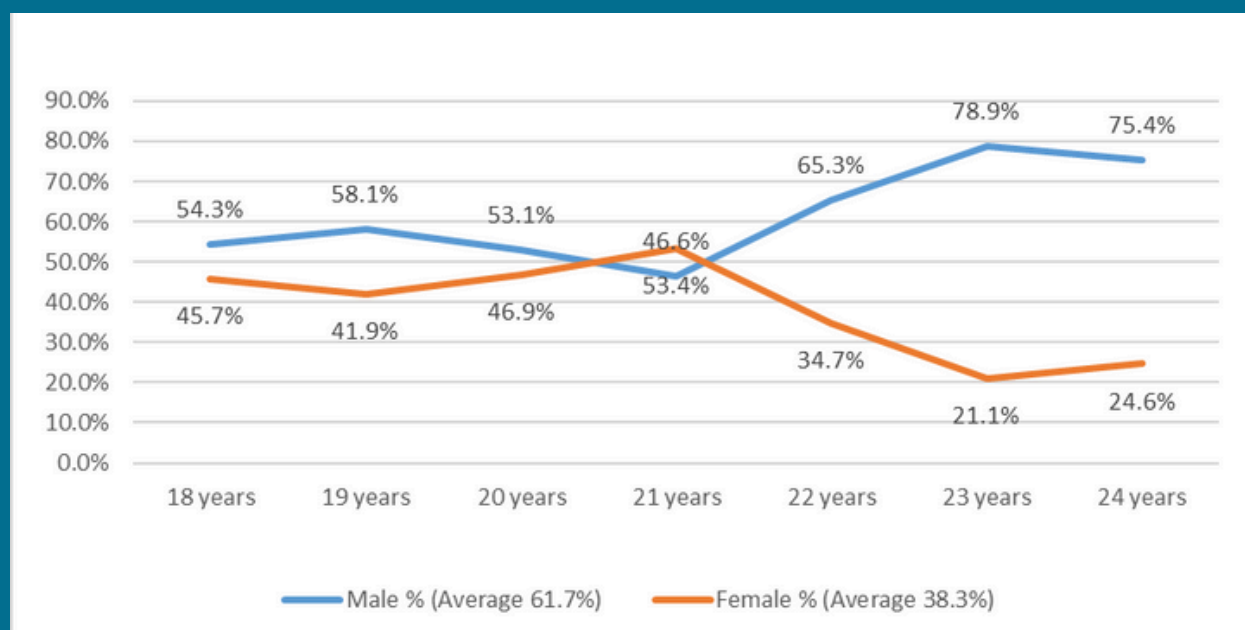
Age	Male	Female	Total New Singles	%
18 years	25	21	46	10.7%
19 years	25	18	43	10.0%
20 years	26	23	49	11.4%
21 years	27	31	58	13.5%
22 years	49	26	75	17.4%
23 years	71	19	90	20.9%
24 years	52	17	69	16.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Gender %</b>	<b>64.0%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Overall, in each year group (from 18 to 24 years), male new singles outnumbered females. However, for those aged 21 years, 53.4% were female and 46.6% were males.

Conversely, those aged 23 and 24 years who entered homelessness for the first time were primarily male. Figure 18 presents the new single entries by age and gender.



Figure 18: Percentage of new singles aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023: Age and Gender

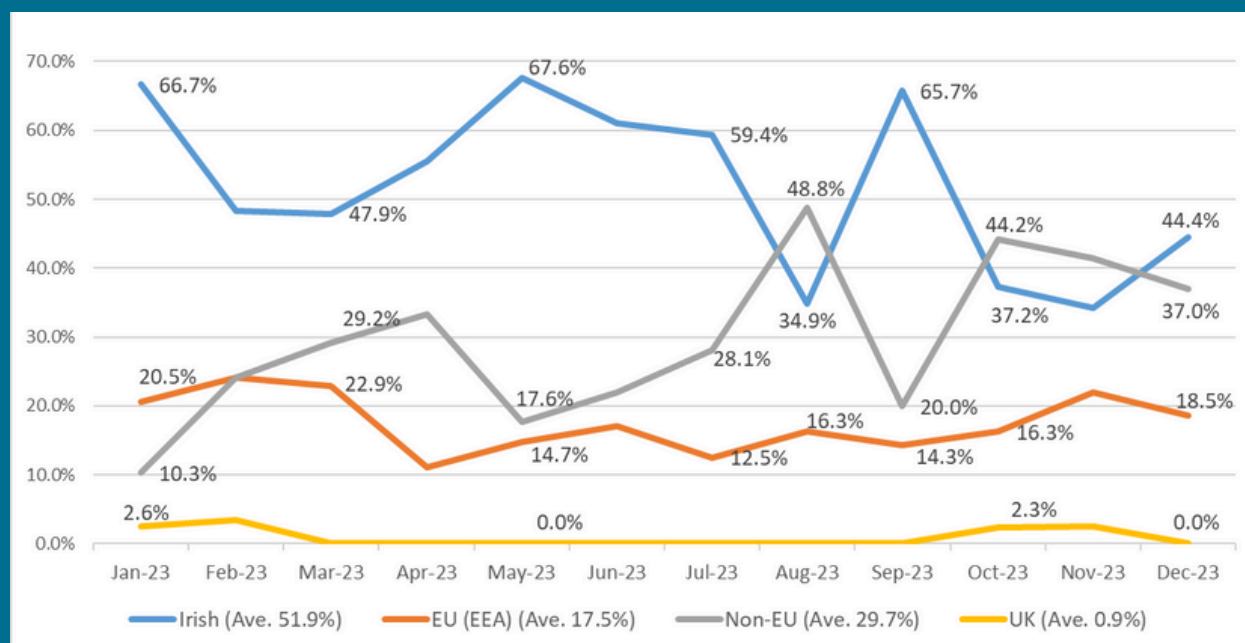


### 5.2.2 New singles aged 18-24 years entering EA: Citizenship

While young people with Irish citizenship entering homelessness for the first time are in the majority at an average of 51.9% during 2023, an upward trend in the

number with non-EU citizenship entering EA for the first time is evident, with the average percentage for the year being 30%.

Figure 19: New singles aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023: Citizenship



## 5.3 New Young People Entering EA as a Family Unit

As demonstrated in Section 4, young people accessing EA as a family unit differed in terms of household composition. Here we examine new entries to homelessness services for those entering as a family unit

according to the two distinct sub-groups identified: a) young people who are adult dependents living with a parent(s) and; b) young people who are themselves parents.

### 5.3.1 Adult Dependents aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023

Section 5.1 (Table 5) indicated that the second largest cohort of 18-24-year-olds entering homelessness in 2023 were adult dependents (132 or 17.4%). These adult dependents entered EA as part of a family unit with a parent(s). The figures presented in Table 10 indicate that a majority (68 or

51.5%) were female and the remainder (64 or 48.5%) were male. Citizenship analysis shows that a majority of adult dependents (50.0%) were non-EU, followed by 38.6% with Irish citizenship and 11.4% with EU (EEA) citizenship.

Table 10: Adult dependents aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023: Gender and Citizenship

Adult Dependents Citizenship	Male	Female	Total	Citizenship %
Irish	27	24	51	38.6%
EU (EEA)	5	10	15	11.4%
Non-EU	32	34	66	50.0%
Total	64	68	132	100%
Gender %	48.5%	51.5%	100%	

### 5.3.2 Young parents aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023

A further 196 youths or 25.9% of all new young people aged 18-24 years entering EA were parents (see Section 5.1, Table 5). Gender analysis shows that the majority (77.6%) were female, with 22.4% being

male. Analysis by citizenship indicates that 68.4% of the young parents had Irish citizenship, while 28.1% and 3.6% had EU (EEA) and non-EU citizenship, respectively.

Table 11: Young parents aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023: Gender and Citizenship

Young Parents Citizenship	Male	Female	Total	Citizenship %
Irish	22	112	134	68.4%
EU (EEA)	20	35	55	28.1%
Non-EU	2	5	7	3.6%
Total	44	152	196	100%
Gender %	22.4%	77.6%	100%	



## 5.4 Summary

A total of 758 young adults aged 18-24 years entered EA for the first time in the Dublin region in 2023. Of these, 51.1% were male, 48.9% female, while 26.7% were teenagers aged 18 or 19 years. Analysis of household composition reveals diversity similar to that outlined in Sections 3 and 4, with a majority (56.7%) being single. Parents accounted for 25.8% and the remaining young people (17.4%) were

adult dependents. Singles were again dominated by males (64.4%). While 51.9% held Irish citizenship, there was evidence of an upward trend in the number of young people with non-EU citizenship accessing EA for the first time. Young people entering EA as a family unit were either adult dependents or young parents, with a majority of young parents being female (77.6%).



## 6.0 Reasons for Homelessness

This section presents an analysis of the reasons reported by young people for their homelessness at the point of presenting to homelessness services *for the first time* in 2023. In other words, it relates to new entries to homelessness among youth aged 18-24 years. Reasons for homelessness need to be understood in the context in which homelessness occurs, meaning that the

household composition is important. A majority of the young people (97%) identified a reason for their homelessness. As indicated in Table 12, the main driver of homelessness for all young people was relationship breakdown with a parent at 27.8%, which increases to 36.5% when conflict with other family members, partners and family circumstances is included.



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<sup>7</sup> The term 'newly arrived from abroad' indicates individuals who present to homelessness services seeking accommodation having arrived in Ireland up to six months previously.

<sup>8</sup> Notice of Termination (NOT) is a document served by a landlord to a tenant indicating the legal ending of a tenancy.

Table 12: Reasons for homelessness for all 18–24-year-olds entering EA, 2023

Reason for Homelessness	Total	Reason as %
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	204	27.8%
Overcrowding	96	13.1%
Leaving Direct Provision	65	8.8%
Newly Arrived from Abroad <sup>7</sup> - Less than 6 months	46	6.3%
NOT <sup>8</sup> - Property to be Sold	42	5.7%
Family Reunification	36	4.9%
Leaving State Care Services	25	3.4%
Relationship Breakdown - Other Family Member	22	3.0%
Family Circumstance - Other	21	2.9%
Relationship Breakdown - Partner	21	2.9%
Insufficient Funds/Affordability of P.R	20	2.7%
NOT – Landlord’s Own or Family House	17	2.3%
Domestic Violence	16	2.2%
Left Informal Tenancy	15	2.0%
Irish Resident Returning from Abroad	13	1.8%
NOT - Rent Arrears	8	1.1%
NOT - Unknown	8	1.1%
No Income Source	6	0.8%
Presenting from outside Dublin Region	6	0.8%
Release from General Hospital	6	0.8%
NOT - Unsuitable Accommodation	5	0.7%
Rough Sleeper	5	0.7%
NOT - Substantial Renovations	4	0.5%
Release from Prison	4	0.5%
Victim of Anti-Social Behaviour	4	0.5%
NOT – Anti-Social Behaviour	3	0.4%
NOT - Landlord Bankrupt/Receivership	3	0.4%
NOT - New Part 4 Tenancy	3	0.4%
Illegal Eviction	2	0.3%
Release from Psychiatric Care	2	0.3%
NOT - Other - Property Uninhabitable (Flooding/Fire)	2	0.3%
Asked to Leave Accommodation	1	0.1%
Humanitarian Grounds	1	0.1%
Leaving Addiction Treatment	1	0.1%
Mental Health Problems	1	0.1%
Property Repossessed	1	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>No Reason on PASS</i>	23	3.0%
<b>All 18–24-Year-Olds</b>	<b>758</b>	

## 6.1 Reasons for homelessness: New singles, 18-24 years

The reasons for homelessness for new singles aged 18-24 years are presented in Table 13 by gender. Relationship breakdown in family settings is indicated as the main cause for homelessness for both single males and females in the age group 18-24 years who entered homelessness for the first time in 2023. This is followed by leaving Direct Provision and overcrowding. Thereafter, for

males, newly arrived from abroad, insufficient funds and leaving State care are among the top six reasons for their homelessness. For single females, leaving State care was the fourth most commonly reported reason for homelessness, followed by domestic violence and newly arrived from abroad.





Table 13: Reasons for homelessness: 18–24-year-old singles entering EA, 2023

Reason for Homelessness: Single Males & Females	Male – Reason as % of all males	Female – Reason as % of all females	Grand Total
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	22.5%	28.4%	106
Leaving Direct Provision	13.5%	14.8%	60
Overcrowding	12.0%	12.3%	52
Newly Arrived to Ireland - Less than 6 months	8.0%	4.5%	29
Leaving State Care Services	5.8%	5.8%	25
Insufficient Funds/Affordability of P.R	6.5%	1.3%	20
No Assessment Complete	5.1%	3.2%	19
Family Circumstance - Other	3.6%	3.9%	16
Relationship Breakdown - Other Family Member	2.2%	4.5%	13
Left Informal Tenancy	2.9%	1.9%	11
Relationship Breakdown - Partner	2.5%	2.6%	11
Family Reunification	2.2%	1.9%	9
Domestic Violence	0.0%	4.5%	7
NOT - Property to be Sold	1.8%	1.3%	7
Irish Resident Returning from Abroad	2.2%	0.0%	6
Presenting from Outside Dublin Region	2.2%	0.0%	6
Release from General Hospital	1.8%	0.6%	6
Rough Sleeper	1.5%	0.6%	5
No Income Source	0.7%	0.6%	3
NOT - Landlords Own or Family House	0.0%	1.3%	2
NOT - New Part 4 Tenancy	0.4%	0.6%	2
NOT - Rent Arrears	0.4%	0.6%	2
NOT – Unknown	0.0%	1.3%	2
Release from Prison	0.7%	0.0%	2
Release from Psychiatric Care	0.7%	0.0%	2
Victim of Anti-Social Behaviour	0.0%	1.3%	2
Asked to Leave Accommodation	0.0%	0.6%	1
Placed on Humanitarian Grounds	0.0%	0.6%	1
Mental Health Problems	0.0%	0.6%	1
NOT - Anti-Social Behaviour	0.4%	0.0%	1
Property Repossessed	0.4%	0.0%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>430</b>

### 6.1.1 Reasons for homelessness: new singles, 18-19 years

A sub-group of the new singles in 2023, which totalled 430, were teenagers. This sub-group, aged 18-19 years, constituted 20.7% (or 89) of the total number of new singles. Analysis of the reasons for their homelessness at the point of entry to the

homeless service sector shows that relationship breakdown in family settings and exits from State care are the two primary drivers of homelessness for this younger age group, as observed in Table 14.

Table 14: Reasons for homelessness: Single teenagers aged 18-19 years entering EA, 2023

Reason for Homelessness: 18-19-year-olds	Total	%
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	30	33.7%
Leaving State Care Setting	18	20.2%
Newly Arrived in Ireland – Less than Six Months	9	10.1%
Overcrowding	8	9.0%
Leaving Direct Provision	7	7.9%
No Assessment (Did not Engage)	5	5.6%
Domestic Violence	3	3.4%
Family Reunification	2	2.2%
Family Circumstance	1	1.1%
Release from General Hospital	1	1.1%
Returning from Abroad	1	1.1%
Presenting from Outside Dublin Region	1	1.1%
Release from Prison	1	1.1%
Rough Sleeper	1	1.1%
Victim of Anti-Social Behaviour	1	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 6.2 Reasons for homelessness: Adult dependents aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023

Adult dependents in the age group 18-24 years accounted for 17.4% of all young people entering homelessness for the first time. The reasons for their homelessness reflect the reason reported by the parent(s) of that family unit at the point of entry. Notice of Termination (NOT) due to the sale

of the rental property was the leading cause for homelessness for this group. When NOTs served due to landlords requiring the property for their own use are included (10.6%), these 'no tenant fault' tenancy terminations become the dominant cause for homelessness for the group, at 33.3%.



Table 15: Reasons for homelessness for adult dependents entering EA, 2023

Reason for Homelessness: Adult Dependents	Total	%
NOT - Property to be Sold	30	22.7%
Family Reunification	25	18.9%
NOT - Property for Landlord's Own Use	14	10.6%
Overcrowding	10	7.6%
Newly Arrived in Ireland – Less than Six Months	7	5.3%
Irish Resident Returning from Abroad	5	3.8%
NOT - Rent Arrears	5	3.8%
Relationship Breakdown - Partner	5	3.8%
NOT - Substantial Renovations	4	3.0%
NOT - Unknown	4	3.0%
Relationship Breakdown - Other Family Member	4	3.0%
Left Informal Tenancy	3	2.3%
NOT - Landlord Bankrupt/Receivership	3	2.3%
NOT - Unsuitable Accommodation	3	2.3%
Domestic Violence	2	1.5%
Leaving Direct Provision	2	1.5%
Family Circumstances - Other	1	0.8%
No Reason on PASS	1	0.8%
NOT - Anti-Social Behaviour	1	0.8%
NOT - New Part 4 Tenancy	1	0.8%
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	1	0.8%
Victim of Anti-Social Behaviour	1	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 6.3 Reasons for homelessness: One-parent households aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023

The main reason for homelessness provided by the 89 one-parent households aged 18-24 years who entered EA for the first time

was relationship breakdown with a parent (57.3%). This was followed by domestic violence (7.9%) and overcrowding (7.9%).



Table 16: Reasons for homelessness for one-parent households aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023

Reason for Homelessness: One-Parent Households	Total	%
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	51	57.3%
Domestic Violence	7	7.9%
Overcrowding	7	7.9%
Relationship Breakdown - Partner	5	5.6%
Newly Arrived in Ireland – Less than Six Months	3	3.4%
No Reason on PASS	3	3.4%
Relationship Breakdown - Other Family Member	3	3.4%
Family Circumstances - Other	2	2.2%
NOT - Unknown	2	2.2%
Leaving Addiction Treatment	1	1.1%
Leaving Direct Provision	1	1.1%
NOT - Other - Property Uninhabitable (Flooding)	1	1.1%
NOT - Other - Property Destroyed by Fire	1	1.1%
NOT - Property to be Sold	1	1.1%
Victim of Anti-Social Behaviour	1	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>





## 6.4 Reasons for homelessness: Couples (with children) aged 18-24 years entering EA, 2023

A total of 82 young parents, making up 41 couples in the age group 18-24 years, entered EA. The group represented 10.8% of all first time entries in this age range

during 2023. Relationship breakdown with a parent (41.5%) and overcrowding (29.3%) were the main causes of their homelessness. All other reasons were below 8%.

Table 17: Reasons for homelessness for couples (with children) aged 18-24 years old entering EA, 2023

Reason for Homelessness: Couples with Children	Total	%
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	17	41.5%
Overcrowding	12	29.3%
Newly Arrived in Ireland – Less than Six Months	3	7.3%
Family Circumstances - Other	1	2.4%
Illegal Eviction	1	2.4%
Irish Resident Returning from Abroad	1	2.4%
Leaving Direct Provision	1	2.4%
No Income Source	1	2.4%
NOT - Property to be Sold	1	2.4%
NOT - Unsuitable Accommodation	1	2.4%
Relationship Breakdown – Other Family Member	1	2.4%
Release from Prison	1	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 6.5 Reasons for homelessness: 18-24 year olds entering EA with Partner 25+ years

A small percentage (3.3% or 25 young people) were part of a couple with a partner who was 25+ years when they entered homelessness during 2023. Conflict with parents was also the main reason for

homelessness cited by these young people (48.0%). All other reasons had fewer than five presentations each and represented 12% or less of all reasons for this group.



Table 18: Reasons for homelessness for 18-24 year olds part of a couple (Partner 25+) entering EA, 2023

Reason for Homelessness: Part of a Couple (Partner 25+)	Total	%
Relationship Breakdown - Parent	12	48.0%
Overcrowding	3	12.0%
Family Reunification	2	8.0%
NOT - Property to be Sold	2	8.0%
Left Informal Tenancy	1	4.0%
Newly Arrived from Abroad - Less than Six Months	1	4.0%
No Income Source	1	4.0%
NOT – Anti-Social Behaviour	1	4.0%
NOT – Landlords Own or Family House	1	4.0%
NOT - Rent Arrears	1	4.0%
Total	25	100%

## 6.6 Summary

Analysis of reasons for homelessness by sub-groups who entered homelessness for the first time in 2023 shows that relationship breakdown in family settings was the dominant cause of homelessness for most groups with the exception of adult dependents. For adult dependents who became homeless with their parent(s), the main reasons cited were no-fault Notices of Termination (NOT) served due to either the sale of property by a landlord or the

landlord requiring the property for their own use. For all groups, there were other reasons cited, including but not limited to family reunification, overcrowding, exiting Direct Provision, leaving State care and domestic violence. For 18 and 19 year-olds entering homelessness for the first time, the dominant reasons for their homelessness included relationship breakdown and leaving State care.



## 7.0 Homelessness Prevention and Exits from Homelessness

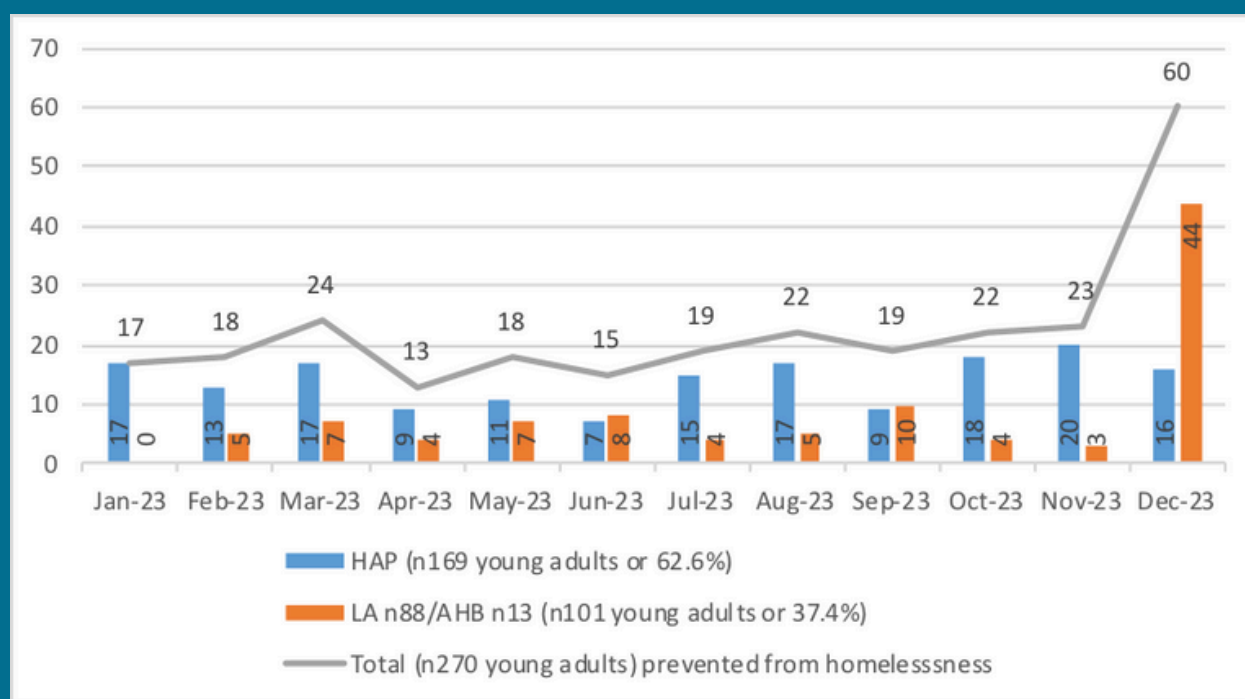
This final section presents data on the prevention of homelessness among youth aged 18-24 years in 2023 and also examines exits from homelessness during that year.

### 7.1 Homelessness prevention among 18–24-year-olds

A core aim of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive is to prevent homelessness from occurring in the first instance, where possible, by housing individuals who are at risk of homelessness. A total of 270 young people who made contact with their local authority were prevented from entering homelessness in 2023. Of these, 64 were single, 82 were young parents, while a

majority (124) were adult dependents in a family unit. The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) was the main route of prevention for 62.6% of these young people. Figure 20 details the number of homelessness preventions through the provision of housing for the 270 young people who were at risk of homelessness.

Figure 20: 18–24-year-olds prevented from homelessness through housing, 2023

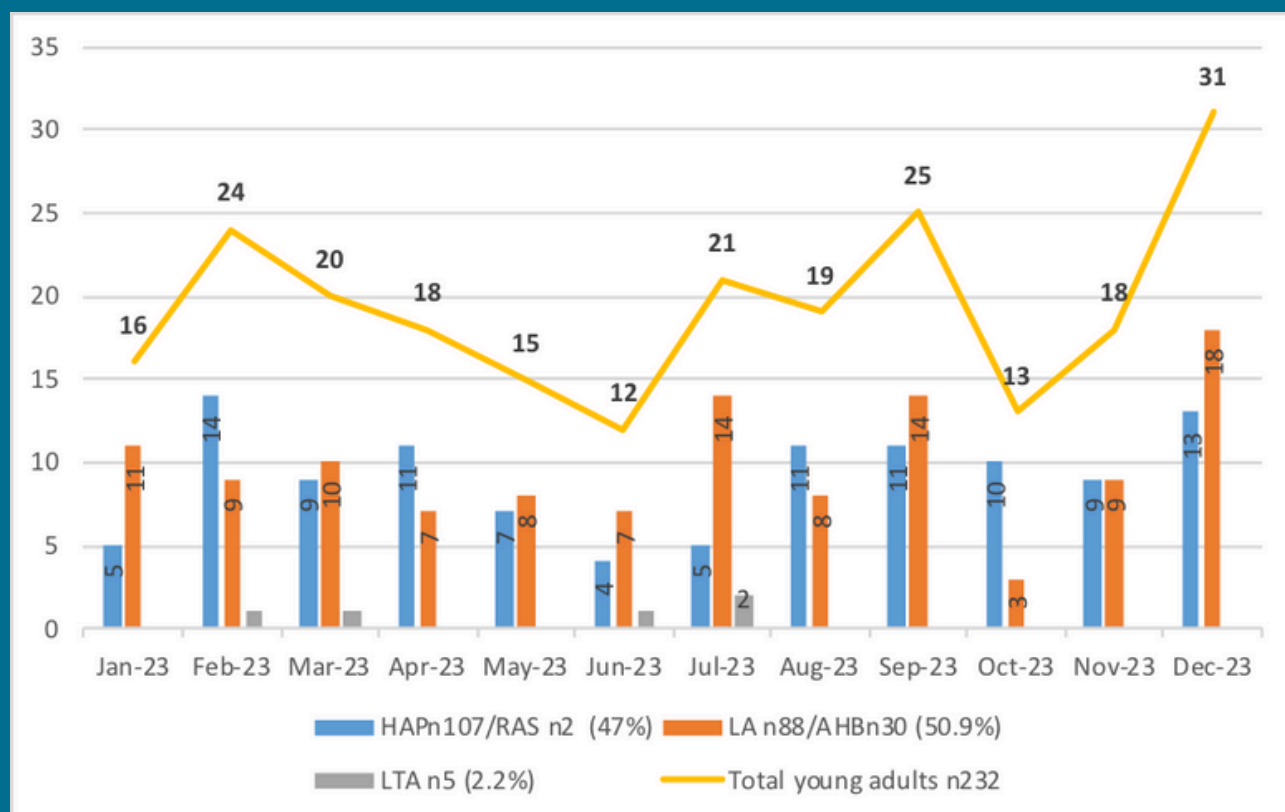


### 7.2 Exits from emergency accommodation among 18–24-year-olds

Where homelessness occurs, efforts are made to ensure that individuals are accommodated in suitable emergency accommodation with supports to enable progression to secure housing. A total of 232 young people aged 18-24 years successfully exited emergency

accommodation to housing in 2023. Of these, 91 were adult dependents in a family unit, 88 were young parents, while 53 were single. Just over half (50.9%) of all young people who exited secured social housing. Figure 21 presents exits to housing by tenancy type.

Figure 21: 18–24-year-olds exiting emergency accommodation to a tenancy, 2023



## 7.3 Summary

The data presented indicate that a larger number of young people aged 18-24 years were prevented from entering homelessness (270) than exited homelessness to secure housing (232) in 2023. Among those who

exited homelessness, 47.0% availed of the HAP, with a slightly higher percentage (50.9%) exiting to local authority or Approved Housing Body housing.



## 8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

This final section discusses a number of key findings related to gender, citizenship, diversity within family units, new entries to

homelessness, the reasons for young people's homelessness and homelessness prevention and homeless exits.

### 8.1 Gender

Of the total number of youth aged 18-24 years who accessed EA in 2023, 52.1% were male and 47.9% were female. Young women are therefore strongly represented in the total homeless youth population, a picture that contrasts with dominant images and discourses that frequently assume that males far outnumber females among individuals who experience homelessness.<sup>9</sup>

Analysis of young people accessing EA as singles *versus* those accessing EA as a family unit uncovered clear gender disparities, with males representing 64.4% in the singles cohort and females having similar representation in the family unit cohort, at

60%. This contrasting picture for young males and females is significant and indicates that young men are at heightened risk for homelessness as single (unaccompanied) young people, with young women at higher risk for homelessness as part of a family unit.

These findings are important since it is increasingly recognised that homeless experiences and trajectories are differentiated by gender<sup>10</sup>, meaning that gender has implications for policies and interventions designed to prevent homelessness, on the one hand, and to facilitate exits from homelessness, on the other.

### 8.2 Citizenship

For all young people aged 18-24 years who accessed EA in 2023, a monthly average of 52.9% held Irish citizenship, while 22.5% and 24.2% held EU (EEA) and non-EU citizenship, respectively. These figures signal a noteworthy shift in that youth with Irish citizenship only marginally outnumber those holding EU (EEA) and non-EU citizenship.

These proportions alter to some extent when figures for single *versus* family units are considered. Among single young

people, 57.1% were Irish citizens, 25.8% were non-EU citizens, 16.7% were EU (EEA) citizens, while 0.2% were from the UK. Of particular note is the significant increase in the number of non-EU singles in this age group during the year 2023, which rose by over ten percentage points (from 21.5% to 31.9%). For young people accessing EA as a family unit, 48.8% held Irish citizenship, 28.0% were EU (EEA) citizens while 22.7% were non-EU citizens. These figures are summarised in Table 19.



<sup>9</sup> O'Sullivan, E., Benjaminsen, L., Busch-Geertsema, V., Filipovič Hrast, M., Pleace, N. & Teller, N. (2023) *Homelessness in the European Union*. Brussels: European Parliament.

<sup>10</sup> Mayock, P. & Bretherton, J. (Eds.) (2016) *Women's Homelessness in Europe*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. See also: Bretherton, J. & Mayock, P. (2021) *Women's Homelessness: European Evidence Review*. Brussels: FEANTSA. Available at: [https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/172737/1/FEANTSA\\_Women\\_s\\_Review.pdf](https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/172737/1/FEANTSA_Women_s_Review.pdf)



Table 19: Citizenship: Irish, EU (EEA) and Non-EU accessing EA, 2023

	Irish Citizenship	EU (EEA) Citizenship	Non-EU Citizenship	UK Citizenship	Total %
<u>All</u> Young People who accessed EA	52.9%	22.5%	24.2%	0.4%	100%
<u>Single</u> Young People who accessed EA	57.1%	16.7%	25.8%	0.2%	100%
Young People who Accessed EA as a <u>Family Unit</u>	48.8%	28.0%	22.7%	0.5%	100%

Thus, the available figures indicate that migrant youth currently account for a significant proportion of the overall population of young people aged 18-24 years experiencing homelessness in the Dublin region. This shift is consistent with emerging trends in countries throughout Europe. For example, 2019 data from the 35-country European Social Policy Network study of national homelessness policies found that while a majority of homeless individuals belonged to the national majority population in more than half of countries, others, including Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and Luxemburg, were recording ethnic minority groups as comprising a majority among at least some sectors of the homeless population (e.g. people sleeping rough)<sup>11</sup>. In a large number of European countries, migration is increasingly recognised as a structural driver of homelessness<sup>12</sup>.

Ireland's new Youth Homelessness Strategy, published in late 2022<sup>13</sup>, identifies six cohorts of young people – care leavers, people with disabilities, young parents, members of the Traveller community, members of the LGBTI+ community and individuals leaving prison services – as at heightened vulnerability for homelessness, with specific actions in the Strategy included to address their situations and needs. Citizenship has been examined in some detail in this report and the findings strongly suggest that migrant youth warrant recognition as a group at increased risk of homelessness and as requiring dedicated attention, resources and targeted interventions.



<sup>11</sup> Baptista, I., and Marlier, E. (2019) *Fighting Homelessness and Housing Exclusion in Europe: A Study of National Policies*. Brussels: European Commission. Available at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2dd1bd61-d834-11e9-9c4e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

<sup>12</sup> Hermans, K., Dyb, E., Knutagård, M., Novak-Zezula, S., and Trummer, U. (2020) Migration and homelessness: Measuring the intersections. *European Journal of Homelessness*, 14(3), 13-34.

<sup>13</sup> Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (2022) *Housing for All Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025*. Dublin: Government of Ireland. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/69597-youth-homelessness-strategy/>

## 8.3 Diversity within family units

This report's analysis has, for the first time, examined young people accessing EA as a family unit, uncovering further complexities in how we understand the landscape of youth homelessness. Young people accessing EA as a family unit constituted an average of 50.8% during 2023 and belonged to two household types: adult dependents, aged 18-24 years, living with a parent(s) and young people aged 18-24 years who were themselves parents. The former group of adult dependents were in a slight majority at 51.9%.

Further analysis indicated that those in adult dependent households, who comprised 51.9% of all young people accessing EA as a family unit, lived in either one-parent (29.3%) or two-parent (22.6%) families. Those young people who were themselves parents (48.1%) belonged to one of the following sub-groups: young couples aged 18-24 years (21.6%), lone parents (15.6%), or a young person aged 18-24 years with a partner who was over the age of 24 years (10.9%).

Thus, there is very considerable diversity in the cohort of young people accessing EA as a family unit, with roughly half being adult dependents living with a parent(s) and half themselves being parents. The experience and ramifications of homelessness for these two distinct sub-groups are likely to differ from those young people who are accessing EA as single individuals.

Young parents aged 18-24 years who are accessing EA might be expected to have particular age-related vulnerabilities associated with the demands of parenting in the absence of a stable home and the potential negative impacts of social isolation in the context of living in homelessness accommodation.

The data presented in this report on young adult dependents and young parents accessing emergency homelessness accommodation also raise concerning issues related to the phenomenon of *intergenerational homelessness*, whereby homelessness is experienced in recurrent generations of the same family. The identification of the two distinct sub-groups of youth experiencing homelessness as a family unit in effect draws sharp attention to how a cycle of homelessness can develop during periods spent living in emergency homelessness accommodation. Patterns of intergenerational homelessness have been documented in previous research on youth homelessness in the Irish context, as have their enduring negative impacts on young people<sup>14</sup>.

## 8.4 New entries to homelessness

There were 758 new entries to EA in 2023 among youth aged 18-24 years. A majority (56.7%) were single young people, with 25.8% being parents and 17.4% adult dependents living with a parent(s). Males entering homelessness for the first time were in a narrow majority at 51.1%. The citizenship breakdown was somewhat similar to that for all young people in the

18-24 year age range during 2023, with a majority having Irish citizenship (53.4%) and the remainder having non-EU (26.5%) or EU (EEA) (20.1%) citizenship. Mirroring the profile for all singles who accessed EA in 2023, new entries were dominated by males, at an average of 64%. Just over one-fifth of new entries to homelessness were teenagers aged 18 or 19 years.

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<sup>14</sup> Mayock, P., Parker, S. and Murphy, A. (2014) *Young People, Homelessness and Housing Exclusion*. Dublin: Focus Ireland. Available at: <https://www.focusireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Mayock-Parker-and-Murphy-2014-Young-People-Homelessness-and-Housing-Exclusion-FULL-BOOK.pdf>

## 8.5 Reasons for homelessness

While the reasons cited by young people for becoming homeless were strongly related to relationship breakdown with a parent or other family member, there is evidence of emerging new drivers of youth homelessness, including migrant-specific

challenges related to exiting Direct Provision. Among 18–19-year-olds, leaving care was the reason for homelessness cited by 20.2%, suggesting that the association between leaving care and homelessness continues to endure.

## 8.6 Homelessness prevention and exits from homelessness

A total of 270 young people aged 18-24 years were prevented from entering homelessness in 2023 following contact with their local authority because they were at risk of homelessness. Of these, a majority (n124) were adult dependents in a family unit, while 82 were young parents and 64

were single. Fewer young people exited emergency accommodation to housing in 2023. Of the 232 who exited, just over half (50.9%) secured social housing, while 47.0% availed of the Housing Assistance Payment.

## 8.7 Concluding comments

The findings presented in this report highlight that young people aged 18-24 years who experience homelessness are a diverse group who differ according to age, gender, citizenship, household composition and the reasons for their homelessness, all of which might be reasonably expected to impact how young people experience and navigate homeless service systems, their understanding of their situations, and their

ability to exit homeless service systems to secure, sustainable housing. The heterogeneity of the youth homelessness population warrants greater attention within policy, particularly in terms of guiding the development of targeted initiatives designed to prevent homelessness among young people, on the one hand, and to facilitate accelerated exit pathways to stable housing, on the other.



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