



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais agus Comhionannais
Department of Children, Disability and Equality

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STATISTICAL SPOTLIGHT

#17

Travellers in Ireland



**DATA +
ANALYTICS**



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Acknowledgements

The Department wishes to thank all colleagues who assisted in the collating of this Spotlight.

The challenges and barriers faced by those in the Traveller community and other underrepresented communities in Ireland should be noted. Whilst this Spotlight details some of the available data on the Traveller community, there are data limitations, due in part to small sample sizes. The availability of disaggregated data across a wider range of areas would enable a fuller understanding of the lives of the Traveller community, including the barriers faced.

1. Introduction

This Statistical Spotlight presents some key data on people who are members of the Traveller community in Ireland. Data sources include the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Census of Population 2022, the Department of Education and Youth, Solas, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and others.

This Spotlight provides a general overview of the Traveller community in Ireland, and it contains key information such as the number of Travellers in Ireland broken down by age and gender. It also provides an insight into several important aspects of the lives of Travellers such as their health, education or economic status.

The Department of Children, Disability, and Equality (DCDE) published the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II (NTRIS II) in July 2024.¹

The themes and actions included in NTRIS II aim to change attitudes and remediate inequalities for Travellers and Roma living in Ireland. NTRIS II has nine themes. Under each theme there are Strategic Outcomes and Objectives. Under Theme 9: Participation, Empowerment, Cooperation and Accountability, the sixth objective relates in particular to data collection and research:

- (i) Review systems of data collection and available research across all state-funded organisations, processes and systems relevant to the Traveller and Roma communities;
- (ii) to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (where it applies);
- (iii) to support the monitoring and evaluation of actions under NTRIS II and of services delivered to the Traveller and Roma communities; and for any gaps identified, propose ways to improve the quality of data collected, the variety of disaggregated data published, or new research, consistent with the upcoming National Equality Data Strategy.

¹ [National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II - gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/publication/national-traveller-and-roma-inclusion-strategy-ii/)

A previous Statistical Spotlight, published in April 2020, looked at data on Young Travellers in Ireland.² A further Statistical Spotlight on Roma in Ireland was published in December 2024.³

1.1 Defining Travellers

The Equal Status Act 2000 (s. 2) defines the Irish Traveller community:

“Traveller community” means the community of people who are commonly called Travellers and who are identified (both by themselves and others) as people with a shared history, culture and traditions including, historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland.⁴

On the 1st of March 2017, in a statement by then Taoiseach Enda Kenny, the Irish state officially recognised the Traveller community as an ethnic group within Irish society.⁵ This recognition was a significant milestone in acknowledging and affirming the distinct cultural identity and heritage of the Traveller community in Ireland.

² DCDE Spotlight #4: [Young Travellers in Ireland](#)

³ DCDE Spotlight #14: [Roma in Ireland](#)

⁴ [Traveller culture and history research report - ncaa.ie](#)

⁵ [Dáil Éireann debate - Wednesday, 1 Mar 2017 Vol. 941 No.1](#)

2. Population Overview

2.1 Total population of Travellers in Ireland

In 2022 there were 32,949 Travellers in Ireland. This is an increase of 11.7% compared with 2011. The total population of Ireland increased from 4,588,252 to 5,149,139 over the same period, an increase of 12.2%, roughly in line with the increase in the Traveller population.

Table 1 Comparison of the Traveller population of Ireland in Census years 2011, 2016 and 2022 (Source: Census 2011; Census 2016; Census 2022)

Gender	2011	2016	2022	% of population in 2022
Male Travellers	14,582	15,377	16,172	0.3%
Female Travellers	14,913	15,610	16,777	0.3%
Total Travellers	29,495	30,987	32,949	0.6%

2.2 Travellers in Ireland as a percentage of the general population

According to Census 2022, fewer than 1% of the total population of Ireland were Travellers. The age range with the highest proportion of Travellers was 0-4 years at 1.26% while the age range with the lowest proportion of Travellers was those aged 85 years and over at 0.09%. Table 2 shows the Travellers age profile and the corresponding proportion seen in the Census years of 2011, 2016 and 2022 using the 2022 Census results as a baseline for comparison purposes.

Table 2 Travellers in Ireland by age group and gender as a % of the General Population of Ireland 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Age group	Travellers	General Population of Ireland (2022)	Travellers as % of General Population 2022	Travellers as % of General Population 2016	Travellers as % of General Population 2011
0 - 4 years	3,718	295,415	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
5 - 9 years	4,176	342,670	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
10 - 14 years	4,086	374,202	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%
15 - 19 years	3,352	337,628	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%

Age group	Travellers	General Population of Ireland (2022)	Travellers as % of General Population 2022	Travellers as % of General Population 2016	Travellers as % of General Population 2011
20 - 24 years	2,639	307,143	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%
25 - 29 years	2,331	295,808	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%
30 - 34 years	2,358	332,223	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
35 - 39 years	2,125	382,869	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
40 - 44 years	1,851	411,524	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
45 - 49 years	1,459	373,504	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
50 - 54 years	1,416	340,003	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
55 - 59 years	1,089	307,165	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
60 - 64 years	863	272,670	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
65 - 69 years	625	238,144	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
70 - 74 years	408	202,884	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
75 - 79 years	256	154,260	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
80 - 84 years	118	96,586	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
85 years and over	79	84,441	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Total	32,949	5,149,139	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%

2.3 Travellers in Ireland by age and gender

Of those who identified as members of the Traveller community in Census 2022, just under half were male, 16,172 (49%), and 16,777 (51%) were female. The general population in Ireland in Census 2022 reported that 49.4% were male and 50.6% were female.

A total of 17,971 Travellers were under 25 years of age, about 55% of the Traveller population in Ireland. In the general population 18% were under the age of 25 (Census 2022).

Only 1,486 Travellers were aged 65 years or older, or less than 5% of the Traveller population. This compares to 15.1% of the general population.

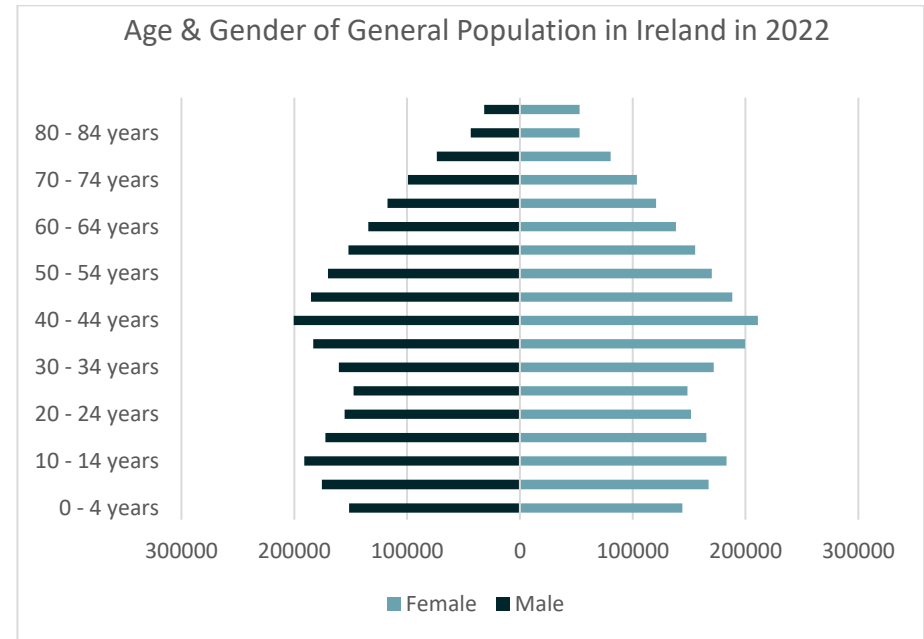
Data presented in figures 1 and 2 shows the age and gender profile of the Traveller population and the general population of Ireland. Table 3 provides a breakdown by age and gender of the Traveller population of Ireland from Census in 2022.

Table 3 Travellers in Ireland by age group and gender 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Age group	Male	Female	General Population of Ireland	Male Travellers as % of General Population	Female Travellers as % of General Population
0 - 4 years	1,897	1,821	295,415	0.6%	0.6%
5 - 9 years	2,141	2,035	342,670	0.6%	0.6%
10 - 14 years	2,087	1,999	374,202	0.6%	0.5%
15 - 19 years	1,701	1,651	337,628	0.5%	0.5%
20 - 24 years	1,299	1,340	307,143	0.4%	0.4%
25 - 29 years	1,151	1,180	295,808	0.4%	0.4%
30 - 34 years	1,085	1,273	332,223	0.3%	0.4%
35 - 39 years	988	1,137	382,869	0.3%	0.3%
40 - 44 years	857	994	411,524	0.2%	0.2%
45 - 49 years	687	772	373,504	0.2%	0.2%
50 - 54 years	647	769	340,003	0.2%	0.2%
55 - 59 years	516	573	307,165	0.2%	0.2%
60 - 64 years	396	467	272,670	0.1%	0.2%
65 - 69 years	310	315	238,144	0.1%	0.1%
70 - 74 years	204	204	202,884	0.1%	0.1%
75 - 79 years	127	129	154,260	0.1%	0.1%
80 - 84 years	43	75	96,586	0.0%	0.1%
85 years and over	36	43	84,441	0.0%	0.1%
Total	16,172	16,777	5,149,139	0.3%	0.3%



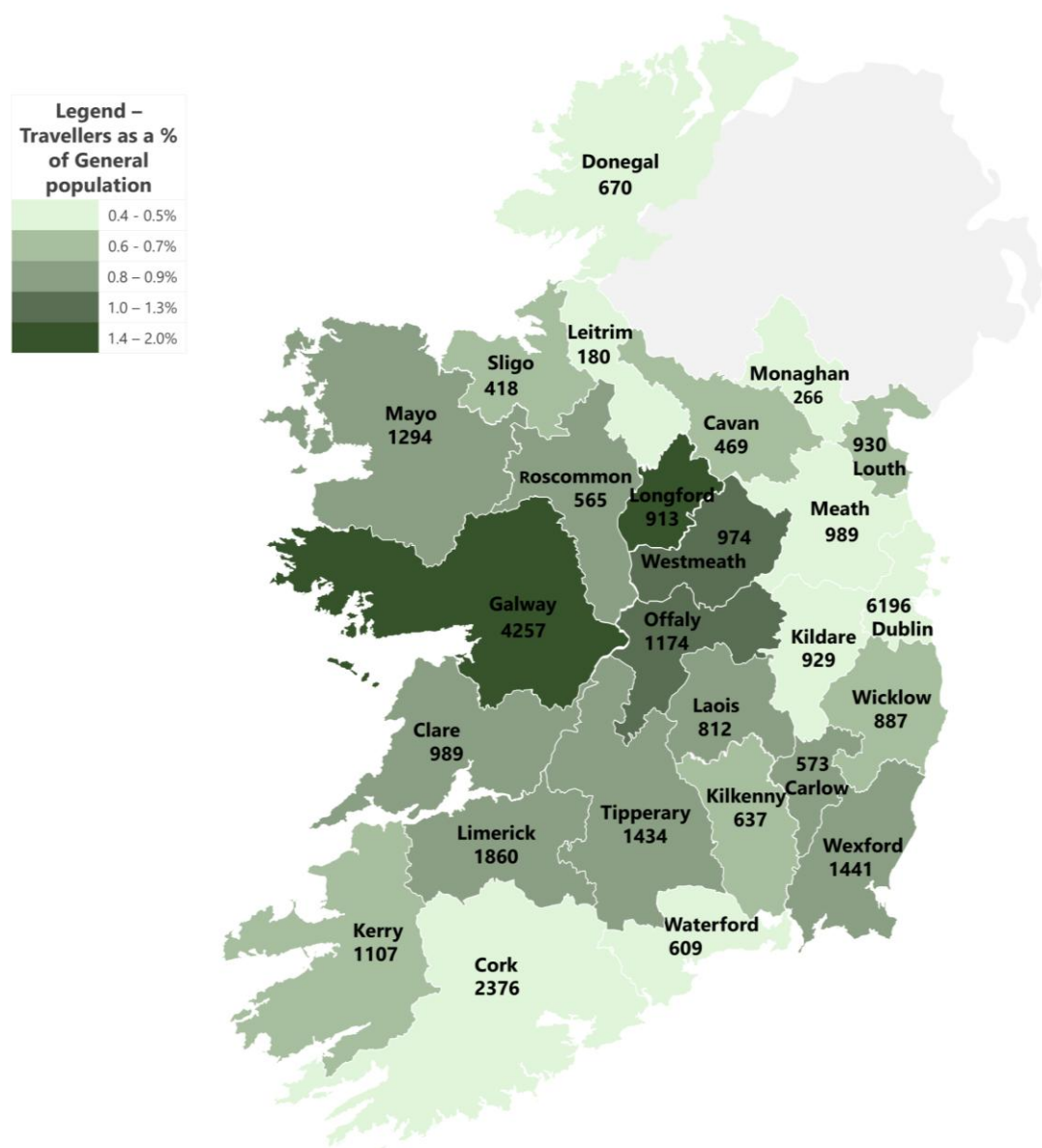
Figure 1 Travellers in Ireland in Census 2022 by age group and gender & Figure 2 General Population in Ireland in Census 2022 by age group and gender



3. Location

In 2022 the county in which the most Travellers (6,196) were living was Dublin, accounting for 19% of the total Traveller population of Ireland, and 0.4% of the general population of Dublin. The map below shows the distribution of Travellers as a % of the general population, going from light green (0.4-0.5%) to a darker green (1.4 – 2.0%). The actual population numbers are shown in each county for reference.

Figure 3 Travellers in Ireland by County 2022 (Source: Census 2022)



In contrast the county with the smallest population of Travellers was Leitrim where 180 Travellers were residing, or about only 0.5% of the Traveller population of Ireland, and 0.51% of the general population of Leitrim.⁶

There were 9 counties with a Traveller population over 1000 persons: Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Mayo, Offaly, Tipperary and Wexford. In total, 21,139 Travellers lived in these counties, or 64% of the Traveller population. Every other county in Ireland had less than 1,000 Travellers living there, totalling 11,810 people or 36% of the Traveller population.

The table below shows the number of Travellers residing in each county in 2022 as a percentage of the general population in each county. Although the highest number of Travellers lived in Dublin, the county with the highest proportion of Travellers was Longford where 2% of the population were Travellers. Co. Kildare reported the lowest proportion of Travellers (0.4%).

Table 4 Traveller population of each county as a % of the general population of the county 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

County	Travellers	General Population	Travellers as % of General Population
Carlow	573	61,968	0.9%
Cavan	469	81,704	0.6%
Clare	989	127,938	0.8%
Cork	2,376	584,156	0.4%
Donegal	670	167,084	0.4%
Dublin	6,196	1,458,154	0.4%
Galway	4,257	277,737	1.5%
Kerry	1,107	156,458	0.7%
Kildare	929	247,774	0.4%
Kilkenny	637	104,160	0.6%
Laois	812	91,877	0.9%
Leitrim	180	35,199	0.5%

⁶ Census of Population 2022 Profile 5 - Diversity, Migration, Ethnicity, Irish Travellers & Religion - CSO - Central Statistics Office



County	Travellers	General Population	Travellers as % of General Population
Limerick	1,860	209,536	0.9%
Longford	913	46,751	2.0%
Louth	930	139,703	0.7%
Mayo	1,294	137,970	0.9%
Meath	989	220,826	0.5%
Monaghan	266	65,288	0.4%
Offaly	1,174	83,150	1.4%
Roscommon	565	70,259	0.8%
Sligo	418	70,198	0.6%
Tipperary	1,434	167,895	0.9%
Waterford	609	127,363	0.5%
Westmeath	974	96,221	1.0%
Wexford	1,441	163,919	0.9%
Wicklow	887	155,851	0.6%
Total	32,949	5,149,139	0.6%

4. General Health Status

Health and Wellbeing is the fourth theme of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II and the strategic outcome for this theme is:

Travellers and Roma experience the highest attainable standard of health, mental health and wellbeing

This outcome is to be achieved through the pursuit of two strategic objectives:

1. Address the social determinants of Traveller and Roma health through a comprehensive public health response that provides tailored and affirmative measures to promote health and reduce inequalities, and that effectively implements the National Traveller Health Action Plan.
2. Improve Traveller and Roma mental health and wellbeing and combat mental health-related stigma. Improve awareness of mental health difficulties and improve access to services.⁷

Specific actions include the development of a two-year funding programme in collaboration with the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, to improve the long-term health and wellbeing of Travellers, and the delivery of a National Traveller Mental Health Implementation Plan.⁸

In Census 2022, approximately two thirds of the Traveller population in Ireland considered themselves to be healthy, with 22,050 (67%) saying that their general health was good or very good. This is significantly lower than the 83% of the general population of Ireland who said that their health was good or very good. Similar results were found in a 2024 Roma and Travellers survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA – Roma Survey 2024). The FRA surveyed 415 Travellers and 106 Roma, representing 1377 household members in Ireland during 2024 and published their results in 2025. In the FRA's survey, 64% of Irish Travellers stated

⁷ National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II 2024-2028: Executive Summary

⁸ National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II - gov.ie

that they were 'not limited at all' in their everyday activities due to health. Also in the 2024 FRA survey, 34% of Irish Traveller respondents stated that they had a 'long standing illness or health problem', while 66% stated that they did not.⁹

In the national Census, 1,350 (4%) of Travellers described their health as either bad or very bad, while just 1.7% of the general population described their health this way. In the FRA 2024 survey 10% of Irish Travellers described themselves as 'Severely limited' in their everyday activities due to health, with a further 26% describing themselves as 'limited but not severely'.

Regarding access to healthcare, the majority of Travellers responding to the 2021 (81%) and 2024 (93%) FRA surveys had accessed health care services in the previous 5 years. Of the respondents who had needed medical treatment in the past 12 months, 89% in 2021 and 84% in the 2024 survey had a medical examination or treatment every time they needed one. However, in the 2021 FRA survey 11% of those accessing medical care reported that they had experienced discrimination when accessing medical care in the previous 12 months, and 21% reported that they had experienced it in the previous 5 years.¹⁰ In the FRA's 2024 survey, 39% of Traveller respondents in Ireland reported that they felt discriminated against when accessing healthcare in the previous 12 months.¹¹

Of the 22,050 Travellers from Census 2022 who described their health as good or very good: 61.4% were aged 0 – 24 years, 36.3% were aged 25 – 64 and 2.3% were aged 65 years and over. Of the 1,350 Travellers who described their health as bad or very bad 14.7% were aged 0 – 24 years, 64.6% were aged 25 – 64 and 20.7% were aged 65 years and over.

Figure 4 General health status of Travellers by age group 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

⁹ Roma Survey 2024 – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

¹⁰ Roma and Travellers Survey 2021 – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

¹¹ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Roma and Traveller Survey – Country data Ireland- 2025

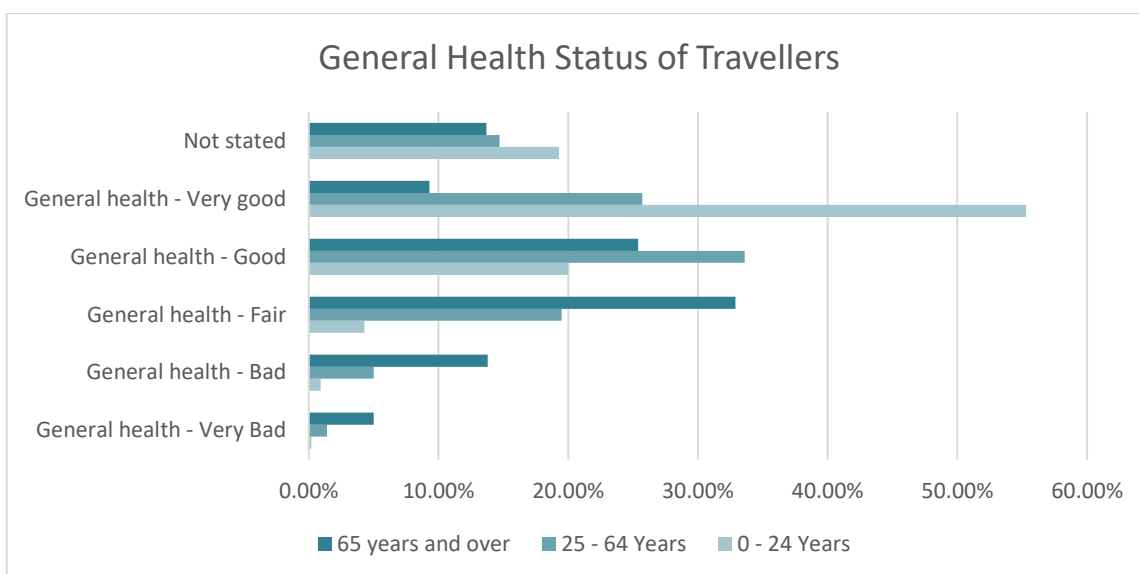


Table 5 Comparison of the general health status of the Traveller population and general population 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

General Health Status	Travellers	% of Traveller population	General population	% of General Population
General health - Very Bad	313	0.9%	16,843	0.3%
General health - Bad	1,037	3.1%	72,556	1.4%
General health - Fair	3,899	11.8%	444,895	8.6%
General health - Good	8,505	25.8%	1,527,027	29.7%
General health - Very good	13,545	41.1%	2,740,994	53.2%
Not stated	5,650	17.1%	346,824	6.7%
Total	32,949	100%	5,149,139	100%

Table 6 Irish Traveller responses to 'Limited in everyday activities due to health' 2021 and 2024 (Source: FRA 2021 & 2024) ¹²

Responses	2021	2024
Severely limited	5%	10%
Limited but not severely	24%	26%
Not limited at all	70%	64%
Don't know/Refused	1%	1%

¹² Roma and Travellers Survey 2021; Roma Survey 2024 – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

4.1 Smoker Status

According to Census 2022 approximately 20% of Travellers in Ireland at that time smoked either occasionally or daily. This figure was higher than the 13% of the general population of Ireland who stated that they smoked occasionally or daily.

- Of the 5,427 Travellers who smoked daily 1,365 (25%) were aged 35-44, the highest smoking rate of all age cohorts.
- Of the 2,876 Travellers who previously smoked but had since given it up, the largest age cohort was of people aged 35-44 years who accounted for 619 (16%) of former smokers. Over 52% of the total number of former smokers were travellers in the 35-64 age bracket.
- Nearly 50% of Travellers (16,291) said that they had never smoked tobacco although 52% (8496) of that figure included travellers aged 0-14.
- Of the 1,225 Travellers who stated that they smoked tobacco products occasionally only 12% (149) were aged 55 years and up.
- Nearly 22% of the Traveller population had a smoking status of not stated.

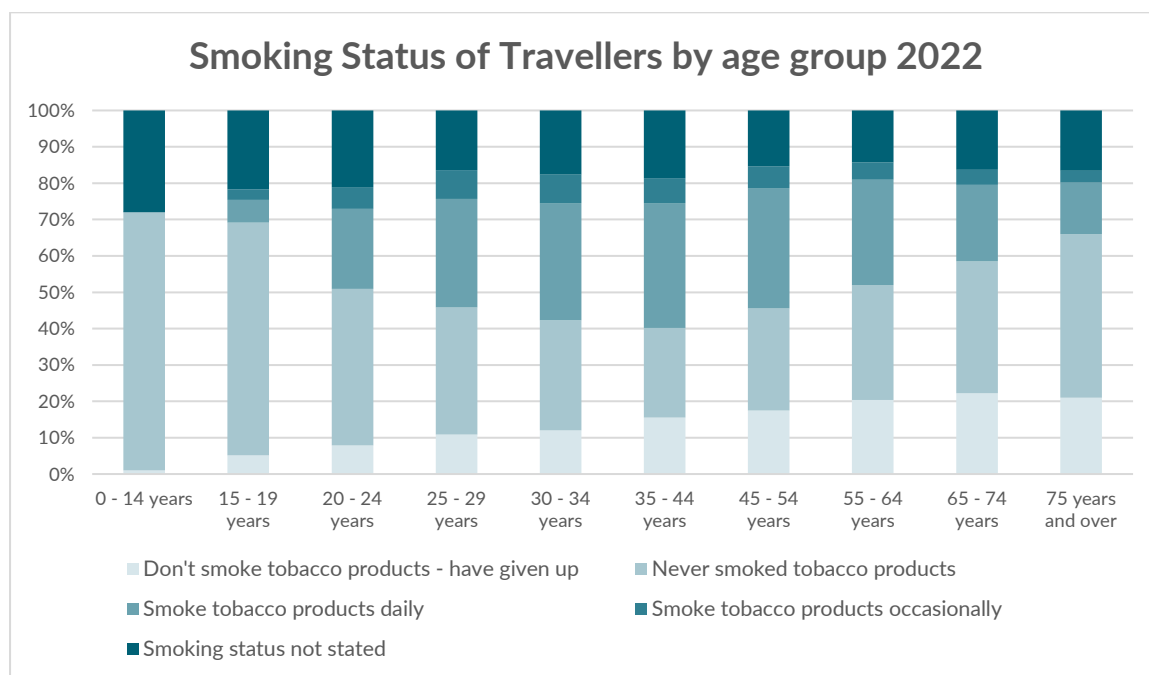
Of the 17,971 Travellers aged 0-24, 11,781 (66%) stated that they had never smoked tobacco products. While this represented the majority of young Travellers in Ireland, it was still significantly lower than the 88% of the general population aged 0-24 who stated that they had never smoked tobacco products.¹³

Table 7 Comparison of the smoking statuses of the Traveller population and general population 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Smoking Status	Travellers	% of Traveller population	General Population	% of General population
Don't smoke tobacco products - have given up	2,876	8.7%	974,145	18.9%
Never smoked tobacco products	16,291	49.4%	3,113,712	60.5%
Smoke tobacco products daily	5,427	16.5%	449,703	8.7%
Smoke tobacco products occasionally	1,225	3.7%	226,484	4.4%
Smoking status not stated	7,130	21.6%	385,095	7.5%
Total	32,949	100.0%	5,149,139	100.0%

¹³ Census of Population 2022 Profile 5 - Diversity, Migration, Ethnicity, Irish Travellers & Religion - CSO - Central Statistics Office

Figure 5 Smoking status of Travellers by age group 2022 (Source: Census 2022)



4.2 Mortality

In February 2025 the CSO published a statistical release focused on mortality indicators by ethnicity and deprivation for the years 2017 – 2022. The CSO's analysis indicated that the estimated death rate for White Irish Travellers aged 40-64 was higher than for the White Irish population in all of the years covered (2017-2022).

However, it is important to note that the editor of the Statistical Release also included the following in this release:

Caution needs to be taken when drawing inferences from small numbers. This is the case for many ethnic group categories in terms of number of deaths and leading causes of death. Table 2* is based on small numbers of deaths and as a result changes over time can be volatile.¹⁴

*Comparison of Death Rates per 100,000 People for the 40 – 64 Age Cohort for Selected Ethnic Groups, 2017 – 2022

¹⁴ [Mortality Indicators by Ethnicity and Deprivation 2017-2022 – CSO- 2025](#)

In 2022, there were an estimated 299 deaths per 100,000 among White Irish Travellers aged 40-64 years. This compares with 255 per 100,000 for the White Irish group aged 40-64 years.¹⁵ Table 9 shows the numbers of Traveller deaths in each age group, and what percentage of deaths in the population as a whole that these deaths represent. Tables 10 – 12 show the mortality rates (deaths per 1000 people) by age group for, White Irish Travellers, the General Population, and all White Irish people.

Table 8 Irish Traveller deaths and Irish Traveller deaths as a % of all deaths 2017 – 2022 (Source: CSO 2025)¹⁶

Age group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2017 - 2022	% of General Population Deaths
0 -4 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
5 - 19 years	0	5	5	0	5	5	20	2.4%
20 - 39 years	5	5	10	10	10	5	45	0.9%
40 - 64 years	20	20	35	30	25	20	150	0.5%
65 - 69 years	10	5	10	5	5	5	40	0.3%
70 - 74 years	10	15	10	10	5	5	55	0.3%
75 - 79 years	10	5	5	10	10	10	50	0.2%
80 - 84 years	5	5	5	10	5	5	35	0.1%
85 years and over	5	5	5	10	5	5	35	0.1%
64 years and under	30	30	50	40	45	35	230	0.6%
65 years and over	40	35	35	45	35	30	220	0.1%
All ages ¹⁷	70	65	85	85	80	65	450	0.2%

Table 9 Mortality - White Irish Traveller - Deaths per 1000 persons 2017 – 2022 (Source: CSO 2025)¹⁸

Age group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
0 -4 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5 - 19 years	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.4
20 - 39 years	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5

¹⁵ Mortality Indicators by Ethnicity and Deprivation 2017-2022 – CSO- 2025

¹⁶ Mortality Indicators by Ethnicity and Deprivation 2017-2022 – CSO- 2025

¹⁷ The all-ages mortality rate is not available broken down by ethnicity as the differing age profiles between groups can lead to misleading comparisons.

¹⁸ Mortality Indicators by Ethnicity and Deprivation 2017-2022 – CSO- 2025

Age group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
40 - 64 years	3.6	3.5	5.9	4.8	3.9	3.0
65 - 69 years	25.6	11.6	20.4	9.4	8.9	8.2
70 - 74 years	34.5	51.7	33.3	31.3	14.7	14.3
75 - 79 years	71.4	33.3	31.3	52.6	45.5	41.7
80 - 84 years	71.4	62.5	55.6	111.1	55.6	45.5
85 years and over	100.0	83.3	83.3	142.9	62.5	62.5
64 years and under	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.1
65 years and over	42.1	34.3	31.5	37.5	27.3	21.6

 Table 10 Mortality - General Population - Deaths per 1000 persons 2017 – 2022 (Source: CSO 2025) ¹⁹

Age group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
0 -4 years	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7
5 - 19 years	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
20 - 39 years	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
40 - 64 years	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.2
65 - 69 years	11.4	12.1	11.3	11.2	11.6	11.2
70 - 74 years	19.8	19.3	19.3	19.7	19.7	19.4
75 - 79 years	35.4	34.5	32.7	32.9	34.3	34.8
80 - 84 years	62.2	60.8	59.5	61.8	63.1	63.0
85 years and over	149.1	147.1	144.4	143.3	145.8	144.1
64 years and under	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5
65 years and over	39.3	38.8	37.9	38.4	39.4	39.2
All ages	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.2	7.2

 Table 11 Mortality - White Irish - Deaths per 1000 persons 2017 – 2022 (Source: CSO 2025) ²⁰

Age group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
0 -4 years	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

¹⁹ Mortality Indicators by Ethnicity and Deprivation 2017-2022 – CSO- 2025

²⁰ Mortality Indicators by Ethnicity and Deprivation 2017-2022 – CSO- 2025



Age group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
5 - 19 years	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
20 - 39 years	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
40 - 64 years	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6
65 - 69 years	9.2	9.9	9.3	9.4	9.2	8.8
70 - 74 years	16.4	16.1	16.0	16.4	16.4	16.0
75 - 79 years	29.6	29.0	27.7	27.9	28.6	29.1
80 - 84 years	52.4	51.3	49.5	51.7	52.7	53.1
85 years and over	124.3	121.7	117.6	116.4	116.9	114.8
64 years and under	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
65 years and over	33.0	32.8	32.0	32.6	33.3	33.2

Regarding causes of death, the top three causes of death in 2022 for both All ethnicities and White Irish, in order of prevalence were: Neoplasms (e.g. tumours), Diseases of the circulatory system and External causes of injury and poisoning.

However, for White Irish Travellers there were four causes of death in joint first place, with each cause responsible for approximately five deaths that year:²¹

Neoplasms, Diseases of the circulatory system, Diseases of the digestive system and External causes of injury and poisoning.²²

²¹ For simplicity and Statistical Disclosure Control purposes, population counts were rounded to the nearest 10 and death counts to the nearest five before the calculation of death rate statistics and reporting. (CSO 2025)

²² Mortality Indicators by Ethnicity and Deprivation 2017-2022 – CSO- 2025

5. Disability

In 2022 just over a quarter (26%) of Travellers were understood to have had a disability.²³ This is a higher proportion than the 22% of the general population with a disability status indicated in Census 2022. Of the 8,577 Travellers who indicated that they had a disability 3,015 (35%) were aged 0-24. This compares with 215,945 (19.5%) of the general population. A total of 4,693 (55%) were aged 25-64 and 869 (10%) were aged 65 and over. This compares to 543,937 (49%) aged 25-64 and 349,675 (31.5%) in the general population. 3,625 (42%) Travellers indicated that they had a disability to 'some extent' and 4,952 (58%) had a disability to 'a great extent'.²⁴ This compares to the general population where 702,215 (63%) had a disability status to 'some extent' and 407,342 (37%) had a disability to 'a great extent'.

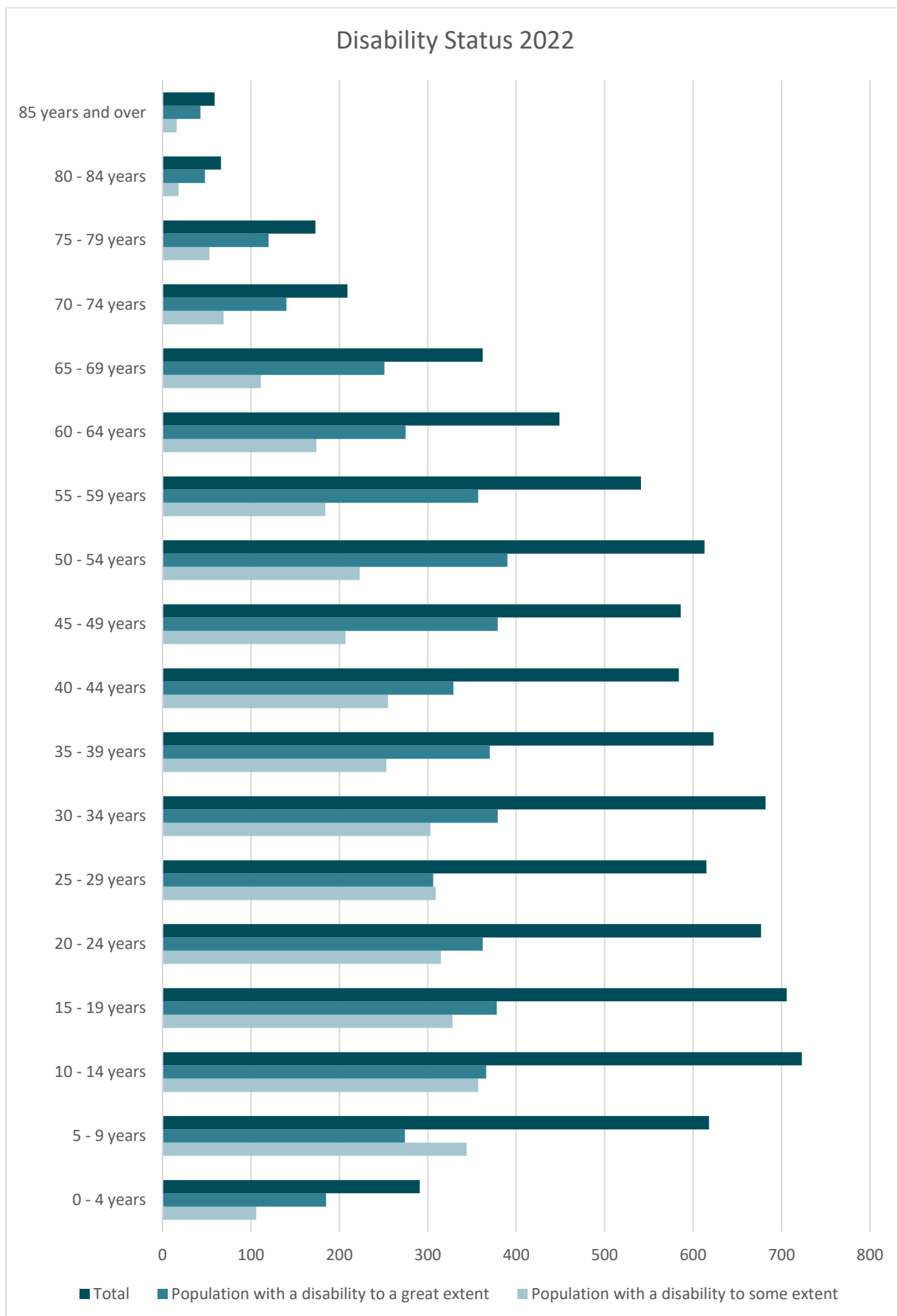
Table 12 Comparison of the disability status of the Traveller population and the general population 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Disability status	Travellers	% of Traveller population	General population	% of General population
Population with a disability to some extent	3,625	11.0%	694,538	13.7%
Population with a disability to a great extent	4,952	15.0%	404,625	8.0%
Total	8,577	26.0%	1,099,163	21.6%

²³ Census 2022 did not ask a question using the term 'disability' directly. Where the term disability is used in reference to Census 2022 data, it refers to the experience of at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty. Data on experiencing long-lasting conditions or difficulties was derived from answers to Questions 15 and 16 of the Census questionnaire. Question 15 asked 'Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions or difficulties' and respondents could select the from three potential answers '1. Yes, to a great extent', '2. Yes, to some extent' or '3. No, for seven listed conditions or difficulties'. Question 16 asked 'As a result of a long-lasting condition, do you have difficulty doing any of the following?' and respondents could select from three potential answers: '1. Yes, a lot', '2. Yes, a little', and '3. No' for a list of four activities (CSO 2023).

²⁴ Census of Population 2022 Profile 5 - Diversity, Migration, Ethnicity, Irish Travellers & Religion - CSO - Central Statistics Office

Figure 6 Disability status of Travellers by age group 2022 (Source: Census 2022)



6. Discrimination

In Quarter 3 of 2024 the Central Statistics Office (CSO) carried out the CSO *Equality and Discrimination 2024* survey, the results of which they published in June 2025.

This survey found that over one in five (22%) people aged 18 years or over said they felt discriminated against in the two years prior to interview, Members of the Irish Traveller/Roma communities experienced a far higher level of discrimination than the general population at 42%.²⁵ The FRA's 2024 survey reported even higher levels of discrimination, this data indicated that 75% of Irish Travellers respondents were discriminated against in the previous year, compared to 65% of Irish Traveller respondents in 2019.²⁶

According to the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC):²⁷

The Equal Status Acts 2000-2015, prohibit discrimination in the provision of goods and services, the provision of accommodation and access to education, on any of the nine grounds set out below. The Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 has inserted a tenth ground in the provision of accommodation only; the "housing assistance" ground. The Acts outlaw discrimination in all services that are generally available to the public whether provided by the state or the private sector.

The WRC goes on to outline the grounds on which discrimination in the Equal Status Acts: gender; civil status (formerly marital status); family status; sexual orientation; religion; age; disability; race (includes 'race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins'); membership of the Traveller community; housing assistance (only in the provision of accommodation).

In 2024 the WRC received 615 referrals under the Equal Status Act 2000 citing 1089 specific grounds (some complaints cite multiple grounds). There was a 44% increase in the number of referrals received in 2024 when compared to 2023, with an 86% increase in referrals under the ground 'Membership of the Traveller community' from

²⁵ [Equality and Discrimination – CSO statistical release 16th of June 2025](#)

²⁶ [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\) Roma and Traveller Survey – Country data Ireland- 2025](#)

²⁷ [Equal Status – Workplace Relations Commission Website, Accessed 24th of September 2025](#)

2023 to 2024. The following table shows the number of complaints referred under this ground in years 2020-2024.

Table 13 Number of referrals received by the WRC under the Equal Status Act 2000 citing 'Membership of the Traveller Community' as grounds for discrimination 2020-2024 (Source: WRC Annual Report 2021²⁸, 2022,²⁹ 2023,³⁰ 2024).³¹

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of referrals citing Traveller ground	51	61	150	132	245
Total number of Referrals	305	572	506	428	615
Total number of grounds cited in referrals	452	810	748	733	1089

In June 2023 the *Survey on People in Ireland's attitude towards diversity*, commissioned by DCDE and carried out by Ipsos (now Ipsos B&A) was released. It examined people's attitudes to diversity in Ireland. It found that over 8 in 10 people were very comfortable living next door to people with different nationalities, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientation, disabilities, religious beliefs (and none) or marital status. However, only 53% of people said they would be very comfortable living next to someone who is a Traveller or Roma.

People were also asked how uncomfortable or comfortable they would feel if one of their children was in a love relationship with a person from the different equality groups. A person who was Irish received a score of 95%, while a person who was a Traveller received a score of 43%.³² The output from the survey was further analysed by the ESRI in its report "*Understanding Attitudes to Travellers and Roma in Ireland*".

According to the 2024 CSO survey, discrimination while looking for work in the previous two years in the Irish Traveller/Roma communities was almost one in six (16%), compared with just 4% of the population in general.³³

²⁸ [Workplace Relations Commission Annual Report 2021](#)

²⁹ [Workplace Relations Commission Annual Report 2022](#)

³⁰ [Workplace Relations Commission Annual Report 2023](#)

³¹ [Workplace Relations Commission Annual Reports 2024](#)

³² [Survey on People in Ireland's attitude towards diversity – conducted by Ipsos on behalf of the Department of Children, Disability and Equality](#)

³³ [Equality and Discrimination – CSO statistical release 16th of June 2025](#)

This CSO survey also reports that 0% of Traveller respondents suffered discrimination in an education setting in the previous two years, compared with 2% of the general population. This would appear to differ from other surveys reporting on a similar issue. This may be explained by the size of the sample and the high rate (69%) of ‘not applicable’ responses. There were only 75 Traveller/Roma respondents to the survey in total, and of these, 52 respondents selected the option ‘not applicable’ when asked if they had experienced discrimination in accessing education within the past two years. The remaining 23 answered ‘No’ to this question.

Table 14 Rate of discrimination in the previous two years by ethnicity in a range of contexts 2024 (Source: CSO 2025)³⁴

Context in which discrimination was experienced	Irish Travellers/Roma	General population (all ethnicities)
Experienced discrimination (any context)	42%	22%
In the workplace	3%	7%
While looking for work	16%	4%
Gyms, leisure centres, public swimming pools or parks	4%	2%
Pubs/bars (incl. hotel bars), nightclubs, restaurants	15%	5%
Shops/shopping centres/retail outlets	15%	5%
Looking for housing/ accommodation	9%	4%
Sustaining secure housing/ accommodation	12%	3%
Mortgages etc. - contact with financial institutions	2%	4%
Accessing/using financial institutions	4%	4%
Access to Education	0%	1%
Education Settings	0%	2%
Health Services	2%	0%
Transport	1%	2%
Interacting with An Garda Síochána	7%	3%
Accessing/using other public services	8%	2%

³⁴ [Equality and Discrimination – CSO statistical release 16th of June 2025](#)

According to the CSO's 2024 survey, 15% of people in the Irish Traveller/Roma minority groupings cited discrimination in retail settings, compared with 3% of people whose ethnicity was White Irish. Similarly, 15% of Irish Travellers/Roma respondents said they were discriminated against in hospitality settings such as pubs, bars (including hotel bars), night clubs, restaurants, etc., compared with 4% of people of White Irish respondents.³⁵ Almost one in ten (9%) Irish Travellers/Roma had been discriminated against when they were looking for housing/accommodation, while 12% had experienced discrimination in sustaining secure housing or accommodation in the previous two years. This compared with 2% of people who described themselves as White Irish who reported this type of discrimination.³⁶

Irish Travellers' Access to Justice (ITAJ) is a report which was published 2022 by the European Centre for the Study of Hate. It compiles interview data, survey data, focus group data and Irish Prison service data relating to the demographic profile, sentence and offences of Travellers in the prison population as of the 30th of November 2021 (the date the data was extracted). This report found significant divergences in Traveller attitudes to and experiences with the Justice system when compared to the general population. For example, while according to the Garda Public Attitudes Survey 2019 (GPAS), 71% of the general population agreed that with the statement the Gardaí in this area treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are (sic), the ITAJ survey found that 84% of Travellers disagreed with that statement. Similarly, 95% of the general population agreed that 'the gardaí would treat you with respect', while 91% of Travellers surveyed did not believe that the Gardaí treat Travellers with respect. Additionally, 75% of Traveller respondents did not believe that Judges treat Travellers with respect.³⁷

³⁵ [Equality and Discrimination - CSO statistical release 16th of June 2025](#)

³⁶ [Equality and Discrimination - CSO statistical release 16th of June 2025](#)

³⁷ [Irish Travellers' Access to Justice 2022 - Sindy Joyce et al - European Centre for the Study of Hate](#)

7. Household Composition

Census 2022 reported that there were 8,102 Traveller families living in Ireland:

- 2,889 (36%) families had no children,
- 1,321 (16%) had just one child, 1,256 (16%) had two children,
- 1,077 (13%) had three children and
- 1,559 (19%) had four or more children.

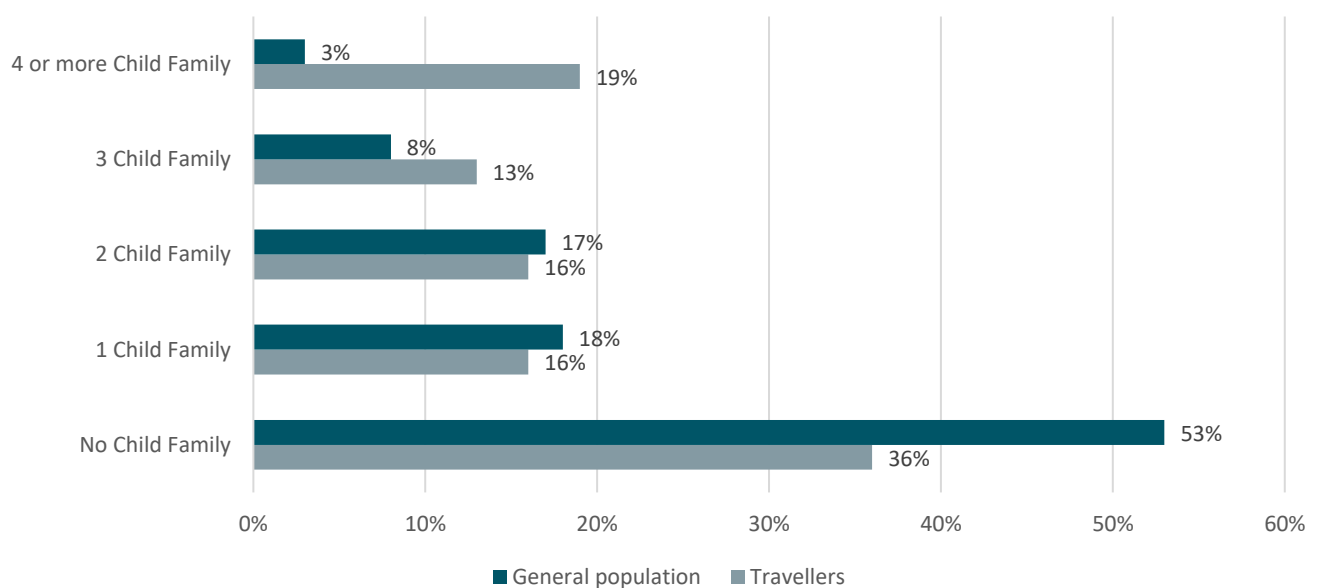
In comparison, of the 1,841,152 families comprising the general population 972,758 (53%) families had no children, 334,670 (18%) had just one child, 319,641 (17%) had two children, 156,285 (8%) had three children and 57,798 (3%) had four or more children.³⁸

Table 15 Composition of Traveller households as a % of the general population 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Ethnicity	No Child Family	1 Child Family	2 Child Family	3 Child Family	4 or more Child Family
Travellers	36%	16%	16%	13%	19%
General population	53%	18%	17%	8%	3%
Travellers as % of general population	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%

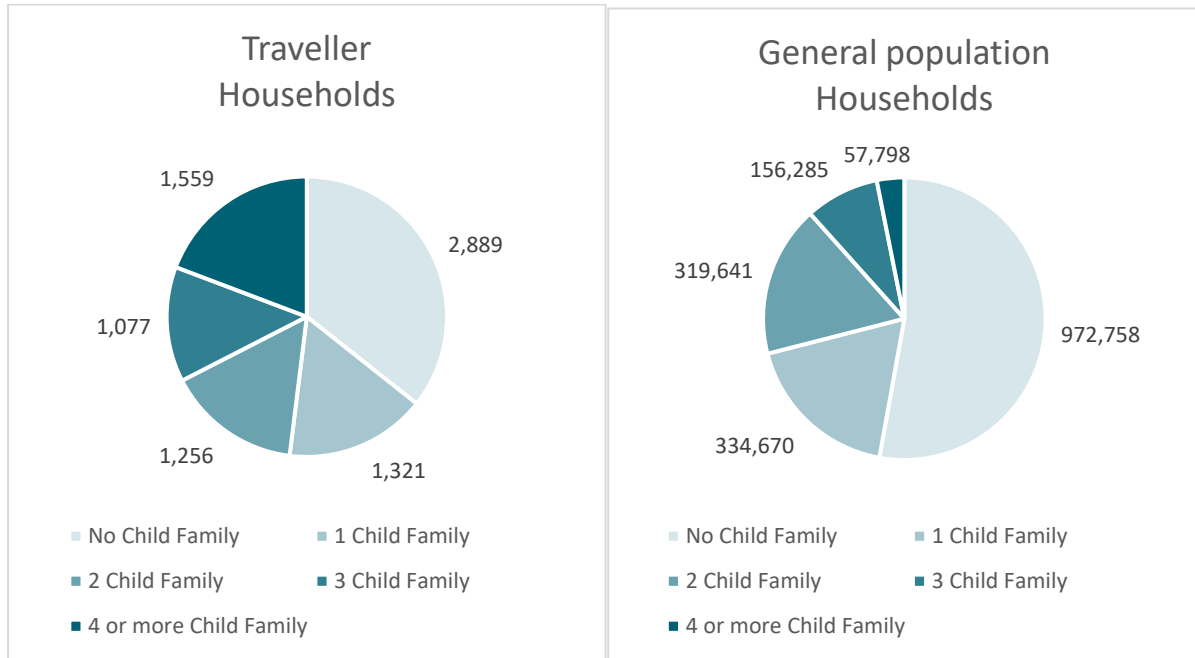
Figure 7 Household compositions of Travellers and the General population as a percentage of Traveller households and General population households 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Percentage of Traveller and General population households by composition 2022



³⁸ [Census of Population 2022 Profile 5 - Diversity, Migration, Ethnicity, Irish Travellers & Religion - CSO](#)

Figure 8 Number of Traveller and General Population households by household composition 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

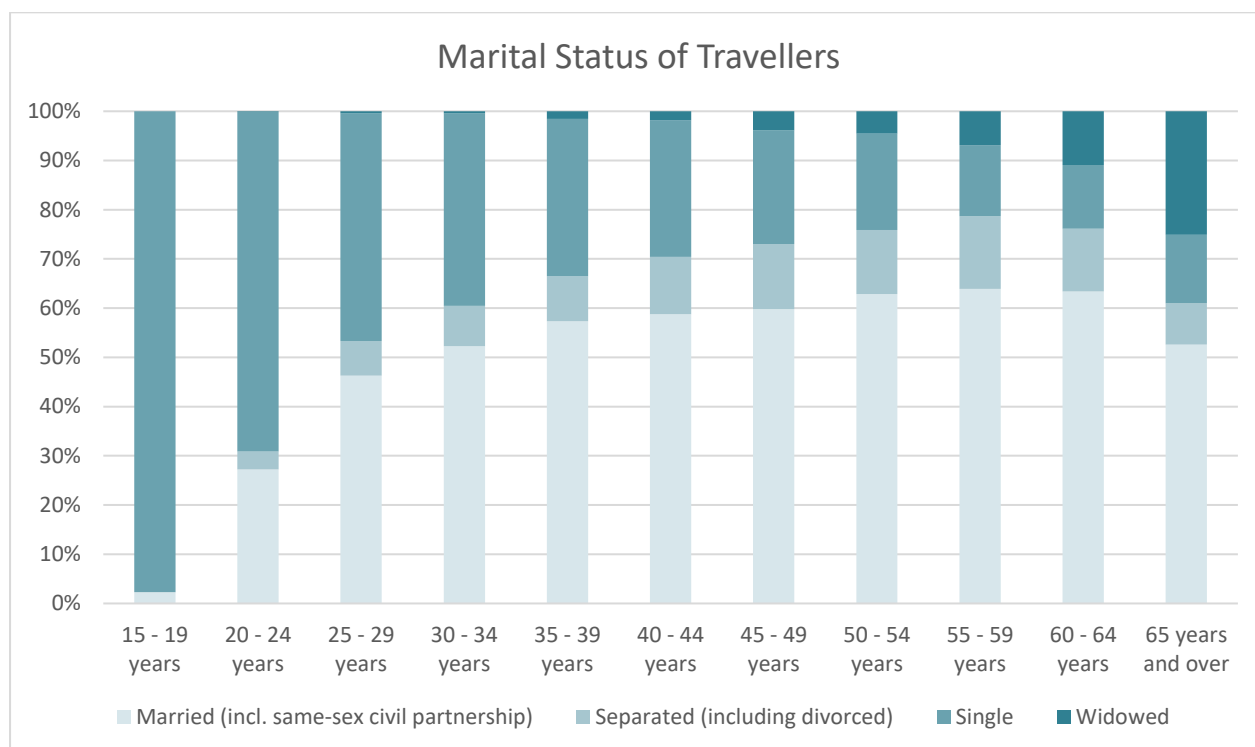


7.1 Marital Status

In Census 2022 there were 20,969 Travellers aged 15 or over. Of this group 9,200 (44%) were married, including those that were in a same-sex civil partnership. Figures for those specifically in a same-sex partnership were unavailable. Of Travellers aged 15 or over a total of 1,637 (8%) were separated or divorced, 9,377 (45%) were single and 755 (4%) were widowed. Of Travellers aged 15-24 years (5,991), there was a significantly higher proportion than the percentage of the general population aged 15-24 years that were married (<0.5%) with the Census reporting 794 (13%) Travellers in this cohort as married. This younger age cohort compares to 57% (7,624) of the Travellers aged 25-64 years (13,492) reported as married and 53% (782) of Travellers aged 65 and older (1,486) reported as married.³⁹

³⁹ [Census of Population 2022 Profile 5 - Diversity, Migration, Ethnicity, Irish Travellers & Religion - CSO](#)

Figure 9 Marital status of Travellers by age group 2022 (Source: Census 2022)



8. Education

The Traveller and Roma Education Strategy,⁴⁰ published in June 2024, aims to meet the needs of children, young people and adults from the Traveller and Roma communities in terms of education, by enhancing their educational experiences and successes. This strategy takes a whole-of-education approach by bringing three Departments together across early learning and childcare, school (primary and post-primary) and further and higher education, to make targeted changes.

8.1 Early Learning and Care (ELC)

Since the launch of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme in 2010, uptake rates to the programme have been approximately 95%-96% of all eligible children. However, uptake rates have been consistently lower among Traveller children.⁴¹

Table 16 Participation rate of Traveller children in early learning and care and Number of Traveller Children and all children enrolled in ECCE 2020 - 2023 (Sources: Department of Education⁴² and Pobal⁴³ 2025)

Indicator	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024
Participation rate of Traveller children in early learning and care	81.4%	73.5%	74.5%	77.1%
Number of Traveller children enrolled in ECCE	1,357	1,327	1,377	1,485
Total number of children enrolled in ECCE	106,121	107,286	108,467	113,638

⁴⁰ [Traveller and Roma Education Strategy 2024-2030](#)

⁴¹ [Education Indicators for Ireland 2024 - Government of Ireland](#)

⁴² [Education Indicators for Ireland 2024 - Government of Ireland](#)

⁴³ These data are taken from the Annual Early Years Sector Profiles (Pobal) by programme year. Capacity data for non-school going children aged between 3 years and 6 years has been used to determine the total number for ECCE children enrolled. Response rates were: 57.4% (2020/21), 82.4% (2021/22), 88.6% (2022/23) and 87% (2023/24) Estimated figures for Traveller children are extrapolated using response rates. Estimated figures for total children enrolled represent data that was extrapolated using the reported figures and individual county response rates to estimate national figures.

8.2 Primary School, Post-Primary School and, Further Education and Training (FET)

Primary School

Once children start school, information on participation in an early learning setting is captured. This metric is the percentage of new entrants in mainstream schools who had previously been in an early years childcare setting / pre-primary education / early start programme / junior school associated with the school.

In the 2022/2023 school year, 74.5% of Traveller children entered Junior Infants classes in primary school from the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme or another pre-school setting. In terms of the general population of Ireland, 95.7% of children entered the primary school system in the 2022/2023 school year, from either the ECCE Programme or another pre-school setting.⁴⁴

In the academic year 2023/2024, there were 11,777 Traveller children enrolled in primary and post-primary schools (8,572 in primary school and 3,205 in post-primary school).⁴⁵ In the 2022/2023 academic year, primary (8,309) and post primary students (3,370) represented approximately 76% of Travellers aged 0-19 years.⁴⁶

Table 17 Number of Traveller children enrolled in primary education as a percentage of the total number of children enrolled in primary education by year 2016 - 2024 (Source: Department of Education 2023⁴⁷, 2024⁴⁸ & 2025⁴⁹)

Age group	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025
Number of Traveller children enrolled in primary education	8,400	8,384	8,468	8,655	8,662	8,847	8,906	8,879	8,677
Total number of children enrolled in primary education	558,314	563,459	567,772	567,716	561,411	554,788	558,143	556,084	552,069
% Traveller children	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%

⁴⁴ Traveller and Roma Education Strategy 2024-2030

⁴⁵ Education Indicators for Ireland 2024 – Government of Ireland

⁴⁶ Traveller and Roma Education Strategy 2024-2030

⁴⁷ Primary and Post Primary Traveller Statistics 2016-20

⁴⁸ Traveller Enrolments – Education Statistics- Department of Education 2024

⁴⁹ Data for the years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 was provided by the Department of Education via email

Post-primary School

The rate of transfer from primary school to post-primary school for Traveller children in 2022/2023 was approximately 83%. The national average rate of transfer was approximately 96%.⁵⁰

Table 18 Number of Traveller children enrolled in post primary education as a % of the total number of children enrolled in post primary education by year (Source: Department of Education)^{51&52}

Age group	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025
Traveller children enrolled in post primary education	2,773	3,017	2,922	3,092	3,292	3,437	3,370	3,205	3,227
Children enrolled in post primary education	352,395	357,486	362,968	371,519	379,212	391,686	406,364	417,386	425,401
Traveller children as % of total	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%

The Department of Education and Youth has published data on retention rates for cohorts⁵³ who started in the secondary level cycle in the years from 2011 to 2017. The cohort who entered in 2011 will have typically sat their leaving certificate exams in 2016 or 2017, while those who entered in 2012 will have sat it in 2017 or 2018, and so on; with the most recent cohort for which data is available entering in 2017 and sitting their leaving certificate in 2022 or 2023. This data indicates that the retention rate to completion of Junior Certificate cycle for Travellers increased significantly from 2011 to 2017 from 61.6% to 78.3%. Of those in the 2011 cohort, 22.4% sat the Leaving Certificate in either 2016 or 2017. This increased to 26.5% for the 2017 entry cohort.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ [Traveller and Roma Education Strategy 2024-2030](#)

⁵¹ [Traveller Enrolments - Education Statistics- Department of Education 2024](#)

⁵² Data for years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 was provided via email on request

⁵³ A cohort is labelled based on the year a pupil enters the first academic year.

⁵⁴ [Retention reports entry Cohort 2011-2017 \(Department of Education and Youth\)](#)

Table 19 Retention rates for Post-Primary School Students who commenced their post-primary education between 2011 – 2017 (Department of Education and Youth 2024)⁵⁵

	2011 – 2016/17	2012 – 2017/18	2013 – 2018/19	2014 – 2019/20	2015 – 2020/21	2016 – 2021/22	2017 – 2022/23
Traveller students sitting Junior Certificate	61.6%	66.1%	64.4%	69.3%	69.0%	72.2%	78.3%
All students sitting Junior Certificate	97.5%	97.6%	97.5%	97.6%	97.5%	97.6%	97.8%
Traveller students sitting Leaving Certificate	22.4%	24.5%	18.9%	22.0%	27.1%	31.4%	26.5%
All students sitting Leaving Certificate	91.6%	91.5%	91.2%	91.5%	92.1%	91.7%	90.0%

Primary and Post-primary DEIS Schools

According to the report *Pupils from the Traveller Community*, Traveller primary school pupils are more likely to attend DEIS schools than non-DEIS schools, with 52% attending a DEIS school and 48% attending a non-DEIS school in the academic year 2020/2021.⁵⁶ In the same year 80.5% of the general population of pupils attended a non-DEIS school and 19.5%⁵⁷ attended a DEIS school. From 2011 to 2020 Traveller primary students were 2.5 times more likely to benefit from the supports available under the DEIS Programme relative to their peers. The DEIS programme has since been expanded, and in the 2024/2025 school year 72.5% of Traveller primary school students and 27.8% of all primary school pupils attended DEIS schools.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Retention reports entry Cohort 2011-2017 (Department of Education and Youth)

⁵⁶ Pupils from the Traveller Community 2016-2020 – Department of Education and Youth

⁵⁷ The 2023 report Pupils from the Traveller Community 2016-2020 states that the rate was 19.5% however the 2025 report Education Indicators for Ireland states that it was 19.3%

⁵⁸ Data was provided via email by the Department of Education on 31/11/2025

Table 20 Percentage of Primary and Post Primary Traveller children and general population children in DEIS schools 2020 – 2024 (Source: Department of Education 2025)⁵⁹ & ⁶⁰ & ⁶¹

	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025
% of Traveller Primary School Children in DEIS schools	52%	50.6%	71.9%	71.7%	72.5%
% of Primary School Children in DEIS schools	19.3%	19.3%	27.5%	27.6%	27.8%
% of Traveller Post-primary School Children in DEIS schools	57.7%	57.1%	55%	54%	53.5%
% of Post-primary School Children in DEIS schools	20.5%	20.7%	25.5%	25.7%	25.9%

Further Education and Training (FET)

The reports *Pupils from the Traveller Community 2016-2020*⁶² and *This is FET: Traveller Community 2023*⁶³ include data from the Department of Education and Solas on the educational background of Traveller students in FET. This data indicates that many Traveller students in FET do not have either a Junior Certificate or a Leaving Certificate and may have accessed FET through other pathways.

The FET retention rate is a measure of what percentage of students in a particular cohort have so far gone on to participate in FET. Therefore, the real retention rate, particularly for the more recent years is likely to increase over time. As of May 2023 (the date of the report's publication), the reported FET retention rate for the 2011 cohort was 41.9% and 41.4% for the 2017 cohort. The highest FET retention rate for the period was the 2012 cohort at 52.1%.⁶⁴ The year refers to the year of starting secondary school cycle, so 2017 refers to children who started in the 2017/ 2018 intake cohort.

⁵⁹ Department of Education (2023) *Pupils from the Traveller Community 2016-2020 Online Data*

⁶⁰ *Education Indicators for Ireland 2024* – Department of Education and Youth

⁶¹ Data was provided via email by the Department of Education on 31/11/2025

⁶² *Pupils from the Traveller Community 2016-2020*

⁶³ *This is FET Traveller Community 2023 – Solas 2024*

⁶⁴ *Pupils from the Traveller Community 2016-2020 – Department of Education 2023*

Table 21 Traveller pupil cohorts 2011-2017 Milestones (Source: Department of Education) ⁶⁵ & ⁶⁶

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Traveller Pupils	558	534	523	551	571	650	766
Sat Junior Cert (JC)	344	353	337	382	394	469	600
Sat Leaving Cert (LC)	125	131	99	121	155	204	203
Travellers in FET	234	278	252	262	212	259	317
- who sat JC	186	223	184	197	144	207	261
-with no JC	48	55	68	65	68	52	56
-who sat LC	87	92	66	67	60	91	98
-with no LC	147	186	186	195	152	168	219
FET retention rate %	41.9%	52.1%	48.2%	47.6%	37.1%	39.8%	41.4%

8.4 Overall Educational Attainment

In Census 2022, the most common level of education amongst Travellers aged 15 years and older was primary, with 19.3% of the Traveller community completing education to this level. A small proportion of the Traveller population in this age range in Ireland had no formal education, accounting for 13.2%. Only a small proportion of Travellers aged 15 years and older had received a Doctorate/PhD, accounting for 0.1% of the Traveller population in this age range. ⁶⁷

Of the 14,570 Travellers aged 15 years and over whose education had been completed by 2022, over half (51.2%, 7,456) were female and 48.8% (7,114) were male. Of the 7,456 female Travellers, 1,348 (18.1%) had no formal education and of the 7,114 male Travellers 1,413 (19.9%) had no formal education. Of the 4,043 Travellers aged 15 years and over whose education had been completed by 2022 at primary school level, just over half (50.6%) were female and just under half (49.4%) were male. ⁶⁸

⁶⁵ Pupils from the Traveller Community 2016-2020 – Department of Education 2023

⁶⁶ Retention reports entry Cohort 2011-2017 (Department of Education and Youth)

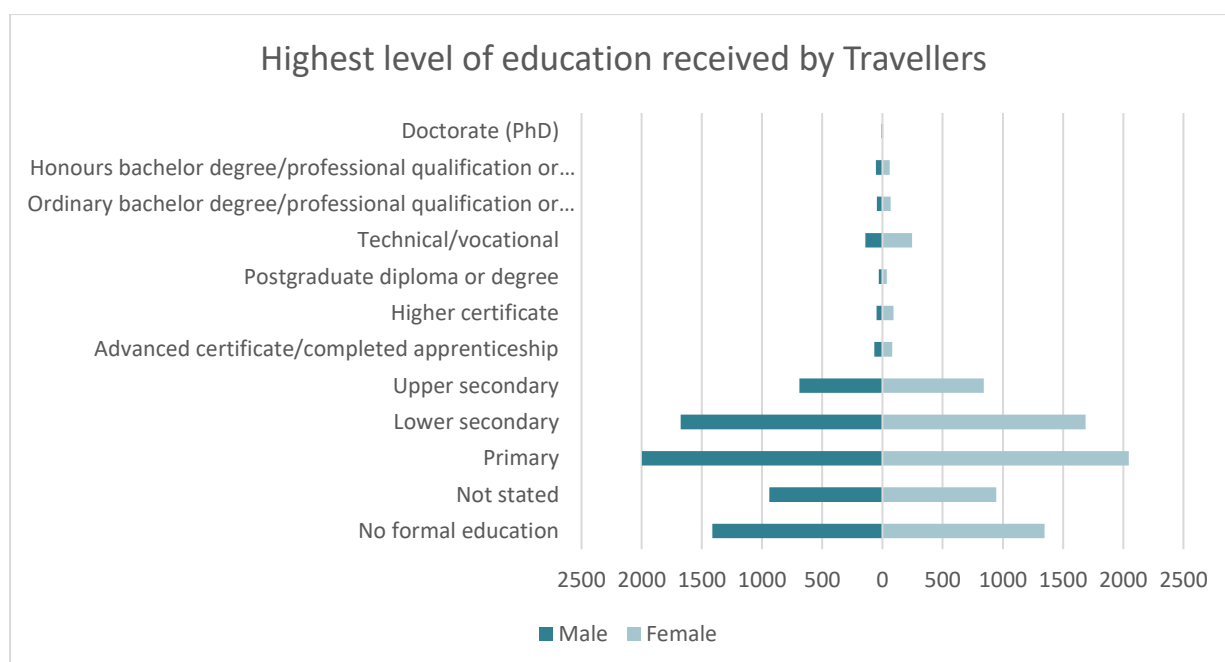
⁶⁷ Census of Population 2022 Profile 8 - The Irish Language and Education - CSO

⁶⁸ Census of Population 2022 Profile 8 - The Irish Language and Education - CSO

Table 22 Highest level of education received by Travellers aged 15 and over who have completed their education by gender 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Highest level of education received	Male Travellers	Male Travellers as % of Male General Population	Female Travellers	Female Travellers as % of Female General Population
No formal education	1,413	3.1%	1,348	3.8%
Not stated	939	0.8%	946	0.9%
Primary	1,998	1.5%	2,045	1.7%
Lower secondary	1,676	0.7%	1,686	0.8%
Upper secondary	690	0.2%	841	0.3%
Advanced certificate/completed apprenticeship	68	0.1%	81	0.1%
Higher certificate	49	0.1%	91	0.1%
Postgraduate diploma or degree	30	0.0%	37	0.0%
Technical/ vocational	142	0.1%	245	0.2%
Ordinary bachelor degree/ professional qualification or both	46	0.0%	68	0.1%
Honours bachelor degree/ professional qualification or both	55	0.0%	60	0.0%
Doctorate (PhD)	8	0.0%	8	0.1%
Total	7,114	0.4%	7,456	0.4%

Figure 10 Highest level of education received by Travellers aged 15 and over who have completed their education by gender 2022 (Source: Census 2022)



8.3 National Access Plan (HEA)

A National Access Plan (NAP) was released in 2022 by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). This plan concentrated on disadvantaged groups. Groups such as the Irish Traveller community, students from disadvantaged areas and first-time mature students, are underrepresented in third level education, and the NAP aims to increase their participation rates. As of 2022, only 10% of students in higher education came from disadvantaged areas, and just 1% of Travellers had a third-level qualification compared to 55% of the general population.⁶⁹

Targets were set in this plan for students from the Traveller community. A target was set for there to be 150 new Traveller entrants in third level education by 2028.⁷⁰ In the most recent year for which data is available, there were 40 self-declared Irish Travellers in Higher Education at the beginning of the academic year 2023/2024. This was an increase of four students from the previous year (2022/2023) in which there were 36 self-declared Traveller students commencing their higher education.⁷¹

Table 23 Number and percentage of Travellers in Higher Education 2020 - 2023 (Source: Higher Education Authority 2022 & 2025)^{72 & 73}

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028 Target
Number of (self-declared) Irish Travellers in HE (new enrolments)	48	33	52	36	40	150
Total number of new entrants to HE	43580	46195	45675	46020	48280	N/A
Current % of Traveller new entrants (as a % of all new entrants)	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%

Table 24 Number of Travellers in Further Education and Training (FET) 2020 – 2023 (Source: Government of Ireland 2025)⁷⁴

	2020	2021	2022	2023
No of Traveller enrolments in FET	1139	1130	1310	1408

⁶⁹ National Access Plan 2022-2028 (Higher Education Authority, 2022)

⁷⁰ National Access Plan 2022-2028 (Higher Education Authority, 2022)

⁷¹ Education Indicators for Ireland 2024 – Department of Education and Youth

⁷² National Access Plan 2022-2028 (Higher Education Authority, 2022)

⁷³ Access our Data – Students – Higher Education Authority

⁷⁴ Education Indicators for Ireland – Government of Ireland - 2025

9. Economic Status

According to Census data, in 2022, of Travellers aged 15 years and older (20,969), 3,518 (16.8%) were employed.⁷⁵ This compares to 56.2% of the general population aged 15 years and older.⁷⁶ Within the employed groups, about the same proportion of men and women are employed within the general population and the Traveller communities. For Travellers, 53.6% (1,884) were men and 46.4% (1,634) were women and in the general population 53.5% of those who were employed were men and 46.5% were women.⁷⁷ The FRA's 2024 survey reported that 22% of Traveller respondents in Ireland were in paid work, compared to 79% of Irish people generally.⁷⁸

In Census 2022, a total of 3,710 Travellers aged 15 and over, stated that their economic status was looking after their home/family, accounting for 17.7% of the Traveller population in this age range.⁷⁹ This compares to 6.6% of the general population.⁸⁰ Of the Traveller group looking after the home 3,095 (83.4%) were female and 615 (16.6%) were male.⁸¹ In comparison 89.9% were female and 10.1% were male in the general population.⁸²

In total, 3,545 Travellers aged 15 and over, stated that they had been unemployed for over 12 months, accounting for 16.9% of the Traveller population in this age range.⁸³ In comparison to the general population of Ireland aged 15 and over, 2.57% stated that they had been unemployed for over 12 months.⁸⁴ The FRA's 2024 survey indicated that 65% of young Travellers in Ireland are not in employment, education or training (NEET rate), compared to 7% of young people in the general population in

⁷⁵ [Census of Population 2022 - F5098 Irish Travellers Aged 15 Years and Over by Employment Status and Labour Force Participation Rate- CSO- Central Statistics Office](#)

⁷⁶ [Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results: Employment, Occupation, Industry and Commuting - CSO](#)

⁷⁷ [Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results: Employment, Occupation, Industry and Commuting - CSO](#)

⁷⁸ [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\) Roma and Traveller Survey - Country data Ireland- 2025](#)

⁷⁹ [Census of Population 2022 - F5098 Irish Travellers Aged 15 Years and Over by Employment Status and Labour Force Participation Rate- CSO- Central Statistics Office](#)

⁸⁰ [Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results: Employment, Occupation, Industry and Commuting - CSO](#)

⁸¹ [Census of Population 2022 - F5098 - CSO- Central Statistics Office](#)

⁸² [Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results: Employment, Occupation, Industry and Commuting - CSO](#)

⁸³ [Census of Population 2022 - F5098 - CSO- Central Statistics Office](#)

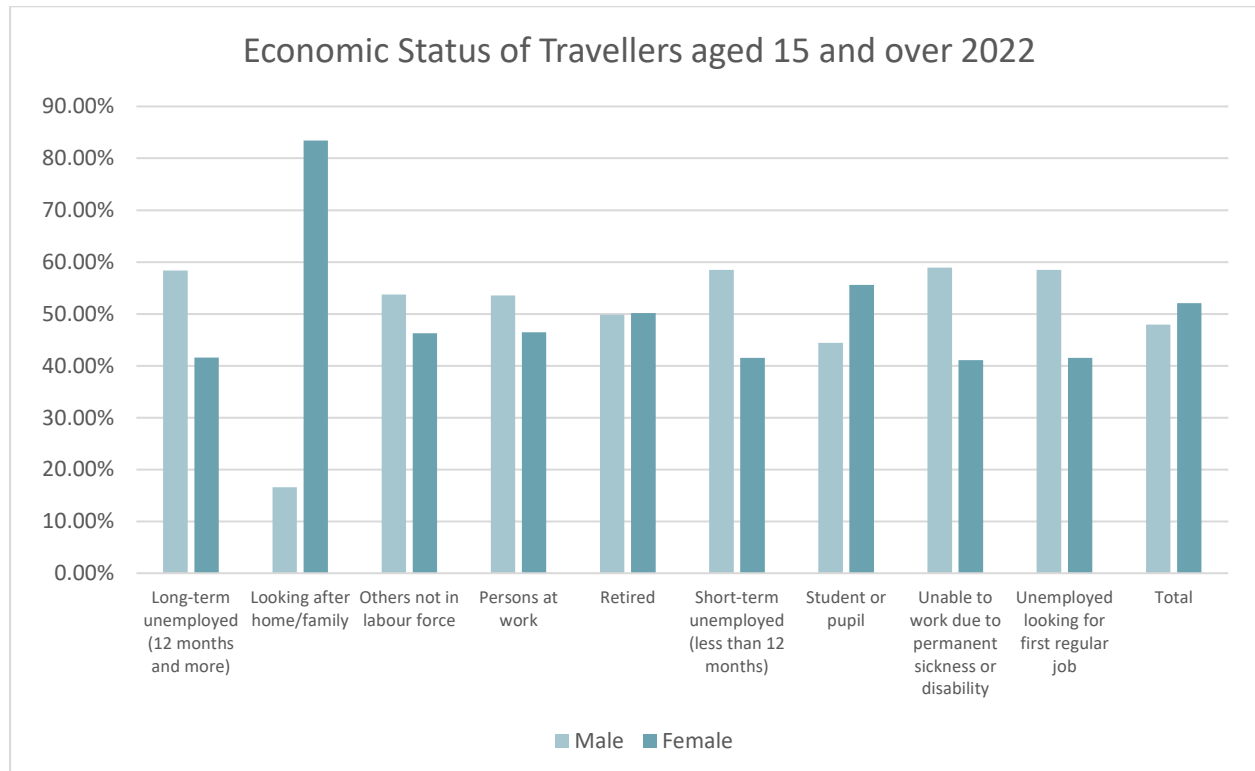
⁸⁴ [Census of Population 2022 Profile 5 - Diversity, Migration, Ethnicity, Irish Travellers & Religion - CSO](#)

Ireland. Additionally, they found that 84% of Travellers in Ireland felt discriminated against at work, compared to 12% in 2019.⁸⁵

Table 25 Economic status of Travellers aged 15 and over by gender 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Economic Status	Male	Female	Total
Long-term unemployed (12 months and more)	2,070	1,475	3,545
Looking after home/family	615	3,095	3,710
Others not in labour force	309	266	575
Persons at work	1,884	1,634	3,518
Retired	492	495	987
Short-term unemployed (less than 12 months)	471	334	805
Student or pupil	1,234	1,543	2,777
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	2,288	1,594	3,882
Unemployed looking for first regular job	684	486	1,170
Total	10,047	10,922	20,969

Figure 11 Economic status of Travellers aged 15 and over by gender 2022 (Source: Census 2022)⁸⁶



⁸⁵ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Roma and Traveller Survey – Country data Ireland- 2025

⁸⁶ Census of Population 2022 - F5098 Irish Travellers Aged 15 Years and Over by Employment Status and Labour Force Participation Rate- CSO- Central Statistics Office

9.1 Sectors of Employment

According to Census there were over 2.5 million people in the labour force in 2022, over 9000 of which were White Irish Travellers in 2022. Among White Irish Travellers, the largest group were Unemployed, having lost or given up their previous job at 48.1% of the White Irish Traveller labour force, while the equivalent rate among the general population (all ethnicities) was 6.9%.

However, among the employed, the largest group of White Irish Travellers (40.5%) selected the option of 'Industry not stated' among the industry groups listed, while 6.4% of the general population group selected this option. The next most significant sectors of work for White Irish Traveller employees were Human health and social work activities (11.3%), Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (8.3%), Administrative and support service activities (5.7%), and Construction (5.5%).⁸⁷

One of the Strategic Objectives of NTRIS II, under Theme 5: Employment and Enterprise, is to: 'Increase the number of Travellers and Roma in employment in the public sector'. Efforts to achieve this goal are to enhance the Traveller and Roma internship initiative in the Civil Service, and to develop a wider Public Service Internship Programme for Travellers and Roma.⁸⁸

Apart from category "Public administration and defence; compulsory social security", the broad industry categories captured in the Census 2022 do not specifically state whether someone works in the public or private sector. However, the majority of public service employees, are likely to be captured within categories relating to public administration, Education, and Human health & social work activities. With only a small number of private sector employees likely to select those options to describe their sector of employment. Among employed Travellers in 2022, 2.2% were employed in the *Public Administration and defence; compulsory social security* sector; 11.3% in *Human health & social work activities*; and 4.7% in *Education*. The equivalent

⁸⁷ [Census 2022: Population 15 years and over in labour force usually resident and present in state](#)

⁸⁸ [National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II 2024-2028, pg. 86-87](#)



rates of employment in these sectors among the employed general population were: *Public Administration and defence; compulsory social security: 5.6%, Human health & social work activities: 11.6% and Education: 9.1%*.⁸⁹

Some recent administrative data from Publicjobs.ie provides some insight into progress on the NTRIS II objective of increasing the number of Traveller and Roma people employed in the public service. In 2024, 0.17% of applications (43 of 20,118) received by *publicjobs.ie* came from White Irish Traveller applicants, and White Irish Travellers accounted for 0.23% of total assignments (22 of 9,408) in that year. In the most recent quarter for which data is available (Q3 2025) White Irish Traveller's accounted for 0.23% of applications (53 of 22,860) and 0.16% of completed assignments (11 of 6,757). This data was provided by *publicjobs.ie*, and it was also noted that they are at the time of writing recruiting for the second iteration of the Traveller and Roma Work Placement Programme, and this should be reflected in the data on applications in Q4 2025, and the assignments for Q1 2026, once available.⁹⁰

⁸⁹ [Census 2022: Population 15 years and over in labour force usually resident and present in state](#)

⁹⁰ Provided via email by *publicjobs.ie* on 20/10/2025

Table 26 Industry group of Traveller and General Population Labour Force 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Broad Industry Group	% of White Irish Traveller Labour force	% of General population all ethnicities) Labour force	% of Employed White Irish Travellers	% of Employed General population (all ethnicities)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	0.5%	3.3%	1.4%	3.6%
Mining and quarrying (B)	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Manufacturing (C)	1.9%	9.6%	4.9%	10.5%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (D)	0.1%	0.5%	0.3%	0.6%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (E)	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%
Construction (F)	2.1%	5.3%	5.5%	5.8%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G)	3.2%	11.0%	8.3%	12.0%
Transportation and storage (H)	0.9%	3.4%	2.2%	3.8%
Accommodation and food service activities (I)	2.0%	4.9%	5.0%	5.3%
Information and communication (J)	0.3%	4.9%	0.7%	5.4%
Financial and insurance activities (K)	0.4%	4.2%	0.9%	4.5%
Real estate activities (L)	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%
Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)	0.5%	6.2%	1.3%	6.8%
Administrative and support service activities (N)	2.2%	3.4%	5.7%	3.8%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security (O)	0.9%	5.2%	2.2%	5.6%
Education (P)	1.8%	8.3%	4.7%	9.1%
Human health and social work activities (Q)	4.4%	10.7%	11.3%	11.6%
Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)	0.5%	1.5%	1.2%	1.6%
Other service activities (S)	1.1%	2.1%	2.9%	2.3%
Activities of households as employers; producing activities of households for own use (T)	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies (U)	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Industry not stated	15.8%	5.9%	40.5%	6.4%
Unemployed Looking for first regular job	12.9%	1.3%	N/A	N/A
Unemployed, having lost or given up previous job	48.1%	6.9%	N/A	N/A

Table 27 White Irish Traveller applicants and assigned/recommended candidates in 2024 and 2025 (Source: Publicjobs.ie 2025)⁹¹

Economic Status	2024	YTD* Q2 2025	YTD Q3 2025
Application stage: Total Applicants	78,735	20,118	22,860
Application stage: White Irish Travellers	132	43	53
Application Stage: White Irish Travellers %	0.17%	0.21%	0.23%
Assignment stage: Total Assignments	9,408	4,387	6,757
Assignment stage: White Irish Travellers	22	9	11
Assignment Stage: White Irish Travellers %	0.23%	0.21%	0.16%

*YTD: Year to date

9.2 Income

The CSO has looked at household incomes across a range of categories (including ethnicity) as part of its Frontier series, published in October 2025. This series uses newer methods to make comparisons so some care must be used when interpreting the results. Here the approach combines administrative and Census data to give some insights on household incomes. The comparison uses the ‘median gross household administrative income’. This is the midpoint of the income distribution for a household, before taxes and social insurance deductions. The income may be underestimated in some cases as this method excludes some sources of income such as investment or foreign income not declared in Ireland. A low-income threshold was calculated as €16,271 for this publication.

According to this analysis, the median gross household administrative income of a household in the general population was €60,123 in 2022. For the largest ethnic group (White Irish) it was €60,594. Households headed by a White Irish Traveller had the lowest median gross household administrative income of any ethnic group, at €37,109. This group was most dependent on social transfers, with 80.3% (€33,723) of gross household administrative income coming from social welfare sources, and 19.7% from market sources. In the general population 85% of gross household administrative income came from market sources, and 15% was from social transfers.

⁹¹ Provided via email by publicjobs.ie on 20/10/2025

The most significant share – 39.9% – of median gross household administrative income for Traveller headed households comes from social transfers related to illness, disability and caring. By comparison, these payments only represent 3.5% of the median gross household administrative income of White Irish headed households and households in the general population (headed by any ethnic group). The CSO report notes that this reflects that the principle economic status of White Irish Travellers ‘unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability’ was 18.5%, compared to 4.6% among the general population.

Another measure of household income which provides greater insight into the capacity of a household to meet the financial needs of its members, is equivalised net administrative income. This measure of household income accounts for the number of adults and children in the household, allowing for analysis at an individual level. In 2022 White Irish headed households had the lowest mean equivalised household size (1.93), and a mean of 1.58 adults and 0.62 children. While White Irish Traveller headed households had the highest mean equivalised household size (2.47), and the highest mean number of children (1.64). After adjusting for household size, the average individual from the general population had a median equivalised net administrative income of € 27,119, the equivalent for a White Irish individual was €28,003, while White Irish Traveller individuals had the lowest median equivalised net administrative income of all ethnic groups, at €15,452.

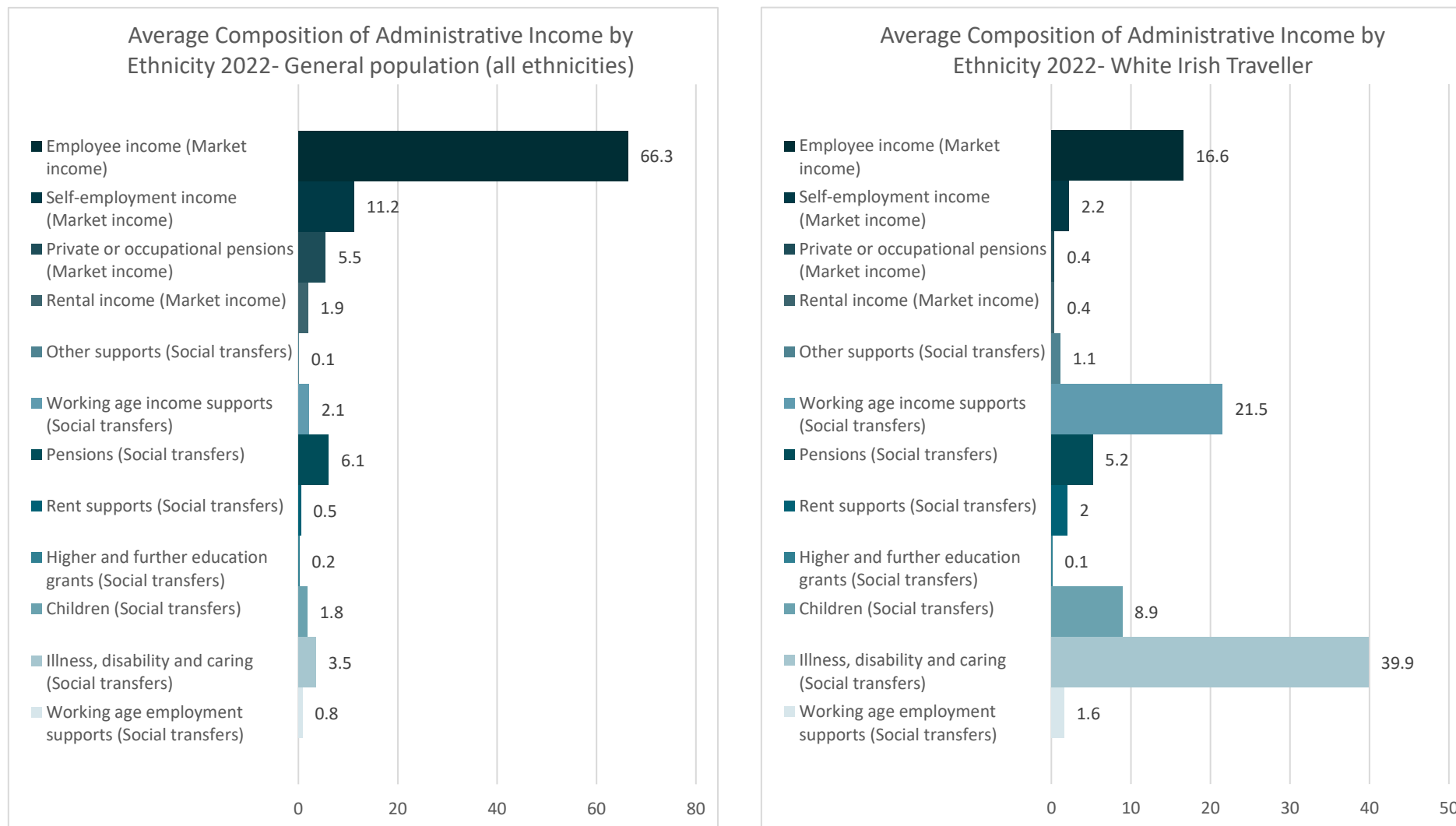
Table 28 Median Gross Household Administrative Income and Household Median Equivalised Net Administrative Income by Ethnicity of Head of Household 2022 (Source: CSO 2025) ⁹²

Ethnicity of the Head of Household	Median Gross Household Administrative Income	Median Equivalised Net Administrative Income
All ethnic or cultural backgrounds	€60,123	€ 27,119
White Irish	€60,594	€28,003
White Irish Traveller	€37,109	€15,452

⁹² [Income Analysis Using Administrative Data Sources 2022 – CSO statistical release, 14 October 2025](#)



Figure 12 Composition of Mean Household Administrative Income by Ethnicity of Head of Household: All ethnic or cultural backgrounds and White Irish Travellers 2022 (Source: CSO 2025) ⁹³



⁹³ Income Analysis Using Administrative Data Sources 2022 – CSO statistical release, 14 October 2025

The CSO's publication includes a section in which they calculate a low-administrative-income threshold. This may be considered as a form of poverty line. The low-administrative-income threshold was set at 60% of the national median equivalised net administrative income. Taking 60% of this net income (€27,119), gives us a low-administrative-income threshold of €16,271 per annum per person. The CSO calculates what proportion of people fall below this threshold by ethnicity. Among the general population, 14.9% of individuals fall below this threshold. While individuals identifying as White Irish were least likely to fall below the threshold, at a rate of 12.8%; and White Irish Travellers were most likely to fall below this threshold, at a rate of 56.7%.

Table 29 Percentage of Individuals falling below 60% of Median Equivalised Net Administrative Income by Ethnicity 2022 (Source: CSO 2025)⁹⁴

Ethnicity	% of individuals
All ethnic or cultural backgrounds	14.9%
White Irish	12.8%
White Irish Traveller	56.7%

The FRA's 2021 and 2024 Traveller and Roma surveys included data on the types of income that the respondent's household had received in the previous 12 months. The main sources of income reported in the 2024 survey for Irish Traveller households in the previous 12 months were Unemployment benefits (77%); Child Benefits (including alimonies) (55%); Wages or salaries (income from paid work) (27%); and Other social benefits (social assistance, rent support, donations from charity) (16%).⁹⁵

The FRA survey did not include comparators with the general population. However, the Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) does give information of a broadly similar nature at a national or general population level. However, due to the difference in the composition of SILC 2024 and the FRA's surveys, these results are

⁹⁴ [Income Analysis Using Administrative Data Sources 2022 – CSO statistical release, 14 October 2025](#)

⁹⁵ [Roma Survey 2024, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA 2024\)](#)

not directly comparable, and caution should be excised when interpreting the following paragraph.

SILC 2024 indicates that 74.8% of general population households received 'Employee income' in the previous year while the FRA's survey ⁹⁶ indicated that 27% of Traveller households surveyed in 2024 received 'Wages or salaries (income from paid work)' in the previous 12 months. Additionally, 1% of Traveller households reported receiving 'Income from self-employment (including farming)' in the previous 12 months in the FRA's survey, while 22.3% of households in the general population surveyed for SILC 2024 reported receiving 'Self-employment income' in the previous year. While only 6% of Traveller households reported receiving income from pensions in the FRA's 2024 survey; in SILC 2024, 19.4% of households in the general population reported receiving income from a 'Private or occupational pension', while 25.6% of households reported receiving 'Old-age related payments'. ⁹⁷ This difference may be explained by the fact that Census 2022 indicates that Traveller community is younger than the general population. While 77% of Traveller households reported receiving income from 'Unemployment benefits' in FRA 2024, 14.5% of households in the general population reported receiving 'Unemployment related benefits' in SILC 2024. This difference may be explained by the higher rate on unemployment in the Traveller community when compared to the general population, according to Census 2022.

9.3 Poverty and Making ends meet

According to the FRA 2024 survey, 96% of Travellers in Ireland, and 97% of Traveller children are at risk of poverty, in comparison to 12% of Ireland's general population and 15% of children in the general population. Additionally, 40% of Travellers in Ireland were found to be living in severe material deprivation, in comparison to 4% of the general population.⁹⁸

⁹⁶ [Roma Survey 2024, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA 2024\)](#)

⁹⁷ [SILC 2024](#)

⁹⁸ [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\) Roma and Traveller Survey – Country data Ireland- 2025](#)

The 2021 and 2024 FRA surveys included a question on whether the respondent's household was able to make ends meet. In 2024 39% of Irish Travellers responded 'With (great) difficulty', while a combined 58% responded with either 'With some difficulty', 'Fairly easily' or '(very) easily'.⁹⁹ Similar results were found in the 2021 FRA survey¹⁰⁰, when 40% of Irish Travellers responded 'With (great) difficulty'.¹⁰¹

When asked if their household had difficulty making ends meet in the Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) in the same year (a slightly different question to the one asked of Travellers in the FRA survey), 14.6% of respondents (representing the general population) responded with either 'with great difficulty' (5.6%) or 'with difficulty' (9.8%), and a combined 84.7% of SILC respondents responded either 'with little difficulty' (30.8%), 'Fairly easily' (32.1%), Easily (14.6%) or 'Very easily' (9.4%) in 2024. Once again it is important to exercise caution when comparing results from different studies with differing questions and methodologies. In the interest of providing some broad context, the FRA and SILC data have been presented together in following table.

Table 30 Responses to 'Household able to make ends meet' (Source: European Union Agency for Fundamental

⁹⁹ [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\) Roma and Traveller Survey – Country data Ireland- 2025](#)

¹⁰⁰ [Roma Survey 2024 - FRA](#)

¹⁰¹ [Roma and Travellers Survey FRA 2021](#)



Rights (FRA), 2021 & 2024)¹⁰² and 'Difficulty in making ends meet (Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2021¹⁰³ & 2024)¹⁰⁴

Responses*	% of Traveller Households (FRA 2021)	% of Traveller Households (FRA 2024)	% of General Population (SILC 2021)	% of General Population (SILC 2024)	Notes
With (great) difficulty	40.0	39.0	14.6	15.4	SILC General population figure combines answers to 'with great difficulty' (5.7%, 5.6%) and 'with difficulty' (8.9%, 9.8%) in 2021, 2024
With some difficulty, fairly easily or (very) easily	57.0	58.0	85.4	84.7	SILC General population figure combines answers to 'with little difficulty' (27.2%, 30.8%), 'Fairly easily' (34.3%, 32.1%), 'Easily' (14.5%, 14.6) and 'Very easily' (9.4%, 7.2%) in 2021, 2024
Don't know/ Refused	2.0	3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A

*It is important to note that the FRA and SILC data are presented side by side for illustrative purposes only.

¹⁰² Roma and Traveller's Survey FRA 2021 & Roma Survey 2024 - FRA

¹⁰³ [SILC 2021](#)

¹⁰⁴ [SILC 2024](#)

10. Housing

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage prepare annual estimates on the distribution by type and, location by local authority of Traveller accommodation. The *2023 Annual estimate of Travellers in all categories of accommodation*, reported on 12,367 Traveller families. A total of 8,423 of these families were accommodated with or without the assistance of local authorities. The majority of families were reported as being accommodated in standard local authority housing. At the end of 2023, the report indicates 576 Traveller families were living in unauthorised sites, 980 families were sharing accommodation, and 1,514 families were in private rented accommodation.¹⁰⁵

Table 31 Total Number of Traveller Families in all categories of accommodation 2017 - 2023 (Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)¹⁰⁶

Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accommodated by or with assistance of LA	6,234	6,593	6,738	7,187	7,607	7,988	8,423
Unauthorised sites	585	591	529	468	487	654	576
Own resources	795	744	690	501	876	813	874
Private rented	2,387	2,165	1,919	2,162	1,882	1,821	1,514
Sharing houses	1,115	927	933	800	828	907	980
Total	11,116	11,020	10,809	11,118	11,680	12,183	12,367

Census 2022 includes data on which categories of accommodation the general population (all households) were living in.¹⁰⁷ While the categories are not exactly the same as those used by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), this data provides some insight into how housing tenure patterns compare between Traveller households and the general population. Caution should be exercised when making comparisons or drawing conclusions using these two sources.

In Census 2022 a combined 10% of households in the general population were renting from a local authority (8.3%) or a voluntary body (1.6%); while 65.6% of

¹⁰⁵ [Annual Count 2023: Total Number of Traveller Families in all categories of Accommodation - Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage- 2024](#)

¹⁰⁶ [Annual Count 2023: Total Number of Traveller Families in all categories of Accommodation - \(DHLGH\)- 2024](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results: Dwelling Characteristics - Central statistics Office- CSO](#)

Traveller households were accommodated by or with the assistance of a local authority that year. Owner occupiers represented 65.9% of households in the general population with (28.9%) or without (37%) a loan or mortgage, while 6.7% of Traveller households were being accommodated with their own resources.

There were 18% of households living in homes rented from a private landlord, while 12.8% of Traveller households lived in private rented accommodation. 'Other' forms of housing were 6.1% of all households lived in and included: households who lived in homes 'Occupied free of rent' (1.7%) and those who did not state what type of housing they were living in (4.4%). Traveller households lived in 'Other' forms of housing (12.8%) included households living on unauthorised sites (5.4%) and sharing housing (7.4%).^{108 & 109}

Separately, the FRA Roma 2024 survey indicated that 42% of Travellers in Ireland live in housing deprivation, representing an increase from 39% in 2019. It found that 63% live in overcrowded housing. There was no equivalent data available for the general population. The 2024 survey also reports that 62% of respondents lived in an older house (46%), a new house (11%) or an apartment in a block of flats (5%) in relatively good condition, 21% in a mobile home/ caravan, 14% in an older house in bad condition (13%) or a ruined house/ slum (1%).¹¹⁰

Table 32 Number and percentage of Traveller Families living in all categories of accommodation in 2022

¹⁰⁸ [Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results: Dwelling Characteristics](#) – Central statistics Office- CSO

¹⁰⁹ [Annual Count 2023: Total Number of Traveller Families in all categories of Accommodation](#) – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)- 2024

¹¹⁰ [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\) Roma and Traveller Survey – Country data Ireland- 2025; FRA Roma Survey 2024](#)

(Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)¹¹¹ and Number and percentage of households in all categories of accommodation in 2022 (Census 2022)

Categories of Accommodation (DHLGH 2024)*	Traveller Households	% of Traveller Households	% of All Households	Number of Households	Categories of Accommodation (Census 2022)*
Accommodated by or with assistance of LA	7,988	65.6	8.3	153,192	Rented from a local authority
			1.6	29,880	Rented from a voluntary body
Own resources	813	6.7	65.9	1,210,925	Owner occupied (With loan or mortgage and without loan or mortgage)
Private rented	1,821	14.9	18.0	330,632	Rented from private landlord
Other (On unauthorised sites, Sharing housing)	1,561	12.8	6.1	112,099	Other (Occupied free of rent, not stated)
Total	12,183	100	100	1,836,728	All types of occupancy

*It is important to note that these two sources of data are presented side by side for illustrative purposes only.

The Housing section of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Roma and Traveller Surveys included several questions which relate to housing discrimination and instability. The FRA Roma* 2024 survey indicated that 74% of Travellers in Ireland (an increase of one percentage point from 73% in 2019) felt discriminated against when looking for housing.¹¹²

In the FRA Roma Survey 2024, when asked 'In the past 5 years has your household ever been forced to leave the accommodation', 65% of Irish Traveller respondents stated that they not been forced to leave their accommodation in the last 5 years. Of the 35% who had been forced to leave accommodation in the previous 5 years: 8% were forced to leave due to 'the landlord terminated the contract', 6% were forced to leave 'due to the absence of a formal contract', 2% were forced to leave due to 'financial difficulties', and 16% were forced to leave 'for some other reasons'.¹¹³

¹¹¹ [Annual Count 2023: Total Number of Traveller Families in all categories of Accommodation - \(DHLGH\)- 2024](#)

¹¹² *The 2024 iteration of this survey is titled 'FRA Roma Survey' although it also includes responses from Irish Travellers whose responses are reported separately from responses by Roma respondents. Previous iterations of the survey were more accurately titled 'FRA Roma and Traveller Survey'

[FRA Roma Survey 2024](#)

¹¹³ [FRA Roma Survey 2024](#)

The most common reason given in the 2024 survey for moving in the previous 5 years was to find better housing conditions that suits the family need (38%). For tenure status, the survey indicates that 70% of Irish Traveller respondents rent from the ‘municipal/social housing/municipality’.¹¹⁴

Regarding the risk of future forced moves, 4% of respondents to the 2021 FRA survey stated that they believed that they would be forced to leave their accommodation/halting site in the next 6 months. Of these respondents, 27% had been given notice or will be given notice of the owner that their contract has/will be terminated, 9% had been given or will be given notice in the absence of a formal contract, 10% will be forced to leave due to financial difficulties, and 33% will be forced to leave for other reasons.¹¹⁵ The 2024 FRA survey does not appear to have reported on the same set of questions as the 2021 survey so some comparisons may not be possible.

Table 33 Percentage of Irish Traveller households who were forced to leave their accommodation in the last 5 years 2021 & 2024 (Source: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2021 & 2024)¹¹⁶

Forced to leave accommodation in last 5 years	% of respondents 2021	% of respondents 2024
Yes	3	18
No	95	81
Don't know/Refused	2	1

Table 34 Irish Traveller household responses to whether they will be forced to leave their accommodation in the next 6 months 2021 (Source: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2021)

Risk of (forced) leave of accommodation in next 6 months	% of respondents 2021
Yes - household will be forced to leave the accommodation/halting site	4
Yes - household plans to change the accommodation/halting site	4
No - household does not expect any change of the accommodation/halting site	90
Don't know/Refused	2

¹¹⁴ [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\) Roma and Traveller Survey – Country data Ireland-2025](#)

¹¹⁵ [Roma and Travellers Survey 2021 – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#)

¹¹⁶ [Roma and Travellers Survey 2021 & Roma Survey 2024](#)

Table 35 Main reasons for leaving accommodation from Irish Traveller households who indicated that they may be forced to leave their accommodation in the next 6 months (Source: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2021)

Main reason for (forced) leaving accommodation in next 6 months	% of respondents
Household will be forced to leave, since notice has been/will be given by the owner on termination of the contract	27
Household will be forced to leave, since notice has been/will be given by the owner in the absence of a formal contract	9
Household will be forced to leave because of eviction or distraint	21
Household will be forced to leave for financial difficulties	10
Household will be forced to leave for some other reasons	33
Don't know/Refused	0

11. Homelessness

Census 2022 showed that nearly 2,300 people were counted as homeless in Ireland. Of those, 60% were male and 40% were female. White Irish Travellers accounted for 290 (2.8%) of the total homeless population, of which 48.6% were male and 51.4% were female. By comparison, in the general population (all ethnicities) 60.4% of homeless people were male and 39.6% were female; and among the White Irish population, 60.4% of homeless people were male, and 36.4% were female.

Table 36 Ethnicity of homeless people by gender 2022 (Census 2022)

Ethnicity of Homeless Person	Male	Female	Total	% of Total
Any other White background	319	223	542	5.3%
Arab	70	75	145	1.4%
Asian or Asian Irish	78	87	165	1.6%
Black or Black Irish - African	339	317	656	6.4%
Black or Black Irish - any other Black background	14	14	28	0.3%
Other including mixed background	72	74	146	1.4%
Roma	341	311	652	6.3%
White Irish	1163	667	1830	17.8%
White Irish Traveller	141	149	290	2.8%
Not stated	3682	2158	5840	56.7%
All ethnic or cultural backgrounds	6219	4075	10294	100.0%

One of the actions from the National Traveller and Roma Integration Strategy is that ethnicity data on homelessness is to be included in DHLGH quarterly reports by Q4 2024. Ethnicity Information has been included in the Homeless Performance Reports from Quarter 1 2024 onwards. The following table has been compiled from data published by the DHLGH via Local Authority Regional Performance reports from 2024 and 2025. ¹¹⁷

This official homelessness data is produced by local authorities using the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS). The data produced captures details of individuals in State-funded emergency accommodation, arrangements that are

¹¹⁷ [Local authority regional performance reports – Homelessness data – DHLGH](#)

overseen by local authorities. Between Quarter 1 in 2024 and Quarter 1 in 2025, there were 266 Irish Travellers who used State funded emergency accommodation. During the same time period, 14 non-Irish Travellers used emergency funded accommodation.

Table 37 Total number of Newly Homeless Irish Travellers per region and quarter 2024 - 2025 (Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)¹¹⁸

Homeless Traveller - Irish	Dublin Region	Mid-East	Mid-West	Midlands	North-East	North-West	South-East	South-West	West	Total
2024 - Quarter 1	15	14	3	0	2	10	6	1	5	56
2024 - Quarter 2	13	12	8	13	0	4	1	5	11	67
2024 - Quarter 3	11	2	9	1	0	6	5	4	8	46
2024 - Quarter 4	14	3	4	5	3	3	4	1	8	45
2025 - Quarter 1	11	1	7	0	1	4	7	3	18	52

According to Census 2022, of the 32,949 Travellers residing in Ireland, 290 (0.9%) identified as homeless. In comparison, 10,294 (0.2%) of the general population identified as homeless. Of the 290 Travellers who identified as homeless 141 (48.6%) were male and 149 (51.4%) were female. Travellers accounted for 2.8% of the total homeless population in Ireland.¹¹⁹

Table 38 Homeless Travellers as a % of the Homeless general population 2022 (Source: Census 2022)

Gender	Travellers	General population	Travellers as % of general population
Male	141	6,219	2.3%
Female	149	4,075	3.7%
Total	290	10,294	2.8%

¹¹⁸ Local authority regional performance reports – Homelessness data – DHLGH

¹¹⁹ Census of Population 2022 Profile 6 - Homelessness - Central Statistics Office

Conclusion

According to Census 2022, there were 32,949 Travellers living in Ireland, with the largest number of Travellers living in Dublin (6,196). The Traveller community comprised 0.6% of the general population of Ireland in 2022.

There was a relatively even split of male and female Travellers living in Ireland, with the majority being under 25 years of age. There was a similarly even split between male and female individuals in the general population, with the majority being under 39 years of age. There was a very small number of Travellers over the age of 85 living in Ireland (0.2% of Travellers) compared to 1.6% the general population, indicating a shorter life expectancy among Travellers.

The majority of Travellers in Ireland reported that they were in good health, with only 4% of the population stating that their health was bad or very bad. However, this represents a higher proportion than the general population where 1.7% reported they were in bad or very bad health. Approximately 49.4% of the Traveller population in Ireland stated that they had never smoked tobacco products compared to 60.5% of the general population. A total of 6% of Travellers under the age of 20 reported that they smoked tobacco products every day.

In 2022, approximately 13% of Travellers between the ages of 15 and 24 years were married, which was significantly higher than the same age range in the general population (< 0.5%).

A small percentage of Travellers in Ireland reported that they were homeless, accounting for 0.9% of the Traveller population. This compares to 0.2% among the general population. There was a relatively even split between male and female Travellers who were homeless. However, there was a higher number of female than male homeless Travellers, while among the general population men were more likely to be homeless than women.

In terms of education, 83% of Traveller children transferred from primary to post-primary education, which was lower than the general population rate of transfer of



96%. However, increasing numbers of Traveller children are sitting their Junior Certificate, with 78.3% of Traveller students who commenced their post-primary education in 2017, sitting the Junior Certificate in 2022 or 2023, an increase of 16.7 percentage points over a six-year period (since 2016/2017).

Less than 17% of the Traveller community over the age of 15 years old were employed compared to 56.2% of the general population. There was a relatively even split between male and females who were working. Approximately 17% of the Traveller community over the age of 15 years old were long-term unemployed, higher than the general population rate of 2.57%. Of those who were employed, the largest group (40.5%) did not state the industry in which they were working, however a further 11.3% were working in the *Human health and social work activities* sector and 8.3% were working in the *Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles* sector.

This report has aimed to provide some insight into the Traveller community in Ireland and highlights several aspects of Traveller community, education, and life in Ireland. It is important to note that the data presented here relates largely to the Census. In 2023, Pavee Point, a Traveller and Roma advocacy organisation prepared a *Submission to the Central Statistics Office (CSO)* in which they highlighted various drawbacks to Census data including potential under-enumeration of Travellers and Roma people in the census and other CSO reports. Reasons for this include poor literacy rates, and fear that data will be misused. However, they also commended the inclusion of a question on ethnicity and, advocated for more extensive publication of census data disaggregated by ethnicity.¹²⁰

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¹²⁰ [Submission to the Central Statistics Office \(CSO\) from Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre - 2023](#)



**DATA +
ANALYTICS**



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Background Notes

This is the 16th publication in the Statistical Spotlight series. A Statistical Spotlight is a short publication focused on a specific topic, gathering together available statistical data and highlighting trends or patterns in the data. These are intended to be short, statistics-based publications bringing together available information for interested users. The publications include some commentary detailing (where relevant) trends and comparisons as appropriate (e.g. comparisons between gender, region, age group, etc.).

The primary purpose is to gather the most relevant data, highlight those most recent, and draw attention to the most evident features or trends. Therefore, although it could serve as the basis for further research, none of the information contained therein should in and of itself be used to ascribe cause and effect between any two variables.

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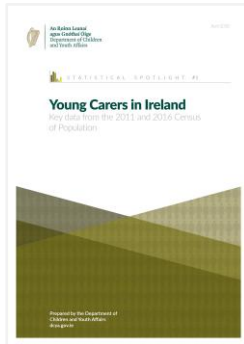
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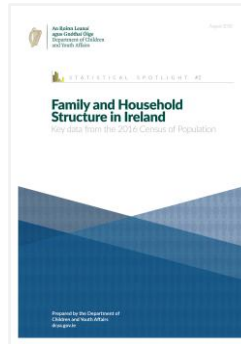
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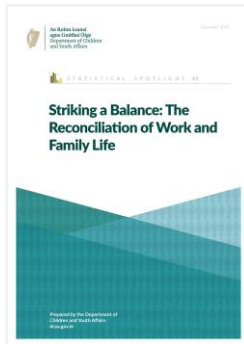
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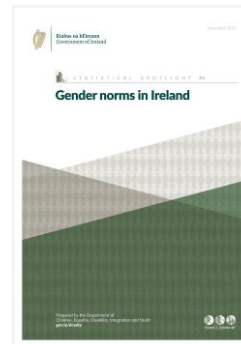
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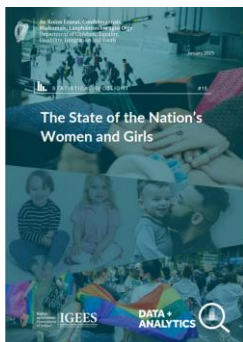
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