

# Using administrative data to inform operational and policy developments relating to family homelessness in the Dublin Region

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on Homelessness**

Central European University, Budapest  
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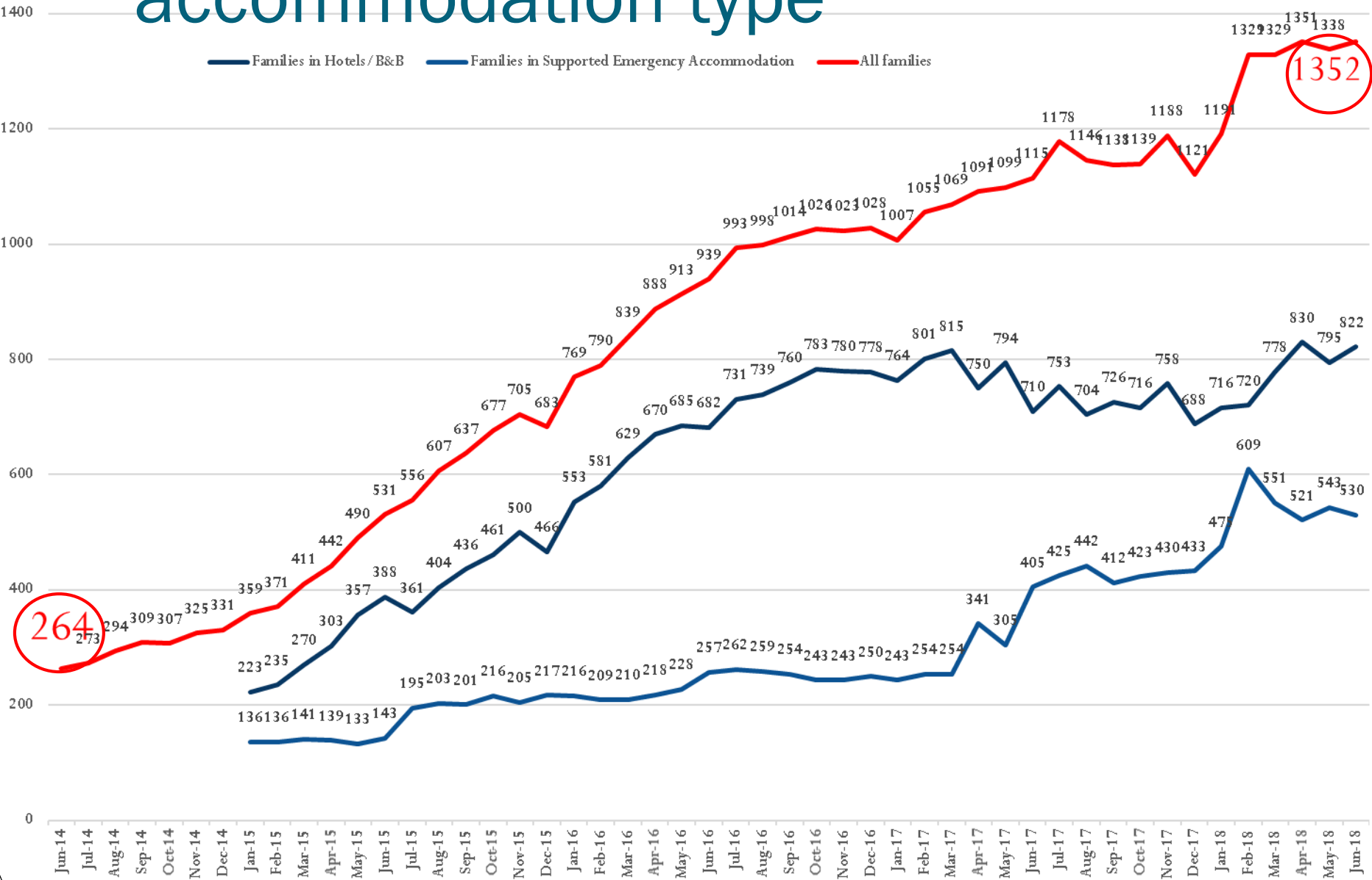
# Presentation outline



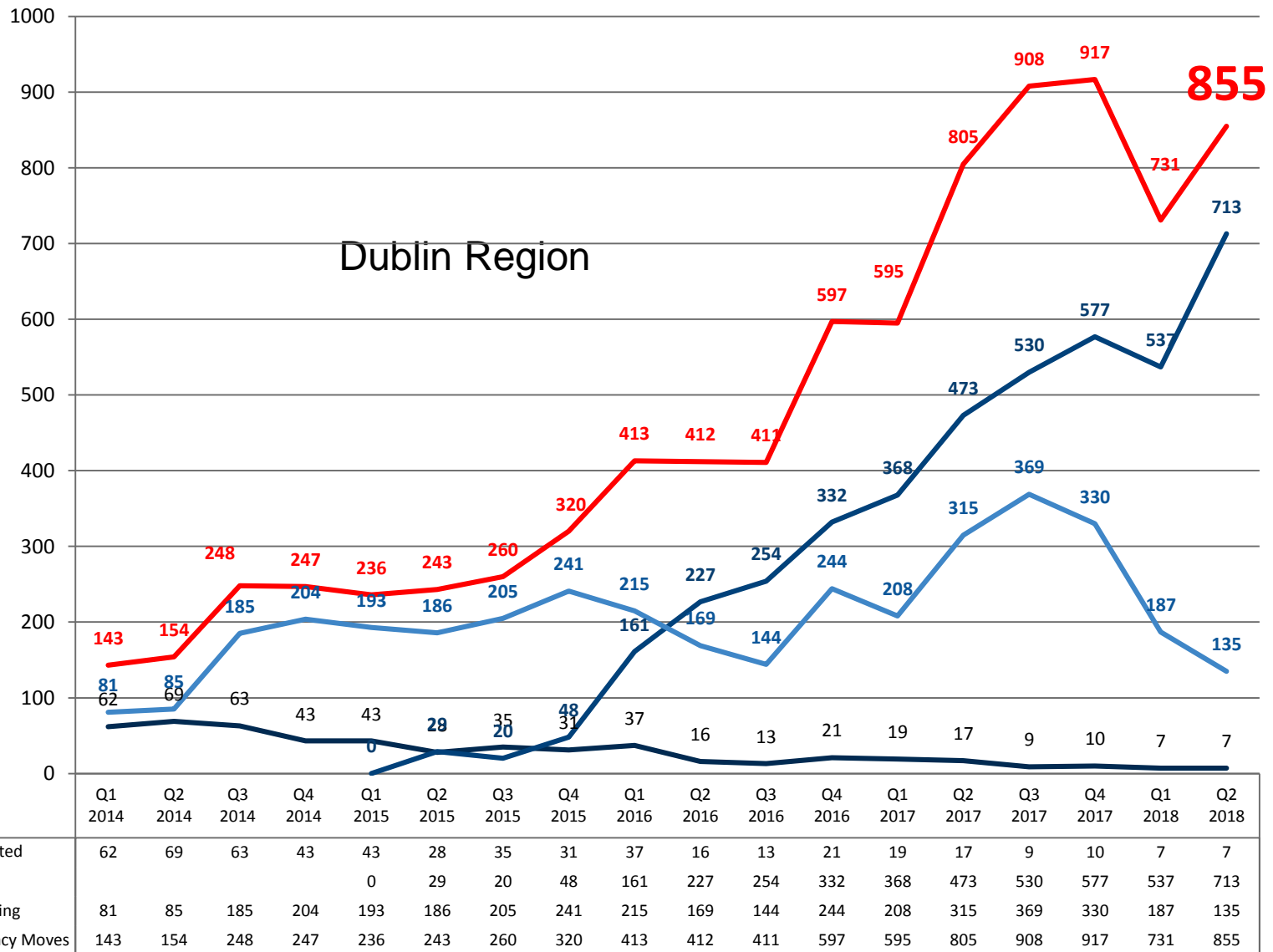
1. Context - family homelessness in the Dublin Region
2. Research methodology
3. Findings
  - Reasons for homelessness
  - Demographics
  - Rates of progression through services
4. Conclusions

# Number of homeless families & accommodation type

Families in Hotels / B&B Families in Supported Emergency Accommodation All families



# Number of exits to tenancies and tenancy type:



# Methodology

*Context:* increases in family homelessness, lack of robust data on reasons for homelessness

*Objectives:*

1. Develop data collection procedures to address this gap;
2. Provide comprehensive information on the families experiencing homelessness in Dublin;
3. Assist in focusing policy on the effective management of services in the Dublin Region and the development of a regional and national response to the issue of housing supply.

# Methodology

*Sample:* All families who newly experienced homelessness in 2016 and 2017 (n=1,878)

*Data:*

1. Administrative data recorded by the four local authorities in the Dublin Region i.e. initial assessment forms filled out with the families
2. PASS data – is the national shared database for bed and case management. It provides real-time information for homeless presentation; bed occupancy; and departures from accommodation.

*Data analysis:* SPSS and excel

# Findings from the research using administrative and PASS data

1. Reasons for homelessness: A single primary reason for homelessness provided by the families was extracted and reviewed.
2. Demographic information: which families are most susceptible to homelessness?
3. Family progression through homeless services: The rate at which families leave homeless accommodation and where they leave to.

# 1. Reasons for homelessness\*

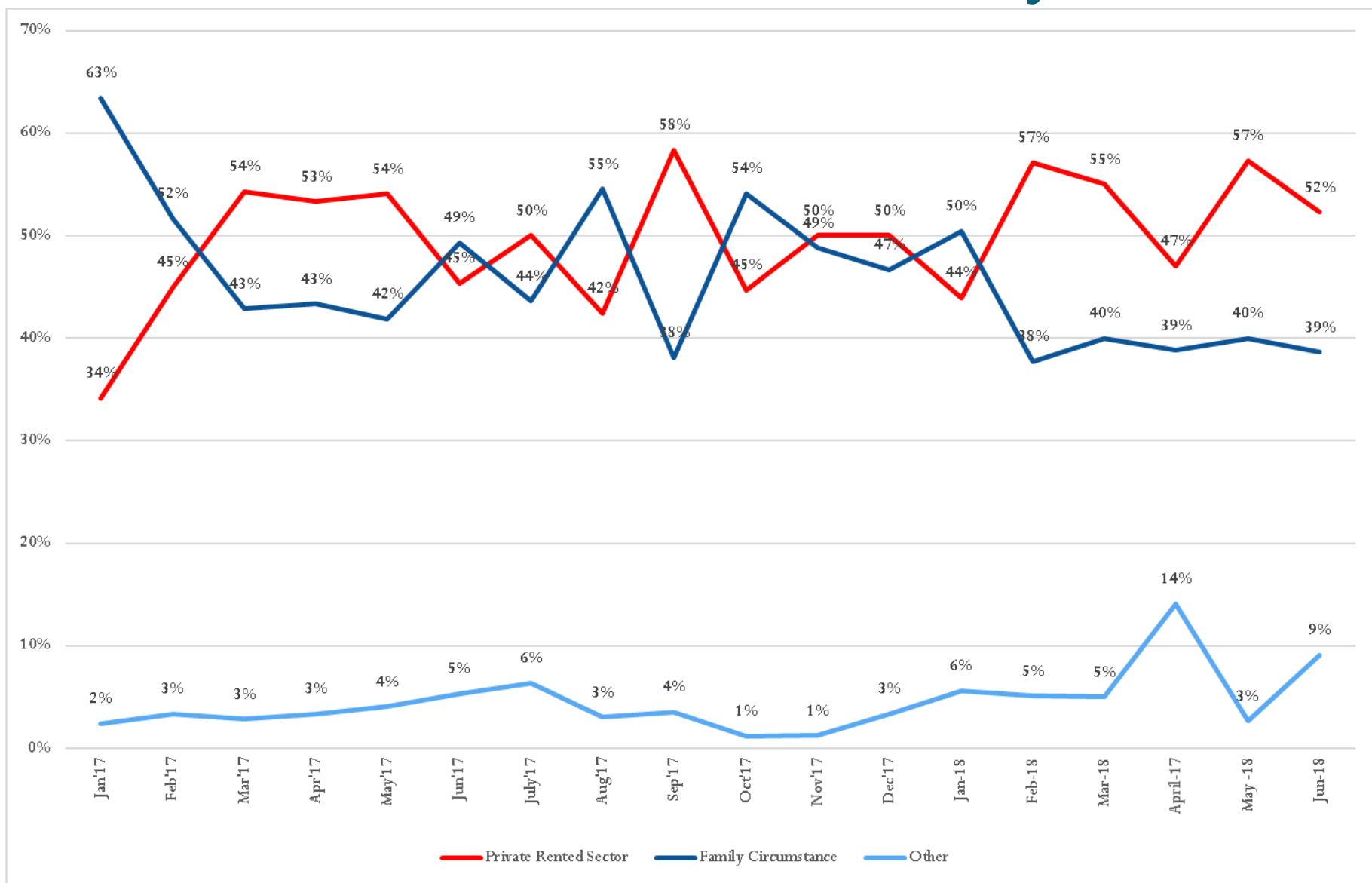
Two primary reasons:

1. Leaving the private rented sector on foot of a Notice to Quit
2. Leaving the home of family or friends as a result of relationship breakdown and/or overcrowding

\*A small number of families reported 'other' reasons for homelessness

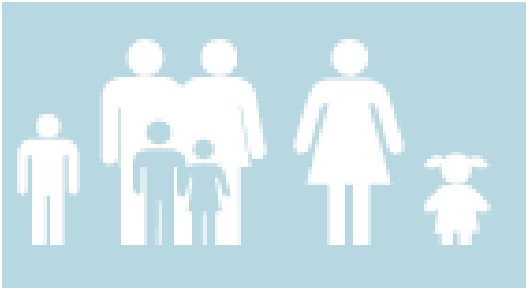


# % Reasons for homelessness by month



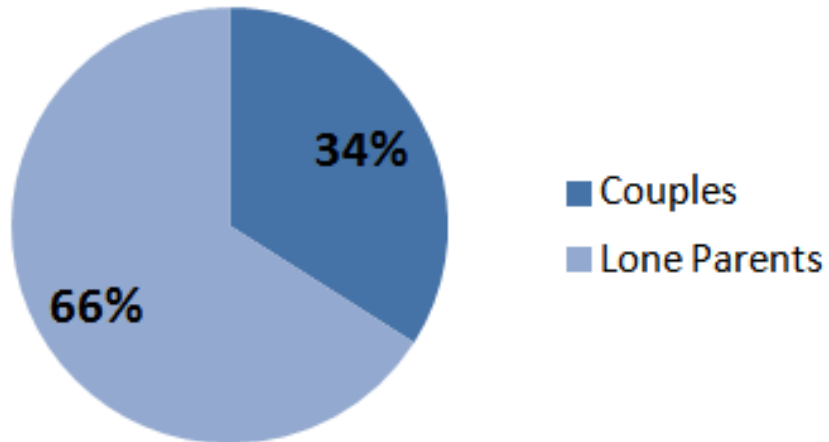
## 2. Demographics: 2016 & 2017 families

- Family type
- Family size
- Nationality



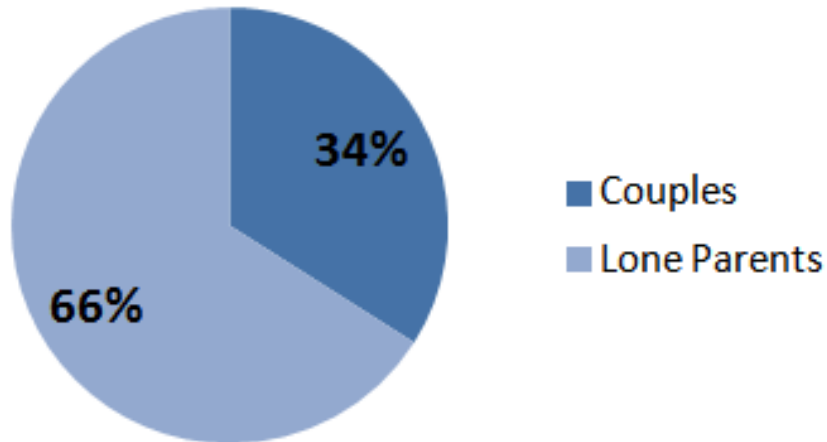
# Family type

Newly homeless families in  
Dublin region, 2016 &  
2017 families

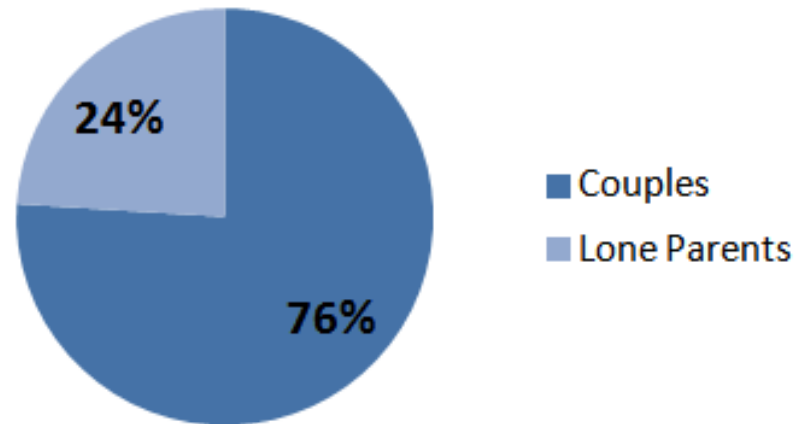


# Family type

Newly homeless families in  
Dublin region, 2016 &  
2017 families



Families in the national  
general population, Census  
2016



## Family size

Number of children per family	New families who accessed emergency accommodation Dublin Region, 2016	New families who accessed emergency accommodation Dublin Region, 2017
1 Child	46%	45%
2 Children	28%	28%
3 Children	12%	16%
4+ Children	14%	11%
Total	100% (n=878)	100% (n=971)

- CSO 2016: Families with four or more children = 7%

# Nationality

Nationality	New families who accessed emergency accommodation Dublin Region, 2016	New families who accessed emergency accommodation Dublin Region, 2017
Irish	68%	67%
EU	9%	12%
Non-EU	23%	21%
Total	100% (n=878)	100% (n=971)

- CSO 2016: Non-Irish National = 12% of general population

# Families more vulnerable to experiences of homelessness




1. Lone parent families
2. Larger families
3. Non-Irish national families

# 3. Family progression through homeless services

- The accommodation status of the families new to homelessness in 2016 (n=902) and 2017 (n=976) was reviewed to explore their rate of progression through homeless services. Three distinct categories were identified:
  1. Families departed to tenancy;
  2. Families departed homeless accommodation – no departure reason;
  3. Families still in homeless accommodation.






Where were the 2016 (n=902) families in **2017** & **2018**?

	31st May 2017	28th February 2018
	<b>32%</b> Departed to tenancy	<b>54%</b> Departed to tenancy
	<b>17%</b> Departed homeless services – No departure reason	<b>18%</b> Departed homeless services – No departure reason
	<b>48%</b> Emergency accommodation	<b>25%</b> Emergency accommodation

Insufficient information was available on the on the accommodation status of 3% of families in 2016 and 2017.

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## No departure reason (18 % of total 2016 families ): 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Duration in emergency accommodation	Families	
	2016	2017
Up to 6 nights	25%	10%
1-4 weeks	17%	10%
1-5 months	34%	10%
6-11 months	13%	10%
12+ months	11%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100% (n=161)</b>	<b>100% (n=161)</b>

**42% left within a month**

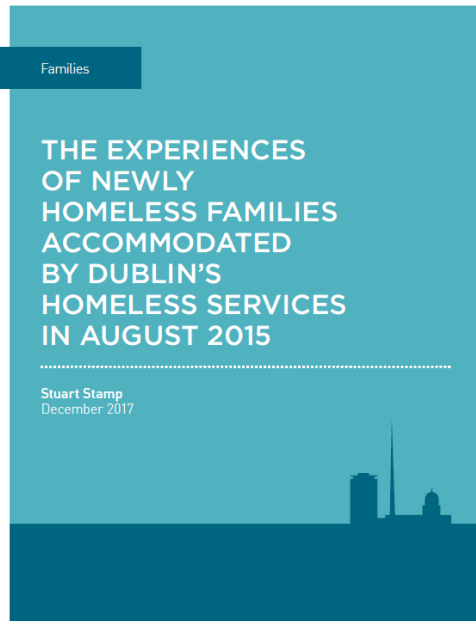
**1 in 7 families left without the support of NGO services or local authority staff**

# Summary of key findings:

- The number of families experiencing homelessness in Dublin region has increased by 1,088 over a two year period (June 2014 – June 2018)
- Almost a 50/50 split in reasons for homelessness between family circumstance and difficulties in the private rented sector, however a wider gap has starting to emerge in 2018
- Lone parent, larger families and non- Irish national families more vulnerable to experiences of homelessness.
- 1 in 7 families leave without the support of homeless services, the majority of which had very short stays in EA.

# Limitations of administrative data

- Available data captures a single reason for homelessness;
- Reasons for homelessness often more complex



Previous qualitative research indicated that many families in the family circumstance category had previously departed from private rented accommodation.

# Implications (1)

1. Review of the initial assessment form to capture more robust data

- Reasons for homelessness and previous accommodation categories added for consistency

## OLD INITIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

SECTION 2: Details of Homelessness	
Is this your first experience of homelessness? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Length of time homeless	
Reason for homelessness	
What homeless services have you/do you use and are you excluded from any	

# NEW INITIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Reasons for homelessness

## SECTION 4: DETAILS OF HOMELESSNESS

Is this your first experience of homelessness?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If NO, has it been two years or more since you have been homeless (i.e. no PASS record exists anymore)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Please indicate the reason/s for your current experience of homelessness according to type of previous accommodation:

	Private Rented	Local Authority	Home owner	Parental/ family home	Other	Verified	
NOT – landlords family use						Yes	No
NOT – property to be sold						Yes	No
NOT – landlords bankrupt/ receivership						Yes	No
NOT – tenant rent arrears						Yes	No
NOT – anti social behaviour						Yes	No
NOT – building work/repairs						Yes	No
Invalid/illegal NOT						Yes	No
Voluntarily left property without NOT						Yes	No
No income source						Yes	No
Property repossessed						Yes	No
Relationship breakdown – parent						Yes	No
Relationship breakdown – partner						Yes	No
Relationship breakdown - other (please specify below)						Yes	No
Overcrowding						Yes	No
Overcrowding multiple addresses						Yes	No
Experience of anti social behaviour						Yes	No
Mental health problems						Yes	No
Leaving general hospital						Yes	No
Leaving from prison						Yes	No
Leaving from psychiatric care						Yes	No
Leaving HSE childcare services						Yes	No
If OTHER please give details (e.g. addiction, disabilities)							

## Accommodation history

[illegible]



# NEW INITIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

## Accommodation history

### SECTION 5: ACCOMODATION HISTORY

Please give details of previous accommodation (four if applicable) that you have resided in. Number them in order of most recent with one being the most recent:

Address	Type of accommodation (Please select from list provided)	Date at address	
		From	
		To	
		From	
		To	
		From	
		To	
		From	
		To	

	Abbreviation		Abbreviation
Homeowner	HO	Parents/Family: PR	FAM/PR
Traveller accommodation	TA	Parents/Family: LA/AHB	FAM/LA
Direct provision/asylum	DP	Parents/Family: Homeowner	FAM/HO
Local authority tenancy	LA	Living/staying with friends	FAM/FR
Approved housing body	AHB	Domestic violence refuge	DV
Private rented	PR	Long term accommodation	LTA
PR with HAP (or RAS/rent supplement)	PR/HAP	Emergency accommodation	EA

# Implications (2)

## 2 Informed a change in the scheme of lettings in Dublin City Council

- Families who newly present as homeless no longer get 'priority' on the housing waiting list.

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# THE IRISH TIMES

Tue, Jun 12, 2018

NEWS

SPORT

BUSINESS

OPINION

LIFE & STYLE

CULTURE

Social Affairs > Religion & Beliefs

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## Council to stop giving homeless families priority on housing list

Council hopes move will prompt families to use financial supports and rent independently

© Tue, May 15, 2018, 01:00

# Conclusions

- Combined use of administrative and PASS data gives a more complete picture of patterns of service use and engagement with homeless services among families newly experiencing homelessness;
- Provided a comprehensive profile of families experiencing homelessness;
- Allowed for a discovery of previously unknown information particularly around departures from accommodation;
- Actively used to plan for services and support families experiencing homelessness;
- Contributed to policy discussions – homeless priority on housing waiting list.

Families

## REPORTED REASONS FOR FAMILY HOMELESSNESS IN THE DUBLIN REGION: JULY TO DECEMBER 2017

January 2018

Families

## A REPORT ON THE 2016 AND 2017 FAMILIES WHO EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS IN THE DUBLIN REGION

Holly Morrin and Dr. Bernie O'Donoghue Hynes  
April 2018

## Census 2016 Homeless Results

Families

## THE EXPERIENCES OF NEWLY HOMELESS FAMILIES ACCOMMODATED BY DUBLIN'S HOMELESS SERVICES IN AUGUST 2015

Stuart Stamp  
December 2017

Homelessness and Housing Needs

## Homelessness and the Assessment of Housing Needs 2016: Report for Dublin

Michelle Reilly and Pathie Maphosa

 **Foillseachánacht um Ósáine ar Éiríoch**  
Dublin Region Homeless Executive

 **Foillseachánacht um Ósáine ar Éiríoch**  
Dublin Region Homeless Executive

<http://www.homelessdublin.ie/publications>

# Questions?

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Dublin City Council Civic Offices,  
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**Feidhmeannacht um Dhaoine ar Easpa  
Díðine Réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath**

**Dublin Region Homeless Executive**