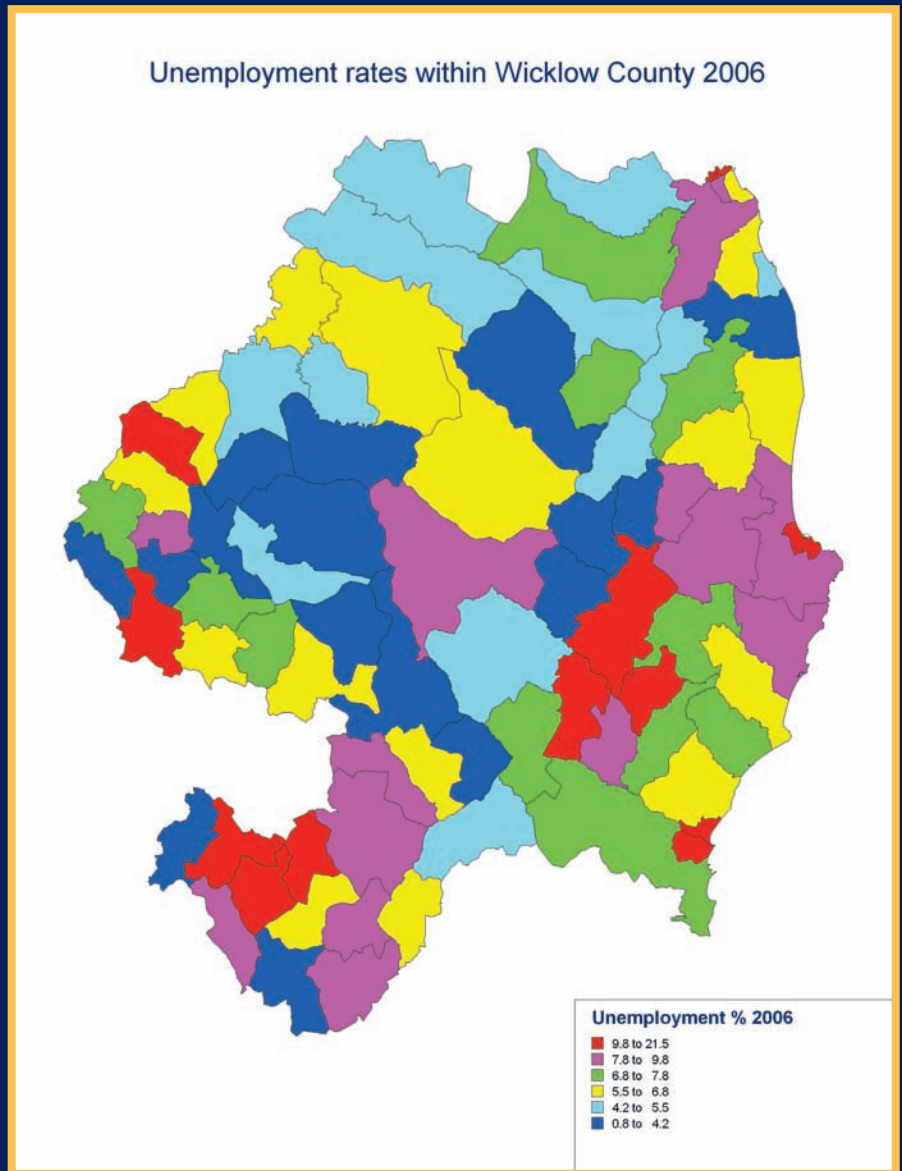
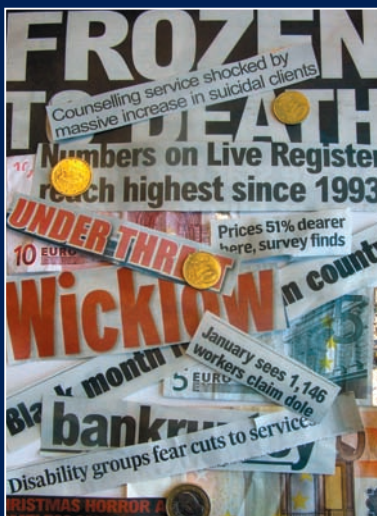


# ANALYSING NEED

## A PROFILE OF DISADVANTAGE IN COUNTY WICKLOW



A Joint Project By:

Wicklow County Council's Social Inclusion Unit  
and the Social Inclusion Measures Group of the  
Wicklow County Development Board 2009

**Wicklow**  
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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# BACKGROUND

Wicklow County Councils' Social Inclusion Unit was established in early 2002. The Social Inclusion Unit's principal objectives include:

- Assessing current Local Authority policies with regard to social inclusion
- Raising awareness among staff on the issue of social inclusion and its priority position within all aspects of future Council policy
- Evaluating work implementation plans and/or strategies arising from policies to ensure consistency with the principles of social inclusion
- Being proactively involved in social inclusion based research on a county wide basis

One of its key objectives therefore, is to identify existing data on the extent and nature of poverty within the local authority area, and by this means, develop a local poverty profile. A second objective is to identify gaps, which exist in the data on marginalised groups and attempt to fill in the gaps where possible. This profile updates the Poverty Profile of County Wicklow produced by the Unit in 2005. This profile is a joint project between the Social inclusion Measures Group, the Social Inclusion Unit and Wicklow County Development Board.

The profile focuses on the groups highlighted in the National Anti Poverty Strategy, 'Building an Inclusive Society' as being at high risk of poverty or social exclusion Therefore the profile focuses on the following groups and areas:

- Irish Traveller Community
- Other Ethnic Minorities
- Employment and Unemployment
- Drug Misuse
- Older People
- Homelessness in County Wicklow
- The 'New Poor'
- Rural Disadvantage
- Urban Disadvantage/RAPID
- Younger Children
- Women
- Lone Parents
- People with a Disability
- Prisoners
- Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transsexual community (LGBT)

This profile is based primarily on the results of the 2006 Census of Population and this data is complimented and supported by data obtained from local development agencies, voluntary and support groups and state agencies. In cases where the data is severely limited at Electoral Division or County level, national figures are provided. Similar to the previous profile this has been primarily a desk-based research activity, which has been focused on bringing together all the available data on marginalised groups in the County into one document.

Any profile is only as good as the statistics used to compile it and therefore every reasonable effort has been made to include only statistics of the highest quality and reliability. In addition to the groups included in the 2005 Poverty Profile, we have attempted in this document to include other groups at risk of marginalisation and social exclusion i.e. the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community, and ex-offenders. Due to gaps in data provision, our efforts in profiling some of the target groups at a local level have met with limited success.

As mentioned this Profile is a scoping exercise which tries to bring together pertinent information on social exclusion. It is therefore important to outline the definitions, which are used to inform this research.

Social exclusion can be defined as *"Cumulative marginalisation from production, from consumption, from social networks, from decision making and from an adequate quality of life"*. (Partnership 2000)

Therefore people are excluded if they are prevented from participating in the activities and quality of life most people enjoy. In this profile a target group approach is used to highlight groups at high risk of social exclusion. However it is worth noting that not everyone in the target groups experience social exclusion to the same extent and some may not experience social exclusion at all. The National Economic and Social Council (NESC) has raised the lifecycle approach to considering social exclusion as people may move in and out of different circumstances at different times. The lifecycle approach identifies a number of key life stages at which an individual will require specific supports and experience specific risks. These life stages are children, people of a working age, older people and people with a disability.

Social exclusion poses a challenge to society due to its multifaceted nature and that the fact that it can refer to both individuals and societies. Commins (1993) suggests social exclusion should be defined in terms of the failure of one or more of the following four systems:

1. The democratic and legal system, which promote civic integration,
2. The labour market, which promotes economic integration,
3. The welfare state system, which promotes social integration,
4. The family and community system, which promotes interpersonal integration.

A person's sense of belonging to or citizenship of a society is inextricably linked with all four systems. Civic integration means being an equal empowered citizen in a democratic system with access to the policy makers and centres of political power. Economic integration means having adequate access to employment opportunities, being able to pay your way. Social integration means having access to the social services provided by the state. Interpersonal integration means having family, friends, neighbours and social networks to provide care, companionship and moral support when they are needed (Commins, 1993,4). The interworking of all four systems is imperative if society is to be inclusive. Commins (1993) points out that the worst-off are those for whom all four systems have failed, the poor and the isolated who are most marginalised, the most excluded.

The four-system approach to the concept of social exclusion helps draw a clearer distinction between the concepts of poverty and social exclusion. Poverty is seen as a lack of resources, mainly as a result of inadequate income and material resources. This can be seen as a limited form of exclusion. Social exclusion is a dynamic, multi-dimensional concept that includes poverty but also encompasses the lack of access to or the denial of a range of citizen's rights (Commins, 1995,142). Therefore social exclusion refers to the failure of the mechanisms which should help to create and maintain an inclusive society.

Social inclusion is the opposite of social exclusion and refers to the process of inclusion of people in the society and in all aspects of life and the community. Social inclusion therefore can be seen as referring to the process of removing the inequalities and barriers which prevent people and groups from participating and contributing fully to society.

While there are many different understandings and definitions of poverty, the definition used in this study is taken from the National Anti-Poverty strategy. Poverty is defined as *"People are living in poverty if their income and resources (material, cultural, social) are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living, which is regarded as acceptable by Irish society generally. As a result of inadequate income and resources people may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities which are considered the norm for other people in the society"* (Government of Ireland, 1997, 30).

Poverty in Ireland is measured by two different measures "at risk of poverty" and "consistent poverty". A person is in relative poverty if their income is less than 60% of the median income. The risk of poverty threshold in 2007 was €11,890 per annum, an increase of 12.5% from 2006, which was €10,566.

Consistent poverty takes into account people who are "at risk of poverty" and are deprived of two or more goods, which are considered essential for a basic standard of living. Therefore people are in consistent poverty when they are below the 60% median income line and cannot afford two or more of the following list of indicators<sup>1</sup>.

- Two pairs of strong shoes
- A warm waterproof overcoat
- Buy new not second-hand clothes
- Eat meals with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day
- Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week
- Had to go without heating during the last year through the lack of money
- Keep the home adequately warm
- Buy presents for the family or friends at least once a year
- Replace worn out furniture
- Have friends or family for a drink or meal once a month
- Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight

<sup>1</sup>Originally designed by the ESRI

The definitions of poverty and social exclusion encompass more than just income, and so families with adequate income can be deprived and/or excluded and vice-versa. Poverty in Ireland is measured by the CSO using the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions, which is an annual voluntary survey of households across the EU. The 2007 Survey on Income and Living Conditions showed that the "risk of poverty rate" was 16.5%, while children were the age group at most risk of poverty with a rate of 19.9%, the rate for older people was 16.6%. Households headed by a lone parents' risk of poverty was 37.6%. The consistent rate of poverty was 5.1% in 2007. The unemployed had the highest consistent poverty rate at 17.5% compared to 1.3% for people at work.

A lot of the statistics in this profile are drawn from 2006 and 2007 in the mean time there has been tremendous economic changes with a rapid increase in unemployment which has affected all sections of society. A new addition to this work is the inclusion of a chapter on the 'New Poor' to reflect the current economic downturn in Ireland.

The Authors of this profile would like to acknowledge the support and co-operation of all who assisted throughout the preparation of this report, the time and effort taken by everyone is gratefully appreciated. This profile will further an understanding of why people experience social exclusion and how service providers can further respond to their needs.

Errors and Omissions: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this document, the Authors and Publishers cannot accept any responsibility for errors or omissions contained therein.

# SECTION ONE

## Irish Traveller Community

Building an Inclusive Society, which was the review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy identified members of the Irish Traveller Community as being at high risk of social exclusion. Members of the Irish Traveller Community have their own culture and belief systems and can be regarded as an ethnic minority group. The Traveller Community has in the past and to a certain extent still do experience racism and discrimination. Travellers suffer from "poorer health" and die at a younger age than the population in general.

The 2006 Census of Population contains very little information on the Irish Traveller Community at Electoral Division and County level. Therefore much of the data presented in this section gives the national rather than the local picture. According to groups representing Travellers the Census does not accurately represent the true number of Travellers in the county. This may be due to a number of different reasons, including the following:

- some Travellers may not have chosen to identify themselves as Travellers on the Census form;
- the nomadic lifestyle of Travellers;
- the lower levels of literacy among Travellers may have impacted on their participation in the Census.

**Table 1: Number of Members of the Irish Travelling Community (Usually Resident and Present on Census Night).**

Area	Total Population	Total Traveller Population	Travellers as a percentage of the population	Travellers per 1,000 of population
State	4,172,013	22,435	0.54	5.3
Leinster	2,261,258	11,377	0.50	5.0
County Wicklow	124,727	533	0.42	4.2
Bray	30,920	146	0.47	4.7
Arklow	11,360	16	0.14	1.4
Wicklow Town	9,798	78	0.80	8.0

Source: Census 2006 Volume 5: Ethnic or Cultural Background (Table 13)

As can be seen from the above table nationally there were 22,435 members of the Irish Traveller Community representing 0.54 percent of the total population. While in County Wicklow there were 533 members of the Irish Traveller Community, which is 0.42 percent of the counties population. The majority of Travellers in County Wicklow live in the East of the County, 146 were living in Bray, 16 in Arklow town and 78 in Wicklow town and environs.

The age profile of the Irish Traveller Community is significantly different from that of the wider community. Approximately 41.5 percent of the traveller population is aged between 0 – 14 years compared to approximately 21 percent of the general population. While if one looks at the population aged 65 years and older 11.2 percent of the national population are in this age category, just 2.6 percent of Traveller population are aged 65 years and older. The median<sup>2</sup> age for Travellers is 18 compared to national figure of 33.

<sup>2</sup>Mid-Point

## Economic Status

The total number of Travellers in the Labour Force according to the Census is 7,220 or a labour force participation rate of approximately 55 percent. The unemployment rate among Travellers is 74.9 percent. The following table details rates of employment amongst members of the Traveller Community at a national level:

**Table 2: Irish Travellers aged 15 years and over, classified by principal economic status (Source: Census 2006, Vol.5).**

Sex	Total aged 15 years and over	Total in Labour Force	At Work	Unemployed	Looking for first job	Total not in Labour Force	Unemployment Rate	Labour Force Participation Rate
Persons	13,134	7,220	1,815	4,603	802	5,914	74.86	54.97
Male	6,276	4,463	1,059	2,894	510	1,813	76.27	71.11
Female	6,858	2,757	756	1,709	292	4,101	72.58	40.20

The principal economic status unemployment rate among Travellers is very high at 74.86 for all Travellers and 76.27 and 72.58 for male and female Travellers respectively. The above table also shows that the principal economic status labour force participation rate for male Travellers is 71.11 and for female Travellers at 40.20. No data is available at a county level on unemployment and labour force participation rates.

## Education Attainment

One of the main problems for Traveller pupils is the high dropout rate from Post-Primary education with the majority leaving before completing the Junior cycle.

**Table 3: Irish Travellers aged 15 years and over classified by highest level of education completed.**

Sex	Total Whose Full-time Education has ceased	Not Stated	Highest Level of Education Completed				
			Primary (Incl. no formal education)	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary	Third Level	
						Non-Degree Degree	Degree or Higher
Persons	10,010	1,010	6,932	1,623	370	42	33
Male	4,894	534	3,411	765	159	11	14
Female	5,116	476	3,521	858	211	31	19

## Accommodation and Living Circumstances

According to the results of the 2006 Census of Population the majority of Travellers live in permanent accommodation 15,195 or 67.7 percent, while a further 5,489 live in temporary accommodation and 1,318 did not state their type of accommodation. Therefore nationally four out every ten Travellers who answered this question lived in temporary accommodation.

## Health

At a national level, a major research initiative is underway in respect of Traveller health – the All Ireland Traveller Health Study 2007 – 2010. At a local level, this work is being co-ordinated by the Co. Wicklow Traveller Primary Health Care Project. This is the first national study on health of Travellers since 1987. However according to the Health Service Executive report National Intercultural Health Strategy 2007 – 2012, research has indicated that the health status of Travellers has not improved and may have even deteriorated in relation to the settled population. The age structure of the Traveller population compared to the general population would indicate that there still is a significant gap between Travellers and the general population with respect to birth and mortality rates. In a study on Travellers attending Tallaght hospital, it was found that only 2% of all the hospital patients were Travellers aged over 65 years, compared to 34% of hospital patients who were settled people aged 65 years and over.

- According to the Census of Population 2006, 11.4 percent of the Traveller Population have a disability, 12.3 percent of Males and 10.6 percent of females.
- Irish Travellers have a significantly lower life expectancy (approx 10 years) than settled people.
- Reports by the Sudden Infant Death Association have shown that the longitudinal rate of sudden infant death among Travellers was 12 times higher than the rate among settled population.
- Travellers of all ages have higher mortality rates compared to the Irish population in general.

A recent report on Suicide among Irish Traveller Community 2000 – 2006 highlighted the importance of dealing with the issue. Among the main points in the report were the following:

- Between 2000 and 2006 the rate of suicide among Travellers was over three times that of the total population.
- Male suicide is four times as common as female suicide.
- The age group at risk of suicide for Travellers is 25 – 29, which accounts for 26% of Traveller suicide.
- Over 65% of Traveller suicide occurred among those aged under 30 years.

### *Key Support Agencies*

- Wicklow Travellers Group – CDSP
- Bray Travellers Group – CDSP
- Shuttle-Knit Ltd – a FAS-Social Economy project based in Wicklow town where Traveller and settled women produce exclusive knitwear
- Bray RAPID Programme
- East Coast Regional Drugs Taskforce
- South West Regional Drugs Taskforce
- Bray Local Drugs Taskforce
- Co. Wicklow Traveller Primary Health Care Project

## SECTION TWO

### Other Ethnic Minorities

County Wicklow society has experienced rapid change as a result of people from other countries coming to live and work in County Wicklow. Wicklow is now ethnically and culturally diverse, enhanced by the wealth of experiences the new communities have brought to the County.

The benefits of inward migration to Ireland's economic development has been widely recognised both at a national level and international level by organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The 2006 Census provides information on the nationality and ethnic diversity at a county and Electoral Division in Wicklow as well as at a national and provincial level. It is important to note that while the Census is viewed as the most reliable data source available, it has been suggested that the data may underestimate the number of non-nationals from different communities.

According to the 2006 Census approximately one in ten of the population living in the Republic of Ireland is of a nationality other than Irish. However it would be wrong to view non-Irish nationals as a homogenous grouping and to portray them as such would be misleading. The nationals of some countries have lived here for many years, while other nationalities have only recently moved into the county. For the sake of this profile the focus is on County Wicklow and comparative national statistics will be included.

At a national level in 2006 there was a total of 419,733 non-Irish nationals living in Ireland, representing 188 different countries. The vast majority of these people were from a small number of countries as 82% came from just ten countries. The largest group of non-nationals are UK nationals at 112,548 or 26.8% of the non-national population in the country.

The CSO report Non-Irish Nationals Living in Ireland showed that they were non-Irish nationals living in every town in Ireland at the time of the census. The overwhelming majority were living in urban areas at 76% while 24% were living in rural areas.

The following table shows that approximately 9.5% of the population in County Wicklow were non-Irish nationals, 96.7% of the population in the county was from the EU 25 countries<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 4: Demography by Nationality in County Wicklow.**

Irish	112,509	90.5
UK	3,796	3.1
Polish	1,249	1.0
Lithuanian	590	0.5
Other EU 25	1,995	1.6
Rest of World	3,156	2.5
Not Stated	1,087	0.9
Total	124,382	100

<sup>3</sup>The 96.7 percent includes Irish nationals, if Irish nationals are excluded the percentage is 6.2.

The Census results show that people from the UK make up the second largest nationality group with 3.1% of the population. Approximately one % of the population are of Polish nationality, 0.5% are Lithuanian 1.6% are from elsewhere in the EU with another 2.5% from the rest of the world. Bray is one of the top five locations in Ireland for persons from the UK living in Ireland with 810 persons from the UK living in Bray. This is 0.7% of the UK national's population living in Ireland.

A total of 63,276 Poles were living in Ireland at the time of the census, while there were a further 10,126 Polish visitors in Ireland on the night who were not living here at the time. Approximately 2% of the Polish community in Ireland live in County Wicklow.

Table 4 outlines the situation at county level whilst table 5 highlights the number of people of different nationalities living in the 4 main towns.

**Table 5: Demography by Nationality in main Urban Settlements.**

	Bray	Arklow	Wicklow	Greystones
Irish	88.20	88.72	90.37	90.16
UK	2.63	3.01	2.85	3.83
Polish	1.44	2.45	0.92	0.58
Lithuanian	0.82	0.58	1.27	0.08
Other EU 25	2.03	1.47	2.07	1.81
Rest of World	3.99	2.87	1.96	2.80
Not Stated %	0.89	0.90	0.55	0.73

**Table 6: Demography by Nationality in Main Electoral Areas.**

	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow
Irish	91	91.7	88.8	90.5	91.3
UK	3	2.7	2.8	3.8	3.1
Polish	1.4	0.7	1.3	0.6	0.8
Lithuanian	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.6
Other EU 25	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.7	1.6
Rest of World	1.9	2	3.8	2.5	1.8
Not Stated	1.1	1	0.8	0.8	0.7
Total %	100	100	100	100	100

As well as looking at the nationality of the county's population it is also worthwhile to examine the ethnic diversity of the county, which is illustrated in Table 7.

**Table 7: Demography by Ethnicity in County Wicklow.**

	Number	Percentage
White Irish	110,996	88.99
Irish Traveller	538	0.43
Any other White Background	8,315	6.67
Black or Black Irish African	372	0.30
Chinese	485	0.39
Any other Asian	748	0.60
Other Including mixed background	1,396	1.12
Not Stated	1,877	1.50
Total	124,727	100

**Table 8: Persons usually resident and present in County Wicklow on Census night, classified by nationality and age group.**

	0 – 14 Years	15 – 24 Years	25 – 44 Years	45 – 64 Years	65 Years and over	Total
Irish Nationals	22.54	13.91	30.33	22.98	10.24	100
Non-Irish Nationals	12.42	15.04	49.52	17.74	5.28	100
United Kingdom	11.46	8.09	37.78	31.16	11.51	100
EU15 excluding Ireland and UK	9.02	13.49	55.44	17.96	4.10	100
EU15 to EU25 accession states	7.78	26.24	59.31	6.38	0.28	100
Rest of World	18.69	15.21	53.39	10.46	2.25	100
Not Stated (incl. no nationality)	27.69	15.09	24.38	20.79	12.05	100

As can be seen in Table 8 there are non-Irish nationals in all the age categories and this needs to be taken into account in formulation of policy. However perhaps unsurprisingly 67.26% are in the economically active age category of 25 to 64 years. As well as looking at the overall composition of the population we will examine the educational attainment of the population by nationality.

From Table 9 it can be seen that approximately 45% of the non-Irish nationals resident whose education had ceased in County Wicklow at the time of the Census had a third level qualification compared to only 30% of the Irish national population.

**Table 9: Educational Attainment in County Wicklow for Persons aged 15 years and over classified by nationality, 2006.**

Group	Total whose full-time Education has ceased	Total 'not stated' whose full-time Education has ceased	Highest level of education completed		
			Primary (Including no Formal Education) %	Lower and Upper Secondary %	Third Level %
Irish Nationals	74,965	2,865	16.88	49.17	30.13
Non-Irish Nationals	7,681	450	4.88	44.66	44.60
United Kingdom	3,073	109	6.05	45.53	44.87
EU15 excluding Ireland and UK	986	67	3.25	32.05	57.91
EU15 to EU25 accession states	1,770	130	4.01	61.75	26.89
Rest of World	1,852	144	4.64	33.59	54.00
Not Stated (incl. no nationality)	664	289	15.21	30.12	11.14

There is limited amount of data available on employment status and nationality, however it is worth examining Principal Economic Status by nationality as outlined in Table 10.

**Table 10: Persons aged 15 years and over in County Wicklow on Census Night, classified by employment status, 2006.**

	Total in Labour Force	At Work	Unemployed and looking for first regular job	Student	Other	Total not in Labour Force
Irish Nationals	53,820	49,431	4,389	8,936	24,391	33,327
Non Irish Nationals	7,094	6,587	507	686	1,666	2,352
United Kingdom	2,157	2,013	144	200	1,004	1,204
EU15 excluding Ireland and UK	950	889	61	100	171	271
EU15 to EU25 accession states	2,133	2,005	128	56	109	165
Rest of World	1,854	1,680	174	330	382	712
Not Stated (incl. no nationality)	442	387	55	81	263	344

Calculating unemployment rate by principal economic status shows an unemployment rate in County Wicklow of 8.2% for Irish nationals and 7.1% for non-Irish nationals. While the labour force participation rate for Irish nationals is 61.8 and 75.1 for non-Irish nationals.

There are no details available on the housing characteristics of non-Irish nationals at a county level, however the report *Non-Irish Nationals Living in Ireland* does present some interesting facts. While homeowner occupancy is the favoured status for Irish and UK headed households, almost eighty % of the households headed by a person from the Accession states are living in rented accommodation.

Non-Irish nationals living in County Wicklow may suffer from social exclusion for a number of reasons including the following;

- Language difficulties
- Lack of accessible information and knowledge of state systems (local government, Dept. of Social and Family Affairs, Health Service Executive, schools), local supports
- Racial discrimination
- Lack of accessible information on rights and entitlements.
- Lack of opportunity for cultural expression
- Danger of workplace exploitation

## SECTION THREE

# Employment and Unemployment

At the time of writing this profile there is widespread economic uncertainty and the economic climate in County Wicklow has changed significantly since the 2006 Census of Population with a substantial decline in employment opportunities in all sectors especially the construction sector. Census figures are from April 2006 and as such do not reflect the rapidly changing economic climate.

Calculating unemployment rate by principal economic status shows an unemployment rate in County Wicklow of 8.08, which is similar to the 2002 rate of 8.1. This compares to a national rate of 8.5%. Since 2006 there has been significant changes in the level of unemployment. While the Live Register is not a measure of unemployment as it includes part time workers, seasonal and casual workers entitled to Jobseekers Benefit or Allowance as well as persons who are unemployed, it does provide the most up to date figures and gives a clear indication of the way unemployment level are going. Over the twelve month period December 2007 to December 2008 the number of people on the live Register in County Wicklow increased by 75.3% or 3,471 people. The tables below gives a clear picture of the Live Register figures for County over the last year with specific months highlighted.

**Table 11: Live Register Figures June 2008 to January 2009.**

Area	January 2008	June 2008	July 2008	August 2008	September 2008	October 2008
State	181,449	220,811	238,240	247,384	240,217	251,951
Mid East	15,439	19,159	20,980	22,223	21,797	22,698
County Wicklow	4,985	5,934	6,564	6,908	6,643	6,885
Arklow	1,500	1,754	1,942	2,048	2,024	2,155
Baltinglass	582	704	781	798	733	761
Bray	1,937	2,376	2,663	2,819	2,655	2,655
Wicklow	966	1,100	1,178	1,243	1,231	1,298

Area	November 2008	December 2008	January 2009	% Change Jan 08 - Jan 09
State	268,586	291,363	327,861	80.69
Mid East	24,389	26,592	30,726	99.02
<b>County Wicklow</b>	<b>7,379</b>	<b>8,082</b>	<b>9,228</b>	<b>85.12</b>
Arklow	2,311	2,421	2,739	82.60
Baltinglass	822	902	996	71.13
Bray	2,867	3,289	3,850	98.76
Wicklow	1,379	1,470	1,643	70.08

As can be seen from the above tables the number of people on the live register has continuously increased significantly over the twelve-month period January 2008 to January 2009 with the national figure increasing by 80.69% and the figure for County Wicklow increasing by 85.12%. The biggest percentage increase in the county occurred in the Bray area where there was a 98.76 percentage increase. The increase for the Mid East area was 99.02%.

However it is worth looking at the figures in more detail. Table 12 outlines the January 2009 live register figures by age category and gender.

**Table 12: Live Register figures January 2009 by Gender and Age Category.**

Area	Total	Males under 25 years	Males over 25 years	Females under 25 years	Females over 25 years
County Wicklow	9,228	1,247	5,008	555	2,418
Arklow	2,739	392	1,496	179	672
Baltinglass	996	141	555	64	236
Bray	3,850	495	2,039	215	1,101
Wicklow	1,643	219	918	97	409

As can be seen from the above table approximately 67.8% of the people on the live register in County Wicklow are male and 32.2% are female. 19.5% are aged under 25 years.

According to the CSO the seasonally adjusted standardised unemployment rate for the state in January 2009 was 9.2%. According to economic commentators this unemployment rate is expected to increase during 2009. It is worth noting that in 2006 the year of the Census the adjusted standardised unemployment rate annual average was 4.4.

## Quarterly National Household Survey

The last official release showing unemployment levels was the Quarterly National Household Survey Quarter 3 2008. The Quarterly National Household Survey provides valuable information at a national level and regional level which it is worth looking at in detail.

There are **two** different methodologies used to calculate unemployment rates. These are:

- International Labour Organisation method
- Principal Economic Status method

The information obtained in Census of Population 2006 enabled the calculation of unemployment by Principal Economic Status. The Quarterly National Household Survey measures unemployment by International Labour Organisation methodology. It should be noted, that since 1997 the shift has been towards the sole use of the ILO method for unemployment rate calculation. The view is that this should be the only official unemployment rate, and that other measures should be described as indicators of labour market underutilisation. The CSO fully supports the standpoint that the analysis of unemployment should be compiled largely within the ILO framework. The Social Inclusion Unit supports the use of the ILO measure as the main measure of unemployment.

The Quarterly National Household Survey shows that in the third quarter of 2008 there were 2,120,800 people in employment, which represents a decline of 1.2% in employment, the first annual decline in employment since 1991. While there was a decrease in employment this was not equally distributed by gender, there was a decrease of 2.6% in the number of men at work or 32,000 people, while there was a 0.8% increase in the number of women at work or 7,000 females.

In terms of unemployment, the number of people unemployed had increased by 53,300 and stood at 160,600 persons giving an ILO unemployment rate of 7.0%. Male unemployment increased by 37,400 (+58.3%), with the number of unemployed females increased by 16,000 (+37.1%).

It is worth noting that the largest decline in employment was in the construction sector where the number of people employed declined by 25,900 or 9.1%. The Quarterly National Household Survey shows that in the third quarter of 2008 the overall unemployment rate was 7.0 and the labour force participation rate was 64.7. While the male unemployment rate was 7.9% and the male labour force participation rate was 74.1%, the female unemployment rate was 6.0% and the female labour force participation rate was 55.5%.

Unfortunately the Quarterly National Household Survey does not give the figures at a county level. However the figures for the Mid-East<sup>4</sup> area show that there in the third quarter of 2008 there was an unemployment rate of 6.3% and a labour force participation rate of 67.2%. It is worth noting that in the third quarter of 2006 the ILO unemployment rate had been 5.9% and the labour force participation rate had been 65.8%. Over the two-year period there was a 77.8% increase in the number of people unemployed in the area as the number of people unemployed increased from 9,500 to 16,900. The number of people in employment in the area went from 175,500 to 169,300 a decrease of 3.5%. The Labour Force in the Mid-East area increased from 248,100 to 270,100 or by 8.9%.

In conclusion the Quarterly National Household Survey also showed that the employment rate<sup>5</sup> in the third quarter of 2008 was 68.2% for all persons, 75.6% for males and 60.7% for females. The long term unemployment rate (i.e. those who have been unemployed for longer than 12 months) was 1.6%.

## Labour Force

At the outset it is important to point out that the labour force consists of persons who are at work, unemployed and those who are seeking regular work for the first time. Those outside of the labour force consist mainly of students, people who are looking after the home/family and retired persons. It is worth noting that the populations inside and outside the labour force refer to the population aged 15 years and over.

**Table 13: Persons aged 15 and over, classified by principal economic status in County Wicklow.**

Economic Status	Total Persons 1996	Total Persons 2002	Total Persons 2006
<b>In Labour Force</b>			
At work	36,423	47,790	57,326
Looking for first regular job	713	529	633
Unemployed	5,464	3,697	4,410
<b>Total in Labour Force</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>52,016</b>	<b>62,369</b>
<b>Not In Labour Force</b>			
Student	9,131	9,455	9,876
Home Duties	16,308	13,825	12,452
Retired	6,382	9,265	10,519
Unable to work (sickness/disability)	2,164	3,236	3,480
Other	63	1,053	361
<b>Total not in Labour Force</b>	<b>34,498</b>	<b>36,834</b>	<b>36,688</b>

Source: CSO CENSUS 2006, Principal Socio-economic Results

<sup>4</sup>Mid East includes Meath, Kildare and Wicklow

<sup>5</sup>The Employment Rate represents the percentage of the population that is in employment.

The most detailed picture of the labour force in County Wicklow comes from the 2006 Census of Population. In 2002 the total labour force in Wicklow was 52,016<sup>6</sup>, of whom 91.9% were classified as "at work", the results of the 2006 Census shows that the Labour Force in the county has increased by 10,353 or 19.9% over the four year period and now stands at 62,369. Of the people in the Labour Force in 2006 91.9% are "at work", while when one looks at the number of people at work living in the county it has increased by 20%. The number of people classified as being unemployed or looking for first regular job increased by 817 persons. 36,688 persons aged 15 and over were not in the labour force, while 33.9% of these were classified as engaged in-home duties and 26.9% were students.

The increase in the number of people at work is due to a number of factors such as migration into the county, improved educational levels, increased employment opportunities and incentives to work, increased female participation in the labour force, decline in average family size and the economic necessity for many couples for both partners to work due to the cost of private housing.

**Table 14: Labour Force participation rates according to Principal Economic Status, 2006.**

	Dublin	Kildare	Meath	Wexford	Wicklow	State
Male participation rate	73.5	76.9	78.5	71.8	73.8	72.3
Female participation rate	56.7	58.0	55.9	48.7	52.3	52.8
Total participation rate	64.9	68.2	60.3	60.3	63.0	62.5

While Table 1 classified persons over 15 by principal economic status it is also interesting to examine persons aged 15 years and over by labour force, employment status as highlighted in Table 3.

**Table 15: Labour Force Composition 2006.**

Area	Labour Force							Total not in labour Force
	Total aged 15 years and over	Total in Labour Force	Employer or own account worker	Employee	Assisting Relative	Looking for first job	Unemployed	
Wicklow	99,057	62,369	10,059	47,106	161	633	4,410	36,688
State	3,375,399	2,109,498	308,221	1,616,304	5,517	29,372	150,084	1,265,901

<sup>6</sup>Refers to persons resident in County Wicklow who are classified as being in the labour force. Persons may commute to workplaces outside the county or sign on for unemployment benefit/assistance outside the county.

**Table 16: Persons Aged 15 Years and Over at Work classified by broad industrial group.**

Industry	Wicklow	State	Kildare	Meath
Total	57,326	1,930,042	91,581	78,437
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2,294	89,277	3,048	3,674
Mining, quarrying	173	7,751	400	905
Manufacturing	6,869	243,182	12,649	10,150
Electricity, gas, and water supply	332	11,290	476	342
Construction	6,466	215,184	10,981	11,010
Wholesale and Retail	7,685	257,309	13,013	10,953
Hotels and Restaurant	2,864	100,731	3,808	2,935
Transport, storage and communications	2,827	105,705	4,854	4,974
Banking	3,181	85,413	4,088	3,423
Real Estate	6,134	180,973	8,271	6,609
Public Administration	2,613	101,264	6,186	4,335
Education	3,802	127,476	5,763	4,456
Health and Social services	5,077	191,219	7,724	6,834
Other	3,260	80,358	4,155	3,391
Not Stated	3,749	132,910	6,205	4,446

**Table 17: Persons Aged 15 Years and Over at Work classified by broad industrial group %.**

Industry	Wicklow	State	Kildare	Meath
Total	100	100	100	100
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	4.00	4.63	3.33	4.68
Mining, quarrying	0.30	0.40	0.44	1.15
Manufacturing	11.98	12.60	13.81	12.94
Electricity, gas, and water supply	0.58	0.58	0.52	0.44
Construction	11.28	11.15	11.99	14.04
Wholesale and Retail	13.41	13.33	14.21	13.96
Hotels and Restaurant	5.00	5.22	4.16	3.74
Transport, storage and communications	4.93	5.48	5.30	6.34
Banking	5.55	4.43	4.46	4.36
Real Estate	10.70	9.38	9.03	8.43
Public Administration	4.56	5.25	6.75	5.53
Education	6.63	6.60	6.29	5.68
Health and Social services	8.86	9.91	8.43	8.71
Other	5.69	4.16	4.54	4.32
Not Stated	6.54	6.89	6.78	5.67

**Table 18: Persons Aged 15 Years and Over at Work classified by broad industrial group in main Towns.**

Industry	Bray	Arklow	Wicklow	Bray	Arklow	Wicklow
Total	14,671	5,274	4,398	100	100	100
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	103	69	65	0.70	1.31	1.48
Mining, quarrying	11	16	1	0.07	0.30	0.02
Manufacturing	1,175	962	490	8.01	18.24	11.14
Electricity, gas, and water supply	97	17	26	0.66	0.32	0.59
Construction	1,256	647	453	8.56	12.27	10.30
Wholesale and Retail	2,048	781	660	13.96	14.81	15.01
Hotels and Restaurant	737	382	215	5.02	7.24	4.89
Transport, storage and communications	825	210	251	5.62	3.98	5.71
Banking	1,005	242	239	6.85	4.59	5.43
Real Estate	1,746	431	479	11.90	8.17	10.89
Public Administration	650	164	335	4.43	3.11	7.62
Education	1,066	289	351	7.27	5.48	7.98
Health and Social services	1,464	406	377	9.98	7.70	8.57
Other	965	235	203	6.58	4.46	4.62
Not Stated	983	423	253	6.70	8.02	5.75

In conclusion and as discussed earlier, since the 2006 Census there have been dramatic changes in the economic climate internationally, nationally and within County Wicklow. The downturn in the economy has been felt across all employment sectors with people losing their jobs in all walks of life. However the downturn has been particularly severe in the housing sector, the 2006 Census showed that 11.28% of the persons at work in County Wicklow were working in construction, while a further 10.7% were engaged in real estate. These two sectors accounted for just over one in five of all people at work in the county. The rapid increase in unemployment in a relatively short space of time will pose a serious challenge for all service providers. The long term implications of these changed circumstances remains to be seen.

As a society, Wicklow is now dealing with the reality of supporting huge numbers of people at risk of further social exclusion. To highlight this, we have included a chapter in this Profile on what have been described as the 'New Poor'.

### *Key Supports in County Wicklow*

- FAS (branches in Arklow, Bray, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow)
- Bray Partnership Local Employment Service
- Irish National for the Unemployed (Bray Branch)

## SECTION FOUR

### Drug Misuse

There is no data available on the issue of drug misuse at a County Wicklow level and the data used in this section is taken from the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD). The reports quoted in this section are in the main available on the NACD website [www.nacd.ie](http://www.nacd.ie)

The NACD bulletin on Drug use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007 presents the results in terms of drug prevalence on **Lifetime**, **Recent** and **Current** basis for illegal and other drugs. The NACD defines prevalence as proportion of a population who has used a drug over a particular time period. Provided a sample is representative of the total population, prevalence obtained from a sample can be used to infer prevalence in the population.

- **Lifetime** prevalence refers to the proportion of the respondent(s) who had ever used a named drug at the time they were surveyed.
- **Recent** use refers to the proportion of respondent(s) who used a named drug in the year prior to the survey.
- **Current** use refers to the proportion of the respondent(s) who used a named drug in the 30 day period prior to the survey.

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs varied across the Regional Drugs Taskforce areas and Health and Social Services Board areas (HSSB) in Northern Ireland varied from a high of 38% to a low of 14%. While for last year prevalence rates showed a four-fold difference between the highest and lowest rates in the Regional Drugs Taskforce areas at 13 and 3% respectively.

Data is not available on prevalence at a county level, therefore this section will provide figures at a national level and for the South West Regional Drugs Taskforce (SWRDTF) and East Coast Regional Drugs Taskforce areas (ECRDTF). The ECRDTF area takes in as part of its area most of County Wicklow and parts of Dublin. While the SWRDTF area takes in as part of its area West Wicklow, Kildare and part of Dublin. Therefore both of the regional drugs taskforce figures are included as the both cover parts of County Wicklow.

**Table 19: Use of any illegal drugs: Prevalence rates for all adults aged 15 – 64 years Nationally, ECRDTF and SWRDTF areas 2006/2007.**

Area	Lifetime Prevalence	Last Year Prevalence	Last Month Prevalence
ECRDTF Area	38.4	12.4	5.3
SWRDTF Area	25.6	7.4	2.0
Nationally	24.0	7.2	2.9

## ECRDTF Area

Approximately 38% of the respondents in the ECRDTF area reported having ever taken any illegal drugs, while 12% had done so in the previous year and 5% in the previous month. The prevalence figures for the ECRDTF area are higher than the corresponding national figures. Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug with 36% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 11% in the previous year, 4% in the previous month. Young adults were more likely than older adults to indicate use of cannabis.

Apart from cannabis in the ECRDTF area highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for magic mushrooms (11%), cocaine powder (9%), ecstasy (8%), poppers (5%), LSD and amphetamines (4% each). The lifetime prevalence for each of these drugs is higher in the ECRDTF area than the national level.

While for last year prevalence in the ECRDTF area apart from cannabis the highest levels were recorded for cocaine powder (3%), ecstasy and magic mushrooms (2% each). When one looks at the last month prevalence results from the survey for the area cocaine powder (1%), was the most widely reported used drug. Low levels of current use of ecstasy (0.5%) and poppers (0.3%) were also reported.

93% of respondents surveyed in the ECRDTF area reported ever taking alcohol, 86% had done so in the previous year and 77% in the previous month. While 60% of respondents reported ever having smoked, 39% in the previous year and 32% in the previous year.

The report shows that there was an increase of 6.1% in the last year prevalence of any illegal drugs among all adults from the previous survey period of 2002/3. Lifetime use of any illegal drug increased from 25.9% in 2002/3 to 38.4% in 2006/07. Both lifetime and last month prevalence show a statistically significant increase since 2002/3.

## SWRDTF Area

As can be seen in Table 19 approximately 26% of respondents in the SWRDTF area reported ever taking an illegal drug, while 7% had done so in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. It is interesting to note that recent and current prevalence rates among higher among older adults and lower among young adults than the national figures.

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug; 24% of respondents reported ever having taken the drug, 7% had done so in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. Young adults were more likely than older adults to indicate use of cannabis and males reported higher prevalence than females.

Apart from cannabis in the SWRDTF area highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for magic mushrooms (5%), cocaine powder and ecstasy (4% each), poppers, amphetamines, solvents and LSD (2% each) and crack (1%).

While for last year prevalence in the area apart from cannabis the highest levels were recorded for cocaine powder (1%), ecstasy (0.5% each), magic mushrooms and methadone (0.2% each). When one looks at the last month prevalence results from the survey for the area cocaine powder (0.3%), was the most widely reported used drug and methadone at (0.2%).

For alcohol 91% of respondents in the area reported ever having taken it, 87% had done so in the previous year and 77% in the previous month. While 56% of respondents reported ever having smoked, 38% in the previous year and 34% in the previous year.

The NACD report shows that when the results of the 2006/07 survey are compared to the 2002/03 results there is a significant change in the area in lifetime prevalence, among all adults lifetime use of tobacco, LSD and amphetamines which all show a decrease.

It is also worth looking at the figures for prevalence by gender as outlined below.

**Table 20: Prevalence by Gender.**

Area	Lifetime Prevalence	Last Year Prevalence	Last Month Prevalence
ECRDTF Area (Male)	45	14	7
SWRTF Area (Male)	31.3	10.0	2.5
Nationally	29.4	9.6	4.3
ECRDTF Area (Female)	32	11	4
SWRTF Area (Female)	19.7	4.6	1.4
Nationally	18.5	4.7	1.4

### Drug categories and usage rates in the ECRDTF, SWRDTF and Nationally

**Table 21: Lifetime Prevalence (%).**

	ECRDTF	SWRDTF	Nationally
<i>Total Sample</i>	360	689	4,967
Any illegal Drugs	38.4	25.6	24.0
Cannabis	35.9	24.0	21.9
Heroin	0.3	0.4	0.4
Methadone	0.8	0.3	0.3
Other Opiates	12.8	4.1	6.2
Cocaine (total including crack)	9.1	3.8	5.3
Crack	0.9	0.6	0.6
Cocaine Powder	9.1	3.6	5.0
Amphetamines	3.9	2.1	3.5
Ecstasy	7.6	4.1	5.4
LSD	4.1	1.7	2.9
Magic Mushrooms	10.5	5.4	5.8
Solvents	2.1	1.9	1.9
Poppers	5.4	1.9	3.3
Anabolic Steroids	1.7	0.3	0.7
Sedatives, Tranquillisers	12.3	8.8	10.5
Anti-depressants	7.8	9.8	9.2
Alcohol	92.8	90.9	90.3
Tobacco	59.8	56.3	57.9

**Table 22: Last Year Prevalence (%).**

	ECRDTF	SWRDTF	Nationally
<i>Total Sample</i>	360	290	4,967
Any illegal Drugs	12.4	10.0	7.2
Cannabis	11.3	8.9	6.3
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.1
Methadone	0.0	0.3	0.1
Other Opiates	4.6	1.1	2.1
Cocaine (total including crack)	3.1	1.0	1.7
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.1
Cocaine Powder	3.1	1.0	1.6
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.4
Ecstasy	2.3	0.0	1.2
LSD	0.2	0.0	0.2
Magic Mushrooms	2.0	0.5	0.6
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	0.3	0.0	0.5
Anabolic Steroids	0.6	0.0	0.3
Sedatives, Tranquillisers	5.3	2.3	4.7
Anti-depressants	3.6	2.3	4.3
Alcohol	86.1	89.3	84.2
Tobacco	38.7	37.1	36.3

**Table 23: Last Month Prevalence (%).**

	ECRDTF	SWRDTF	Nationally
<i>Total Sample</i>	360	290	4,967
Any illegal Drugs	5.3	2.5	2.9
Cannabis	4.2	2.5	2.6
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.3	0.1
Other Opiates	1.9	0.6	1.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.8	0.0	0.5
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.8	0.0	0.5
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.1
Ecstasy	0.5	0.0	0.3
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic Mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	0.3	0.0	0.1
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.1
Sedatives, Tranquillisers	2.3	1.6	3.0
Anti-depressants	2.9	2.0	3.1
Alcohol	77.2	81.1	73.4
Tobacco	32.4	32.4	32.6

As well as looking at local figures from the Gardai, the following are figures from the Garda recorded crime statistics 2003 – 2006 for the Wicklow/Wexford region.

- Driving under the influence of drugs: 0 in 2003, 8 in 2006.
- Cultivation or manufacture of drugs: 3 detected in 2003, 8 detected in 2006.
- Possession of drugs for sale or supply: 45 detected in 2003, 72 detected in 2006.
- Possession of drugs for personal use: 243 detected in 2003, 495 detected in 2006.
- Possession, supplying, obstruction and other drug offences: Possession 244 in 2003 and 416 in 2006, Supplying 49 in 2003 and 61 in 2006, Obstruction 14 in 2003 and 24 in 2006, Other Drug Offences 12 in 2003 and 22 in 2006.
- Proceedings of drug possession by type: Cannabis 185 in 2003 and 276 in 2006, Heroin 15 in 2003 and 35 in 2006, Ecstasy 50 in 2003 and 57 in 2006, Cocaine 17 in 2003 and 51 in 2006, Amphetamine 23 in 2003 and 35 in 2006, Other 5 in 2003 and 8 in 2006.

## Sources

- Drug Use in Ireland & Northern Ireland 2003/2007: Drug Prevalence Survey: Regional Drugs Taskforce (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland), Bulletin 2, Results published by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) and Public Health and Research Branch (PHIRB), June 2008.
- Drugnet Ireland, Newsletter of the Alcohol and Drug Research Unit, Issue 28, Winter 2008, Health Research Board.
- East Coast Regional Drugs Taskforce, Development Officer.

## Support Services/Advocacy Groups in Co. Wicklow

- East Coast Regional Drugs Taskforce
- South West Regional Drugs Taskforce
- Bray Local Drugs Taskforce
  - Community Addiction Teams in Arklow and Bray
  - Drugs Education Workers
  - DAISH (Travellers Project)
  - Bray and North Wicklow Women's Network
  - Headlamps Educational Project (School based programme in Bray)
- Kildare/West Wicklow Community Addiction Team
- Bray Community Addiction Team
- County Wicklow Community Addiction Services Ltd.
  - The Bara Project
  - Treo Nua
- Wicklow Child and Family Project

## SECTION FIVE

# Older People

According to the CSO report "Ageing in Ireland" approximately 11% of the population are aged 65 years and older. This is the lowest proportion among EU countries and is significantly lower than the EU average of nearly 17%. It could be argued that what is meant by an "Older People" is subjective and a matter of judgement especially as life expectancy increases. For the purposes of this section older people will be taken to refer to persons aged 65 years and older. Also where the data is available the section will try to highlight that older people are not one homogenous group but have numerous different characteristics and face different circumstances and issues.

Poverty and the risk of poverty in Ireland is measured by the Central Statistics Office using the "Survey on income and Living Conditions" (SILC). Two measurements, *consistent poverty* and *at risk of poverty* are used<sup>7</sup>. The most recent data on poverty in Ireland is from the 2007 EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The Survey on income and Living Conditions (SILC) in Ireland is a voluntary survey of persons living in private households. It is carried out under EU legislation and was first carried out in Ireland in June 2003.

The 2007 "Survey on income and Living Conditions" (SILC) showed an increase in the risk of poverty for older people from 13.6% in 2006 to 16.6% in 2007. Older people's risk of poverty has fallen from 20% in 2005 to 14% in 2006, and the rate of consistent poverty for this group had decreased from 4% in 2005 to 2% in 2006. The consistent poverty rate for older people in 2007 remained at 2%.

The survey also showed that when one looks at income by age group older people had the lowest equivalised disposable income with an average of €18,401 per year compared to €22,085 for 0 – 17 year olds and €25,192 for persons of working age. However it is worth noting that this is a 12.1% increase in the average equivalised disposable income for older people compared to 2006 figure of €16,413. The state average equivalised disposable income increased by 11.2% over the same period to €23,610.

According to the Census of Population 2006 there are 12,517 people aged 54 years and older in County Wicklow. This accounts for approximately 10% of the county's population. It is interesting to note that while the number of older people in the county increased by 1,084 over the period 2002 to 2006 the % of the population in County Wicklow in this age category has not increased. At a national level approximately 11.04% of the population is aged 65 years and older according to the 2006 Census of Population, which is very similar to the percentage recorded in 2002, which was 11.1%.

<sup>7</sup>The at risk of poverty refers to the proportion of people with equivalised income below the at risk of poverty threshold, which is 60% of the median equivalised income. In 2007 this was €11,890 per annum. Consistent poverty refers to the proportion of people who are at risk of poverty and experience two or more of the list of eleven deprivation indicators.

**Table 24: Population by Age Cohort 1991 – 2006.**

Age	1991	1996	2002	2006
0 – 14	27,384	25,585	25,826	27,137
15 – 24	15,753	16,968	17,641	17,767
25 – 44	27,596	29,349	34,694	40,331
45 – 64	16,716	20,361	25,082	28,442
65 years and over	9,816	10,420	11,433	12,517
Total	97,265	102,683	114,676	126,194

As was mentioned older people should not be viewed as a uniform group and the table below outlines the marital status of older people in County Wicklow by age category.

**Table 25: Marital Status of Persons aged 65 Years and Older.**

Age	Total	Single	Married	Separated	Widowed
65 – 69	4,102	432	2,799	258	613
70 – 74	3,167	408	1,908	121	730
75 – 79	2,324	334	1,067	62	861
80 – 84	1,655	287	550	26	792
85 years and over	1,269	226	229	22	792

As can be seen approximately 52.4% of the persons aged 65 years and older in the county are married, 30.3% are widowed 13.5% are single and 3.9% are separated.

As well as looking at the county figures it is worth looking at the five electoral areas.

**Table 26: Older People by Electoral Area.**

Age Category	County Wicklow	Arklow	Bray	Baltinglass	Greystones	Wicklow
65 – 69	4,102	951	1186	508	652	805
70 – 74	3,167	718	885	375	508	681
75 – 79	2,324	535	684	312	365	428
80 – 84	1,655	372	505	215	210	353
85+	1,269	221	451	160	188	249
Population aged 65+	12,517	2,797	3,711	1,570	1,923	2,516
Total Population	126,194	26,152	35,426	16,992	21,132	26,492
65 – 69	3.25	3.64	3.35	2.99	3.09	3.04
70 – 74	2.51	2.75	2.50	2.21	2.40	2.57
75 – 79	1.84	2.05	1.93	1.84	1.73	1.62
80 – 84	1.31	1.42	1.43	1.27	0.99	1.33
85+	1.01	0.85	1.27	0.94	0.89	0.94
Population aged 65+	9.92	10.70	10.48	9.24	9.10	9.50
Total Population	100	100	100	100	100	100

The above table shows that there is very little difference in the % of the population of the five electoral areas that are aged 65 years and older. If one looks at the population by gender 5.7% of the male population in the county are aged between 65 and 74, while 3.2% aged 75 years and older. While 5.9% of the female population were aged between 65 and 74, and 5.1% aged 75 years and older.

**Table 27: Persons Aged 65 Years and Older by Gender.**

Area	Number of people aged 65 years and over	Males aged 65 years and over	Females aged 65 years and over
State	467,926	207,095	260,831
Co. Wicklow	12,517	5,552	6,965
Arklow	2,797	1,319	1,478
Bray	3,711	1,518	2,193
Baltinglass	1,570	774	796
Greystones	1,923	851	1,072
Wicklow	2,516	1,090	1,426

**Table 28: Persons Aged 65 Years and Older by Gender and Electoral Area.**

Age Category	County Wicklow	Arklow	Bray	Baltinglass	Greystones	Wicklow
<b>Male</b>						
65 - 69	2002	475	568	276	314	369
70 - 74	1558	375	427	194	238	324
75 - 79	982	241	249	154	151	187
80 - 84	619	149	160	89	82	139
85+	391	79	114	61	66	71
Population aged 65+	5,552	1,319	1,518	774	851	1,090
<b>Female</b>						
65 - 69	2,100	476	618	232	338	436
70 - 74	1,609	343	458	181	270	357
75 - 79	1,342	294	435	158	214	241
80 - 84	1,036	223	345	126	128	214
85+	878	142	337	99	122	178
Population aged 65+	6,965	1,478	2,193	796	1,072	1,426

## Household Composition

**Table 29: Persons, male and female aged 65 years and over living alone.**

Area	Person aged 65 Years and over			Males aged 65 Years and over			Females aged 65 Years and over		
	In private Households	Living Alone		In private Households	Living Alone		In private Households	Living Alone	
		Total in private Households	As % of Persons aged 65+ in private Households		Total in private Households	As % of Males aged 65+ in private Households		Total in private Households	As % of Females aged 65+ in private Households
Leinster	209,789	58,419	27.8	93,050	18,345	19.7	116,739	40,074	34.3
Kildare	11,435	2,889	25.3	5,257	970	18.5	6,178	1,919	31.1
Meath	12,065	3,017	25.0	5,558	1,024	18.4	6,507	1,993	30.6
Wicklow	11,287	2,932	26.0	5,178	943	18.2	6,109	1,989	32.6
Ireland	422,242	121,157	28.7	191,372	41,939	21.9	230,870	79,218	34.3

Source: CSO CENSUS 2006, Vol. 3 Household Composition and Family Units

As can be seen from the above table approximately 26% of the persons aged 65 years and older in private households live alone. The percentage of women aged 65 years and older living alone in private households is significantly higher than that for males, 32.6% compared to 18.2%.

It is also worth looking at the households where the person is aged 70 years or older.

**Table 30: Persons, male and female aged 70 years and over living alone.**

Area	Person aged 65 Years and over			Males aged 65 Years and over			Females aged 65 Years and over		
	In private Households	Living Alone		In private Households	Living Alone		In private Households	Living Alone	
		Total in private Households	As % of Persons aged 65+ in private Households		Total in private Households	As % of Males aged 65+ in private Households		Total in private Households	As % of Females aged 65+ in private Households
Leinster	140,211	45,310	32.3	59,296	13,128	22.1	80,915	32,182	39.8
Kildare	7,215	2,148	29.8	3,163	673	21.3	4,052	1,475	36.4
Meath	7,982	2,326	29.1	3,483	731	21.0	4,499	1,595	35.5
Wicklow	7,349	2,232	30.4	3,257	669	20.5	4,092	1,563	38.2
Ireland	286,194	94,137	32.9	123,922	29,951	24.2	162,272	64,186	39.6

Source: CSO CENSUS 2006, Vol. 3 Household Composition and Family Units

Due to changes in 2006 when age related pensions were replaced by State Pensions, there have been significant migrations between scheme types. The most significant transfers of recipients were those involving State Pension (Contributory), formerly known as Old Age Pension (Contributory), and State Pension (Transition), formerly known as Retirement Pension. Recipients of Widow/er's Pension, Deserted Wife's Allowance, Blind Pension, One Parent Family Payment and Prisoner's Wife's Allowance have since 2006 been transferred to State Pension (Non Contributory) upon reaching 66 years of age, resulting in some decreases in recipients and expenditure on such schemes and concomitant increases in recipients and expenditure on State Pension (Non Contributory). Further alterations resulted in Qualified Adults of a State Pension (Non Contributory) aged over 66 qualifying for a pension in their own right, with recipients of Invalidity Pension aged 66 years or over being automatically transferred to State Pension (Contributory) on reaching that age threshold. This means that is not possible to do a comparison over time between schemes. The Department of Social and Family Affairs Statistical Report on Social Welfare Services 2007 shows the following in relation to older people in County Wicklow:

- 6,089 persons in receipt of State Pension (Contributory)
- 180 persons in receipt of State Pension (Transition)
- 1,910 persons in receipt of State Pension (Non-Contributory)
- 283 persons in receipt of Pre-Retirement Allowance

Older People may experience social exclusion in different way, some as a result of the following:

- Isolation as a result of lack of access to transport
- Income poverty as a result of a reduced income
- Age discrimination
- Negative stereotyping
- Older women are less likely to have their partners/husbands in later years
- Lack of access to services

While older people are more likely to be in good health, the risk of disability and certain types of health conditions increase with age.

### *Key Supports in County Wicklow*

- Active Retirement Groups throughout the County
- Carnew Community Care
- County Wicklow Network for Older People

## SECTION SIX

# Homelessness in County Wicklow

Due to the nature of homelessness, it is difficult to collate definitive statistics, which all organisations can agree on. Homelessness is both an extreme manifestation of poverty and a contributory factor. It has both long and short-term dimensions. Family breakdown is known to be a major factor and young people who have been in state care or people leaving prisons are particularly vulnerable.

It must be highlighted however that the organisations working with Homeless people consider official statistics to be an underestimation of the actual picture due to the way statistics are collected. Official statistics for example, do not count people using emergency accommodation or other services. Also, people who are homeless may move from place to place and this can also make it difficult to get an accurate count of the homeless population.

The number presenting as homeless include any persons who satisfy the definition of homelessness as defined by the Housing act 1988:

"A person shall be regarded as homeless by a housing authority for the purposes of this Act if there is no accommodation available which, in the opinion of the authority, he, together with any other person who normally resides with him or who might reasonably be expected to reside with him, can reasonably occupy or remain in. Or he is living in a hospital, county home, night shelter or other such institution, and is so living homeless because he has no accommodation of the kind referred to (in paragraph (a)) *as appropriate*".

Wicklow County Council has added the following piece to the above definition for the purpose of the Homeless Action Plan drafted in 2000:

- persons living in temporary unstable accommodation
- persons living in emergency bed and breakfast accommodation and hostels/ Health Service Executive accommodation because they have nowhere else available to them
- rough sleepers
- victims of family violence

Homelessness is a major social exclusion issue and one which will require a commitment and investment from national government if "rough sleeping" is to be made a thing of history as was committed to in the strategy "The Way Home – A Strategy to Address Adult Homelessness in Ireland 2008 – 2013". This strategy has six strategic aims, which are to:

- Prevent homelessness
- Eliminate the need to sleep rough
- Eliminate long term homelessness
- Meet long term housing needs

- Ensure effective services for homeless people
- Better co-ordinate funding arrangements

During 2008 58 adults and 15 children used the emergency accommodation provided by Wicklow County Council, Bray, Arklow and Wicklow Town Councils, while many more have presented homeless with some sort of housing need or crisis. So the numbers shown above are an underestimation of the actual numbers presenting. People who are homeless may move from place to place or 'couch surf' (ie. move from one friend's sofa to another friend's sofa) and this can make it difficult to get an accurate count of the homeless population.

The Bray Homeless forum carried out a homeless count in the Bray area only between the 10th and the 16th of March 2008.

**Table 31: Homelessness in the Bray Area.**

Bray Council Area	Total	Males	Females
Adults	64	45	15
Children	14	7	7

During the week there were five people sleeping rough in the town. Over the next few months the Homeless Forum is to carry out a count for the greater Wicklow area.

To conclude *'Homelessness is about more than housing, Its about being denied the right to live with dignity and to participate in your community. It is the most extreme form of Social Exclusion. People who are homeless are also poets, actors, scientists, trades people, musicians parents and friends. Not having a home denies them the opportunity to be who they are, and Irish Society is poorer as a result'*. This quote is taken from the Makeroom Coalition, which consists of the St. Vincent de Paul, Focus Ireland, the Simon Communities of Ireland and Threshold, all campaigning on the issues of homelessness and Housing.

### *Key Local Support Agencies*

- Wicklow Homeless Forum (An amalgamation of Bray Town Council, Wicklow County Council HSE and Bray Partnership).
- Five Loaves in Bray.

## SECTION SEVEN

### The 'New' Poor

In the past people at high risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion have included groups such as Lone parents, people from disadvantaged areas, older people and members of the Travelling community. However in the Ireland of Today, a new group are at risk, which can be termed the "new poor". Similar to other target groups this group is often invisible but nonetheless requires support and policies to address their social exclusion. Some of this group may also be experiencing poverty for the first time.

With the economy in "Crisis" mode, the total number of unemployment benefit claimants is at its highest point in the history of the State. This itself is putting increased pressure on State Finances and Services. All sectors of the Economy have been hit by the Recession with increased unemployment in the sectors of wholesale, retail, and construction, financial and business services expected. For example, 41% of architects will have lost their jobs in the past year according to the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland.

Charities such as the St Vincent de Paul are seeing a sharp increase in requests for help from people unfamiliar with financial worries, one quarter of the calls being received are from first time callers.

MABS has also seen a change in the Socio-Economic profile of its Clients. MABS was initially set up to help those on Low incomes and on Social Welfare, however in 2007 personal loans with financial institutions, utility bills, credit card bills and mortgages are among the most common types of debt problems being faced. Nearly 34% of those new Clients in 2007 were from people either with Mortgages or who owned their own homes outright. Over half of MABS new clients in 2007 were in the 25 - 40 age bracket. 58% of those presenting at MABS are women. 60% of those clients have children although the biggest group of clients are single without children with single people with children being the second biggest grouping.

According to Goodbodies Stockbrokers, the average household has €158 borrowed for every €100 it earned in 2008, in comparison to 2005 when the ratio was €50 debt for every €100 earned. In May 2007, €2.67bn was owed on credit cards, by May 2008 that amount had risen to €3bn.

Apart from the hugely advertised large scale job losses from factories and businesses closing down or relocating out of Ireland, MABS have pointed out that many other people from smaller businesses have quietly lost their jobs or are on severely restricted hours.

#### Mortgages

The average House price in Wicklow in December 2008 was €267,265, according to Permanent TSB Bank. Repayments on this would be approx €1,425 per month over 25 years. For someone who has lost their job, the most they will receive on Social Welfare will be €857 per month in total with all other expenses to come out of that as well.

According to St Vincent de Paul, the number of home repossessions will rise drastically in 2009. Apart from Sub-prime lenders, the main Financial institutions will be taking cases to court, and this does not reflect the numbers of former homeowners who have voluntarily surrendered their houses to their mortgage providers and who in some cases are renting them back from the banks.

New measures have been put in place to delay repossessions by Financial Institutions for a year in cases of arrears, however with the current economic forecast MABS have warned that this may not be long enough for those who cannot, rather than will not, repay their debts.

## Social Welfare

There can be delays of up to 12 weeks in processing applications for Jobseekers Benefit (which currently stands at €204.30 per week and was formerly known as unemployment benefit) and there is a significant backlog building up as more and more people lose their jobs. This is compounded by the embargo on Public Service recruitment and the need for the Public Sector to reduce its payroll by 3% this year. Even facilities at offices are inadequate to cope with the large influx of the newly unemployed. However a range of measures have been introduced to try and ameliorate the situation such as online forms and some central processing to assist over-stretched offices.

**Table 32: Live Register, Wicklow Offices.**

	Jan 08	Jan 09	% Increase
Wicklow County	4,985	9,288	85%
Arklow	1,500	2,739	82%
Baltinglass	582	996	76%
Bray	1,937	3,289	99%
Wicklow	966	1,643	70%

Table 32 illustrates the dramatic increase in the numbers signing on in County Wicklow.

The percentage increase is higher for Males than females, and higher for non-Irish Nationals than Irish Nationals. Non-Irish nationals represented 19.6% of all persons on the Live Register in January 2009. Estimates from the Quarterly National Household Survey for June to August 2008 show that non-Irish nationals represented an estimated 16.1% of all persons in the labour force aged between 17 and 65 years (the relevant age range for the Live Register). In relative terms Wicklow County has fared better than Kildare (101% increase in the past year), Meath (113% increase) but worse than Wexford (78%).

As well as people who have lost their employment recently the new poor also includes people who are working but are struggling to make ends meet and have mounting debts. Despite various articles on the "new poor" in Ireland there are no statistics available that quantify the number of people that are in this group. This is partly due to the fluid nature of the groups. It has been said that the 'opportunities of the boom years....are transforming into dead weights to be carried with dwindling resources' (Sunday Business Post). Property including second and holiday homes, expensive cars and consumer goods may now be millstones around the necks of the 'new poor'.

## Key Supports in County Wicklow

- Department of Social and Family Affairs
- Money Advice and Budgeting Service
- Saint Vincent de Paul

## SECTION EIGHT

### Rural Disadvantage

In 2006 there were a total of 35,852 people or 28.4% of the county's population living in rural Wicklow<sup>8</sup>.

Table 1 below indicates that although the rural population figures have increased in the years from 2002 to 2006, the actual percentage of the population of Co. Wicklow living in the 64 ED's has decreased over the same period. In the 2004 Poverty Profile, the percentage increase from 1996 to 2002 was 10.9%, however the percentage increase from 2002 to 2006 is just 8.2%.

**Table 33: Population Change 200 2- 2006.**

District	Persons 2002	Persons 2006	Actual Change	Percentage Change
National	3,917,203	4,239,848	322,645	8.2%
Co. Wicklow	114,676	126,194	11,518	10%
Rural Wicklow	33,127	35,852	2,725	8.2%

**Table 34: Age Structure.**

	Total Population	0 - 14 Years	15 - 24 Years	25 - 44 Years	45 - 64 Years	65 - 74 Years	75+
National	4,239,848	864,449 (20.4%)	632,732 (14.9%)	1,345,873 (31.7%)	928,868 (21.9%)	262,548 (6.2%)	205,378 (4.8%)
Co. Wicklow	126,194	27,137 (21.5%)	17,767 (14.1%)	40,331 (32%)	28,442 (22.5%)	7,269 (5.8%)	5,248 (4.2%)
Rural Wicklow	35,852	7,780 (21.7%)	4,750 (13.3%)	10,771 (30%)	8,726 (24.3%)	2,270 (6.3%)	1,555 (4.3%)

The above data indicates that the percentage of the population in rural Wicklow over 75 is nearly the same as the percentage for this age group for the County as a whole. However the percentage of population over 65 is much greater than the percentage for this age group for the County as a whole. The percentage of the population aged 14 years and under in rural Wicklow is approximately 21.7%. This is just 0.2% higher than the percentage of the population within this category for the County as a whole. The data also shows that the percentage of the population in the 25 - 44 age bracket is 2% less than the county figure, which is a 1.2% increase on the 2002 figure (0.8%).

<sup>8</sup>This is the total population of Co. Wicklow except for those persons living in the following Electoral Districts: Rathmichael, Bray No. 1, Bray No. 2, Bray No. 3, Delgany, Greystones, Kilmacanogue, Enniskerry, Kilcoole, Wicklow Urban, Arklow No.1 Urban, Arklow No. 2 Urban, Baltinglass, Blessington, Burgage, Rathdrum, Newcastle Upper and Wicklow Rural. In the December 2004 Poverty Profile rural areas were classed by a population of less than 1,500, which indicated 64 ED's as rural. This classification is no longer being used, as population numbers are no longer deemed sufficient to classify an area as rural. However the same 64 ED's have been used to allow for comparison purposes.

In 2002, 50% of the Electoral Divisions in rural Wicklow had a higher percentage of their population in the 14 years and under age category. In 2006, 53 of the 64 Rural Electoral areas, approximately 83% of the Rural Electoral areas have a higher percentage of their population in the 25 – 44 years age category. Four years following the last census this figure cannot be explained by the increase of age of the original 14 years and under age category, but may be a reflection of a change in family size and profile. Ballingulee has the highest percentage of population in the 25 – 44 years age category at 40.3%.

Cronelea has the highest percentage of population in the 65 – 74 years age category at 11% and the lowest percentage population in the 14 years and under age category at 12.1%. Rathdangan has the highest percentage of population in the 75+ age category at 10.8%.

## Educational Attainment

**Table 35: Educational Attainment 2006 (%).**

District	No Formal or Primary Ed. only	Lower Secondary Ed.	Upper Secondary Ed.	Third Level Ed.	Age Ed. Ceased </=15	Age Ed. Ceased >/=20
National	514,085 (18.9%)	573,411 (21%)	803,498 (29.5%)	829,102 (30.5%)	322,345 (11.8%)	695,755 (25.65%)
Co. Wicklow	13,201 (15.7%)	16,746 (20%)	24,271 (29.5%)	26,644 (31.8%)	8,157 (9.7%)	21,618 (25.8%)
Rural Wicklow	5,085 (18.3%)	6,086 (21.9%)	8,008 (28.8%)	8,614 (31%)	3,166 (11.4%)	7,055 (25.4%)

The above statistics show an improvement in educational attainment in Rural areas of Wicklow. While levels of Education in the County tend to be higher than the national averages, in general Rural Educational achievement seems to closely mirror the National Picture.

**Table 36: Educational Attainment in Rural Wicklow 2002 and 2006 (%).**

District	No Formal or Primary Ed. only	Lower Secondary Ed.	Upper Secondary Ed.	Third Level Ed.	Age Ed. Ceased </=15	Age Ed. Ceased >/=20
Rural Wicklow 2006	(18.3%)	(21.9%)	(28.8%)	(31%)	(11.4%)	(25.4%)
Rural Wicklow 2002	24.4%	24.6%	28%	23%	26.9%	20%

**Table 37: Persons aged 15+ Labour Force Principal Economic Status 2006.**

District	Total Aged 15 Years +	Total in Labour Force	At Work	Looking for First Job	Unemployed	Total not in Labour Force	Labour Force Participation Rate	Labour Force Participation Rate % 2006
National	3,375,399	2,109,498	1,930,042	29,372	150,084	1,265,901	60%	58.3%
Co. Wicklow	99,057	62,369	57,326	633	4,410	36,688	58.8%	58.5%
Rural Wicklow	28,072	17,390	16,178	147	1,065	10,682	61.4%	57.9%

Table 37, facilitates an examination of labour force participation in rural Wicklow. This table shows that the labour force participation rate in rural areas is slightly higher than the rates for the county and State as a whole. It also shows a 3.5% increase in 2006 on the 2002 Labour Force Participation rate. Although there has been an increase in the percentage labour force participation rate Nationally, this increase places rural Wicklow ahead of the National and Co. Wicklow rates.

These statistics are from Census 2006 however and the current economic downturn will have had an effect on the unemployment figures.

There are many issues which affect rural areas and can help perpetuate a climate of disadvantage, among these is the a lack of service or a decline in their availability as outlined below:

- 500 local post offices have closed in the past 8 years (Elaine Byrne writing for the Irish Times)
- 1,000 Rural Pubs have closed in the past three years (Vintners Federation)
- Closure of some Rural Garda Stations (Dept of Justice)
- Restructuring of Rural Transport
- Lack of Broadband access in some areas leading to lack of access to information
- Lack of access to critical services including mental health services which can be critical for those affected by Rural isolation.

The only significant piece of research to have been carried out in recent times in rural Wicklow has been the **“West Wicklow Rural Communities Consultation Project – Addressing Quality of Life Issues in Rural Communities”** which was launched in June 2004 and was carried out by Pobal Community Development Agency in partnership with the Wicklow County Development Board.

The key issues highlighted by this report were; a serious lack of public transport provision, the need for the establishment of a local anti-poverty/social inclusion initiative for the area, additional provision of healthcare services/childcare facilities/playgrounds, more support for the community and voluntary groups in the area, and many quality of life issues.

## Context of Rural Poverty Nationally

Poverty and social exclusion are dynamic, multifaceted issues, which are not confined spatially but can occur in both urban and rural environments. The National Anti-Poverty Strategy, and the White Paper on Rural Development, recognise rural poverty as a priority issue and outline the government's commitment to tackling rural poverty. The 1998 Hasse report on Irish poverty shows that a ring of affluence exists around urban centres and that the levels of deprivation tend to increase as one moves away from the urban areas.

The **Rural Development Policy Advisory Group** highlighted ten main characteristics of rural poverty:

1. The high levels of invisibility; rural areas unlike urban areas do not have high concentrations of disadvantage in certain areas; rural areas are diverse and the experience of poverty is very often individual and dispersed over a greater geographic area.
2. Out-migration and its effect on local demography in terms of depopulated areas, physical isolation and ageing populations; the trend is towards a decline in the population in rural areas and a higher dependency rate.
3. The diminishing economic base; the decline in the relative contribution of agriculture to the rural economy and the difficulty of attracting or creating alternative employment opportunities.

4. Low income: non-viable farms as well as those engaged in other primary production sectors such as fisheries.
5. Low income and a dependence on social welfare.
6. Unemployment and under-employment.
7. Sub-standard housing.
8. Isolation of women and the elderly through lack of transport and access to financial resources; this is related in many areas to the poor transport infrastructure and lack of access to public transport.
9. The non-availability or withdrawal of local services, particularly the difficulty in some areas in accessing health care services; this situation is compounded in many cases by inadequate information on services and entitlements.
10. Low levels of participation in local development mechanisms and in development activity with an anti-poverty focus. (Rural Development Policy Advisory Group, 1997:89).

### *Local Support Agencies/ Groups with a Specific Remit for Rural Disadvantage*

- Wicklow Rural Partnership
- IFA
- ICA
- Teagasc
- Wicklow Rural Transport Initiative
- Macra na Feirme
- Foroige Youth Clubs

## SECTION NINE

### Urban Disadvantage: RAPID

Bray is the main urban settlement in County Wicklow with a population of 31,901 in 2006. The Bray RAPID Programme, launched in 2001, aims to ensure that priority attention is given to tackling the spatial concentration of poverty and social exclusion within the five designated estates in Bray through targeting state resources, available under the National Development Plan. The Programme also calls on Government Departments and State Agencies to bring about better co-ordination and closer integration in the delivery of services. The five estates covered under the programme are Fassaroe, Oldcourt, Kilbride Grove, Ballywaltrim Heights and Deerpark/Heatherwood/Ard Na Greine.

In 2006 the Government carried out a review of the RAPID programme nationally and this has led to seven strategic themes being highlighted. The seven strategic themes are:

- Health
- Family Support
- Community Safety
- Physical Environment
- Education
- Youth Support
- Employment and Training

The first five strategies have now been completed with the final two coming on-stream in the second half of 2009. These strategies raise the issues, which need to be tackled by both statutory groups and local groups and residents to improve the social cohesion in the RAPID estates and beyond.

A number of projects have taken place throughout the last number of years, which could not have taken place without the support of the RAPID programme. These include the following:

- Estate Enhancement/Traffic Calming Scheme – This is a leverage scheme, which has led to the funding of such projects as the provision of speed ramps in Fassaroe the dishing of footpaths in the estates, extra landscaping in the estates and the provision of parking bays. A further announcement of €150,000 in funding under this heading has been made and it is envisaged that this will be spent in 2009.
- The refurbishment of the Community Centre in Fassaroe, including the provision of computer equipment. This project is vital to the area with over 1,000 small children living in the Fassaroe estate.
- The Area Implementation Team (made up of representatives of the 5 estates, Bray Partnership and the RAPID co-ordinator) has also supported other organisations applications under such headings as Dormant Accounts and Sports Capital Fund.
- The securing of funding for the Estate Development Officer, employed by Bray Town Council.

- The employment of youth workers, adult education workers and youth activities in community centres and resource centres.
- The building of Playgrounds in Fassaroe.
- The refurbishment of the Bray Women's Refuge and the provision of equipment to the Homelinks service through the Health Leverage Fund.

The Government is still targeting the RAPID areas with additional resources and the Bray RAPID Programme has received €125,000 under the Dormant Account Additionality Fund for 2009. These funds will be directed at actions highlighted in the seven strategies.

The Bray RAPID Programme will continue to work with local groups, statutory agencies and the community and voluntary sector to help the residents of these estates and to build the capacity of the local community.

# SECTION TEN

## Children Aged 0 – 11

### Facts on Child Poverty and Disadvantage

- Up to 5,000 children leave school early each year; 1 in 3 children in disadvantaged areas have severe difficulties with basic reading and writing. In 2006 4% of School leavers left with no Junior Certificate.
- Traveller infants die significantly earlier than infants of the settled community.
- The longer a Child suffers from poverty, the greater the deprivation they will suffer in later life.

**Total number of children nationally:** 689,857, 16.48% of the National population.

### Number of 0 – 11 year olds in electoral area in Wicklow.

Arklow	4,593	ie 17.56% of Arklow's total population
Baltinglass	3,204	ie 18.86% of the Baltinglass population
Bray	5,595	ie 15.79% of Bray's population
Greystones	3,579	ie 16.94% of the Greystones population
Wicklow	4,941	ie 18.65 of Wicklow's total population
Total Male	11,292	
Total Female	10,620	
Total Number	21,912	17.36% of County Wicklow's Total population.

This rate of 17.36% is slightly higher than the National rate of 16.48%

The number of 0 – 11 year olds in Wicklow 21,912 represents 3.14% of Irelands total population of this particular age group.

Number of Family Units with all children < 15 years old in 2006 was 11,262

Family Units with all children under the age of 15 broken down by electoral area and number of Children.

**Table 38: Family Units with all Children under age of 15.**

Electoral Area	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 or more Children
Arklow	1,037	832	339	118	28
Baltinglass	644	550	284	82	19
Bray	1,220	1,089	458	114	25
Greystones	740	725	315	76	11
Wicklow	1,042	995	368	128	23
County Total	4,683	4,191	1,764	518	106

### Children's Facilities

- Number of Registered Childcare facilities in the County: 138
- Number of Public Children's Playgrounds in the County: 13

### Children in Consistent Poverty (aged 0 – 14)

Figures vary on this but according to the 2006 EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions, 11% of children in Ireland live in consistent poverty. Assuming the same percentages apply in County Wicklow, then there are 2,985 children in Wicklow living in consistent poverty, regularly going without basic necessities.

### Children in Relative Poverty (aged 0 – 14)

Again applying the national rate to the population of Wicklow, the 2007 EU-SILC survey implies that 5,427 children are at risk of Poverty in County Wicklow. That means living in families whose income was below 60% of the National Median Income.

However according to the Combat Poverty Agency, children not living in Households are not included in the above figures. Other children at high risk of poverty include children living in temporary accommodation such as bed and breakfast or living homeless on the streets, Traveller children, children seeking Asylum and children leaving institutional care.

### The Effects of Poverty

- Poverty for Children means they are excluded from things considered 'normal' in Society and are likely to be bullied
- Poor Health and Lifespan
- Early School leaving/Literacy

- Mental and Physical development.
- Employment and Life opportunities (at risk of Teenage pregnancy or possibly spend time in Prison) (Combat Poverty Agency/Unicef/Barnardos).
- Children living in one parent families or in families with 4 or more children have a high risk of poverty.
- A greater proportion of children than adults face a risk of income poverty in Ireland.

### *Key Support Agencies*

- Wicklow County Childcare Committee
- Wicklow Child and Family project
- Bray Childcare Network c/o Little Bray Family Resource Centre
- ISPCC
- VEC
- Community Mothers Programme ECAHB
- Springboard Initiative Arklow
- Health Service Executive
- Department of Education and Science

## SECTION ELEVEN

# Women (females aged 15+)

### Women and Poverty

The National Women's Council of Ireland says that poverty is not just the absence of income and physical resources, but it is also exclusion from participation in Society, lack of power and unequal distribution of resources:

- 85% of all lone parents are women and therefore four and a half times more likely to live in consistent poverty than the rest of the population.
- Households headed by a woman have, on average, 75% of the disposable income of households headed by males.
- 65% of all unpaid carers in County Wicklow are women. Of those carers that give over 43 hours a week, 70% are women.
- Lack of Childcare facilities and financial supports to pay for childcare is one of the biggest barriers to women's participation in employment, education and training. In Wicklow 52.3% of women are in the Labour Force as opposed to 73.8% of men.
- 40% of people surveyed by the National Office for the prevention of Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence said they personally knew a woman who had been the victim of Domestic Abuse.
- The Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) Report (2002) found that one in four women had experienced some form of sexual abuse in their lifetime and one in five had experienced sexual assault as adults.
- Only 13% of those elected to the Dail are women, while 19% of Local Authority Councillors are women.

**Total number of women in County Wicklow: 63,289, 50.15% of the County's population.**

This represents 3% of Irelands total female population.

**Table 39: Women in Wicklow by Electoral Area.**

Electoral Area	Total Number of females	Females aged 15+
County Wicklow	63,289	50,103
Arklow	12,904	10,113
Bray	18,264	14,725
Baltinglass	8,289	6,432
Greystones	10,670	8,509
Wicklow	13,162	10,324

**Table 40: Educational Attainment.**

	Total over 15 finished Education	Total less "Not Stated"	Primary (inc. no formal education)	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary	Third Level
Ireland	1,424,369	1,359,653	245,369	268,679	393,910	451,695
2006			18.0%	19.8%	29.0%	33.2%
2002			21.2%	21.8%	29.8%	27.3%
County Wicklow	42,546	40,588	6,332	8,024	12,063	14,169
2006			15.6%	19.8%	29.7%	34.9%
2002			19.1%	22.4%	30.8%	27.8%
Arklow Elec. Area	8,785	8,341	1,700	1,949	2,444	2,248
2006			20.4%	23.4%	29.3%	27.0%
2002			25.4%	25.9%	29.2%	19.5%
Baltinglass Elec Area	5,470	5,252	832	1,096	1,630	1,694
2006			15.8%	20.9%	31.0%	32.3%
2002			19.9%	22.1%	31.15	26.9%
Bray Elec Area	12,288	11,603	1,858	2,291	3,333	4,121
2006			16.0%	19.7%	28.7%	35.5%
2002			18.0%	25.9%	30.6%	29.6%
Greystones Elec Area	7,196	6,968	672	1,021	2,097	3,178
2006			9.6%	14.7%	30.1%	45.6%
2002			12.8%	18.5%	33.7%	35.0%
Wicklow Elec Area	8,807	8,424	1,270	1,667	2,559	2,928
2006			15.1%	19.8%	30.4%	34.8%
2002			18.8%	22.8%	30.2%	28.3%

The above table shows a rise in the percentages of women attaining a higher level of education compared to 2002. However there is still a large difference in the educational attainment of the Greystones area over that of Arklow where the percentage of women that have only a primary or no formal education is 20.4% compared to the National average of 18% and significantly higher than the Wicklow County Average of 15.6%. The County average for 3rd Level qualifications is 34.9%; Greystones is showing a 45.6% average of women with 3rd level whereas the Arklow area only shows 27%, again a considerable difference.

### *Key Support Agencies*

- Bray Womens Refuge
- Baltinglass Womens Group
- ICA
- Tinahely's Womens Network
- Kilcoole Womens Group
- Little Bray Family Resource Centre CDP
- Saint Fergals' Family Resource Centre CDP
- Bray Partnership
- County Wicklow Partnership
- Bray and Wicklow Traveller CDPs

## SECTION TWELVE

### Lone Parents

A lone parent is someone raising children on their own, whether they are single, separated, divorced or widowed. Census 2006 tells us that, nationwide, there are 189,240 lone parents, of these, 86% are women, 14% are men. Lone parents account for just under 18% of the total number of family units. This is an increase on the 2002 figure of 16.64%.

Of all family units with Children, 1 in four of those families is a one-parent family. 26.5% of children live in a one-parent family.

According to recent figures from Combat Poverty 40% of lone parents are at risk of poverty with 33% living in consistent poverty. Therefore we can infer that one in four children of these parents also live in consistent poverty. This is four and a half times the national rate of 7%.

**Table 41: Risk of Poverty.**

	At Risk of Poverty	Consistent Poverty
Total Population	17%	7%
Lone Parent Families	40%	33%

According to EU\_SILC 2006 the rate of consistent poverty is higher for men parenting alone (36.5%) than for women (30.7%) Almost a fifth of the poorer one-parent families experience debt from ordinary living expenses.

### Wicklow

According to Census figures, there are 5,944 lone parent families in County Wicklow, this is an increase of 27.7% on the 2002 figure. The figure of 5,944 represents 24.8% of all families with Children in the county, slightly below the national figure of 25.2. There is a wide variance over the county however, with Arklow, Wicklow town and Bray having 30% of all family units being lone parents and one area in Bray as high as 49.5%.

**Table 42: Family Units in County Wicklow.**

Families and Number of Children Census 2006						
	Total number of households	Total number of family units	Total family units with children	Lone parents, all children	Lone parents, all children aged less than 15	Lone parent family units as a % of all family units
Wicklow	42,870	24,013	24,013	5,944	2,486	24.75%
National	1,469,521	1,053,180	749,626	189,240	311,803	25.24%

**Table 43: Household Composition 2006.**

Composition of household	Leinster	Kildare	Meath	Wexford	Wicklow	% Wicklow	Ireland	% State
One person	171,367	10,086	9,269	9,657	8,168	19.05	329,450	22.42
Husband and Wife	105,999	8,199	7,674	7,216	6,255	14.59	204,487	13.92
Cohabiting Couple	40,576	3,241	3,160	1,835	2,210	5.16	65,055	4.43
Husband and wife with children any age	251,158	23,341	21,284	15,063	15,157	35.36	477,705	32.51
Cohabiting couple with children any age	23,324	2,046	2,046	1,725	1,533	3.58	39,626	2.70
Lone mother with children any age	72,754	5,158	3,903	4,226	4,117	9.60	130,853	8.90
Lone father with children any age	11,502	866	762	695	703	1.64	21,689	1.48
Husband and wife with other persons	7,211	505	435	396	370	0.86	12,887	0.88
Cohabiting couple with other persons	6,882	531	358	288	256	0.60	10,990	0.75
Husband and wife with children any age and other persons	15,576	1,322	1,179	979	889	2.07	28,247	1.92
Cohabiting couple with children any age and other persons	2,081	175	164	161	124	0.29	3,467	0.24
Lone mother with children any age and other persons	8,654	566	408	408	451	1.05	13,994	0.95
Lone father with children any age and other persons	1,893	150	115	119	89	0.21	3,244	0.22
2 Family units	12,157	895	744	759	632	1.47	19,822	1.35
3 or more family units	313	21	14	12	8	0.02	435	0.03
Non family households with related persons	24,015	1,396	1,158	1,117	915	2.13	43,426	2.96
Non family households containing non related persons	39,382	2,459	1,265	910	993	2.32	64,144	4.36
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	794,844	60,957	53,938	45,566	42,870	100	1,469,521	100.00

As can be seen from the above table, the largest percentage of households consist of a husband and wife with children at 35.36%. This is a drop from the 2002 figure of 39.42%.

## One Parent Family Payment

In 2007 85,084 people received the one parent family payment. 2,739 of these were in Wicklow, that's 46% of all lone parents in County Wicklow. Combat Poverty state that 60% of those receiving OPFB are in employment of some kind. Of these, most women work part-time while male lone parents work full time. Issues regarding affordable childcare and after school care are a big factor in preventing lone parents from accessing education, training and therefore job opportunities are often limited and low paid. CSO figures for 2007 show that 16% of births in 2007 were born outside marriage to non-cohabiting couples. The figure for Wicklow is 14.8% slightly less than the national average.

## Housing

The most recent figures from Combat Poverty show that 38% of people on Local Authority housing lists are Lone parents. There is a new assessment of housing need taking place this year but the results aren't published yet. The 2005 figures say that 16,795 lone parents are on the housing lists. The lack of well-paid employment opportunities prevents a lot of lone parents from buying their own home or even availing of affordable housing options. The 2006 census tells us that 17,186 lone parents live in multi family households. Many of these are lone parents who live with their own parents or siblings. According to OPEN the following information has been provided regarding the 2005 Assessment of Housing Need in Wicklow.

**Table 44: Housing Need.**

	One parent Households on waiting list	% of all Households on waiting list
Wicklow County Council	271	46%
Arklow Town Council	107	45%
Wicklow Town Council	68	54%
Bray Town Council	254	48%
<b>Wicklow Total</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>47%</b>

## Education Training and Work Issues

With recent drastic budget reforms, education opportunities for single parents will be limited. Places on return to education programmes have been reduced, and increases in registration fees will also have an influence. As always, lack of affordable childcare, lack of family-friendly work policies, and the complexities of the interaction between tax and welfare with the consequent loss of secondary benefits, all mitigate against the lone parent accessing training opportunities and well paid employment.

### *Key Support Agencies*

- Bray Womens Refuge
- Baltinglass Womens Group
- ICA
- Tinahely's Womens Network
- Kilcoole Womens group
- Little Bray Family resource Centre CDP
- Saint Fergals' Family Resource centre CDP
- Bray Partnership
- County Wicklow Partnership
- Bray and Wicklow Traveller CDPs

## SECTION THIRTEEN

### People with Disabilities

#### Breakdown of People with Disabilities in Wicklow according to age:

Total number of disabled people in Co. Wicklow: 11,576 i.e. 9.17% of Wicklow's total population.

**Table 45: Breakdown by Age Category of persons with a disability.**  
(Source Census 2006, Vol. 11 Disability & Carers).

	Aged 1 - 14	Aged 15 - 24	Aged 25 - 44	Aged 45 - 64	Aged 65+	Total
Wicklow	1,197 (10.3%)*	986 (8.5%)*	2,331 (20.1%)*	3,404 (29.4%)*	3,658 (31.6%)*	11,576
State	33,256 (8.4%)	29,047 (7.4%)	78,326 (19.9%)	114,899 (29.2%)	138,257 (35.1%)	393,785

\* As a percentage of Wicklow's total disabled population.

As would be expected, the higher rates of disability/long lasting illness occur in the older age categories, particularly in the 65 plus age group. This is reflective of the national trend.

The percentage of people with disabilities within Wicklow (9.17%) is slightly lower than the national rate of 9.28%.

- This percentage of people with disabilities within Wicklow is also similar to the percentage in neighbouring counties such as Kildare, Meath and Wexford, which stand at 8.04%, 7.38% and 10.05% respectively.
- This number of 11,576 people with disabilities in Wicklow represents 2.9% of Ireland's total population of people with disabilities (393,785). This is a 0.2% increase from the figures issued in the Poverty Profile of County Wicklow, December 2004.

#### Gender Breakdown of People with Disabilities within County Wicklow.

Males: 5,754

Females: 5,822

**Table 46: Breakdown of numbers in the county according to type of disability.**

Type of Disability	Wicklow
<i>Total Persons With A Disability</i>	11,576
Blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment	2,134
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	4,724
Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	3,516
Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	2,343
Difficulty in going outside the home alone	3,115
Difficulty in working at a job or business	3,869
Other disabilities	12,160

It is important to note that those with a disability can experience more than one type of disability. Thus, the total number of disabilities in the county is 31,861.

Numbers of disabled people in each of our five regional areas:

Bray: 3,534

Wicklow: 2,415

Arklow: 2,437

Baltinglass: 1,279

Greystones: 1,911

**Table 47: Persons with a disability in selected towns in County Wicklow.**

Town	Total Persons with a disability	Persons with a disability as % of total persons
Bray	3,220	10.09%
Arklow	1,105	9.4%
Greystones	1,192	8.18%
Wicklow	886	8.8%
Newtownmountkennedy	329	12.91%
Blessington	246	6.12%
Kilcoole	282	8.67%
Enniskerry	171	9.09%

**Table 48: Persons with a disability living in private households.**

	Total living in Private Households	Total living alone in Private Households
Wicklow	10,356	1,692

This table shows us that 16.34% of people with a disability live alone. 13.8 of males with a disability live alone and 19% of females with a disability live alone.

**Table 49: Number of recipients of illness, disability and caring payments in County Wicklow. (Department of Social and Family Affairs, Year 2007).**

Benefit	No.	Benefit	No.
Illness Benefit	1,835	Invalidity Pension	1,365
Carer's Benefit	42	Disablement Pension	312
Unemployment Supplement	16	Injury Benefit	22
Interim Disability Benefit	11	Death Benefit Pension	14
Disability Allowance	2,203	Blind Pension	42
Carer's Allowance	759	Total No. of claims	6,621

While this shows that a total of 6,621 claims being made, there are probably a smaller number of claimants, as some claimants may be entitled to one or more of these benefits.

## Disability and Employment

**Table 50: Persons with a disability by gender, employment status and labour force participation rate.**

	Total persons with a disability	Labour Force						Total not in labour Force	Labour Force Participation Rate %
		Total in Labour Force	At Work		Looking for first regular job	Unemployed having lost or given up previous job			
			Employer or own account worker	Employee			Assisting Relative		
Males	169,834	55,613	10,915	34,413	223	982	9,080	114,221	32.7
Females	190,695	38,228	2,226	29,845	178	716	5,263	152,467	20.0
Totals	260,529	93,841	13,141	64,258	401	1,698	14,343	266,688	26.0

Of the 114,749 males aged 15 to 64 with a disability, 53,244 reported being in the Labour Force, a participation rate of 46.4% this compares with a general participation rate of 81% nationally (73.8% in County Wicklow)

Nationally 17% of persons in the labour Force with a disability were unemployed in 2006, this figure can only be expected to have increased in the current economic climate.

## Carers

Carers are classified by the number of hours per week of unpaid personal help that they provide to a friend or family with a long-term illness or disability. The following table highlights the hours of care provided by carers in County Wicklow according to gender and age. It is believed that the greater the number of hours of unpaid care given by those attending school or third level education can greatly effect the numbers of hours they can study, in turn effecting their education and future job prospects.

**Table 51: Carers aged 15 years and over in County Wicklow classified by number of hours unpaid care per week: (Source: CSO).**

	Total no. of persons aged 15+	Total no. of carers	No. of carers that gave 1 – 14 hours of care/week	No. of carers that gave 15 – 28 hours of care/week	No. of carers that gave 29 – 42 hours of care/week	No. of carers that gave 43+ hours of care/week
Male		1,652	1,029	167	94	362
Female		2,966	1,731	308	159	768
Total		4,618	2,760	475	253	1,130

## Key Local Support Agencies

- Wicklow Access Group – Contact Access Officer, Wicklow Local Authorities ph: 0404 20100
- Wicklow Disability Group – Contact Ann Lyons, Chairperson @ [wicklowdisabilitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowdisabilitygroup@gmail.com)
- Wicklow Mental Health – Contact at [wicklowmentalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowmentalhealth@gmail.com)
- Arklow Disability Action Group (ADAG) at [miriamadag@eircom.net](mailto:miriamadag@eircom.net)
- Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) – Anthony Carrick at [anthonycarrick@disability-federation.ie](mailto:anthonycarrick@disability-federation.ie)
- [www.wicklowdisability.com](http://www.wicklowdisability.com) – A comprehensive listing of the disability sector in County Wicklow.
- Wicklow Disability Directory – A comprehensive listing of the disability sector in County Wicklow available in a variety of formats from Access Officer, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow or by phone / text to 087 0575938.

# SECTION FOURTEEN

## Ex-offenders

The National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) in its report 'Reintegration of Prisoners' states that prisoners and ex-offenders should be included as a category in all Equality and Social Inclusion programmes. The NESF has stressed the importance of supports being put in place for ex-offenders. The broad range of issues that ex-offenders face, from poverty to mental health to Social Stigma, can contribute to recidivism.

Community and Technical Aid (2004) completed a piece of research on the challenges and issues of prisoners upon release. Some of the main issues identified were:

- Homelessness/accommodation
- Drug Use
- Health
- Money and Keeping Occupied
- Family

To take one prison as an example, approximately 85% of Mountjoy prisoners are from Dublin, and 56% of these are from areas of relative deprivation. In O'Mahony's study, 2000 he found that 79% of his respondents had left school by 15, 60% were from either poor families and where the Father was chronically unemployed. 40% of prisoners had never had a job for longer than 3 months, and slightly more had never had a job and had no educational qualifications. (P O'Mahony Prison Policy in Ireland, Criminal Justice v Social Justice 2000).

### Homelessness

Prisoners are vulnerable and at risk of finding themselves homeless. There is a direct relationship between homelessness and crime. Focus Ireland in 2002 said that 46% of ex offenders had said homelessness contributed to offending behaviour maybe through committing 'survivalist crimes' or the inability to abstain from drug taking whilst on the street.

Accommodation often depends on the amount of money available at the time of release. Hostels may be unsafe with unsafe access to drug use.

Ex prisoners and drug users are not always accorded respect or tolerance by the Statutory Bodies. There is some transitional accommodation but with severely limited capacity.

## Drug Use

A significant number of ex-prisoners are drug users. Although treatment may be given in prison, there are no referrals with methadone clinics on the outside with waiting lists at some clinics. The first 24 hours after release are crucial and contact with other drug users is not advisable.

## Health

HIV and Hepatitis C are issues for drug users. If an ex-offender is of no fixed abode, then they can't get a medical card. Doctors and Dentists may also refuse them treatment although the Irish Dental Association says this is unacceptable.

## Money

Has a direct impact on finding accommodation, health issues and even occupation.

There are problems accessing Social welfare, signing on, getting the correct documentation, waiting to see the Community Welfare officer. Even having sufficient clothing on release can cause problems. These issues may lead to immediate re-offending. There is also an issue around training given whilst in prison may not be relevant or suitable for accessing paid employment on release.

## Family

There can be issues re-establishing relationships on release.

## Reintegration

The acceptance of ex-offenders back into Society will depend on the degree of acceptance of that community which in turn may depend on the nature of, and the victims of the crime committed. Vetting committees may impede access to housing, especially those without clear defined criteria.

Ex offenders may be subject to harassment and victimisation.

## Information

There is generally considered to be a lack of knowledge among prisoners about the services available to them on release and what their entitlements might be. Similarly there does not appear to be good synergy between the prison Service and accommodation agencies and other statutory bodies nor does there seem to be sufficient follow-through from services inside the prison system with those services available on the outside.

Improvements in these areas could lead to less re-offending by those who wish to make a genuine effort to return to Society.

## County Wicklow

Bray Partnership recently carried out a study of ex-offenders in County Wicklow.

In 2006 there were 145 individuals committed to Irish Prisons with Wicklow addresses. This equates to nearly 1.5% of all persons committed with Republic of Ireland addresses in 2006. Sentenced committals (not including Remand committals) accounted for 80 of the total individuals committed. There were 143 individuals released from Irish Prisons with Wicklow addresses in 2006.

**Table52: Age Profile.**

<18	18 < 21	21 < 25	25 < 30	30 < 40	40 < 50	50+	Blank	Total
7	22	23	39	35	9	10	0	145

The most common age groups of individuals committed with Wicklow addresses was 25 to 30 with 27% followed by 30 to 40 at 24%. These figures differ slightly from figures for all persons committed in 2006; the most common age group being 30<40 with 25% followed by 25<30 with 21%.

**Table 53: Age Left School.**

<10	10 < 12	12 < 14	14 < 16	16 < 18	18 < 24	24+	Blank	Total
3	3	25	48	44	22	0	0	145

54% of committed individuals with Wicklow addresses left school before the age of 16. This percentage is slightly lower than national figures, which show 56% of all committed individuals leaving school before 16 years of age.

**Table 54: Level of Education Profile.**

Extreme Literacy Difficulties	Moderate Literacy Difficulties		Primary Level	Primary Cert	Secondary/ No Cert
3	2		6	30	25
Group Cert	Junior/ Inter Cert	Senior/ Leaving Cert	3rd Level Cert	3rd Level Diploma	3rd Level Degree
13	27	15	4	1	2
Doctorate	Masters	Other	Blank		Total
0	1	16	0		145

Of the individuals committed with Wicklow addresses who provided specific information on education (not including Other or blanks), 51% stated that they left school with no qualifications. This figure is slightly lower than the national figure of 53%.

**Table 55: Employment Status Profile.**

Employed	Unemployed	Student	Retired	Pensioner	Blank	Total
43	101	0	1	0	0	145

Nearly 70% of the individuals committed were unemployed and 30% were employed. Nationally, 73% stated that they were unemployed and 26% stated they were employed.

**Table 56: Occupation Type Profile.**

<b>Unemployed</b>	74
<b>Not Stated/Other/Blank</b>	9
<b>Self Employed</b>	0
<b>Catering/Hospitality Industry</b> (incl. Bar Staff, Waiter/Waitress)	3
<b>Construction Industry</b> (incl. Bricklayer/Mason, Builder/Building Cont, Carpenter and Joiner, Labourer/Related Worker, Plasterer, Welding Trade)	34
<b>Driving/Delivering</b> (incl. Driver of Goods Vehicle)	2
<b>Engineering</b> (incl. Electrical Engineer, Electrician, Motor Mechanic/Auto Engineer)	
<b>Farming</b> (incl. Agri Machinery Operation, Farm Labourer)	2
<b>Horticulture</b> (incl. Gardeners/Groundsmen, Horticultural Trade)	6
<b>Other</b> (incl. Care Assistant/Attendant, Fishing & Related Worker, Machine Operatives, Market & Street Trader, Mechanical Engineer, Merchandise, Painter and Decorator, Property/Estate Management, Sales & Services)	15
<b>Total</b>	145

62 of the 145 individuals committed to prisons with Wicklow addresses in 2006 (43%) stated that they had an occupation (whether employed in that occupation at the time of committal or not). Of those 62 people, the most common employment sectors were Construction (55%) followed by the Horticulture Industry with 4%. These figures differ from the national figures of 53% for the most common sector, Construction, followed by Catering/Hospitality and Driving/Delivering with 6% each.

**Table 57: Sentence Length Profile.**

< 1 month	1 Month to < 3 months	3 months to < 6 months	6 months to < 1 year	1 year to < 2 years	2 years to < 3 years
20	7	13	14	8	9
3 years to < 5 years	5 years to < 10 years	10 years to < 20 years	20+ years	Life Sentence	Remand
4	2	0	0	0	65
Immigration/Deport	Other	Blank			TOTAL
3	0	0			145

Of all **sentenced** committals with Wicklow addresses (80); 67.5% were serving sentences of less than 1 year, 50% were serving less than 6 months, 34% were serving less than 3 months and 25% were serving less than 1 month. **Remand** committals accounted for 45% of all committals with Wicklow addresses.

Nationally, of all **sentenced** committals, sentences of less than 1 year made 77%, less than 6 months made 58%, less than 3 months made 39% and less than 1 month made 24%. **Remand** committals accounted for 42% of all committals in 2006.

### *Key Supports in County Wicklow:*

- WISP Wicklow Intergration Support Programme (under Bray partnership). Currently working with 9 people following the peer-mentoring model.
- Expac Ex prisoner's assistance Committee
- VEC

## SECTION FIFTEEN

# Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual Community (LGBT)

A common stereotype of gay people is that they are highly educated, affluent organised and male. However research has shown that discrimination and prejudice disadvantage lesbians and gay men and exclude them from full participation in society. It affects their lives in terms of their relations with their family and friends, in Education and training, in employment and in access to resources such as housing. It may even affect their decision to leave home and traditional support networks in search of greater tolerance of their lifestyle.

Local data and statistics on the LGBT community is extremely weak, no data is available from the Census of Population, as no question is asked about sexual orientation. However a general percentage of 6% of the population is accepted, based on UK Treasury research. Based on this percentage, the LGBT population of Wicklow would be 7,500. It is thought however by a local LGBT group that the number may be closer to 10,000 people, due mainly to the good location of Wicklow in relation to Dublin and the supports available there. However the Census does provide details on cohabitating couples for the State as a whole. In 2006 there were 121,800 family units consisting of cohabiting couples, 11.6% of family units. The number of same sex cohabiting couples recorded in 2006 census were 2,090, compared to 1,300 recorded in 2002. Two thirds of these were male couples.

A report by the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network and Nexus Research Co-operative, in 1999 highlighted the economic and social effects of discrimination on the gay and lesbian community. The findings of the research highlighted the need for a multi-dimensional, integrated and holistic approach to tackling poverty and social exclusion among the LGBT community. The study found that 21% of the respondents were living in poverty and 57% of respondents stated that they were struggling to make ends meet. A large number of participants in the study indicated that they had experienced social exclusion as a result of discrimination, harassment and prejudice. Among the social exclusion issues highlighted in this report and in the Equality Authority 'Implementing Equality for Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals' were the following:

- Isolation and loneliness at school
- Difficulties in continuing their education as a result of harassment and prejudice
- Estrangement from family, community
- Violence and verbal assault
- Threats of assault and harassment
- Discrimination at work
- Discrimination in service provision (health, housing, insurance)
- Difficulties in accessing funding for equality and advocacy

## Young People and Education

The Department of Education in Northern Ireland found that 12 years was the average age young people identified themselves as LGBT. The Anti Bullying Centre in Trinity College found that 50% of LGBT youth had been bullied at School compared to 16% of the general Youth Population, and 8% left school earlier than anticipated as a result. In 2006 DCU carried out research with Irish teachers and found that 79% had encountered homophobic verbal bullying of young people while 16% were aware of homophobic physical bullying in their schools (Norman Galvin and McNamara 2006 cited in Gibbons and O'Shea 2006) 90% of teachers said there was no anti-bullying policy with reference to LGBT bullying in their schools. Homophobia can lead to 'isolation, lack of concentration, discrimination, skipping school to avoid bullying, feelings of alienation and lack of care. ( Mac Manus 2004 pg 63).

## Mental Health

Barriers still exist which can and do impede the participation of LGBT people in Irish society and their health and well-being. More specifically, the experience of marginalisation, discrimination and stigmatisation can affect the mental health of LGBT people. A recent study in Northern Ireland found that one quarter of respondents (27.1%) had attempted suicide and 70.8% of these had attempted suicide more than once.

Some of the key findings from research are:

- LGBT People are 5 times more likely to be medicated for depression than their Heterosexual peers.
- LGBT people are three times more likely to attempt suicide compared to their heterosexual peers. In fact 30% of all completed youth suicide are that of young LGBT people.
- LGBT People are 2 and a half times more likely to self harm than their heterosexual peers.
- LGBT people are also more likely to have substance abuse or mental health problems (depression and anxiety), which are known risk factors for both attempted and completed suicide.

## Homelessness

Almost one third of LGBT people surveyed by Nexus in 1995 were effectively homeless at some stage in their lives. (GLEN/Nexus (1995) Poverty: lesbians and gay men; the Economic and Social Effects of discrimination: Combat Poverty Agency). Lack of awareness among mainstream service providers about the specific needs of LGBT people can mean that services are not inclusive or sensitive to these needs. This makes it difficult for LGBT people to get the appropriate help and support, leading to increased vulnerability ( GOLD 2005).

## Older people

Research has shown that older LGBT people are two and a half times more likely to live alone and four and a half times as likely to have no children to call on in times of need than the mainstream population (Keogh et AL). A recent UK study showed that 20% of older LGBT people indicated that they had no-one to call on in times of difficulty, a rate that is up to 10 times higher than the general older population (Cross 1999, Keogh et Al 2006).

## Disability

The NDA produced a discussion paper called Disability and Sexual Orientation in 2005, revealing that many health and social services show a lack of understanding of disability issues, sexual orientation and the intersection between the two. Many LGBT disabled people experience homophobia from their disabled peers.

**Invisibility.** Mental health problems and substance abuse are likely because of discriminatory treatment and exclusion.

**Access:** All disabled people experience significant barriers to full participation in Society, these barriers similarly impede disabled people's participation in the LGBT community, limiting their access to targeted Social Supports

Double Stigmatisation/discrimination-disabled LGBT may experience exclusion from both communities, resulting in mental distress and associated health consequences.

## Rural Isolation

LGBT people are more likely to be disconnected and invisible from Society because of the potentially insular nature of rural communities. LGBT people are more likely to leave the place of their birth/youth than the general population.

### *Key Supports in County Wicklow:*

- Amach (Wicklow Based but Adults only)
- GLEN ( Dublin based)
- BeLong To (Dublin based)

# CONCLUSION

This research shows that there is a continued need to tackle social exclusion and promote social inclusion by service providers. The research also highlights the data gaps which exist at a county and local level regarding the target groups. Further research and development would be useful into the following in the county;

- Barriers to participation and access to third level education in County Wicklow among the target groups.
- Methodologies for increased sharing of information, data and resources among service providers
- Research on the extent and prevalence of illegal drug use across the county. At present data is available at Regional Drugs Taskforce area level and County Wicklow is part of two different Taskforce areas, the East Coast and the South Western Regional Drugs Taskforce areas.

Despite the recent downturn in the economy continued support should be given to supporting and strengthening the social infrastructure in County Wicklow, to enable it to tackle the wide variety of social exclusion issues which exist in the County. The County Development Board through the Social Inclusion Measures Group is engaged in a wide number of initiatives to promote social inclusion in all areas of the county and is the best vehicle for driving the social inclusion agenda forward in the county and working to tackle gaps in service provision and to ensure that all relevant agencies, community, statutory and local development, work in partnership. In these uncertain times, ongoing support needs to be given both to those members of society who are currently living with poverty and marginalisation, and also those increasingly at risk.

The Authors would like to thank the members of SIM who worked closely with us in the preparation of this report and the effort and contribution made by each member of the Committee is greatly appreciated.

In conclusion we feel that this document is just a snapshot in time and should be seen as an organic document, liable to change as the economic and social landscape of County Wicklow changes. It is intended to update this profile completely following the results of the next census in 2011. In the meantime it is our intention to provide this research online on the Local Authorities website, [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) and to update the research on a regular basis as new information becomes available, thereby keeping this document current and relevant.

## Agencies

There are a wide number of agencies and groups, which work with groups at risk of social exclusion and poverty. Some of these agencies have a cross cutting remit others have a specific remit to work with a particular target group or area. It is important to recognise the important role that all organisations do play and can play in promoting social inclusion. The following is a section of the groups, which provide supports to the groups profiled;

- Wicklow County Development Board
- The Health Service Executive
- County Wicklow Vocational Education Committee
- FAS
- Department of Social and Family Affairs
- Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- An Garda Siochana
- Arklow Town Council
- Bray Town Council
- Greystones Town Council
- Wicklow County Council
- Local Sports Partnership
- Bray Area Partnership
- County Wicklow Partnership
- Wicklow County Childcare Committee
- St. Fergal's Family Resource Centre (Bray) – CDSP
- Little Bray Family Resource Centre – CDSP
- Wicklow Travellers Group – CDSP
- Bray Travellers Group – CDSP
- Shuttle- Knit Ltd – a FAS – Social Economy project based in Wicklow town where Traveller and settled women produce exclusive knitwear
- Bray RAPID Programme
- East Coast Regional Drugs Taskforce

- South West Regional Drugs Taskforce
- Bray Local Drugs Taskforce
  - Community Addiction Teams in Arklow and Bray
  - Drugs Education Workers
  - DAISH (Travellers Project)
  - Bray and North Wicklow Women's Network
  - Headlamps Educational Project (School based programme)
- County Wicklow Community Addiction Team Ltd.
  - The Bara Project
  - Treo Nua
- Kildare/West Wicklow Community Addiction Ltd.
- Bray Community Addiction Team
- Wicklow Integration Support Programme for ex prisoners (WISP) – Bray Partnership
- Expac – Ex-Prisoner's Assistance Committee
- Wicklow Child and Family Project
- Springboard Initiative Arklow
- Bray Childcare Network c/o Little Bray Family Resource Centre
- ISPCC
- MABS – Money Advice and Budgeting Service
- Citizens Information Service
- IFA
- ICA
- Teagasc
- Wicklow Rural Transport Initiative
- Macra na Feirme
- Foroige Youth Clubs
- Bray Youth Service
- East Wicklow Youth Service

- Little Bray Youth Project
- Greystones Parish Youth Initiative
- County Wicklow Network for Older People
- Active Retirement Groups around the County
- Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed Bray Branch
- Wicklow Trade Union Centre for the Unemployed, Bray
- Baltinglass Women's Group
- Kilcoole Women's Group
- Tinahely Women's Network
- Irish Countrywomen's Associations Guilds
- WEB (Women's Equality Initiative in Bray)
- Wicklow Homeless Forum
- Five Loaves – Bray
- Probation and Welfare Service
- Wicklow Access Group
- Wicklow Access Group – Contact Access Officer, Wicklow Local Authorities ph: 0404 20100
- Wicklow Disability Group – Contact Ann Lyons, Chairperson @ [wicklowdisabilitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowdisabilitygroup@gmail.com)
- Wicklow Mental Health – Contact at [wicklowmentalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowmentalhealth@gmail.com)
- Arklow Disability Action Group (ADAG) at [miriamadag@eircom.net](mailto:miriamadag@eircom.net)
- Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) – Anthony Carrick at [anthonycarrick@disability-federation.ie](mailto:anthonycarrick@disability-federation.ie)
- [www.wicklowdisability.com](http://www.wicklowdisability.com) – A comprehensive listing of the disability sector in County Wicklow.
- 'Amach' based in Ashford, monthly meetings for Adults
- 'Belong To' based in Dublin for LGBT youth from 14 – 23
- GLEN – Gay and Lesbian Equality Network based in Dublin

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