Poverty in Ireland

Profile of the Population in Poverty

According to the most recent poverty figures, **15.8 per cent** of the Irish population are *at-risk-of-poverty*, **22.5 per cent** experience *material deprivation* and **6.2%** experience *consistent poverty*. The table below shows the composition of the population in poverty compared with the population as a whole, using three demographic characteristics (age; PES; and tenure):

	At-Risk-of-Poverty	Material Deprivation	Consistent Poverty	Total Population
Age Group				
Children (0-17)	33.4	36.4	35.6	27.1
People of Working Age (18-64)	59.6	58.7	62.8	61.4
Older People (65+)	7.0	4.9	1.6	11.4
Total Population	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Principal Economic Status				
At work	17.3	19.5	9.9	34.9
Unemployed	13.4	13.7	19.8	8.1
Student	12.1	8.7	11.7	8.0
Home duties	16.7	14.6	15.8	13.0
Retired	4.2	2.4	1.3	7.4
Not at work due to illness or disability	5.3	7.6	8.4	4.0
Total Population	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Tenure Status				
Owner-occupied	61.8	47.9	43.5	73.4
Rented at the market rate	16.0	17.5	18.6	11.9
Rented at below the market rate or rent free	22.3	34.5	37.9	14.7
Total Population	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Analysis by age group shows that children represent 33.4 per cent of those *at-risk-of-poverty*, 36.4 per cent of those in *material deprivation* and 35.6 per cent of those in *consistent poverty* while they accounted for only 27.1 per cent of the whole population. People of working age (18-64) are over-represented as a share of the population (61.4 per cent) experiencing *consistent poverty* (62.8 per cent) but under-represented when experiencing *at-risk-of-poverty* (59.6 per cent) and *material deprivation* (58.7 per cent). Older people are under-represented as a share of the population (11.4 per cent) experiencing *at-risk-of-poverty* (7 per cent), *material deprivation* (4.9 per cent), and *consistent poverty* (1.6 per cent).

In relation to principal economic status, people who are at work and retired are under-represented as a share of the population experiencing *at-risk-of-poverty*, *material deprivation* and *consistent poverty*. While those who are unemployed, not at work due to illness or disability, engaged in home duties, and students are over-represented For example, people who are unemployed represent 13.4 per cent of those *at-risk-of-poverty*, 13.7 per cent of those in *material deprivation* and 19.8 per cent of those in *consistent poverty* while they accounted for only 8.1 per cent of the whole population.

In terms of tenure status, owner-occupiers are under-represented as a share of the population (73.4 per cent) experiencing *at-risk-of-poverty (*61.8 per cent), *material deprivation* (47.9 per cent) and *consistent poverty* (43.5 per cent). On the other hand, those in social housing (i.e. renting at below the market rate or rent free) are over-represented as a share of the population (14.7) experiencing *at-risk-of-poverty* (22.3 per cent), *material deprivation* (34.5 per cent), and *consistent poverty* (37.9 per cent).

More Information

Detailed information on the SILC survey is available on CSO - Central Statistics Office Ireland.

The preliminary report on the 2010 Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC): http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/silc/2010/prelimsilc_2010.pdf