



## Quick glance statistics on one-parent families in Ireland 2002 and 2003

### 1. Number of lone parent headed households - Census 2002

In total in 2002 there were close to 153,900 lone parent families in Ireland.

Between 1996 and 2002 the number of households containing a lone parent with children increased from 105,400 to 131,200, an increase of 25,800 households (24.5%).

85% headed by females, 15% by males

23.9% of all lone parent families in 2002 were headed by a single parent, 40% by widowed persons and 32% by separated or divorced persons.

Of a total of 3,917,203 people in the state on census day 2002, 363,814 lived in households with a lone mother/father and children of any age and 80,624 lived in households with a lone mother/father and children of any age and other persons (eg; family of origin of parent) totalling 444,438 persons in the state in total living in one parent families, 11.35% of the total population.

There were a total of 1,287,958 private households enumerated in the census, 153,900 of which included a lone parent with children of any age and a lone parent with children of any age and other persons. This represents 11.95% of all households in the state.

### 2. Births outside marriage

<b>Year</b>	<b>no. of births outside marriage in Ireland</b>
1983	4,552
1984	5,116
1985	5,282
1986	5,946
1987	6,347
1988	6,483
1989	6,671
1990	7,767
1991	8,912
1992	9,211
1993	9,826
1994	10,049
1995	10,862
1996	12,797
1997	14,149
1998	15,492
1999	16,760
2000	17,266
2001	18,049
2002	18,815



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The 2002 figure of 18,815 births outside marriage represents an increase of 9,604 in the 10 year period since 1992 and 1104% increase on the 1992 figure. In 1992 the average age of mothers giving birth outside marriage was 23.9, whereas in 2002 the average age was 26.1, indicating an increasing age profile of mothers giving birth outside marriage and following an increasing age patterns since 1980 when the average age was 22.2.

### 3. Social welfare payments to one parent families

In 2002, there were 79,195 recipients of one parent family payment, an increase of 2.7% on 2001. 97.5% of recipients were female and 2.55 were male.

Number of recipients of One Parent Family Payment by status of parent and number of qualified children, 2002 (Source: DSFA)

Type of recipient	Unmarried parent, separated parent, prisoners spouse	Widowed person	Total
With 1 child	47,801	603	48,404
With 2 children	19,000	293	19,293
With 3 children	7,202	145	7,347
With 4 children	2,673	67	2,740
With 5 children	846	34	880
With 6 or more children	388	20	408
<b>Total recipients</b>	<b>78,030</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>79,195</b>
<b>Total number of children</b>	<b>124,857</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>127,033</b>

From the table above, OPFP was claimed in respect of 127,033 qualified children (under 18/22 if in full-time education) by 79,195 parents, 78,030 of whom were unmarried, separated or the spouse of a prisoners while 1,165 were a widowed person.

Other relevant payments for one parent families include Deserted wife's benefit, widows and widower's contributory pension and prisoner's wife's allowances, although there is no breakdown of the numbers of recipient with dependent children for these payments.

### 4. Abortion

YEAR	ALL AGE	UNDER 20	20-34	35+	UNSTATED
2002	6,490	896	4,770	819	5
2001	6,625	939	4,924	762	-
2000	6,381	881	4,721	779	-
1999	6,214	925	4,561	728	-
1998	5,891	898	4,312	680	1
1997	5,336	822	3,862	652	-



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1996	4,894	766	3,586	541	1
1995	4,529	698	3,264	567	-
1994	4,590	628	3,388	574	-
1993	4,400	659	3,162	579	-
1992	4,254	716	2,994	544	-
1991	4,152	700	2,876	576	-
1990	4,064	667	2,881	516	-
1989	3,721	588	2,624	509	-
1988	3,839	556	2,768	514	-
1987	3,673	512	2,671	490	-
1986	3,918	569	2,858	491	-
1985	3,888	574	2,827	487	-
1984	3,946	556	2,904	484	2
1983	3,677	559	2,680	435	3

### 5. Experience and risk of poverty among lone parent headed households

Source is ESRI Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland (last living in Ireland survey)

Figures are used in National action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion (NAP/Incl) 2002-2006

*Consistent poverty rates* (% of persons experiencing consistent poverty by age, household type or by labour force status)

Category	1998 %	2000 %	2001 %
Overall	8.2	6.2	5.2
Lone parents	30.9	23.0	23.7

*At risk of poverty rates* (% of persons below 60% of median income by age, household type or by labour force status)

Category	1998 %	2000 %	2001%
Overall	19.8	20.9	21.9
Lone parents	44.9	46.5	42.9

**23.7% of persons in the state experiencing consistent poverty live in lone parent headed households. However, only 11.95% of persons in the state live in households containing a lone mother or father.**