



A SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF DUBLIN'S SOUTH WEST INNER CITY

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About the Author

Dr. Barra Roantree is an Assistant Professor in Economics and Programme Director of the MSc in Economic Policy at Trinity College Dublin. His research focuses on the evolution and distribution of living standards in Ireland and the design of the tax and welfare system.

He has co-authored more than thirty major policy reports including the flagship *Poverty, Income Inequality and Living Standards in Ireland* series published jointly by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Community Foundation Ireland. He has also published widely in leading academic journals - including the *Journal of Public Economics, International Tax and Public Finance and Fiscal Studies* - and contributed to various books and edited volumes. He is also a regular contributor to broadcast and print media on economic and social issues.

Barra previously worked as an economist at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) in Dublin and the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) in London and was a member of the Irish Government's 2021-22 Commission on Taxation and Welfare.

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of an independent socioeconomic analysis of Dublin's South West Inner City (SWIC) carried out by Dr. Barra Roantree: an economist at Trinity College Dublin. It provides the most detailed description of the social and economic conditions in the SWIC undertaken to date, with a particular focus on issues related to child physical activity and sporting participation, education and employment, crime and policing, incomes and deprivation, and health and well-being. It draws on a wide range of data sources, including the results of the 2022 Census, administrative data from government departments and agencies, and a survey of students in the area. This independent report was commissioned by Sporting Liberties, a community-based organisation that aims to provide opportunities for young people in the area to participate in sports and other activities.

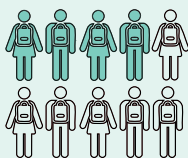
Key Points of Note



The crime rate in the SWIC is more than twice the national average. The SWIC largely overlaps with the Kevin Street An Garda Síochána (AGS) District which recorded 106.7 crimes per 1,000 of population in 2024. This was more than twice the national average of 40.4 per 1,000 and the fourth-highest of the 18 Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR) Districts: behind only the central Store Street, Pearse Street and Bridewell Street districts.



Crime has risen sharply since 2023 in the SWIC, with serious crimes up more than 20 per cent. The numbers of recorded crimes in the Kevin Street District increased by 11 per cent between 2023 and 2024, an increase of 590 crimes. This increase was largely a result of a rise in public order offences (up 51 per cent), damage to property and to the environment (up 21 per cent) and serious crimes like assaults and attempts/threats to murder (up 21 per cent).



Less than 4-in-10 children living in the SWIC go to secondary school in the area. This is the lowest of any local electoral area in Dublin or of any urban local electoral area in the country. It contrasts with primary level where local enrolment rates look very similar to other parts of the city, county and country as a whole.



Third-level progression rates for students in these schools are less than half the national average. Just 36 per cent of students who sat the Leaving Certificate at schools in the SWIC went on to third-level in 2024. This progression rate is less than half of that in Dublin (81 per cent) or nationally (80 per cent).



Just over half of families in the SWIC contain children, while a relatively high share of the 7,068 children in the area live in lone-parent households: 42.5 per cent in 2022, compared to just 30.6 per cent in Dublin City, 24.1 in Dublin County and 20.9 per cent nationally.



Almost half of those living in a severely deprived part of Dublin's inner city lives in the SWIC. Despite making up just a quarter of the inner city population, almost half of those living in a part of the city classified as Extremely or Very Disadvantaged live in the SWIC.



Average incomes in the SWIC are substantially lower than Dublin as a whole. Average gross (pre-tax) household income for the SWIC was 60,036 in 2022: 16 per cent lower than the Dublin average. Average net (after tax) household income for the SWIC was 49,900 in 2022: 15 per cent lower than the Dublin average.

Key Points of Note



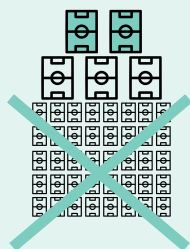
The SWIC contains almost 60 per cent more drug addiction service providers per capita than Dublin City on average. Information obtained from the Health Research Board (HRB) shows there are 13 publicly funded drug addiction service providers in the SWIC, which corresponds to 0.290 providers per 1,000 of the population: almost 60 per cent more than the 0.182 per 1,000 across Dublin City on average.



The number of drug poisoning deaths per capita in the SWIC is at least twice the national average. Recently published figures show that there were 22 drug poisoning deaths in the Dublin South City Local Health Office (LHO) area in 2021. This corresponds to a mortality rate of 0.145 per 1,000 of population: a third higher than the Dublin average and double the national average. However, the Dublin South City LHO area also includes parts of Terenure, Churchtown and Rathfarnham meaning that the figure for the SWIC itself is likely substantially higher.



Just 22 per cent of primary schools and 8 per cent of secondary school students in the SWIC are meeting national physical activity guidelines. The share meeting these guidelines was far lower for girls than boys, at just 15 per cent for girls in primary schools and 5.3 per cent for girls in secondary schools compared to 28.4 per cent and 9.7 per cent for boys.



There are currently no public pitches within the Grand Canal and North Circular Road, with just 2 of Dublin City Council's 248 public pitches in the SWIC. Both of these pitches are located in East Timor Park at the south-west edge of the SWIC, inaccessible for the vast majority of those living in the SWIC. This corresponds to 22,427 people per playing pitch in the SWIC: almost 10 times higher than the average of 2,389 for Dublin City as a whole. While two new pitches are planned for the area, these will still leave the SWIC with just 1 pitch per 11,214 people.



Half of primary students who rarely or never participate in organised sports outside of school say it is because there are not adequate facilities in their area. This is also the reason given by a fifth of the post-primary students who rarely or never participate in community sports, with almost a third saying the sports they like are not played in the area.

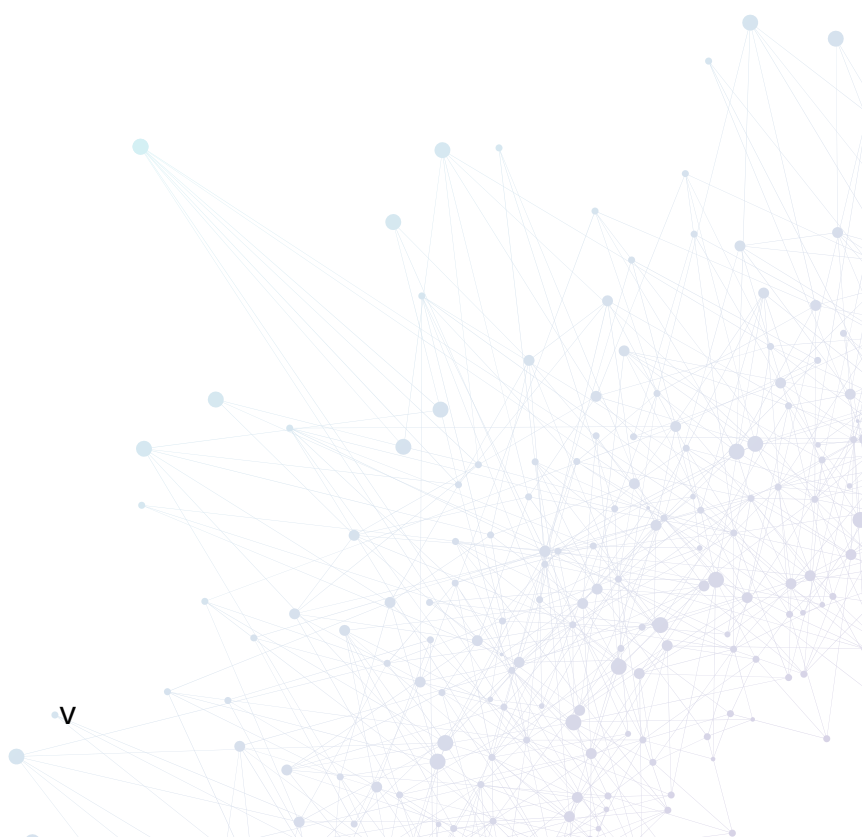
Recommendations

The concentration of disadvantage highlighted in this report provides a compelling case for additional targeted investment in the SWIC. This could be modelled - and build on - the success of the North-East Inner City (NEIC) initiative, involving:

- **THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SWIC STRATEGIC PLAN**, aimed at making the area a safe, attractive and vibrant environment for the community and its families, with opportunities for all to lead full lives.
- **A PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION BOARD WITH AN INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON**, bringing together key government departments – including the departments of the Taoiseach, Justice, Health, Education and Social Protection – along with community groups and Dublin City Council to advance progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- **A DEDICATED PROGRAMME OFFICE AND FUNDING** to support delivery of the Strategic Plan, in line with the €8 million per year allocated to the NEIC initiative.

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A report contextualising the social and economic challenges of Dublin's South West Inner City



Chapter 1

Introduction

This report presents an independent socioeconomic analysis of Dublin's South West Inner City (SWIC). Its aim is to provide a detailed understanding of the social and economic conditions in the SWIC. The report draws on a wide range of data sources, including the results of the 2022 Census, administrative data from government departments and agencies, and a survey of students in the area.

The SWIC is the local electoral area that encompasses most of Dublin 8. As shown in Figure 1.1, it covers the areas between the river Liffey to the north and the Grand Canal to the south, bounded by Clanbrassil St to the east and Tyrconnell Road to the west. It takes in the core of medieval Dublin alongside Thomas Street, James's Street, Cork Street, the South Circular Road and the neighbourhoods of the Liberties, the Tenters, Dolphins Barn, Rialto, Kilmainham, Inchicore and Islandbridge.

The SWIC is a geographically compact area with a diverse population and varied housing types, as discussed in Chapter 2. Its housing stock reflects the evolution of Dublin over time, ranging from inner-city Victorian red brick houses and local authority tenant purchase schemes like Bulfin Estate and The Tenters, to Dublin Artisan Dwelling developments and Herbert Simms-designed social housing flat complexes. The area also features suburban-style 1930s houses. During the Celtic Tiger era, many apartment complexes were constructed, and in recent years, there has been significant growth in rental and student accommodation developments.

There are planned housing regenerations of Donore Avenue and St Michael's Estate by the LDA which will be a mixture of cost rental and social housing and the regeneration of Dolphins Barn is still ongoing. The Digital Hub and the northside of James Street is a site where significant housing is due to be developed. There are also plans for the future development of Heuston Station by CIE which will include housing, retail space and a greenway along the river connecting Heuston with the recent Clancy Quay development at Islandbridge.

Figure 1.1: The South West Inner City

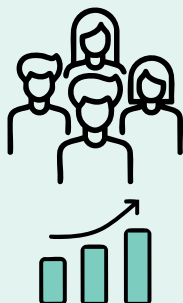
Source: The South West Inner City local electoral area boundary is outlined in red.

The South West Inner City is a culturally and historically important part of Dublin City with sites such as Richmond Barracks, Kilmainham Gaol, IMMA and the Guinness Storehouse. It houses the industrial operations of the world famous Guinness in St James' gate as well as being the location of the largest hospital in the country on St James' Campus which is due to expand when the National Childrens Hospital opens in 2026.

The structure of this report is as follows. Chapter 2 discusses the demographics of the SWIC and how these have changed over recent years, with a particular focus on housing tenure and household composition. Chapter 3 considers how average incomes and levels of deprivation in SWIC compare to other parts of the city and country. Chapter 4 examines the educational and employment outcomes of those living in the SWIC along with the primary and post-primary schools it contains. Chapter 5 explores the levels of physical activity and sporting participation among children in the SWIC, along with the availability of pitches and playing spaces. Chapter 6 looks at a range of health and wellbeing indicators, including self-reported health, the prevalence of drug treatment and addiction treatment facilities in the SWIC. Chapter 7 examines the prevalence of recorded crime and committals to prison in the SWIC as well as the resources available to An Garda Síochána. Finally, the report concludes in Chapter 8 with a discussion of the implications of these findings for policy.

Chapter 2

Demographics and housing



Population growth in the SWIC has outpaced that in Dublin and the country as a whole.

The population of the SWIC rose from 32,088 to 44,853 between 2002 and 2022: an increase of 39.8 per cent. This was substantially higher than Dublin City (12.9 per cent), Dublin County (29.2 per cent) and the country as a whole (30.8 per cent) over the same period.

Almost

two-thirds

of the SWIC population live in an apartment or flat compared to one-third in Dublin City and a fifth in Dublin county.

This is a substantial increase from 2002 when just 51 per cent of the SWIC population lived in an apartment or flat. The numbers of privately occupied apartments or flats have risen by 4,349 - almost 60 per cent - over the last two decades.



Only 1-in-4 individuals in the SWIC lived in owner-occupied accommodation: less than half the Dublin and national average.

Conversely, just under a fifth (18.4 per cent) of individuals in the SWIC lived in accommodation rented from Dublin City Council or a voluntary/co-operative housing body and almost half (46.4 per cent) from a private landlord: substantially higher than the average across Dublin City, county or the country as a whole.

Despite these patterns of housing type and tenure, just over half of families in the SWIC contain children.

A relatively high share of the 7,068 children in the area live in lone-parent households: 42.5 per cent in 2022, compared to just 30.6 per cent in Dublin City, 24.1 in Dublin County and 20.9 per cent nationally.



The South West Inner City (SWIC) is an area that has seen strong population growth over recent decades. Table 2.1 shows that the population of the SWIC rose from 32,088 to 44,853 between the Census of 2002 and that of 2022. This increase of 39.8 per cent was substantially higher than that of 12.9 per cent in Dublin City, 29.2 per cent in Dublin County and 30.8 per cent nationally over the same period. This growth was strongest over the 2000s and early 2010s, with the population increasing by 11.2 per cent (3,721) between 2002 and 2006 alone. Although the pace of population growth has since slowed, the increase between 2016 and 2022 was still 5.9 per cent (2,509 people).

As well as constituting a relatively fast-growing part of Dublin City, the composition of the SWIC stands out as quite distinct from other parts of the city and country in terms both housing and demographics. Table 2.2 shows how the SWIC compares in terms of these to Dublin City, Dublin County and the country as a whole, again drawing on data from the 2022 Census.

While just 32.1 per cent the population live in an apartment or flat in Dublin city as a whole (21.7 per cent in Dublin county), this figure is substantially higher in the SWIC. The 2022 Census found that 62 per cent of people in the SWIC lived in such accommodation, with the number of privately occupied apartments or flats amounting to 11,668. This is an increase of 4,349 - almost 60 per cent - from the 2002 Census when just 51 per cent of the population lived in one of 7,319 privately occupied apartments or flat. The number of people living in apartments and flats in the SWIC is likely to increase significantly in the coming years, with over 2,500 units approved across just 5 large developments (Player Wills, Bailey Gibson, St. Teresa's Gardens, St. Michael's Estate and Parkgate Street).

The share of the population living in apartments and flats is particularly high in certain areas of the SWIC. This is shown by Figure 2.1, using data from the 2022 Census at the Small Area level: the smallest geographical unit for which the CSO publishes results. While the share of the population living in apartments and flats is relatively low in some areas to the south of the SWIC (including the Tenters, the

Table 2.1: Population, 2002-2022

	SWIC	Dublin City	Dublin Co.	Ireland
2002	32,088	495,781	1,122,821	3,917,203
2006	35,809	506,211	1,187,176	4,239,848
2011	39,416	527,612	1,273,069	4,588,252
2016	42,344	554,554	1,347,359	4,761,865
2022	44,853	592,713	1,450,701	5,123,536
% change 2002-2022	39.8%	12.9%	29.2%	30.8%

Source: authors' calculations using Census tables, various years.

Table 2.2: Key demographics from Census 2022

	SWIC	Dublin City	Dublin Co.	Ireland
Housing				
Living in apartment/flat (%)	62.2	32.1	21.7	10.1
Number of apartments/flats	11,668	85,618	138,073	239,299
Owner-occupier (%)	25.8	48.2	58.7	67.1
Rent from LA/AHB (%)	18.4	14	11.7	9.9
Rent privately (%)	46.4	30.4	24.1	17.6
Demographics				
Families with children (%)	51.4	61.8	67.7	69.2
Families with children u5 (%)	16.0	15.5	16.8	16.5
Number of children	7,068	140,302	440,467	1,716,723
Number of children u5	1,947	28,946	81,294	295,415
Children in lone-parent families (%)	42.5	30.6	24.1	20.9
Non-Irish population (%)	41.3	28.7	23.6	18.0

Source: author's calculations using various tables from Census 2022 Small Area Population Statistics.

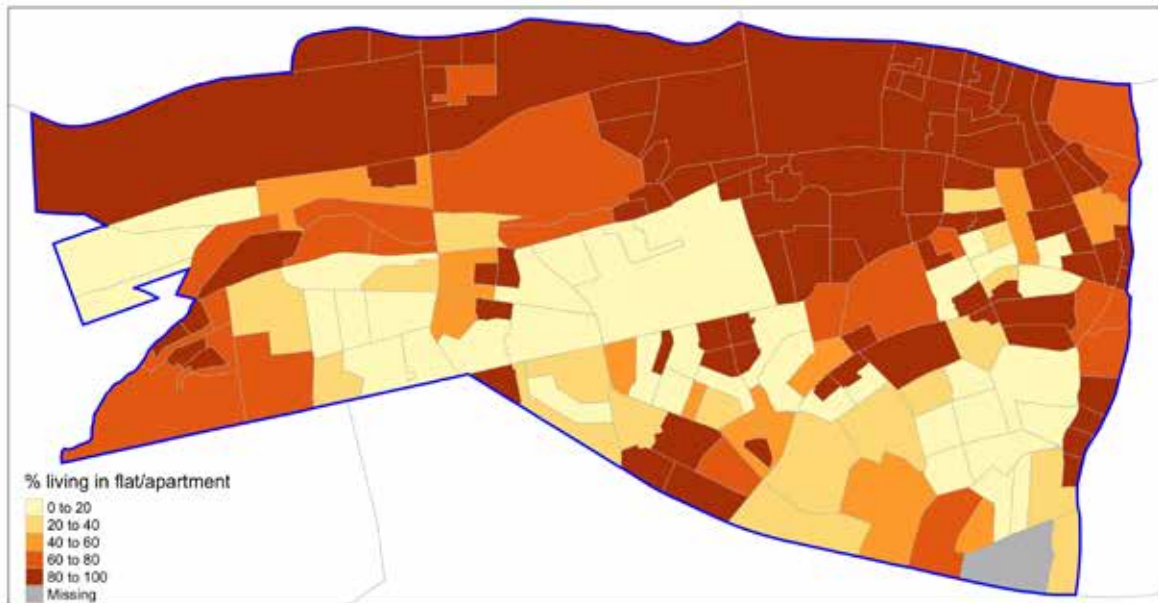
Bulfin Estate and parts of Rialto), it exceeds 80 per cent in some areas to the north: most notably in Kilmainham and around Thomas Street.

The SWIC also stands out in terms of housing tenure. Table 2.2 shows that only a quarter (25.8 per cent) of individuals in the SWIC lived in owner-occupied accommodation. This compares to 48.2 per cent in Dublin City as a whole, 58.7 per cent in Dublin County and 67.1 per cent nationally. Conversely, just under a fifth (18.4 per cent) of individuals in the SWIC lived in accommodation rented from Dublin City Council or a voluntary/co-operative housing body and almost half (46.4 per cent) from a private landlord: substantially higher than the average across Dublin City, county or the country as a whole.

Again, this pattern is not uniform across the SWIC. Figure 2.2 shows that the share of the population living in owner-occupied accommodation is particularly low in the areas to the north of the SWIC (where the numbers of apartments and flats are greatest) and higher in the southern parts of the SWIC, including in the Tenters and the Bulfin Estate.

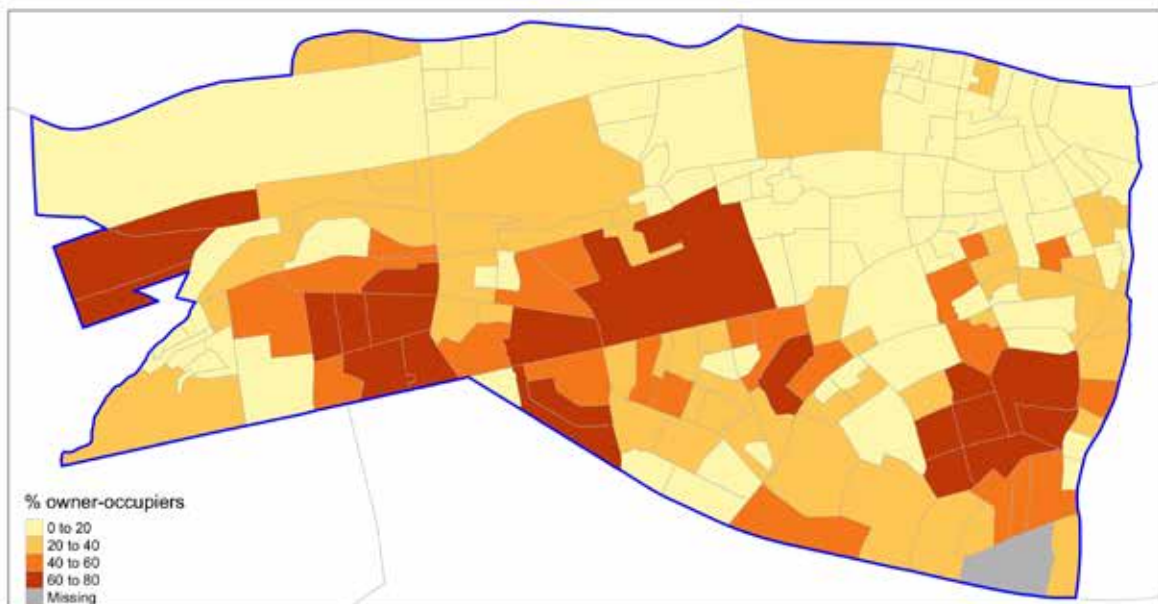
Despite these patterns of housing type and tenure, Table 2.2 shows that just over half of families in the SWIC contain children.¹ This amounts to 7,068 children, of whom 1,947 are aged under 5 years old. Strikingly, 16 per cent of families in the SWIC contain a child aged under 5 years old which - while slightly below the national average - is the second-highest of any LEA in Dublin City, behind only Donaghmede at 17.2 per cent.

¹As the CSO note, "For census purposes, a family is defined as a couple with or without children, or a one-parent unit with one or more children."

Figure 2.1: Share population living in apartment or flat, 2022

Source: Author's calculations using CSO Table SAP2022T6T1SA.

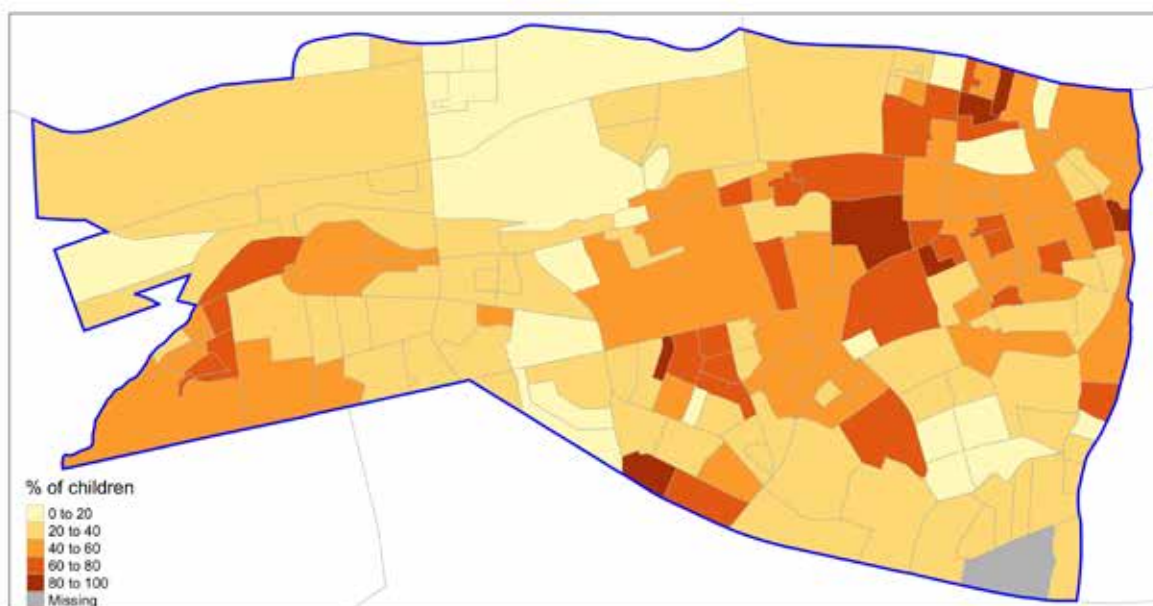
Note: The South West Inner City local electoral area boundary is outlined in blue.

Figure 2.2: Owner-occupiers as share of population, 2022

Source: Author's calculations using CSO Table SAP2022T6T3SA.

Note: The South West Inner City local electoral area boundary is outlined in blue.

Figure 2.3: Share of children living in lone-parent family, 2022



Source: Author's calculations using CSO Table SAP2022T4T3SA.

Note: The South West Inner City local electoral area boundary is outlined in blue.

Another striking feature about the demographics of the SWIC is that a relatively high share of these children live in lone-parent households. This stood at 42.5 per cent in 2022, compared to just 30.6 per cent in Dublin City, 24.1 in Dublin County and 20.9 per cent nationally.² As Figure 2.3 shows, the share of children living in lone parent families is particularly high in certain areas to the north of the SWIC, including those around the Liberties. More than 60 per cent of children live in lone-parent families in 15 of the 181 small areas that make up the SWIC, while this share exceeds three-quarters of children in 6 of these small areas.

The SWIC is also one of the most ethnically diverse areas of the country. Table 2.2 shows that just over 2-in-5 (41.3 per cent) describe themselves as non-Irish compared to 28.7 per cent in Dublin City, 23.6 per cent in Dublin county and 18.0 per cent in the country as a whole.

²At the LEA level, the share of children living in lone-parent households was slightly higher than the Ballyfermot-Drimnagh and Ballymun-Finglas LEAs (38.6 and 39.5 per cent respectively) and slightly lower than the North Inner City (45.1 per cent).

Chapter 3

Incomes, poverty and deprivation



3,000

people in the SWIC live in an **Extremely or Very Disadvantaged** area according to the official Pobal HP Deprivation Index.

This corresponds to 6.7 per cent of the population of the SWIC: almost double the national average.

Almost half of those living in a severely deprived part of Dublin's inner city lives in the SWIC.

Despite making up just a quarter of the inner city population, almost half of those living in a part of the city classified as Extremely or Very Disadvantaged live in the SWIC.

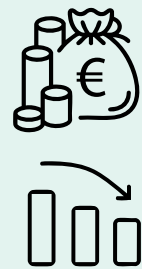


Poverty and deprivation in the SWIC has important economic consequences.

This includes the cost of additional spending on public services that arise from poverty and deprivation, which estimates suggest amount to between €26 and €60 million per year in the SWIC alone.

Average incomes in the SWIC are substantially lower than Dublin as a whole.

Average gross (pre-tax) household income for the SWIC was €60,036 in 2022: 16 per cent lower than the Dublin average. Average net (after tax) household income for the SWIC was €49,900 in 2022: 15 per cent lower than the Dublin average.



The SWIC has a high share of households with very low incomes.

23.1 per cent of households in the SWIC had gross incomes of less than €20,000 per year compared to 18.8 per cent in Dublin City, 10.8 per cent in South Dublin and 16.8 per cent in Ireland as a whole.

This Chapter considers how levels of incomes, poverty and deprivation in the SWIC compare to other parts of the city and country. It begins by examining the latest available data on household incomes, highlighting how the SWIC fares relative to Dublin City, Dublin County, and the national average. The Chapter then explores the prevalence of low living standards using a multidimensional measure of disadvantage based on Census data. Finally, it discusses the implications of these findings for understanding the socioeconomic challenges faced by the SWIC.

For Ireland, the most granular geographical data on incomes available is contained in the 2022 Geographical Profiles of Income, recently published by the CSO. This provides data on household income at the County, Local Electoral, and Electoral District (ED) level: an administrative area between the Local Electoral and Small Areas the report has focused on up to this point.

Table 3.1 below presents this data which shows that average gross (before tax) household income for the SWIC stood at €60,036 in 2022.¹ This is 6 per cent lower than the Dublin City average of €63,822, 16 per cent lower than the combined Dublin average of €71,123 and 29 per cent lower than the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown average of €84,991. It is also substantially lower than the average of €72,997 in Kildare, €70,657 in Meath and €64,077 in Wicklow.

Table 3.1 also shows that average net household income - income after taxes - for the SWIC stood at €49,900 in 2022: 9 per cent lower than the Dublin City average of €53,476 and 15 per cent lower than the combined Dublin average of €58,992. Again, average net household income in the SWIC is well below that of the other Dublin local authorities as well as the neighbouring counties of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

In addition, Figure A.1 in the Appendix shows that average income in many of the EDs that make up the SWIC was substantially lower than that for the SWIC as a whole. For example, 9 of the 14 EDs in the SWIC had a median gross household income of less than €60,000 and 4 had a median of less than €50,000.

Although these figures provide a good measure of incomes in an area on average, they provide little information about the distribution of incomes in that same area. In particular, they do not tell us anything about the prevalence of very low levels of income or living standards. Table 3.2 presents the CSO's estimates of the distribution of gross household income in 2022 for the SWIC. These show that 23.1 per cent of households in the SWIC had gross incomes of less than €20,000 per year compared to 18.8 per cent in Dublin City, 10.8 per cent in South Dublin

¹This measure of gross income is derived from administrative sources and includes that from social welfare payments but excludes income from investments (for example, saving accounts, bonds, stocks and shares). For more details, see the background notes available online here.

Table 3.1: Median Gross and Net Household Income by Area, 2022

Area	Gross	Net
SWIC	€60,036	€49,900
Dublin City	€63,822	€53,476
Dublin (combined)	€71,123	€58,992
DLR	€84,991	€66,950
Fingal	€77,252	€63,651
South Dublin	€70,423	€59,676
Kildare	€72,997	€60,707
Wicklow	€64,077	€54,601
Ireland	€60,123	€51,810

Source: CSO Geographical Profiles of Income in Ireland 2022 (Tables GPIIA03, GPIIA04 and GPIIA05, available on the CSO website at <https://data.cso.ie/product/GPII22>).
SWIC = South West Inner City, DLR = Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

and 16.8 per cent in Ireland as a whole. Conversely, just 3.9 per cent of households had gross income in excess of €200,000 per year, compared to 6.6 per cent in Dublin City and 14.6 per cent in DLR.

While data on the distribution of gross household income provides some insight into the prevalence of low living standards in an area, it has several shortcomings. Firstly, it does not account for the number of people living in a household or differing levels of need. For example, a household with a gross income of €40,000 will experience a very different level of living standards depending on whether it contains a single person living alone or a couple with three children. In addition, gross income is before taxes and social insurance contributions, which can significantly affect the level of disposable income available to a household.² Furthermore, there are many aspects of disadvantage which may not be captured by income, for example, poor housing quality, or the lack of access to educational, health or recreational facilities.

Instead, most area-based analyses of disadvantage rely on a multidimensional index of deprivation developed by Trutz Haase and Jonathan Pratschke with funding from Pobal: a state agency that works to support social inclusion and local and community development.³ This is a multidimensional indicator that combines Census data on 10 measures of disadvantage into a single index. These measures of disadvantage include low educational attainment, unemployment and the number of people per room.⁴ Areas are classified as Extremely Disadvan-

²Corresponding information on the distribution of net household income has not been published by the CSO as part of the Geographical Profiles of Income in Ireland release.

³The main source of information on the prevalence of disadvantage at a national level is the Survey of Incomes and Living Conditions (SILC), a household survey conducted by the Central Statistics Office. However, given the relatively small sample sizes involved, it is not possible to provide reliable estimates of low incomes or disadvantage at even a county level.

⁴Further details on the index can be found here.

Table 3.2: Distribution of Gross Household Income by Area, 2022

Range	SWIC	Dublin City	DLR	Fingal	South Dublin	Ireland
Less than €20,000	23.1	18.8	12.6	9.8	10.8	16.8
€20,000–€39,999	17.3	17.2	13.0	13.4	16.3	18.8
€40,000–€59,999	14.7	15.3	12.8	16.0	16.7	16.7
€60,000–€79,999	12.6	12.3	10.9	14.5	14.2	13.5
€80,000–€99,999	9.5	9.4	9.3	12.0	11.5	10.1
€100,000–€119,999	6.8	7.0	7.5	9.3	8.9	7.3
€120,000–€139,999	4.6	5.2	6.4	6.9	6.6	5.1
€140,000–€159,999	3.4	3.7	5.3	4.8	4.6	3.5
€160,000–€179,999	2.4	2.7	4.2	3.6	3.1	2.3
€180,000–€199,999	1.7	1.9	3.4	2.4	2.2	1.5
€200,000 +	3.9	6.6	14.6	7.3	5.1	4.3

Source: CSO Geographical Profiles of Income in Ireland 2022 (Tables GPIIA06 and GPIIA07, available on the CSO website at <https://data.cso.ie/product/GPII22>).

SWIC = South West Inner City, DLR = Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. All figures are percentages.

taged, Very Disadvantaged, Disadvantaged, Marginally Below Average, Marginally Above Average, Affluent or Very Affluent based on their index score, with the index widely used for resource allocation where interventions have a specific remit in terms of targeting disadvantage. This includes programmes operated by the Department of Education (e.g. the designation of DEIS schools), the Department of Rural and Community Development (e.g. Sports Capital Grants along with the SICAP and the LEADER schemes) and the Department of Health (e.g. the proposed population-based resource allocation model).

Table 3.3 presents the share of the population in each of the SWIC, Dublin City, Dublin County and the country as a whole who live in areas classified as Extremely Disadvantaged through to Very Affluent according to the 2022 Pobal HP Deprivation Index. This shows that 2.1 per cent of the population of the SWIC lived in an area classified as Extremely Disadvantaged in 2022, compared to 1.0 per cent in Dublin City, 0.7 per cent in Dublin County and 0.6 per cent nationally. A further 4.6 per cent of the population of the SWIC lived in an area classified as Very Disadvantaged, compared to 6.0 per cent in Dublin City, 4.4 per cent in Dublin County and 3.2 per cent nationally. Taken together, 6.7 per cent of the population of the SWIC - or 3,000 individuals - live in an area classified as Extremely or Very Disadvantaged: almost double the national average of 3.8 per cent.

While similar to Dublin City on average,⁵ this is a much higher share of the population than in other parts of the inner city, with 2.1 per cent of the population in the South East Inner City and 4.4 per cent in the North Inner City living in an area classified as Extremely Disadvantaged or Very Disadvantaged. Indeed,

⁵Appendix Figure A.2 shows that the Dublin City average is driven by the large pockets of deprivation located in the west and north suburbs of Dublin City (e.g. Ballymun, Finglas and Darndale).

Table 3.3: Share of population by deprivation category, 2022

HP Pobal DI classification	SWIC	Dublin City	Dublin Co.	State
Extremely Disadvantaged	2.1	1.0	0.7	0.6
Very Disadvantaged	4.6	6.0	4.4	3.2
Disadvantaged	6.9	12.6	9.5	10.2
Marginally Below Average	10.4	18.9	18.5	29.4
Marginally Above Average	38.8	30.5	38.2	41.5
Affluent	29.2	28.6	26.4	14.1
Very Affluent	8.0	2.5	2.4	1.0
Population	44853	592,713	1,458,154	5,149,139

Source: Author's calculations using Small Area population estimates from Census 2022 along with classifications from the Pobal HP Deprivation Index at the Small Area level, kindly provided by Jonathan Pratschke. Columns may not sum to 100 per cent due to rounding.

almost half (42 per cent) of those in the inner city living in an area classified as Extremely or Very Disadvantaged live in the SWIC despite the SWIC only making up about a quarter (27 per cent) of the inner city population. Another 3,097 people in the SWIC - 6.9 per cent of the population - live in an area classified as Disadvantaged, bringing to 6,097 or 13.6 per cent the share living in an area classified as disadvantaged.

Figure 3.1 presents the classification of Small Areas in the SWIC according to the latest 2022 Pobal HP Deprivation Index.⁶ This shows that the Small Areas classified as Extremely Disadvantaged are the 4 containing Oliver Bond House and the School Street Flats. Another 8 of the 181 Small Areas in the SWIC are classified as Very Disadvantaged, including large parts of the Liberties along with the Small Areas that contain Dolphin House, Mary Aikenhead House and the Basin Street flats.⁷

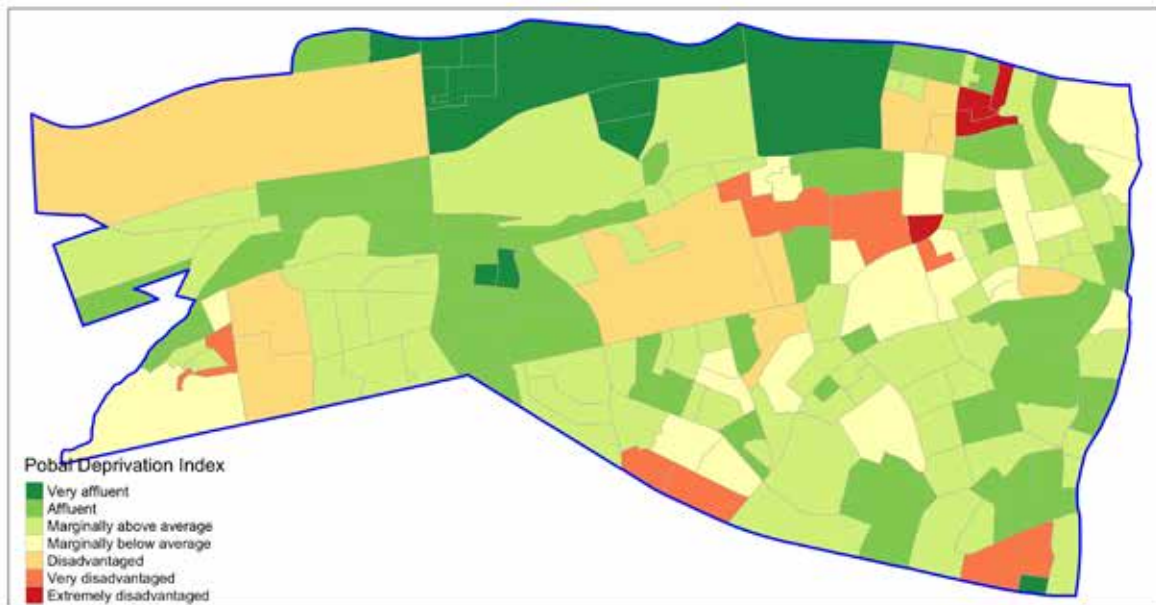
Research has shown that there is a strong association between deprivation and outcomes including health, unemployment and education, both in Ireland and internationally. This link is particularly clear for children, with a compelling body of evidence showing that deprivation has a negative effect on both contemporaneous and later life outcomes, particularly when it starts in early childhood and persists throughout.⁸

The high prevalence of deprivation in the SWIC documented here is therefore likely to have important economic as well as social consequences. Most obviously, this includes the cost of additional spending on public services.

⁶Thanks to Jonathan Pratschke for providing these data.

⁷Figures A.3, A.4 and A.5 in Appendix A show that similar patterns are evident in 2016, 2011 and 2006 respectively, with the SWIC containing pockets of extreme deprivation.

⁸Chapter 3 of of Sciences Engineering & Medicine (2019) provides an accessible summary of this evidence.

Figure 3.1: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2022

Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, kindly provided by Jonathan Pratschke.

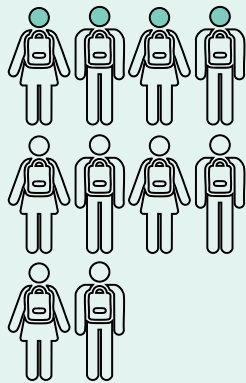
Collins (2023) estimates that the cost of additional spending on public services arising from poverty in Ireland amounts to between €3.1 billion and €7.2 billion per year. This corresponds to an additional cost of between €4,282 and €10,083 per person living in an area classified as disadvantaged, with much of this relating to additional spending on education, healthcare and emergency services.⁹ Applying these estimates to the disadvantaged population of the SWIC suggests additional public service costs of between €26 and €61 million per year.¹⁰ Such estimates do not account for the lower levels of tax revenues arising from the lower levels of productivity and earnings associated with deprivation, nor some areas of spending like elderly and maternity care. Nevertheless, the magnitude of these estimates of direct costs illustrate the ongoing costs of poverty and disadvantage in the SWIC: a topic this report returns to in Chapter 8.

⁹See Table 2 in Collins (2023) for a breakdown of these costs.

¹⁰Similarly, the estimates suggest additional public service costs arising from poverty of between €87 and €205 million per year in the inner city as a whole and of €900 million to €2.1 billion for Dublin as a whole.

Chapter 4

Education and employment



**Less than
4-in-10
children**

living in the SWIC go to secondary school in the area.

This is the lowest of any local electoral area in Dublin or of any urban local electoral area in the country. It contrasts with primary level where local enrolment rates look very similar to other parts of the city, county and country as a whole.

Third-level progression rates for students in these schools are less than half the national average.



Just 36 per cent of students

who sat the Leaving Certificate at schools in the SWIC went on to third-level in 2024.

This progression rate is less than half of that in Dublin (81 per cent) or nationally (80 per cent).

Raising progression rates to the national average would result in more than

€3 million in extra lifetime earnings and

€1.8 million in extra tax revenues for the 2024 cohort alone.

This amounts to around €100,000 in extra lifetime earnings (net of tax) and €62,000 in extra tax revenues for the Exchequer for each additional student who goes onto third-level education.



Unemployment rates are higher than for Dublin or the country as a whole,

surpassing
20%
in some parts of the SWIC.

Data from the 2022 Census shows that the unemployment rate was 9.1 in the SWIC per cent compared to 8.2 per cent in Dublin and 8.3 per cent nationwide. However, the unemployment rate stood at over 20 per cent in 10 Small Area in the SWIC, many of which also had double-digit levels of long-term unemployment.

Education

Using data on school enrolment from the Department of Education, Tables 4.1 and 4.2 present descriptive statistics on the characteristics of students attending schools in the SWIC and how they compare to other parts of the city, county and the country as a whole.¹

The upper-half of Table 4.1 shows that the SWIC has a higher share of primary schools participating in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme than elsewhere. With 8 of the 12 primary schools in the SWIC participating in DEIS, the share stands at 66.7 per cent compared to 56.7 per cent in other parts of Dublin city, 23.8 per cent in the rest of Dublin, and 29.9 per cent nationally. Conversely, a lower share of the primary schools in the SWIC have a Catholic ethos than elsewhere in Dublin city or nationally (75 per cent compared to 80.7 per cent and 90.6 per cent respectively).

The lower rows of Table 4.1 show the numbers of pupils enrolled in primary schools and how this compares to the numbers of children living in the area of different ages. There are 2,842 pupils enrolled in primary schools in the SWIC compared to 2,433 children aged 5-11 living in the local electoral area (LEA), giving a ratio of 1.17. This is slightly higher than the ratio of 1.13 for other LEAs in Dublin city, 1.09 for LEAs in Dublin county and 1.13 for LEAs nationally.

Table 4.2 shows a very different picture at post-primary level. There are just 3 post-primary schools in the SWIC, all of which are DEIS schools with a Catholic ethos. This contrasts with the rest of Dublin city, county and the country where DEIS schools make up 55.3 per cent, 21.0 per cent and 30.6 per cent of post-primary schools respectively. Similarly, post-primary schools with a Catholic ethos make up 63.2 per cent of schools in Dublin city, 43 per cent in Dublin county, and 44.8 per cent in the rest of the country. None of the 3 post-primary schools in the SWIC provide instruction through Irish compared to 3.9 per cent in the rest of Dublin city, 7.0 per cent in Dublin county and 7.4 per cent in the rest of Ireland.

Even more striking are the differences in enrolment levels compared to the numbers of children living in the area. There are just 674 pupils enrolled in post-primary schools in the SWIC compared to 1,836 children aged 12-17 living in the area, indicating just over a third of children living in the area attend post-primary school in the area. This is exceptionally low compared to the rest of the city, county and country as a whole. Indeed, of all the LEAs containing schools, the SWIC has the lowest ratio of pupils to children in Dublin and the 6th lowest in the country.

¹Appendix Figure A.6 shows the location of these schools in the SWIC.

Table 4.1: Primary schools

	Located in:			
	SWIC 12	Other Dublin City 187	Dublin County 252	Rest of country 2,638
DEIS status				
Deis	8 (66.7%)	106 (56.7%)	60 (23.8%)	789 (29.9%)
Non-Deis	4 (33.3%)	81 (43.3%)	192 (76.2%)	1,849 (70.1%)
Irish instruction				
All	1 (8.3%)	16 (8.6%)	24 (9.5%)	208 (7.9%)
None	11 (91.7%)	168 (89.8%)	228 (90.5%)	2,401 (91.0%)
Some	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)	29 (1.1%)
Ethos				
Catholic	9 (75.0%)	151 (80.7%)	182 (72.2%)	2,389 (90.6%)
Multi/inter denom	2 (16.7%)	19 (10.2%)	50 (19.8%)	97 (3.7%)
Other	1 (8.3%)	17 (9.1%)	20 (7.9%)	152 (5.8%)
Pupils enrolled in area	2,842	44,455	85,311	414,179
Pupils enrolled (LEA avg.)	2,842	4,151	4,642	2,982
LEA Pop. aged 5-11	2,433	4,137	4,782	2,661
Enrolled/LEA pop 5-11	1.17	1.13	1.09	1.13

Table 4.2: Post-primary schools

	Located in:			
	SWIC 3	Other Dublin City 76	Dublin County 100	Rest of country 543
DEIS status				
Deis	3 (100.0%)	42 (55.3%)	21 (21.0%)	166 (30.6%)
Non-Deis	0 (0.0%)	34 (44.7%)	79 (79.0%)	377 (69.4%)
Irish instruction				
All	0 (0.0%)	3 (3.9%)	7 (7.0%)	40 (7.4%)
None	3 (100.0%)	73 (96.1%)	93 (93.0%)	479 (88.2%)
Some pupils all	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	13 (2.4%)
Some pupils some	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	11 (2.0%)
Ethos				
Catholic	3 (100.0%)	48 (63.2%)	43 (43.0%)	243 (44.8%)
Church of Ireland	0 (0.0%)	5 (6.6%)	4 (4.0%)	12 (2.2%)
Multi/inter denom	0 (0.0%)	13 (17.1%)	24 (24.0%)	174 (32.0%)
Other	0 (0.0%)	10 (13.2%)	29 (29.0%)	114 (21.0%)
Pupils enrolled in area	674	35,676	63,476	316,805
Pupils enrolled (LEA avg.)	674	3,450	4,548	2,625
LEA Pop. aged 12-17	1,836	3,353	3,726	2,434
Enrolled/LEA pop 12-17	0.37	1.18	1.09	1.05

Table 4.3: Third-level progression rates, by school location (2024)

	N sitting Leaving Cert	N progressing	% progressing
SWIC	66	24	36%
Dublin	12,557	10,221	81%
State	54,260	43,465	80%

Source: authors' calculations using data published in the 2024 Irish Times Feeder Schools list, based on data from the Department of Education on the number of students who sit the Leaving Certificate at each school in 2024, and from higher education institutions (including Technological Universities) on the number of students who commence study in 2024.

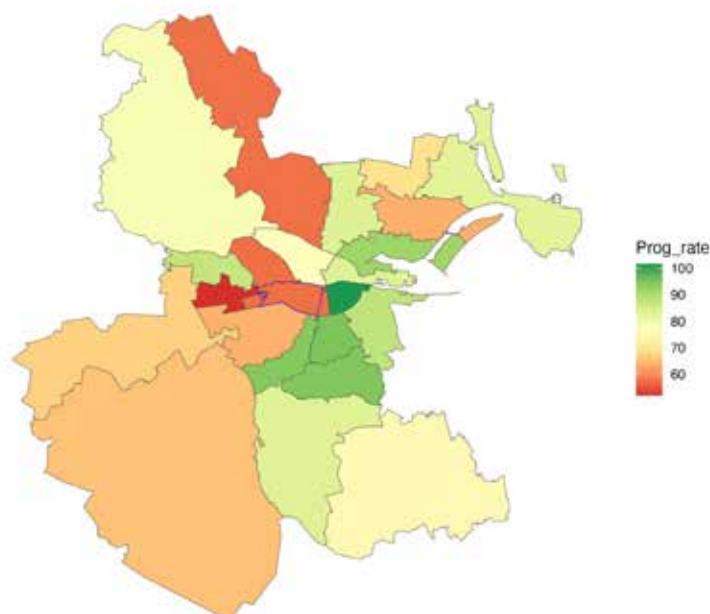
This suggests that an exceptionally high share of children in the SWIC are either finishing education early or attending post-primary schools outside the area. While the latest published Census data do not allow for these possible explanations to be distinguished, previous work by Mancini (2024) has found that reported school commute times were substantially higher in the SWIC than elsewhere in Dublin and nationally. This indicates that many students are travelling to schools significantly outside the area, with Mancini estimating that students in Inchicore-Kilmainham spent an average of 60-90 hours more per school year commuting than did students in the neighbouring area of Rathmines.

There is also evidence that those attending post-primary school in the SWIC have among the lowest progression rates to third-level education in the country. Using data collated by the Irish Times from the Department of Education and various higher education institutions, Table 4.3 shows that just 24 of the 66 students (36 per cent) who sat the Leaving Certificate in 2024 at the three post-primary schools in the SWIC progressed to third-level education in 2024: lower than for all but 20 of the almost 700 schools for which data is available. This figure is also substantially below the average of 81 per cent across Dublin and 80 per cent nationwide.

Although limited as a measure of individual school quality (Roantree & McCoy, 2019), differences in the share of pupils progressing to third-level education provide a useful indication of inequalities in educational outcomes across areas. Figure 4.1 plots the average third-level progression rate by postcode in Dublin. This shows that third-level progression rates in Dublin 8 (which includes the SWIC along with some parts of the South East Inner City and Ballyfermot) are – along with Dublin 10 and 11 – below 60 per cent: far lower than other parts of the city.

These low progression rates also have important consequences for the later life outcomes of the children who go to school in the SWIC. In particular, low third-level progression rates contribute to lower levels of employment and earnings over the lifetime of these children, as well as lower levels of educational attainment in the next generation. For example, work by Indecon (2019) for the Irish

Figure 4.1: Third-level progression rates in Dublin, by school postcode (2024)



Source: authors' calculations using data published in the 2024 Irish Times Feeder Schools list, based on data from Department of Education and Higher Education Institutes.

Universities Association estimated that graduates earned 21-30 per cent more than similar non-graduates in Ireland, with a net premium for completing an undergraduate degree (after tax and earnings foregone while studying) amounting to €106,000 over a lifetime in present value terms.

While this earnings premium cannot entirely be causally (directly) attributed to higher education, international evidence suggests that the vast majority of the premium can be.² In other words, there is good reason to think that raising progression rates for those attending schools in the SWIC would lead to lifetime after-tax earnings that are in the order of €100,000 higher for each additional child who goes onto third-level education. This equates to more than €3 million in extra lifetime earnings from raising the third-level progression rate in the SWIC to the national average for the 2024 cohort of students alone.

Raising the third-level progression rate in the SWIC to the national average would also benefit the Exchequer. Given the estimate of Indecon (2019) that each additional undergraduate contributes €62,000 in additional net Exchequer benefits, this would equate to an additional €1.8 million in Exchequer benefits for the 2024 cohort of students alone. Chapter 8 returns to the policy implications of these findings, including the need for targeted interventions like an expanded programme of DEIS to improve educational outcomes in the SWIC.

²See, for example, Card (1999) and Meghir & Rivkin (2011) for a review of the empirical evidence on the returns to education.

Employment

Part of the benefits for both individuals and the Exchequer from increasing third-level progression rates can be attributed to the better employment outcomes of graduates as compared to non-graduates. This section looks at how such employment outcomes compare to other parts of the city and country using data from Census 2022: the only source of published information on labour market conditions at a local level.

Table 4.4 presents estimates of the employment and unemployment rate for the population aged 15 plus. This shows that 66.2 per cent of men and 59.0 per cent of women aged 15+ were in paid work in the SWIC, giving an overall employment rate of 62.6 per cent. This is slightly higher than in Dublin City, county and the country as a whole where the employment rate averages between 61.3 and 63.7 per cent for men and between 51.5 and 55.6 per cent for women (56.1-59.6 per cent overall). However, Table 4.4 also shows that the unemployment rate in the SWIC was 9.1 per cent in 2022, slightly higher than the Dublin City average of 8.9 per cent and the national average of 8.3 per cent.

Some of these differences reflect demographics, with – as we have seen in Chapter 2 – a relatively high share of the population in the SWIC of prime working age. This has the effect of pushing up employment rates which can only be computed at the local level for the entire population age 15 plus (i.e. including those above the state pension age).

However, there is also considerable variation in labour market outcomes within the SWIC. This is shown in Figure 4.2, which plots employment and unemployment rates at the Small Area level. The top panel shows that fewer than a third of the population aged 15 plus were in paid work in 7 of the 181 Small Areas that make up the SWIC, and fewer than half were in paid work in 25 of these Small Areas. Similarly, unemployment rates were over 10 per cent in 64 Small Areas, and over 20 per cent in 10 Small Areas.

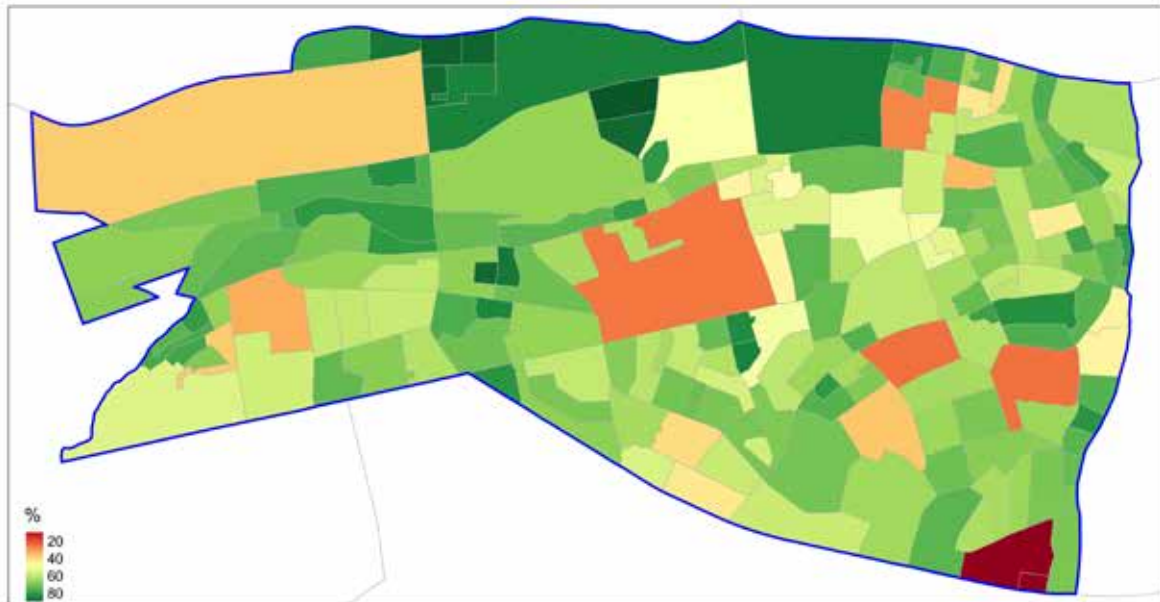
Table 4.4: Employment and unemployment rates for those age 15+ (%), 2022

	Employment Rate			Unemployment Rate		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
SWIC	66.2	59.0	62.6	9.7	8.3	9.1
Dublin City	63.7	55.6	59.6	9.7	8.0	8.9
County Dublin	63.7	54.2	58.8	8.5	7.8	8.2
Ireland	61.3	51.1	56.1	8.6	8.0	8.3

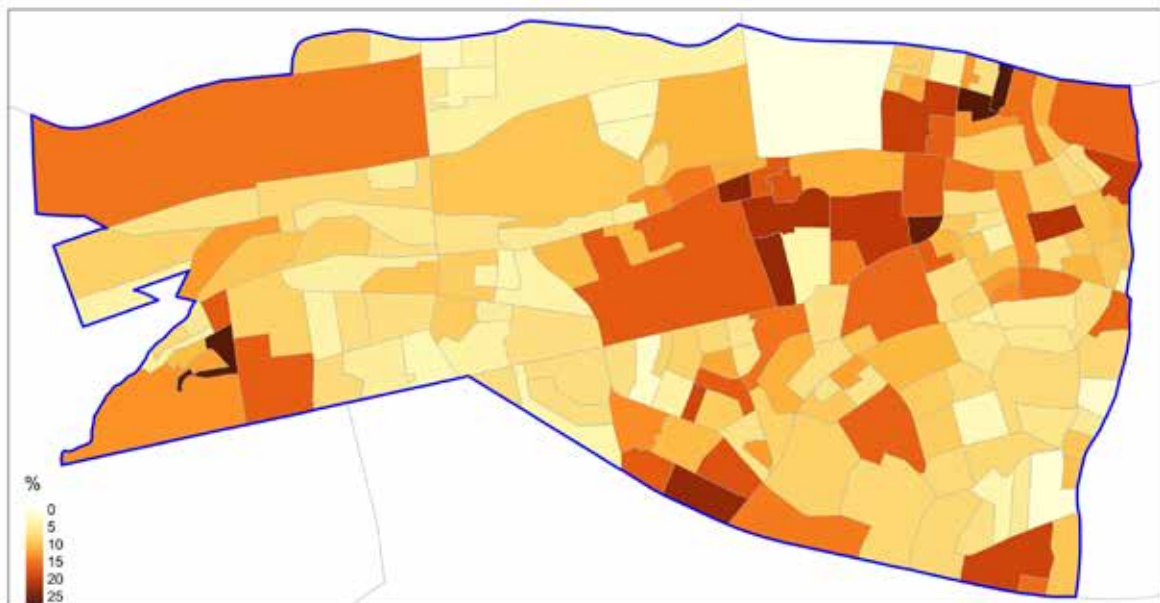
Source: author's calculations using Census table SAP2022T8T1LEA22. Employment rate defined as share of those in paid work. Unemployment rate defined as those unemployed or seeking first job as a share of unemployed and employed population.

Figure 4.2: Employment and unemployment rates at Small Area Level, SWIC 2022

(a) Employment rate

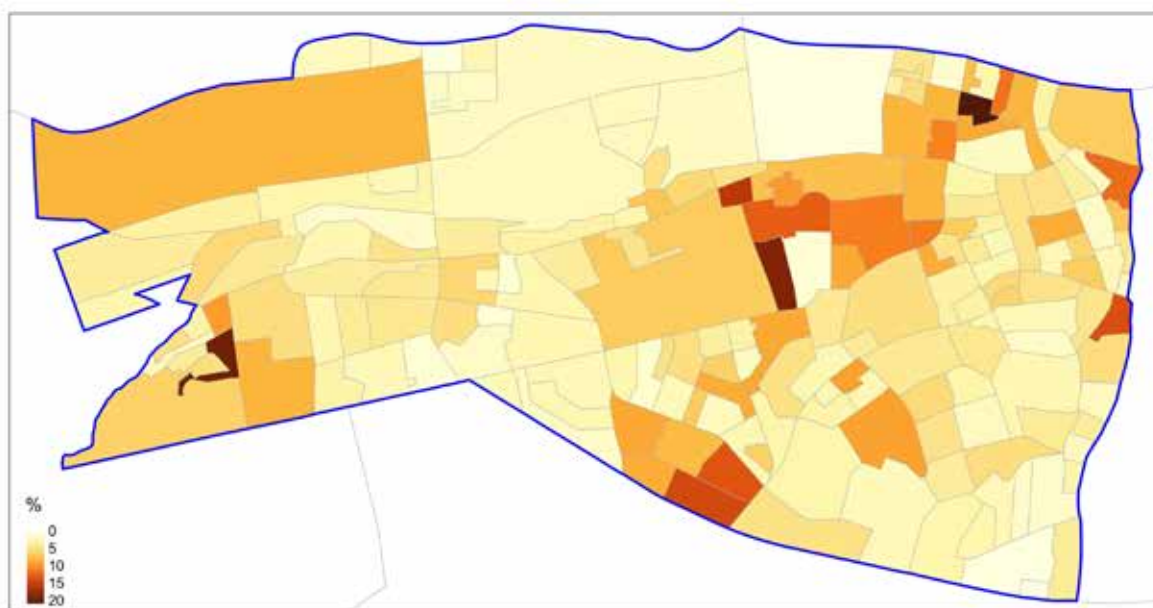


(b) Unemployment rate



Source: Author's calculations using CSO Table SAP2022T8T1.

Note: The South West Inner City local electoral area boundary is outlined in blue.

Figure 4.3: Long-term unemployment rate at Small Area level, SWIC 2022

Source: Author's calculations using CSO Table SAP2022T8T1.

Note: The South West Inner City local electoral area boundary is outlined in blue. Share of the population aged 15 plus unemployed for more than 12 months.

The Small Areas with low employment and high unemployment rates include Oliver Bond House, the School Street Flats and Dolphin House. Figure 4.3 shows that these areas also have high rates of long-term unemployment, defined as the share of the labour force who have been out of work for more than 12 months. For example, the long-term unemployment rate stands at over 20 per cent in the Small Area containing Oliver Bond House and at over 15 per cent in the Small Area containing Mary Aikenhead House, the Basin Lane flats and Tyrone Place flats. This compares to a long-term unemployment rate of 4.4 per cent in Dublin City and 4.2 per cent nationwide.

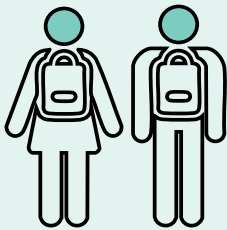
Such high levels of long-term unemployment in these areas should be of particular concern to policymakers given the negative consequences of unemployment for individuals and society as a whole. In addition to adverse effects on later-life earnings and employment outcomes (Wachter, 2020), research has also shown a link with poorer health outcomes, including mental health (e.g. Picchio & Ubaldi, 2024).

This - along with the concentration of long-term unemployment in certain parts of the SWIC - suggests policymakers should consider the potential for targeted place-based interventions to improve labour market outcomes in the area. This is a topic returned to in Chapter 8.

Chapter 5

Child physical activity and sporting participation

Responses to a survey of primary and post-primary students in the SWIC assessing levels of physical activity and sporting participation in the area show that:



20.3%
primary school students

25.9%
secondary school students

never participate in organised sports outside of school.

The share of students who never participate in organised sports outside of school is substantially higher than the national average. One-in-four (20.3 per cent) primary and one-in-five (25.9 per cent) secondary school students surveyed in the SWIC report never participating in organised sports outside of school. This is over 60 per cent higher than the national average.

Half of primary students

who rarely or never participate say it is because there are not adequate facilities in their area.

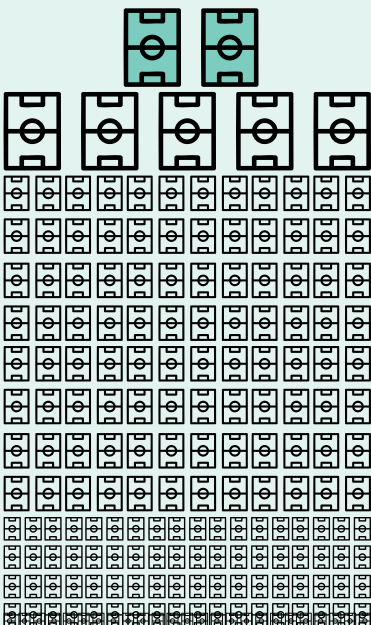
This is also the reason given by a fifth of the post-primary students who rarely or never participate in community sports, with almost a third saying the sports they like are not played in the area.



The lack of adequate sporting facilities in the SWIC is also evident from data which show there are currently no public playing pitches within the Grand Canal and North Circular Road.

Just 2 of Dublin City Council's 248 public playing pitches are located in the SWIC.

These are both in East Timor Park at the south-west edge of the SWIC, a site is bounded by the Chapelized Bypass and its busy access roads, inaccessible for the vast majority of those living in the SWIC. This corresponds to 22,427 people per playing pitch in the SWIC, almost 10 times higher than the average of 2,389 for Dublin City as a whole. Delivery of 2 new public pitches proposed for the SWIC would reduce this ratio to 11,214 people per pitch, still more than 4 times higher than the city average.



This Chapter examines levels of physical activity and sporting participation among children in the SWIC. It first presents the results of a survey of students in local schools conducted in early 2025. This survey - the Sporting Liberties Sport Participation and Physical Activity Survey - was designed to mirror questions asked in the nationally representative Children's Sports Participation and Physical Activity (CSPPA) Study, allowing for levels of physical activity and sporting participation in the SWIC to be compared to that for the country as a whole. The Chapter then considers the availability of playing pitches in the SWIC using data published by Dublin City Council and the Central Statistics Office.

The CSPPA is "an all-island research study that forms the most comprehensive analysis of youth participation in physical activity, physical education and sport on the island of Ireland" funded by Sport Ireland, Healthy Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland and the Department of Education.¹ Drawing on questions from the CSPPA allows for levels of physical activity and sporting participation in the SWIC to be compared to that for the country as a whole, as well as to targets contained in national policy documents like the Healthy Ireland Framework, the National Physical Activity Plan and the National Sports Policy 2018-2027.²

The Sporting Liberties Sport Participation and Physical Activity Survey was completed by 277 students across 10 of the 12 schools in the South West Inner City. This comprised of 193 students in 7 primary schools and 84 students in 3 secondary schools. This survey was paper based and designed to be completed in 10-15 minutes, with students asked by a teacher to complete a questionnaire during class at the beginning of 2025. The survey was completed anonymously with no identifying information collected as part of the survey, and students asked for their consent to participate.

The first section of the survey asked students about the number of days they are typically physically active for, defined as engaging in at least 60 minutes of daily moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. Following the CSPPA, physical activity itself was broadly defined to include exercise (e.g. dancing, weight training, running), sports (e.g. hurling, football, swimming) as well as walking or cycling to school.

Panel A of Table 5.1 shows that just 18 per cent of children responding to the survey reported being physically active daily. This is below the guideline set by both the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Department of Health for children and young people aged 2-18.³

¹See <https://csppa.ie/what-is-csppa/> for further details of the CSPPA.

²The Healthy Ireland Framework is available here and the National Physical Activity Plan and the National Sports Policy 2018-2027 here.

³These guidelines are available at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/heal/physical-activity-guidelines/>.

Table 5.1: Physical activity and sports participation, by school level

	School level		
	Primary 193	Secondary 84	Total 277
A. Days physically active for > 60 mins:			
0 days	9 (4.9%)	3 (3.6%)	12 (4.5%)
1 day	8 (4.4%)	5 (6.0%)	13 (4.9%)
2 days	13 (7.1%)	9 (10.7%)	22 (8.2%)
3 days	26 (14.2%)	22 (26.2%)	48 (18.0%)
4 days	30 (16.4%)	17 (20.2%)	47 (17.6%)
5 days	26 (14.2%)	16 (19.0%)	42 (15.7%)
6 days	30 (16.4%)	5 (6.0%)	35 (13.1%)
7 days	41 (22.4%)	7 (8.3%)	48 (18.0%)
B. Participates in school-based sports:			
4 or more days a week	83 (45.4%)	20 (25.0%)	103 (39.2%)
2-3 days a week	63 (34.4%)	31 (38.8%)	94 (35.7%)
1 day a week	18 (9.8%)	12 (15.0%)	30 (11.4%)
Rarely (1-3 days a month)	8 (4.4%)	11 (13.8%)	19 (7.2%)
Never	11 (6.0%)	6 (7.5%)	17 (6.5%)
C. Participates in community sports:			
4 or more days a week	67 (36.8%)	12 (14.8%)	79 (30.0%)
2-3 days a week	53 (29.1%)	31 (38.3%)	84 (31.9%)
1 day a week	15 (8.2%)	10 (12.3%)	25 (9.5%)
Rarely (1-3 days a month)	10 (5.5%)	7 (8.6%)	17 (6.5%)
Never	37 (20.3%)	21 (25.9%)	58 (22.1%)

Physically active defined as meeting WHO guideline of at least 60 minutes of daily moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. Community sport defined as taking part in sports and physical activities in a non-school setting.

The share meeting this guideline was higher in primary schools at 22.4 per cent than secondary schools at 8.3 per cent. These shares are very similar to those from the latest 2022 CSPPA, which found 23 per cent of primary school students and 12 per cent post-primary students nationally met the physical activity guidelines.

Appendix Tables B1 and B2 present responses to the same question broken down by gender and school level. These show the share of students meeting the physical activity guidelines is far lower for girls than boys, at just 15 per cent for girls in primary schools compared to 28.4 per cent for boys, and 5.3 per cent for girls in secondary schools compared to 9.7 per cent for boys.

Such differences across gender are also evident in the national data, with the 2022 CSPPA finding that just 17 per cent of girls in primary schools met the guidelines compared to 28 per cent of boys, and 9 per cent of girls in secondary school compared to 15 per cent of boys.

Panel B of Table 5.1 shows that 45.4 per cent of primary school students and 25

Table 5.2: Reason don't participate in community sports, by school level

	School level		
	Primary 47	Secondary 28	Total 75
I do not like sports or physical activities	10.5%	33.3%	19.4%
I am not good at sports or physical activities	26.3%	29.2%	27.4%
There are not adequate facilities in my area	50.0%	20.8%	38.7%
Sports/activities I like are not played in my area	21.1%	29.2%	24.2%
I prefer other activities	31.6%	8.3%	22.6%
Other	23.4%	10.7%	18.7%

per cent of post-primary students in the SWIC participated in school based sports and physical activities 4 or more days per week with another third participating for 2-3 days per week. Only a small minority of primary and post-primary students reported never (6 and 7.5 per cent respectively) or rarely (4.4 and 13.8 per cent respectively) doing so. These figures suggest levels of participation in school-based sports and physical activities that are close - if a little below - those of primary and post-primary students nationally. For example, the 2022 CSPPA found that 58 per cent of primary students and 31 per cent of post-primary students nationally participate in school based sport 4 or more days a week.

However, a much larger gap is evident in terms of community sports participation. Panel C of Table 5.1 shows that while over half of primary and post-primary students in the SWIC participated in community sports 2 or more days per week, a fifth (20.3 per cent) of primary and a quarter (25.9 per cent) of post-primary students never did so. This share is substantially higher than the national average, with the 2022 CSPPA finding just 12 per cent of primary students and 16 per cent of post-primary students never participated in community sports.

Table 5.2 presents the reasons given by students who never or rarely participate in community sports for not doing so. While the most common reason for the quarter of post-primary students who rarely or never participate in community sports is that they do not like sports or physical activities, half of primary students who rarely or never do so say it is because there are not adequate facilities in their area. This is also the reason given by a fifth of the post-primary students who rarely or never participate in community sports, with almost a third saying the sports they like are not played in the area.

The lack of adequate sporting facilities in the SWIC is also evident from data on the availability of playing pitches in the area. Figure 5.1 plots the locations of all public playing pitches reported by Dublin City Council in their Parks and Open Spaces dataset, with the SWIC outlined in red.⁴

⁴This dataset was published alongside the 2016 Dublin City Council Parks Strategy on the Smart

Figure 5.1: Playing Pitches in Dublin City



Source: author's calculations using "DCC Parks and Open Spaces" dataset downloaded from the Smart Dublin Dubl!nked Open Data Store.

This shows that of Dublin City Council's 248 public pitches, just two are in the SWIC administrative area: one adult and one juvenile pitch in East Timor Park at the south-west edge of the SWIC. This site is bounded by the Chapelizod Bypass and its busy access roads, and is not easily accessible from the vast majority of the SWIC. Strikingly, and as noted by the council itself, "there are no public pitches in the city centre within the Grand Canal and North Circular Road".⁵

These two pitches in East Timor Park correspond to 22,427 people per playing pitch in the SWIC, almost 10 times higher than the average of 2,389 people per pitch in Dublin City as a whole. Indeed, the only other LEAs with more than 10,000 people per pitch are the North Inner City, South East Inner City and Pembroke. By contrast, there are fewer than 1,000 people per pitch in the LEAs of Clontarf and Artane-Whitehall, with all other Dublin City LEAs in a range of 1,000 to 6,000 people per pitch.⁶ The paucity of public playing pitches in the SWIC is also illustrated by the fact less than 1 per cent of the total number of such pitches are located in the area despite making up 7.6 per cent of the population of Dublin City.

Given the maximum area of an adult-sized GAA pitch is 1.305 hectares (or 13,050 m^2), the two pitches in East Timor Park also correspond to at most 0.0630

Dublin Dubl!nked Open Data Store. An update has recently been published but without the information needed to identify playing pitches from open spaces.

⁵See section 4.2.2 of the Dublin City Parks Strategy 2019-2022, available here.

⁶The number of people per pitch is 934 in Clontarf, 984 in Artane-Whitehall, 1,519 in Donaghmede, 1,812 in Kimmage-Rathmines, 2,111 in Ballyfermot-Drimnagh, 2,448 in Ballymun-Finglas and 5,256 in Cabra-Glasnevin.

hectares of playing pitches per 1,000 of the population in the SWIC. This is a fraction of the 1.15 hectares per 1,000 population in urban areas that is cited in the Dublin City Parks Strategy 2019-2022 as the “best practice model for ... access to playing fields in Dublin”, and substantially below the estimate of 0.1 ha per 1,000 population of public parkland allocated for field sports across the city.⁷

The Dublin City Parks Strategy 2019-2022 also cites 15 minutes as “a reasonable distance for people to walk to a playing pitch” which it says corresponds to a distance of 1.2 kilometres. While it concludes “that the city is reasonably well catered for as regards playing pitches”, this is based on a rudimentary analysis presenting a map with a 1.2km buffer region indicated around each pitch. Among the issues with such an analysis is that it assumes that a straight-line distance of 1.2km is equivalent to a 1.2km or 15 minute walk, which is not the case in large parts of Dublin given the configuration of streets and the presence of obstacles like the River Liffey, canals and railways.

To provide more detailed assessment of the adequacy of pitches in the SWIC area, we calculate the walking distance and travel time to the nearest playing pitch for each small area in the SWIC. This is shown in Figure 5.2 using an open source routing service which can be used to calculate travel times and distances based on Open Street Map data.⁸ Taking the centroid (midpoint) of each pitch and of each small area in the SWIC, we estimate 64 per cent of the SWIC population live more than a 15 minute or 1.2km walk from the nearest pitch.

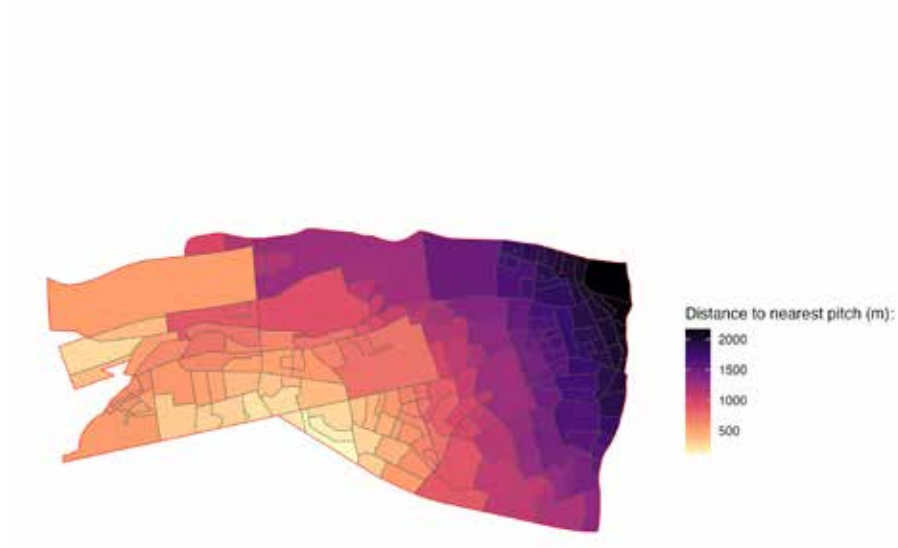
The findings from this analysis underscore those from the survey of local schools, showing that children in the area face significant barriers to participating in sports. This has direct implications for their physical health, social development and overall wellbeing which we return to consider in Chapter 8.

⁷See section 4.2.2 of the Dublin City Parks Strategy 2019-2022, available here. The best practice figure of 1.15 hectares per 1,000 population originates in guidance from the UK Field in Trust charity.

⁸Thanks to the Heidelberg Institute for Geoinformation Technology (HeiGIT) for providing access to this service: see <https://heigit.org>.

Figure 5.2: Distance and travel time to nearest playing pitch, by SWIC Small Area

(a) Distance to nearest pitch (metres)



(b) Travel time to nearest pitch (minutes)



Source: author's calculations using "DCC Parks and Open Spaces" dataset downloaded from the Smart Dublin Dub!nked Open Data Store and the openrouteservice package in R (Oleś, 2025).

Chapter 6

Health and wellbeing



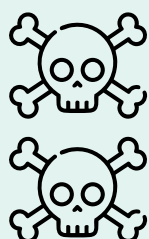
The share of the population in the SWIC reporting their health as "Good" or "Very Good" is 11 percentage points lower than the national average.

Just 71.7 per cent of the population in the SWIC report their health as either "Good" or "Very Good". This compares to 82.9 per cent nationally, 81.2 per cent in Dublin county and 75.8 per cent in Dublin city. In 13 of the 181 Small Areas in the SWIC fewer than half of people report their health as "Good" or "Very Good".

The SWIC contains almost

60% more drug addiction service providers per capita than Dublin City on average.

Information obtained from the Health Research Board (HRB) shows there are 13 publically funded drug addiction service providers in the SWIC, which corresponds to 0.290 providers per 1,000 of the population: almost 60 percent more than the 0.182 per 1,000 across Dublin City on average.



The number of drug poisoning deaths per capita in the SWIC is at least twice the national average.

Recently published figures show that there were 22 drug poisoning deaths in the Dublin South City Local Health Office (LHO) area in 2021. This corresponds to a mortality rate of 0.145 per 1,000 of population: a third higher than the Dublin average and double the national average. However, the Dublin South City LHO area also includes parts of Terenure, Churchtown and Rathfarnham meaning that the figure for the SWIC itself is likely substantially higher.

This Chapter examines some key indicators of health and wellbeing in the South West Inner City (SWIC) and how these compare to other parts of the city and country. As with many of the other Chapters, the most granular and recent data available comes from the 2022 Census. This is supplemented with statistics published by the Health Research Board (HRB) on addiction treatment service providers and deaths from drug poisoning.

Since 2011, the Census has collected information on self-reported health with respondents asked to categorise their own health ranging from Very Good to Very Bad. Table 6.1 presents the results of this question for the South West Inner City (SWIC) and compares these to Dublin city, Dublin county and Ireland as a whole. The table shows that the SWIC has a lower share of the population reporting their health as "Good" or "Very Good" than elsewhere in Dublin or nationally, with 71.7 per cent of the population in the SWIC reporting their health as either "Good" or "Very Good". This is 11 percentage points lower than the national average of 82.9 per cent. It also compares unfavourable to the average of 81.2 per cent in Dublin county and 75.8 per cent in Dublin city. Similarly, the SWIC has a slightly higher share of the population reporting their health as "Bad" or "Very Bad" than elsewhere in Dublin or nationally, with 2.1 per cent of the population in the SWIC reporting their health as either "Bad" or "Very Bad". This compares to 2.0 per cent in Dublin city, and 1.7 per cent in both Dublin county and nationally.

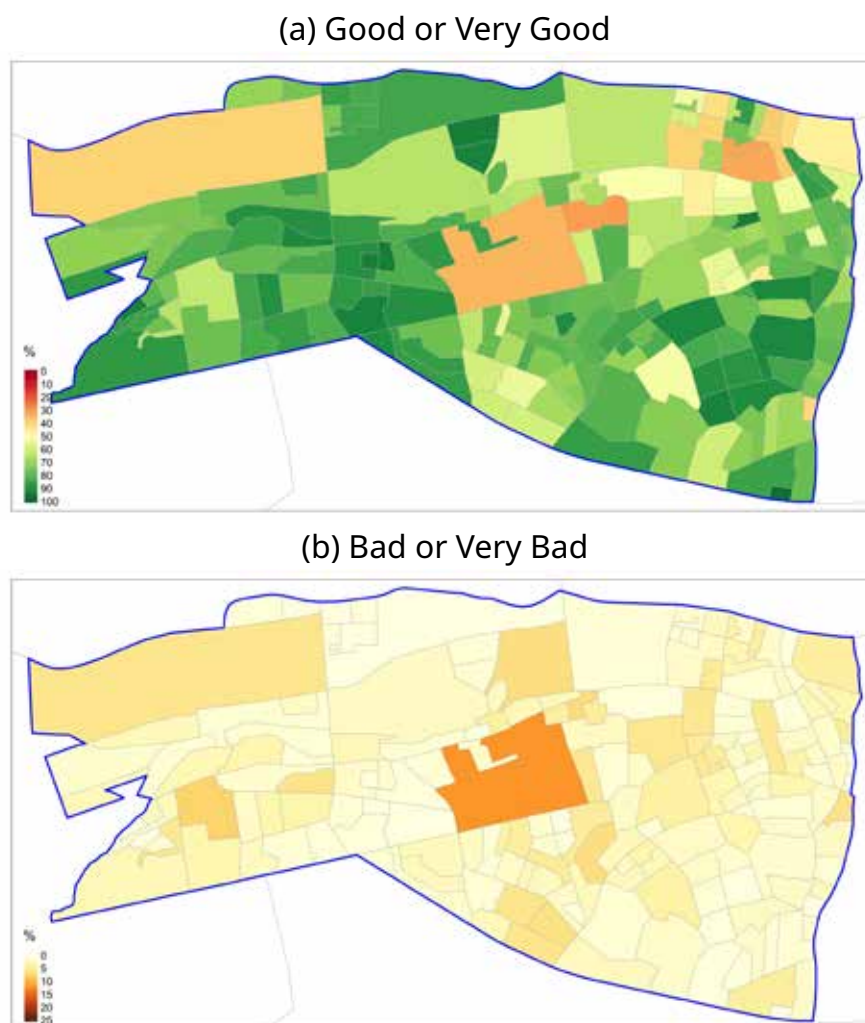
The 2022 Census also collected information on disability, defined as the extent to which people experienced any long-lasting conditions or difficulties. Table 6.1 shows that the share of the population reporting a disability in the SWIC using this definition is 21.9 per cent. This is similar to the average for Dublin City (22.0 per cent) and county (21.9 percent) but slightly higher than the national average (21.6 per cent).

As with other outcomes, there is significant variation in self-reported health within the SWIC. The top panel of Figure 6.1 presents the share of the population

Table 6.1: Self-Reported Health and Disability, 2022

	SWIC	Dublin City	Dublin County	Ireland
Bad Health (%)	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4
Very Bad Health (%)	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Bad or Very Bad (%)	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.7
Good Health (%)	27.0	27.7	28.3	29.7
Very Good Health (%)	44.7	48.1	52.8	53.2
Good or Very Good (%)	71.7	75.8	81.2	82.9
Disability (%)	21.9	22.0	20.9	21.6
Total Population	44,853	592,713	1,458,154	5,149,139

Source: Author's calculations using Census 2022 Tables T12-1 and T12-3. See CSO website for further details on the definition of disability used by the Census.

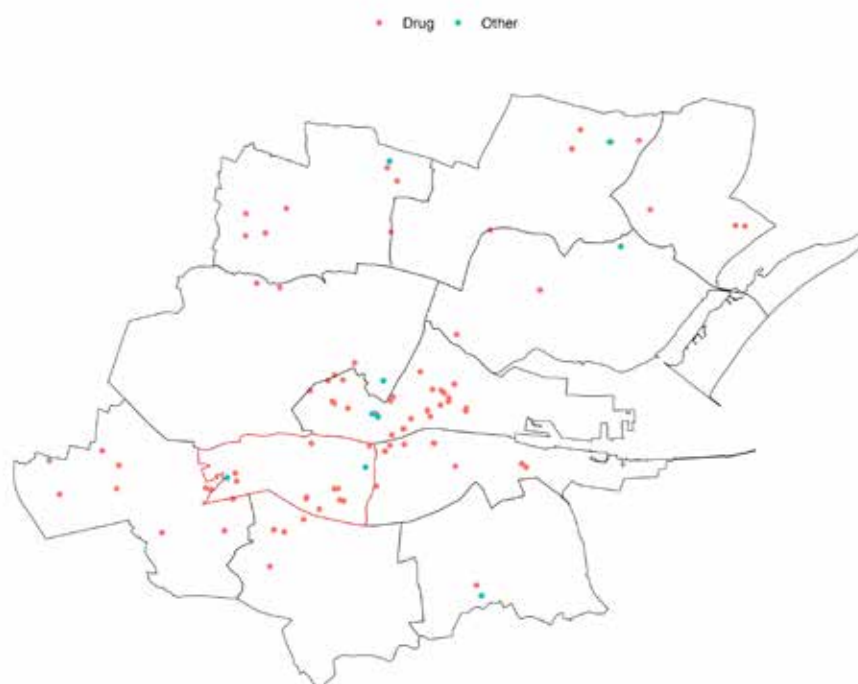
Figure 6.1: Self-reported health in the SWIC, 2022

Source: author's calculations using Census Table SAP2022T12T3.

at the Small Area level who report their health as either "Good" or "Very Good", while the bottom panel presents the share who report their health as either "Bad" or "Very Bad". The Small Areas with the lowest share of the population reporting their health as "Good" or "Very Good" (i.e. those coloured in red and orange) tend to contain inpatient facilities like hospitals or nursing homes (e.g. the small area containing St. James's Hospital and St. Patrick's Hospital). However, there are also areas with a very low share of the population reporting their health as "Good" or "Very Good" that do not contain such facilities, like the small area containing Oliver Bond House, Mary Aikenhead House and Islandbridge Court. In 13 of the 181 Small Areas in the SWIC fewer than half of people report their health as "Good" or "Very Good".

In addition to containing a number of major hospitals, there is also a high prevalence of addiction treatment service providers in the SWIC, particularly those providing treatment services for drug addiction. Figure 6.2 plots the location of

Figure 6.2: Addiction Treatment Service Providers in Dublin City



Source: author's calculations using information on publicly funded addiction treatment services from the HRB Addiction Treatment Services map.

Note: excludes addiction treatment provided in General Practice (GP) surgeries, which are not included in the HRB map.

drug addiction service providers (in red) and other addiction service providers (in blue) across Dublin City using data provided by the HRB.¹ This shows that there are 13 drug addiction service providers in the SWIC, which corresponds to 0.290 providers per 1,000 of the population: almost 60 per cent more than the 0.182 per 1,000 across Dublin City on average.²

The large number of drug addiction service providers suggests that levels of substance use in the SWIC are relatively high compared to other parts of Dublin and the country as a whole. While reliable data on the number of individuals in treatment for drug use is not published at the local level,³ data on the number of drug poisoning deaths by Local Health Office (LHO) area were recently provided

¹These data – published online at https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/services_map – were kindly provided in machine-readable format by the HRB.

²Appendix Table B.3 shows that the SWIC, SEIC and NIC all have much higher numbers of addiction treatment service providers per 1,000 of the population than the other LEAs in Dublin City.

³Although the HRB publish statistics on the cases of treated problem drug use at local level based on data from the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS), Evans & Keenan (2024) show that this records fewer than half of the number of drug treatment cases captured by another – more reliable – data source: the Central Treatment List. This appears to be driven by an underreporting of opioid agonist treatment cases, with Lynch et al. (2025) noting that “only 43.7% of eligible GPs participated in the NDTRS” in 2024.

Table 6.2: Drug poisoning deaths by Local Health Office (LHO) area, 2021

LHO area of incident	N deaths	Population	Deaths per 1,000
Dublin North Central	44	170,003	0.259
Dublin West	23	169,806	0.135
Dublin South City	22	151,981	0.145
Dublin North West	22	226,036	0.097
Dublin South West	18	141,806	0.127
Dun Laoghaire	11	144,060	0.076
Dublin South East	~	141,806	~
Dublin North	~	284,727	~
Dublin	152	1,430,225	0.106
Rest of country	202	3,693,311	0.055
State	354	5,123,536	0.069

Source: author's calculations using data provided by the Minister for Health in response to Parliamentary Question 15816/25.

by the Minister for Health in response to a Parliamentary Question.⁴ Table 6.2 presents these data, which show that 22 drug poisoning deaths occurred in the Dublin South City LHO area in 2021. This corresponds to 0.145 deaths per 1,000 of population: a third higher than the Dublin average and double the national average.

However, the Dublin South City LHO area which contains the SWIC also includes parts of the south Dublin suburbs, including Terenure, Churchtown and Rathfarnham. Given the low number of service providers in these suburbs, this suggests the rate of drug poisoning deaths in the SWIC is likely substantially higher than the Dublin South City LHO area data indicates. For example, if even just 12 of the 22 drug poisoning deaths in the LHO area took place in the SWIC, this would correspond to a mortality rate of 0.268 per 1,000: higher than any of the Dublin LHO areas shown in Table 6.2.

In addition to mortality, substance use is associated with a range of other social and economic costs. While there are no comprehensive estimates for Ireland, recent research has estimated these costs at about \$1,291 per person in Canada 2020.⁵ Alongside healthcare costs and lost productivity, a large share of these costs are associated with crime: a topic that this report now turns to.

⁴See the response to PQ 15816/25 asked by Deputy Shane Moynihan on 1 April 2025. These statistics record the number of drug poisoning deaths in the LHO area where the death occurred, rather than the area of residence of the deceased.

⁵See Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms (CSUCH)

Chapter 7

Crime and Policing



The crime rate in the SWIC is more than twice the national average.

The SWIC largely overlaps with the Kevin Street An Garda Síochána (AGS) District which recorded 106.7 crimes per 1,000 of population in 2024. This was more than twice the national average of 40.4 per 1,000 and the fourth-highest of the 18 Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR) Districts: behind only the central Store Street, Pearse Street and Bridewell Street districts.

Crime has risen sharply since 2023 in the SWIC, with serious crimes up more than 20%.

The numbers of recorded crimes in the Kevin Street District increased by 11 per cent between 2023 and 2024, an increase of 590 crimes. This increase was largely a result of a rise in public order offences (up 51 per cent), damage to property and to the environment (up 21 per cent) and serious crimes like assaults and attempts/threats to murder (up 21 per cent).



Crime in the SWIC imposes costs on society of at least €60 million per year.

Conservative estimates suggest that crime in the Kevin Street District is associated with costs of at least €60 million per year: €21 million from policing, €10 million from the prison system and €30 million in wider economic and social costs. This highlights the significant economic burden that crime imposes on society, underscoring the importance of more effective prevention and intervention strategies.

There are 20% fewer

Gardaí assigned to the South Central Division of the DMR than the North Central Division in per capita terms.

Despite similar rates of recorded crime per 1,000 of population, information published by AGS indicates a force strength of 5.43 per 1,000 of population in DMR South Central: more than 20 per cent lower than the 7.10 per 1,000 of population in the DMR North Central Division.



This Chapter looks first the prevalence of crime in the South West Inner City and how it compares to other parts of the city. It then considers the costs that this crime imposes, both direct (through expenditure on An Garda Síochána (AGS) and the operation of prisons) and indirect (through its impact on the economy and society at large).

The most detailed source of information on crime is collected by AGS through its PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) crime incident database. This captures crimes which are reported – or become known – to AGS. Between 2014 and 2022, the CSO suspended publication of these statistics or published them “Under Reservation”, highlighting issues relating to their accuracy and completeness. However, following a review of the quality of the PULSE data, the CSO lifted this designation and resumed publication of recorded crime as an Official Statistic from 2023.¹ However, these data are still likely to understate the true level of crime in the country as not all crimes are reported to AGS or recorded in PULSE.²

Figure 7.1 presents the number of recorded crimes in 2024 for the 18 AGS districts that make up the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR).³ The top panel shows the total number of crimes per district, while the bottom panel shows the number of recorded crimes per 1,000 of the population. This highlights the importance of accounting for the varying size of AGS Districts, with the high numbers of crimes recorded in outer-suburban districts largely the result of these Districts covering a large area with a big population. For example, while the Blanchardstown District had the third-highest number of recorded crimes in 2024 (8,200), this corresponds to 47.1 recorded crimes per 1,000 of population: almost a third below the DMR average of 68.2 per 1,000 of population.

Instead, the bottom panel of Figure 7.1 shows that the central DMR districts have much higher levels of recorded crime per 1,000 of population. In 2024, this stood at 486.8 per 1,000 for the Pearse Street District, 469.8 per 1,000 for the Store Street District and 332.1 per 1,000 for the Bridewell District.

The SWIC largely overlaps with the Kevin Street AGS District, which – as shown in Appendix Figure A.7 – includes both Kevin Street Station and Kilmainham Station. At 106.6 per 1,000 of population, the Kevin Street District had the highest rate of recorded crime after the central DMR districts. This is more than double

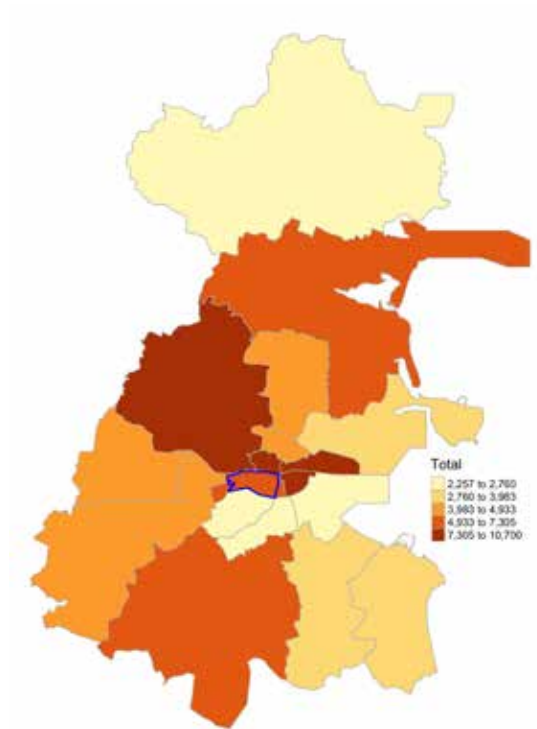
¹ Further details on this review and the steps AGS have taken to ensure the quality of these statistics is available on the CSO website.

² The last large-scale household survey that asked about the prevalence of crime victimisation in Ireland was conducted by the CSO in 2019 and found that only 40 per cent of those who said they had been a victim of personal crime in the previous 12 months reported this to AGS.

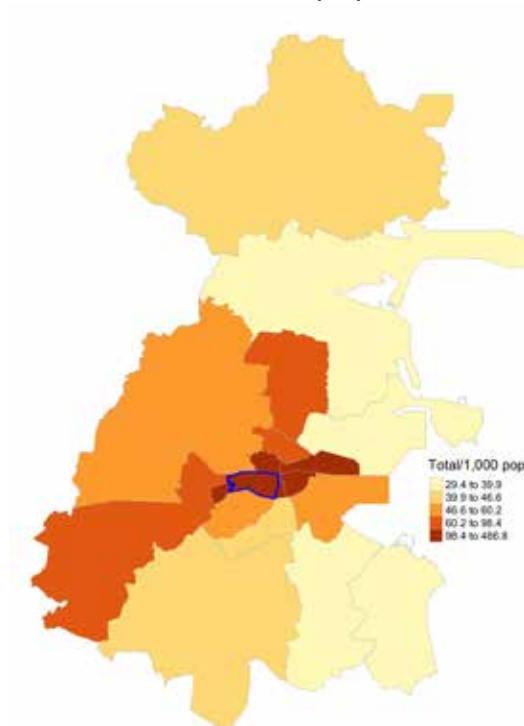
³ Table B.4 presents the number of recorded crimes in 2024 for each DMR District in tabular format. Recorded crime at the AGS District level are computed by aggregating data at the Station level published by the CSO to the District level using information on the location of Garda Stations and Districts published by AGS.

Figure 7.1: Recorded crime in 2024, by DMR District

(a) Total



(b) Per 1,000 of population



Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations/Districts published by AGS. SWIC - shown in blue - largely overlaps with the Kevin Street AGS District. Colours indicate quantiles of the distribution of recorded crimes per 1,000 of population across the DMR Districts.

both the national average of 40.4 per 1,000 of population and the average for the other (non-central) DMR districts of 47.0 per 1,000 of population.

Table 7.1 disaggregates the number of recorded crimes in 2024 by type for the Kevin Street District, central DMR districts, other (non-central) DMR districts and the country as a whole. This shows that the most common type of crime recorded in the Kevin Street District was theft and related offences, with 39.0 crimes recorded per 1,000 of the population. This is followed by Public order and other social code offences (16.9 per 1,000), Damage to property and to the environment (14.2 per 1,000), Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences (11.8 per 1,000) and Controlled drug offence (10.0 per 1,000). Table 7.1 also shows that the rate of recorded crime in the Kevin Street District is substantially higher than for other (non-central) DMR districts in all categories of crime bar "Offences against government etc".⁴

The publication of recorded crime statistics for 2024 allows for changes in the number of recorded crimes to be reliably assessed for the first time since these figures regained Official Statistics classification in 2023. Figure 7.2 presents the percentage change in recorded crime between 2023 and 2024 for each DMR District. This shows that overall recorded crimes have fallen in some of the outer DMR districts, for example, by 8 per cent in both the Blackrock District and the Balbriggan District: declines of 257 and 230 crimes respectively. By contrast, recorded crime has increased by 11 per cent – 590 crimes – in the Kevin Street District and by 6 per cent - 1,722 crimes - in the central DMR districts.

As shown in Appendix Tables B.6 and B.7, the increase in recorded crime in the Kevin Street District is largely a result of a rise in three main categories of crime. These are 'Public order and related offences' (up 5.7 per 1,000/51 per cent), 'damage to property and to the environment' (up 2.4 per 1,000/20 per cent), and 'attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences' (up 2.1 per 1,000/21 per cent). Offsetting this somewhat was a decline in 'controlled drug offences' (down 1.1 per 1,000/10 per cent).

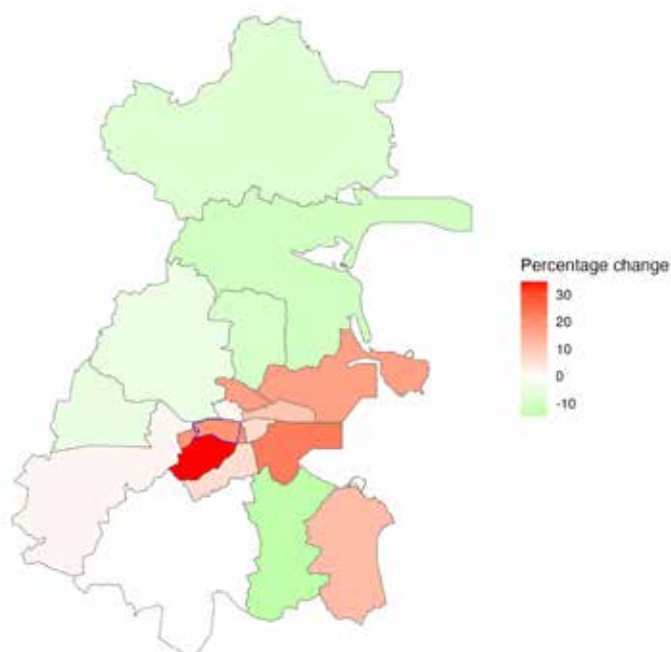
Similarly, the central DMR Districts saw a sharp rise in public order and related offences along with attempts/threats to murder, thefts assaults, harassments etc. Appendix Tables B.6 and B.7 show that 'public order and related offences' were up by 6.7 per 1,000 in these districts (an increase of 11 per cent), with the corresponding figures for 'attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments etc' up by 6.7 per 1,000 (an increase of 10 per cent). In addition, these Districts saw an increase of 16.4 per 1,000 in the number of 'theft and related offences' recorded (an increase of 10 per cent).

⁴This category includes offences committed while in custody and breach of court orders, so tends to be high in districts that contain a court e.g. the Bridewell District.

Table 7.1: Recorded Crimes per 1,000 population, 2024

Offence Type	Garda District			
	Kevin Street	Central DMR	Other DMR	National
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments etc.	11.8	28.3	4.9	4.8
Dangerous or negligent acts	2.6	3.4	1.0	1.5
Kidnapping and related offences	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	2.5	6.7	0.7	0.5
Burglary and related offences	5.7	10.2	2.3	1.9
Theft and related offences	39.0	178.0	20.3	14.9
Controlled drug offences	10.0	24.5	3.6	3.1
Weapons and explosives offences	2.2	7.0	0.6	0.6
Damage to property and to the environment	14.2	21.2	5.7	4.3
Public order and other social code offences	16.9	66.8	5.1	5.9
Offences against government etc.	1.6	79.1	2.8	2.9
Total	106.6	425.4	47.0	40.4

Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations/Districts published by AGS. Central DMR combines the Pearse Street, Store Street and Bridewell DMR Districts. Other DMR includes all other DMR Districts (i.e. all except Kevin Street, Pearse Street, Store Street and Bridewell Districts).

Figure 7.2: Percentage change in recorded crime 2023-2024, by DMR District

Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations/Districts published by AGS. SWIC - shown in blue - largely overlaps with the Kevin Street AGS District.

Crime imposes a range of costs on society, including through the expenditure on AGS and the criminal justice system. AGS do not publish information on the cost of policing at the local level. However, AGS do publish information on staffing at the Division level which can be combined with data published by the CSO on average pay in AGS to estimate a lower bound of the cost of policing at the local level. This is likely to be a substantial underestimate of the total cost of policing as it does not include capital expenditure, AGS HQ and specialist units or other administrative costs. Nevertheless, the estimate illustrates the scale of the costs of policing crime in the SWIC.

Table 7.2 shows there were a total of 3,809 Gardaí across the 6 AGS Divisions in the DMR at the end of 2024. Of these, 3,185 held the rank of Garda, 483 the rank of Sergeant and 141 the rank of Inspector or above. This corresponds to a force strength of 2.84 per 1,000 of population across the DMR.

Table 7.2 also shows that the South Central Division – which contains the Kevin Street District along with the Donnybrook and Pearse Street Districts – had a total of 713 Gardaí. Of these, 594 held the rank of Garda, 91 the rank of Sergeant and 28 the rank of Inspector or above. This corresponds to a force strength of 5.43 per 1,000 of population in DMR South Central. While this is higher than the DMR average of 2.84, it is more than 20 per cent lower than the 7.10 per 1,000 of population in the DMR North Central Division.

Table 7.2: An Garda Síochána staffing by DMR Division, 2024

Division	Garda	Sergeant	Other	Total	Total per 1,000
DMR East	283	42	17	342	1.70
DMR North	657	94	27	778	2.22
DMR North Central	549	97	22	668	7.10
DMR South	466	68	20	554	2.24
DMR South Central	594	91	28	713	5.43
Total	3185	483	141	3809	2.84

Source: author's calculations using information on Garda staffing published by AGS.

Given an average annual labour cost of €88,673 across AGS at the end of 2024,⁵ the total labour cost of policing the DMR South Central Division was at least €63.2 million per year.⁶ Using its share of recorded crime in the DMR South Central Division (32.2 per cent), this in turns suggests the total labour cost of policing crime in the Kevin Street District was at least €21 million in 2024.

In addition to these costs, substantial expenditure is incurred on the criminal justice system. While there are no published figures on the cost of this system at the local level, figures published by the Irish Prison Service (IPS) and CSO allow for one key component of these costs to be estimated: that of committing individuals to prison.

The IPS report that the average annual cost of a prison space during the calendar year 2023 was €88,523.⁷ With an average of 4,582 prisoners in custody over 2023, this amounts to a total cost of €405 million in 2023. The IPS also report the share of committals to prison by offence group, which can be combined with the CSO statistics on recorded crime discussed above to estimate the share of this expenditure related to crimes committed in a particular area.⁸ Such a calculation suggests that 2.5 per cent of expenditure committing individuals to prison related to crimes committed in the Kevin Street District, corresponding to an annual cost of just over €10 million per year.⁹

⁵This is obtained from CSO Table EHQ10 by multiplying the estimate for average hourly total labour costs by average weekly paid hours times 52. Total labour costs include redundancy payments, employers' contributions to social security, other social costs, benefit-in-kind and other labour costs.

⁶A similar calculation suggests the total labour cost of policing the entire inner city was at least €122 million in 2024.

⁷The IPS annual report notes that this "includes net expenditure incurred within the year (such as salaries, utilities/maintenance, ICT, prison services, etc.) excluding capital expenditure on buildings, ICT and vehicle purchases".

⁸This is done by multiplying the number of committals to prison in 2023 for a particular offence group by the share of recorded crimes for that offence group in that area.

⁹Other figures obtained from the IPS show that there were 1,807 committals to prison in 2023 of persons with an address in Dublin, of which 171 had an address with a Dublin 8 postcode. Table B.8 and Figure A.11 presents these data in both absolute terms and relative to population. At 2.8 committals per 1,000 population, Dublin 8 ranks joint 6th highest of the 22 postcodes in Dublin.

However, crime imposes a wider range of costs on society that extend beyond direct expenditure on policing and the criminal justice system (the costs of responding to crime). These broader costs include those incurred in anticipation of or to deter crime (such as the cost of security measures, insurance, and preventive infrastructure) as well as the costs experienced by individuals as a consequence of crime (including physical and psychological harm to victims, lost productivity, and healthcare expenses).

Although estimates of these wider costs do not exist for Ireland, studies from other countries can provide a useful benchmark. Research by the British Home Office, for example, estimates that the average economic and social cost per crime in the UK is just over €5,000 in 2024 prices, excluding the cost of policing and the criminal justice system (Heeks et al., 2018).¹⁰ Applying this figure to the number of recorded crimes in the Kevin Street District suggests that the additional economic and social costs of crime in the SWIC were in excess of €30 million in 2024 alone. This again is likely to be a conservative estimate given the large share of crimes that go unreported or unrecorded.

When combined with estimates of the direct costs of policing (at least €21 million) and imprisonment (€10 million), this suggests that the cost to society of crime in the SWIC is at least €60 million per year. This highlights the significant economic burden that crime places on both the public sector and the wider community, underscoring the importance of more effective prevention and intervention strategies: a topic returned to in Chapter 8.

¹⁰Author's calculations based on information in Table 2 of Heeks et al. (2018), updated to 2024 prices using the UK all-items CPIH and converted to Euros at an exchange rate of 1.17 GBP:EUR.

Chapter 8

Conclusions and implications for policy

There is a need for additional targeted investment in the SWIC, including:



The development of a SWIC Strategic Plan

aimed at making the area a safe, attractive and vibrant environment for the community and its families, with opportunities for all to lead full lives.

A Programme Implementation Board with an independent chairperson

bringing together key government departments – including the departments of the Taoiseach, Justice, Health, Education and Social Protection – along with community groups and Dublin City Council to advance progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.



A dedicated Programme Office and funding

to support delivery of the Strategic Plan, in line with the €8 million per year allocated to the NEIC initiative.

This report has highlighted the significant challenges faced by the South West Inner City (SWIC), including relatively high levels of poverty, unemployment and crime. It concludes by considering the implications of some of its key findings for policy, arguing that there is a need for additional targeted investment in the SWIC alongside better and more accessible local data to inform policy decisions.

The need for additional targeted investment

This report has shown that the SWIC faces significant challenges across a range of domains. Foremost among these are the relatively high rates of poverty and deprivation experienced in the area, with Chapter 3 showing that 6.7 per cent of the population in the SWIC live in an area that is officially classified as Extremely or Very Disadvantaged: almost twice the national average. Indeed, despite making up just a quarter of the inner city population, almost half of those living in a part of the city classified as Extremely or Very Disadvantaged live in the SWIC.

This imposes significant social and economic costs, including that of additional spending on public services that result from poverty and deprivation. Estimates suggest these amount to between €26 and €60 million per year for the SWIC alone: an additional cost of between €4,282 and €10,083 per person living in an area classified as disadvantaged. These costs do not account for lower tax receipts arising from incomes that are 16 per cent lower than the Dublin average, nor – as shown in Chapter 4 – from higher than average levels of unemployment which stand at over 20 per cent in some parts of the SWIC.

The concentration of disadvantage in parts of the SWIC provides a compelling case for additional targeted investment to tackle these issues. Such an approach could mirror – and build on – the success of the North East Inner City (NEIC) initiative which aims to make the NEIC “a safe, attractive and vibrant living and working environment for the community and its families, with opportunities for all to lead full lives”.

The NEIC initiative is overseen by a Programme Implementation Board with an independent chairperson which brings together key government departments – including the departments of the Taoiseach, Justice, Health, Social Protection and Education – along with community groups and Dublin City Council to advance progress on the implementation of a Strategic Plan for the area. It is supported by a dedicated Programme Office and funding of almost €8 million per year.¹

The NEIC initiative arose from the publication of the Mulvey Report in 2017 which highlighted many of the same issues identified here, including significant clusters of deprivation, low educational attainment and high unemployment. Given

¹See p.58 and Appendix A of the NEIC Progress Report 2024.

the parallels, there is a strong case for the development of a similar initiative and strategic plan for the SWIC. This would bring together key government departments, public bodies and community groups to oversee the long-term social and economic regeneration of the SWIC. Such an initiative – tailored to local needs and delivered in partnership with local businesses and community organisations – could help break cycles of deprivation and improve outcomes for children and their families.

Doing so could also have positive effects on some of the poor health outcomes seen in the SWIC. Particularly notable in this respect is the rate of drug poisoning deaths, which Chapter 6 showed – at 0.145 per 1,000 of population – is at least twice the national average. Research has shown a strong link between poverty and drug-related harms both nationally (e.g. O’Gorman et al., 2016) and internationally (e.g. Case & Deaton, 2021), with some evidence that increased resources in early childhood can help reduce substance use disorders in later life (Costello et al., 2010).

Such interventions could have the effect of reducing levels of crime in the SWIC, some of which is linked to poverty, deprivation and substance use. Chapter 7 showed that the rate of recorded crime in the Kevin Street District – which largely overlaps with the SWIC – is more than twice the national average and the fourth-highest of the 18 Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR) Districts: behind only the central Store Street, Pearse Street and Bridewell Street districts. This is associated with wider economic and social costs of at least €60 million per year, which underscore the importance of more effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Among these strategies are the numbers of Gardaí assigned to the SWIC. Despite similar rates of recorded crime, figures published by An Garda Síochána show that there are 20 per fewer Gardaí per capita assigned to the DMR South Central Division – of which the SWIC is part – compared to the DMR North Central Division on a per capita basis (5.43 per 1,000 compared to 7.10 per 1,000). This suggests there may be a case for a substantial increase in the numbers of Gardaí assigned to stations in the South Central Division, including Kevin Street and Kilmainham Stations.

Additional investment will also be needed to raise third-level progression rates in the area. Chapter 4 showed that at 36 per cent for students who sat the Leaving Certificate in schools in the SWIC, these are less than half the Dublin or national average. Estimates suggest raising progression rates to the national average would result in more than €3 million in extra lifetime earnings and €1.8 million in extra tax revenues for the 2024 cohort of students in the SWIC alone.

Chapter 4 also highlighted how less than 4-in-10 children living in the SWIC attend a post-primary school in the area: the lowest share of any local electoral

area in Dublin or of any urban local electoral area in the country. This contrasts sharply with primary level where local enrolment rates look very similar to other parts of the city, county and country as a whole. This suggests that there is a case for the Department of Education to provide additional post-primary capacity in the area, be that through the expansion of existing schools or the construction of new ones.

Alongside this increased post-primary capacity should be a focus on improving access to sporting facilities in the area. Whereas previous research (e.g. Lunn et al., 2013; Central Statistics Office, 2007; Fahey et al., 2004) has found that few non-participants cite the lack of facilities as the reason they do not play sport, Chapter 5 has shown that it is the case for children in the SWIC. Half of primary students who rarely or never participate in community sports say it is because there are not adequate facilities in their area. This is also the reason given by a fifth of the post-primary students who rarely or never participate in community sports, with almost a third saying the sports they like are not played in the area. These findings are consistent with the data on the availability of playing pitches in the SWIC, which shows that just two of Dublin City Council's 248 public pitches are located in the SWIC administrative area: both in East Timor Park at the south-west edge of the SWIC, a site is bounded by the Chapelizod Bypass and its busy access roads, inaccessible for the vast majority of those living in the SWIC.

There is clear evidence that low levels of physical activity are linked to poor health, including for children as young as age 3 to 5. This is not limited to obesity, with the latest scientific review by the US Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee (2018) finding that regular physical activity reduces the risk of developing chronic diseases – including cancers – and has benefits for cognition, especially for younger children. ESRI research by Nolan & Smyth (2020) has also found that young people in Ireland with poor diet and physical activity showed signs of being more socially isolated, of having greater peer problems, and of being more withdrawn in the school setting.

Recognising the importance of physical activity for health and wellbeing, the Government set a target in 2016 of increasing the proportion of children undertaking at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day by 1 percentage point per year, and reducing the proportion of children who do not undertake any weekly physical activity by 0.5 percentage points per year.² The latest edition of the CSPPA makes clear that these targets are not being met, with 15 per cent of children meeting this guideline in 2022 compared to 13 per cent in 2018 and 14 per cent in 2010.

A strong case can therefore be made for policy interventions that raise levels of

²Get Ireland Active (the National Physical Activity Plan) is available on online here.

physical activity, including through participation in community sports. Given the key finding of this report that a lack of facilities acts as a barrier to participation for children in the SWIC, such interventions should include the provision of sporting facilities in the area.³

The need for better and more accessible local data

In addition to the need for additional targeted investment, this report also demonstrates the need for better and more accessible local data to inform policy decisions. This is especially the case in relation to the provision of sporting facilities: something that data on are particularly sparse at a local level.

Without such data, it is unclear how Dublin City Council can monitor let alone ensure compliance with its own policies and targets. For example, the 2019-2022 Dublin City Parks Strategy set out a best-practice model for access to playing fields of 1.15 hectares per 1,000 population in urban areas.⁴ Similarly, the 2022-2028 Dublin City Development Plan states that it is the policy of Dublin City Council to “improve and upgrade existing sports/recreational facilities in the city and to ensure the availability of and equal access to a range of recreational facilities to the general population of all ages and groups”.⁵

Despite this, Dublin City Council do not publish up-to-date, detailed information on the location of sporting facilities, public playing pitches and parks in the city.⁶ This is in stark contrast with the other Dublin local authorities, all of whom publish regularly updated and detailed data on the Smart Dublin Dublnked Open Data Store.⁷

It is to be welcomed that the importance of such data being collected, maintained and published was recognised in the recent Dublin City Council Sports Plan 2024-29, which set out a series of actions to be taken to improve data collection, management and use by the City Council. Among these was the development and maintenance of a Facilities and Infrastructure Map to facilitate and support decision-making, including “identifying areas in the city that are under-served in terms of facilities ... [to] be prioritised for strategic investment”.

³Smyth (2022) also highlights “the need for community-based facilities, given the constraints for small schools in provision of extracurricular sports”.

⁴See section 4.2.2 of the Dublin City Parks Strategy 2019-2022. The best practice figure of 1.15 hectares per 1,000 population originates in guidance from the UK Field in Trust charity.

⁵See GI46 in Chapter 10 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028, available online here.

⁶The most recent such information on playing pitches and parks date from 2016 which was published at <https://data.smartdublin.ie/dataset/parks-and-open-spaces-dcc> as part of a mapping exercise for the 2016 Dublin City Parks Strategy. An update to this was published in August 2025, but without any of the information previously included on the type of amenity.

⁷See, for example, data for Fingal County Council on the Dublnked Open Data Store.

There is a clear need to follow through on these commitments, along with those of Dublin City Council in the 2022-2028 Development Plan to “carry out a playing fields study to better measure the use and management (quality) of playing pitches and to examine the level of pitch provision required as a result of planned population growth, increased female participation in sport and the increase in demand for sports playing pitches.”⁸

Such a study should inform the urgent publication of a revised Dublin City Parks Strategy given the existing 2019-2022 strategy lapsed more than three years ago. A revised Parks Strategy should set out a pathway for how Dublin City Council intend to address the deficit of public playing pitches in the SWIC that this report has highlighted.

There is also a clear need for better and more accessible local data on other important issues. This includes drug poisoning deaths, for which the most granular data routinely published is at the county level through the Health Research Board National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI), requiring a Parliamentary Question to obtain the data at the Local Health Office level used in this report. Similarly, information on committals to prison are only routinely published at the county level by the Irish Prison Service⁹ while – despite its increasing importance for the allocation of resources by Government Departments and local authorities – data from the Pobal HP Deprivation Index is not publicly available at the Small Area level.¹⁰

The greater availability of such local data would not only enhance transparency and accountability, but also support evidence-based policy making and community engagement. In areas like the SWIC – where entrenched social and economic challenges persist – accessible local data is essential for identifying needs, tracking progress, and ensuring that resources are directed where they will have the greatest impact. By investing in better data collection and sharing, policymakers and communities can work together to deliver more effective interventions. Doing so can help to build a more resilient and empowered South West Inner City community, better equipped to address its unique challenges and opportunities.

⁸See GIO46 in Chapter 10 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028, available online here.

⁹The Irish Prison Service kindly provided an additional breakdown by Dublin postcode on request for this report.

¹⁰Although maps of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index can be viewed at Small Area level on the Pobal website, the underlying dataset is only available on request from one of the consultants who developed the index for Pobal and who retains ownership of the data. Nor is there detailed information published on how the index is constructed, making it difficult to assess its strengths and weaknesses.

Chapter summary

This report has shown that Dublin's South-West Inner City (SWIC) continues to face social and economic disadvantages, with certain areas severely impacted by deprivation, crime, a lack of sporting facilities, low third-level education progression rates and long-term unemployment.

This chapter argues that the concentration of this disadvantage provides a compelling case for additional targeted investment in the SWIC. This could be modelled — and build on — the success of the North-East Inner City (NEIC) initiative, involving:

- **The development of a SWIC Strategic Plan**, aimed at making the area a safe, attractive and vibrant environment for the community and its families, with opportunities for all to lead full lives.
- **A Programme Implementation Board with an independent chairperson**, bringing together key government departments – including the departments of the Taoiseach, Justice, Health, Education and Social Protection – along with community groups and Dublin City Council to advance progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- **A dedicated Programme Office and funding** to support delivery of the Strategic Plan, in line with the €8 million per year allocated to the NEIC initiative.

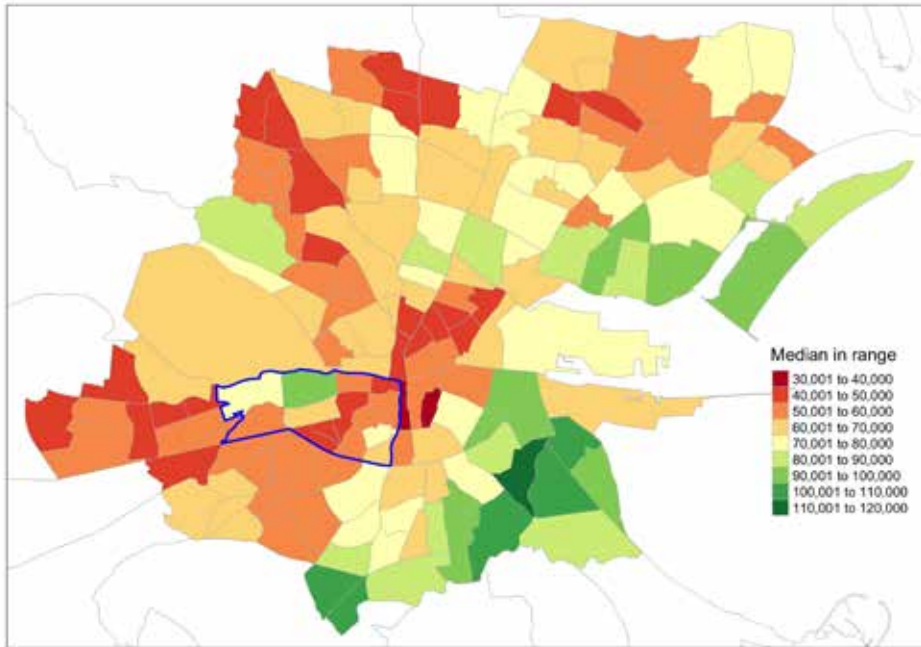
Appendix A

Additional Figures

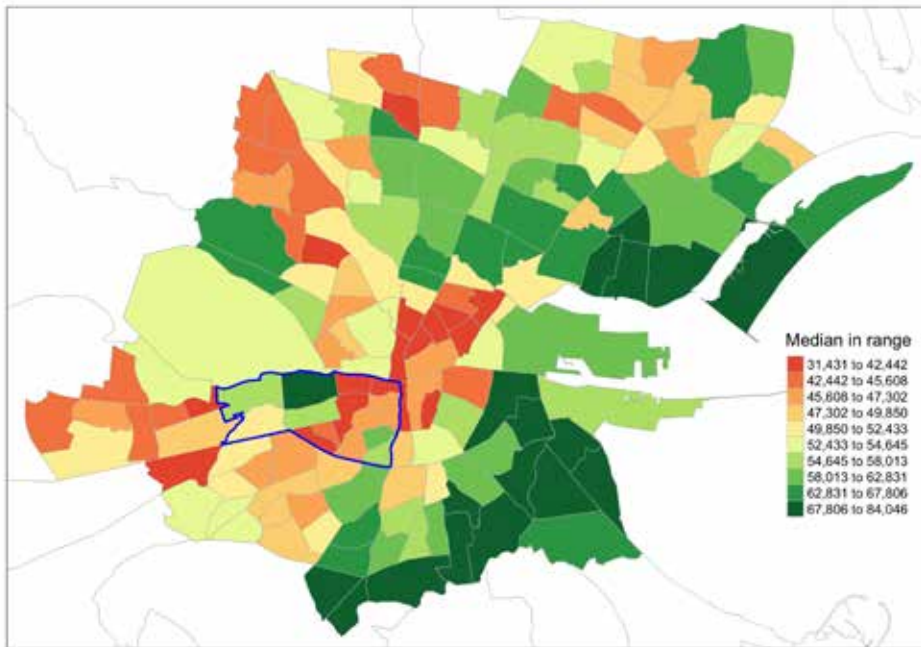


Figure A.1: Median gross income in Dublin City by Electoral District, 2022

(a) Gross household income



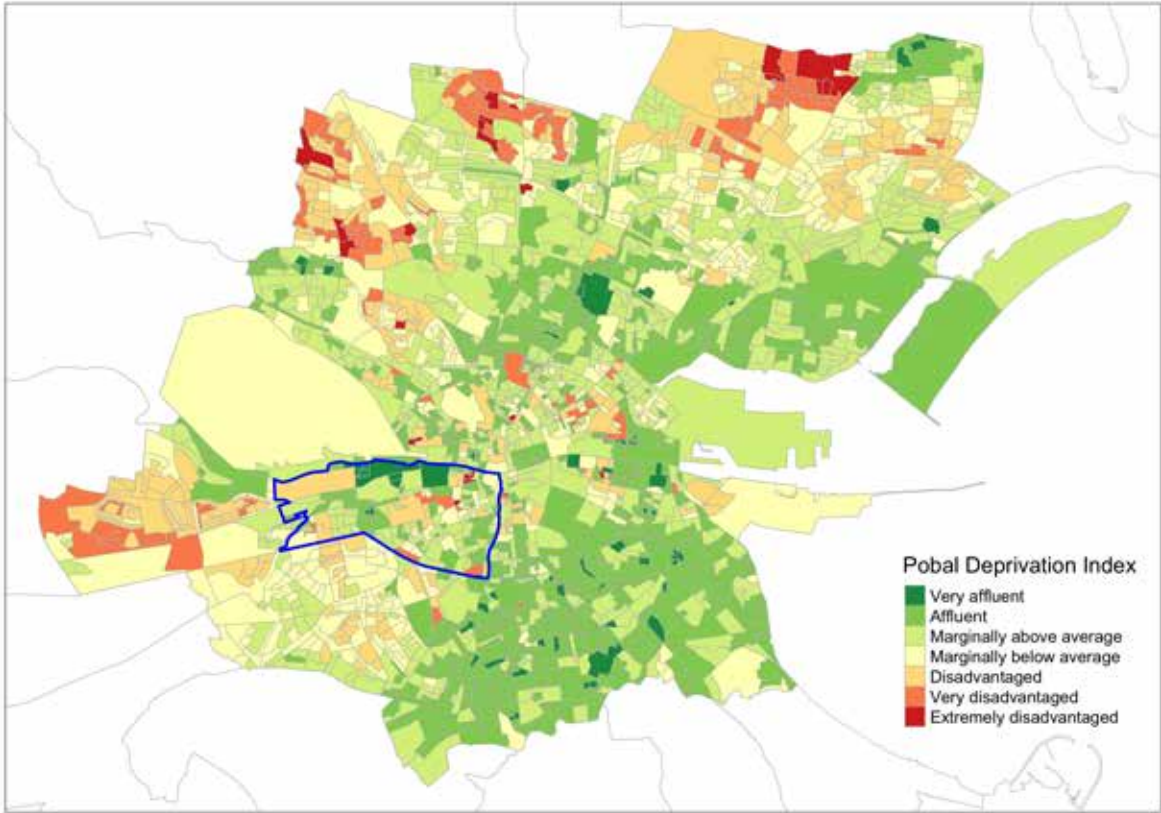
(b) Net household income



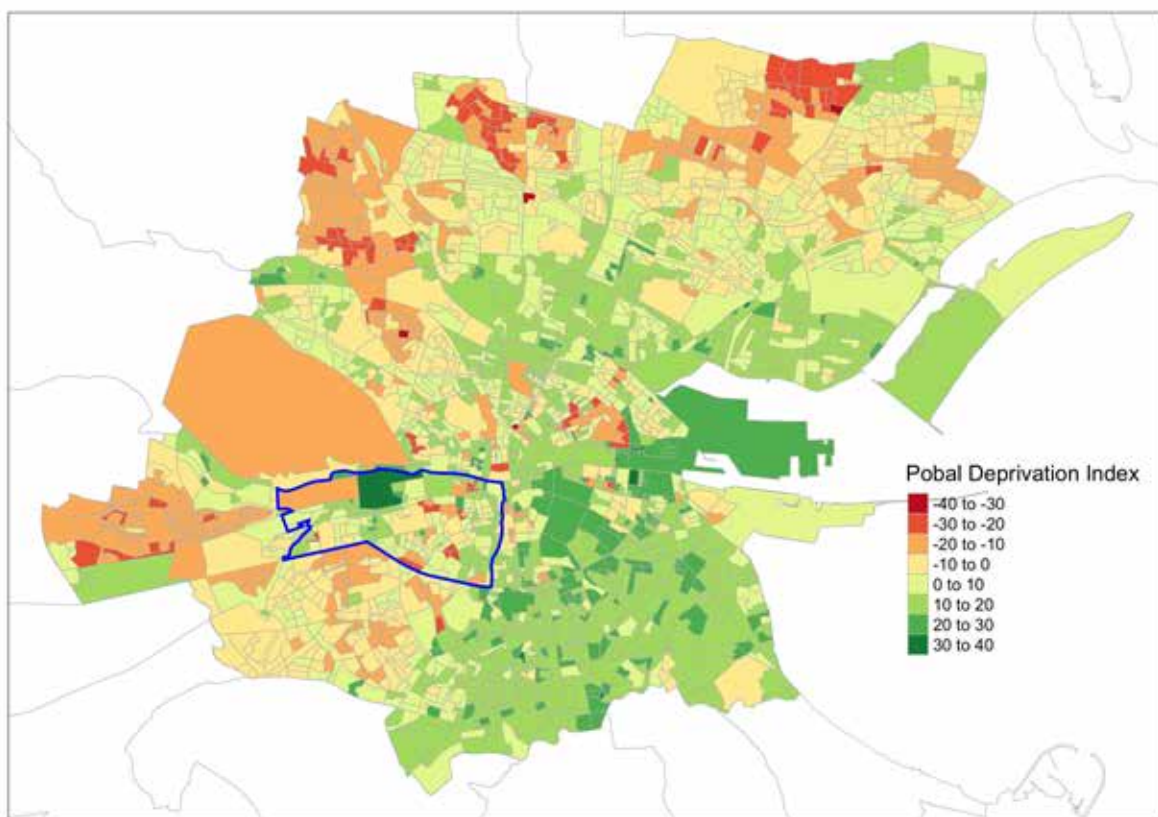
Source: Author's calculations using CSO Table SAP2022T2T2.

Note: The South West Inner City local electoral area boundary is outlined in blue.

Figure A.2: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2022

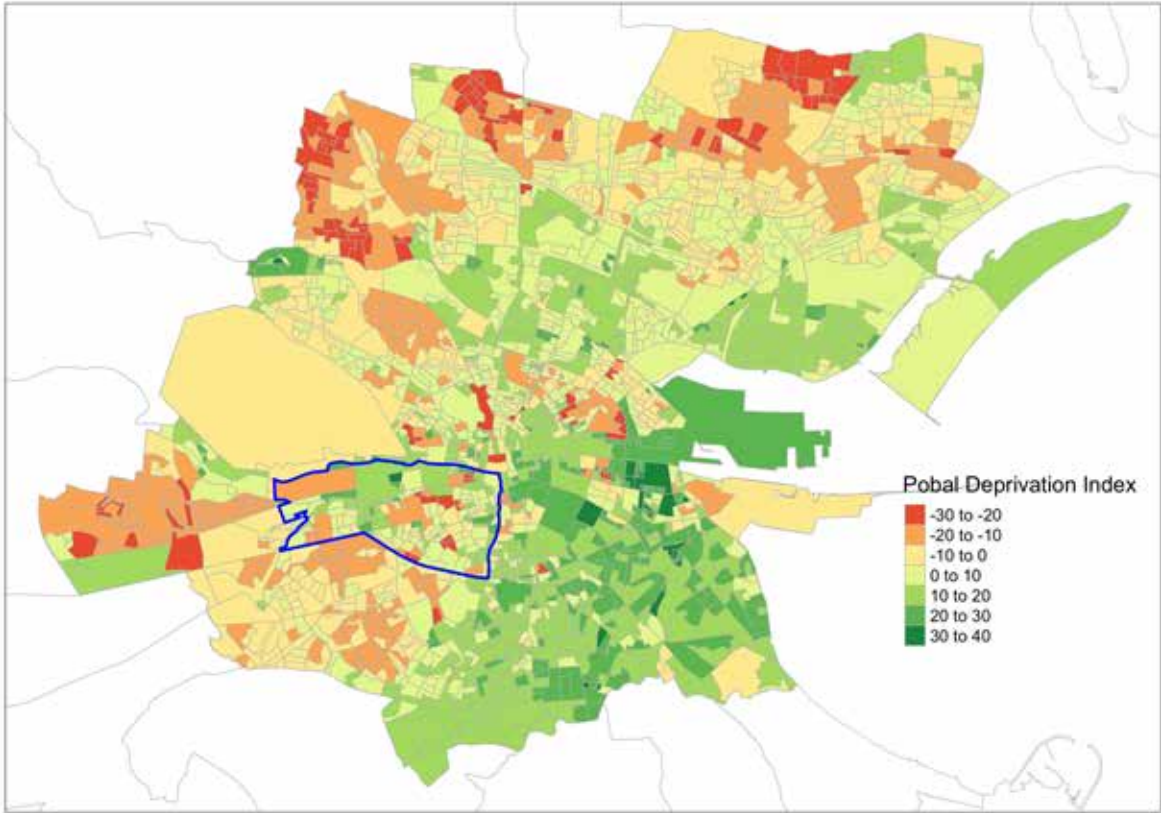


Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index.

Figure A.3: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2016

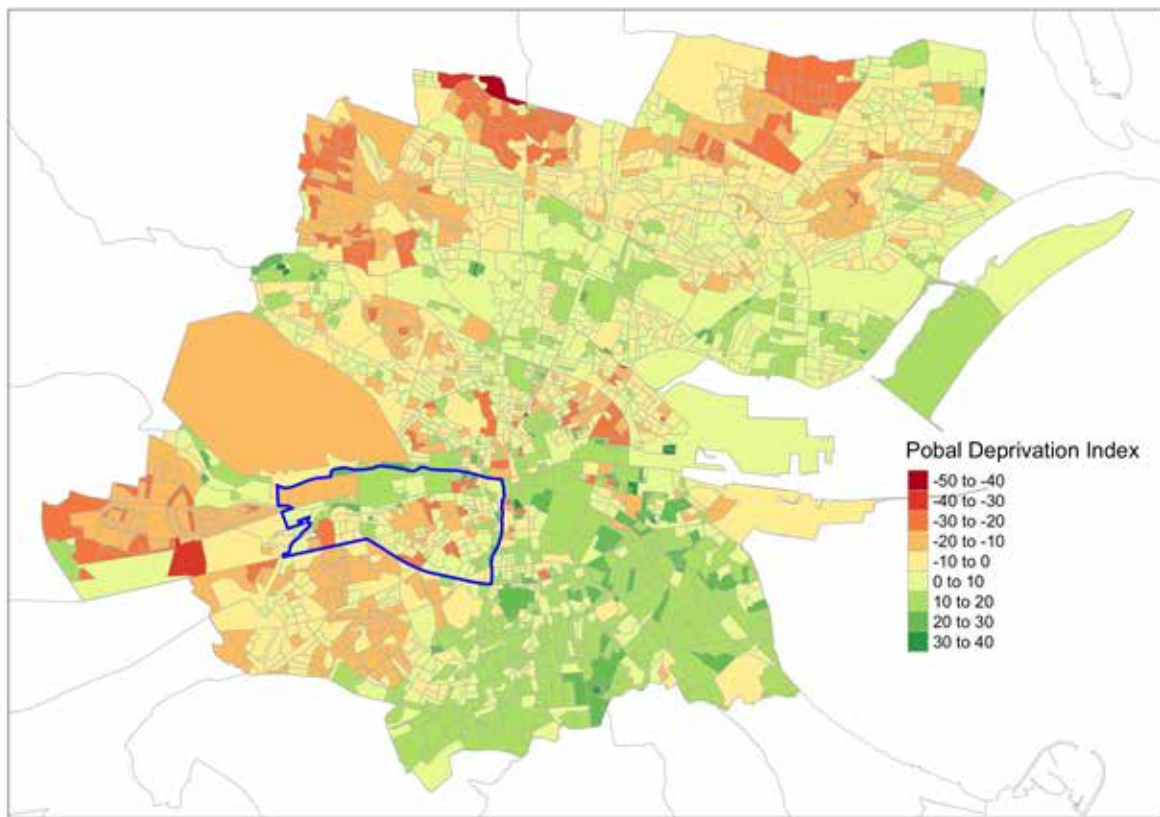
Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index.

Figure A.4: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2011



Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index.

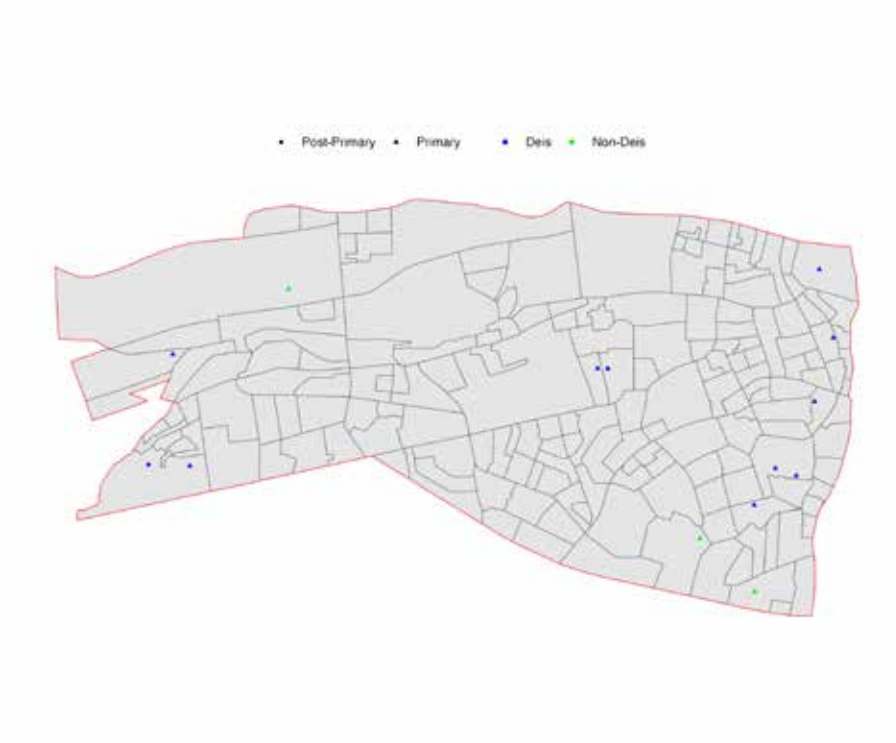
Figure A.5: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2006



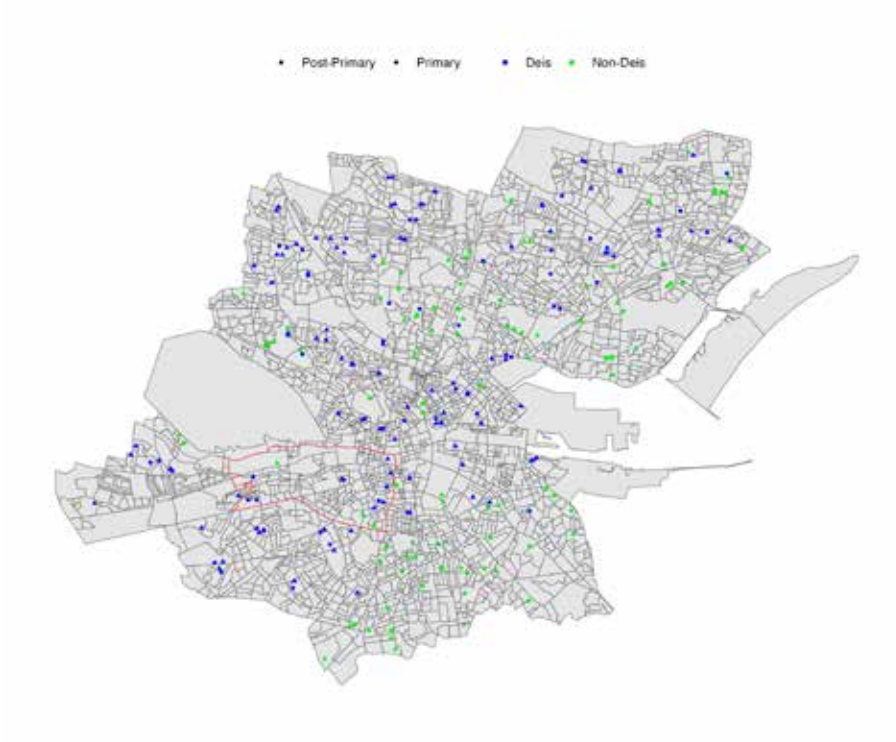
Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index.

Figure A.6: Location of primary and post-primary schools

(a) SWIC



(a) Dublin City



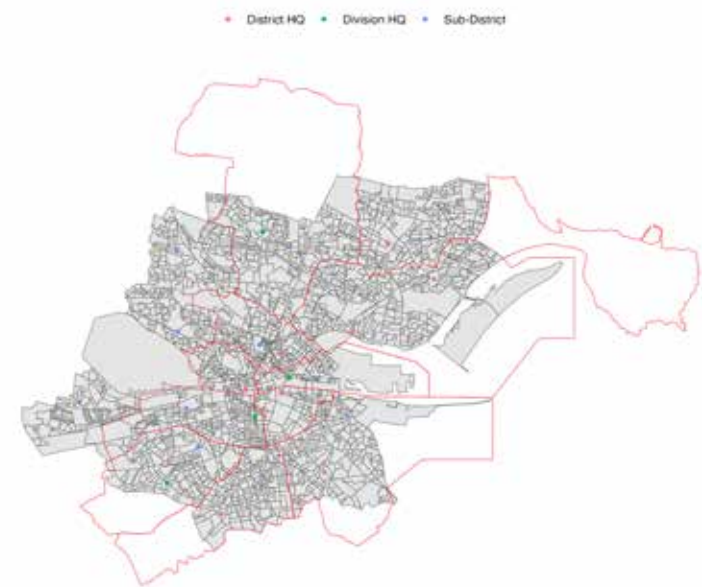
Source: author's calculations using data from Department of Education.

Figure A.7: Garda Station locations

(a) SWIC



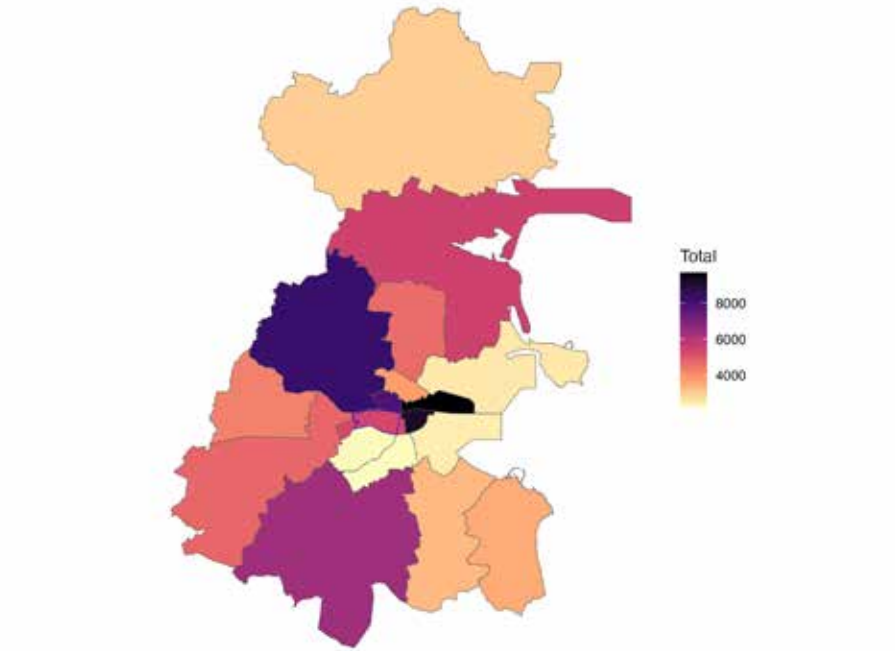
(b) Dublin City



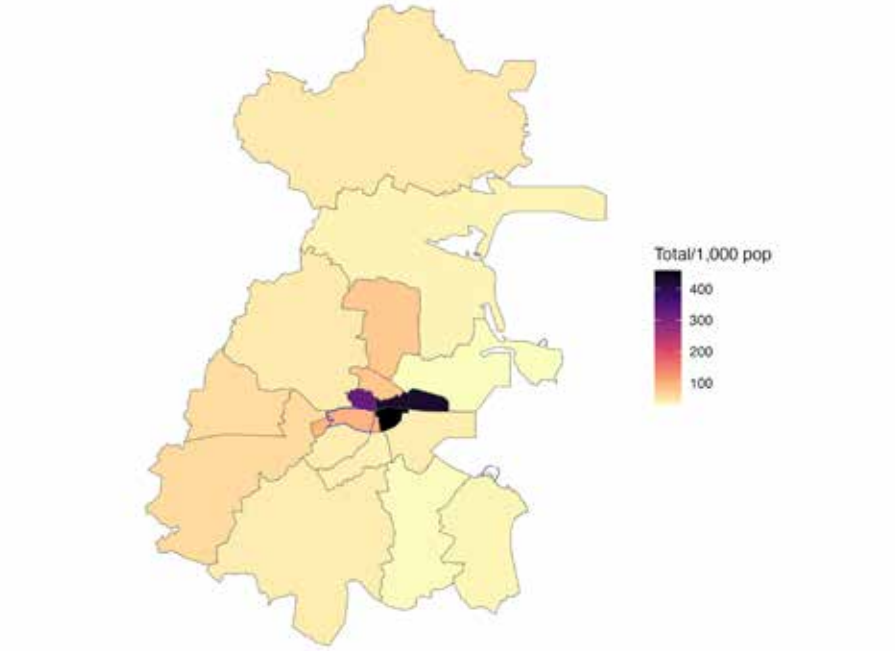
Source: author's calculations using data from AGS.

Figure A.8: Recorded crime in 2023, by DMR Garda Division

(a) Total



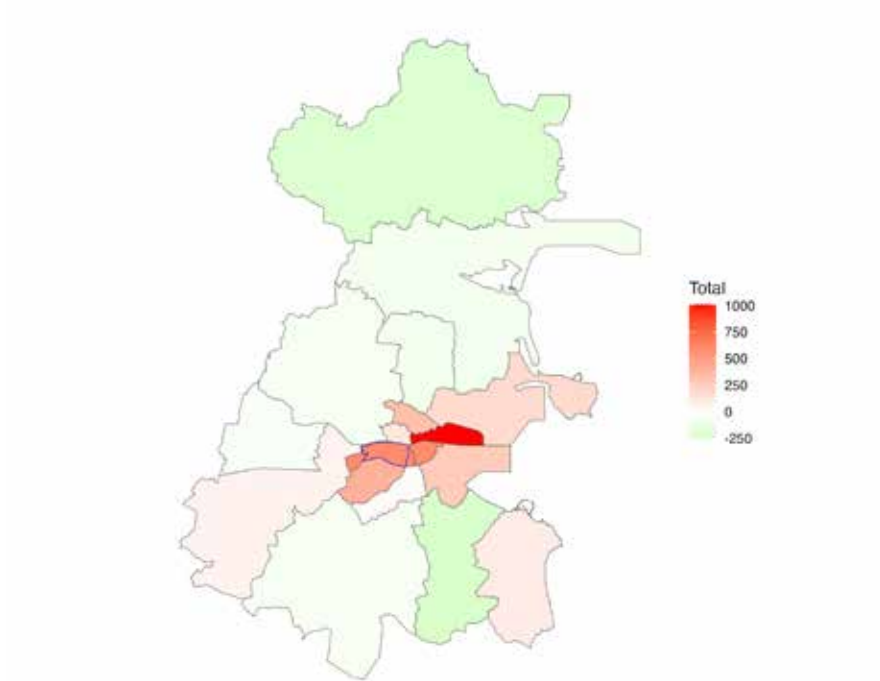
(b) Per 1,000 of population



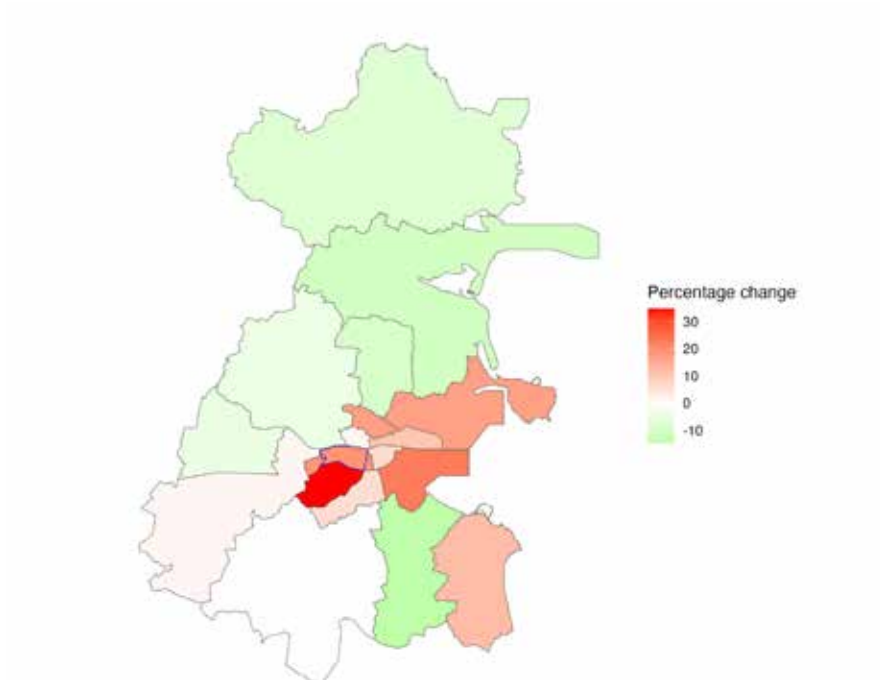
Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations/Districts published by AGS.

Figure A.9: Change in recorded crime 2023-2024, by DMR Garda Division

(a) Absolute change

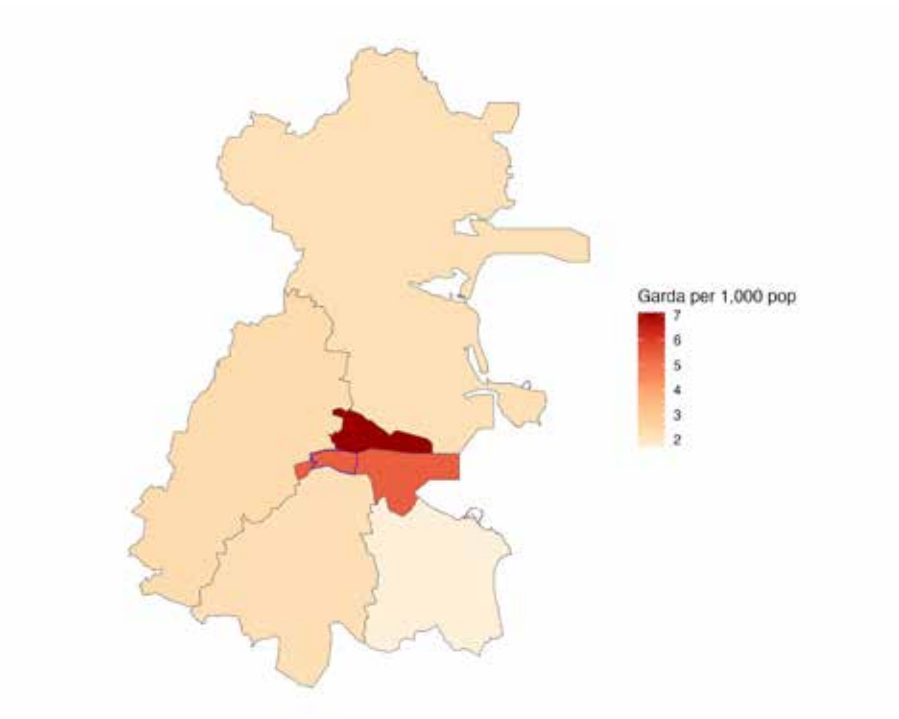


(b) Percentage change



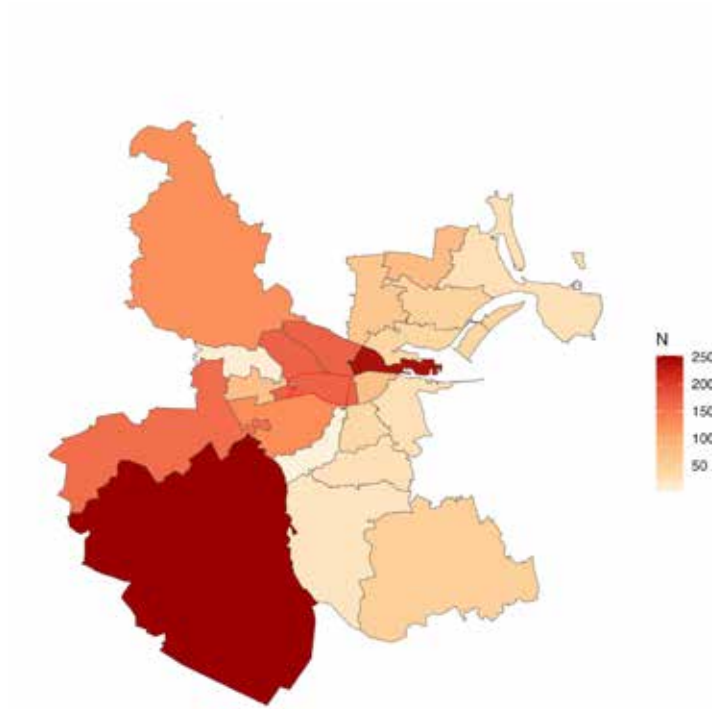
Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations published by AGS.

Figure A.10: Garda staffing per 1,000 population (2024)

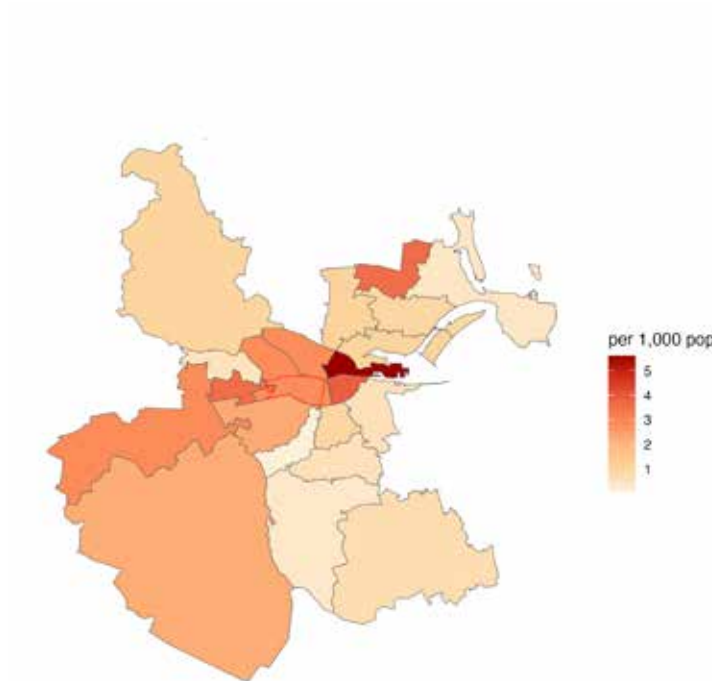


Source: author's calculations using data from garda.ie and 2022 CSO Census.

Figure A.11: Committals to prison (2023)
(a) Number of committals



(b) Committals per 1,000 population



Source: author's calculations using data provided by the Irish Prison Service and 2022 CSO Census.

Note: excludes those serving in Specialist Units and DMR Roads Policing Unit.

Appendix B

Additional Tables

Sporting Liberties Survey

Table B.1: Main results by gender (primary school children)

	Gender		
	Boy 95	Girl 87	Total 182
A. Days physically active for > 60 mins:			
0 days	2 (2.1%)	7 (8.1%)	9 (5.0%)
1 day	4 (4.2%)	4 (4.7%)	8 (4.4%)
2 days	5 (5.3%)	8 (9.3%)	13 (7.2%)
3 days	12 (12.6%)	14 (16.3%)	26 (14.4%)
4 days	13 (13.7%)	17 (19.8%)	30 (16.6%)
5 days	16 (16.8%)	9 (10.5%)	25 (13.8%)
6 days	16 (16.8%)	14 (16.3%)	30 (16.6%)
7 days	27 (28.4%)	13 (15.1%)	40 (22.1%)
B. Participates in school-based sports:			
4 or more days a week	48 (51.1%)	33 (39.3%)	81 (45.5%)
2-3 days a week	30 (31.9%)	32 (38.1%)	62 (34.8%)
1 day a week	7 (7.4%)	9 (10.7%)	16 (9.0%)
Rarely (1-3 days a month)	4 (4.3%)	4 (4.8%)	8 (4.5%)
Never	5 (5.3%)	6 (7.1%)	11 (6.2%)
C. Participates in community sports:			
4 or more days a week	38 (40.9%)	28 (33.3%)	66 (37.3%)
2-3 days a week	26 (28.0%)	26 (31.0%)	52 (29.4%)
1 day a week	5 (5.4%)	10 (11.9%)	15 (8.5%)
Rarely (1-3 days a month)	5 (5.4%)	3 (3.6%)	8 (4.5%)
Never	19 (20.4%)	17 (20.2%)	36 (20.3%)

Physically active defined as meeting WHO guideline of at least 60 minutes of daily moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. Community sport defined as taking part in sports and physical activities in a non-school setting.

Table B.2: Main results by gender (post-primary school children)

	Gender		Total 81
	Boy 62	Girl 19	
A. Days physically active for > 60 mins:			
0 days	2 (3.2%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (2.5%)
1 day	4 (6.5%)	1 (5.3%)	5 (6.2%)
2 days	6 (9.7%)	3 (15.8%)	9 (11.1%)
3 days	18 (29.0%)	3 (15.8%)	21 (25.9%)
4 days	9 (14.5%)	7 (36.8%)	16 (19.8%)
5 days	12 (19.4%)	4 (21.1%)	16 (19.8%)
6 days	5 (8.1%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (6.2%)
7 days	6 (9.7%)	1 (5.3%)	7 (8.6%)
B. Participates in school-based sports:			
4 or more days a week	20 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	20 (25.6%)
2-3 days a week	17 (28.3%)	12 (66.7%)	29 (37.2%)
1 day a week	10 (16.7%)	2 (11.1%)	12 (15.4%)
Rarely (1-3 days a month)	9 (15.0%)	2 (11.1%)	11 (14.1%)
Never	4 (6.7%)	2 (11.1%)	6 (7.7%)
C. Participates in community sports:			
4 or more days a week	11 (18.0%)	1 (5.6%)	12 (15.2%)
2-3 days a week	23 (37.7%)	6 (33.3%)	29 (36.7%)
1 day a week	5 (8.2%)	5 (27.8%)	10 (12.7%)
Rarely (1-3 days a month)	4 (6.6%)	3 (16.7%)	7 (8.9%)
Never	18 (29.5%)	3 (16.7%)	21 (26.6%)

Physically active defined as meeting WHO guideline of at least 60 minutes of daily moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. Community sport defined as taking part in sports and physical activities in a non-school setting.

Health and wellbeing

Table B.3: Addiction Service Providers by Dublin City Local Electoral Area (LEA)

LEA	Number (N)			Per 1,000 population		
	Drug	Other	Total	Drug	Other	Total
ARTANE-WHITEHALL	6	1	7	0.115	0.019	0.134
BALLYFERMOT-DRIMNAGH	13	0	13	0.268	0.000	0.268
BALLYMUN-FINGLAS	10	1	11	0.178	0.018	0.195
CABRA-GLASNEVIN	4	1	5	0.063	0.016	0.079
CLONTARF	4	1	5	0.070	0.018	0.088
DONAGHMEDE	3	0	3	0.064	0.000	0.064
KIMMAGE-RATHMINES	9	0	9	0.151	0.000	0.151
NORTH INNER CITY	30	3	33	0.402	0.040	0.442
PEMBROKE	1	1	2	0.022	0.022	0.044
SOUTH EAST INNER CITY	15	0	15	0.344	0.000	0.344
SOUTH WEST INNER CITY	13	2	15	0.290	0.045	0.334
Dublin City	108	10	118	0.182	0.017	0.199
Rest of country	295	23	318	0.065	0.005	0.070
State	403	33	436	0.079	0.006	0.085

Source: author's calculations using HRB Addiction Treatment Services map and Census 2022 Table SAP2022T1T1ALEA22.

Crime

Table B.4: Total recorded crimes by DMR Garda District, 2024

District	Total	Population	Per 1,000 population
Balbriggan	2,759	61,845	44.6
Ballymun	4,580	60,837	75.3
Blackrock	3,069	104,565	29.4
Blanchardstown	8,200	174,165	47.1
Bridewell	7,974	24,012	332.1
Clondalkin	4,805	76,873	62.5
Coolock	5,443	142,005	38.3
Crumlin	2,682	51,095	52.5
Donnybrook	2,742	55,511	49.4
Dun Laoghaire	3,627	96,713	37.5
Fitzgibbon Street	4,072	47,288	86.1
Kevin Street	5,944	55,745	106.6
Lucan	4,226	70,933	59.6
Pearse Street	9,753	20,034	486.8
Raheny	2,762	85,896	32.2
Store Street	10,700	22,775	469.8
Tallaght	6,301	143,263	44.0
Terenure	2,257	53,352	42.3

Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations published by AGS.

Table B.5: Recorded Crimes by Garda District (per 1,000 population, 2023)

Offence Type	Kevin Street	Central DMR	Other DMR	National
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments etc.	9.7	25.8	4.6	4.7
Dangerous or negligent acts	1.9	3.1	1.1	1.5
Kidnapping and related offences	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	2.8	6.6	0.7	0.5
Burglary and related offences	4.8	11.8	2.3	1.9
Theft and related offences	39.7	161.6	20.2	14.4
Controlled drug offences	11.1	23.3	3.6	3.4
Weapons and explosives offences	1.8	6.6	0.6	0.5
Damage to property and to the environment	11.8	20.1	5.8	4.4
Public order and other social code offences	11.2	60.1	4.6	5.6
Offences against government etc.	1.3	80.7	3.0	3.1
Total	96.0	399.6	46.5	40.0

Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations published by AGS.

Table B.6: Change in Recorded Crimes by Garda District (per 1,000 population, 2023–2024)

Offence Type	Kevin Street	Central DMR	Other DMR	National
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments etc.	2.1	2.6	0.4	0.1
Dangerous or negligent acts	0.7	0.4	-0.1	0.0
Kidnapping and related offences	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	-0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
Burglary and related offences	1.0	-1.6	-0.1	0.0
Theft and related offences	-0.6	16.4	0.1	0.5
Controlled drug offences	-1.1	1.3	-0.1	-0.3
Weapons and explosives offences	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1
Damage to property and to the environment	2.4	1.1	0.0	-0.1
Public order and other social code offences	5.7	6.7	0.5	0.3
Offences against government etc.	0.4	-1.5	-0.2	-0.2
Total	10.6	25.8	0.5	0.4

Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations published by AGS.

Table B.7: Percentage Change in Recorded Crimes by Garda District (2023–2024)

Offence Type	Kevin Street	Central DMR	Other DMR	National
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments etc.	21.4	9.9	8.2	2.1
Dangerous or negligent acts	34.3	12.3	-10.9	0.0
Kidnapping and related offences	0.0	175.0	9.4	
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	-11.0	1.1	-6.0	0.0
Burglary and related offences	20.3	-13.6	-2.5	0.0
Theft and related offences	-1.6	10.2	0.4	3.5
Controlled drug offences	-9.7	5.5	-1.5	-8.8
Weapons and explosives offences	24.5	5.2	7.6	20.0
Damage to property and to the environment	20.2	5.4	-0.8	-2.3
Public order and other social code offences	51.2	11.1	10.9	5.4
Offences against government etc.	28.6	-1.9	-6.8	-6.5
Total	11.0	6.4	1.0	1.0

Source: author's calculations using CSO Table CJA07 and information on Garda Stations published by AGS.

Table B.8: Commitals by Postcode in Dublin

	Area	Commitals	Population	Commitals per 1,000
1	DUBLIN 1	240.0	42826	5.6
2	DUBLIN 2	79.0	20167	3.9
3	DUBLIN 3	41.0	39509	1.0
4	DUBLIN 4	27.0	45732	0.6
5	DUBLIN 5	46.0	49132	0.9
6	DUBLIN 6	39.0	41126	0.9
7	DUBLIN 7	172.0	60498	2.8
8	DUBLIN 9	67.0	64206	1.0
9	DUBLIN 10	79.0	22036	3.6
10	DUBLIN 11	183.0		
11	DUBLIN 13	27.0	63876	0.4
12	DUBLIN 14	27.0	46197	0.6
13	DUBLIN 15	125.0	126210	1.0
14	DUBLIN 18	51.0	70458	0.7
15	DUBLIN 20	7.0	13312	0.5
16	DUBLIN 22	160.0	55709	2.9
17	DUBLIN 24	252.0	113179	2.2
18	DUBLIN 6W	3.0	27581	0.1
19	DUBLIN 8	171.0	60171	2.8
20	DUBLIN 16	20.0	55484	0.4
21	DUBLIN 12	128.0	55961	2.3
22	DUBLIN 17	84.0	23369	3.6
	Total	1807.0	1087559	1.7



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