

A Socio-Economic Analysis of Dublin's South-West Inner City Key Findings

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About the Report

The most in-depth study of the SWIC's social and economic conditions to date

Themes

1. Demographics and Housing
2. Incomes, Poverty and Deprivation
3. Education and Employment
4. Health and Wellbeing
5. Crime and Policing
6. Physical activity and sporting participation

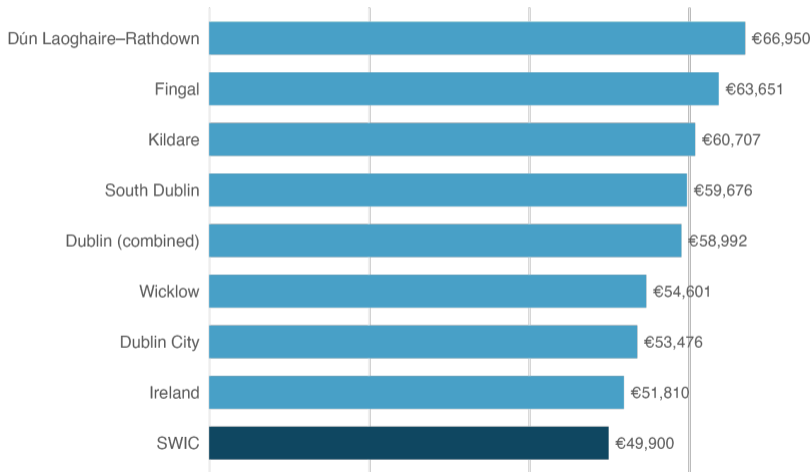
Data sources:

- 2022 Census
- Administrative data from public bodies
- Survey of students in the area

Income

Average household income is around 15–16% below the Dublin average

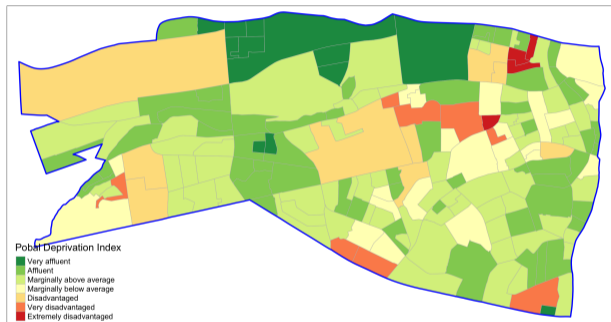
Median net household income, 2022



Source: CSO Geographical Profiles of Income in Ireland 2022.

Deprivation

Almost half of those living in a severely deprived part of Dublin's inner-city live in the SWIC, despite SWIC making up just a quarter of the inner-city population



Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2022

Additional spending on public services arising from poverty and deprivation estimated **€26–60 million per year** in the SWIC alone

Drug-Related Deaths

The rate of Drug-Related Deaths is at least twice the national average

22 drug poisoning deaths in Dublin South City Local Health Office area in 2021

- mortality rate of **0.145 per 1,000**
- twice the national average, third higher than the Dublin average

The figure for the SWIC is likely higher still

- Dublin South City LHO includes Terenure, Churchtown & Rathfarnham
- If just 12/22 deaths were in the SWIC, the rate would be **0.268 per 1,000**: highest of any Dublin LHO area and more than 3x the national average

Crime

Reported crime rate >x2 the national average, imposing economic & social costs

SWIC largely overlaps with Kevin Street Garda District

- **106.7 crimes per 1,000** of population in 2024
- More than twice national average of **40.4 per 1,000**
- 4th highest of 18 Dublin Metropolitan Garda Districts (behind only central Store Street, Pearse Street and Bridewell Street districts)

Cost of crime in the SWIC at least **€60 million per year**

- €21m policing; €10m prison system; €30m wider economic and social costs

Education

Few attend local secondary schools, with poor outcomes for those who do

Less than 4-in-10 children living in the SWIC go to secondary school in the area

- the lowest of any electoral area in Dublin or any urban area in the country
- completely different picture at primary level

3rd-level progression rates in these schools less than half the national average

- Just 36% of students who sat the Leaving Certificate at schools in the SWIC went on to third level in 2024 (vs 80% nationally and 81% in Dublin)

Reaching the national average would yield large economic benefits

- Research suggests €100,000 in extra lifetime earnings and €62,000 in extra tax revenues for each additional student completing 3rd level

Physical Activity & Sport

Carried out survey of students in the area to compare to national CSPA

80-90% of students in SWIC not meeting national/WHO activity guidelines

- engaging in ≥ 60 minutes of daily moderate-to-vigorous physical activity
- includes exercise, sports as well as walking or cycling to school

While levels of participation in **school-based sport** are similar to the national average, levels of participation in **community-based sport** are much lower

- Primary school: 20.3% in SWIC never participate vs 12% nationally
- Secondary school: 25.9% in SWIC never participate vs 16% nationally

Half of non-participating primary students and a quarter of non-participating secondary students cite a lack of adequate facilities as the reason why

Playing Pitches in Dublin City

No DCC playing pitches between the Grand Canal and North Circular Road



- Just **2** of Dublin City Council's **248** pitches in the SWIC (both at the south-west edge across dual carriageway)
- **22,427** people per pitch vs. **2,389** across Dublin City

Implications for Policy

Compelling case for additional targeted investment in the SWIC

Could be modelled/build on success of the North-East Inner City initiative

- Arose from publication of the 2017 Mulvey Report which highlighted many of the same issues as identified here
- Programme Implementation Board with an independent chairperson oversees progress on the implementation of a Strategic Plan
- Supported by dedicated Programme Office & funding of **€8 million/year**

Whatever the vehicle, the scale of the challenges identified in this report suggest that a significant increase in investment is needed!