



Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Uptake in those Attending GP Clinics and Pharmacies for Vaccination, Ireland



1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022

(week 36, 2021 – week 28, 2022)

Summary

Seasonal influenza vaccinations by age group among individuals attending GPs and pharmacies, 2021/2022 (1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022), Ireland

Age group	No. vaccinated	Pop Proj 2021 M2F2 estimate	% Uptake
2-12 years	140,376	745,669	18.8
13-17 years	38,986	335,563	11.6
2-17 years	179,362	1,081,232	16.6
18-49 years	224,871	2,169,073	10.4
50-64 years	236,146	879,370	26.9
65 and over	560,209	743,087	75.4
Overall ≥2 years and over	1,200,588	4,872,762	24.6
≥6months*-64 years with medical risk condition	186,231	na	-
≥6months*-17 years with medical risk condition	268	na	-
≥18-64 years with medical risk condition	185,963	na	-
Pregnant women	18,600	na	-

na- denominator for those with medical risk condition is not available.

*No vaccines were administered in these settings to children aged ≥6 month-1 year with chronic medical risk.

**Chronic medical conditions: chronic respiratory, heart, liver, neurological disease, renal failure, immunosuppressed (due to disease or treatment), diabetes mellitus, morbid obesity, haemoglobinopathies, children with conditions that compromise respiratory function, children on long-term aspirin therapy, CSF leaks either congenital or complicating skull fracture or neurosurgery.

Introduction

HSE has recommended seasonal influenza (flu) vaccination for persons aged 65 years and older and for younger individuals with clinical risk conditions, as identified by NIAC, for many years. Between 2004/2005 and 2019/2020 seasons, HSE provided flu vaccine and administration free of charge for those recommended vaccine if they had medical or GP visit cards.

Since the 2020/2021 season the HSE extended access to free vaccination to all individuals in specified age, clinical, and occupational groups regardless of medical/GP visit card status. Additionally, all children aged 2- 12 years (extended in December 2020 to children up to and including 17 years of age), without clinical risk, are recommended nasal flu vaccine as part of a new child flu vaccination programme.

In the current season (2021/2022) the HSE has continued the same vaccination policy as for the 2020/2021 season and additionally, since December 2021, all individuals aged 50 years and over, without specific clinical risk, are included in the HSE free flu vaccination programme.

For the purpose of reporting on seasonal flu vaccination uptake the reporting period is considered to be September to August (the following year). For the 2021/2022 flu season the influenza vaccination campaign formally started on the 4th of October 2021.

In this report we provide data on uptake by age group, with a focus on the uptake among those 65 years and older. We present data comparing uptake between HSE/CHO and LHO areas. The data used in this analysis were obtained from the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS), on the number of patients vaccinated with influenza vaccine, at GP clinics and pharmacies for the period 1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022 (weeks 36, 2021-28, 2022), inclusive.

PCRS provide records as received (albeit validated at data capture stage) irrespective of whether these meet reimbursement qualities or not, i.e. whether the GP / Pharmacist will get paid for providing the vaccination. Data from pharmacies are available since the 2012/13 influenza season when administration of influenza vaccine by pharmacists commenced.

Methods

The uptake rates are calculated as follows;

1. Influenza uptake rates by age group are calculated based on the proportion of individuals in the specified age group who are vaccinated during the period 1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022. *
2. To assess variations reported by age group and region, uptake was analysed by various age groups and also by HSE-Area and LHO/CHO - Area.
3. Rates for the 2021/2022 season are calculated using population projections derived from CSO and provided by HSE Health Intelligence Unit to provide estimated population by age group and geographic location (Pop Proj 2021 M2F2 estimate; June 2021, total estimated population of 4,992,163)

**Note: as the age group 50 years and over without clinical risk were only added to the programme in December 2021 the uptake estimates presented here may under-estimate uptake in this group.*

Results

Data in the results section refer to GP and pharmacy submissions to PCRS for influenza vaccine administered, for the period 1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022, inclusive.

The national influenza vaccine uptake in those aged 65 years and older attending GP clinics and pharmacies for vaccination was 75.4%, during the period 1st September – 17th July 2022. Vaccine uptake in children aged 2-17 years was 16.6% and uptake in those aged 50-64 years of age was 26.9% for the same time period.

Among those aged 65 years and older, variation in uptake was observed between age groups, with the highest uptake (87.1%) in those aged 75 years and older and the lowest uptake in those aged 65-69 years (58.9%) (table 1). Variation in vaccination coverage was also observed between HSE areas, ranging from 68.4% in HSE-NW to 79.8% in HSE-SE (figures 1 & 2). Vaccination coverage by CHO/LHO areas is presented in figures 1a, 2a,3 and table 3.

Table 1: Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake by age group (in years) in those aged 65 years or older, attending GP clinics and pharmacies, 2021/22, Ireland

Age group (years)	≥65	≥70	≥75	70-74	65-69	65-74
Number vaccinated	560,209	425,718	277,942	147,776	134,491	282,267
Pop Proj 2021 M2F2 estimate	743,088	514,716	319,075	195,641	228,373	424,014
% Uptake	75.4	82.7	87.1	75.5	58.9	66.6

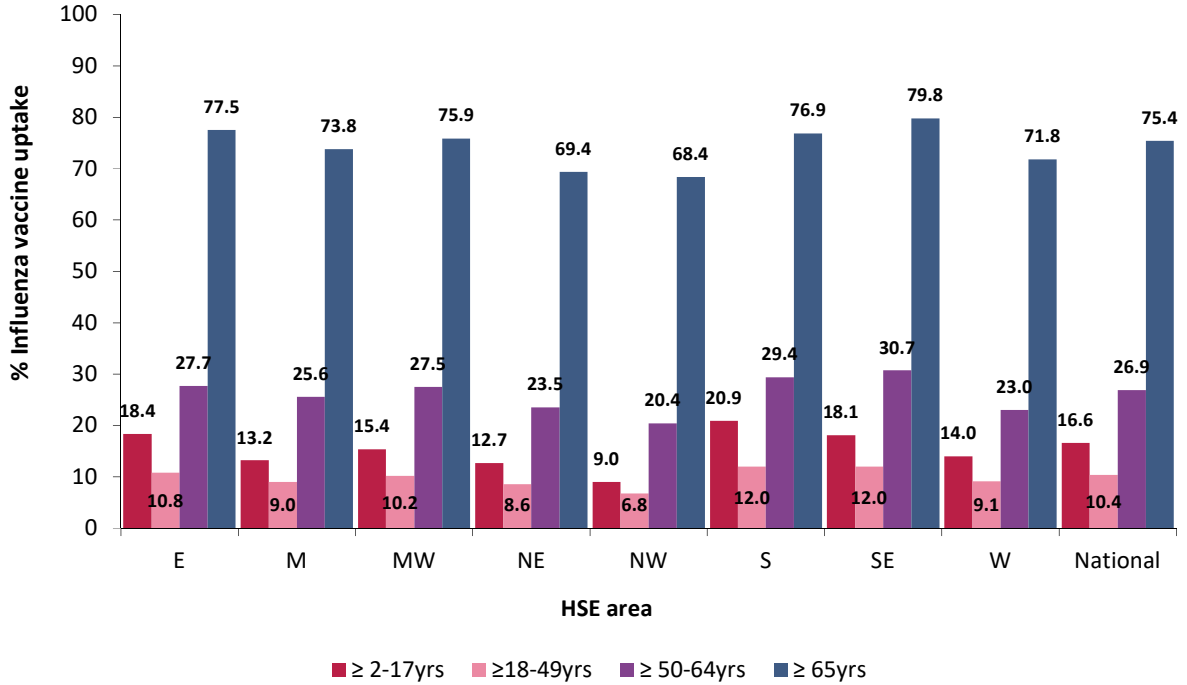


Figure 1: Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake by age group and HSE-Area for patients attending GPs and pharmacies, 2021/22 (1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022), Ireland.

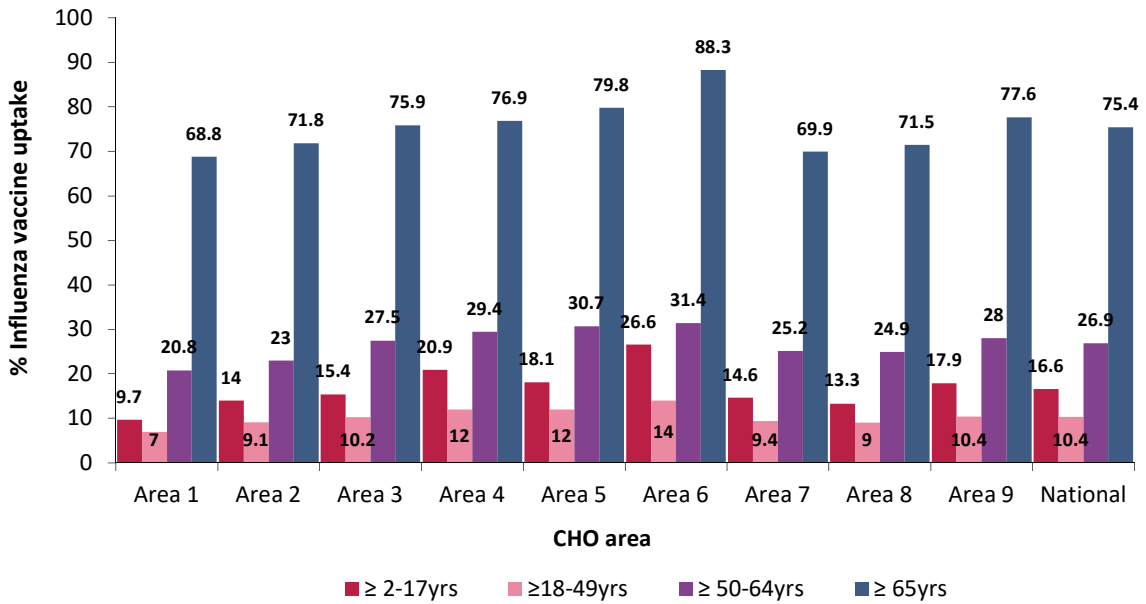


Figure 1a: Seasonal influenza vaccine by age group and CHO-Area for patients attending GPs and pharmacies for influenza vaccination, 2021/22 (1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022), Ireland.



Figure 2: Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in those aged 65 and over by HSE-Area for patients attending GPs and pharmacies for influenza vaccination, 2021/22 (1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022), Ireland.

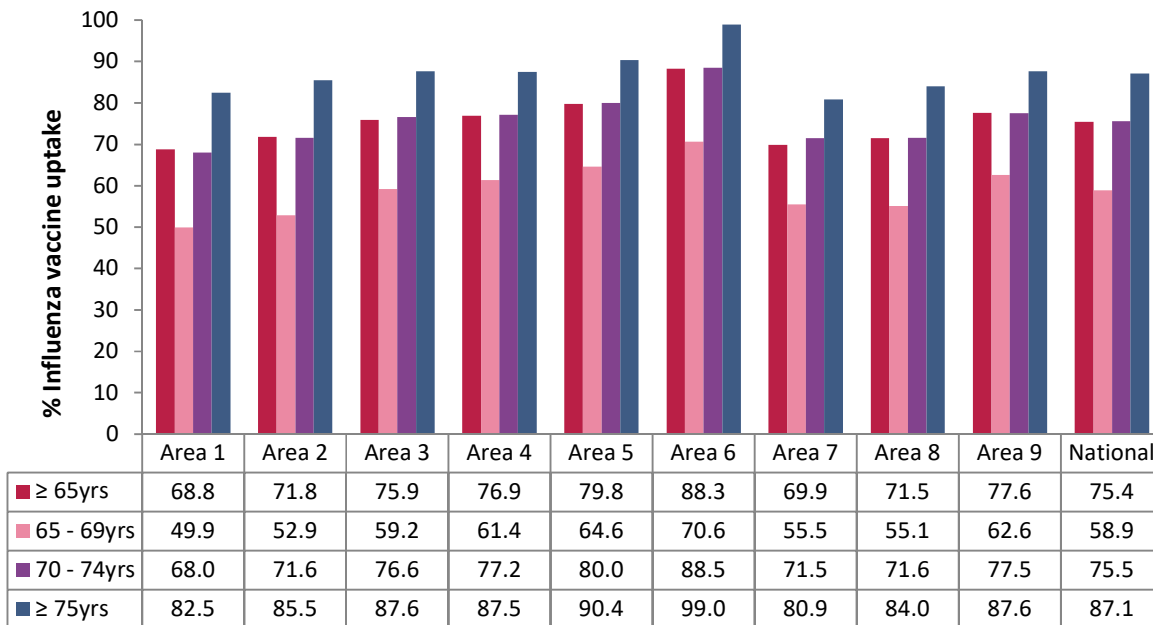


Figure 2a: Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in those aged 65 and over, by CHO-Area for patients attending GPs and pharmacies for influenza vaccination, 2021/22 (1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022), Ireland.

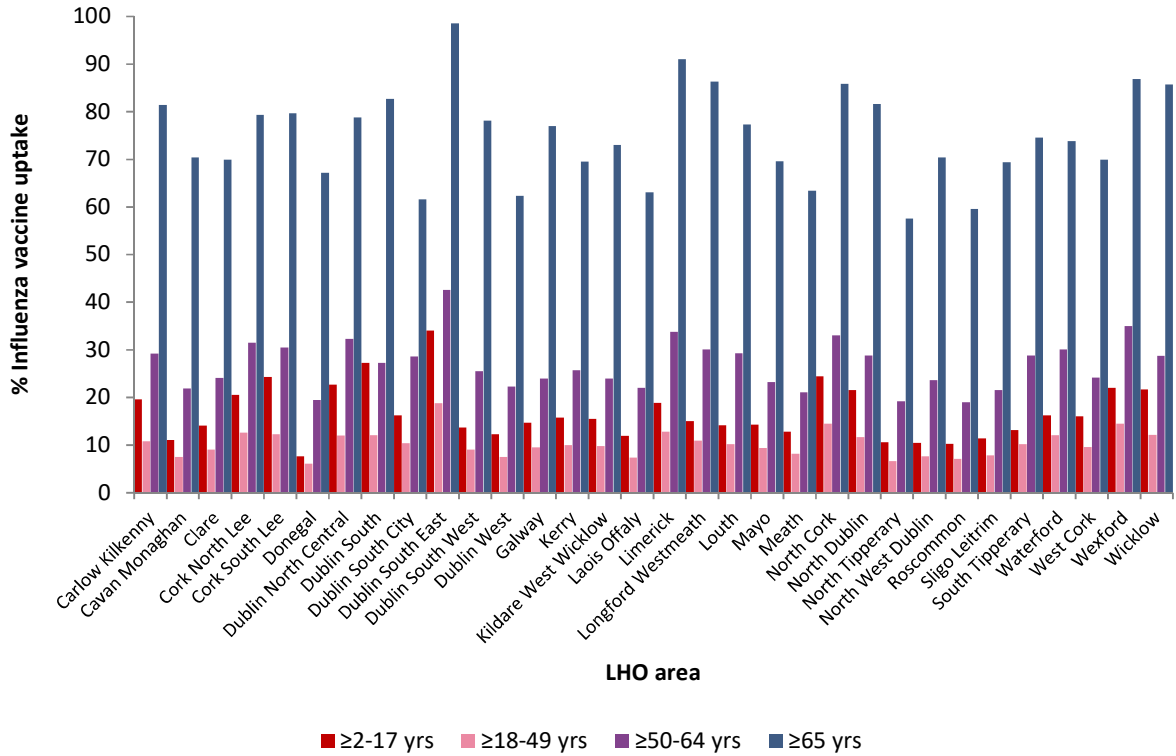
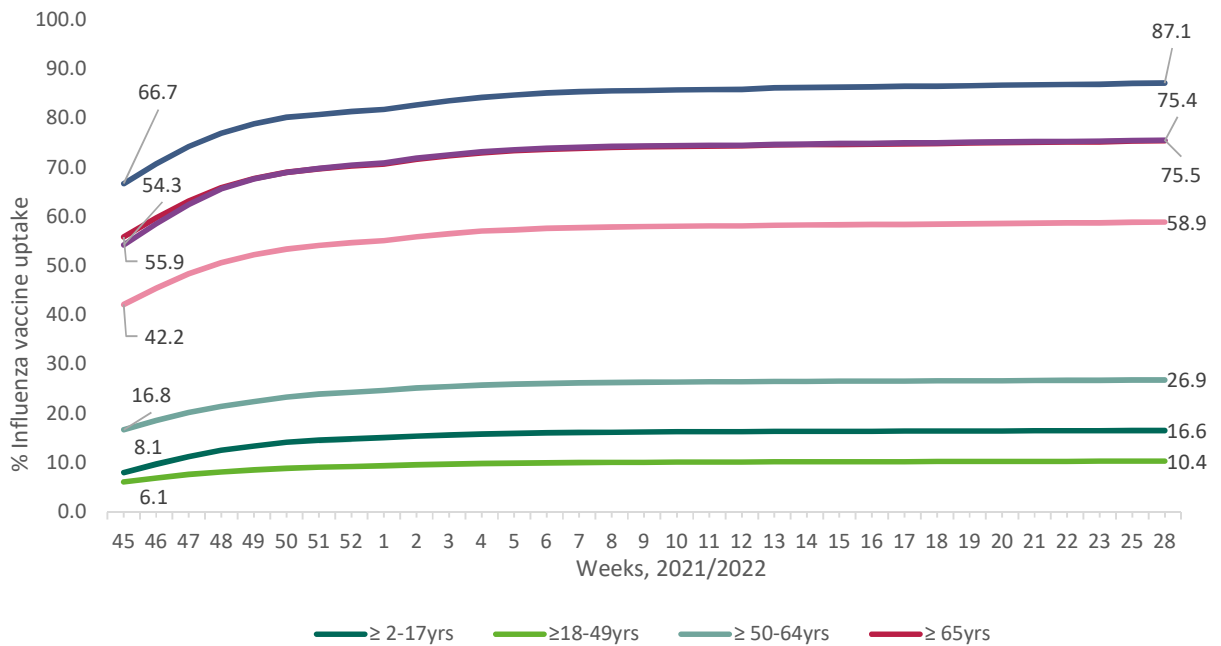


Figure 3: Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake by age group, CHO, LHO Area for patients attending GPs and pharmacies by LHO Area, 1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022, Ireland



*Since 1st September 2021
 Data source: PCRS; data are available from week 45.
 Data source for denominator: 2021 Popul Projection
 Data for week 24 were not provided.

Figure 4: Weekly cumulative vaccine uptake (%) by age group, Ireland, 2021/22 influenza season

Table 3: Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake by age group, national, CHO, LHO Area, 1st September 2021 – 17th July 2022, Ireland

National/ CHO Area/ LHO	No. vaccinated				Pop Proj 2021 M2F2 estimate				Vaccine uptake (%)			
	Age group	≥2-17 yrs	≥18-49 yrs	≥50-64 yrs	≥65 yrs	≥2-17 yrs	≥18-49 yrs	≥50-64 yrs	≥65 yrs	≥2-17 yrs	≥18-49 yrs	≥50-64 yrs
National	179,362	224,871	236,146	560,209	1,081,232	2,169,071	879,372	743,088	16.6	10.4	26.9	75.4
Area 1	8,922	11,383	15,677	47,056	91,763	162,287	75,342	68,422	9.7	7.0	20.8	68.8
Cavan / Monaghan	3,638	4,271	5,531	15,061	32,744	56,855	25,216	21,400	11.1	7.5	21.9	70.4
Donegal	2,860	4,093	6,076	19,451	37,822	66,564	31,162	28,956	7.6	6.1	19.5	67.2
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	2,424	3,019	4,070	12,544	21,197	38,868	18,964	18,066	11.4	7.8	21.5	69.4
Area 2	13,981	17,260	19,721	55,875	99,942	188,669	85,715	77,814	14.0	9.1	23.0	71.8
Galway	8,581	10,816	11,269	30,793	58,187	114,221	46,986	40,016	14.7	9.5	24.0	77.0
Mayo	3,937	4,683	6,022	17,872	27,575	49,663	25,966	25,694	14.3	9.4	23.2	69.6
Roscommon	1,463	1,761	2,430	7,210	14,180	24,785	12,763	12,104	10.3	7.1	19.0	59.6
Area 3	13,083	16,623	19,883	49,909	86,142	165,005	73,522	65,714	15.2	10.1	27.0	75.9
Clare	3,333	3,867	5,092	13,009	23,653	42,339	21,097	18,614	14.1	9.1	24.1	69.9
Limerick	7,118	9,634	10,976	26,652	37,729	75,278	32,516	29,298	18.9	12.8	33.8	91.0
North Tipperary / East Limerick	2,632	3,122	3,815	10,248	24,760	47,388	19,909	17,802	10.6	6.6	19.2	57.6
Area 4	31,764	36,556	38,616	87,701	152,158	304,006	131,214	114,100	20.9	12.0	29.4	76.9
Kerry	4,783	5,929	7,651	20,131	30,239	59,508	29,802	28,950	15.8	10.0	25.7	69.5
North Cork	5,450	5,659	5,672	13,420	22,305	38,997	17,201	15,622	24.4	14.5	33.0	85.9
North Lee	9,178	11,171	11,049	22,341	44,602	88,659	35,022	28,169	20.6	12.6	31.5	79.3
South Lee	10,391	11,731	11,369	23,682	42,787	95,390	37,296	29,726	24.3	12.3	30.5	79.7
West Cork	1,962	2,066	2,875	8,127	12,225	21,452	11,893	11,633	16.0	9.6	24.2	69.9
Area 5	21,463	26,145	31,049	68,903	117,134	216,066	99,970	86,373	18.3	12.1	31.1	79.8
Carlow / Kilkenny	6,200	6,398	7,692	17,860	31,576	59,199	26,340	21,936	19.6	10.8	29.2	81.4
South Tipperary	2,770	3,904	5,380	12,514	20,987	38,426	18,685	16,779	13.2	10.2	28.8	74.6
Waterford	4,815	6,777	7,605	16,350	29,714	55,922	25,287	22,147	16.2	12.1	30.1	73.8
Wexford	7,678	9,066	10,372	22,179	34,857	62,519	29,658	25,511	22.0	14.5	35.0	86.9
Area 6	21,744	25,535	22,579	56,789	79,989	176,056	70,414	64,313	27.2	14.5	32.1	88.3
Dublin South East	8,085	11,811	8,414	18,721	23,813	62,749	19,732	18,992	34.0	18.8	42.6	98.6
Dun Laoghaire	7,209	6,938	7,150	21,207	26,403	57,520	26,199	25,636	27.3	12.1	27.3	82.7
Wicklow	6,450	6,786	7,015	16,861	29,773	55,787	24,483	19,685	21.7	12.2	28.7	85.7
Area 7	23,312	33,080	30,242	65,785	160,952	356,282	121,646	94,100	14.5	9.3	24.9	69.9

Dublin South City	4,088	8,840	6,919	12,124	25,163	84,858	24,193	19,677	16.2	10.4	28.6	61.6
Dublin South West	4,887	6,918	6,647	19,636	35,753	76,192	26,096	25,131	13.7	9.1	25.5	78.1
Dublin West	4,590	5,810	5,782	11,372	37,249	77,525	25,879	18,250	12.3	7.5	22.3	62.3
Kildare / West Wicklow	9,747	11,512	10,894	22,653	62,787	117,707	45,478	31,042	15.5	9.8	24.0	73.0
Area 8	21,133	25,876	29,273	64,605	159,063	288,258	117,469	90,360	13.3	9.0	24.9	71.5
Laois / Offaly	4,983	5,593	6,789	15,350	41,980	75,119	30,899	24,310	11.9	7.4	22.0	63.1
Longford / Westmeath	4,820	6,488	7,478	17,756	32,087	59,693	24,814	20,564	15.0	10.9	30.1	86.3
Louth	4,486	6,173	7,070	14,810	31,655	60,359	24,150	19,157	14.2	10.2	29.3	77.3
Meath	6,844	7,622	7,936	16,689	53,341	93,087	37,606	26,329	12.8	8.2	21.1	63.4
Area 9	23,960	32,413	29,106	63,586	134,089	312,442	104,080	81,892	17.9	10.4	28.0	77.6
Dublin North	13,028	13,908	13,424	30,332	60,178	118,646	46,532	37,185	21.6	11.7	28.8	81.6
Dublin North Central	5,921	10,300	7,823	16,650	26,130	86,143	24,251	21,137	22.7	12.0	32.3	78.8
Dublin North West	5,011	8,205	7,859	16,604	47,781	107,653	33,297	23,570	10.5	7.6	23.6	70.4

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