

# Louth Older Persons Socio-economic Profile

## 1. Introduction

The Louth Older Persons Socio-Economic Profile is a component of the new Louth Age Friendly Strategy. It presents a profile of housing and health demographic factors relevant to residents in the age cohort 65 and older.

Statistics for the following factors are presented:

1. **Proportion of the population that is aged 65 and older.** In particular, Electoral Divisions (EDs) with a 20% and more cohort which is generally understood to reflect an advanced aging population which negatively affects service provision and economic resilience.
2. **Proportion of single person households.** A quarter of all people aged 65 and older in Ireland live alone (24.4%). Older people living alone are more at risk of social isolation and more vulnerable during health emergencies (e.g. if they have a fall and cannot contact anyone). EDs with an above average proportion of single person households and a high proportion of people aged 65 and older therefore statistically have greater needs for support of older people.
3. **Proportion of new builds since 2001.** About a third of all new housing in County Louth were built since 2001 (32.9%). Those EDs with a lower output of new builds (below county average), possibly have more limited housing options such as down-sizing or moving to better designed houses.
4. **Proportion of homes rented.** There is a large variation in the proportion of homes rented across EDs. In general there are much less homes for rent in rural areas while there are close to 50% homes rented in quite a few urban EDs. Only 10% of homes in County Louth are owned by the local authority for rent (i.e. subsidised rents), while there are 15% of homes that are privately rented. There is thus a risk that residents in urban areas are more susceptible to market-based rent increases.
5. **Proportion of the population aged 65 and older with a disability.** The average for the county is 46.7% which is a little higher than the average for the State (45%). If the proportion for an ED is significantly higher than that of the county (for example by up to 10 percentage points higher), then that ED will on aggregate have higher demand for health care.
6. **Proportion of the population aged 15 and older that is retired.** The retired population in County Louth is 15.6%. In EDs with a higher proportion of retirees, the impact is a smaller working population that affects aspects such as local retail spend and dependency on public services.
7. **Proportion of the population that self-reported bad or very bad personal health.** The average for the county is 2%. Although these are small numbers, EDs with higher proportions are indicative of EDs with more than average health care needs.

The main data sources:

- Central Statistics Office of Ireland's Census 2022,
- Health Services Executive of Ireland's Older Persons Profile at ED level,
- Pobal's HP Deprivation Index at Small Statistical Area (SSA) level.

The objectives for this profile:

- To select the EDs that coalesce into four geographical areas with distinct identities in Louth namely the Cooley Peninsula, Dundalk, Mid-Louth and Drogheda.
- To compare the age profile of Louth with the age profile of Ireland.
- To identify those EDs with a relatively high proportion of residents aged 65 and older and more specifically those EDs with a relatively high number of residents aged 75 and older when health challenges are more prominent.
- To map the selected EDs to provide a visual representation of the concentration of older people on specific metrics (see factors identified above).
- To identify those areas in EDs (using the CSO's Small Area Population Statistics) with a high proportion of residents aged 65 years and older which are SSAs classified as very or extremely disadvantaged.
- To conclude which EDs should be considered as most at risk and which should be regarded as appropriate for strategic interventions.

## 2. Rationale and methodology

For administrative and electoral purposes the county of Louth is sub-divided into three municipal districts and five local electoral areas (LEAs). Each local electoral area is further subdivided into electoral divisions as shown in the map below.

### Municipal Districts of County Louth:

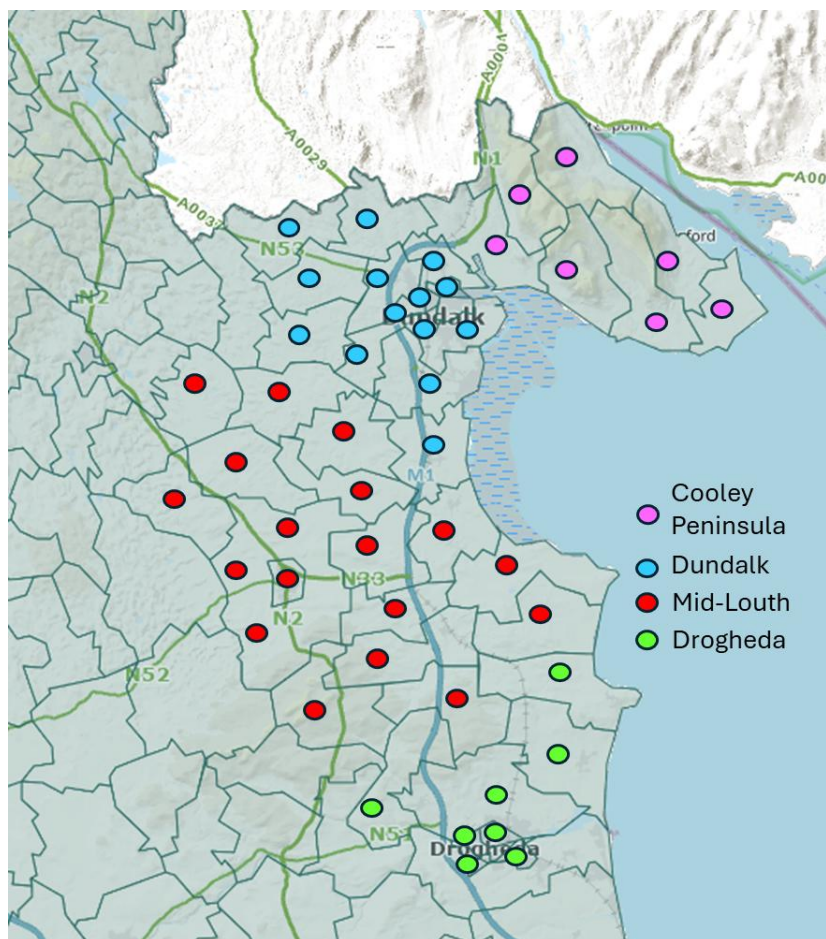
District	Local Electoral Areas	No of Councillors
Dundalk	Dundalk - Carlingford	6
	Dundalk South	7
Ardee	Ardee	6
Drogheda Borough	Drogheda Rural	4
	Drogheda Urban	6
3 Districts	5 LEAs	31 Councillors

### Geographical Areas of County Louth for the purposes of the AFS:

Geographical Area	Local Electoral Area
Cooley Peninsula	Dundalk-Carlingford less 5 EDs
Dundalk	Dundalk South plus 5 EDs
Mid Louth	Ardee
Drogheda	Drogheda Rural and Urban



For the purposes of this study the project steering group decided to view the county from the perspective of four geographical areas with distinct identities, namely Cooley Peninsula, Dundalk (urban and district), Mid-Louth and Drogheda (urban and district). To align these areas with the divisions used for statistical purposes (i.e. LEAs and EDs), five EDs were ‘moved’ out of the Dundalk-Carlingford LEA and added to the Dundalk South LEA. The map and table below shows the EDs per geographical area.

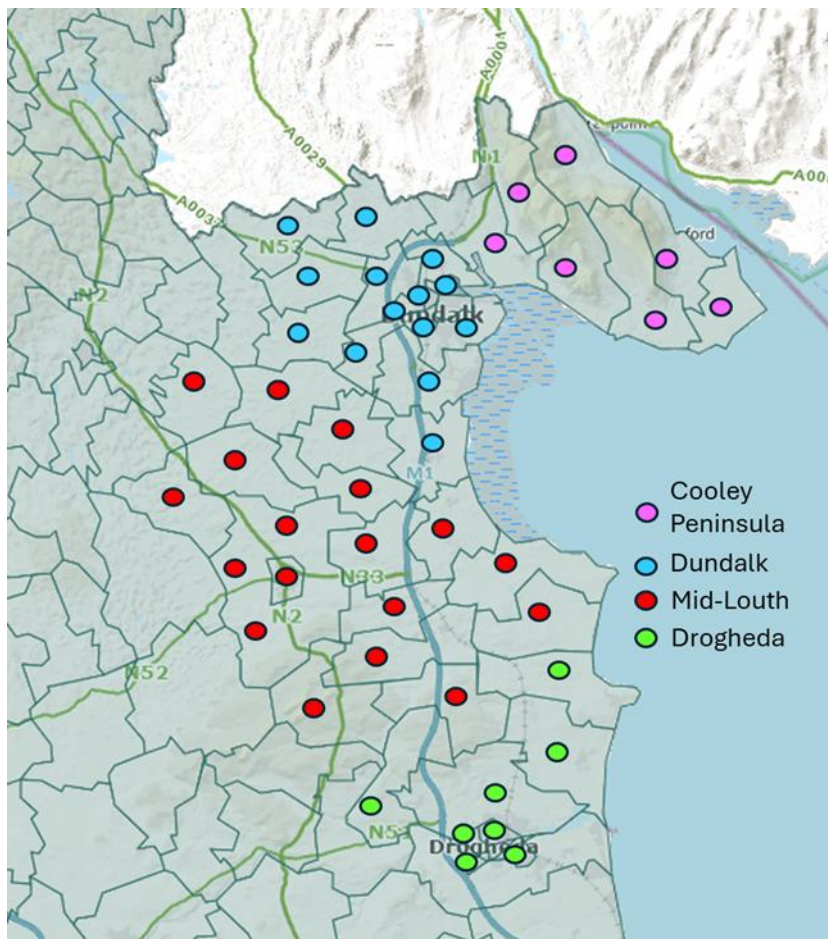


### Cooley Peninsula

Electoral Divisions	Population
Ballymascanlan	2,272
Ravensdale	1,060
Drummullagh	1,505
Carlingford	2,220
Greenore	1,250
Rathcore	1,484
Jeninstown	1,321
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,112</b>

### Dundalk

Electoral Divisions	Population
Faughart	1,065
Barronstown	752
Creggan Upper	875
Dundalk Rural North	6,380
Castletown North	3,447
Dundalk No. 1 Urban	2,380
Dundalk No. 2 Urban	1,258
Dundalk No. 3 Urban	1,712
Dundalk No. 4 Urban	6,702
Dundalk Rural South	14,463
Castletown South	934
Castlering	1,092
Haggardstown	9,301
Dromiskin	2,364
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,725</b>



**Mid-Louth**

Electoral Divisions	Population
Killanny	922
Louth	1,635
Darver	643
Tallanstown	1,069
Clonkeen	711
Mansfieldtown	880
Ardee Rural	3,009
Ardee Urban	5,478
Stabannan	677
Castlebellingham	1,882
Drumcar	1,415
Dromin	679
Dunleer	3,270
Dysart	1,034
Mullary	1,870
Collon	1,860
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,034</b>

**Drogheda**

Electoral Divisions	Population
Clogher	3,446
Termonfeckin	4,003
St Peter's	10,951
Monasterboice	1,445
Fair Gate	11,007
West Gate	6,549
St Lawrence Gate	4,227
St Mary's (Part)	6,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,382</b>

Electoral Divisions (EDs) with the highest proportion of persons aged 65+ per selected geographical area were identified. The threshold used was to select EDs with more than 500 residents aged 65+ and/or 20% or more of the resident population aged 65+. The following tables show the selected EDs and their populations.

### Cooley Peninsula

Electoral Divisions	Population	Population Aged 65+	% Aged 65+	Population Aged 75+
Ballymascanlan	2,272	498	21.9%	233
Ravensdale	1,060	213	20.1%	88
Drummullagh	1,505	209	13.9%	84
Carlingford	2,220	390	17.6%	175
Greenore	1,250	196	15.7%	76
Rathcore	1,484	221	14.9%	71
Jeninstown	1,321	188	14.2%	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,112</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>801</b>

### Dundalk

Electoral Divisions	Population	Population Aged 65+	% Aged 65+	Population Aged 75+
Faughart	1,065	181	17.0%	74
Barronstown	752	141	18.8%	69
Creggan Upper	875	170	19.4%	49
Dundalk Rural North	6,380	871	12.8%	415
Castletown North	3,447	548	15.9%	262
Dundalk No. 1 Urban	2,380	483	20.3%	240
Dundalk No. 2 Urban	1,258	223	17.7%	82
Dundalk No. 3 Urban	1,712	289	16.9%	138
Dundalk No. 4 Urban	6,702	1,014	15.1%	399
Dundalk Rural South	14,463	1,598	11.0%	692
Castletown South	934	147	15.7%	60
Castlering	1,092	144	13.2%	64
Haggardstown	9,301	1,354	14.6%	587
Dromiskin	2,364	329	13.9%	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,725</b>	<b>7,492</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>3,261</b>

### Mid-Louth

Electoral Divisions	Population	Population Aged 65+	% Aged 65+	Population Aged 75+
Killanny	922	134	14.5%	47
Louth	1,635	221	13.5%	95
Darver	643	100	15.6%	32
Tallanstown	1,069	178	16.7%	68
Clonkeen	711	96	13.5%	35
Mansfieldtown	880	98	11.1%	33
Ardee Rural	3,009	505	16.8%	203
Ardee Urban	5,478	783	14.3%	383
Stabannan	677	106	15.7%	42
Castlebellingham	1,882	382	20.3%	167
Drumcar	1,415	257	18.2%	97
Dromin	679	94	13.8%	54
Dunleer	3,270	363	11.1%	164
Dysart	1,034	122	11.8%	53
Mullary	1,870	196	10.5%	102
Collon	1,860	242	13.0%	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,034</b>	<b>3,877</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>1,677</b>

### Drogheda

Electoral Divisions	Population	Population Aged 65+	% Aged 65+	Population Aged 75+
Clogher	3,446	187	11.0%	151
Termonfeckin	4,003	541	13.5%	238
St Peter's	10,951	1,029	9.4%	413
Monasterboice	1,445	250	17.3%	88
Fair Gate	11,007	2,102	19.1%	995
West Gate	6,549	1,067	16.3%	538
St Lawrence Gate	4,227	671	15.9%	295
St Mary's (Part)	6,754	589	8.7%	208
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,382</b>	<b>6,436</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>2,926</b>

Legend:

n > 500

% > 20%

n > 200

Using the two criteria stated, 18 EDs were selected grouped below, of which 17 met the criteria and 1 were added that although it did not meet the criteria it was selected because of the relative high number of residents older than 75:

<b>Cooley Peninsula</b>	<b>Dundalk</b>	<b>Mid-Louth</b>	<b>Drogheda</b>
Ballymascanlan	Dundalk Rural North	Ardee Rural	Termonfeckin
Ravensdale	Castletown North	Ardee Urban	St Peter's
Carlingford	Dundalk Urban No. 1	Castlebellingham	Fair Gate
	Dundalk Urban No. 4		West Gate
	Dundalk Rural South		St Lawrence's Gate
	Haggardstown		St Mary's

Three out of every four older persons aged 65 and over in County Louth live in these 18 EDs (73.6% for Age 65+ and 75.4% for Age 75+).

For each of these 18 EDs a Housing and Health Profile was created.

### **Disadvantaged Areas per Pobal HP Index in Small Areas with 20%+ of population aged 65+**

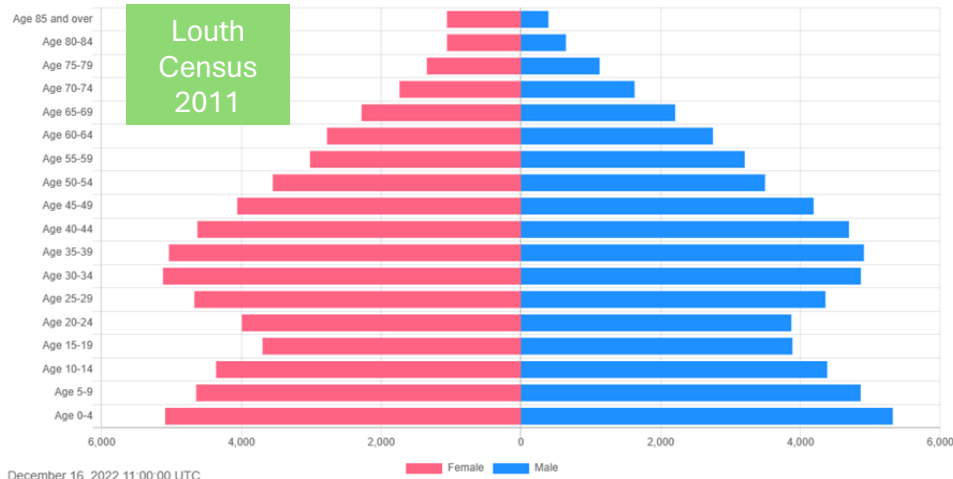
Finally, the Pobal Deprivation Index Small Area Population Statistics Maps were used to identify the small areas in the county where 20% or more of the population is aged 65+ and where these areas are classified as Very or Extreme Disadvantaged. The table below show the eight areas identified:

<b>Local Electoral Area (LEA)</b>	<b>Electoral Division (ED)</b>	<b>Small Area ID</b>	<b>HP Index Score</b>	<b>Pobal classification</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Population Aged 65+</b>	<b>%</b>
Dundalk-Carlingford	Dundalk No. 2 Urban	147041005	-20.60	Very Disadvantaged	227	45	19.8%
Dundalk-Carlingford	Castletown (North)	147008011	-24.54	Very Disadvantaged	399	107	26.8%
Dundalk-Carlingford	Castletown (North)	147008013	-26.62	Very Disadvantaged	274	63	23.0%
Dundalk-Carlingford	Dundalk Rural (North)	147019042	-28.18	Very Disadvantaged	215	42	19.5%
Drogheda Urban	Fair Gate	147014041	-23.16	Very Disadvantaged	294	71	24.1%
Drogheda Urban	West Gate	147034021	-30.32	Extremely Disadvantaged	237	65	27.4%
Drogheda Urban	West Gate	147034020	-24.87	Very Disadvantaged	172	55	32.0%
Drogheda Urban	West Gate	147034008	-31.96	Extremely Disadvantaged	189	47	24.9%

Source: Census 2022 and Pobal Deprivation Index. Table compiled in February 2025 by Urban Mode Ltd.

### 3. County Age Profile

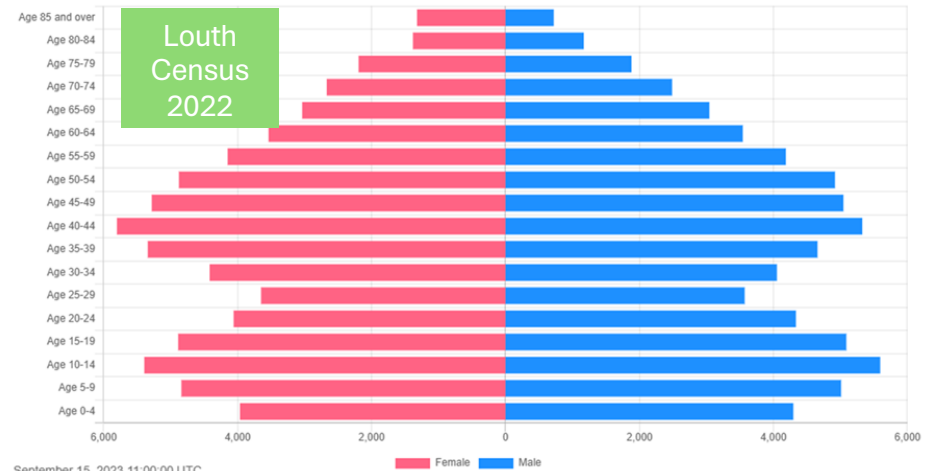
The age pyramids of the county's population below show a trend of 'maturing families' as the main aging feature in the county's population, observable by the relative large age cohort 0 to 4 years old in 2011 now being the relatively large cohort 10 to 14 years old in 2022. 14.3% of the population is aged 65 and over.



December 16, 2022 11:00:00 UTC

Female Male

© Central Statistics Office, Ireland  
<https://data.cso.ie/table/SAP2011T1T1ACTY>

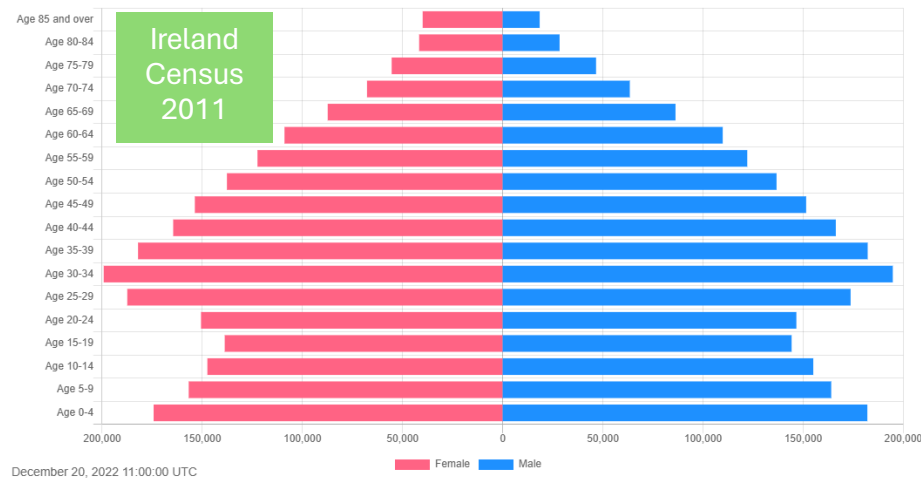


September 15, 2023 11:00:00 UTC

Female Male

© Central Statistics Office, Ireland  
<https://data.cso.ie/table/SAP2022T1T1ACTY>

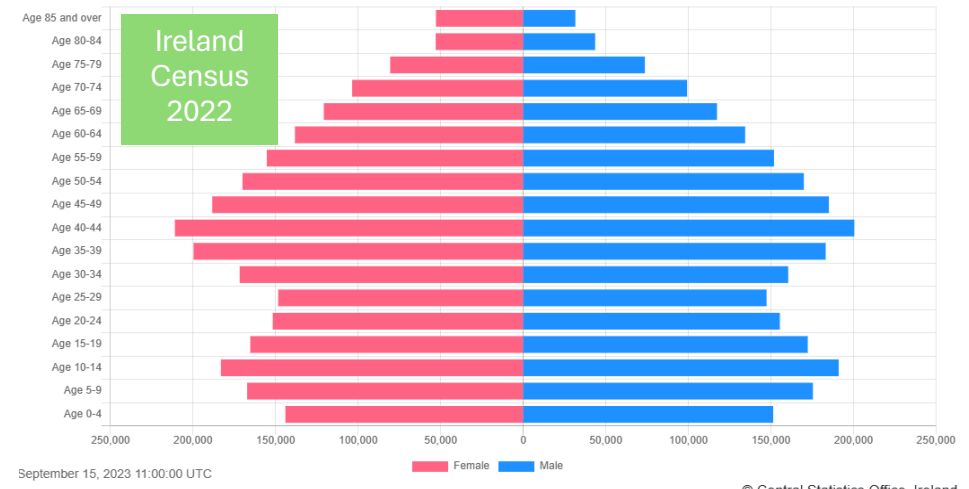
Louth's age pyramids for Census 2011 and Census 2022 also show a high correlation with the corresponding age pyramids for Ireland as seen below.



December 20, 2022 11:00:00 UTC

Female Male

© Central Statistics Office, Ireland  
<https://data.cso.ie/table/SAP2011T1T1APROV>



September 15, 2023 11:00:00 UTC

Female Male

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<https://data.cso.ie/table/SAP2022T1T1APROV>

#### 4. Louth Older Persons Housing Profile

Older people living alone are more vulnerable to experience social isolation and lack of support with domestic and health issues. About a third of all older people aged 75 and over in County Louth live alone (32.9%). This figure is similar to the national average. The figures become more pronounced for female residents aged 85 and over where more than half (52.7%) live alone. This is also more than five times the average for the population living alone (8.4% in the State and 8.1% in Louth).

##### Persons living alone in private households aged 75+

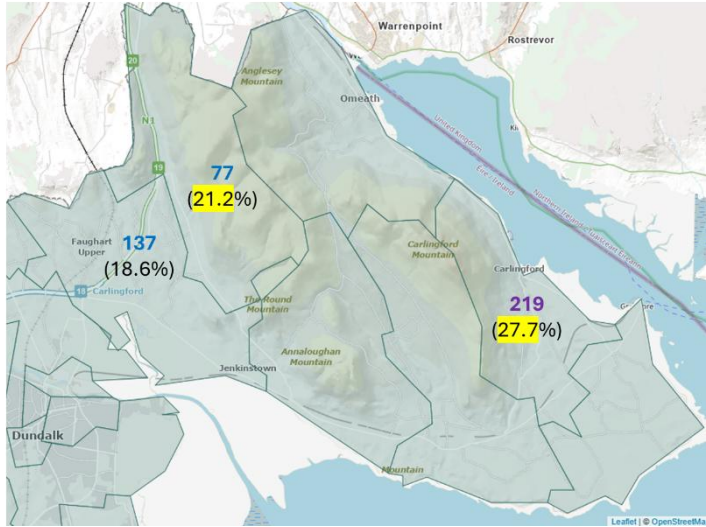
	State		Louth	
	Number of persons	% of all persons 75+	Number of persons	% of all persons 75+
Male	33936	24.62	824	23.31
Female	66273	40.09	1764	40.65
Both sexes	100209	33.06	2588	32.87

##### Persons living alone in private households aged 85+

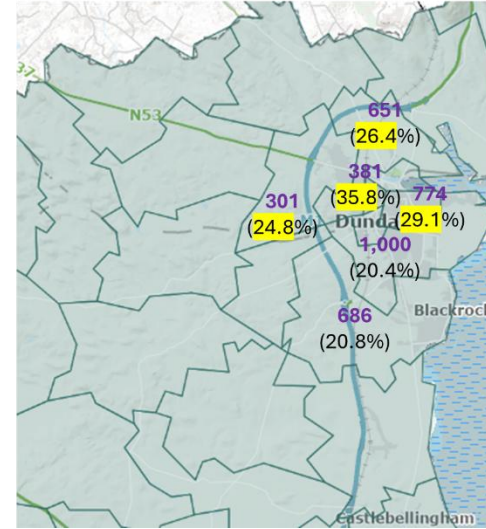
	State		Louth	
	Number of persons	% of all persons 85+	Number of persons	% of all persons 85+
Male	8700	32.1	208	33.55
Female	21372	51.98	530	<b>52.68</b>
Both sexes	30072	44.08	738	<b>45.39</b>

The following graphs show the number and percentage of single person households in the selected 18 EDs in the four geographical areas of Louth:

Selected EDs in Cooley Peninsula: Single person households (Census 2022)

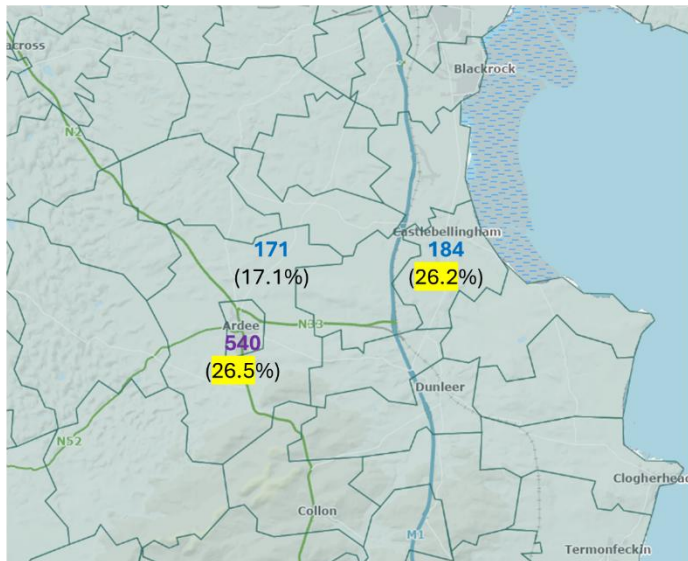


Selected EDs in Dundalk: Single person households (Census 2022)

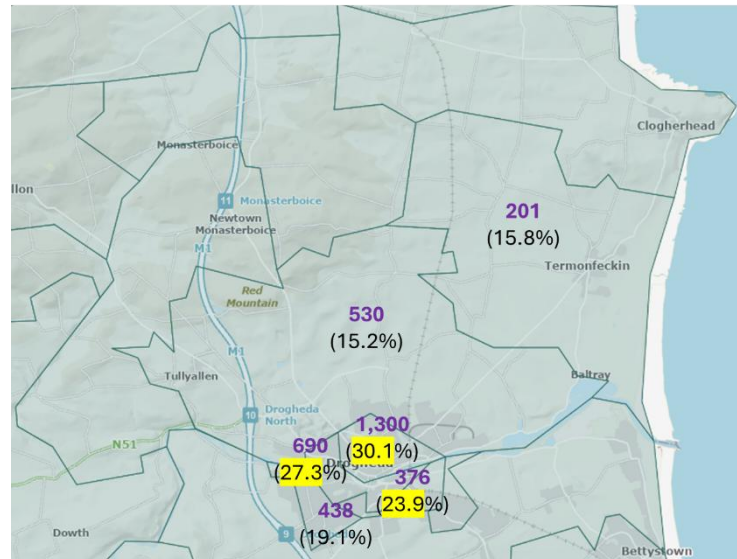


Legend:  
 n > 200  
 % > 20%

Selected EDs in Mid-Louth: Single person households (Census 2022)

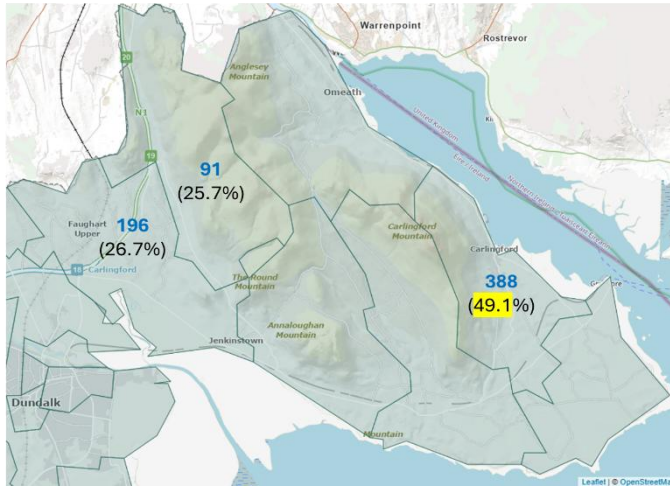


Selected EDs in Drogheda: Single person households (Census 2022)

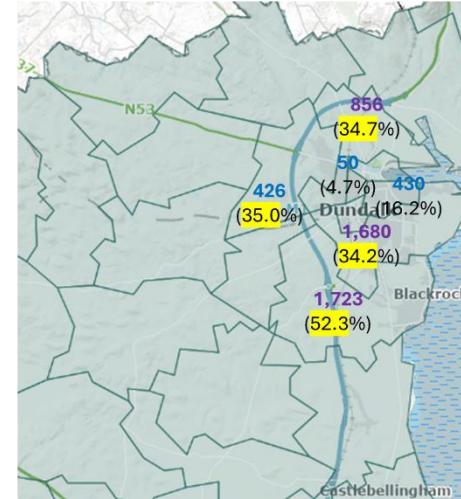


There is a semblance with EDs in Dundalk and Drogheda that also include areas of very/extreme disadvantage. However, if compared with number of housing units built since 2001, these same EDs had much less building activity that took place compared to the other EDs in Dundalk and Drogheda. See below.

Selected EDs in Cooley Peninsula: Housing units built since 2001 (Census 2022)

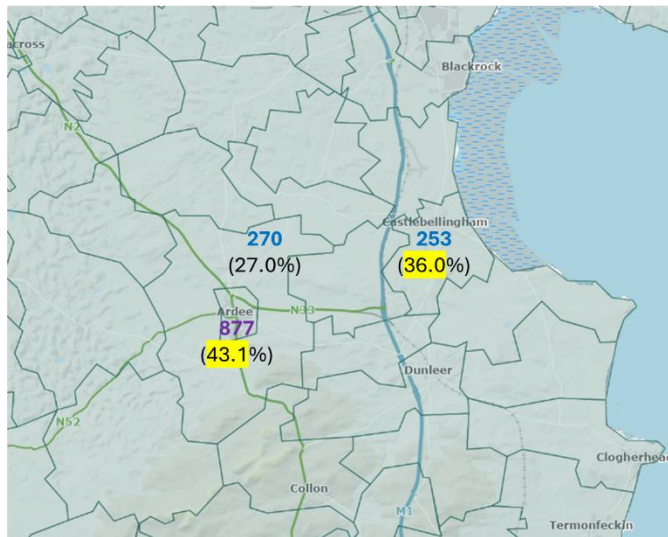


Selected EDs in Dundalk: Housing units built since 2001 (Census 2022)

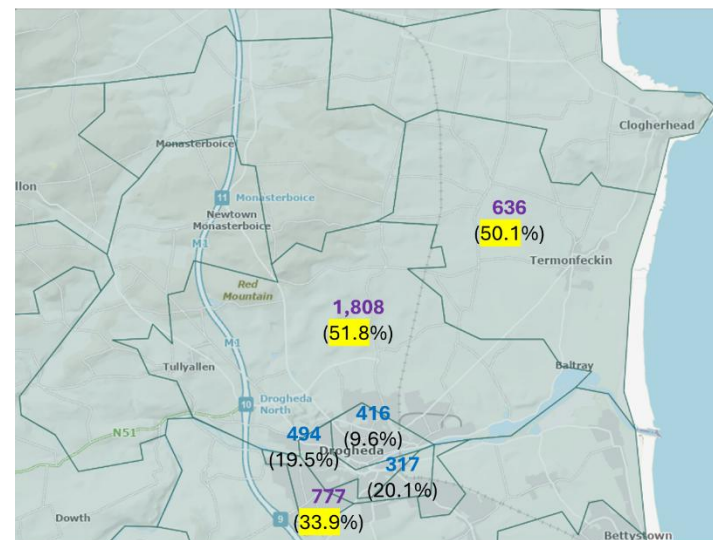


Legend:  
n > 500  
% > 33%

Selected EDs in Mid-Louth: Housing units built since 2001 (Census 2022)

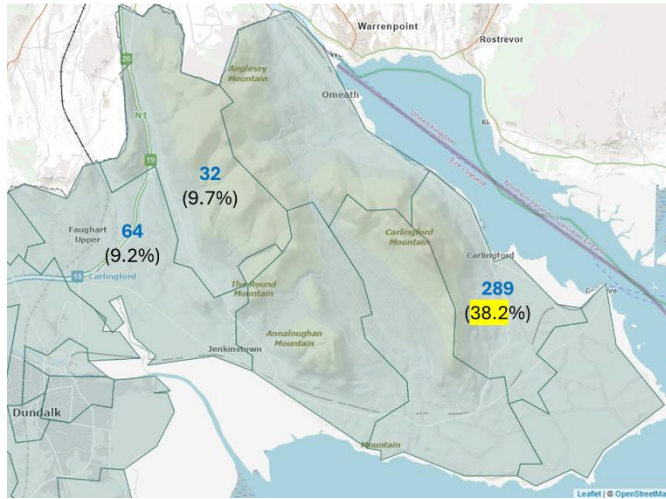


Selected EDs in Drogheda: Housing units built since 2001 (Census 2022)

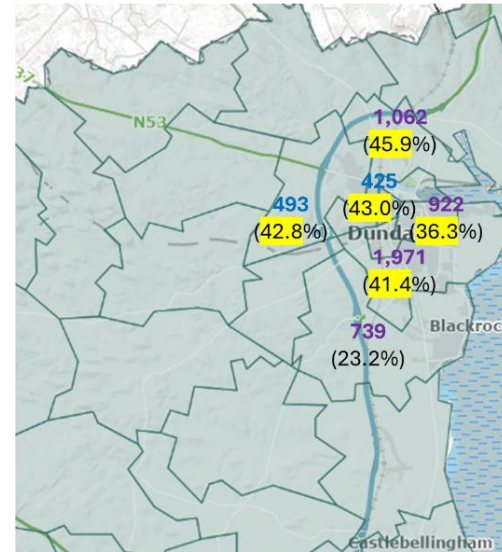


Of the 18 selected EDs, 10 had a higher proportion of homes that are rented than the average for the county (30%), of which only Carlingford and Ardee Urban were not in the town main urban centres. In general, the proportion of home ownership per ED is much higher in rural areas.

Selected EDs in Cooley Peninsula: Home renting (Census 2022)

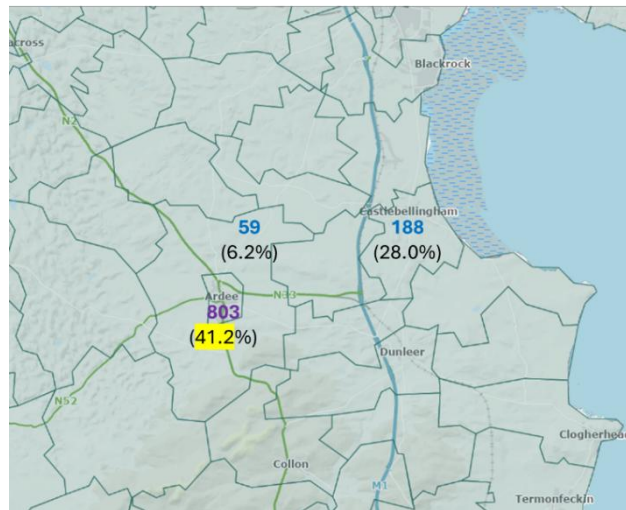


Selected EDs in Dundalk: Home renting (Census 2022)

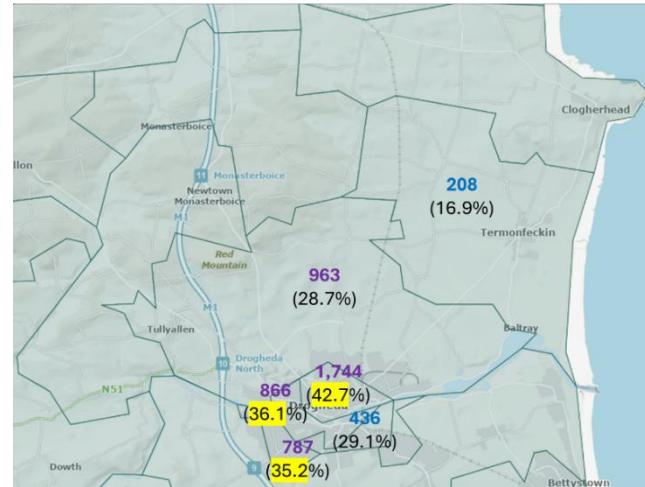


Legend:  
n > 500  
% > 33%

Selected EDs in Mid-Louth: Home renting (Census 2022)



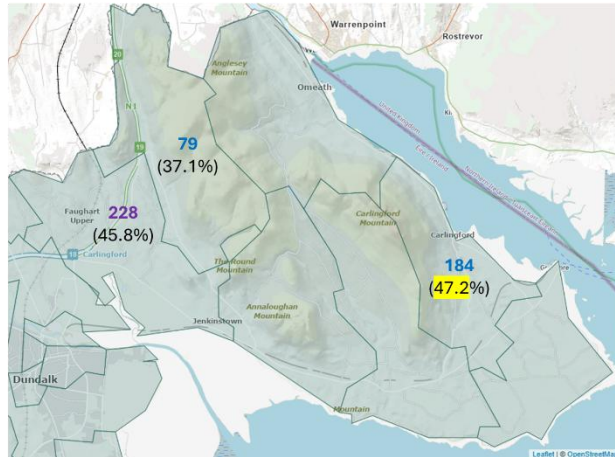
Selected EDs in Drogheda: Home renting (Census 2022)



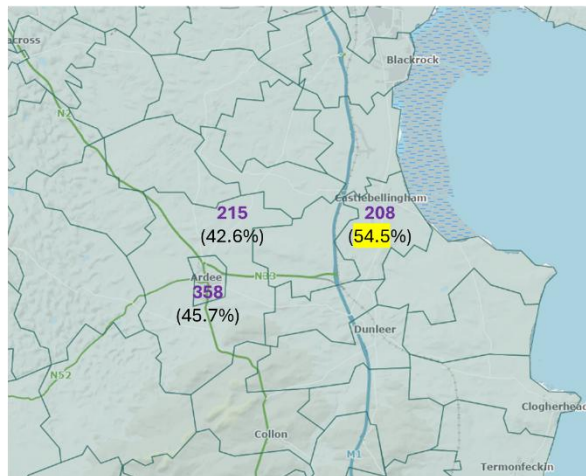
## 5. Louth Older Persons Health Profile

The two main health related questions asked in the Census relevant to this profile are: respondents with a disability; and respondents rating their own health. The convention is that people who retire have more sedentary lifestyles that could lead to health problems. Hence adding retirement statistics to the profile. Only 7 out of the 18 selected EDs have proportions of residents aged 65 and older with a disability that are lower than the county average. The EDs with the highest proportion are Castletown North (57.5%), Dundalk Urban No 1 (55.1%), Castlebellingham (54.5%) and West Gate (53.0%).

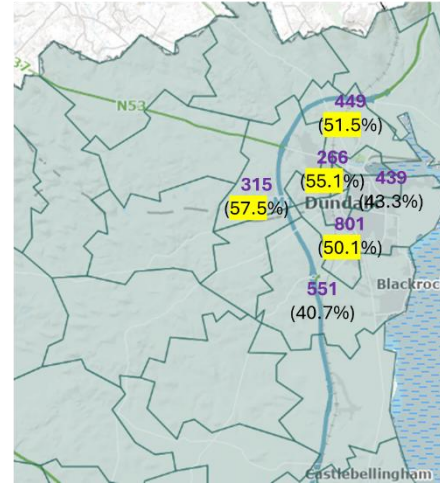
Selected EDs in Cooley Peninsula: Persons aged 65+ with a disability (Census 2022)



Selected EDs in Mid-Louth: Persons aged 65+ with a disability (Census 2022)

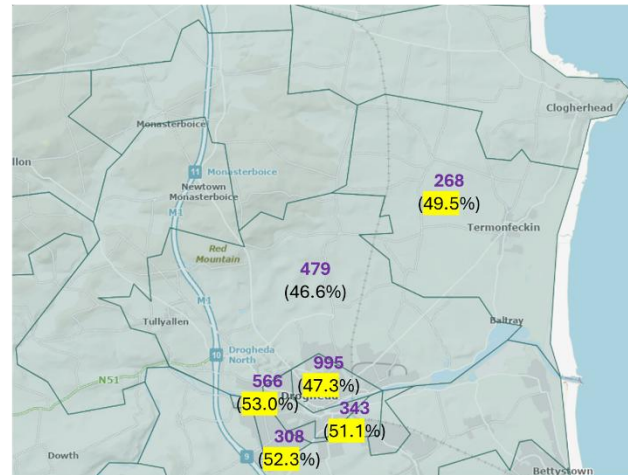


Selected EDs in Dundalk: Persons aged 65+ with a disability (Census 2022)



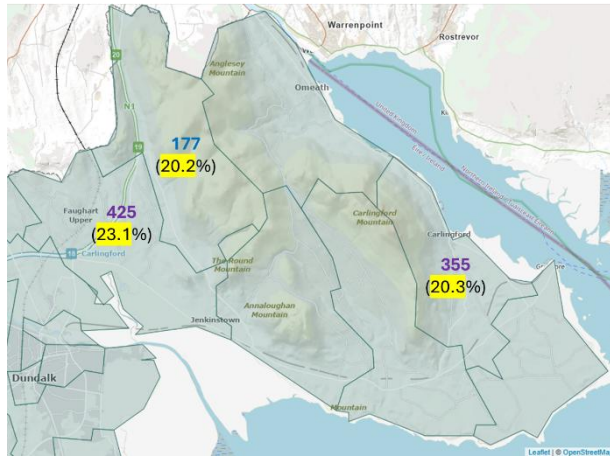
Legend:  
 n > 200  
 % > 47%  
 of Aged  
 65+ pop.

Selected EDs in Drogheda: Persons aged 65+ with a disability (Census 2022)

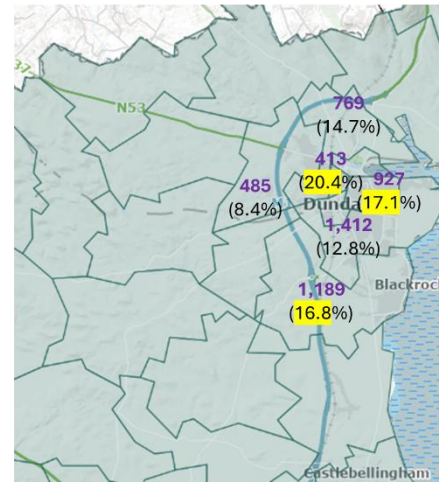


The proportion of retired people are shown below. Only 6 out of the 18 selected EDs have proportions of residents retired that are lower than the county average. The EDs with the highest proportion are Ballymascanlan (23.1%), Castlebellingham (22.1%), Dundalk Urban No 1 (20.4%) and Fair Gate (20.3%).

Selected EDs in Cooley Peninsula: Persons retired (Census 2022)

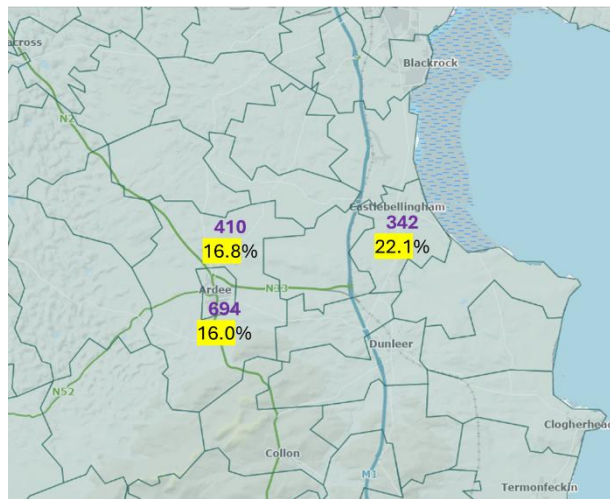


Selected EDs in Dundalk: Persons retired (Census 2022)

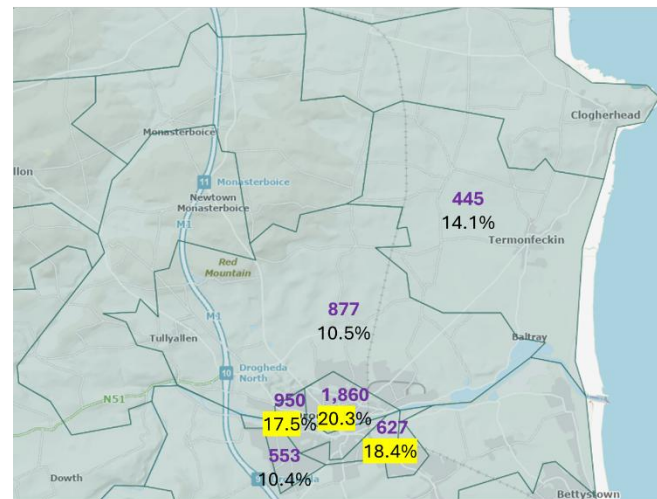


Legend:  
n > 200  
% > 15.6

Selected EDs in Mid-Louth: Persons retired (Census 2022)

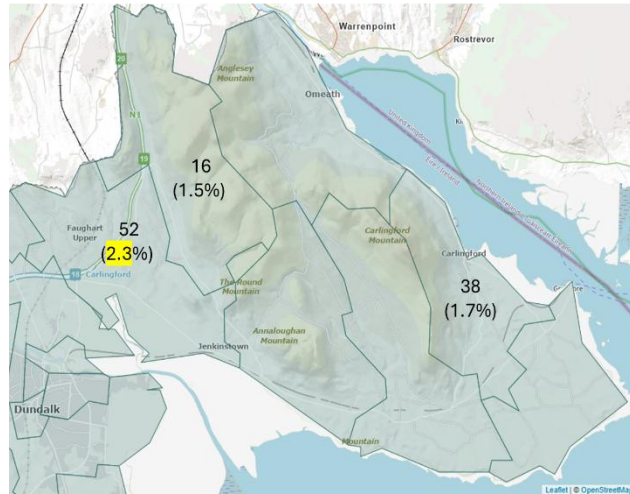


Selected EDs in Drogheda: Persons retired (Census 2022)

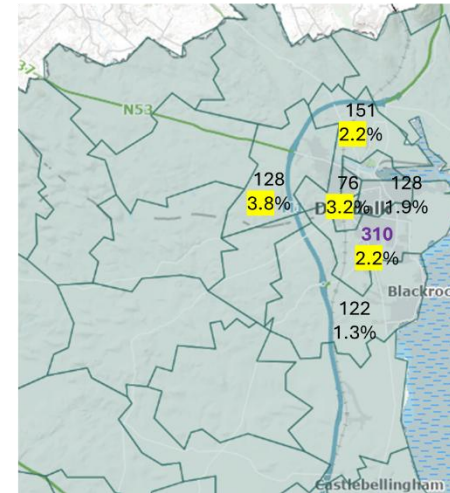


Finally, the graphs showing self-reporting of personal health, show that most of the selected 18 EDs with higher than average proportions of persons reporting bad/very bad health are in the urban areas of Dundalk and Drogheda. There are two EDs with significantly higher numbers of people reporting bad / very bad health namely Dundalk Rural South (n = 310) and Fair Gate (n = 324). See below.

Selected EDs in Cooley Peninsula: Bad/Very bad personal health (Census 2022)

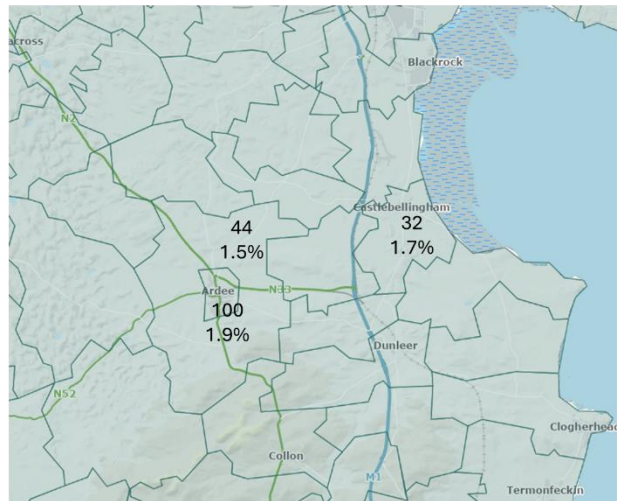


Selected EDs in Dundalk: Bad/Very bad personal health (Census 2022)

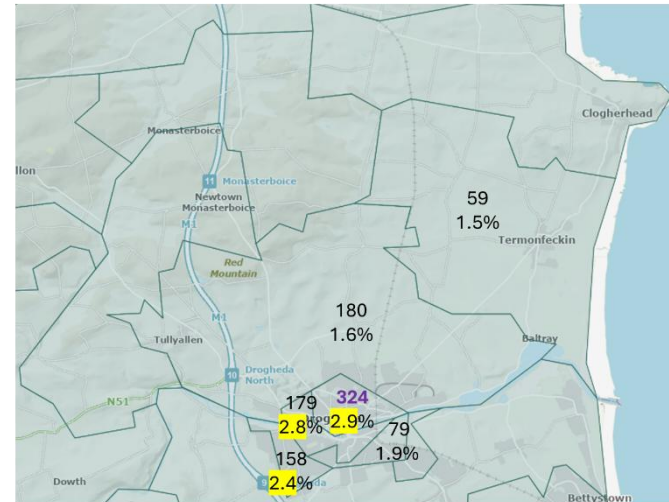


Legend:  
n > 200  
% > 2%

Selected EDs in Mid-Louth: Bad/Very bad personal health (Census 2022)



Selected EDs in Drogheda: Bad/Very bad personal health (Census 2022)



## 6. Summary and Conclusion

The following tables gives a summary of the factors relevant to older persons housing and health profiles in Louth.

### Cooley Peninsula Area

Electoral Divisions	Population	Population Aged 65+	Population Aged 75+	% Aged 65+	% Single person households	% New builds since 2001	% Homes rented	% Aged 65+ with disability	% Aged 15+ retired	% Pop. in bad or very bad health
Ballymascanlan	2,272	498	233	21.9%	18.6%	26.7%	9.2%	45.8%	23.1%	2.3%
Ravensdale	1,060	213	88	20.1%	21.2%	25.7%	9.7%	37.1%	20.2%	1.5%
Carlingford	2,220	390	175	17.6%	27.7%	49.1%	38.2%	47.2%	20.3%	1.7%
<b>Total for Area</b>	<b>11,112</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>14.3%*</b>	<b>22.7%*</b>	<b>32.9%*</b>	<b>28.9%*</b>	<b>46.7%*</b>	<b>15.6%*</b>	<b>2.0%*</b>

### Dundalk Area

Electoral Divisions	Population	Population Aged 65+	Population Aged 75+	% Aged 65+	% Single person households	% New builds since 2001	% Homes rented	% Aged 65+ with disability	% Aged 15+ retired	% Pop. in bad or very bad health
Dundalk Rural North	6,380	871	415	12.8%	26.4%	34.7%	45.9%	51.5%	14.7%	2.2%
Castletown North	3,447	548	262	15.9%	24.8%	35.0%	42.8%	57.5%	8.4%	3.8%
Dundalk No. 1 Urban	2,380	483	240	20.3%	35.8%	4.7%	43.0%	55.1%	20.4%	3.2%
Dundalk No. 4 Urban	6,702	1,014	399	15.1%	29.1%	16.2%	36.3%	43.3%	17.4%	1.9%
Dundalk Rural South	14,463	1,598	692	11.0%	20.4%	34.2%	41.4%	50.1%	12.8%	2.2%
Haggardstown	9,301	1,354	587	14.6%	20.8%	52.3%	23.2%	40.7%	16.8%	1.3%
<b>Total for Area</b>	<b>52,725</b>	<b>7,492</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>14.3%*</b>	<b>22.7%*</b>	<b>32.9%*</b>	<b>28.9%*</b>	<b>46.7%*</b>	<b>15.6%*</b>	<b>2.0%*</b>

## Mid-Louth Area

Electoral Divisions	Population	Population Aged 65+	Population Aged 75+	% Aged 65+	% Single person households	% New builds since 2001	% Homes rented	% Aged 65+ with disability	% Aged 15+ retired	% Pop. in bad or very bad health
Ardee Rural	3,009	505	203	16.8%	17.1%	27.0%	6.2%	42.6%	16.8%	1.5%
Ardee Urban	5,478	783	383	14.3%	26.2%	43.1%	41.2%	45.7%	16.0%	1.9%
Castlebellingham	1,882	382	167	20.3%	26.5%	36.0%	28.0%	54.5%	22.1%	1.7%
<b>Total for Area</b>	<b>27,034</b>	<b>3,877</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>14.3%*</b>	<b>22.7%*</b>	<b>32.9%*</b>	<b>28.9%*</b>	<b>46.7%*</b>	<b>15.6%*</b>	<b>2.0%*</b>

## Drogheda Area

Electoral Divisions	Population	Population Aged 65+	Population Aged 75+	% Aged 65+	% Single person households	% New builds since 2001	% Homes rented	% Aged 65+ with disability	% Aged 15+ retired	% Pop. in bad or very bad health
Termonfeckin	4,003	541	238	13.5%	15.8%	50.1%	16.9%	49.5%	14.1%	1.5%
St Peter's	10,951	1,029	413	9.4%	15.2%	51.8%	28.7%	46.6%	10.5%	1.6%
Fair Gate	11,007	2,102	995	19.1%	30.1%	9.6%	42.7%	47.3%	20.3%	2.9%
West Gate	6,549	1,067	538	16.3%	27.3%	19.5%	36.1%	53.0%	17.5%	2.8%
St Lawrence Gate	4,227	671	295	15.9%	23.9%	20.1%	29.1%	51.1%	18.4%	1.9%
St Mary's (Part)	6,754	589	208	8.7%	19.1%	33.9%	35.2%	52.3%	10.4%	2.4%
<b>Total for Area</b>	<b>48,382</b>	<b>6,436</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>14.3%*</b>	<b>22.7%*</b>	<b>32.9%*</b>	<b>28.9%*</b>	<b>46.7%*</b>	<b>15.6%*</b>	<b>2.0%*</b>

Taking all factors in consideration, the ED per geographical area that should be focused on as where older people are likely more at risk with regards to housing and health issues are the following:

Ballymascanlan in the Cooley Peninsula Area, Dundalk Urban No 1 in the Dundalk Area, Castlebellingham in the Mid-Louth Area and Fair Gate in the Drogheda Area.