



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Summary of the Community Profile of the Northside and Southside Regeneration Areas of Limerick City

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Southill
Rathbane

Southill
Galvone B

Ballinacurra
Weston
Prospect B

Moyross
Ballynanty

St Mary's Park
John's A

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The 'Community Profile of the Northside and Southside Regeneration Areas of Limerick City' was undertaken to support the Health Impact Assessment of the Regeneration Agencies Vision document for these areas.

The profile provides data in relation to demographics, health and health behaviour and other issues that have a direct bearing on people's health in these communities.

The information will be of value not just in relation to the Health Impact Assessment, but also to other agencies, community groups and local residents, particularly when planning services in these areas.

The information highlights the very significant challenges faced by people living in the Regeneration Areas, and the wide range of issues that may have a negative impact on health.

This document is a summary of the main findings in the Community Profile, which is available at http://www.hse.ie/eng/Publications/Public_Health_/

The data used relates to Electoral Divisions (ED's) which do not have the same boundaries as the Regeneration areas. However the ED's have been carefully selected to give the most accurate reflection possible of the populations in those areas. Further details of this can be found at the end of this summary, see appendix 1.

Section A

Population Profile in relation to Broad Determinants of Health

Age Profile (Census 2006):

In terms of age profile all of the regeneration areas have a high proportion of young people (aged 0-24 years), ranging from 39% to 47% of the total population across the regeneration areas (see appendix 2, Fig. A). All of the regeneration areas are above the State average for population of young people aged 0-24 years. All of the regeneration areas also exceeded the Limerick city average except for Rathbane who was slightly below the city average. All regeneration areas profiled have a small older adult (age 65+) population compared with Limerick city.

Nationality (Census 2006):

The majority of residents living in the regeneration areas were recorded as being white Irish (93% upwards).

Deprivation Score (Small Area Health Research Unit):

All Limerick regeneration areas profiled rated high on the deprivation score (ranging from 9-10, 10 being the most disadvantaged). The links between deprivation and health disadvantage are very strong.

Transport (Census 2006):

Transport can have a direct impact on health. Having good access to transport is vital for individuals and households. Having poor transport can lead to difficulties accessing medical service or e.g. Shopping services (access to healthy food). Lack of a good transport system could also limit employment opportunities. All regeneration areas profiled have a high percentage of households that do not have a car. The area with the highest percentage of households who do not have a car is John's A (64%), (see appendix 2, Fig. B).

Employment/unemployment (Census 2006):

Being employed has been proven to enhance health and well being. Limerick city and all the Limerick regeneration areas profiled are below the State average for employment (see appendix 2, Fig. C). These figures represents those available for work. The low level of employment is indicative of the higher numbers of people in these areas who are not in the workforce, including disabled people and lone parents. The area with the lowest percentage of employment is John's A (27.5%).

Limerick city is above the State average for unemployment. The highest level of unemployment is in Galvone B and John's, A which exceeds both the State and Limerick city averages (see appendix 2, Fig. D).

Type of employment (Census 2006):

Both males and females living in the regeneration areas profiled work in the manufacturing, commerce & trade sectors. Men work in transport & communications and the building trade sector, while some females also work in the professional services.

Education (Census 2006):

Education has been shown to have a direct impact on health and well being. Limerick city is above the State average for those who ceased education at primary and lower secondary level. All the regeneration areas profiled have exceeded both the city and the State averages for these factors, which reflect a pattern of early school leaving. Enrolment to third level education is also low in the regeneration areas profiled.

Education linked to Employment (Census 2006):

A correlation between education and employment was evident from the census data. Employment was higher in the areas where education up to lower secondary level was usual than in areas where education ending at primary level was the norm. It is important to state this correlation, as employment is also a determinant of health and well-being.

Housing (Census 2006):

Central Heating:

All the Limerick regeneration areas profiled are below both the State and Limerick city averages for households with central heating. Rathbane has the highest level of home central heating while John's A was the area with the lowest number of households with central heating (15%), (see appendix 2, Fig. E).

Access to Personal Computers and Internet (Census 2006):

Today's world revolves around information technology and so access to services such as personal computer and Internet is vital to have. All Limerick Regeneration Areas profiled have less access to personal computers and Internet than Limerick city, which is below the State average (see appendix 2, Fig. F).

Section B

Population Groups

Lone Parents Families (Census 2006):

The proportion of lone parent families in Limerick city is above the State average.

The percentage of lone parent families is higher in all of the Limerick regeneration areas profiled when compared to both the State and Limerick city (see appendix 2, Fig. G). Approximately half of the children in the areas profiled are living in lone parent families (see appendix 2, Fig. H).

Early School Leavers (Census 2006):

There is a high percentage of early school leavers in all of the Limerick regeneration areas profiled. This proportion exceeds both the State and city levels. The highest prevalence of early school leaving is in John's A (55.4%) (see appendix 2, Fig I).

Travelling Community (Census 2006):

Census 2006 indicates that Galvone B is the Limerick regeneration area profiled that had the highest number of residents from the Travelling Community.

Disabilities (Census 2006):

Limerick city exceeds the State average for percentage of population with disabilities. All Limerick regeneration areas profiled exceeds both the State and Limerick city averages for percentages of persons with a disability (see appendix 2, Fig. J. Prospect B and John's A are the areas with the highest proportion of people with Disabilities. The highest prevalence of disabilities is in the 45-64 age group followed by the 65+ age group (See appendix 2, Fig. K (a).

All regeneration areas are above the State and Limerick city averages for young people aged 0-14 years who have a disabilities except for John's A. Galvone B was the area with the highest proportion of young people aged 0-14 years with a disability. Galvone B is almost twice the State average. When compared to the State and Limerick city all regeneration areas were below the State and Limerick city averages for people aged 65+ with a disability.

Young People and Disabilities (Census 2006):

Although Limerick city is below the State average for young people aged 0-24 years who have a disability, the numbers in the regeneration areas are above the state average, with the exception of St John's A . Galvone B and Ballynanty are the areas with the highest proportion of persons aged 0-24 years who have a disability (see appendix 2. Fig. K(b)).

Homeless (Department of Social Inclusion, Health Service Executive West):

Almost 20 % of people who presented as homeless in 2007 in Limerick city were from the Limerick Regeneration Areas profiled. The majority of those that presented were from Moyross and St Mary's Park was the area with the lowest presentation.

(see appendix 2, Fig. L).

Section C

Health and Health Behaviour

Self Harm (National Suicide Research Foundation):

The incidence of self-harm in Limerick city exceeds the State annual rate of cases of self-harm. Levels were higher in the Limerick regeneration areas profiled than both the State and Limerick city rates. Prospect B was the area with the highest rate of self-harm whereas John's A was the area with the lowest rate of self-harm compared to the other regeneration areas (See appendix 2, Fig. M).

Cancer Incidence (National Cancer Registry of Ireland & Health Service Executive):

A report on invasive cancers in the Mid -West Region for the period 1994-2002, (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) was published jointly by the National Cancer Registry and the HSE in December 2006. Although cancer rates in the Mid West region were approx. 10% lower than the State rate the outstanding feature of the results for the Mid West was the concentration of significantly elevated cancer rates in Limerick inner city. Approximately 16% of more invasive cancers occurred in Limerick City over the 9 year period compared with the Mid-West rate but most of this excess occurred in a small number of EDs (namely Abbey B, Ballinacurra B, Ballynanty, Glentworth A, Johns B and Prospect B). In contrast approximately 13% less invasive cancers than expected occurred in the 6 surrounding EDs, which comprise the suburbs of Limerick city.

The incidence was significantly higher than average in Limerick city for colorectal, lung and bladder cancers, and for melanoma, while it was lower in the surrounding area for cancer of the lung, bladder and oesophagus. This pattern of higher cancer incidence linked to lifestyle issues including smoking and diet suggest the need for supportive health and lifestyle interventions.

Birth Weights (PHR Systems, Health Service Executive West):

Average annual Percentage of babies born between 2004-2007 who were of low birth weight (<2,500g):

Limerick city, Ballynanty and Rathbane had similar percentage of low birth weights when compared to the State. John's A, Prospect B and Galvone B exceeded the percentage of low birth weight babies when compared to both city and Mid West averages (See appendix 2, Fig. N), with John's A and Prospect B being almost twice the Mid West average.

Young Mothers (PHR Systems, Health Service Executive West):

Average Annual Percentage of young mothers between 2004-2007:

All Limerick regeneration areas profiled exceed the Mid West and Limerick city averages for young mothers. Rathbane, Galvone B, Ballynanty, and John's A are all over three times or more the Mid West and Limerick City averages (See appendix 2, Fig. O).

Breast Feeding (PHR Systems, Health Service Executive West):

Average annual Percentage of mothers who breastfed between 2004-2007:

Levels of breastfeeding are low in the Limerick regeneration areas profiled when compared to the Mid West and Limerick city averages (See appendix 2, Fig. P). The lowest levels of Breastfeeding are in Galvone B and John's A area.

Drug and Alcohol Misuse (Analysis of 2004-2006 National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) Data For The Mid West Area, Health Research Board:

In relation to the HSE Mid West area there were 1,962 cases of drugs treatment of people living in the Mid West area reported between 2004-2006. Of this number of cases 1,164 (59%) were cases of people living in Limerick.

This summary of the Limerick regeneration area community profile outlines some of the key issues in the regeneration areas which may be of value to existing/proposed support services in Limerick city and in the regeneration areas.



Appendices

Summary of the Community Profile of the
Northside and Southside Regeneration Areas of Limerick City

Appendix 1

Limitations in relation to the use of ED data in relation to the Regeneration Areas

In preparing this profile we acknowledge that the current definition of Limerick city is based on existing boundaries of Limerick city, which were defined over 50 years ago. A number of analyses including Limerick, Profile of a Changing City by Prof. D McCafferty and the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2005 have demonstrated how the baseline statistics are altered when the suburban areas of Limerick are taken into account in calculating health status and demographic indicators. Currently the boundary of Limerick is under review by the Department of Environment. However our analysis is based on boundaries current in 2006 and the following limitations need to be considered in assessing the profile.

When we are considering the census 2006 data in this profile we are discussing Limerick city without its more affluent environs. If the environs were included it would probably reflect Limerick city overall as having more positive health and social indicators and demonstrate a greater contrast between the regeneration areas and Limerick as a whole.

The main data in this profile is taken from the 2006 Census in Electoral Division (ED) format, when we discuss the census data on the regeneration areas we will refer to them by the relevant ED e.g. when we are talking about the Census information on St Mary's Park we discuss John's A ED and so on.

When we discuss the EDs which contain the regeneration areas profiled these EDs may also contain other areas that are not included in the regeneration area. For example when we discuss the Ballynanty ED we are talking about Moyross and Ballynanty itself.

In relation to Moyross, its estates are spread across 2 EDs, Ballynanty and Limerick North Rural. It was decided that for this profile we would only concentrate on Ballynanty as this ED contains the majority of the Moyross estates and Limerick North Rural only contains 3 Moyross estates (Pineview Gardens, Delmege Park and Creavel Park, which together has a population of 1,105). The remaining parts of Limerick North Rural have a population of 6,146 and so if included Limerick North Rural taken as an ED like Ballynanty would not be a true reflection of the area of Moyross that is discussed in this profile. The figures may be influenced by the remaining Limerick North Rural population number. For example in relation to the deprivation scores if the other areas in Limerick North Rural were not designated disadvantaged areas and were some what more affluent than the Moyross estates this would lower the deprivation score and so the deprivation score for the 3 estates of Moyross in this area would be incorrect. It is important to be aware of this.

Appendix 2

Section A

Population Profile in relation to Broad Determinants of Health

Population Profile:

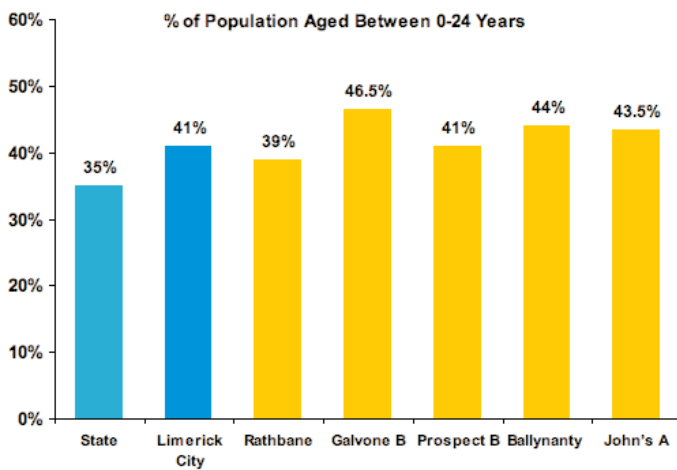


Figure A

Source: CSO 2006

Transport:

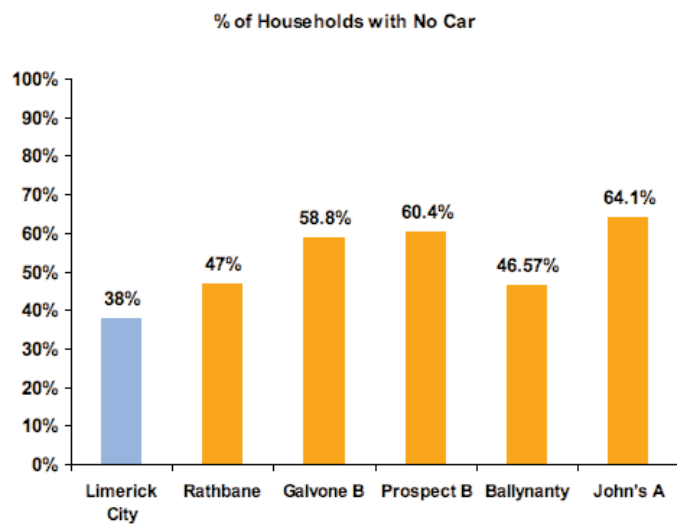


Figure B

Source: CSO 2006

Employment:

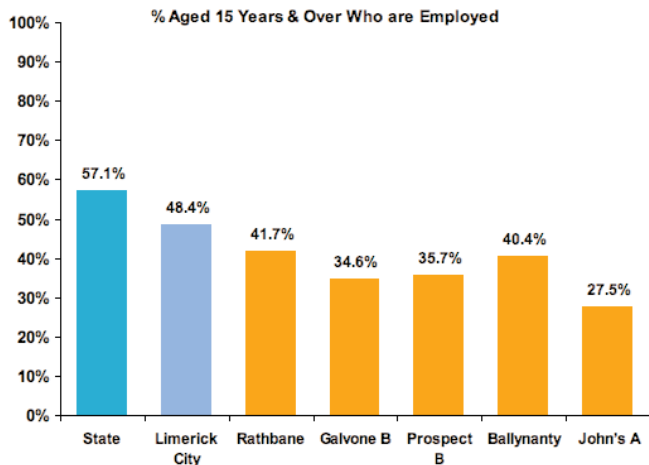


Figure C

Source: CSO 2006

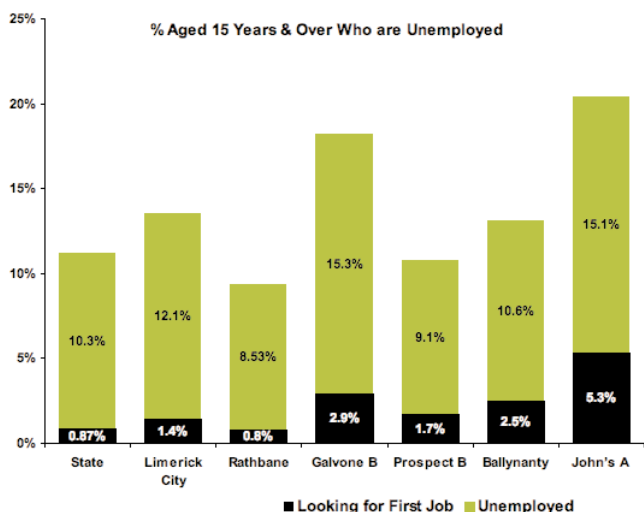


Figure D

Source: CSO 2006

Housing: (Permanent Private Households)

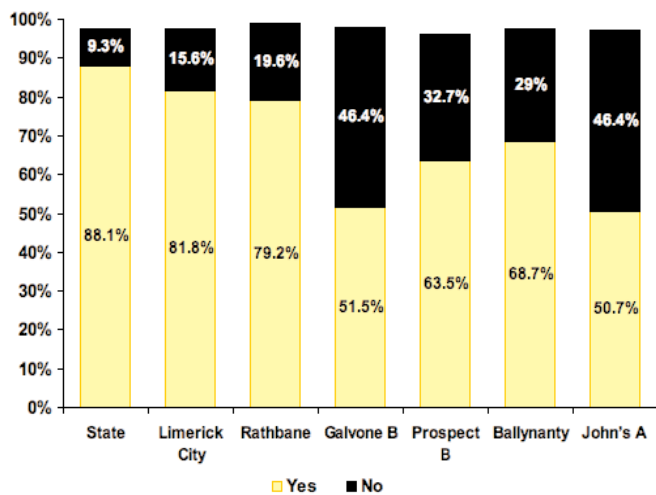


Figure E

Source: CSO 2006

Access to Personal computers and Internet:

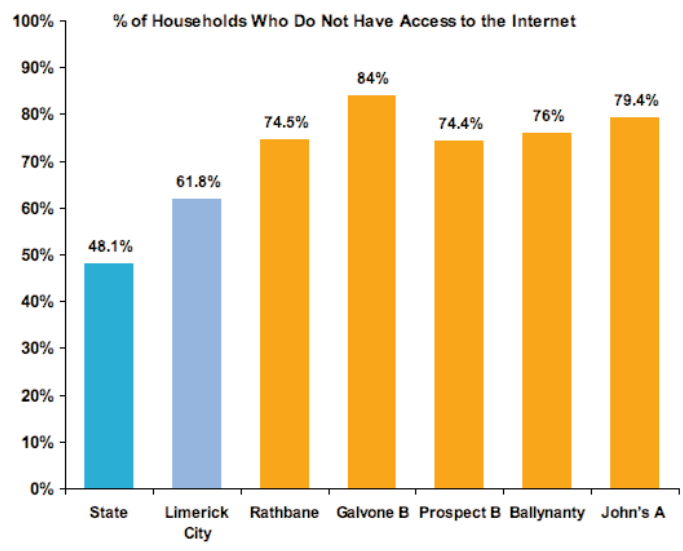


Figure F

Source: CSO 2006

Section B

Population Groups

Lone Parent families:

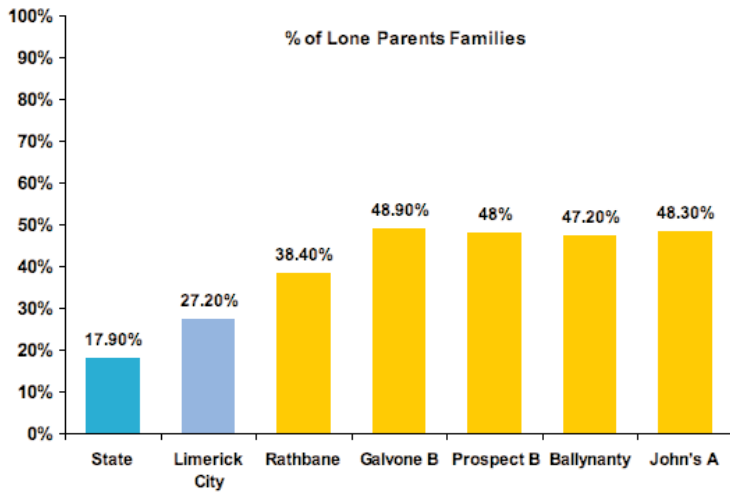


Figure G

Source: CSO 2006

Children from Lone parent families:

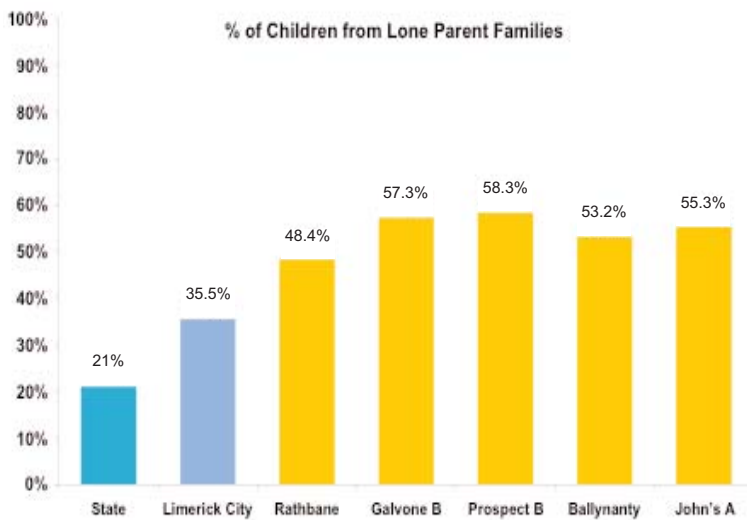


Figure H

Source: CSO 2006

Early School Leavers: (Those who have left education aged 15 years or younger):

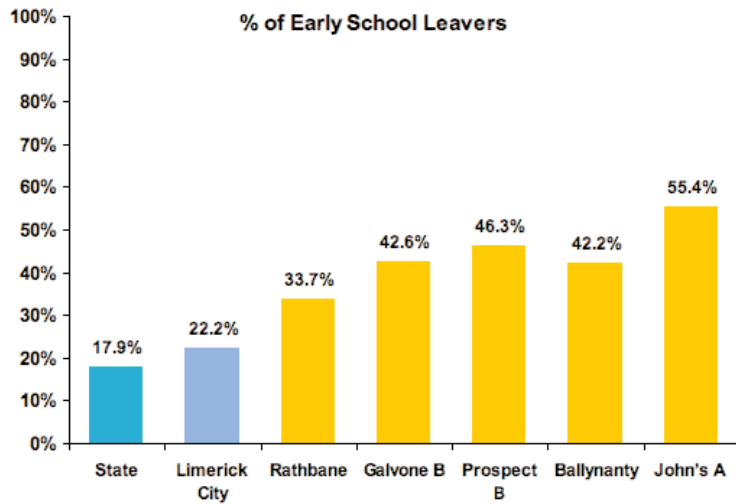


Figure I

Source: CSO 2006

Disabilities:

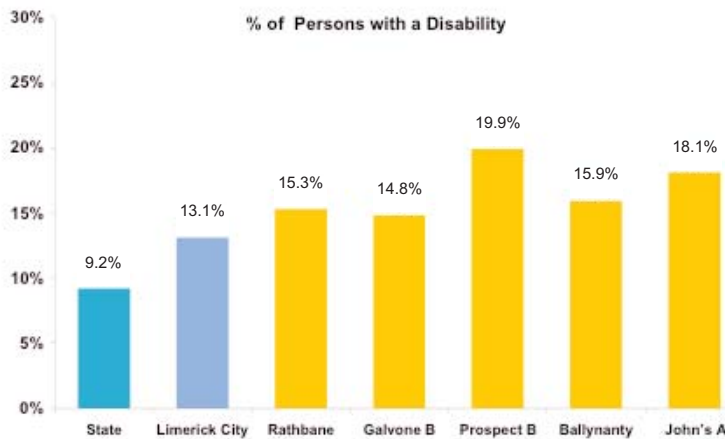


Figure J

Source: CSO 2006

Persons with a disability by age group, in Ireland, Limerick city and its Regeneration areas.

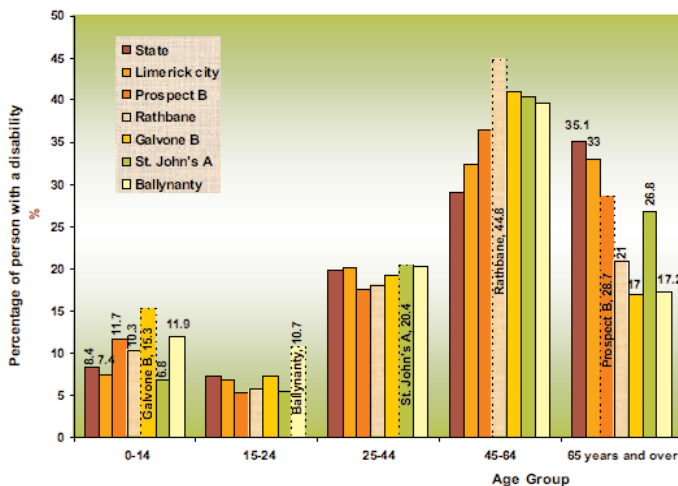


Figure K(a)

Source: CSO 2006

Source: CSO-Census 2006.

Young People:



Persons with a disability by 0-24 year age group, in Ireland, Limerick city and its Regeneration areas.

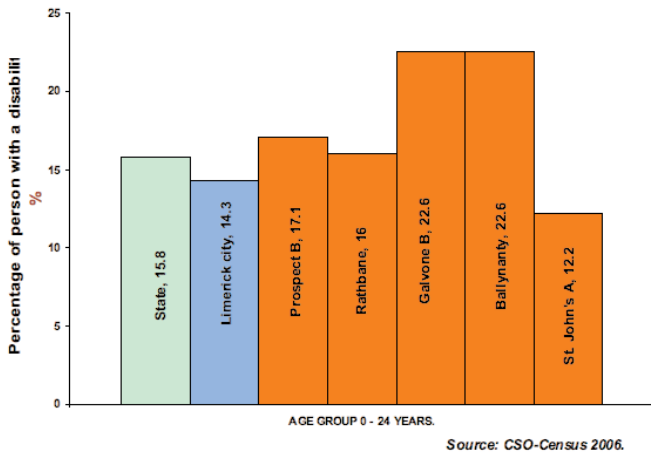


Figure K(b)

Source: CSO 2006

Homeless:



% Homeless in Limerick City



Figure L

% of people who presented as Homeless in Limerick city during 2007

Source: Department of Social Inclusion, Health Service Executive West

Section C

Health and Health Behaviour

Deliberate Self Harm (2002-2005):

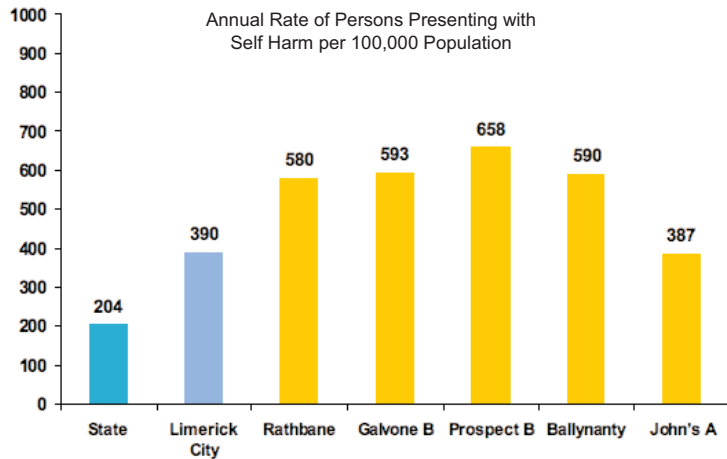


Figure M
Annual Rate of persons presenting with Self Harm per 100,000 population between 2002 and 2005

Source: National Suicide Research Foundation

Birth Weight:

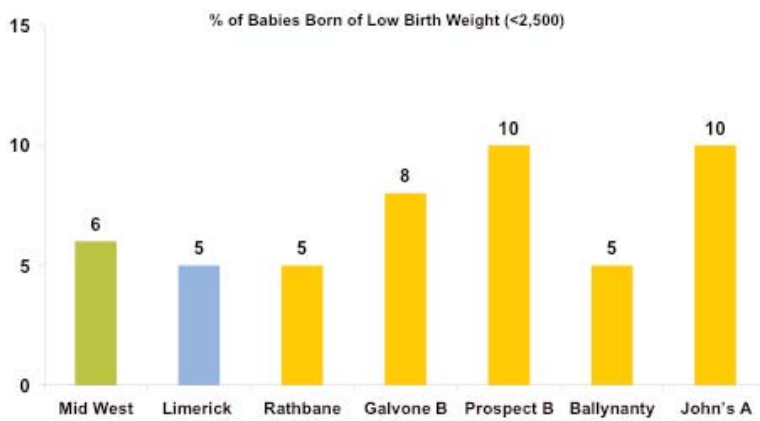


Figure N
% Babies born of Low Birth Weight (<2,500g) between 2004 and 2007

Source: PHR System, Health Service Executive

Young Mothers:

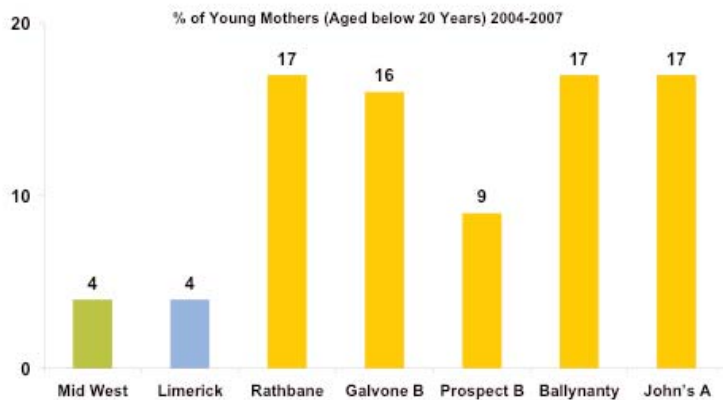


Figure O
% of young mothers (aged below 20 years) between 2004 and 2007

Source: PHR System, Health Service Executive

Breastfeeding:

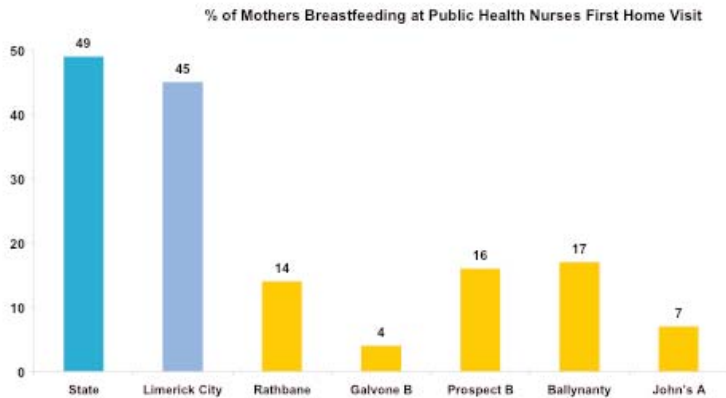


Figure P
% of mothers who were breastfeeding at first Public Health Nurse visit between 2004 and 2007.

Source: PHR System, Health Service Executive