

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ❑ Unemployment amongst parents is the single biggest factor in child poverty.
- ❑ According to the 2006 EU SILC (Survey on Income and Living Conditions), almost one in 6 Irish people live on a low income of €203 per person per week. This is referred to as being “at-risk-of-poverty.”
- ❑ One in nine Irish children (10.7%) live in consistent poverty (low income and lack of certain basic necessities such as food, clothes and shelter) – this equals 111,000 children.
- ❑ Counties with the lowest percentage of high earners are along the Border and in the west while counties such as Dublin and Cork have the highest.
- ❑ People with the highest incomes live more than 10 years longer than those with lower incomes.
- ❑ Almost half of all lone parent families and families headed by a person who is ill or has a disability are affected by poverty.
- ❑ One in six 10 year-old girls, from low-income families, never have breakfast during the week compared with one in twenty from high-income families.
- ❑ Nationally 94 out of 100 young people are retained in school to Junior Certificate; the figure for Traveller children is 51.

Facts sourced from: Combat Poverty Agency and the Central Statistics Office; www.cso.ie; www.combatpoverty.ie; Poverty and Health (2004); Mapping Poverty: National, Regional and County Patterns (2005); Pavee Point Fact Sheets-www.paveepoint.ie

QUIZ

Test your knowledge to discover how much you know about poverty. Answer the questions below and see how much you have learned! You will find all the answers in the “Facts and Figures” section.

1. In 2006, nearly one in six Irish people lived on how much per week ?
€250 €203
2. What is the single biggest factor in child poverty?
Lack of Housing Unemployment
3. How many children live in consistent poverty in Ireland?
65,000 111,000
4. What proportion of 10 year-old girls from low-income families, receive no breakfast before school every day?
1 in 6 1 in 20
5. High earners can expect to live how much longer, on average, than low earners?
10 years 5 years
6. What proportion of Traveller children are retained in school to Junior Certificate?
34 in 100 51 in 100

Design by: www.reddog.ie

tallaght community school

This leaflet is one of four, written by students in Blackrock College Dublin, Mount Temple Comprehensive School Dublin, St. Leo's College Carlow and Tallaght Community School Dublin. The Combat Poverty Agency funded this initiative.

Natasha Lyons
Carl Mc Donagh
Aishling Mc Kee
Dean Mc Loughlin
Eric Mc Nulty



COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY
in association with

Blackrock College
Mount Temple
St. Leo's College
Tallaght Community School

 **Combat Poverty Agency**
working for a poverty-free Ireland

what is poverty?

what is poverty?

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is not having enough money to get by from day to day.

Poverty is not having enough money for the things you need and want.

Poverty is not having enough money for basic needs.

Poverty is when people have little or no money. Then people feel trapped and they can't buy enough food. They feel that everything is mounting up and weighing them down. Poverty means being not as well off as others. It means that when the day starts it is a struggle to survive the day.

TYPES OF POVERTY

There are two main types of poverty:-

Absolute poverty

This means not having enough money for basic needs e.g. not having shelter, a bed at night, not being able to afford clothes and not having enough money to eat every day. Food, clothing and shelter are all needed for survival.

Relative poverty

This is measured by surveys of households throughout the country. The households are asked to state their weekly income. A minimum level of income is calculated, and anyone whose weekly income is lower than the minimum level, is living in relative income poverty.

Relative Deprivation is another aspect of poverty. Every person needs money for basic needs i.e. food, clothing and shelter. However, people also need other "necessities"- items and activities to lead a life, that is considered the norm. When a person is unable to afford an item such as a warm coat or new clothes, they are experiencing relative deprivation.

Combined Income-Deprivation Measure: This is a combination of having a lower than average income and being unable to buy necessities such as new clothes. It is called "consistent poverty" and is the type of poverty that the government officially recognises.

FOR A TEENAGER, POVERTY MEANS

- ❑ Not being able to go out as much with your friends
- ❑ Not being able to go to University
- ❑ Having to get a job to help your parents get by
- ❑ Not having enough money
- ❑ Feeling ashamed
- ❑ Feeling discriminated against
- ❑ Feeling different
- ❑ People look down on you because you can't afford what they may have
- ❑ Not experiencing the everyday things that other teenagers have in their lives
- ❑ Being embarrassed when asked what presents they got for Christmas, birthdays etc.

