



Young Carers In Ireland

Key data from the 2011 and 2016 Census
of Population

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Introduction

This report presents some key data from both the 2011 and 2016 Censuses of Population on young carers in Ireland. This report is a standalone report but also satisfies DCYA's commitment under the National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives, in which we committed that 'A detailed analysis profiling those children who report in the 2011 Census that they undertake caring roles will be carried out.' All data has been provided on special request from the CSO.

The definition of young carers is all persons aged 17 and under who answered yes to the following question (question 22 on the Census of Population form).

“Do you provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long term illness, health problem or disability?”

Note that the person receiving the regular unpaid personal help does not necessarily have to be living in the same household as the person providing the help.

Data and analysis based on this question should be interpreted with some caution. The question leaves the definition of caring as a subjective judgement on the part of the respondent. It is also possible that the Census data does not represent direct feedback from carers themselves, but feedback from adults in the household answering on their behalf. Users should also note that some of the data presented in this report is based on small numbers and care should be taken when drawing inferences on small population sizes.



Summary

In 2016 there were 6,108 young carers. This represents 5.1 of every 1,000 children. This is a slight decrease in both absolute terms and proportion terms from 2011 when there were 6,449 young carers representing 5.6 of every 1,000 children. See *Tables 1 & 2*.

While the number of young carers decreased, the number of hours provided by young carers and the average hours of unpaid care per week increased. Young carers provided 72,053 hours of unpaid care a week in 2016, an average of 11.81 hours per week. This is an increase from 66,105 hours of unpaid care in 2011, an average of 10.3 hours a week. See *Tables 1 & 2*.

Young carers accounted for 3.1% of all carers in 2016 and 3.4% in 2011. Hours of care provided by young carers represented 1.1% of all care hours provided in both 2011 and 2016. See *Table 1*.

Table 1: Total carers and young carers, 2011 and 2016

	2011	2016
All carers	187,112	195,263
Young carers	6,449	6,108
Young carers as a percentage of all carers	3.4	3.1
Weekly hours of care - All carers	6,287,510	6,608,515
Average weekly hours of care – All carers	38.3	38.7
Weekly hours of care - young carers	66,105	72,053
Average weekly hours of care – young carers	10.3	11.8
Weekly hours of care provided by young carers as a percentage of all care hours	1.1	1.1

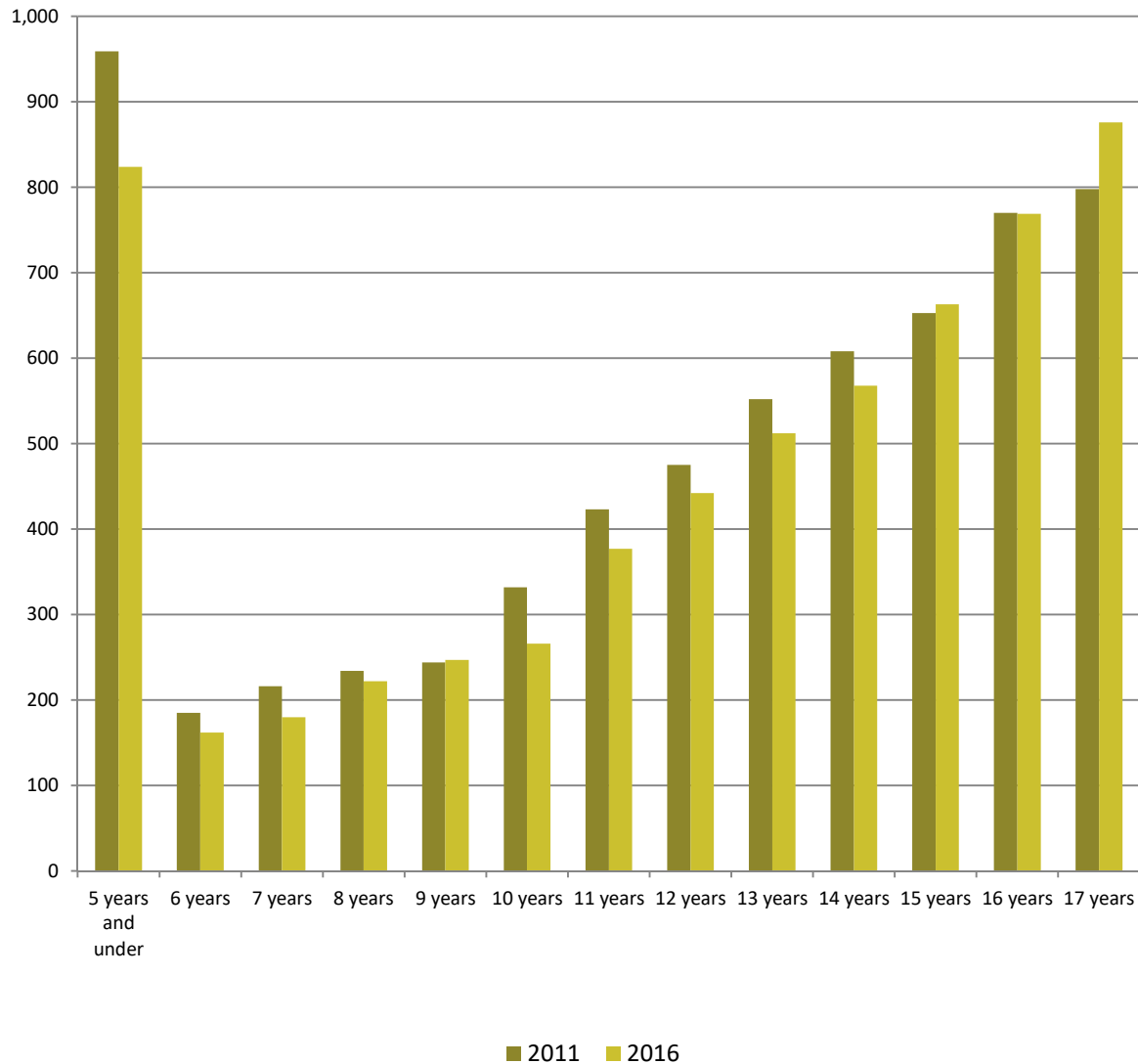
Ages

The number of young carers increased with age in both 2011 and 2016. In 2016 the number of carers by age ranged from 162 six year olds to 876 17 year olds. There



were also 824¹ children aged five and under who were carers. See *Graph A and Table 2*.

Graph A: Young Carers classified by single year of age, 2011 and 2016



In line with the overall decrease of 5.3% in young carers between 2011 and 2016, the number of young carers at each age decreased slightly between 2011 and 2016 with the exception of increases in the number of nine year old, 15 year old and 17 year old carers. The overall population of persons aged 17 and under increased by 41,815 from 1,148,687 to 1,190,502 between 2011 and 2016, despite a decrease of 17,347

¹ Owing to the small numbers involved, the CSO is unable to provide further details on this cohort.



in the number of five year olds and under. This combined with the decrease in the number of young carers resulted in a decrease in the number of carers per 1,000 of population for all ages. There was one exception to this for the 17 year old carers where there was no change in the number, of 14.3 per 1,000 population. See Graph A and Table 2.

Table 2: Total young carers and young carers per 1,000 of the total population classified by single year of age, 2011 and 2016

Age	2011		2016	
	Number of Carers	Young Carers per 1,000 Population	Number of Carers	Young Carers per 1,000 Population
All Persons 17 and under	6,449	5.6	6,108	5.1
5 years and under	959	2.3	824	2.0
6 years	185	2.8	162	2.2
7 years	216	3.4	180	2.5
8 years	234	3.7	222	3.1
9 years	244	3.9	247	3.7
10 years	332	5.4	266	4.1
11 years	423	7.0	377	5.9
12 years	475	7.8	442	6.9
13 years	552	9.2	512	8.1
14 years	608	10.3	568	9.0
15 years	653	11.4	663	10.8
16 years	770	13.7	769	12.6
17 years	798	14.3	876	14.3

Sex

In 2016 the number of female young carers was marginally higher than males for nearly all ages and at an overall level young girl carers made up 51% of all young carers. In terms of carers per 1,000 of population by age, the number of female carers



was higher than the number of male carers with the exception of the 10 and 12 year olds. The largest difference was for the 17 year old carers – 15.5 girls per 1,000 were carers compared to just 13.1 boys. Similar differences between genders exist in 2011. See graph B and Table 3.

Graph B: Young Carers classified by single year of age and sex, 2016

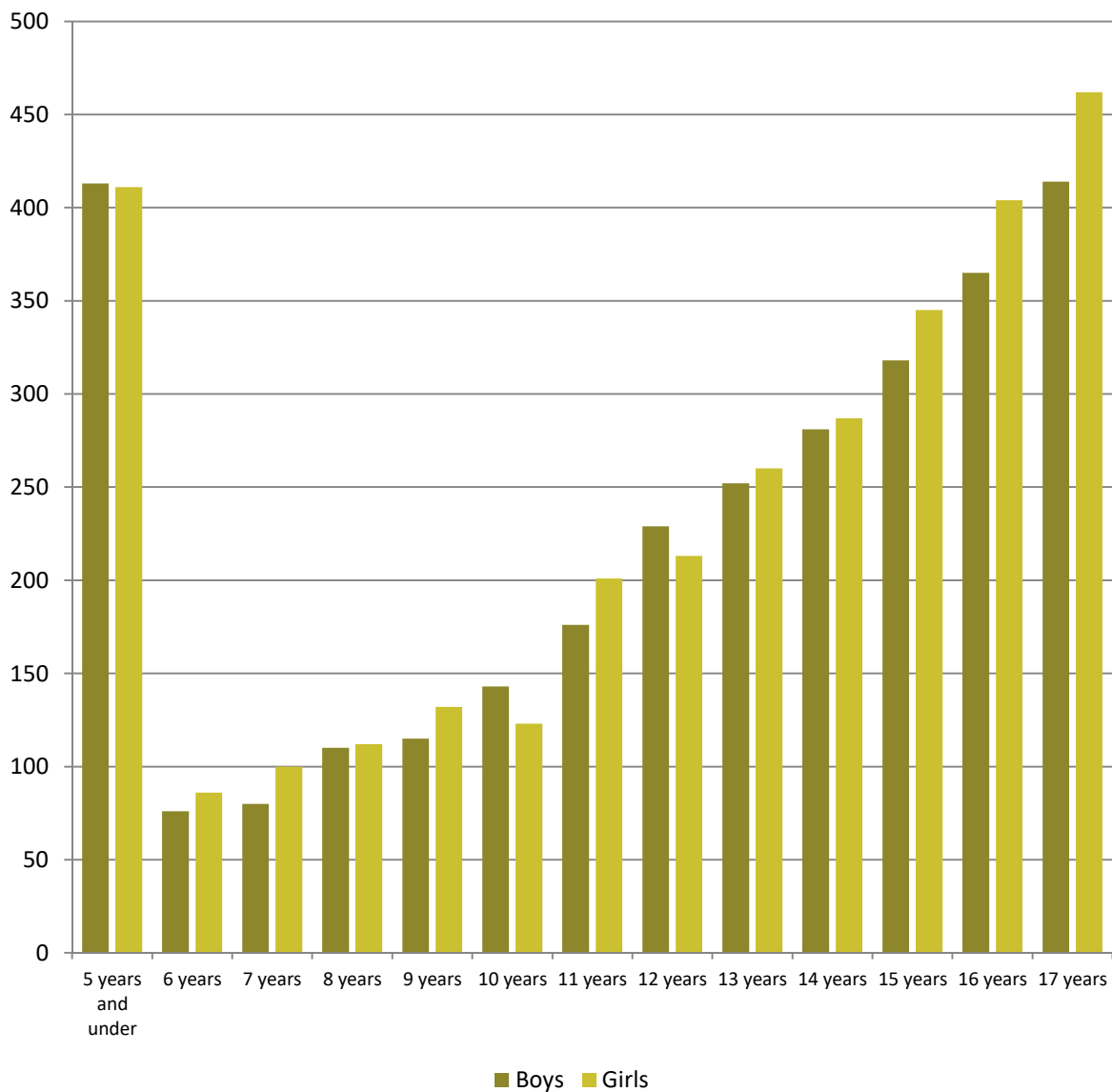




Table 3: Total young carers and young carers per 1,000 of the total population classified by sex and single year of age, 2011 and 2016

Age/ Sex	2011				2016			
	Number of Carers		Young Carers per 1,000 Population		Number of Carers		Young Carers per 1,000 Population	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All Persons 17 and under	3,152	3,297	5.4	5.9	2,972	3,136	4.9	5.4
5 years and under	482	477	2.2	2.3	413	411	2.0	2.1
6 years	102	83	3.0	2.6	76	86	2.1	2.4
7 years	113	103	3.4	3.3	80	100	2.2	2.8
8 years	106	128	3.3	4.1	110	112	3.0	3.2
9 years	121	123	3.8	4.0	115	132	3.4	4.0
10 years	173	159	5.5	5.3	143	123	4.3	3.9
11 years	200	223	6.4	7.5	176	201	5.3	6.5
12 years	230	245	7.3	8.2	229	213	7.0	6.8
13 years	257	295	8.4	10.1	252	260	7.8	8.3
14 years	290	318	9.6	11.1	281	287	8.8	9.3
15 years	316	337	10.7	12.1	318	345	10.1	11.4
16 years	367	403	12.8	14.7	365	404	11.7	13.6
17 years	395	403	13.8	14.8	414	462	13.1	15.5



Hours of Care Provided

In 2016 young carers provided 72,053 hours of unpaid care a week. This is an average of 11.8 hours for each young carer. There was some variation in the average number of hours of care provided by age - the average hours of care provided per week in 2016 ranged from 7.3 hours for young carers aged five and under to 14.5 hours for nine year old carers. *See Table 4a.*

In 2011 the average weekly hours young carers spent providing care was 10.3. As with 2016 the average weekly hours of care provided also varied with age. For all ages except seven and 17 year olds the average weekly hours of caring were lower in 2011. *See Table 4a.*

Table 4a: Total Young Carers, Total Weekly Hours of Care Provided and Average Weekly Hours of Care Provided classified by single year of age, 2011 and 2016

	2011			2016		
	Young Carers	Total Weekly Hours Care Provided	Average Weekly Hours of Care Provided	Young Carers	Total Weekly Hours Care Provided	Average Weekly Hours of Care Provided
All Persons 17 and under	6,449	66,105	10.3	6,108	72,053	11.8
5 years and under	959	5,806	6.1	824	5,998	7.3
6 years	185	1,581	8.5	162	1,768	10.9
7 years	216	2,636	12.2	180	1,525	8.5
8 years	234	2,266	9.7	222	2,653	12.0
9 years	244	1,517	6.2	247	3,585	14.5
10 years	332	3,606	10.9	266	2,778	10.4
11 years	423	3,873	9.2	377	4,463	11.8
12 years	475	5,037	10.6	442	6,331	14.3
13 years	552	5,601	10.1	512	6,116	11.9
14 years	608	6,867	11.3	568	7,010	12.3
15 years	653	7,091	10.9	663	8,388	12.7
16 years	770	9,134	11.9	769	10,015	13.0
17 years	798	11,090	13.9	876	11,423	13.0



The average weekly hours of care provided by young carers varies with sex. In 2016, younger male carers (up to age 11) cared on average for longer than younger female carers. Older female carers (specifically 12 year olds and 15 to 17 year olds) cared on average for longer than older male carers. Similar patterns can be seen in the 2011 data. See Graph C and Tables 4b & 4c.

Graph C: Average Weekly Hours of Care Provided by Young Carers classified by sex and single year of age, 2016

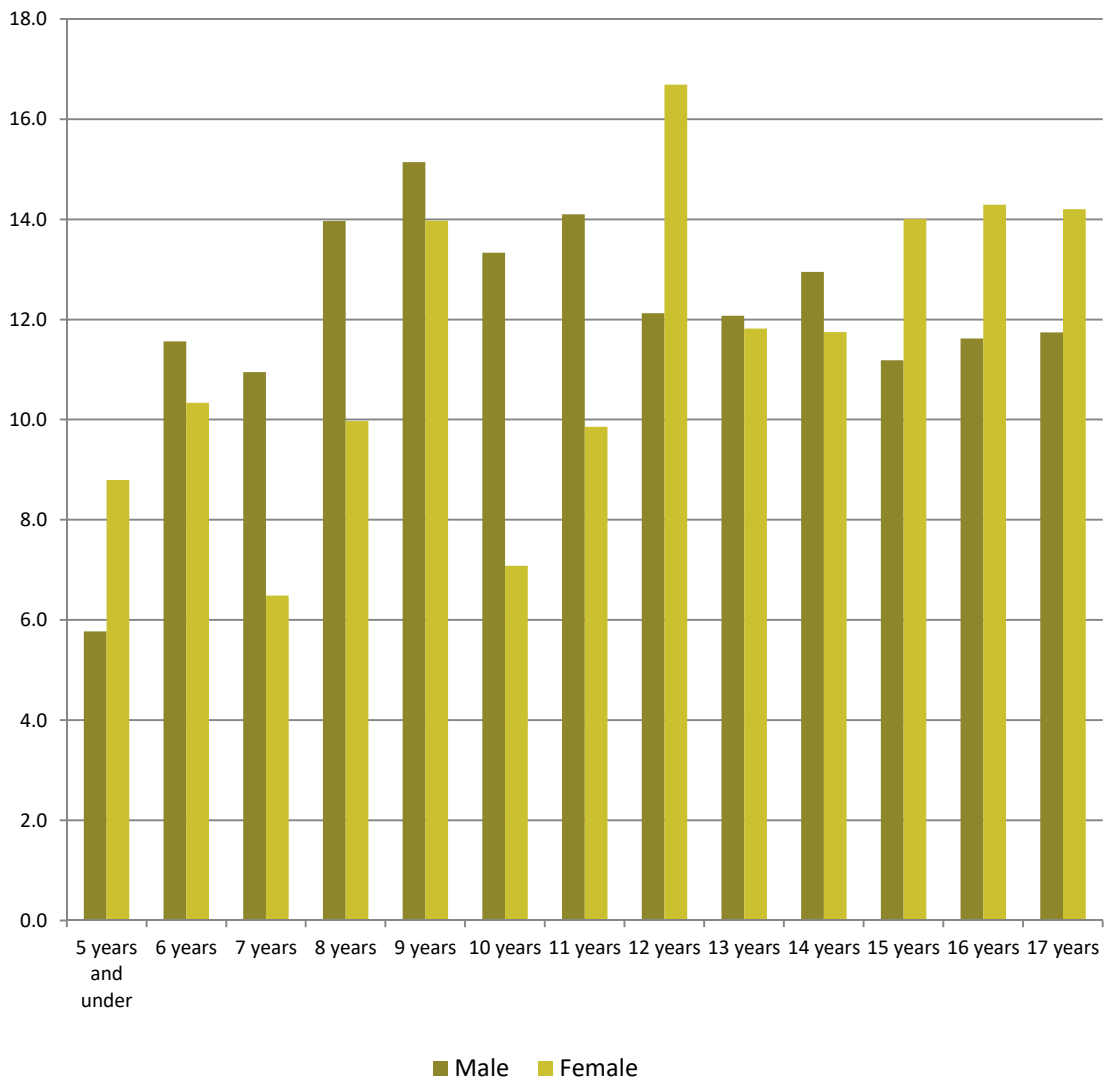




Table 4b: Total Young Carers, Total Weekly Hours of Care Provided and Average Weekly Hours of Care Provided classified by single year of age and sex, 2016

Age	Number of Carers		Total Weekly Hours of Care Provided		Average Weekly Hours of Care Provided	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All Persons 17 and under	2,972	3,136	33,924	38,129	11.4	12.2
5 years and under	413	411	2,384	3,614	5.8	8.8
6 years	76	86	879	889	11.6	10.3
7 years	80	100	876	649	11.0	6.5
8 years	110	112	1,536	1,117	14.0	10.0
9 years	115	132	1,741	1,844	15.1	14.0
10 years	143	123	1,907	871	13.3	7.1
11 years	176	201	2,482	1,981	14.1	9.9
12 years	229	213	2,776	3,555	12.1	16.7
13 years	252	260	3,043	3,073	12.1	11.8
14 years	281	287	3,639	3,371	13.0	11.7
15 years	318	345	3,557	4,831	11.2	14.0
16 years	365	404	4,242	5,773	11.6	14.3
17 years	414	462	4,862	6,561	11.7	14.2



Table 4c: Total Young Carers, Total Weekly Hours of Care Provided and Average Weekly Hours of Care Provided classified by single year of age and sex, 2011

Age	Number of Carers		Total Weekly Hours of Care Provided		Average Weekly Hours of Care Provided	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All Persons 17 and under	3,152	3,297	32,290	33,815	10.2	10.3
5 years and under	482	477	2,596	3,210	5.4	6.7
6 years	102	83	1,071	510	10.5	6.1
7 years	113	103	1,862	774	16.5	7.5
8 years	106	128	1,264	1,002	11.9	7.8
9 years	121	123	764	753	6.3	6.1
10 years	173	159	1,339	2,267	7.7	14.3
11 years	200	223	1,501	2,372	7.5	10.6
12 years	230	245	2,334	2,703	10.1	11.0
13 years	257	295	2,524	3,077	9.8	10.4
14 years	290	318	3,034	3,833	10.5	12.1
15 years	316	337	3,574	3,517	11.3	10.4
16 years	367	403	4,799	4,335	13.1	10.8
17 years	395	403	5,628	5,462	14.2	13.6



Administrative County

In 2016 the administrative county with the lowest rate of carers was Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown at 3.6 carers per 1,000 children and the area with the highest was Clare at 6.7 carers per 1,000 children. See Table 5 and Figure 1.

Comparing 2011 and 2016 data, there was a decrease in most areas in the rate of carers per 1,000 children. There was a marked difference in Leitrim, where the rate dropped from 8.2 to 5.1, however it should be noted that the number of carers in this administrative county is quite small and hence changes in rates should be interpreted with caution. See Table 5.

Figure 1: Geographic Distribution of Rate of Young Carers per Administrative County

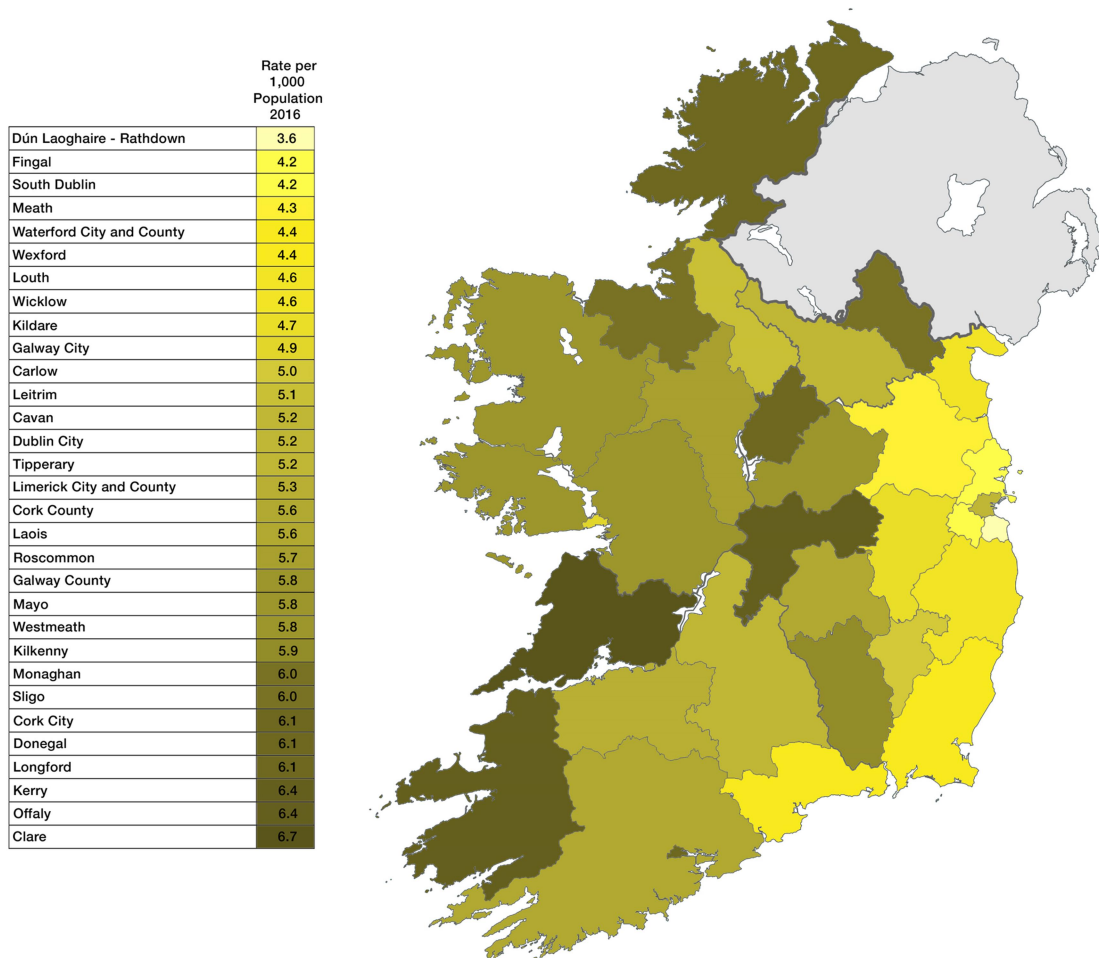




Table 5: Total young carers and young carers per 1,000 of the total population classified by administrative county of usual residence, 2011 and 2016

	2011			2016		
	Carers	Total Population	Rate per 1,000 Population	Carers	Total Population	Rate per 1,000 Population
State	6,449	1,148,687	5.6	6,108	1,190,502	5.1
Carlow	76	14,139	5.4	74	14,852	5.0
Dublin City	499	95,295	5.2	512	98,671	5.2
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	184	44,960	4.1	173	47,794	3.6
Fingal	331	75,795	4.4	354	83,615	4.2
South Dublin	327	71,208	4.6	315	75,106	4.2
Kildare	275	59,449	4.6	293	62,914	4.7
Kilkenny	134	25,015	5.4	152	25,944	5.9
Laois	125	22,932	5.5	136	24,264	5.6
Longford	72	10,593	6.8	68	11,218	6.1
Louth	143	33,292	4.3	160	35,046	4.6
Meath	250	53,400	4.7	246	57,134	4.3
Offaly	147	21,149	7.0	135	21,127	6.4
Westmeath	156	23,052	6.8	136	23,584	5.8
Wexford	207	38,842	5.3	173	39,166	4.4
Wicklow	159	36,444	4.4	174	38,041	4.6
Clare	208	30,666	6.8	204	30,625	6.7
Cork City	133	21,195	6.3	131	21,590	6.1
Cork County	674	107,253	6.3	630	112,425	5.6
Kerry	272	34,940	7.8	221	34,527	6.4
Limerick City and County	305	46,067	6.6	251	47,090	5.3
Tipperary	273	40,760	6.7	210	40,764	5.2
Waterford City and County	147	28,908	5.1	128	29,347	4.4
Galway City	62	14,607	4.2	76	15,523	4.9
Galway County	305	46,587	6.5	277	48,084	5.8
Leitrim	66	8,051	8.2	42	8,188	5.1
Mayo	234	32,514	7.2	185	31,968	5.8
Roscommon	109	16,076	6.8	93	16,305	5.7
Sligo	103	15,541	6.6	96	15,961	6.0
Cavan	89	20,194	4.4	109	21,023	5.2
Donegal	284	43,732	6.5	255	42,042	6.1
Monaghan	100	16,031	6.2	99	16,564	6.0



Ethnicity or Cultural Background

In both 2011 and 2016 there was a lower rate of carers per 1,000 of population for some of the minority ethnic or cultural background groups, however it should be noted that the numbers in these categories are very small. In both years the group 'Other, including Mixed Background' had rates of over 6 per 1,000 of population. See *Tables 6a & 6b*.



Table 6a: Total young carers and young carers per 1,000 of the total population classified by Ethnic or Cultural Background, 2016

	All ethnic or cultural backgrounds	White Irish	White Irish Traveller	Any other white background	Black or black Irish - African	Black or black Irish - Any other black background	Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese	Asian or Asian Irish - Any other Asian background	Other including mixed background	Not stated
Total	1,190,502	969,856	14,246	91,584	26,806	2,553	4,752	25,484	25,859	29,362
Carers	6,108	5,045	78	429	164	22	17	103	175	75
Non - Carers	1,058,261	886,752	10,880	80,830	22,536	2,116	4,070	22,050	22,601	6,426
Not Stated	126,133	78,059	3,288	10,325	4,106	415	665	3,331	3,083	22,861
Rate per 1,000 population	5.1	5.2	5.5	4.7	6.1	8.6	3.6	4.0	6.8	2.6

Table 6b: Total young carers and young carers per 1,000 of the total population classified by Ethnic or Cultural Background, 2011

	All ethnic or cultural backgrounds	White Irish	White Irish Traveller	Any other white background	Black or black Irish - African	Black or black Irish - Any other black background	Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese	Asian or Asian Irish - Any other Asian background	Other including mixed background	Not stated
Total	1,148,687	959,916	14,245	83,314	27,946	2,957	3,416	21,469	15,541	19,883
Carers	6,449	5,403	87	489	162	12	13	83	98	102
Non - Carers	1,023,632	873,579	11,338	72,747	23,102	2,455	2,942	17,972	13,396	6,101
Not Stated	118,606	80,934	2,820	10,078	4,682	490	461	3,414	2,047	13,680
Rate per 1,000 population	5.6	5.6	6.1	5.9	5.8	4.1	3.8	3.9	6.3	5.1



Social Class

Both the 2011 and 2016 data show a higher rate of young carers per 1,000 children in the lower social class groups. For example in 2016 there were 4.2 young carers per 1,000 of population with a social class of professional workers compared to 5.8 per 1,000 of population in both the semi-skilled and unskilled social classes. *See table 7.*

The rates in 2016 decreased in all categories when compared to 2011 with the exception of the category 'All other gainfully occupied and unknown'. *See Table 7.*

End of Compulsory Schooling

In 2016, a higher percentage of 15 to 17 year old carers (3.3%) had ceased their full time education compared to all 15 to 17 year olds (2.4%). Just under 1% (0.9%) of all 15 year olds and 15 year old carers had ceased full time education. There were difference for 16 and 17 year olds - 2.0% of all 16 year olds compared to 3.3% of 16 year old carers had ceased full time education as had 4.4% of 17 year olds and 5.3% of 17 year old carers. Similar differences are reflected in 2011. *See Tables 8a & 8b.*

A higher percentage of 15 to 17 year old males (2.9%) than females (1.9%) had ceased full time education in 2016. The gender difference was also observed in the number of 15 to 17 year old carers, with 3.8% of male carers having ceased full time education compared to 2.9% of females. The largest difference between carers and the overall population was for 16 year old females - 3% had ceased full time education compared to 1.6% of all 16 year old females. *See Table 8a.*



Table 7: Total young carers and young carers per 1,000 of the total population classified by Social Class*, 2011 and 2016

	2011			2016		
	Carers	Total Population	Rate per 1,000 Population	Carers	Total Population	Rate per 1,000 Population
All social classes	6,449	1,148,687	5.6	6,108	1,190,502	5.1
Professional workers	492	114,264	4.3	577	137,720	4.2
Managerial and technical	1,869	368,549	5.1	1,793	400,048	4.5
Non-manual	1,069	197,192	5.4	931	203,756	4.6
Skilled manual	888	155,297	5.7	756	144,806	5.2
Semi-skilled	566	89,943	6.3	535	91,784	5.8
Unskilled	184	26,568	6.9	151	25,960	5.8
All other gainfully occupied and unknown	1,381	196,874	7.0	1,365	186,428	7.3

* The social class categories are constructed at a household level using the occupation of the reference person/partner of reference person in the household.



Table 8a: Percentage of 15 to 17 year olds and 15 to 17 year old Carers who have and had not ceased their full time education classified by single year of age and sex, 2016

		15-17 Year olds		15 year old		16 year old		17 year old	
		Total	Carers	Total	Carers	Total	Carers	Total	Carers
Both Sexes	Total Education Ceased and Not Ceased	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Education Ceased	2.4	3.3	0.9	0.9	2.0	3.3	4.4	5.3
	Education Not Ceased	97.6	96.7	99.1	99.1	98.0	96.7	95.6	94.7
Male	Total Education Ceased and Not Ceased	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Education Ceased	2.9	3.8	1.0	0.6	2.4	3.6	5.3	6.5
	Education Not Ceased	97.1	96.2	99.0	99.4	97.6	96.4	94.7	93.5
Female	Total Education Ceased and Not Ceased	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Education Ceased	1.9	2.9	0.8	1.2	1.6	3.0	3.4	4.1
	Education Not Ceased	98.1	97.1	99.2	98.8	98.4	97.0	96.6	95.9



Table 8b: Percentage of 15 to 17 year olds and 15 to 17 year old Carers who have and had not ceased their full time education classified by single year of age and sex, 2011

		15-17 Year olds		15 year old		16 year old		17 year old	
		Total	Carers	Total	Carers	Total	Carers	Total	Carers
Both Sexes	Total Education Ceased and Not Ceased	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Education Ceased	2.8	3.9	1.2	2.0	2.2	3.1	5.0	6.1
	Education Not Ceased	97.2	96.1	98.8	98.0	97.8	96.9	95.0	93.9
Male	Total Education Ceased and Not Ceased	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Education Ceased	3.4	4.8	1.4	1.9	2.7	3.8	6.1	8.1
	Education Not Ceased	96.6	95.2	98.6	98.1	97.3	96.2	93.9	91.9
Female	Total Education Ceased and Not Ceased	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Education Ceased	2.2	3.0	1.0	2.1	1.8	2.5	3.8	4.2
	Education Not Ceased	97.8	97.0	99.0	97.9	98.2	97.5	96.2	95.8



Background Note

This is the first in a new series, called *Statistical Spotlight*. A *statistical spotlight* is a short publication focused on a different topic each publication, gathering together available statistical data highlighting trends or patterns in the data. These are intended to be short statistical based publications bringing together available information for interested users. The publications will include a short commentary detailing (where relevant) trends and comparisons as relevant (e.g. comparisons between sex, region, age group etc.).

The statistical spotlight series will be published quarterly.