

*Ireland
Thinks.*



Clare Survey 2023



Bord Oideachais & Oiliúna
LUIMNIGH & AN CHLÁIR
LIMERICK & CLARE
Education & Training Board



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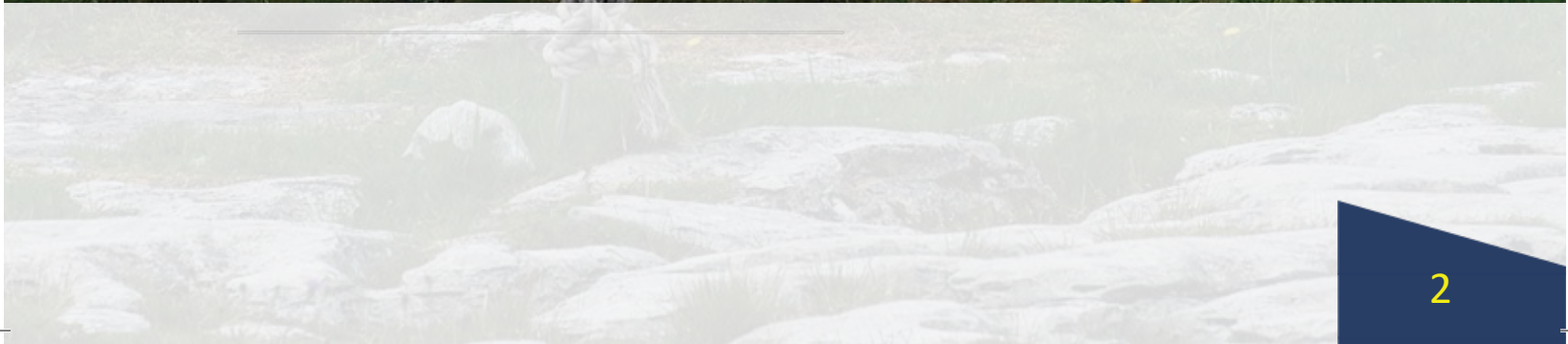
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METHODOLOGY

Sampling procedure

In conducting this survey for Clare's population, we went to great lengths to ensure the survey yielded an accurate representation of Clare. We utilized a dual-method approach combining face-to-face interviews with an SMS-invitation. This strategy addressed gaps in face-to-face sampling methodology, especially where face-to-face surveying lacked representation among younger demographics and residents of one-off housing and inaccessible apartment blocks. Our SMS panel invited people to take part based on their demographics. Overall, our sample covered participants from 37 towns and villages across Clare (listed below), reflecting their respective population sizes. The survey was conducted between 20-24 May 2023 with a final sample size of 601. This means that results should be regarded as having a margin of error of plus or minus 4%.

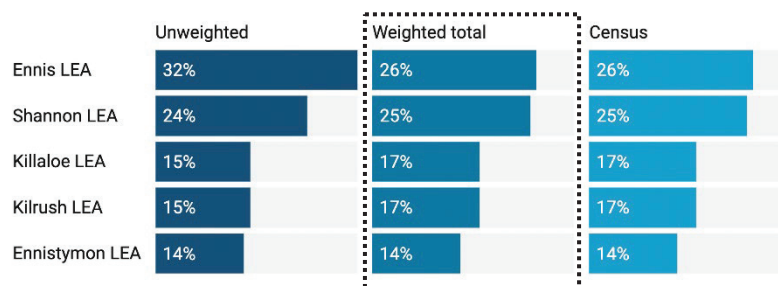
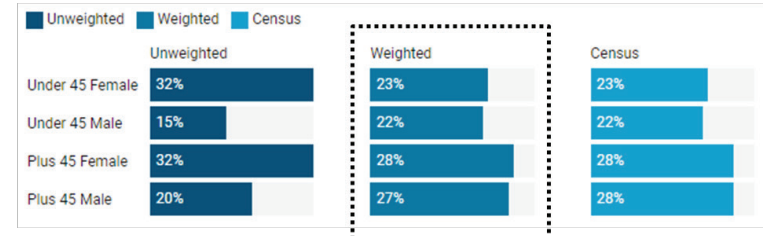
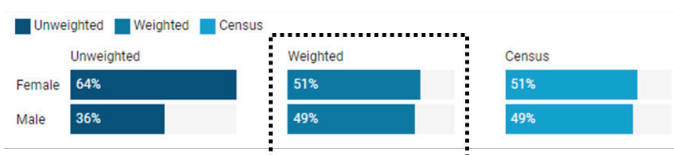
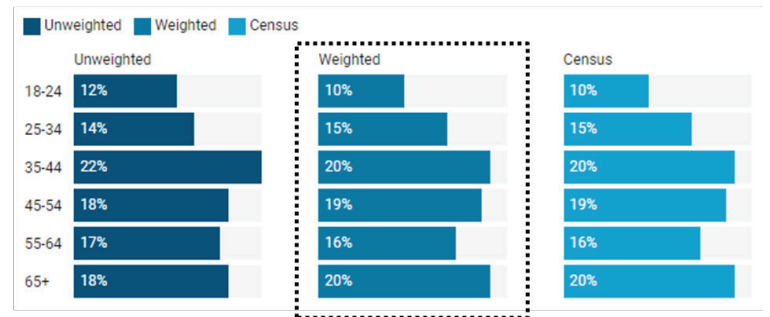
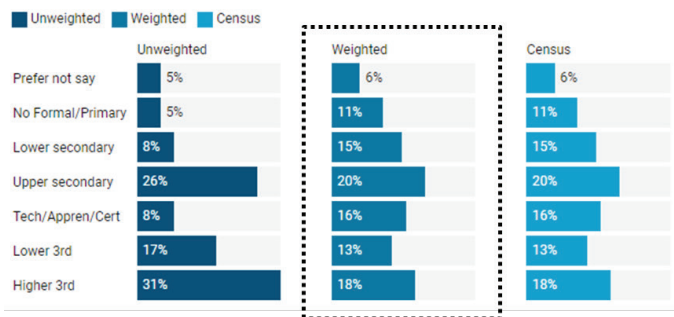


METHODOLOGY

Weighting

The poll was conducted by Ireland Thinks applying the highest standard of methodology. The tables below show how the raw polling data ('unweighted') closely mirror Clare's demographics (as per the 2022 Census). To ensure the results were *exactly* aligned with the census we weighted the poll using a method called 'iterative proportional fitting'. This is the column referred to as 'weighted'. This meant that the results of the survey aligned exactly with the census in terms of the population of Clare:

- Age,
- Gender,
- Age and Gender,
- Educational Attainment, and
- Local Electoral Area

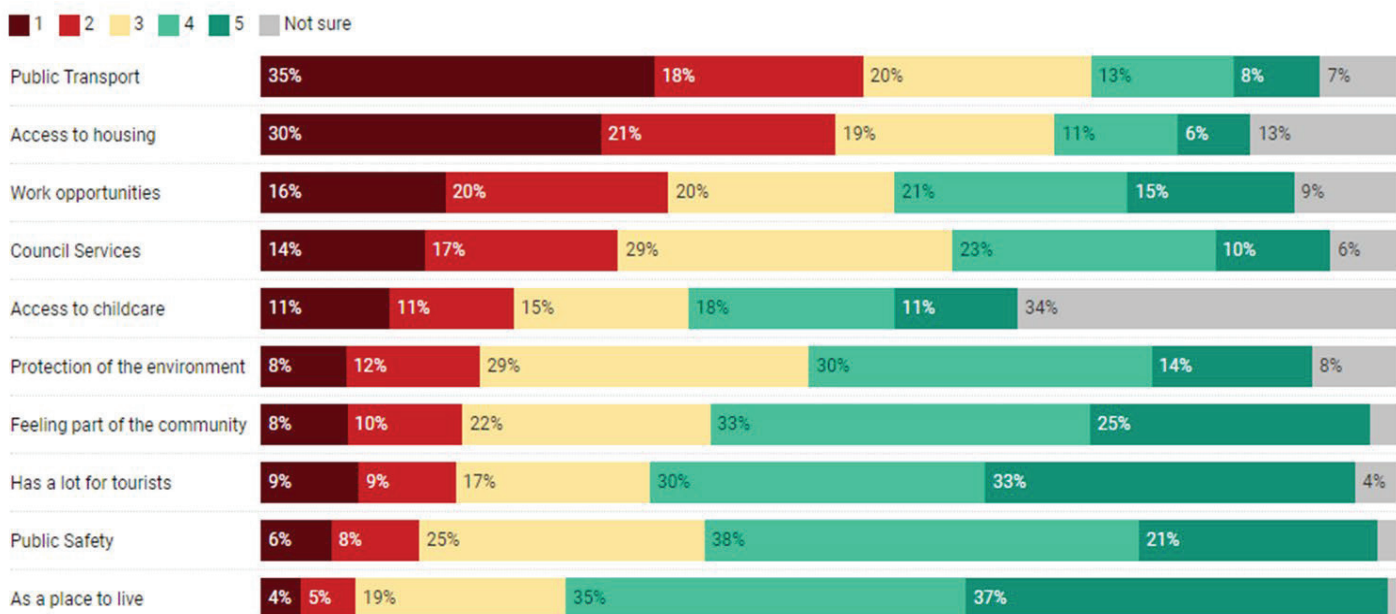


An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. The top portion shows a wide expanse of green fields and a blue sea under a clear sky. The bottom portion shows a steep, rocky cliffside with patches of green vegetation, overlooking the ocean. A dark blue horizontal bar is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing the text 'OVERALL PRIORITIES' in white, bold, uppercase letters. A white vertical bar is positioned to the left of the text. The number '5' is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

OVERALL PRIORITIES

Our first question assesses a variety of aspects of Clare. The public are asked to evaluate county Clare across a number of features. The question: **“On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is 'poor' and 5 is 'excellent', how would you rate your locality?”** is followed by a list of ten items.

In the order of the lowest average rating to the highest average rating: Access to housing (2.3), Public transport (2.4), Work opportunities (3.0), Council services (3.0), Access to childcare (3.1), Protection of the environment (3.3), Feeling part of the community (3.6), Has a lot for tourists (3.7), Public safety (3.6), As a place to live (4.0).



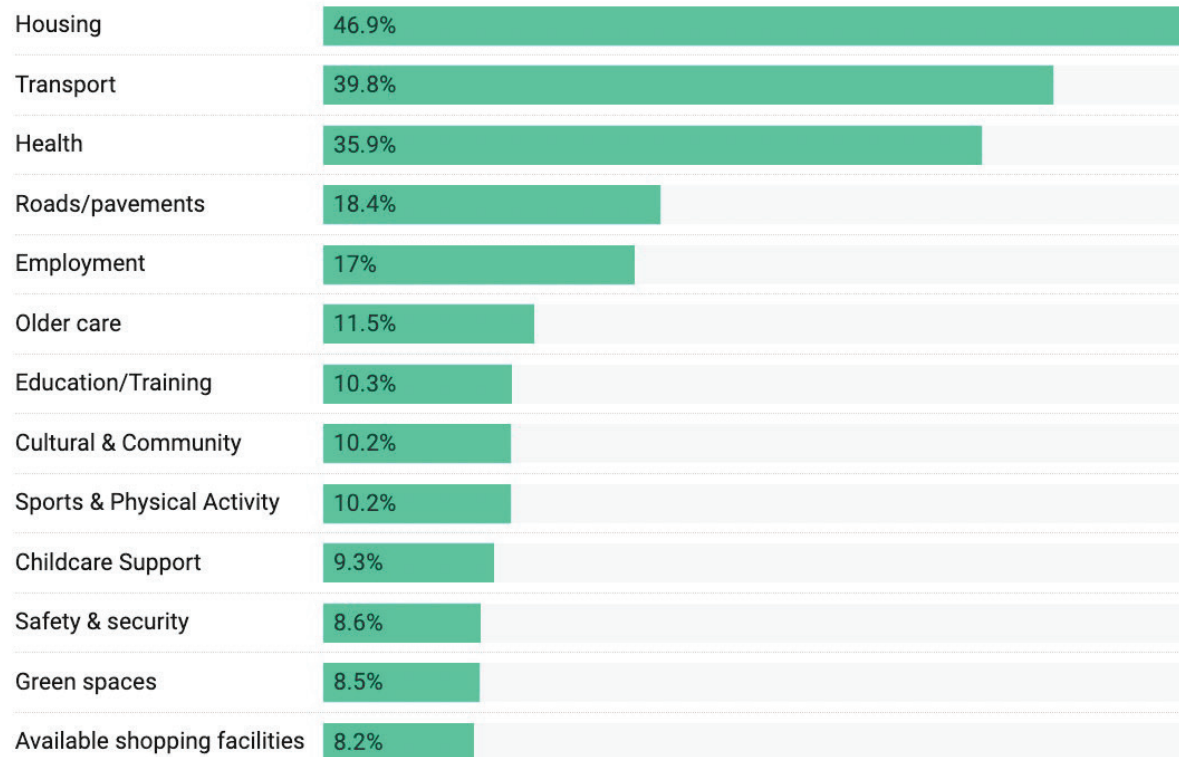
The chart highlights the share of the population that score each item as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 as well as those that are unsure. It is notable that for the most part there were relatively few people who were 'Not sure', aside from on the topic of access to childcare, for which 34% stated that they were not sure. This informs us as to which feature is in most need of improvement.

Estimating the average score for each of eight demographic variables gives us a clear understanding of what needs improvement in Clare. We observe that the lowest ratings occur for access to housing particularly among renters, those with higher levels of education, those aged 25-34, students, those on middle incomes. Public Transport has a low rating among those in Killaloe, self employed, those on higher incomes. Work opportunities are lowest in Kiltrush

		Access to housing	Public transport	Council services	Work opportunities	Access to childcare	Protection of Environment	Feeling part of the community	Public safety	A lot for tourists	Place to live
Overall	Total	2.33	2.37	2.98	2.99	3.11	3.32	3.58	3.61	3.70	3.96
Sex	Female	2.30	2.44	2.88	2.83	2.91	3.29	3.47	3.64	3.64	3.91
	Male	2.38	2.26	3.07	3.10	3.30	3.38	3.71	3.57	3.80	4.07
Age	18-24	2.64	2.64	3.18	2.84	3.50	3.41	3.70	3.89	3.53	3.87
	25-34	2.00	2.17	2.57	2.99	2.74	3.15	3.23	3.47	3.44	3.55
	35-44	2.26	2.57	3.03	2.93	3.14	3.35	3.49	3.76	3.68	4.02
	45-54	2.31	2.15	2.99	3.20	3.24	3.46	3.79	3.48	3.90	4.15
	55-64	2.15	2.38	2.77	2.79	2.73	3.00	3.40	3.32	3.47	3.92
	65+	2.82	2.33	3.26	3.01	3.31	3.55	3.83	3.78	4.05	4.20
LEA	Ennis	2.26	2.28	2.94	3.05	2.99	3.11	3.40	3.56	3.59	3.79
	Ennistymon	2.44	2.13	3.05	2.57	3.26	3.26	3.75	3.71	3.94	3.96
	Killaloe	2.54	1.96	3.10	3.03	3.12	3.39	3.75	3.77	3.77	4.28
	Kiltrush	2.15	2.51	2.82	1.98	2.66	3.29	3.65	3.69	3.52	3.87
	Shannon	2.46	2.79	3.01	3.78	3.41	3.66	3.55	3.44	3.85	4.08
Citizenship	Irish	2.33	2.37	2.93	2.98	3.06	3.32	3.60	3.60	3.72	3.97
	Non-Irish	2.45	2.35	3.55	3.00	3.17	3.60	3.54	3.81	3.76	3.95
Tenure	Own outright	2.42	2.33	2.99	3.16	3.26	3.32	3.66	3.70	3.88	4.15
	Own mortgage	2.23	2.29	2.72	3.13	2.85	3.20	3.74	3.63	3.76	4.16
	Social housing	2.66	2.78	3.25	2.79	3.18	3.60	3.50	3.57	3.75	3.88
	Rent privately	1.88	1.99	2.93	2.98	3.03	3.21	3.38	3.46	3.48	3.65
	Rent free/parents	2.35	2.15	2.94	2.54	2.99	3.34	3.40	3.66	3.39	3.77
Education	No Formal/Primary	2.88	2.81	3.28	2.80	3.22	3.57	3.95	3.60	4.20	4.08
	Lower secondary	2.39	2.45	3.16	2.72	3.13	3.45	3.44	3.59	3.47	3.84
	Upper secondary	2.22	2.37	2.72	2.94	3.24	3.34	3.61	3.51	3.63	3.89
	Tech/Appren/Cert	2.34	2.19	2.81	2.91	3.06	3.34	3.53	3.49	3.66	3.83
	Lower 3rd	2.13	2.17	2.81	3.06	2.94	3.07	3.57	3.60	3.70	3.97
	Higher 3rd	2.14	2.17	3.13	3.25	2.98	3.34	3.59	3.87	3.88	4.21
Work	Self-Employed	2.52	2.14	3.28	3.49	3.21	3.19	3.54	3.84	3.62	4.02
	Retired	2.71	2.35	3.19	2.73	3.08	3.47	3.85	3.65	4.03	4.17
	Full-time	2.21	2.26	2.84	3.14	3.18	3.35	3.64	3.60	3.67	4.13
	Part-time	2.41	2.24	3.16	3.17	3.03	3.47	3.77	3.56	4.19	4.15
	Homemaker	1.85	2.48	2.36	2.32	2.72	2.81	3.37	3.43	3.21	3.77
	Student	2.05	2.43	3.07	2.73	3.17	3.02	3.50	3.83	3.28	3.77
	Carer	2.10	3.11	2.36	2.52	2.80	3.36	3.01	3.48	3.52	3.70
	Unemployed	2.51	2.90	3.07	2.93	3.07	3.52	3.25	3.53	3.74	3.08
	Unable to	2.66	2.32	3.22	2.57	3.06	3.37	3.11	3.45	3.35	3.62
Income	Under 15k	2.27	2.40	2.71	2.63	2.73	3.11	3.12	3.29	3.67	3.39
	15k-35k	2.34	2.38	2.93	2.68	3.01	3.20	3.64	3.47	3.73	3.96
	35k-65k	2.00	2.03	2.95	3.32	3.14	3.30	3.71	3.74	3.69	3.97
	65k-100k	2.18	1.88	2.99	3.02	2.97	3.26	3.61	3.62	3.88	4.01
	Over 100k	2.41	2.40	2.96	3.65	2.75	3.45	3.65	3.87	3.73	4.49

Priorities for Clare

Respondents were asked to identify what they believed should be prioritised from a list of 13 items: **“Which of the following would you like to see prioritised for further investment in Clare?”**

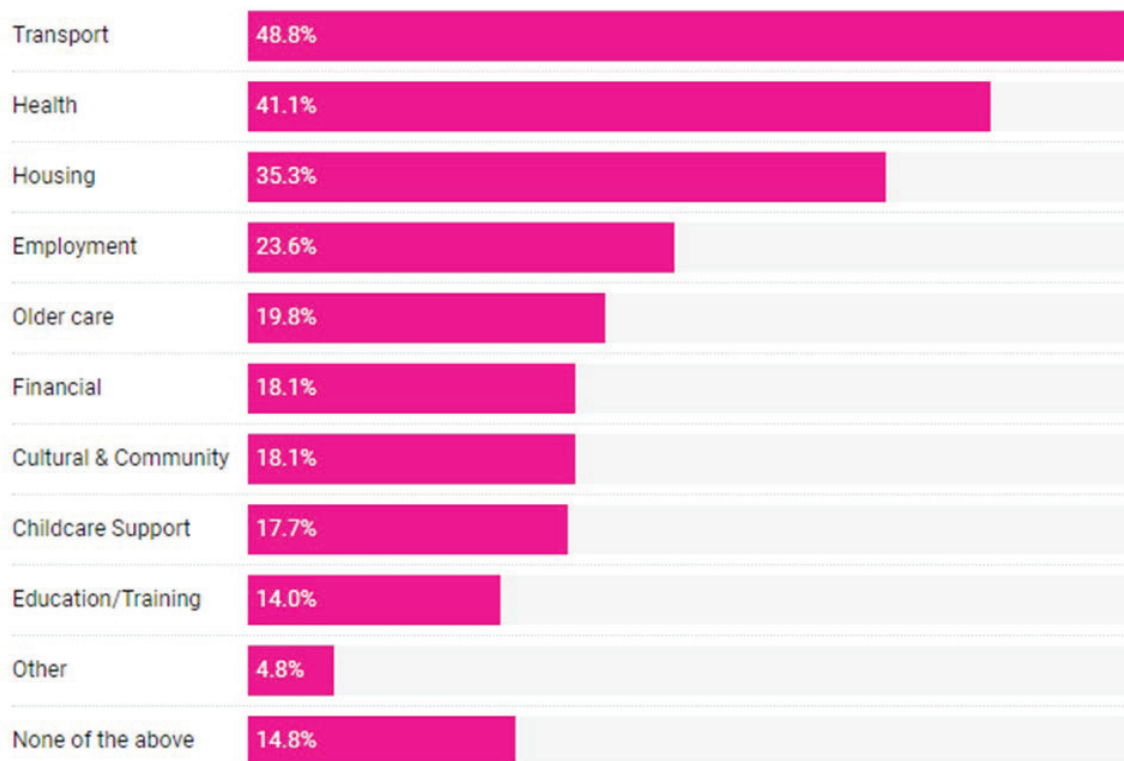


Respondents were allowed to pick more than one item and therefore as a result the total % adds to more than 100%. The number given tells us the % of respondents that highlighted a given item as a 'priority'. For example, the top three which had much higher %s were 47% identifying Housing, and 40% who identified Transport, followed by 36% who identified Health. After this top three, there are two further issues that are prioritised – roads/pavements, 18% and Employment, 17%. Thereafter we have Education/Training (10%), Culture & Community (10%), Sports & Physical Activity (10%), Childcare Support (9%), Safety & Security (9%), Green Spaces (9%), and finally, lastly, Available Shopping Spaces (8%). It is equally important to highlight the categories deemed to be the least important priority. Here, in Clare, 'Available shopping facilities' is deemed to be the least important priority.

Services to be Prioritized

Respondents were asked to identify "*Which of the following needs are not being met for you?*" Again, respondents were able to select more than one item and as a result the total across categories would add to over 100%. The numbers indicated reflect the % of the Clare population who believe a specified need is not being met for them personally.

Again, the same three issues rank 1st, 2nd and 3rd albeit in a slightly different order. Transport (49%), Health (41%) and Housing (35%). Housing is deemed as a bigger priority overall but a marginally smaller number of people personally affected. This is perhaps because transport needs which might affect more people are not as acute a problem. The list of issues continues with 24% identifying Employment, 20% identifying older care, 18% identifying Financial issues, 18% identifying cultural and community issues, 18% identifying Childcare support, and 14% identifying Education and Training. Just 5% identified another issue and 15% stated 'None of the above'.

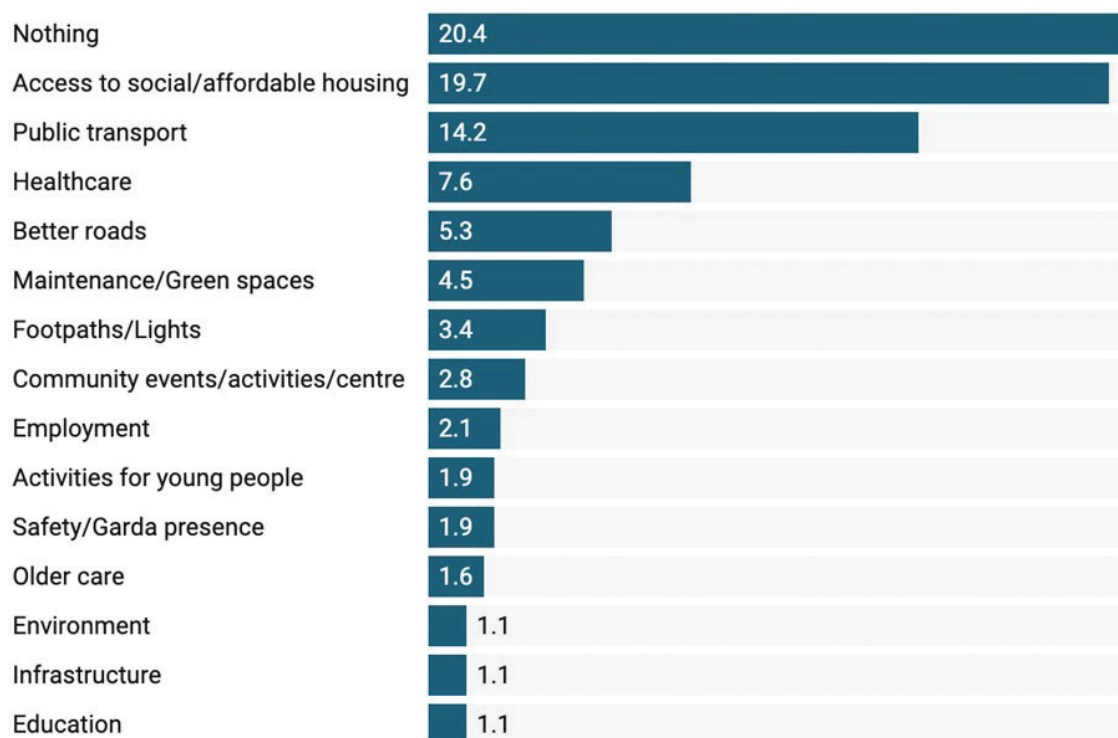


Specific Needs for Clare

The survey allowed people to emphasise any *specific* needs that our survey may have missed. We allowed respondents to use an open-ended format field to identify anything at all: “*What needs are not being met for you?*”. This is useful for uncovering hidden issues.

While there were many different responses to this, a familiar picture emerged. The primary issue identified was again, access to social and affordable housing (19.7%). Immediately after that was Transport (14.2%) and after then Healthcare (7.6%).

It reflects a relatively consistent pattern in which, overall, housing is deemed to be the most important concern, followed very closely by transport. Better roads is fourth with 5.3%, again 4th biggest priority when we asked about investment. Then maintenance and green spaces (4.5%). The list continues: Footpaths and lights (3.4%), Community events/activities/centre (2.8%), Employment (2.1%), Activities for young people (1.9%), safety and Garda presence (1.9%), older care (1.6%) and so on.



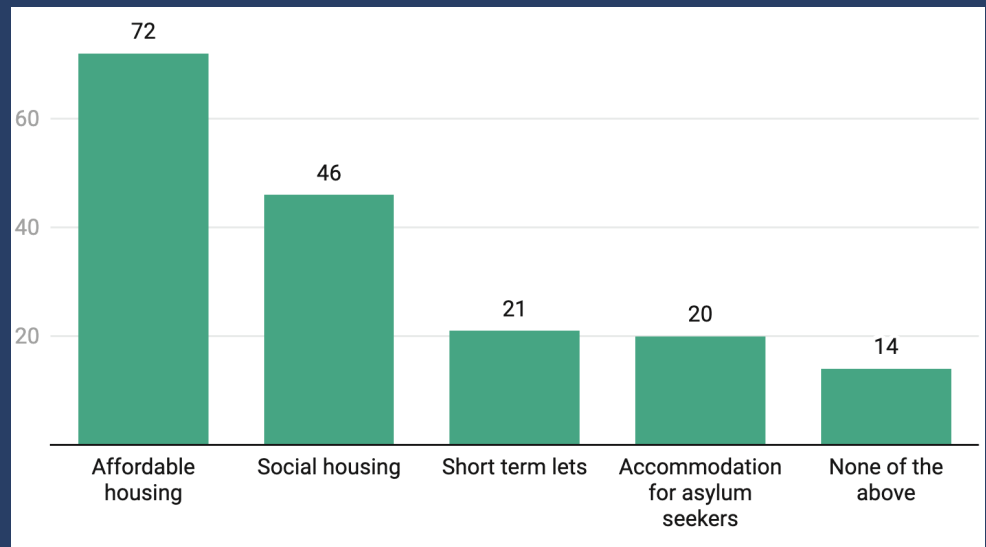


HOUSING & TRANSPORT



Housing Requirements

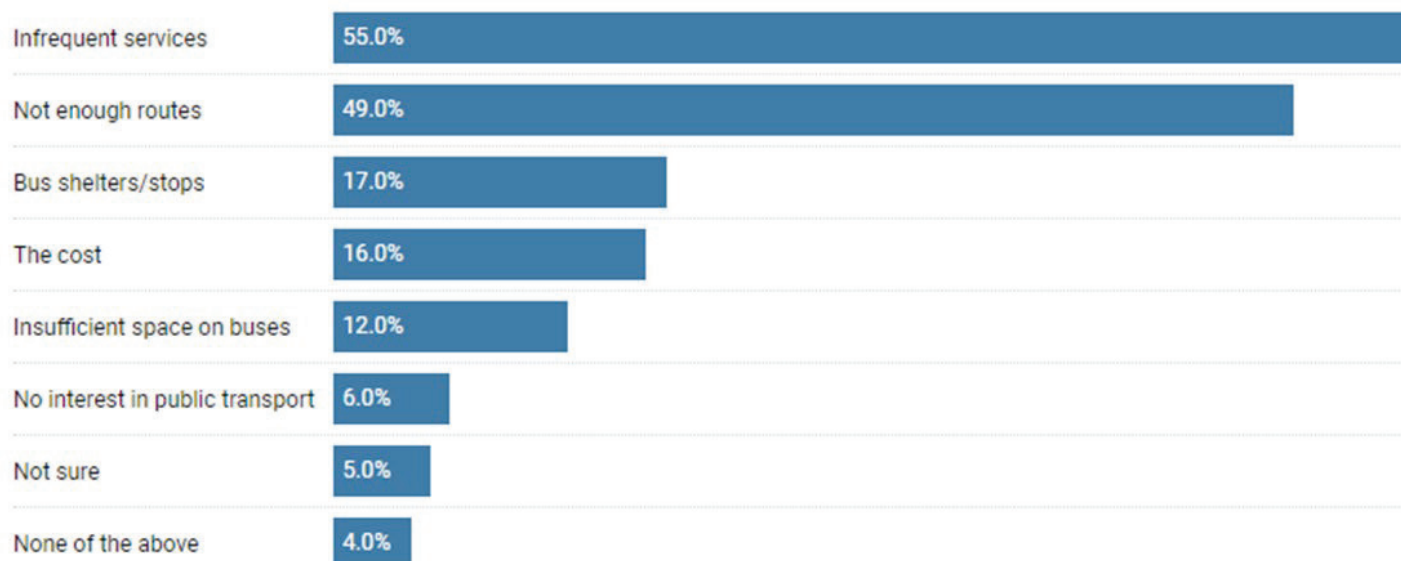
Respondents were asked what type of housing they like to be built in their area: affordable, social, short-term lets, or asylum seeker accommodation.



Respondents were asked “Should any of the following be built in your locality?” In response, 72% elected affordable housing, by far the most popular, followed by 44% social housing, 21% short term lets, 20% accommodation for asylum seekers and 14% stating none of the above. Those opposed to the development of any housing are in the very small minority of residents.

Residents of places like Kilrush LEA had the largest share demanding additional social housing.. The Ennistymon LEA saw the largest number of people looking for accommodation for asylum seekers, though it is worth highlighting that this amounted to a minority in Ennistymon as everywhere else.

	Ennis	Ennistymon	Killaloe	Kilrush	Shannon
Affordable housing	75	73	64	76	71
Social housing	48	47	35	64	40
Accommodation for Asylum	22	28	21	16	16
Short term lets	19	20	23	22	21
None of the above	12	9	18	12	18

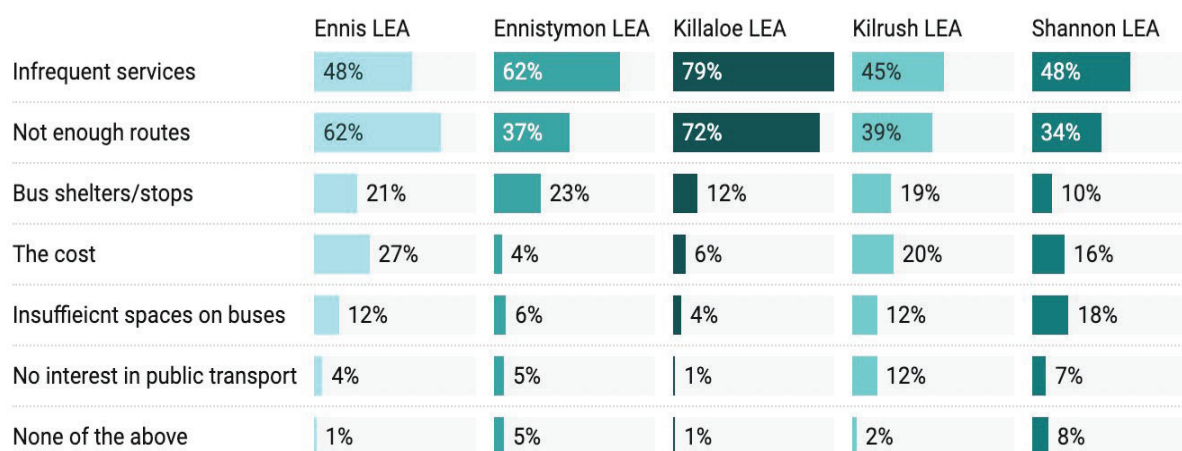


Transport

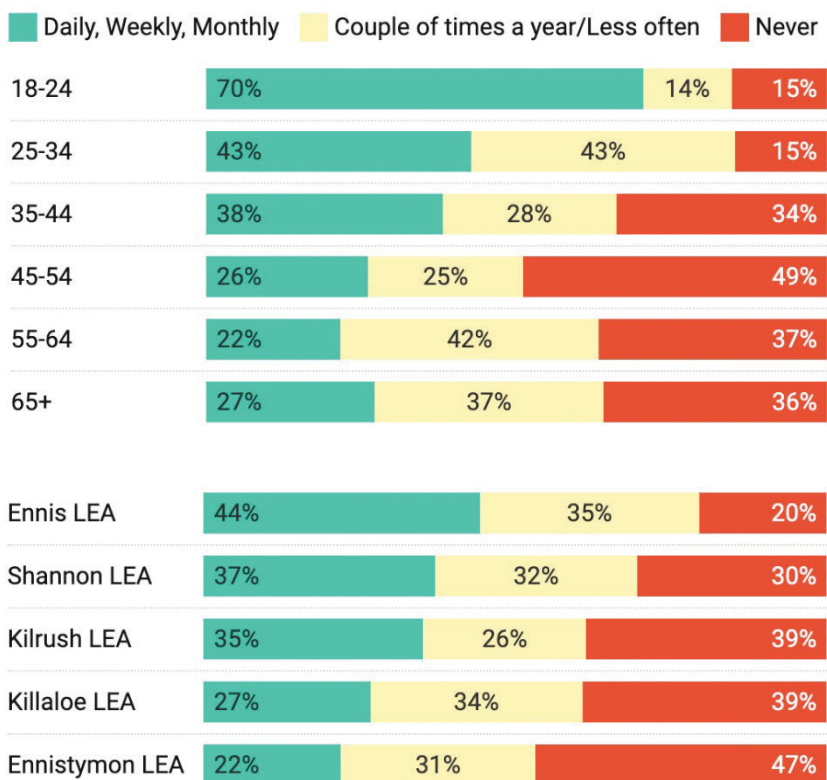
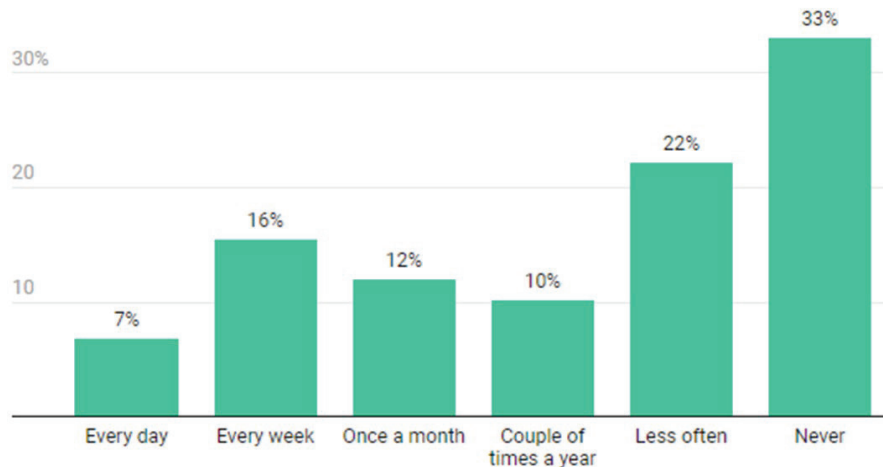
Recognising that issues of local / national importance such as transport and housing issues required further analysis.

The survey asked: ***“Which of the following would be your principle concern in relation to public transport in your area?”*** Respondents could select a couple of options again here. 55% selected infrequent services, the most popular choice, thereafter 45% selected ‘Not enough routes’, somewhat related to the first choice. Of lesser importance, bus shelters and stops (which could mean more stops on existing routes), 17%, the cost 16%, insufficient space on buses, 12%, no interest in public transport, 6%, not sure 5%, and none of the above, 4%. Overall, it seems that the frequency of the services and number of routes are at the higher order of importance when it comes to this key issue.

In the next diagram we split these results out according to the Local Electoral Area (LEA). There are five LEAs in Clare. In the Killaloe LEA there is a significantly larger subset emphasising the infrequent services and insufficient number of routes. 79% and 74% respectively identifying these issues in this LEA, in contrast to say Shannon where the corresponding figures are 48% and 34%. In Ennistymon there is a marginal greater concern for the infrequency of the services (62%) and in Ennis the lack of routes are highlighted (62%).



The survey asks respondents “How often do you use public transport?”. Based on those who completed the survey a large section of the of those surveyed rarely use public transport. Just 7% report using it ‘every day’, a further 16% (23% total) ‘every week’, 12% ‘once a month’ (cumulatively 35%), 10% a ‘couple of times a year’ (cumulatively 45%) and then 22% ‘less often’ and 33% ‘never’.

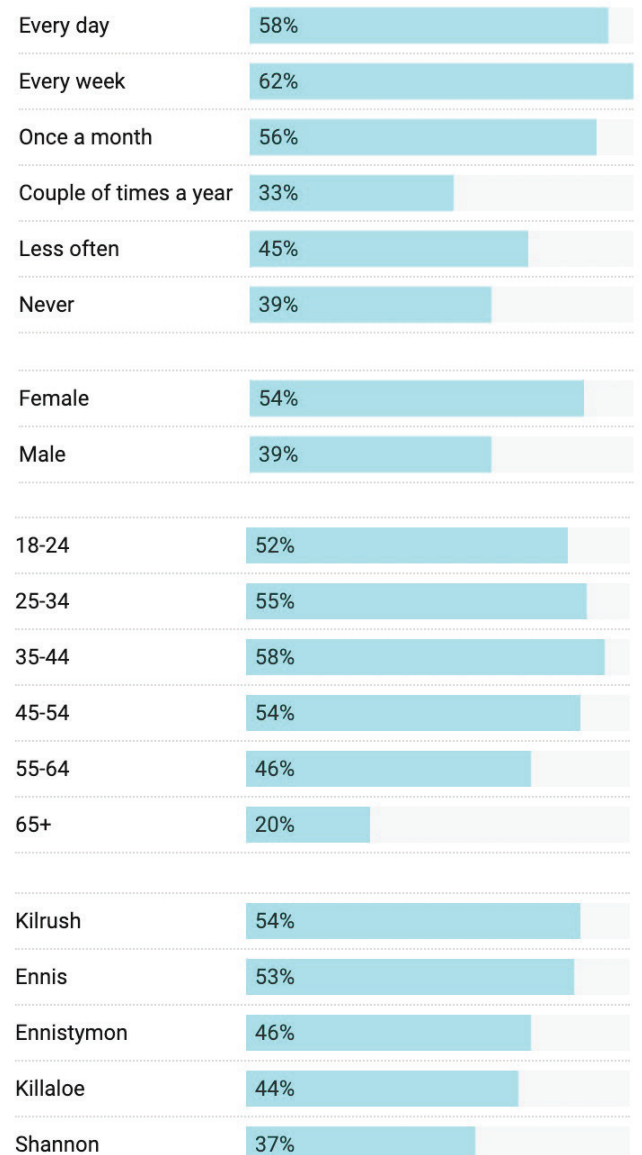
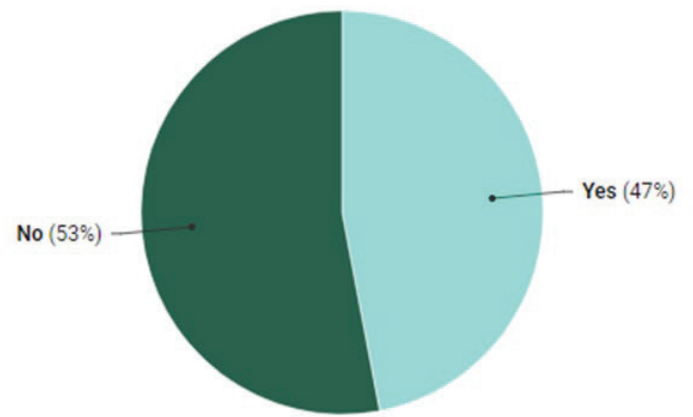


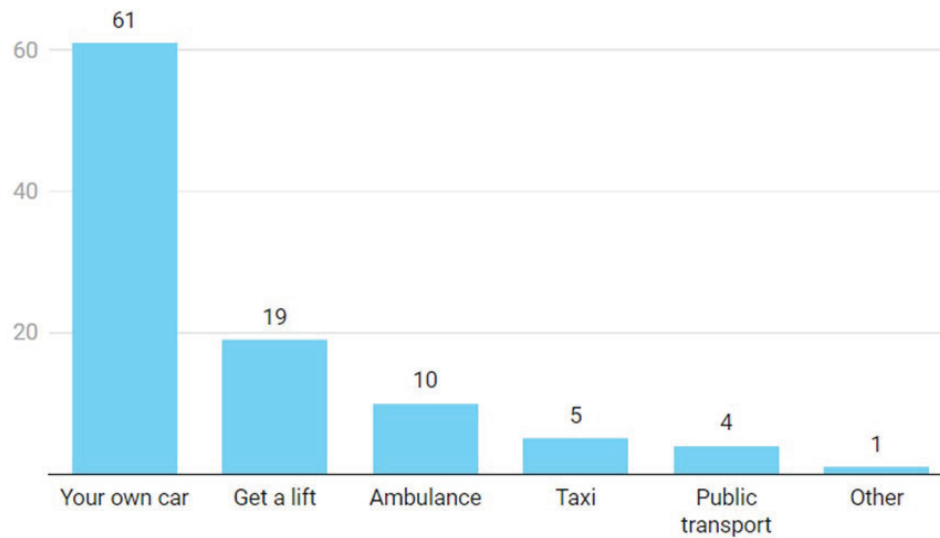
A further analysis breaks this down by the respondent’s age group and LEA shows that younger people are much more likely to take public transport on a regular basis. Of those surveyed in the 18-24 age bracket are far more likely to take public transport at least on a monthly basis (70%). This declines by age group rising slightly then among those aged 65+. Those living in the Ennis or Shannon LEAs are also much more likely to take public transport.

Respondents were asked would they use public transport if there was a moderate improvement.. We asked: **“Would you use it (public transport) more if there was a moderate improvement?”** 47% said yes and 53% said no.

Those that *already* use public transport tend to be more likely to say that they would use it more if there was a moderate improvement. 62% of those that use public transport on a weekly basis would use it more often, 56% of those that use it monthly would use it more often. Those that use it a couple of times a year (32%), less often (45%) and never (39%) are again somewhat less likely to take it up although certainly non-negligible.

In terms of demography those aged *under* 65 are more likely to say that they would use it more often. This s more pronounced among those aged 35-44. Those living in Kilrush LEA (54%) are also more likely to use public transport more often, followed by Ennis (53%), Ennistymon (46%), Killaloe (44%), and lastly Shannon (37%).





Healthcare and Transport

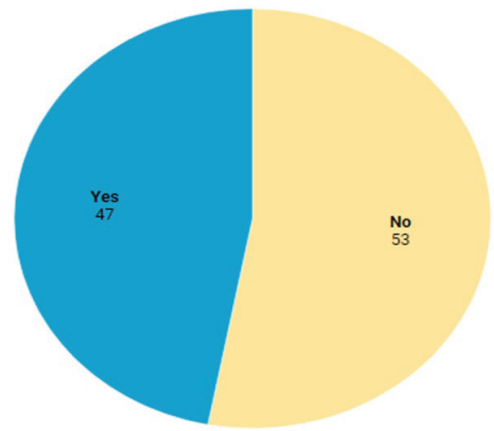
We examined the interlocking relationship between healthcare needs and transport needs. The question posed asked: *“If you had to go to a hospital how would you get there (e.g. a minor emergency)?”* In response to this, 61% identified their car as the method through which they would get to hospital. 19% stated that they would get a lift, 10% stated that they would take an ambulance, 5% a taxi, 4% public transport and 1% other. The share of people relying on transport **other than** their own car increases in some parts of Clare. In Kilrush LEA, 51% are using their own car, 55% of Ennis, 59% of Ennistymon, 62% of Shannon and 81% of Killaloe which seems to be more oriented towards having a car.

	Ennis	Ennistymon	Killaloe	Kilrush	Shannon
Your own car %	55	59	81	51	62
Get a lift %	17	10	9	9	7
Ambulance %	12	12	2	15	8
Lift %	3	14	2	8	14
Taxi %	7	3	1	6	5
Public transport %	3	3	4	8	3
Other %	2	1	0	3	1



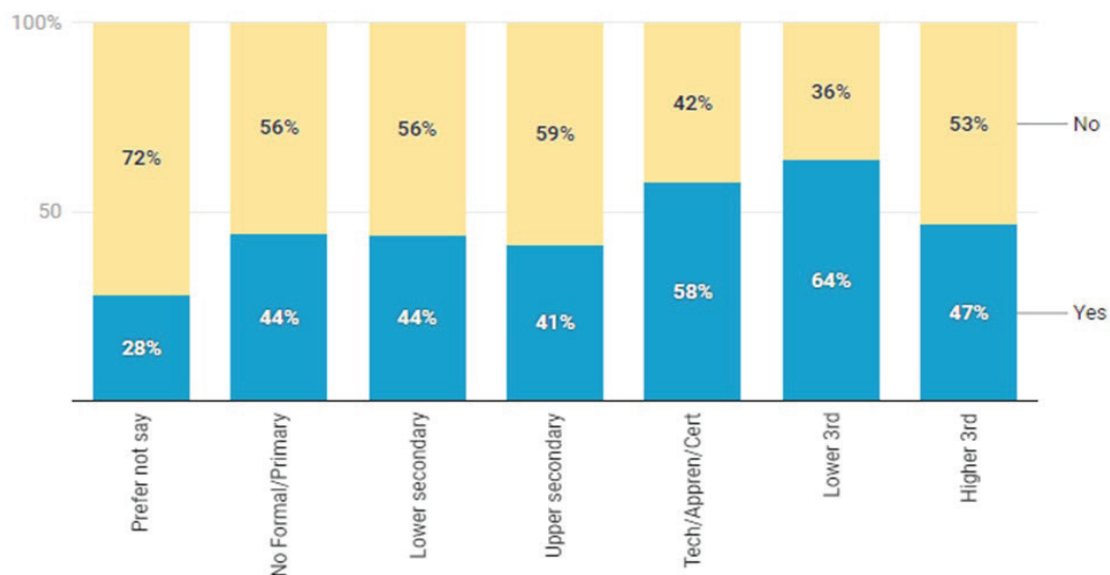
EDUCATION

Moving onto educational requirements we first asked respondents – **“Would you like to take an education course?”** in response to this, 53% said Yes and 47% said No.



Education

Breaking this desire down according to existing levels of educational attainment, we observe that those with higher levels of educational attainment are more interested in acquiring further education. Those with a lower 3rd level are most interested (64%), than those with an apprenticeship, technical qualification (58%) while a lower (41%–44%) of those with a leaving cert or less are interested in further education. From conversations on the door quite a number had little interest in returning to education as they were either quite settled in their careers, heading towards retirement or retired already.



The data table below gives a full breakdown of the reasons why people would prefer not to take an educational course. The dominant reason being that people are simply not interested (48%) in taking a course. Second to this is that people state that they need to be at home to care for someone (cited by 6%) of those who are not interested, 5% state that they're too expensive, 5% cite transport issues, 4% that courses available don't suit and 2% that there is nowhere near to stay.

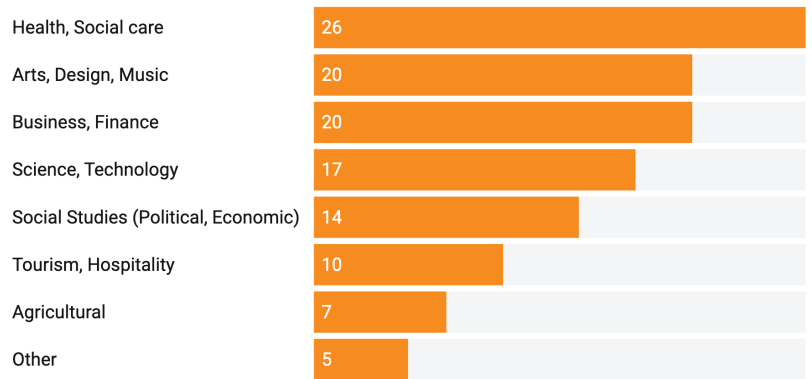
Breaking this down into its demographic components those in their late 20s and early 30s tend to cite the expense of courses while those with a post-leaving cert qualification tend to suggest that the courses available don't suit. Transport issues are highlighted by those living in Kiltrush and Killaloe. However, these features are minor compared to the numbers that state that they are simply not interested (48%).

	Not interested	To be home to care	Too expensive	Transport issues	Courses don't suit	Nowhere near	Not said	Other	None of the above
Overall	48%	6%	5%	5%	4%	2%	2%	16%	15%
18-24	44%	10%	5%	2%	3%	4%	0%	18%	14%
25-34	46%	13%	15%	1%	3%	2%	0%	8%	13%
35-44	40%	3%	8%	7%	6%	2%	1%	15%	17%
45-54	48%	6%	5%	2%	4%	1%	0%	10%	25%
55-64	47%	9%	1%	10%	3%	1%	0%	15%	13%
65+	55%	1%	1%	4%	4%	2%	0%	23%	11%
Female <45	36%	12%	13%	8%	1%	3%	1%	12%	14%
Male <45	49%	4%	6%	0%	8%	2%	0%	15%	16%
Female 45+	41%	10%	3%	7%	3%	4%	0%	13%	19%
Male 45+	58%	0%	1%	4%	4%	0%	0%	20%	13%
Ennis	32%	6%	11%	3%	6%	3%	0%	15%	23%
Ennistymon	42%	6%	4%	4%	5%	2%	0%	26%	12%
Killaloe	66%	1%	2%	8%	0%	1%	1%	8%	13%
Kiltrush	54%	10%	1%	10%	2%	0%	0%	12%	10%
Shannon	50%	6%	4%	1%	5%	2%	0%	19%	14%
Junior Cert/Lower	49%	11%	2%	9%	2%	0%	0%	22%	6%
Leaving Cert	54%	4%	7%	3%	1%	2%	0%	11%	17%
Post LC Qualification	34%	3%	4%	4%	13%	2%	2%	21%	16%
Degree or higher	48%	3%	8%	0%	5%	2%	0%	13%	21%

What type of course would you like to take?



What area would you like to take a course in?



Those interested in further education were asked the type and area of course they would want. Hobby courses and Degree courses were the most popular types with fewer interested in employer-led or vocational courses. In terms of area, Health and Social Care was most popular (26%), then Business & Finance (20%); Arts, Design, Music (20%); Science, Technology (17%), Social Studies (Political/Economic) (14%); Tourism, Hospitality (10%); and Agricultural (7%), a niche interest.

We cross tabulate these two questions to look at area within each course type. Among those interested in Degree courses their preferred areas are Health & Social Care (33%), then Science & Tech (20%), Social Studies (18%) and Business & Finance (18%). Among those that prefer Hobby-based courses, their interest was in Arts, Design & Music (38%). For vocational training, Health & Social Care was the most popular (50%), then Tourism & Hospitality (21%). Among those that want employer-led training, 49% sought Business & Finance as their preferred area.

	Degree	Hobby	Vocational	Employer-led Training
Health, Social care	33	13	50	20
Business, Finance	18	11	10	49
Arts Design Music	13	38	12	17
Social Studies (Eg. Political, Economic)	18	11	12	15
Science, Technology	20	13	16	15
Tourism, Hospitality	8	9	21	10
Agricultural	4	10	13	4

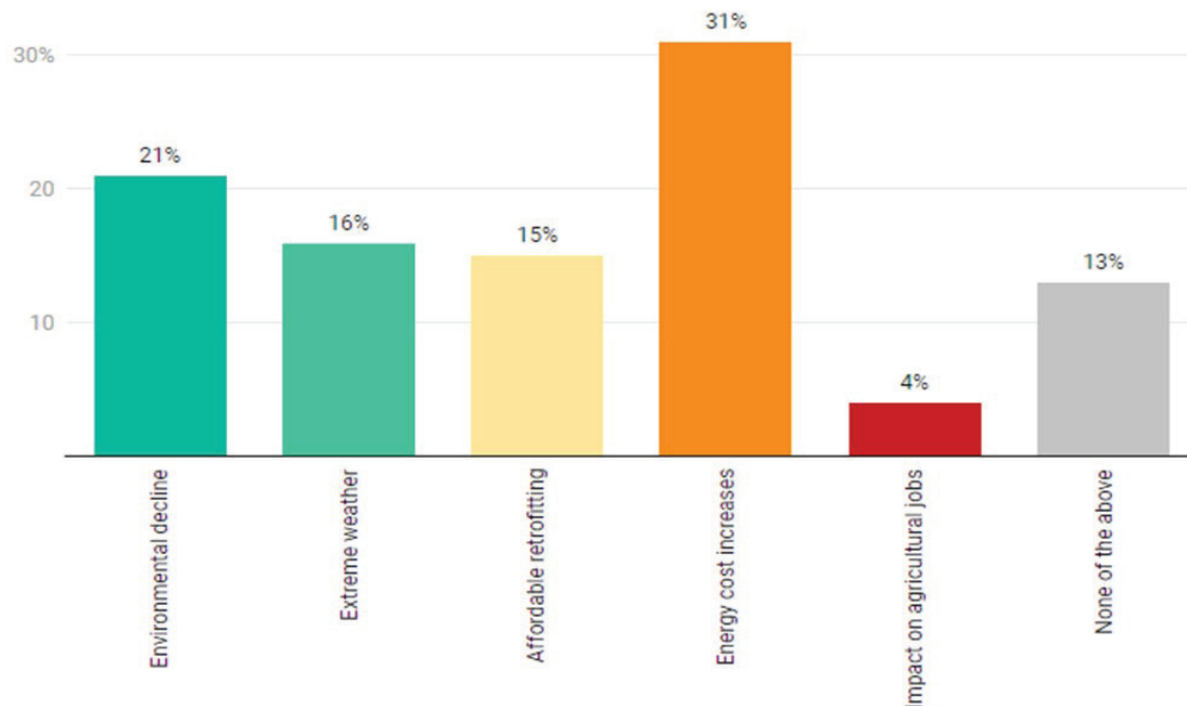


CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

We looked at climate change to understand how people in Clare viewed this issue. Respondents were asked: *"Which of the following would be your main concern regarding climate change / actions to address climate change?"*

They were given a range of items to choose from. Here, 31% selected 'Energy Cost Increases' as the issue which concerned them the most. After this 21% selected 'Environmental decline', 16% selected 'Extreme Weather', 15% 'Affordable retrofitting' and finally just 4% selected 'Impact on agricultural jobs'. 13% selected 'None of the above'. This gives a clear indication of Clare's concerns about Climate Change. If we combine the answers, on the one hand we have 37% concerned with the weather and 46% concerned with the implications on their own personal finances. Comparatively very few are concerned with the specific impact on agricultural jobs.



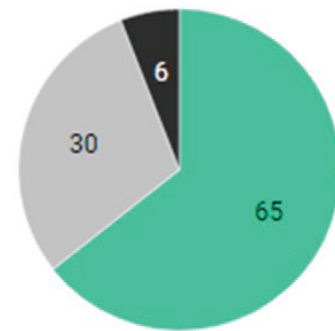
Energy Change

The survey examined the appetite for implementation of energy saving options. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of interest (“*What have you done, what would you like to do, and what have you no interest in?*”) towards: Solar Panels, Retrofitting, Electric/Hybrid cars and heat pumps.

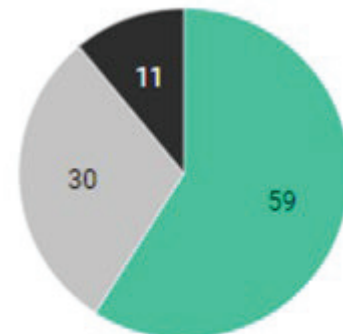
Solar panels were most popular with 65% stating that they would like to install solar panels at their house compared with 30% who have no interest and 6% who stated that they had this already. Next, retrofitting, a little more uncertain, but 59% stated that they would be interested in retrofitting their home, 30% not interested and 11% had done so already.

For electric cars/hybrids 48% wanted one, 44% had no interest and 8% stated had purchased already. Finally, in relation to a heat pump it is also worth noting that respondents were not clear on what a heat pump was. 47% stated that they were interested 45% stated that they were not interested, and 8% stated that they have done this already.

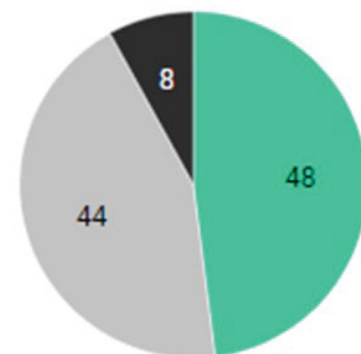
Would like to do No interest Have done



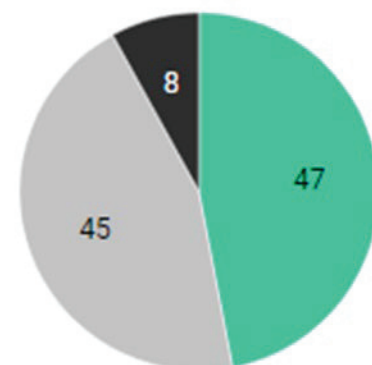
Install Solar Panels



Retrofit your home



Buy an electric car/hybrid



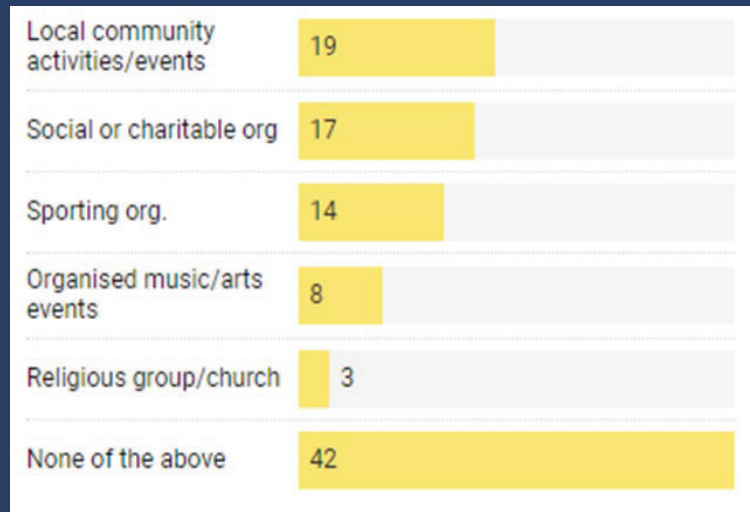
Install a heat pump



VOLUNTEERING & CHILDCARE

Volunteering

Respondents were asked: “*Would you like to regularly do voluntary work for any of the following?*” 19% identify local community activities/events, 17% Social/charitable organisations, 14% sporting organisations, 8% organised music/ arts events and 42% for none of the above.



It is noticeable the extent to which demographics influence preferences. 63% of those aged over 65 are far more likely to state that they are not interested. Males aged 35-64 are particularly predisposed towards being involved in sporting organisations with 25% indicating that they would volunteer with these organisations. Younger women are more interested in volunteering with social and charitable organisations,. Women under 64 (22% – 23%) are more interested. Women aged 18-34 are particularly interested in volunteering in local music/arts events.

	Female			Male		
	18-34	35-64	65+	18-34	35-64	65+
Local community activities/events	23%	22%	11%	21%	20%	10%
Social or charitable org	23%	22%	17%	14%	11%	12%
Sporting org.	10%	11%	6%	17%	25%	7%
Organised music/arts events	15%	7%	3%	6%	7%	7%
Religious group/church	4%	4%	2%	3%	2%	1%
None of the above	31%	37%	63%	38%	41%	62%

We can compare the results of the Clare Survey for volunteering against results from the census which asked about the extent to which members of the public already volunteer. This helps us to identify where there are gaps in the sector. The survey has identified the gap where young women would like to volunteer, and the numbers of young women who are actively volunteering in the Community and Social/Charity sphere. In the age category aged 18-24 just 4% of young women reported volunteering in the community. The survey results found that 25% state that they would like to, a gap (below) of 21%. There are gaps across all sectors, but the gaps are particularly acute in the community and social/charitable sectors and specifically for young females.

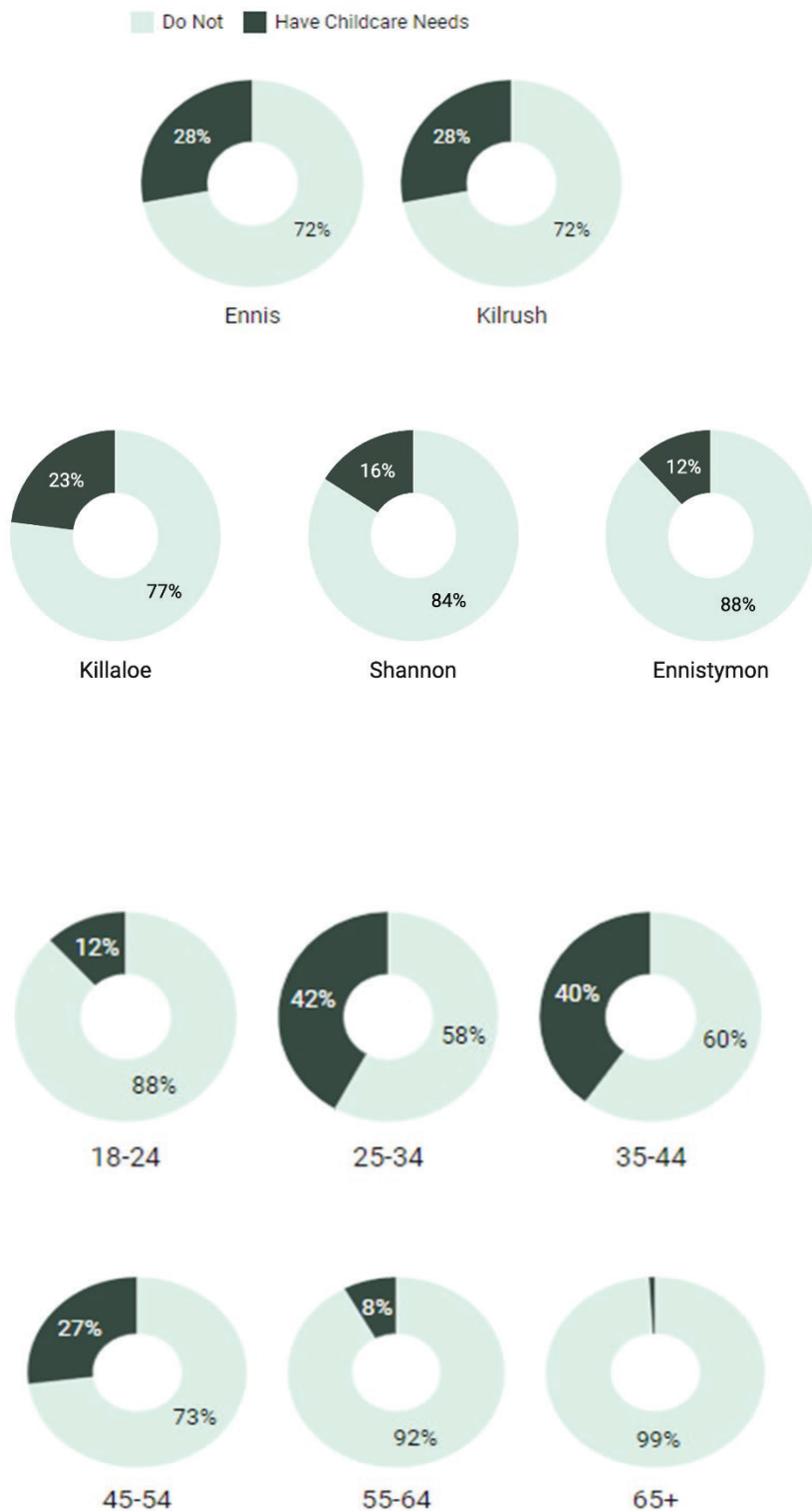
	Difference					Any
	Community	Social/ charity	Sport	Religion		
Both overall	13%	12%	6%	0%	39%	
18-24	12%	11%	2%	2%	39%	
25-44	19%	14%	8%	2%	49%	
45-64	10%	12%	6%	-1%	37%	
65+	3%	8%	3%	-5%	20%	
Female overall	14%	16%	4%	0%	43%	
Female 18-24	21%	19%	4%	-2%	51%	
Female 25-44	16%	16%	8%	5%	52%	
Female 45-64	11%	15%	0%	-2%	38%	
Female 65+	4%	11%	5%	-6%	21%	
Male overall	12%	8%	8%	0%	35%	
Male 18-24	4%	4%	1%	6%	29%	
Male 25-44	21%	11%	9%	0%	46%	
Male 45-64	10%	7%	14%	0%	35%	
Male 65+	3%	7%	1%	-3%	19%	

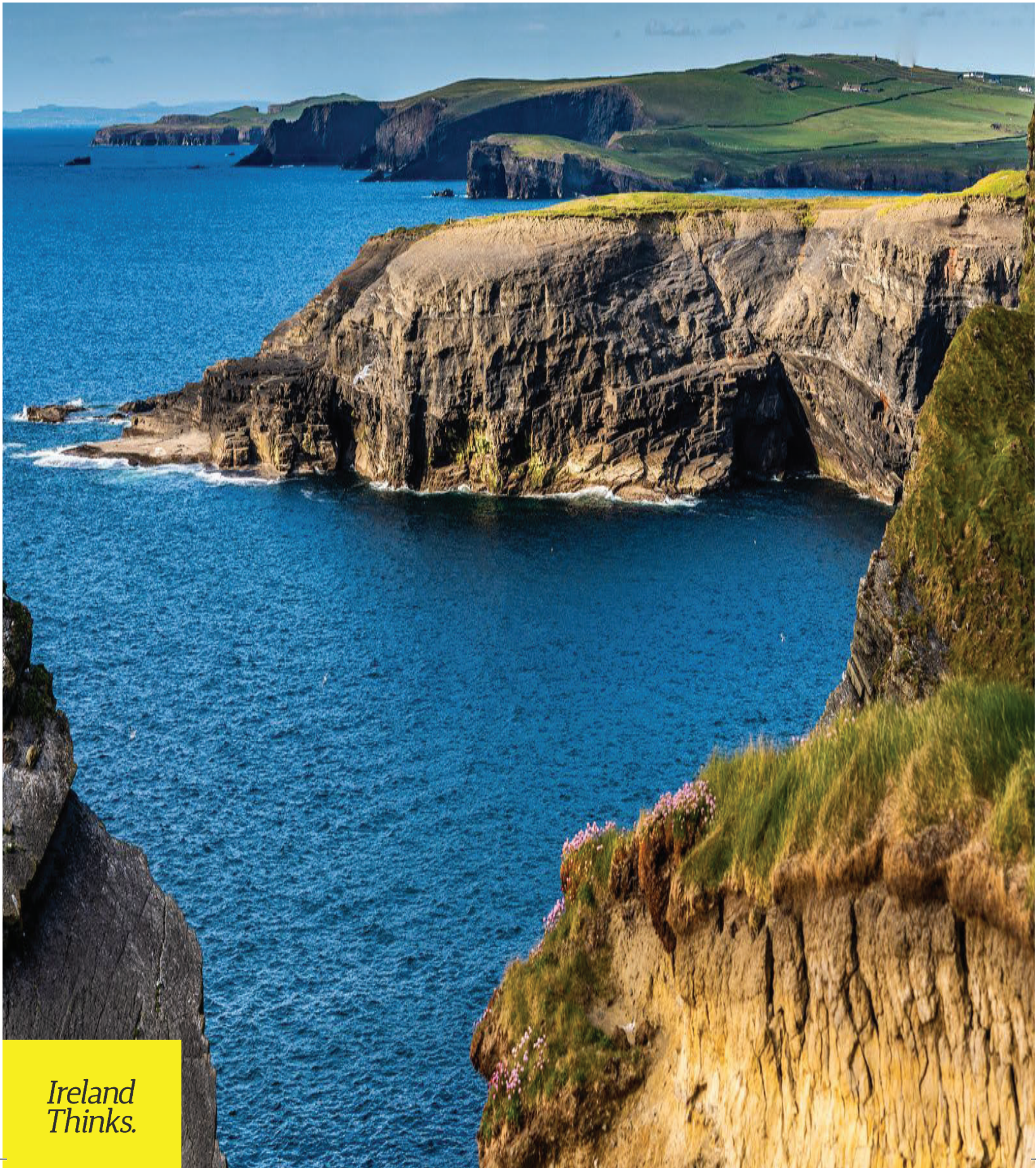
Childcare Requirements

Overall, 22% of respondents indicated that they had childcare needs which is a very broad term itself not necessarily always indicative of what one might traditionally think of when they consider childcare needs.

The charts show that share of the population with childcare needs, and it peaks among those aged between 25 and 44 with 42% of 25-34-year-olds, and 40% of 35-44-year-olds having childcare needs. It falls to 27% among those aged 45-54. It is conceivable that those in the older groups might include grandparents often relied upon for childcare duties or living with children with childcare needs.

In terms of the geography of demand, those living in Ennis and Kilrush tend to have greater Childcare needs. Those living in Ennistymon and Shannon having lower demands with 12% and 16% respectively.





*Ireland
Thinks.*