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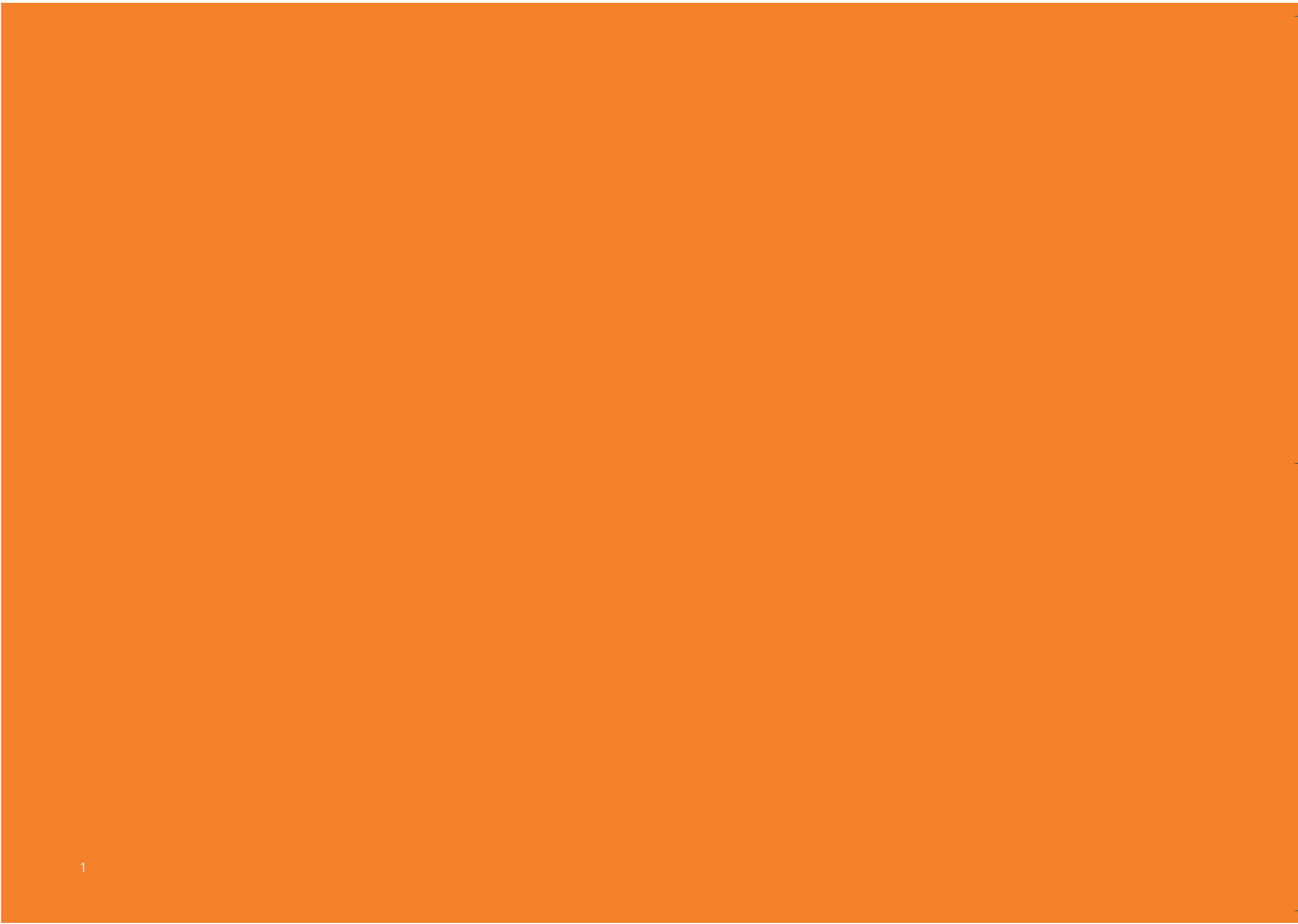


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Ballymun Fact File 2003

A socio-economic profile of Ballymun for people living, working, investing, researching and delivering services in the Area.

Summary



When looking at a more detailed breakdown of age and gender, the figures suggest that there is a decline in the birth rate and a decline in the numbers of young women. There also seems to be lower than expected male population between the ages of 25 and 39. However the degree of accuracy of a survey of this kind does not lend itself to examining very small sub-groups. Therefore it is recommended that the issues of declining birth rate, declining numbers of young women, and hidden male population is investigated in more detail when the 2002 Census age profile information is available. This demographic analysis will be of great importance to organisations such as the Health Board (birth rates), Job Centre (hidden male population), and Dublin City Council (household structures).

“..the figures suggest that there is a decline in the birth rate and a decline in the numbers of young women.”

Acknowledgements

Ballymun Partnership would like to thank the Ballymun residents, who gave up their time to participate in the household survey that gave us the information published here in this fact file.

We would also like to thank Jonathan Breeze of Vision 21 who helped us to custom design a relevant survey for Ballymun and prepared the findings for inclusion in this Fact File. We also thank the Vision 21 fieldwork team who worked tirelessly over the Christmas period 2002 to conduct the survey on our behalf.

We would also like to thank Evelyne Hanlon of Ballymun Regeneration Limited, Sean Smith of Dublin City Council and Dermot Higgins of Ballymun Post Office for information on the number of households and new addresses in the Ballymun area, particularly in this time of regeneration. To the people who put forward questions for us to ask in the survey, we hope that the results in this fact file offers you some useful responses.

And lastly, special thanks to the partners around our Board, for using their knowledge of Ballymun and their expertise of the particular topics to comment on the findings of the survey, and for making the information more meaningful and useful as a result.

About this Fact File

In this main booklet of the Fact File, you will find ...

- An introduction to why we produced this Fact File
- How we gathered the information for this Fact File
- A summary of Key Findings of our Household Survey
- Strengths & Weaknesses of Ballymun, as Highlighted by Vision 21
- Population data for Ballymun
- A map of the Ballymun area, Illustrating the Proposals in the Ballymun Regeneration Programme
- How to contact us

Also In the sleeve, you will find 9 booklets containing facts and figures on the following topics;

1. Ballymun People & Employment
2. A Profile of People Out of Work in Ballymun
3. Education, Training & Schooling in Ballymun
4. Childcare Needs & Preferences in Ballymun
5. A Picture of Health in Ballymun
6. Ballymun Residents' Perceptions of their Housing & Environment
7. Crime & Safety Levels and Perceptions in Ballymun
8. Voting and Community Participation in Ballymun
9. Income Levels and Spending Preferences of Ballymun People

Population Data on Ballymun

The first topic covered by the survey was demographics. Respondents were asked to indicate the gender, age, marital status, and employment status of every member of the household.

In terms of gender, 47.4% of the sample were male and 52.6% were female. This replicates closely the 1996 Census figures, which indicated that 47.5% of the Ballymun population was male and 52.5% were female. Therefore it can be seen that the gender composition has not changed significantly since 1996. The survey results are supported by the 2002 Census, which reported that 47.6% of Ballymun residents are male and 52.4% are female.

Household size has also remained stable. The 1996 Census reported an average Ballymun household size of 3.28 persons, and our survey indicated an average of 3.16 persons. Again the survey results are supported by the 2002 Census, which reported a preliminary figure of 3.14 persons per household.

A ten percent sample of 485 households was interviewed. In total these households had 1,516 members. Therefore we can estimate that Ballymun has a total population of 15,160 people. This is supported by the 2002 Census, which reported a Ballymun population of 15,229.

The average age of people living in Ballymun is 26.82 years old.

Age group	2002 Survey %	1996 Census* %	State* %
0 – 14	29.1	32.6	23.7
15 – 24	20.8	20.8	17.5
25 – 44	32.7	26.1	28.0
45 – 64	14.1	17.5	19.4
65 +	3.3	3.1	11.4

*Source: CSO: 1996 Census

This table presents the age profile breakdown. As can be seen, half (49.9%) of all Ballymun residents are below the age of 25, this compares to 41.2% of the State.

Potential for Further Enquiry

This survey identified several issues that need further examination. The demographic structure of Ballymun needs detailed analysis and the 2002 Census age profiles, when available, should provide this. Issues to be explored include the possibility of a declining birth rate, declining numbers of young women, and a hidden male population between the ages of 25 and 39.

Further research is also needed to examine the nature and extent of young people leaving school without going into employment or training.

The high level of reported health problems related to alcohol and drug use suggests that substance use warrants further investigation.

Some of the figures reported in this study will be comparable to national survey results that were due to be published in 2003. These include the 2002 Census, the QNHS 4th Quarter 2002 – Childcare Module, and the QNHS – Participation Module.

The results of this survey can be used as a baseline, in that they can be compared with the results of future Ballymun surveys, so that trends and progress can be measured.

Why did we produce this Fact File?

Ballymun Partnership embarked on its most recent plan of action in January 2001. We have been restructuring to become more systematic in our approach. This includes finding new ways for us to target our efforts and to evaluate our use to this community, and to the range of bodies investing in the area.

In order to evaluate how our efforts impact on the local community, it is important to work from reliable data, and to continuously update that data, particularly in light of the Regeneration Programme in Ballymun which brings great changes to the area and to individual lives.

Essentially, the Partnership wanted to gather key data that would provide a comprehensive social and economic profile of the Ballymun area – a picture of its strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, Ballymun Partnership wanted to make this information available to anyone who had a vested interest in the people and the area, such as residents, government, state services, community groups, researchers, employers etc.

Most importantly, for a community to develop, its residents (in the first instance) need to be aware of the area's own strengths and weaknesses. It is with this knowledge that they can instigate, and/or, assist the change process themselves, to have the tools to engage with government bodies and other agencies of change in order to improve their lives and the well being of the community as a whole. Secondly, for any body investing time, energy and resources in Ballymun, it is necessary to have important, credible basic facts and figures at hand to support any plan of action on their part.

We hope that this Fact File is the start of an effort to become more knowledgeable about the area in which we are all trying to achieve significant social and economic development. We welcome any initiative that helps to bring more co-operation and co-ordination of accessible, reliable, relevant and up-to-date information for the area in the long term.

How did we gather the information for this Fact File?

To gather the key data for this Fact File, Ballymun Partnership commissioned a company called Vision 21 to conduct a survey with ten percent of Ballymun residents. A sampling frame was constructed using information from Dublin City Council Regional Office, from Ballymun Post Office and Ballymun Regeneration Limited. The target sample size was 485 households (10% of all households in Ballymun).

Letters were sent to randomly selected households outlining the nature of the survey and informing them that an interviewer would call within the next few weeks. The survey was conducted between November 2002 and early January 2003. Up to four call-backs were made at each sampled address. If after four attempts an interview could not be secured, a replacement address was selected for interview.

In terms of response rates, 81.6% of interviews were secured within four call-backs, 15.9% interviews were undertaken at alternative addresses because there was no response at the original address, and 2.5% of interviews were conducted at new addresses because of refusals at the original address.

In total, 485 households were interviewed. This equates to a confidence level of approximately 95%. Demographic and Principal Economic Status (PES) information was collected for every individual in the households, in total, information was collected on 1516 individuals. On an individual level, this equates to a confidence of approximately 95%.

The data collated is compared with national surveys where possible, such as the 2002 Census, 1996 Census, the National Quarterly Household Survey, the 1999/2000 Household Budget Survey and a survey that was conducted for the Partnership in 2000.

The survey shows that 1860 households in Ballymun mind their children at home. However this is the preferred method of only 1320. This suggests that 540 households mind their children at home because appropriate alternative are not available. The survey also showed that nearly half of parents (49.5%) had been prevented from looking for a job due to lack of available childcare.

Health is also of concern in Ballymun. When compared to the State, Ballymun has proportionally half as many people who describe their health as excellent and twice as many describing their health as poor. Many studies suggest the health of a community is inextricably linked to social exclusion. As Ballymun is to be used by the Department of Health and Children as one of the pilot areas for a new model of primary care, we should expect some improvement in the coming years.

Ballymun residents report a high level of anti social behaviour. Several studies suggest that if it is not addressed, anti social behaviour can act as a catalyst for more serious crimes. Ballymun also experiences extremely high rates of crime and low satisfaction levels with the Gardai.

Although 60.7% are dissatisfied with the areas outside their homes, the regeneration project offers the opportunity to correct this.



Strengths & Weaknesses of Ballymun As Highlighted by Vision 21

As the survey findings show, Ballymun as a community has many strengths, and it has weaknesses which need to be addressed.

A major strength of Ballymun is the close community networks. Nearly a third of the population (31.1%) are actively involved in voluntary group or local organisation (e.g. charity, sports club, local community group). Ballymun has also a reasonably settled community, more than two in five (42.9%) have lived in their present accommodation for more than ten years. Well over three quarters (78.9%) like living in Ballymun and want to continue doing so for the foreseeable future.

Ballymun has an unemployment rate four times higher than that of the State. However, since the survey conducted in 2000, there has been an increase in the labour force participation rate the biggest change since 2000 is in the increase in part time employment. Nearly half (45.5%) of those 'out of work' (ILO: unemployed or not economically active but available for work) expressed an interest in setting up their own business. This obviously shows potential for enterprise in Ballymun.

Another strength is that nearly four in five (78.8%) out of work people reported having work skills which included: computer skills, administrative skills, and trade/craft skills. In terms of skills of those in work, 66.7% of those who described their current occupation as general operative reported having work skills.

Four in ten (40.0%) people out of work had undertaken a training/education course in the past 12 months, and 77.6% said they would like to undertake a course in the future. This illustrates the importance of 'second chance' education in Ballymun. However, of those who would like to undertake a course 37.8% said something was preventing them from participating. The most frequently cited barrier was childcare, which brings us on to some of the weaknesses.

Summary of Key Findings of 1 in 10 Household Survey

Some of the key findings are highlighted below. The actual figures that the percentages equate to are presented here in this summary. As we surveyed ten percent of the Ballymun population, the survey figures have been multiplied by ten to show the actual numbers, i.e. 114 of those in work described their occupation as part of a career, this equates to 1140 people in Ballymun overall.

- Using the Principal Economic Status criteria, Ballymun has an unemployment rate four times that of the State.
- Nearly half (48.9%, 1,140) of those in work describe their occupation as part of a career, rather than merely a job.
- All respondents were asked whether they would be interested in setting up their own business, over a quarter (26.7%, 1210) indicated that they would be.
- In total 42.4% (2060) of respondents indicated that they received benefit payments.
- Compared with the State, Ballymun has a higher percentage of people (aged 15 and over) describing themselves as students. This is due to the high levels in 'second chance' education.
- Ballymun people achieve an educational level far lower than the national average.
- Although the majority of respondents had not completed upper secondary level education, over two-thirds (68.4%, 3200) reported having work skills.
- Nearly a third of people (30.4%, 1450) had participated in an education or training programme in the past 12 months.

- Three in five people (60.5%, 2870) indicated that they would like to participate in an education or training course in the future.
- Over a third (36.1%, 880) of households, with children attending primary or secondary school, use schools outside Ballymun.
- Although some parents prefer schools outside Ballymun, nearly three-quarters (74.3%, 1710) rate schools in Ballymun as good or very good.
- Nearly all parents (99.6%, 2380) said they would like their children to go on to Third Level education.
- Although 78.2% (1860) of parents usually mind their own children at home, this is the preferred method by only 56.2% (1320). This suggests that parents are minding children at home because suitable alternatives are not available.
- Nearly half (49.5%, 540) of parents had been prevented from looking for a job due to lack of available childcare. Nearly two in five (38.9%, 420) had been prevented from participating in education or training.
- Compared with the State, Ballymun has proportionally twice as many people covered by a medical card, and a far smaller proportion covered by private health insurance.
- Compared with the State, Ballymun has proportionately twice as many people describing their health as poor.
- Ballymun has a reasonably settled population; two-thirds (66.9%, 3250) have lived in the same accommodation for more than 5 years, and 42.9% (2150) have lived there for more than 10 years.

- Accommodation satisfaction levels are strongly dependent on the type of accommodation in which the person lives. In terms of houses, the newer the house the more satisfied the occupant is; and in terms of flats the fewer stories the block has the more satisfied the occupant is.
- Well over three quarters of people in households (78.9%, 3770) like living in Ballymun and want to continue doing so for the foreseeable future.
- Ballymun households, in comparison to the national averages, experience far higher rates of crime.
- The vast majority (89.7%, 4380) of people feel safe in their homes at night, however, 40.4% (1840) feel unsafe walking in their neighbourhood after dark.
- Nearly nine out of ten (88.6%, 4210) people felt that the local community should be more involved in running Ballymun, and 55.3% (2620) would like to participate in a neighbourhood council.
- The survey suggests that people require shopping facilities to be located closer to the homes than Ballymun Town Centre.

“Well over three quarters of people in Ballymun households (78.9%, 3770) like living in Ballymun and want to continue doing so for the foreseeable future’