

Homelessness: What the Irish Public Think

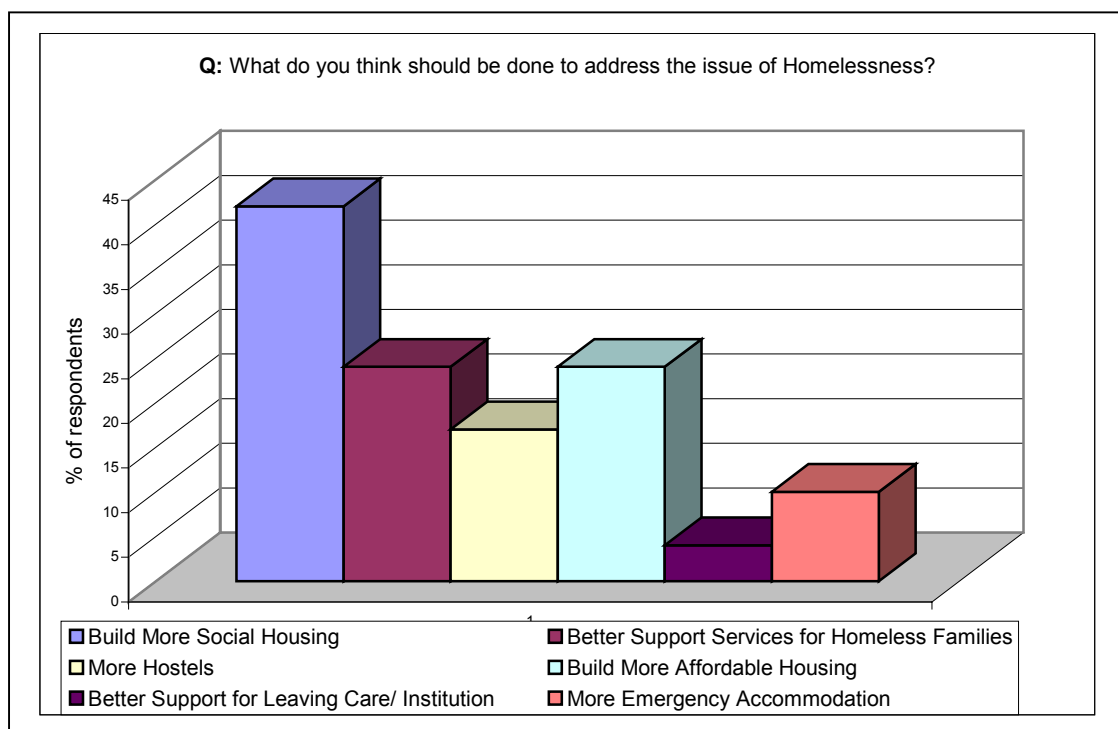
Focus Ireland survey shows they want the problem solved no matter the cost.

Focus Ireland recently (2003) surveyed 500 people's opinion on homelessness in Ireland. The sample was weighted to ensure it was representative of the national population.

The results made for some interesting reading as it showed a majority of people do not accept the argument that people are homeless through their own fault or that they receive too much assistance from the taxpayer. In fact, we found overwhelming support among the public for the claim that housing should be made available for homeless people whatever the cost. Seventy seven (77) per cent of people agree with this claim for resources.

When we asked who is mainly to blame for homelessness, a majority of respondents stated blame lay with government (59% for Dublin respondents, 45% non Dublin respondents). Furthermore, sixty three (63) percent of the public agree with the statement that 'people are homeless because of a lack of appropriate action taken by the government'.

When we then asked what should be done to tackle homelessness, our survey found the following unprompted demands: build more social housing and provide better support services to homeless families and those leaving care or institution. Also, build more hostels, more emergency accommodation and build more affordable housing overall (see below).



Source: Amarach Consulting, 2003

Focus Ireland claims the Government must listen to Public Demands on to how solve Homelessness and take action. The Government should know that majority public opinion demands more social housing is built to meet housing need and to address the issue of homelessness. Focus Ireland agrees strongly with this view and is convinced now more than ever that the required capital investment to tackle these problems is made. In our correspondence with government, we will continue to argue for a dual strategy of widening the tax base and of limited borrowing for the purposes of making this investment a reality. For more information contact Focus Ireland (01) 8815900 or visit www.focusireland.ie