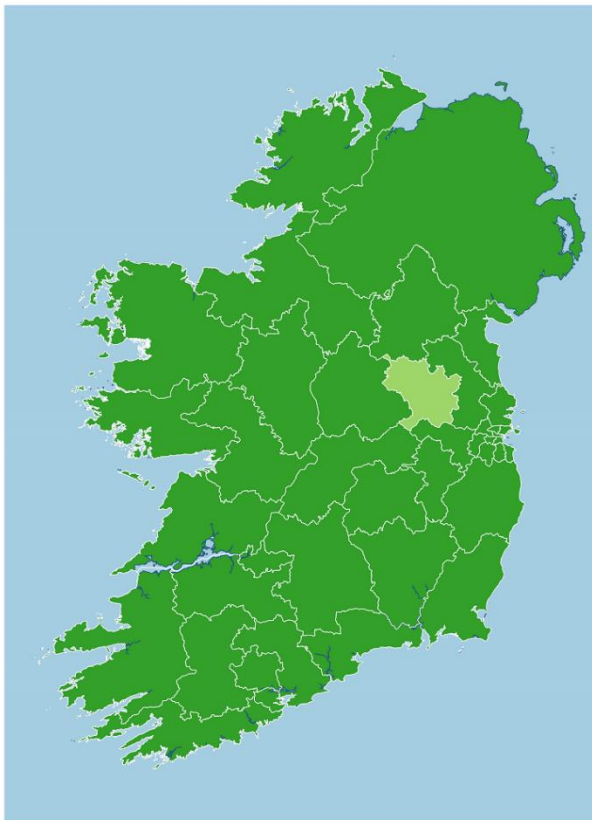


Dáil Éireann Constituency Profile

Meath West



Demographics



**Economic status
and work**



**Households and
housing**



Transport



Education



Families

January 2020

**Oireachtas Library
& Research Service**

Seirbhís Leabharlainne & Taighde an Oireachtais



Houses of the Oireachtas
Tithe an Oireachtais



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For more detail and interactive tables see the L&RS Constituency Dashboards at dashboards.oireachtas.ie:

Constituency Dashboards



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Notes

1. The L&RS Constituency Profiles are based on the dataset derived, and adapted, from the CSO's Small Area Population Statistics for Census 2016. The dataset used for the Oireachtas Library & Research Service (L&RS) Constituency Profiles is also used as the basis for the L&RS Constituency Dashboards, available at dashboards.oireachtas.ie. The Constituency Profiles, as well as the sum of the Electoral Divisions (ED) that comprise each constituency, is based on the Schedule of the [Electoral \(Amendment\) \(Dáil Constituencies\) Act 2017](#).
2. Based on the Act's provisions, it should be noted that some constituencies include EDs from neighbouring counties.
3. In some instances - in line with the protocols used for the L&RS Constituency Dashboards - where EDs are split across two constituencies (e.g. EDs bisected by the M50 in Dublin), the data for the full ED is allocated to just one constituency, typically the constituency in which the majority of a specific ED's population and/or geographic area is located.
4. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the separate figures.

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For more detail and interactive tables see the L&RS Constituency Dashboards at dashboards.oireachtas.ie:

Constituency Dashboards



Introduction to the Constituency Profile series

The Constituency Profiles are based on the [Small Area Population Statistics \(SAPS\)](#) from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) [Census 2016](#) releases.¹ The Oireachtas Library and Research Service (L&RS) Constituency Profiles series is a complementary publication to, and shares a similar structure of, the online interactive Constituency Dashboards (available at dashboards.oireachtas.ie). Each Constituency Profile reflects the Dáil constituencies as set out in the [Electoral \(Amendment\) \(Dáil Constituencies\) Act 2017](#).

In keeping with the L&RS Constituency Dashboards, each Constituency Profile is structured under the following **6 themes**:



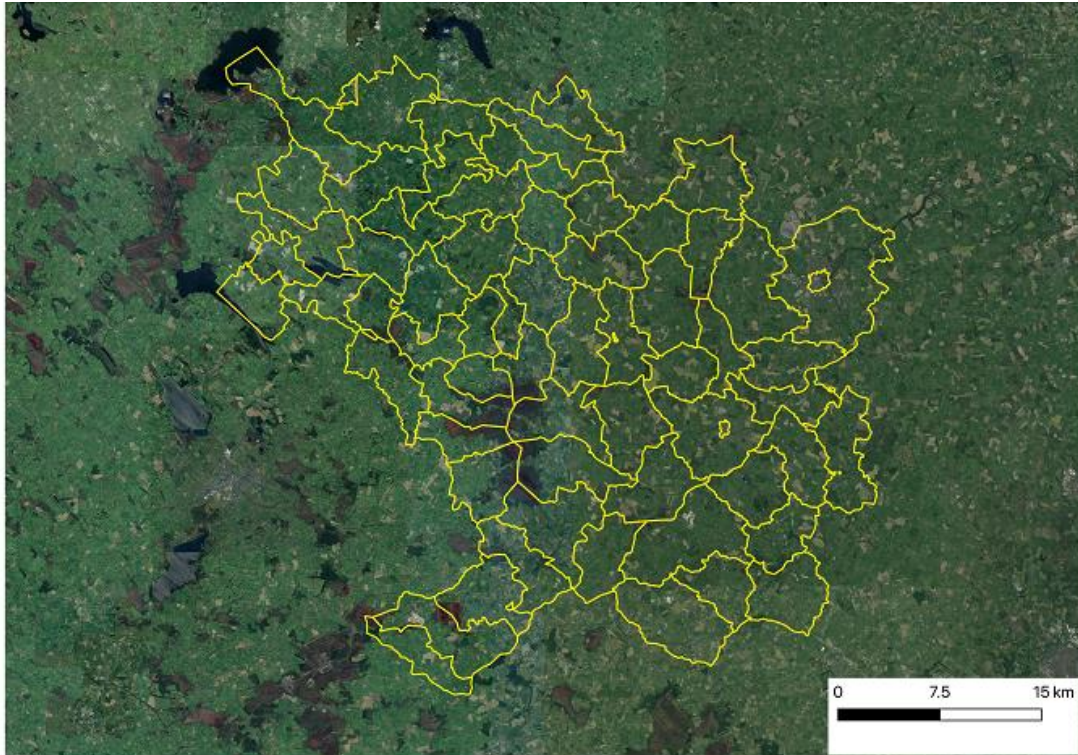
The Themes and Indicators included in this Profile reflect a selection of those used in the interactive Constituency Dashboards. A description of terms used by the CSO in the Census is set out in footnotes where relevant.

Introduction to Profile

Meath West is a 3-seat constituency located north-west of Dublin. It includes, among others, the following locations: Kinnegad, Navan and Trim. Meath West is comprised of 66 Electoral Divisions (EDs).

¹ The maps in this publication were produced in cooperation with the School of Geography, University College Dublin.

Figure 1: Location of Meath West

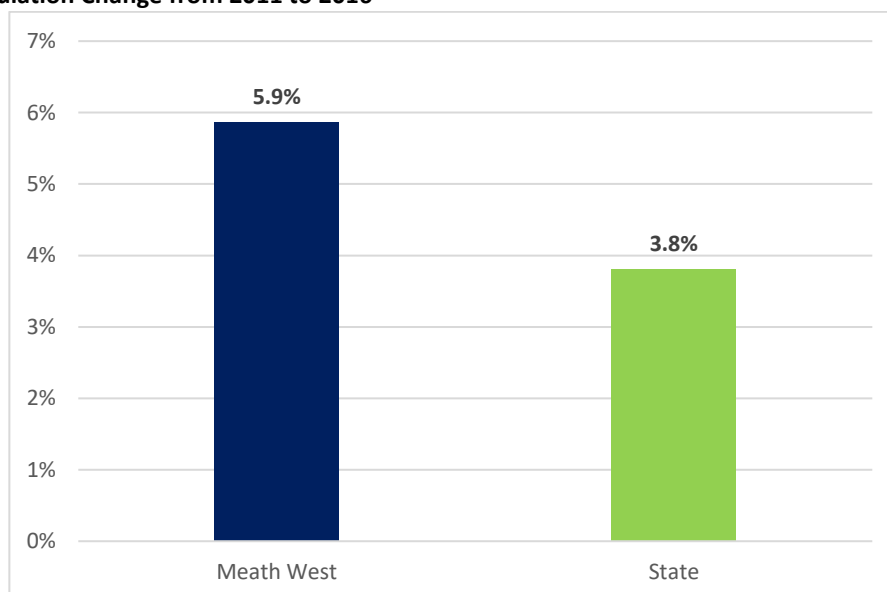


Demographics

Population

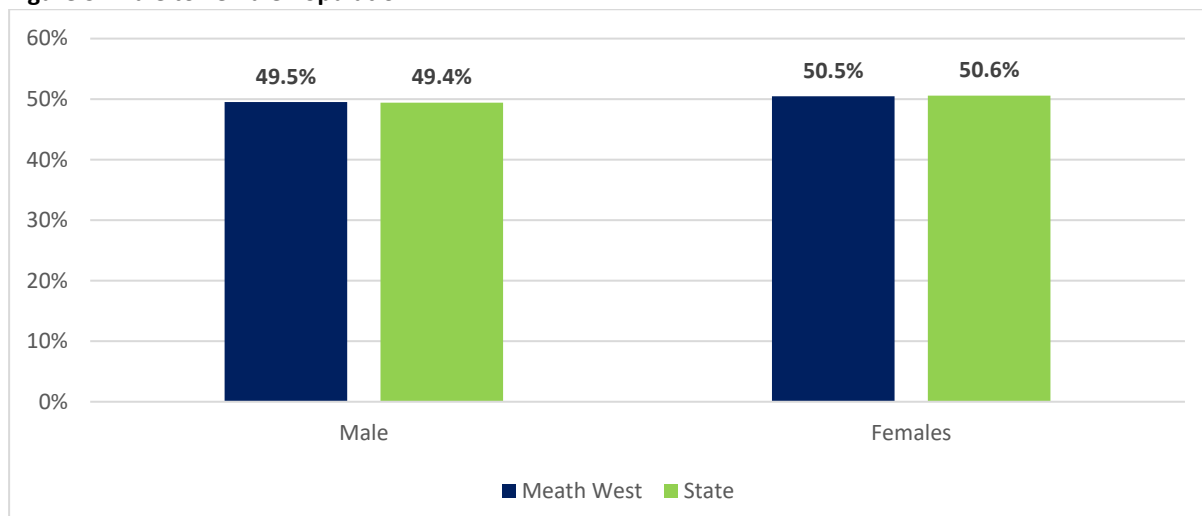
The population of the constituency at the time of the 2016 Census was **90,331**. This represents a 5.9% increase from 2011. As shown in Figure 2, this rate of increase is higher compared to the corresponding State rate of change for the same period.

Figure 2: Population Change from 2011 to 2016



In 2016, 50.5% (45,598) of the constituency's population was female and 49.5% (44,733) was male. The State corresponding proportions in 2016 was 50.6% female and 49.4% male (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Male to Female Population



Age cohorts

Figure 4 below shows the distribution of the female and male population of Meath West according to five-year age bands. 29.4% of Meath West's population was aged under 18 and 10.8% were aged 65 or older in 2016. As shown in Figure 5 overleaf, the corresponding State measures were 25% aged under 18 and 13.4% aged 65 or older.

Figure 4: Male/Female Age Cohorts, shown as an age pyramid

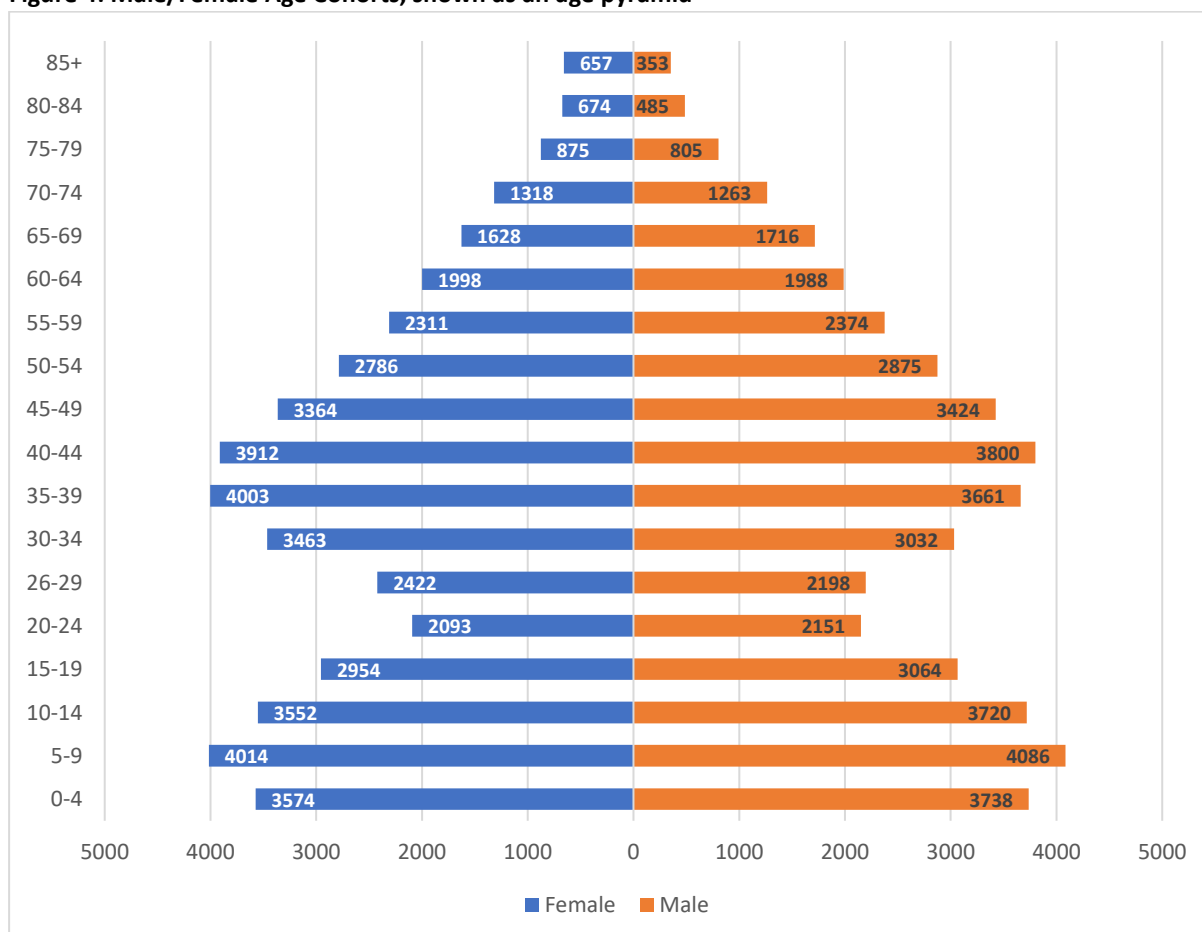
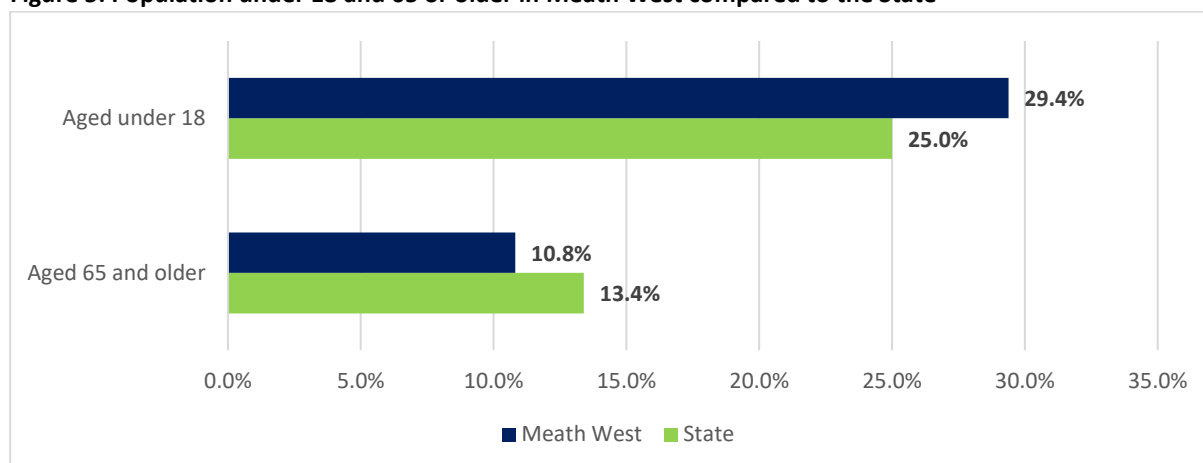


Figure 5: Population under 18 and 65 or older in Meath West compared to the State



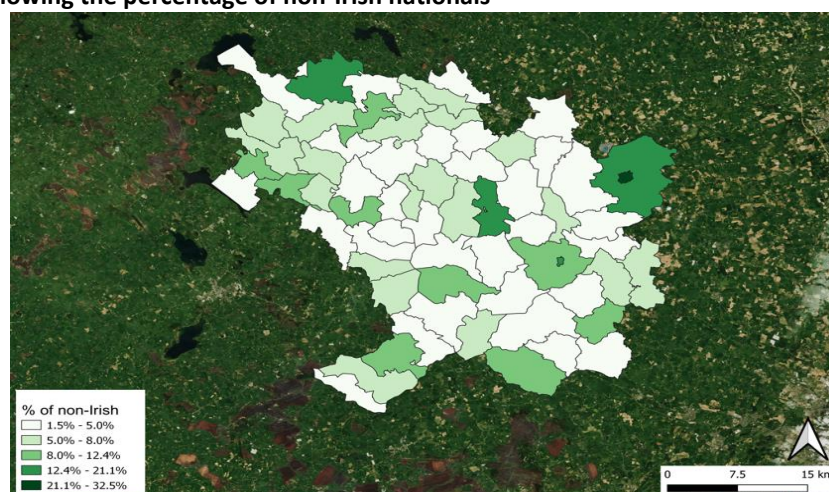
Nationality

The proportion of Irish and non-Irish nationals respectively residing in Meath West are, in most categories, like those seen nationally in 2016. 88.4% of the usually resident population of Meath West stated their nationality as Irish in the 2016 Census. 10.6% of the population of the constituency had nationalities other than Irish, with 1% 'not stated'. Non-Irish nationals usually resident in the constituency included those who stated their nationality as British (1.8%), Polish (2.4%), Lithuanian (2.4%), from another EU country (2.4%) or from the rest of the world (1.6%). Table 1 below shows the comparison in the profile of nationality in the constituency of Meath West with that seen nationally in 2016.

Table 1: Nationality in Meath West compared to the State

Nationality	Meath West	State
Irish	88.4%	87.0%
British	1.8%	2.2%
Polish	2.4%	2.6%
Lithuanian	2.4%	0.8%
Other EU	2.4%	3.1%
Rest of the World	1.6%	2.7%
Not Stated	1.0%	1.5%

Figure 6: Map showing the percentage of non-Irish nationals



Ethnicity

Table 2 shows that 83.5% of people usually residing in Meath East identified their ethnicity as White Irish, which is close to the national proportion (82.2%). The constituency has a slightly lower proportion of usual residents that identify as Asian or Asian Irish compared to the national (1.3% compared to 2.1%). The proportion identifying as Black or Black Irish is marginally higher than the national share (1.8% compared to 1.4%).

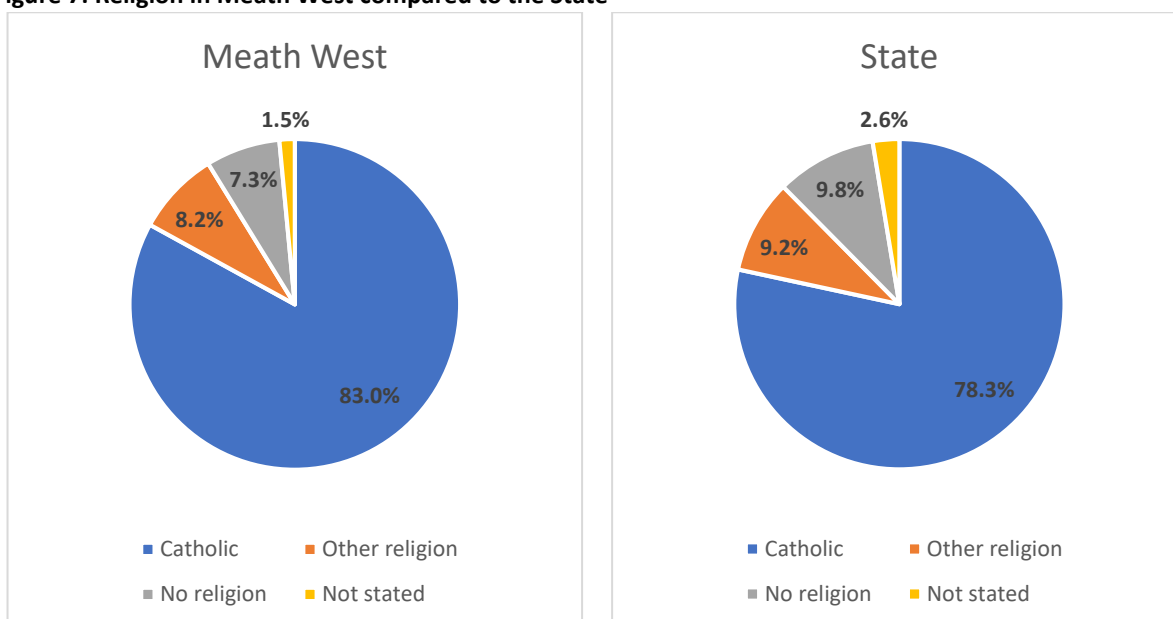
Table 2: Ethnicity in Meath West compared to the State

Ethnicity	Meath West	State
White Irish	83.5%	82.2%
White Irish Traveller	0.9%	0.7%
Other White Ethnicity	9.6%	9.5%
Black or Black Irish	1.8%	1.4%
Asian or Asian Irish	1.3%	2.1%
Other Ethnicity	1.2%	1.5%
Not Stated	1.6%	2.6%

Religion

The share of Catholics in Meath West (83%) is higher than the national rate (78.3%). A smaller proportion of the usually resident population in the constituency have no religion than seen nationally (7.3% compared to 9.8%).

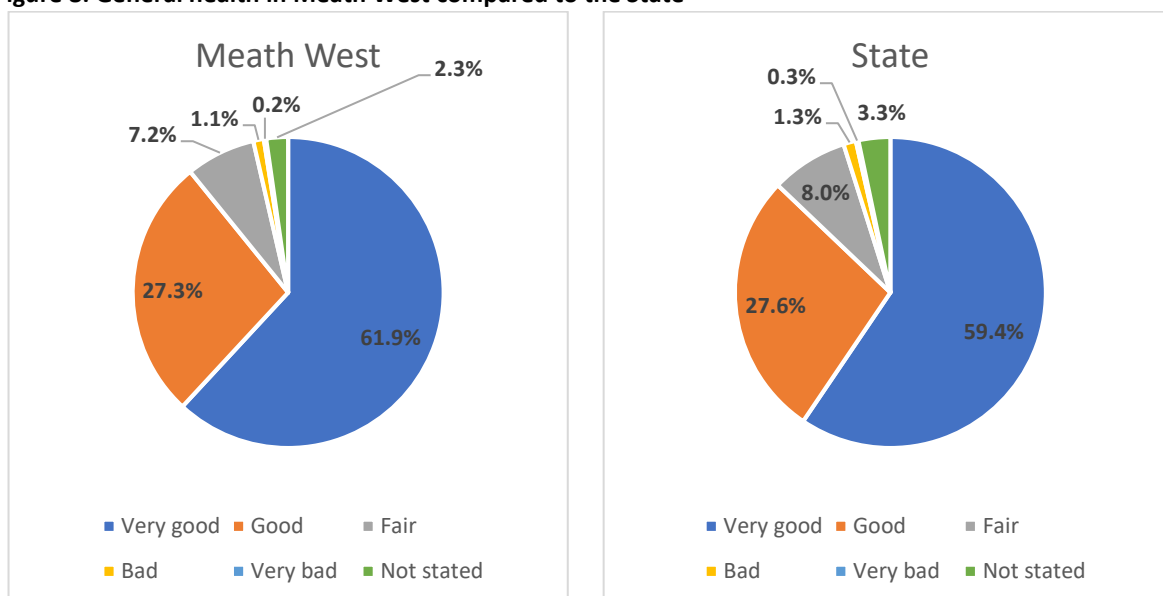
Figure 7: Religion in Meath West compared to the State



General Health

61.9% of Meath West's population described their health as very good in 2016, which is slightly higher than the national rate of 59.4%. (See Figure 8 below)

Figure 8: General health in Meath West compared to the State



Social class²

Table 3 shows the social class makeup of Meath West and nationally in 2016. Meath West has lower proportions of professional workers (6.7% compared to 8.1%) than nationally. The constituency has a higher proportion of skilled-manual workers (17.4% compared to 14.1%) and semi-skilled workers (11.4% compared to 10.5%) relative to the national corresponding measures.

Table 3: Social class in Meath West compared to the State

Social Class	Meath West	State
Professional workers	6.7%	8.1%
Managerial and technical	28.1%	28.1%
Non-manual	17.7%	17.6%
Skilled-manual	17.4%	14.1%
Semi-skilled	11.4%	10.5%
Unskilled	4.1%	3.6%
All other (gainfully employed and unknown)	14.5%	18%

² For a definition of social class as used by the CSO in the Census, see [here](#).



Economic Status and Work

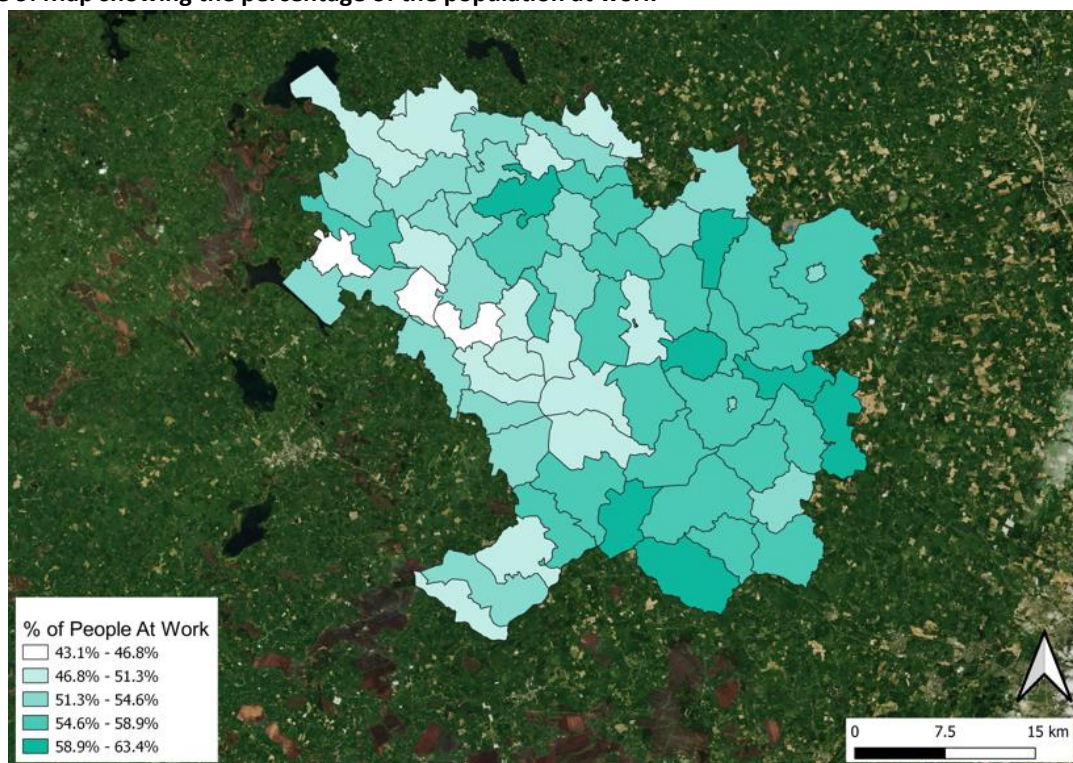
Principal economic status³

Table 4 shows the employment status of Meath West compared nationally. The constituency has a marginally higher proportion of usual residents that were at work in 2016 (55.2%) compared to the State overall (53.5%). Meath West has a lower proportion of retired residents (11.9%) compared to the national (14.5%) but a higher proportion of those categorised as looking after family / home (9.5% compared to 8.1%). Figure 9 illustrates the percentage of residents at work across the constituency of Meath West at the ED level.

Table 4: Principal economic status of Meath West compared the State

Principal Economic Status	Meath West	State
At work	55.2%	53.5%
Looking for first job	0.9%	0.8%
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	7.6%	7.1%
Student	10.6%	11.4%
Looking after home/family	9.5%	8.1%
Retired	11.9%	14.5%
Unable to work due to sickness or disability	3.9%	4.2%
Other	0.3%	0.4%

Figure 9: Map showing the percentage of the population at work



³ For explanation of terms and definitions used in Census data, see the CSO website [here](https://www.cso.ie/).

Industry

Table 5 shows those working in Meath West and nationally by industry. Meath West has more residents working in building and construction than nationally (7.9% compared to 5.1%). Meath West also has more residents working in manufacturing and industry than nationally (13% compared to 11.4%). The constituency has a marginally lower share of workers in commerce and trade than seen nationally (22.9% compared to 23.9%).

Table 5: Industry breakdown in Meath West compared to the State

Industry	Meath West	State
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	5.4%	4.4%
Building and construction	7.9%	5.1%
Manufacturing and industries	13.0%	11.4%
Commerce and trade	22.9%	23.9%
Transport and communications	7.4%	8.5%
Public administration	5.6%	5.3%
Professional services	22.1%	23.5%
Other	15.7%	17.8%

Occupation types⁴

Table 6 shows the occupation types that Meath residents work in. More Meath West residents work in skilled trade occupations (16.9% compared to 13.9%) and process, plant and machine operatives (8.7% compared to 7.2%) than nationally. The constituency has lower proportions of workers in professional occupations (14.3% compared to 17.3%) than seen in the State overall.

Table 6: Occupation types in Meath West compared the State

Occupation Types	Meath West	State
Managers, directors and senior officials	7.6%	7.4%
Professional occupations	14.3%	17.3%
Associate professional and technical occupations	10.0%	10.9%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	10.2%	10.0%
Skilled trades occupations	16.9%	13.9%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.2%	7.3%
Sales and customer service occupations	6.5%	6.8%
Process, plant and machine operatives	8.7%	7.2%
Elementary occupations	9.2%	8.8%
Not stated	8.6%	10.3%

⁴ For details of the CSO definition of occupation, see [here](#).

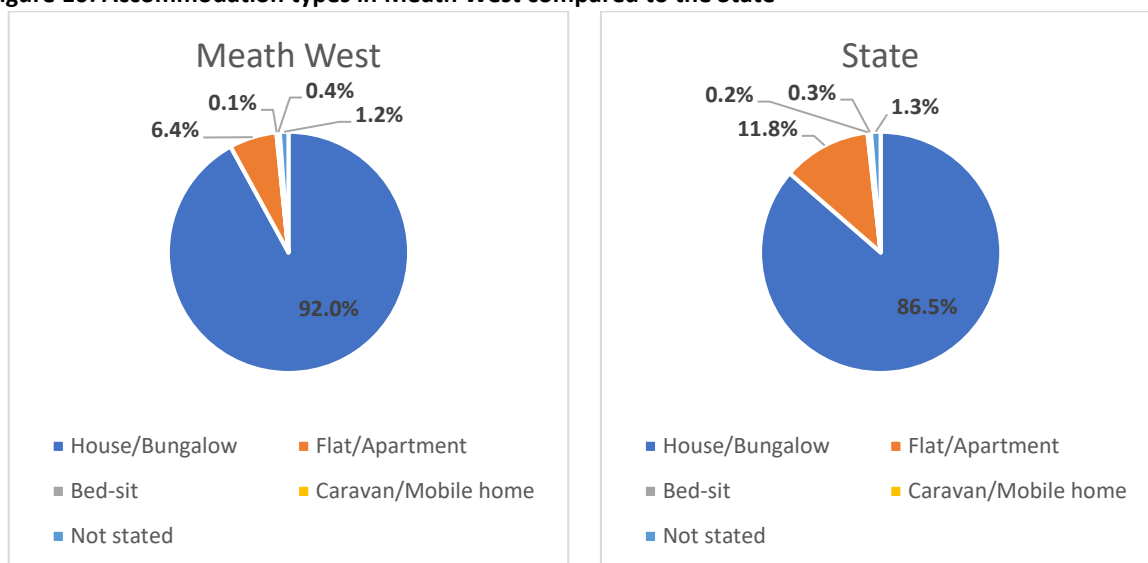


Households and Housing

Accommodation type

There were 30,330 private households in Meath West in 2016. Figure 10 below shows that people in Meath West are more likely to live in houses or bungalows than nationally (92% compared to the national 86.5%). Meath West has a much lower proportion of households living in flats/apartments than nationally (6.4% compared to 11.8%).

Figure 10: Accommodation types in Meath West compared to the State



Occupancy type

Households in Meath West are much more likely to own their houses with a mortgage/loan than seen nationally (40.1% compared to 31.6%) but are less likely to own a house outright (33.7% compared to 36% nationally). Meath West also has a lower proportion of households renting from local authorities than nationally (6.7% compared to 8.4%).

Figure 11: Occupancy types in Meath West compared the State

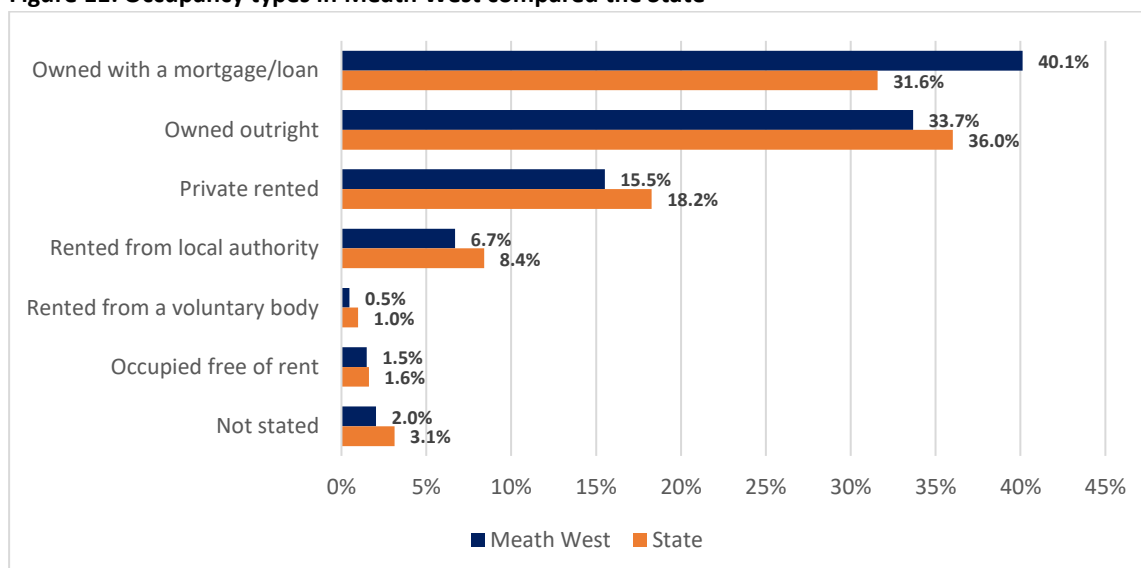
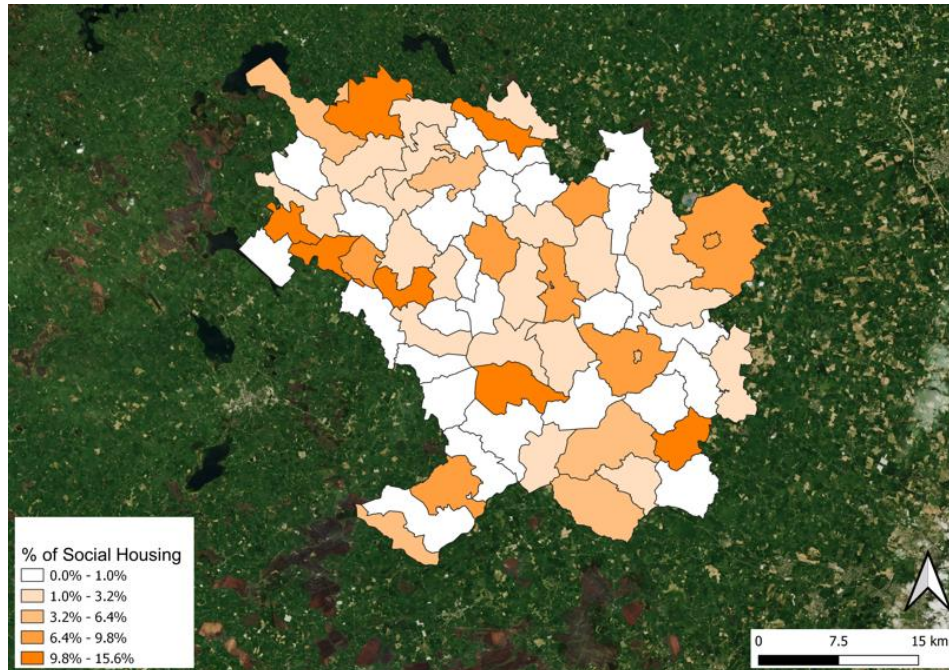
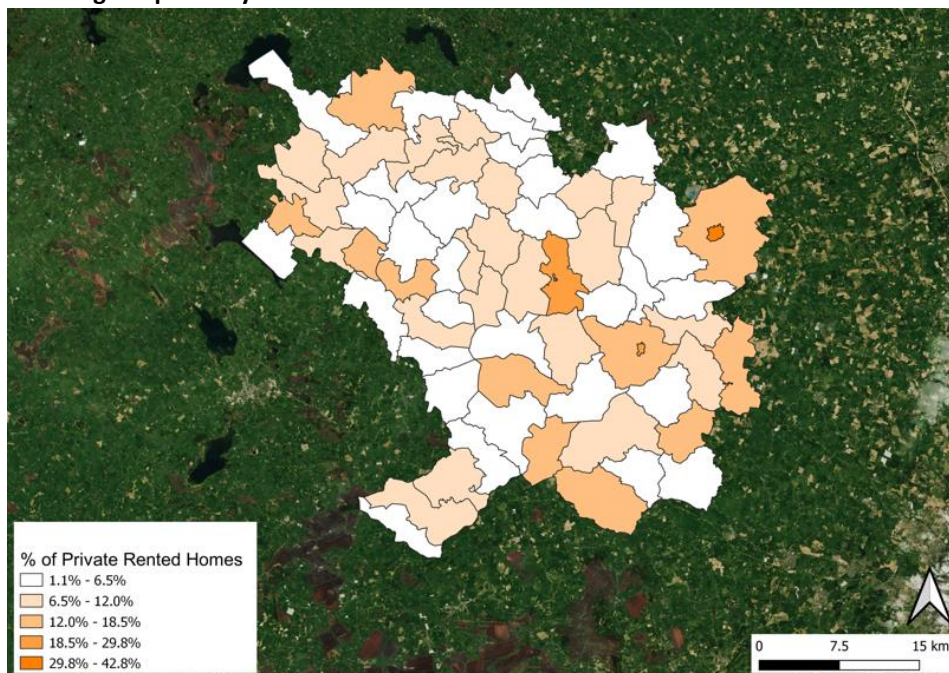


Figure 12: Percentage of social housing (rented from local authority or voluntary body)



Figures 12 (above) and 13 (below) show respectively the proportions of social and private rented housing across the electoral divisions of Meath West at the time of Census 2016.

Figure 13: Percentage of privately rented homes



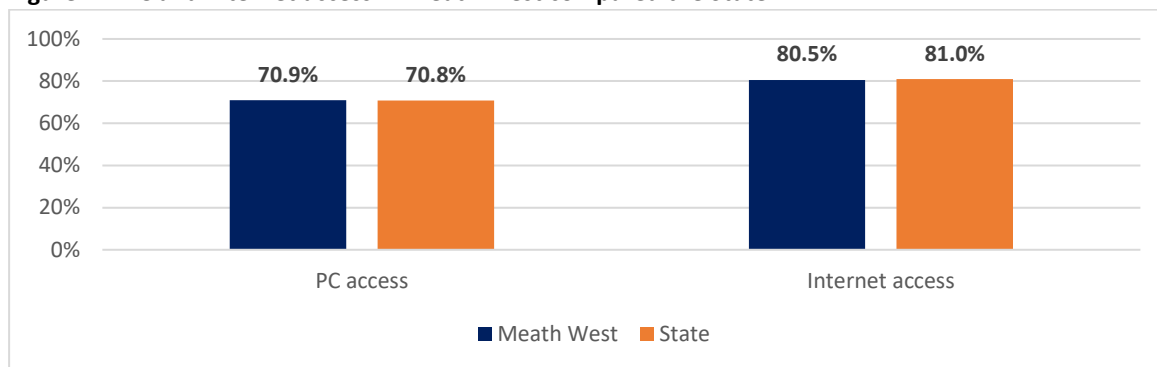
PC and broadband⁵

Meath West has a comparatively similar rate of PC access to the State average (70.9% compared to 70.8%). Meath West households are as likely to have access to the internet compared to households in the State overall (80.5% compared to 81%).⁶

⁵ In keeping with the Constituency Dashboards, the totals in this section exclude the "Not stated" category.

⁶ Internet access includes "Broadband" and "Other".

Figure 14: PC and internet access in Meath West compared the State



Central heating

Table 7 below shows that households in Meath West are much more likely than households nationally to use oil as their central heating source (50.2% compared to 40.4%). They are less likely to use natural gas for central heating than the State as a whole (28.4% compared to 33.5%) and to use electric heating than nationally (4.7% compared to 8.6%). Households in the constituency are more likely when compared to the State to use peat as their source of central heating (6.6% compared to 5.3%).

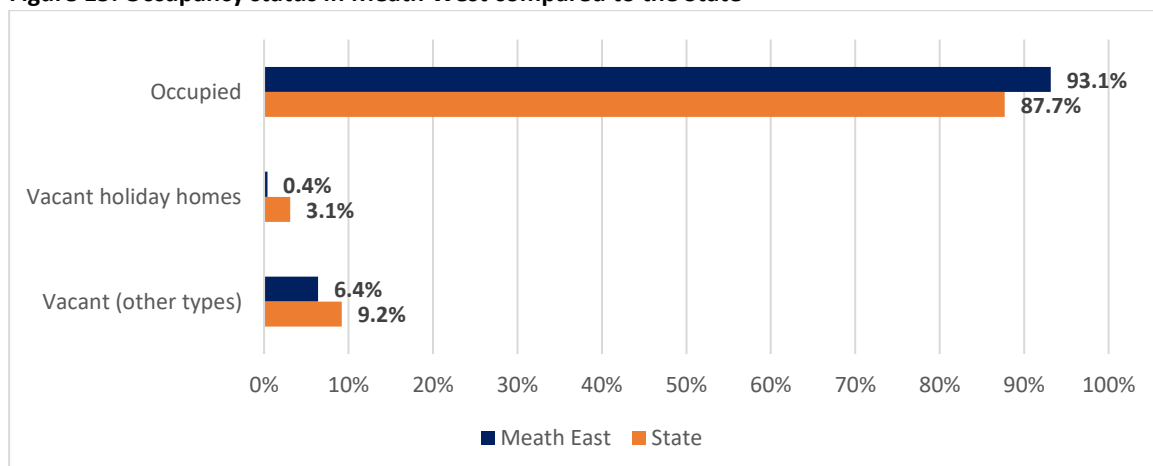
Table 7: Central heating in Meath West compared to the State

Central heating	Meath West	State
Oil	50.2%	40.4%
Natural gas	28.4%	33.5%
Electricity	4.7%	8.6%
Coal	4.2%	5.1%
Peat	6.6%	5.3%
LPG	0.5%	0.6%
Wood	2.5%	2%
Other	0.7%	0.7%
No central heating	1.4%	1.4%
Not stated	0.8%	2.4%

Vacant dwellings

Figure 15 below shows the vacancy rate of permanent dwellings in Meath West compared nationally. The constituency has a lower rate of overall vacant dwellings than nationally (6.4% compared to 9.2%) and a higher rate of occupied homes (93.1% compared to 87.7%).

Figure 15: Occupancy status in Meath West compared to the State





Transport

Mode to work, school, etc.

Figure 16 below shows that people in Meath West are more likely to travel to work or education by car or van (as a driver or passenger) than seen nationally (68.2% compared to 62.2%). Figure 16 also shows that Meath West residents are marginally less likely to commute by public transport (11% compared to 12.9%) than nationally.

Figure 16: Mode of transportation in Meath West compared to the State

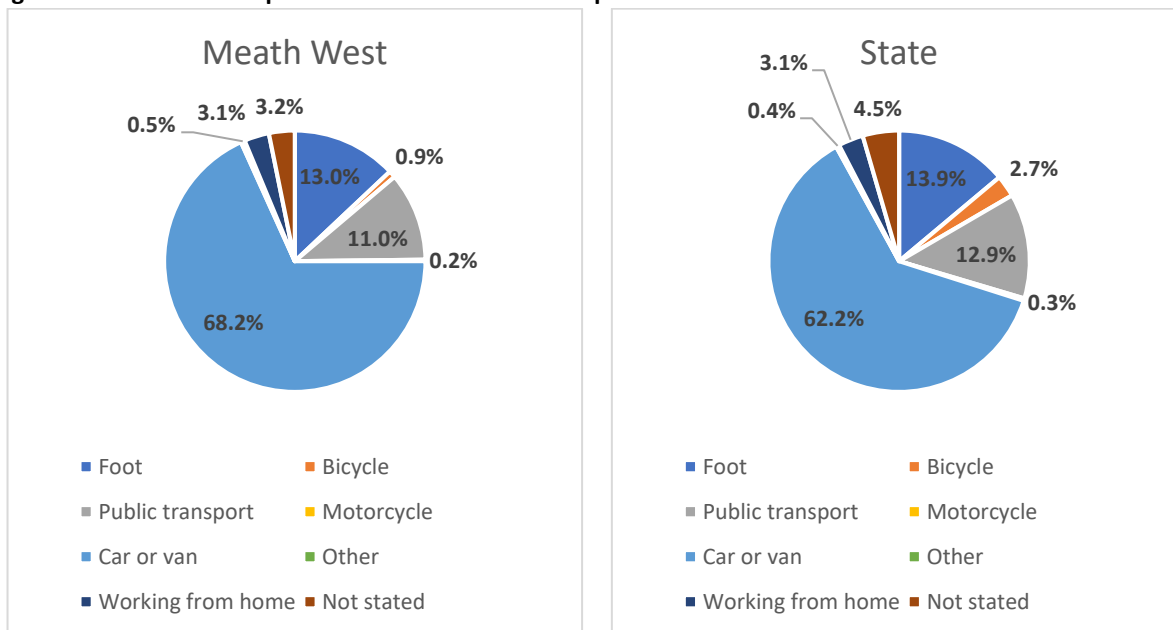
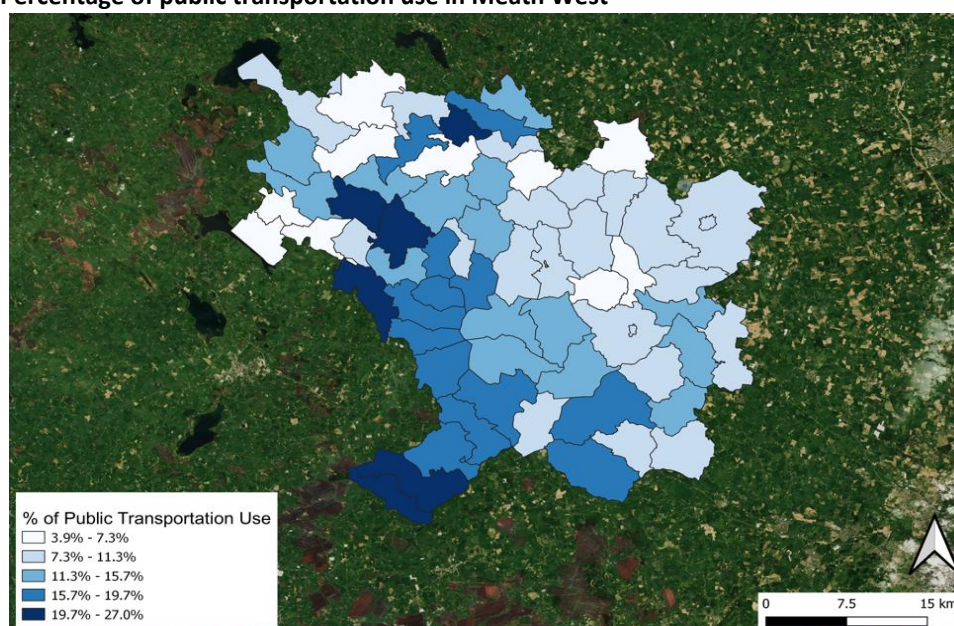


Figure 17 below shows the proportion of people in Meath West at the ED level who use public transport as their main means of travel to work, school or college.

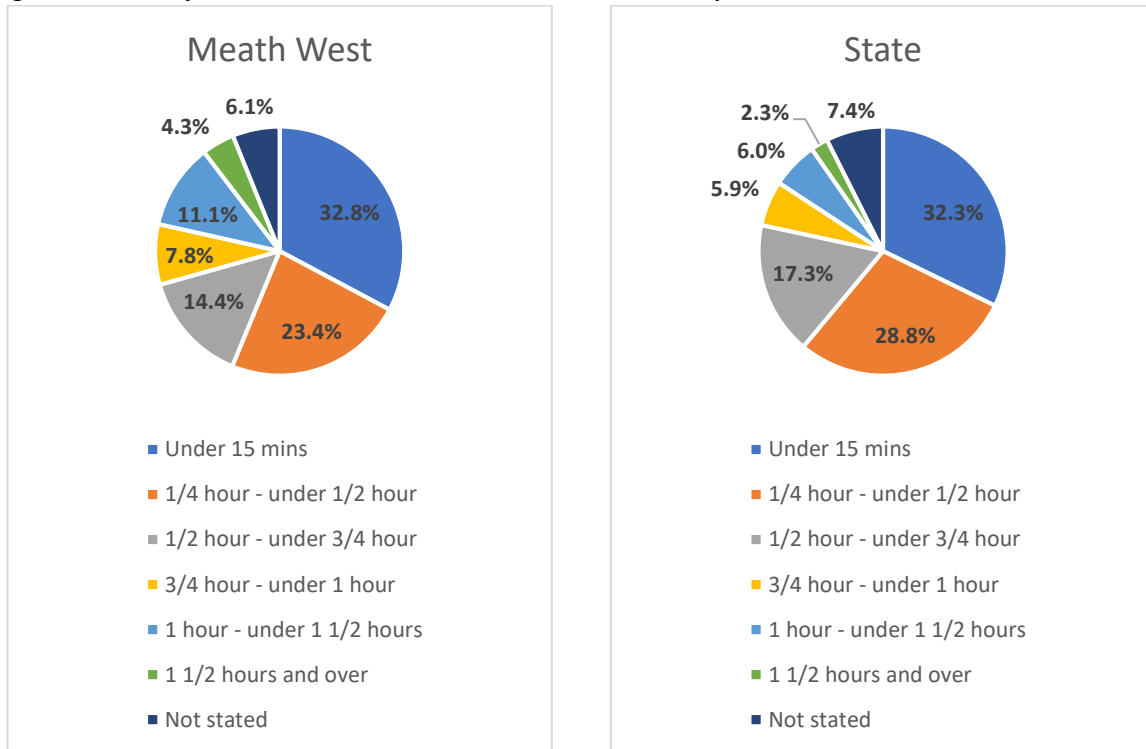
Figure 17: Percentage of public transportation use in Meath West



Journey time to work, school, etc.

Figure 18 shows the journey times of residents in Meath West to work or school in comparison to nationally. The constituency has a similar proportion of less than 15-minute journeys (32.8%) compared nationally (32.3%). Meath West has a larger proportion of 60 to 90-minute journeys (11.1%) than the national rate (6%).

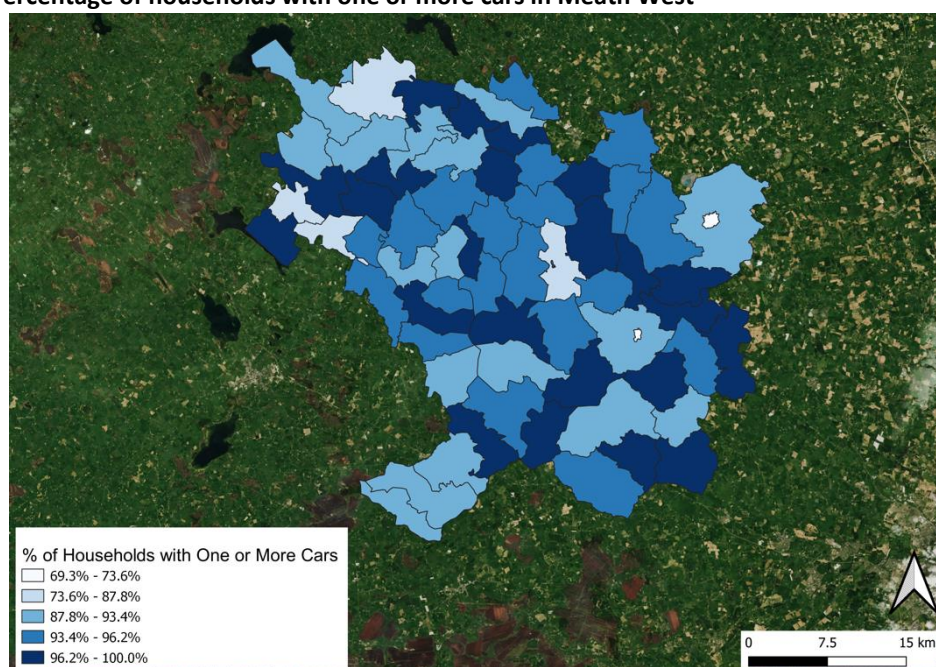
Figure 18: Journey times to work/school/etc. in Meath West compared to the State



Car access

Figure 19 maps, at ED level, the proportion of households having one or more cars in Meath West.

Figure 19: Percentage of households with one or more cars in Meath West





Education

Highest education level completed/achieved

Figure 20 shows the highest education completed in Meath West and its comparison with the national proportion. The constituency displays higher proportions who have completed education at intermediate level (22.8% compared to 19.6%) and at second level (36.1% compared to 33.0%) than nationally. Meath West has a lower proportion of third level graduates than that seen nationally (23.6% compared to 28.5%).

Figure 20: Highest completed education in Meath West compared to the State

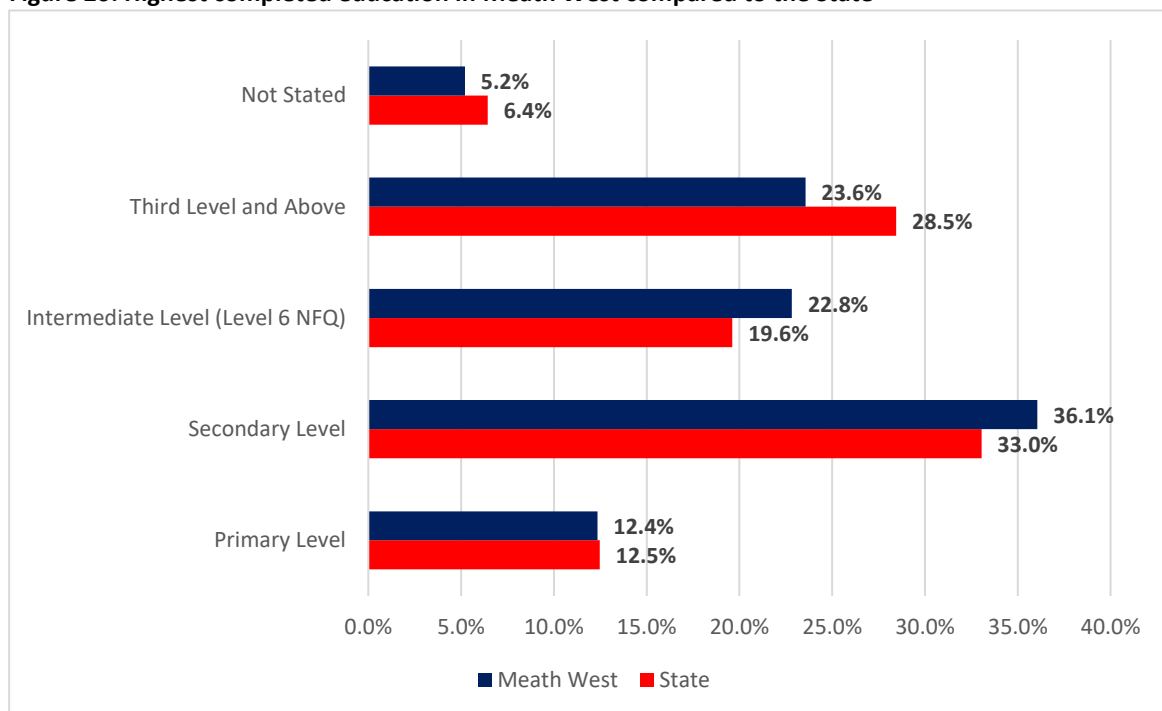


Figure 21 below shows the rates of usual residents with third level education or higher, while the following Figure 22 (overleaf) shows the proportions of Meath West residents at the ED level with primary education or below.

Figure 21: Percentage of people with third level education or higher in Meath West

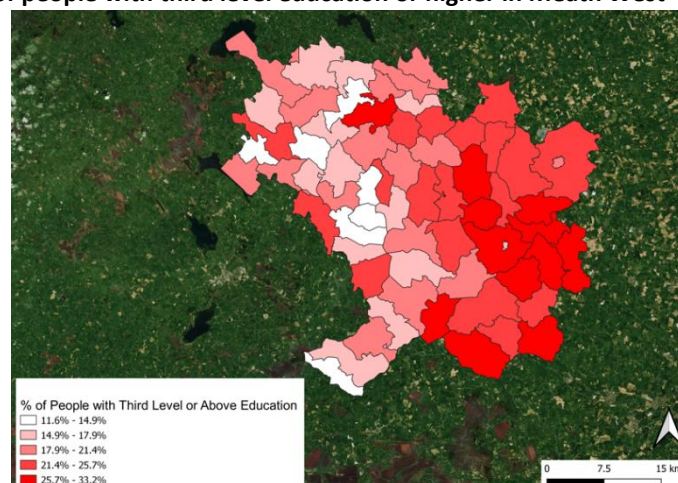
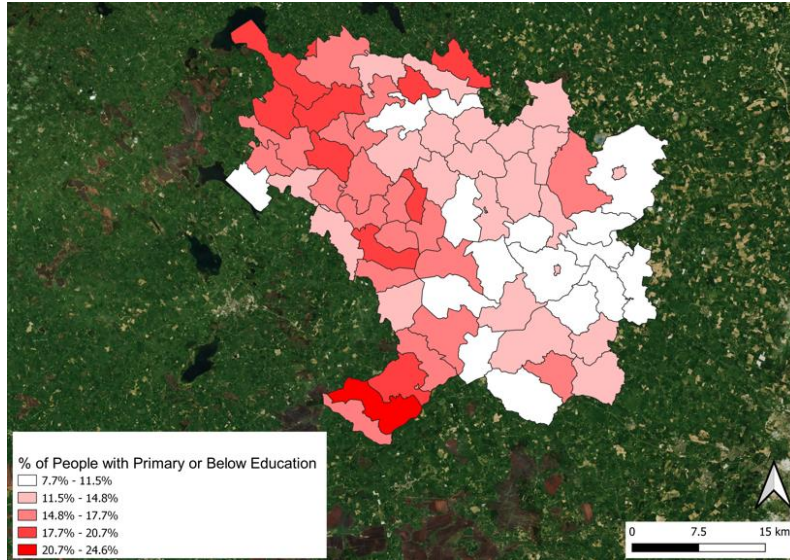


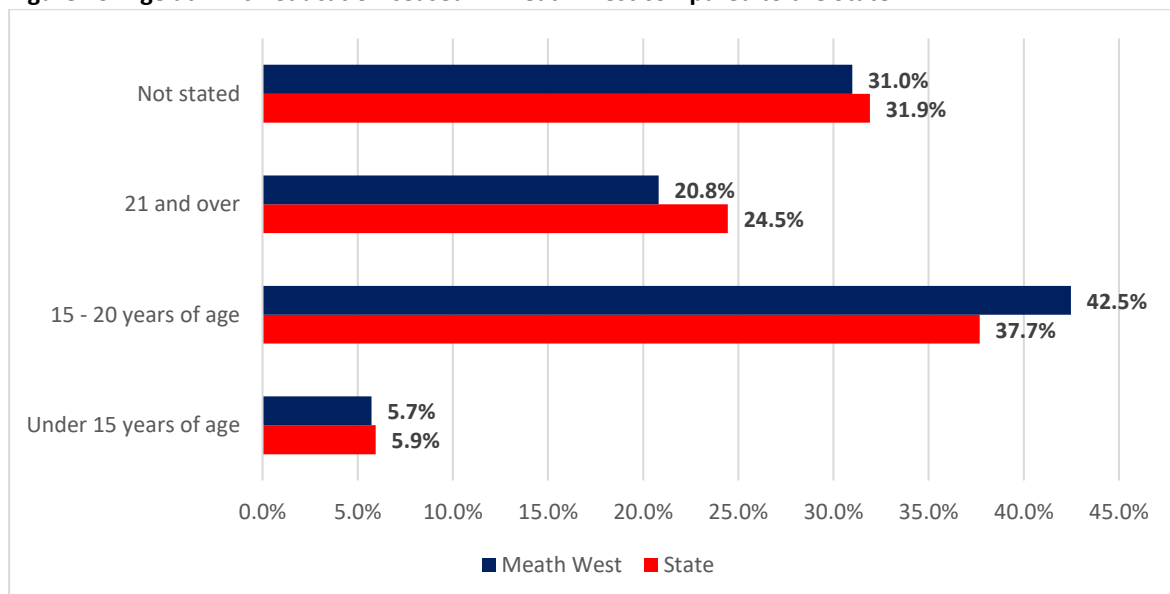
Figure 22: Percentage of people with primary education or below in Meath West



Age at which education ceased

Figure 23 below shows the highest age at which education ceased in Meath West compared to the State measure. The constituency has a larger proportion of usual residents that ceased education aged between 15-20 (42.5% compared to 37.7%). Proportionally fewer people in Meath West completed their education after the age of 21 than in the State overall (20.8% compared to 24.5%).

Figure 23: Age at which education ceased in Meath West compared to the State



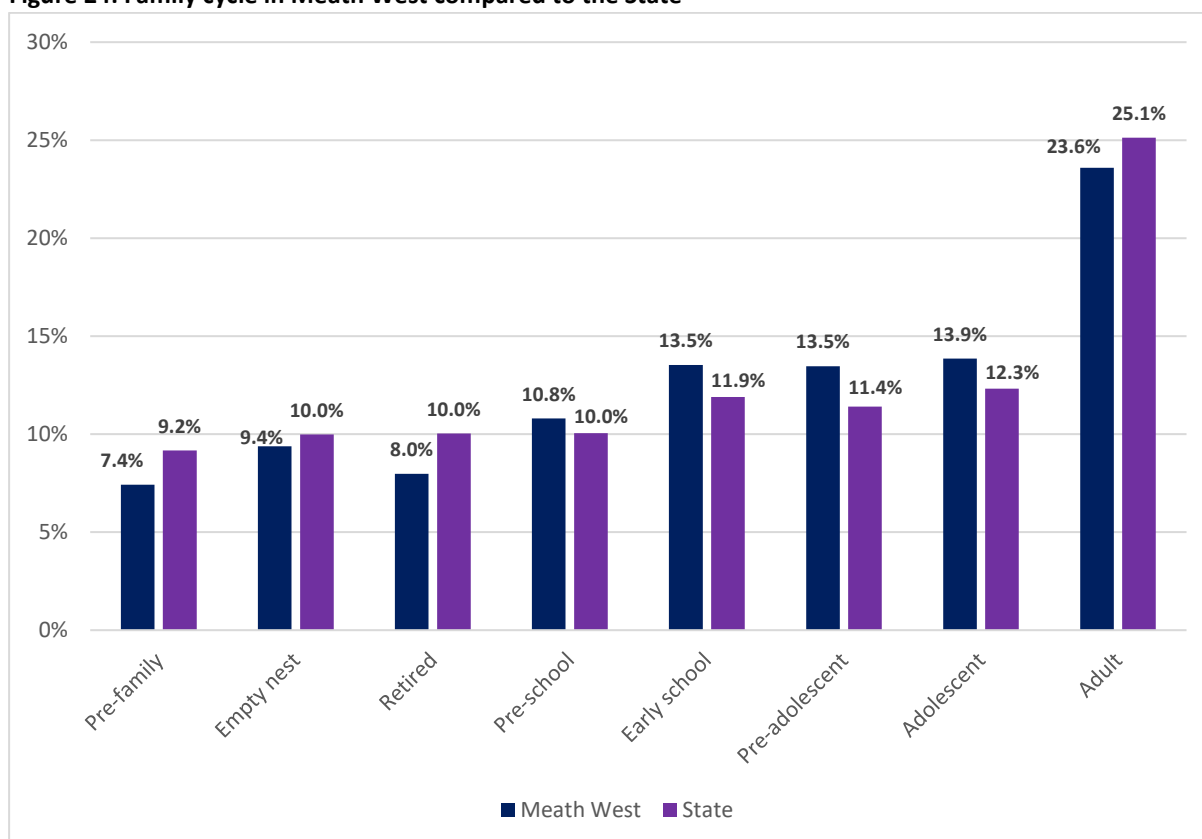


Families

Family cycle⁷

In Meath West, there are 23,787 family units. Figure 24 shows the breakdown of the number of families in the constituency according to their stage of the family cycle and its comparison to the national picture. The proportion of families with early school (13.5%), pre-adolescent (13.5%) and adolescent children (13.9%) in Meath West is marginally higher than the national measure (11.9%, 11.4% and 12.3% respectively).

Figure 24: Family cycle in Meath West compared to the State

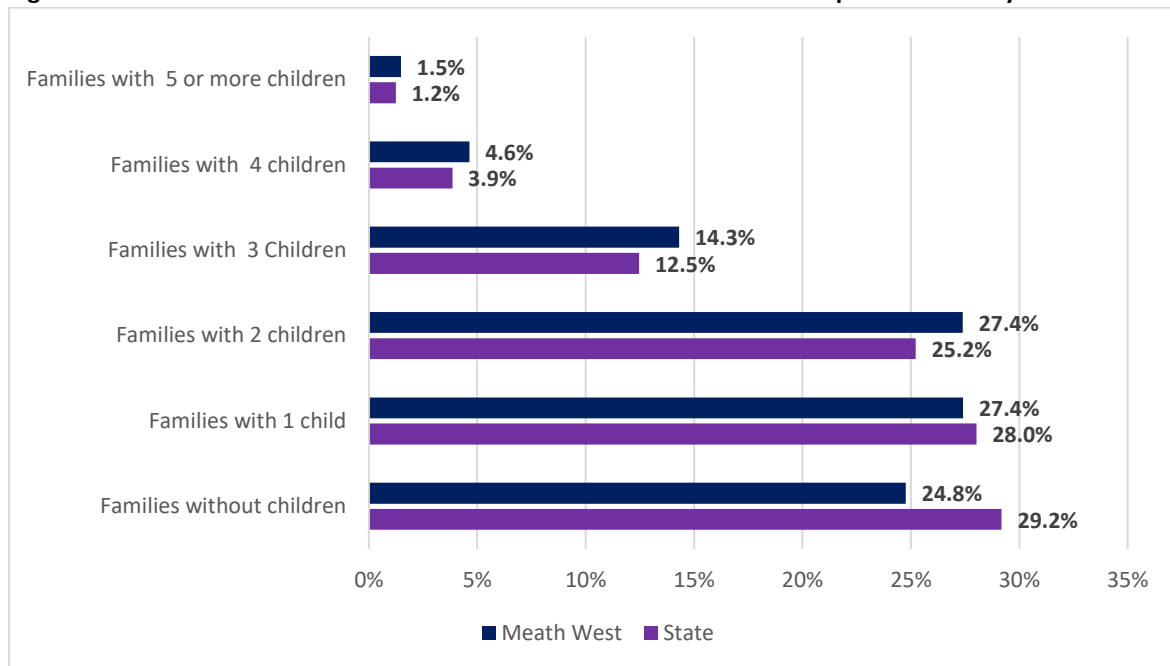


Families with or without children

Figure 25 (overleaf) shows the proportions of families with or without children in Meath West compared nationally. The constituency has a lower proportion of families without children (24.8%) than the State overall (29.2%). The constituency has a higher proportion, when compared with the State average of 2 children (27.4% compared to 25.2%) and 3 children families (14.3% compared to 12.5%).

⁷ For the CSO's definition of family cycle as used in the Census, see [here](#).

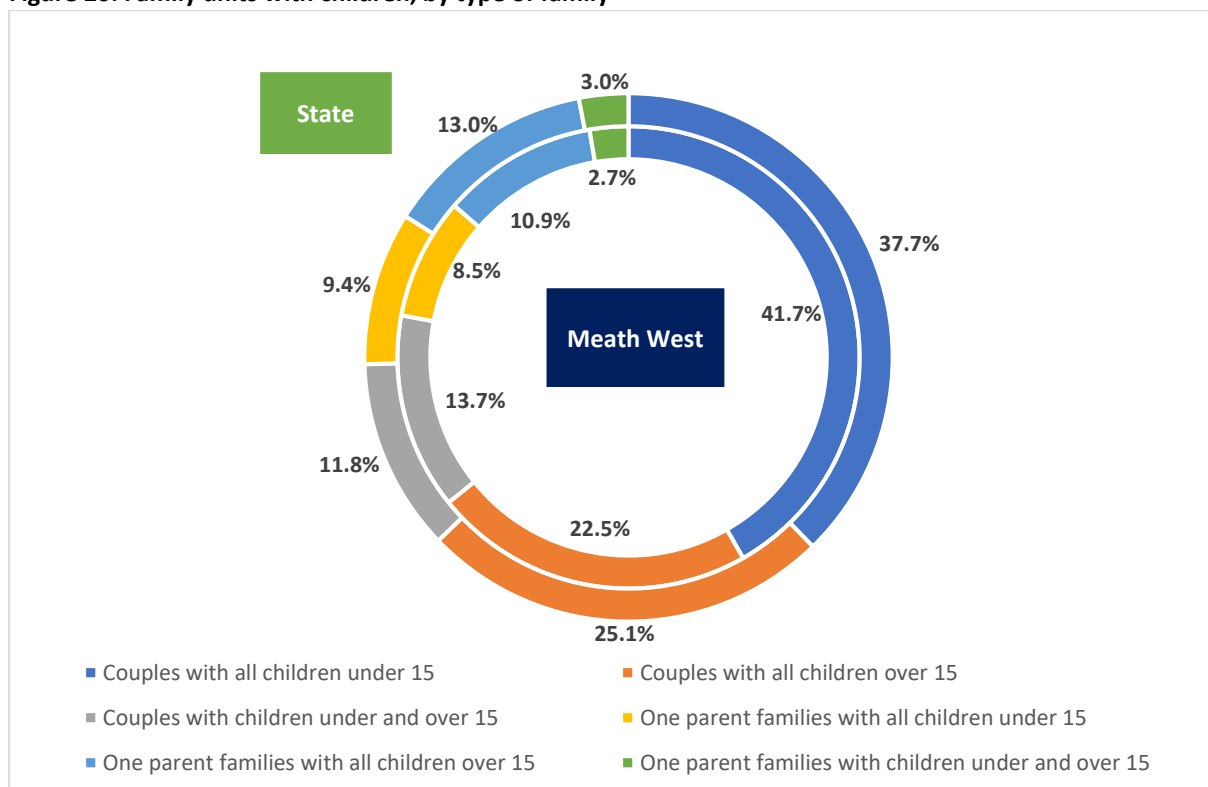
Figure 25: Number of families with or without children in Meath West compared nationally



Family type

At the time of Census 2016, there were 17,895 families with children in Meath West. 13,944 (77.9%) of these families were couples with children and 3,951 (22.1%) were one parent families. Figure 26 below shows the proportion of family units with children in 2016 in Meath West compared nationally. In Meath West, there are more couples with all children under 15 (41.7%) and with children both under and over 15 (13.7%) than nationally. Across all categories, there are lower proportions of lone parent families with children than nationally (see Figure 26 below).

Figure 26: Family units with children, by type of family





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