# Census 2027 Public Consultation on Dissemination Outputs

# Answers submitted for CSO (Central Statistics Office)

**Survey Title:**
Census 2027 Public Consultation on Dissemination Outputs

**Submitted on:**
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5C0A - 3B60 - A142 - 4C3A

## Census 2027 Public Consultation on Dissemination Outputs

Details

What is your first name?

**Clare**

What is your surname?

**Duffy**

Please provide your email address

**cduffy@familycarers.ie**

May the CSO use your email address to contact you after this consultation to discuss your submission in more detail?

**Yes**

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Details

Clare, what is the name of your organisation?

**Family Carers Ireland**

Clare, what type of respondent are you?

**National Charity**

Clare, what is your connection to the issues you are providing feedback on?

**Data user**

Clare, what methods do you currently use to access census data?

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**All methods of accessing census data**

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Clare, which of the following Census 2022 products have you (or your organisation) used previously?

- **Census of Population 2022 Published Reports**
- **Census Interactive Maps**
- **Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)**
- **PXSTAT (Web) tables**
- **Research Microdata**
- **Use of bespoke tabulations/special tabulations**
- **Other**
  - **We have also used Pathfinder reports**

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Thematic publication and visualisations

**Family Carers Ireland would like informal care to be included as a thematic report. Ideally, the Census should give us enough information to understand who family carers are, what caring they provide, who they care for, and the impact that caring has on their lives. In particular, it should provide information on (i) how many people provide unpaid care and the proportion of the population they represent (ii) intensity of caring – how many hours of care people provide (iii) age and gender – to identify groups that are more likely to take on caring responsibilities (iv) relationship to the person cared for – for example, caring for a spouse/partner, parent, child, sibling or another relative (v) location – allowing us to understand where carers live and identify geographical differences in demand for services and supports (vi) employment and education – to show the relationship between caring and employment, education, income and career progression (vii) economic circumstances – including household income or indicators of financial disadvantage, where appropriate (viii) disability and health – information that helps identify the circumstances of carers and the people they support (ix) young carers under 18 years – ensuring that children and young people with caring responsibilities are properly identified (x) changes over time – enabling comparisons between Census periods to identify whether the number and profile of carers is changing.**
**Most importantly, the data should allow us to cross-reference caring responsibilities with demographic, social and economic characteristics. This would give policymakers a much more detailed picture of which carers are most likely to experience financial pressure, reduced employment opportunities, social isolation or poorer outcomes.**
**Ultimately, the Census should provide sufficiently detailed, reliable and geographically relevant data to make family carers visible in national and local policy planning.**

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Web Tables

**Family Carers Ireland's research and policy staff frequently need to request specific unpublished data from the CSO so the introduction of a table builder tool, allowing use to generate customized tables relating to informal care and other variable would be very welcome. Using some of the CSO's existing tools can be tricky, particularly for less experienced users. Have accessible training manuals and videos would be of value to support the use of a table builder tool.**

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Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) and Small Area Population Census Interactive Maps (SAPMAP)

**Family Carers Ireland would like to be able to access information relating to informal care and other statistics at a SAPS level. However it is important to also emphasis the need for Census data to be provided at a Constituency level, to support political advocacy. Additionally data should also**

**to be provided at a constituency level, to support political advocacy. Additionally data should also be available at a Regional Health Area level - aligned to the HSEs new geographic structures.**

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Data for Researchers - Microdata

**Microdata can be particularly valuable because it allows Family Carers Ireland and other researchers to explore how caring intersects with other aspects of people's lives. Depending on what variables are collected, researchers could examine relationships between caring and:**
**age and gender**
**employment and economic circumstances**
**household and family composition**
**disability and health**
**education**
**housing**
**geographical location**
**intensity of caring**
**This is much more powerful than simply knowing the overall number of carers.**

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Clare, for which of the geographical boundaries do you require census statistics?

- **Province**
- **Region**
- **Administrative County**
- **Local Electoral Areas**
- **Electoral Division**
- **Town/Settlement/Built up Area (BUA)**
- **Limistéir Pleanála Teanga**
- **Gaeltacht**
- **Small Area**
- **Townland**
- **Constituency**
- **Additional Geography Requirements**
  - **HSE Regional Health Areas**

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Combined Census Products

**The Relationship Between the Presence of a Family Carer in the Home and Hospital Utilisation by the Cared for Person.**

**The research would examine how informal care affects hospital utilisations rates, including length of stay in Irish hospitals,. This is of importance given the impact of delayed discharges - costs involved, bed capacity, patient outcomes. We ideally would like to know whether the presence of a family carer is associated with shorter inpatient stays for patients in the Irish context – in short 'Does presence/availability of informal care within the household impact hospitalisation?'. A Swiss study (Weaver & Weaver 2014) showed that availability of informal care has no impact on likelihood of hospitalisation but does reduce length of stay by 1.9 days - it would be great if we could see if this is also true in the Irish context.**

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Additional Comments

**Census data in relation to young carers is currently presented in terms of young people aged 15**

**years or under, which is problematic from a policy perspective where the definition of a young carer is 'a young carer is a child or young person under 18 years whose life is affected in a significant way by the need to provide care for a family or household member who has an illness, disability, addiction or other care requirement'7. Likewise, it would be helpful if census data could be further presented for young adult carer aged between 18–24 who present additional policy challenges in terms of supporting their transition to higher education and ensuring they are not distanced from the labour market.**

**Action required in Census 2027**

**Data released by the CSO in relation to young carers and young adult carers should correspond to their official definitions i.e. children aged under 18 with caring responsibilities / young adults aged 18-24 with caring responsibilities.**