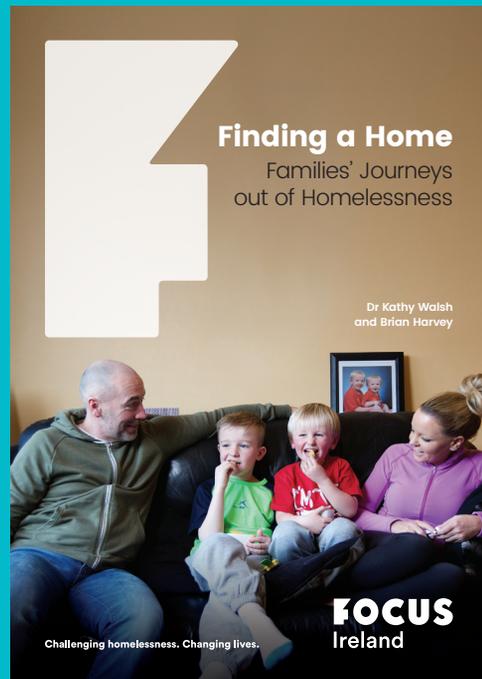


# Monitoring, evaluating and researching

In 2017 Focus Ireland published a number of important pieces of original research which helped to deepen our understanding of homelessness and to inform the work that we do.

The findings emerging from these studies were launched as major events, discussed across the media and, in some cases, presented directly to policy-makers at the Housing Oireachtas Committees. These studies also act to inform the ongoing delivery of our own Strategic Plan which focuses on the two key pillars of 1) Prevention of homelessness and 2) Supporting people into housing as quickly as possible.

- In partnership with four other NGOs, we published a major study on youth homelessness entitled **‘Living in Limbo: Homeless Young People’s Paths to Housing’** which was carried out by Dr Paula Mayock and Sarah Parker, Trinity College Dublin. The study built on a previous study commissioned by Focus Ireland (published in 2014), tracking the lives of young people and their family members over time. The study was launched by Former President Mary McAleese in May 2017.
- Focus Ireland (in partnership with Tusla) published an evaluation of our partnership **‘Limerick Youth Housing’** project. The study documented the very positive outcomes of young people who have passed through our flagship housing project. The study highlighted the importance of a partnership approach to delivering youth housing. Dr Steve Gaetz and Melanie Redman – experts on youth homelessness from Canada – launched the study at our national conference in Limerick in September.



- A ground-breaking piece of research entitled **‘Food Access and Nutritional Health among Families in Hotel Accommodation’** was published by Focus Ireland in August 2017. The study – led by Dr Michelle Share of Trinity College Dublin – recorded the impact on the diet and health of families who are homeless and found that daily fruit and vegetable consumption is low and that foods consumed on an everyday basis were high in fat. The study was part-funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and by the Department of Health.
- Two other studies on family homelessness were launched by Minister Eoghan Murphy in December 2017. These studies focused on the two pillars of our strategic plan – prevention and exits out of homelessness. The prevention study entitled **‘Keeping a Home’** was carried out by researchers Neil Haran and Séan O’Siochrú (part-funded by Bord Gáis Energy) and the second report entitled **‘Finding a Home’** was led by Dr Kathy Walsh and Brian Harvey (part-funded by Human Dignity Foundation).
- Focus Ireland continued to develop our **‘Insights into Family Homelessness’** series and published six additional papers, including an important trend analysis of family homelessness and quarterly surveys of the pathways that result in families becoming homelessness. This work helps to inform and influence policy and services in these areas.

All research and evaluation reports can be accessed at [bit.ly/FIReports](https://bit.ly/FIReports)