

Kildare Census 2022 Profile

Health and Disability



Health and Disability Profile

Key Facts

- Relative to Ireland as a whole, Kildare County has slightly fewer persons with a disability and persons whose self-declared health status is either bad or very bad. However, the number reporting both bad/very bad health or having a disability have increased since 2016;
- Within the county, the proportion of persons with a disability is highest in areas that have an older age profile, most notably rural areas in the south and south west of the county;
- Poor health outcomes are also associated with age, as well as with socio-economic deprivation;
- County Kildare performs well in respect of social determinants of health, but the county has relatively high proportions of persons with instances of cancers and cardiovascular diseases. Suicides are also above average; and
- Between 2016 and 2022 there was an additional 60.1% (+4,890) persons providing regular unpaid care.

Disability

The term disability in Census 2022 refers to people who experienced long-lasting conditions or difficulties. In the last Census, the two questions on long-lasting health conditions and difficulties were revised. People were asked to indicate the extent to which they experienced any long-lasting health conditions or difficulties they had. For the purposes of this profile we are reporting on persons who reported having long-lasting health condition or difficulty experienced to any extent. In Ireland, a total of 1,109,557 people reported experiencing at least one long-lasting health condition or difficulty to any extent, accounting for 21.5% of the population.

Twenty-one percent (20.4% or 50,502) of Kildare County's population has a self-declared disability (long-lasting condition or difficulty experienced to any extent). This proportion is slightly below the State equivalent (21.5%). This variable correlates strongly with age; having a disability is associated with ageing. Thus, across Kildare, the highest proportions of persons with a disability are in locations that have older age profiles. These include rural communities in the south and south west of the county, such as Athy (25.0%), Ballitore (24.0%), Ballymore-Eustace (23.5%) and Suncroft (29.1%). The particularly high value at Suncroft reflects the presence of a nursing home in the settlement. In contrast, the lowest rates in the county are in the north-east from Naas to Maynooth and is due to a younger population in these areas. While the change in Census definitions does not allow a comparison with Census 2016 results, it is recognised that levels of disability are increasing amongst the population, and as noted earlier in this profile, as the county's population continues to age (+35% increase in age 65+ from 2016 to 2022), there is likely to be an associated increase in the number of persons with a disability in the coming decade.

Poor Health

Like disability, poor health is associated with an older age profile. It is, however, also associated with socio-economic deprivation. People who live in households experiencing deprivation and disadvantaged areas are more likely to have poor health than are the rest of the population. Across Kildare, almost 3,700 persons declared their health to be either bad or very bad (1.5% of population), and this figure has increased, in absolute and relative terms since 2016 (+20.1% or +618). Within the county, the areas that have the highest proportions of persons with bad / very bad health are generally in the south and south west – in both rural communities and towns, though there are some exceptions in this region.

According to the Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework (2022), the County Kildare Health indicators that shows a clear divergence from the national average include Male cancer incidence (age-standardised incidence of male and female cancer (ex. NMSC) – reported from 2015 to 2019), Obesity (Proportion of population aged 15+ with a BMI > 30 kg/m² – surveyed in 2019) and Binge Drinking (Proportion of population aged 15+ consuming 6 or more standard drinks – surveyed in 2018). On the other hand, County Kildare residents have lower rates of Smoking, Sedentary Lifestyle (proportion of population aged 5+ travelling to education setting by private vehicle (car)), and have a higher cancer screening participation rate and MMR vaccine uptake compared to State averages.

Carers

The question on caring in Census 2022 sought to identify people who provided regular unpaid personal help or support to a family member, neighbour or friend with a long-term illness, health issue or an issue related to old age or disability. Across the State, the percentage of the total population providing regular unpaid care increased to 6% in 2022, up from 4% in 2011 and 2016. Between 2016 and 2022, the number of people providing regular unpaid care increased by over 50%, from 195,263 people in 2016 to 299,128 in 2022. As with the increase in disability indicators, much of the increase in carers can be attributed to increasing numbers in age cohorts >65.

Within County Kildare, the rate of increase in carers is in line with the State trends. Between 2016 and 2022 there was an additional 60.1% (+4,890) persons providing regular unpaid care. The rate in Kildare is 5.3% (13,032), marginally lower than the State average of 5.8%. Across the county, rates are higher in the south and west regions and areas outside the metropolitan areas. Rates are higher in rural areas (5.4%) with urban areas lower at 4.9%.

General Health and Disability: Population with Disability, 2022

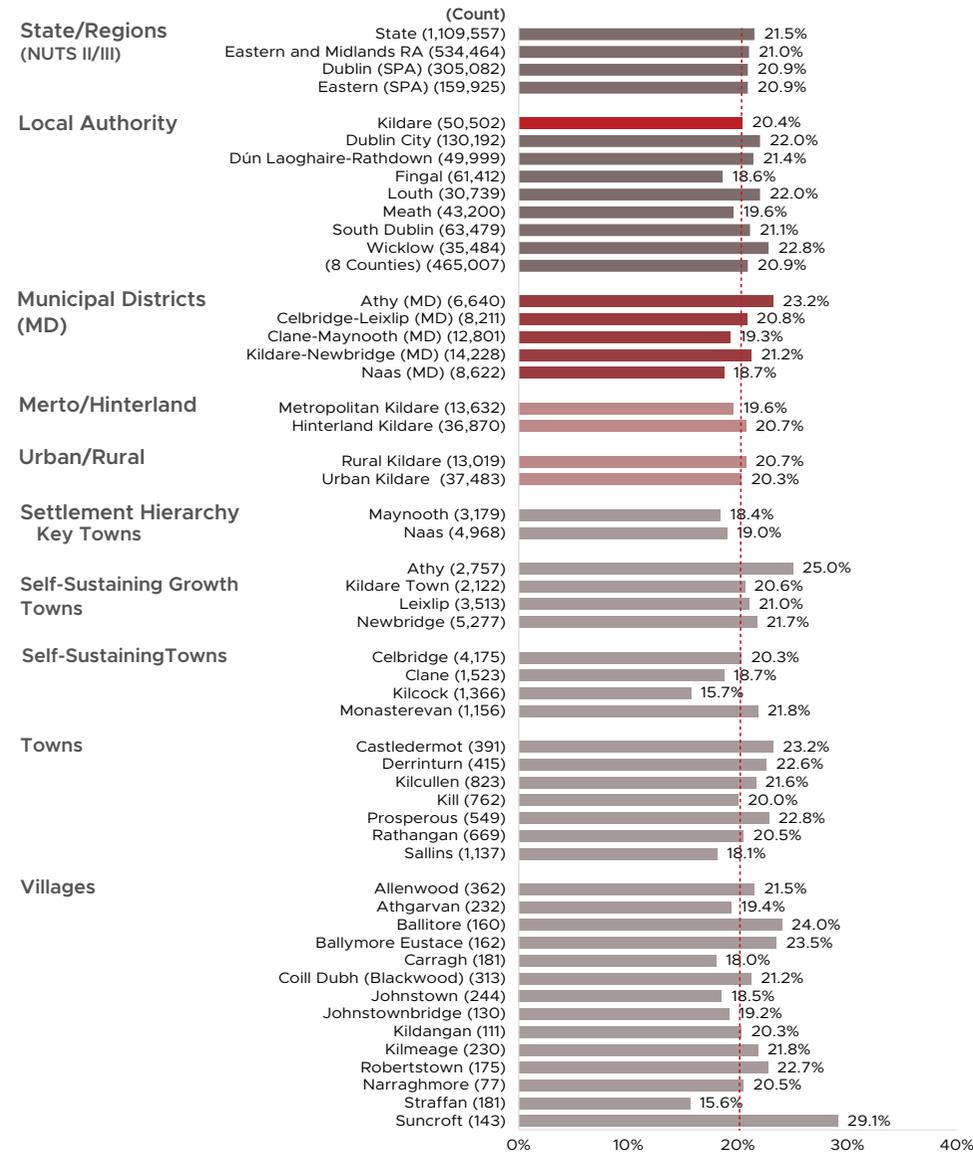


Figure 6.1 - Population with a Disability, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline:

50,502 persons with a Disability or 20.4% of the population, 2022

Summary Statistics

6th Highest # in State

26th Highest % in State

Below 1.1%

#N/A #N/A #N/A

Change since 2016
1 being the highest and 31 being the lowest number (#) or percentage (% of all local authorities)

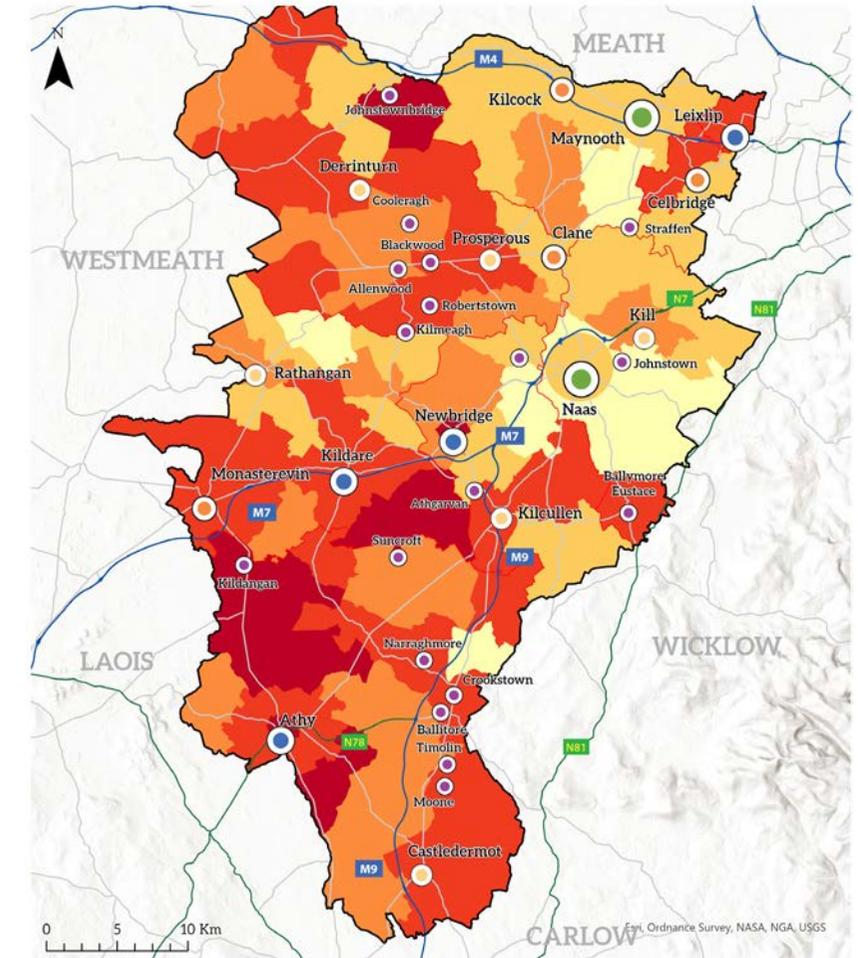


Figure 6.2 - Population with a Disability, 2022 (Source: CSO)

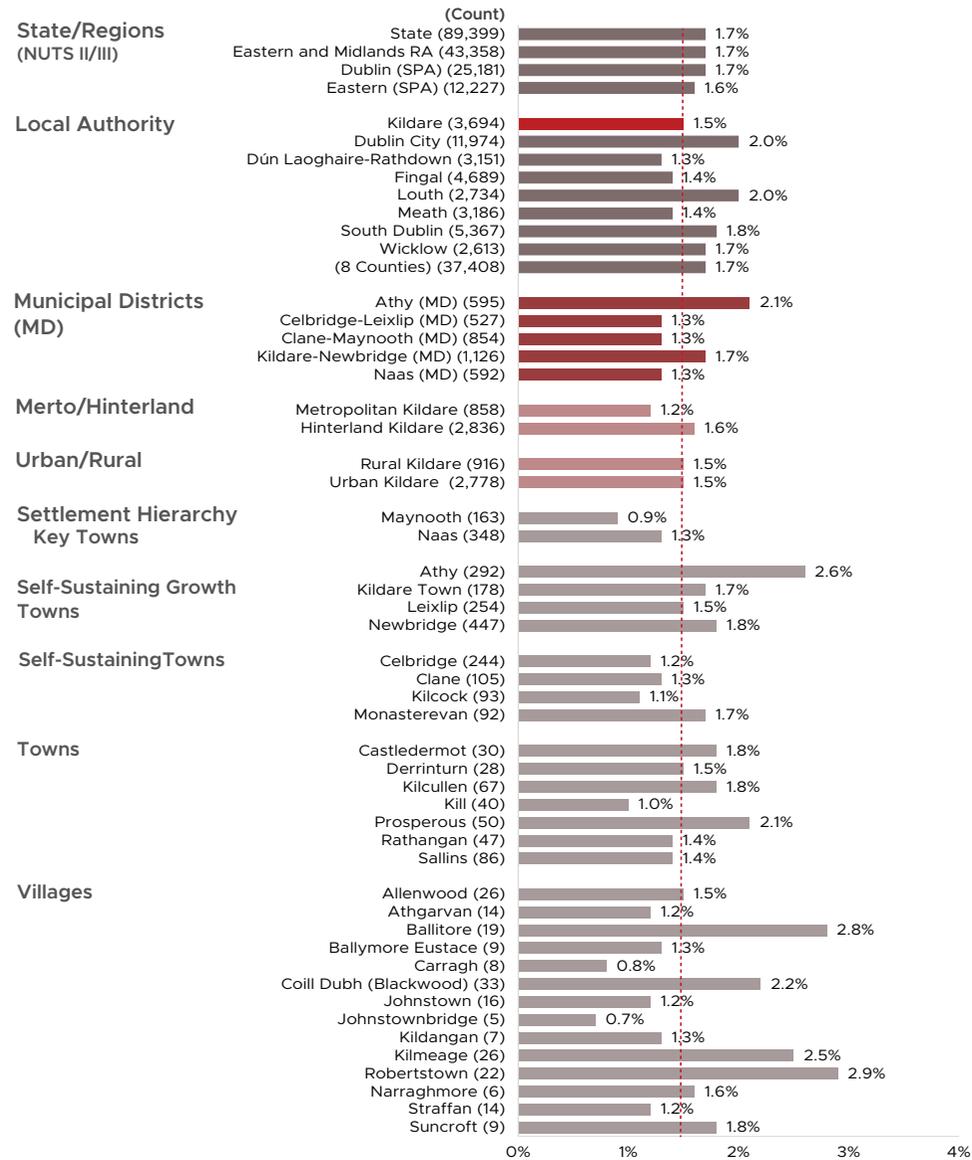


Figure 6.3 - General Health: Bad/Very Bad, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline:
3,694 persons with Bad/Very Bad Health or 1.5% of the population, 2022

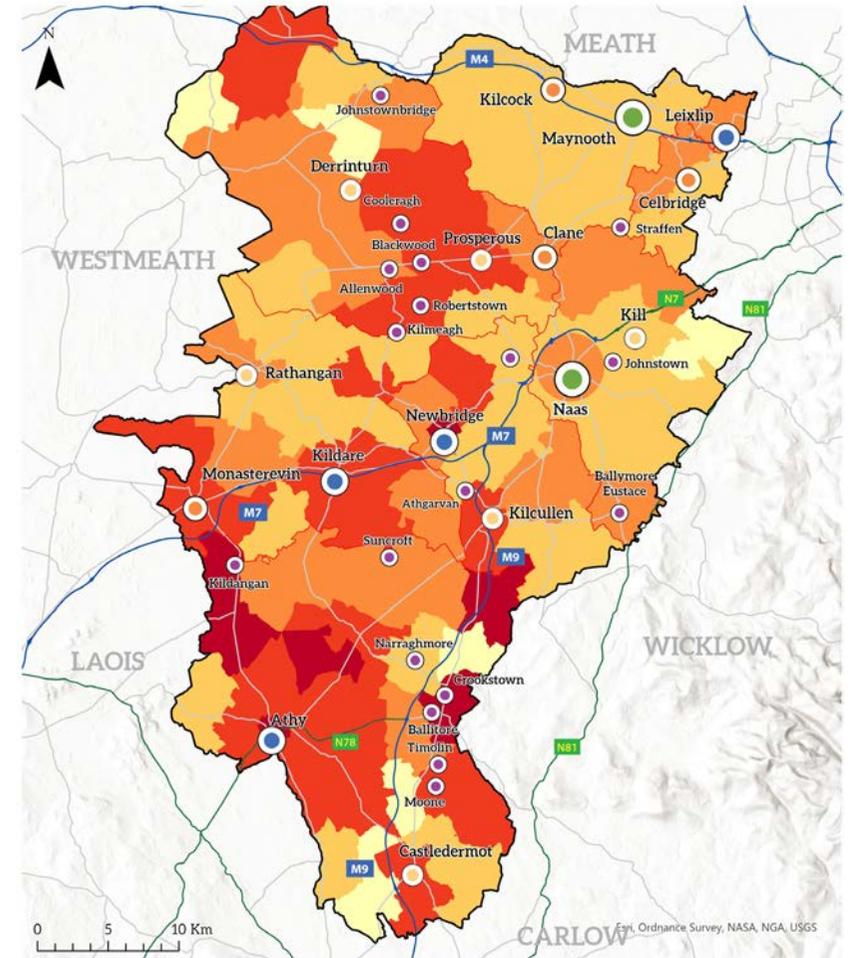


Figure 6.4 - General Health: Bad/Very Bad, 2022 (Source: CSO)

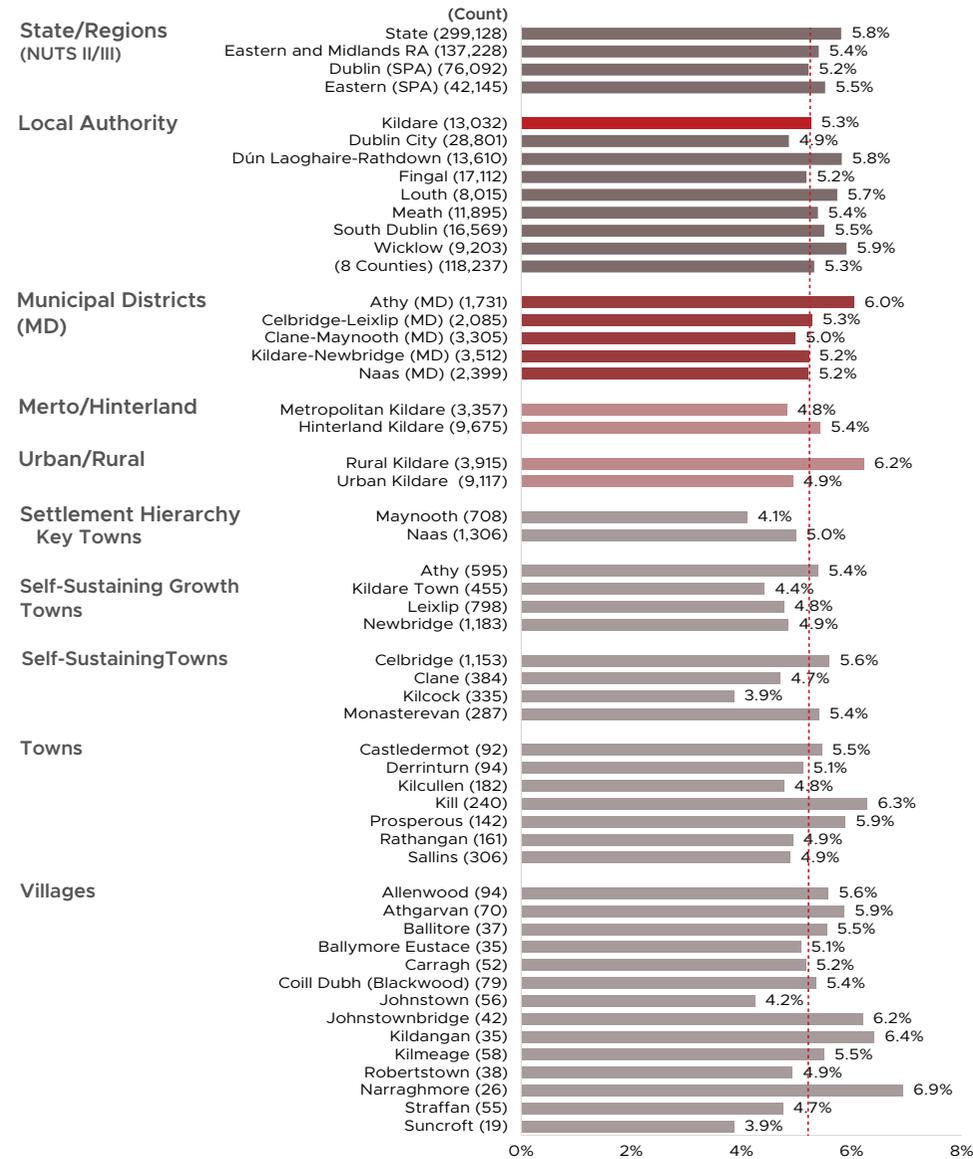


Figure 6.5 - Total Carers, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline:
13,032 Carers or 5.3% of the population, 2022

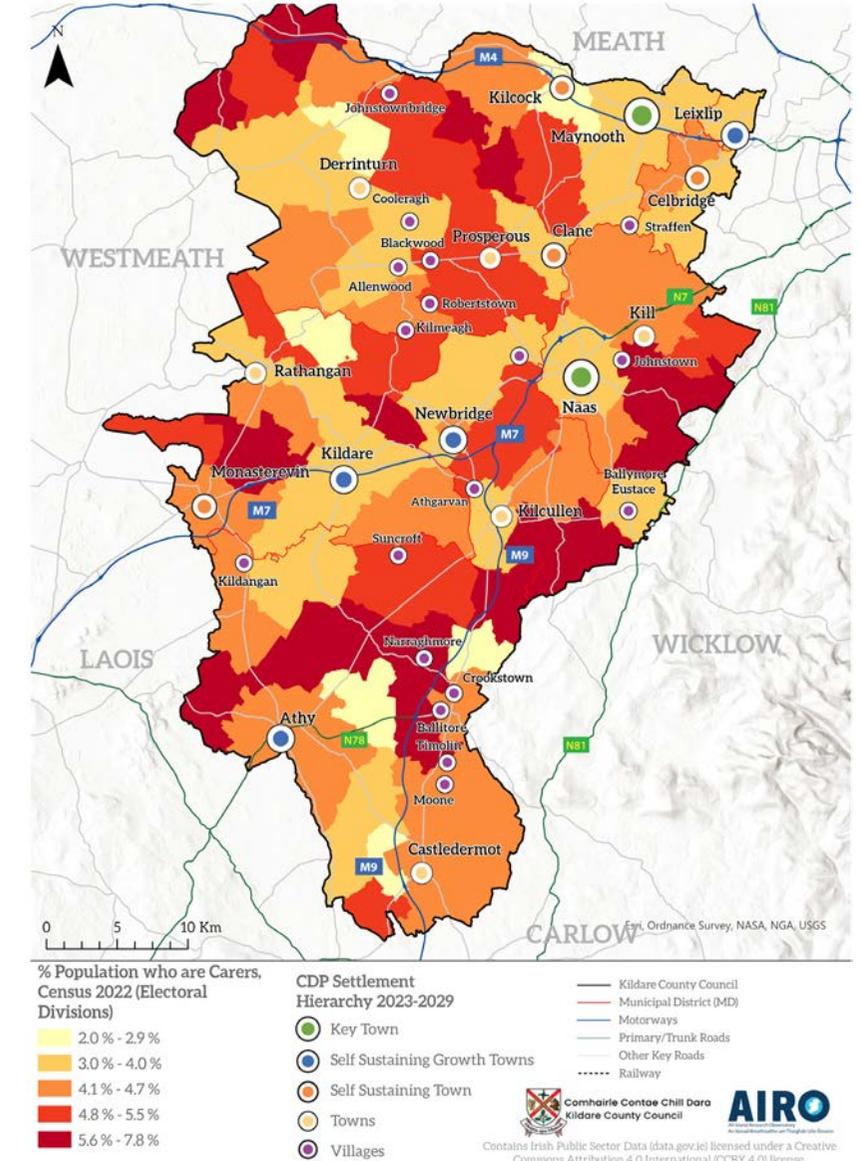


Figure 6.6 - Total Carers, 2022 (Source: CSO)

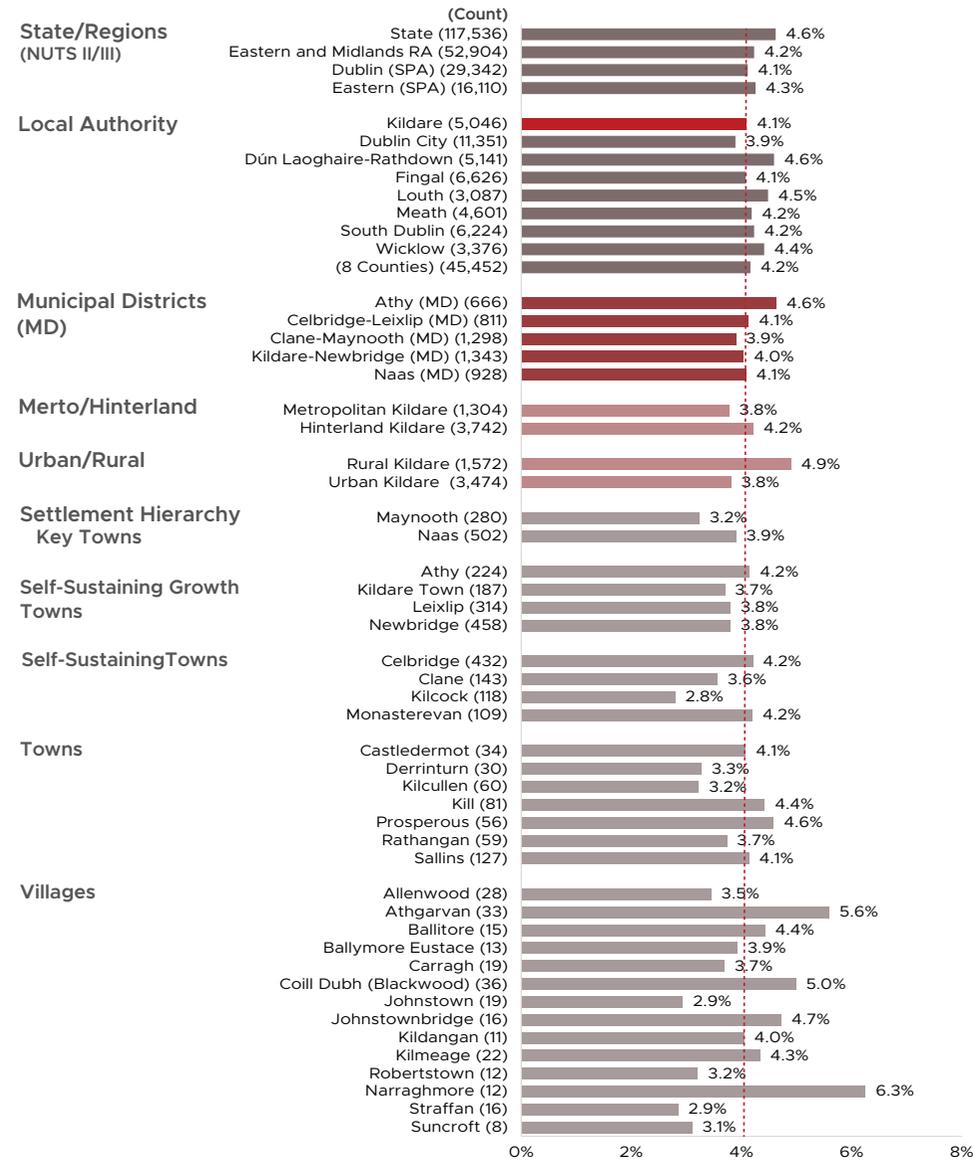


Figure 6.7 - Male Carers, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline: 5,046 Male Carers or 4.1% of the population, 2022

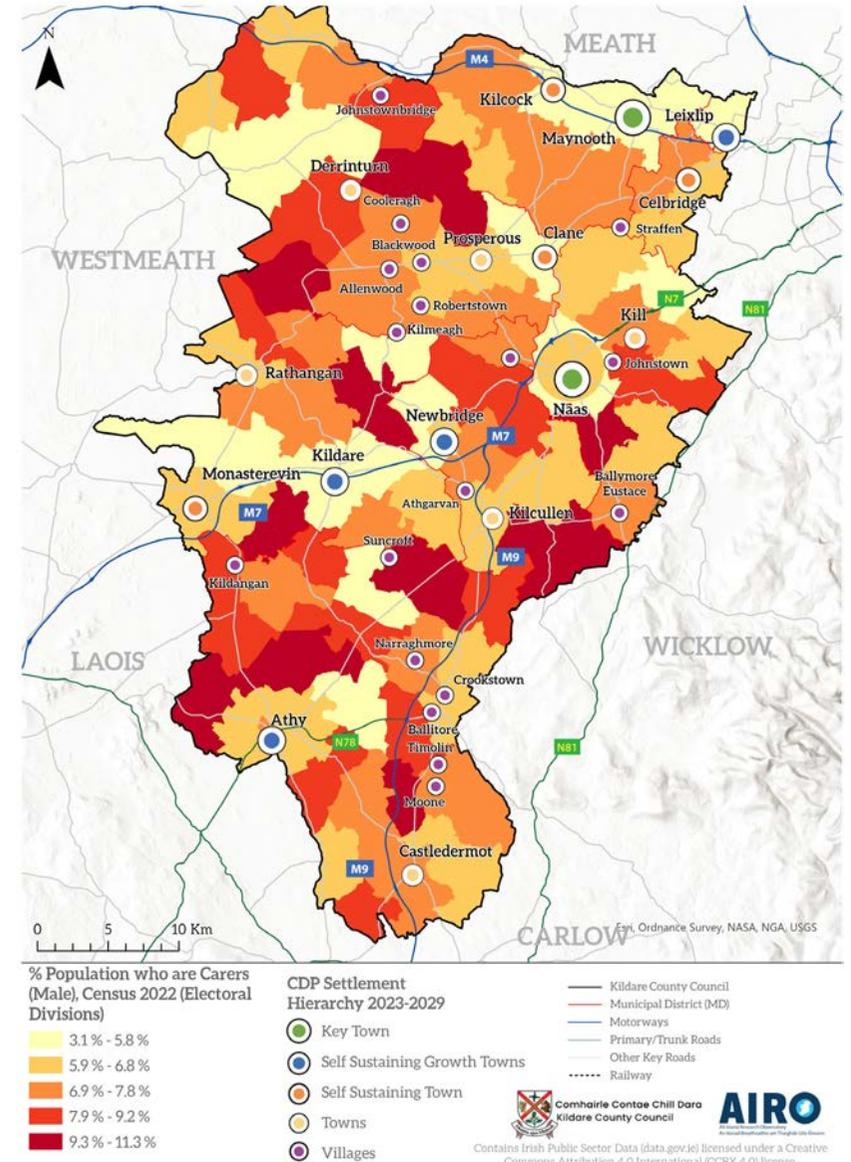


Figure 6.8 - Male carers, 2022 (Source: CSO)

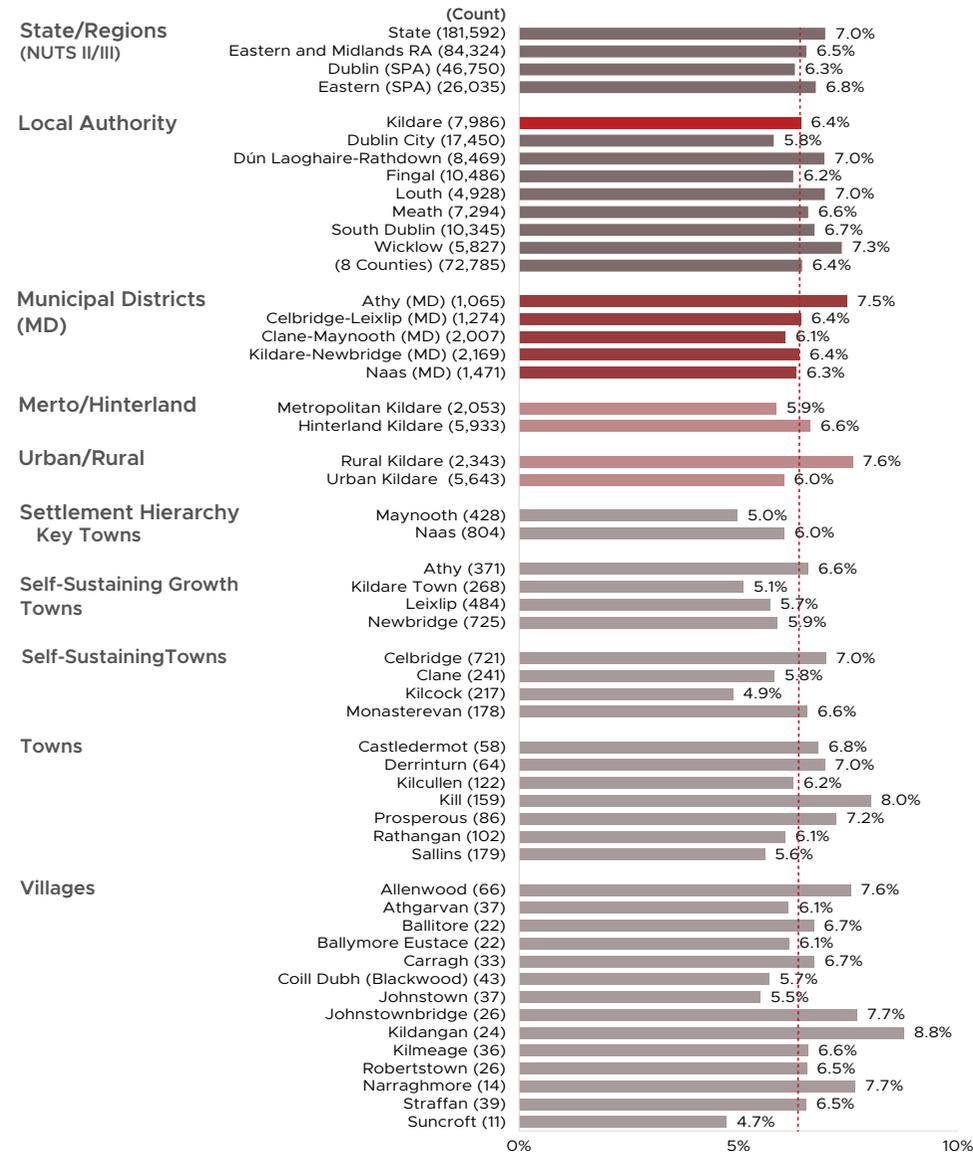


Figure 6.9 - Female carers, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline:
7,986 Female Carers or 6.4% of the population, 2022

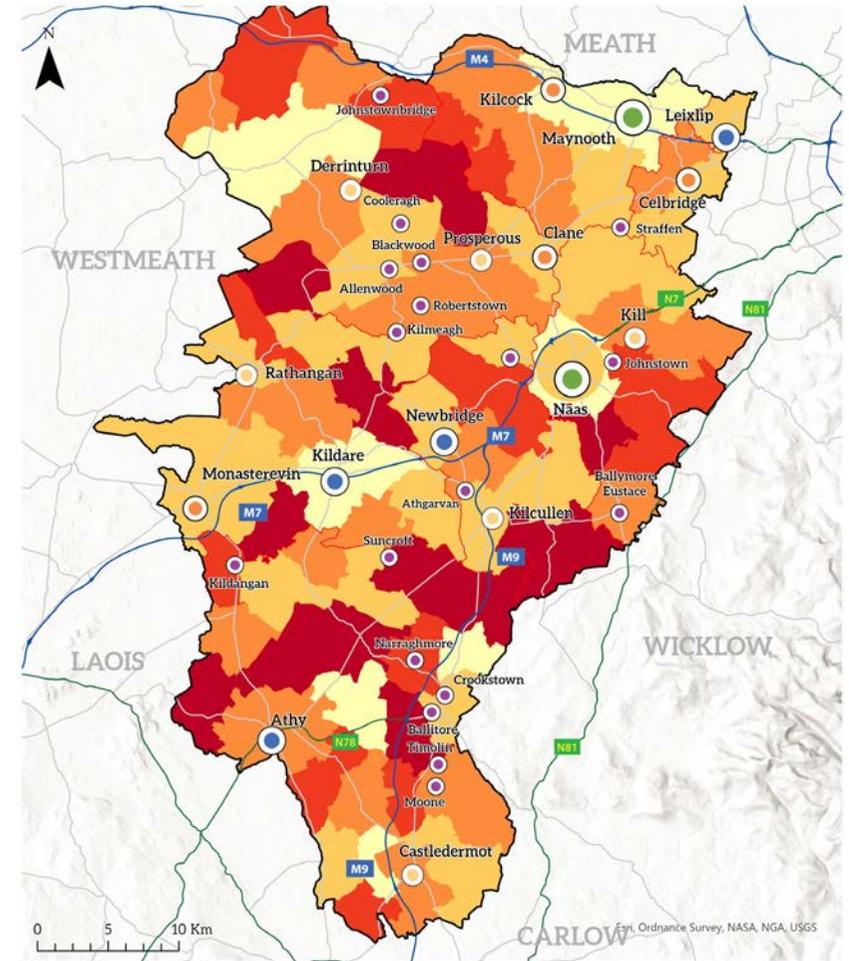


Figure 6.10 - Female carers, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Healthy Ireland Framework, 2022

Health Indicators		
Health Status	State	Kildare
Cancer screening participation	78.7	80.9
MMR vaccination Uptake	85.3	89.2
Breast feeding	58.8	57.8
Physical Activity	46.1	47.4
Smoking	19.8	19.2
Obesity	23.3	24.3
Binge Drinking	36.2	37.2
Sugar-sweetened diet	8.7	9
Sedentary lifestyle	49.9	47.9
Health Outcomes		
Cancer Incidence M	479	505
Cancer Incidence F	396	406
Suicide Rate	7.6	8.6
Cardiovascular disease AMI Incidence	159	153
Social Determinants		
Radon - radon level > 800 Bcq/m3	1.5	0.2
Air Quality - PM 2.5	10	NA
Unemployed	7.1	13.4
Illness or disability	4.2	6.5
School leaver 15	10	8.1
Socio-economic deprivation	22.5	16.5
Primary care access - GPs per 100,000	35.3	29.7

Figure 6.11 - Healthy Framework Kildare County vs State, 2022 (Source: Healthy Framework Ireland)

Health Indicators with most divergence from the national average:

- Male Cancer Incidence

Age-standardised incidence of male cancer (ex. NMSC) – reported from 2015 to 2019

- Binge Drinking

Proportion of population aged 15+ consuming 6 or more standard drinks – surveyed in 2018

- Obesity

Proportion of population aged 15+ with a BMI > 30 kg/m² – surveyed in 2019



An Roinn Sláinte
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