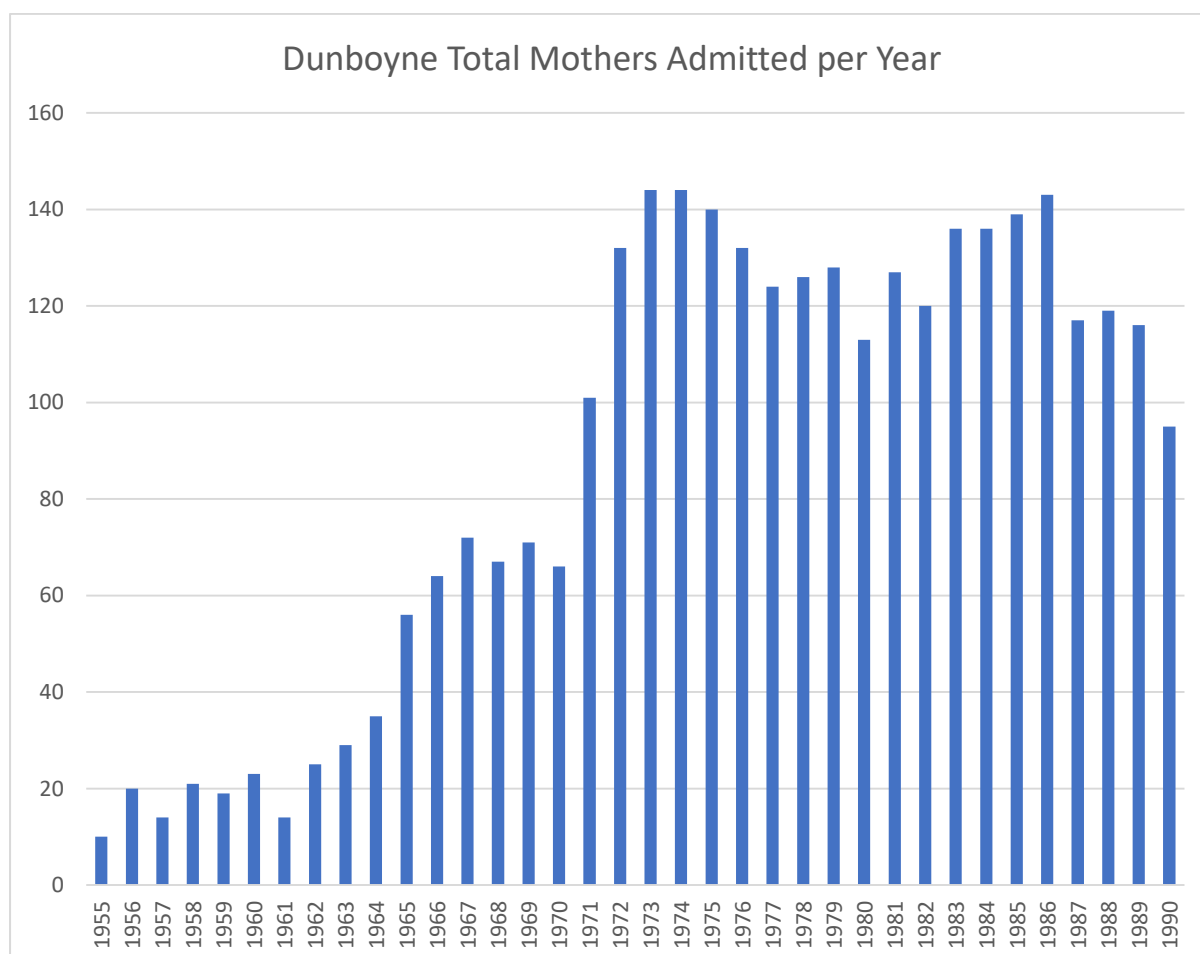


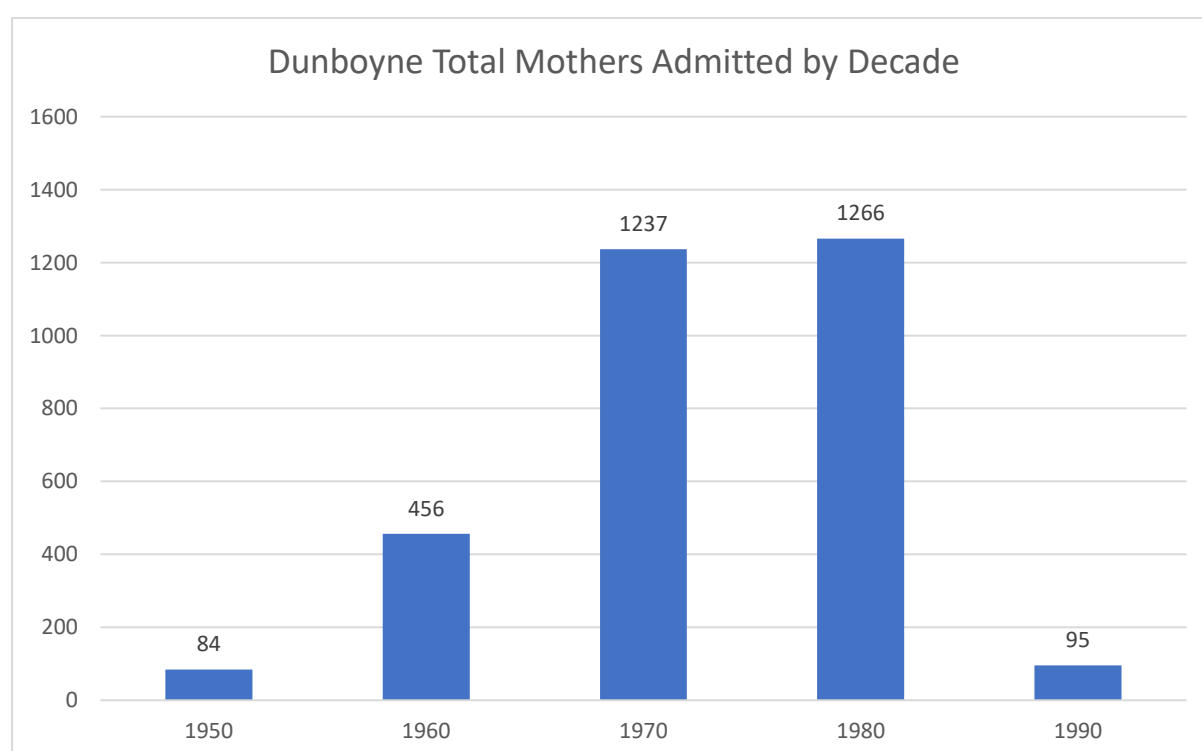
Chapter 24 A: Dunboyne Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis provided here is based on the institutional records provided to the Commission. The Commission compiled a database from the institutional records and analysed the information on a calendar year basis. In the narrative chapter, statistical information from other sources is described. These other sources are not directly comparable with the Commission's analysis. For example, almost all the statistical information available from official publications is on an administrative year basis, that is, from 1 April to 31 March. This was the case until about 1980. However, as is clear from the analysis below, the statistical returns made to the Department of Health by the institution are broadly in line with the Commission's analysis. Statistics from other reports, for example, inspection reports, often relate to a specific day or a non-standard period and so are not directly comparable. In general, the Commission is satisfied that there are no significant differences between its analysis and information from other sources. In a few cases where there are differences, attention is drawn to this in the narrative chapter.

Admissions

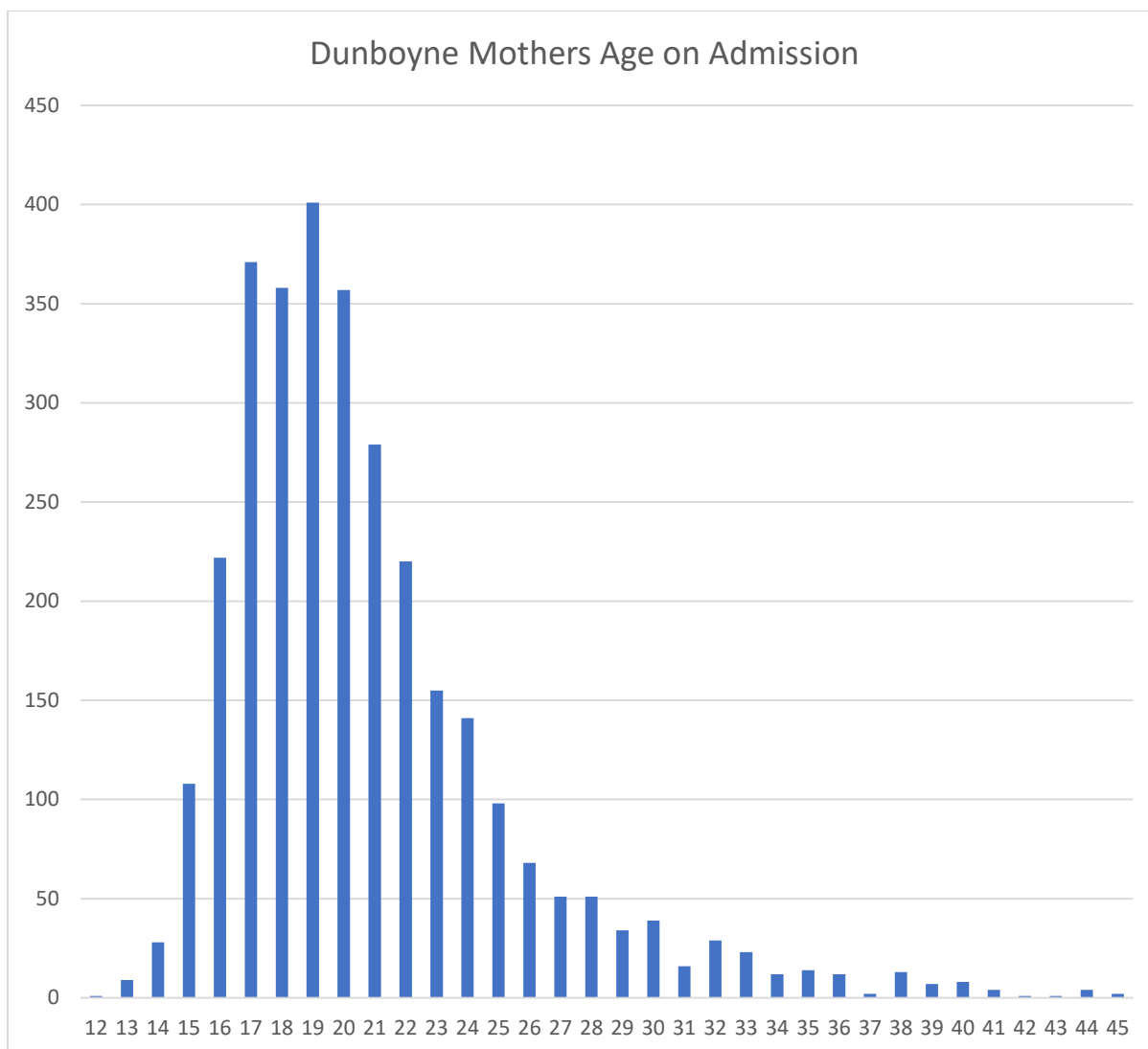


The Commission identified 3,156 women who were admitted to Dunboyne in the years 1955-90 from the institutional records.¹ Information relating to date of admission was available for 3,138 women (99.4% of admissions). In the years 1955-70, 606 women were admitted - representing 19.3% of admissions. In the 1950s, 17 women on average were admitted annually; this increased to 46 average annual admissions in the 1960s. A significant increase in admissions was recorded in the 1970s peaking in 1973 and 1974; 144 women were recorded in each year. Although admissions had decreased by 1980 - 113 women were admitted that year - they increased steadily until 1986 when 143 women were recorded. Average annual admissions in the late 1980s stood at 117 and 95 women were recorded in 1990, its last full year in operation.



Analysis by decade shows that most admissions to Dunboyne were recorded in the 1980s (40.34%) followed closely by the 1970s (39.42%); the 1960s (14.53%); the 1990s (3.03%) and the 1950s (2.68%). Eight in every ten women admitted to Dunboyne entered the home in the 1970s and 1980s.

¹ Some admission registers relating to the late 1960s and early 1970s are not available, presumed missing from the Dunboyne institutional records. As a result, the number of admissions identified by the Commission must be regarded as incomplete. Department of Health returns for this period suggest that the discrepancy may amount to 49 women. However, it was not possible to identify the extent of the discrepancy with any great accuracy.

Age on admission

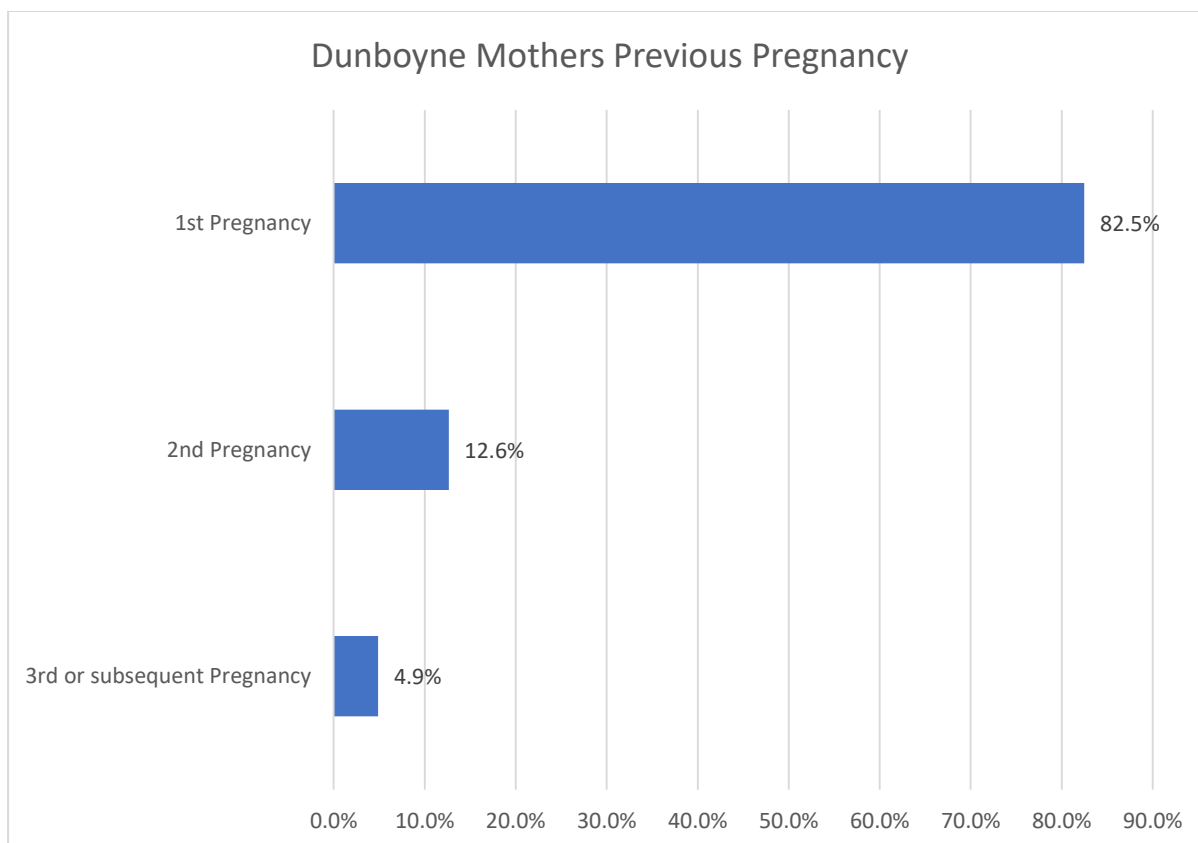
Information relating to age on admission was available for 3,139 women (99.5% of admissions).

The institutional records show that age on admission ranged from 12 to 45 years; the mode of age on admission was 19 years. The average age on admission in the 1950s was 26 years. This declined to 20 years in the 1970s and 1980s and increased slightly to 21 years in the 1990s.

Most women (70.5%) were aged between 18 and 29 years on admission; 23.5% were 17 years or younger and 6% were 30 years and older.

Over one in ten of all admissions to Dunboyne (11.7%) were aged between 12 and 16 years and under the legal age of consent.

Previous pregnancy



Information relating to previous pregnancy was available for 2,413 women (76.5% of admissions).

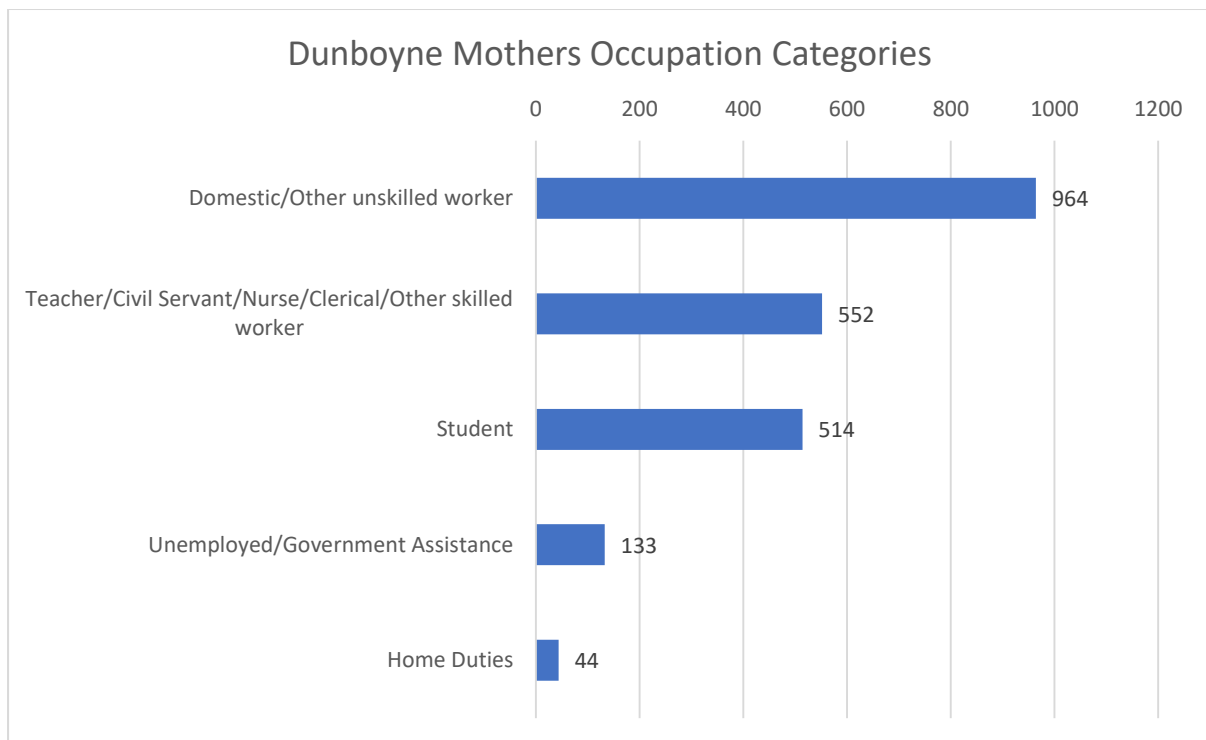
The institutional records show that most women (82.5%) were admitted on their first pregnancy; 12.6% were admitted on their second pregnancy and 4.9% on their third or subsequent pregnancy. In the 1950s, over 63% of all admissions were women on their second or subsequent pregnancy; by the 1980s this cohort represented a much reduced 7.3% of admissions. Conversely, women admitted on their first pregnancy represented around 12% of admissions in the 1950s but made up over 81% of admissions in the 1980s.

Marital status

Information relating to marital status was available for 2,925 women (92.7% of admissions).

The institutional records show that most women (98.4%) were single. The remaining women were recorded as married, separated or widowed.

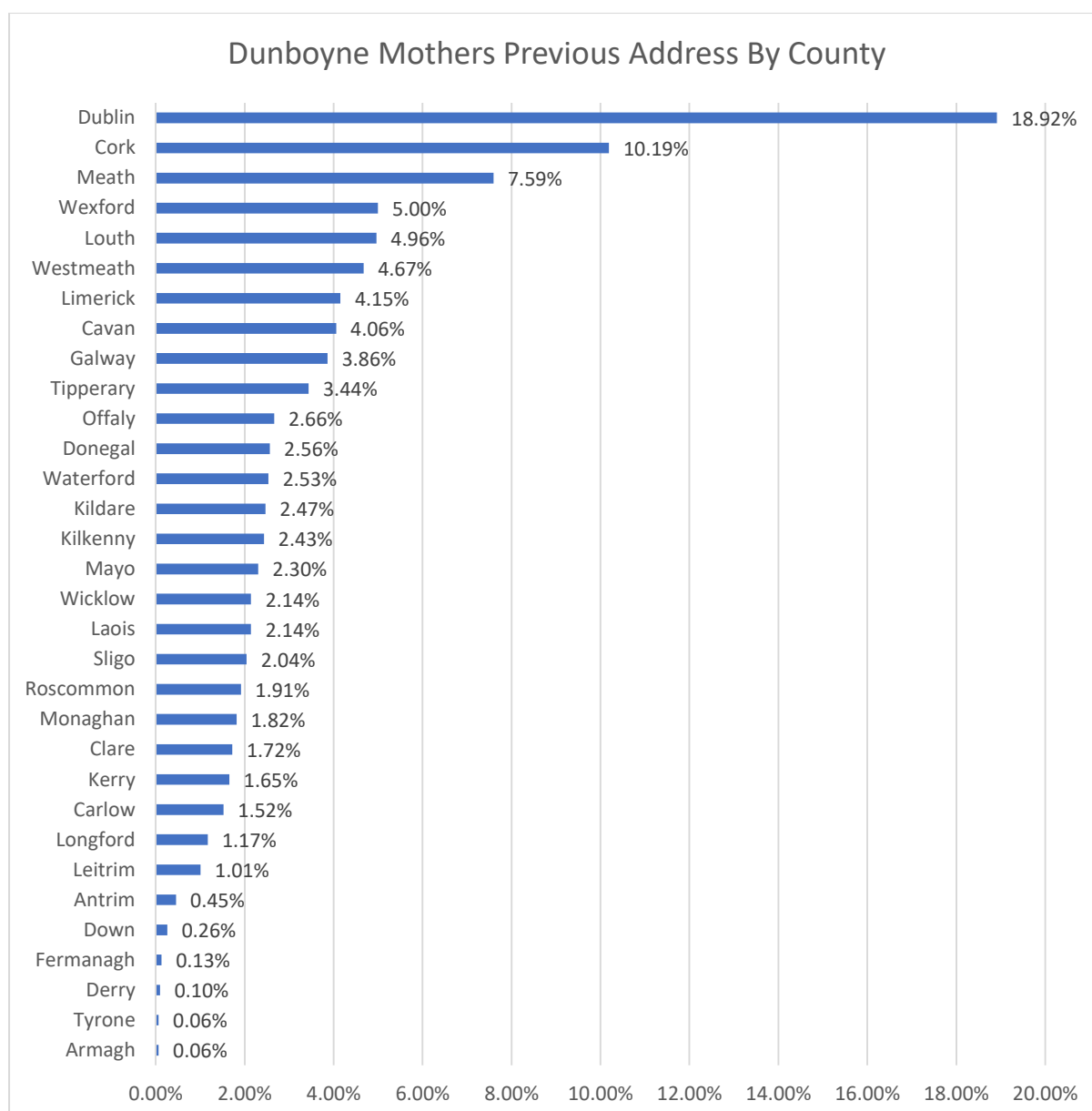
Occupations



Information relating to occupations was available for 2,207 women (69.7% of admissions).

The institutional records show that most women (43.7%) were recorded as domestic servant or other unskilled worker; 25% were recorded as teacher, civil servant, nurse, clerical or other skilled worker; 23.3% were in full time education; 6% were unemployed or in receipt of state benefit and 2% were engaged in home duties - working in the family home or on the family farm.

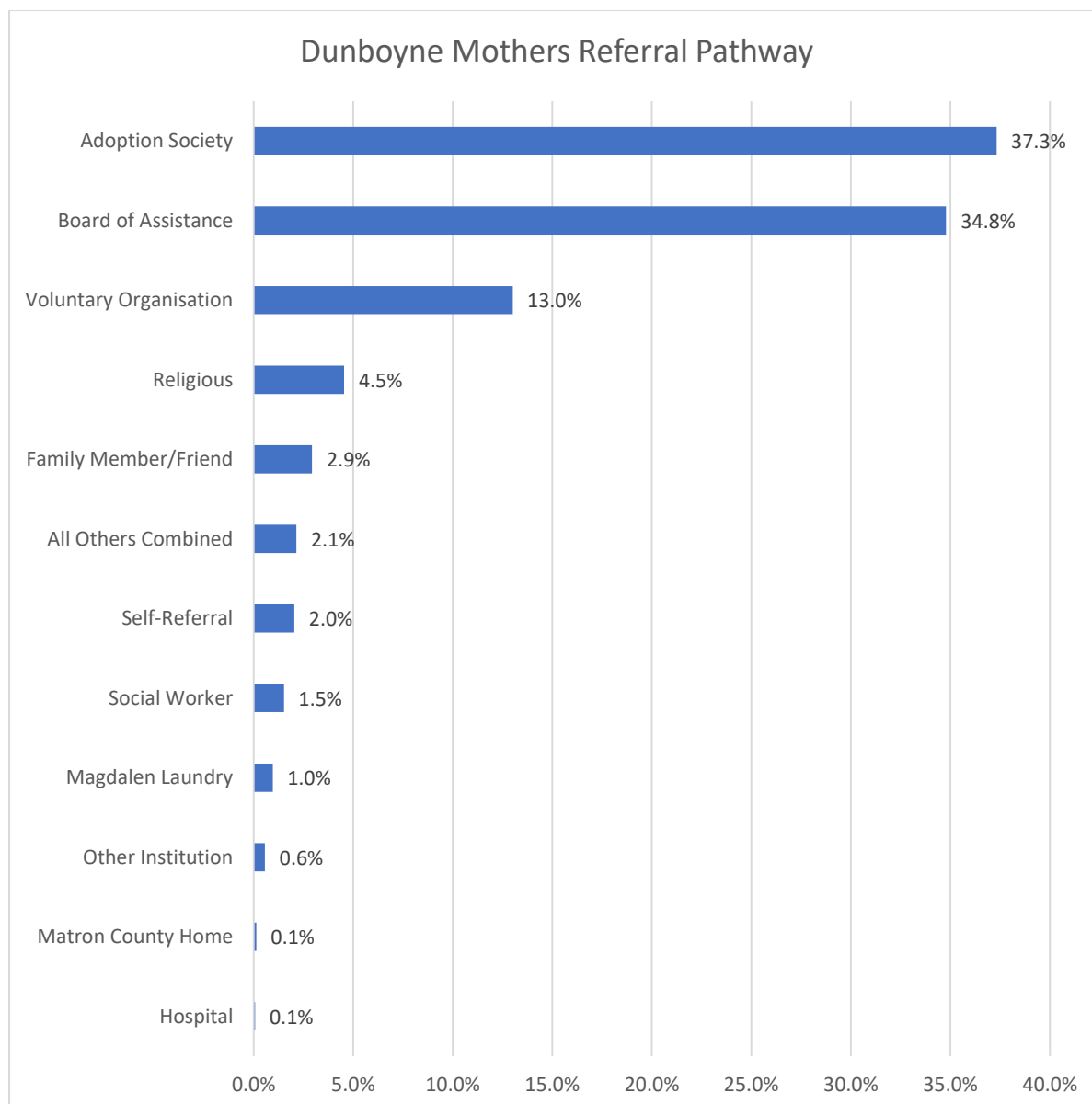
Of the 514 admissions recorded as being students 81.1% were second level and 18.5% were third level students. Two were recorded as primary school students.

Previous address by county

Information relating to previous address by county was available for 3,082 women (97.7% of admissions).

The institutional records show that most women (18.92%) gave Dublin as their address prior to entry followed by Cork (10.19%); Meath (7.59%); Wexford (5%); Louth (4.96%); Westmeath (4.67%); Limerick (4.15%); Cavan (4.06%); Galway (3.86%); Tipperary (3.44%); Offaly (2.66%); Donegal (2.56%); Waterford (2.53%); Kildare (2.47%); Kilkenny (2.43%); Mayo (2.3%); Wicklow (2.14%); Laois (2.14%) and Sligo (2.04%). The remaining 11.88% of women combined gave addresses in Roscommon, Monaghan, Clare, Kerry, Carlow, Longford, Leitrim, Antrim, Down, Fermanagh, Derry, Tyrone and Armagh.

Referral pathways



Information relating to referral pathways to Dunboyne was available for 3,036 women (96.2% of admissions).

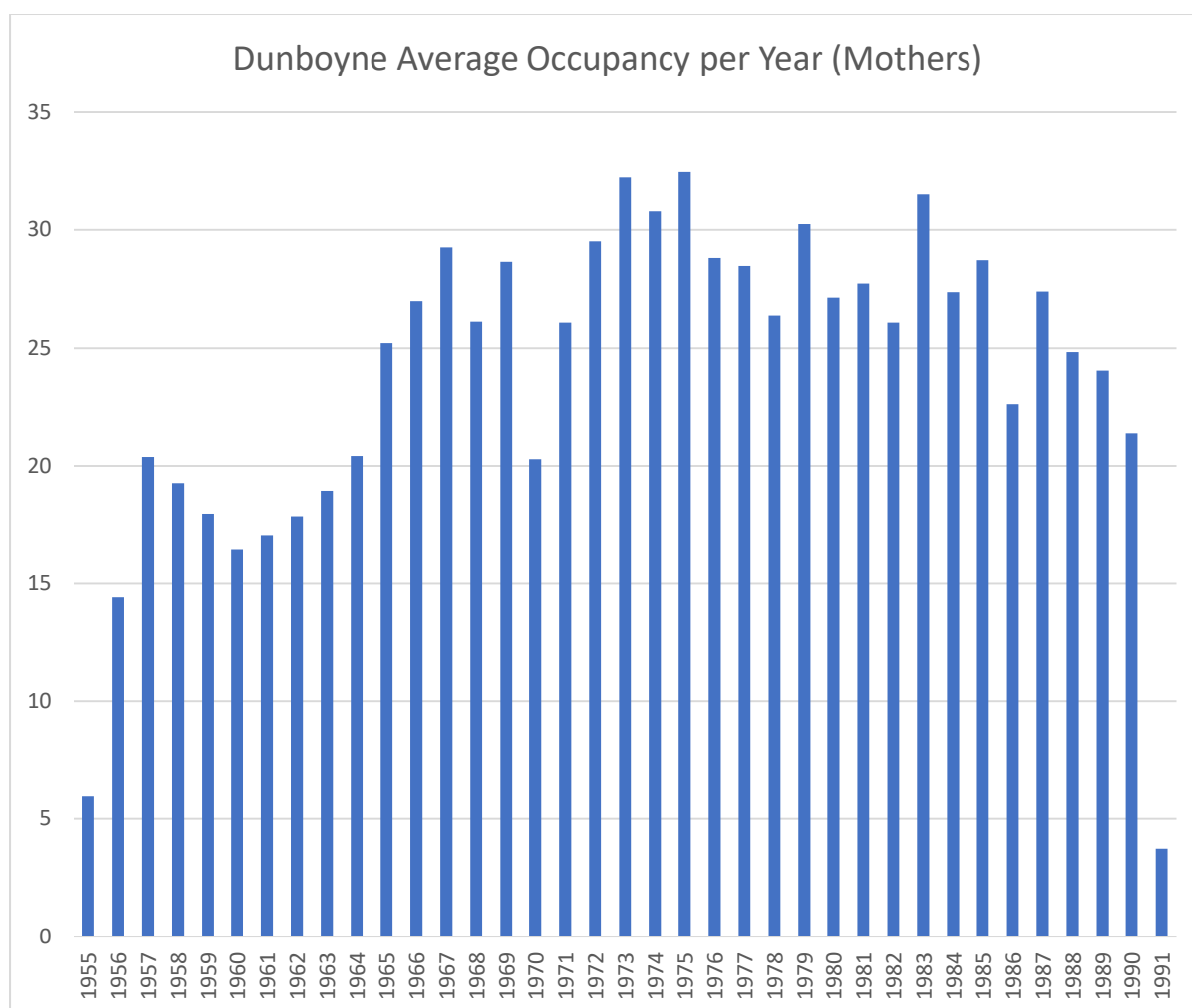
The institutional records show that most women (37.3%) were referred to the institution by an adoption society - the majority by CPRSI.² The second most frequent referral pathway was local boards of assistance/health boards - 34.8% of women were referred by these bodies. Voluntary organisations - mainly CURA - referred 13% of women to the home; 4.5% were referred by a priest or nun; 2.9% by a friend of family member; 2% self-referred; 1.5%

² The majority of referrals to Dunboyne from adoption societies (67%) were through CPRSI. Women were also referred by St Anne's Adoption Society; St Patrick's Guild; St Clare's Adoption Society; St Bridget's Adoption Society; Ossory Adoption Society; The Rotunda Girls' Aid Society and St Catherine's Adoption Society.

were referred by a social worker; 1% transferred from a Magdalen laundry; 0.8% transferred from another institution, county home or hospital and the remaining 2.1% combined were referred by other named individuals, via a nurse, doctor, guard or solicitor or transferred from an industrial school or supported accommodation.

From the 1950s to the 1970s, referral via a board of assistance/health board was the most frequent referral pathway; by the 1980s most women were referred by adoption societies. In the 1950s, only one woman was referred by a priest or nun. In the 1980s, 40 women were referred in this way. In the 1970s most women referred by a voluntary organisation were referred by ALLY; in the 1980s most referrals from this sector were from CURA.

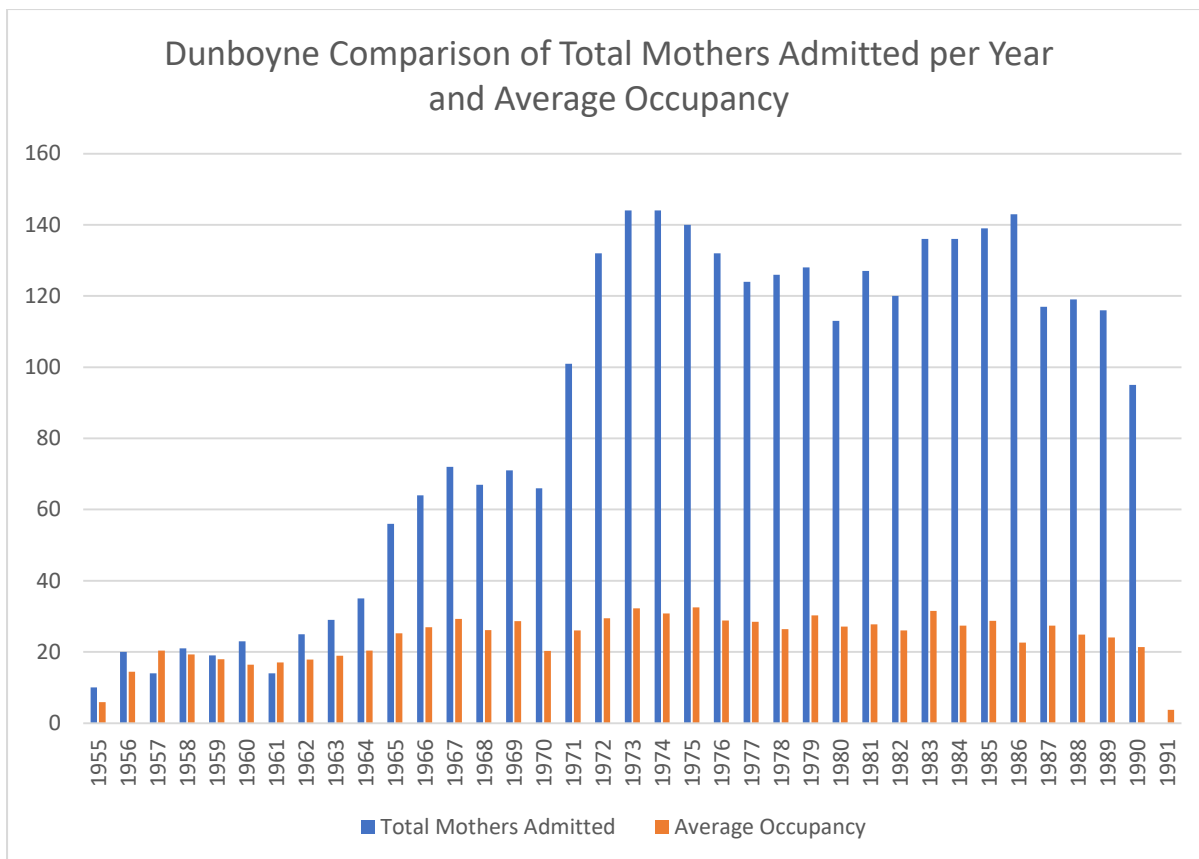
Occupancy



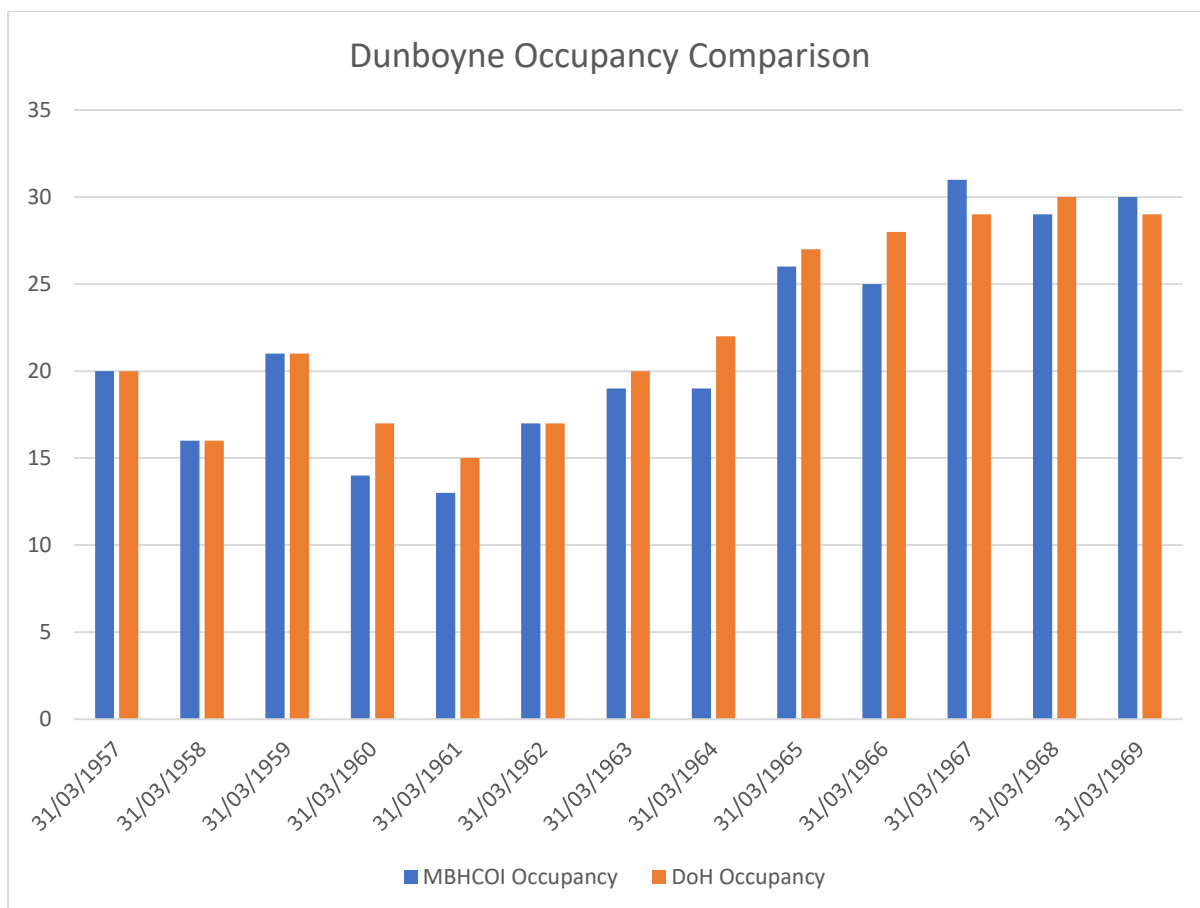
Information relating to average occupancy was available for 3,004 women (95.2% of admissions).³

On opening, Dunboyne was deemed suitable to accommodate 22 and a maximum of 25 adults. The institutional records show that average occupancy in the years 1955-63 was generally below maximum accommodation levels. Average occupancy in this period was greatest in 1957; it may have been operating close to its maximum occupancy limit at that time. However, Dunboyne did not experience the acute overcrowding which was a perennial feature of other mother and baby homes. The premises were extended in 1963 and average occupancy increased steadily from that year. The busiest period of its operation was 1973-74 when 144 women were admitted in each of those years - average occupancy for those years was 32 and 31 women respectively.

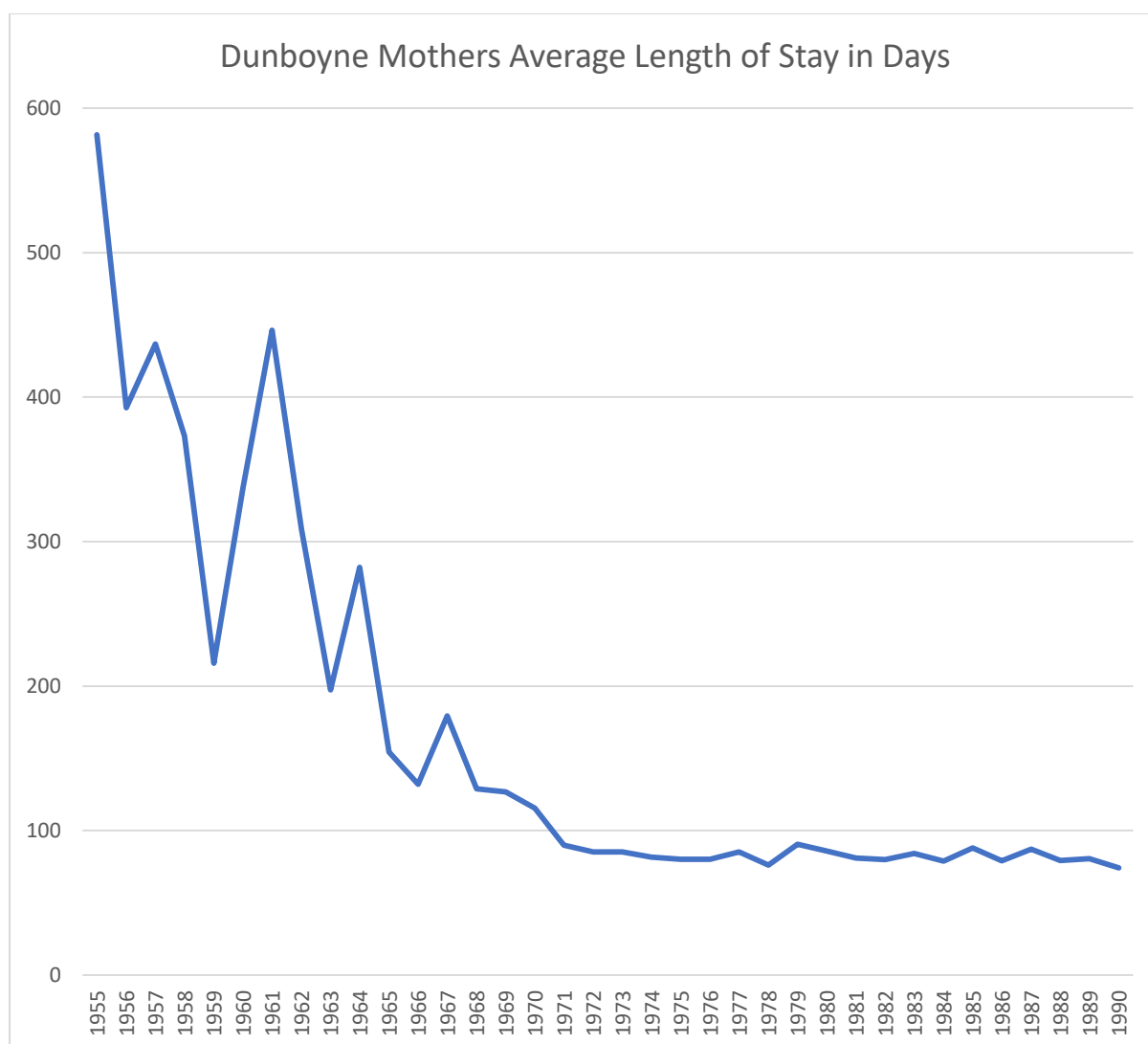
³ Records for 1969, 1970 and 1971 are incomplete. Average occupancy presented here is based on the available records.



Comparative analysis of admissions per year and average occupancy confirms that, in the main, Dunboyne was not prone to overcrowding. Average occupancy exceeded annual admissions on just two occasions - in 1957 and 1961. It should be stressed that the number of admissions in these years was relatively small and that any overcrowding cited in the historical record most probably meant having one or two extra women on the premises. The addition of extra accommodation in 1963 appears to have solved the matter.



The occupancy comparison chart shows a comparison between the occupancy recorded in the Commission’s database (compiled from the institutional records) and returns sent to the Department of Health by Dunboyne for the years 1957-69 inclusive. Temporary absences from Dunboyne, which were frequent, are not recorded in the Commission’s database so this may slightly inflate the Commission’s calculations regarding occupancy. It seems clear, however, that the numbers forwarded by Dunboyne to the Department of Health are largely in line with those recorded in the institutional records.

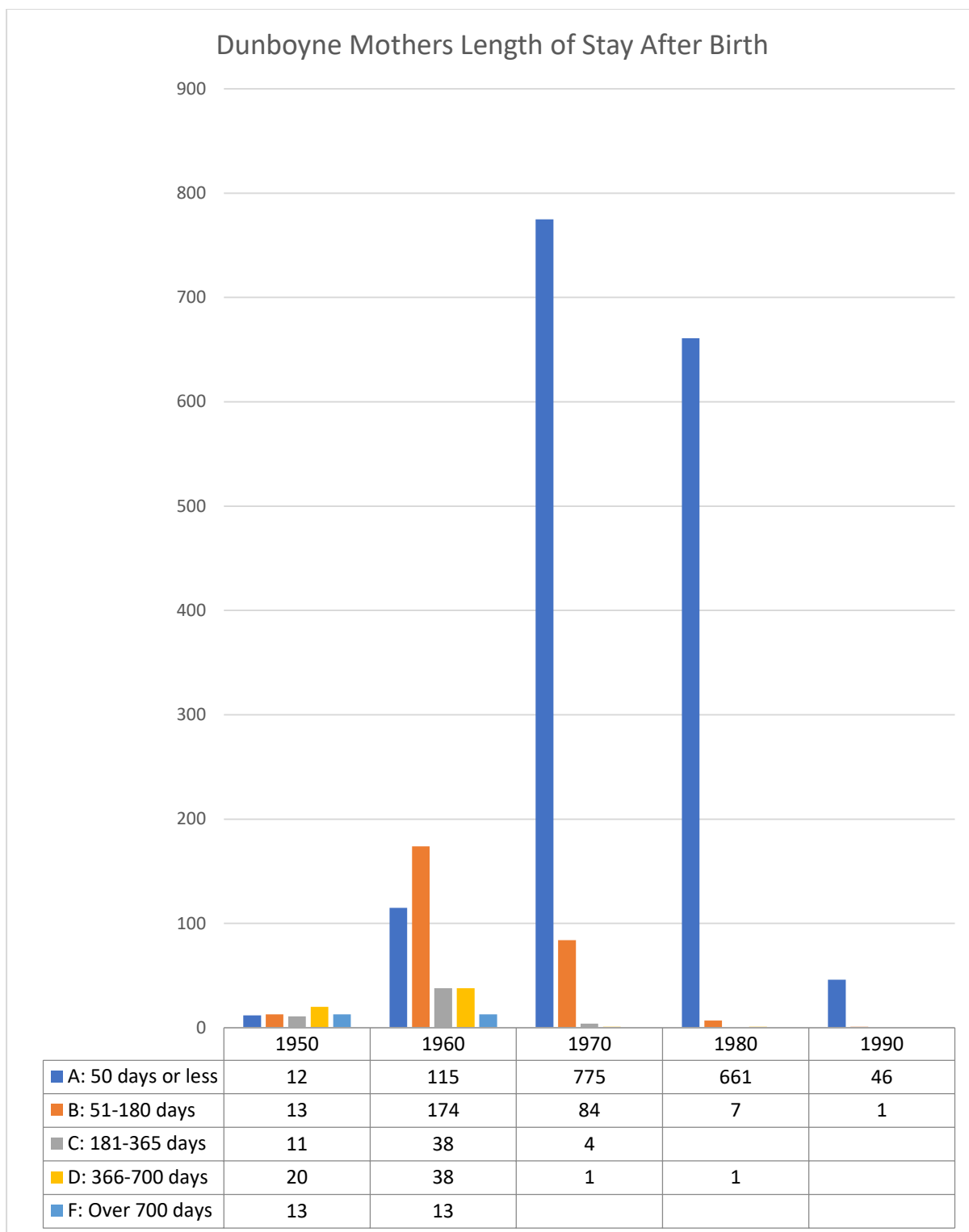
Length of stay

Information relating to length of stay was available for 3,004 women (95.2% of admissions).

The institutional records show that the average length of stay in Dunboyne declined from a high of 582 days on average for women admitted in 1955 to 74 days on average for women admitted in 1990. Some of the longest length of stays were recorded among women admitted in 1957 and 1961 (437 and 446 days respectively) - this most likely contributed to the relative overcrowding previously identified in Dunboyne in those two years.

Women admitted to Dunboyne in the 1950s spent 383 day on average there; women admitted in the 1970s spent a much reduced 85 days on average there.

In the 1950s, women were admitted to Dunboyne 63 days on average before giving birth; by the 1980s this had increased to 81 days on average before the birth.



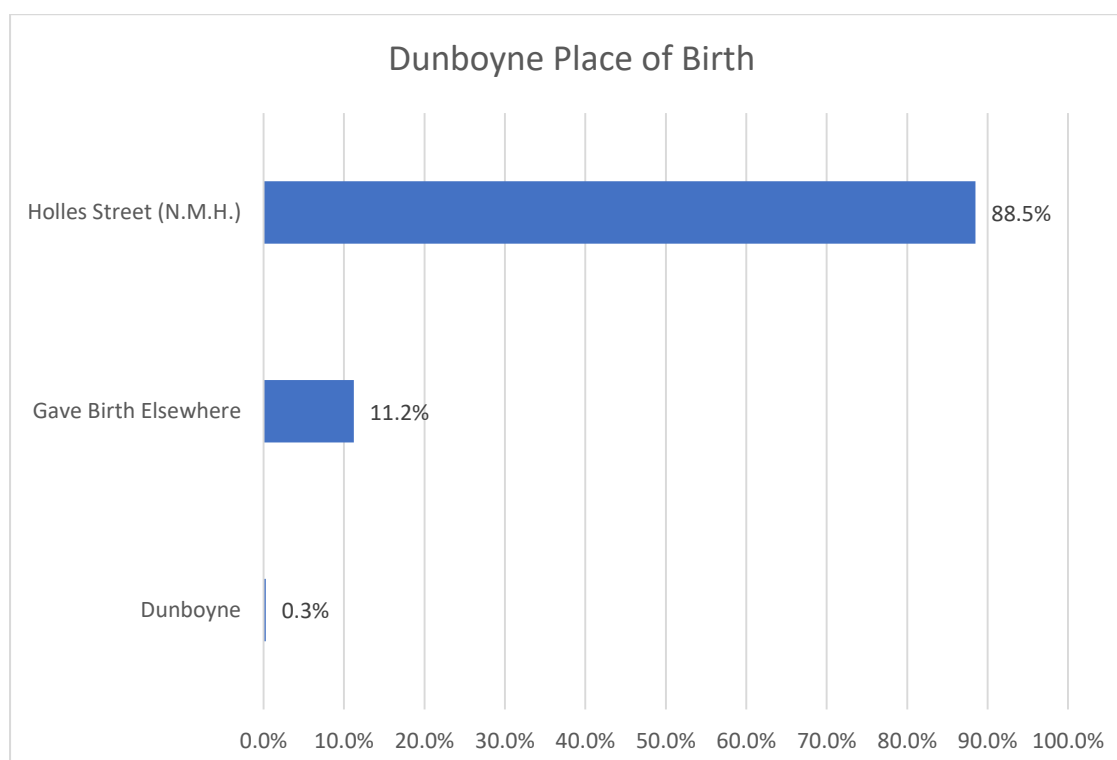
In the 1950s, most women (52%) left Dunboyne within a year of giving birth. Of those, 17.4% left within 50 days; 18.8% within six months and 15.9% within twelve months. Of the remaining women, 29% remained in the home for between one and two years after giving birth and 18.8% remained there for periods of between 25 and 32 months.

This pattern altered somewhat in the 1960s. In that decade 30.4% of women left within 50 days of giving birth and a further 46% left within six months. Just over 10% of women remained in the home for between six months and one year and a further 10% remained there for between 12 and 24 months. The percentage of woman who remained in the home for over two years had reduced from 18.8% in the 1950s to 3.4% in the 1960s. The longest recorded stay after birth in the 1960s was 32 months.

By the 1970s the pattern had altered significantly. By this time 89.7% of women had left Dunboyne within 50 days of giving birth and 9.7% within six months. Just four women remained in the home for between six and twelve months and one woman remained for 403 days.

In the 1980s, 98.8% of women left Dunboyne within 50 days of giving birth and most of the others had left within three months. One woman remained in the home for a little over one year. In the 1990s, all but one woman left the institution within 50 days of giving birth.

Place of birth



Information relating to place of birth was available for 2,773 women (87.9% of admissions).

The institutional records show that most women (88.5%) gave birth in Holles Street (National Maternity Hospital). Just over 11% of women gave birth in other hospitals and institutions including the Coombe, the Rotunda, St Kevin's/St James's Maternity Hospital, Pelletstown and Castlepollard. Eight women gave birth in Dunboyne.

Outcome

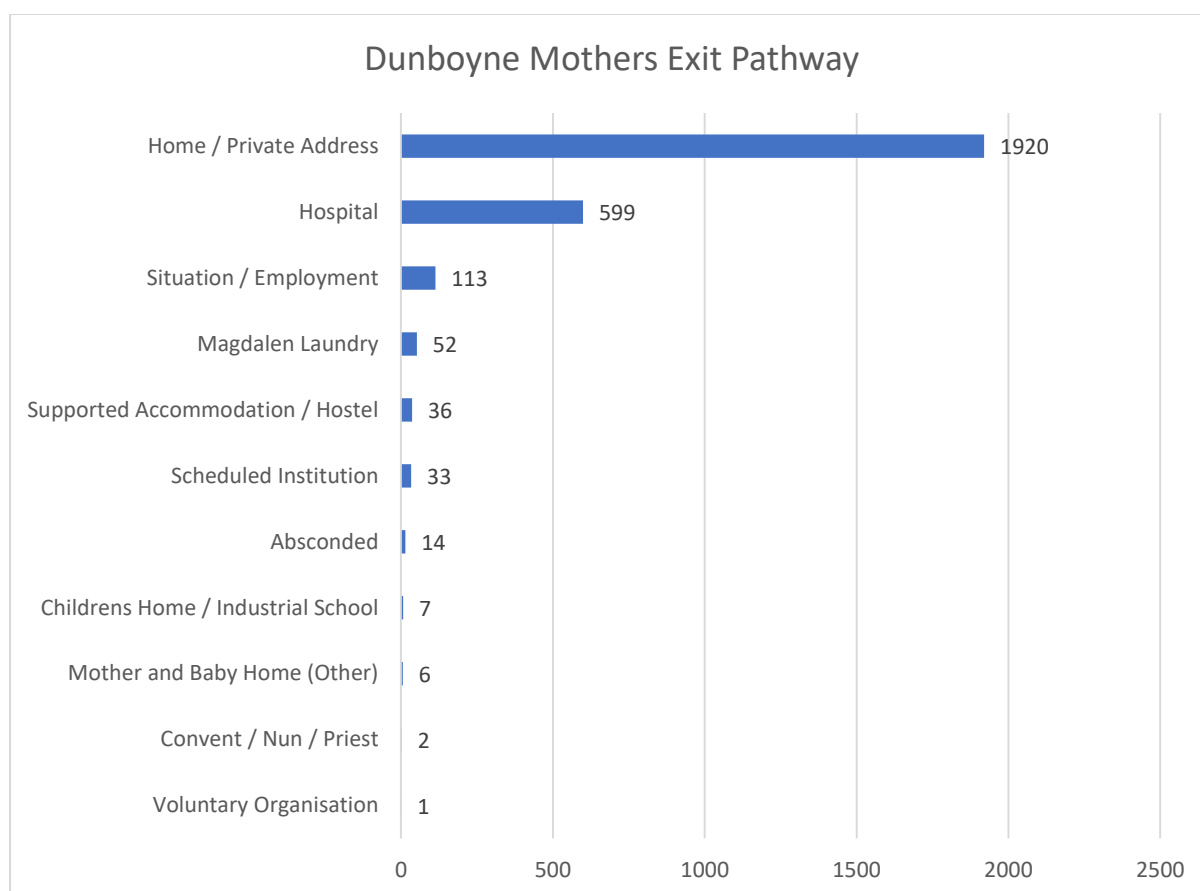
Information relating to birth details was available for 3,008 women (95.3% of admissions).

The institutional records show that 66% of women were admitted to Dunboyne, left to give birth and returned to the home; 29% left to give birth but did not return to the home and 5% were admitted in the first instance accompanied by their baby.

Birth details

Information relating to birth details was available for 2,843 women (90.1% of admissions)

The institutional records show that 98.73% of women gave birth to living infants; 1.2% gave birth to still born infants and 0.07% suffered a miscarriage.

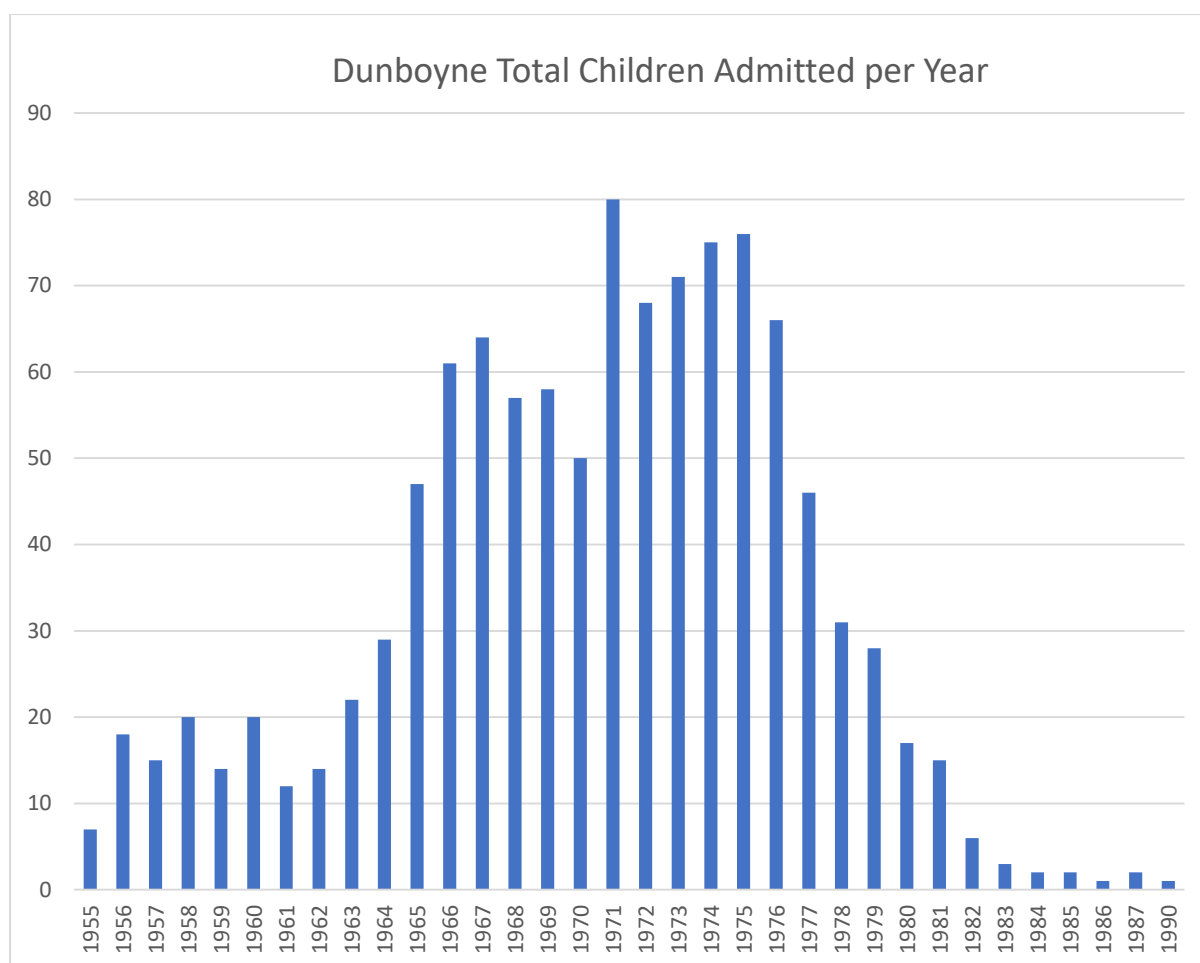
Exit pathways

Information relating to exit pathways was available for 2,783 women (88.2% of admissions).

Most women (68.99%) were recorded as leaving Dunboyne and returning to the family home or other private address; 21.52% were discharged to hospital - mostly women who left to give birth and did not return; 4.06% were discharged directly to take up employment; 1.87% transferred to Magdalen laundries; 1.29% were discharged to hostels and other supported accommodation; 1.19% transferred to other institutions under the Commission's remit; 0.5% 'absconded' leaving their baby in the home; 0.25% transferred to industrial schools and children's homes; 0.22% transferred to mother and baby homes outside the Commission's remit; two left accompanied by a nun or priest and one woman left in the care of a voluntary organisation.

Exit pathways from Dunboyne did not alter significantly in its period of operation. The majority of women discharged from the home in each decade either returned to the family home or transferred to hospital. The available records show that in the 1950s, 69% of women left via those routes - in the 1980s they accounted for 80% of discharges.

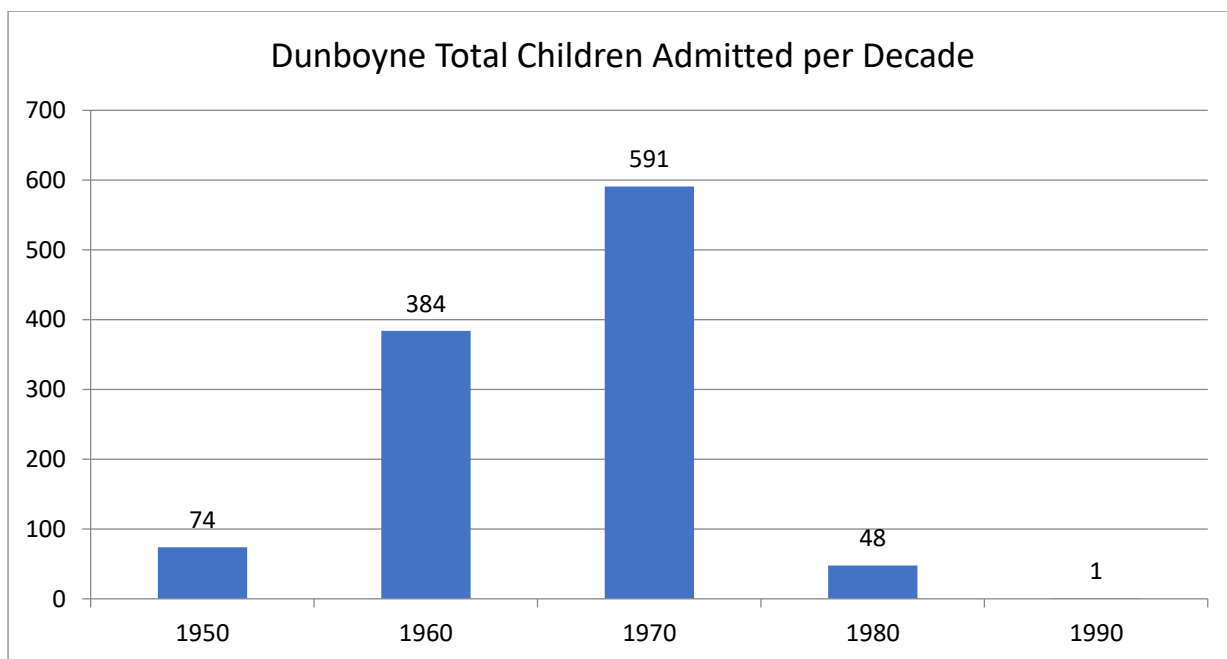
Child admissions



The Commission established that 1,148 children were admitted to Dunboyne in the years 1955-90.⁴

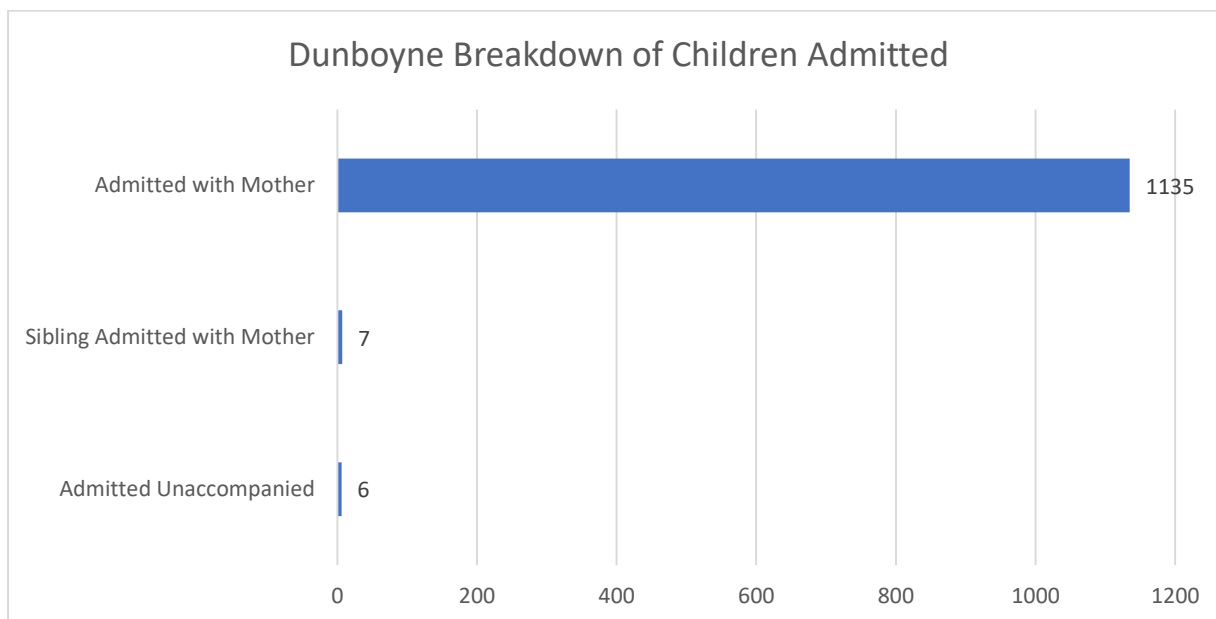
Information relating to date of admission was available for 1,098 children (95.6% of admissions). In the period 1955-62, 15 children on average were admitted annually; 20 children were admitted in the years 1958 and 1960. Child admissions began to increase steadily in 1963; extra accommodation had been added that year. Child admissions peaked in 1971, when 80 admissions were recorded, and remained relatively high until 1976. A steady decline in admissions was recorded thereafter falling from 66 in 1976 to 17 in 1980. Admissions remained relatively low during the 1980s; during 1982-90 just two children on average were admitted annually.

⁴ Some admission registers relating to the late 1960s and early 1970s are not available, presumed missing, from the Dunboyne institutional records. As a result, the number of admissions identified by the Commission must be regarded as incomplete. Department of Health returns for this period suggest that the discrepancy may amount to 65 children. However, it was not possible to identify the extent of the discrepancy with any great accuracy.



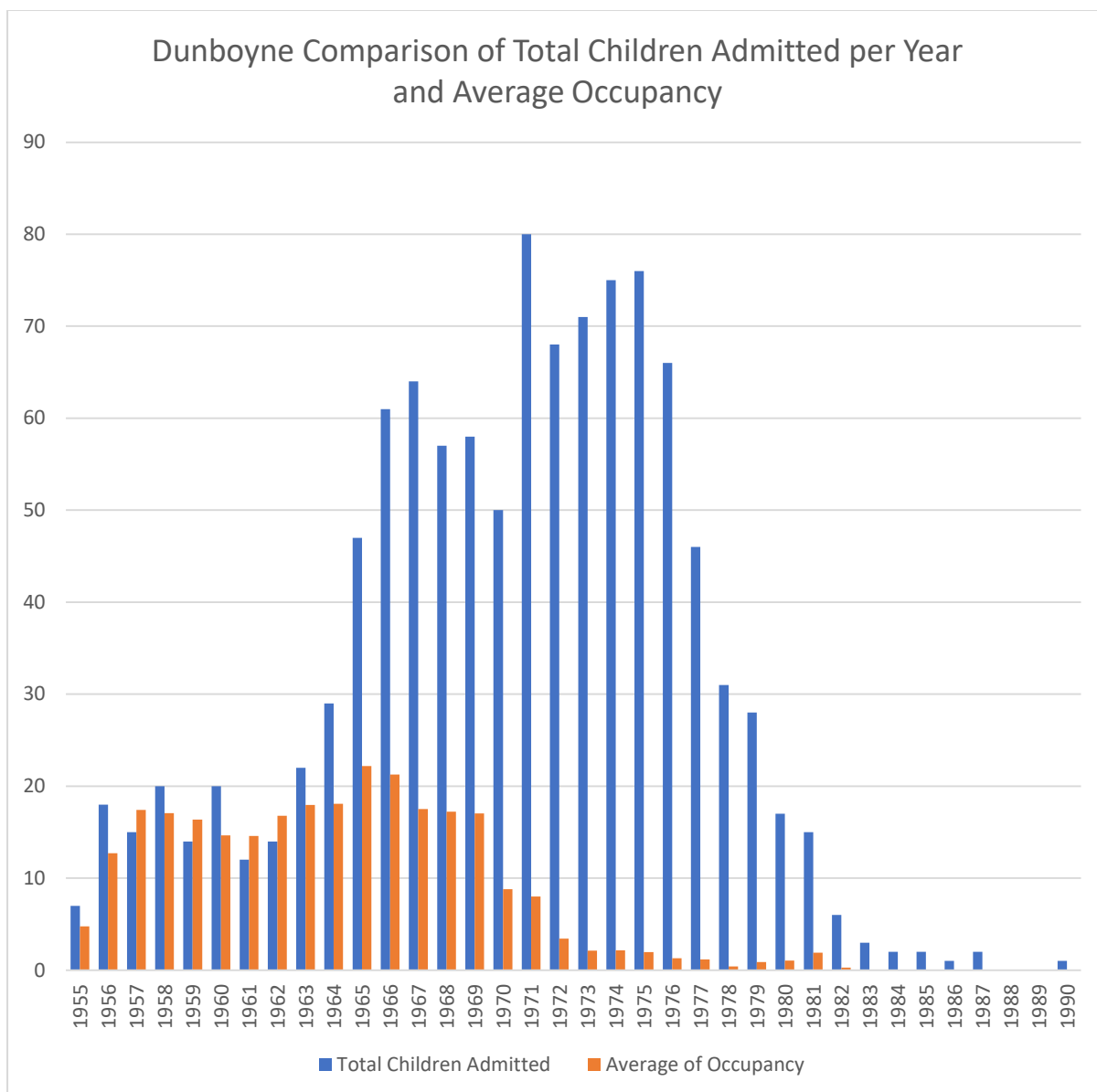
Analysis by decade shows that most children (53.83%) were admitted in the 1970s followed by the 1960s (34.97%); 1950s (6.74%); 1980s (4.37%) and the 1990s (0.09%).

In the 1950s, 88% of children born to women admitted to Dunboyne were subsequently admitted to the home. This decreased to 84% in the 1960s, to 47.77% in the 1970s and to 3.79% in the 1980s. Although 95 women were admitted to Dunboyne in 1990 just one child was admitted to the home that year.



The institutional records show that, of the 1,148 children admitted to Dunboyne, 98.9% were admitted accompanied by their mothers; 0.6% were admitted with expectant women and 0.5% were admitted unaccompanied.

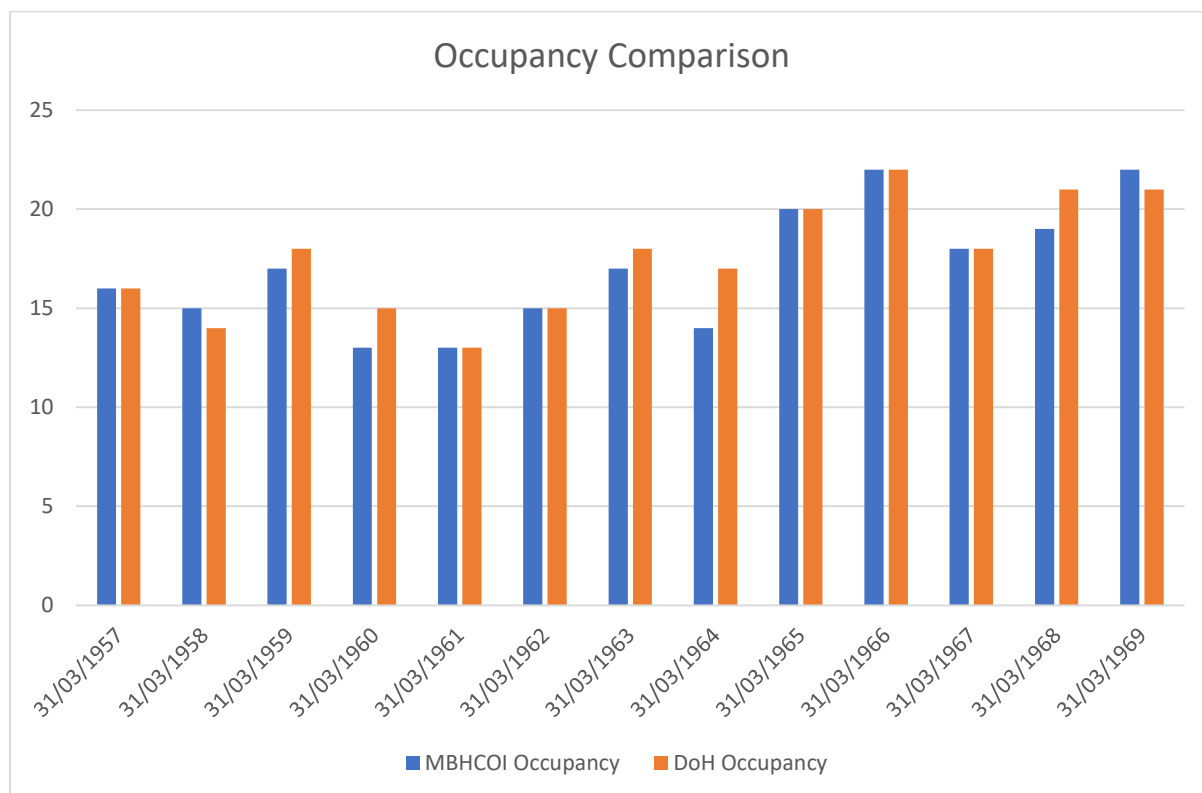
Occupancy



Information relating to average occupancy was available for 882 children (76.8% of admissions).

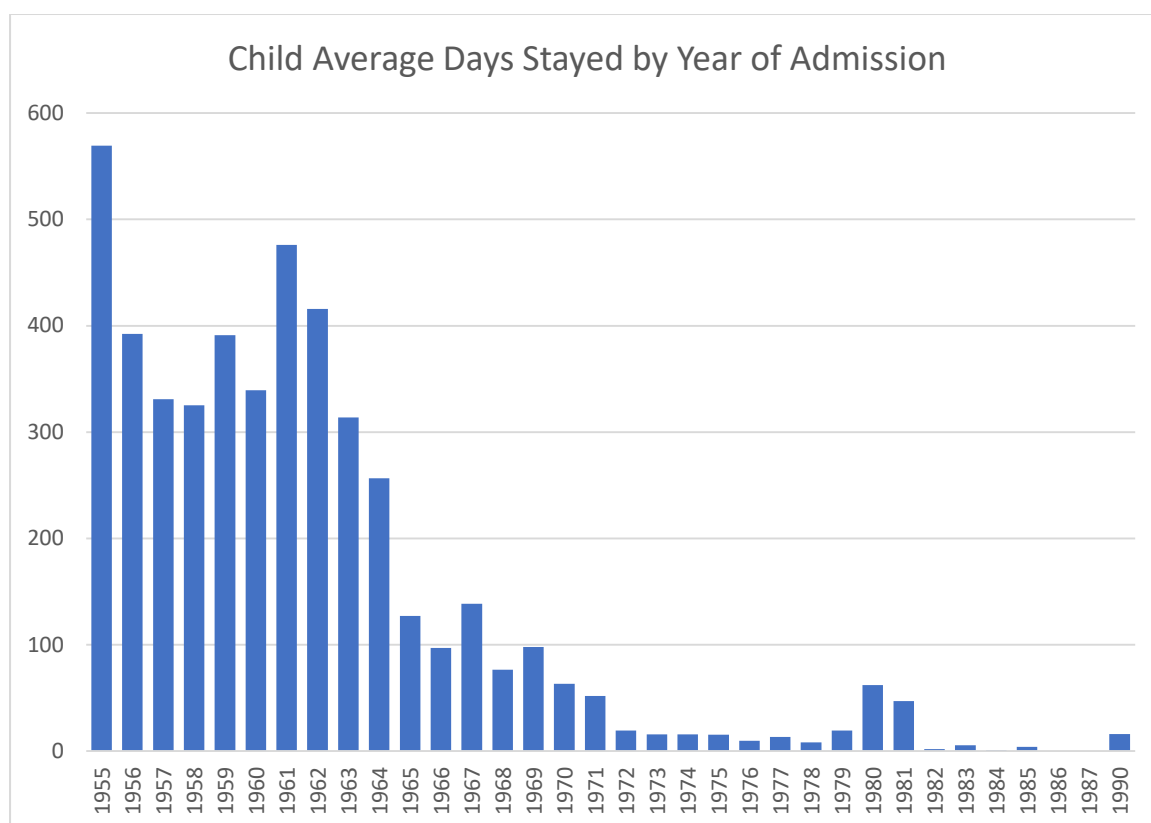
Child occupancy in Dunboyne was highest in the period 1956-69; an average of 17 children were living in the home in this period. Occupancy peaked in 1965 and 1966; an average of 22 and 21 children respectively were living in the home in those years. Average child occupancy exceeded admissions in 1957, 1959, 1961 and 1962. After extra accommodation was added in 1963, average occupancy remained well below admissions from there on in. Although child admissions to Dunboyne increased significantly in the 1970s, average occupancy decreased to single digits. This is most likely attendant on the decrease in the

number of women who returned to Dunboyne after giving birth and the increase in the number of women who left the institution within 50 days of giving birth.



The occupancy comparison chart shows a comparison between child occupancy recorded in the Commission’s database (compiled from the institutional records) and returns made to the Department of Health by Dunboyne for the years 1957-69 inclusive. Temporary absences from Dunboyne, such as cases where a child was receiving treatment in hospital, are not included in the Commission’s calculations so this may slightly inflate the Commission’s calculations regarding occupancy. It seems clear, however, that the numbers forwarded by Dunboyne to the Department of Health are largely in line with those recorded in the institutional records.

Child length of stay



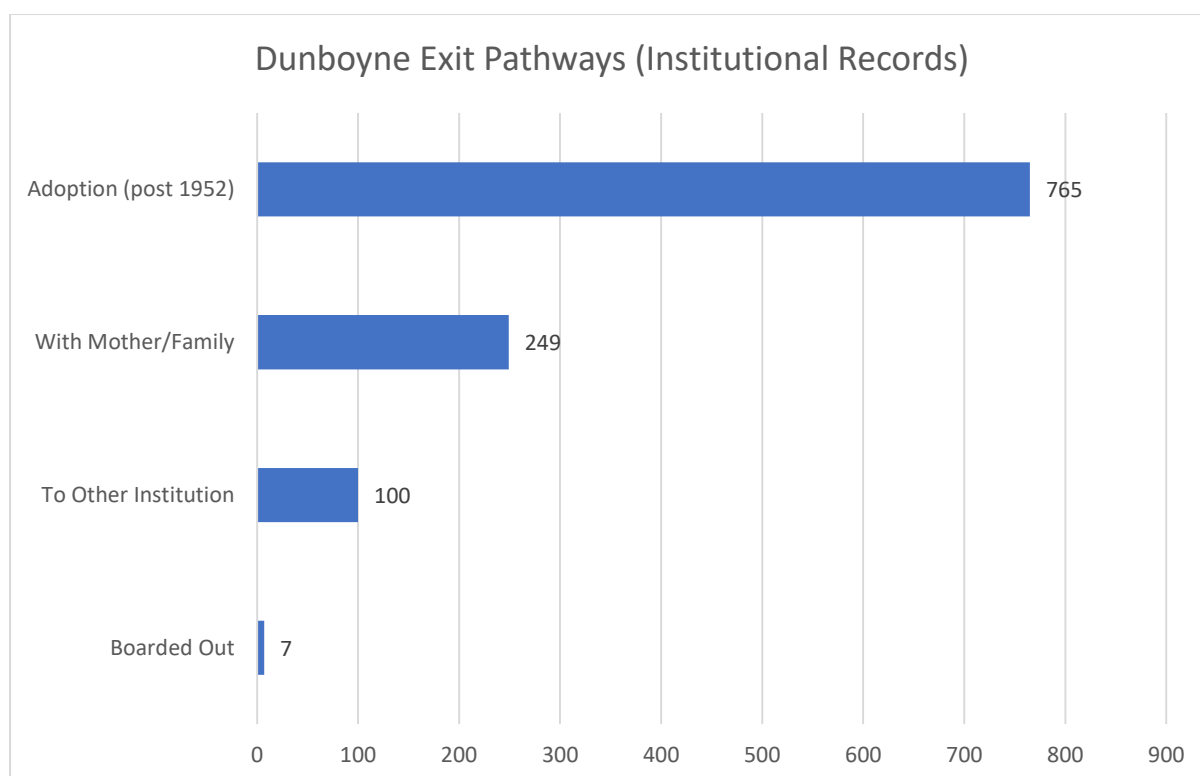
Information relating to length of stay was available for 882 children (76.8% of admissions).

Children admitted to Dunboyne in the 1950s spent the longest periods in the home. The average stay in that decade was 379 days and ranged between 569 days on average in 1955 to 325 days on average in 1958. Although child length of stay in 1961 was relatively high - 476 days was the average stay that year - by 1970 average length of stay had fallen dramatically to 63 days. By 1978 average length of stay had decreased to just eight days. Although average length of stay increased in the years 1979-81 average length of stay for the remainder of the 1980s was between one and six days.

Child discharge relative to Mother

Information relating to child discharge relative to the mother was available for 899 children (78.3% of admissions).

The institutional records show that most children (71%) were discharged from Dunboyne on the same date as their mothers; 21% were discharged while their mothers remained in the home and 8% remained in the home for periods subsequent to their mothers' discharge.

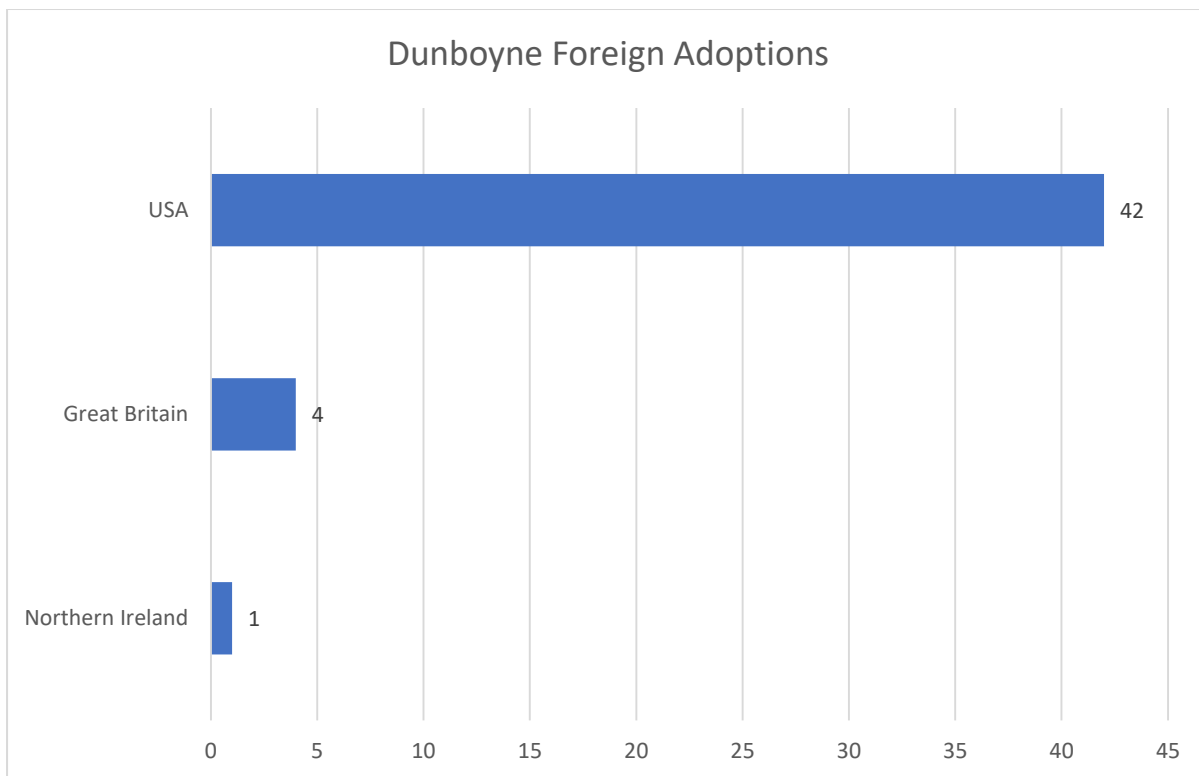
Child exit pathways

Information relating to child exit pathways was available for 1,121 children (97.7% of admissions).

The institutional records show that most children (68.2%) were placed for adoption - mainly through St Clare's Adoption Society, Stamullen, and the CPRSI; 22.2% were discharged with their mother or another family member; 8.9% transferred to other institutions - mainly children's homes and hospitals - and 0.6% were boarded out.

The available records show that, in the 1950s, 39.66% of children discharged from Dunboyne were placed for adoption. This increased to 71.16% in the 1960s but had decreased to 44.44% by the 1980s. In the 1950s, 32.76% of children left Dunboyne with their mother or other family member. This decreased to 20.9% in the 1960s but had increased to 50% by the 1980s. In the 1950s, 20.69% of children (1 in every 5) transferred to other institutions - by the 1960s, 5.56% of children exited the home via this route.

Foreign adoptions

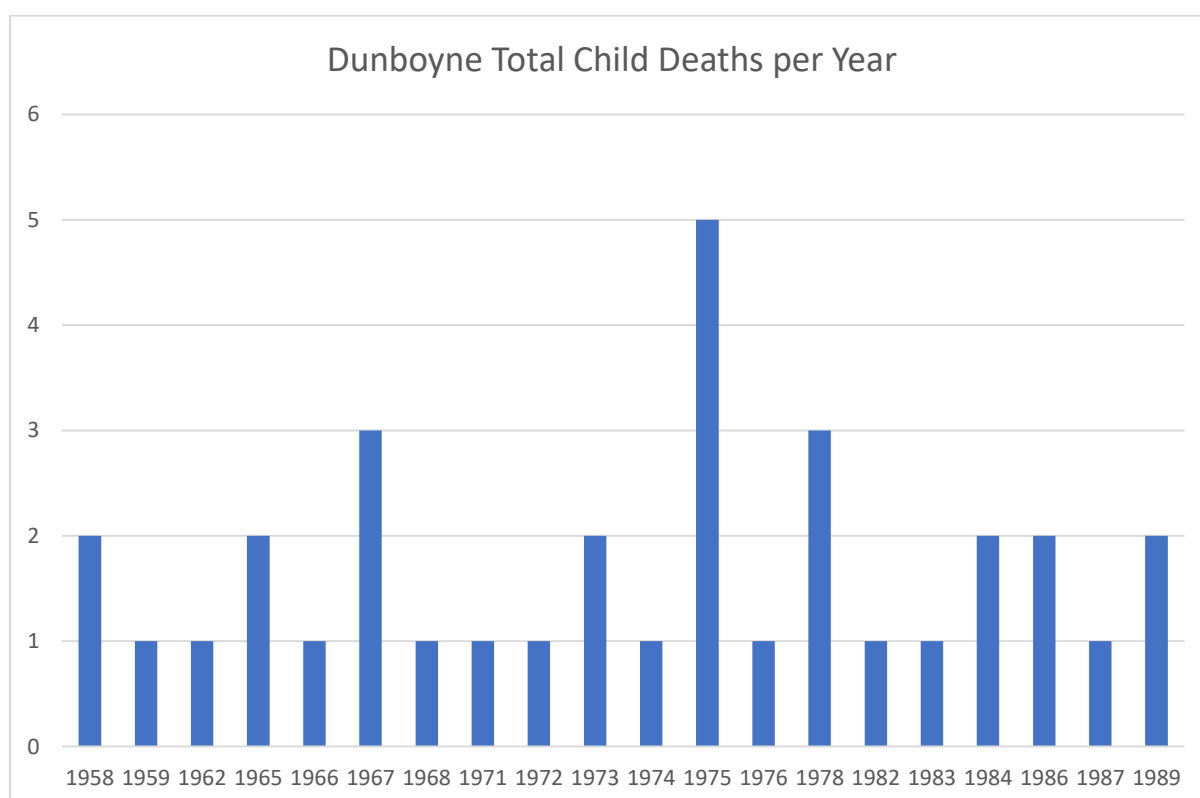


The Commission identified 47 children who were placed for foreign adoption from Dunboyne. Most children (89.4%) were adopted in the USA; 8.5% in Great Britain and 2.1% were adopted in Northern Ireland.

Child deaths

The Commission identified 37 child deaths associated with Dunboyne. These include one child who died in Dunboyne; five who were admitted to Dunboyne and died elsewhere and 31 children who were never admitted to Dunboyne but whose mothers had been living in the home prior to their birth.

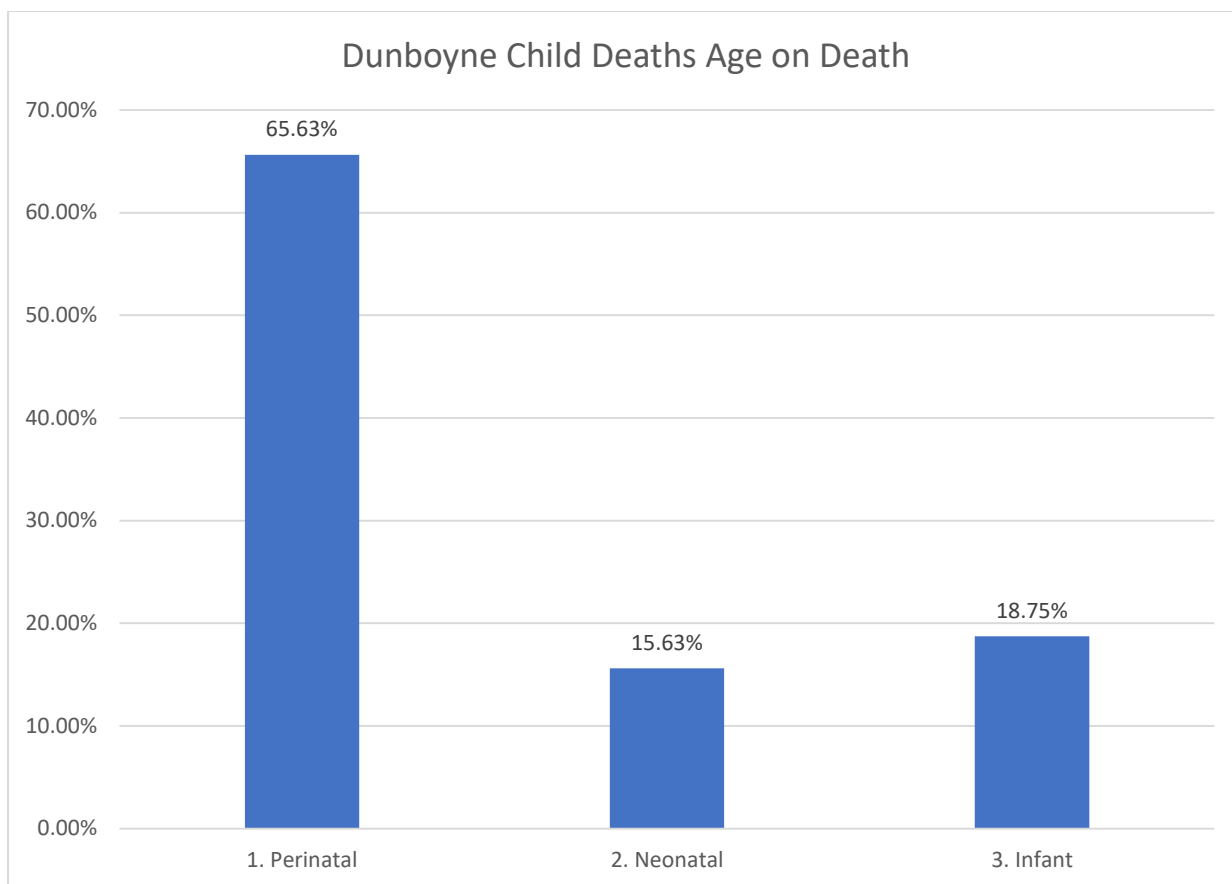
The child who died in Dunboyne was born in Holles St and admitted with the mother when five days old. The child died in Dunboyne aged 27 days; the cause of death was notified as pneumonia.



Information relating to date of death was available for 34 of the 37 children. The available records show that 33 were born in Holles St hospital⁵ - 20 subsequently died there; five died in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin; three in Temple St Children's Hospital; two in the Rotunda Hospital and one in Dunboyne. Place of death was not available for the remaining cases.

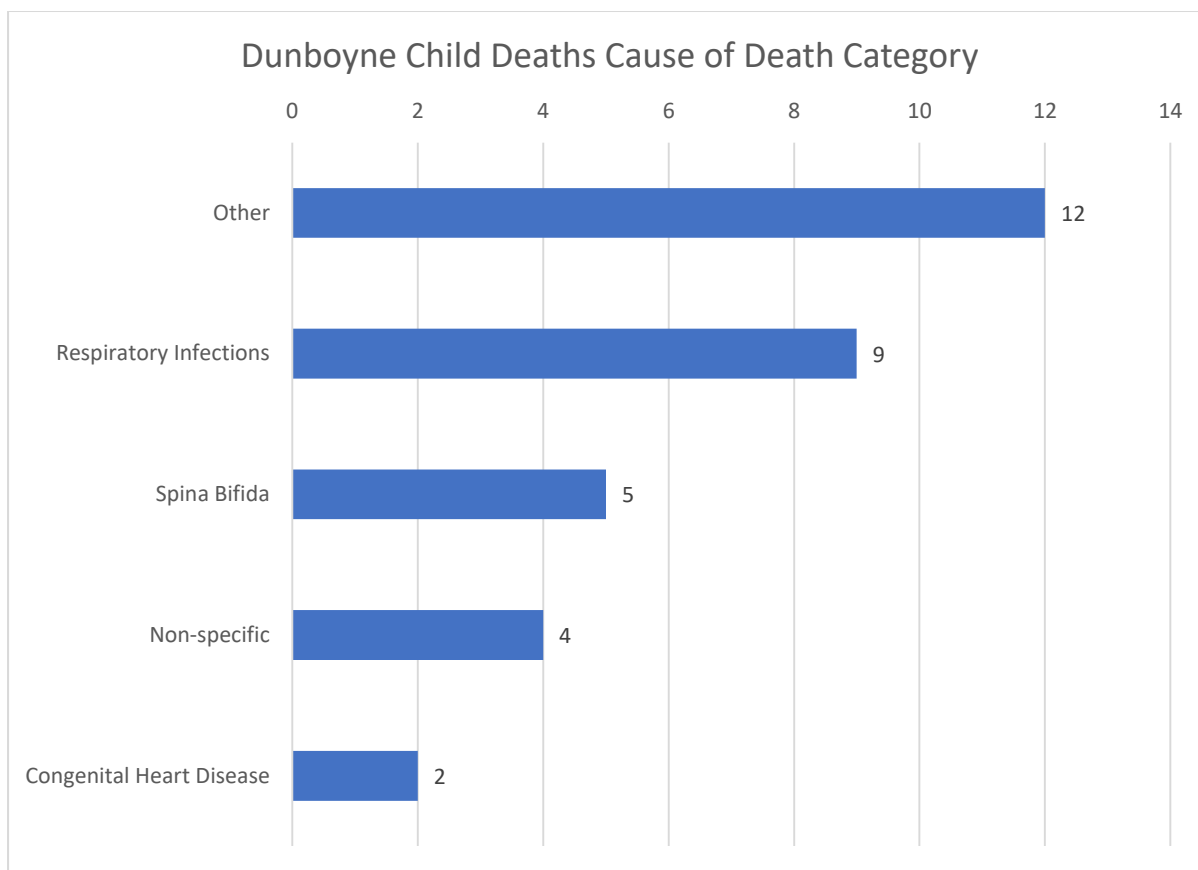
The worst year for child deaths was 1975 - five children died that year. All five were born in Holles St hospital to women transferred from Dunboyne - three subsequently died in Holles St and the others died following transfer to Temple Street and Our Lady's Children's Hospital.

⁵ The birth place of the remaining child was not identified.

Age at death

Information relating to age on death was available for 32 of 37 child deaths.

All deaths occurred in infancy as follows: Perinatal (0-7 days) 65.6%; Neonatal (8-28 days) 15.6% and Infant (29-365 days) 18.8%.

Cause of death

Information relating to cause of death was available for 32 of the 37 child deaths (86.5%). Most deaths (37.5%) were notified as being due to one off incidents of sudden infant death syndrome; potter syndrome; pyloric stenosis; congenital malformation and perinatal asphyxia. Respiratory infections - mainly bronchopneumonia - accounted for 28.1% of deaths; 15.6% were notified as spina bifida; 12.5% as non-specific causes - generally prematurity and 6.3% were notified as congenital heart disease.

The Commission located a GRO death record for 32 of the 37 children.