Threshold is the main housing advice charity working with tenants in Ireland and has an in-depth knowledge and expertise of the private rented sector. In April 2018, Threshold carried out a survey of over 300 tenants who had previously used its service. The purpose of the survey was to learn more about tenants’ experience of renting in the private rented sector in Ireland.

**Why people rent**

Only 29% of tenants rent by choice. 71% of people rent because they cannot afford to buy, cannot get a mortgage or cannot get social housing.

**Key Findings**

- **Difficulty in finding rental accommodation**
  - 96% of tenants reported that they found it either difficult or extremely difficult to find rental accommodation.

- **Amount of money tenants spend on rent**
  - 45% of tenants spend more than a third of their take-home pay on rent, while 14% of tenants spend more than half of their take-home pay on rent.

- **Length of time renting**
  - 70% of tenants have been renting for 5 years or longer.

- **Where tenants expect to be living in 5 years**
  - Only 28% of tenants expect to own their own home in 5 years’ time.

The sample (n=336) was randomly selected from tenants who had previously availed of Threshold’s services in Dublin, Cork and Galway.
Additional findings from the survey are as follows:

**How secure tenants feel in their rental accommodation**
- 47% of tenants reported that they feel insecure in their tenancy.

**Length of time in current property**
- 46% of tenants have been renting their current property for 1 year or less.
- Only 32% of tenants have been in their current property for longer than 4 years.

**Why tenants left their previous rented accommodation**
- 20% of tenants left their previous rented accommodation because their landlord was selling.

**Rent increases**
- 31% of tenants had a rent increase in the previous 12 months.
- Of those whose rent had been increased, in 65% of cases their rent had been increase by more than 4%.

**Age**
- 85% of tenants were between the ages of 25-54.

**Family status**
- 57% of tenants have children.

**Primary source of income**
- 47% of tenants were working.

**Standards & repairs**
- 38% of tenants reported a standards or repair issue in their home. The most common problems reported were damp and mould, structural issues and problems with bathrooms.
- 82% of tenants said their property had never been inspected by their Local Authority.

**How Threshold helps tenants**
- 78% of respondents said that the support of Threshold helped them secure their tenancy.
- 82% of respondents said they would not have been able to resolve their tenancy problem completely on their own.

**About Threshold**
Threshold was founded in 1978 and is a not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to secure a right to housing particularly for households experiencing the problems of poverty and exclusion. Threshold is the main not-for-profit organisation working with tenants in the private rented sector in Ireland. It provides advice and support to tenants and works to prevent the occurrence of homelessness.