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Almost 3,000 people enter into civil partnerships across every county in Ireland to June 2014

Minister Frances Fitzgerald recognises marriage of lesbian and gay couples in England & Wales

Civil Partnerships continue to be a great success in Ireland with figures up to the end of June 2014, showing that almost 3,000 people have entered into a civil partnership.

“Civil Partnerships continue to be a great success for Ireland. Lesbian and gay couples in every county in Ireland have celebrated their love and commitment to each other, warmly supported by their families, friends and neighbours” said Brian Sheehan, Director of GLEN.

“These 1,500 couples have contributed enormously to the remarkable progress in Ireland for lesbian and gay people and to further progress towards marriage and full constitutional equality for lesbian and gay couples and families” continued Sheehan.

“Civil partnerships have been a truly national success with couples in every single county entering into a civil partnership” said Sheehan.

In a further sign of progress, **Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald has recently recognised marriages of lesbian and gay couples in England and Wales**, who will automatically be treated as civil partners in Ireland.

Couples who live in Ireland who have married in England and Wales join the hundreds of other lesbian and gay couples who married or entered civil partnership abroad, whose relationships are automatically recognised in Ireland as civil partnerships.

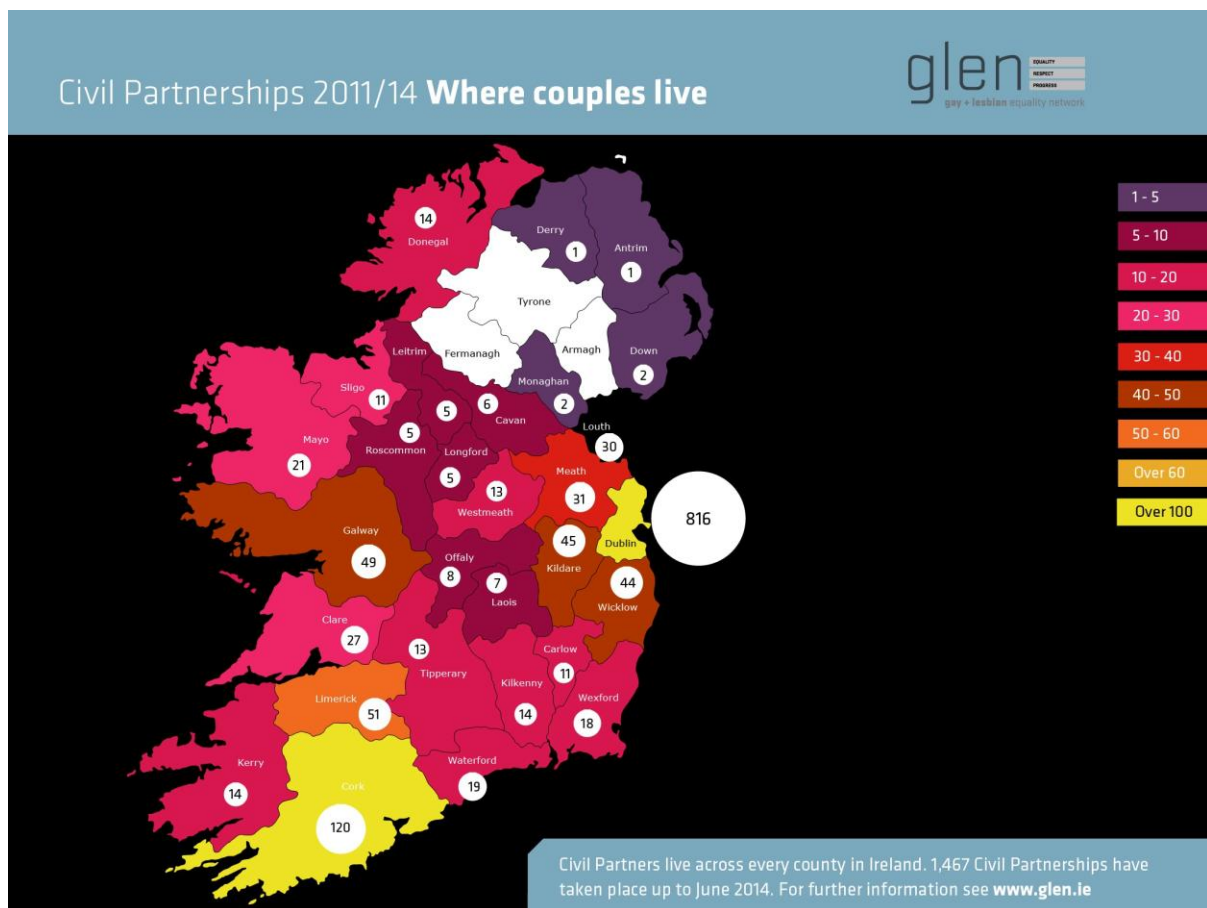
So, where are there most lesbian and gay civil partners across the country?

- Dublin 8 is the most popular metropolitan area, with 116 couples from there having civil partnerships followed by Dublin 7 with 80 couples. There were 816 civil partnerships in total for lesbian and gay couples living in Dublin city and county
- Cork is the most popular area in Munster, with 120 couples celebrating civil partnerships: 49 from Cork city and 71 from the rest of the county
- In Connaught, it's Galway, with 49 couples, 27 from the city of Galway and 22 from across the county

- After County Dublin, Co. Kildare is the most popular in Leinster, with 45 couples from there having civil partnerships, and
- Ulsters' Donegal is the most popular with 14 couples.

“We believe that the strong welcome for civil partnerships throughout the country shows that Ireland is ready for the next step to provide for civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples through a constitutional referendum” said Sheehan.

“We very much welcome the government commitment to hold a referendum on equal access to civil marriage in early 2015. We firmly believe that the people of Ireland will continue their warm welcome of lesbian and gay couples and families and that a yes vote will be carried in a referendum that would provide access to civil marriage and full constitutional equality” concluded Sheehan.



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For further details contact:

Brian Sheehan GLEN (086) 2330417
 Tiernan Brady GLEN (087) 8505972

www.twitter.com/@glenLGBT

www.glen.ie

Editors Note:

1. The Civil Partnership Act passed through the Oireachtas in July 2010 and the first public civil partnership was celebrated in April 2011. The figures are compiled from data supplied by the General Registrars Office and reflect civil partnerships that have taken place up to the end of June 2014.

2. Graphs and maps of the Civil Partnerships statistics are available at the GLEN website [here](#) including:

- county by county distribution of civil partnership,
- the Dublin postal district distribution
- Age and Nationality distribution.

3. In a Statutory Instrument signed in May, Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald added to the existing list of foreign lesbian and gay relationships recognised, adding marriage in England and Wales, and marriage in Hawaii and New Mexico. The full list of relationships is available [here](#).

5. Guide to Civil Partnership

The comprehensive marriage-like rights and obligations attaching to civil partnership are outlined in a [GLEN/ICCL 'Know Your Rights' guide](#)

2 Exchange Street Upper, Dublin 8
T. + 353 1 6728650 M. + 353 87 8505972
www.glen.ie

Working for equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Ireland