

poverty report

A major report released by the Combat Poverty Agency in September shows that the link between poverty and unemployment has grown much STRONGER in this country during the 1980's.

* 47% of all homes where someone was receiving Unemployment Assistance were poor in 1987 (nearly ALL would have been below the poverty line if the other 53% hadn't developed additional sources of income - the mother taking part-time work or the older children bringing in some earnings, etc.)

* 33% of all homes in poverty in Ireland in 1987 were headed by an unemployed person (up from 15% in 1980)

* while the typical Irish household ran a 19% risk of falling into poverty in 1987, a household headed by an unemployed person ran a 60% risk.



Holding down a job is not necessarily a ticket out of poverty either.

* after homes headed by the unemployed and small farmers, homes headed by employees made up the most numerous group among the poor.

* the Family Income Supplement is just NOT WORKING as an intended support to low-paid workers with families. At most only 22% of the eligible families were claiming it. In concrete terms, 16,000 families were foregoing an average of £8 a week! ■