

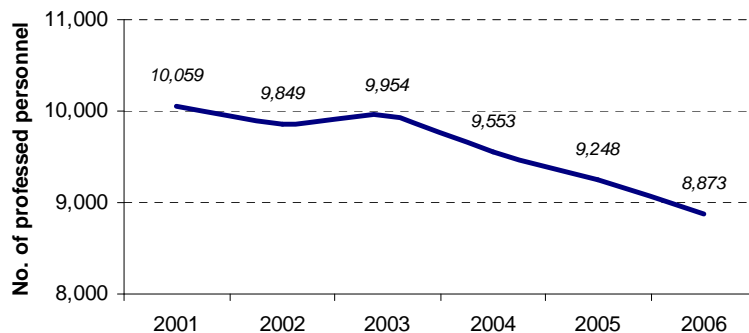
# SISTERS' ORDERS IN IRELAND 2006

This fact sheet outlines the data reported to the Council for Research & Development (CRD) for the number of women in Sisters' Orders in Ireland for the year October 2005 to September 2006. These data are sourced from the Annual Vocations and Personnel Survey conducted by the CRD. A total of 96 questionnaires were distributed and each one was returned, completed to the Council.

are outside Ireland. **The average age of those finally professed within Sisters' Orders is 56 years.**

In the year to September 2006, there were 19 departures in all, 11 of whom were finally professed Sisters. The remainder were novices, postulants and temporary professed Sisters. These data are in keeping with the data from recent years. In 2001, there were 28 departures but in 2003 there were

In the year to September 2006, there were a total of 8,891 enumerated women in Sisters' Orders in Ireland. This is a decrease of 351

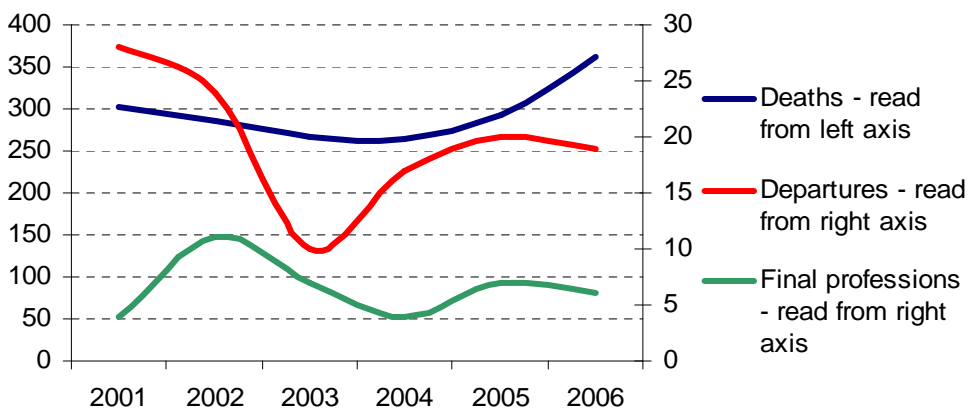


personnel or a 3.8% decrease on the 2005 data.

In recent years, the number of women in Sister's Orders has gone from 10,059 in 2001 to 9,954 in 2003 to 8,891 in 2006. Of this total 84% are resident in Ireland and the remaining 16% of Sisters

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Over the course of the year to September 2006, there were 362 recorded deaths amongst the Sisters' Orders. This is an increase on recent years' data which have



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tended to remain at about 300 since 2000. The total loss of personnel to the Orders for 2006 therefore stands at 381 women. As there were 6 final professions, the net balance of personnel amongst the Orders for 2006 was 375 women fewer when compared with the previous year. This is a higher net loss than in recent years: 278 in 2004 and 305 in 2005. The average age of the 6 women finally professed was 41 years old. The graphs overleaf show the trends in the data for Sisters' Orders along several measures for the last number of years.

Turning to those who applied to the Orders in 2006, 27 women made initial inquiries to Orders across Ireland. There was no follow through for 10 of this number, 9 were accepted and the remainder were either not accepted or postponed application following initial contact. The average age of those who applied and were accepted is 37 years old. Those who applied and were accepted came from several counties throughout Ireland including Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Laois and Wexford. Of the applicants that responded to the question, 8 of them had attained qualifications of degrees or higher and one of them a non-degree third level qualification.

