



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Official Statistics Release

Statutory Homelessness January to March (Q1) 2021: England

In this release:

This is the quarterly statistics release for statutory homelessness assessments and activities in England between 1 January and 31 March 2021. It also reports on stock households in temporary accommodation under the statutory homelessness duty in England on 31 March 2021. This release covers part of the period of response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Between January to March 2021:

- 68,250 households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty, down 10.7% from January to March 2020
- 31,450 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness, and therefore owed a prevention duty, down 19.4% from the same quarter last year and linked to a 45.5% decrease in threatened homelessness due to service of a Section 21 notice to end an Assured Shorthold Tenancy
- 36,800 households were initially assessed as homeless and therefore owed a relief duty, down 1.7% from the same quarter last year, driven by the 7.5% fall in households with children owed relief duty
- 9,470 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, down 10.3% from January to March 2020. Households with children fell by 23.3%, reflecting the fall in households with children owed a prevention or relief duty over the same period.
- On 31 March 2021 the number of households in temporary accommodation was 95,450, up 3.5% from 92,190 on 31 March 2020. This increase is driven by single adult households, up 24.6% to 29,120, while households with children decreased 6.1% to 59,120
- These changes can be linked to the government and local authority response to COVID-19 including:
 - households accommodated under the 'Everyone In' campaign, whereby local authorities were asked to provide emergency accommodation to rough sleepers, people who were living in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements, and those at risk of rough sleeping
 - the restriction on private rented sector evictions, and lengthened notice periods for landlords

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Contact: Homelessness Statistics Team HomelessnessStats@communities.gov.uk

Media enquiries: 0303 444 1209 NewsDesk@communities.gov.uk

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Additional Headlines

Initial Assessments

- 60.8% of households owed a prevention duty and 79.0% of households owed a relief duty were single households (households without children)
- 20,040 households with children were owed a prevention or relief duty, down 19.5% from January to March 2020
- Of all households owed a duty, there were 34,840 households, or 51.0%, identified as having one or more support needs. The most common support need was a history of mental health problems, accounting for 17,170 households or 25.2% of households owed a duty. 10,290 households, or 15.1% of all households owed a duty, had a support need of physical ill health or disability.
- 9.1%, or 6,510, of the 71,690 assessments made under the new duties were as a result of referrals from other public bodies under the duty to refer. Of the referrals made, 96.4% resulted in a homelessness duty.
- The National Probation Service made the most referrals to homelessness services which resulted in an assessment under the duty to refer with 1,720 (or 26.4%) of the total, an increase of 81.1% from January to March 2020.

Outcomes

- In January to March 2021, 33,590 households had secured accommodation for 6 months or more at the end of their prevention or relief duties.
- Over half of the 29,220 prevention duties which ended between January to March 2021 (17,530 or 60.0%) ended because the household secured accommodation for 6 months or more and their homelessness had been prevented. Of these, 35.4% or 6,200, were able to remain in their existing home.

- 4,550 or 15.6% of households whose prevention duty ended were homeless at the end of the prevention duty, and therefore owed a subsequent relief duty.
- Of the 40,090 relief duties ended, 16,060 or 40.1% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months.
- 15,410 households, or 38.4% of households whose relief duty ended had ended because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days and the local authority would need to assess whether a main duty is owed to them

Main Homelessness duty

- In January to March 2021, 7,480 households had their main homelessness duty come to an end, up 13.7% from January to March 2020
- Of these households, 5,710 or 76.3% households accepted an offer of settled accommodation, a 9.4% increase from the same quarter last year.

Temporary Accommodation

- Compared to the previous quarter, the total number of households in temporary accommodation increased 0.4% from 31 December 2020; single households increased 1.9%, and households with children decreased 0.5%
- In London, there were 16.1 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households, compared with 1.8 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England.
- On 31 March 2021, 26,170 or 27.4% of households in temporary accommodation were in accommodation in a different local authority district. 82.0% of these out of district placements were from London authorities.
- On 31 March 2021, 59,120 households or 61.9% included dependent children, with a total of 119,830 dependent children living in temporary accommodation.
- Most households with children, 88.4%, were in self-contained accommodation, up 1.6 percentage points at the end of March 2020.
- Of the households in temporary accommodation, 11,170 were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation, up 37.4% from 8,130 at the same time last year. Of these households in B&B, 9,820 (87.9%) were single households, which had increased 48.8% from the same time last year reflecting the Everyone In campaign.
- In contrast, the number of households in B&B with dependent children decreased 11.8% from the same time last year to 1,350 households in March 2021. Of the households with children in B&B, 480 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 4.0% from 500 on the 31 March 2020.

The Statutory Homelessness Response to COVID-19

- Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, 52,030 single households had secured accommodation through a relief duty, up 14.0% from the previous year. Of these, 4,340 were sleeping rough on approach, up 43.7% from the previous year.
- Between the 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, the relief duty ended for 40,380 single households because 56 days had elapsed and their homelessness had not been resolved,

up 19.0% from the previous year. 16,440 were assessed as priority need and owed a main duty, up 13.8% from the previous year.

1. Introduction

What does this release cover?

This release covers part of the period of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This will have impacted on people at risk of homelessness in various ways and should be noted when comparing this quarter's data with previous quarters. This release covers some of the households who needed help as a result and additionally some households who were accommodated under the 'Everyone in' campaign¹, whereby local authorities were asked to provide emergency accommodation to rough sleepers, people who were living in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements, and those at risk of rough sleeping. This release also covers the restrictions on private rented sector evictions, and lengthened notice periods for landlords which will have reduced numbers homeless due to loss of tenancy, both of which may have led to a reduction in the supply of move on properties.

More detailed breakdowns of single households accompany this release; these include households owed a relief duty and their support needs, reasons for the relief duty ending and accommodation secured at relief. The Statutory Homelessness statistics include some but not all of the people provided with accommodation in response to COVID-19, through the 'Everyone In' campaign. They cannot be directly compared to or merged with the COVID-19 Emergency Accommodation Survey data used to monitor 'Everyone In' because of the incomplete overlap between the two. More information on the potential impact of COVID-19 and the reasons why some households were helped as part of the 'Everyone In' campaign can be found in the annex: The Statutory Homelessness response to COVID-19 at the end of this release.

What data is used in this release?

The data used in this release are from the Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC) data system. This system is used as a reporting requirement of local authorities to provide data on statutory homelessness for those approaching local authorities for help with homelessness. The data collected in this release show total activity over the quarter except for data on temporary accommodation which is a snapshot at the end of the quarter.

Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on prevention, relief, and main duties. This quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for 308 out of 314

¹ Further information on the 'Everyone in' campaign is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-2-million-emergency-support-for-rough-sleepers-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

local authorities (98.1% response rate). Partial returns indicate that the quality of the data varies by section. Details of coverage by section are detailed in the release and in the [Technical Note](#). Missing figures have been imputed to ensure national headline figures are representative. Low numbers have been suppressed at the local authority level to prevent identification of individuals. There may be seasonal trends in this data, which are not currently adjusted.

Some local authorities are unable to provide temporary accommodation data via H-CLIC, and 17.9% of temporary accommodation from 8 local authorities is provided through the P1E only for this quarter. Further details on the data quality and improvement plan are available in the [Technical Note](#).

User engagement

User event

On 20 May 2021, the Homelessness Statistics team at MHCLG ran a user event, aiming to bring together users and data providers to understand how these statistics are being used; areas of improvement on the format and content of the statistics, and for the data collection process; and to inform attendees of development plans going forward.

The event included talks from Glen Bramley of Heriot Watt university and Sophie Boobis from Homeless Link. Glen spoke about his work with Crisis on the Homeless Monitor report and core homelessness; and Sophie talked about the work Homeless Link do using homelessness and rough sleeping statistics as a voluntary sector organisation. Both gave reflections of how they use HCLIC data and areas for improvement including more cross tabulations and tracking through the different homelessness duties.

Various teams in MHCLG including the homelessness and rough sleeping statistics teams, homelessness policy, and the homelessness, advisory and support team shared development plans, how data is used within the department to make decisions and support local authorities with their homelessness services.

The event was attended by over 100 local authorities, charities, software suppliers and representatives from research organisations. It received positive feedback including a greater understanding of the homelessness statistics and the H-CLIC system, and an endorsement of future work plans.

Surveys

We conducted two online surveys to ask users and data providers to detail their experiences with the homelessness statistics. The surveys were open for five weeks and received 46 responses in total, with the largest number of respondents from local authorities and others from the media, academia, and the charity sector.

What did the surveys tell us?

1. On using the statutory homelessness statistics:

- The statistics are generally easy to use, however the presentation could be more visual to allow easier comparison
- The statistics are useful for comparative performance measurement and identifying gaps in provision, but could allow for more detailed interrogation
- The statistics should allow users to access different benchmarking configuration e.g. select more than one LA, different time periods etc.
- There should be an ability to download the raw data to feed into own reporting tools
- The elapsed time between data collection and publication needs to be reduced

2. On the data collection process:

- The data upload itself is found to be easy
- The way the system handles errors and the process for resolving them causes problems
- Data entry requirements are not always well understood by those who are progressing cases
- Improve access to guidance, include more examples of H-CLIC errors and how to solve them
- There is a delay to accessing quality assurance (QA) reports after submission

A more detailed presentation of survey results can be found in the slide pack [here](#).

Response to feedback and next steps

Many suggestions and concerns listed are being addressed in our current work plan, including:

- **Published interactive dashboards:** Development is underway to publish an interactive Flows Dashboard in the Autumn to show the journey for different types of households through the homelessness system, from how they present at a local authority (e.g. when threatened with homelessness or already homeless) to their outcomes, including type of accommodation secured. A separate Performance Dashboard is being developed for publishing later this year, which will show high level performance indicators, allowing for easier benchmarking between local authorities and within regions. Both dashboards will provide a more visual and interactive format to complement the existing tables.
- **Quality dashboards for data providers:** This is an innovative way to allow data providers to quickly and securely access the data they provide to MHCLG during the data collection window, allowing for more effective and detailed interrogation, and quality assurance.
- **Application Programming Interface (API):** This is a software intermediary that allows two applications to talk to each other. It would allow data providers to send H-CLIC data to MHCLG without direct human interaction, significantly reducing the time taken to collect data, and subsequently reducing the lag between collection periods and publication. Current submission methods will still be available, and the plan is to pilot the software during the Summer with IT suppliers, with the aim of going live as a submission option in the Autumn.
- **Homelessness Data England (HDE) project:** This project will facilitate the linking of H-CLIC data over time, across geographical boundaries, and enhanced with information from other government departments. The aim is to improve the evidence base for homelessness, and will allow researchers and policy makers to analyse data that provides a multidimensional profile of people experiencing homelessness.

Users are encouraged to provide any further feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to

homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk

Initial Assessments

This section of the release covers the initial assessment of people who presented themselves at their local authority and were threatened with homelessness or who were already homeless between January to March 2021. This section does not cover secondary relief duties owed to a household where the applicant has not managed to secure accommodation whilst being threatened with homelessness. It also does not cover main duty assessments as these are included under [Main duty decisions](#).

For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 2.7% of the England total. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

This section includes:

- New duties owed – prevention and relief
- Causes of homelessness
- Accommodation at the time of application
- Referrals from other public bodies
- Household characteristics

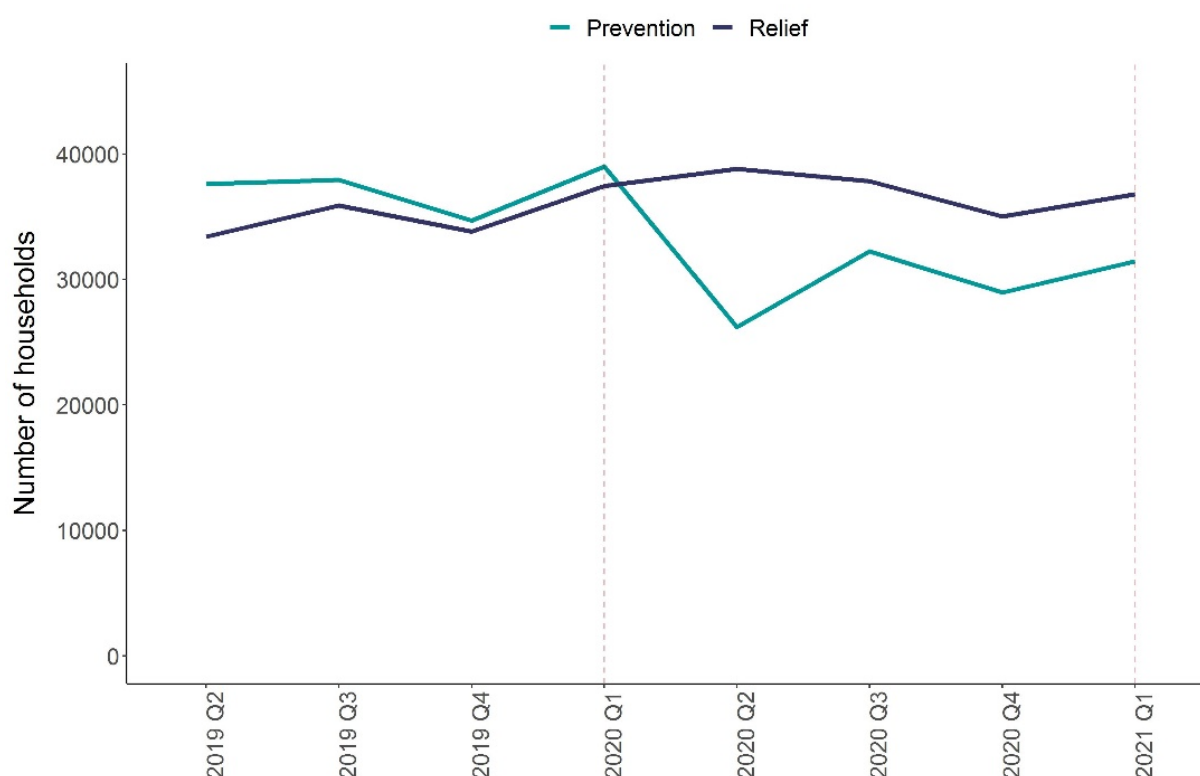
New duties owed

[Table A1](#)

Prevention duty: Local authorities may deliver their prevention duty through any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. This would involve activities to enable an applicant to remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation in order to prevent them from becoming homeless. The duty lasts for up to 56 days but may be extended if the local authority is continuing with efforts to prevent homelessness.

Relief duty: The relief duty is owed to households that are already homeless on approaching a local authority, and so require help to secure settled accommodation. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended by a local authority if the household is not owed the main homelessness duty.

Figure 1: Number of households owed a prevention or relief duty since 2019 Q2



Between January to March 2021, 71,690 homelessness assessments were carried out. 68,250 or 95.2% households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days, and therefore owed a statutory homelessness duty. This is down 10.7% from January to March 2020.

31,450 or 43.9% of households assessed were threatened with homelessness within 56 days and owed a prevention duty. 2,610, or 8.3% of prevention duties were owed because the household had been issued with a section 21 notice. The number of prevention duties owed due to the issue of a section 21 notice has decreased 45.5% from 4,790 households in January to March 2020. This reduction will largely reflect the measures that were in place to protect renters during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as restrictions on bailiff enforcement activity and the extension of notice periods.

Section 21 notice: A section 21 notice is the form a landlord must give a tenant to start the process to end an assured shorthold tenancy. This is recorded alongside initial assessments.

36,800, or 51.3% of households were assessed as homeless and owed a relief duty, a reduction of 1.7% from 37,450 in the same quarter last year. This comprised of households with children decreasing by 630, and single households decreasing by 30 from the same quarter last year.

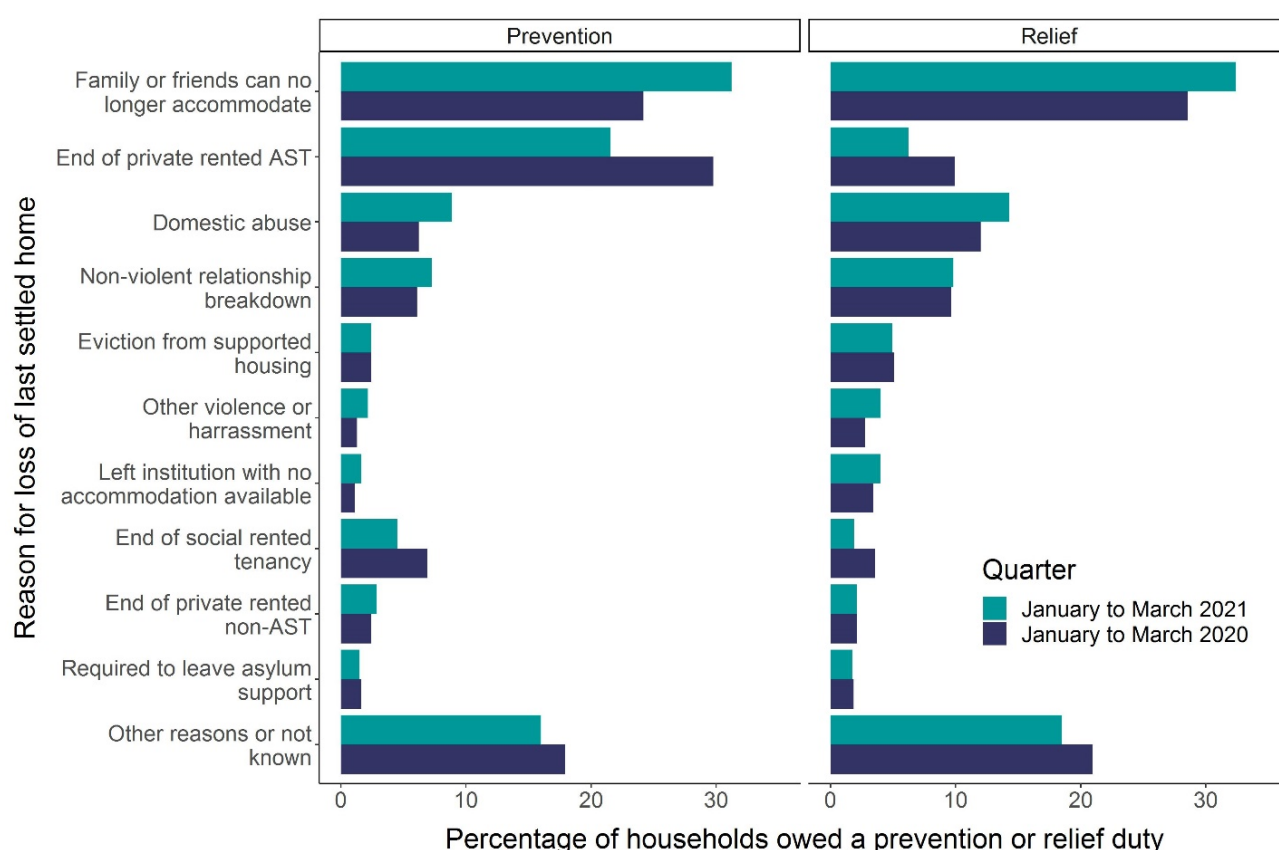
3,440 were found to be not homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. This is down 9.7% from January to March 2020.

Causes of homelessness

Table A2P and A2R

The reason for loss of last settled home is a good indication of the cause of homelessness for households assessed as being owed a duty. However, it should be noted that in this section, 'Other' is a large category overused by some local authorities who we are working with to improve their reporting. 'Other' is listed as the reason for loss of their last settled home for 17.3% of households. Other or unknown is therefore overrepresented and will impact on the numbers represented in every other category, with the potential for this impact to be disproportionate.

Figure 2: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by reason for loss of last settled home



Between January to March 2021, the most common reason for loss of last settled home was “friends or family no longer willing or able to accommodate”, which accounted for 21,750 households or 31.9% of households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. As a proportion of households owed a prevention duty, this has increased 7.0 percentage points; and for those owed a relief duty, this has increased 3.8 percentage points. This equates to total increase of 1,610 from January to March 2020, despite the total number of households being owed a prevention or relief duty decreasing over the same period. For households owed a relief duty, the second largest category was domestic abuse at 14.3%, up 2.3 percentage points from January to March 2020.

For households owed a prevention duty, those stating end of private rented ASTs as the reason for loss of last settled home fell 8.2 percentage points to 21.6% in January to March 2021. For

households owed a relief duty, this fell 3.6 percentage points to 6.3%. These decreases will likely reflect the restrictions on landlord evictions. Private rented ASTs can end for a range of reasons. 4,410, or 48.6%, of AST terminations in this quarter were due to the landlord wishing to re-let or sell the property. Other reasons were much smaller proportions, with the next most common being tenant difficulty budgeting, accounting for 6.8% of AST terminations, and a change in personal circumstances, 6.5% of AST terminations.

End of social rented tenancy and required to leave asylum support also decreased proportionately across prevention and relief from January to March 2020. Again, this may reflect restrictions placed on evictions due to the pandemic.

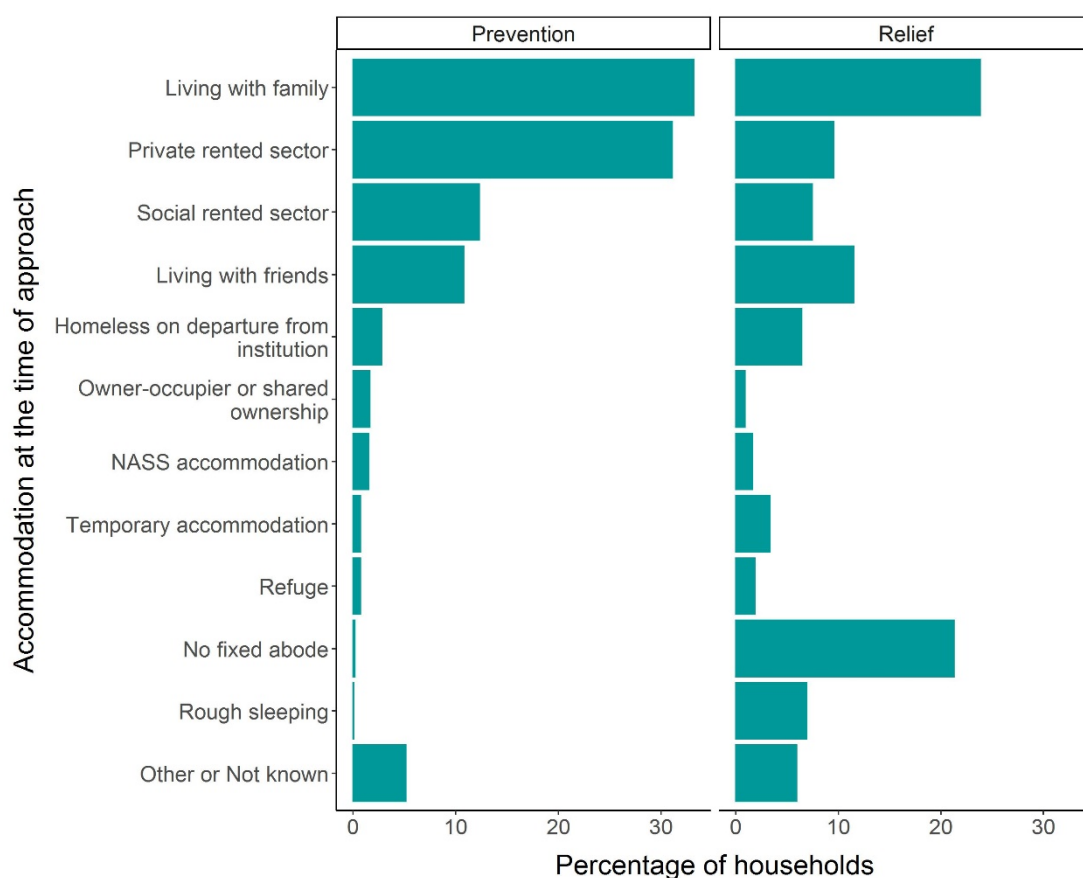
Accommodation at time of application

Table A4P and A4R

Current accommodation is used to identify the accommodation types of households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, at the point at which they make an application to a local authority for help.

It is highly likely that that 'no fixed abode' has been overused by data providers as a category in the return where living with friends or family would have been more appropriate. 'No fixed abode' should not be used as a proxy for rough sleeping as this category can include people who are temporarily staying at multiple addresses but not sleeping rough. In addition, 'other or unknown' is overrepresented, and will impact on the numbers represented in every other category, with the potential for this impact to be disproportionate.

Figure 3: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by accommodation at time of application



As shown in Figure 3, the most common accommodation type at the time of application was living with family with 33.2% of households owed a prevention duty, up 7.0 percentage points from the same quarter last year, but down 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter; and 23.8% of households owed a relief duty, up 2.1 percentage points from the same quarter last year, and up 0.7 percentage points from the previous quarter.

For households owed a prevention duty, this was followed by private rented sector, with 9,790 households or 31.1%. This has fallen 8.1 percentage points compared to the same quarter last year, driven by the 8.1 percentage point fall in self-contained accommodation; houses in multiple occupation (HMO) decreased by 0.1 and those lodging (not with family or friends) increased by 0.1 percentage points. Overall for households owed a prevention duty, accommodation in the private rented sector at time of application has fallen 5,530 or 36.1% from the same quarter in the previous year, which is likely to be linked to the restrictions on evictions. For households owed a relief duty, this has fallen 17.7% to 3,340 from the same quarter last year. In total, 13,130 households owed a prevention or relief duty were in private sector accommodation at the time of application. This is higher than the 9,080 households citing the end of a private rented AST as their reason for loss or threat of loss of last settled home, indicating other reasons for leaving their private sector accommodation, such as relationship breakdowns.

For households owed a relief duty, 2,540 households were rough sleeping at the time of application, 470 of which were in London and 2,080 in the rest of England. This is a 4.1% increase

from January to March 2020 and represents 3.7% of all households owed a new duty in January to March 2021. This increase will likely reflect the response to 'Everyone In' and the increased support provided to those sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough'.

This is lower than the 2,688 rough sleepers recorded as sleeping rough on a single night in England in 2020. This difference is expected as HCLIC will only capture rough sleepers who had a homelessness application assessed and assistance provided by a local authority during this quarter. Further data sources on rough sleeping can be found in the [Technical Note](#).

In addition, these figures cannot be directly compared to the COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data used to monitor the 'Everyone In' campaign because of the incomplete overlap between the two sources. More detail on this can be found in the Annex at the end of this release.

Rough sleeping: People sleeping in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or "bashes" which are makeshift shelters, often comprised of cardboard boxes). Rough sleepers in this publication may have slept rough one night or across several nights.

Rough sleeping at the time of Local Authority Approach: Rough sleepers are defined as those who were, in the judgement of the assessor, rough sleeping when they approached a local authority for help.

History of Rough Sleeping: This is a support need based on a history of sleeping rough and does not mean that the household was sleeping rough at the time of approach to the local authority

Households in National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation decreased 12.9% from the same quarter last year to 1,080 households; however it is over a third greater compared to the previous quarter (780). This may reflect the Home Office resuming evictions from asylum accommodation in August 2020 after a period of suspension due to COVID-19. Other notable changes from the same quarter in the previous year include households in owner-occupier or shared ownership accommodation at the time of approach, down 17.0% to 830 households; and households in temporary accommodation, up 27.4% to 1,440 households.

Referrals from other public bodies

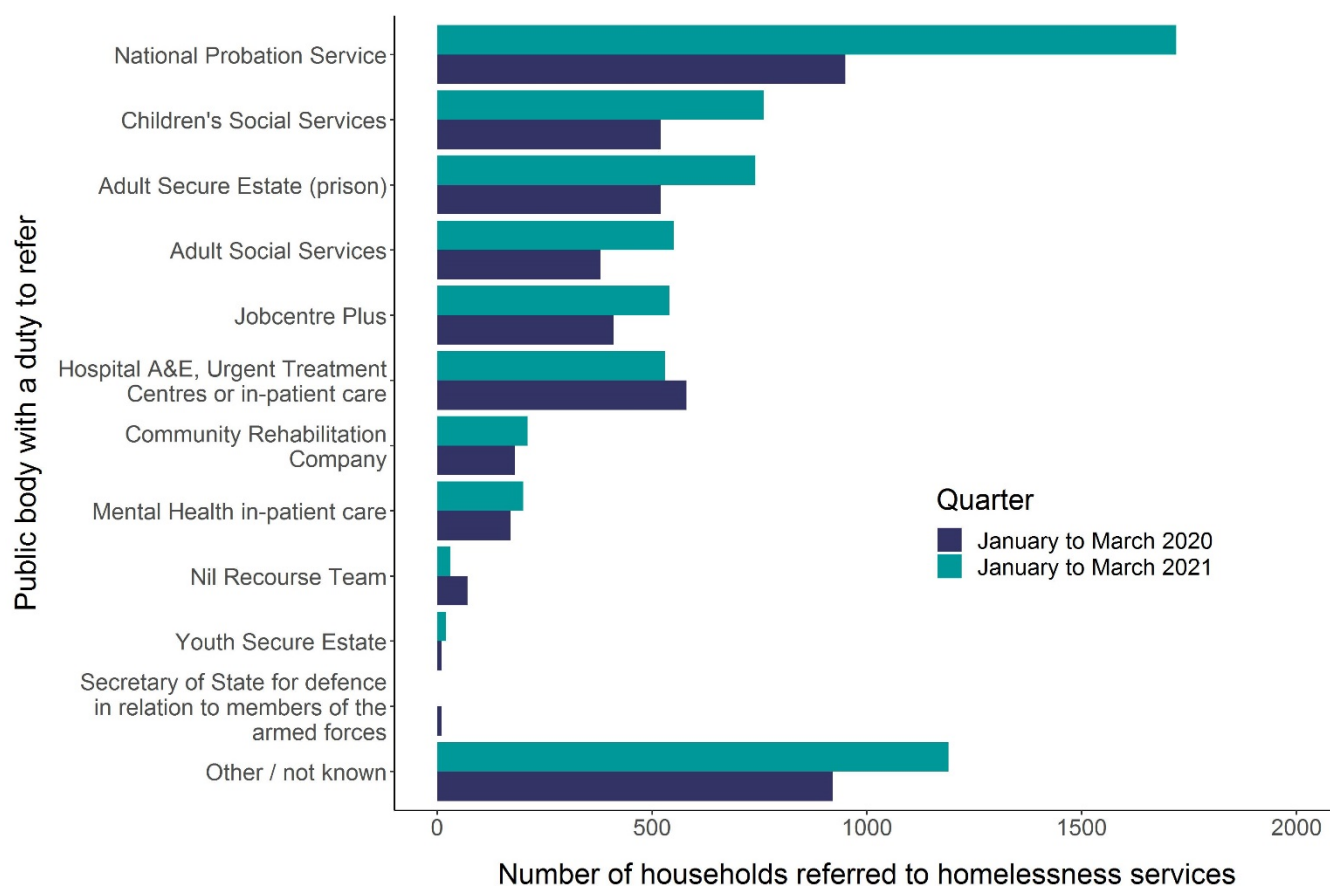
[Table A7](#)

Duty to Refer: Since 1 October 2018, duty to refer has required specified public bodies to refer, with consent, users of their service who they think may be homeless or threatened with homelessness to a local housing authority of the individual's choice.

For 1,190 households, local authorities indicated that a household had been referred to them

under a duty to refer but failed to identify an eligible referring authority; these referrals are reported as 'Other / not known'. This category mostly reflects referrals made where the body does not have a duty to refer. MHCLG are working to reduce the use of 'Other / not known' through amendments to the H-CLIC Specification which were implemented from 1 April 2021.

Figure 4: Proportion of households referred, by public body with a duty to refer



During January to March 2021, there were 6,510 referrals made under the duty to refer which resulted in an assessment, compared with 4,730 between January to March 2020. Of the referrals made, 96.4% resulted in a homelessness duty.

National Probation Services have the largest number with 1,720, or 26.4% of the total, and 96.7% of these resulted in a homelessness duty. Children's Social Services made the second highest number of referrals resulting in an assessment with 760, followed by Adult Secure Estate (prison) with 740. These three authorities represent 49.5% of referrals which resulted in a homelessness assessment under the duty to refer.

Households can also be referred to local authorities by public bodies without a duty to refer e.g. GP practice, police or housing associations. During January to March 2021, 3,870 referrals were made by other organisations, public or private without a legal duty to refer which resulted in the household being assessed. 230 additional referrals were made by other local authorities.

Household characteristics

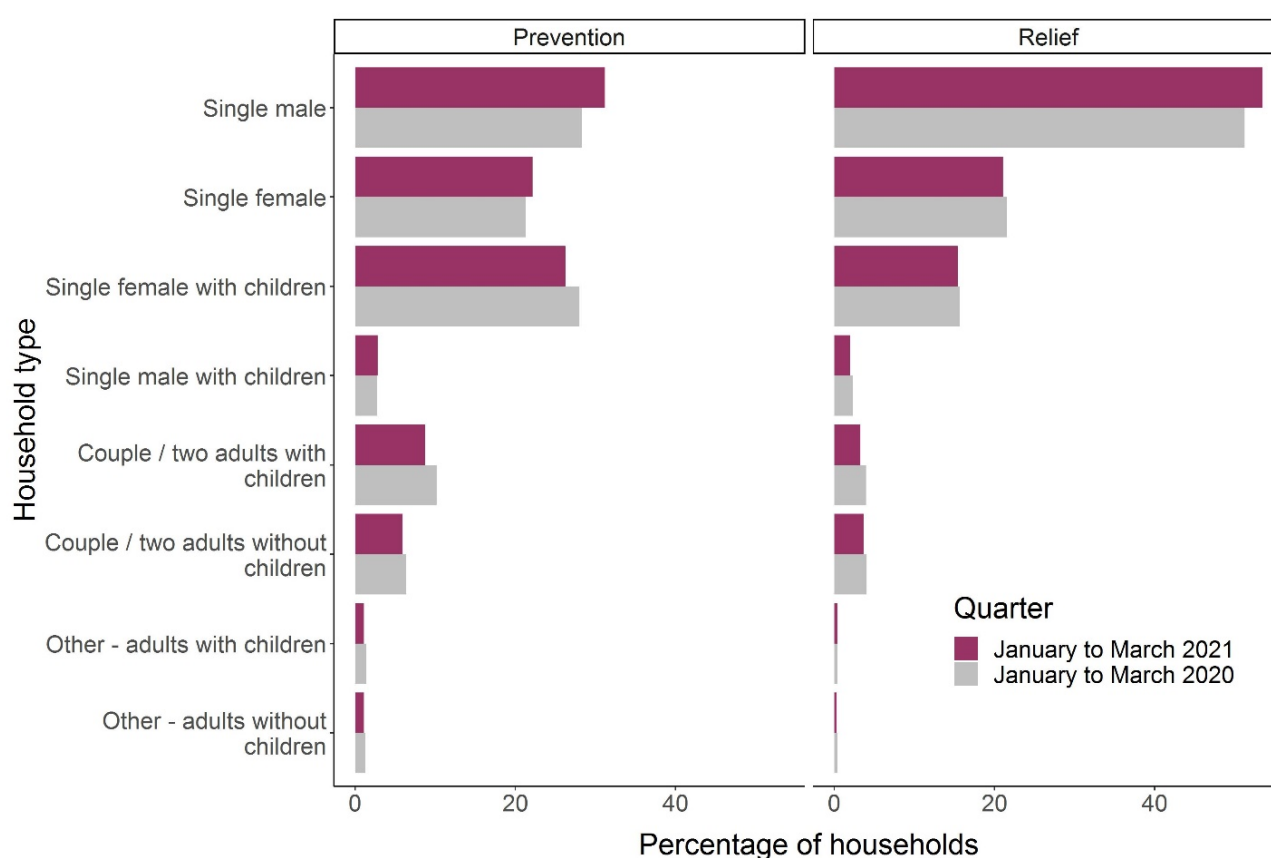
Household composition

[Tables A5P and A5R](#)

Single households: A term used for households without children, which will include couples and households with two or more adults.

Single adult households: Single adult households are a subset of single households, where the household comprises just one individual adult.

Figure 5: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by household type



Of the 68,250 households owed a prevention or relief duty after initial assessment, 70.6% were single households and 29.4% were households with children. This has shifted from 67.4% as single households and 32.6% as households with children in January to March 2020. Of the 31,450 households owed a prevention duty, 60.8% were owed to single households compared with 79.0% of the 36,800 households owed a relief duty.

During January to March 2021, single males were the largest household group owed homelessness duties, making up 53.5% of households owed a relief duty, and 31.2% owed a prevention duty. Proportionately, this is an 2.3 percentage point increase in relief and a 2.9 percentage point increase in prevention, but an overall decrease of 730 single males from January to March 2020.

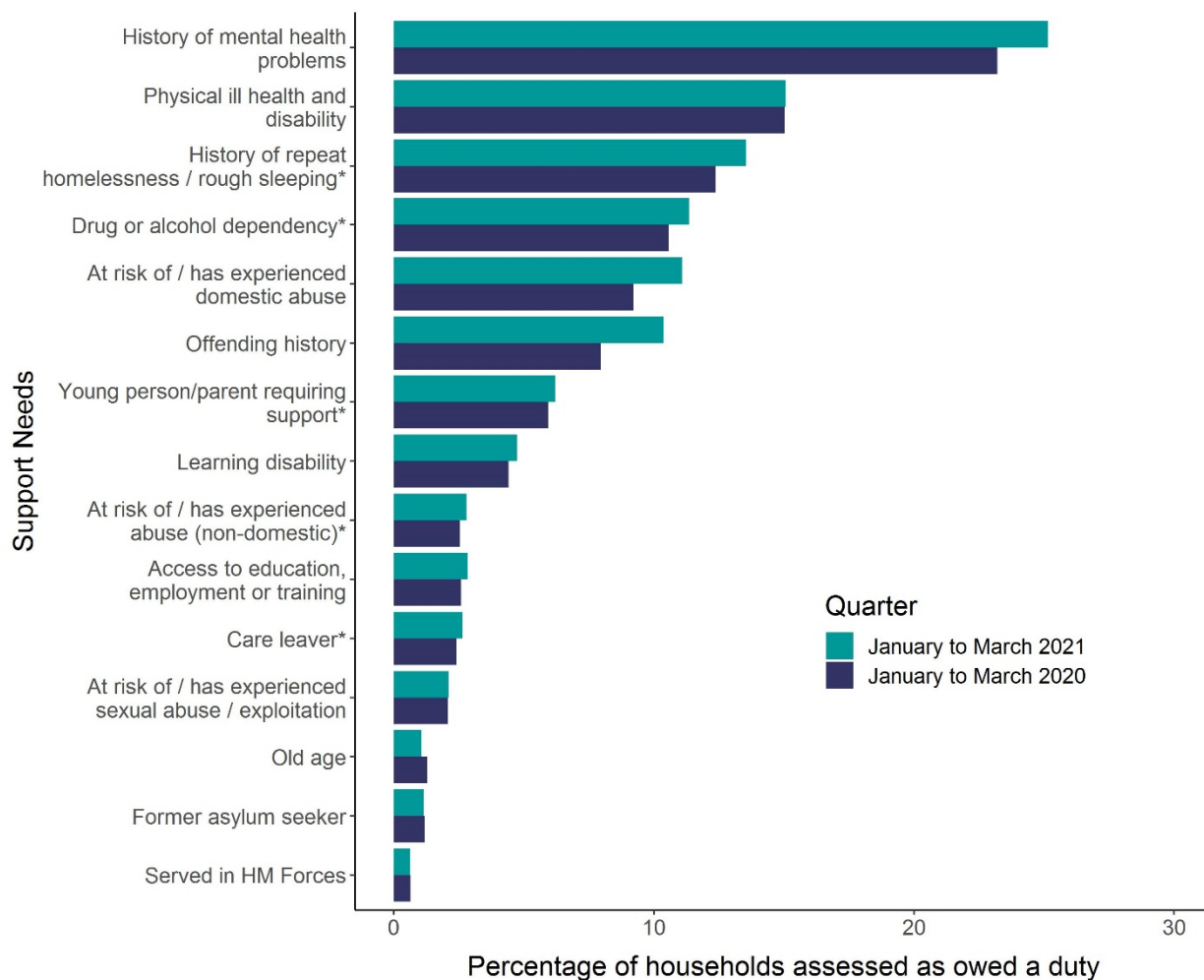
Single females with dependent children were the second largest group owed a prevention duty, comprising 26.2% of households, and the third largest group after single males and single females owed a relief duty, comprising 15.4% of relief duties owed. Couples with children and extended family households with two or more adults and children represented 9.8% of those owed a prevention duty and 3.5% of those owed a relief duty.

Support needs

[Table A3](#)

Support needs: areas of additional needs that mean the household requires support to acquire and sustain accommodation, giving an indication of the additional services local authorities need to provide to prevent an individual becoming homeless or to stop the cycle of repeat homelessness. Local authorities report as many support needs that apply to each household.

Figure 6²: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by support need



² Please note: these categories are grouped using support need categories that are similar. This means some households may be counted more than once in these categories

Of the 68,250 households who were owed a homelessness duty in January to March 2021, 34,840 or 51.0% of households were identified as having support needs, compared with 47.5% in January to March 2020. Of the households who had a support need, 16,430 households or 47.2% had one support need; 8,110 households or 23.3% had two support needs; and 10,300 or 29.6% had three or more support needs.

The most common support need identified was a history of mental health problems which was reported as 17,170 households or 25.2% of households owed a new duty. This is followed by those with physical ill health or disability for 10,290 (15.1%) households. A history of repeat homelessness or rough sleeping was identified in 5,230 and 4,020 households respectively, making up a combined total of 13.6% of households owed a new duty, up 1.2 percentage points from the same quarter last year. This is higher than the 2,550 households who were sleeping rough at the time of application to the council, as households with this support need may have been living in other settled or unsettled accommodation at the time of application.

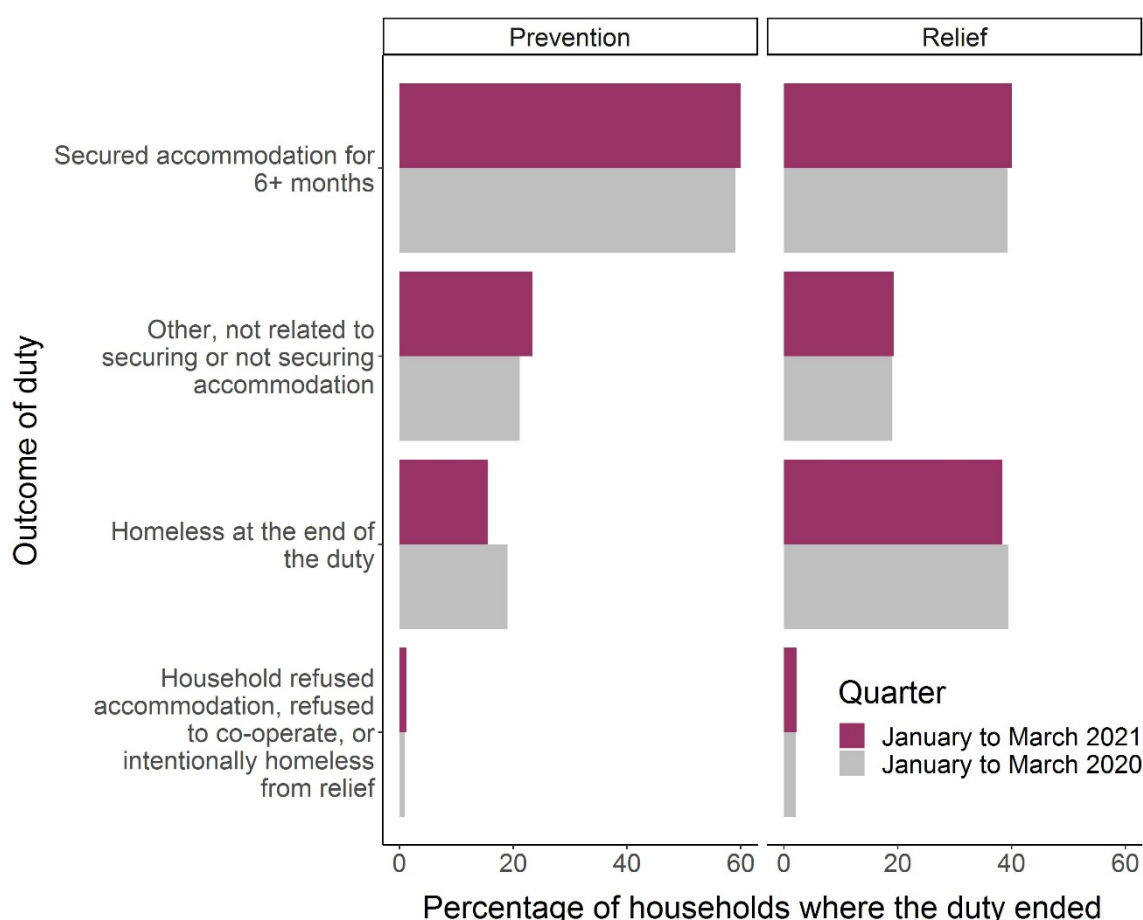
Other notable groups included those with drug or alcohol dependency, 11.4%; those with experience of or at risk of domestic abuse, 11.1%; and those with offending history, 10.4%. This is likely a reflection of the proportionate increase in single households owed a duty and the 'Everyone In' campaign.

3. Prevention and Relief Duty Outcomes

The homelessness legislation requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to try to prevent or relieve a household's homelessness by helping them to secure accommodation for at least 6 months. These duties usually last 56 days each. The reasons for duties ending indicate the likely outcomes for these applicants.

The outcomes in January to March 2021 may refer to duties which began in previous quarters. Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on prevention and relief duties ending. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 3.0% of the England total for prevention outcomes, and 5.2% for relief outcomes, and so totals should be used with caution. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

Figure 7³: Proportion of households whose duty ended by outcome



³ Note: the categories in Figure 7 are variables collapsed from tables P1 and R1. Homeless at the end of the duty includes those intentionally homeless for prevention duties. Other, not related to securing or not securing accommodation includes: Application withdrawn or applicant deceased, contact lost, 56 days elapsed and no further action, local referral accepted by other LA, and no longer eligible. Households where the outcome is not known are not included.

Prevention duty ended

Table P1

Figure 7 shows the outcomes for the 29,220 prevention duties that ended in January to March 2021, and the outcomes for the 40,090 relief duties ended in the same period. The number of prevention duties that ended decreased 15.9% from the 34,730 households in January to March 2020. This reflects the decrease in prevention duties owed in this and previous quarters.

17,530 households, or 60.0%, secured accommodation for 6 months or more and were no longer threatened with homelessness. Of those who secured accommodation 35.4% secured their existing accommodation, whilst 64.6% secured alternative accommodation.

For 4,550 or 15.6% of households, the prevention duty ended because the household became homeless, and was therefore owed a relief duty.

There are several further reasons why a prevention duty may end that do not relate to securing accommodation for 6+ months or the household becoming homeless. 14.4% of prevention duties ended for other reasons, such as losing contact, or the application being withdrawn, and 1.2% ended due to the household refusing accommodation or refusing to co-operate.

Relief duty ended

Table R1

40,090 households' relief duties ended this quarter, down 0.6% from the 40,320 households reported in the same quarter last year. As shown in Figure 7, 16,060 or 40.1% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months.

For 38.4% of households the relief duty ended because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days and at this point the local authority would need to assess whether a main duty is owed to them. 19.3% of households' relief duty ended for reasons not related to failing to secure or securing accommodation for at least 6 months, and 2.2% ended due to the household refusing accommodation, refusing to co-operate, or becoming intentionally homeless.

4. Main Duties

Main duty decisions

[Tables MD1 and MD1 timeseries](#)

Data in this section concerns decisions on whether the main homelessness duty is owed to a homeless household.

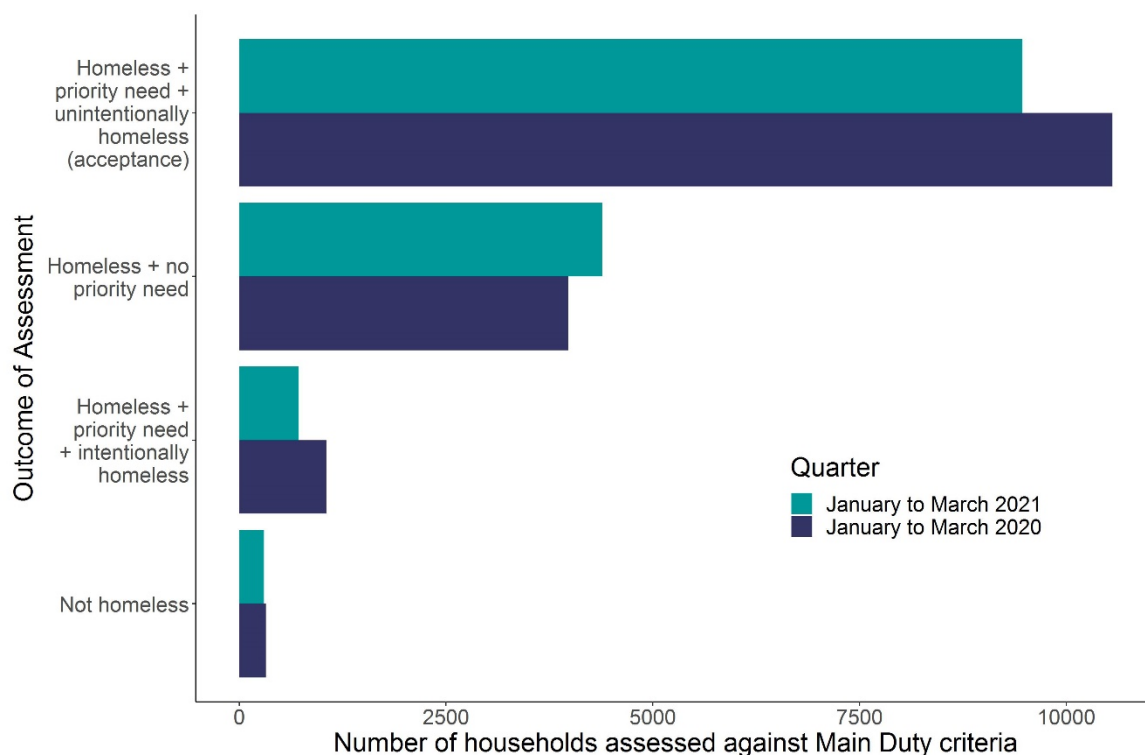
Main Duty: The 'main' homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need⁴. These households are only owed a main duty if they did not secure accommodation in the prevention or relief stage, and so is not owed to those 'threatened with homelessness'. In addition a minimum of 56 days of assistance must have elapsed from a household approaching the local authority to being owed a main duty.

From 3 April 2018 homeless households were owed a 56 day relief duty before a main duty decision could be made or a duty could commence, and in some cases would also have been owed a prevention duty before the household became homeless.

Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on main duty decisions, primarily because this information is collected in a separate system that is unable to submit via HCLIC. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 1.9% of the England total. The England level figure in this release is also likely to be under-reported and has previously been revised up in previous quarters. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

⁴ Eligibility and priority need are further defined in the Technical note.

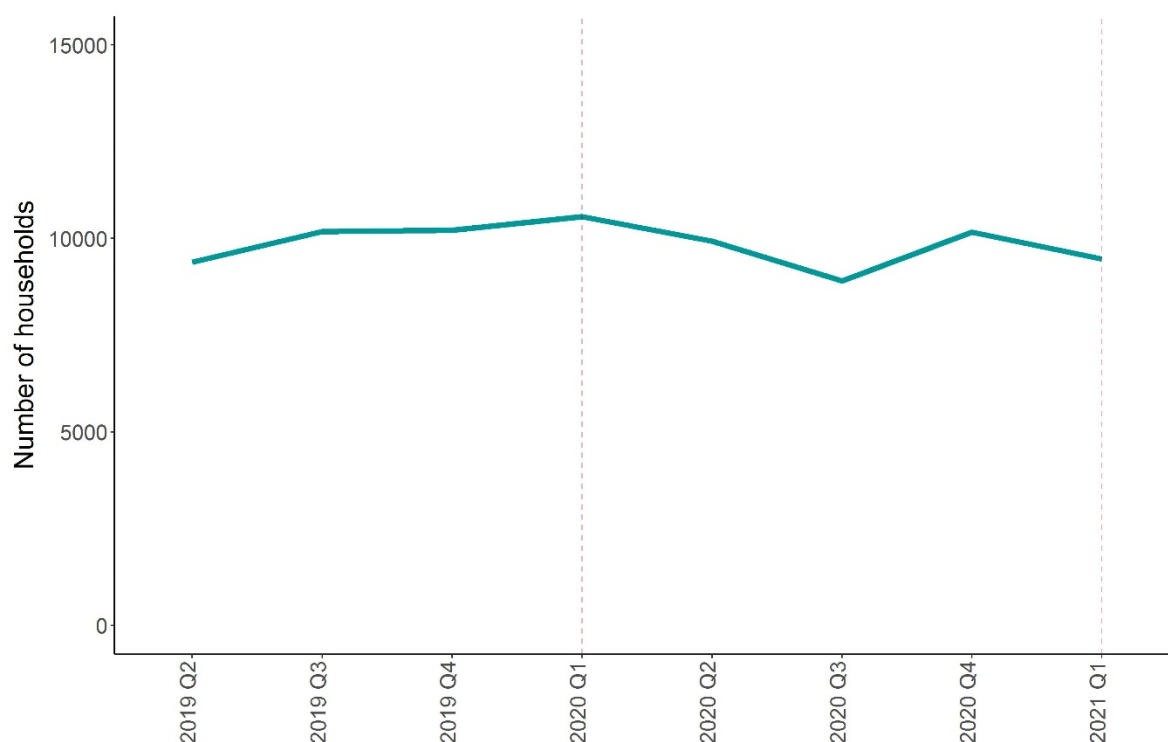
Figure 8: Number of households assessed against a main duty decision, by outcome



Local authorities made 14,880 main homelessness duty decisions in January to March 2021, down 6.5% from January to March 2020. 9,470 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, which is a 10.3% decrease from 10,560 households in January to March 2020. This also decreased 6.8% from 10,160 in the previous quarter, as shown in Figure 9. This may reflect the 5.3% fall in relief duties that ended because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days in January to March 2021 compared to the previous quarter.

Of those owed a main duty 2,770 were in London, accounting for 29.3% of the England total. 4,390 households were found to be homeless but did not have priority need, and therefore not owed a main duty following the statutory relief duty.

Figure 9: Number of households with main duty homelessness acceptances since 2019 Q2



Main duties ended

[Table MD2](#)

Some local authorities have struggled to provide accurate information on main duties ended, particularly on cases where applications were taken prior to April 2018. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 2.7% of the England total, and so it should be used with caution. The England level figure for the latest quarter in this release is also likely to be revised, and has previously been revised up or down by at least 4% in previous quarters. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), and the live tables.

When a household is accepted as being owed a main duty by a local authority, the authority has a duty to ensure that suitable accommodation is available until such time that the duty ends. Because there is no fixed end, this section includes some outcomes of main duty applications made prior to the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) commencement date as well as decisions made under the amended legislation. The main duty can also be ended for other reasons such as the applicant turning down a suitable offer of temporary or settled accommodation, or the applicant no longer being eligible for assistance.

Table 1: Number and percentage of households whose outcomes of main duties ended

Outcome of Main Duties Ended	Number of households January to March 2021	Percentage of households January to March 2021	Number of households January to March 2020
All outcomes	7,480	100.0%	6,580
Accepted an offer of settled accommodation	5,710	76.3%	5,220
<i>Local Authority or Housing Association accommodation</i>	<i>4,940</i>	<i>66.0%</i>	<i>4,730</i>
<i>Private Rented Sector accommodation</i>	<i>770</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>490</i>
Intentionally homeless or voluntarily ceased to occupy Temporary Accommodation	850	11.4%	660

As shown in Table 1, the main homelessness duty ended for 7,480 households in January to March 2021, increasing 13.7% from the same quarter in the previous year. This includes those who had previously been in temporary accommodation or had remained, with consent, in their existing accommodation while awaiting alternative accommodation.

5,710, or 76.3% of households accepted an offer of settled accommodation. This is a comparable proportion of households with January to March 2020. Most households (66.0%) accepted a tenancy offer in local authority or housing association accommodation.

Of those households whose duties ended without securing accommodation, 280 households became intentionally homeless from temporary accommodation, while 570 households voluntarily ceased to occupy temporary accommodation.

5. Temporary Accommodation

Temporary Accommodation: Temporary Accommodation is the term used to describe accommodation secured by a local housing authority under their statutory homelessness functions. The majority of households in temporary accommodation have been placed under the main homelessness duty, but temporary accommodation is also provided during the relief stage to households who the LA has reason to believe may have priority need, or on interim basis in other circumstances such as pending the outcome of a review on a homelessness decision.

Unlike other data in this release, temporary accommodation (TA) is a snapshot at the end of the quarter. It is not a cumulative total of all placements across a quarter. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter usually includes households who are:

- awaiting a decision on whether a main duty is owed under a new application or reapplication
- awaiting a decision on whether a referral has been accepted under local connection arrangements
- undergoing a local authority review or county court appeal
- under a relief duty and have or may have priority need so eligible for temporary accommodation
- homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need and owed the main homelessness duty
- intentionally homeless and have priority need and are being accommodated for a limited period

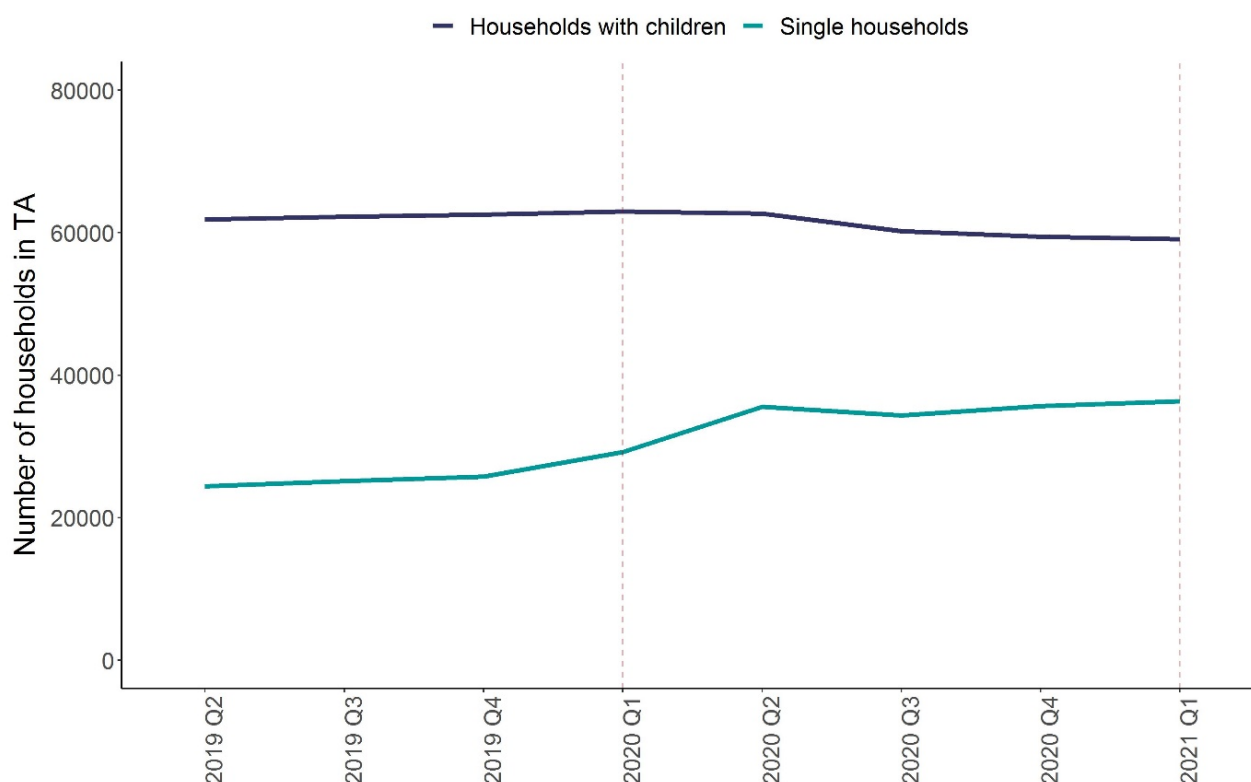
TA has been reported by local authorities through a combination of P1E summary and H-CLIC case level returns this quarter, as in previous quarters since April-June 2018. Local authorities were able to use either return or both to submit accurate temporary accommodation data. Despite offering this flexibility, many local authorities were still unable to provide accurate temporary accommodation data. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 16.5% of the England total households in TA, and so it should be used with caution. Further details on the data quality issues can be found in the [Technical Note](#).

Continuing from the previous quarter, MHCLG advised local authorities that they should report emergency accommodation placements made to rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping who were assisted through activity to bring 'Everyone In'. In some cases where no HA 1996 S188 interim TA duty was owed local authorities were advised they could include within their HCLIC returns, placements made using the power available within the HA1996 to secure accommodation for those owed the S189B relief duty. The TA data for January to March 2021 therefore includes TA placements made under this S189B power, as well as those accommodated under homelessness duties. Placements made under the S189B power may be underreported and instead reported under the S188 duty as the option for reporting the former may not yet have been

adopted on some local authority systems.

As set out above, this quarter's temporary accommodation figures include placements made to better protect rough sleepers from COVID-19, through the 'Everyone in' campaign. Details on the published statistics are provided in the [Technical Note](#). However, it should be noted that many of these households will not have been included because they were not eligible for homelessness assistance, and were accommodated outside HA96 duties. In addition, some households may have stated that they did not want to make an application for assistance; and for those that did make an application, there has been some delay in processing applications in the context of competing priorities. It is expected that some of these households will be reported in future quarters.

Figure 10: Number of households in temporary accommodation since Q2 2019, by household type



On 31 March 2021, the total number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation was 95,450 up 3.5% from 92,190 on 31 March 2020. This increase is driven by single adult households, which was 29,120, up 24.6% on the same date last year, while the number of households with children was 59,120, down 6.1% from the same date last year. The total number of households in temporary accommodation increased 0.4% from 31 December 2020.

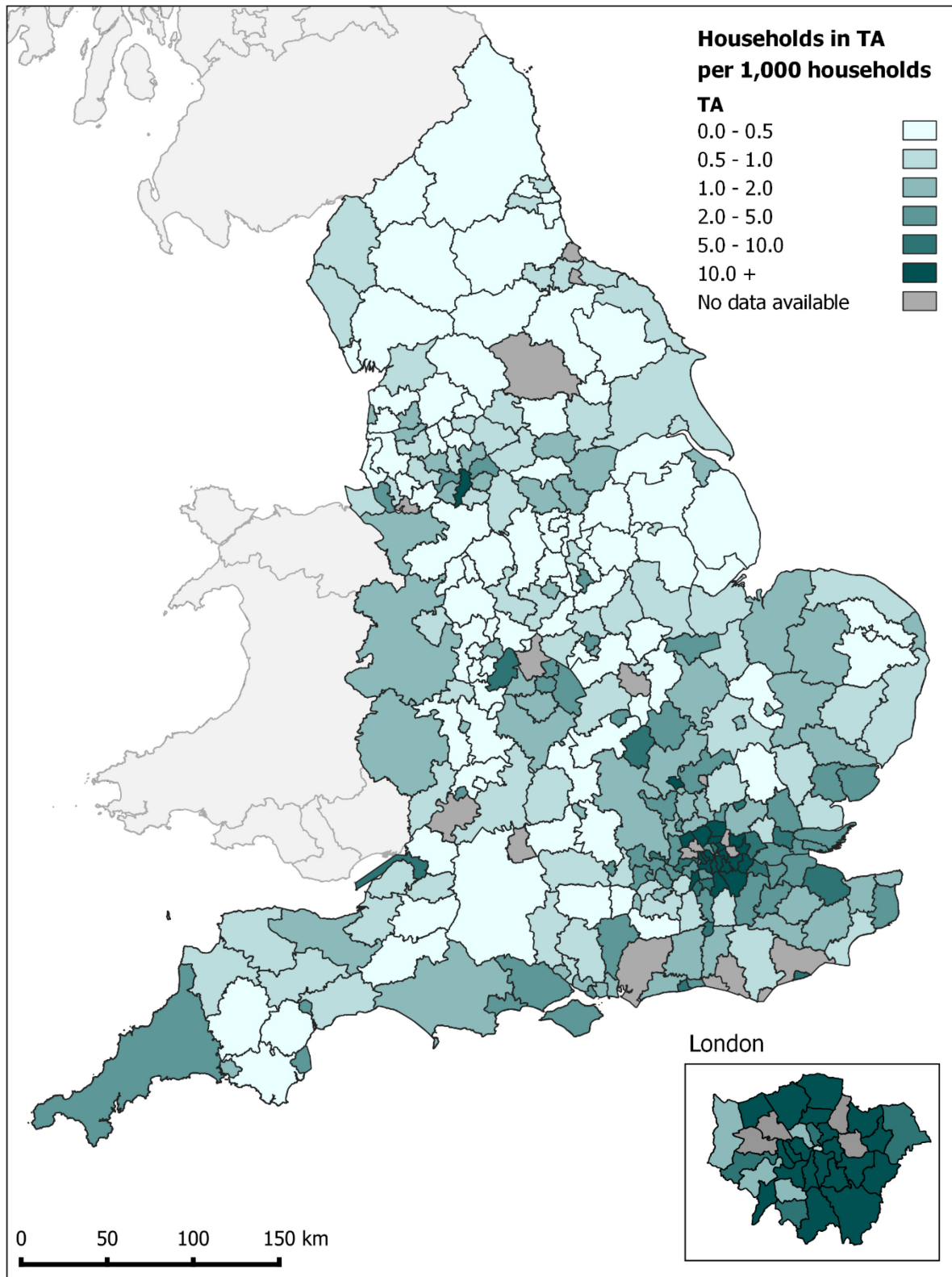
Table 2: Number of households accommodated in temporary accommodation

	31 March 2021 Households in TA	Previous quarter 31 December 2020 Households in TA	Previous quarter 31 December 2020 Percentage change	Same quarter last year 31 March 2020 Households in TA	Same quarter last year: 31 March 2020 Percentage change
England	95,450	95,100	0.4%	92,190	3.5%
London	60,010	60,440	-0.7%	59,930	0.1%
Rest of England	35,440	34,660	2.3%	32,260	9.9%

As shown in Table 2, the number of households in temporary accommodation in London on 31 March 2021 was 60,010, a slight increase of 0.1% from 31 March 2020. London accounted for 62.9% of the total England figure. In comparison the number of households in temporary accommodation in the Rest of England increased by 9.9% to 35,440 on 31 March 2021. These changes are driven by the increase in single households.

This means that in England there were approximately 4.0 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households overall, but there were approximately 16.1 households per 1,000 in London and 1.8 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England. As shown in Figure 11, the rate of households in temporary accommodation is highest in London boroughs, and shows additional hotspots in urban centres such as Manchester and Birmingham. The local authority with the highest rate of households in TA per 1000 households is Kensington and Chelsea, with 29.3, and the highest outside of London is Luton at 15.5 households per 1000.

Figure 11: Map of households in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households in each local authority



Produced by Homelessness Statistics Team, MHCLG
(c) Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey

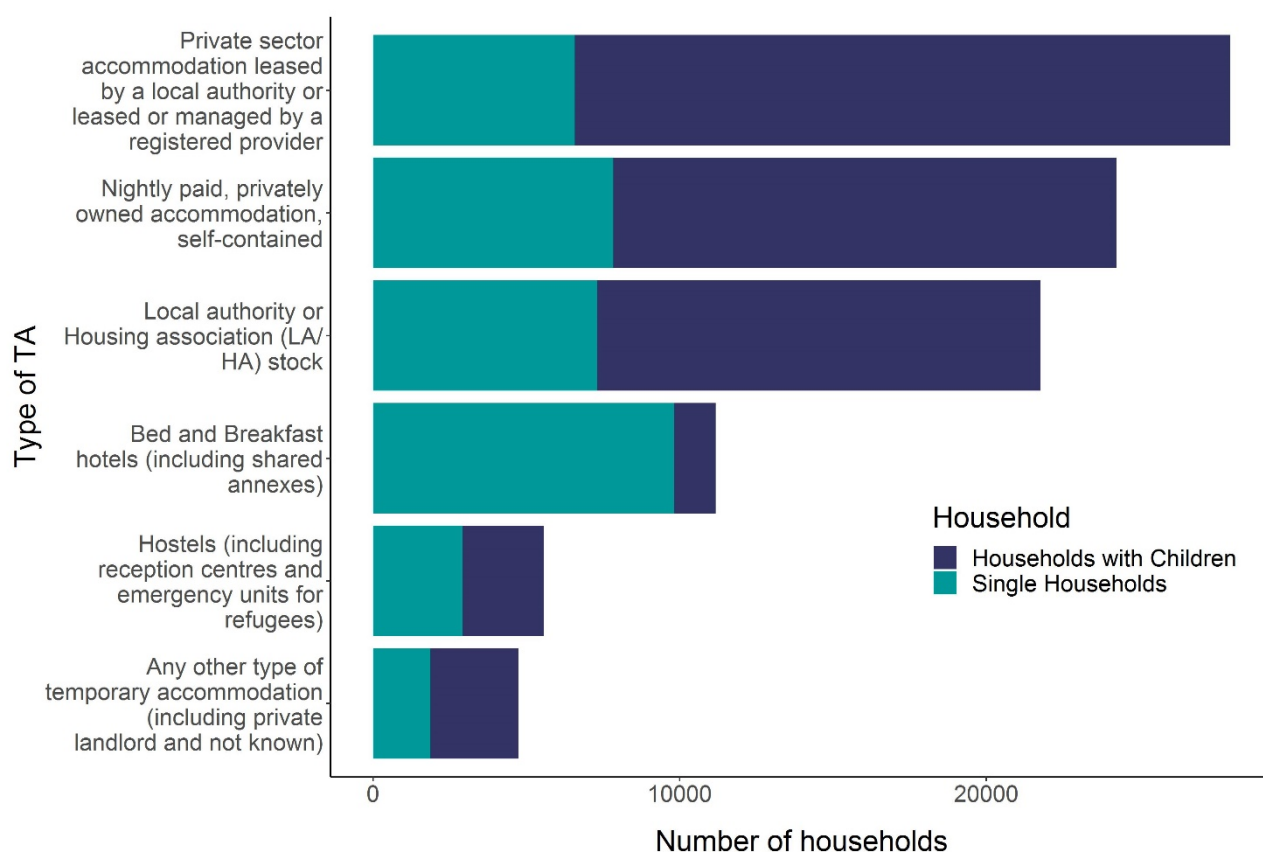
Data sources: OS Boundary Line,
Local Authority HCLIC returns,
ONS Household Population Projection

Types of Temporary Accommodation

Table TA1

The types of temporary accommodation which saw the biggest increases were B&B accommodation, up 37.4%, and Local authority or Housing association stock up 6.0% from 31 March 2020. Both of these increases were driven by single households and will mostly reflect the impact of COVID-19 and the initiative to bring 'Everyone in' from rough sleeping or shelters with shared sleeping arrangements. Private sector accommodation leased by a local authority or managed by a registered provider increased 0.2% from 31 March 2020.

Figure 12: Number of households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation



Of the 95,450 households living in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2021, 77.5% were in self-contained accommodation, down slightly from 78.7% at the end of March 2020. The number of households in temporary accommodation with shared facilities (bed and breakfast and hostels, including women's refuges) was 16,740, or 17.5% of all households in TA. Of these, 11,170 households were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation (privately owned accommodation in which facilities are shared), which is an increase of 37.4% from 8,130 at the same time last year.

87.9% of households in B&B accommodation were single households. This equates to 9,820

single households in B&B, up 590 from the previous quarter and up 3,220 from March 2020. This may partially reflect the 1,920 households accommodated under a Section 189B power on 31 March 2021 (seen in Table TA3). Placements under a S189B power have been made during the COVID-19 pandemic for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping who are eligible for assistance but not owed a S188 interim duty. This does not reflect all rough sleepers in emergency accommodation because of missing data (particularly among London boroughs), and because others will have been accommodated under the S188 duty or outside of HA1996 assistance.

Households in London are the majority of private sector and nightly paid accommodation, making up 77.2% and 80.1% of households in those types of temporary accommodation, while 50.3% of households in Local Authority or Housing Association accommodation are in the Rest of England.

The number of households in temporary accommodation in a different local authority district than those they applied in was 26,170, or 27.4% of all households in temporary accommodation, up 880 from the same date last year. 82.0%, or 21,470 of out of local authority placements were from London boroughs.

Children in Temporary Accommodation

[Tables TA1 and TA2](#)

Table 3: Households accommodated in Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation

	31 March 2021 Households in B&B	Previous quar- ter: 31 December 2020 Households in B&B	Previous quar- ter: 31 December 2020 Percentage change	Same quarter last year: 31 March 2020 Households in B&B	Same quarter last year: 31 March 2020 Percentage change
Total households in B&B	11,170	10,490	6.5%	8,130	37.4%
Households in B&B with dependent children	1,350	1,260	7.1%	1,530	-11.8%
Of which: resident for more than 6 weeks	480	500	-4.0%	500	-4.0%

Of the 95,450 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2021, 59,120 households or 61.9% included dependent children, compared with 62,970 or 68.3% on the same date last year. A total of 119,830 dependent children were in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2021, a decrease of 6.5% compared with March 2020. The average number of children in family households in temporary accommodation was 2.0 children. Most households with children, 88.4%, were in self-contained accommodation, up 1.6 percentage points from 86.8% at the end of March 2020.

Of the 11,170 households in B&B, 1,350 or 12.1% had dependent children, down from 1,530 the same time last year. However this is a 7.1% increase from the previous quarter. Of the households with children in B&B, 480 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 4.0% from 500 on the 31 March 2020. There were fewer than 5 16 to 17 year-old main applicants in B&B accommodation on 31 March 2021.

6. Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. References to previously published tables are included where comparisons are possible.

The below tables can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>

Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed

- A1: Number of households assessed and owed a prevention or relief duty
- A2P: Reason for loss of last settled home for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A2R: Reason for loss of last settled home for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A3: Support needs of households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A4P: Accommodation at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A4R: Accommodation at time of application for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A5P: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A5R: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A6: Age of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A7: Households referred to a local authority prior to being assessed
- A8: Ethnicity of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A9: Nationality of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty*
- A10: Employment status of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A11: Reason for eligibility of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty*
- A12: Sexual Identity of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty

Statutory homelessness prevention duty outcomes

- P1: Reason for households' prevention duty ending
- P2: Type of accommodation secured for households at end of prevention duty
- P3: Main prevention activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households at end of prevention duty
- P4: Destination of households with alternative accommodation secured at end of prevention duty*
- P5: Household type of households with accommodation secured at end of prevention duty

Statutory homelessness relief duty outcomes

- R1: Reason for households' relief duty ending
- R2: Type of accommodation secured for households at end of relief duty
- R3: Main prevention activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households at end of relief duty
- R4: Destination of households with alternative accommodation secured at end of relief duty*
- R5: Household type of households with accommodation secured at end of relief duty

Statutory homelessness main duty decisions & outcomes

- MD1: Outcome of main duty decision for eligible households
- MD2: Outcome of households no longer owed a main duty
- MD3: Priority need category of households owed a main duty

Households in temporary accommodation

- TA1: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by temporary accommodation type
- TA2: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by household type
- TA3: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by duty provide

* These tables will now only be published as part of the expanded annual release at end of financial year. The latest published figures can be found in the 2019-20 Detailed local authority-level tables.

7. Technical Note

Please see the accompanying [Technical Note](#) document for further details.

Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

Information about statistics at MHCLG is available via the Department's website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

Annex: The Statutory Homelessness Response to COVID-19

About this section

This annex to the January to March 2021 statutory homelessness release provides an update to the annex in the October to December 2020 publication, which focuses the activities of local authorities in England under their Statutory Homelessness duties in the context of COVID-19. More detailed breakdowns of single households accompany this release, which include households owed a relief duty and their support needs, reasons for the relief duty ending and accommodation secured at relief. The Statutory Homelessness statistics includes some but not all of the people provided with accommodation in response to COVID-19, through the 'Everyone In' campaign. They cannot be directly compared to or merged with the COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data used to monitor 'Everyone In' because of the incomplete overlap between the two. Impacts of the Everyone In campaign on assistance provided to single households through Statutory Homelessness duties can be observed through the Statutory Homelessness Statistics.

Introduction

On 23 March 2020, England first entered a national lockdown in response to the rapidly rising rates of COVID-19 infections. Wider initiatives to support people retain or access accommodation through this period were introduced by government. The impacts of these initiatives can be seen in these homelessness statistics from January to March 2020 onwards but are most significant during April to June 2020 for duties owed and July to September 2020 onwards for outcomes. This annex to the January to March 2021 statutory homelessness statistics release aims to update on the impacts of COVID-19, particularly the Everyone In campaign on trends in homelessness, specifically single households.

This focus on single households is because the Everyone In response involved a significant change in the way local authority powers and duties were delivered towards single households, in the context of the pandemic. Local authorities were asked and funded to provide accommodation to people in their area who were rough sleeping, in shelters with shared sleeping areas or were at risk of rough sleeping. This often meant going beyond the statutory duties owed to single people which do not, in usual times, involve providing emergency accommodation to people who were not owed an accommodation duty. Local authorities have certain powers to secure accommodation, including emergency accommodation, for people that are homeless but not owed an accommodation duty, which would include people who do not have 'priority need' under legislation.

Everyone In Campaign

The Everyone In campaign was launched to bring rough sleepers off the streets into emergency

accommodation to protect them from COVID-19. The campaign is ongoing and covered people that were sleeping rough and those who were at risk of sleeping rough but hadn't necessarily slept rough before. Not all individuals assisted through Everyone In would have been owed a homelessness duty. Any individual not owed a homelessness duty would not be part of the local authority HCLIC case level data submission to MHCLG and therefore would not be included in this report. There are three main groups that are not included in the HCLIC data:

1. People not eligible for statutory homelessness assistance because they are 'persons from abroad' specifically excluded by the legislation. Local authorities relied on powers within the Localism Act to provide shelter to those who were not eligible for statutory assistance.
2. Rough sleepers who did not engage with the assessment process required to take a homelessness application, or who were not owed a relief duty by the local authority. Some people sleeping rough did accept an offer of emergency accommodation but did not wish to pursue a homelessness application, or did not engage with the assessment arrangements. In some cases local authorities did not accept a new relief duty where they had very recently discharged a duty to an individual, and so no new duty was recorded on HCLIC although accommodation was provided.
3. In some areas upper tier local authorities organised emergency accommodation for rough sleepers, although the statutory homelessness duties sit with the lower tier. Most significantly, the Greater London Authority (GLA) played a leading role in delivering the Everyone In campaign, booking hotels and providing support for people moved in from shelters and from rough sleeping. As the GLA is an upper tier authority without statutory homelessness duties individuals accommodated and moved on through their work will not be included on HCLIC except where they were referred on to London boroughs where they had a local connection to provide assistance to move on from hotels.

Everyone In has had an impact on the number of households assessed and provided with assistance under homelessness legislation, and this has been observed in all quarters since March 2020. As there are several different reasons individuals households would not have been helped through the homelessness legislation (as set out above) these statutory homelessness statistics cannot be directly compared or merged with the 'Everyone In' [COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data](#). This showed that by January 2021 local authorities had submitted COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data that indicated 37,430 people had been helped into accommodation, of which 11,263 were still in emergency accommodation and 26,167 had been moved on to more settled accommodation.

Trends in statutory homelessness for single households following lockdown on the 23 March 2020

After lockdown was announced for the 23 March 2020, the greatest rise in the number of single households assessed as owed a relief duty, likely to be the impact of Everyone In, was observed in April to June 2020. 32,410 single households were assessed as owed relief during the quarter, a 7,270 or 28.9% increase year-on-year, and additionally 5,500 higher than the pre COVID-19 peak of 26,910 in July to September 2019. In contrast, January to March 2021 saw a 0.1% fall in the number of single households assessed as owed relief (29,060) compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Single households assessed as homeless and owed a relief duty

	Jan-Mar 2021	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019 ¹	Apr-Jun 2019 ¹
Total single households owed a relief duty	29,060	27,870	29,480	32,410	29,080	25,720	26,910	25,140
% change from previous quarter	4.3%	-5.5%	-9.0%	11.5%	13.1%	-4.4%	7.0%	-4.0%
% change from same quarter previous year ¹	-0.1%	8.4%	9.6%	28.9%	11.1%	11.0%	-	-

¹ April to September 2018 were the first two quarters of the HRA and therefore had fewer relief duty outcomes than later quarters. This means year-on-year changes to 2019 are not comparable and therefore have been excluded.

Breakdowns of the largest increases in accommodation on approach of single households owed a relief duty during COVID-19 are shown in Table 2. These breakdowns show where the additional single households owed a relief duty over this period approached from. Within the overall increase in relief duties owed to single households during January to March 2021, there were increases in applicants previously living with family and friends, those departing from custody, and those previously living in temporary accommodation. 2,500 applicants sleeping rough on approach were owed a relief duty in January to March 2021, up 3.7% from the same quarter last year. The number of single households owed a relief duty from private and social rented tenancies fell over the same period, reflecting the impact of the restrictions on evictions from accommodation on duties owed to all households.

Table 2: Single households assessed as owed a relief duty, including selected accommodations at time of application¹

	Total single households owed a relief duty	Of which: Rough sleeping	No fixed abode	Living with family	Living with friends	Homeless on departure from custody	Temporary accommodation ²
Jan-Mar 2021 (% change from Jan-Mar 2020)	29,060 -0.1%	2,500 3.7%	7,250 -14.2%	6,110 10.7%	3,440 9.6%	1,630 41.7%	930 52.5%
Oct-Dec 2020 (% change from Oct-Dec 2019)	27,870 8.4%	2,650 23.3%	7,260 0.1%	5,680 20.9%	3,070 8.9%	1,470 26.7%	790 43.6%
Jul-Sep 2020 (% change from Jul-Sep 2019)	29,480 9.6%	2,540 25.1%	7,720 0.5%	6,470 29.1%	3,420 16.7%	1,370 20.2%	920 95.7%
Apr-Jun 2020 (% change from Apr-Jun 2019)	32,410 28.9%	3,720 121.4%	8,520 18.5%	6,410 38.7%	3,830 38.8%	1,780 61.8%	1,140 142.6%
Jan-Mar 2020 (% change from Jan-Mar 2019)	29,080 11.1%	2,410 34.6%	8,450 9.3%	5,520 16.0%	3,140 9.0%	1,150 18.6%	610 15.1%

¹Only includes accommodation types which saw large increases during COVID-19. The full breakdown can be found in Table A4rs.

²These figures likely reflect those who were put into temporary accommodation through Everyone In and subsequently made an application for a relief duty.

Trends across the support needs of single households in Table A3rs shows that there was an increase in relief duties owed towards people with an offending history, those at risk of or had experienced domestic abuse, and those with a history of repeat homelessness in January to March 2021 from the same quarter in previous year. There will be many households with more than one of these support needs.

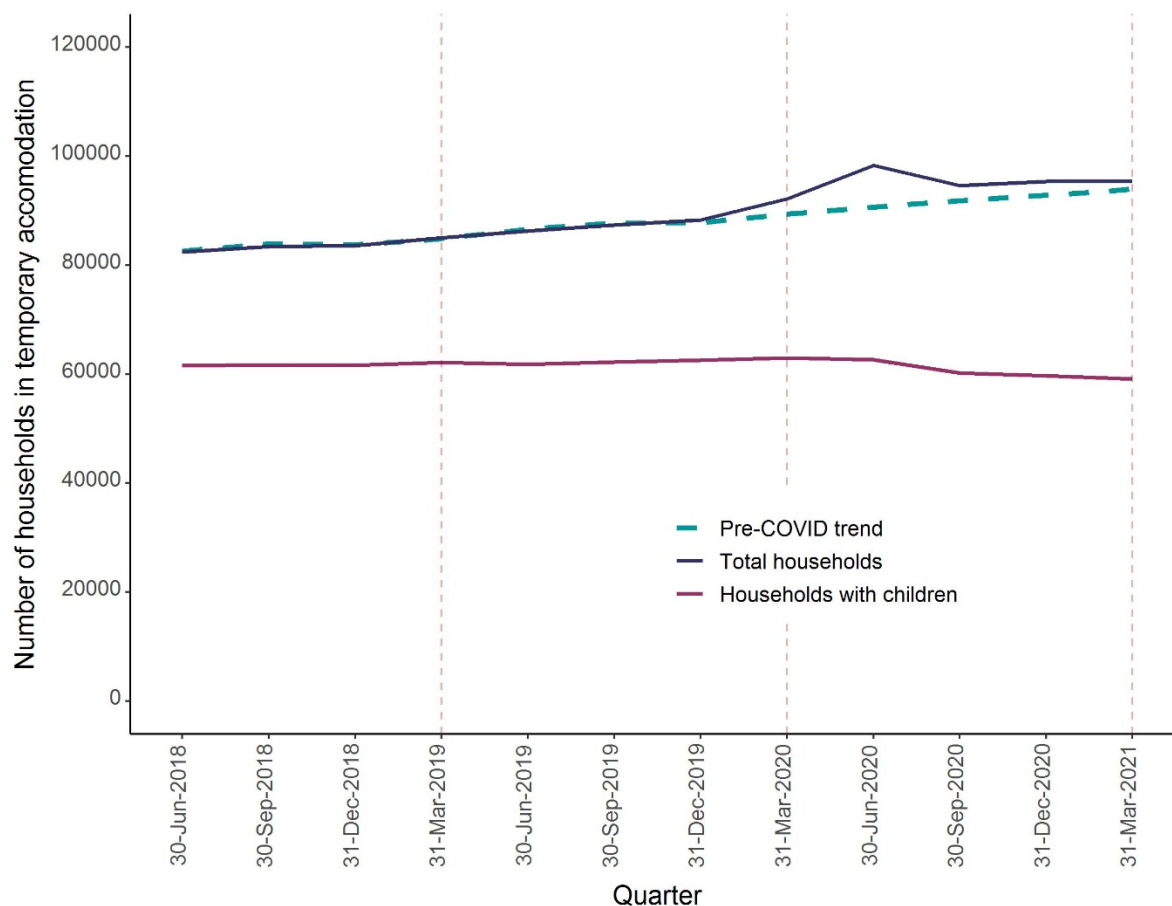
5,010 single households with an offending history were owed a relief duty in January to March 2021, up 17.9% from January to March 2020. 3,880 single households had a history of repeat homelessness, up 8.4%; and 2,760 single households were at risk of or had experienced domestic abuse, up 11.7% from the same quarter last year.

Temporary accommodation

The number of households in temporary accommodation had increased annually by an average of 5.1% across all quarters in 2019 before Everyone In. On 31 March 2021 temporary accommodation numbers rose to 95,450 or by 0.4% from 31 December 2020. This was an increase of 3.5% compared to the previous year, which is below the pre COVID-19 trend of a 5.1% year on year increase that had been greatly exceeded on 30 June 2020 (see Figure 1). Between

the 30 December 2020 and the 31 March 2021 households with children fell 0.5% to 59,120, and single households rose 1.9% to 36,330.

Figure 1: Number of households in temporary accommodation from 30 June 2018 to 31 March 2021



The increase in single households in temporary accommodation was mostly observed in B&B, where 9,820 or 27.0% of single households were accommodated on the 31 March 2021. This increased by 3,220 (an increase of 48.8%) compared to the 31 March 2020. At least 1,920 households were accommodated under a S189B power, which means the households were not owed a temporary accommodation duty (because they had no priority need) and the temporary accommodation was provided using discretionary powers rather than under statutory duties. We know not all authorities were able to identify their temporary accommodation provided under a S189B power in their HCLIC system, so the real figure is likely to be higher. The households in temporary accommodation under a S189B power would not normally have been provided with temporary accommodation. B&B use for families has fallen from 1,530 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2020 to 1,350 on 31 March 2021, and will in part be a result of the fewer families that were owed a prevention or relief duty over this period.

Relief duty outcomes following Everyone In

The impact of Everyone In was also evident in relief duty outcomes; in January to March 2021, the number of single households whose relief duty ended increased by 8.5% to 30,130 from the same quarter last year. However, compared to the previous quarter, this had decreased 4.0%; this may

reflect the decrease in relief duties owed in October to December 2020, which was down 5.5% compared to the previous quarter.

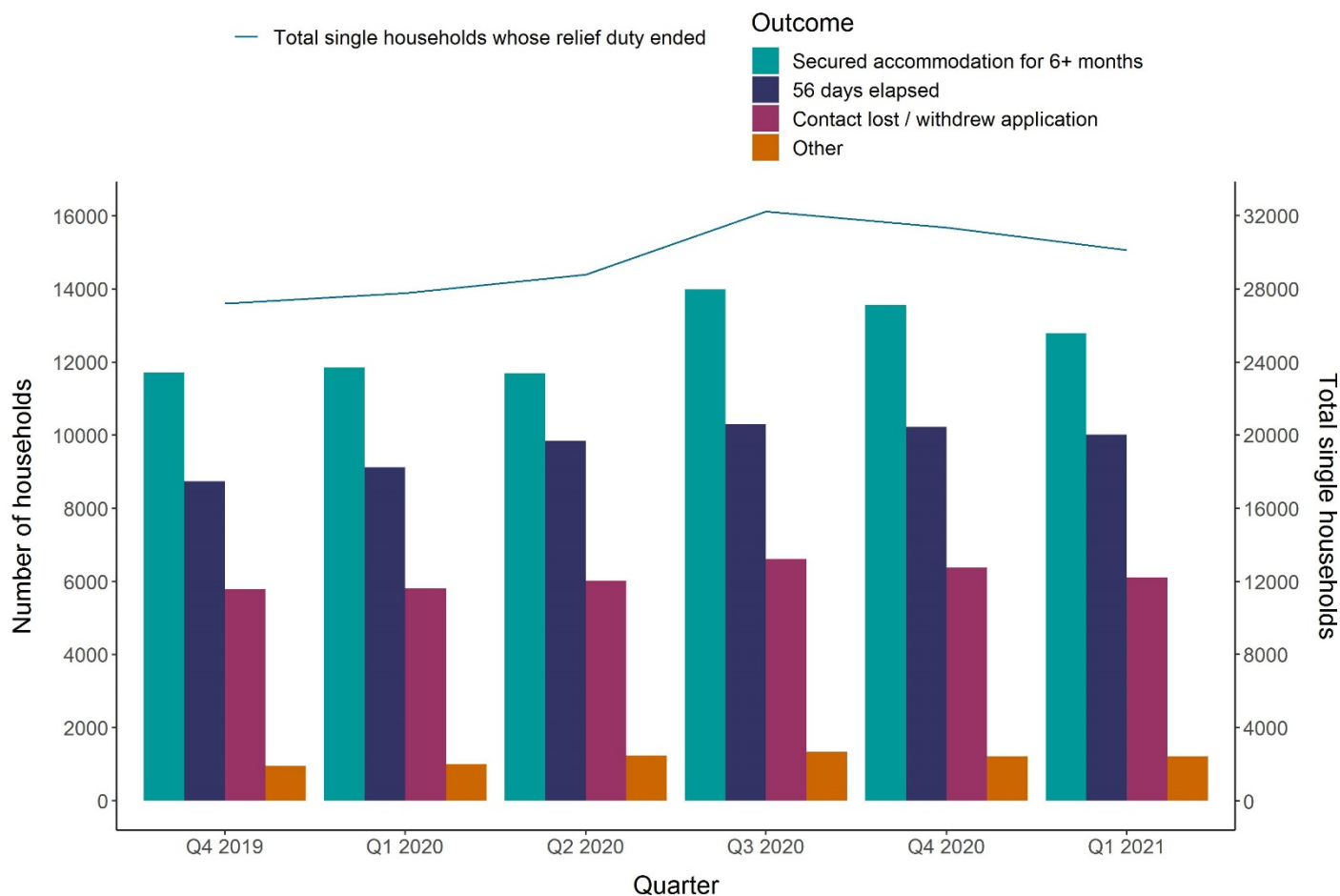
Table 3: Single households whose relief duty ended and total accommodation secured outcomes

	Jan-Mar 2021	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019
Total single households whose relief duty ended	30,130	31,370	32,250	28,780	27,780	27,200	26,760
Secured accommodation for 6+ months	12,790	13,560	13,990	11,690	11,850	11,710	11,680
<i>Of which: Rough sleeping on approach</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,160</i>	<i>1,190</i>	<i>990</i>	<i>770</i>	<i>840</i>	<i>790</i>

The full local authority level breakdowns for these quarters can be found in Table R1s

Figure 2: Quarterly trends in relief duty outcomes from October to December 2019 (Q4

2019) to January to March 2021 (Q1 2021)



Of single households whose relief duty ended in January to March 2021, 12,790 (42.4%) were able to secure accommodation for 6+ months. This was a decrease of 770 (5.7%) compared to October to December 2020, but a 7.9% increase from the same quarter in the previous year. 1,000 applicants who were sleeping rough on approach secured accommodation in January to March 2021, 13.8% less than the previous quarter but a 29.9% increase on the same quarter the previous year. Between the 1 April and 31 March 2021, 4,340 single households that had been sleeping rough at the time of approach had been secured accommodation under a relief duty.

Table 4: Single households secured accommodation at relief duty end, by type of accommodation

	Jan-Mar 2021	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019
Total secured accommodation	12,790	13,560	13,990	11,690	11,850	11,710	11,680
Social rented sector	6,530	6,760	6,810	5,190	6,360	6,350	6,310
Private rented sector	3,740	4,030	4,260	3,930	3,280	3,050	2,940
Staying with family / friends	850	930	880	910	780	830	780
Other (including owner occupier) / not known	1,680	1,840	2,060	1,660	1,430	1,490	1,650

The full local authority level breakdowns for these quarters can be found in Table R2s

Of single households whose relief duty ended with accommodation secured in January to March 2021, 6,530 or 51.1% secured a tenancy in the social rented sector. This is a 2.7% increase from the January to March 2020, but a 3.4% decrease from the previous quarter. 4,060 households were accommodated in supported housing or hostel, and 2,470 in a council or registered provider tenancy.

3,740 or 29.2% were secured a private rented sector tenancy. This compares with 3,280 or 27.7% in the same quarter in the previous year, however it is a 7.2% decrease from the previous quarter. The number of single households who secured houses in multiple occupation (HMO) has increased by 40.0% to 1,540 from January to March 2020.

The number of relief outcomes for single households due to lost contact or withdrawn applications fell by 4.1% to 6,110 in January to March 2021 compared to the previous quarter. This stayed constant as a proportion of all outcomes compared to the previous quarter at 20.3%. A further 490 single households ended relief duties in January to March after refusing a final accommodation offer or refusing to cooperate. Compared to the previous quarter, this represented a decrease of 3.9%. Households served a notice due to refusal to cooperate fell from 120 to 100.

10,020 single households were still homeless after their duty elapsed at 56 days, lower than the 10,220 in October to December 2020. The proportion of relief duty outcomes that were homeless after 56 days increased from 32.6% to 33.3% compared to previous quarter. Cumulatively between the 1 April and 31 March 2021 the number of single households still homeless after the relief duty ended because 56 days had elapsed was 40,380. These households would be issued with a main duty decision. This is a 19.0% increase from the previous year.

Main duty decisions for those homeless at the end of relief

4,300 single households were accepted as being owed a main duty between January and March 2021, an increase on the same period the previous year of 12.6%. The three most reported vulnerabilities as a reason for priority need in January to March 2021 were mental health 1,300,

physical ill health or disability 1,150, and domestic abuse 450. Cumulatively, of the 40,380 single households still homeless after relief between 1 April and 31 March 2021, 16,440 single households were issued with an unintentionally homeless and priority need, main duty acceptance, up 13.8% from the previous year.

18,400 households were issued with a homeless but no priority need main duty decision between 1 April to 31 March 2021, of which 4,390 households were in January to March 2021. Even though these households were not owed statutory duties to provide accommodation following a decision that no main duty was owed, many will have continued to be provided with temporary accommodation due to the Everyone In campaign. On 31 March 2021, 2,700 households remained in temporary accommodation when their duty had ended without further action, or they were not found to be owed a duty following an assessment or main duty decision.

Enquiries

Media enquiries:

0303 444 1209

Email: newsdesk@communities.gov.uk

Public enquiries:

Email: homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk

Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

Information about statistics at MHCLG is available via the Department's website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics



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<http://forms.communities.gov.uk/> or write to us at:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Telephone: 030 3444 0000

For all our latest news and updates follow us on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/mhclg>

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