



# Statutory Homelessness Annual Report 2020-21, England

## In this release:

This is the annual statistics release for statutory homelessness assessments and activities in England between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. This release covers part of the period of response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

- 119,400 households were owed a prevention duty in 2020-21, down 20.0% from 2019-20. Of these 8,940 were due to a Section 21 notice, down 50.9% from 2019-20.
- 149,160 households were owed a relief duty in 2020-21, up 6.1% from 2019-20.
- The number of households with children threatened with homelessness fell 29.0%, and those already homeless fell 11.6%
- The number of single households (households without children) threatened with homelessness fell 13.3%, while those already homeless increased 11.7%.
- 15,370 households with children were homeless or threatened with homelessness due to domestic abuse, up 13.9% from 2019-20 – this represents a fifth (20.5%) of households with children owed a prevention or relief duty
- 11,580 single households were assessed as rough sleeping at the time of approach, up 39.4% from 2019-20
- 26,670 single households owed either a prevention or relief duty had an offending history support need in 2020-21, up 25.8% from 2019-20
- Households with a Black lead applicant were the most disproportionately homeless as they accounted for 9.7% of those owed a duty while they are only estimated to comprise of 3.5% of the population
- The number of lead applicants who were registered unemployed increased 18.2% from 2019-20 to 104,640 applicants
- Many of the changes from 2019-20 can be linked to COVID-19, and the government and local authority response 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

**Release date:** 9 September 2021

**Date of next release:** Autumn 2021

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## Additional Headlines

### Households with children

- 45,370 households with children were owed a prevention duty in 2020-21, a 29.0% decrease from 2019-20. 29,760 households with children were owed a relief duty in 2020-21, an 11.6% decrease from 2019-20.
- The number of households with children threatened with homelessness due to the end of their private rented AST fell 46.9% from 2019-20 to 13,360 households (29.4% of those owed a prevention duty)
- The proportion of households with children who were living with family at the time of application increased under both prevention and relief
- Domestic abuse was the most common support need for households with children owed a duty, up 6.7% from 2019-20 to 12,850 households (17.1%)
- The majority of households with children whose prevention duty ended (28,160 households or 61.0%) secured accommodation for 6 months or more. Of these, over a third (38.5%) were able to stay in their existing accommodation.
- 18.7% of those whose prevention duty ended became homeless and were owed a relief duty
- The majority (23,230 households or 53.9%) of households with children whose relief duty ended did not have their homelessness relieved within 56 days

### Single households

- 119,360 single households were owed a relief duty in 2020-21, an 11.7% increase from

2019-20. 73,990 single households were owed a prevention duty in 2020-21, a 13.3% decrease from 2019-20.

- Family or friends no longer able to accommodate was the most common reason for loss of last settled home, up 11.9% for those owed a prevention duty, and up 29.2% for those owed a relief duty.
- The majority of single households whose prevention duty ended (40,940 households or 58.4%) secured accommodation for 6 months or more
- A third (33.1%) had their relief duty end because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days

#### Additional demographics

- A third (32.0%) of lead applicants were aged between 25 and 34 years old equating to 85,930 applicants

#### Main Duty

- Local authorities made 62,640 main homelessness duty decisions in 2020-21, which is a similar level to 2019-20. 39,210 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, down 2.8% from 2019-20.
- The proportion of households owed a main duty who were households with children has decreased to 62.5% in 2020-21 compared to 68.8% in 2019-20. This reflects the fall in the number of households with children making homelessness applications in 2020-21.

#### Temporary accommodation

- In London, households with children in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in private sector accommodation, or nightly paid self-contained accommodation, whereas in the rest of England, they are most likely to be in local authority or housing association provided accommodation
- In London, single households in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in nightly paid self-contained accommodation, or private sector accommodation, whereas in the rest of England, they are most likely to be in Bed and Breakfast hotels, or local authority or housing association provided accommodation

#### Flows

- Overall, 258,620 households received homelessness assistance in 2019-20. Of these households, 54.7% secured accommodation for 6+ months, 24.1% left the system for Other reasons, 13.9% were owed a main duty, and 7.3% were homeless and not owed a main duty following relief.
- Households with children were more likely to approach at prevention (64.5%), while single households are more likely to approach at relief (55.6%).
- Households with children were the most likely to secure accommodation for 6 months or more at 55.4% of those who approached in 2019-20. This is followed by care leavers aged 18-20 at 55.1%, single households at 54.4%, those rough sleeping at the time of application at 44.6%, and finally those on departure from custody at 40.4%.

# 1. Overview of Homelessness in 2020-21

## Impact of COVID-19

On 23 March 2020, England entered a national lockdown in response to the rapidly rising rates of COVID-19 infections. As a result, wider initiatives to support people to retain or access accommodation through this period were introduced by government.

This included requiring landlords to give tenants longer notice periods before starting possession proceedings from 26 March 2020 (initially at 3 months and then later increasing to 6 months, in most cases, from 29 August 2020), a 6 month suspension on housing possession action in the courts between 27 March and 20 September 2020, and a restriction on bailiff enforcement activity from 17 November 2020 until 31 May 2021. These measures contributed to a reduction in the number of households approaching local authorities for help from self-contained private or social rented sector accommodation.

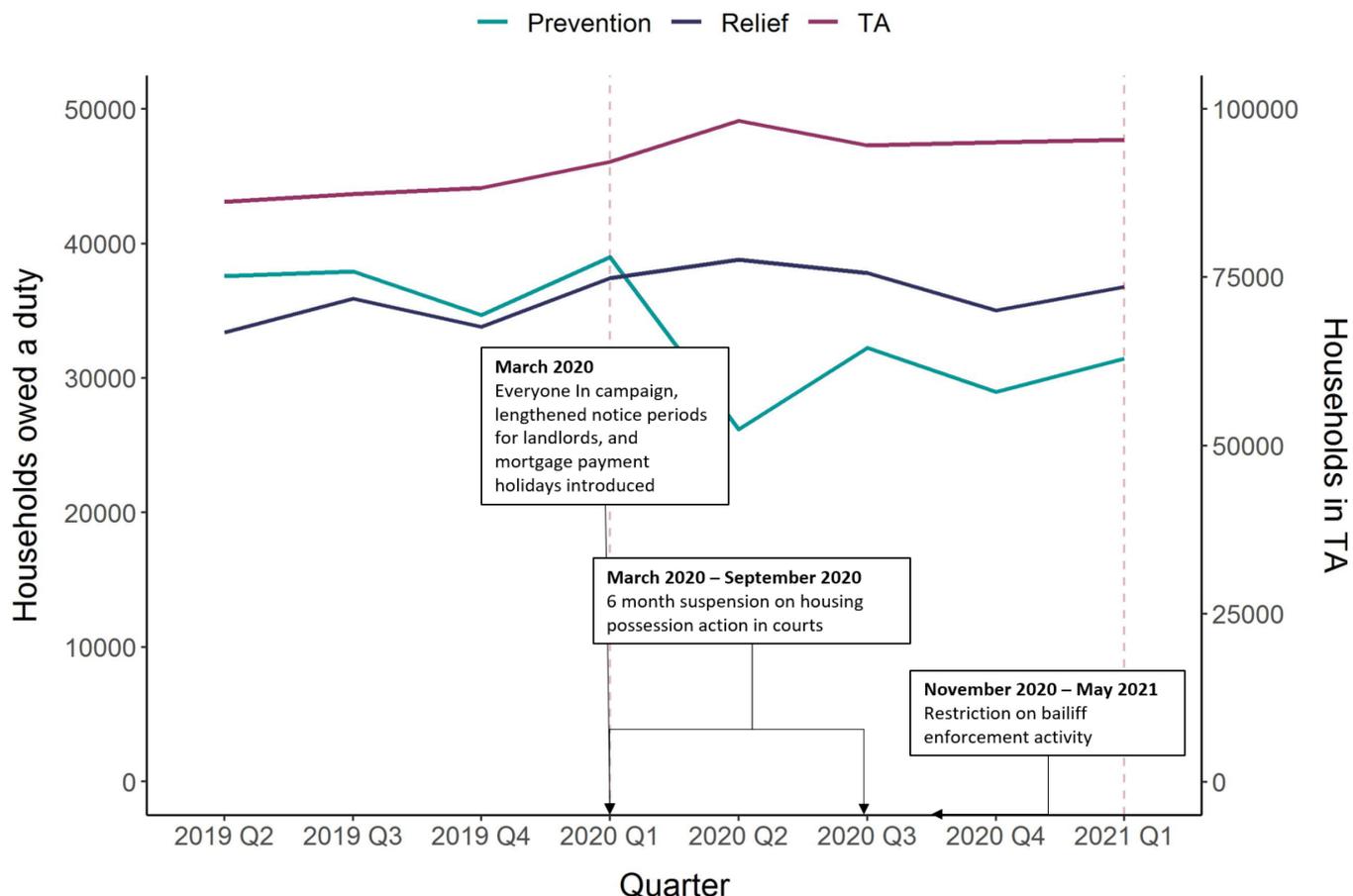
Mortgage payment holidays introduced in March 2020 also contributed to a reduction in approaches for support from owner occupiers.

On 26 March 2020 the Everyone In campaign was also launched, 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.

Overall 119,400 households were threatened with homelessness and owed a prevention duty in 2020-21, down 20.0% from 2019-20. Of these 8,940 were due to a Section 21 notice, down 50.9% from 2019-20. 149,160 households were homeless owed a relief duty in 2020-21, up 6.1% from 2019-20.

**Section 21 notice:** A section 21 notice is a formal notification by a landlord which is the start of the process to end an assured shorthold tenancy. This is recorded alongside initial assessments.

**Figure 1: Trends in prevention, relief and temporary accommodation since 2019 Q2**



As shown in Figure 1, April to June (Q2) 2020 saw the peak of the impact of COVID-19 on statutory homelessness data. The number of households owed a prevention duty fell 29.9% compared to the same quarter in the previous year, which can be linked to lengthened notice periods for landlords, and the restrictions on private rented sector evictions. This fall was driven by households with children, which fell 42.5% in the same period. In contrast, the number of households owed a relief duty increased 16.9% from the same quarter in the previous year, linked to the Everyone In campaign and driven by the 29.7% increase in single households (households without children) owed a relief duty over the same period. The number of households in temporary accommodation had increased 13.9% from the same quarter in the previous year, also linked to the Everyone In campaign and driven by a 45.9% increase single households in temporary accommodation.

The next few sections provide a more detailed look at households with children and single households, illustrating how their experiences have differed.

## 2. Households with children

Measures introduced to protect renters and home owners such as mortgage payment holidays, restrictions on private rented sector evictions, and lengthened notice periods for landlords saw the greatest impact on those threatened with homelessness, and in particular on households with children, who are more likely to present at prevention stage.

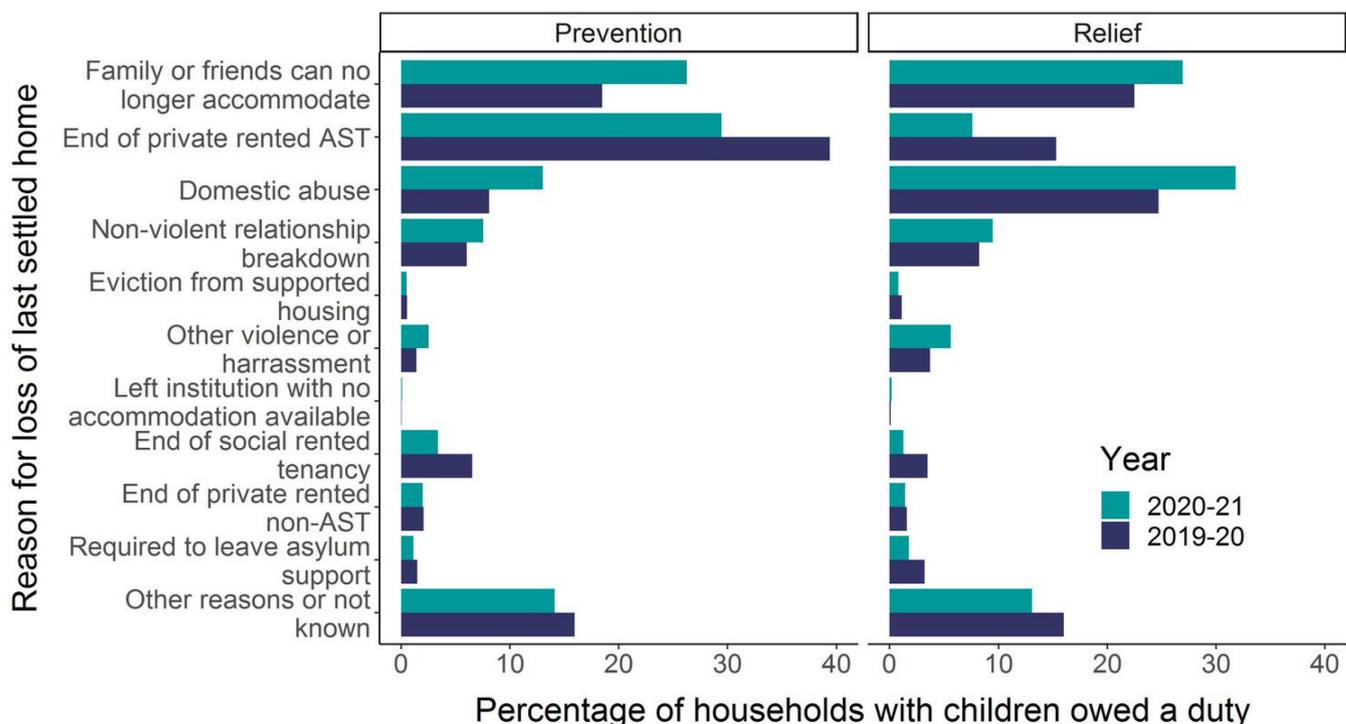
In 2020-21, the number of households with children who were either threatened with homelessness or already homeless had fallen compared to the previous year. 45,370 households with children were owed a prevention duty in 2020-21, a 29.0% decrease from 2019-20. 29,760 households with children were owed a relief duty in 2020-21, an 11.6% decrease from 2019-20.

### Causes of homelessness

[Table A2Pc and A2Rc](#)

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.

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



For those owed a prevention duty, the most common reason for the threatened loss of last settled home was due to the end of their private rented AST at 13,360 households or 29.4% of households with children owed a prevention duty. However, this had fallen 46.9% from 2019-20,

and can be attributed to the restriction on evictions and lengthened notice periods for landlords. The majority of private rented ASTs ended due to the landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property at 62.6% (8,370 households); however, this had also fallen in 2020-21 in line with the overall fall in end of private rented ASTs. Smaller decreases in the number of households with children citing end of their private rented AST can be seen for those owed a relief duty.

The most common reason for loss of last settled home under relief was due to domestic abuse at 9,460 or 31.8% of households with children owed a relief duty. This is a 13.6% increase from 2019-20. This also increased by a similar amount (14.3%) for those owed a prevention duty, despite the number of duties owed falling for households with children. This may reflect data published in the [ONS Domestic abuse during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic report](#), which shows 68,648 offences were flagged as related to domestic abuse in June 2020, up 9.7% from the same point in the previous year.

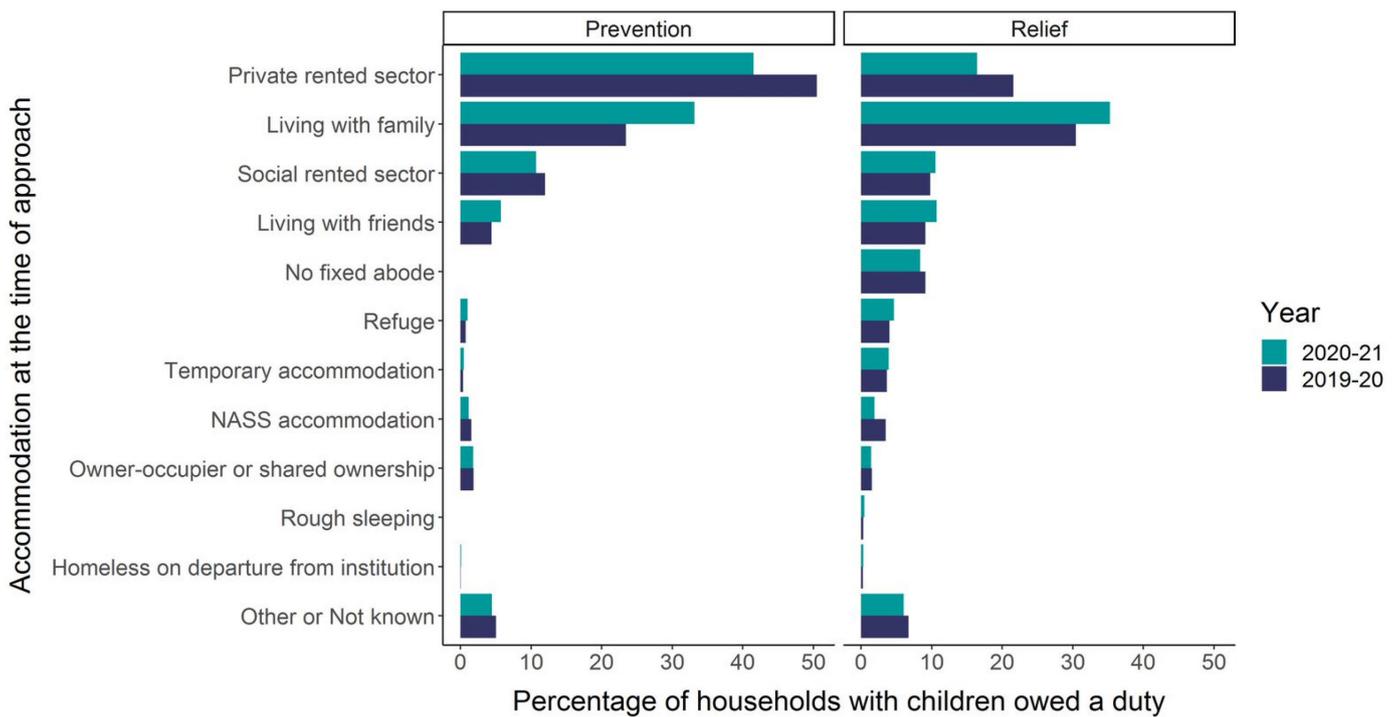
Other notable trends from 2019-20 include family or friends no longer able to accommodate, remaining at a similar level for households with children owed a prevention duty, and increasing 5.8% for those owed a relief duty; and other violence or harassment, increasing 27.8% under prevention, and 32.5% under relief, despite households with children owed either a prevention or relief duty falling over the same period.

# Accommodation at time of application

[Tables A4Pc and A4Rc](#)

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.

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



For those owed a prevention duty, the most common accommodation at time of application was in the private rented sector at 18,840 households or 41.5% of households with children owed a prevention duty. However, this had fallen 41.6% from 2019-20, likely reflecting the measures in place to protect renters. Self-contained accommodation, which makes up 92.9% of those in the private rented sector at the time of application, had fallen the most, down 42.4% from 2019-20. Smaller proportions of households in multiple occupation and those lodging (not with family or friends) decreased by 28.1% and 25.0% respectively. Smaller decreases in the private rented sector can be seen for those owed a relief duty.

The 18,840 households living in the private rented sector at time of application is higher than the 13,360 households citing the end of a private rented AST as their reason for threat of loss of last settled home, indicating other reasons for leaving their private sector accommodation, such as relationship breakdowns.

For households with children owed a relief duty, the most common category is living with family (35.2%) at 10,490 households, up 2.2% from 2019-20, despite the number of relief duties owed

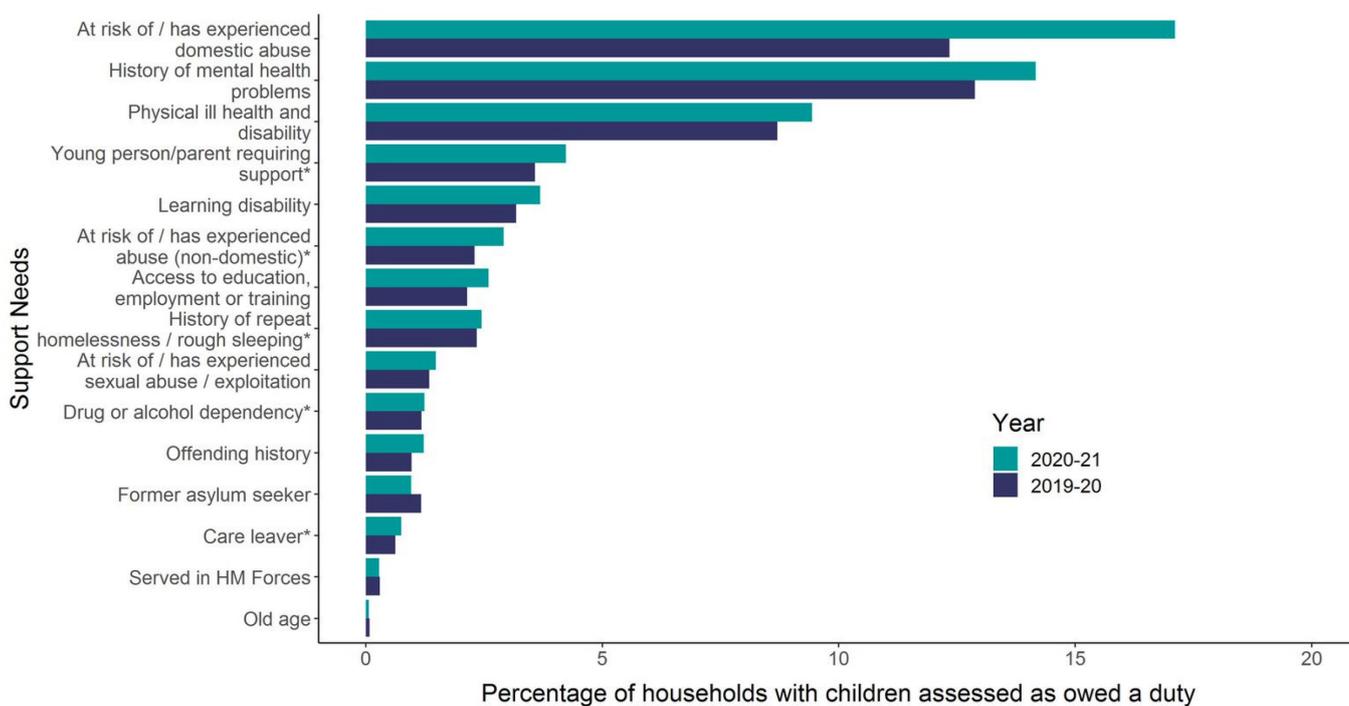
falling. For those owed a prevention duty, 15,030 households with children were living with family, which is a similar level to 2019-20, also despite the number of prevention duties owed falling.

## Support needs

Table A3c

**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 4<sup>1</sup>: Proportion of households with children owed a prevention or relief duty, by support need**



Of the 75,120 households with children owed a prevention or relief duty in 2020-21, 38.2% of households (28,670) had at least one support need, compared with 32.9% in 2019-20. Of the households who had a support need, the majority of households (61.5%) had one support need, 23.3% had two support needs, and 15.2% had three or more.

The most common support need for households with children was those at risk of or have experienced domestic abuse. This equates to 12,850 households or 17.1% of households with children assessed as owed a duty, up 6.7% from 2019-20. The separate support needs dashboard

<sup>1</sup> 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

shows that 45.8% of households with children who had a domestic abuse support need had one or more additional support needs. Of these, the most common co-occurring support need to domestic abuse was history of mental health problems, affecting 28% of households with children with a domestic abuse support need.

## Prevention and relief duty outcomes

[Tables P1c and R1c](#)

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.

**Figure 5<sup>2</sup>: Proportion of households with children whose duty ended by outcome**

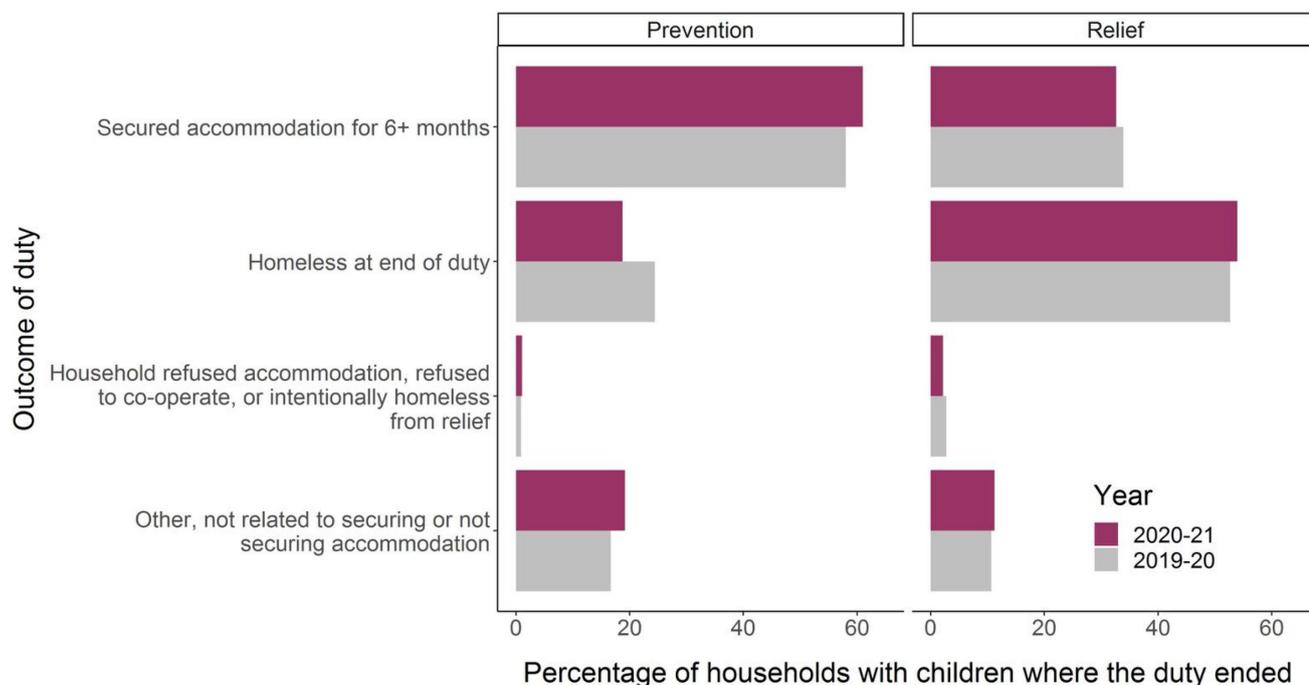


Figure 5 shows the outcomes for the 46,140 prevention duties that ended for households with children in 2020-21, and the outcomes for the 43,060 relief duties ended in the same period.

The number of prevention duties that ended decreased 24.2% from the 60,850 households with children in 2019-20, reflecting the decrease in prevention duties owed in 2020-21. The majority of

<sup>2</sup> Note: the categories in Figure 5 are variables collapsed from tables P1c and R1c. 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.

households with children whose prevention duty ended (28,160 households or 61.0%) secured accommodation for 6 months or more and were no longer threatened with homelessness. Of those who secured accommodation 38.5% secured their existing accommodation, whilst 61.6% secured alternative accommodation.

For 8,640 or 18.7% of households with children, the prevention duty ended because the household became homeless, and were therefore owed a relief duty. Proportionately this has fallen 5.7 percentage points from 2019-20.

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. 19.2% of prevention duties ended for other reasons, such as losing contact, or the application being withdrawn, and 1.1% ended due to the household refusing accommodation or refusing to co-operate.

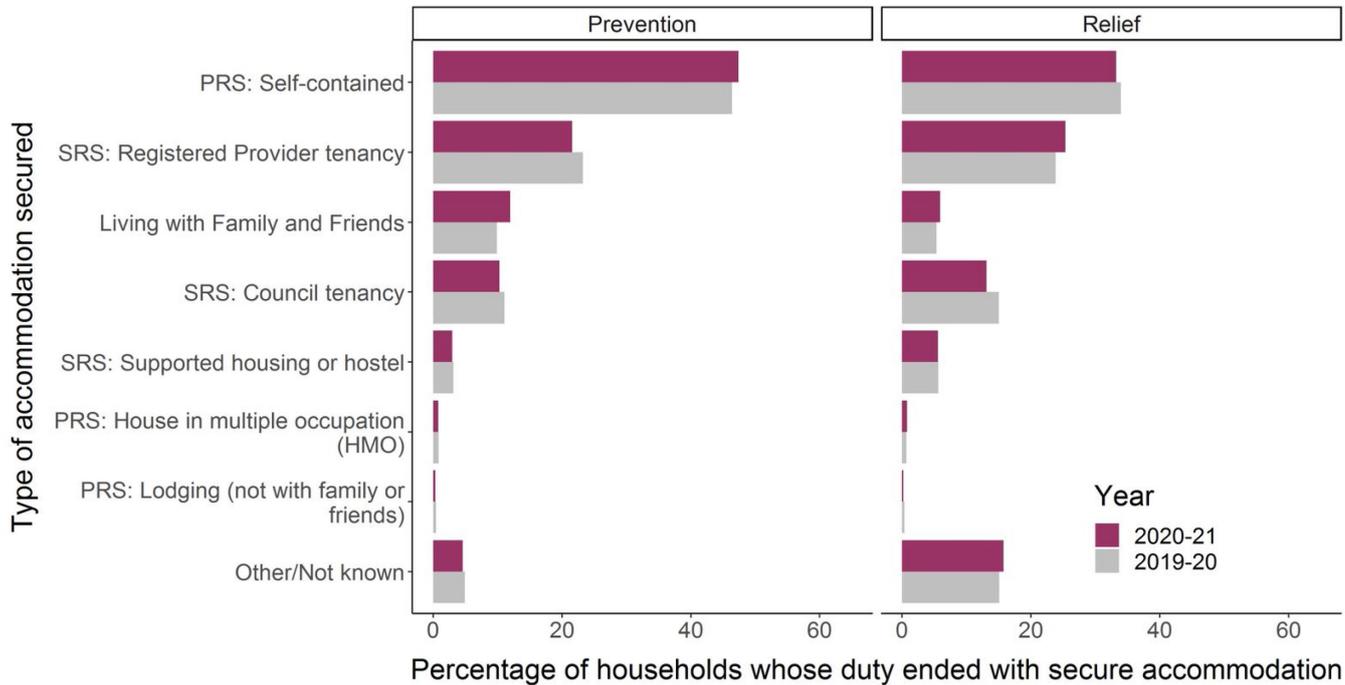
43,060 households with children had their relief duties end in 2020-21, down 9.8% from the 47,750 households in 2019-20. In contrast to prevention duties ended, the majority of households with children (23,230 households or 53.9%) had their relief duty end because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days and at this point the local authority would need to assess whether a main duty is owed to them. Only a third (14,070 or 32.7%) of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months.

11.2% 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 from accommodation provided under the duty.

# Type of accommodation secured

[Tables P2c and R2c](#)

**Figure 6: Proportion of households with children who secured accommodation by type**



28,170 households with children whose prevention duty ended were able to secure accommodation for 6 months or more, and for those whose relief duty ended, 14,070 households secured accommodation for 6 months or more.

Of these, the majority of households with children secured self-contained accommodation in the private rented sector under either prevention (48.6%) or relief (33.3%).

### 3. Single households

**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.

The Everyone In response to COVID-19 was launched to bring rough sleepers off the streets into emergency accommodation to protect them from COVID-19 due to their increased vulnerability. It involved a change in the way local authority powers and duties were delivered towards single households, in the context of the pandemic, which meant going beyond the statutory duties owed to single households providing emergency accommodation and move on offers to people who were not owed an accommodation duty. Local authorities have certain powers to secure accommodation for people that are homeless but not owed an accommodation duty, which would include people who do not have 'priority need' under legislation.

The campaign has included 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 and therefore would not be included in this release. There are three main groups that are not included in the H-CLIC data:

1. People not eligible for statutory homelessness assistance because they are 'persons from abroad' specifically excluded by the legislation. Local authorities relied on alternative powers, including 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 H-CLIC 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.

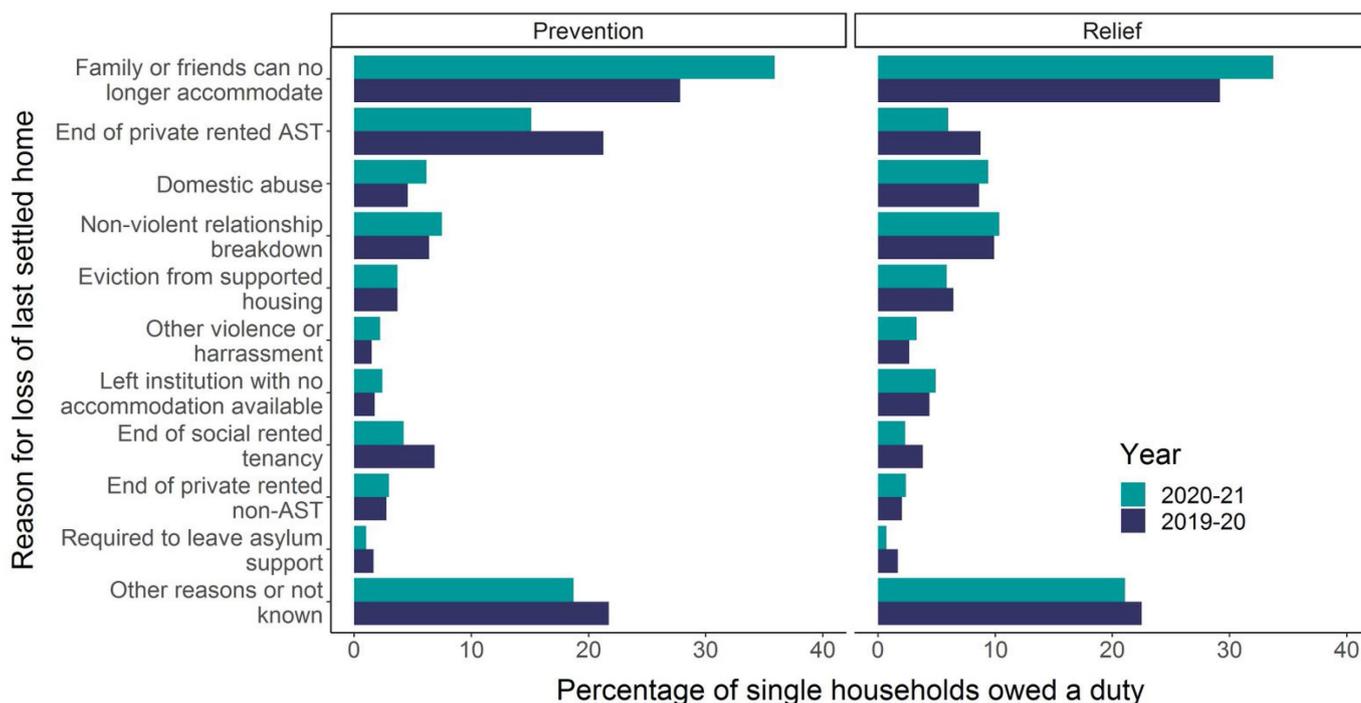
Everyone In has had an impact on the number of households assessed and provided with

assistance under homelessness legislation, which can be observed during the course of 2020-21. Single households are more likely to present when already homeless, rather than at the point of prevention. 119,360 single households were owed a relief duty in 2020-21, an 11.7% increase from 2019-20. 73,990 single households were owed a prevention duty in 2020-21, a 13.3% decrease from 2019-20.

Due to the reasons 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.

## Causes of homelessness

**Figure 7: Proportion of single households owed a prevention or relief duty, by reason for loss of last settled home**



In 2020-21, the most common reason for loss of last settled home for single households was family or friends no longer able to accommodate. This accounted for 26,560 households or 35.9% of single households owed a prevention duty, which is an 11.9% increase from 23,740 households in 2019-20, despite the number of single households owed a prevention duty falling during the same period. For single households owed a relief duty, this accounted for 40,270 households or 33.7%, a 29.2% increase from 2019-20. Both of these increases are likely due to COVID-19.

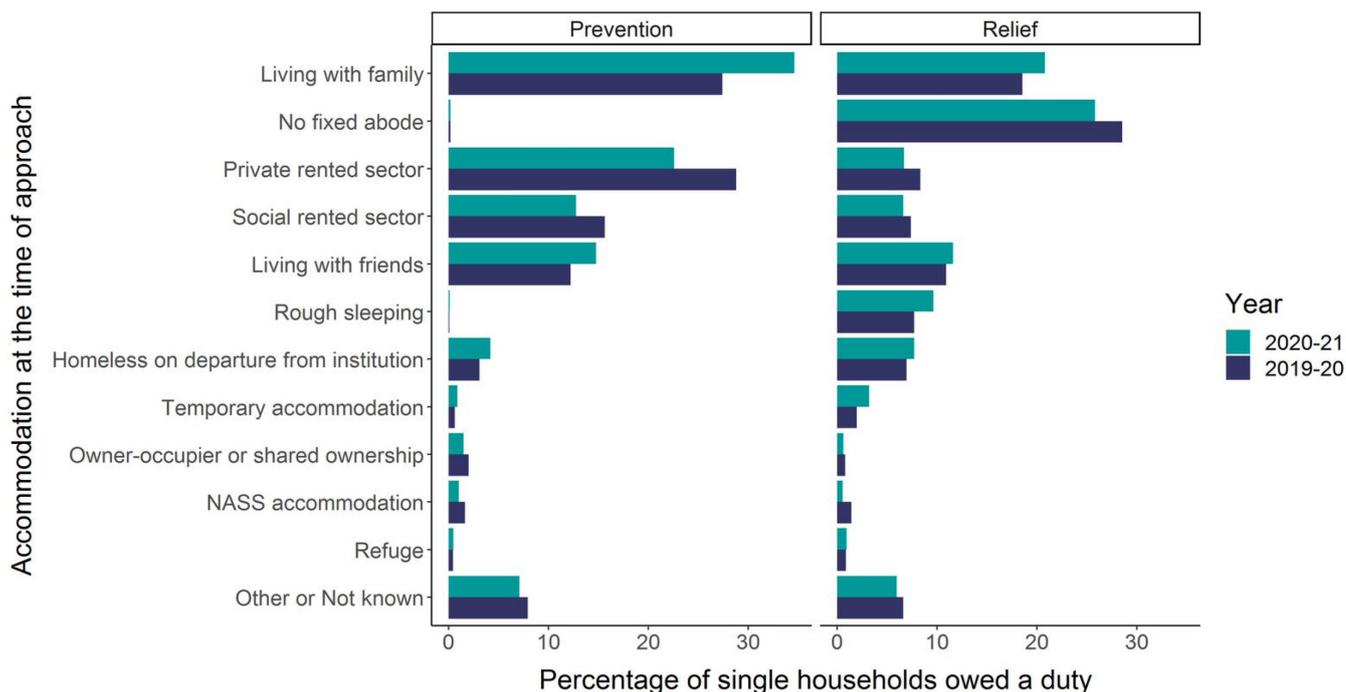
The number of single households citing the end of private rented AST also fell by 38.3% for those

owed a prevention duty, and by 23.6% for those owed a relief duty, reflecting measures in place to protect renters. Under both prevention and relief, all sub-categories fell in line with the decrease in end of private rented AST, except for tenants abandoning property, which increased 26.9% for those owed a prevention duty, and 21.6% owed a relief duty.

## Accommodation at time of application

[Table A4Ps and A4Rs](#)

**Figure 8: Proportion of single households owed a prevention or relief duty, by accommodation at time of application**



In 2020-21, under prevention, the most common accommodation type at the time of application for single households was living with family at 25,610 households or 34.6% of single households owed a prevention duty, up 9.4% from 2019-20.

Single households approaching from the private rented sector and the social rented sector saw disproportionate decreases under both prevention and relief, again reflecting the measures in place to protect renters.

The most common accommodation type for single households owed a relief duty was 'no fixed abode'. It is highly likely that that this category has been overused by data providers 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.

The number of single households assessed as rough sleeping at the time of approach increased 39.6% from 2019-20, to 11,500 households in 2020-21. This will partially reflect the Everyone In campaign to accommodate rough sleepers, however there is incomplete overlap between the two groups for reasons explained above.

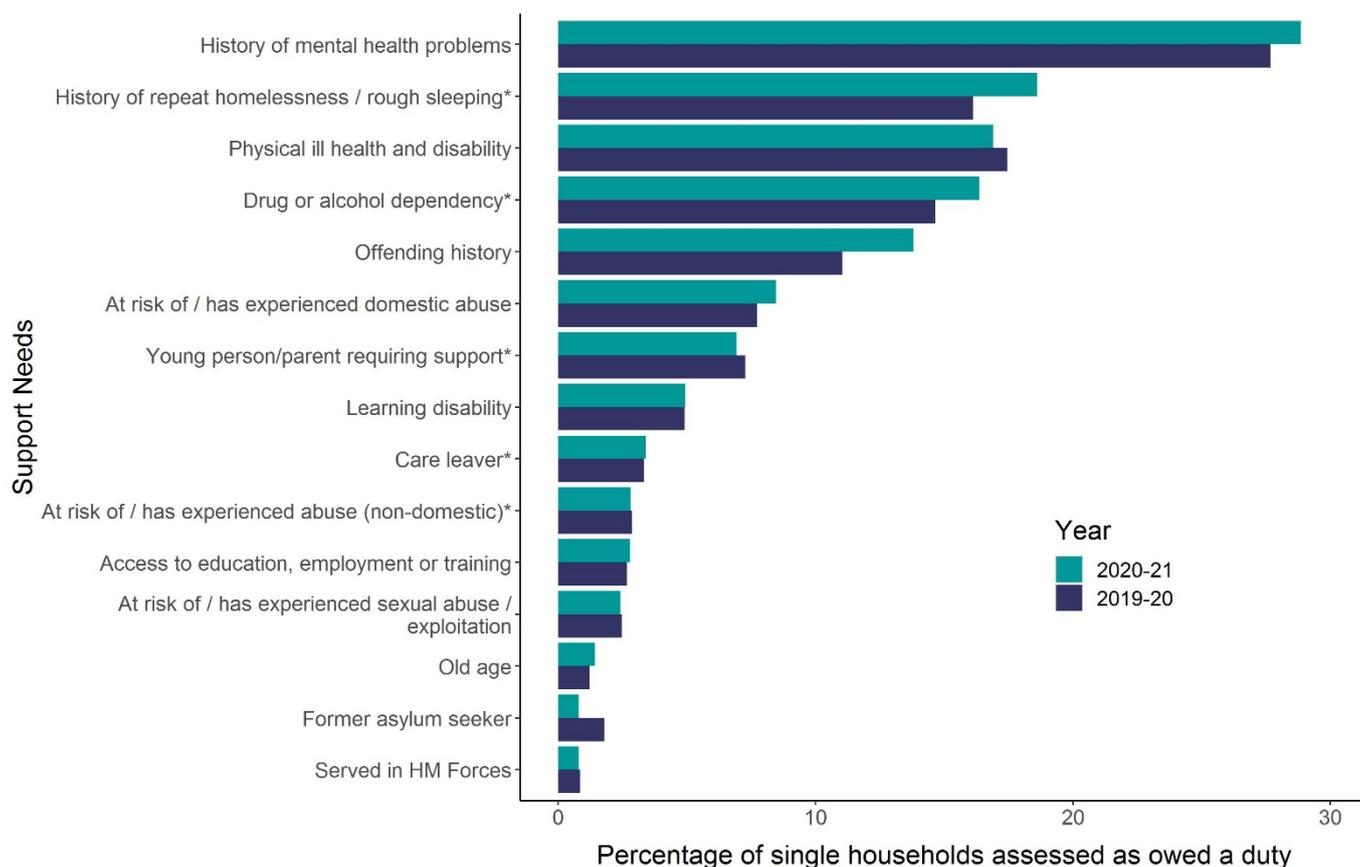
**Rough sleeping:** People sleeping in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments), or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes” which are makeshift shelters, often 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.

## Support needs

**Figure 9<sup>3</sup>: Proportion of single households owed a prevention or relief duty, by support need**



Of the 193,350 single households owed a prevention or relief duty in 2020-21, 55.4% or 107,050 households had at least one support need, compared with 53.4% in 2019-20. In contrast to households with children, the majority of single households who had a support need, had multiple support needs: 23.3% had two support needs, and around a third (33.7%) had three or more support needs.

The most common support need for single households was a history of mental health problems. This equates to 55,790 households or 28.9% of single households assessed as owed a duty, up 1.2 percentage points from 2019-20.

Offending history as a support need saw the largest proportionate increase from 2019-20 at 2.8 percentage points; this equates to 26,670 single households with an offending history support need in 2020-21, up 25.8% from 2019-20. This may reflect the introduction of Homelessness Prevention Task Forces, set up by the Ministry of Justice in 2020, which led to more

<sup>3</sup> 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

homelessness offenders being referred to a local authority and accessing homelessness support. This is evident in Table A7, which shows increases in referrals by bodies such as Adult Secure Estate (prison), up 58.7%; Youth Secure Estate, up 50.0%; and the National Probation Service, up 91.3% from 2019-20.

Other categories that increased in proportion include those with a history of repeat homelessness or rough sleeping, up 2.5 percentage points from 2019-20; and those with drug or alcohol dependency support need, up 1.7 percentage points. Increases in single households presenting with the support needs mentioned above likely reflect those supported under Everyone In.

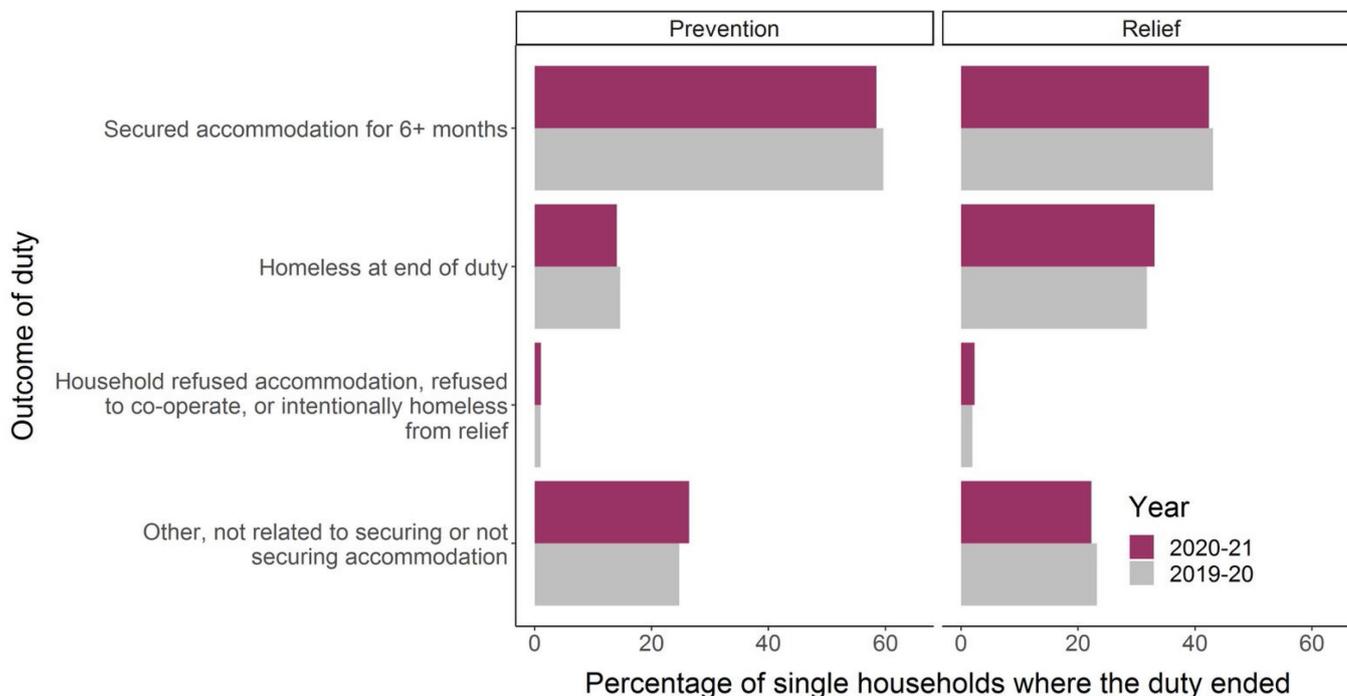
The proportion of single households with a domestic abuse support need increased slightly by 0.8 percentage points, to 16,350 households, up 10.3% from 2019-20. Those with an old age support need or former asylum seeker support need both decreased by 0.4 percentage points, both representing an absolute decrease of 19.9% and 33.8% respectively.

In addition to single households, the separate support needs dashboard shows the support needs for rough sleepers specifically. It shows that 33.6% of rough sleepers had a history of mental health support need. The large majority of these (85.5%) had one or more additional support needs. Aside from the history of rough sleeping/repeat homelessness support needs, the most common co-occurring support needs were offending history, affecting 43% of rough sleepers with a history of mental health support need; and drug dependency needs, affecting 40%.

## Prevention and relief duty outcomes

### [Tables P1s and R1s](#)

**Figure 10<sup>4</sup>: Proportion of single households whose duty ended by outcome**



The chart above shows the outcomes for the 70,070 prevention duties that ended for single households in 2020-21, and the outcomes for the 123,090 relief duties ended in the same period.

The number of prevention duties that ended decreased 9.6% from the 77,490 single households in 2019-20. This reflects the decrease in prevention duties owed to single households in 2020-21. The majority of single households whose prevention duty ended (40,940 households or 58.4%) secured accommodation for 6 months or more and were no longer threatened with homelessness. Of these households, two-thirds (66.2%) secured alternative accommodation, while a third (33.8%) were able to stay in their existing accommodation.

For 9,850 or 14.1% of single 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. 26.4% of prevention duties ended for other reasons, such as losing contact, or the application being withdrawn, and 1.1% ended due to the household refusing

<sup>4</sup> Note: the categories in Figure 5 are variables collapsed from tables P1s and R1s. 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.

accommodation or refusing to co-operate.

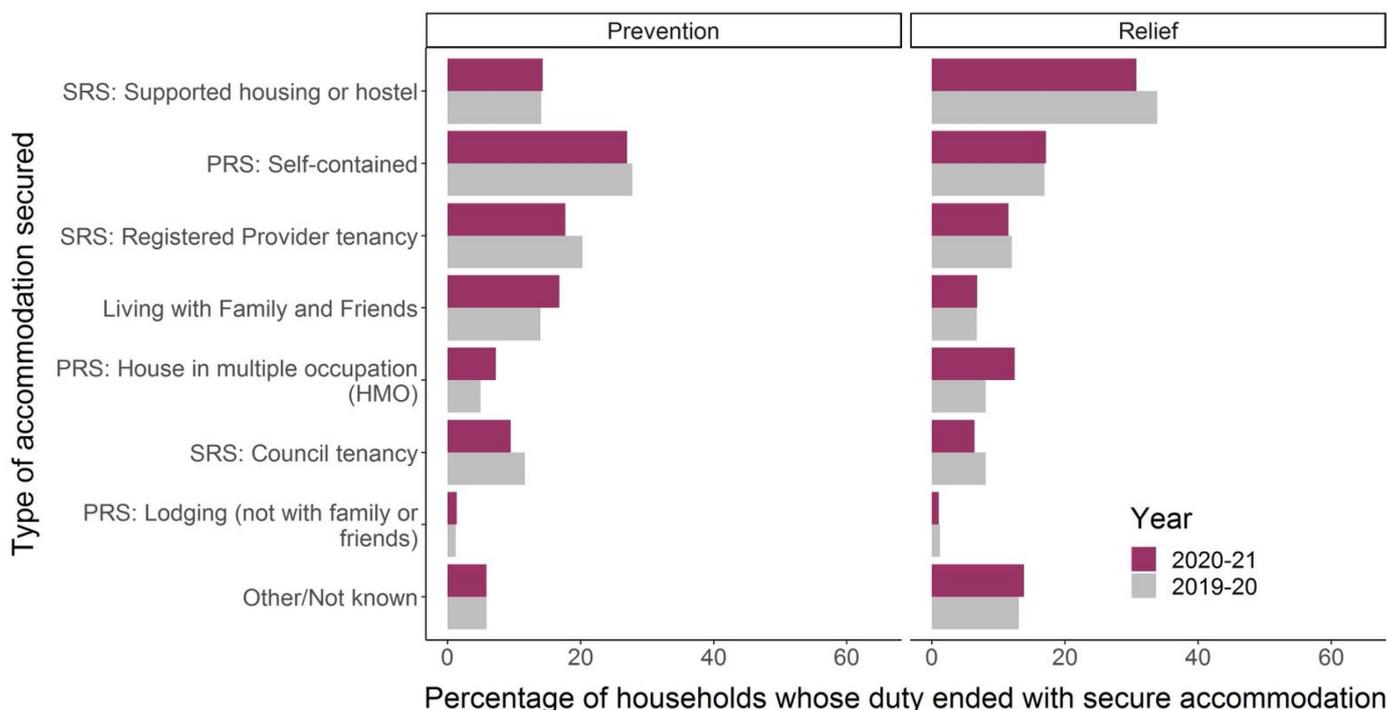
123,090 single households had their relief duties end in 2020-21, up 15.6% from the 106,500 households in 2019-20, reflecting the increase in relief duties owed to single households in 2020-21. Similar to prevention, the most common reason for relief duties ending was due to households securing accommodation for 6 months or more at 52,180 households or 42.4%. However a larger proportion of single households (33.1%) had their relief duty end 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.

22.2% of households' relief duty ended for reasons not related to failing to secure or securing accommodation for at least 6 months, and 2.3% ended due to the household refusing accommodation, refusing to co-operate, or becoming intentionally homeless.

## Type of accommodation secured

[Tables P2s and R2s](#)

**Figure 11: Proportion of single households who secured accommodation by type**



In 2020-21, 40,940 single households whose prevention duty ended were able to secure accommodation for 6 months or more, down 11.4% from 2019-20, reflecting the fall in prevention duties ending overall. Of these, the most common type of accommodation secured was self-contained in the private rented sector at 27.0% of single households. Registered provider tenancy and council

tenancy under the social rented sector saw decreases in proportion of 2.6 and 2.1 percentage points respectively compared to 2019-20, while living with family and friends increased 2.9 percentage points and houses in multiple occupation in the private rented sector increased 2.3 percentage points from 2019-20.

For single households whose relief duty ended, 52,180 households secured accommodation for 6 months or more, up 13.8% from 2019-20, reflecting the increase in relief duties ending overall. Of these, the most common type of accommodation secured was in supported housing or hostel in the social rented sector at 30.7% of single households. However, this is down 3.1 percentage points compared to 2019-20. Households in multiple occupation increased 4.4 percentage points from 2019-20, representing an absolute increase to 6,500 single households in 2020-21 from 3,720 single households in 2019-20.

## 4. Additional demographics

### Ethnicity

Table A8

**Table 1: Ethnicity breakdowns of households owed an initial prevention or relief duty in 2020-21 by geographical area**

Ethnicity	2020-21 Households owed a prevention or relief duty by ethnicity of lead applicant (% of total) - England	% Ethnicity breakdowns of individuals by population - England	2020-21 Households owed a prevention or relief duty by ethnicity of lead applicant (% of area total) - London	% Ethnicity breakdown of individuals by population in London	2020-21 Households owed a prevention or relief duty by ethnicity of lead applicant (% of area total) Rest of England	% Ethnicity breakdown of individuals by population in the Rest of England
White	187,000 (69.6%)	84.9%	16,030 (31.0%)	59.4%	170,970 (78.9%)	89.7%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	25,920 (9.7%)	3.5%	15,620 (30.2%)	12.5%	10,290 (4.7%)	1.8%
Asian / Asian British	15,150 (5.6%)	8.0%	5,890 (11.4%)	18.4%	9,260 (4.3%)	6.0%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	8,470 (3.2%)	1.8%	3,260 (6.3%)	3.7%	5,210 (2.4%)	1.4%
Other	8,720 (3.2%)	1.9%	4,640 (9.0%)	6.1%	4,080 (1.9%)	1.1%
Not known	23,330 (8.7%)	-	6,340 (12.2%)	-	17,000 (7.8%)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>268,560 (100%)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51,760 (100%)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>216,810 (100%)</b>	<b>100%</b>

1. Population estimates used in this release are derived from calculating the proportion of ethnic groups from Population characteristics research tables from the ONS these tables can be found on [the ONS website](#). 2. 'Not known' represents a high number of homelessness duties owed and could mask some of the proportions of the household ethnicities owed homelessness duties. 3. Household ethnicity is set at main applicant level and the proportion of the population is calculated on an individual level. From these data it is unclear whether there is more than one person in the household and if people that identify as a particular ethnicity are more likely to live in larger households than others.

This section concerns the ethnicity of the lead applicant of a household. The lead applicant is the person who makes the homeless application on behalf of the household, which can be one or more people.

During 2020-21 69.6% of homeless households had a White lead applicant, while 84.9% of individuals in England are White, suggesting White households are less likely to be homeless. Households containing an Asian lead applicant are also underrepresented as they account for just 5.6% of homeless applications and for 8.0% of the population.

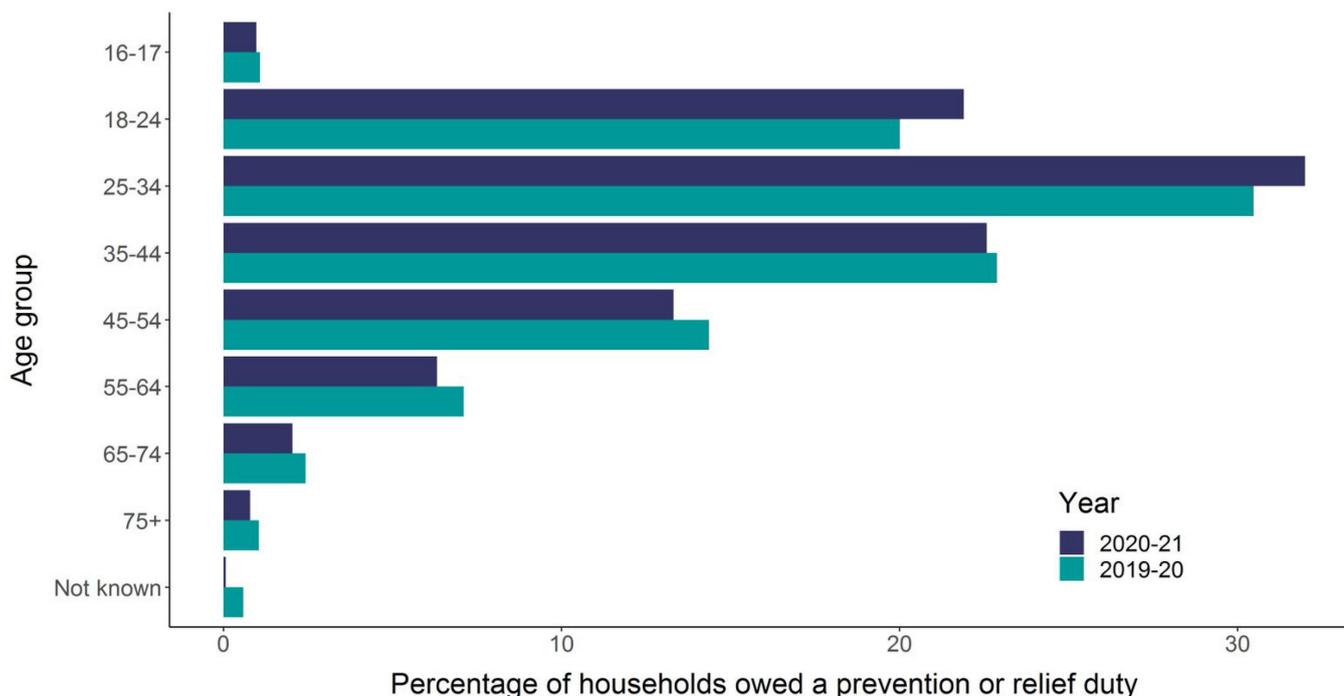
The population distribution of people by ethnicity across England is not even and this can complicate the homeless ethnicity picture, especially when looking at the data from London. London accounts for 19.3% of homelessness duties and is comprised of a higher proportion of Minority Ethnic groups by population (40.6%) compared to the Rest of England (10.3%). Half of homelessness duties (50.5%) owed to households with a lead applicant represented by Minority Ethnic groups are from London boroughs.

Lead applicants of Black, Mixed and Other ethnicities are overrepresented in homeless households owed a prevention or relief duty across England (16.1% households owed a duty versus 7.1% combined population in England). Households with a Black lead applicant are the most disproportionately homeless as they account for 9.7% of those owed a duty while are only estimated to comprise of 3.5% of the population. In London, people of Black ethnicity make up 12.5% of the population but Black lead applicants account for 30.2% of the prevention and relief duties owed. Across the rest of England households with a Black lead applicant are still overrepresented, accounting for 4.7% of homeless households but only 1.8% of individuals. However, three large cities (Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds) account for 24.8% of the 10,290 households with a Black lead applicant in the Rest of England.

## Age

### [Table A6](#)

**Figure 12: Age of lead applicant**



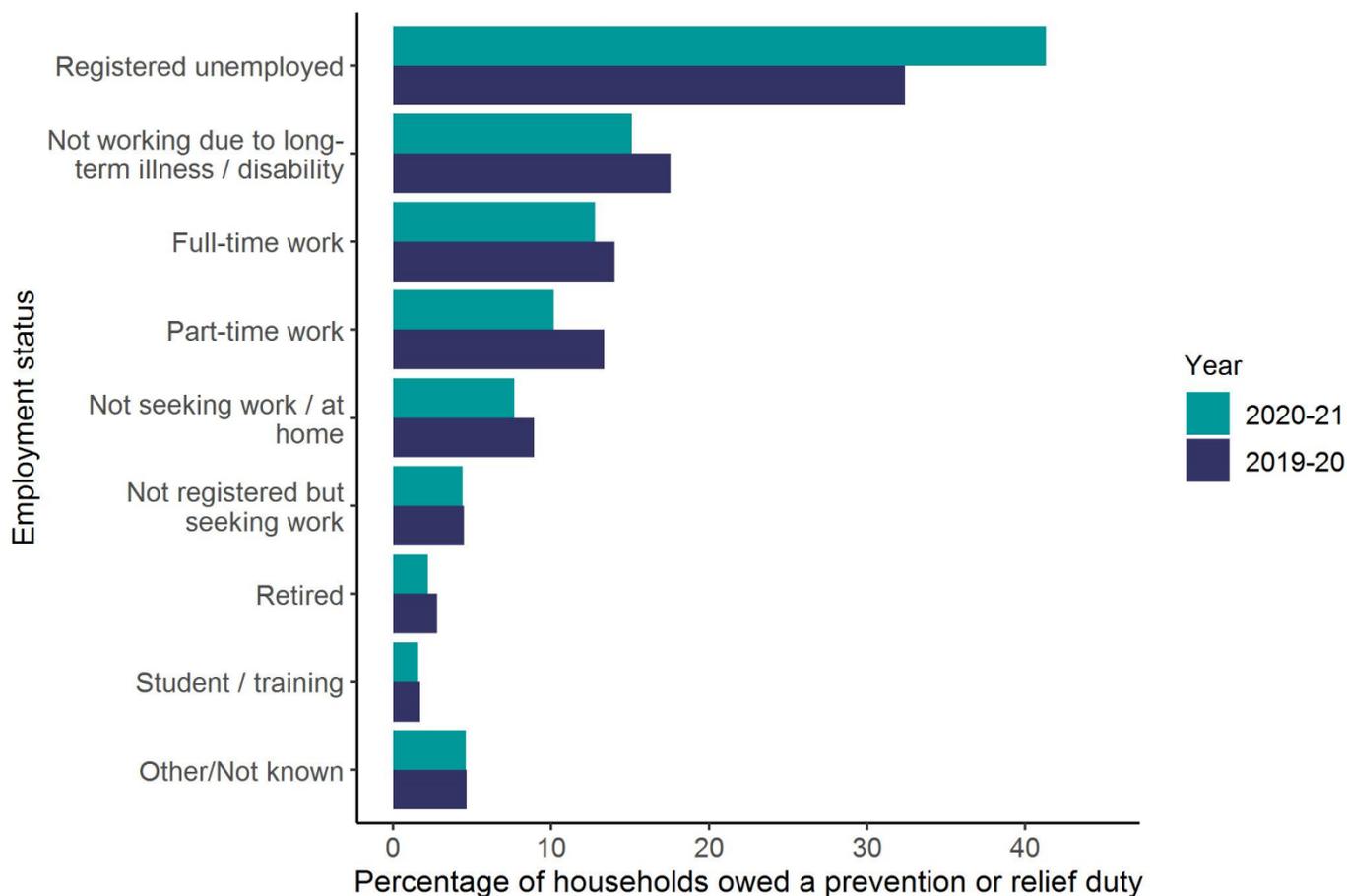
In 2020-21, the most common age group of lead applicants in households owed a prevention or relief duty were aged between 25 and 34 years old, making up 85,920 households or 32.0% of the total. Households with a lead applicant aged between 18 and 24 was the only age group to increase, up 1.5% from 2019-20, despite the overall decrease in duties owed. There was an overall shift in the proportion of lead applicants towards those aged 18 to 34 years old, with lower proportions in the older age groups.

2,130 households or 0.8% of those owed a prevention or relief duty had a lead applicant aged 75 or over.

# Employment status

Table A10

Figure 13: Employment status of lead applicant



The most common employment status for lead applicants of households owed a prevention or relief duty was registered unemployed (104,640 or 39.0%) in 2020-21. This was also the most common employment status for lead applicants in 2019-20 (88,530 or 30.5%), however there had been an increase of 16,110 or 18.2% from 2019-20 to 2020-21. This increase will partially reflect the wider economic trend, which saw unemployment rise 20.3% in the UK in January to March 2021 compared to the same quarter last year<sup>5</sup>; in combination with the intake of the Everyone In cohort, as rough sleepers/those at risk of rough sleeping are less likely to be in employment than the general population. This could also reflect the reduction in households with children owed a duty.

The second largest category was households not working due to a long-term illness or disability (38,300 or 14.3%), which was also the second largest category in 2019-20 (48,010 or 16.6%). This represents a decrease of 2.3 percentage points this year in the proportion of households reporting

<sup>5</sup> ONS Employment in the UK: August 2021: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/employmentintheuk/latest#unemployment>

not working due to a long-term illness or disability. 58,210 or 21.7% of households were either in full-time or part-time work, which had decreased by 16,620 or 22.2% from 2019-20.

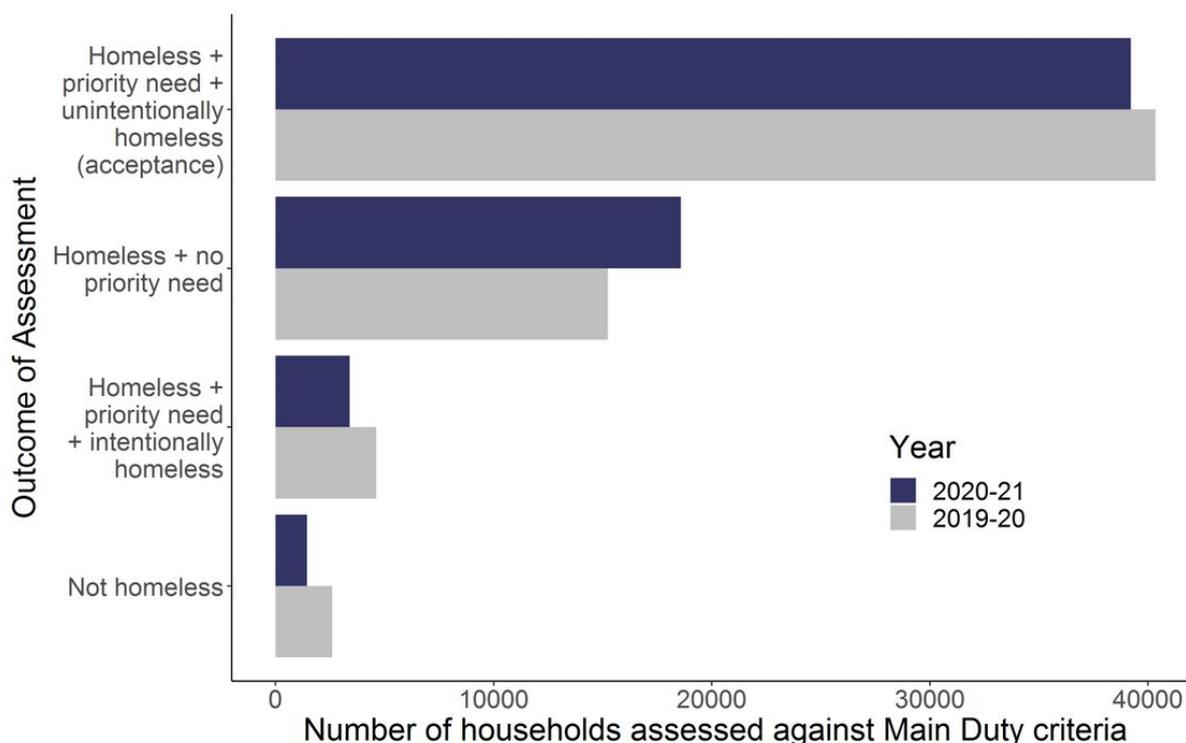
Registered unemployed is the largest category for employment status of lead applicant in London region at 18,030 or 34.8% in 2020-21 followed by full-time or part-time workers at 12,120 or 23.4%. Leeds had 2,988 households where the lead applicant was registered unemployed, making it the local authority with highest number of households in that category in 2020-21.

## 5. Main Duty

**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 need<sup>6</sup>. These households are only owed a main duty if they did not secure accommodation in the prevention or relief stage, and so it 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.

[Table MD1](#)

**Figure 14: Number of households assessed against a main duty decision, by outcome**



<sup>6</sup> Eligibility and priority need are further defined in the Technical notes.

Local authorities made 62,640 main homelessness duty decisions in 2020-21, which is a similar level to 2019-20. 39,210 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, down 2.8% from 2019-20.

18,580 households were assessed as homeless but without a priority need, up 22.0% from 15,230 in 2019-20. This may reflect the Everyone In cohort and the higher number of single households owed a relief duty in 2020-21, resulting in a higher number reaching a main duty assessment. 3,400 households were assessed as being intentionally homeless with a priority need, down 26.4% from 2019-20, likely reflecting the reduction in households with children owed a prevention or relief duty and reaching a main duty assessment.

Of those owed a main duty, 11,530 households were in London, accounting for 29.4% of the England total.

**Table 2: Proportion of households accepted as being owed a main duty, by type of household**

Household type <sup>7</sup>	2020-21	2019-20
Households with children	62.5%	68.8%
Single households	37.5%	31.2%
<b>Total Acceptances</b>	<b>39,210</b>	<b>40,340</b>

The proportion of households owed a main duty who were households with children has decreased to 62.5% in 2020-21 compared to 68.8% in 2019-20. This reflects the fall in the number of households with children approaching at both prevention and relief in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20. In contrast, the increased proportion of households owed a main duty who are single households reflects the increased number of single households owed a relief duty in 2020-21.

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<sup>7</sup> Household breakdowns for main duty are calculated using priority need categories. The following priority need categories, published in table MD3 are summed to create 'Households with children': 'Household includes dependent children', 'Household includes children, but other priority need reported', and 'Household includes a pregnant woman'. All other priority need categories are summed for 'single households'.

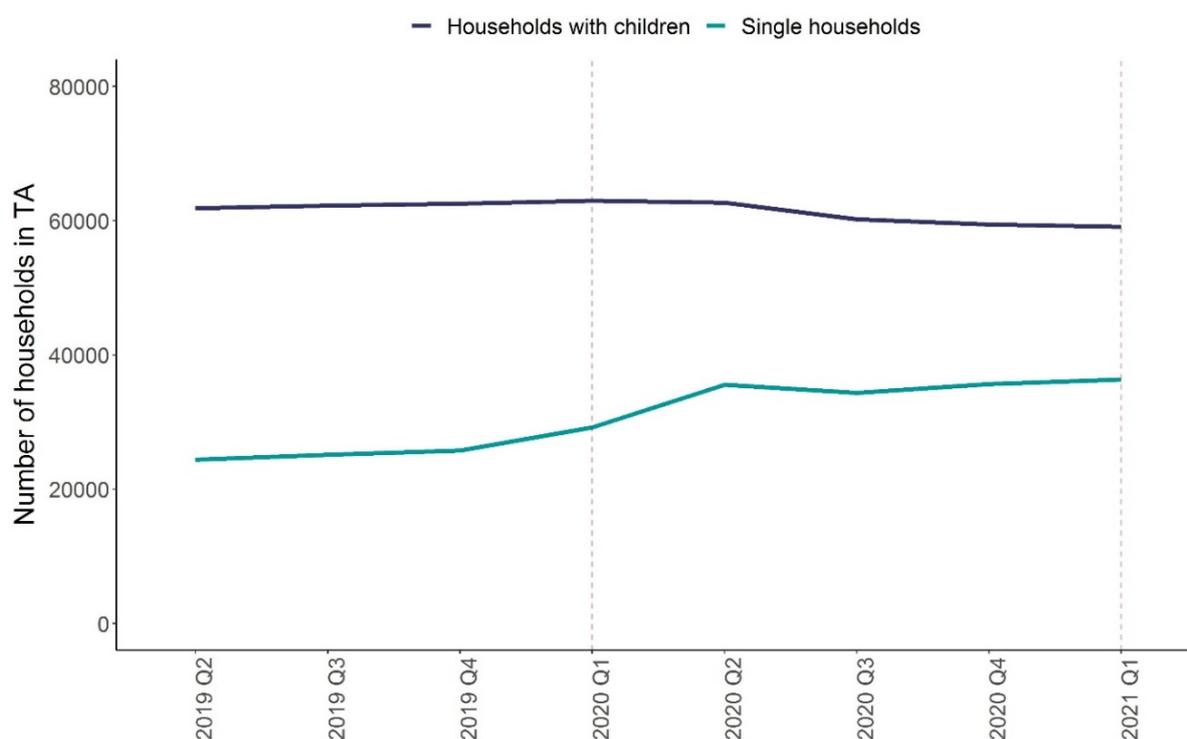
## 6. Temporary Accommodation

**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.

During the course of the pandemic, temporary accommodation figures have included placements made to better protect rough sleepers from COVID-19, through the Everyone in campaign. However, it should be noted that many of these households will not have been included for reasons mentioned above.

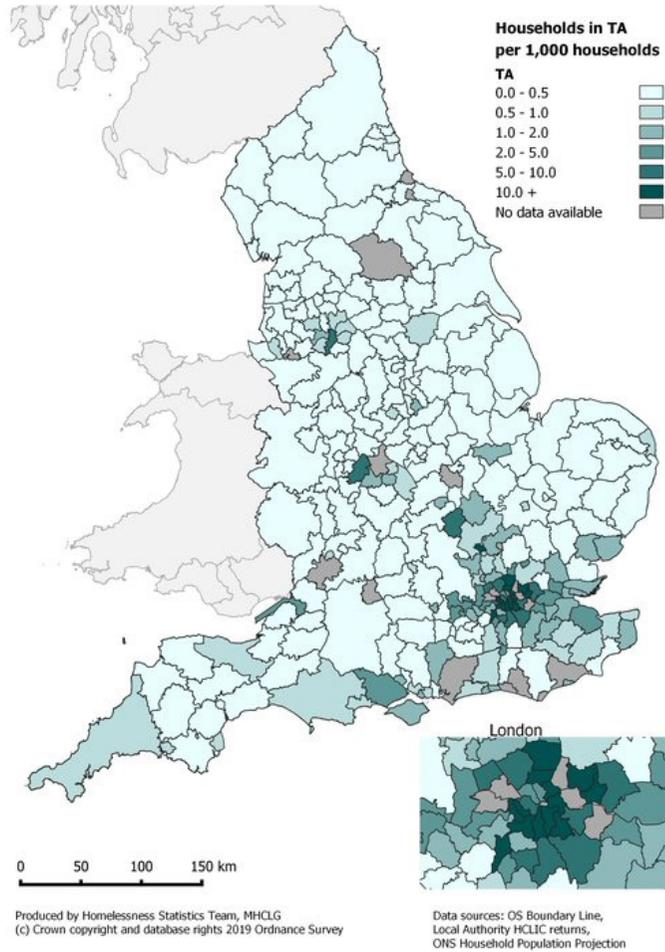
### [Table TA1](#)

**Figure 15: Number of households in temporary accommodation since Q2 2019, by household type**

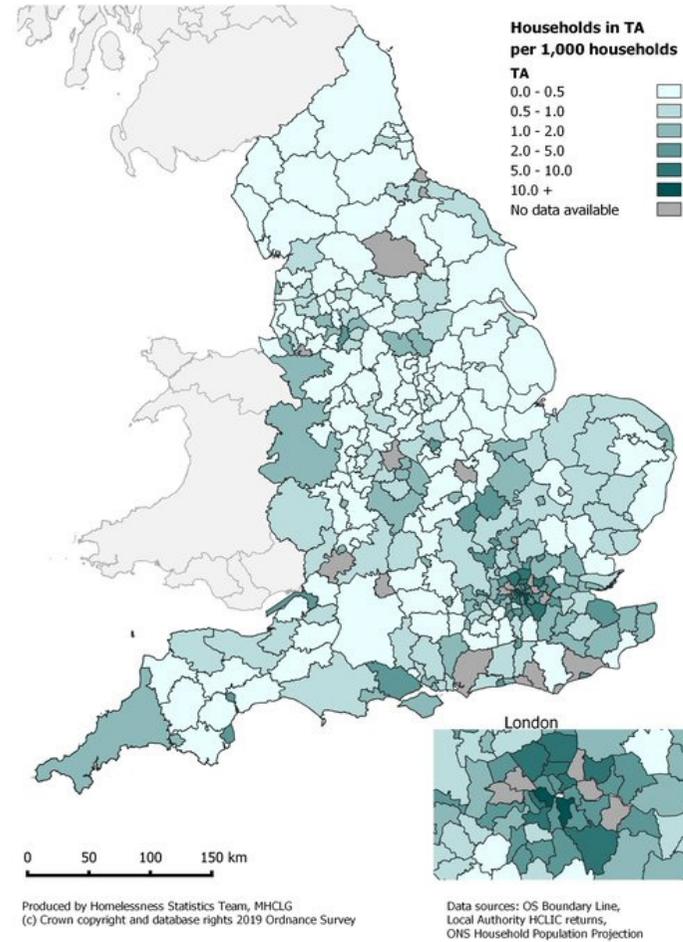


On 31 March 2021, the total number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation was 95,450 up 3.5% from 92,190 on 31 March 2020. This increase is driven by single adult households, which was 29,120, up 24.6% on the same date last year, while the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

## Households with children in TA per 1000

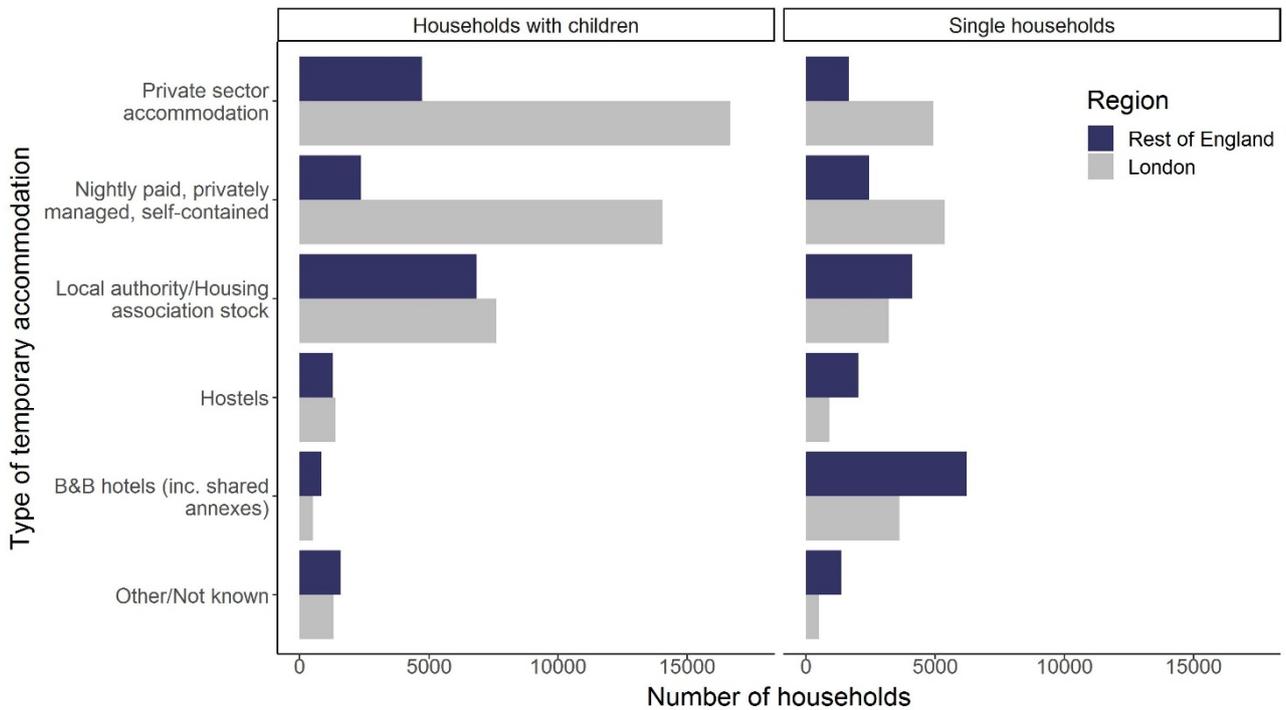


## Single households in TA per 1000



The maps above illustrate the regional differences between rates of households with children in temporary accommodation compared to single households in temporary accommodation. The map on the left shows a higher concentration of households with children in areas such as London, Birmingham and Manchester. In contrast, the map on the right shows single households are more spread out across England.

**Figure 16: Households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2021, by region and household type**



In London, households with children in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in private sector accommodation (16,660 households), or nightly paid self-contained accommodation (14,040 households); whereas in the rest of England, households with children in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in local authority or housing association provided accommodation (6,840 households).

In London, single households in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in nightly paid self-contained accommodation (5,380 households), or private sector accommodation (4,920 households). In contrast, in the rest of England, single households in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in Bed and Breakfast hotels (6,220 households), or local authority or housing association provided accommodation (4,110 households).

## 7. Flows analysis for households owed a duty in 2019-20

This section explores the flow of households through homelessness duties and their outcomes. It concerns cases initially assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty between April 2019 and March 2020, and how these cases progressed up to March 2021. For the most part, these cases were assessed before the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, there will be a small number of cases included that may have been assessed at the very beginning of the pandemic when the first lockdown was introduced on 23 March 2020. The full impact of COVID-19 on flows will be apparent at the next annual publication, which will include flows analysis for households owed a duty in 2020-21.

The flows do not indicate the length of time taken for each case, as this varies with some lasting a day and others the full two-year period; this update will include cases that ended during the pandemic. The data behind these flows, including exclusions and a comparison against the main published figures, are provided in tables F1-3.

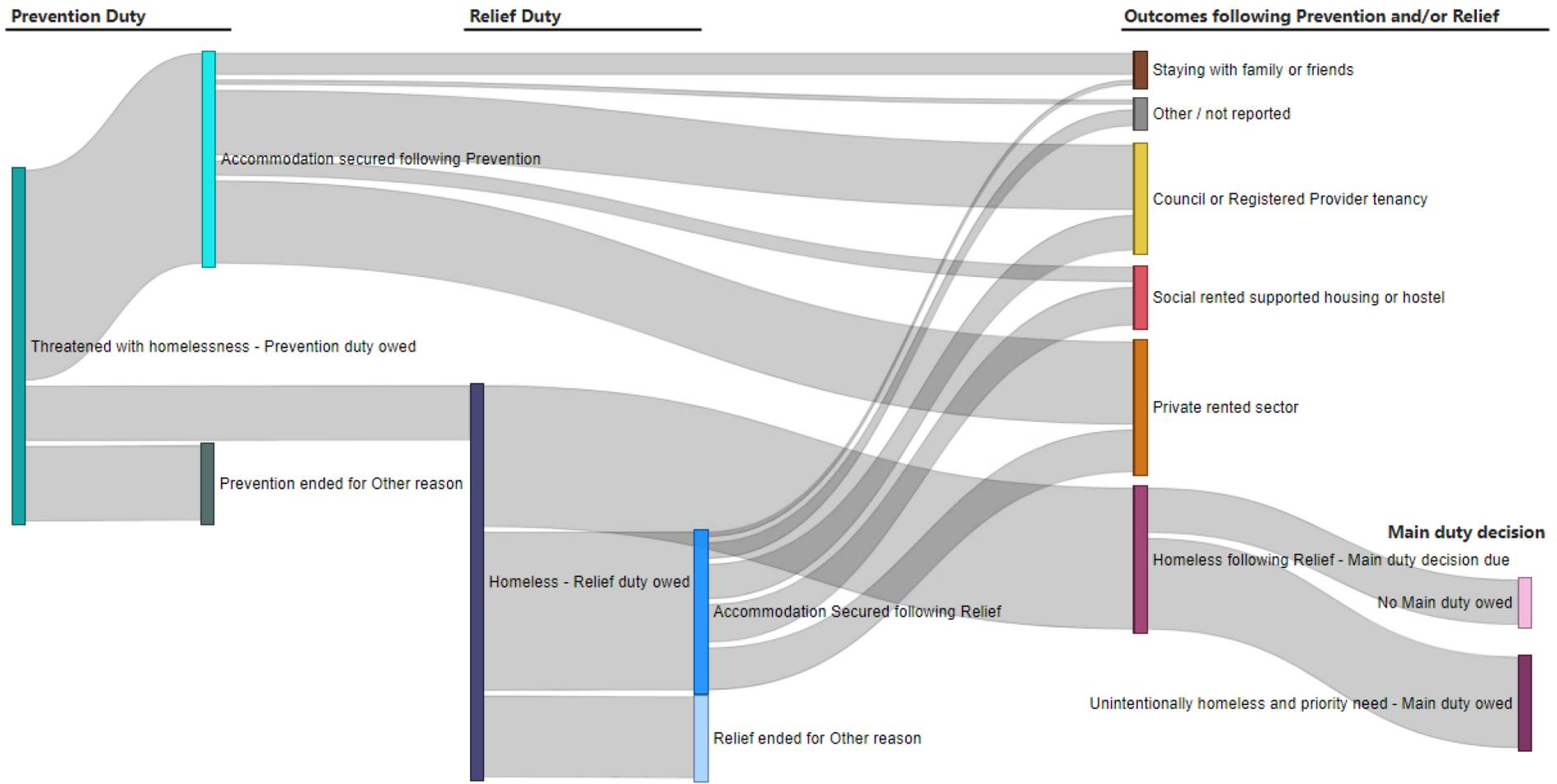
### All households cohort flow

#### Table F1

As seen in Figure 17, there are a range of journeys and outcomes for households flowing through the homelessness duties. To ensure the flows are comprehensible, certain outcomes that are usually separate have been grouped together; for example, preventions and reliefs ending for Other reasons, and accommodation outcomes. Please see the flows tables, F1-3, for more information on how these fields have been grouped.

Overall, 258,620 households received homelessness assistance in 2019-20, up 16.2% from 2018-19. Of these households, 54.7% secured accommodation for 6+ months, 24.1% left the system for Other reasons, 13.9% were owed a main duty, and 7.3% were homeless and not owed a main duty following relief.

**Figure 17: Diagram and accompanying table depicting the flow of households initially assessed as owed prevention or relief duties between April 2019 and March 2020, and whose case closed or received a main duty decision as of March 2021**



The size of each 'flow' in this diagram is proportional to the number of homelessness cases taking that particular route through the system. Each coloured box indicates a stage in a homelessness duty or outcome, and their size is proportional to the number of households reaching that stage. The system has two entry points: households threatened with homelessness and owed a Prevention duty (the leftmost box), and households initially homeless and owed a Relief duty (note that this box also includes where some cases have flowed from Prevention). Succeeding diagrams are subsets, and their comparative size do not indicate a similarity in the number of households to this overall flow.

**Table 3: Outcomes of the HRA duties owed to all households first owed a prevention or relief duty in 2019-20**

		<b>Total initially owed duty (% of total)</b>	Prevention duty (% of preventions)	Relief duty, including homeless after Prevention <sup>8</sup> (% of reliefs)
<b>Total assessed as owed duty</b>		<b>258,620</b>	<b>133,000</b>	<b>148,080</b>
Total secured accommodation at duty end		<b>141,540</b> <b>54.7%</b>	80,520 60.5%	61,020 41.2%
Duty ended for Other reasons		<b>62,340</b> <b>24.1%</b>	30,020 22.6%	32,320 21.8%
Total homeless following duty end <sup>9</sup>		<b>77,190</b> <b>29.8%</b>	22,460 16.9%	54,730 37.0%
<i>Of which:</i>	Assessed as owed main duty	<b>35,980</b> <b>13.9%</b>	-	35,980 24.3%
	Not owed main duty	<b>18,750</b> <b>7.3%</b>	-	18,750 12.7%

On initial approach, the proportion of households who were threatened with homelessness and owed a prevention duty was slightly higher (51.4%) compared to those already homeless and owed relief (48.6%) in 2019-20. However, the number of relief duties owed surpasses the number of prevention duties owed when taking into account all relief duties owed during the period, including those following prevention, as shown in the table above. 22,460 prevention duties (16.9%) failed to prevent homelessness and consequently moved on to a relief duty, in addition to the 125,620 households initially owed a relief duty.

Over half of prevention duties ended with accommodation secured (60.5%), a larger proportion than relief duties ending with an accommodation secured outcome (41.2%). This is expected since the preventative interventions required to keep existing accommodation are often more straightforward than finding and securing new accommodation for an already homeless household.

Private rented sector and council/Registered Provider tenancies were the most common outcomes following successful duties. This was especially the case after prevention (73.5% of accommodation outcomes) compared to relief (53.7%), and could be a result of many preventions involving the retention of an existing tenancy. Table A4p indicates 52.8% of 2019-20 prevention duties were owed to households from the private or social rented sectors. Table P1 indicates around a third (36.8%) of accommodation secured outcomes at prevention retain existing accommodation.

<sup>8</sup> This column includes the 22,460 households owed a relief duty following unsuccessful prevention, in addition to the 125,620 households assessed as homeless on initial approach.

<sup>9</sup> Households found homeless after a prevention duty then move on to a relief duty. Those found homeless after a relief duty are due a decision on whether a main duty is owed.

**Table 4: Accommodation secured for all households following prevention or relief duties owed in 2019-20**

	<b>Total secured accommodation at duty end</b>	Private rented sector	Council or Registered Provider tenancy	Social rented supported housing or hostel	Staying with family or friends	Other / not reported
Prevention duty	<b>80,520</b>	32,870 40.8%	26,300 32.7%	7,510 9.3%	10,050 12.5%	3,800 4.7%
Relief duty	<b>61,020</b>	17,730 29.1%	15,020 24.6%	16,210 26.6%	3,950 6.5%	8,120 13.3%

Supported housing or hostel accommodation secured outcomes were more likely following relief (26.6%) compared to prevention (9.3%). This is indicative of the predominantly single adult homeless households requiring specific support or emergency accommodation more often than those threatened with homelessness. More information about these differences is provided in the single households and households with children flows sections.

'Other / not reported' consists of where local authorities have stated 'Other' or have not been able to provide the accommodation outcome, and was reported more regularly for relief outcomes (13.3%). Overuse of 'Other / not known' as a type of accommodation secured is a data quality issue, and we are working with local authorities to improve reporting of accommodation outcomes.

62,340 prevention and relief duties ended for Other reasons, amounting to roughly one quarter of total outcomes (24.1%). These are outcomes where the household has neither secured accommodation nor been found homeless after 56 days, and includes: Contact lost, withdrawn application / applicant deceased, preventions not requiring further action after 56 days, and refusal of suitable accommodation. Tables P1 and R1 show households that lost contact or withdrew applications together made up 13.6% of prevention duty outcomes and 17.9% of relief outcomes in 2019-20.

Over a third of relief duties (37.0%) ended with the household still homeless and therefore due a main duty decision. Of these, 35,980 households (65.7%) were assessed as unintentionally homeless with a priority need and owed a main homelessness duty.

The remaining 18,750 (34.3%) were not owed a main duty following unsuccessful attempts to relieve the households' homelessness after a minimum of 56 days. 14,400 households were not owed a main duty because they were homeless but had no priority need, 3,070 had priority need but were considered intentionally homeless and a further 1,290 were not owed a main duty for other reasons. Other reasons include not homeless, not eligible, contact lost and application withdrawn.

## Flows for key sub-groups of homeless households

### Table F1

The flow of cases through homelessness duties can differ depending on the circumstances and composition of applicant households. This section shows how the flows compared for key sub-groups entering the system in 2019-20. This includes households with children, single households, those rough sleeping at the time of application, those on departure from custody, and care leavers aged 18-20.

In terms of approaches, households with children were more likely to approach at prevention (64.5%), while single households are more likely to approach at relief (55.6%). Care leavers aged 18-20 and those on departure from custody were more likely than single households to approach at relief (63.1% and 70.6% respectively), and those rough sleeping at the time of application solely approached at relief as they are already homeless.

Households with children were the most likely to secure accommodation for 6 months or more at 55.4% of those who approached in 2019-20. This is followed by care leavers aged 18-20 at 55.1%, single households at 54.4%, those rough sleeping at the time of application at 44.6%, and finally those on departure from custody at 40.4%.

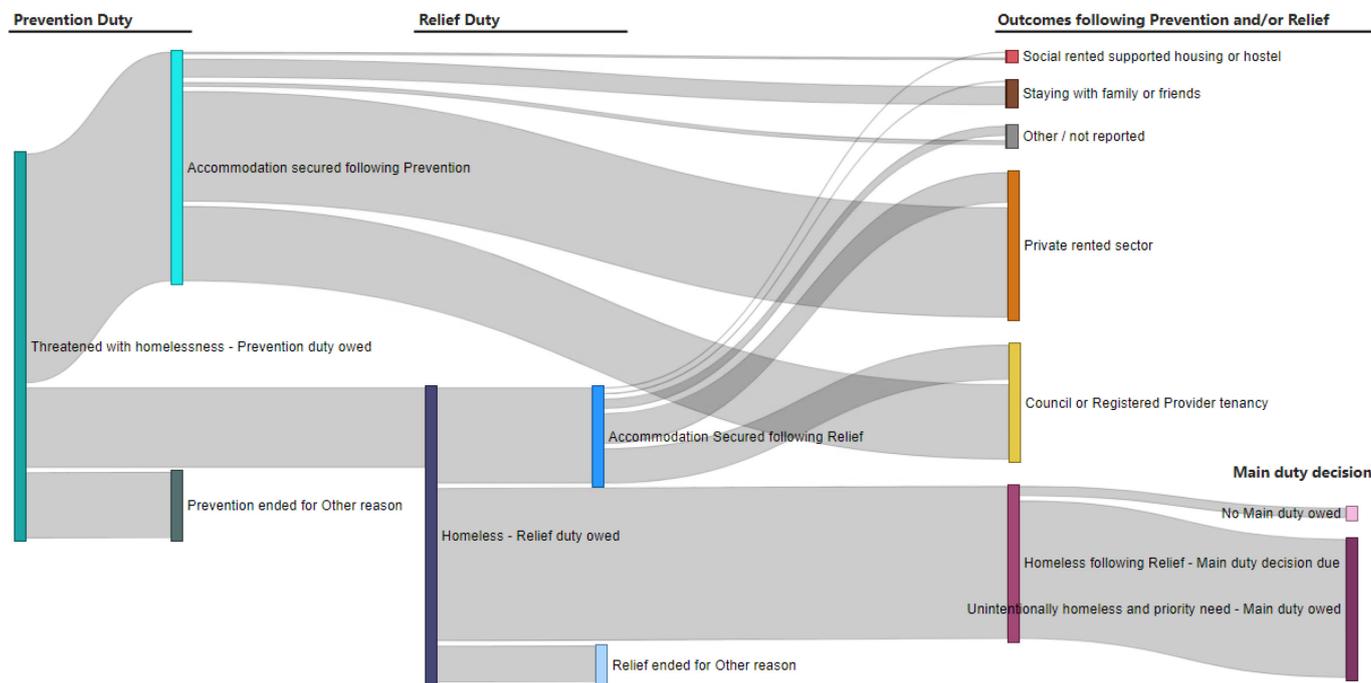
Of those who secured accommodation, households with children were more likely to secure accommodation in the private and social rented tenancies (83.1%), while single households were more evenly distributed among the types of accommodation. Rough sleepers were most likely to secure supported housing or hostel (45.7%), similar to those on departure from custody (50.9%) and care leavers aged 18-20 (48.1%).

### Households with children

Around a third (34.8%) of cases owed duties in 2019-20 were households containing children, which is a similar proportion compared to 2018-19. This equates to 90,090 households with children who received homelessness assistance in 2019-20, up 13.1% from 2018-19. These households were more likely to be threatened with homelessness (64.5%) as opposed to already homeless (35.5%) on initial approach.

Of the 90,090 households with children who received homelessness assistance in 2019-20, 55.4% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.7% of all households), 18.4% left the system for Other reasons (versus 24.1% overall), 23.7% were owed a main duty (versus 13.9% overall), and 2.4% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 7.3% overall). These outcomes are similar in proportion to 2018-19.

**Figure 18: Households with children initially assessed as owed prevention (58,100) or relief (31,990) duties between April 2019 and March 2020**



The majority of accommodation outcomes for households with children were private and social rented tenancies, comprising 83.1% of successful prevention outcomes and 74.4% of households with children relieved of homelessness. Private rented accommodation was more common following prevention (49.1%) than relief duties (35.0%) which will be in part due to the retention of existing private rented tenancies through earlier intervention.

**Table 5: Accommodation secured for households with children following prevention or relief duties owed in 2019-20**

	Total secured accommodation at duty end	Private rented sector	Council or Registered Provider tenancy	Social rented supported housing or hostel	Staying with family or friends	Other / not reported
Prevention duty	34,920	17,140 49.1%	11,890 34.0%	1,070 3.1%	3,460 9.9%	1,360 3.9%
Relief duty	15,020	5,250 35.0%	5,930 39.5%	830 5.5%	850 5.7%	2,170 14.4%

While successful accommodation outcomes following prevention were comparable with the overall cohort flow, prevention duties ending for Other reasons were slightly lower for households with children (18.1%) than overall (22.6%). This suggests households with children were less likely to leave the system due to losing contact or withdrawing an application than those without children. A higher proportion of households with children were homeless at the end of the prevention duty and

consequently moved on to relief duties at 21.8%, compared to 16.9% overall.

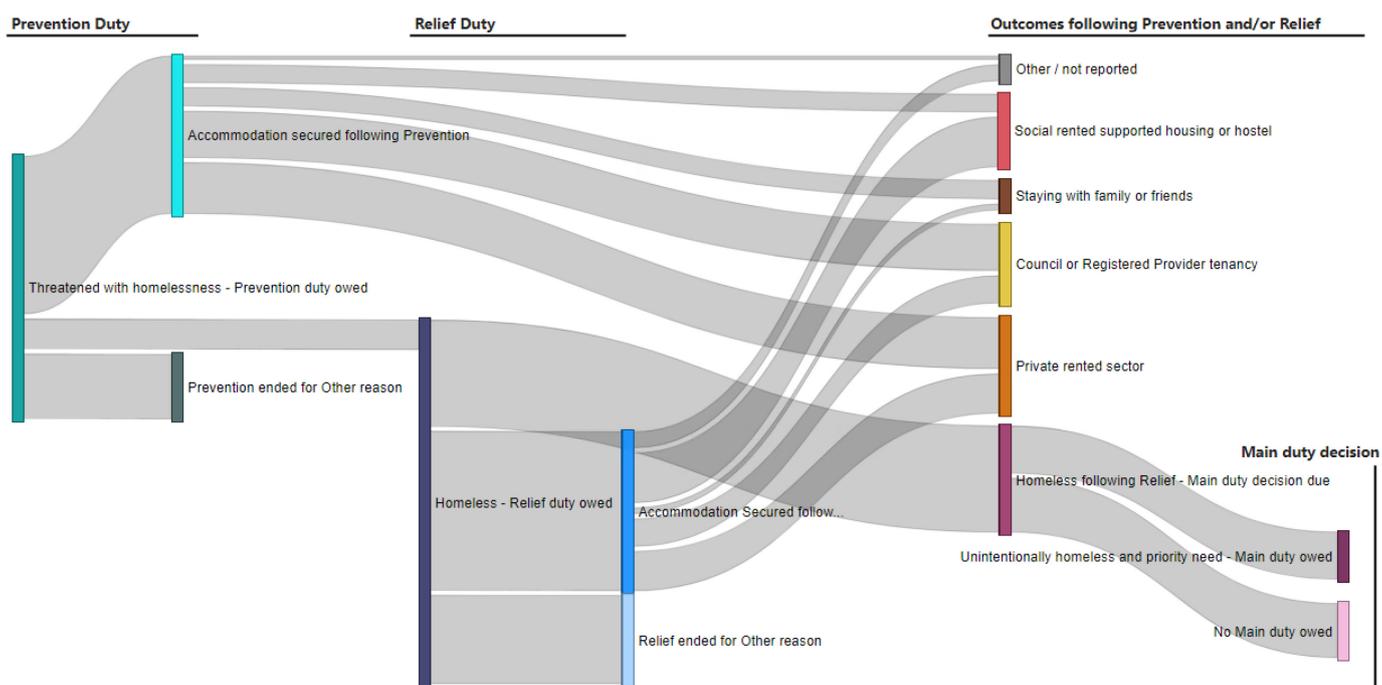
Over half of households with children (52.7%) were still homeless after relief, in contrast with over a third of the overall cohort (37.0%). This large discrepancy could be linked to the lower proportion of family households leaving the system for Other reasons. These households are also very likely to be owed a main duty, since having dependent children is a priority need. Accordingly, 90.7% of households with children that were homeless at the end of relief were assessed as unintentionally homeless and priority need and therefore owed a main homelessness duty.

2,180 households with children were homeless at the end of relief and not owed a main duty, of which 1,500 households were intentionally homeless. 290 households were found to have no priority need (such as when dependent children have left the household by the decision stage) and 390 households were not owed a main duty for other reasons.

## Single households

65.2% of households owed a homelessness duty in 2019-20 did not contain children (referred to as 'single households'), a similar proportion to 2018-19. This equates to 168,500 single households that received homelessness assistance in 2019-20, up 17.9% from 2018-19. 54.4% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.7% of all households), 27.1% left the system for Other reasons (versus 24.1% overall), 8.7% were owed a main duty (versus 13.9% overall), and 9.8% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 7.3% overall).

**Figure 19: Single households initially assessed as owed prevention (74,880) or relief duties (93,620) between April 2019 and March 2020**



In contrast with households with children, single households were more likely to be already homeless on approach – 55.6% were owed initial relief duties compared to 48.6% of households overall.

Accommodation outcomes for single households were more evenly distributed among the types compared to households with children. While private rented tenancies were still the most common prevention outcome for single people, they comprised 34.5% compared to 49.1% for households with children. Relief outcomes varied more, with 33.4% of single households accommodated in Social rented supported housing or hostels (only 5.5% for households with children).

**Table 6: Accommodation secured for single households following prevention or relief duties owed in 2019-20**

	<b>Total secured accommodation at duty end</b>	Private rented sector	Council or Registered Provider tenancy	Social rented supported housing or hostel	Staying with family or friends	Other / not reported
Prevention duty	<b>45,590</b>	15,720 34.5%	14,400 31.6%	6,440 14.1%	6,590 14.5%	2,440 5.4%
Relief duty	<b>45,995</b>	12,480 27.1%	9,090 19.8%	15,380 33.4%	3,100 6.7%	5,950 12.9%

While prevention duties for single households were less likely to end with homelessness than for households with children (13.1% versus 21.8%), a correspondingly greater proportion ended for Other reasons (26.0% versus 18.1%). This was also true of relief duties, with 25.3% ending for Other reasons compared to 13.7% for households with children.

The prevalence of Other outcomes among single households suggests a relative difficulty in maintaining their applications. As can be seen in tables P1 and R1, most outcomes other than accommodation or homelessness involve contact being lost, withdrawn applications, and preventions ending with no further action.

Over half (53.1%) of single households still homeless after relief were not owed a main duty, in stark contrast to family households. For households without children, it is harder to evidence priority need and consequently be entitled to a main duty. Potential priority needs for single households include; pregnancy, domestic abuse, vulnerability as a result of mental health problems, physical disability / ill health, and leaving care. More information on common priority needs can be found in table MD3.

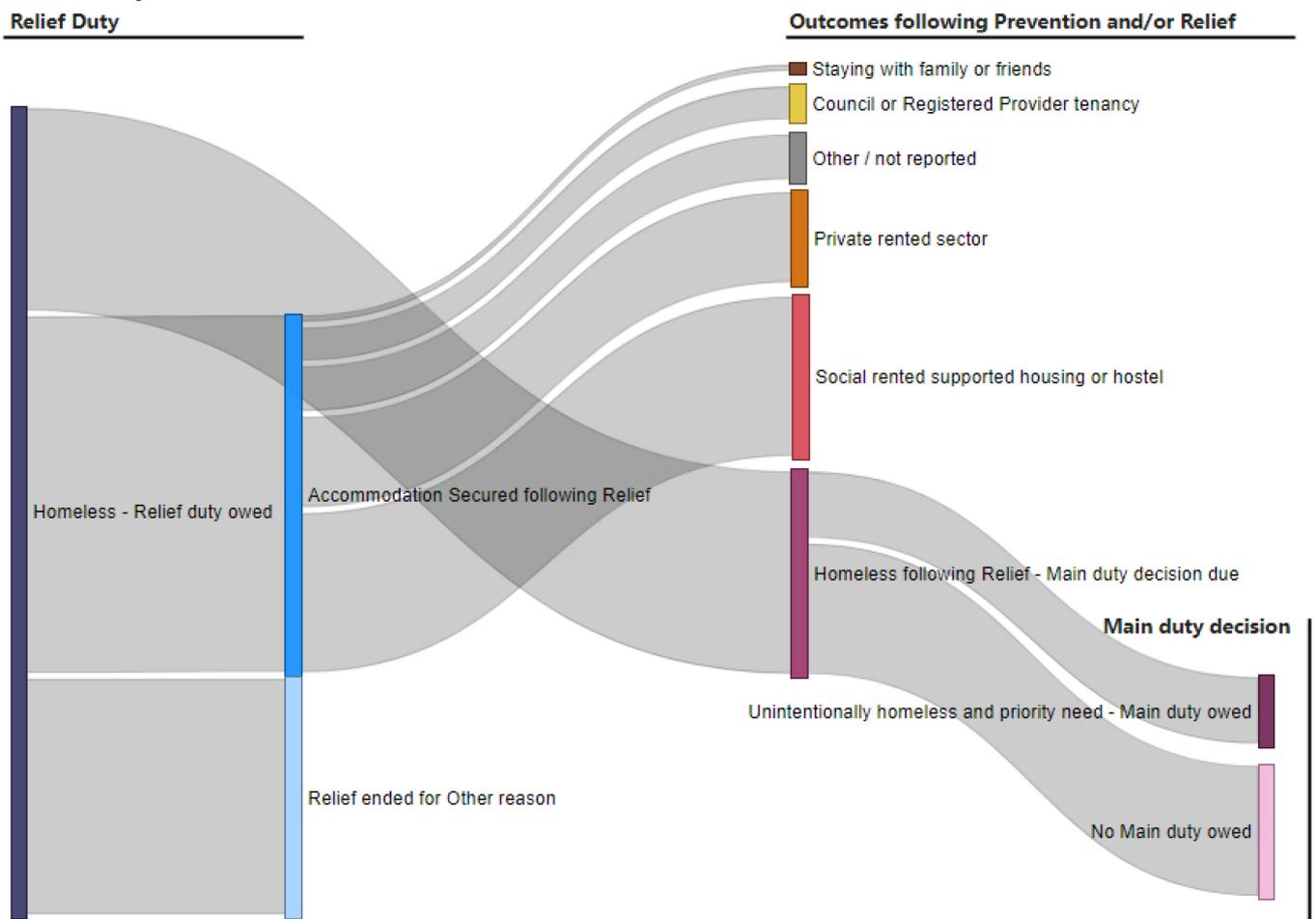
## Rough sleeping at time of application

2.8% of households were rough sleeping at the time of application in 2019-20, a similar proportion to 2018-19. Since those sleeping rough are by definition homeless, all were initially owed a relief duty.

7,300 households sleeping rough at the time of application were assessed as owed a relief duty in 2019-20, up 27.0% from 2018-19. Of these, 44.6% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.7% of all households), 29.8% left the system for Other reasons (versus 24.1% overall), 8.9% were owed a main duty (versus 13.9% overall), and 16.7% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 7.3% overall). These outcomes are comparable to those in 2018-19.

This means a high proportion (46.4%) of relief duties owed to those sleeping rough ended without an accommodation secured outcome or main duty acceptance. Unlike other cohorts this exclusively refers to reasons the relief duty ended. This means the other reasons will not include those whose threat of homelessness had gone away.

**Figure 20: Households sleeping rough and initially assessed as owed relief duties (7,300) between April 2019 and March 2020**

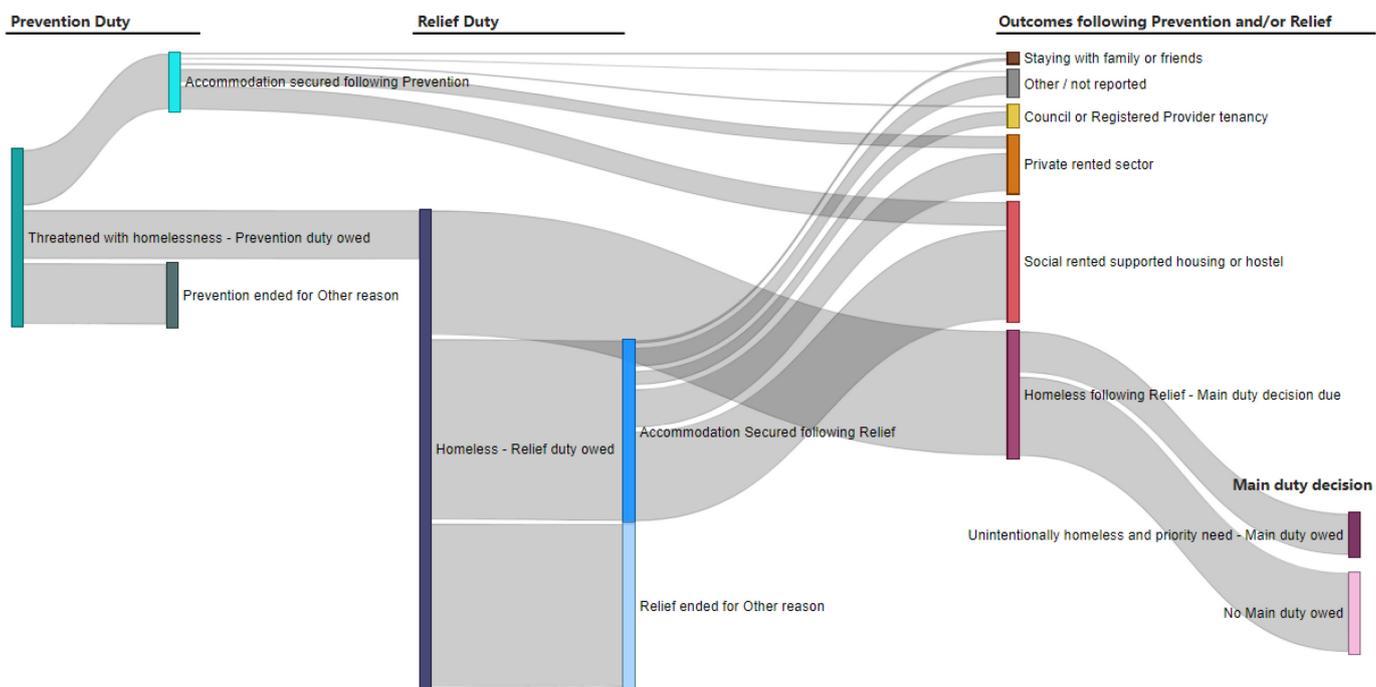


Supported housing or hostel was the most common accommodation outcome (45.7% of all accommodation secured). Only a minority of rough sleepers were owed a main duty, 34.8% of those homeless at the end of relief.

## Homeless, or threatened with homelessness, on departure from custody

2.2% of households were homeless, or threatened with homelessness, on departure from custody, equating to 5,610 households in 2019-20. Although similar in proportion to 2018-19 (1.6%), this is an absolute increase of 61.7%, increasing more as a percentage than other cohorts. 40.4% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.7% of all households), 38.3% left the system for Other reasons (versus 24.1% overall), 7.5% were owed a main duty (versus 13.9% overall), and 13.8% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 7.3% overall). These outcomes were similar in proportion to those in 2018-19.

**Figure 21: Households leaving custody and initially assessed as owed prevention (1,650) or relief duties (3,960) between April 2019 and March 2020**



Most applicants (70.6%) were homeless on initial approach and owed a relief duty. This suggests they did not or were not able to make a homeless application before leaving custody.

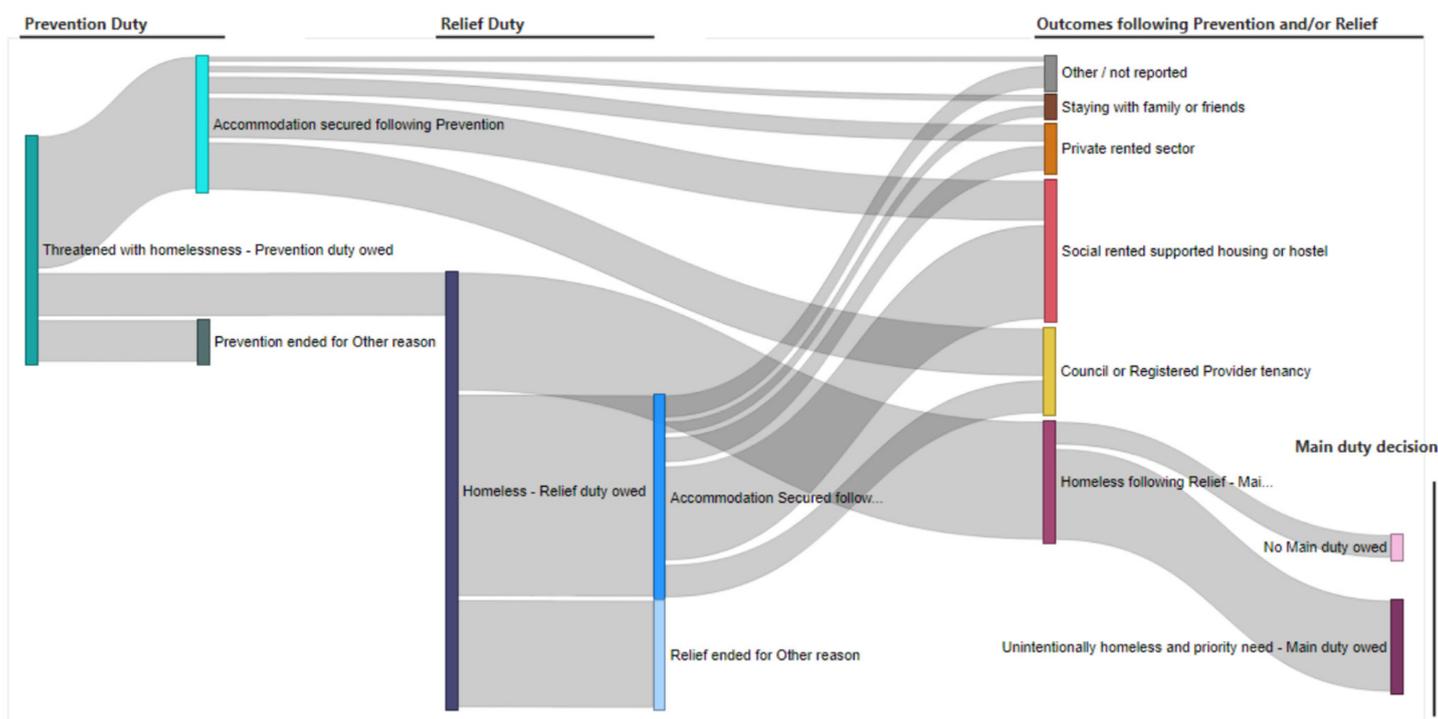
Of the few owed prevention, a relatively small proportion (33.7%) secured accommodation and 29.8% went on to be owed a relief duty.

Over a third of applicants left the system for Other reasons (38.3%), such as contact lost or withdrawn applications. 50.9% of households with successful relief outcomes were accommodated in social rented supported housing or hostels. Of those homeless after relief and due a main duty decision, only 35.3% were owed the main duty.

## Care leavers aged 18-20

1.2% of households owed a duty were care leavers aged 18-20, equating to 3,130 care leavers assessed as owed a duty in 2019-20. This is similar in proportion to 2018-19, and represents an absolute increase of 25.7% from 2,490 care leavers aged 18-20 in 2018-19. 55.1% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.7% of all households), 25.3% left the system for Other reasons (versus 24.1% overall), 15.3% were owed a main duty (versus 13.9% overall), and 4.3% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 7.3% overall).

**Figure 22: Care leavers aged 18-20 initially assessed as owed prevention (1,160) or relief duties (1,980) between April 2019 and March 2020**



Most care leavers aged 18-20 (63.1%) were homeless on initial approach and owed a relief duty. Similar to those on departure from custody, this suggests they did not or were not able to make a homeless application when at risk of homelessness.

Of those owed a prevention duty, over half (59.5%) secured accommodation and 20.6% went on to be owed a relief duty.

Around a quarter of care leavers left the system for Other reasons (25.3%), such as contact lost or withdrawn applications. 48.1% of households with successful relief outcomes were accommodated in social rented supported housing or hostels. Of those homeless after relief and due a main duty decision, 77.4% were owed a main duty.

## 8. 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 of 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 assess 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

Additional breakdowns below for 2020-21 can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statutory-homelessness-in-england-financial-year-2020-21>

### **Households with children**

- A2Pc: Reason for loss of last settled home for households with children assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A2Rc: Reason for loss of last settled home for households with children assessed as owed a relief duty
- A3c: Support needs of households with children assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A4Pc: Accommodation at time of application for households with children assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A4Rc: Accommodation at time of application for households with children assessed as owed a relief duty
- P1c: Reason for households with children's prevention duty ending
- P2c: Type of accommodation secured for households with children at end of prevention duty
- R1c: Reason for households with children's relief duty ending
- R2c: Type of accommodation secured for households with children at end of relief duty

### **Single households**

- A2Ps: Reason for loss of last settled home for single households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A2Rs: Reason for loss of last settled home for single households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A3s: Support needs of single households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A4Ps: Accommodation at time of application for single households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A4Rs: Accommodation at time of application for single households assessed as owed a relief duty
- P1s: Reason for single households' prevention duty ending
- P2s: Type of accommodation secured for single households at end of prevention duty
- R1s: Reason for single households' relief duty ending
- R2s: Type of accommodation secured for single households at end of relief duty

## 9. Technical Note

Further details on H-CLIC, imputation, suppression, response rate, and temporary accommodation data are available in the [quarterly release pages](#) and the respective Technical Notes.

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](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics)

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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](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics)



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September 2021