



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Official Statistics Release

# Statutory Homelessness July to September (Q3) 2021: England

## In this release:

This is the quarterly statistics release for statutory homelessness assessments and activities in England between 1 July and 30 September 2021. It also reports on stock households in temporary accommodation under the statutory homelessness duty in England on 30 September 2021.

Between July to September 2021:

- 67,820 households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty, down 4.4% from July to September 2020
- 31,310 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness, and therefore owed a prevention duty which is down 4.0% from the same quarter last year. This includes 4,440 households threatened with homelessness due to service of a Section 21 notice to end an Assured Shorthold Tenancy – an increase of 59.7% from the same quarter last year. This is likely to reflect the removal of restrictions on private rented sector evictions from May 2021. However, this remains below July to September 2019 before COVID-19, where 37,930 households were owed a prevention duty, of which 4,580 were due to service of a Section 21 notice.
- 36,510 households were initially assessed as homeless and therefore owed a relief duty, down 4.6% from the same quarter last year, driven by a 10.2% fall in single households owed a relief duty. However, this is above July to September 2019 before COVID-19, where 35,890 households were owed a relief duty. Households with children owed a relief duty increased 15.1% from the same quarter last year to 9,730 households in July to September 2021 – this is also an increase (8.6%) from July to September 2019.
- 10,010 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, up 9.5% from July to September 2020. This reflects the increase in households with children owed a relief duty this quarter and last quarter compared to the previous year.
- On 30 September 2021, 96,060 households were in temporary accommodation, up 1.5% from 30 September 2020. This increase is driven by an increase in single households by 7.4%, while households with children reduced by 1.8% to 59,130. Compared to the previous quarter, the number of households in temporary accommodation has risen 0.2% from June 2021.

**Release date:** 27 January 2022

**Date of next release:** Spring 2022

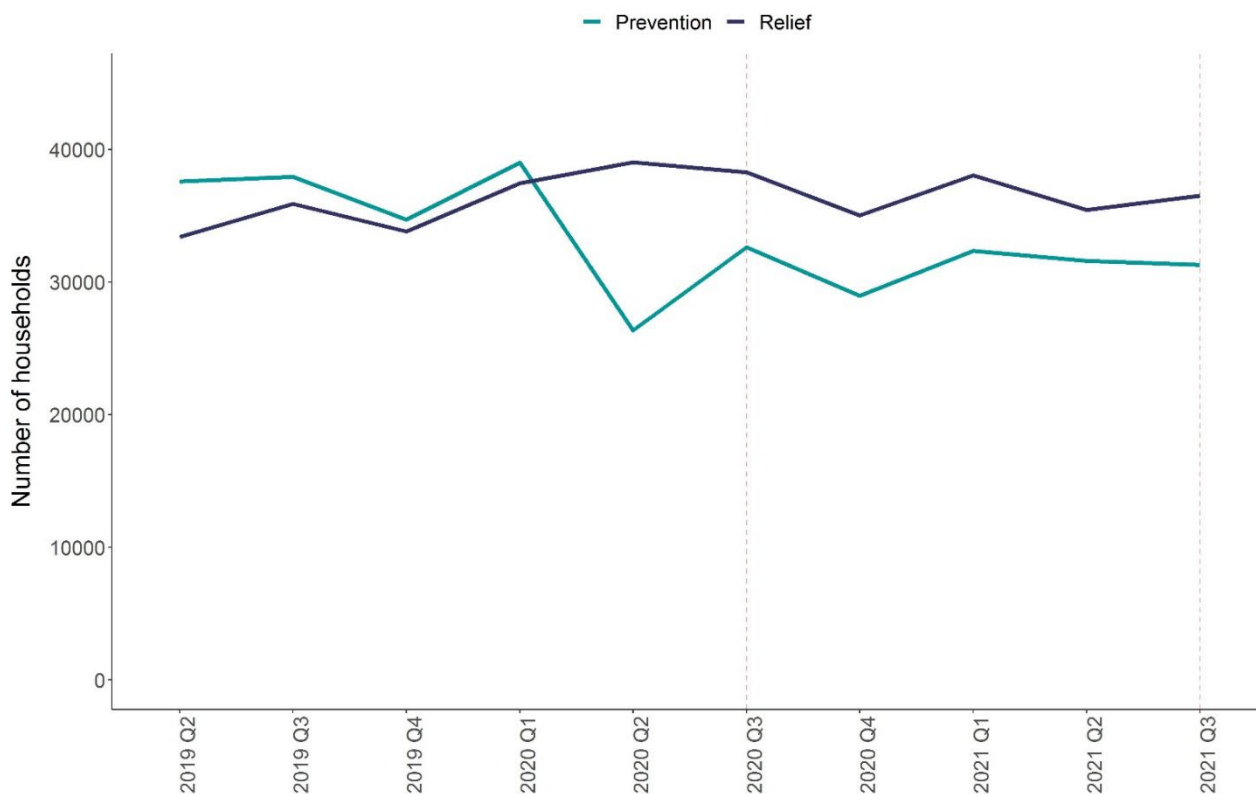
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# Main points

## Initial Assessments

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



### Household composition (Tables A5P and A5R)

- In July to September 2021, 44,710 single households (households without children) were owed a prevention or relief duty, down 10.0% from July to September 2020. In contrast, the number of households with children owed a prevention or relief duty increased 8.8% from July to September 2020 to 23,110.
- Single households are more likely to have homeless applications taken when already homeless and so are owed a relief duty (59.9%), whereas households with children are more likely to have an application taken when threatened with homelessness (57.9%).

### Reasons for homelessness (Tables A2P and A2R)

- For households owed a prevention duty, end of private rented Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) was the most common reason accounting for 10,060 (32.1%) households owed a prevention duty. This increased 38.4% on the same quarter last year, likely reflecting the removal of restrictions on private rented sector evictions. A breakdown of households owed a prevention duty due to the end of an AST shows the biggest increase was due to landlords wishing to sell or re-let the property, which increased 53.8% from the same

quarter last year. However, this remains below July to September 2019 before COVID-19, where 10,800 households owed a prevention duty cited this was due to the end of private rented AST.

- The second most common reason for households owed a prevention duty was family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate, which accounted for 8,370 (26.7%) households in July to September 2021, down 21.1% from the same quarter last year.
- For those owed a relief duty, family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate was the most common reason for homelessness accounting for 11,110 (30.4%) households, down 12.7% from the same quarter last year.
- The second most common reason for those owed a relief duty was domestic abuse, accounting for 6,310 (17.3%) households owed a relief duty. This had increased 13.7% from the same quarter last year, and is a 34.3% increase from July to September 2019.
- The largest change for those owed either a prevention or a relief duty from the same quarter last year was the number of households required to leave accommodation provided by the Home Office as asylum support. This increased 81.8% to 400 households owed a prevention duty, and more than tripled (257.9%) to 680 households owed a relief duty. This increase reflects a return to usual arrangements for ending Home Office accommodation provided to asylum seekers following a positive decision on their asylum application; in July to September 2019, this equated to 700 households who were owed a relief duty and 580 households who were owed a prevention duty.
- Other notable changes for households owed a prevention duty include left institution with no accommodation available, up 36.6% to 560 households; and end of non-AST private rented tenancy, up 28.2% to 1,090. For those owed a relief duty, other notable changes include end of private rented AST, up 55.3% to 3,510 households.

### **Current accommodation (Tables A4P and A4R)**

- The most common type of accommodation at the time of application for those owed a prevention duty was in the private rented sector (41.3%), up 25.7% from July to September 2020 to 12,920 households - consistent with the reasons for homelessness. This was up 38.0% for those owed a relief duty to 4,650 households, likely reflecting the removal of most of the restrictions on private rented sector evictions.
- For households owed a relief duty, the most common type of accommodation was living with family (24.1%), which fell 9.0% from July to September 2020 to 8,800 households. For those owed a prevention duty, households living with family had decreased 22.4% to 8,760 households.
- The number of households owed a relief duty who were rough sleeping on approach increased by 7.6% from July to September 2020 to 2,830 households.
- The number of households owed a relief duty reporting no fixed abode fell 24.7% to 6,410 households.
- In line with the reasons for homelessness, the number of households owed a prevention

duty and in National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation increased by 81.0% to 380 households from July to September 2020; for those owed a relief duty, this increased four times (300.0%) to 600 households, reflecting a return to usual arrangements for ending Home Office accommodation provided to asylum seekers following a positive decision on their asylum application. The proportion of households owed a duty in NASS accommodation constitutes 1.4% of all duties owed in July to September 2021, and this compares to 1.7% in July to September 2019.

### **Duty to Refer (Table A7)**

- 8.8%, or 6,260, of the 70,980 assessments made were as a result of referrals from public bodies under the duty to refer. Of the assessments carried out from a duty to refer referral, 97.0% 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 1,620 (or 25.9%) of the total, an increase of 14.9% from July to September 2020. Other notable increases from July to September 2020 include a 67.6% increase in assessments due to referrals from Job Centre Plus to 620; and a 36.8% increase in assessments due to referrals from Mental Health inpatient care to 260. There was a 57.1% decrease from same quarter last year of assessments due to referrals from Community Rehabilitation Companies, which likely reflects changes in criminal justice service structures; and a 27.9% decrease of assessments due to referrals from Adult Secure Estate (prison).

### **Other demographics (Tables A3, A6, A8, and A10)**

- Of all households owed either a prevention or relief duty, 34,660 households, or 51.1%, identified as having one or more support needs. The most common support need was a history of mental health problems, accounting for 17,450 households or 25.7% of households owed a duty. 11,190 households, or 16.5% of all households owed a duty, had a support need relating to physical ill health or disability. Other notable groups included those with experience of or at risk of domestic abuse, 12.1%; and those with offending history, 8.7%.
- Despite the overall number of households owed a prevention or relief duty falling in July to September 2021 compared to the previous year, the number of lead applicants of households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty increased in all age groups from July to September 2020, except those aged 16-17, 18-24, and 25-34, which fell 7.0%, 17.1%, and 7.8% respectively. The largest percentage increases were in the oldest age categories: the number of households with lead applicants aged 65-74 increased by 23.0% to 1,820 in July to September 2021; and those aged 75+ increased 16.9% to 690. The 75+ age group remains below July to September 2019 levels (down 12.7%), however the 65-74 age group increased by 3.4% from 2019.
- Households where the lead applicant was White had the greatest percentage of total households owed prevention or relief duties (68.0%), followed by households where the

lead applicant was Black (10.1%) or Asian (6.4%). The number of households owed a prevention or relief duty where the lead applicant was Asian increased 6.9% from the same quarter last year, whereas the number of households where the lead applicant was White, Black, or Mixed fell by 6.7%, 1.0% and 1.3% respectively. Households where the lead applicant identified themselves as belonging to 'Other' ethnic group fell by 1.3% to 2,200 in this quarter. All groups remained below July to September 2019 levels, except where ethnicity is identified as Mixed.

- The number of lead applicants not registered but seeking work fell 26.0% to 2,190, and those who were registered unemployed fell 8.7% to 24,380. The employment status that saw the largest increase was in the Other category, which increased 36.4% to 4,270; followed by those who had retired, up 19.9% to 1,870. Those in full-time had also increased 8.0% but those in part-time work fell 1.4%.

## Outcomes

### Tables P1 and R1

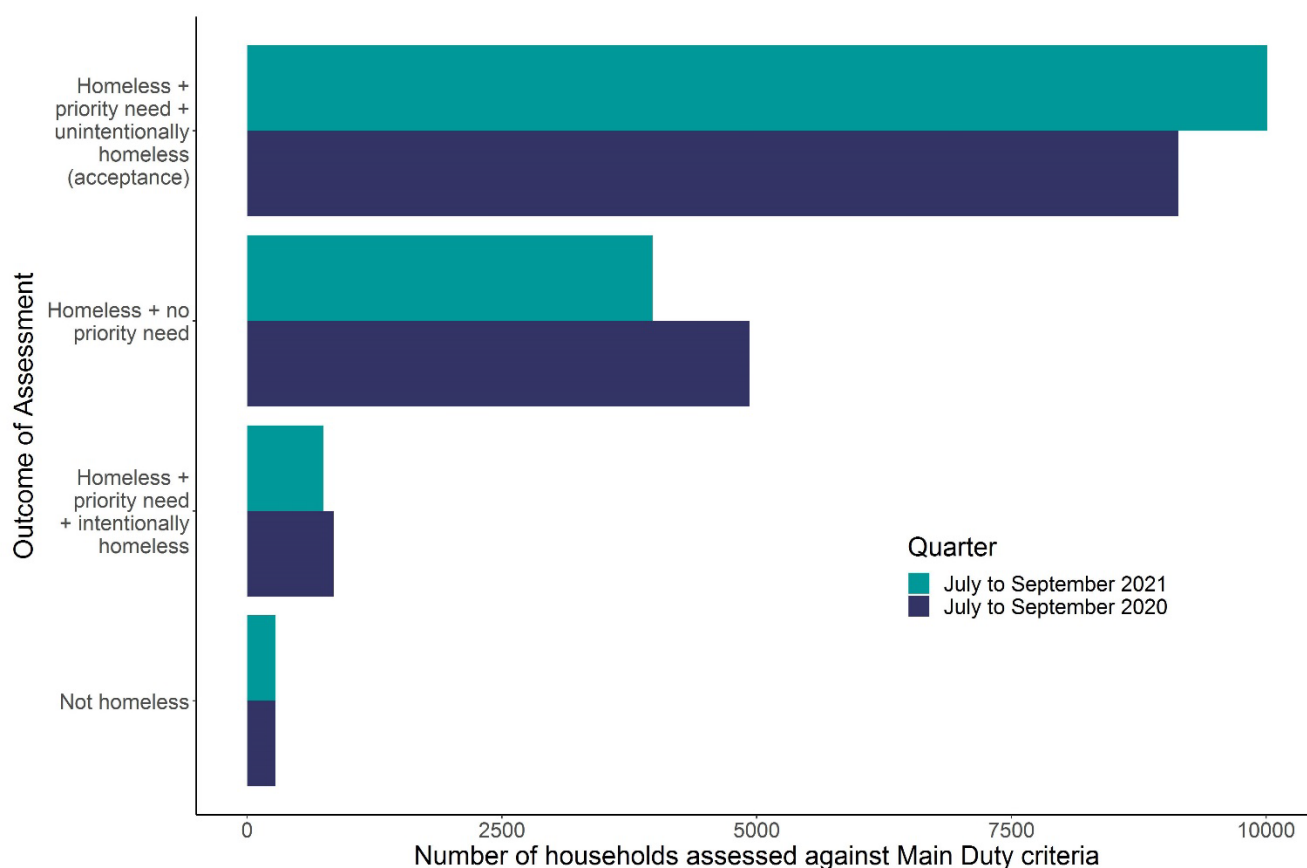
- In July to September 2021, for those whose prevention or relief duty ended, 31,560 (or 46.1%) households had secured accommodation for 6 months or more.
- Over half of the 28,640 prevention duties which ended between July to September 2021 (15,850 or 55.3%) ended because the household secured accommodation for 6 months or more and their homelessness had been prevented. Of these, 30.9% or 4,890, were able to remain in their existing home. The proportion of households that secured accommodation at the end of the prevention duty fell by 4.0 percentage points from the same quarter last year, and of those, the proportion who were able to stay in existing accommodation fell by 1.8 percentage points.
- 5,780 or 20.2% of households whose prevention duty ended were homeless at the end of the prevention duty and owed a subsequent relief duty, up 3.6 percentage points from the same quarter last year.
- Of the 39,800 relief duties ended, 15,710 or 39.5% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months. Of these, 76.9% (12,080) were single households, down 2.5 percentage points from the same quarter last year, but still above the level and proportion in July to September 2019.
- 15,490 households, or 38.9% 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, up 2.2 percentage points from the same quarter last year.

## Main Homelessness duty

### Tables MD1-3

- Figure 2 below shows main duty acceptances increased 9.5% to 10,010 in July to September 2021 from the same quarter last year, driven by a 10.9% increase in households with children.
- The number of households owed a main duty who were homeless as a result of domestic abuse had increased 34.1% from July to September 2020, reflecting both an increase in homelessness due to domestic abuse over the last year compared to this quarter; but also the implementation of priority need for single people who are homeless due to being victims of domestic abuse through the Domestic Abuse Act in July 2021.
- Households that were homeless, had priority need and were intentionally homeless; or that were homeless and did not have a priority need decreased 11.8%, and 19.3% respectively.

**Figure 2: Number of households assessed against a main duty decision, by outcome**



- In July to September 2021, 7,200 households had their main homelessness duty come to an end, down 3.7% from July to September 2020.
- Of these households, 5,470 or 76.0% households accepted an offer of settled accommodation, a 5.4% decrease from the same quarter last year.

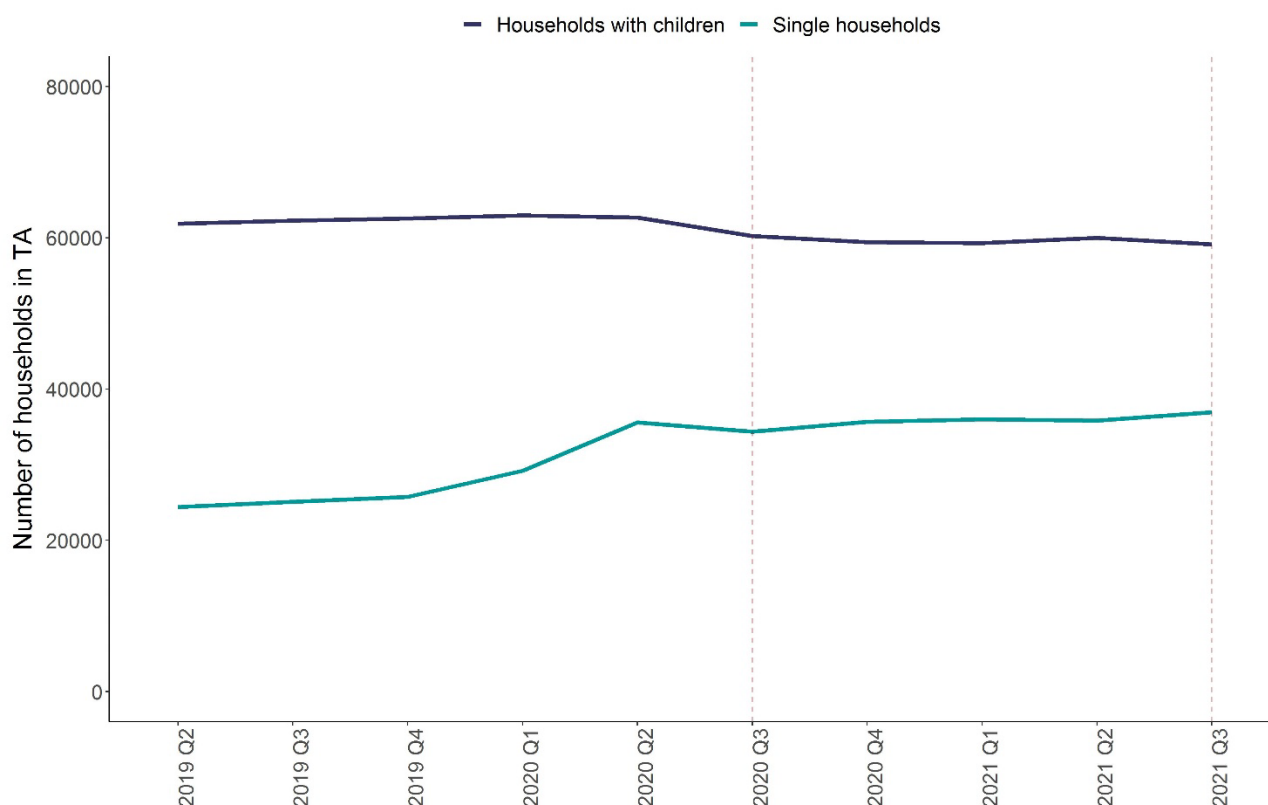


# Temporary Accommodation

Table TA1

- 96,060 households were in temporary accommodation on 30 September 2021, a similar level to the previous quarter; single households increased 3.0%, while households with children decreased 1.5%.
- In London, there were 16.6 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households, compared with 1.8 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England. Newham had the highest rate of TA in London with 48.5 households per 1,000 households and Luton had the highest rate of TA outside London with 15.2 households per 1,000 households.
- On 30 September 2021, 26,110 or 27.2% of households in temporary accommodation were in accommodation in a different local authority district. 82.8% of these out of district placements were from London authorities.

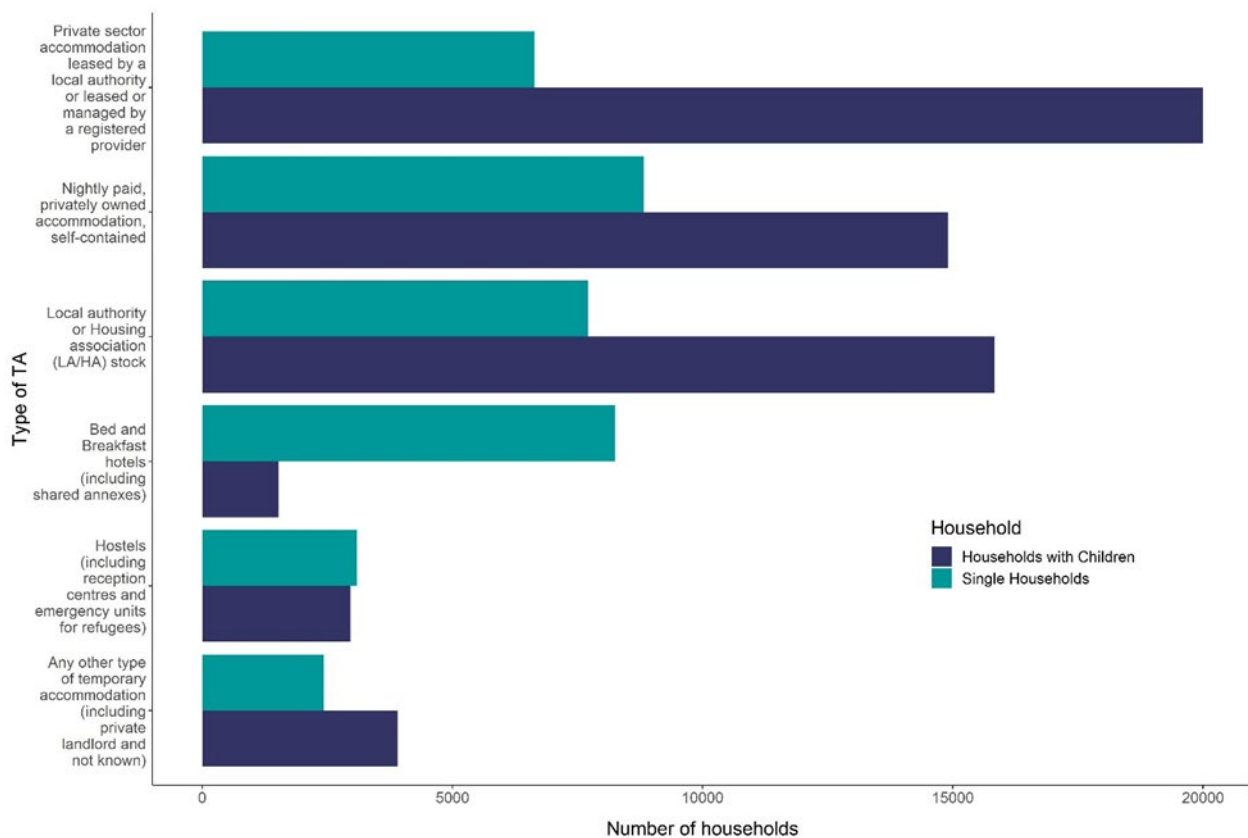
**Figure 3: Number of households in temporary accommodation since Q2 2019, by household type**



- On 30 September 2021, 59,130 households or 61.6% included dependent children, with a total of 121,680 dependent children living in temporary accommodation.
- As shown in Figure 4 below, most households with children (85.8%) were in self-contained accommodation (private sector, nightly paid, or local authority or housing association accommodation). This is a similar proportion compared to September 2020.

- Of the households in temporary accommodation, 9,780 were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation, down 5.8% from the same date last year. Of these households in B&B, 8,250 (84.4%) were single households, down 2.0 percentage points from the same date last year.
- The number of households in B&B with dependent children increased 7.7% from the same date last year to 1,530 households in September 2021. Of the households with children in B&B, 590 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is up 25.5% from 470 on 30 September 2020.

**Figure 4: Number of households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation**



## Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

Between July and December 2021, these Statutory Homelessness statistics underwent an assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation. A [report](#) detailing the findings of this assessment was published in December 2021.

The Homelessness Statistics Team in DLUHC have developed an action plan detailing how and by when the requirements identified in the assessment report will be met. This includes a forward work plan which outlines scheduled work over the next year. This will be updated on an ongoing basis and can be found in the [Action plan for OSR assessment of compliance](#).



# 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
- 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 2020-21 Detailed local authority-level tables.

## Technical Notes

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 DLUHC 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 DLUHC 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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