The snapshot provides a way of estimating the number of people sleeping rough across England on a single night.

2,440
People sleeping rough on a single night in autumn 2021

9% decrease since last year

38% increase since 2010

Nearly half (45%) of all people sleeping rough on a single night in autumn are in London and the South East.

The percentage of people sleeping rough by region

Local authorities with the highest estimated number of people sleeping rough

The snapshot collects some basic demographic information about those people found sleeping rough.

Gender

85% Male
2% Female
13% Not known

Age

86% Over 26
9% 18 - 25
5% Under 18

Nationality

67% from the UK
8% Non-EU
5% EU
8% Not known

Statistical release is available here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics#rough-sleeping
Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2021

Map of the number of people sleeping estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in autumn 2021.

People sleeping rough on a single night

0
5
10
20
50
100+

Greater Manchester

West Midlands Combined Authority

London

Statistical release is available here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics#rough-sleeping
Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2021

The autumn snapshot is the department’s official and most reliable measure of rough sleeping on a single night.

Things you need to know

People sleeping rough are defined as those sleeping or about to bed down in open air locations and other places including tents and make shift shelters.

The snapshot can be carried out using either a count-based estimate, an evidence-based estimate meeting with local partners or an evidence-based estimate with spotlight count.

The snapshot is collated by outreach workers, local charities and community groups.

The snapshot does not include everyone in an area with a history of sleeping rough, or everyone sleeping rough in between October to November.

The snapshot methodology which includes all local authorities has been in place since 2010, before only a quarter of areas did a snapshot.

Accurately estimating the number of people sleeping rough is difficult given the hidden nature of rough sleeping.

The snapshot process and figures are independently verified by Homeless Link.

How can it be used?

✓ To estimate the number of people sleeping rough on a single night in autumn
✓ To assess changes in the number of people sleeping rough over time
✓ To compare local authorities and regions in England
✓ To understand some basic characteristics about people who sleep rough

✗ To estimate the total number of people sleeping rough across the year
✗ To estimate the total number of homeless people
✗ To compare with other countries in the UK
✗ To understand how long people sleep rough and the reasons why people sleep rough

The ‘Everyone In’ support has helped to protect thousands of vulnerable people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Statistical release is available here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics#rough-sleeping