



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Official Statistics Release

Statutory Homelessness October to December (Q4) 2021: England

In this release:

This is the quarterly statistics release for statutory homelessness assessments and activities in England between 1 October and 31 December 2021. It also reports on stock households in temporary accommodation under the statutory homelessness duty in England on 31 December 2021.

Between October to December 2021:

- 64,890 households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty, up 1.4% from October to December 2020.
- 31,090 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness, and therefore owed a prevention duty which is up 7.3% from the same quarter last year. This includes 5,260 households threatened with homelessness due to service of a Section 21 notice to end an Assured Shorthold Tenancy – an increase of 168.4% from the same quarter last year. This may partially reflect the removal of restrictions on private rented sector evictions from May 2021. This is also above the level in October to December 2019 before COVID-19, where 3,830 of preventions owed were due to service of a Section 21 notice while overall preventions were higher at 34,700 households.
- 33,800 households were initially assessed as homeless and therefore owed a relief duty, down 3.5% from the same quarter last year, driven by a 8.9% fall in single households (households without children) owed a relief duty. This is at a similar level to October to December 2019 before COVID-19, where 33,820 households were owed a relief duty. Households with children owed a relief duty increased 17.6% from the same quarter last year to 8,410 households in October to December 2021 – this is also an increase (3.7%) from October to December 2019.
- 10,220 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, up 0.6% from October to December 2020. This reflects the increase in households with children owed a relief duty this quarter and last quarter compared to the previous year.
- On 31 December 2021, 96,410 households were in temporary accommodation, up 1.4% from 31 December 2020. This increase is driven by an increase in single households by 6.0% to 37,790, while households with children reduced by 1.4% to 58,620. Compared to the previous quarter, the number of households in temporary accommodation had risen 0.9%.

Release date: 28 April 2022

Date of next release: Summer 2022

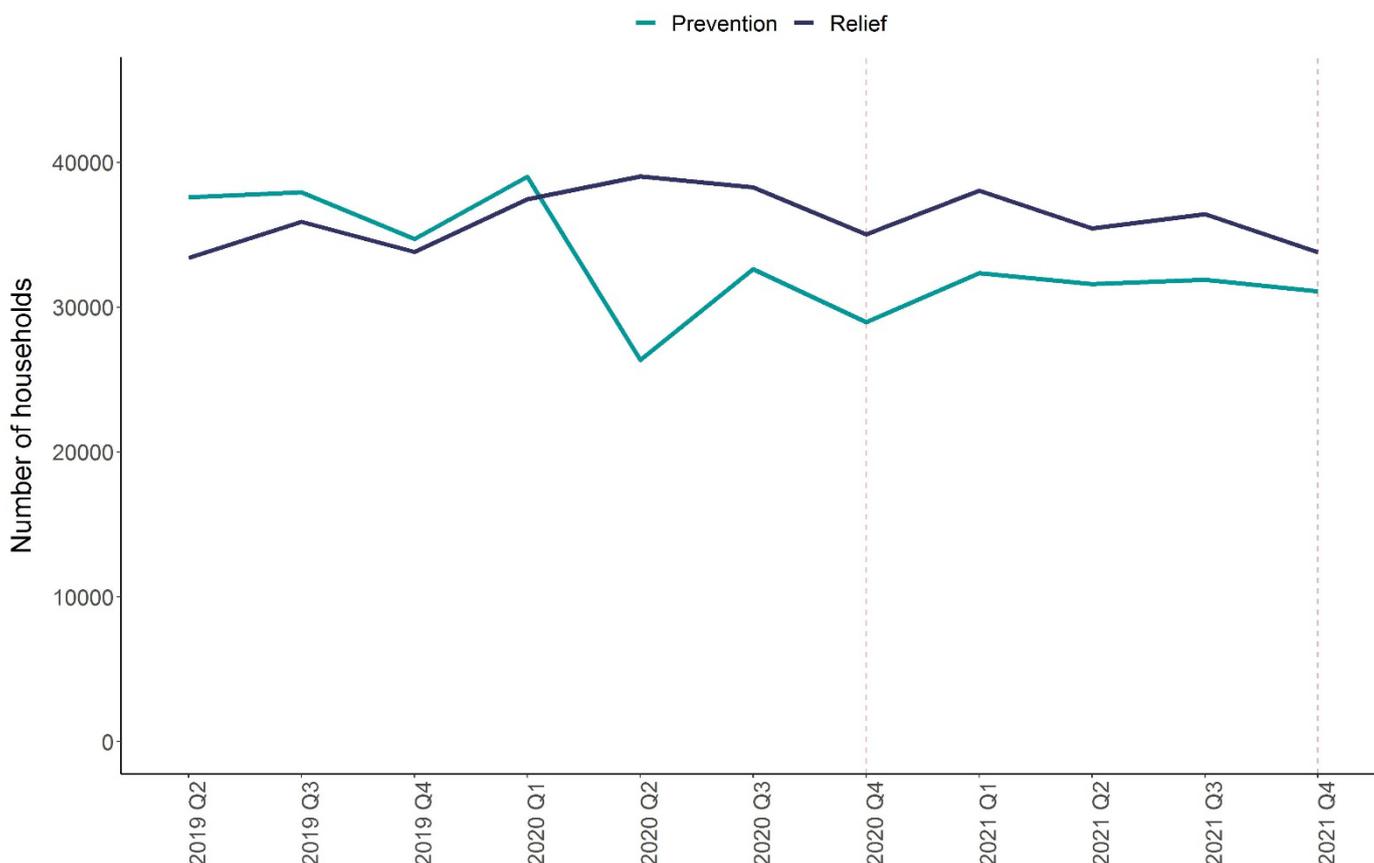
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Main points

Initial Assessments

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



Household composition (Tables A5P and A5R)

- In October to December 2021, 43,150 single households were owed a prevention or relief duty, down 6.2% from October to December 2020. In contrast, the number of households with children owed a prevention or relief duty increased 20.9% from October to December 2020 to 21,730.
- Single households are more likely to have homeless applications taken when already homeless and so are owed a relief duty (58.8%), whereas households with children are more likely to have an application taken when threatened with homelessness (61.3%).

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 11,380 (36.6%) households owed a prevention duty. This doubled (up 100.7%) from 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 more than doubled (up 146.0%) from the same quarter last year. This is also above the level in October to December 2019 before COVID-19 (up 19.2%), where 9,550 households owed a prevention duty cited this was due to the end of private rented AST, accounting for 27.5% of households owed a prevention duty.

- 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 7,460 (24.0%) households in October to December 2021, down 20.4% from the same quarter last year.
- Other notable changes for households owed a prevention duty include end of non-AST private rented tenancy, up 65.8% to 1,210; and eviction from supported housing, up 29.9% to 1000 households.
- 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 9,990 (29.6%) households, down 9.5% from the same quarter last year.
- The second most common reason for those owed a relief duty was domestic abuse, accounting for 5,790 (17.1%) households owed a relief duty. This had increased 17.9% from the same quarter last year, and is a 37.5% increase from October to December 2019.
- Other notable changes for households owed a relief duty include those required to leave accommodation provided by the Home Office as asylum support, up 64.1% to 640 households; and end of private rented AST, up 47.6% to 3,440 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 (45.5%), up 69.6% from October to December 2020 to 14,160 households - consistent with the reasons for homelessness. This was also up 38.4% for those owed a relief duty to 4,430 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 (21.9%), which fell 8.4% from October to December 2020 to 7,410 households. For those owed a prevention duty, households living with family had decreased 21.0% to 7,700 households.
- The number of households owed a relief duty who were rough sleeping on approach increased by 7.5% from October to December 2020 to 2,880 households, while those reporting no fixed abode fell 23.5% to 6,010 households.
- In line with the reasons for homelessness, the number of households owed a relief duty who were in National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation increased 44.4% to 520 households, reflecting a return to usual arrangements for ending Home Office accommodation provided to asylum seekers following a positive decision on their asylum application.

Duty to Refer (Table A7)

- 8.0%, or 5,370, of the 67,480 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, 96.3% 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 1,840 (or 34.3%) of the total, an increase of 19.5% from October to December 2020.
- Other notable increases from October to December 2020 include a 63.2% increase in assessments due to referrals from Mental Health in-patient care to 310; and a 41.9% increase in assessments due to referrals from Jobcentre plus to 610. There was a 66.7% decrease from same quarter last year of assessments due to referrals from Community Rehabilitation Companies, which reflects changes in criminal justice service structures; and a 46.1% decrease of assessments due to referrals from Adult Secure Estate (prison). We are continuously working to improve these figures, to update the public bodies under the duty to refer to reflect new structures, and to reduce the use of Other/Not known.

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

- Of all households owed either a prevention or relief duty, 34,660 households, or 53.4%, identified as having one or more support needs. The most common support need was a history of mental health problems, accounting for 17,610 households or 27.1% of households owed a duty. 11,510 households, or 17.7% 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, 9.6%.
- The overall increase in the number of households owed a prevention or relief duty in October to December 2021 compared to the previous year was driven by increases in lead applicants aged 35 and over. The largest increases were for those aged 65-74, up 23.8% to 1,770; and 75+, up 28.3% to 680. The 75+ age group remains below October to December 2019 levels (down 5.6%), however the 65-74 age group increased by 7.9% from 2019. Those aged 16-17, 18-24, and 25-34 fell by 10.6%, 12.7%, and 3.4% respectively.
- The majority of households owed a prevention or relief duty were where the lead applicant was White (67.7%), followed by households where the lead applicant was Black (10.3%) or Asian (6.1%). The number of households owed a prevention or relief duty where the lead applicant was Mixed, Black, or Asian increased 8.8%, 6.0%, and 4.5% respectively from the same quarter last year, whereas the number of households where the lead applicant was White stayed at a similar level. Households where the lead applicant identified themselves as belonging to 'Other' ethnic group fell by 5.6% to 2,180 in this quarter. All groups remained below October to December 2019 levels, except where ethnicity is identified as Mixed.
- The employment status that saw the largest increase was in the Other category, which increased 72.6% to 4,470; followed by those who had retired, up 28.6% to 1,800. Those in

full-time or part-time work had also increased 16.9% and 12.4% respectively. The number of lead applicants not registered but seeking work fell 19.1% to 2,030, and those who were registered unemployed fell 10.0% to 22,550.

Outcomes

Tables P1 and R1

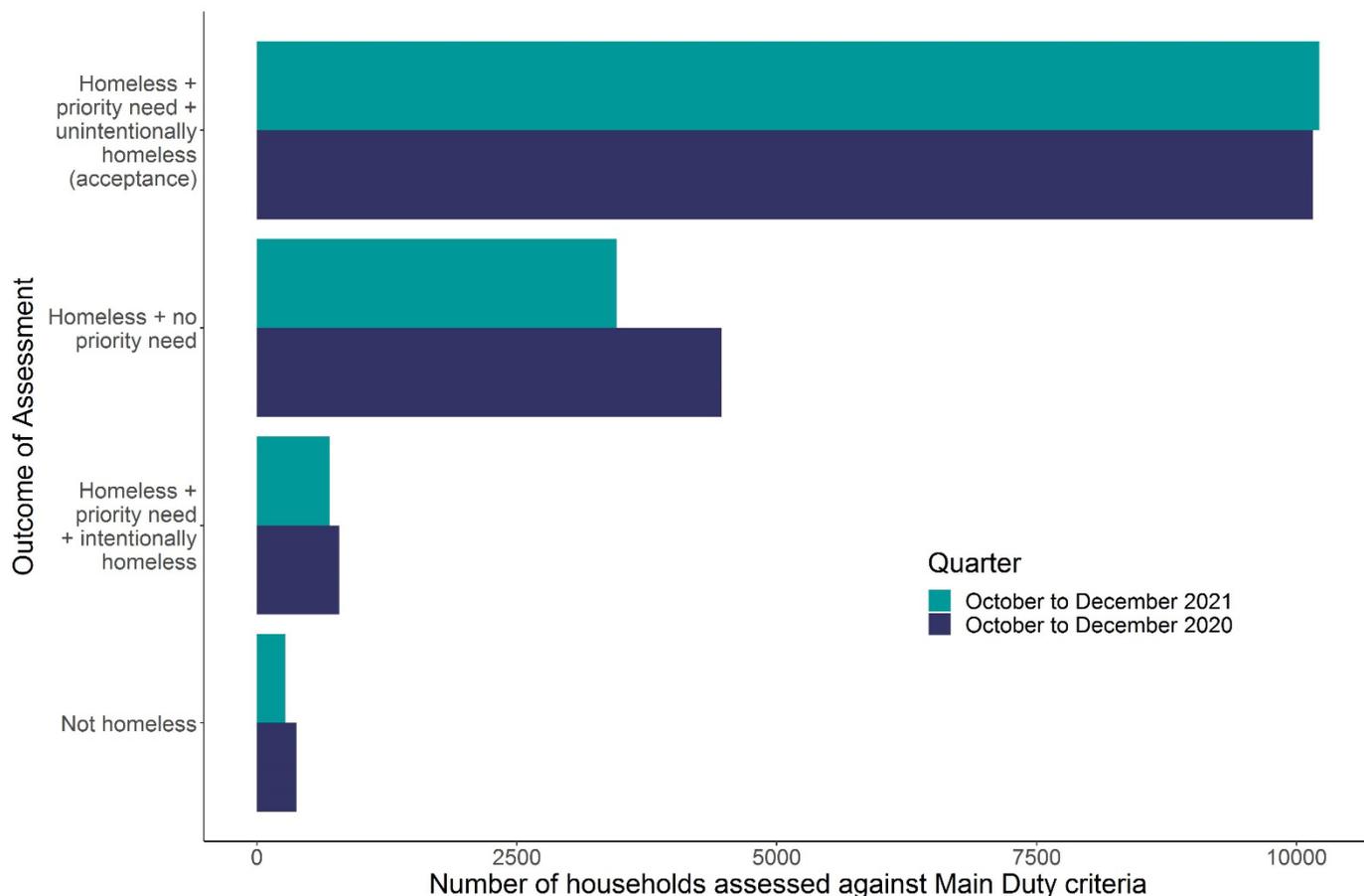
- In October to December 2021, for those whose prevention or relief duty ended, 31,750 (or 46.9%) households had secured accommodation for 6 months or more.
- Over half of the 29,630 prevention duties which ended between October to December 2021 (16,640 or 56.2%) ended because the household secured accommodation for 6 months or more and their homelessness had been prevented. Of these, 30.3% or 5,040, were able to remain in their existing home. The proportion of households that secured accommodation at the end of the prevention duty fell by 3.7 percentage points from the same quarter last year, and of those, the proportion who were able to stay in existing accommodation fell by 2.8 percentage points.
- 5,990 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 4.7 percentage points from the same quarter last year.
- Of the 38,110 relief duties ended, 15,110 or 39.6% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months, down 1.2 percentage points from the same quarter last year. Of these, 74.6% (11,270) were single households, down 3.1 percentage points from the same quarter last year, but still above the proportion in October to December 2019.
- 15,090, or 39.6% 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 1.6 percentage points from the same quarter last year.

Main Homelessness duty

Tables MD1-3

- Figure 2 below shows main duty acceptances remained at a similar level compared to the same quarter last year at 10,220 in October to December 2021. Households with children owed a main duty increased 1.7% from the same quarter last year to 6,010 households.
- The number of households owed a main duty who were homeless and have priority need due to domestic abuse had increased 50.0% from October to December 2020, reflecting both an increase in homelessness due to domestic abuse over the last year; 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 fell 11.4%, and 22.6% respectively.

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



- In October to December 2021, 7,510 households had their main homelessness duty come to an end, up 6.5% from October to December 2020.
- Of these households, 5,950 or 79.2% households accepted an offer of settled accommodation, up 8.2% from the same quarter last year.

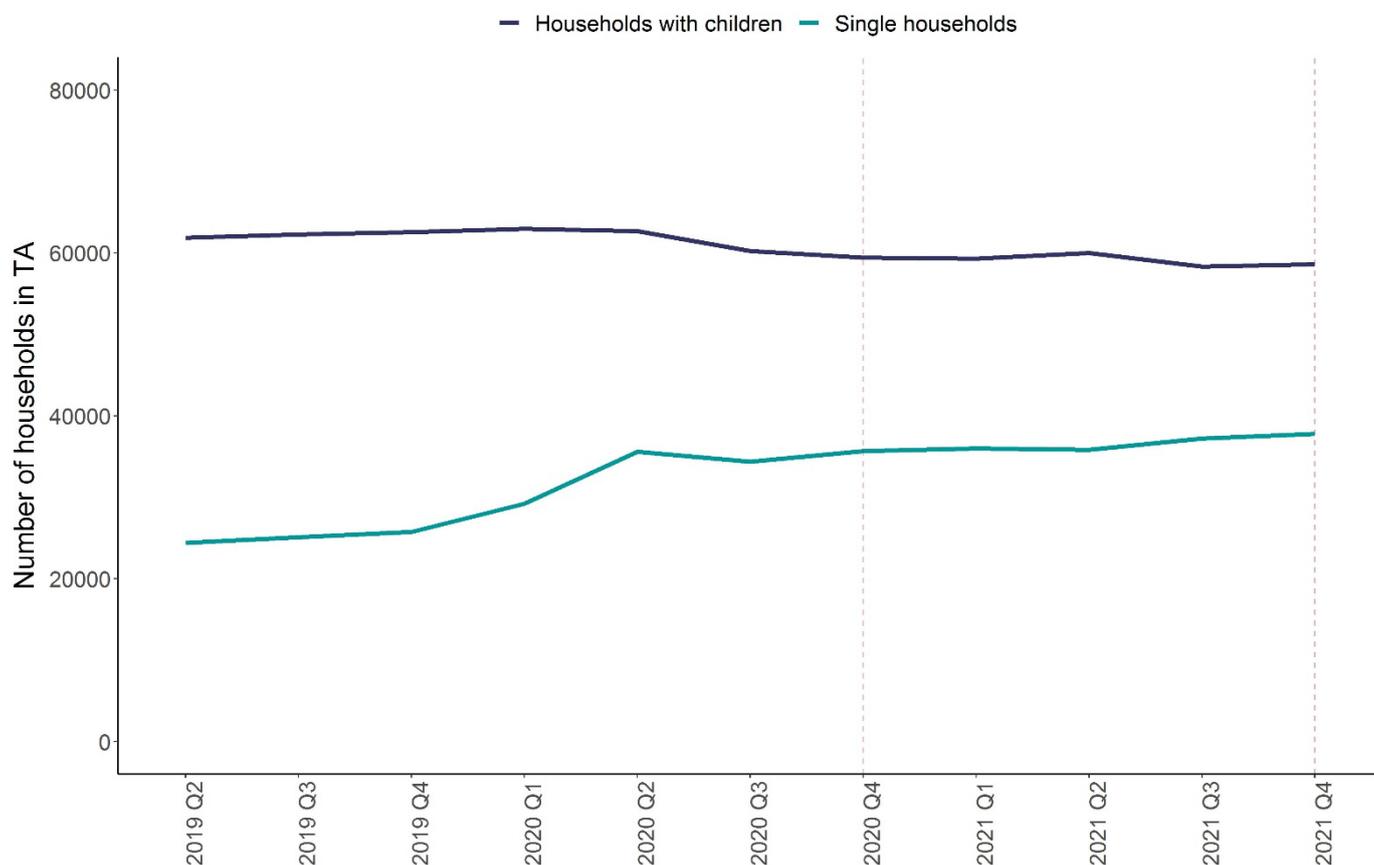
Temporary Accommodation

Table TA1

- 96,410 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 December 2021, up 0.9% from the previous quarter; single households increased 1.5%, and households with children increased 0.5%.
- In London, there were 16.6 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households, compared with 1.9 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England. Newham had the highest rate of TA in London with 49.1 households per 1,000 households and Luton had the highest rate of TA outside London with 14.7 households per 1,000 households.
- On 31 December 2021, 26,660 or 27.7% of households in temporary accommodation were in accommodation in a different local authority district. 83.5% of these out of district

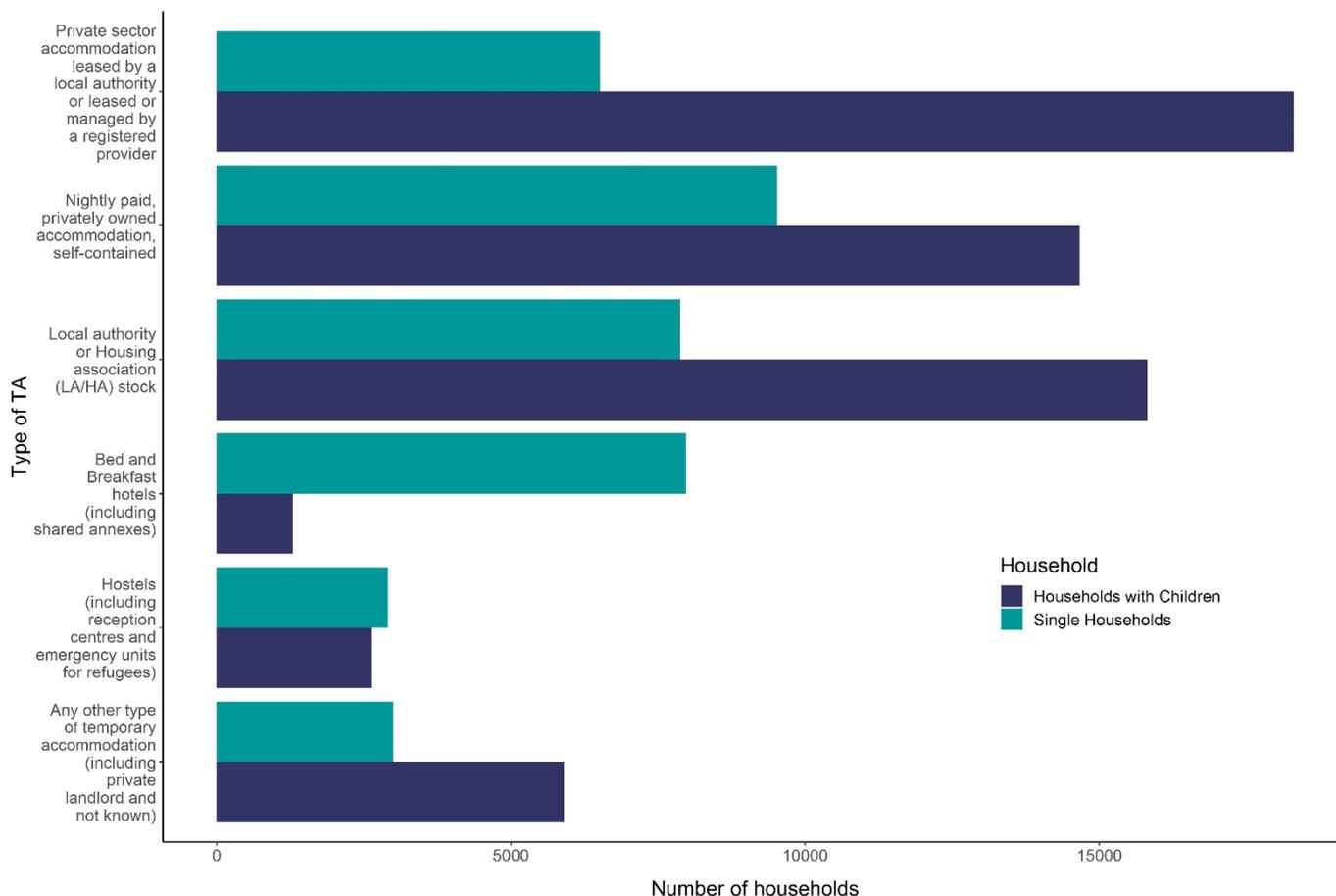
placements were from London authorities.

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



- On 31 December 2021, 58,620 households or 60.8% included dependent children, with a total of 118,900 dependent children living in temporary accommodation.
- As shown in Figure 4 below, most households with children (83.2%) were in self-contained accommodation (private sector, nightly paid, or local authority or housing association accommodation). This is a similar proportion compared to December 2020.
- Of the households in temporary accommodation, 9,270 were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation, down 11.6% from the same date last year. Of these households in B&B, 7,970 (86.0%) were single households, down 13.7% from the same date last year.
- The number of households in B&B with dependent children increased 3.2% from the same date last year to 1,300 households in December 2021. Of the households with children in B&B, 550 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is up 10.0% from 500 on 31 December 2020, but down 3.5% from 570 last quarter.

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



Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

Between October 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

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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:

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