



Statutory Homelessness: January to March Quarter 2014 England (Revised)



Housing *Statistical Release*

31 July 2014

Household acceptances

- 12,540 applicants were accepted as owed a main duty under homelessness legislation between 1 January and 31 March 2014, 7 per cent lower than during the same quarter of 2013.
- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, there were 12,650 acceptances, a decrease of 2 per cent from 12,960 in the previous quarter.
- During the 2013/14 financial year, there were 52,270 acceptances. This is a decrease of 3 per cent from 53,770 in 2012/13

Households in temporary accommodation

- 58,440 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2014, 6 per cent higher than at the same date in 2013.
- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, 58,390 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 March, a 1 per cent increase from 57,590 in the previous quarter.
- Seven per cent of households were in bed and breakfast style accommodation. This is a decrease from 4,510 to 4,370 (3 per cent) compared to the same date last year.
- 12,910 of households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2014 were in accommodation in another local authority district. This is an increase of 41 per cent, from 9,130 at the same date last year.
- The proportion of households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements who had been in such arrangements for two or more years has increased slightly from 9 per cent to 12 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.

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Introduction

This Statistical Release presents summary information on local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation. The data are collected through the quarterly P1E statistical return and include the number of households [accepted as owed a main homelessness duty](#) (referred to as '[acceptances](#)') during the quarter, and the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter.

Accompanying live tables are provided online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness> and are listed on pages 18 and 19. These form the underlying data used to produce most of the text and charts. The definitions section provides more detail of terms used within the release.

This statistical release does not include any totals for the former government regions except for London following last year's consultation on the publication of regional statistics. Further details are given in the Written Ministerial Statement of 18 September 2012, which is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/statistics-for-local-enterprise-partnerships-and-upper-tier-local-authorities>. Figures are given for London because they relate to the area covered by the Greater London Authority.

Please note we have made scheduled revisions to the past seven quarters of data. In the live tables, revised data is indicated by an "R" next to the relevant quarter.

Decisions taken by local authorities on homelessness applications

This section reviews the decisions taken by local authorities on homelessness applications. A definition of decisions can be found on page 20 of this publication.

Between 1 January and 31 March 2014, local housing authorities made 27,210 decisions on applications (by eligible households) for housing assistance under the homelessness legislation of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended). This is 5 per cent lower than in the corresponding quarter in 2013. After seasonal adjustment, the number of decisions was 27,180, 2 per cent lower than 27,870 in the previous quarter.

During the 2013/14 financial year, 111,960 decisions were made by local authorities. This is a decrease of 1 per cent from 113,520 in 2012/13.

Key points:

Of the 27,210 decisions made between 1 January and 31 March:

- 46 per cent were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty (these are known as 'homelessness acceptances');
- 27 per cent were found not to be homeless;
- 20 per cent were found to be homeless but not in priority need; and
- 8 per cent were found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need.

The number of households found to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need - and so owed a main homelessness duty - was 7 per cent lower than the same quarter in 2013. The number of households found to be homeless but not in priority need increased by 4 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2013. The number of households found not to be homeless decreased 7 per cent and the number of households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need decreased by 5 per cent, compared to the same quarter in 2013.

The proportion of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty as a percentage of decisions was 46 per cent, slightly down from 47 per cent of the same quarter last year. Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty are explored further in the next section.

See Live Table 770: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households.

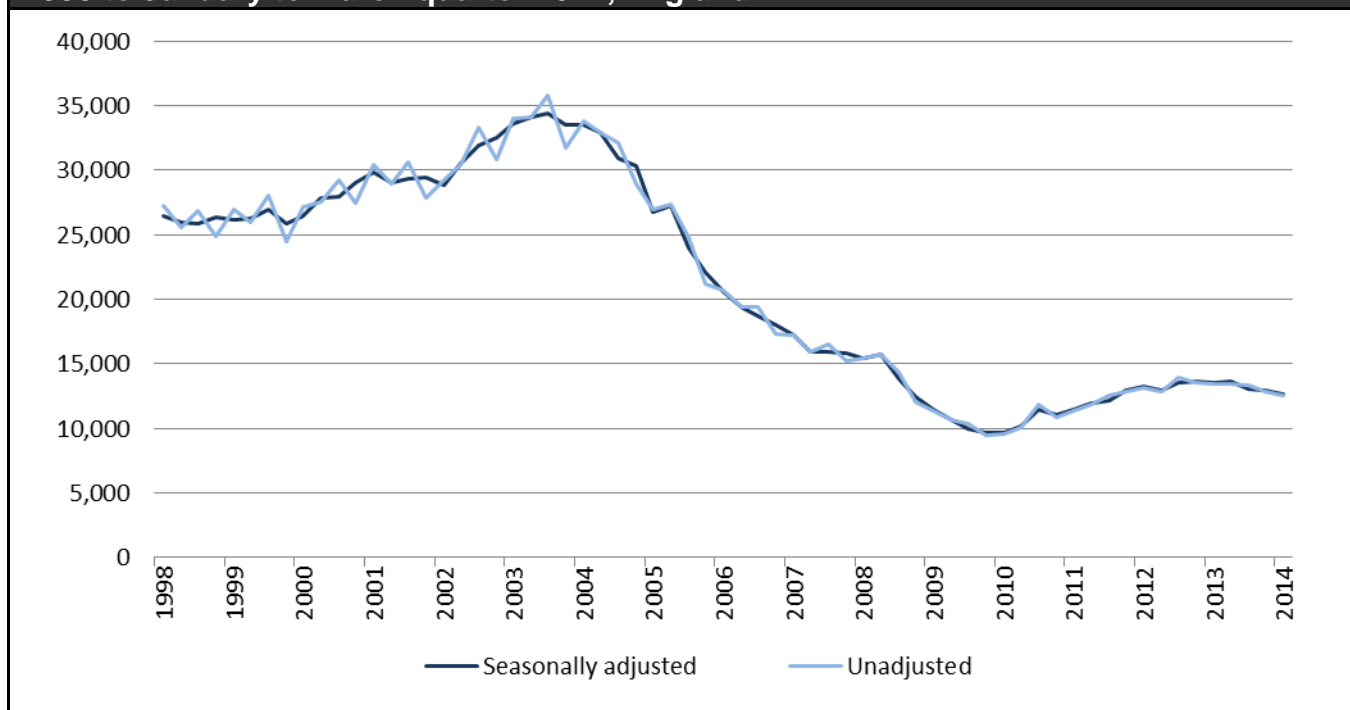
Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty

This section looks at those applicants who local authorities decided were eligible as homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty.

In England, between 1 January and 31 March 2014, local authorities accepted 12,540 households as being owed a main homelessness duty. This is a 7 per cent decrease compared to the same quarter last year. After seasonal adjustment, the number of acceptances during the first quarter of 2014 was 12,650, a decrease of 2 per cent from the seasonally-adjusted figure of 12,960 in the previous quarter.

During the 2013/14 financial year, 52,270 households were accepted by local authorities as being owed the main homelessness duty. This is a decrease of 3 per cent from 53,770 in 2012/13.

Chart 1: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty each quarter, 1998 to January to March quarter 2014, England



See Live Table 770: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households

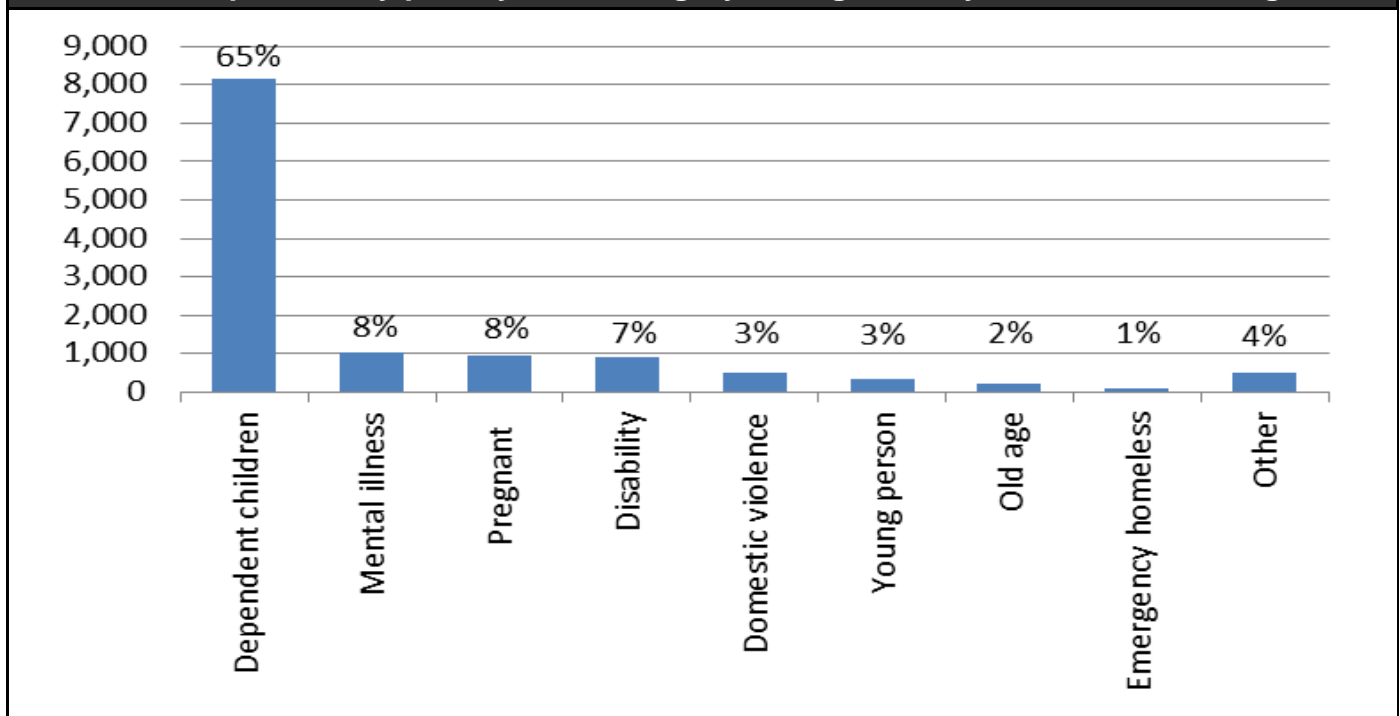
Acceptances by priority need category

Between 1 January and 31 March 2014, the presence of dependent children in the household was the primary reason for priority need in 65 per cent of acceptances, representing 8,150 households and this proportion is stable compared to the same quarter last year. A further 8 per cent of

households were in priority need because they included a pregnant woman, representing 960 households and down from 9 per cent in the same quarter last year.

The majority of the remainder were in priority need due to vulnerability, for example, mental illness (8 per cent) or physical disability (7 per cent). Homeless in an emergency accounted for less than 1 per cent of all acceptances. Three per cent of acceptances were in priority need through being a young person (either 16- to 17-year-olds, or 18- to 20-year-olds who were formerly in care).

Chart 2: Acceptances by priority need category during January to March 2014, England



See Live Table 773: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by priority need category

Acceptances by reason for loss of last settled home

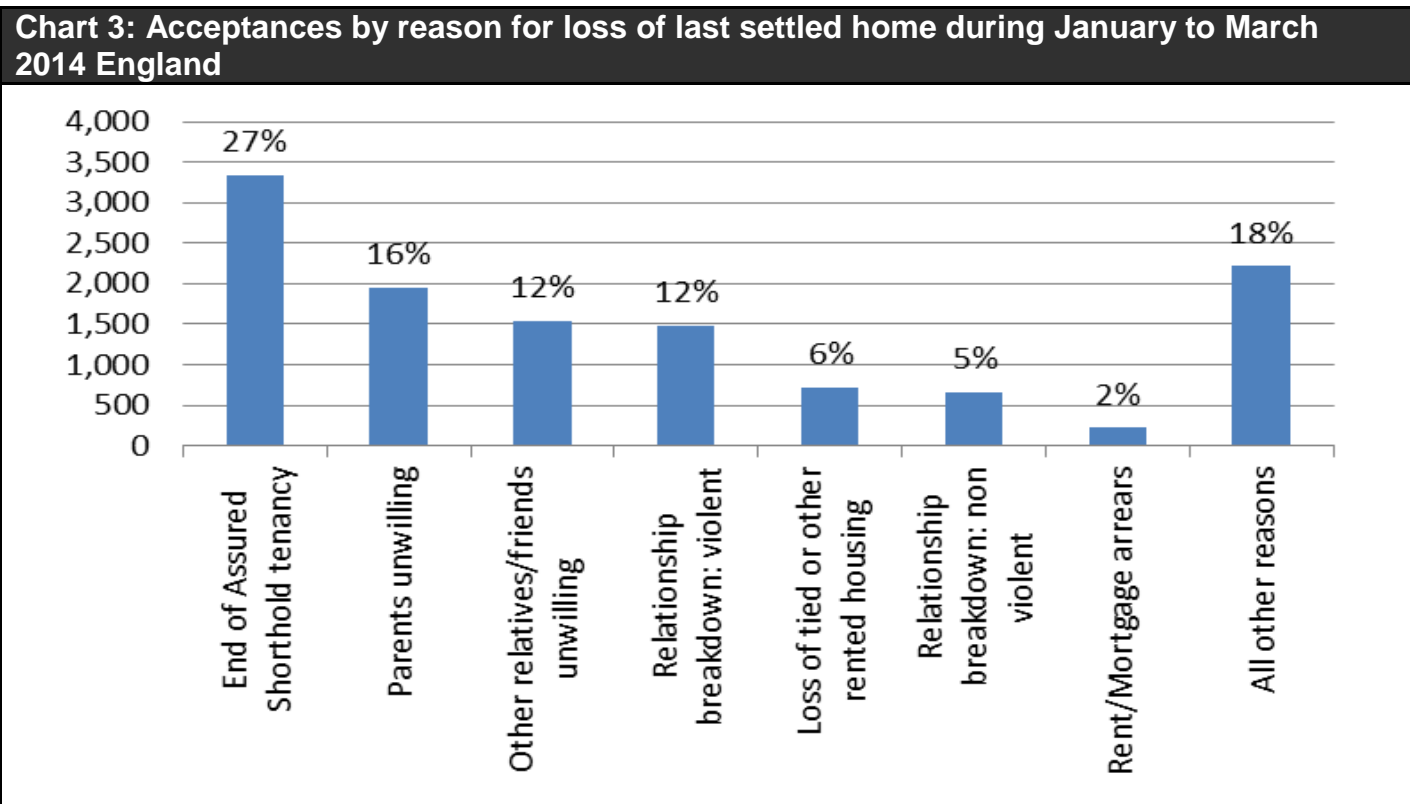
Between 1 January and 31 March 2014, in 28 per cent of acceptances the reason for homelessness was parents, relatives or friends (mostly parents) not being able, or willing, to accommodate applicants.

In a further 17 per cent of acceptances, the reason for homelessness was the breakdown of a relationship with a partner, 69 per cent of these cases involving violence.

In 27 per cent of acceptances the reason for homelessness was the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy. There has been a rise in acceptances for this reason, from 24 per cent in the same quarter in 2013. The ending of an assured shorthold tenancy has been the most frequently occurring reason for the loss of last settled home for the last eight consecutive quarters.

During the 2013/14 financial year, the reason for homelessness for 13,650 households was the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy. This is an increase of 14 per cent from 11,960 in 2012/13.

The proportion of acceptances where homelessness resulted from mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home) was 2 per cent, stable compared to the same quarter in 2013. The proportion of acceptances due to mortgage arrears has remained much lower than the peak in the last downturn, which was 12 per cent during 1991.



See Live Table 774: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by reason for loss of last settled home

Acceptances by ethnicity

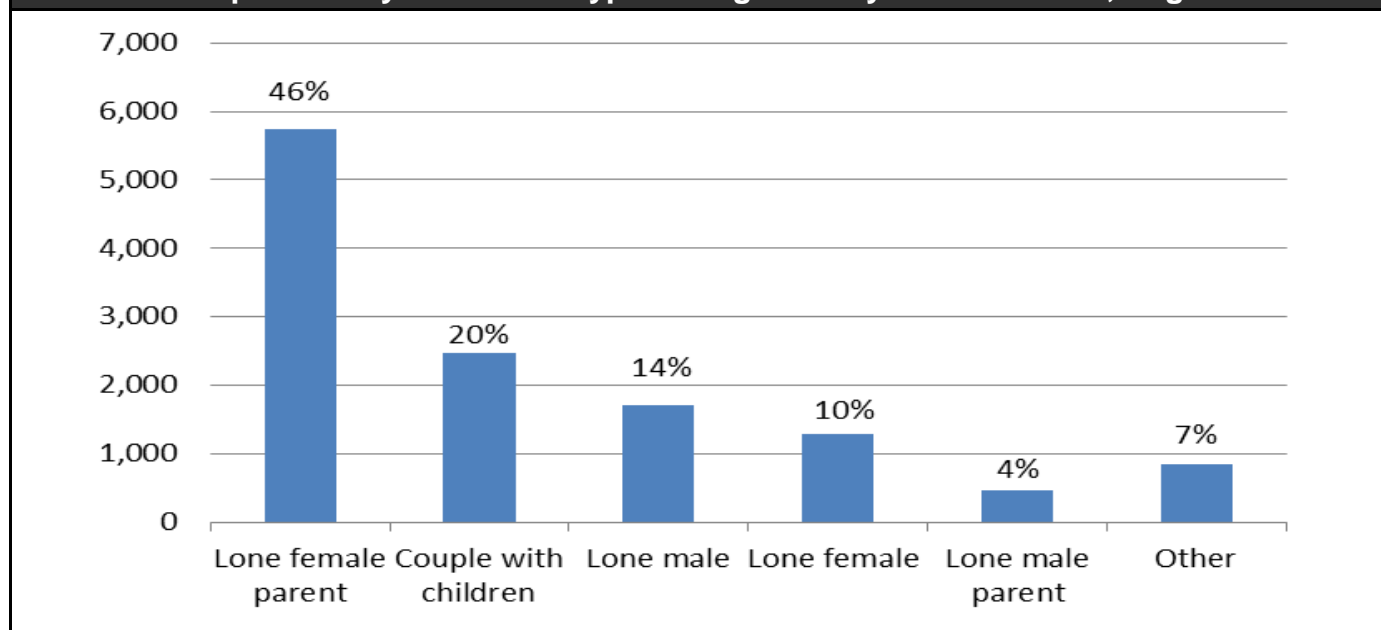
Between 1 January and 31 March 2014, 63 per cent of applicants accepted were stated as being White and 32 per cent were stated as being from a Black and Minority Ethnic group: 16 per cent Black, 8 per cent Asian, 3 per cent mixed and 4 per cent another ethnic group. The ethnic origin of the remaining 6 per cent was not stated. Compared to the population as a whole, there is a higher incidence of acceptances amongst Black and Minority Ethnic groups than amongst the White population.

See Live Table 771: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by ethnicity

Acceptances by household type

Of the 12,540 acceptances between 1 January and 31 March 2014, 49 per cent were lone parent households with dependent children (4 per cent male, 46 per cent female), and 20 per cent were couples with dependent children. One person households accounted for 24 per cent of acceptances, of which 57 per cent were male.

Chart 4: Acceptances by household type during January to March 2014, England



See Live Table 780: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by household type

Acceptances by age band

Between 1 January and 31 March 2014, 82 per cent of all acceptances were applicants aged under 45 years old: 55 per cent were aged between 25 and 44, and 27 per cent between 16 and 24.

See Live Table 781: homeless households accepted by local authorities, by age of applicant

Homelessness acceptances: London and the rest of England

The number of households accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty in London between 1 January and 31 March 2014 was 4,030. This is a decrease of 3 per cent from 4,170 the same quarter last year and accounts for 32 per cent of the England total. In London, the main reason for the loss of last settled home was the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy at 1,460 (36 per cent). This is an increase of 10 per cent from 1,330 in the same quarter last year.

The average incidence of homelessness acceptances across England between 1 January and 31 March 2014 was 0.56 per thousand households. This can be broken down into 1.19 per thousand households in London and 0.44 in the rest of England.

Localism Act

The Localism Act 2011 allows authorities to place homeless households into private rented sector and places a re-application duty on them if a household becomes unintentionally homeless again within two years. Q1 2014 was the fourth quarter for which the Department collected figures from local authorities on the operation of this new duty. After rounding, 60 re-application decisions (about eligible households) were made. Forty of these were households that were accepted as

being unintentionally homeless and in priority need, 20 cases related to households that were eligible but intentionally homeless and 10 cases were eligible but not homeless. A fuller picture is expected to emerge over the next few quarters. During the 2013/14 financial year, 180 re-application decisions (about eligible households) were made. Of these, 44 per cent (80 households) were accepted, 30 per cent (50 households) were found to be eligible but not homeless and 26 per cent (50 households) were found to be eligible but intentionally homeless

A full breakdown of the reasons for loss of last settled home and other breakdowns, including age of accepted household, ethnicity, nationality, household type, priority need group and local authority can be found in the live tables at the link provided in the “Accompanying Live Tables” section of this release.

Households in temporary accommodation

Throughout England, the number of households in [temporary accommodation](#) on 31 March 2014, arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation, was 58,440. This was 6 per cent higher than a year earlier. After seasonal adjustment, the number of households in temporary accommodation was 58,390, an increase of 1 per cent from 57,590 at the end of the previous quarter.

Historically, there tends to be a lag between a change in direction in the number of acceptances and a change in direction in the number of households in temporary accommodation. The change in direction in the time series during 2013 shown in Chart 5 followed the increase in the acceptances series that began in 2010, as shown in Chart 1. These trends are shown together in Chart 6.

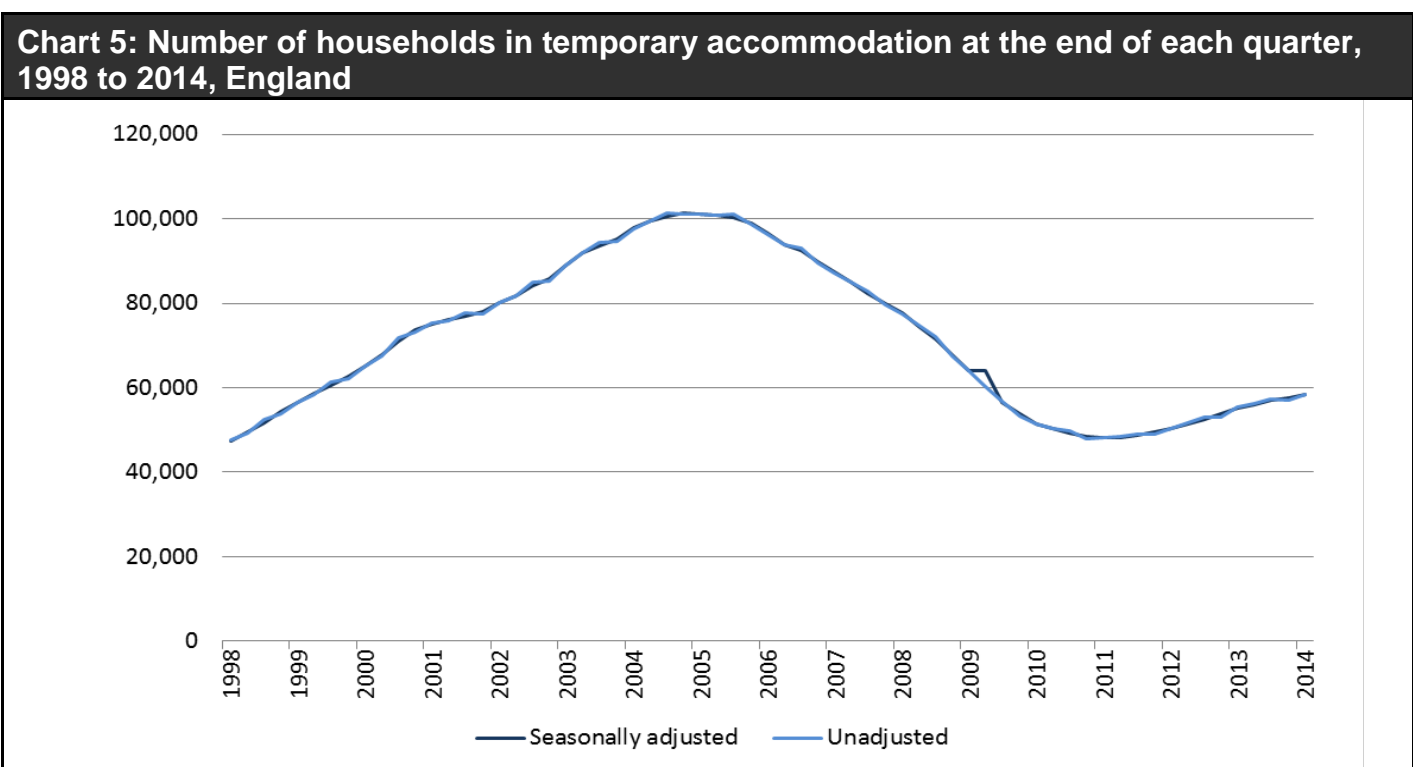
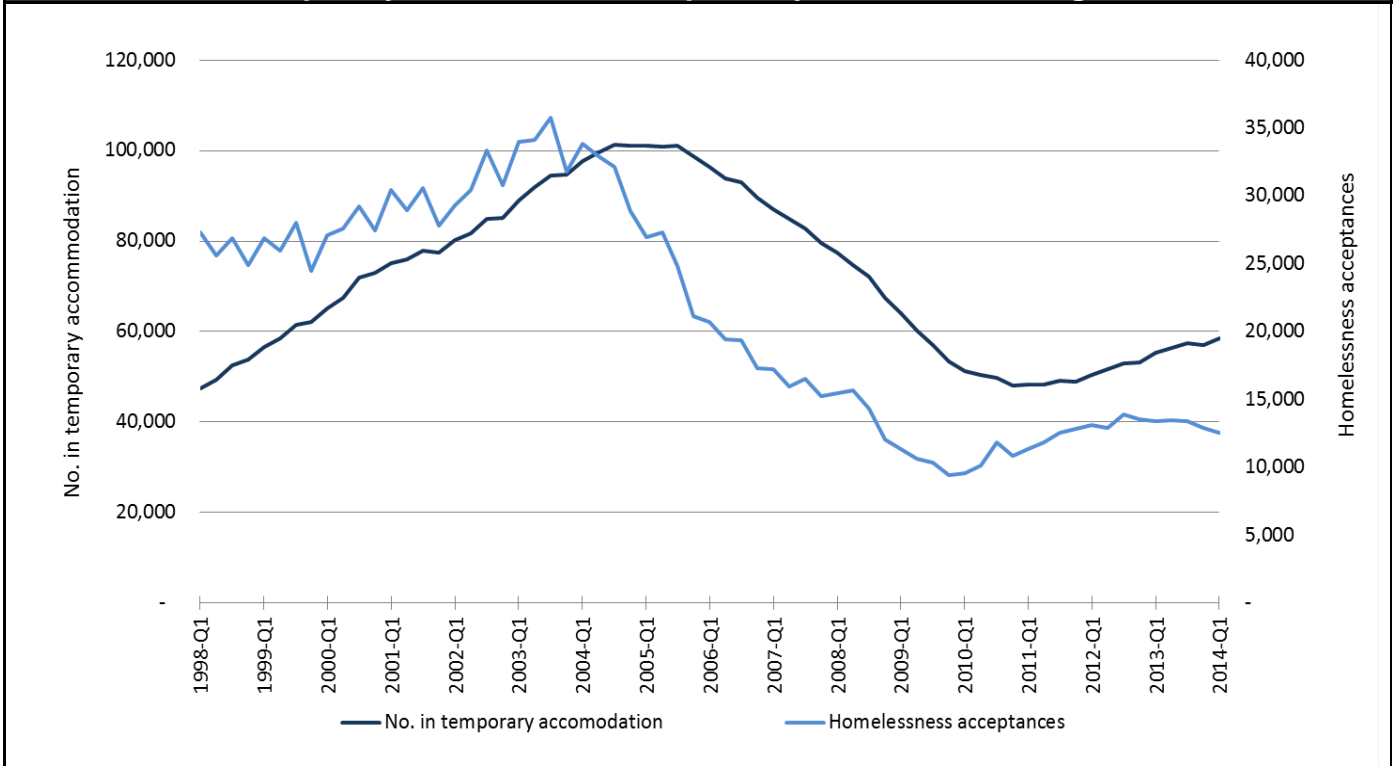


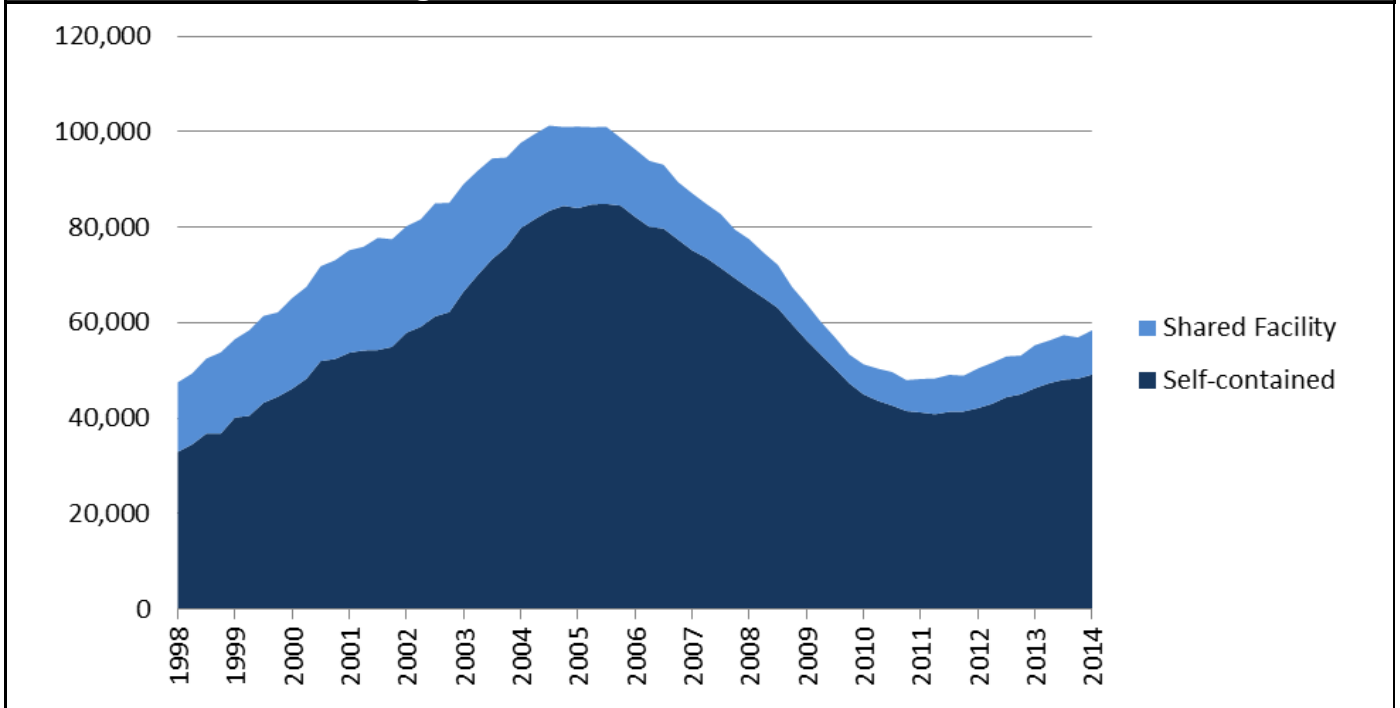
Chart 6: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty, and households in temporary accommodation, quarterly 1998 to 2014, England



See Live Table 775: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation

Of the 58,440 households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2014, 48,520 (83 per cent) had been accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and were being housed in temporary accommodation by the authority until a settled home became available. The remaining 17 per cent were being accommodated pending a decision on their application, the outcome of a local authority review or an appeal to the county court on the authority's decision, or possible referral to another local authority, or had been found intentionally homeless and in priority need and subsequently were being accommodated for such a period as would give them a reasonable opportunity to find accommodation for themselves.

Chart 7: Households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type, 1998 to 31 March 2014, England

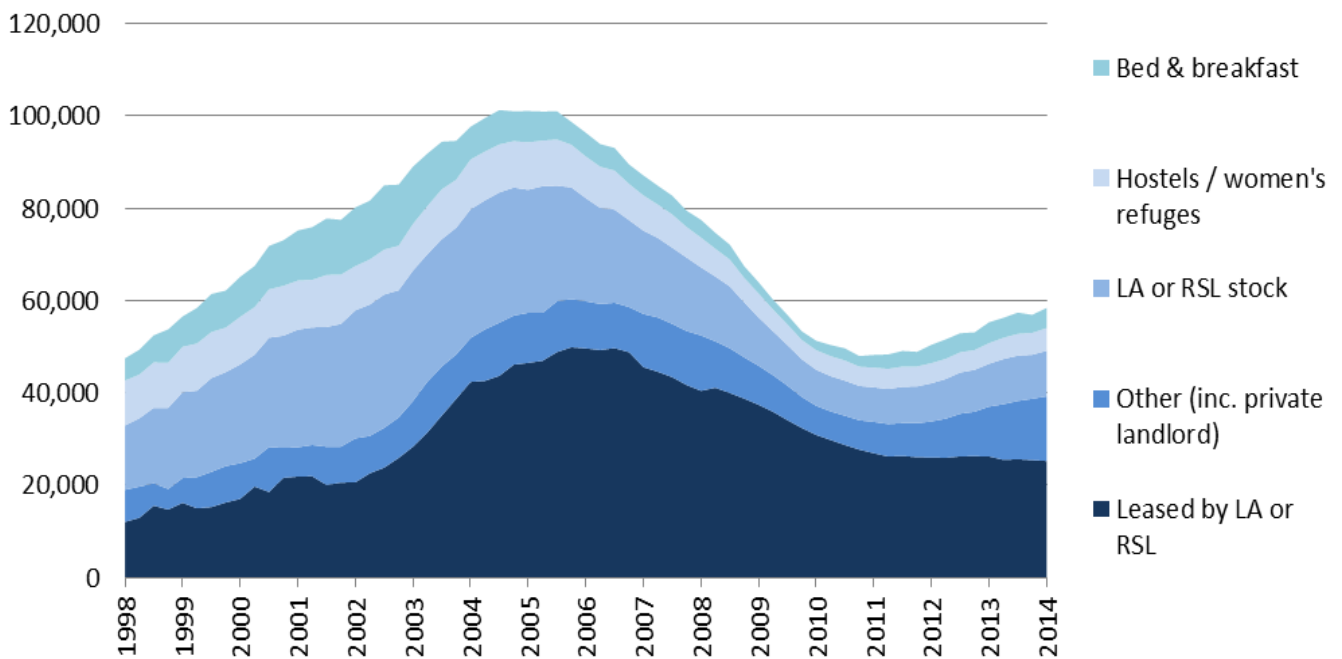


Households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation

There is a wide range of accommodation used to provide temporary accommodation, most of which is self-contained (either in local authority or housing authority stock, or within the private sector). At the end of March 2014, 84 per cent of households in temporary accommodation were in self-contained accommodation. This was the same proportion as at the same date last year.

Looked at the other way round, use of accommodation with shared facilities stayed relatively consistent over recent quarters, at around 16 per cent, after a short period of increase following a long period of decline since its peak in 2001, when 30 per cent of households were in this form of temporary accommodation.

Chart 8: Households in temporary accommodation, by type, at the end of each quarter, 1998 to 31 March 2014, England



On 31 March 2014, of the **58,440 households in temporary accommodation**:

- 25,270 households were in **private sector accommodation** (43 per cent of all households), most commonly in a property leased by the local authority or housing association, or in some cases let directly to the applicant as the tenant of a private sector landlord. This is a decrease of 4 per cent from 31 March last year, when there were 26,260 such households.
- 9,870 households were in accommodation owned by **social landlords** (17 per cent of all households), up 6 per cent from 9,270 households as at 31 March last year. Of these 9,870 households, 72 per cent were in local authority owned stock, and 28 per cent in registered social landlord owned property.
- 4,900 households were in **hostel accommodation and women's refuges** (8 per cent of all households), up 9 per cent from 4,480 the same time last year.
- 4,370 households were in **bed and breakfast style accommodation** (7 per cent of all households), 3 per cent lower than 4,510 the same time last year. London accounts for just over half the number of households in bed and breakfast style accommodation, where the number has decreased by 1 per cent since the same quarter last year (2,290 to 2,250 households). Historically, the use of bed and breakfast accommodation peaked in March 1987, when 47 per cent (England) and 59 per cent (London) of households in temporary accommodation were housed in this style of accommodation.

In addition to the 58,440 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2014, 5,710 households accepted as owed a main duty remained (with consent) in their existing accommodation (or made their own arrangements) while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is 4 per cent lower than at the same date last year.

See Live Table 775: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation

Young people in temporary accommodation

Of the 58,440 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2014, 43,420 included dependent children and/or a pregnant woman (within which households there were 80,680 children or expected children). The average number of children in those households in temporary accommodation with children is about 1.9. The average number of children per household has been 1.9 since 2006 (except during Q2 2013 when it dropped to 1.8); before 2006 it was 1.7 children per household since data were first collected in 2004.

Of these 43,420 households with children, 89 per cent were in self-contained accommodation, up from 88 per cent as at the end of the same quarter last year. 1,900 (4 per cent) were in bed and breakfast style accommodation, down slightly from 5 per cent the end of the same quarter last year. Of these 1,900 households, 440 had been in bed and breakfast style accommodation for over six weeks (40 of which were pending review). This represents a decrease of 42 per cent since the end of the same quarter last year.

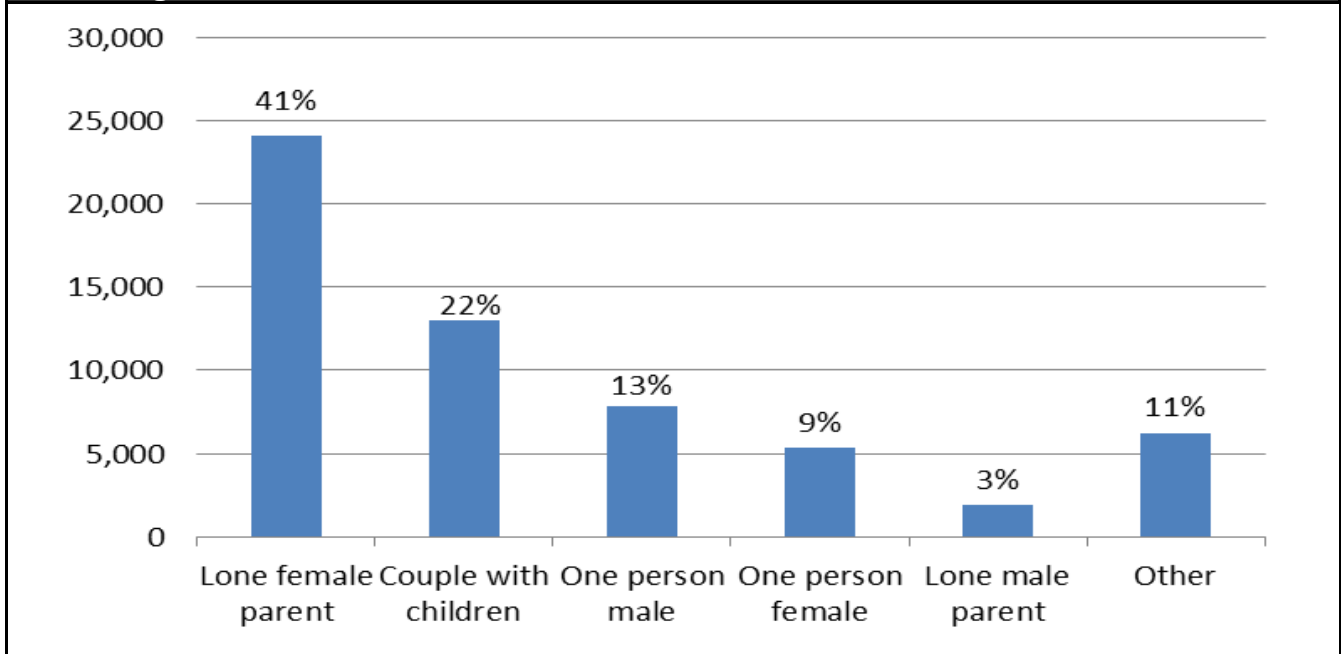
At the end of March 2014, there were 60 households headed by 16 and 17 year old applicants in bed and breakfast style accommodation, of which 20 had been there for over six weeks.

Households in temporary accommodation, by household type and ethnicity

Of the 58,440 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2014, the biggest group (41 per cent) were female lone parent households with dependent children. Couples with dependent children accounted for 22 per cent of households. Single person households (with no dependent children) accounted for 23 per cent of households, with a higher proportion of males than females.

Fifty-two per cent of all households in temporary accommodation were headed by ethnic minority applicants. The vast majority of these households (91 per cent) were in London, where they represented 64 per cent of all households in temporary accommodation. This reflects the high usage of temporary accommodation and larger ethnic minority population in the area. Outside London, ethnic minority applicants accounted for 17 per cent of households in temporary accommodation.

Chart 9: Households in temporary accommodation by household type as at 31 March 2014, England



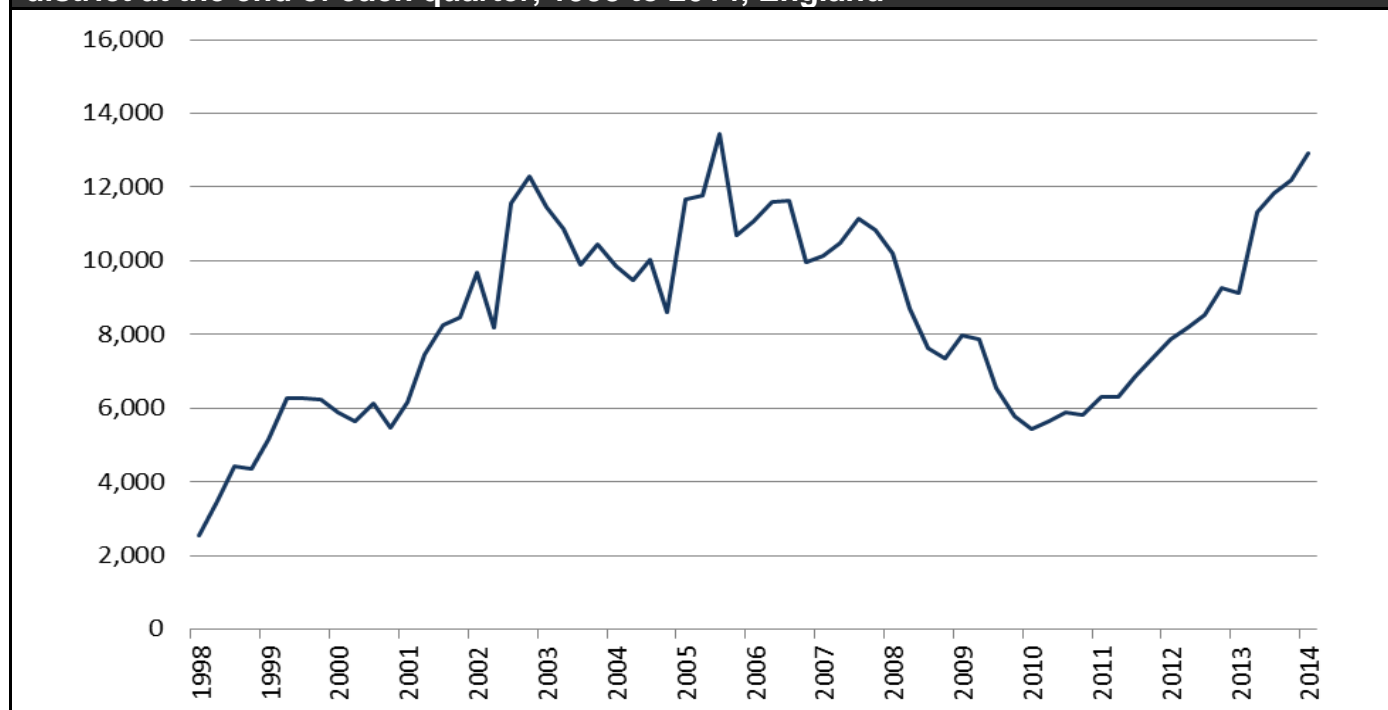
See Live Table 782: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by household type and applicant characteristics

Households in temporary accommodation in another local authority district

Of the 58,440 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2014, 12,910 (22 per cent) were in accommodation in another local authority district. This is an increase of 41 per cent, from 9,130 (17 per cent) at the same date last year.

Of the 12,910 accommodated in another local authority district, 12,020 were from London authorities (93 per cent of the England total). This is an increase of 45 per cent from the same date last year when 8,270 such households were in London.

Chart 10: Number of households in temporary accommodation in another local authority district at the end of each quarter, 1998 to 2014, England



Further breakdowns of households in temporary accommodation can be found in several of the live tables at the link provided in the Accompanying Live Tables section of this release.

Households in temporary accommodation: London and the rest of England

London had 43,310 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2014, accounting for 74 per cent of the England total.

As at 31 March 2014, England had an average rate of 2.59 households in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households. This can be broken down into 12.79 per thousand households in London and 0.79 in the rest of England.

Action taken to end the homelessness duty

Action taken in respect of acceptances

Including the small number of cases accepted under the new re-application duty, there were 12,570 acceptances between 1 January and 31 March 2014. Of these, 7,760 (62 per cent) were placed in some form of temporary accommodation for a period of time. This is up from 61 per cent in the same quarter last year. For a further 3,470 accepted households (28 per cent), arrangements were made, with consent, to remain in their existing accommodation (or to make their own arrangements), for the immediate future while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is down slightly, from 31 per cent in the same quarter last year.

Seven per cent of acceptances were provided with settled accommodation, by being granted a secure tenancy in local authority or registered social landlord accommodation, or an assured short hold tenancy in the private rented sector. Ninety households (less than 1 per cent) accepted an offer in the private rented sector and 30 (less than 1 per cent) rejected such an offer. The remaining 2 per cent either made their own arrangements or had no further contact with the authority, thus bringing the homelessness duty to an end.

See the first part of Live Table 778: Homeless households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, and Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as "duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome

Households leaving temporary accommodation and other temporary arrangements

Between 1 January and 31 March 2014, a main homelessness duty was ended for 10,040 households who had previously been in temporary accommodation or had remained, with consent, in their existing accommodation while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is a decrease of 4 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.

6,890 (69 per cent) of these households were provided with settled accommodation, by accepting a "Part 6" offer of a secure tenancy in local authority or housing authority accommodation, although a further 5 per cent refused such an offer. Three per cent accepted alternative offers of rented accommodation.

Fourteen per cent of households voluntarily left the temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangement. Six per cent of households ceased to be eligible, or became intentionally homeless from the temporary accommodation provided for them.

The first quarter of 2014 was the fourth quarter for which figures were collected on the new power for local authorities to discharge their homeless duty by making an offer in the private rented sector. Three hundred households accepted such an offer and 30 rejected one. During the 2013/14 financial year, 1,040 households accepted an offer of accommodation in the private rented sector.

See Part 2 of Live Table 778: Homeless households accepted by local authorities and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as "duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome

Length of time in temporary accommodation (and other temporary arrangements), between acceptance and duty being ended

Of the 10,040 households who left temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements

during the quarter, 63 per cent had been in these temporary arrangements for less than six months, down from 66 per cent for the same quarter last year. The percentage of households that spent two or more years in temporary accommodation slightly increased from 9 per cent to 12 per cent.

Chart 11a compares the proportion of those spending two years or more in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, for the most recent quarter and the same quarter last year for London and the rest of England and Chart 11b compares the proportion of those spending less than six months in temporary arrangements for London and the rest of England.

In London between 1 January and 31 March 2014, 27 per cent of households that left temporary arrangements had previously spent two or more years in such temporary arrangements. This is an increase from 22 per cent in the same quarter last year. Conversely, in the rest of England, this figure is 5 per cent, an increase from 2 per cent during January to March 2013.

In London between 1 January and 31 March 2014, 39 per cent of households that left temporary arrangements had previously spent less than six months in such temporary arrangements, an increase from 37 per cent compared to the same quarter last year. Conversely, in the rest of England, this figure was 73 per cent, down from 79 per cent in January to March 2013.

See *Live Table 779: Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”) during each quarter, by length of stay, England and London.*

Chart 11a: Proportion of households that spent two years or more in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, London and the rest of England, January to March, 2013 and 2014

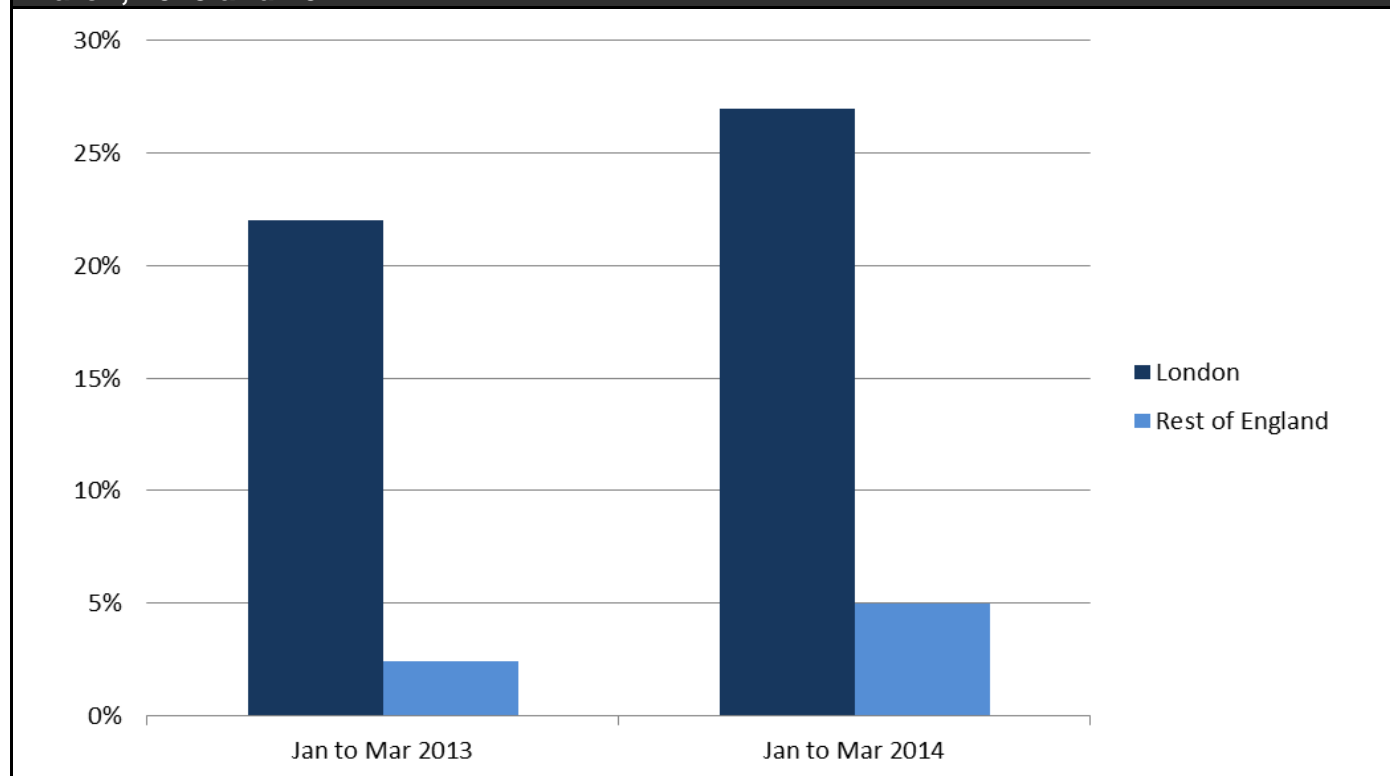
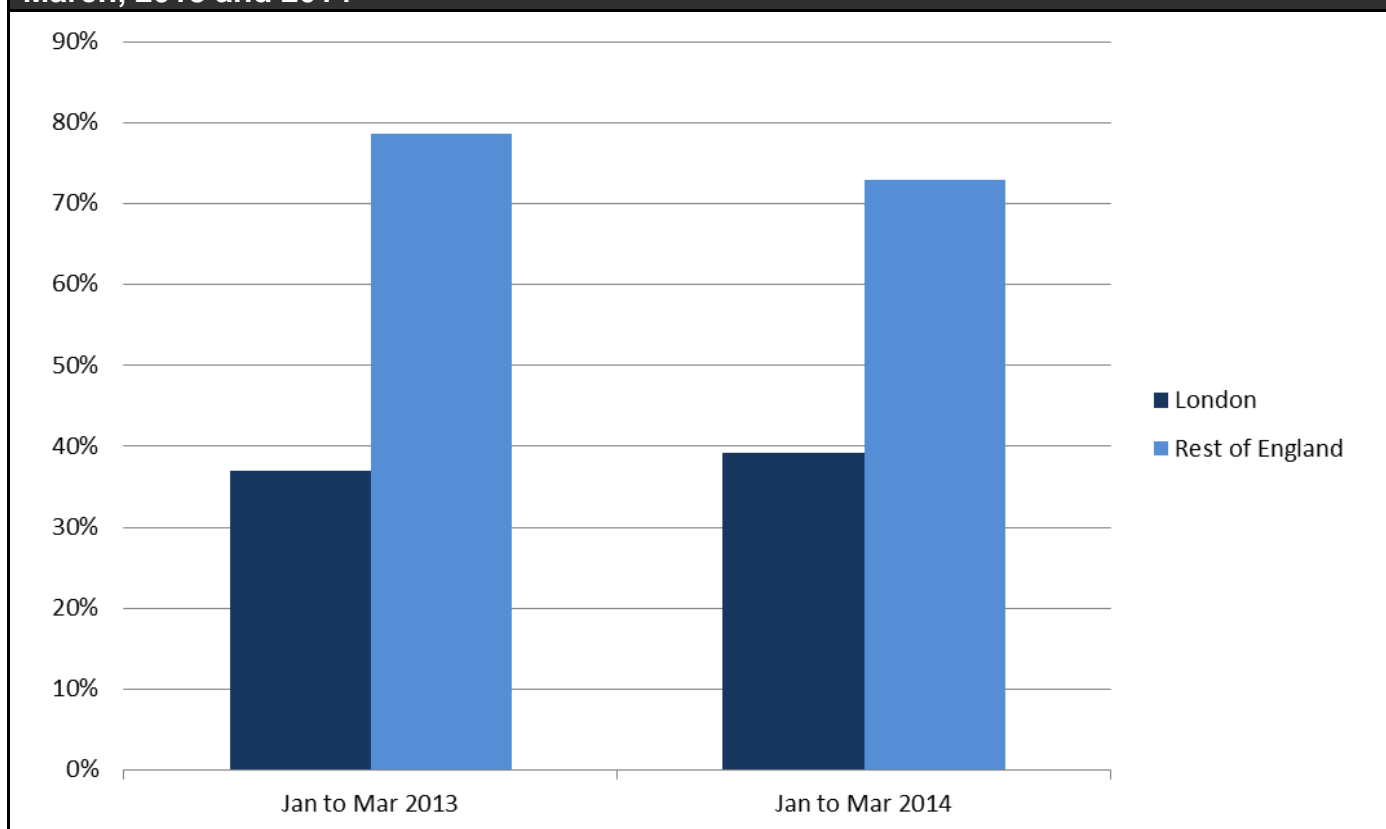


Chart 11b: Proportion of households that spent less than six months in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, London and the rest of England, January to March, 2013 and 2014



Foreign national households

2,050 foreign national applicants were accepted as homeless between 1 January and 31 March 2014. Of these, 400 were European Economic Area (EEA) accession country ('A10') nationals, 470 were from other EEA countries and 1,180 were from outside the EEA. During this period, foreign nationals accounted for 16 per cent of all acceptances. The number is stable from last year when there were 2,060 acceptances, accounting for 15 per cent of all acceptances.

The 'A10' countries are the ten accession countries whose nationals may be subject to the Home Office Worker Authorisation schemes for a transitional period: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Separate figures for decisions made on Croatian applicants will be collected on the P1E form from 1 April 2014, following Croatia becoming an accession country on 1 July 2013. The 'other EEA' countries are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

See *Live Table 785: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible foreign national households*; and *Live Table 786: Homeless foreign national households accepted by local authorities, by reason for eligibility*

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. These are:

- Table 770** Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households (including a map at local authority level)
- Table 771** Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by ethnicity
- Table 773** Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by priority need category
- Table 774** Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by reason for loss of last settled home
- Table 775** Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation (including a map at local authority level)
- Table 777** Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, London and England
- Table 778** Homeless households accepted by local authorities, and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”), by outcome
- Table 779** Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”) during each quarter, by length of time since acceptance, England and London
- Table 780** Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by household type
- Table 781** Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by age of applicant
- Table 782** Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by household type and ethnicity
- Table 784** Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts, by local authority: financial years 2004-05 to 2013-13
- Table 784a** Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts, by local authority: quarterly for quarters in 2014-14
- Table 785** Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible foreign national households

Table 786 Homeless foreign national households accepted by local authorities, by reason for eligibility

Table 793 Families with children in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks, excluding those pending review, by local authority

Detailed local authority level homelessness figures Spreadsheets containing detailed figures at local authority level from sections E1 to E7 of the P1E return for each quarter from Q2 2014. The spreadsheet containing figures for Q3 2014 is due to be uploaded to the live tables page shortly after the publication of this release.

Figures for individual local authorities are included in Tables 784, 784a and 793.

* Tables giving regional totals have been frozen so as not to include figures for any periods after Q2 2013.

Table 772 * Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by region (including a map at regional level)

Table 776 * Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by region (including a map at regional level)

Table 783 * Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation and region

The above tables can be accessed at:

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

Related DCLG statistical releases are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>

Definitions

1. **Acceptances:** households found to be eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falling within a priority need group (as defined by homelessness legislation - see paragraph 3 below), *during the quarter*, are referred to as “acceptances”. These households are consequently owed a main homelessness duty by a local housing authority. The main duty is to secure settled accommodation.
2. **Decisions:** refers to decisions taken in respect of all eligible households that apply for assistance under the Housing and Homelessness Acts. These do not therefore include households found to be ineligible for assistance (some persons from abroad are ineligible for assistance).
3. **Households for whom a duty is owed, but no accommodation has been secured:** these are households who have been accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty and for whom arrangements have been made for them, with consent, to remain in their existing accommodation (or to make their own arrangements) for the immediate future. This was previously referred to as “Homeless at Home”. Before the second quarter of 2005, figures were also collected on those potentially in this category but whose application was still under consideration pending a decision.
4. **Priority need groups:** include households with dependent children or a pregnant woman and people who are vulnerable in some way e.g. because of mental illness or physical disability. The priority need categories were extended by Order in January 2002 to include, additionally: applicants aged 16 or 17; applicants aged 18 to 20 who were previously in care; applicants vulnerable as a result of time spent in care, in custody, or in HM Forces, and applicants vulnerable as a result of having to flee their home because of violence or the threat of violence (in addition to domestic violence, which is one of the original priority need groups). It is not possible to establish precisely how much of the changed profile of acceptances is attributable to the Order. Previously, some local authorities would have accepted households that fell within the new categories as having a priority need because of “another special reason”. This applies in particular to applicants such as vulnerable young people, and people fleeing domestic violence. Where applicants are accepted as homeless because of an emergency, for example fire or flood, this will always be recorded as the main priority need category.
5. **Self-contained accommodation:** this includes all temporary accommodation where the household has sole use of kitchen and bathroom facilities, including property held by local housing authorities, registered social landlords and private sector landlords. A distinction is made between this type of accommodation and accommodation where such facilities are shared with other households (i.e. bed and breakfast, hostels and women's refuges).
6. **Temporary accommodation:** households in temporary accommodation (excluding those for whom a duty is owed, but no accommodation has been secured) *on the last day of the quarter*, as arranged by a local housing authority as a discharge of their statutory homelessness functions. In most cases, the authority is discharging a main homelessness duty to secure suitable

accommodation until a settled home becomes available for the applicant and his/her household. However, the numbers also include households provided with accommodation pending a decision on their homelessness application, households pending a review or appeal to the county court of the decision on their case, or possible referral to another local authority, and households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need who were being accommodated for such period as would give them a reasonable opportunity to find accommodation for themselves.

Technical notes

Data collection

Local housing authorities report their activities under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Localism Act 2011) to the Department for Communities and Local Government by completing the quarterly P1E statistical return. A recent form and guidance notes can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/homelessness-data-notes-and-definitions>.

Statutory homelessness statistics are published around 50 working days after the end of each quarter, on a pre-announced date in accordance with the Official Statistics Code of Practice.

The scope of this data collection and statistical release is limited to English local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation. This release does not contain data on other forms of homelessness, for example, rough sleeping. The devolved administrations publish their own statistics on statutory homelessness.

Data quality

All P1E returns submitted by local housing authorities undergo thorough validation and cross-checking, and late returns are pursued to ensure overall response is as complete and accurate as possible. Anomalous data are highlighted and verified by contacting the local authority. Local authorities also provide details of any data checks they undertake. These can take the form of audits (by either internal or external auditors), periodic quality checks on data extracts, or random quality checks. For the period 1 January to 31 March 2014, most authorities reported some form of checking on all data items in the return.

The validation process typically takes around six weeks, after which estimates for missing data are calculated. Local authorities are split into groups based on the former government region they are in and by type of authority. For example, the West Midlands area is split into two groups, one group of district and unitary authorities, the other of metropolitan districts. London is split into inner- and outer-London. Estimates are then calculated by an automated grossing procedure which either (i) updates previously reported data based on the changes observed in other authorities in the same group or (ii) apports totals based on ratios reported by these similar authorities.

The latest quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for 325 out of 326 local authorities

(99.7 per cent response). Section 7 of the form, covering households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements had the lowest rate of return, with 14 local authorities not providing any figures. Overall (for sections 1 to 7 of the form), 96.6 per cent of cells were filled in by local authorities.

The Department for Communities and Local Government's statistical quality guidelines are published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-quality-guidelines>

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>). The policy covers two types of revision:

Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Scheduled Revisions

Local authorities can update their P1E returns following publication of the data. At the end of each financial year, the figures for the eight quarters of the previous two years are routinely reviewed for revision. In particular, the current release includes revisions to figures for the past eight quarters. Provisional figures are labelled in the tables with a "P".

Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) should be made only where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition. Where there are small changes that do not substantially change historic data, internal updates are maintained.

Uses of the data

The data in this statistical release form the basis of evidence on statutory homelessness. Acceptances, decisions, and numbers in temporary accommodation are key series describing homelessness in England, and used for international comparisons. They are used by ministers and officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government in the formulation and

monitoring of policy, the allocation of resources, performance monitoring and to support bids for funding from the Treasury. The data are used to ensure democratic accountability in answers to Parliamentary Questions, ministerial correspondence, Freedom of Information Act cases and queries from the public.

The Departmental Business Plan, first published on 8 November 2010 and refreshed on 31 May 2013, includes an impact indicator on households in temporary accommodation. As at 31 March 2014, there were 56,930 households in temporary accommodation. This is 7 per cent higher than at the same date last year. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, 58,390 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 March, a 1 per cent increase from 57,590 in the previous quarter.

The refreshed Business Plan can be seen at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dclg-business-plan-2012-to-2015>

Other Government departments also use the statistics, including DWP (monitoring those in temporary accommodation in receipt of housing benefit), DH (Public Health Outcomes Framework), DfE (Child poverty needs assessment toolkit for local authorities) and Defra (sustainable development indicators). Local housing authorities are both providers and users of the statistics and use the data extensively to plan services, allocate resources, monitor performance and benchmark against other authorities. The voluntary sector also uses the statistics to monitor and evaluate housing policy and for campaigning and fundraising purposes.

The following uses are made of data from particular sections of the P1E statistical return:

- Sections 1 – 7: data are used in this Statistical Release and Live tables 770 to 784a and 793
- Section 8: this has been discontinued
- Section 9: data on foreign nationals - used in this Statistical Release and Live tables 785 and 786
- Section 10: prevention and relief data - used in the annual Statistical Release on homelessness prevention and relief and Live tables 787 to 792

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>.

The Department's *Statistics Plan for 2012/13* (available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/dclg-draft-statistics-plan-for-2011-to-2012>) sets out the Department's intention to reduce the detail of the statutory homelessness quarterly releases to include only the most high profile and volatile data, with a more detailed publication at year end. This approach is now being followed. The Statistics Plan was available for user consultation from 13 April to 3 March 2011 and the final version of the plan was published on 7 March 2013.

Legislation

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents>), as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/contents>) and the Localism Act 2011 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>), places statutory duties on local housing authorities to provide assistance to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Authorities must consider all applications from people seeking accommodation or assistance in obtaining accommodation. A main homelessness duty (see below) is owed where the authority is satisfied that the applicant is eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falls within a priority need group. The priority need groups are specified in the legislation, although definition 3 above provides a summary.

Where a main duty is owed, the authority must ensure that suitable accommodation is available for the applicant and his or her household until a settled home becomes available for them. Where households are found to be intentionally homeless or not in priority need, the authority must make an assessment of their housing needs and provide advice and assistance to help them find accommodation for themselves. Where the applicant is found to be intentionally homeless but falls in a priority need category the authority must also ensure that accommodation is available for long enough to give the applicant a reasonable opportunity to find a home.

Methodology

1. The **seasonally adjusted** estimates have been produced using the X12-ARIMA model, in accordance with Official Statistics practices, which have then been constrained so that they are consistent with the unadjusted financial year totals. Historically, the number of decisions and acceptances tends to be lower in the second quarter than in the first and third quarters, and will also be affected by seasonal holiday periods, especially Christmas and the New Year. In the second quarter of 2009, seasonal adjustments were introduced for the households in temporary accommodation series, because this series was also found to be affected by seasonality.

2. **Rates per 1,000 households** have been calculated using the 2011-based household interim projections for 2013 (rather than the 2008-based household projections for 2012 used for 2013-13) produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These were published on 9 April 2014 and are available at Table 406 at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/189965/AllTablesNoRegionalFinal_3.xls

3. National figures in the text and accompanying tables are presented rounded to the nearest 10 households or applicants. Local authority figures provided in the accompanying live tables are unrounded.

4. The maps are based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office:

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Related links

The Department now has an official linked open data site, which provides a selection of statistics on a variety of [themes](#) including homelessness. Its home page is at <http://opendatacommunities.org/> and some homelessness data sets derived from Live Table 784a are available at <http://opendatacommunities.org/themes/homelessness>.

The Department also releases information on **Homelessness Prevention and Relief** activity. The most recent publication, relating to local authority actions in the 2013-13 financial year, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-prevention-and-relief-england-2012-to-2014>.

Rough sleeping statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2014>.

Statistics on local authority revenue expenditure and financing in England can be found at the following link. The RO4 return within the Revenue Outturn suite relates to housing services and includes information on local authorities' expenditure on homelessness activities: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing>

Information on lettings of local authority and private registered provider properties in England are collected on the CORE (COntinuous REcording of Lettings and Sales in Social Housing) system. This includes information on whether lettings have been made to statutorily homeless households. Official Statistics are published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/rents-lettings-and-tenancies>

An on-line analysis tool is available at: <https://core.communities.gov.uk/>

Pre-release access

Details of officials who receive pre-release access to the Department's quarterly Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release up to 24 hours before release can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics#pre-release-access-to-official-statistics>.

Devolved administration statistics

In **Scotland**, local authorities' homelessness duties under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 have been substantially amended by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003. The 2001 Act extended the duties towards non-priority homeless households, ensuring they are provided with a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance. The 2003 Act introduced many changes, of which the target to abolish the priority need test by 2013 was the most significant. The target states that, by 31 March 2013, everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless would be entitled to settled accommodation.

The framework of the assessment process is similar to that in England. Local authorities currently make enquiries as to whether the person is homeless, whether they have a priority need, whether they made themselves homeless intentionally, and whether they have a local connection with the local authority. However, the 2003 Act has removed or substantially amended the priority need, intentionality and local connection stages.

Data on applications are collected on the HL1 return, a continuous case level electronic data capture system. This case level data allows analysis of applications and breakdowns by combinations of characteristics which are not possible from the English local authority level P1E return. Cases can also be grouped to household level to identify instances of repeat homelessness.

Data on households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter are collected on the HL2 form which is completed by local authorities and records summary snapshot details in a similar way to the P1E. The HL2 return also contains information on households at risk of homelessness as defined under Section 11 of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003.

The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Scotland are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/RefTables>

In **Wales**, local authorities are bound by the same statutory duties as those in England. The data are collected on a quarterly local authority level WHO12 return, similar to the P1E form in England. The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Wales are available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/homelessness/?lang=en>

In **Northern Ireland** statistics on homelessness are obtained from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Under the Housing (NI) Order 1988, NIHE has a similar statutory responsibility to secure permanent accommodation for households who are unintentionally homeless and in priority need; to secure temporary accommodation in a variety of circumstances and to provide advice and assistance to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Northern Ireland are available at:

http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/housing_bulletins.htm

Comparing between countries

Statutory homelessness statistics for Wales and Northern Ireland are comparable with the English figures. However, actions taken by Scottish authorities since the 2003 Act to meet the target to abolish priority need by the end of 2013 mean that caution should be exercised when comparing Scotland and England figures or deriving a UK figure over that time period.

Enquiries

Media enquiries:

office hours: 0303 444 1168 or 0303 444 1159

out of hours: 0303 444 1201

Email: press@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Public enquiries and Responsible Statistician:

Dan Howard

Email: homelessnessstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

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

www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/browse-by-theme/index.html

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

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

This Statistical Release, as well as previous releases, can be accessed and all text, tables and charts downloaded electronically, from the Department's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/homelessness-statistics>

Information about DCLG is available via the Department's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government>

The publication date for the second quarter (April to June) 2014 Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release will be September 2014.

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If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, email contactus@communities.gov.uk or write to us at:

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