

# Statutory Homelessness: March Quarter 2011 England

9 June 2011



#### Household acceptances

- 11,350 applicants were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during January to March 2011, 18 per cent higher than the same quarter last year.
- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, there were 11,500 acceptances, an increase of 2 per cent from 11,240 in the previous quarter.
- During the 2010/11 financial year, there were 44,160 acceptances. This is an increase from 40,020 (10 per cent) in 2009/10 – the first financial year increase since 2003/04.

#### Households in temporary accommodation

- 48,240 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2011, 6 per cent lower than the same date last year.
- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, 48,380 households were in temporary accommodation, similar to the figure of 48,490 in the previous quarter.
- This slowing of the downward trend of the number of households in temporary accommodation may be the result of the recent increases in acceptances.
- London (which accounts for nearly three quarters of all households in temporary accommodation) had the largest decrease from the same quarter last year, falling 8 per cent to 35,850.
- 85 per cent of households were in self-contained accommodation - a decrease from 88 per cent at the end of the same quarter last year.
- 6 per cent of households were in bed and breakfast hotels. This is an increase from 2,050 to 2,780 compared to the same quarter last year.
- The percentage of households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements who had been in such arrangements for less than six months has increased from 56 per cent to 66 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.
- The percentage of households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements who had been in such arrangements for two or more years has fallen from 20 per cent to 14 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.

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## Introduction

This release provides summary information on local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation, collected through the quarterly P1E return. Data 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 tables are provided online alongside the release and are listed on page 16. These form the underlying data used to produce the text and charts. The background notes section provides more detail of terms used within the release.

## Decisions taken by local authorities on homeless applications

Between January and March 2011, local housing authorities made 26,400 decisions on applications (by eligible households) for housing assistance, under the homelessness legislation of the Housing Act 1996. This is 23 per cent higher than the corresponding quarter in 2010. After seasonal adjustment the number of decisions was 25,990, 2 per cent lower when compared to last quarter, following three consecutive quarterly increases.

During the 2010/11 financial year there were 102,200 decisions made by local authorities. This is an increase of 15 per cent from 89,120 in 2009/10 – the first financial year increase since 2003/04.

Of the 26,400 applications made during January and March 2011:

- 43 per cent were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty;
- 29 per cent were found not to be homeless;
- 21 per cent were found to be homeless but not in priority need; and
- 7 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 rose by 18 per cent, the number of households found to be homeless but not in priority need increased by 29 per cent. Further, the number of households found not to be homeless also increased by 29 per cent and the number of households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need increased by 14 per cent.

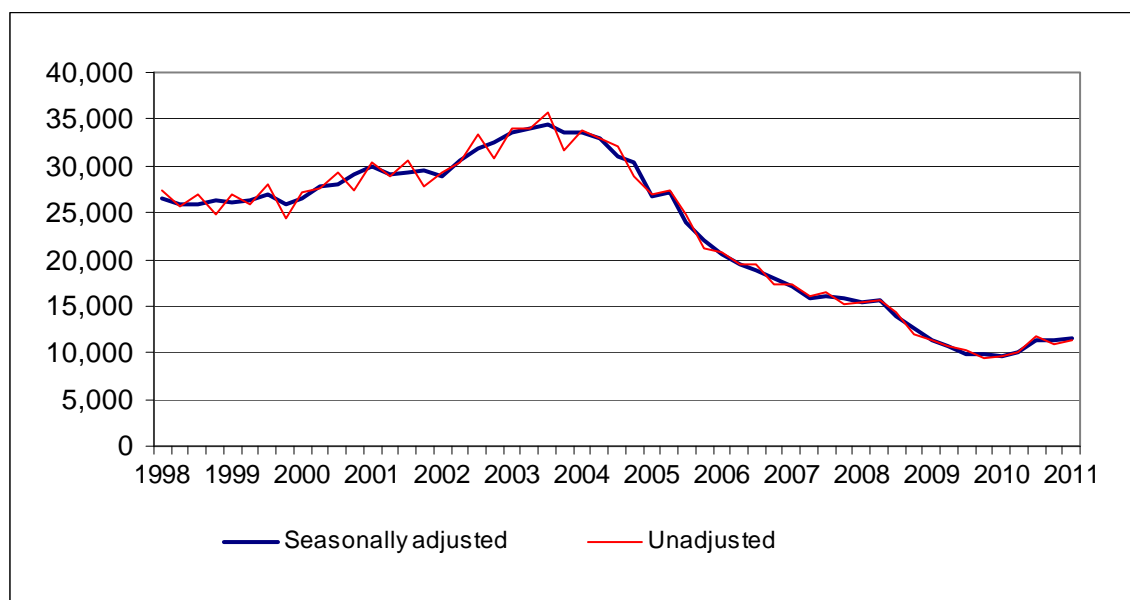
There has been a decrease in the proportion of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty as a percentage of decisions when compared to the same quarter last year – from 45 per cent to 43 per cent. Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty are dealt with further in the next section.

## Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty (acceptances)

Between January and March, local authorities accepted 11,350 households as being owed a main homelessness duty (acceptances). This is an 18 per cent increase compared to the same quarter last year. After seasonal adjustment the number of acceptances during the first quarter of 2011 was 11,500, an increase of 2 per cent from the seasonal adjusted figure of 11,240 in the previous quarter.

During the 2010/11 financial year, 44,160 households were accepted by local authorities as being owed the main homelessness duty. This is an increase of 10 per cent from 40,020 in 2009/10 – the first financial year increase since 2003/04.

**Chart 1: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty each quarter, 1998 to January to March Quarter 2011, England**



See Table 1: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households

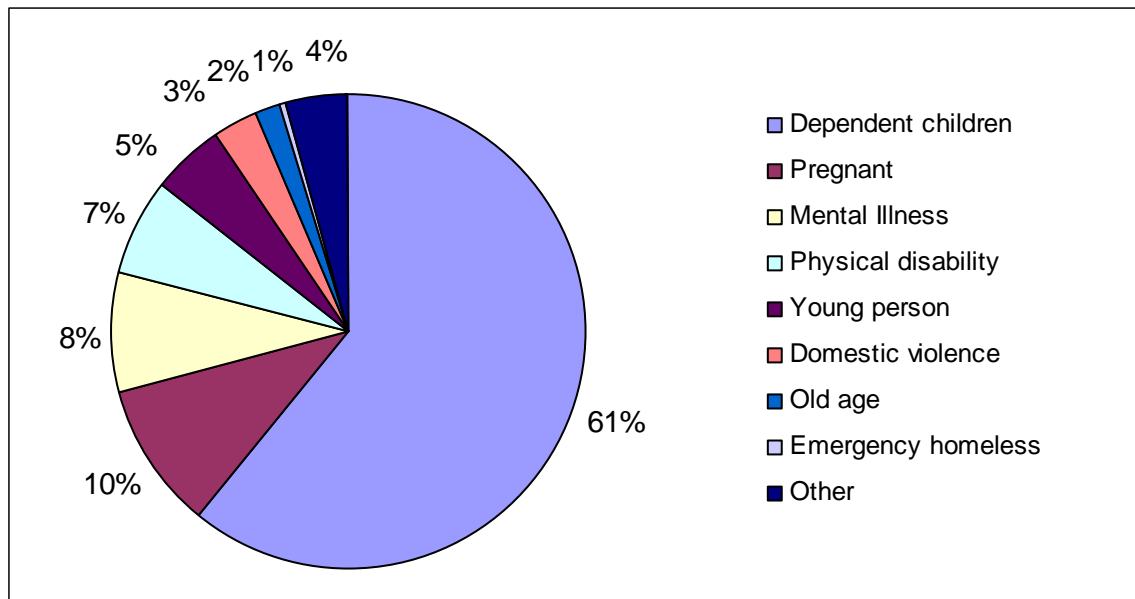
### Acceptances by priority need category

Between January and March, in 61 per cent of acceptances the presence of dependent children in the household was the primary reason for priority need, this represents 6,920 households. This is an increase from 58 per cent in the same quarter last year. A further 10 per cent of households were in priority need because they included a pregnant woman, this represents 1,130 households.

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 1 per cent of all acceptances.

5 per cent of acceptances were in priority need through being a young person (either 16 or 17 year olds, or 18 to 20 year olds formerly in care).

**Chart 2: Acceptances by priority need category during January to March 2011, England**



See Table 4: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by Priority Need Category

### Acceptances by reason for loss of last settled home

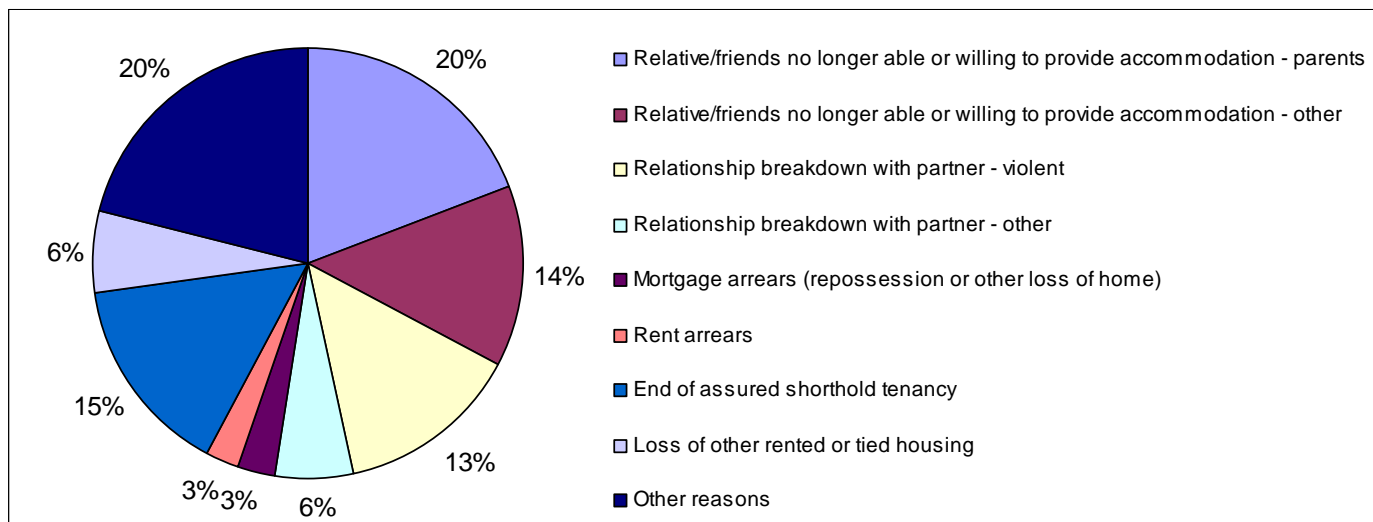
Between January and March, in 34 per cent of acceptances the reason for homelessness was because parents, relatives or friends (mostly parents) were no longer able, or willing, to accommodate applicants.

In a further 19 per cent of acceptances, the reason for homelessness was the breakdown of a relationship with a partner, 70 per cent of these cases involving violence.

In 15 per cent of acceptances the reason for homelessness was the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy. There has been a small rise in acceptances for this reason, from 13 per cent in the same quarter in 2010.

The proportion of acceptances where homelessness resulted from mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home) was 3 per cent, up from 2 per cent in the same quarter in 2010. The proportion of acceptances due to mortgage arrears has remained much lower than the peak in the last downturn - 12 per cent during 1991.

**Chart 3: Acceptances by reason for loss of last settled home during January to March 2011, England**



See Table 5: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by Reason for Loss of Last Settled Home

### Acceptances by ethnicity

Between January and March, 66 per cent of applicants accepted were White and 29 per cent were from an ethnic minority group – 15 per cent Black, 7 per cent Asian, 3 per cent mixed and 4 per cent another ethnic group. The remainder did not state their ethnic origin. Compared to the population as a whole, there is a higher incidence of acceptances amongst ethnic minority groups than amongst the White population.

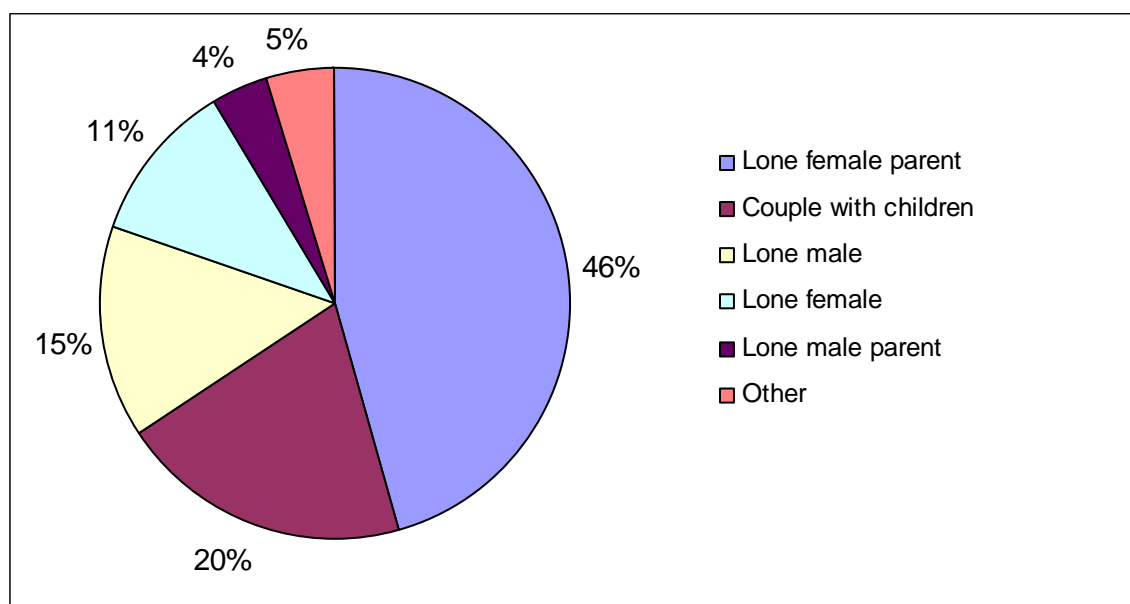
See Table 2: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by Ethnicity

### Acceptances by household type

Of the 11,350 acceptances between January and March, 49 per cent were lone parents (4 per cent male, 46 per cent female), and 20 per cent were couples with dependent children.

One person households accounted for 26 per cent of acceptances, with a higher proportion male than female.

#### Chart 4: Acceptances by household type during January to March 2011, England



See Table 10: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by Household Type

#### Acceptances by age band

Between January and March, 86 per cent of all acceptances were applicants under 45 years old. 50 per cent were aged between 25 and 44, and 36 per cent between 16 and 24.

See Table 11: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by Age of Applicant

#### Action taken in respect of acceptances

Of the 11,350 acceptances between January and March, 6,580 (58 per cent) were placed in some form of temporary accommodation for a period of time. For a further 3,520 accepted households (31 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 an increase from 2,620 (27 per cent) in the same quarter last year.

8 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.

The remaining 3 per cent either made their own arrangements or had no further contact with the authority, thus bringing the homelessness duty to an end.

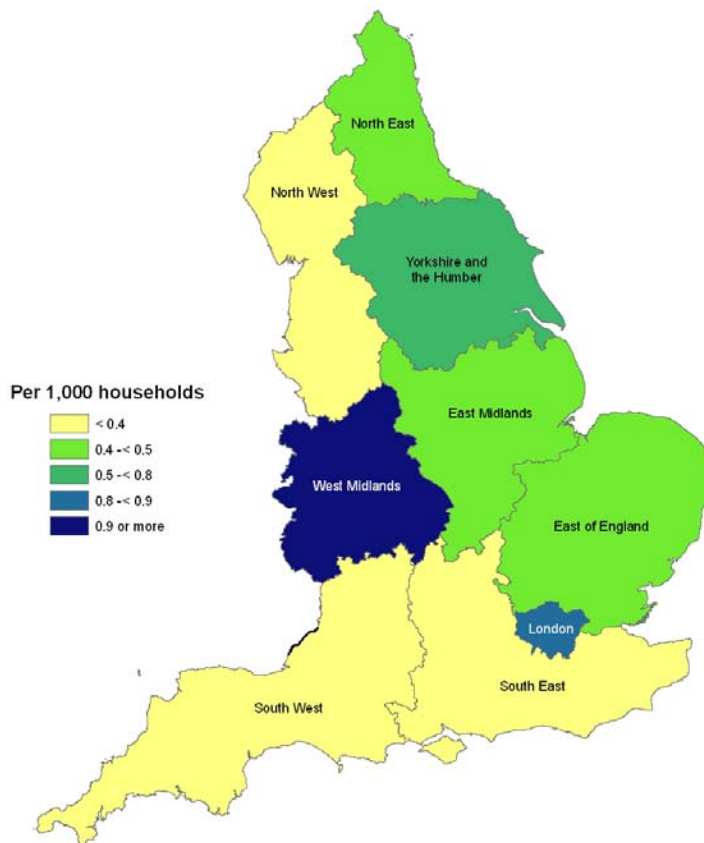
See Part 1 of Table 8: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”), by outcome

## Acceptances by region

All regions saw increases in numbers of acceptances compared to the same quarter last year. The size of these increases varied considerably, ranging from 32 per cent in Yorkshire and the Humber to 2 per cent in the North West.

The West Midlands and London had the highest incidence of acceptances per 1,000 households during the quarter, with 1.0 and 0.8 respectively, compared to the National figure of 0.5. The North West, South East and South West, with 0.3 per 1,000 households, had the lowest.

**Map 1: Homelessness acceptance rates by region, January to March 2011**



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See Table 3: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by Region

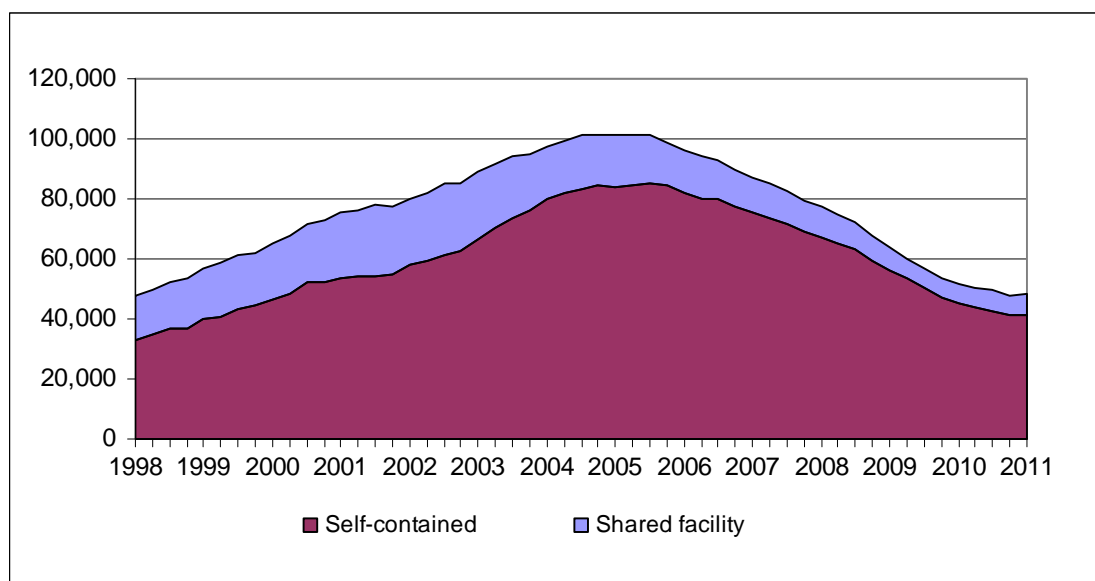
## Households in temporary accommodation

The number of households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2011, arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation, was 48,240 - 6 per cent lower than the same date last year. After seasonal adjustment the number of households in temporary accommodation was 48,380, similar to the figure of 48,490 in the previous quarter. There has been a long term downward trend in the number of households in temporary accommodation with seasonally adjusted figures falling in each successive quarter since the peak in 2004.

Chart 6 shows the historic trend and suggests that, with the exception of last quarter, the decreasing trend in the number of households in temporary accommodation has slowed. 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. Although it is too early to draw any conclusion based on recent trends, we may be seeing the turn in the time series we would expect following the recent increase in the acceptances series that began in 2010.

Of the 48,240 households in temporary accommodation, 84 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 remainder 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 6: Households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type, 1998 to 31 March 2011, England**



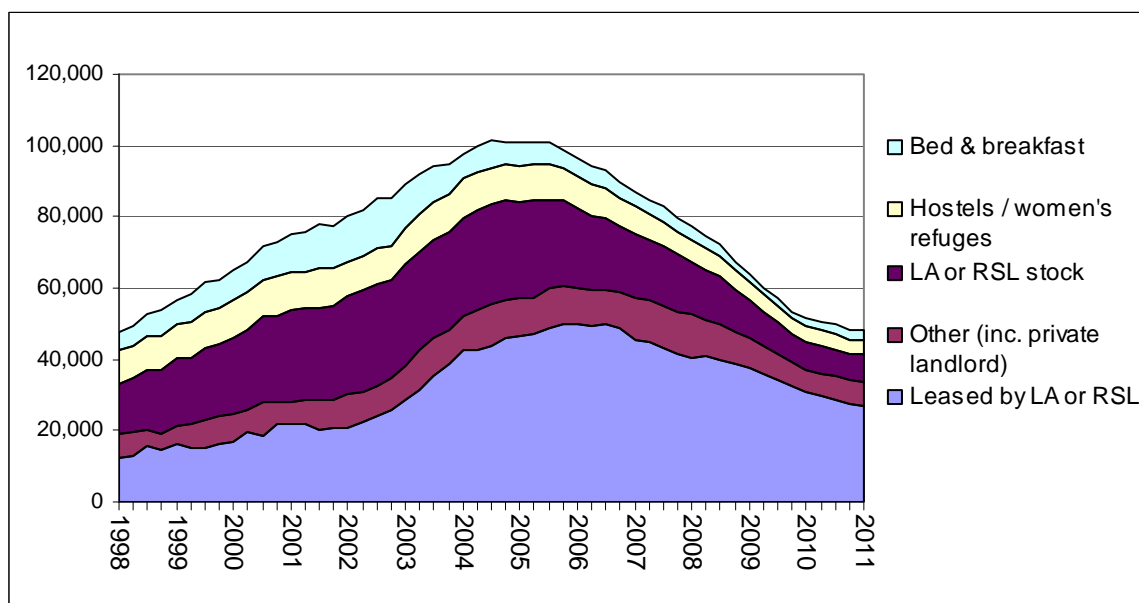


## Households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation

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 2011, 85 percent of households in temporary accommodation were in self-contained accommodation – a decrease from 88 per cent at the same date last year.

Use of accommodation with shared facilities has increased slightly over recent quarters (15 per cent at the end of March 2011 compared with 12 per cent at the end of the same quarter last year) after a long period of decline since its peak in 2001, when 30 per cent of households were in this form of temporary accommodation. The recent increase is largely due to increased usage of bed and breakfast style accommodation. The number of households in bed and breakfast hotels has risen from 2,050 to 2,750 compared to the same quarter last year. London accounts for just under half the number of households in bed and breakfast style accommodation and has increased by 50 per cent since the same quarter last year (890 to 1,330 households).

**Chart 7: Households in temporary accommodation, by type, at the end of each quarter, 1998 to 31 March 2011, England**



## **On 31 March 2011, of the 48,240 households in temporary accommodation:**

33,750 households were in **private sector accommodation** (70 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 9 per cent since the 31 March last year.

7,490 households were in accommodation owned by **social landlords** (16 per cent of all households), a fall of 4 per cent since the same quarter last year. Of these 7,490 households, 70 per cent were in local authority owned stock, and 30 per cent in HA owned property.

4,250 households were in **hostel accommodation and women's refuges** (9 per cent of all households), similar to this time last year.

2,750 households were in **bed and breakfast style accommodation** (6 per cent of all households), 35 per cent higher than this time last year. 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 48,240 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2011, 4,770 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 28 per cent higher than the same date last year.

*See Table 6: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by Type of Accommodation*

## **Young people in temporary accommodation**

Of the 48,240 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March, 36,640 included dependent children and/or a pregnant woman (within which households there were 69,660 children or expected children). The number of children per household in temporary accommodation has remained stable since the data was first collected in 2007 at around 1.4.

Of these 36,640 households with children, 91 per cent were in self-contained accommodation. This has fallen slightly from 93 per cent at the end of the same quarter last year. 1,030 (3 per cent) were in bed and breakfast style accommodation, up from 630 at the end of the same quarter last year. Of these 1,030 households, 200 had been in bed and breakfast style accommodation for six or more weeks (10 of which pending review).

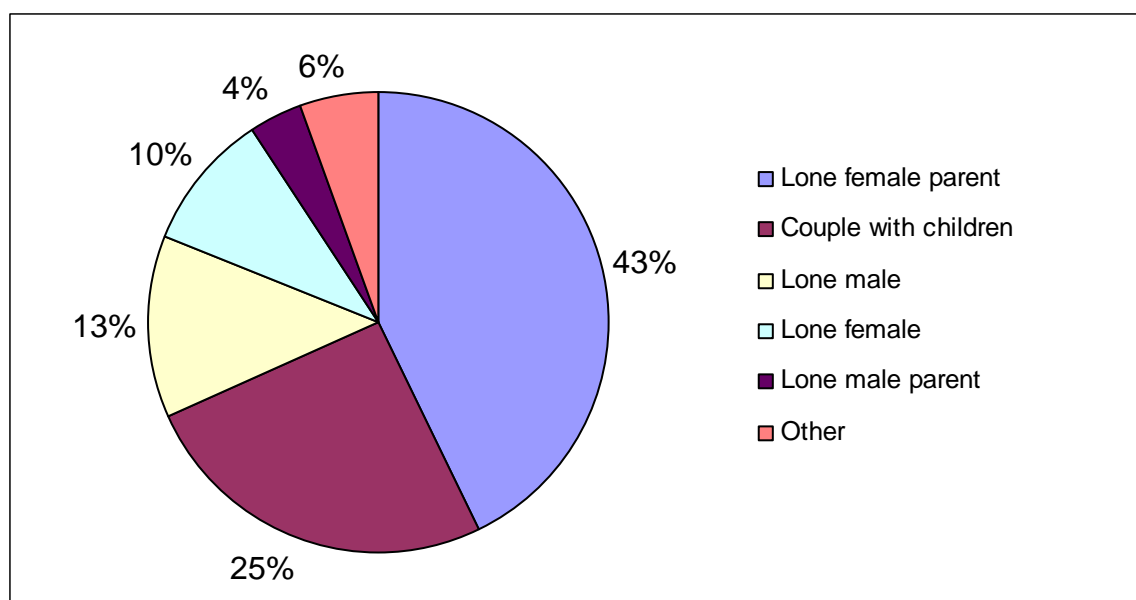
At the end of March, there were 160 households headed by 16 and 17 year old applicants in bed and breakfast style accommodation, of which 50 had been there for six or more weeks.

## Households in temporary accommodation, by household type and ethnicity

Of the 48,240 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March, the biggest group (43 per cent) were female lone parent households with dependent children. Couples with dependent children accounted for a quarter (25 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.

Over half of all households in temporary accommodation were headed by ethnic minority applicants. The vast majority of these households (93 per cent) were in London, reflecting the high usage of temporary accommodation and larger ethnic minority population in the region. Outside of London, ethnic minority applicants accounted for 16 per cent of households in temporary accommodation.

**Chart 8: Households in temporary accommodation by household type: 31 March 2011, England**



See Table 12: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by Household Type and Ethnicity

## Households leaving temporary accommodation and other temporary arrangements

Between January and March, a main homelessness duty was ended for 10,060 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 5 per cent compared to the same quarter last year

7,130 (71 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 7 per cent refused such an offer. An additional 5 per cent accepted alternative offers of rented accommodation. This is a decrease from 9 per cent in the same quarter last year, mostly due to the decrease in households accepting an offer of an assured shorthold tenancy, which more than halved.

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

*See Part 2 of Table 8: Homeless households accepted by local authorities and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as "duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome*

## Households in temporary accommodation, by region

London had the highest number of households in temporary accommodation, with 35,850 on 31 March, accounting for just under three quarters of the England total. The South East had the next highest number, with 8 per cent of the England total (3,660 households). The North East, with less than 1 per cent (220 households), had the lowest number of households in temporary accommodation.

Four regions have fewer households in temporary accommodation when compared to the same quarter last year. The largest percentage fall was in London with 8 per cent (39,030 to 35,850 households), followed by the South West with 4 per cent (2,130 to 2,050 households). Yorkshire and the Humber and East of England both had slight falls of 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively (920 to 900 households and 2,630 to 2,600 households).

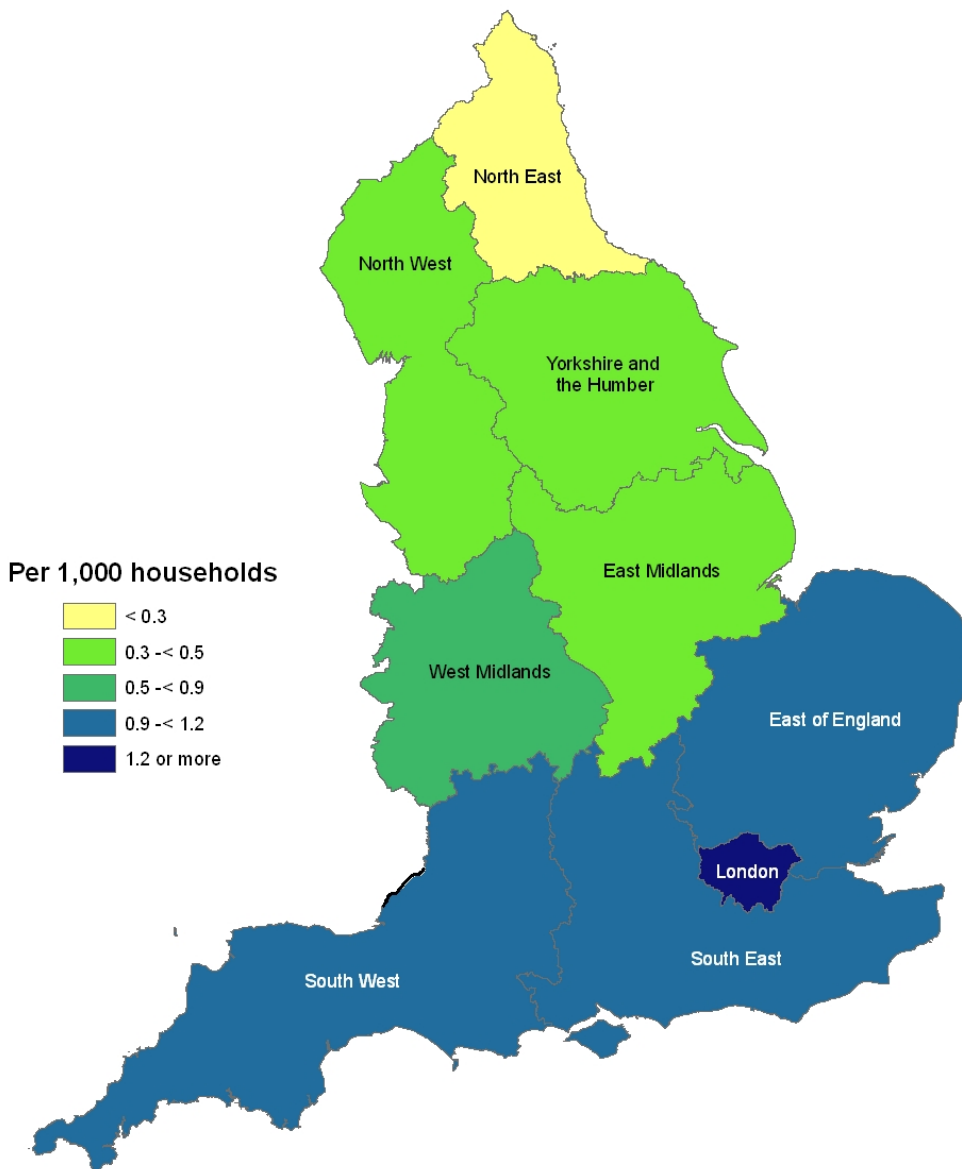
The North East saw an increase of 30 households in temporary accommodation (16 per cent) compared to the same quarter last year, the North West saw an increase of 40 (5 per cent), the South East saw an increase of 140 (4 per cent), the West Midlands saw an increase of 20 (2 per cent) whilst East Midlands remained stable.

As at the end of March 2011, England had a rate of 2.2 households in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households. Of the regions, London had by far the highest rate at 11.0 per 1,000 households - a decrease from 12.0 per 1,000 households at the end of the same quarter last year.

The East of England and South East had the next highest rate, at 1.1 per 1,000 households. The North East had the lowest rate at 0.2 per 1,000 households.

See Table 7: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by region

**Map 2: Households in Temporary Accommodation by region as at 31 March 2011**



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

Of the 10,060 households who left temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements during the quarter, 66 per cent had been in these temporary arrangements for less than six months, while 13 per cent had been so for two years or more. The percentage of households who had been in temporary accommodation for less than six months has increased from 56 per cent in the same quarter last year whilst the percentage of households who spend two or more years in temporary accommodation has fallen from 22 per cent.

Lengths of time in temporary arrangements vary across the regions. Chart 9a compares the proportion of those spending 2 years or more in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, for the most recent quarter and the same quarter last year by region, and Chart 9b compares the proportion of those spending less than six months in temporary arrangements. London's figures stand out with the longest stays - between January and March 2011, 40 per cent of households who left temporary arrangements had previously spent two or more years in such temporary arrangements. This is a decrease from 51 per cent compared to the same quarter last year. The North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midlands, East of England, South East and the South West also saw decreases in the proportion of stays longer than two years over this period.

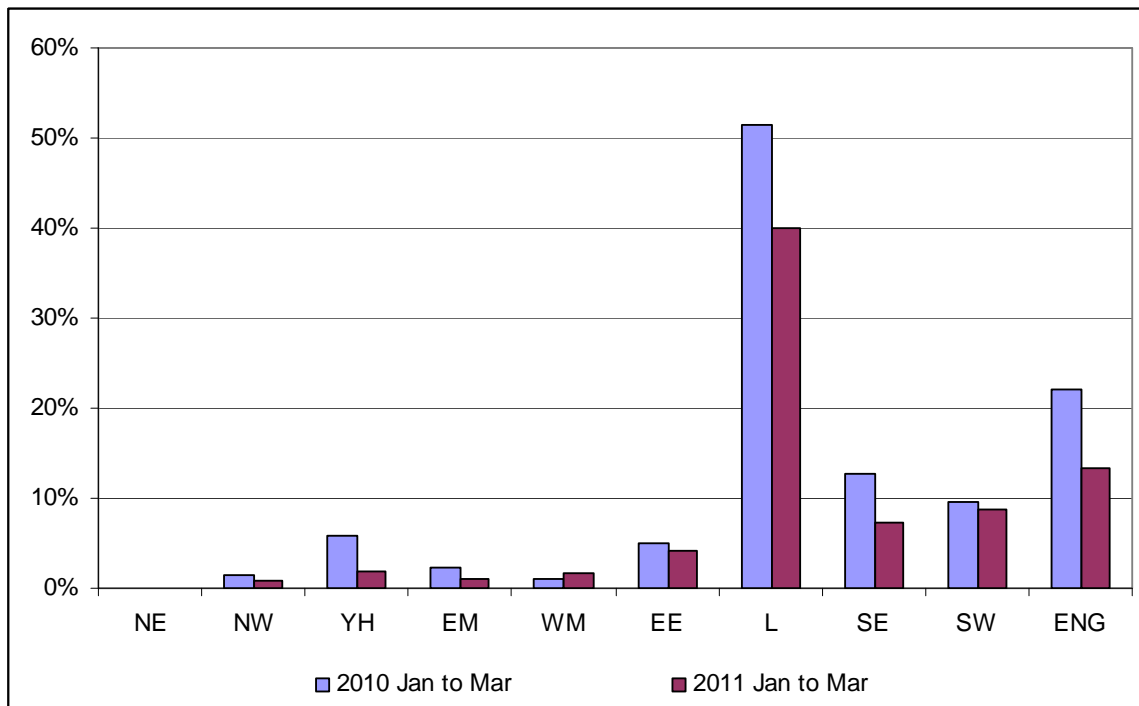
After London, the South West and the South East have the next highest proportions of stays longer than two years, with 9 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

The Northern and Midland regions have a much lower proportion of longer stays. In the North East, no households stayed for two years or longer in the most recent quarter, and in the North West and East Midlands only 1 per cent of households stayed for two years or longer in the most recent quarter. In the West Midlands, 2 per cent of households stayed for two years or longer.

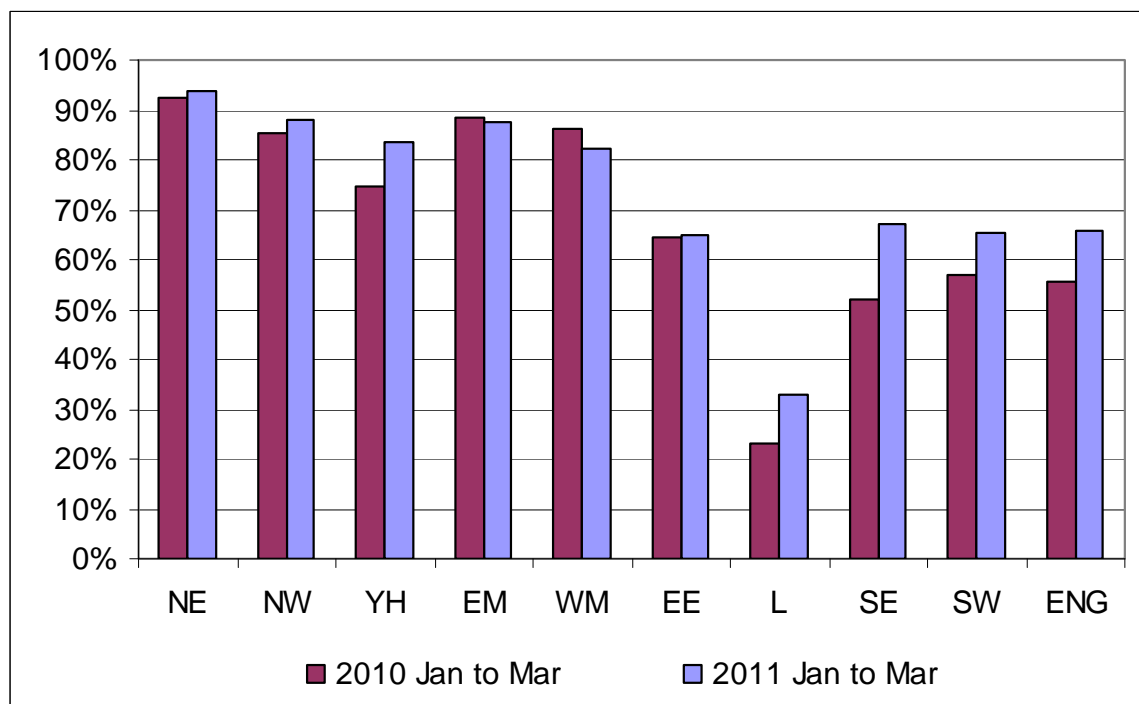
Conversely, the Northern and Midland regions have a much higher proportion of shorter stays, each having over 80 per cent of households in temporary arrangements staying shorter than six months. London had the lowest proportion of such stays with only 33 per cent of households.

*See Table 9: 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 9a: Proportion of households that spent 2 years or more in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, England and regions: January to March, 2010 and 2011**



**Chart 9b: Proportion of households that spent less than six months in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, England and regions: January to March, 2010 and 2011**



## Accompanying tables

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Table 2	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by ethnicity
Table 3	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by region
Table 4	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by priority need category
Table 5	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by reason for loss of last settled home
Table 6	Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation
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Table 9	Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”) during each quarter, by length of stay, England and London
Table 10	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by household type
Table 11	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by age of applicant
Table 12	Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by household type and ethnicity

Supplementary tables giving Local Authority level information on their action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts are published electronically.

All accompanying tables can be found at the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq12011>



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## Related live tables

The following live tables on homelessness are updated by the end of the month of each Statutory Homelessness publication and can be found at the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/livetables/>

Table 770	Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households
Table 771	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by ethnicity
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Table 783	Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by

type of accommodation and region

Table 784	Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts, by Local Authority
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

## Definitions

1. **Decisions:** all households that apply for assistance under the Housing and Homelessness Acts. However, these do not include households found to be ineligible for assistance (some persons from abroad are ineligible for assistance).
2. **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.
3. **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 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 who fall 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. Note: 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.
4. **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

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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.

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. **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". Prior to 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. Both series are now presented in the final columns of Table 6.

## Legislation

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents>) and the Homelessness Act 2002 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/contents>) place 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 included for the households in temporary accommodation series, as this series was also found to be affected by seasonality.

2. **Rates per 1,000 households** have been calculated using the 2008-based household projections produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These projections were published on 26 November 2010 at the following link:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/householdestimates/>

3. National and regional figures in the text and accompanying tables are presented rounded to the nearest 10 households or applicants. Local Authority figures provided in the supplementary 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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## Data Source and Scope

Local housing authorities report their activities under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to the Department for Communities and Local Government by completing the quarterly P1E statistical return. The latest form and guidance can be found in the "Notes and Definitions" section of the Department's website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/notesdefinitions/>

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.

Welsh local authorities are bound by the same statutory duties as those in England. The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Wales are available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/housing2011/1103231/?lang=en>

Information on Scotland's local authorities' actions under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 is collected quarterly via the HL1 and HL2 forms. Similar to England, applicants are assessed as to

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whether they are unintentionally homeless and in priority need. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 extends local authorities' statutory responsibilities towards non-priority households, with the aim that by 2012, everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless is entitled to settled accommodation. Data is also collected 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/Publications/2011/03/07155415/0>

Statistics on Homelessness in Northern Ireland are sourced 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](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/housing_bulletins.htm)

## Related links

The Department also releases information on Homelessness Prevention and Relief. The most recent publication relating to Local Authority actions in the 2009/10 financial year can be found at the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/homelessnesspreventionrelief/>

Rough sleeping statistics can be found at the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/roughsleepingcounts/>

Statistics on Local Authority revenue expenditure and financing in England can be found at the following link. Revenue Outturn 4 relates to Housing Services and includes information on local authorities' expenditure on homelessness activities:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/revenueexpenditure/revenue200910/localauthoritydata/>

## 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 January to March 2011, 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 region they are in and by type of authority. For example, the West Midlands 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) apportions totals based on ratios reported by these similar authorities.

The latest quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for all 326 local authorities (100 per cent response). Four LAs provided only the two headline figures - number of households accepted as owed a main homeless duty and number of households in temporary accommodation. Section 7 of the form, covering households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements had the lowest rate of return, with 16 local authorities not providing any figures. Overall, 97 per cent of cells were filled in by local authorities.

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

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statisticalnoticequalityguidance>

## 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 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statisticalnoticerevisionspolicy>).

There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

### **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 four quarters of the previous year will be reviewed for revision. A decision on whether to revise will be made based on the impact of any change and the effect it has on the interpretation of the time series. No revisions were made this quarter to the 2009/10 figures.

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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 only be made 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 core series describing homelessness in England, and are key series 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 is 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, includes an impact indicator on households in temporary accommodation. By the end of March 2011 there were 48,240 households in temporary accommodation. This is 6 per cent lower than the same date last year. On a seasonally adjusted basis, 48,380 households were in temporary accommodation, similar to the figure of 48,490 in the previous quarter.

Other Government departments also use the statistics, including DWP (monitoring those in temporary accommodation in receipt of housing benefit), 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 in order 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.

## User consultation

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: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/engagementstrategystatistics>

The Department's *Draft Statistics Plan for 2011/12* (see link below) was available for user consultation from 13 April to 3 June and describes proposals for collecting and publishing official



statistics over the period April 2011 to March 2012. Following the consultation, the Department will publish a summary of the responses received and those responses will inform the final published version of the Statistics Plan covering the year ending March 2012. The next publication of Statutory Homelessness statistics will include any changes set out in the final Statistics Plan.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/plan201112consultation>

## Other information

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:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/nationalstatistics/>

The publication date for the 2nd Quarter (April to June) 2011 Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release is **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011**.

## Enquiries

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:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/>

Further details on this Statistical Release are available from:

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Zone 4/J2, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU

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

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).

Information about DCLG is available via the Department's website: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk).



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