



Statutory Homelessness Annual Report, 2019-20, England

Quarterly statutory homeless statistics have been published since December 2018. The latest release published on 20 August 2020 contained data for January – March 2020. This annual release takes previously published data to show a fuller analysis of the data over time, and contains:

Statutory homelessness data for financial year 2019-20

- Additional tables which will be published annually with ethnicity, age and household composition breakdowns
- Data trends since the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) in 2018 and the introduction of a new data collection system
- Initial analysis of how households who are owed homeless duties flow through the system in the financial year 2018-19

The headline figures are:

- In 2019-20, 288,470 households were owed a prevention or relief duty in the first instance from local authorities
- There has been a 14.9% increase in relief duties owed since 2018-19 and 71.0% of this increase is attributed to single adult households
- Most households with children have their homelessness application taken at the prevention stage, whereas most single adult households are applying for assistance at the relief stage, when they are actually homeless
- Main duty acceptances have fallen by 29.3% from 56,600 in 2017-18 before the HRA to 40,040 in 2019-20

Headlines	1
Overview of homelessness statistics	4
Additional demographics of homeless households	22
HRA flows analysis for households owed a duty in 2018-19	26
Comparing statutory homelessness statistics and other statistics	40
Additional information	43

Responsible statistician:
Homelessness Statistical Data Team

Statistical enquiries:
homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk

Media enquiries:
0303 444 1209
newsdesk@communities.gov.uk

Date of next publication:
Autumn 2021

Headlines

The Homelessness Reduction Act

The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) introduced new homelessness duties which have meant significantly more households are being provided with a statutory service by local housing authorities than before the Act came into force in April 2018. Most importantly, the HRA introduced new prevention and relief duties, that are owed to all eligible households who are homeless or threatened with becoming homeless, including those single adult households who do not have 'priority need' under the legislation. In 2019-20, 288,470 households were owed the new prevention or relief duties, which is four times the number of households owed the 'main duty' in 2017-18 prior to implementation of the HRA. Whilst these types of duties are not directly comparable, there has clearly been a significant increase in the number of households receiving a statutory homelessness service through the change in legislation.

Household compositions under the new duties

There has been no notable change in the number of households who are owed a prevention duty at first assessment from 2018-19 to 2019-20. However, there has been an 18,170 household or 14.9% increase in households owed the relief duty and 71.0% of this increase is attributed to single adult households, which indicates that the overall increase in those who are recorded as homeless and owed a relief duty, is driven by more single adults coming forward for and receiving help.

Households with children are more likely to be owed a prevention duty at initial assessment (63,650 households) than a relief duty (33,530 households), which suggests that more families are receiving help earlier.

Single adult households are the largest group of households owed a prevention or relief duty, representing 60.1% of all households who had a duty accepted. Single adult households are more likely to access support when they are already homeless than when they are threatened with homelessness, 99,910 or 57.6% of single adults are initially accepted under the relief duty.

Of the households that were owed a duty in in 2019-20, those that were owed a prevention duty were more likely (58.5%) to have an accommodation secured outcome than households owed an initial relief duty (40.0%).

Accommodation secured under the prevention duty is more likely to be in self-contained private rented sector accommodation at 36.3%, or in a social rented sector registered provider tenancy at 21.7%. This reflects households with children being more likely to receive help under the prevention duty, and being more likely to be in private rented sector accommodation on approach. Accommodation secured at relief is more likely to be a social rented supported housing or hostel offer at 26.6%, which reflects the higher proportion of single adults being assisted under relief duties.

Main homelessness duty

Main duty acceptances have reduced by 29.3% or 16,560 from 56,600 in 2017-18 to 40,040 in 2019-20. Although the number of households approaching and receiving help from local authorities has increased, the overall fall in main duty acceptances is due to the number of households who are prevented from becoming homeless or have homelessness relieved under the new HRA duties. The reduction in main duty acceptances has been larger for households with children than for households without children. This is likely to reflect an increase in access to homelessness services for single households brought about through the requirements of the HRA.

HRA flows analysis for households owed a duty in 2018-19

There were 222,580 households who received homelessness assistance in 2018-19 and whose case had either closed or reached a main duty decision as of March 2020. Of these, 54.8% secured accommodation for 6+ months, 26.3% left the system for Other reasons (such as contact lost or withdrawn application), 12.5% were owed a main duty, and 6.3% were homeless and not owed a main duty following relief.

The flow of cases through the system differed depending on the circumstances and composition of applicant households. Compared to the outcomes of all households, a greater proportion of households with children were owed a main duty (21.9% versus 12.5%). Fewer family households left the system for Other reasons (19.5% versus 26.3%).

More single males aged 18-34 left the system for Other reasons (36.0% versus 26.3% overall), suggesting a difficulty in maintaining applications for this cohort. In addition, a greater proportion were homeless and not owed a main duty following relief (11.4% versus 6.3% overall), most commonly as a result of having no priority need.

For applicants sleeping rough on approach, 48.5% of duties ended without an accommodation secured outcome or main duty acceptance. Consisting of 34.4% of relief duties ended for Other reasons and a further 14.1% were homeless at the end of relief but were not owed a main duty.

1. Overview of Homelessness Statistics

1.1 Homelessness statistics and the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA)

Since 1998 MHCLG has published statistical releases which included figures on the number of assessments on households owed a homelessness duty to secure accommodation¹. These concerned primarily the main homelessness duty and subsequently additional activities undertaken to prevent or relieve homelessness.

Following the significant changes to homelessness legislation in April 2018, the quarterly releases have reflected these changes. This is the first annual release since the introduction of the new data collection system, which included moving from aggregate to case level data (H-CLIC). It covers more detailed tables not included in the quarterly publications on ethnicity, age and household composition breakdowns, as well as new financial year tables for 2019-20. Where appropriate, some tables have been aggregated to show trends since April 2018.

The HRA has been the most comprehensive reform to homelessness legislation in decades. Through the Housing Act 1996 local authorities already had a duty to secure accommodation for households who are eligible, unintentionally homeless, and with a priority need; this is known as the main homelessness duty. Households with dependent children and pregnant women have priority need if homeless, and other households have priority need if they are vulnerable due to one of a number of specified reasons (see table MD2 for a list of these). In addition to the main duty, local authorities had limited duties to advise and assist households that did not have priority need or were considered intentionally homeless and to try and prevent households with priority need from becoming homeless. The HRA was implemented on 3rd April 2018, which meant local authorities acquired new duties to take reasonable steps to prevent and relieve homelessness to all eligible households, alongside the provision of free advice services to all residents who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. This meant that the main homelessness duty is no longer the first duty owed to households eligible for support. The time at which a household was considered as 'threatened with homelessness' was also extended from 28 days to 56 days. Local authorities are now required to work with applicants to develop a personalised housing plan, which identifies the reasonable steps that the local authority will take to try to ensure the applicant can either retain or obtain suitable accommodation.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics#statutory-homelessness-and-prevention-and-relief>

The purpose of these changes to the legislation was to offer more households help through the expanded prevention and relief duties, and to promote earlier intervention in order to avoid homelessness.

The prevention and relief duties apply regardless of priority need. This means that all eligible households are now owed a homelessness duty lasting up to 56 days if they are either threatened with homelessness or homeless. This has improved access to homelessness services for single households.

Definitions

Single households: A term used for households without children, which will include couples and households with two or more adults.

Single adult households: Single adult households are a subset of single households, where the household comprises just one individual adult.

1.2 Trends in household homeless assessments since 2017-18

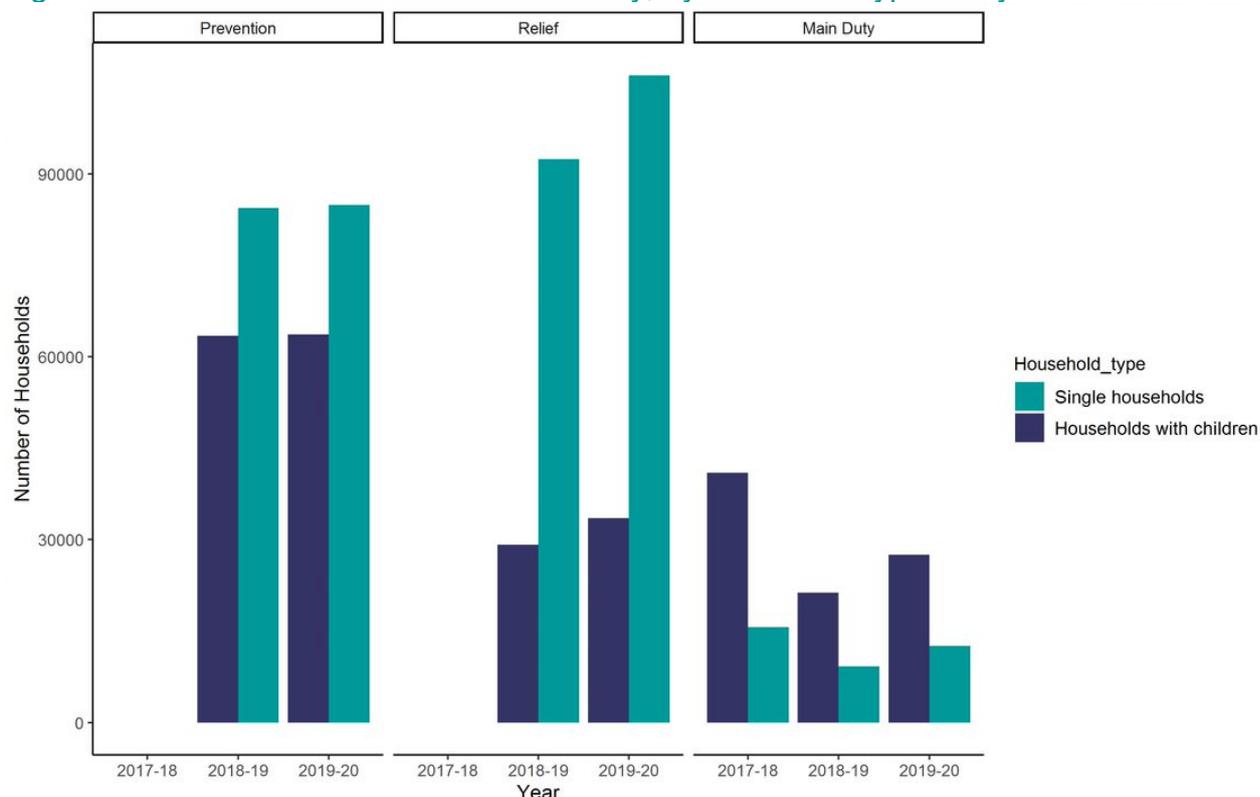
Due to the expansion of homelessness duties available to households threatened with homelessness or experiencing homelessness, the number of households assessed as owed a homelessness duty has greatly increased since the introduction of the HRA.

Over 550,000 households have been assessed as owed a new homelessness duty in the first two years of the HRA, accounting for over 93% of all those assessed after presenting for help.

In total, since the introduction of the HRA, 296,560 households have been assessed as owed a prevention duty, and 261,440 households have been assessed as owed a relief duty upon presentation to the homelessness services.

[Tables A5P, A5R, and MD3](#)

Figure 1: Number of households owed a duty, by household type and year²



Before the introduction of the HRA, households with children made up the majority (72.4%) of those owed a main homelessness duty. In contrast, in 2019-20, households with children represent 33.7% of those owed a prevention or relief duty. The main homelessness duty now follows the relief duty owed to households eligible for support.

In 2019-20, single households make up (66.2%) owed an initial prevention or relief homelessness duty. In particular, single adult households are the largest group of households owed a prevention or relief duty, representing 60.1% of all households. This reflects the expansion of the types of households receiving a statutory homelessness service through the change in legislation.

Those owed a prevention duty are more likely to be single households (57.1%) than households with children. However, households with children are more likely (65.5%) to approach a local authority at prevention stage than at relief stage. Single

² Household breakdowns for main duty are calculated using priority need categories. The following priority need categories, published in table MD3 are summed to create 'Households with children': 'Household includes dependent children', 'Household includes children, but other priority need reported', and 'Household includes a pregnant woman'. All other priority need categories are summed for 'single households'.

households are more likely (55.6%) to apply for help when they are actually homeless.

The majority of those owed a relief duty at initial assessment are single households, (76.0% in 2019-20) , with almost half of all relief duties owed to single adult males in the most recent year. In 2019-20, the number of single households owed a relief duty is higher than the number of households with children owed either a prevention or a relief duty combined. This is a particularly stark compared to trends in other duties, and reiterates the increased provision of support for homeless single households since the introduction of the HRA. There has been an 18,170 household or 14.9% increase in relief duties owed at initial assessment from 2018-19, and 71.0% of this increase is attributed to single adult households.

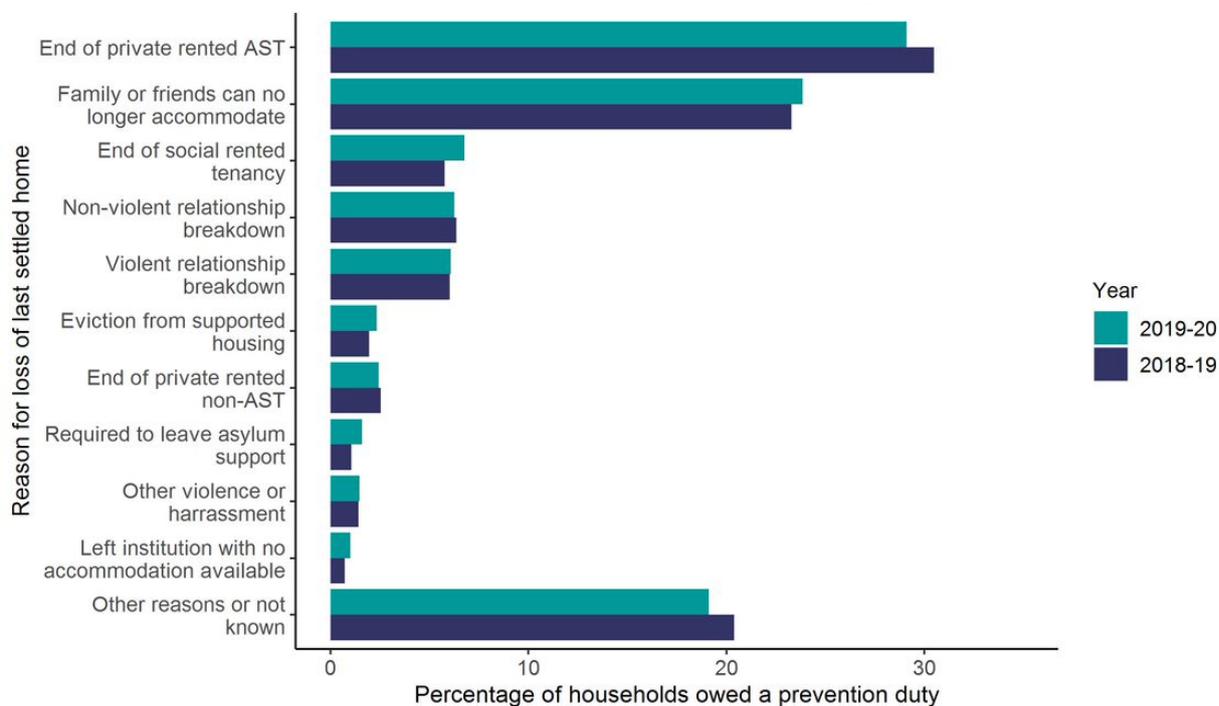
1.3 Prevention duty

Prevention duty: Local authorities may deliver their prevention duty through any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. This would involve activities to enable an applicant to remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation in order to prevent them from becoming homeless. The duty lasts for up to 56 days but may be extended if the local authority is continuing with efforts to prevent homelessness.

Over the first two years of the HRA, the number of applications accepted under the prevention duty is largely unchanged, increasing 0.5%, from 147,880 in 2018-19 to 148,670 in 2019-20.

[Table A2P](#)

Figure 2: Proportion of households owed a prevention duty, by reason for loss of last settled home

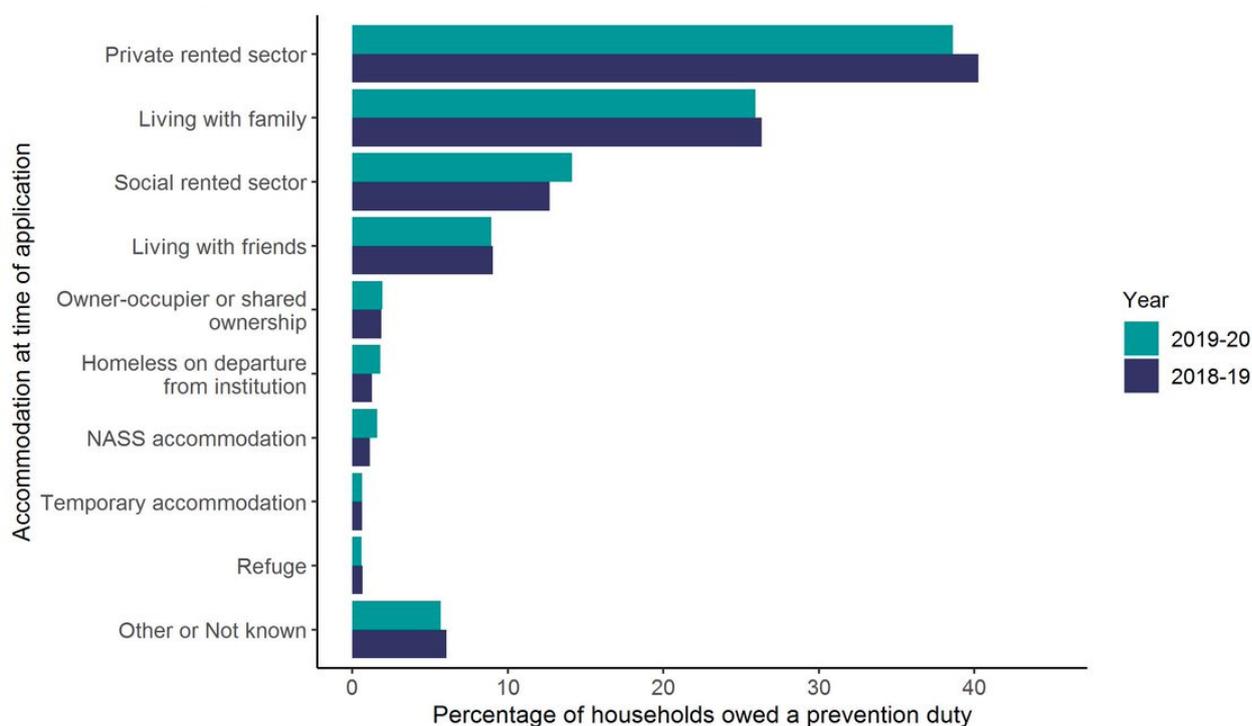


For households owed a prevention duty, the most common reason for loss of last settled home was termination of a private rented assured shorthold tenancy (AST), which accounted for 43,260 or 29.1% of households owed a prevention duty. The most common reason for ending private rented tenancy was due to the landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property (23,160 households or 53.5%), and 10,540 households or 24.4% were due to rent arrears.

The second most common reason was “friends or family no longer willing to or able to accommodate”, which accounted for 35,470 or 23.9% of households owed a prevention duty.

[Table A4P](#)

Figure 3: Proportion of households owed a prevention duty, by accommodation at time of application

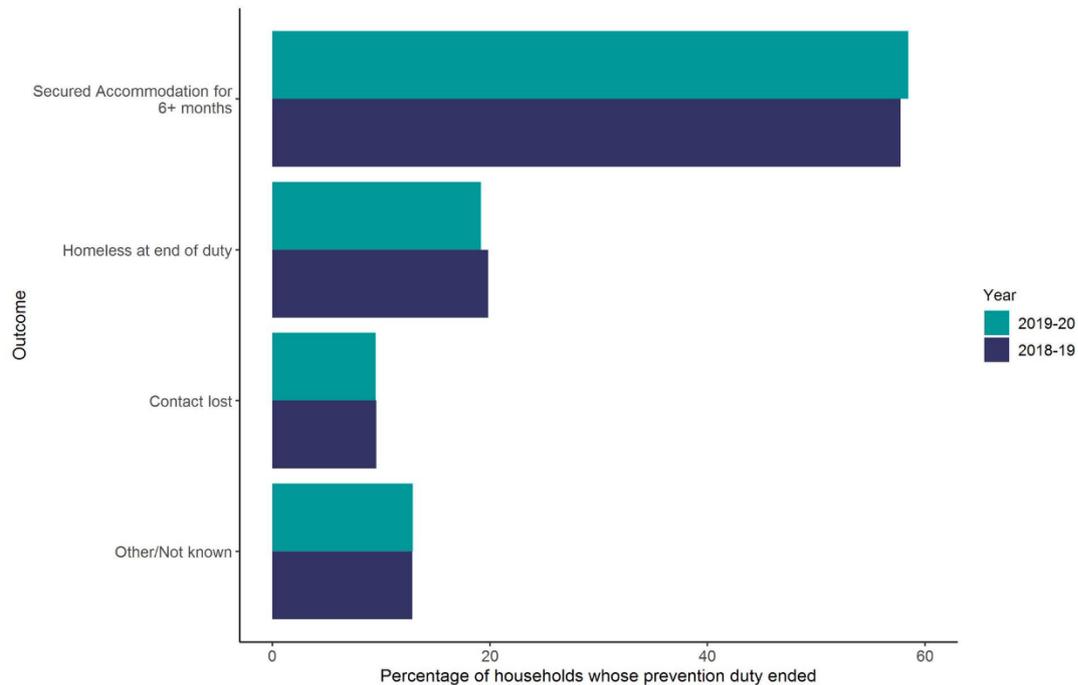


The most common accommodation type at the time of approach was in the private rented sector which accounted for 57,430 or 38.6% of households owed a prevention duty. Table A1 shows that 18,130 households were owed a prevention duty due to service of a valid Section 21 Notice, which is just under a third of those owed a prevention duty and in the private rented sector at the time of approach. As shown in Section 3, households with children make up the majority of those in in the private rented sector at the time of their application.

The second largest accommodation type at the time of approach was living with family at 25.9%. Other notable groups include those living in social housing, 14.1%, and living with friends, 8.9%.

[Table P1](#)

Figure 4: Proportion of households whose prevention duty ended, by outcome

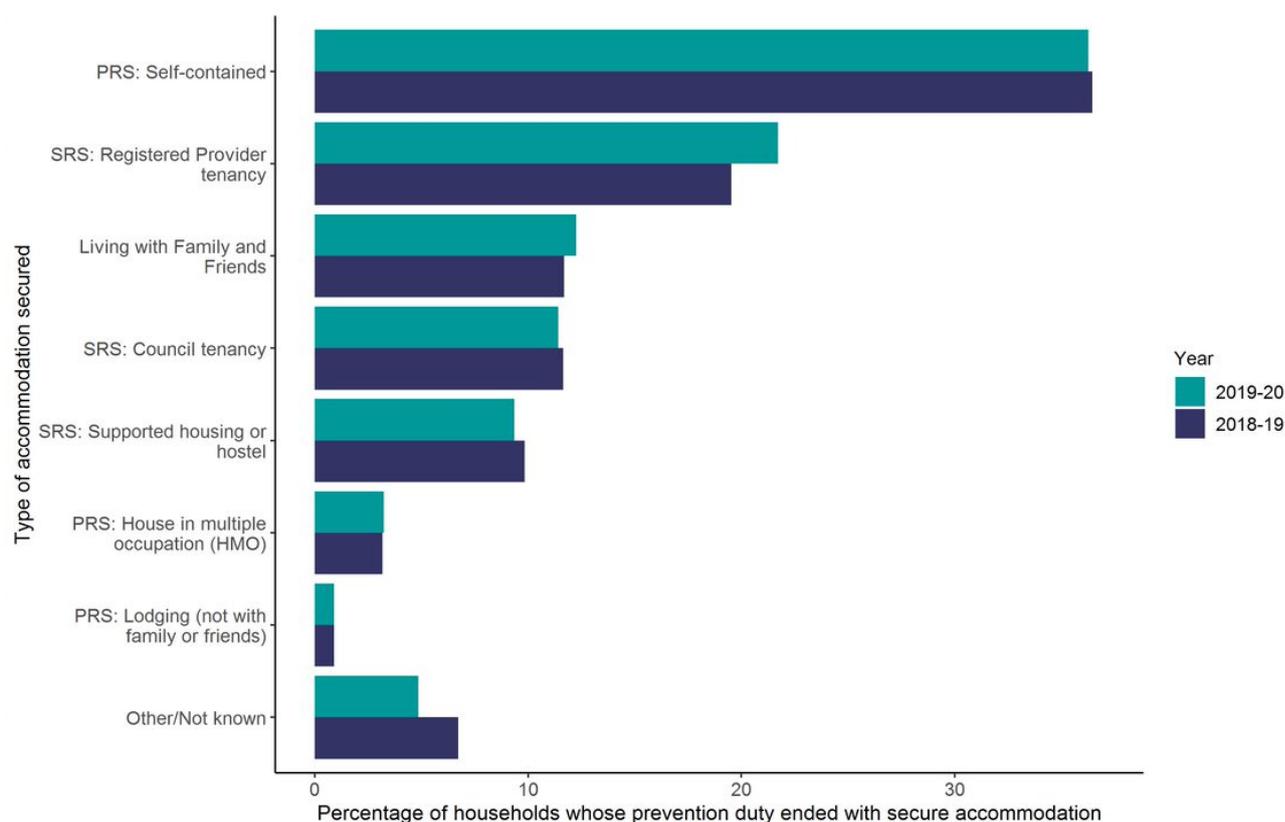


The number of households whose prevention duty ended is 139,420 in 2019-20, increasing 35.5% from 2018-19. This increase was to be expected because of the length of time between a duty starting and ending, which meant there were fewer duties ending in the first year of the HRA compared to the second year.

In 2019-20, 81,500 or 58.5% of households whose prevention duty ended were able to secure accommodation for 6+ months. This is compared to 57.8% of households whose prevention duty ended in 2018-19. For 26,740 or 19.2% of households the prevention duty ended due to them becoming homeless in 2019-20, compared with 19.8% in 2018-19. Since the introduction of the HRA, 140,950 households have had their homelessness successfully prevented.

Table P2

Figure 5: Proportion of households whose prevention duty ended with accommodation secured, by type of accommodation



For households whose prevention duty ended with secure accommodation, self-contained private rented sector accommodation was the most common (36.3%), followed by social rented sector accommodation with a registered provider tenancy (21.7%). Section 3 illustrates how these outcomes differ between single households and households with children, as well as other subgroups.

Tables P3 and P4

The largest group of households (27.1%) whose prevention duty ended with secure accommodation had their accommodation secured by the local authority. 12.1% of households were helped to secure accommodation with a financial payment. A large majority of households (81.1%) who secured alternative accommodation to prevent their homelessness were able to stay in the same local authority area. 2.0% of households secured alternative accommodation in another region.

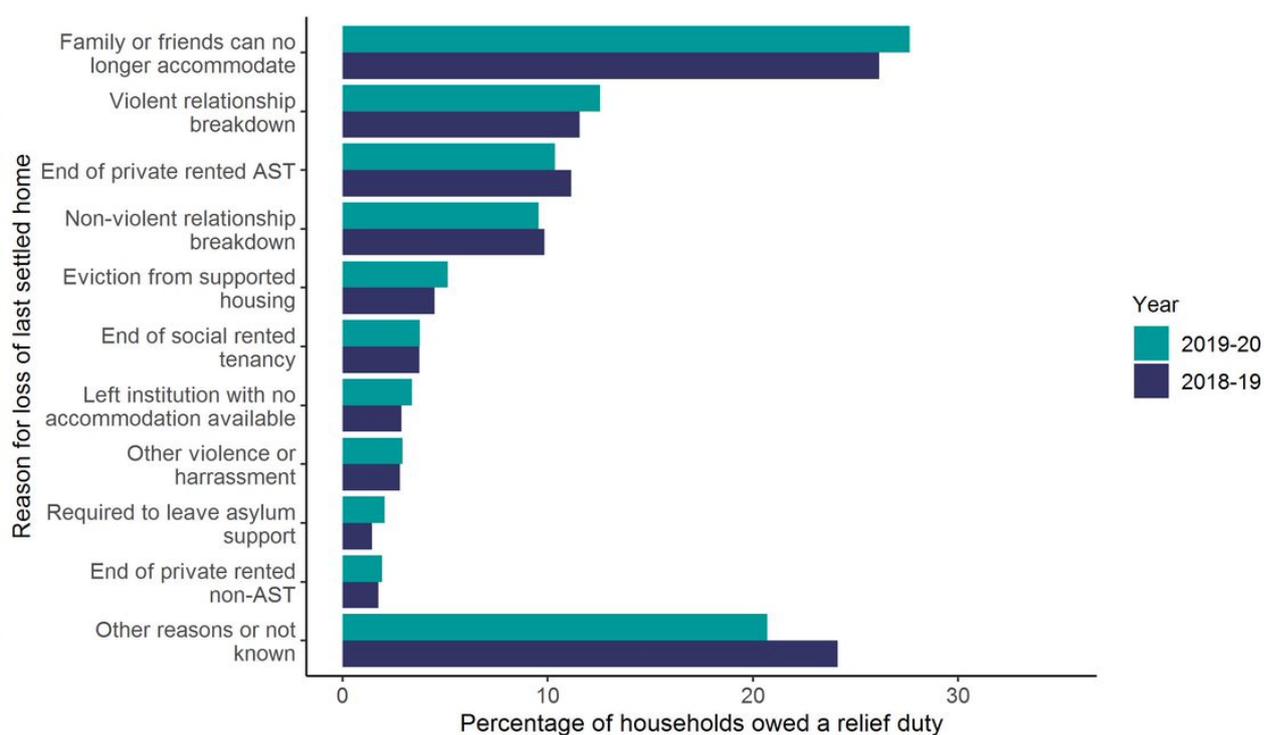
1.4 Relief duty

Relief duty: The relief duty is owed to households that are already homeless on approaching a local authority, and so require help to secure settled accommodation. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended by a local authority if the household is not owed the main homelessness duty.

In 2019-20, the number of households owed a relief duty at initial assessment, increased 14.9% to 139,800, from 121,630 in 2018-19. This increase has been driven by single households, particularly single adult households, which may indicate improved awareness of, and access to, services for single people, as well as the additional Government funding and support provide to reduce rough sleeping.

[Table A2R](#)

Figure 6: Proportion of households owed a relief duty, by reason for loss of last settled home



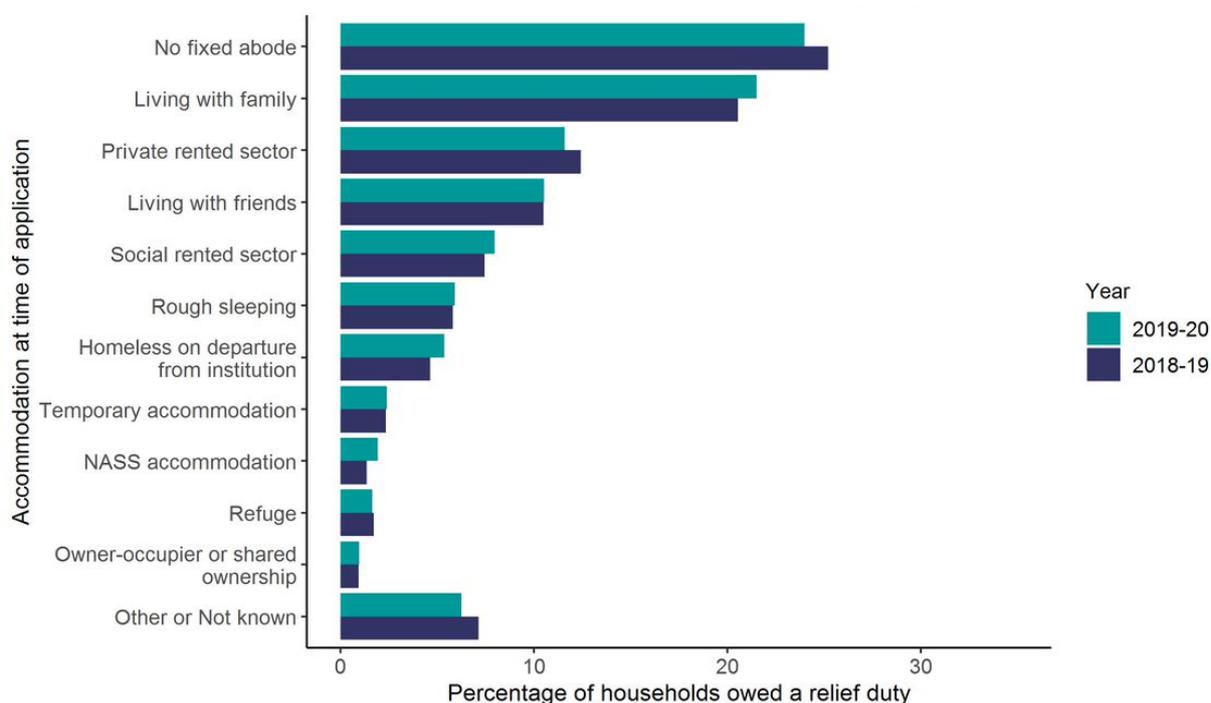
The most common reason for loss of accommodation for households owed a relief duty was due to “friends or family no longer willing or able to accommodate” for 38,660 or 27.7% of households. This is in contrast to those owed a prevention duty where the most common reason was due to the end of private rented AST; this reflects the large number of single households owed a relief duty.

The second highest specified category is due to a violent relationship breakdown

(17,550 or 12.6% of households). 14,490 households or 10.4% of those owed a relief duty were due to the end of their private rented AST. Of these households, 4,460 households or 30.8% ended due to rent arrears, and 3,870 households or 26.7% ended due to the landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property. 5.0% of private rented AST ended due to an illegal eviction.

[Table A4R](#)

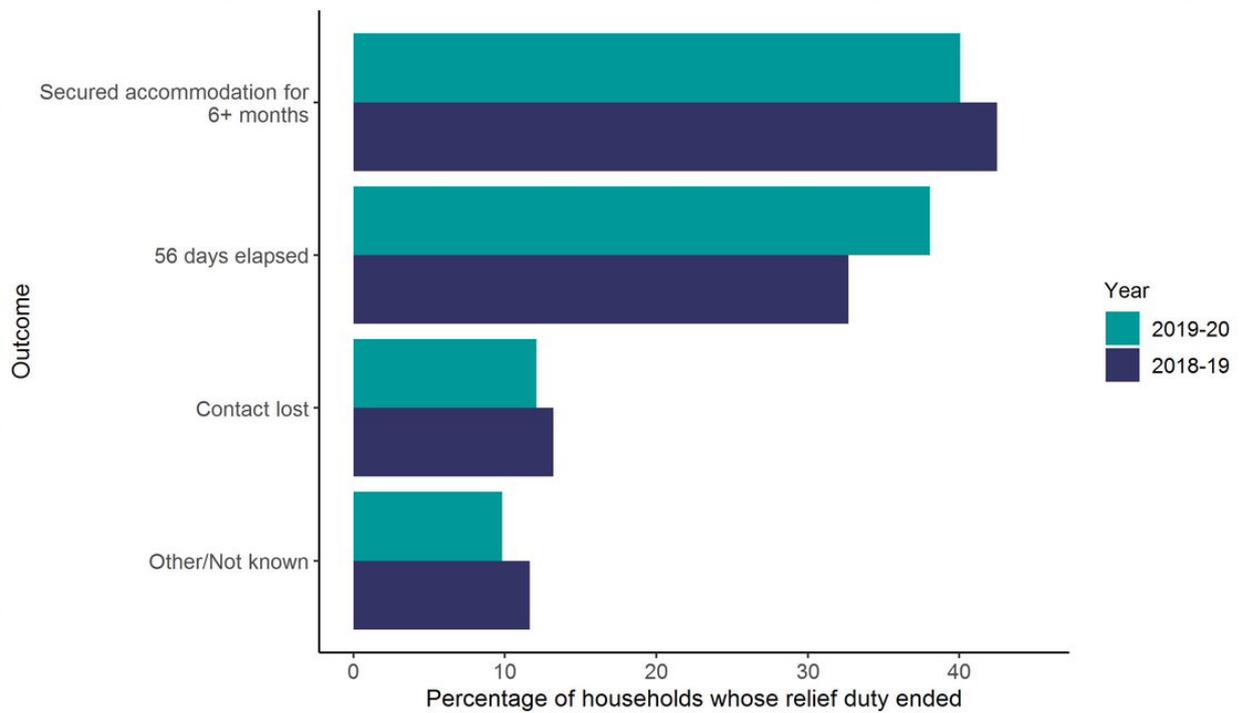
Figure 7: Proportion of households owed a relief duty, by accommodation on approach



Households owed a relief duty are most likely to have no fixed abode (24.0%) at the time of their application. The ‘No fixed abode’ category should not be used to record people who are sleeping rough, or are living with family and friends, but is not yet used correctly or consistently by local authorities. 5.9% or 8,260 of households owed a relief duty were rough sleeping. This is higher than the 4,266 rough sleepers recorded as sleeping rough on a single night in England in 2019. This difference is expected as HCLIC captures the total number of rough sleepers in 2019-20 who had a homelessness application assessed and assistance provided by a local authority. Further detail on rough sleeping can be found in Section 4.

[Table R1](#)

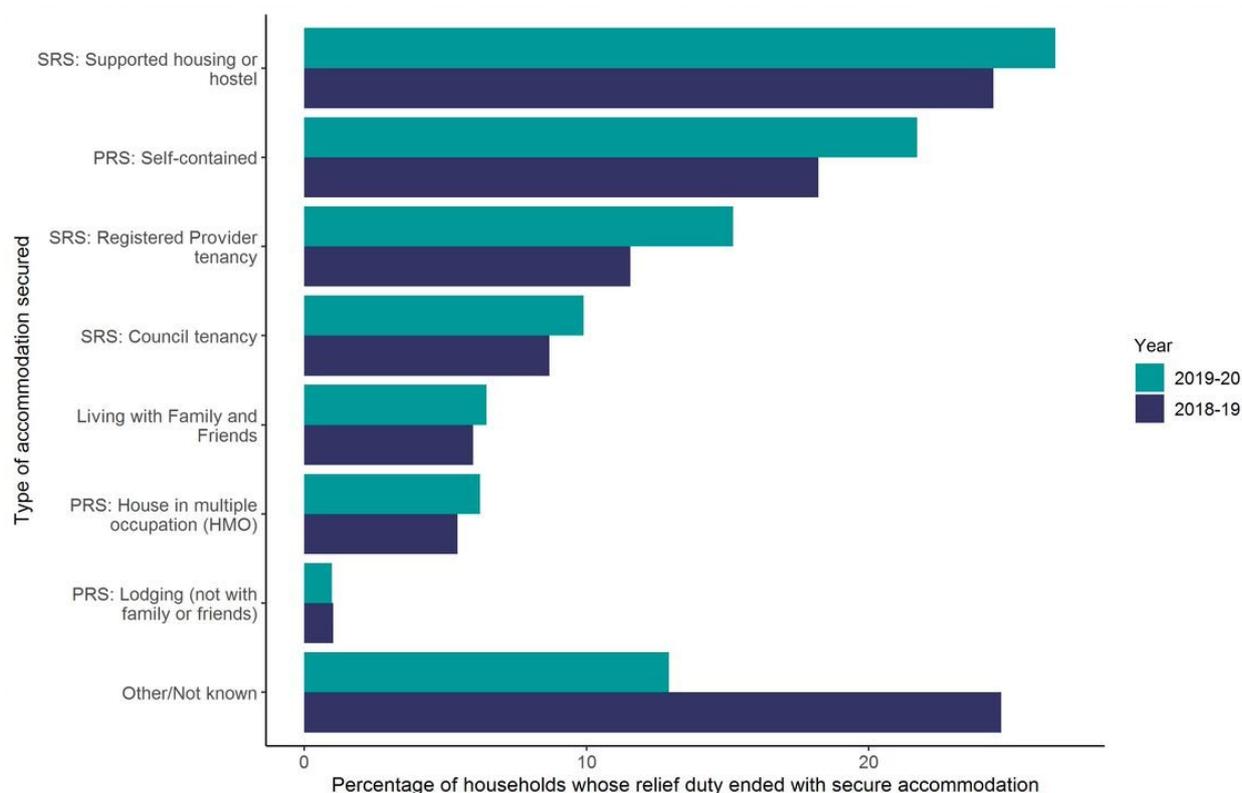
Figure 8: Proportion of households whose relief duty ended, by outcome



The proportion of households who ended the relief duty with secure accommodation was 40.0% in 2019-20 from 42.5% in 2018-19. 38.1% of those whose relief duty ended, were homeless after 56 days elapsed and would then have been assessed against main homelessness duty criteria. The proportion of households whose relief duty ended due to contact lost is 12.1%, 2.6 percentage points higher than those under prevention duties ended. Since the introduction of the HRA, 102,730 households have had their homelessness successfully relieved.

Table R2

Figure 9: Proportion of households whose relief duty ended with accommodation secured, by type of accommodation



For households whose relief duty ended in securing accommodation, the most common form of accommodation secured was in supported housing or hostel (16,480 households or 26.6%), reflecting the high proportion of single households assisted under the relief duty. This is followed by self-contained private rented sector accommodation, with 13,450 households or 21.7%. Section 3 illustrates how these outcomes differ between single households and households with children, as well as other subgroups.

Tables R3 and R4

Most households (42.0%) whose relief duty ended with secure accommodation had their accommodation secured by the local authority. This is followed by supported housing provided (18.3%). A large majority of households (72.2%) who secured alternative accommodation to relieve their homelessness were able to stay in the same local authority area 2.4% of households secured alternative accommodation in another region.

1.5 Trends in main duty acceptances

Main Duty pre-HRA: The 'main' homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is **unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need**³. Before the HRA, 'unintentionally homeless' included households threatened with homelessness within 28 days as well as those already homeless. The main duty does not have a time limit, and requires the local authority to secure accommodation is available (known as temporary accommodation) until the duty ends, which is usually through the offer of settled accommodation in private rented or social housing.

Main Duty post-HRA: The main duty is largely unchanged by the HRA, and continues to be owed to households who are **unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and with a priority need**. However, these households are now only owed a main duty if they did not secure accommodation in the prevention or relief stage, and so is not owed to those 'threatened with homelessness'. In addition a minimum of 56 days of assistance must have elapsed from a household approaching the local authority to being owed a main duty, and households who may previously have been accepted as owed a main duty may now have secured accommodation through prevention or relief duties

LAs have a duty under the Housing Act 1996 to secure accommodation for applicants owed the main duty for whom they accept a main duty under the Housing Act 1996. Figure 10 shows the long term trends in main duty acceptances since 1998. The number of homeless acceptances declined between 2003-04 and 2009-10 and was steadily rising from 2009-10 until 2017-18. This is largely driven by the increase in households becoming homeless due to the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy.

³ Eligibility and priority need are further defined in Section 5, Additional Information.

[Table MD1 timeseries](#)

Figure 10: Number of households accepted as being owed a main duty



The number of main duty acceptances reduced significantly between 2017-18, just before the HRA took effect, and 2018-19, which was the first year of the introduction of the new duties. This is due to the minimum 56 day lag in acceptances that was introduced by the HRA on 3rd April 2018, as well as a backlog in decisions being issued and recorded by some LAs as they adjusted to the new duties. Acceptances began to rise towards the end of 2018-19 after the initial lag, but still remain below the level immediately before the introduction of the HRA.

From 2017-18, before the introduction of the HRA, to 2019-20 the number of households owed the main duty has decreased 29.3%, from 56,600 to 40,040. Despite more households being owed an initial prevention or relief duty, including priority needs groups such as households with children, there are fewer main duty acceptances as more households are receiving assistance at an earlier stage, through prevention and relief duties. Before the introduction of the HRA, the number of main duty acceptances had been widely used as the measure of statutory homelessness, alongside other measures of homelessness covered in Section 4. However, since the introduction of the HRA, many more households are now owed duties because they

are statutorily homeless before reaching the stage of a main duty assessment.

1.6 Household composition of households owed a main duty

[Table MD3 timeseries](#)

Table 1: Proportion of households accepted as being owed a main duty, by type of household

Household type ⁴	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
Households with children	68.7%	69.9%	72.4%
Single households	31.3%	30.1%	27.6%
Total Acceptances	40,040	30,500	56,600

There has been a slight increase in the proportion of those who are accepted as being owed a main duty who are single households to 31.3% in 2019-20 compared to 27.6% in 2017-18, before the introduction of the HRA. This reflects that the overall reduction in the number of single households owed a main duty is smaller than the reduction in the number of households with children owed a main duty. This suggests that households with children are more likely to approach and secure accommodation at the prevention stage than at the relief stage and so are less likely to flow through to being owed a main duty. Section 3 illustrates the proportion of households owed a main duty after failing to secure accommodation at the end of their relief duty.

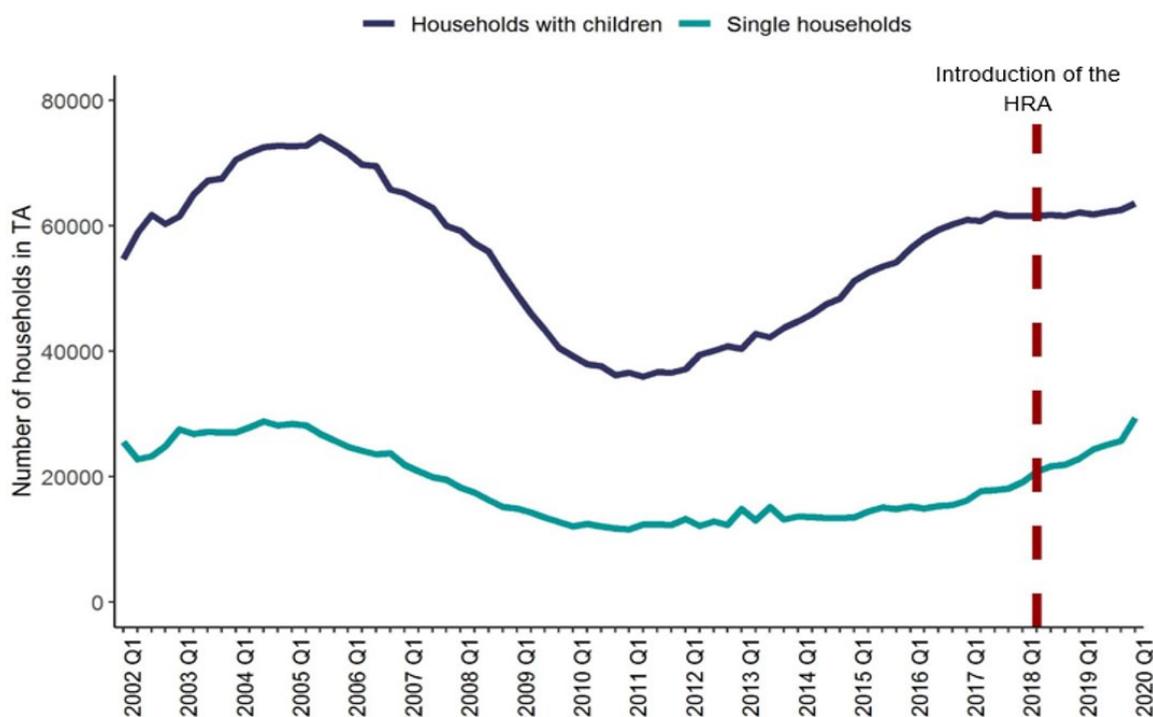
1.7 Trends in temporary accommodation

Temporary Accommodation: Temporary Accommodation is the term used to describe accommodation secured by a local housing authority under their statutory homelessness functions. The majority of households in temporary accommodation have been placed under the main homelessness duty, but temporary accommodation is also provided during the relief stage to households who the LA has reason to believe may have priority need, or on interim basis in other circumstances such as pending the outcome of a review on a homelessness decision.

⁴ Household breakdowns for main duty are calculated using priority need categories. The following priority need categories, published in table MD3 are summed to create 'Households with children': 'Household includes dependent children', 'Household includes children, but other priority need reported', and 'Household includes a pregnant woman'. All other priority need categories are summed for 'single households'.

[Table TA1 timeseries](#)

Figure 11: Number of households in temporary accommodation, by household type

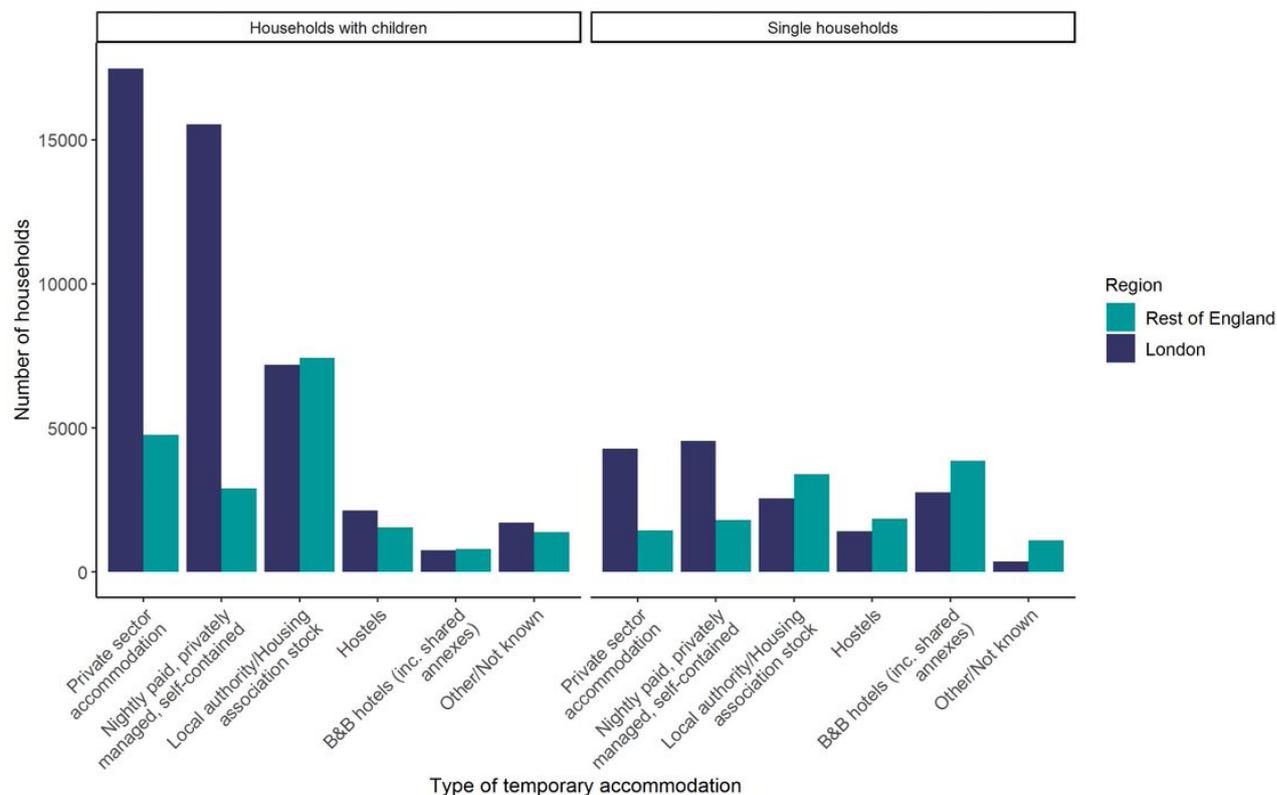


Alongside the increase in single households receiving assistance under new homelessness duties, the number of households being housed by local authority services in temporary accommodation since the introduction of the HRA.

There has been a 9.4% increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation from 85,040 on 31st March 2019 to 93,000 on 31st March 2020. This is largely driven by single households, which have increased 41.2% from 22,870 to 29,390 households, while the number of households with children in temporary accommodation has remained more stable (a 3.3% increase from 62,170 to 63,610 households). However, figures reported on 31st March 2020, which show a sharp increase in households in temporary accommodation, may be linked to the LA response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the call to bring 'Everyone in' from rough sleeping, shared shelters or to prevent rough sleeping. The 31st March 2020 figures show an increase of 4,690 households in temporary accommodation on the previous quarter, compared with a typical increase of around 1000 households each quarter.

[Table TA1](#)

Figure 12: Number of households in temporary accommodation on 31st March 2020, by region and household type



In London, households with children in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in private sector accommodation (17,470 households), or nightly paid self-contained accommodation (15,540 households); whereas in the rest of England, households with children in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in local authority or housing association provided accommodation (7,430 households).

In London, single households in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in nightly paid self-contained accommodation (4,560 households), or private sector accommodation (4,290 households). In contrast, in the rest of England, single households in temporary accommodation are most likely to be in Bed and Breakfast hotels (3,860 households), or local authority or housing association provided accommodation (3,400 households).

Table 2: Number of households accommodated in Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation

	31st March 2020	31st March 2019	
	Households in B&B	Households in B&B	Percentage change
Total households in B&B	8,180	6,970	17.4%
Households in B&B with dependent children	1,550	2,170	-28.6%
<i>Of which: resident for more than 6 weeks</i>	530	760	-30.3%

Of the 93,000 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2020, 63,610 households or 68.4% included dependent children, compared with 62,170 or 73.1% on the same date last year. A total of 129,380 dependent children were in temporary accommodation on 31st March 2020, an increase of 3.1% compared with March 2019.

Of the 8,180 households in B&B, 1,550 or 18.9% had dependent children, down from 2,170 the same time last year. Of the households with children in B&B, 530 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 30.3% from 760 on the 31st March 2019. Only 20 16 to 17 year old main applicants were in B&B accommodation on 31st March 2020.

2. Additional annual tables of demographics of homeless households, 2019-20

2.1 Ethnicity breakdown of homeless households

[Table A8](#)

Table 3: Ethnicity breakdowns of households owed an initial prevention or relief duty in 2019-20 by geographical area

Ethnicity	2019-20 Households owed a prevention or relief duty by ethnicity of lead applicant (% of total) - England	% Ethnicity breakdowns of individuals by population - England	2019-20 Households owed a prevention or relief duty by ethnicity of lead applicant (% of area total) - London	% Ethnicity breakdown of individuals by population in London	2019-20 Households owed a prevention or relief duty by ethnicity of lead applicant (% of area total) Rest of England	% Ethnicity breakdown of individuals by population in the Rest of England
White	201,230 (69.8%)	84.6%	16,800 (31.1%)	58.9%	184,440 (78.7%)	89.4%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	31,010 (10.7%)	3.6%	17,360 (32.1%)	12.4%	13,640 (5.8%)	2.0%
Asian / Asian British	18,100 (6.3%)	8.1%	6,760 (12.5%)	18.5%	11,350 (4.8%)	6.2%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	8,310 (2.9%)	1.8%	2,930 (5.4%)	4.2%	5,380 (2.3%)	1.4%
Other	10,650 (3.7%)	1.9%	4,980 (9.2%)	6.0%	5,670 (2.4%)	1.1%
Not known	18,430 (6.4%)	-	5,170 (9.6%)	-	13,260 (5.7%)	-
Total	288,470 (100%)	100%	54,080 (100%)	100%	234,400 (100%)	100%

1. Population estimates used in this release are derived from calculating the proportion of ethnic groups from the Annual Population Survey (APS). 2. 'Not known' represents a high number of homelessness duties owed and could mask some of the proportions of the household ethnicities owed homelessness duties. 3. Household ethnicity is set at main applicant level and the proportion of the population is calculated on an individual level. From these data it is unclear whether there is more than one person in the household and if people that identify as a particular ethnicity are more likely to live in larger households than others.

This section concerns the ethnicity of the lead applicant of a household. The lead applicant is the person who makes the homeless application on behalf of the household, which can be one or more people.

During 2019-20 69.8% of homeless households had a White lead applicant, while 84.6% of individuals in England are White, suggesting White households are less likely to be homeless. Households containing an Asian lead applicant are also underrepresented as they account for just 6.3% of homeless applications and for 8.1% of the population.

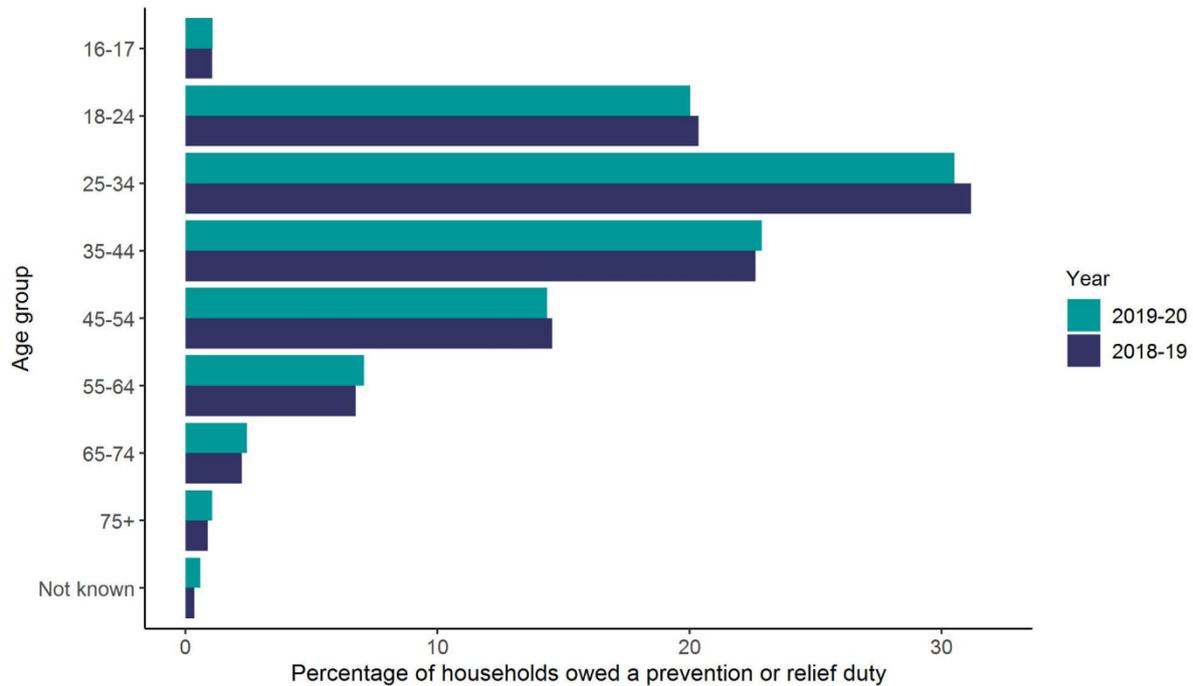
The population distribution of people by ethnicity across England is not even and this can complicate the homeless ethnicity picture, especially when looking at the data from London. London accounts for 18.7% of homelessness duties and is comprised of a higher proportion of Minority Ethnic groups by population (41.1%) compared to the Rest of England (10.6%). Almost half of homelessness duties (47.1%) owed to households with a lead applicant represented by Minority Ethnic groups are from London boroughs.

Lead applicants of Black, Mixed and Other ethnicities are overrepresented in homeless households owed a prevention or relief duty across England (17.3% Households versus 7.3% individuals combined). Households with a Black lead applicant are the most disproportionately homeless as they account for 10.7% of those owed a duty while are only estimated to comprise of 3.6% of the population. In London, people of Black ethnicity make up 12.4% of the population but Black lead applicants account for 32.1% of the prevention and relief duties owed. Across the rest of England households with a Black lead applicant are still overrepresented, accounting for 5.8% of homeless households but only 2% of individuals. However, three large cities (Birmingham, Leicester and Manchester) account for 22.9% of the 13,640 households with a Black lead applicant in the Rest of England.

2.2 Age of homeless household main applicants

[Table A6](#)

Figure 13: Age of lead applicant

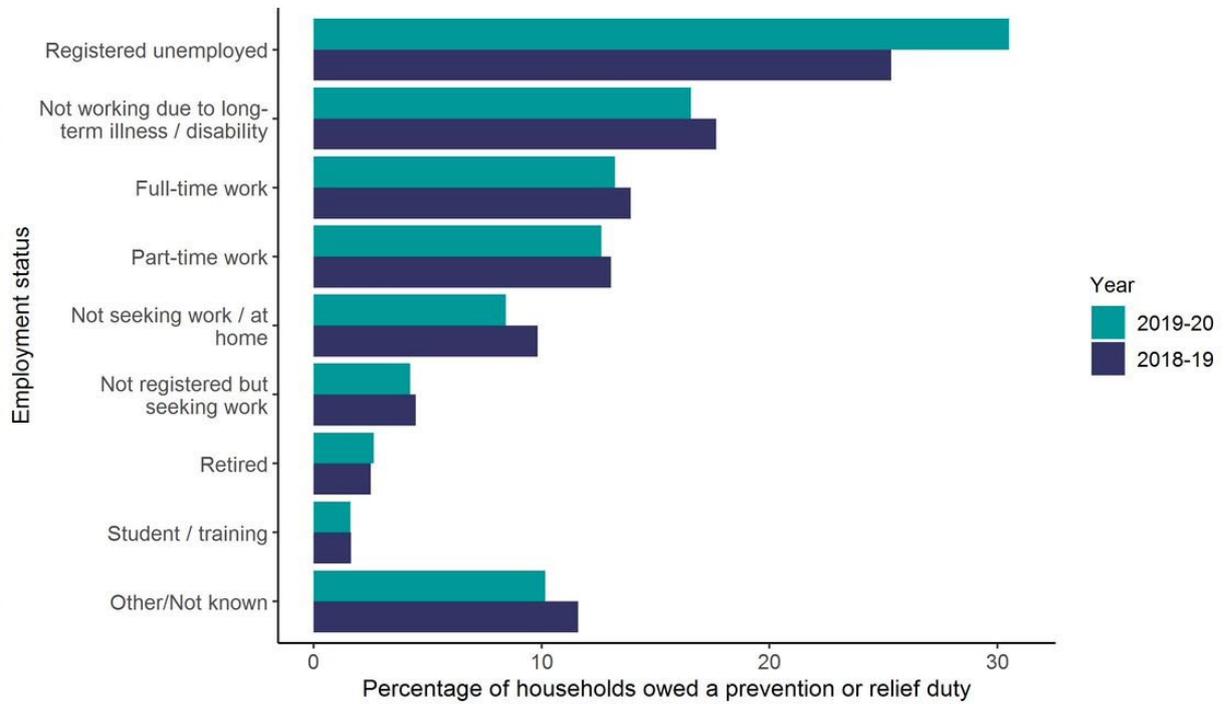


In 2019-20, the most common age group of lead applicants in households owed a prevention or relief duty were aged between 25 and 34 years old, making up 87,990 households or 30.5% of the total. The next largest group of lead applicants were between 35 and 44 years old at 22.9%. 3,050 households or 1.1% of those owed a prevention or relief duty had a lead applicant aged 75 or over.

2.3 Employment Status of homeless households

[Table A10](#)

Figure 14: Employment of lead applicant



The most common employment status for lead applicants of households owed a prevention or relief duty were registered unemployed (88,030 or 30.5%) in 2019-20, increasing from 68,280 or 25.3% in 2018-19. This is followed by households not working due to a long-term illness or disability. 74,580 or 25.9% of households were in full-time or part-time work. 7,620 or 2.6% were retired.

3. HRA flows analysis for households owed a duty in 2018-19

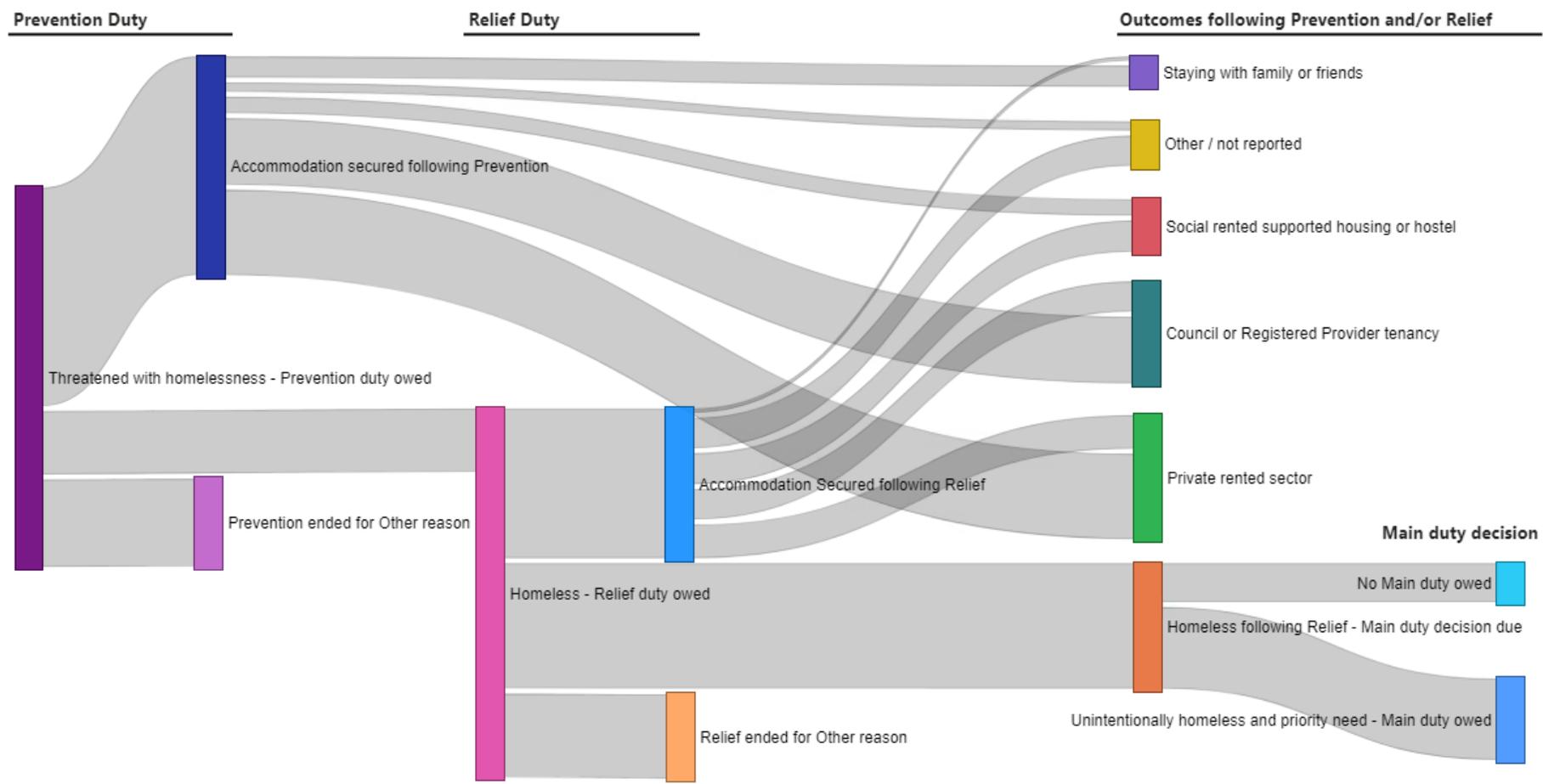
3.1 All households cohort flow

This section explores the flow of households through the new homelessness duties since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April 2018. It concerns cases initially assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty between April 2018 and March 2019, and how these cases progressed up to March 2020. The flows do not indicate the length of time taken for each case, as this varies with some lasting a day and others the full two-year period. The data behind these flows, including exclusions and a comparison against the main published figures, are provided in tables F1-3.

As can be seen in Figure 15, there are a range of journeys and outcomes for households flowing through the homelessness duties. To ensure the flows are comprehensible, certain outcomes that are usually separate have been grouped together; for example, preventions and reliefs ending for Other reasons, and accommodation outcomes. Please see the flows tables, F1-3, for more information on how these fields have been grouped.

From an overall 222,580 households who received homelessness assistance in 2018-19, 54.8% secured accommodation for 6+ months, 26.3% left the system for Other reasons, 12.5% were owed a main duty, and 6.3% were homeless and not owed a main duty following relief.

Figure 15: Diagram and accompanying table depicting the flow of households initially assessed as owed prevention or relief duties between April 2018 and March 2019, and whose case closed or received a main duty decision as of March 2020 ([Table F1](#))



The size of each 'flow' in this diagram is proportional to the number of homelessness cases taking that particular route through the system. Each coloured box indicates a stage in a homelessness duty or outcome, and their size is proportional to the number of households reaching that stage. The system has two entry points: households threatened with homelessness and owed a Prevention duty (the leftmost box), and households initially homeless and owed a Relief duty (note that this box also includes where some cases have flowed from Prevention). Succeeding diagrams are subsets, and their comparative size do not indicate a similarity in the number of households to this overall flow.

[Table F1](#)

Table 4: Outcomes of the HRA duties owed to all households first owed a prevention or relief duty in 2018-19

		Total initially owed duty (% of total)	Prevention duty (% of preventions)	Relief duty, including homeless after Prevention ⁵ (% of reliefs)
Total assessed as owed duty		222,580	124,030	120,590
Total secured accommodation at duty end		122,040 54.8%	72,130 58.2%	49,910 41.4%
Duty ended for Other reasons		58,590 26.3%	29,860 24.1%	28,730 23.8%
Total homeless following duty end ⁶		41,950 18.8%	22,040 17.8%	41,950 34.8%
<i>Of which:</i>	Assessed as owed main duty	27,870 12.5%	-	27,870 23.1%
	Not owed main duty	14,070 6.3%	-	14,070 11.7%

On initial approach, more households were threatened with homelessness and owed a prevention duty (55.7%) than already homeless and owed relief (44.3%) in 2018-19. However, the number of prevention and relief duties were similar when taking into account all relief duties owed during the period, as shown in the table above. 22,040 prevention duties (17.8%) failed to prevent homelessness and consequently moved on to a relief duty, in addition to 98,550 households initially owed a relief duty.

Over half of prevention duties ended with accommodation secured (58.2%), a larger proportion than relief duties ending with an accommodation secured outcome (41.4%). This is expected since the preventative interventions required to keep existing accommodation are often more straightforward than finding and securing new accommodation for an already homeless household.

Private rented sector and council / Registered Provider tenancies were the most common outcomes following successful duties. This was especially the case after prevention (72.4% of accommodation outcomes) compared to relief (47.8%), and could be a result of many preventions involving the retention of an existing tenancy. Table A4p indicates 52.9% of 2018-19 prevention duties were owed to households from the private or social rented sectors. Table P1 indicates around a third (35.3%) of accommodation secured outcomes at prevention retain existing accommodation.

⁵ This column includes the 22,040 households owed a relief duty following unsuccessful prevention, in addition to the 98,550 households assessed as homeless on initial approach.

⁶ Households found homeless after a prevention duty then move on to a relief duty. Those found homeless after a relief duty are due a decision on whether a main duty is owed.

[Table F1](#)

Table 5: Accommodation secured for all households following prevention or relief duties owed in 2018-19

	Total secured accommodation at duty end	Private rented sector	Council or Registered Provider tenancy	Social rented supported housing or hostel	Staying with family or friends	Other / not reported
Prevention duty	72,130	29,140 40.4%	23,110 32.0%	6,840 9.5%	8,430 11.7%	4,620 6.4%
Relief duty	49,910	12,490 25.0%	11,370 22.8%	11,680 23.4%	2,980 6.0%	11,400 22.8%

Supported housing or hostel accommodation secured outcomes were more likely following relief (23.4%) compared to prevention (9.5%). This is indicative of the predominantly single adult homeless households requiring specific support or emergency accommodation more often than those threatened with homelessness. More information about these differences is provided in the single households and families flows sections.

‘Other / not reported’ consists of where local authorities have stated ‘Other’ or have not been able to provide the accommodation outcome, and was reported more regularly for relief outcomes (22.8%). Overuse of ‘Other / not known’ as a type of accommodation secured is a data quality issue, and we are working with local authorities to improve reporting of accommodation outcomes.

58,590 prevention and relief duties ended for Other reasons, around a quarter of total outcomes (26.3%). These are outcomes where the household has neither secured accommodation nor been found homeless after 56 days, and includes: Contact lost, withdrawn application / applicant deceased, preventions not requiring further action after 56 days, and refusal of suitable accommodation. Tables P1 and R1 show households that lost contact or withdrew applications together made up 13.8% of prevention duty outcomes and 19.6% of relief outcomes in 2018-19.

Around a third of relief duties (34.8%) ended with the household still homeless and therefore due a main duty decision. Of these, 27,870 households (66.4%) were assessed as unintentionally homeless with a priority need and owed a main homelessness duty.

The remaining 14,070 (33.5%) were not owed a main duty following unsuccessful attempts to relieve the households’ homelessness after a minimum of 56 days. 10,160

households were not owed a main duty because they were homeless but had no priority need, 2,950 had priority need but were considered intentionally homeless and a further 970 were not owed a main duty for other reasons. Other reasons include not homeless, not eligible, contact lost and application withdrawn.

3.2 Flows for key sub-groups of homeless households

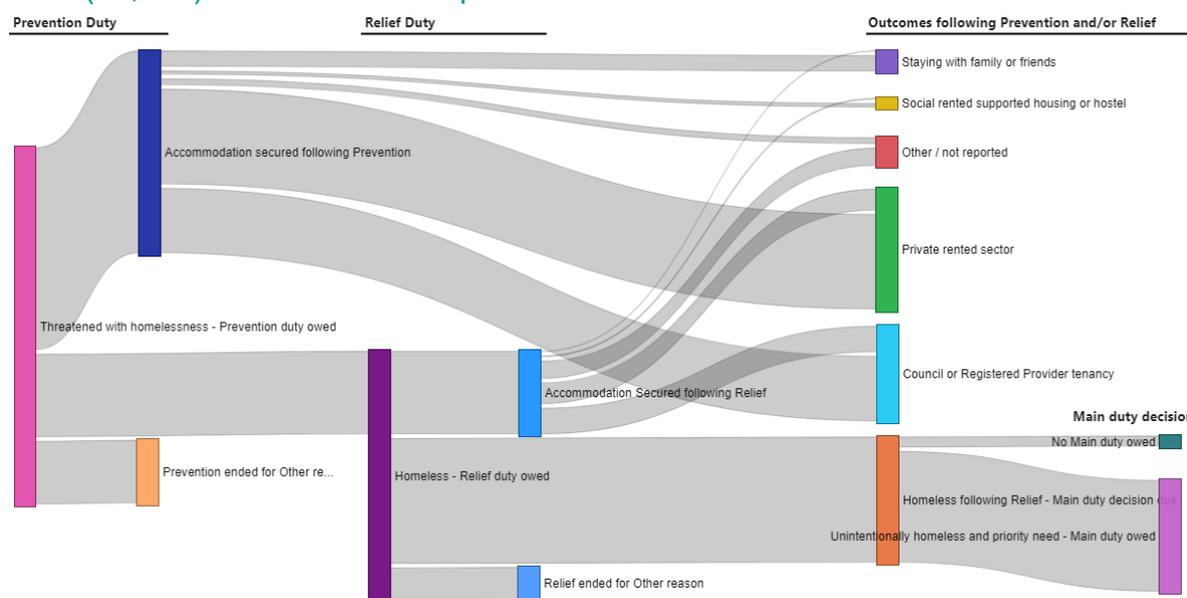
The flow of cases through homelessness duties can differ depending on the circumstances and composition of applicant households. This section shows how the flows compared for key sub-groups entering the system in 2018-19.

Households with children

More than a third (35.8%) of cases owed duties in 2018-19 were households containing children. These family households were far more likely to be threatened with homelessness (68.6%) as opposed to already homeless (31.4%) on initial approach.

Of the 79,620 households with children who received homelessness assistance in 2018-19, 55.8% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.8% of all households), 19.5% left the system for Other reasons (versus 26.3% overall), 21.9% were owed a main duty (versus 12.5% overall), and 2.7% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 6.3% overall).

Figure 16: Households with children initially assessed as owed prevention (54,650) or relief (24,970) duties between April 2018 and March 2019



Associated data can be found in [Table F1](#).

The majority of accommodation outcomes for households with children were private and social rented tenancies, comprising 81.5% of successful prevention outcomes and 63.8% of family households relieved of homelessness. Private rented accommodation was more common following prevention (48.0%) than relief duties (29.1%) which will be in part due to the retention of existing private rented tenancies through earlier intervention.

[Table F1](#)

Table 6: Accommodation secured for households with children following prevention or relief duties owed in 2018-19

	Total secured accommodation at duty end	Private rented sector	Council or Registered Provider tenancy	Social rented supported housing or hostel	Staying with family or friends	Other / not reported
Prevention duty	31,280	15,020 48.0%	10,460 33.4%	1,200 3.8%	3,020 9.7%	1,570 5.0%
Relief duty	13,180	3,840 29.1%	4,570 34.7%	780 5.9%	700 5.3%	3,300 25.0%

While successful accommodation outcomes following prevention were comparable with the overall cohort flow, prevention duties ending for Other reasons were lower for families (18.7%) than overall (24.1%). This suggests households with children were less likely to leave the system due to losing contact or withdrawing an application than those without children. 24.1% of family households were homeless at the end of the prevention duty and consequently moved on to relief duties, compared to 17.8% overall.

Over half of family households (51.4%) were still homeless after relief, in contrast with a third of the overall cohort (34.8%). This large discrepancy could be linked to the lower proportion of family households leaving the system for Other reasons. These households are also very likely to be owed a main duty, since having dependent children is a priority need. Accordingly, 88.9% of family households that were homeless at the end of relief were assessed as unintentionally homeless and priority need and therefore owed a main homelessness duty.

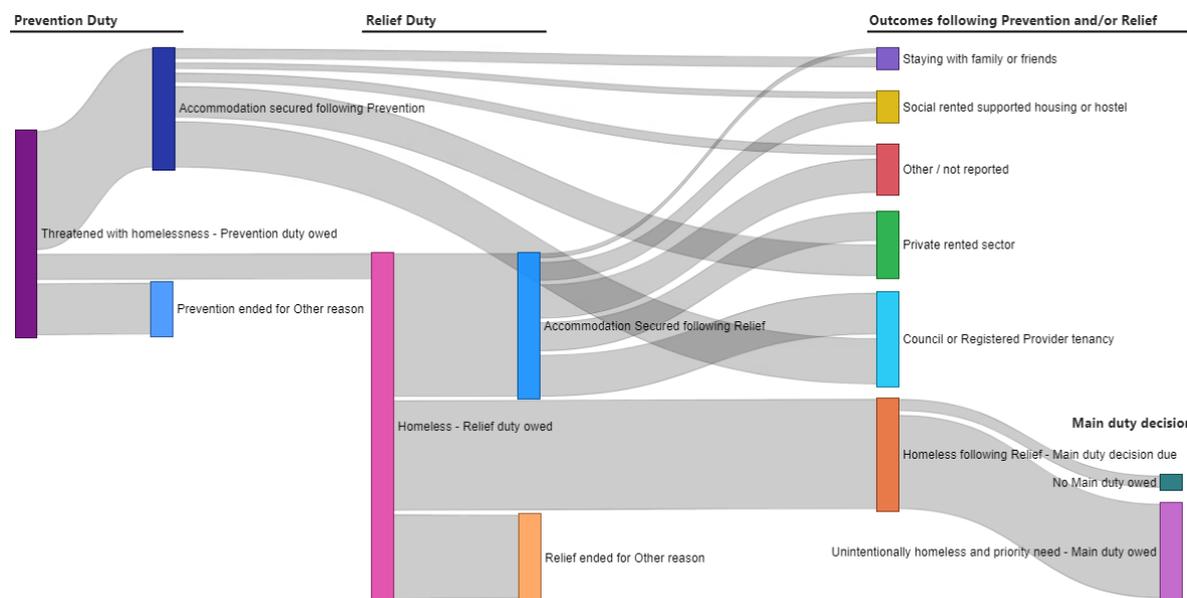
2,180 households with children were homeless at the end of relief and not owed a main duty, of which 1,620 households were intentionally homeless. 270 households were found to have no priority need (such as when dependent children have left the household by the decision stage) and 290 households were not owed a main duty for other reasons.

Homeless, or threatened with homelessness, as a result of domestic abuse

Around 1 in 11 households (8.7%) recorded 'domestic abuse' as their main reason for being homeless or threatened with homelessness. Unlike the overall cohort, most of these households were already homeless on initial approach and therefore immediately owed a relief duty (60.5%).

Of 19,360 households that are homeless as a result of domestic abuse and who received homelessness assistance in 2018-19, 51.2% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.8% of all households), 27.1% left the system for Other reasons (versus 26.3% overall), 18.6% were owed a main duty (versus 12.5% overall), and 3.0% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 6.3% overall).

Figure 17: Households homeless or threatened with homelessness as a result of domestic abuse and initially assessed as owed prevention (7,640) or relief duties (12,810) between April 2018 and March 2019



Associated data can be found in [Table F1](#).

The proportions of prevention and relief duties ending with accommodation secured, homelessness, or for Other reasons did not differ markedly from the overall cohort flow.

Households homeless or threatened with homelessness as a result of domestic abuse were more likely to secure council or Registered Provider tenancies than the overall cohort, particularly following prevention (40.6% of accommodation outcomes compared to 32.0% for all households).

[Table F1](#)

Table 7: Accommodation secured for households homeless as a result of domestic abuse following prevention or relief duties owed in 2018-19

	Total secured accommodation at duty end	Private rented sector	Council or Registered Provider tenancy	Social rented supported housing or hostel	Staying with family or friends	Other / not reported
Prevention duty	4,510	1,290 28.6%	1,830 40.6%	370 8.2%	520 11.5%	500 11.1%
Relief duty	5,400	1,200 22.2%	1,670 30.9%	830 15.4%	320 5.9%	1,390 25.7%

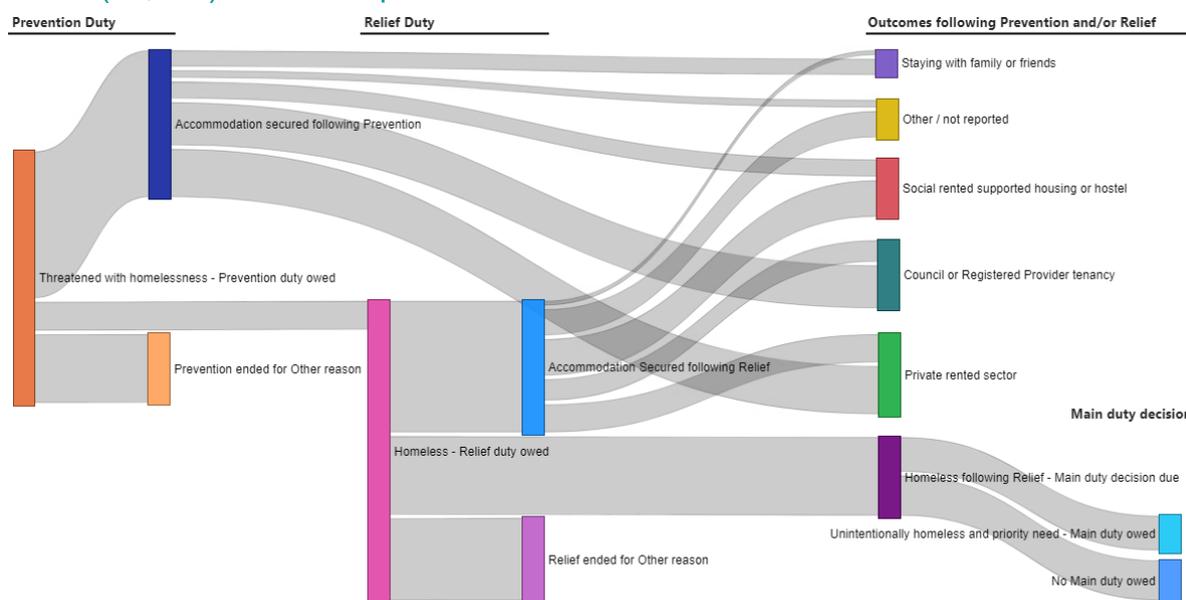
Of the households found homeless following Relief, the vast majority were assessed as owed a main duty (85.9%). The remaining 14.1% consisted of 410 households found to have no priority need, 60 households found intentionally homeless, and 120 households not owed a main duty for other reasons. Other reasons include not homeless, no longer eligible, contact lost and withdrew application.

Single households

64.2% of households owed a homelessness duty in 2018-19 did not contain children (referred to as 'single households'). Prevention and relief duties introduced by the Homelessness Reduction Act in April 2018 are owed irrespective of priority need, which has provided greater access to support for single people.

142,900 households without children received homelessness assistance in 2018-19. 54.3% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.8% of all households), 30.1% left the system for Other reasons (versus 26.3% overall), 7.3% were owed a main duty (versus 12.5% overall), and 8.3% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 6.3% overall).

Figure 18: Single households initially assessed as owed prevention (69,340) or relief duties (73,570) between April 2018 and March 2019



Associated data can be found in [Table F1](#).

In contrast with family households, those without children were more likely to be already homeless on approach – 51.5% were owed initial relief duties compared to 31.4% of households overall. As the data in these flows relate to assessments made in the first year of the HRA, it may be that single people had less awareness of services

available to them to prevent homelessness. However, it may also reflect higher levels of 'hidden homelessness' amongst single households who have come forward for help, and have been recorded as homeless as a result of the new duties owed.

Accommodation outcomes for single households were more evenly distributed among the types compared to families. While private rented tenancies were still the most common prevention outcome for single people, they comprised 34.6% compared to 48.0% for families. Relief outcomes varied more, with 29.7% of households without children accommodated in Social rented supported housing or hostels (only 5.9% for families).

[Table F1](#)

Table 8: Accommodation secured for single households following prevention or relief duties owed in 2018-19

	Total secured accommodation at duty end	Private rented sector	Council or Registered Provider tenancy	Social rented supported housing or hostel	Staying with family or friends	Other / not reported
Prevention duty	40,830	14,110 34.6%	12,640 31.0%	5,640 13.8%	5,400 13.2%	3,040 7.4%
Relief duty	36,730	8,650 23.6%	6,800 18.5%	10,900 29.7%	2,280 6.2%	8,100 22.1%

While prevention duties for single households were less likely to end with homelessness than for families (12.8% versus 24.1%), a correspondingly greater proportion ended for Other reasons (28.3% versus 18.7%). This was also true of relief duties, with 28.4% ending for Other reasons compared to 14.0% for families.

The prevalence of Other outcomes among single households suggests a relative difficulty in maintaining their applications. As can be seen in tables P1 and R1, most outcomes other than accommodation or homelessness involve contact being lost, withdrawn applications, and preventions ending with no further action.

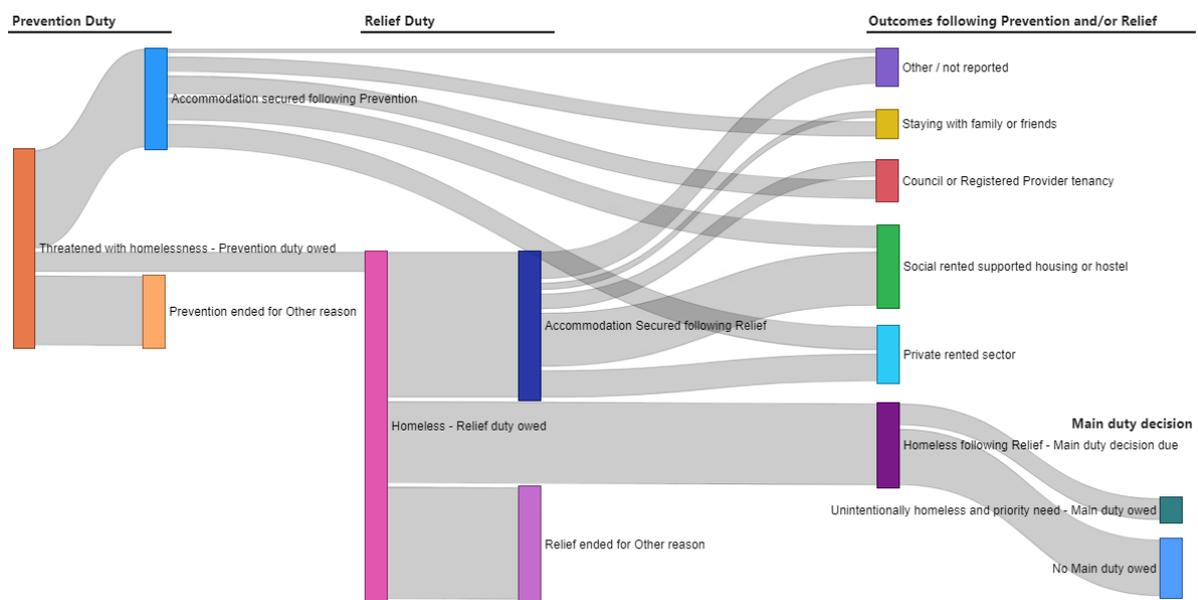
A slight majority (53.3%) of single households still homeless after relief were not owed a main duty, in stark contrast to family households. Without children it is harder to evidence priority need and consequently be entitled to a main duty. Potential priority needs for single households include; vulnerability as a result of mental health problems, physical disability / ill health, pregnancy, domestic abuse, and leaving care. More information on common priority needs can be found in table MD3.

Single males aged 18-34

1 in 4 single households (25.4%) approaching for assistance with homelessness in 2018-19 were males aged 18-34, 1 in 6 of the overall cohort (16.3%). 62.2% of this group were initially assessed as already homeless and therefore owed relief as opposed to prevention duties.

36,280 singles males aged 18-34 received homelessness assistance in 2018-19. Of which 47.7% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.8% of all households), 36.0% left the system for Other reasons (versus 26.3% overall), 4.9% were owed a main duty (versus 12.5% overall), and 11.4% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 6.3% overall).

Figure 19: Single males aged 18-34 and initially assessed as owed prevention (13,720) or relief duties (24,180) between April 2018 and March 2019



Associated data can be found in [Table F1](#).

Social rented supported housing or hostels were the most common accommodation for younger single males prevented or relieved from homeless. 38.4% of successful relief outcomes ended with this accommodation. In addition, a relatively high proportion of this group were accommodated by family or friends after prevention duties (18.5% compared to 11.7% overall).

[Table F1](#)

Table 9: Accommodation secured for single males aged 18-34 following prevention or relief duties owed in 2018-19

	Total secured accommodation at duty end	Private rented sector	Council or Registered Provider tenancy	Social rented supported housing or hostel	Staying with family or friends	Other / not reported
Prevention duty	7,040	1,870 26.6%	1,540 21.9%	1,790 25.4%	1,300 18.5%	540 7.7%
Relief duty	10,290	2,140 20.8%	1,330 12.9%	3,950 38.4%	750 7.3%	2,130 20.7%

More than a third of younger single males (36.0%) left the system for Other reasons, such as contact lost, withdrawn application, or not requiring further assistance after prevention. Although the proportion of this group's flows ending in homelessness (16.2%) were low compared to other cohorts presented here, the high number leaving the system for Other reasons was at least partly responsible.

Of younger single males found homeless after relief, only a minority (29.9%) were assessed as unintentionally homeless, priority need, and owed a main duty. The remaining 4,130 households were homeless and not owed a main duty, of which 3,620 were found to have no priority need. 310 were assessed as intentionally homeless and 200 were not owed a main duty for other reasons.

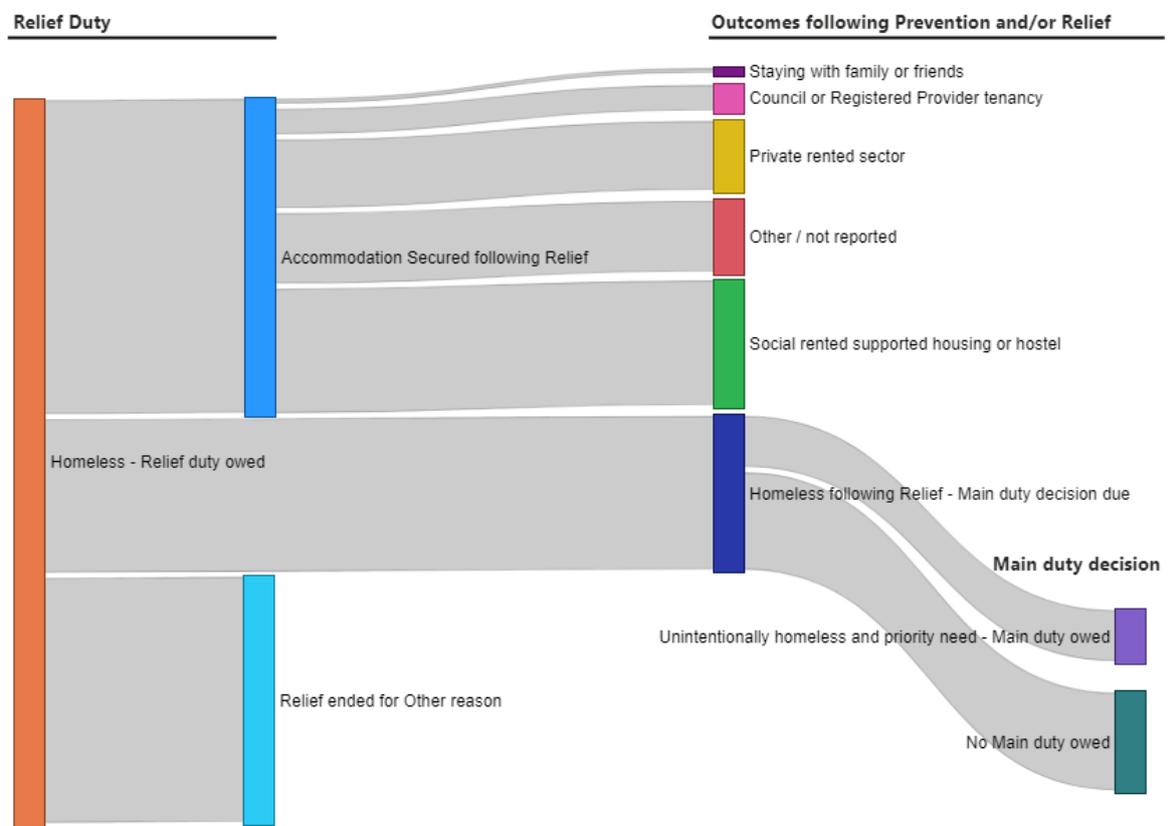
Rough sleeping at time of application

1 in 40 households (2.6%) were rough sleeping at the time of application. Since those sleeping rough are by definition homeless, all were initially owed a relief duty.

5,750 households sleeping rough at the time of application were assessed as owed a relief duty in 2018-19. Of which 43.8% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.8% of all households), 34.4% left the system for Other reasons (versus 26.3% overall), 7.7% were owed a main duty (versus 12.5% overall), and 14.1% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 6.3% overall).

This means a high proportion (48.5%) of relief duties owed to those sleeping rough ended without an accommodation secured outcome or main duty acceptance. Unlike other cohorts this exclusively refers to reasons the relief duty ended. This means the other reasons will not include those whose threat of homelessness had gone away.

Figure 20: Households sleeping rough and initially assessed as owed relief duties (5,750) between April 2018 and March 2019



Associated data can be found in [Table F1](#).

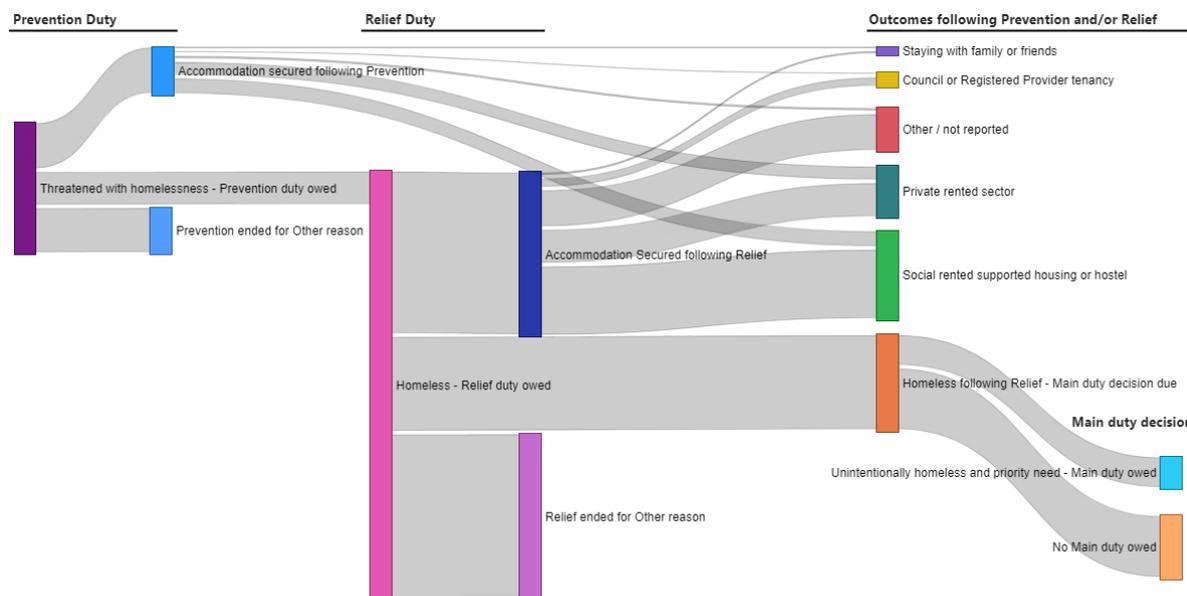
78.4% of rough sleepers were single males. As a result, the flow through relief duties follows a similar story to the previous section on single males aged 18-34. A relatively high proportion of relief duties owed to rough sleepers ended for Other reasons (34.4%). Supported housing or hostel was the most common accommodation outcome (40.5% of all accommodation secured). Only a minority of rough sleepers were owed a main duty, 35.2% of those homeless at the end of relief.

Homeless, or threatened with homelessness, on departure from custody

1.6% of households were homeless, or threatened with homelessness, on departure from custody.

Overall, 3,470 applicants that left custody were assessed as owed a duty in 2018-19. 40.6% secured accommodation for 6+ months (compared to 54.8% of all households), 40.6% left the system for Other reasons (versus 26.3% overall), 6.3% were owed a main duty (versus 12.5% overall), and 12.4% were homeless and not owed a duty following relief (versus 6.3% overall).

Figure 21: Households leaving custody and initially assessed as owed prevention (870) or relief duties (2,590) between April 2018 and March 2019



Associated data can be found in [Table F1](#)

Most applicants that were homeless as a result of leaving custody (74.6%) were homeless on initial approach and owed a relief duty. This suggests they did not or were not able to make a homeless application they required before leaving custody.

Of the few owed prevention, a relatively small proportion (36.8%) secured accommodation and 27.6% went on to be owed a relief duty.

87.6% of applicants that left custody were single males, so there are similarities with the single males cohort but to differing extents:

- A high proportion leaving the system for Other reasons (40.6%), such as contact lost or withdrawn applications.
- 44.0% of households with successful relief outcomes were accommodated in social rented supported housing or hostels.
- Of those homeless after relief and due a main duty decision, only 34.4% were owed the main duty.

4. Comparing statutory homelessness statistics and other statistics

Rough Sleeping (MHCLG)

The [latest rough sleeping snapshot statistics](#) show that in 2019 there were 4,266 individuals recorded as sleeping rough on a single night in England in 2019, with 1,136 individuals in London, and 3,130 individuals in the rest of England. Tables A4P and A4R of this release show that in 2019-20, there were 8,330 households in England who were rough sleeping at the time of their application, of which 1,470 were in London and 6,860 were in the rest of England. The figures in this release are cumulative over the course of the financial year, whereas the rough sleeping statistics are a snapshot. Further differences can be explained by HCLIC only capturing rough sleepers who have had a homelessness application assessed and assistance provided by a local authority.

Social Housing Lettings (MHCLG)

MHCLG's statistics on Social Housing Lettings include information of the previous housing situation of the lead tenant for new lettings. In the [latest 2018-19 publication](#), 15% of the 314,000 total new social lettings went to households that were classed as statutory homeless and owed a main homelessness duty. The main difference between these statistics and those reported in this release is that the definition of statutory homelessness in the social housing statistics is before the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. This definition was retained because for some new lets in 2018-19, the statutory homeless decision would have been made before the Act came into force. However, decisions made afterwards that resulted in a prevention or relief duty are also included in the social housing statistics.

Local Authority Housing Statistics (MHCLG)

MHCLG's [Local Authority Housing Statistics](#) covers social housing that is owned and managed by local authorities. Unlike the social lettings statistics above, this excludes social housing provided by Private Registered Providers, formerly known as Housing Associations. The latest figures show that on 31st March 2019 there were 1.2 million households on the housing waiting list, of which the most common requirement (45.9%) was for one bedroom. This is consistent with single adult households being the largest group being owed a relief duty (71.5% in 2018-19). Households can be on more than one local authority's waiting list, so figures are likely to be an overestimate. These households are also not necessarily in immediate need, and so is not directly

comparable to figures reported in this release. However, the dominance of single households in both datasets suggests a housing need for this group.

Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing (MHCLG)

MHCLG data on [Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing](#) shows the total expenditure on homelessness services, including expenditure on prevention, support, and temporary accommodation. In 2018-19, £144m was spent on prevention; £68m on support; £1bn on temporary accommodation (excluding non-HRA accommodation). In 2017-18, equivalent figures were £102m on prevention; £49m on support; £938m on temporary accommodation (excluding non-HRA accommodation).

English Housing Survey (MHCLG)

MHCLG's English Housing Survey publishes data on the number of concealed households in England. This is defined as households containing an adult who would prefer to buy or rent their own accommodation but cannot afford to do so. The [latest 2018-19 publication](#) shows there were 1.6 million such households, equating to 7% of all households in England. In 2018-19, according to the English Housing Survey, 154,000 households were living in self-reported temporary or emergency accommodation, either provided by a local authority, housing association, or private landlord. There is a 95% certainty that the true figure is between 121,000 and 194,000 households (154,000 is the mid-point). Households that live in communal accommodation such as B&Bs and hostels are not included.

Community Performance (Ministry of Justice)

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly statistics on [Community Performance in England and Wales](#), which includes information on accommodation on release from custody. The latest figures from 2018-19, show that 2,017 individuals were classed as 'Rough sleeping', and 5,206 individuals were classed as 'Other homeless' in England. Other homeless refers to individuals who identify as homeless but have not been identified as sleeping rough. The sum of these figures may provide some context to Table A2P and A2R of this release, which shows the number of households owed a homelessness duty by reason for loss, or threat of loss, or last settled home. In particular, in 2018-19, 4,570 households were reported as having left an institution with no accommodation available. It is expected that the figures in Table A2P and A2R are lower than those in the Community Performance statistics since the cases in this release have to have made an application that resulted in a homelessness duty owed by a local authority in order to be reported.

Mortgage and Landlord Possessions Statistics (Ministry of Justice)

The Ministry of Justice also publishes quarterly statistics on [Mortgage and Landlord Possession in England and Wales](#), which includes the number of claims made by landlords for possessing a property. By aggregating quarterly figures for 2019-20, figures on repossessions in England are shown below:

	Repossessions		
	Social Landlord	Private Landlord	Accelerated procedure
2019-20	13,637	7,001	7,479

Repossessions made through an accelerated procedure contains both private and social landlords and cannot be separated. Although they will add to the separate private and social landlord categories, there is still likely to be a discrepancy, particularly for AST.

The figures above may provide context for figures in Tables A2P and A2R of this release, which show the number of households who were owed a prevention or relief duty due to the end of their assured shorthold private rented tenancy (AST) or social rented tenancy. In 2019-20, of those who were owed a prevention duty, 43,260 households were due to the end of their AST, and 10,050 were due to the end of their social rented tenancy. For households owed a relief duty, 14,490 households were due to the end of their AST, and 5,260 were due to the end of their social rented tenancy.

Although the repossessions figures are a close match to the number of households owed a relief duty due to their AST or social rented tenancy ending, the proportion of repossessions that lead to homelessness is unknown.

5. Additional information

What data is used in this release?

The data used in this release are from the Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC) data system. This system is used as a reporting requirement of local authorities to provide data on statutory homelessness for those approaching local authorities for help with homelessness. From 1st April 2018 H-CLIC replaced an aggregated data return (collected using the P1E form). The replacement of the aggregated return coincided with the introduction of new legislation, the HRA.

Further details on H-CLIC, imputation, suppression, response rate, and temporary accommodation data are available in the quarterly releases and the respective [Technical Notes](#).

What are experimental statistics?

This release is categorised as experimental statistics to reflect the new methods of collection and aggregation of case level data via H-CLIC. The quality of data in this publication is being continually improved, and the data presented will be revised in future quarters. The purpose of publishing this data as experimental statistics is to allow users to use these statistics with an understanding of the quality and limitations. We advise that new duties are not comparable with previous homelessness data collected before April to June 2018. Temporary accommodation and main duty data are comparable to data collected before April to June 2018, however, due to the new steps local authorities must take with households prior to a main duty, any inferences about trends in main duty acceptances should be made with caution. Due to the minimum 56 day lag for new main duty assessments from April 2018, we recommend using 2019-20 main duty acceptance data to compare to 2017-18 or earlier. Main duty comparisons will reflect whether the prevention and relief duties are working to effectively prevent and relieve homelessness for households with priority need.

What are the homelessness duties?

This publication covers statutory homelessness, which is those people who are assessed by local authorities according to their legal duties. The Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, Localism Act 2011 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) determines the legal duties on local authorities towards homeless households and households threatened with homelessness.

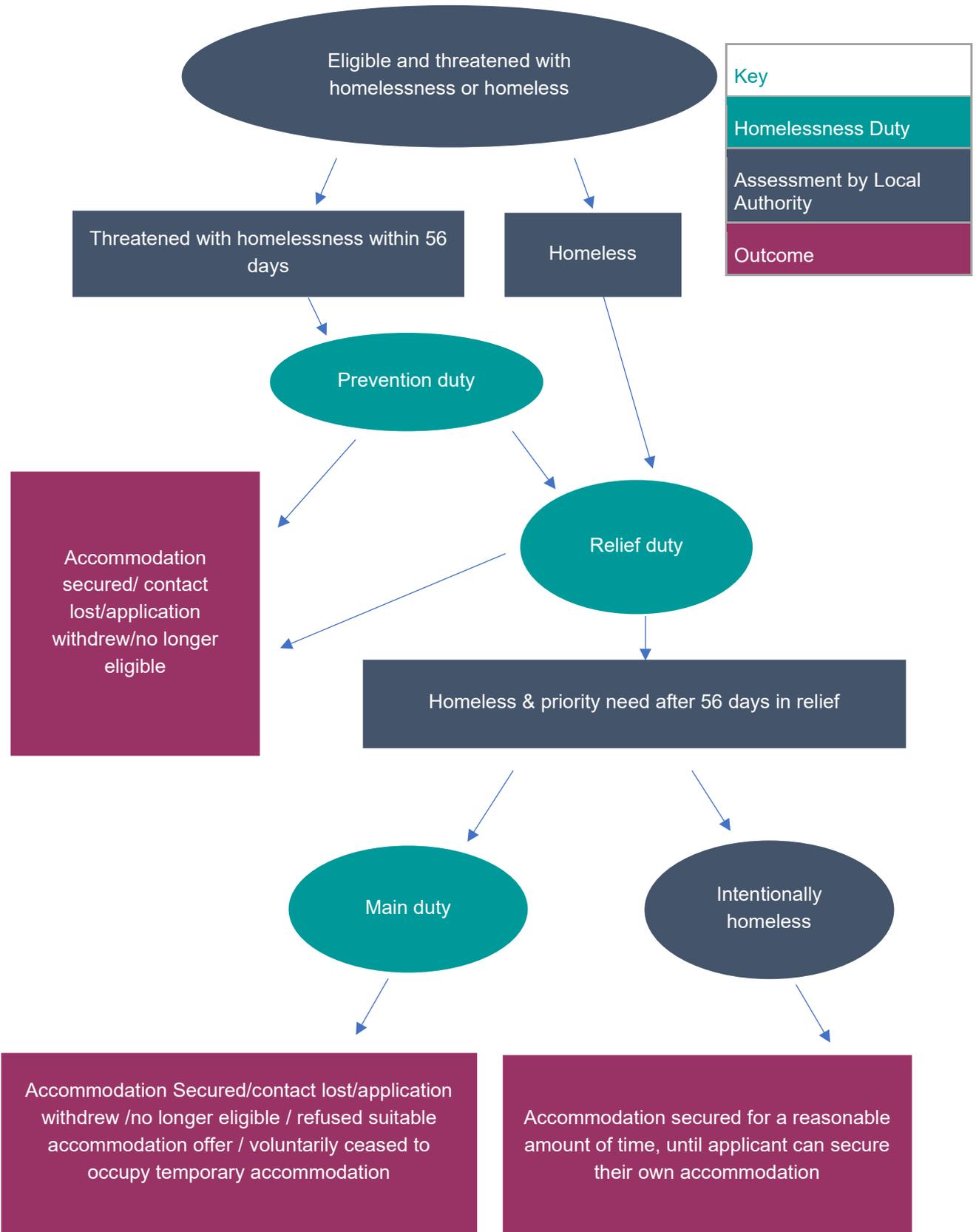
The data in this release regards the Housing Act 1996 statutory homelessness duties, and therefore excludes anyone who has not approached their local authority for

assistance who would otherwise be considered homeless. It will include some, but not all, households with a broad range of living circumstances including rough sleeping and staying temporarily with friends or family. It also excludes anyone who has approached their authority but whose threat of homelessness falls outside the legal 56-day prevention duty, who may have been offered some assistance.

How do you compare these duties with pre-HRA statistics?

Prevention and relief information collected by H-CLIC cover new legal duties introduced from the 3rd April 2018, so these are **not comparable** to the activity information collected previously. The definition of main duty acceptances and temporary accommodation remain the same, however due to the new steps local authorities must take with households prior to a main duty, any inferences about trends in main duty acceptances before and after the HRA 2017 should be made with caution. More information on comparability is available in the [Technical Note](#).

Flow through the homelessness duties and outcomes



Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release.

The below tables can be accessed at:

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

Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed

- A1: Number of households assessed and owed a prevention or relief duty
- A2P: Reason for loss of last settled home for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A2R: Reason for loss of last settled home for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A3: Support needs of households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A4P: Accommodation at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A4R: Accommodation at time of application for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A5P: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A5R: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A6: Age of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A7: Households referred to a local authority prior to being assessed
- A8: Ethnicity of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A9: Nationality of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A10: Employment status of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A11: Reason for eligibility of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty

Statutory homelessness prevention duty outcomes

- P1: Reason for households' prevention duty ending
- P2: Type of accommodation secured for households at end of prevention duty
- P3: Main prevention activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households at end of prevention duty
- P4: Destination of households with alternative accommodation secured at end of prevention duty
- P5: Household type of households with accommodation secured at end of prevention duty

Statutory homelessness relief duty outcomes

- R1: Reason for households' relief duty ending
- R2: Type of accommodation secured for households at end of relief duty
- R3: Main prevention activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households at end of relief duty
- R4: Destination of households with alternative accommodation secured at end of relief duty
- R5: Household type of households with accommodation secured at end of relief duty

Statutory homelessness main duty decisions & outcomes

- MD1: Outcome of main duty decision for eligible households
- MD2: Outcome of households no longer owed a main duty
- MD3: Priority need category of households owed a main duty

Statutory homeless flows 2018-19

- F1: England-level HRA household flows, by cohort
- F2: Local authority-level HRA household flows - all households
- F3: Local authority-level data quality and case exclusions from flows

Enquiries

Media enquiries:

0303 444 1209

Email: newsdesk@communities.gov.uk

Public enquiries:

Email: homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

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

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

© Crown copyright, 2020

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

This document/publication is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/mhclg

If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, complete the form at <http://forms.communities.gov.uk/> or write to us at:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

For all our latest news and updates follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mhclg>

October 2020