



Statutory Homelessness April to June (Q2) 2020: England

In this release:

This is the quarterly statistics release for statutory homelessness assessments and activities in England between 1 April and 30 June 2020. It also reports on stock households in temporary accommodation under statutory homelessness duty in England on 30 June 2020. This release covers the initial period of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and the lockdown that was introduced in England on 23 March.

Between April to June 2020:

- 63,570 households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty, down 10.5% from April to June 2019
- 25,520 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness, and therefore owed a prevention duty, down 32.1% from the same quarter last year and linked to a 68.7% decrease in Section 21 notices to an Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST)
- 38,040 households were initially assessed as homeless and therefore owed a relief duty, up 13.9% from the same quarter last year, driven mainly by single males
- 4,960 households had their main homelessness duty come to an end in April to June 2020, down 37.4% from April to June 2019
- On 30 June 2020 the number of households in temporary accommodation was 98,300, up 14.0% from 86,240 on 30 June 2019. This increase is driven by single adult households, up 50.8% to 28,840
- These changes can be linked to the government's response to COVID-19 including:
 - households accommodated under the 'Everyone In' scheme, whereby local authorities were asked to provide emergency accommodation to rough sleepers, people who were living in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements, and those at risk of rough sleeping
 - the ban on private rented sector evictions, and lengthened notice periods for landlords

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Additional Headlines

Initial Assessments

- 64.3% of households owed a prevention duty and 83.6% of households owed a relief duty were single households (households without children)
- 15,360 households with children were owed a prevention or relief duty, down 37.7% from April to June 2019
- Of those owed a duty, there were 31,770 households, or 50.0%, identified as having one or more support needs. The most common support need was a history of mental health problems, accounting for 15,400 households or 24.2% of households owed a duty. 8,720 households, or 13.7% of all households owed a duty, had a support need of physical ill health or disability.
- 8.2%, or 5,470, of the 66,670 assessments made under the new duties were as a result of referrals from other public bodies under the duty to refer. Of the referrals made, 96% resulted in a homelessness duty.
- The National Probation Service made the most referrals to homelessness services which resulted in an assessment under the duty to refer with 1,480 (or 27.1%) of the total, an increase of 117.6% from April to June 2019. This may be linked to a 45.4% increase over the same period in the number of households owed a duty who were homeless on departure from being in custody. There was also a 38.9% increase over the same period in the number of households owed a duty with offending history as a support need.

Outcomes

- In April to June 2020, 30,070 households had secured accommodation for 6 months or more because of the new prevention or relief duties.
- Over half of the 26,070 prevention duties which ended between April to June 2020 (15,280 or 58.6%) ended because the household secured accommodation for 6 months or more and their homelessness had been prevented. Of these, 43.1% or 6,590, were able to

remain in their existing home.

- 4,110, or 15.8%, of households who were owed a prevention duty were homeless at the end of the 56 days, and therefore owed a subsequent relief duty.
- Of the 39,300 relief duties ended, 14,790 or 37.6% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months.

Main Homelessness duty

- The number of households owed a main homelessness duty continues to be lower than the level before the introduction of the HRA as households are now prevented or relieved from homelessness prior to the main duty under the new duties introduced in April 2018.
- In April to June 2020, 9,930 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, up 5.8% from April to June 2019, however this is down 25.5% compared with 13,320 households in the quarter immediately prior to commencement of the HRA.
- 4,960 households had their main homelessness duty come to an end in April to June 2020, down from 7,920 in to April to June 2019. 3,940 or 79.4% households accepted an offer of settled accommodation. This drop in main duties coming to an end will partly reflect reduced access to settled accommodation as the number of new lettings were affected by lockdown and the ban on landlord evictions.

Temporary Accommodation

- While the increase in temporary accommodation from 30 June 2019 has been driven by households without children, the number of households with children was more stable, up 1.4% to 62,700.
- There were 17.7 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households in London, compared with 1.8 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England.
- On 30 June 2020, 27,650 or 28.1% of households in temporary accommodation were in accommodation in a different local authority district. 83.9% of these out of district placements were from London authorities.
- On 30 June 2020, 62,700 households or 63.8% included dependent children, with a total of 127,240 dependent children living in temporary accommodation.
- Most households with children, 88.5%, were in self-contained accommodation, up 2.4 percentage points from 86.1% at the end of June 2019.
- Of the households in temporary accommodation, 11,360 were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation, up 59.8% from 7,110 at the same time last year. This is driven mainly by single households in B&B, increasing 93.8% from the same time last year.
- There were 1,440 households in B&B with dependent children, down 27.6% from 1,990 the same time last year. Of the households with children in B&B, 510 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 26.1% from 690 on the 30 June 2019.

1. Introduction

What does this release cover?

This release covers the initial part of the period of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and the lockdown that was introduced in England on 23 March. This will have impacted on people at risk of homelessness in various ways and should be noted when comparing this quarter's data with previous quarters. This release covers some of the households who needed help as a result and additionally some households who were accommodated under the 'Everyone in' scheme¹, whereby local authorities were asked to provide emergency accommodation to rough sleepers, people who were living in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements, and those at risk of rough sleeping. This release also covers the ban on private rented sector evictions, and lengthened notice periods for landlords which will have reduced numbers homeless due to loss of tenancy, both of which may have led to a reduction in the supply of move on properties.

It is likely that there is underreporting of single people accommodated due to COVID-19, including where households were not eligible for homelessness duties or were placed in accommodation by a body other than the local housing authority. More information on the potential impact of COVID-19 on temporary accommodation numbers is provided within the [Temporary Accommodation](#) section.

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 1 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. This new system collects more detailed data on activities undertaken by local authorities to help prevent or relieve homelessness and the outcomes of these activities. The data collected in this release show total activity over the quarter except for data on temporary accommodation which is a snapshot at the end of the quarter.

Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on prevention, relief, and main duties. This quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for 308 out of 314 local authorities (98.1% response rate). Partial returns indicate that the quality of the data varies by section. Details of coverage by section are detailed in the release and in 'Additional

¹ Further information on the 'Everyone in' scheme is available at the following links:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/news/covid-19-homelessness-rented-sector-inquiry-launched-19-21/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-2-million-emergency-support-for-rough-sleepers-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

Information'. We have imputed missing figures to ensure national headline figures are representative and from the April to June 2020 release we have applied reverse imputation for those local authorities that failed to submit H-CLIC data prior to July to September 2019. This means that all national headline figures for previous quarters have been revised in the time series Statutory Homelessness live tables. Further details on reverse imputation are available in the [Technical Note](#). Low numbers have been suppressed at the local authority level to prevent identification of individuals. There may be seasonal trends in this data, which are not currently adjusted.

Some local authorities are unable to provide temporary accommodation data via H-CLIC, and 39% of temporary accommodation from 9 local authorities is provided through P1E for this quarter. Further details on the data quality and improvement plan are available in the [Technical Note](#).

2. Initial Assessments

This section of the release covers the initial assessment of people who presented themselves at their local authority and were threatened with homelessness or who were already homeless between April to June 2020. This section does not cover secondary relief duties owed to a household where the applicant has not managed to secure accommodation whilst being threatened with homelessness. It also does not cover main duty assessments as these are included under [Main duty decisions](#).

For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 3.8% of the England total. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

This section includes:

- New duties owed – prevention and relief
- Household composition
- Causes of homelessness
- Accommodation at the time of approach
- Referrals from other public bodies

New duties owed

[Table A1](#)

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.

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.

Table 1: Initial assessment of homelessness duties owed to households

| Outcome of initial assessment | April to June 2020 | Same quarter last year: April to June 2019 | % change |
|--|--------------------|--|----------|
| Threatened with homelessness within 56 days owed a prevention duty | 25,520 | 37,600 | -32.1% |
| Homeless owed a relief duty | 38,040 | 33,410 | 13.9% |
| Not homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days no duty owed | 3,100 | 4,210 | -26.4% |
| Total Assessments | 66,670 | 75,210 | -11.4% |

Between April to June 2020, 66,670 homelessness assessments were made under the new duties. 63,570 or 95.4% households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days, and therefore owed a statutory homelessness duty. This is down 10.5% from April to June 2019.

25,520 or 38.3% of households assessed were threatened with homelessness within 56 days and owed a prevention duty. 1,560, or 6.1%, of prevention duties were owed because the household had been issued with a section 21 notice. The number of prevention duties owed due to the issue of a section 21 notice have decreased 68.7% from 4,990 households in April to June 2019. This reduction will largely reflect the implementation of 'Measures to protect renters affected by coronavirus (COVID-19)'² announced on 26 March 2020, which included an extension on notice periods and the suspension of housing possession cases.

Section 21 notice: A section 21 notice is the form a landlord must give a tenant to start the process to end an assured shorthold tenancy. This is recorded alongside initial assessments.

38,040, or 57.1% of households were assessed as homeless and owed a relief duty, an increase of 13.9% from 33,410 in the same quarter last year. This increase is driven by single households, increasing by 6,680, and will likely reflect the response to 'Everyone In' as above. The number of households with children decreased by 2,020 from the same quarter last year.

3,100 were found to be not homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. This is down 26.4% from April to June 2019. A fall in the number assessed as not homeless is in part due to improvements in data reporting that previously overstated numbers of applicants. Some local authorities in early quarters stated that they had included households who sought local authority help for other reasons than statutory homelessness, and it has not been possible to identify the homeless applicants from within these.

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/government-support-available-for-landlords-and-tenants-reflecting-the-current-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Household composition

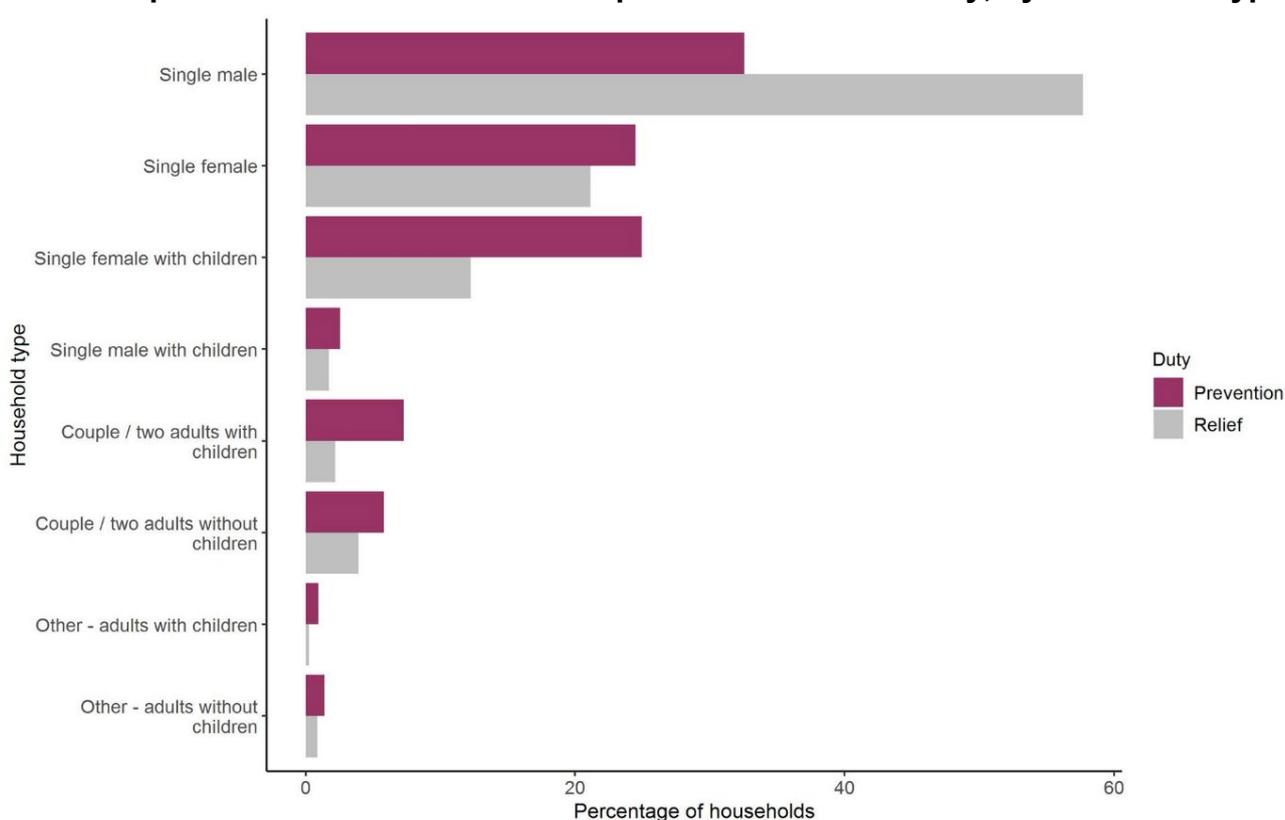
[Tables A5p and A5r](#)

Data in this section shows the household composition of those who were initially assessed as owed either a prevention or relief duty during April to June 2020.

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.

Figure 1: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by household type



Of the 63,570 households owed a prevention or relief duty after initial assessment, 75.8% were single households and 24.2% were households with children. This is has shifted from 65.2% as single households and 34.7% as households with children in April to June 2019. Of the 25,520 households owed a prevention duty, 64.3% were owed to single households compared with 83.6% of the 38,040 households owed a relief duty.

During April to June 2020, single males were the largest household group owed homelessness duties, making up 57.7% of households owed a relief duty, and 32.6% owed a prevention duty. Proportionately, this is an 11.0 percentage point increase in relief and a 6.0 percentage point increase in prevention, equating to an overall increase of 4,540 in single males from April to June 2019.

Single female with dependent children were the second largest group owed a prevention duty, comprising 25.0% of households, and the third largest group after single males and single females owed a relief duty, comprising 12.3% of relief duties owed. Couples with children and extended family households with two or more adults and children represented 8.2% of those owed a prevention duty and 2.4% of those owed a relief duty.

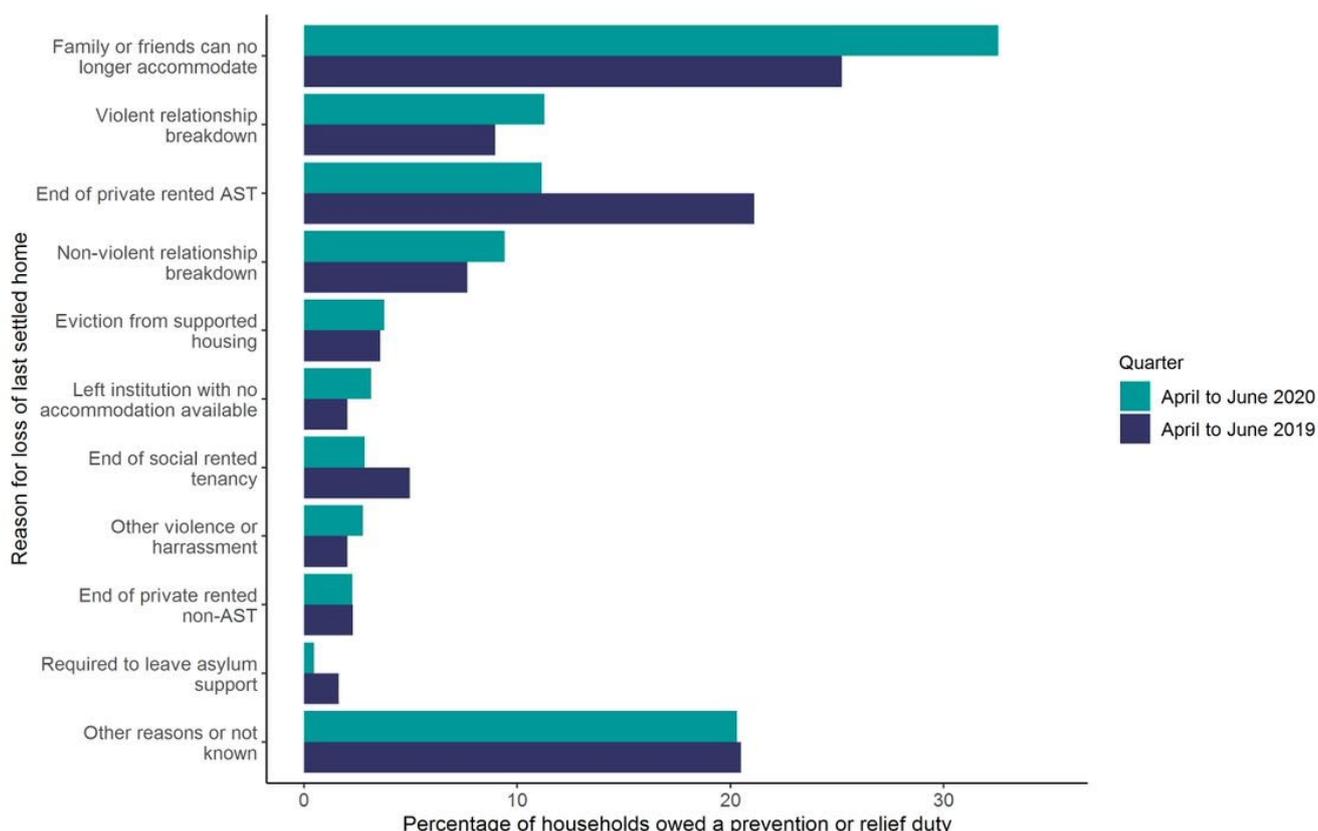
Following the 2017 HRA amendments, more single households without priority need have their homelessness assessed and duties owed, which has improved information and recording of their needs. In April to June 2020, there were 44,890 single adult households owed either prevention or relief duties, many of who would not have previously met the criteria for assistance.

Causes of homelessness

Table A2

The reason for loss of last settled home is a good indication of the cause of homelessness for households assessed as being owed a duty. However, it should be noted that in this section, 'Other' is a large category overused by some local authorities who we are working with to improve their reporting. 'Other' is listed as the reason for loss of their last settled home for 20.3% of households. Other or unknown is therefore overrepresented and will impact on the numbers represented in every other category, with the potential for this impact to be disproportionate.

Figure 1: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by reason for loss of last settled home



Between April to June 2020, the most common reason for loss of last settled home was “friends or family no longer willing or able to accommodate” which accounted for 20,710 households or 32.6% of households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. This is up 7.3 percentage points, equating to an absolute increase of 2,790 from April to June 2019, despite the total number of households being owed a prevention or relief duty decreasing over the same period. The second largest category was domestic abuse at 11.3%, up 2.3 percentage points from April to June 2019.

The proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty stating end of private rented ASTs as the reason for loss of last settled home fell 10.0 percentage points to 11.2% in April to June 2020. This equates to 7,090 households, of which 65.7% were owed a prevention duty. This will likely reflect the ban on landlord evictions. Private rented AST can end for a range of reasons, such as difficulty budgeting, a recent change in financial circumstances, a breach of the tenancy agreement or landlord evictions both legal and illegal. 2,790, or 39.4%, of AST terminations in this quarter were due to the landlord wishing to re-let or sell the property. Other reasons were much smaller proportions, with the next most common being a change in personal circumstances, accounting for 9.2% of AST terminations, and tenant difficulty budgeting, 7.1% of AST terminations.

End of social rented tenancy and required to leave asylum support also decreased proportionately by 2.1 and 1.2 percentage points respectively from April to June 2019.

Accommodation at time of application

Table A4

Current accommodation is used to identify the accommodation types of households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, at the point at which they approach a local authority for help.

It is highly likely that that ‘no fixed abode’ has been overused by data providers as a category in the return where living with friends or family would have been more appropriate. ‘No fixed abode’ cannot be used as a proxy for rough sleeping as this category can include people who are temporarily staying at multiple addresses but not sleeping rough. In addition, other or unknown is overrepresented, and will impact on the numbers represented in every other category, with the potential for this impact to be disproportionate.

Table 2: Current accommodation of households who were assessed homeless or threatened with homelessness at the time of approaching the local authority

| Accommodation Type | Number of Households April to June 2020 | Percentage of households April to June 2020 | Number of households April to June 2019 |
|--|---|---|---|
| Living with Family | 17,540 | 27.6% | 16,690 |
| Private rented sector | 9,980 | 15.7% | 19,150 |
| No fixed abode | 9,020 | 14.2% | 7,980 |
| Living with friends | 7,710 | 12.1% | 6,770 |
| Social rented sector | 5,510 | 8.7% | 7,860 |
| Rough sleeping | 3,670 | 5.8% | 1,710 |
| Homeless on departure from institution | 3,100 | 4.9% | 2,370 |
| Temporary Accommodation | 1,540 | 2.4% | 990 |
| Owner-occupier or shared ownership | 640 | 1.0% | 1,140 |
| Refuge | 650 | 1.0% | 850 |
| NASS accommodation | 240 | 0.4% | 1,140 |
| Other or not known | 3,980 | 6.3% | 4,360 |

As shown in Table 2, the most common accommodation type at the time of approach was living with family with 17,540 or 27.6% of households, followed by private rented sector, with 9,980 households or 15.7%. Accommodation in the private rented sector at time of approach has fallen 9,170 or 47.9% from the same quarter in the previous year, which may be linked to the ban on evictions.

At time of application 3,670 households were rough sleeping, 810 of which were in London and 2,860 in the rest of England. This is a 114.6% increase from April to June 2019 and represents 5.8% of all households owed a new duty in April to June 2020, higher than the 2.4% of households in April to June 2019. This increase will likely reflect the response to ‘Everyone In’ and the increased support provided to those sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough’.

This is lower than the 4,266 rough sleepers recorded as sleeping rough on a single night in England in 2019. This difference is expected as HCLIC will only capture rough sleepers who had a homelessness application assessed and assistance provided by a local authority during this quarter. Further data sources on rough sleeping can be found in the Technical Note.

Rough sleeping: People sleeping in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes” which are makeshift shelters, often comprised of cardboard boxes). Rough sleepers in this publication may have slept rough one night or across several nights.

Rough sleeping at the time of Local Authority Approach: Rough sleepers are defined as those who were, in the judgement of the assessor, rough sleeping when they approached a local authority for help.

History of Rough Sleeping: This is a support need based on a history of sleeping rough and does not mean that the household was sleeping rough at the time of approach to the local authority

Households in National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation decreased 78.9% to 240 households, due to the Home Office suspending evictions from asylum accommodation during the period covered in this release. Other notable changes from the same quarter in the previous year include households in owner-occupier or shared ownership accommodation at the time of approach, down 43.9% to 640 households; and households in temporary accommodation, up 55.6% to 1,540 households.

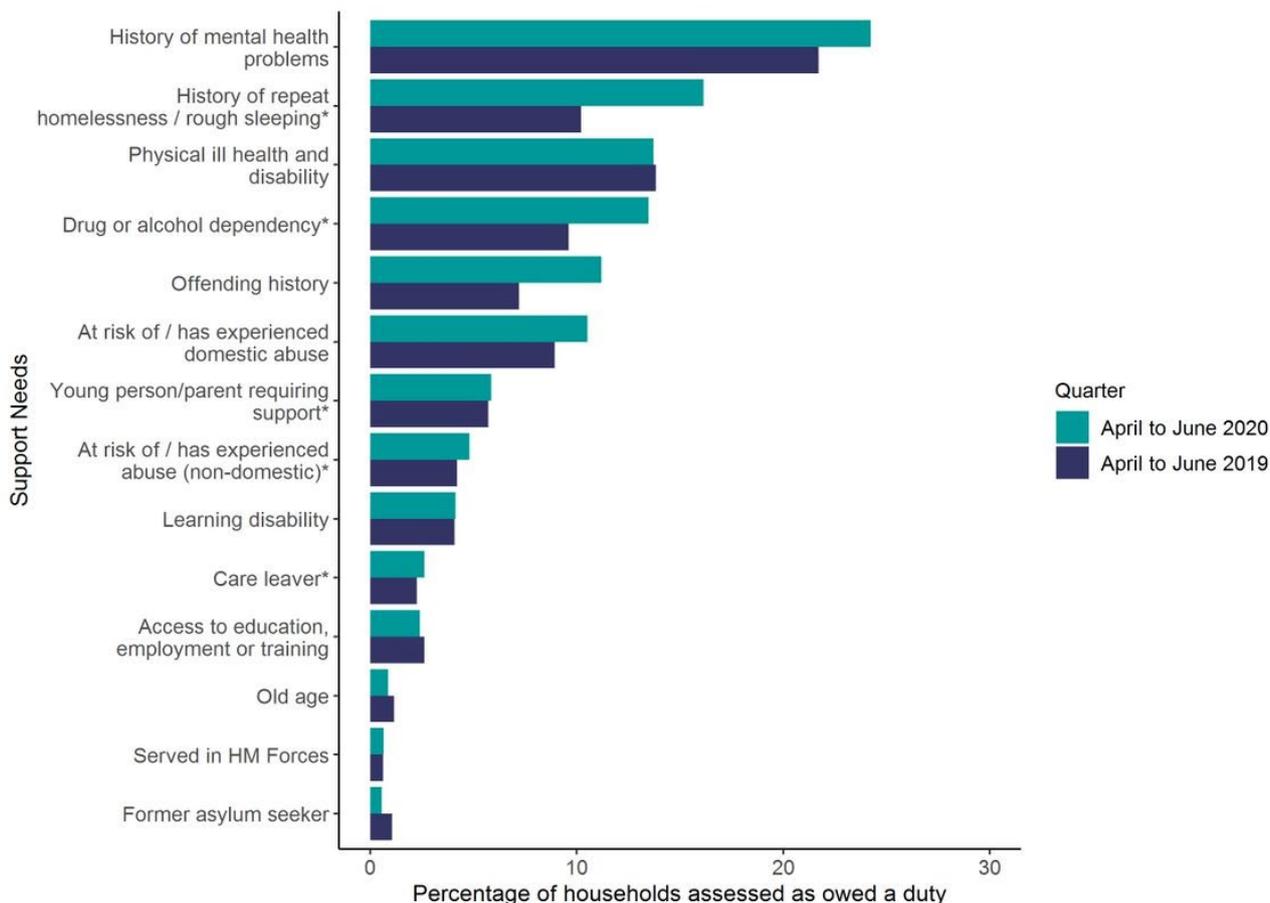
Support needs

[Table A3](#)

The HRA requires local authorities to assess the support needs of homeless households and consider how these needs might be met as part of their personalised housing plan. Support needs are not characteristics of the household, but instead are areas of additional needs that mean the household requires support to acquire and sustain accommodation. This gives an indication of the additional services local authorities need to provide to prevent an individual becoming homeless or to stop the cycle of repeat homelessness.

Local authorities report as many support needs that apply to each household. This means that total support needs, including no support needs, will exceed the number of households each quarter. A complete list of support needs and breakdowns at the local authority level are provided in Table A3.

Figure 3³: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by support need



Of the 63,570 households who were owed a homelessness duty in April to June 2020, 31,770 or 50.0% of households were identified as having support needs, compared with 44.8% in April to June 2019. Of the households who had a support need, 14,790 households or 46.6% had one support need, 7,220 households or 22.7% had two support needs and 9,770 or 30.8% had three or more support needs.

The most common support need identified was a history of mental health problems which was reported by 15,400 households or 24.2% of households owed a new duty – see Figure 3. A history of repeat homelessness or rough sleeping was identified in 5,310 and 4,950 households respectively, making up a combined total of 16.1% of households owed a new duty, up 5.9 percentage points from the same quarter last year. This is higher than the 3,670 households who were sleeping rough at the time of approach to the council, as households with this support need may have been living in other settled or unsettled accommodation at the time of approach.

Other notable groups included those with experience of or at risk of domestic abuse, 10.5%, those with drug or alcohol dependency, 13.5%, and those with offending history, 11.2%. This is likely a reflection of the ‘Everyone In’ scheme.

³ Please note: these categories are grouped using support need categories that are similar. This means some households may be counted more than once in these categories

Referrals from other public bodies

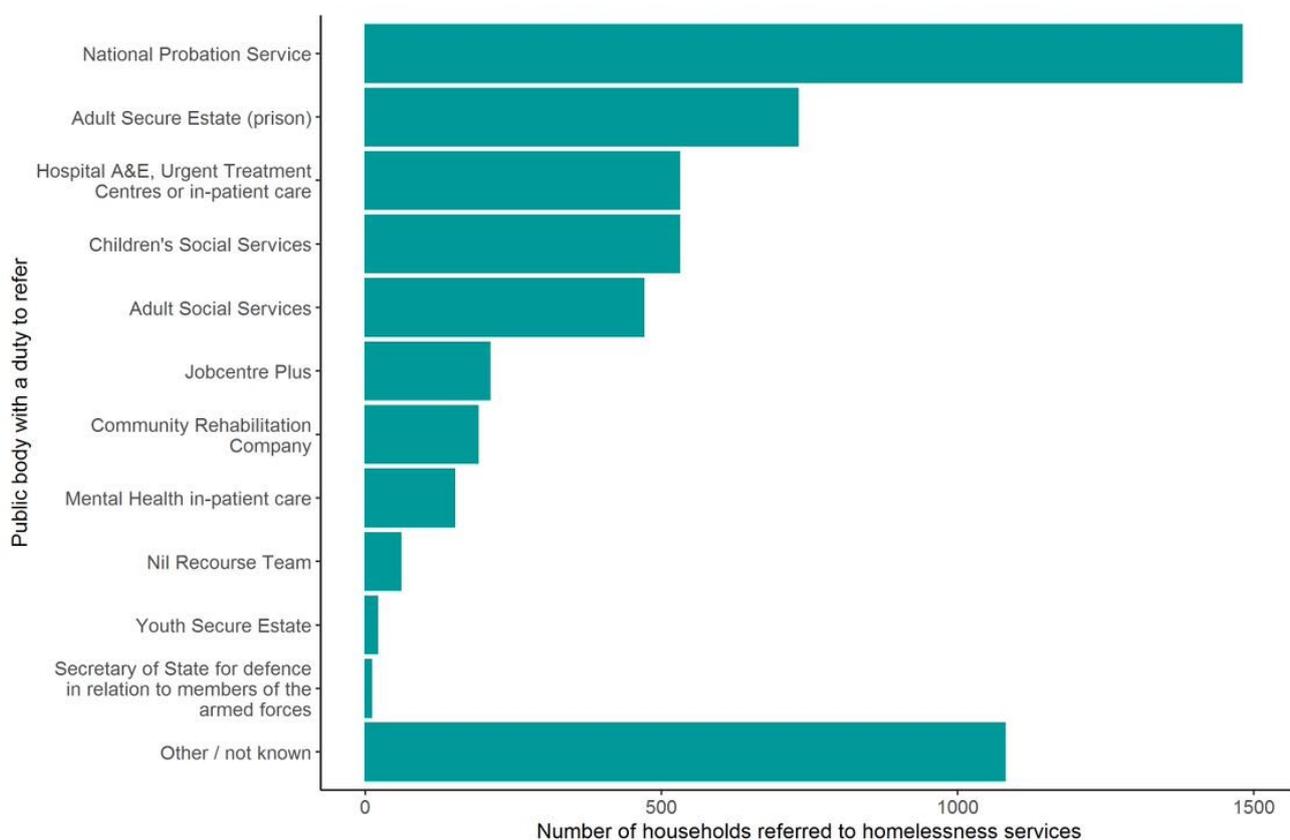
Table A7

Duty to Refer: Since 1st October 2018, duty to refer has required specified public bodies to refer, with consent, users of their service who they think may be homeless or threatened with homelessness to a local housing authority of the individual's choice.

Information on duty to refer is captured and reported by local authorities when the referral results in a new homelessness application. The operational processes to refer people are still being refined and there may be underreporting of these numbers if a referral is not made quickly enough. Authorities with legal responsibilities under this duty and the number of referrals made during April to June 2020 are provided in Figure 4.

For 1,080 households, local authorities indicated that a household had been referred to them under a duty to refer but failed to identify an eligible referring authority; these referrals are reported as 'Other / not known'. This category mostly reflects referrals made where the body does not have a duty to refer. MHCLG are working to reduce the use of 'Other / not known'.

Figure 4: Proportion of households referred, by public body with a duty to refer



During April to June 2020, there were 5,470 referrals made under the duty to refer which resulted in an assessment, compared with 3,660 between April to June 2019. Of the referrals made, 96% resulted in a homelessness duty.

National Probation Services have the largest number with 1,480, or 27.1% of the total, and 95% of these resulted in a homelessness duty. Adult Secure Estate (prison) made the second highest number of referrals resulting in an assessment with 730, followed by Hospital A&E, Urgent Treatment Centres or in-patient care with 530. These three authorities represent 50.1% of referrals which resulted in a homelessness assessment under the duty to refer.

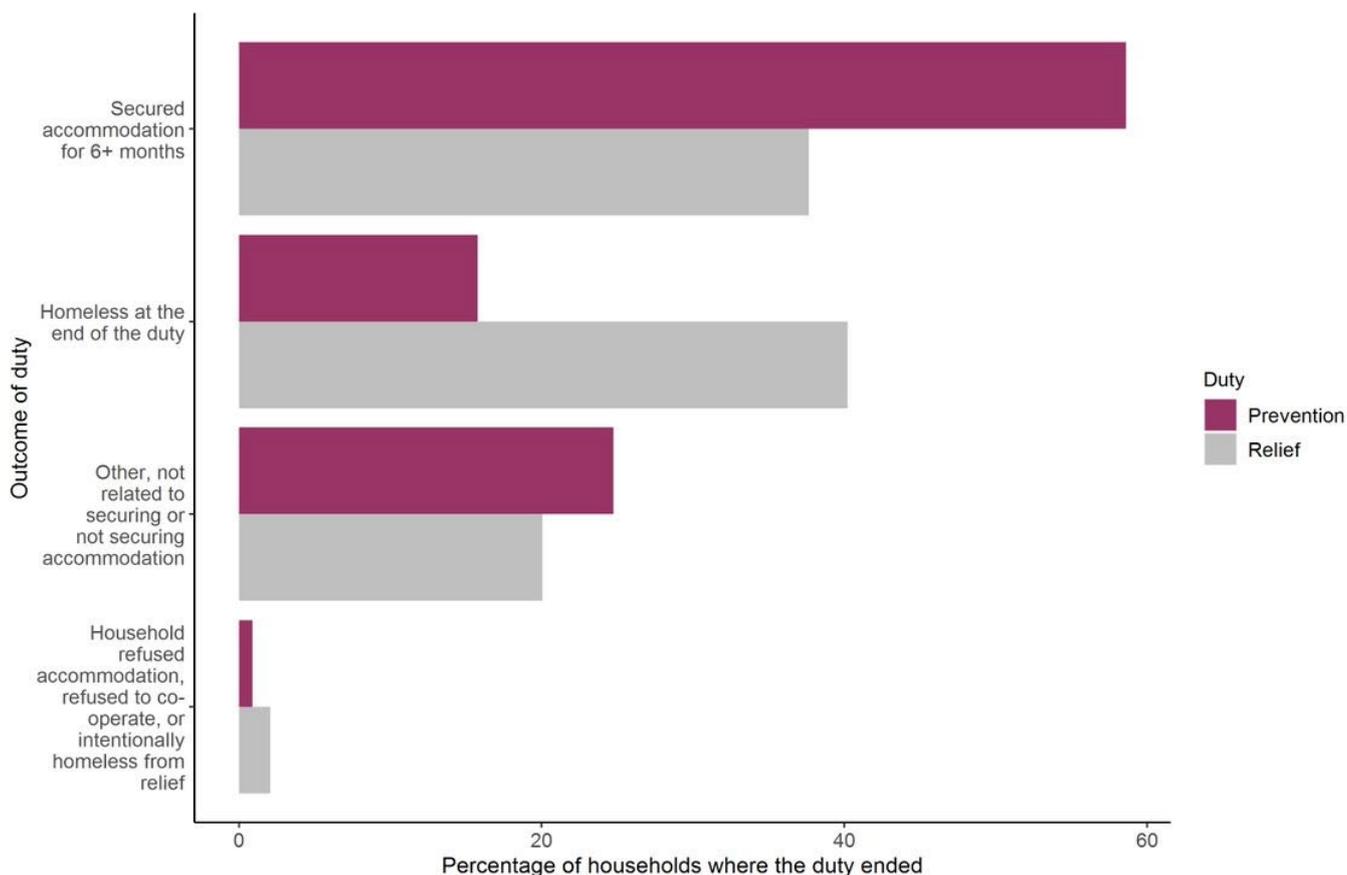
Households can also be referred to local authorities by public bodies without a duty to refer e.g. GP practice, police or housing associations. During April to June 2020 3,020 referrals were made by other organisations, public or private without a legal duty to refer which resulted in the household being assessed. 280 additional referrals were made by other local authorities.

3. Prevention and Relief Duty Outcomes

The homelessness legislation requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to try to prevent or relieve a household’s homelessness by helping them to secure accommodation for at least 6 months. These duties usually last 56 days each. The reasons for duties ending indicate the likely outcomes for these applicants.

The outcomes in April to June 2020 may refer to duties which began in previous quarters. Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on prevention and relief duties ending. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 4.5% of the England total for prevention, and 3.8% for relief, and so totals should be used with caution. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

Figure 5⁴: Proportion of households whose duty ended by outcome



⁴ Note: the categories in Figure 5 are variables collapsed from tables P1 and R1. Homeless at the end of the duty includes those intentionally homeless for prevention duties. Other, not related to securing or not securing accommodation includes: Application withdrawn or applicant deceased, contact lost, 56 days elapsed and no further action, local referral accepted by other LA, and no longer eligible. Households where the outcome is not known are not included.

Prevention duty ended

[Table P1](#)

Figure 5 shows the outcomes for the 26,070 prevention duties that ended in April to June 2020, and the outcomes for the 39,300 relief duties ended in the same period. The number of prevention duties that ended decreased 24.9% from the 34,700 households in April to June 2019.

15,280 households, or 58.6%, secured accommodation for 6 months or more and were no longer threatened with homelessness. Of those who secured accommodation 43.1% secured their existing accommodation, whilst 56.9% secured alternative accommodation.

For 4,110 or 15.8% of households, the prevention duty ended because the household became homeless, and was therefore owed a relief duty.

There are several further reasons why a prevention duty may end that do not relate to securing accommodation for 6+ months or the household becoming homeless. 24.7% of prevention duties ended for other reasons, such as losing contact, or the application being withdrawn, and 0.9% ended due to the household refusing accommodation or refusing to co-operate.

Relief duty ended

[Table R1](#)

39,300 households' relief duties ended this quarter, up 7.8% from the 36,450 households reported in the same quarter last year. As shown in Figure 5, 14,790 or 37.6% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months.

For 40.2% of households the relief duty ended because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days and at this point the local authority would need to assess whether a main duty is owed to them. 20.0% of households' relief duty ended for reasons not related to failing to secure or securing accommodation for at least 6 months, and 2.1% ended due to the household refusing accommodation, refusing to co-operate, or becoming intentionally homeless.

4. Main Duties

Main duty decisions

[Tables MD1 and MD1 timeseries](#)

Data in this section concerns decisions on whether the main homelessness duty is owed to a homeless household.

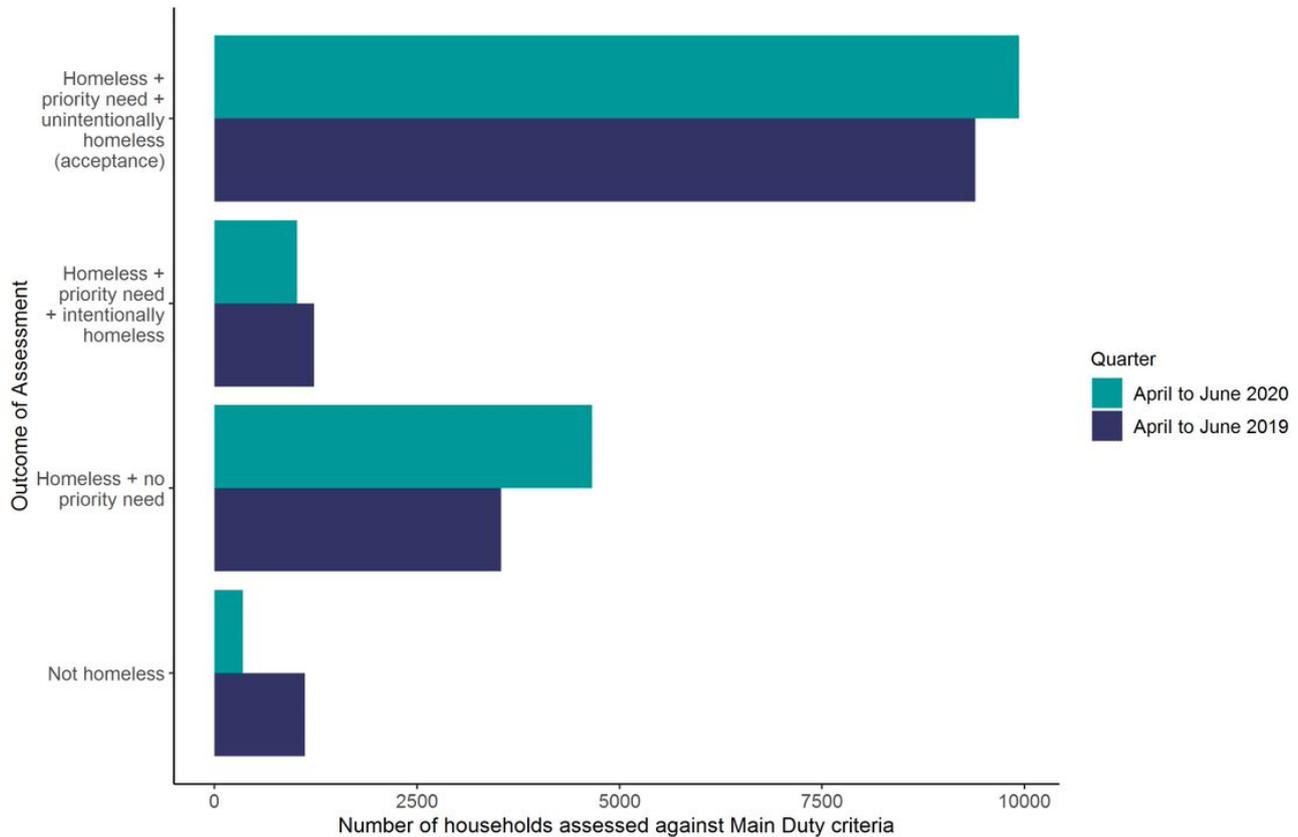
Main Duty: The 'main' homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need⁵. This definition is largely unchanged by the 2017 HRA. However, these households are now only owed a main duty if they 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.

From 3 April 2018 homeless households were owed a 56 day relief duty before a main duty decision could be made or a duty could commence, and in some cases would also have been owed a prevention duty before the household became homeless.

Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on main duty decisions, primarily because this information is collected in a separate system that is unable to submit via HCLIC. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 5.2% of the England total. The England level figure in this release is also likely to be under-reported and has previously been revised up in previous quarters. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the coverage section, or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

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

Figure 6: Number of households assessed against a main duty decision, by outcome

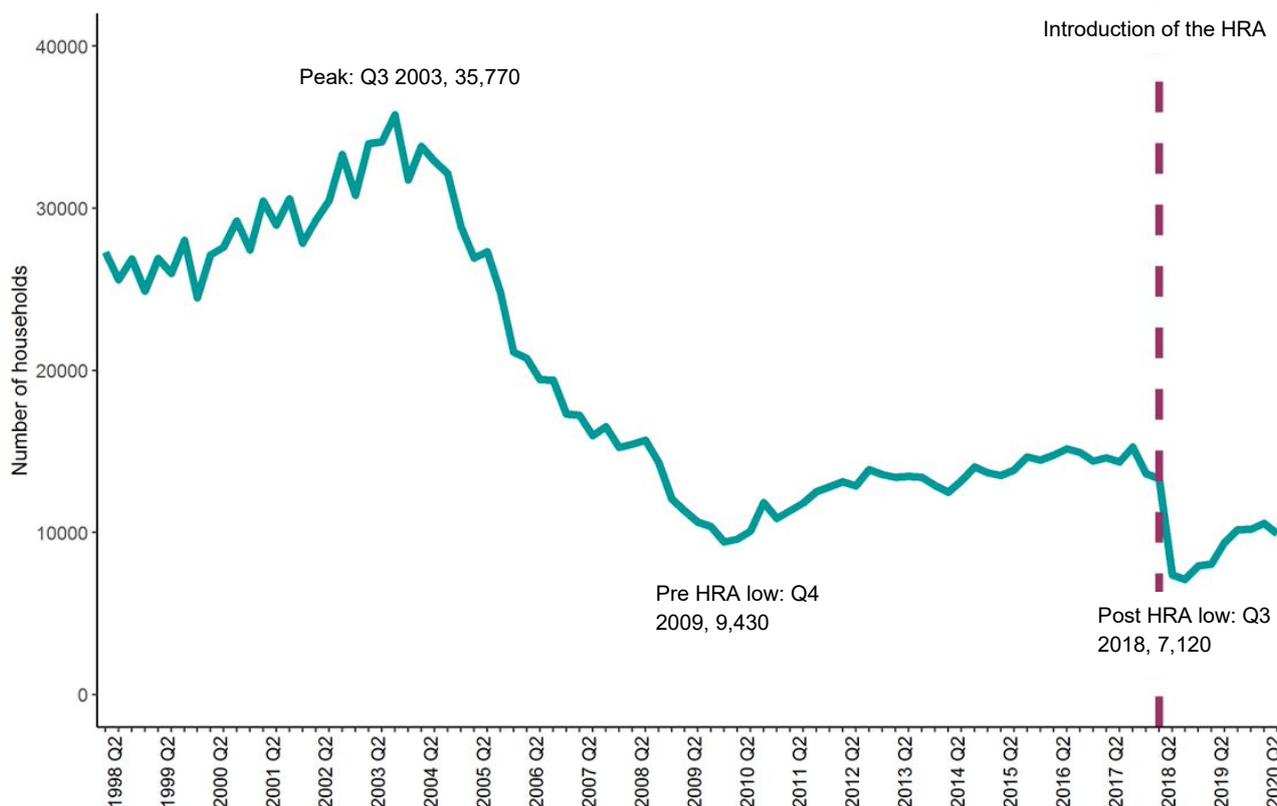


Local authorities made 15,960 main homelessness duty decisions in April to June 2020. This is up 4.5% from April to June 2019, but down 38.0% compared with 25,750 households in the quarter immediately prior to commencement of the HRA. 9,930 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, a 5.8% increase from 9,390 households in April to June 2019, but 25.5% fewer than in the quarter immediately preceding the commencement of the HRA. This fall is to be expected as some households with priority need are now assisted with homelessness under the prevention and relief duties.

Of those owed a main duty 3,150 were in London, accounting for 31.7% of the England total. 4,660 households were found to be homeless but did not have priority need, and therefore not owed a main duty following the statutory relief duty.

Figure 7 shows how the total number of households owed a main homelessness duty has changed over time from Q1 1998 to Q2 April to June 2020.

Figure 7: Number of households with main duty homelessness acceptances since 1998



Main duties ended

[Table MD2](#)

Some local authorities have struggled to provide accurate information on main duties ended, particularly on cases where applications were taken prior to April 2018. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 5.8% of the England total, and so it should be used with caution. The England level figure for the latest quarter in this release is also likely to be revised, and has previously been revised up or down by at least 4% in previous quarters. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), and the live tables.

When a household is accepted as being owed a main duty by a local authority the authority has a duty to ensure that suitable accommodation is available until such time that the duty ends. Because there is no fixed end, this section includes some outcomes of main duty applications made prior to the HRA commencement date as well as decisions made under the amended legislation. The main duty can also be ended for other reasons such as the applicant turning down a suitable offer of temporary or settled accommodation, or the applicant no longer being eligible for assistance.

Table 3: Number and percentage of households whose outcomes of main duties ended

| Outcome of Main Duties Ended | Number of households April to June 2020 | Percentage of households April to June 2020 | Number of households April to June 2019 |
|--|--|--|--|
| All outcomes | 4,920 | 100.0% | 7,920 |
| Accepted an offer of settled accommodation | 3,940 | 79.4% | 6,320 |
| <i>Local Authority or Housing Association accommodation</i> | 3,370 | 67.9% | 5,480 |
| <i>Private Rented Sector accommodation</i> | 560 | 11.5% | 840 |
| Intentionally homeless or voluntarily ceased to occupy Temporary Accommodation | 510 | 10.3% | 790 |

As shown in Table 3, the main homelessness duty was ended for 4,920 households in April to June 2020. This includes those who had previously been in temporary accommodation or had remained, with consent, in their existing accommodation while awaiting alternative accommodation. This is lower than the 7,920 households in April to June 2019, which is likely to reflect the impact that lockdown and the eviction ban had on the supply of new lettings available for households living in temporary accommodation.

3,940 households accepted an offer of settled accommodation, or 79.4%. This is a comparable proportion of households with April to June 2019. Most households (67.9%) accepted a tenancy offer in local authority or housing association accommodation.

Of those households whose duties ended without securing accommodation, 160 households became intentionally homeless from temporary accommodation, while 350 households voluntarily ceased to occupy temporary accommodation.

5. 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.

Unlike other data in this release, temporary accommodation (TA) is a snapshot at the end of the quarter. It is not a cumulative total of all placements across a quarter. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter usually includes households who are:

- awaiting a decision on whether a main duty is owed under a new application or reapplication
- awaiting a decision on whether a referral has been accepted under local connection arrangements
- undergoing a local authority review or county court appeal
- under a relief duty and have or may have priority need so eligible for temporary accommodation
- homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need and owed the main homelessness duty
- intentionally homeless and have priority need and are being accommodated for a limited period

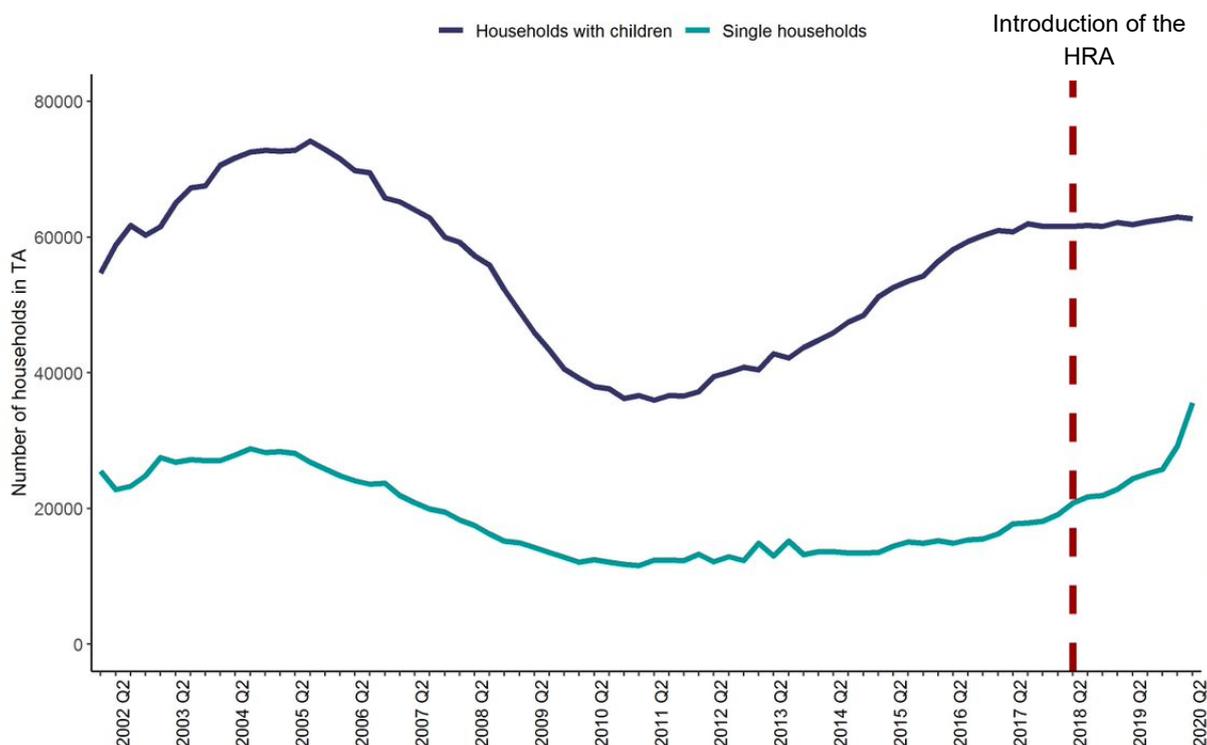
TA has been reported by local authorities through a combination of P1E summary and H-CLIC case level returns this quarter, as in previous quarters since April-June 2018. Local authorities were able to use either return or both to submit accurate temporary accommodation data. Despite offering this flexibility, many local authorities were still unable to provide accurate temporary accommodation data. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 24.4% of the England total households in TA, and so it should be used with caution. Further details on the data quality issues can be found in the [Technical Note](#).

For this quarter, MHCLG advised local authorities that they should report emergency accommodation placements made to rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping who were assisted through activity to bring 'Everyone In'. In some cases where no HA 1996 S188 interim TA duty was owed local authorities were advised they could include within their HCLIC returns, placements made using the power available within the HA1996 to secure accommodation for those owed the S189B relief duty. The TA data for April to June 2020 therefore includes TA placements made under this S189B power, as well as those accommodated under homelessness duties. Placements made under the S189B power may be underreported and instead reported under the S188 duty as the option for reporting the former may not yet have been adopted on

some local authority systems.

As set out above, this quarter's temporary accommodation figures include placements made to better protect rough sleepers from Covid-19, through the 'Everyone in' scheme. Details on the published statistics are provided in the [Technical Note](#). However, it should be noted that many of these households will not have been included because they were not eligible for homelessness assistance, and were accommodated outside HA96 duties. In addition, some households may have stated that they did not want to make an application for assistance; and for those that did make an application, there has been some delay in processing applications in the context of competing priorities. It is expected that some of these households will be reported in future quarters.

Figure 8: Number of households in temporary accommodation since 2002, by household type



The number of households in temporary accommodation has been increasing steadily since 2010. As shown in Figure 8, since the introduction of the HRA this has been primarily due to increasing numbers of single households in temporary accommodation.

On 30 June 2020, the total number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation was 98,300, up 14.0% from 86,240 on 30 June 2019. This increase is driven by single adult households, which was 28,840, up 50.8% on the same date last year, while the number of households with children is more stable at 62,700, up 1.4% from the same date last year.

Table 4: Number of households accommodated in temporary accommodation

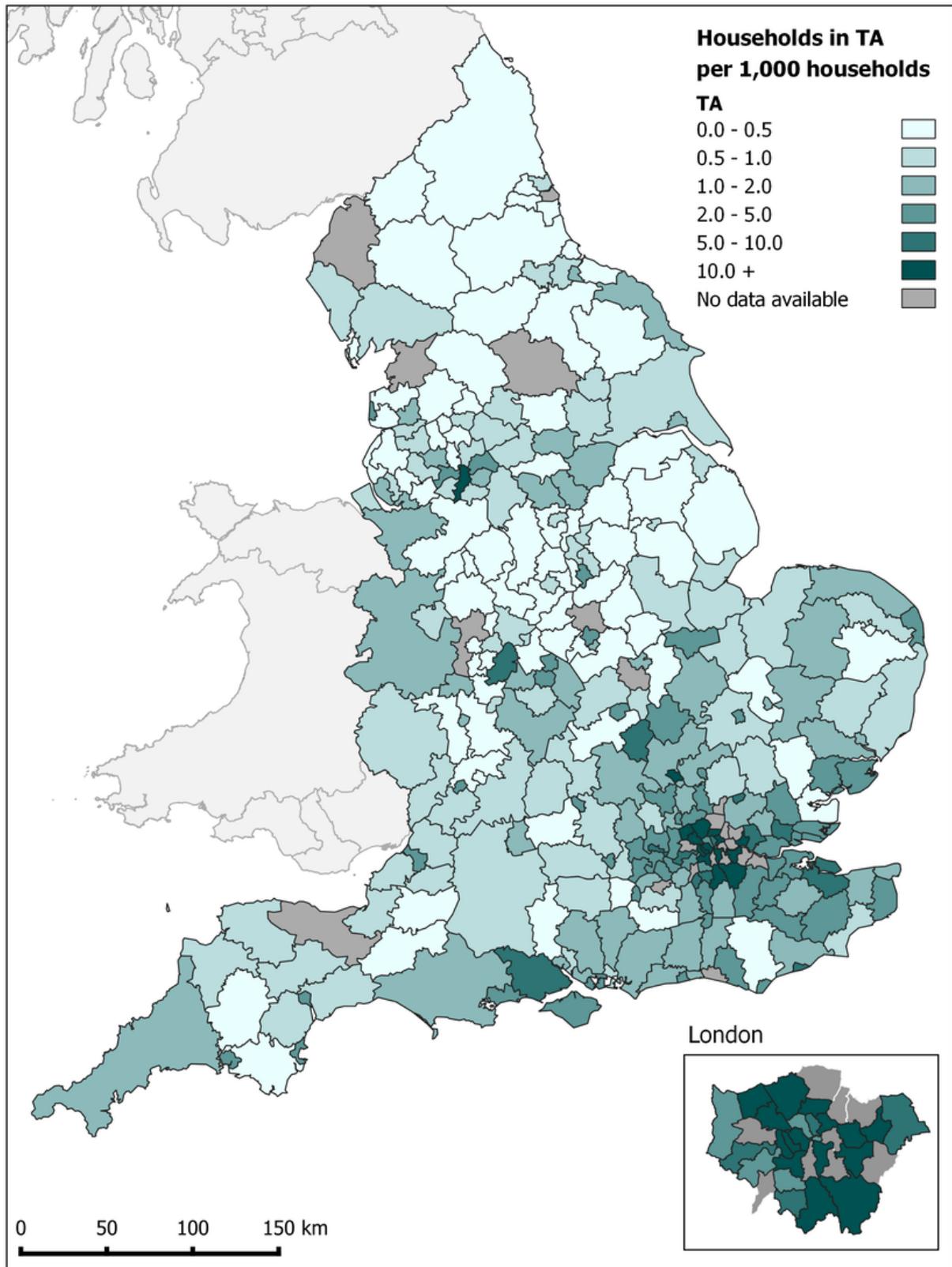
| | 30 June 2020 Households in TA | Previous quarter 31 March 2020 Households in TA | Previous quarter 31 March 2020 Percentage change | Same quarter last year 30 June 2019 Households in TA | Same quarter last year: 30 June 2019 Percentage change |
|--------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| England | 98,300 | 92,190 | 6.6% | 86,240 | 14.0% |
| London | 62,670 | 59,930 | 4.6% | 57,070 | 9.8% |
| Rest of England | 35,630 | 32,260 | 10.4% | 29,170 | 22.1% |

*No change refers to changes of less than +/-1%

As shown in Table 4, the number of households in temporary accommodation in London on 30 June 2020 was 62,670, an increase of 9.8% from 30 June 2019. London accounted for 63.8% of the total England figure. In comparison the number of households in temporary accommodation in the Rest of England increased by 22.1% to 35,630 on 30 June 2020. These changes are driven by the increase in single households.

This means that in England there were approximately 4.2 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households overall, but there were approximately 17.7 households per 1,000 in London and 1.8 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England. As shown in Figure 9, the rate of households in temporary accommodation is highest in London boroughs, and shows additional hotspots in urban centres such as Manchester and Birmingham. The local authority with the highest rate of households in TA per 1000 households is Newham, with 48.7, and the highest outside of London is Luton at 16.7 households per 1000.

Figure 9: Map of households in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households in each local authority



Produced by Homelessness Statistics Team, MHCLG
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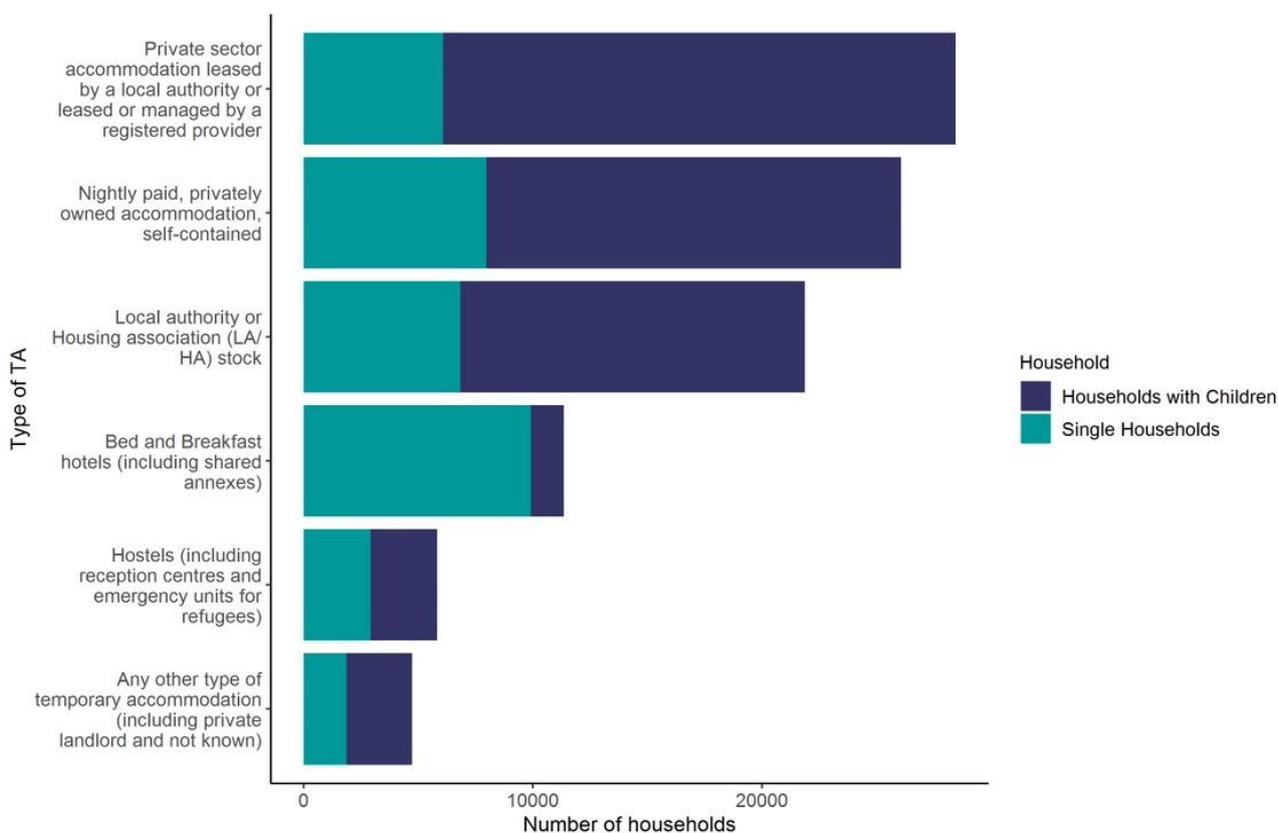
Data sources: OS Boundary Line,
Local Authority HCLIC returns,
ONS Household Population Projection

Types of Temporary Accommodation

Table TA1

The types of temporary accommodation which saw the biggest increases were B&B accommodation, up 59.8%, and Local authority or Housing association stock up 18.9% from 30 June 2019. Both of these increases were driven by single households and will mostly reflect the impact of COVID-19 and the initiative to bring 'Everyone in' from rough sleeping or shelters with shared sleeping arrangements.

Figure 10: Number of households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation



Of the 98,300 households living in temporary accommodation on 30 June 2020 77.7% were in self-contained accommodation, down slightly from 79.4% at the end of June 2019. The number of households in temporary accommodation with shared facilities (bed and breakfast and hostels, including women's refuges) was 17,180, or 17.5% of all households in TA. Of these, 11,360 households were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation (privately owned accommodation in which facilities are shared), which is an increase of 59.8% from 7,110 at the same time last year.

87.3% of households in B&B accommodation were single households. This equates to 9,920 single households in B&B, up 3,320 from the previous quarter. Part of this increase will reflect the 2,030 households who were accommodated under a Section 189B power on 30 June 2020 (seen in Table TA3). Placements under a S189B power have been made during the COVID-19 pandemic

for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping who are eligible for assistance but not owed a S188 interim duty. This does not reflect all rough sleepers in emergency accommodation because of missing data (particularly among London boroughs), and because others will have been accommodated under the S188 duty or outside of HA1996 assistance.

Households in London are the majority of private sector and nightly paid accommodation, making up 77.0% and 81.0% of households in those types of temporary accommodation, while 51.1% of households in Local Authority or Housing Association accommodation are in the Rest of England.

The number of households in temporary accommodation in a different local authority district than those they applied in was 27,650, or 28.1% of all households in temporary accommodation, up 4,120 from the same quarter last year. 83.9%, or 23,190 of out of local authority placements were from London boroughs.

Children in Temporary Accommodation

[Tables TA1 and TA2](#)

Table 5: Households accommodated in Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation

| | 30 June 2020 Households in B&B | Previous quarter: 31 March 2020 Households in B&B | Previous quarter: 31 March 2020 Percentage change | Same quarter last year: 30 June 2019 Households in B&B | Same quarter last year: 30 June 2019 Percentage change |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Total households in B&B | 11,360 | 8,130 | 39.7% | 7,110 | 59.8% |
| Households in B&B with dependent children | 1,440 | 1,530 | -5.9% | 1,990 | -27.6% |
| Of which: resident for more than 6 weeks | 510 | 500 | 2.0% | 690 | -26.1% |

Of the 98,300 households in temporary accommodation at the end of June 2020, 62,700 households or 63.8% included dependent children, compared with 61,850 or 71.7% on the same date last year. A total of 127,240 dependent children were in temporary accommodation on 30 June 2020, a decrease of 0.2% compared with June 2019. The average number of children in family households in temporary accommodation was 2.0 children. Most households with children, 88.5%, were in self-contained accommodation, up 2.4 percentage points from 86.1% at the end of June 2019.

Of the 11,360 households in B&B, 1,440 or 12.7% had dependent children, down from 1,990 the same time last year. Of the households with children in B&B, 510 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 26.1% from 690 on the 30 June 2019. Only 10 16 to 17 year-old main applicants were in B&B accommodation on 30 June 2020.

6. Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. References to previously published tables are included where comparisons are possible.

The below tables can be accessed at:

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

Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed

- A1: Number of households assessed and owed a prevention or relief duty
- A2: Reason for loss of last settled home for households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A3: Support needs of households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A4: Accommodation at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A5P: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A5R: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A6: Age of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty*
- A7: Households referred to a local authority prior to being assessed
- A8: Ethnicity of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention of relief duty*
- A9: Nationality of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty*
- A10: Employment status of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty*
- A11: Reason for eligibility of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty

Statutory homelessness prevention duty outcomes

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

Statutory homelessness relief duty outcomes

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

Statutory homelessness main duty decisions & outcomes

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

- MD3: Priority need category of households owed a main duty

Households in temporary accommodation

- TA1: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by temporary accommodation type
- TA2: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by household type

* These tables will now only be published as part of the expanded annual release at end of financial year. The latest published figures can be found in the 2019-20 Detailed local authority-level tables.

7. Technical Note

Please see the accompanying [Technical Note](#) document for further details.

Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:
<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

Information about statistics at MHCLG is available via the Department's website:
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

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

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

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

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



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