

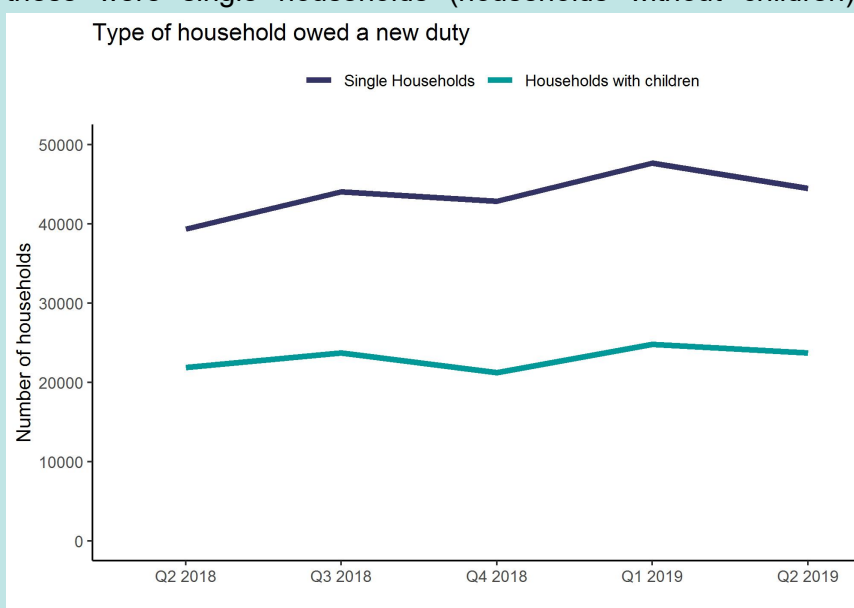


## Statutory Homelessness, April to June (Q2) 2019: England

This release provides information on statutory homelessness applications, duties, and outcomes for local authorities in England in the period April - June 2019. It also reports on households in temporary accommodation on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. This is based on data supplied through the case level H-CLIC collection, which was introduced following the enactment of the Homelessness Reduction Act (2017).

This is the first quarterly publication of 2019-20. An annual release will be published with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, to look at trends over the whole year. It is important to note that comparisons to April to June 2018 may show exaggerated increases due to the improvements in data quality and response rates in recent quarters. This quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for 312 out of 317 local authorities (98.4% response rate).

- Between April to June 2019 68,170 households were initially assessed as threatened with homelessness or homeless and therefore owed a prevention or relief duty. Nearly two thirds of these were single households (households without children).



- 33,450 households who were owed assistance for being threatened with homelessness or homeless were able to secure accommodation for 6 months or more.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 the number of households in temporary accommodation was 86,130, up 4.5% from 82,390 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

# Housing

## Experimental Statistical First Release

18 December 2019

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**Date of next publication:**  
Spring 2020

# Headlines

## Initial Assessments

- The number of households assessed by Local Authorities as either homeless or threatened with homelessness has increased by 11.4% from April to June 2018 to 68,170 this quarter.
- Approximately two-thirds (65.2% or 44,480) of households owed a prevention or relief duty were single households (households without children).
- 30,670 households, or 45.0%, were identified as having one or more support needs. The most common support need was a history of mental health problems, accounting for 14,950 households or 21.9% of households owed a duty.
- As the new duty to refer becomes established, the number of referrals is increasing – to 4,340 this quarter (compared with 3,740 January to March 2019). Children’s Social services made the most referrals with 740, or 17.1% of the total, whereas last quarter the National Probation Service made the most referrals with 650 of 17.4% of all referrals.

## Outcomes

- In April to June 2019, 33,450 households have secured accommodation for 6 months or more because of the new prevention or relief duties.
- For the 33,800 prevention duties which ended between April to June 2019, over half of them (19,320 or 57.2%) secured accommodation for 6 months or more and were no longer threatened with homelessness. 6,580 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 35,250 relief duties ended, 14,130 or 40.1% 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 pre-HRA levels as more households are prevented or relieved from homelessness prior to the main duty as a result of the new duties introduced in April 2018.
- In April to June 2019, 8,360 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty.

## Temporary Accommodation

- On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the total number of households in temporary accommodation was 86,130, up 4.5% from 82,390 a year earlier on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- The number of households in temporary accommodation has been generally rising since 2010, but the number of households with children is more stable, at 61,800 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, compared with 61,570 on the same date last year.
- In London the proportion of households in temporary accommodation is higher. There were 16.07 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households overall, compared with 1.47 households per 1000 in the Rest of England.
- 23,430 or 27.2% of households in temporary accommodation were in accommodation in a different local authority district. 86.1% of these out of district placements were from London authorities.
- 61,800 households or 71.8% included dependent children, with a total of 127,370 dependent children living in temporary accommodation.
- 7,110 households in temporary accommodation were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation, up 3.2% from 6,890 at the same time last year. Of these, 1,990 (28.0%) had dependent children or expected children, of which 690 had been resident for more than the statutory 6 week limit. This is down 19.8% from 860 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

# 1. Introduction

## 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<sup>st</sup> 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 Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017. 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 312 out of 317 local authorities (98.4% response rate). Partial returns indicate that the quality of the data varies by section. Details of coverage by section are in 'Additional Information' at the end of this release. Where data has been provided in previous quarters, we have imputed missing figures, and 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. Further details on the data quality and data quality process are available in the [Technical Note](#).

## 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 is likely to 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 Apr-June 2018. Temporary accommodation and main duty data are comparable to data collected before Apr-Jun 2018, but comparisons should be made with caution as there may be quality issues that have not yet been identified or resolved.

Further information on data quality and planned development work is included in the [Technical Note](#).

MHCLG is looking to hold user events in Spring 2020 to understand more about how these statistics are used and how they can be improved. If you would like to be involved in these events, or please contact [homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk](mailto:homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk). Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release can also be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below or suggestions for future releases to [homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk](mailto:homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk).

## What are homelessness duties following the HRA?

Homelessness covers a broad range of living circumstances. This makes it difficult to provide an accurate estimate of all homelessness across England. There are different types of homelessness: rough sleeping, statutory homelessness and hidden homelessness. This publication covers statutory homelessness.

Definitions	Types of homelessness
<b>Statutory Homelessness</b>	A household is considered statutorily homeless if a local authority decides they do not have a legal right to occupy accommodation that is accessible, physically available and which would be reasonable for the household to continue to live in.

Statutory homelessness entitles you to help from your local authority, called 'duties'. The Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, Localism Act 2011 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017<sup>1</sup>) determines the legal duties on local authorities towards homeless households and households threatened with homelessness.

The HRA significantly amended homelessness legislation, requiring local authorities to intervene earlier and take steps to prevent or relieve homelessness in addition to the existing main homelessness duty. It also expanded the categories of people who local authorities have to help to find accommodation, particularly single households. The data in this release regards the duties applicable under the HRA 2017, and therefore excludes anyone who has not approached their local authority for assistance who would otherwise be considered homeless. 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.

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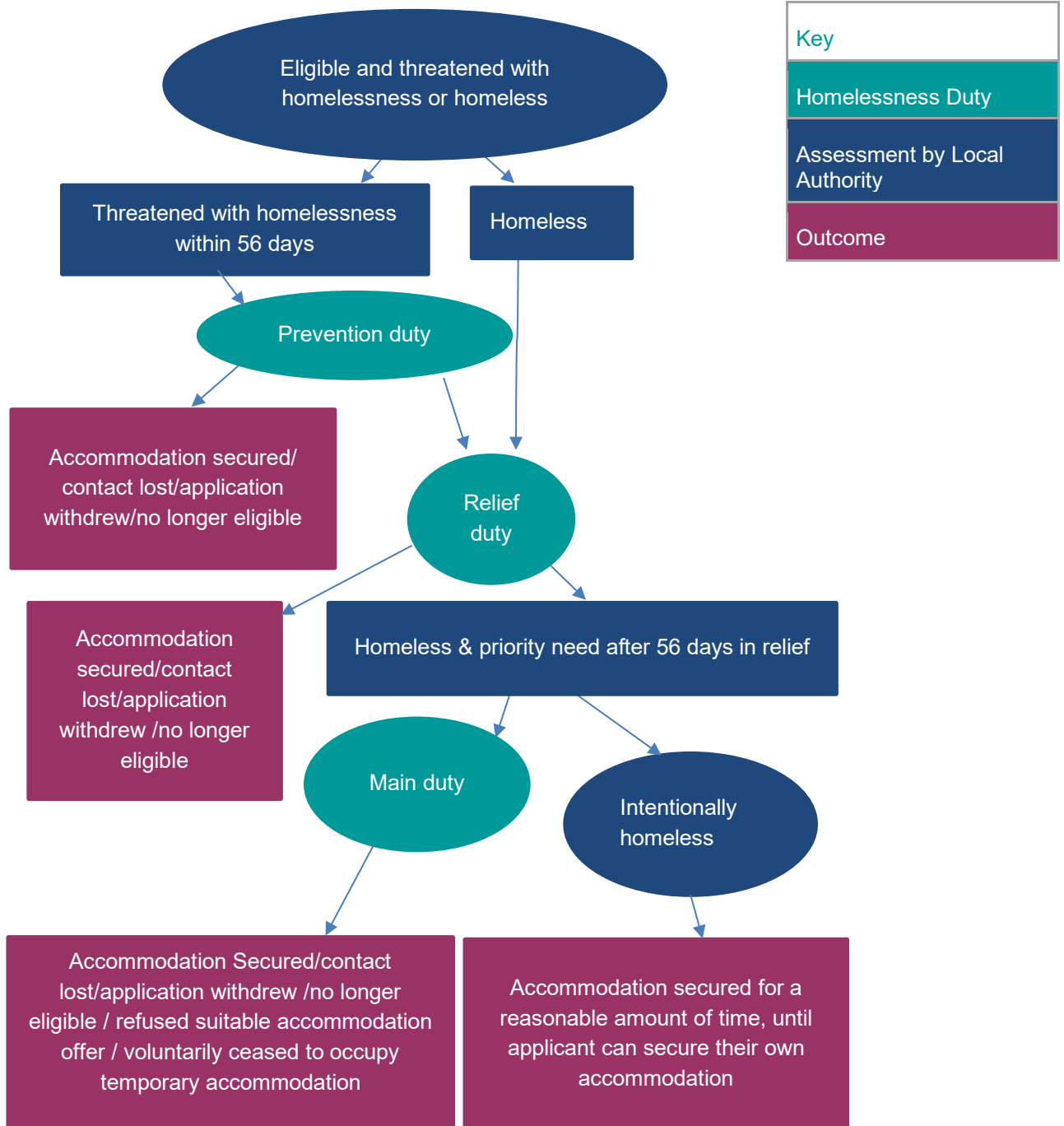
<sup>1</sup> See Definitions in section 7, Additional Information

Definitions	Homelessness Duties
<b>Prevention</b>	Prevention duties include 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 56 days but may be extended if the local authority is continuing with efforts to prevent homelessness.
<b>Relief</b>	Relief duties are owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation. This would involve activities to find accommodation to relieve their homelessness. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended by a local authority if the households would not be owed the main homelessness duty.
<b>Main Duty</b>	<p>Main homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need<sup>2</sup>. This definition has not been changed 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. This means a household owed a main duty is no longer a household that is threatened with homelessness. In addition, a minimum of 56 days now has to have elapsed from a household approaching the local authority to being owed a main duty.</p> <p>Households who approached their authority before the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 can still be owed a main duty through a delayed assessment or reapplication duty.</p>

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<sup>2</sup> Eligibility and priority need are further defined in section 7, Additional Information.

## Flow through the homelessness duties and outcomes



## 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 2019. 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](#).

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](#)

Outcome of initial assessment	April to June 2019	Same quarter last year: April to June 2018	% change
Threatened with homelessness within 56 days – owed a <i>prevention duty</i>	<b>35,950</b>	34,940	2.9%
Homeless – owed a <i>relief duty</i>	<b>32,220</b>	26,270	22.6%
Not homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days – no duty owed	<b>4,020</b>	6,620	-39.3%

Between April to June 2019, 72,190 homelessness assessments were made under the new duties. 68,170 or 94.4% households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days, and therefore owed a statutory homelessness duty. This is up 11.4% from April-June 2018, however this increase is expected due to large improvements in data coverage and response rate.

<sup>3</sup> See live table A1: Initial assessment of homelessness duty owed to households. All live tables can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness#statutory-homelessness-live-tables>



35,950 or 49.8% of households assessed were threatened with homelessness within 56 days and owed a prevention duty. 4,860 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 slightly from 5,100 households in April to June 2018.

Definitions	Section 21
<b>Section 21 notice</b>	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.

32,220, or 44.6% of households were assessed as homeless and owed a relief duty, an increase of 22.6% from 26,270 in the same quarter last year.

4,020 were found to be not homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. This is down 39.3% from April-June 2018. A fall in the number assessed as not homeless is in part due to improvements in data quality that have exaggerated the trend. 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.

Overall the increase in households assessed as being owed a new homelessness duty appears to be driven by an increase in households owed relief duties.

## 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 2019. **Single households** are of particular interest, as before the introduction of the HRA (2017) single households without a priority need were not eligible for formal local authority duties, and so may have been turned away from local authority assistance or part of the 'hidden homeless'. The expansion of the duties means that more single households are eligible for support, and so are included in H-CLIC data.

Definitions	Single Household
<b>Single households</b>	A term used for households without children, which will include couples and households with two or more adults.
<b>Single adult households</b>	Single adult households are a subset of single households, where the household comprises just one individual adult.

Note: At least 1 local authority appears to be providing information only on the main applicant in a homeless household this quarter, so are overreporting single adult households. This may lead to the number and proportion of single households being overestimated.

Of the 68,170 households owed a prevention or relief duty after initial assessment, 65.2% were single households and 34.8% were households with children. This is similar to April-June 2018. Of the 35,950 households owed a prevention duty, 56.1% were owed to single households compared with 75.4% of the 32,220 households owed a relief duty.

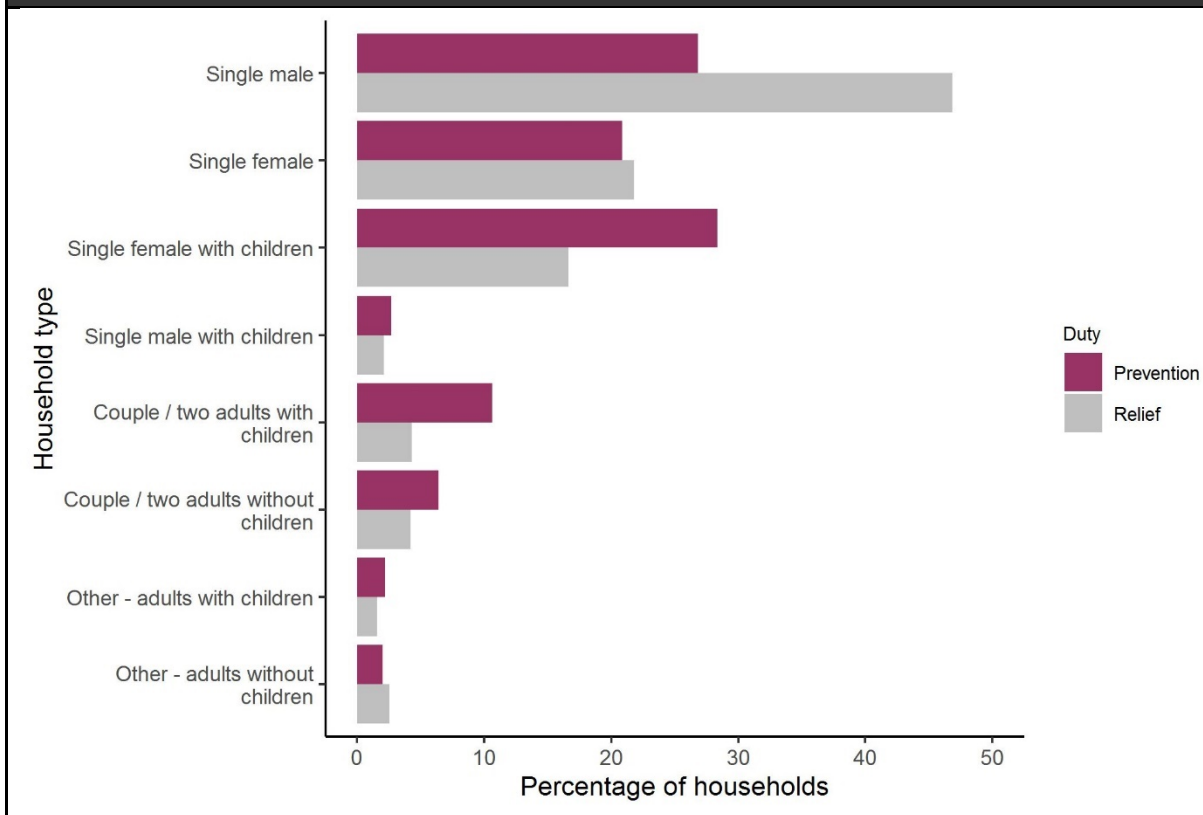
During April to June 2019, single males (without children) were the largest household group owed a relief duty, forming 46.9% of households in relief, and the second highest owed a prevention duty, 26.8% of households.

Single female parents with dependent children were the largest group owed a prevention duty, comprising 28.4% of households, and the third largest group after single males and single females owed a relief duty, forming 16.6% of relief duties owed. Couples with children and extended family households with 2 or more adults and children represented 12.2% of those owed a prevention duty and 4.8% owed a relief duty – see Figure 1.

These figures are broadly comparable to April to June 2018.

Following the 2017 HRA amendments, single households are now being helped by local authorities. This has improved information and understanding of those previously classed as hidden homeless. In April to June 2019, there were over 40,000 single adult households owed either prevention or relief duties, many of which would have previously been hidden, deemed ineligible for assistance. The proportion of those previously classed as hidden homeless now being owed a statutory duty is difficult to quantify.

**Figure 1: Single Male households are the largest group of those owed a duty.**



## 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, users should note 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 20.9% of households. All breakdowns in this category are quoted including 'other'; this will impact on the numbers represented in every other category, with the potential for this impact to be disproportionate.

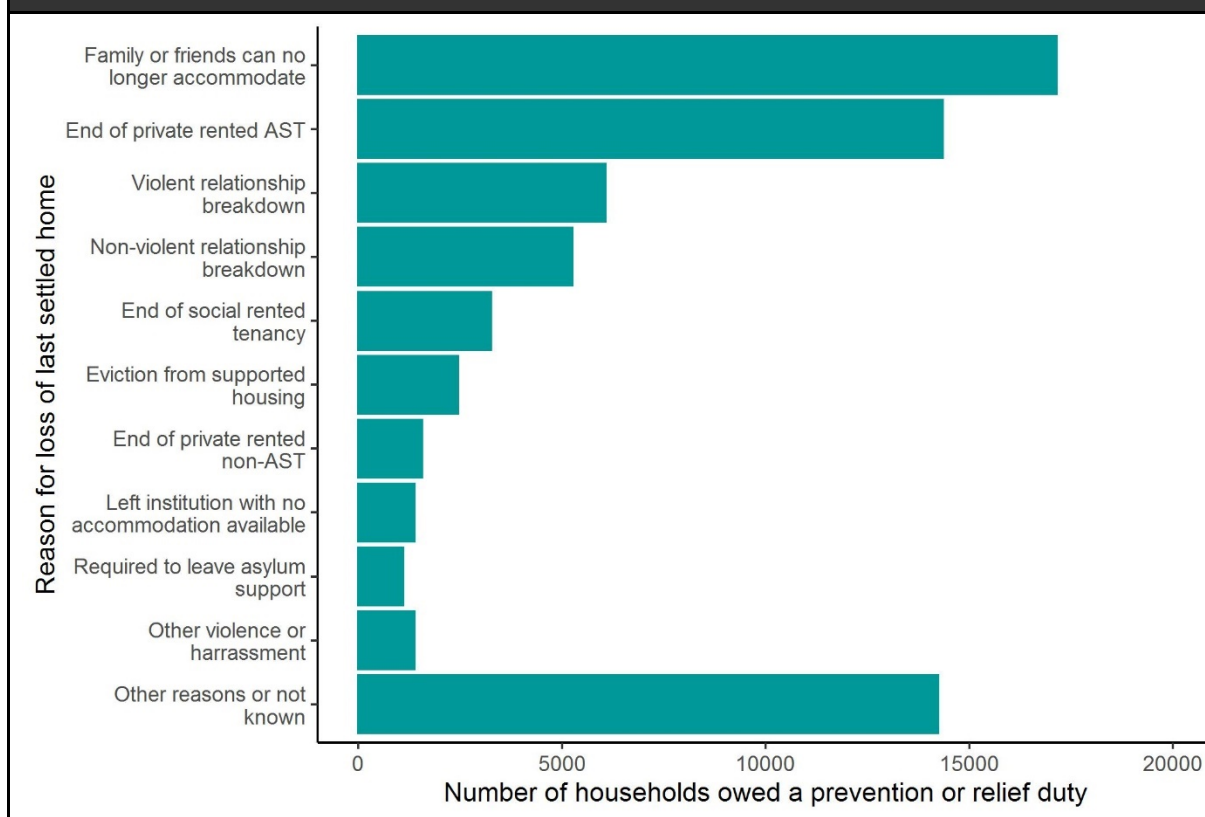
Between April to June 2019, the most common reason for loss of last settled home was "friends or family no longer willing or able to accommodate" which accounted for 17,140 households or 25.1% of households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness, up 2.7 percentage points since April-June 2018. However, this increase may be exaggerated due to the decrease in the use of the 'other' category

compared with last year. The second largest category was termination of an assured shorthold tenancy (AST)<sup>4</sup> at 21.1%.

ASTs 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. 6,930, or 48.3%, 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 tenant difficulty budgeting and change in personal circumstances, which each accounted for 8.4% of AST terminations.

Compared with the same quarter last year, there is a slight decrease in the percentage of households whose cause of homelessness is ending an assured shorthold tenancy, down 3.2 percentage points.

**Figure 2: In April-June 2019, around a fifth of households who were homeless or threatened with homelessness cited the end of a private rented tenancy as the reason for losing their last settled home.**



<sup>4</sup> See Definitions, page 28, in the Additional Information section

## Accommodation at time of application

### Table A4

Current accommodation is used to identify the settled accommodation types of households who could be prevented from becoming homeless and the unsettled accommodation or lack of accommodation types of households requiring relief. Households living with friends or family are considered either settled or unsettled accommodation types depending on the individual circumstances.

Users should note that it is believed 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' should not 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, including people referred to as sofa surfers. It is also believed that the category 'homeless on departure from institution' was underreported as many people leaving custody typically move in with friends or family for a few days and this latter category has been used instead. 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.

As shown in Table 1, the most common accommodation type at the time of approach was private rented sector 18,400 or 27.0% households, followed by living with family, 23.4%. Other notable groups included social housing, 10.9%, and living with friends, 9.6%. 12,910 or 18.9% were living in unsettled accommodation, such as refuges, prison, temporary accommodation, no fixed abode, hospitals, or National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation.

This is comparable with April-June 2018, when private rented sector was the most common accommodation type and 10,500 households, or 17.2% of those assessed as owed a new duty, were living in unsettled accommodation

**Table 2<sup>5</sup>:** Current accommodation of households who were assessed homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days at the time of approaching the Local Authority.

Accommodation Type	Number of Households April-June 2019	Percentage of households April-June 2019	Number of households April – June 2018
Private rented sector	18,400	27.0%	18,380
Living with Family	15,980	23.4%	14,300
No fixed abode	7,800	11.4%	6,690
Social rented sector	7,440	10.9%	5,660
Living with friends	6,520	9.6%	5,880
Homeless on departure from institution	2,250	3.3%	1,500
Rough sleeping	1,650	2.4%	1,530
Owner-occupier or shared ownership	1,100	1.6%	850
Temporary Accommodation	940	1.4%	930
NASS accommodation	1,100	1.6%	660
Refuge	820	1.2%	720
Other or not known	4,180	6.1%	4,120

1,650 households were rough sleeping at time of application, 300 of which were in London and 1,350 in the rest of England. This is a 7.8% increase from April-June 2018 and represents 2.4% of all households owed a new duty in April-June 2019, similar to the 2.5% of households in April-Jun 2018.

This is lower than the 4,677 rough sleepers recorded as sleeping rough on a single night in England in 2018. This difference is expected as HCLIC will only capture rough sleepers assisted by the local authority.

Further data sources on rough sleeping can be found in the Additional Information section at the end of this release.

<sup>5</sup> See live table A4: Accommodation at time of application for those owed a prevention or relief duty

Definitions: Rough sleeping and Statutory Homelessness Data	
<b>Rough sleeping</b>	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
<b>Rough sleeping at the time of Local Authority Approach</b>	Rough sleepers are defined as those who were, in the judgement of the assessor, rough sleeping when they approached a local authority for help.
<b>History of Rough Sleeping</b>	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

## Support needs

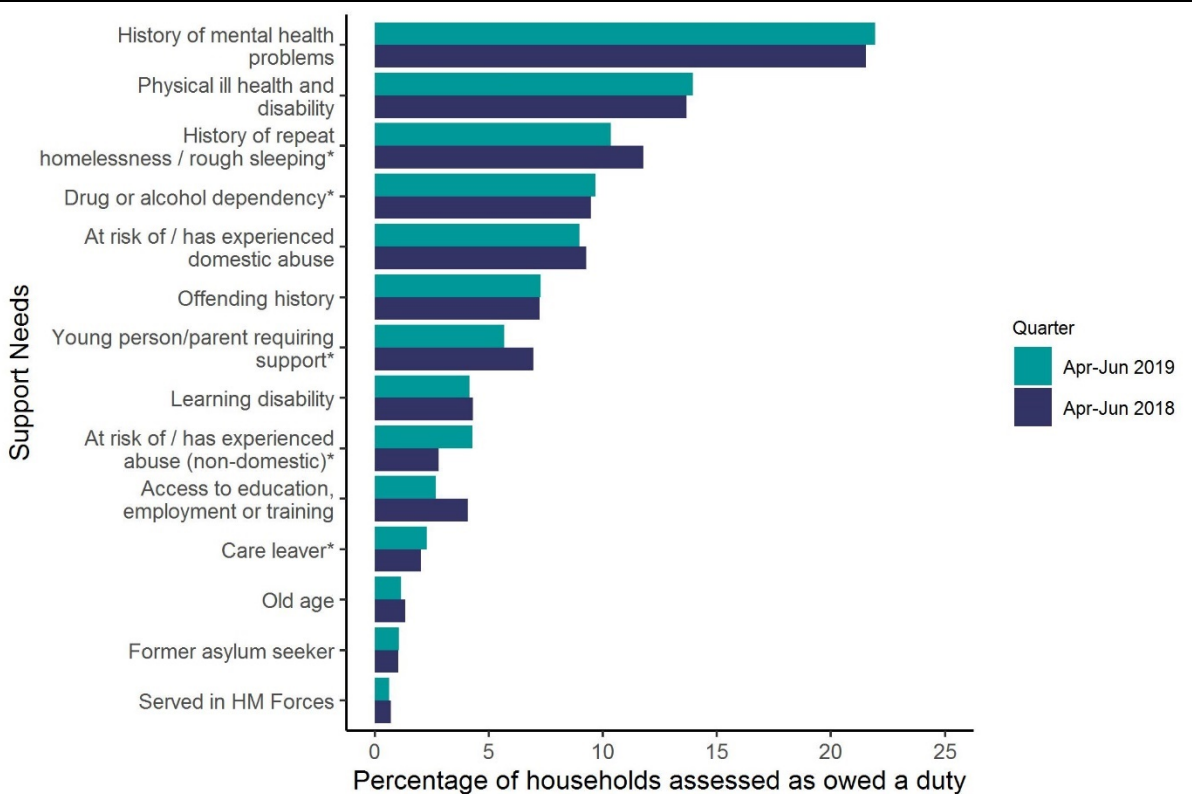
### Table A3

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 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.

Of the 68,170 households who were owed a homelessness duty in April to June 2019, 30,670 or 45.0% of households were identified as having support needs, compared with 46.1% in April to June 2018. Of the households who had a support need, 15,410 households or 50.2% had 1 support need, 6,970 households or 22.7% had 2 support needs and 8,290 or 27.0% had 3 or more support needs.

**Figure 3: Almost a quarter of households who were homeless or threatened with homelessness when they approached the local authority reported a history of mental health problems.**



\* These categories are grouped using support need categories that are similar. This means some households may be counted more than once in these categories.

The most common support need identified was a history of mental health problems which was reported by 14,950 households or 21.9% of households owed a new duty. The second largest group was those with physical ill health or disability, identified by 14.0% of households. Other notable groups included those with experience of or at risk of domestic abuse 9.0%, and those with drug or alcohol dependency, 9.7%.

Those with a history of repeat homelessness or rough sleeping were identified in 4,030 and 3,020 households respectively – see Figure 3. This is higher than the 1,650 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.



## Referrals from other public bodies

Table A7

Definitions	New duty for specific public authorities to refer users to local housing authorities
<b>Duty to Refer</b>	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 are provided in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Children's Social Services referred the most households to local authority homelessness services of those public bodies with a duty to refer.**



For 950 households, local authorities indicated that a household had been referred to them under a duty to refer but failed to identify the referring authority. This means the referrals from some or all of the public authorities may be underestimated. MHCLG are working with local authorities to improve reporting of this information in future quarters.

During April to June 2019, there were 4,340 referrals made under the duty to refer, compared with 3,740 between January to March 2019. As the duty to refer was not in place in April to June 2018, comparisons are made with the previous quarter. Children's Social Services made the most referrals with 740, or 17.1% of the total, whereas last quarter the National Probation Service made the most referrals with 650 or 17.4% of all referrals. The National Probation Service made the second highest number of referrals with 650, followed by Jobcentre plus, with 560. These three authorities represent 44.9% of referrals 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 2019 2,830 referrals were made by other organisations, public or private without a legal duty to refer. 490 additional referrals were made by other local authorities.

## 3. Outcomes

The new duties require 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 last 56 days each. The reasons for duties ending indicate the likely outcomes of duties.

This data is not comparable to prevention and relief data collected prior to the enactment of the HRA 2017, as before April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 prevention and relief activities were not a statutory duty; previous prevention activity data included interventions and activities that prevented a household from making a homeless application, sometimes referred to as 'upstream' prevention, and previous relief activities were offered only at the discretion of the local authority to those not eligible for main homelessness duty.

Comparisons with April to June 2018 are expected to show large increases, as the 56-day length of the duty means that duties often will not end in the same quarter they began, and so there is a time lag for outcomes. As April to June 2018 was the first quarter with the new duties, the only outcomes were those which began and ended within the 3-month period. The outcomes in April to June 2019 may refer to duties which began in previous quarters.

### Prevention duty ended

#### Table P1

Figure 5 shows the outcomes for the 33,800 prevention duties that ended in April to June 2019, and the outcomes for relief duties ended in the same period. The number of prevention duties that ended has increased from the 10,990 households in April to June 2018. This increase is expected due to the time lag for outcomes in the first quarter of the new act.

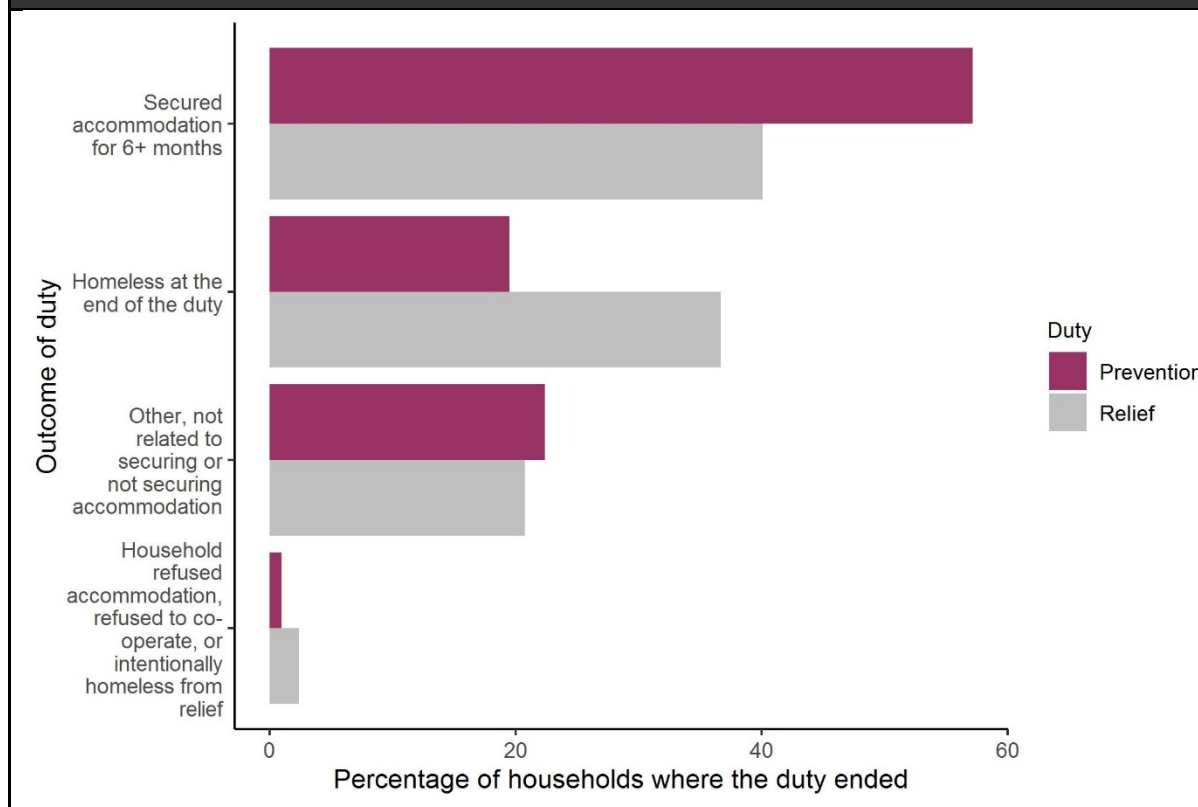
19,320 households, or 57.2%, secured accommodation for 6 months or more and were no longer threatened with homelessness. Of those who secured accommodation 35.1% secured their existing accommodation, whilst 64.9% secured alternative accommodation.

For 6,580 or 19.5% of households, the prevention duty ended because the household became homeless, and were 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. 22.4%

of prevention duties ended for other reasons, such as losing contact, or the application being withdrawn, and 1.0% ended due to the household refusing accommodation or refusing to co-operate.

**Figure 5<sup>6</sup>: Over half of prevention duties ended April to June 2019 were to secured accommodation for 6 months or more.**



## Relief duty ended

### Table R1

35,250 households' relief duties ended this quarter, up from the 7,920 households reported in the same quarter last year. As shown in Figure 5, 14,130 or 40.1% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months.

<sup>6</sup> Note: the categories in Figure 5 are variables collapsed from tables P1 and R1. Homeless after 56 days elapsed includes those intentionally homeless for prevention but only those unintentionally homeless for relief. Other, not related to securing or not securing accommodation includes: Application withdrawn or applicant deceased, contact lost, 56 days elapsed and no further action (prevention only), local referral accepted by other LA (relief only), and no longer eligible. Households where the outcome is not known are not included.

For 36.7% of households the relief duty ended because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days.

20.8% of households' relief duty ended for reasons not related to failing to secure or securing accommodation for at least 6 months, and 2.4% 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 TS

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

Definitions	What is Main Duty?
<b>Main Duty</b>	<p>Main homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is <b>unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need</b><sup>7</sup>. This definition has not been changed 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. This means a household owed a main duty is no longer a household that is threatened with homelessness. In addition a minimum of 56 days now has to have elapsed from a household approaching the local authority to being owed a main duty.</p> <p>Main duty does not have a limit on the number of days. Households eligible for main duty homelessness are usually put into temporary accommodation and continue to be helped by the local authority until the duty ends for a specific reason, such as securing accommodation, or withdrawing.</p>

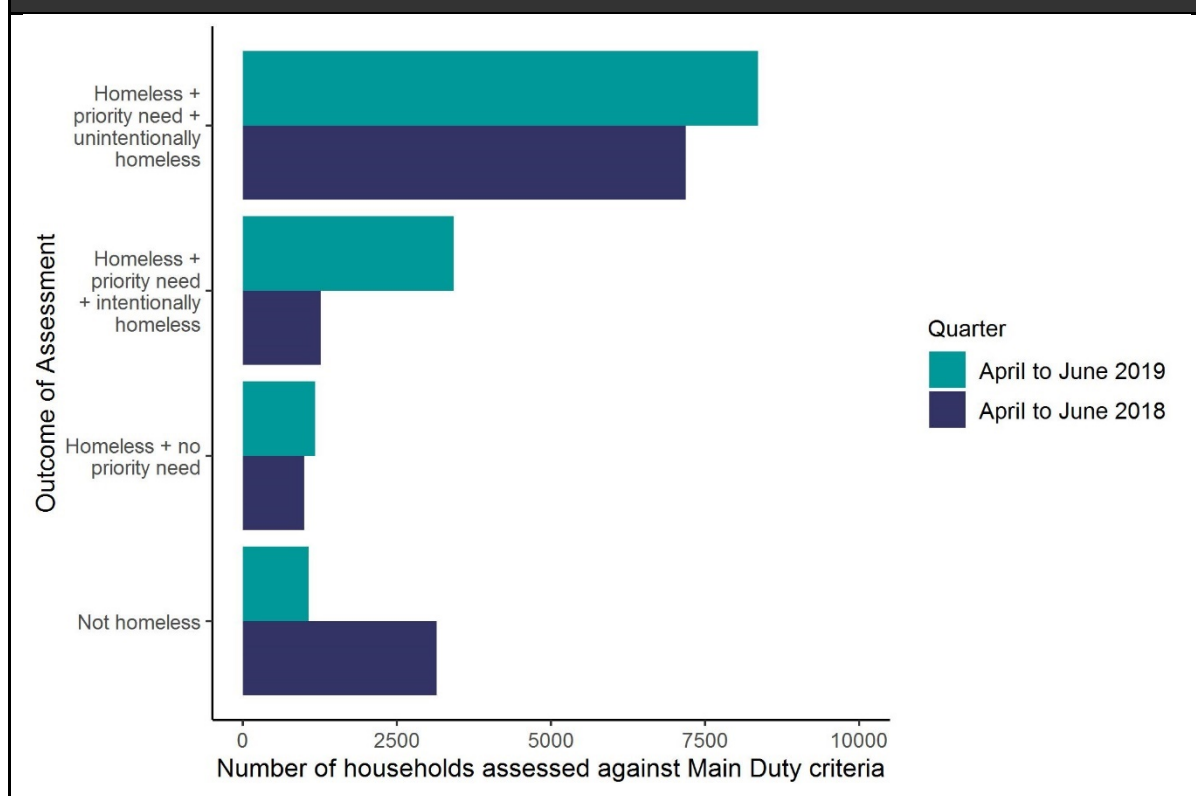
From 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 homeless households were owed a 56 day relief duty before a main duty decision could be made or a duty could commence, and in some cases would also have been owed a prevention duty before the household became homeless. For the purpose of this data this means there was a delay in households reaching the main duty stage in the early part of 2018-19, and so a large increase compared with April-June 2018 is expected.

The main duty decision numbers are shown in Figure 4.

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<sup>7</sup> Eligibility and priority need are further defined in section 7, Additional Information.

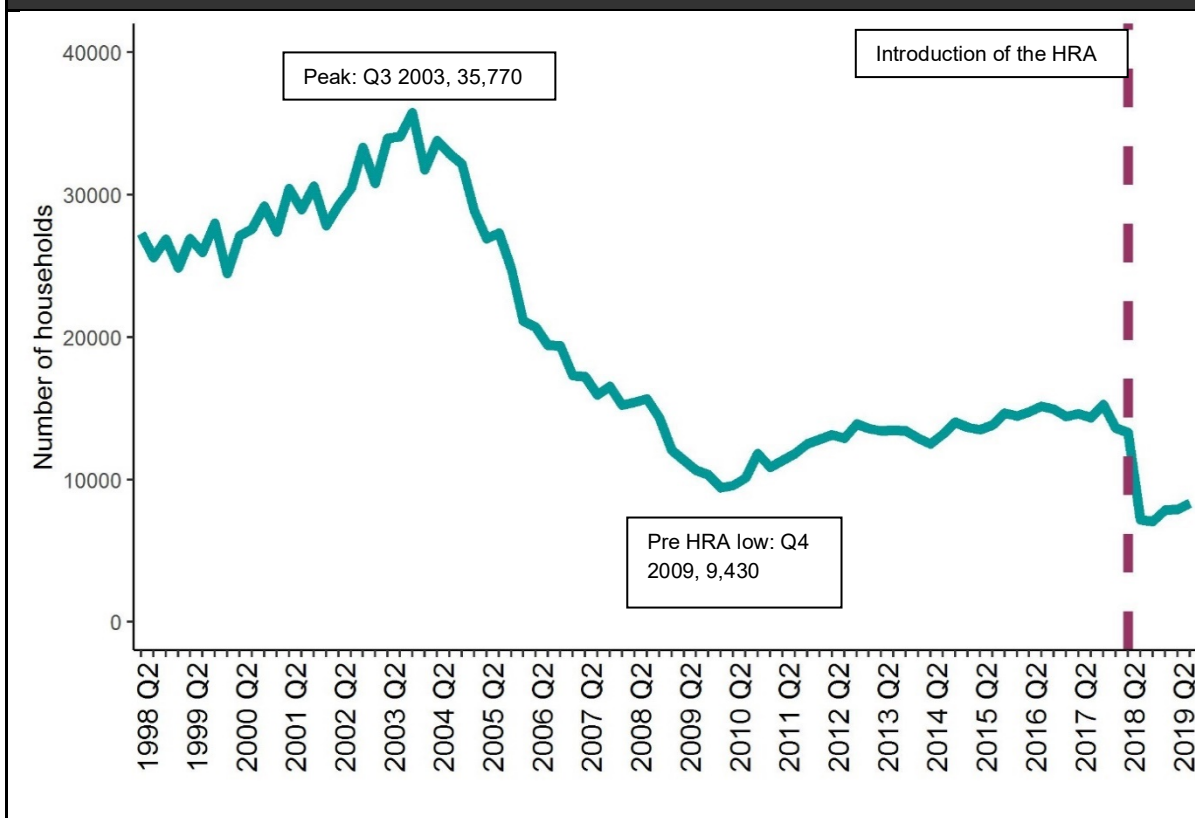
**Figure 4: Main duty decisions between April to June 2019 found over 8,000 households were owed a main homelessness duty**



Local authorities made 14,000 main homelessness duty decisions in April to June 2019. This is up 11.3% from April to June 2018, immediately following the commencement of the HRA, but just over half, 54.4%, of the 25,750 in the quarter immediately prior to commencement of the HRA. Of the 8,360 households assessed as owed a main homelessness duty, 2,330 were in London, accounting for 27.9% of the England total. 1,060 households were found to be not homeless, and 3,420 households were found to be homeless but did not have priority need, and therefore not owed main duty following the statutory relief duty.

Figure 5 shows how the total number of households owed a main homelessness duty has changed over time from Q1 1998 to Q2, April to June 2019.

**Figure 5: Main duty homelessness acceptances are increasing, but are still below the pre-HRA low.**



## Main duties ended

### [Table MD2](#)

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.

A main homelessness duty was ended for 7,580 households in April to June 2019. 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 a 4.9% decrease from 7,970 in April to June 2018



79.4% accepted offers of settled accommodation, an increase of 6.3 percentage points since April to June 2018. 68.7% accepted a tenancy offer in local authority or housing association accommodation, and the remaining 810 accepted a private rented sector offer. There were 270 households who became intentionally homeless from temporary accommodation, while 500 households voluntarily ceased to occupy temporary accommodation.

## 5. Temporary accommodation

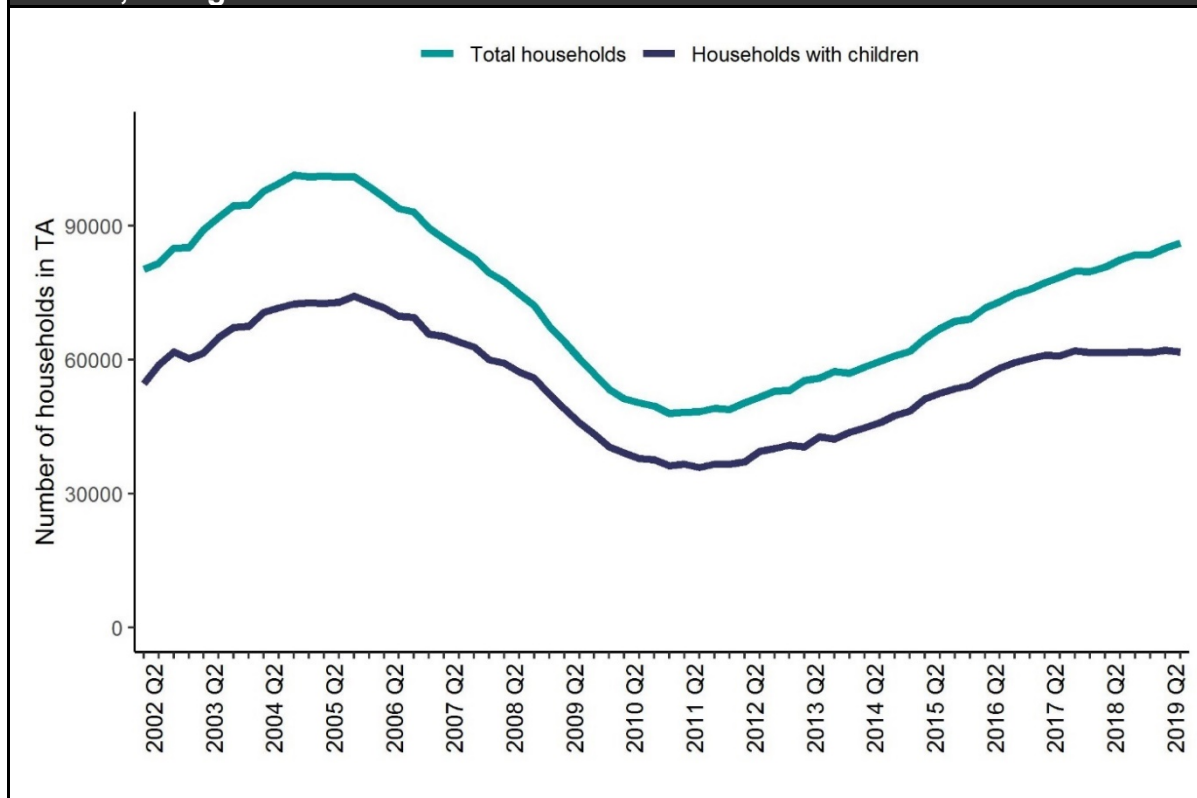
Unlike other data in this release, temporary accommodation (TA) is a snapshot at the end of the quarter. It is not a cumulative total of all placements across a quarter. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter includes households who are:

- 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.

Definitions	Temporary Accommodation
<b>Temporary accommodation</b>	Households in temporary accommodation refer to households living in 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 to secure suitable accommodation until the duty ends.

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 had the choice of using 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. This means more local authority level data has been imputed in this section than the rest of this release. Further details on the data quality issues can be found in the [Technical Note](#).

**Figure 6: The number of households in temporary accommodation continues to rise, though households with children has levelled.**



On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the total number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation was 86,130, up 4.5% from 82,390 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The number of households in temporary accommodation has been generally rising since 2010, but the number of households with children is more stable, at 61,800 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, compared with 61,570 on the same date last year.

In London the number of households in temporary accommodation on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was 56,950, 66.1% of the total England figure. The corresponding figures for London and Rest of England and the percentage changes are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3<sup>8</sup>**: Households accommodated in temporary accommodation at 30 March 2019 compared the same quarter last year, England, London and Rest of England

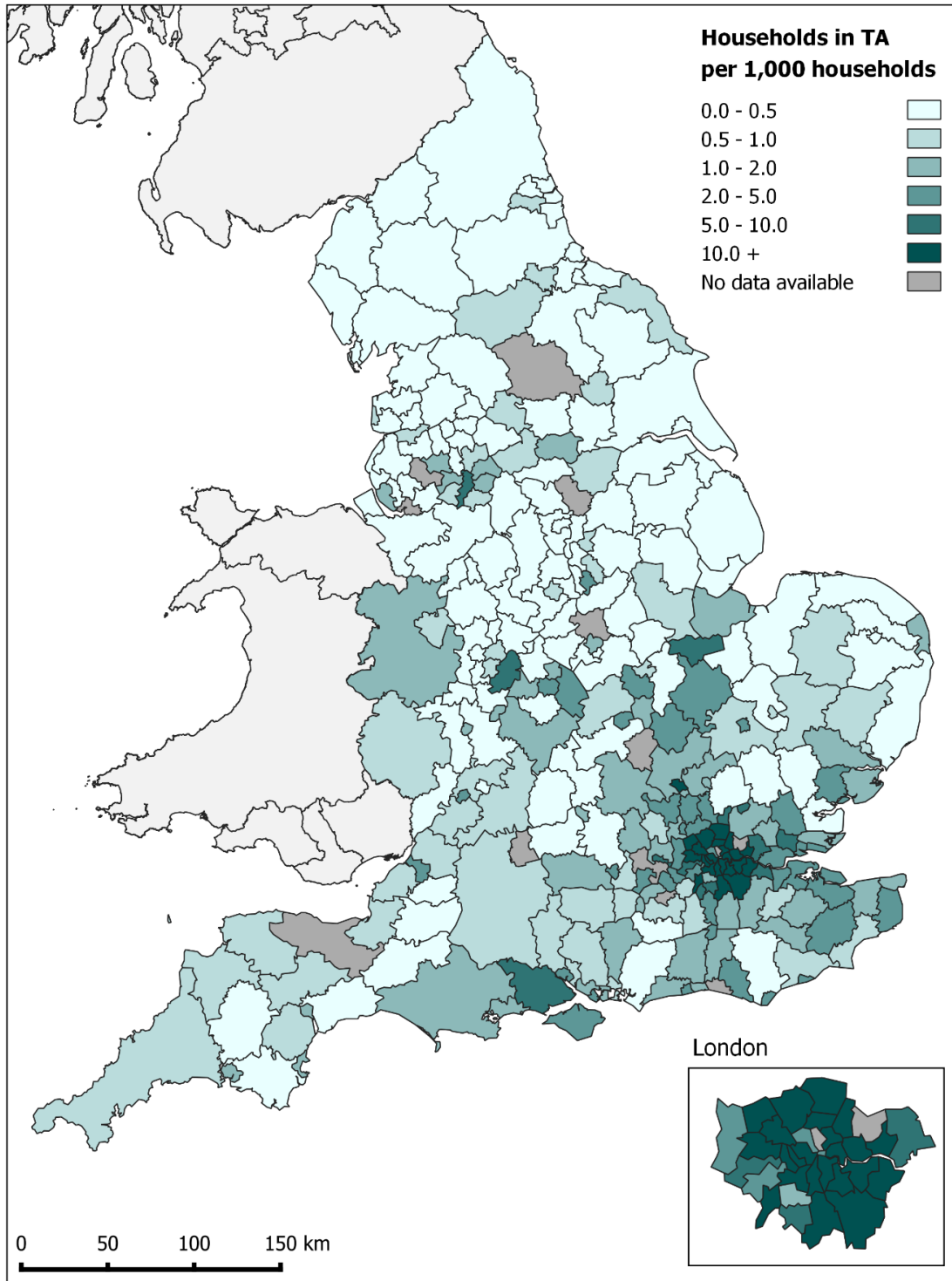
	30th June 2019	Same quarter last year: 30th June 2018	
	Households in TA	Households in TA	Percentage change
England	<b>86,130</b>	82,390	4.5%
London	<b>56,950</b>	56,330	1.1%
Rest of England	<b>29,180</b>	26,060	12.0%

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

This means that in England there were approximately 3.68 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households overall, but there were approximately 16.07 households per 1,000 in London and 1.47 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. The LA with the highest rate of households in TA per 1000 households is Newham, with 45.4, and the highest outside of London is Luton at 16.2 households per 1000.

<sup>8</sup>See Live Table TA1: Number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter by temporary accommodation type

**Figure 9: A map of households in temporary accommodation per 1000 households in each local authority area shows greater concentration in the South East and hotspots in urban areas.**



Produced by Homelessness Statistics Team, MHCLG  
 (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey

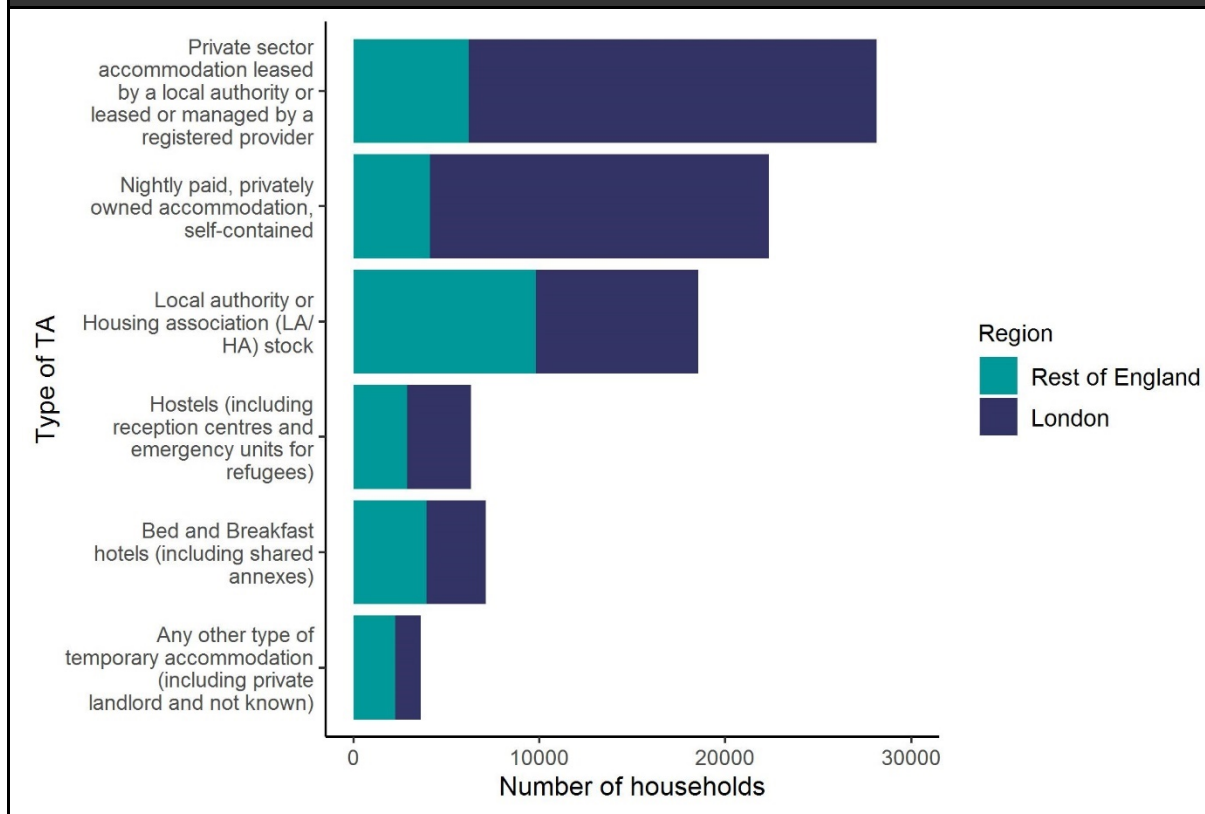
Data sources: OS Boundary Line,  
 Local Authority HCLIC returns,  
 ONS Household Population Projection

# Types of Temporary Accommodation

## Tables TA1 and TA1 TS

Of the 86,130 households living in temporary accommodation on 30th June 80.2%, were in self-contained accommodation, up from 75.7% at the end of June 2018. The number of households in temporary accommodation with shared facilities (bed and breakfast and hostels, including women's refuges) was 13,450, or 15.6% of all households in TA. Of these, 7,110 households were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation (privately owned accommodation in which facilities are shared), which is an increase of 3.2% from 6,890 at the same time last year.

**Figure 10: Private Sector and nightly paid accommodation are the most common types of TA, particularly in London.**



The number of households in temporary accommodation in a different local authority district than those they applied in was 23,430, or 27.2% of all households in TA, up 1,490 from the same quarter last year. 86.1%, or 20,170 of out of local authority placements were from London boroughs.

**Table 4<sup>9</sup>:** Households accommodated in Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation at 30 June 2019 with comparisons to previous quarter and year, England

	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b>	Previous quarter: 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019		Same quarter last year: 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	
	<b>Households in B&amp;B</b>	Households in B&B	Percentage change	Households in B&B	Percentage change
Total households in B&B	<b>7,110</b>	6,970	2.0%	6,890	3.2%
Households in B&B with dependent children	<b>1,990</b>	2,170	-8.3%	2,450	-18.8%
<i>Of which: resident for more than 6 weeks</i>	<b>690</b>	760	-9.2%	860	-19.8%

## Children in Temporary Accommodation

### [Tables TA1, TA2 and TA2 TS](#)

Of the 86,130 households in temporary accommodation at the end of June, 61,800 households or 71.8% included dependent children, down from 61,570 or 74.7% on the same date last year. A total of 127,370 dependent children were in temporary accommodation on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, an increase of 2.9% compared with June 2018. The average number of children in family households in temporary accommodation is 2.06 children. Most households with children, 86.8%, were in self-contained accommodation, up 5.5 percentage points from 81.3% at the end of June 2018.

There were 1,990 households in B&B with dependent children, 28.0% of all households in B&B accommodation, down from 2,450 the same time last year. Of the households with children in B&B, 690 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 19.8% from 860 on the 30 June 2018.

Overall, although more total households were in B&B on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the percentage of these with dependent children has decreased from last year, and is similar to the pre-HRA numbers.

<sup>9</sup> See Live Table TA1: Number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter by temporary accommodation type

## 6. Accompanying tables

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

### **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 April 2018 to March 2019 Detailed local authority-level tables.

The above tables can be accessed at:

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

Related MHCLG statistical releases are available at:

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

## 7. Additional information

### Definitions

Additional Definitions of terms used throughout this publication	
<b>Assured Shorthold Tenancy</b>	An Assured Shorthold Tenancy is a fixed term letting from a private rented landlord. Typical tenancies last 1 or 2 years.
<b>Eligible Households</b>	Eligible households are those that meet eligibility criteria, which broadly concern UK immigration status and whether the household is habitually resident in the UK. Eligibility is an extremely complex aspect of the legislation, and more information is available in Chapter 7 of the Homelessness Code of Guidance: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities/chapter-7-eligibility-for-assistance">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities/chapter-7-eligibility-for-assistance</a>
<b>The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017:</b>	This act commenced on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2018, and amended Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act"), and the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012. It placed duties on local housing authorities to intervene at earlier stages to prevent homelessness and to take reasonable steps to help those who become homeless to secure accommodation. The HRA provisions require local housing authorities to provide homelessness advice services to all residents in their area and expands the categories of people who they have to help to find accommodation. A Code of Guidance on the homelessness legislation, updated to incorporate the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, is available at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities</a> .
<b>Intentionally homeless:</b>	Households who have lost accommodation as a result of actions that they took or failed to take. This may include households who have given up suitable accommodation without good reason or have been

	<p>evicted due to rent arrears or other breach of tenancy conditions.</p>
<p><b>Threatened with homelessness:</b></p>	<p>Following the introduction of the HRA, an applicant is threatened with homelessness if it is likely they will become homeless within 56 days, or if they have been served with a valid Section 21 notice to end an Assured Shorthold Tenancy which expires within 56 days. Prior to the introduction of the HRA an applicant was accepted as owed duties if they were threatened with homelessness within 28 days.</p>
<p><b>Hidden Homelessness</b></p>	<p>Hidden homelessness includes people who live in overcrowded, insecure or uninhabitable conditions. Many people in this group do not present to the local authority for help and are sometimes unaware they would be considered statutory homeless. For this reason, the group are called hidden homeless with an unknown proportion appearing in Official Statistics. This makes quantifying the number of hidden homelessness difficult.</p>
<p><b>Households for whom a duty is owed, but no accommodation has been secured:</b></p>	<p>These are households who have been accepted as being owed a homelessness accommodation duty and for whom arrangements have been made for them, with consent, to remain in their existing accommodation (or to make their own arrangements) for the immediate future. This was previously referred to as “Homeless at Home”. Before the second quarter of 2005, figures were also collected on those potentially in this category but whose application was still under consideration pending a decision.</p>
<p><b>Main homelessness duty acceptance:</b></p>	<p>A household who is accepted by the LA as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falling within a priority need group (as defined by homelessness legislation - see below) during the quarter are referred to as “main duty acceptances”. The main homelessness duty is to secure accommodation until such time as the duty ends, usually through an offer of settled accommodation.</p>

**P1E:**

P1E was a quarterly local authority return, used by MHCLG to report on statutory homelessness in England until March 2018. The purpose of the quarterly P1E forms was to collect summary data from English local housing authorities on their responsibilities under homelessness legislation. It also included a section on homelessness prevention and relief. Information from these returns has been published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in Statutory homelessness in England, a quarterly statistical release.

**Priority need:**

The legislation provides that some categories of applicants have a priority need for accommodation if homeless, whereas others do not. Applicants who have priority need include households: with dependent children or a pregnant woman; homeless due to fire, flood or other emergency; who are particularly vulnerable due to ill health, disability, old age; having been in custody or care; or having become homeless due to violence or the threat of violence. A full explanation of priority need groups and assessments is contained in Chapter 8 of the Homelessness Code of Guidance.

**Self-contained accommodation**

This includes all temporary accommodation where the household has sole use of kitchen and bathroom facilities, including property held by local housing authorities, registered social landlords and private sector landlords. A distinction is made between this type of accommodation and accommodation where such facilities are shared with other households (i.e. bed and breakfast, hostels and women's refuges).

## Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Statistics and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy

(found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-MHCLG-revisions-policy>).

There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

### **Non-Scheduled Revisions**

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

### **Scheduled Revisions**

Local authorities can update their HCLIC returns following publication of the data. At the end of each financial year, the figures for the eight quarters of the previous two years are routinely reviewed for revision. Q1-3 releases revise figures for the previous two quarters. Provisional figures are labelled in the tables with a "P". Revised figures are labelled in the tables with "R". These revisions are kept to a minimum wherever possible by encouraging local authorities to submit their data early. This allows MHCLG to run validation checks on data and check any unusual movements in data with affected local authorities. Where larger revisions are made more information will be provided in the footnotes of the statistical tables and the updated release, where changes impact on the headline numbers.

Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) will be made only where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition.

## Coverage

The latest quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for 312 out of 317 local authorities (98.4% response rate).

### **Initial assessment:**

9 local authorities were unable to provide initial assessment information. 1 of these was missing in previous quarters. For 8 of the authorities that failed to provide this information their data was imputed from previous returns in 2018/19. These are highlighted and referenced in the live tables. Comparisons with previous number of initial duties accepted indicate that the impact of this is small. There may be seasonal trends in this data, which is not currently adjusted.

Data for most authorities is included, however, it should be noted that a small number of authorities only provided information on one member of the household. 1 local authority reported more than 95% of their homeless households in both prevention and relief as single adult households. This means that single member households are overstated compared to other groups. A complete list of household breakdowns at the local authority level, including information on the local authorities who reported 95% or more single adult households are provided in table A5P and A5R.

### **Prevention and relief:**

Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on prevention duties. 12 out of 317 local authorities did not provide this information of which, 3 were not imputed so the total is likely to be an underestimate. This means the overall England total and trends throughout the year should be used with caution. Similarly, some local authorities had issues collecting or reporting accurately on relief duties. 12 out of 317 local authorities did not provide this information, of which 3 were not imputed so the total is likely to be an underestimate.

### **Main duty:**

Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on main duty decisions. Users of one of the main software systems have previously informed us that this information is not always extracted for a case and has resulted in some underreporting or missing information. 16 out of 317 local authorities either provided inaccurate data or did not provide this information, 3 were not imputed so the total may be an underestimate. As local authorities resolve these issues, main duty decision totals for this year are likely to be revised in future publications.

Some local authorities have also struggled to provide accurate information on main duties ended. As with temporary accommodation this information mostly relates to cases assessed before the introduction of the 2017 HRA. This quarter, this information was only collected through H-CLIC returns. 13 out of 317 local authorities did not provide this information, of which 3 were not imputed so the total is likely to be an underestimate. However, other local authorities identified issues with underreporting. The England level figure is likely to be under reported so should be used with caution.

### **Temporary accommodation:**

Complete temporary accommodation (TA) data was provided by 300 (94.6%) local authorities. 14 local authorities either provided no temporary accommodation figures or their figures were incomplete and could not be used. Figures for these households have been imputed. 3 local authorities provided temporary accommodation totals but no reliable breakdowns by type of temporary accommodation or no numbers of households in TA - these breakdowns were estimated.

Further issues of data quality are addressed in the [Technical Note](#).

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's statistical quality guidelines are published here:

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

## Uses of the data

These data form the basis of evidence on homelessness duties. Ministers and officials in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government use this information to understand the scale and causes of homelessness and to consider possible policy responses. The data are used to ensure democratic accountability in answers to Parliamentary Questions, ministerial correspondence, Freedom of Information Act cases and queries from the public. They are used by MHCLG Ministers to help determine local authority performance for the 2017 Homelessness Reduction Act. This includes assessing the performance of OGDs under the duty to refer. They are also used to allocate resources, monitor performance and to support bids for funding from the Treasury.

Other government departments also use the statistics, including DWP (monitoring those in temporary accommodation in receipt of housing benefit), DH (Public Health Outcomes Framework), DfE (Child poverty needs assessment toolkit for local authorities) and Defra (sustainable development indicators). Local housing authorities are both providers and users of the statistics and use the data extensively to plan services, allocate resources, monitor performance and benchmark against other authorities. The voluntary sector also uses the statistics to monitor and evaluate housing policy and for campaigning and fundraising purposes. These statistics, along with our annual rough sleeping count, regularly feature in reports from Homelesslink, Crisis, Shelter and other homeless organisations.

## User engagement

MHCLG is looking to hold user events in Spring 2020 to understand more about how these statistics are used and how they can be improved. If you would like to be involved in these events, please contact [homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk](mailto:homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk). Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release can also be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below or suggestions for future releases to [homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk](mailto:homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk).

The Government wants to ensure that this new ambitious legislation is working for all, and local government and its partners have the tools and support to effectively implement and operate the Act. This is why the Government committed to reviewing the implementation of the Act and how it is working in practice. The review will provide important insight and will shape the Government's future plans.

The review will be run by MHCLG has two complimentary components running in parallel:

- External evaluation commissioned by MHCLG
- Intensive engagement by MHCLG with a wide range of stakeholders from local government and other sectors.

A website has been created to keep users up to date with all the latest developments in MHCLG's homelessness statistics. It contains details of user events and information about planned developments. Further information on the timescales for the consultation of user feedback will also be published on this forum:

<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/user-facing-pages/mhclg-homelessness-statistics-user-forum/>

The UK Statistics Authority has published an assessment of the Department's homelessness and rough sleeping statistics in 2015 these are available at:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publications-list/?keyword=homelessness+assessment&type=assessment-report&theme=&producer=&date=&number.>

Improvements were made to the statutory homelessness statistics in response to this report. One of these changes was the move to Experimental Statistics. Correspondence about this change in designation can be found here:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Ed-Humpherson-to-Sandra-Tudor-regarding-changes-to-statutory-homelessness-statistics-0.2-1.pdf>

The H-CLIC data specification was produced after consultation with charities, local authorities, local authority homelessness case management system software suppliers, other government departments and the Scottish Government, who moved to a case level reporting system in 2001. The final draft H-CLIC data requirement was shared with local authorities in August 2018. Feedback received on the data requirement meant the draft was revised until January 2018. Minor amendments to the H-CLIC data requirement have been published as revisions on the homelessness statistics user forum website from January 2018. During the development and QA process MHCLG have been in continued contact with software suppliers and local authorities via phone, email and face to face meetings. Software suppliers have been invited into the Department to discuss the data specification and reporting set up. Local



authorities have consulted on the collection and burdens of the process via the Central and Local Government Information Partnership Housing group.

The H-CLIC newsletters for data providers, and other guidance documents, are published at the above GSS link.

## Pre-release access

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics>

## Related links and statistics

### Rough sleeping

MHCLG conduct an annual single night snapshot of rough sleeping each autumn and publish this separately. This count/estimate is used to track annual changes in the population. The latest 2018 statistics published on 31st January 2019 reported 4,677 individuals rough sleeping in England. Further breakdowns can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2018>.

The number of people owed a homelessness duty will include some but not all people rough sleeping in this count.

A further source of data on rough sleeping is from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN). CHAIN is a multi-agency database recording information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London. CHAIN is managed by St Mungo's, a London-based homelessness charity, and is used by organisations working with people sleeping rough in London. Information is recorded onto the CHAIN database by people who work directly with people sleeping rough in London (e.g. workers in outreach teams, day centres, hostels and resettlement teams). CHAIN does not cover 'hidden homeless' groups, such as those who are squatting or staying in inaccessible locations to outreach workers.

There will be some overlap between rough sleeping households in this release and the rough sleepers in the annual autumn count and estimates and in the CHAIN dataset, the extent of this overlap is unknown and is likely to differ at local authority level.

## Hidden Homelessness

MHCLG produce other statistics releases that can help build up the wider homelessness picture including hidden homeless. The English Housing Survey (EHS) is a national survey of people's housing circumstances. This includes breakdowns on the additional adults in a household who wanted to rent or buy but could not afford to do so. As part of the EHS interview, households are asked some questions about all members of the household, including the circumstances of additional adults in the household such as grown-up children, nieces and nephews, adult siblings, or parents or grandparents who might otherwise be living elsewhere. There are many possible reasons that additional adults might be living as part of a household, including caring responsibilities, being cared for by another household member, waiting to move into their own property, and simply preferring to live as part of the household. Data on concealed households, a subset of hidden homeless can be found in MHCLG's English Housing Survey Statistics here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-housing-survey>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2017-to-2018-headline-report>

## Social Housing

Information on lettings of local authority and private registered provider properties in England are collected on the CORE (COntinuous REcording of Lettings and Sales in Social Housing) system. This includes information on whether lettings have been made to statutorily homeless households and homeless households not covered by a local authority's statutory duty. The CORE social lettings includes lettings for Local Authority/ Private Registered Providers. The CORE social lettings Official Statistics can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/rents-lettings-and-tenancies>

An on-line analysis tool is available at:

<https://core.communities.gov.uk/public/AnalyseCOREData.html>

## Local Authority expenditure on housing and homelessness

Statistics on local authority revenue expenditure and financing in England can be found at the following link. The RO4 return within the Revenue Outturn suite relates to housing services and includes information on local authorities' expenditure on homelessness activities:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing>

## Devolved administration statistics

### Comparing between countries

The devolved administrations are working with the ONS to produce guidance on the comparability of datasets across the UK. The house of commons library have produced a guide to comparing the legislation that can be found here: <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7201>. ONS have also produced a document about how this affects the comparability of statistics that can be found here:

<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/GSS-homelessness-report-1.pdf>

Since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 England statistics are no longer closely comparable to Northern Ireland data. However, the removal of priority need and introduction of new duties means that the data is more closely comparable to Scottish and Welsh data than previously. The Office for National Statistics have published an article on the comparability and coherence of UK sources on homelessness, which can be found here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/ukhomelessness/2005to2018>. They have also published plans to improve homelessness and rough sleeping statistics in future available here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/improvinghomelessnessandroughsleepingstatisticsacrosstheuk/2019-09-17>

The GSS have published an interactive tool which provides details on the similarities and differences in the legislation which has an impact on the official statistics on statutory homelessness across the 4 countries. This is available here: <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/tools/GSS-Homelessness-Interactive-Tool/>

The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Scotland are available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/?term=homelessness&topics=Statistics&page=1>

The most recent homelessness statistics for Wales are available at:

[https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research?keywords=homelessness&%20All%20=All&field\\_stats\\_research\\_type%5B1%5D=1&%20All%20=All&published\\_after=&published\\_before=](https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research?keywords=homelessness&%20All%20=All&field_stats_research_type%5B1%5D=1&%20All%20=All&published_after=&published_before=)

The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Northern Ireland are available at:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/housing-statistics>

## Enquiries

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Email: [newsdesk@communities.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@communities.gov.uk)

### Public enquiries:

Email: [homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics)

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December 2019

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