



## Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Official Statistics Release

# Statutory Homelessness

## April to June (Q2) 2021: England

### In this release:

This is the quarterly statistics release for statutory homelessness assessments and activities in England between 1 April and 30 June 2021. It also reports on stock households in temporary accommodation under the statutory homelessness duty in England on 30 June 2021. Most comparisons are made with April to June 2020, which saw the peak of the impact of COVID-19 on statutory homelessness data.

Between April to June 2021:

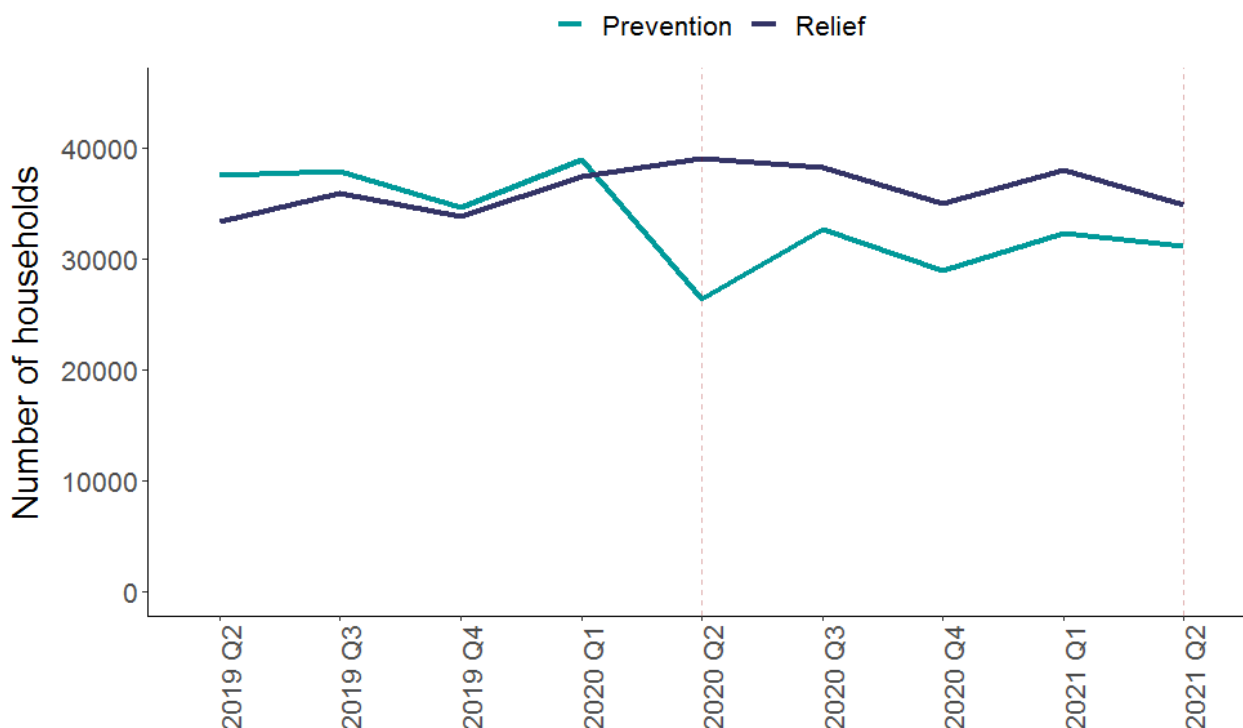
- 66,040 households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty, up 1.0% from April to June 2020
- 31,210 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness, and therefore owed a prevention duty, up 18.4% from the same quarter last year and linked to a 105.0% increase in threatened homelessness due to service of a Section 21 notice to end an Assured Shorthold Tenancy to 3,280 households. This is likely to reflect the removal of most of the restrictions on private rented sector evictions from May 2021. However, this remains below April to June 2019 before COVID-19, where 37,600 households were owed a prevention duty, of which 4,990 were due to service of a Section 21 notice.
- 34,830 households were initially assessed as homeless and therefore owed a relief duty, down 10.8% from the same quarter last year, driven by an 18.5% fall in single households owed relief duty. However, this is still above April to June 2019 before COVID-19, where 33,410 households were owed a relief duty. Households with children owed a relief duty increased 27.9% from the same quarter last year to 8,250 households in April to June 2021 – a similar level to April to June 2019.
- 9,600 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, down 8.0% from April to June 2020. Households with children fell by 15.0%.
- On 30 June 2021, 96,600 households were in temporary accommodation, down 1.7% from 30 June 2020, which saw the peak of the impact of COVID-19 on temporary accommodation due to the Everyone In campaign. This decrease is driven by a fall in households with children reducing by 3.5% to 60,490, while single households increased 1.5%. Compared to the previous quarter, the number of households in temporary accommodation has risen 1.4% from March 2021.

- **Release date:** 28 October 2021
- **Date of next release:** Winter 2021-22
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# Main points

## Initial Assessments

**Figure 1: Number of households owed a prevention or relief duty since 2019 Q2**



### Household composition

- In April to June 2021, 45,170 single households (households without children) were owed a prevention or relief duty, down 8.8% from April to June 2020. In contrast, the number of households with children owed a prevention or relief duty increased 31.3% from April to June 2020 to 20,850.
- Single households are more likely to have homeless applications taken when already homeless and so are owed a relief duty (58.8%), whereas households with children are more likely to have an application taken when threatened with homelessness (60.4%).

### Reasons for homelessness

- The most common reason for homelessness or threat of homelessness was due to family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate. This accounted for 9,230 households owed a prevention duty in April to June 2021, up 6.2% from the same quarter last year; and for those owed a relief duty, this was down 14.2% to 10,820 households.
- For households owed a prevention duty, this is followed by end of private rented Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST), accounting for 7,810 households owed a prevention duty. This increased 62.0% the same quarter last year, likely reflecting the removal of most of the restrictions on private rented sector evictions. Within this, the biggest increase was due to landlords wishing to sell or re-let the property, which almost doubled (up 97.9%) from same quarter last year. However, this remains below April to June 2019 before COVID-19, where 11,440 households owed a prevention duty cited this was due to the end of private rented AST.

- For those owed a relief duty, the second most common reason was domestic abuse, accounting for 16.0% (5,590) of households owed a relief duty. This had increased 12.0% from the same quarter last year, and is a 33.7% increase from April to June 2019.
- The largest change for those owed either a prevention or a relief duty from the same quarter last year was the number of households required to leave accommodation provided by the Home Office as asylum support, which quadrupled (up 300.0%) to 600 households owed a relief duty, and tripled (up 200.0%) to 510 households owed a prevention duty. This increase reflects a return to usual arrangements for ending Home Office accommodation provided to asylum seekers following a positive decision on their asylum application; in April to June 2019, this equated to 640 households who were owed a relief duty and 500 households who were owed a prevention duty.
- Other notable changes for those owed a prevention duty include end of social rented tenancy, up 51.6% to 1,440 households; and evictions from supported housing, up 63.3% to 980 households. For those owed a relief duty, other notable changes include Other violence or harassment, up 30.6% to 1,620 households; and end of social rented tenancy, down 24.5% to 710 households.

#### Current accommodation

- Consistent with the reasons for homelessness, the most common type of accommodation at the time of application for those owed a prevention duty are in the private rented sector, up 49.1% from April to June 2020 to 10,870 households. This was up 30.3% for those owed a relief duty to 3,910 households, likely reflecting the removal of most of the restrictions on private rented sector evictions.
- For households owed a relief duty, the most common type of accommodation was living with family, which fell 6.0% from April to June 2020 to 8,260 households. For those owed a prevention duty, this had increased 3.1% to 9,530 households.
- The number of households owed a relief duty who were rough sleeping on approach decreased by 40.8% from April to June 2020 to 2,250 households. However, this remains above pre-COVID-19 levels, where 1,710 households owed a relief duty were rough sleeping on approach in April to June 2019.
- The number of households owed a relief duty reporting no fixed abode fell 25.0% to 6,830 households; however, there may be instances where this be used incorrectly where another category would be more appropriate such as living with family or friends.
- In line with the reasons for homelessness, the number of households owed a prevention duty and in National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation almost tripled (up 188.2%) to 490 households; for those owed a relief duty, this was an increase of 420.0% to 520 households, reflecting a return to usual arrangements for ending Home Office accommodation provided to asylum seekers following a positive decision on their asylum application.
- The number of households owed a prevention duty and in the social rented sector (3,900), in owner-occupier/shared ownership accommodation (490), or on departure from an institution (850) all roughly increased by a quarter from April to June 2020.

## Duty to Refer

- 9.3%, or 6,490, of the 69,480 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, 96.0% 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 1,590 (or 24.5%) of the total, an increase of 5.3% from April to June 2020.

## Other demographics

- Of all households owed either a prevention or relief duty, there were 33,840 households, or 51.2%, identified as having one or more support needs. The most common support need was a history of mental health problems, accounting for 16,980 households or 25.7% of households owed a duty. 10,540 households, or 16.0% of all households owed a duty, had a support need of physical ill health or disability. Other notable groups included those with experience of or at risk of domestic abuse, 11.6%; and those with offending history, 9.6%.
- Lead applicants of households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty in all age groups had increased from April to June 2020, except those aged 18-24 and 25-34, which fell 3.1% and 1.9% respectively. The largest percentage increases were in the oldest age categories: the number of households with lead applicants aged 65-74 increased by 26.7% to 1,470 in April to June 2021; and those aged 75+ increased 23.4% to 580. Both of these groups remain below April to June 2019 levels, and saw the largest decreases during COVID-19 in April to June 2020 from April to June 2019.
- The number of households owed a prevention or relief duty where the lead applicant was White fell 2.7%, but all other groups increased – the largest percentage increase being for Asian lead applicants, which increased by 16.1% to 4,110 in this quarter. This is followed by the Other ethnic group, up 15.5% to 2,310 households; and Black lead applicants, up 11.9% to 7,030 households. These groups remain below April to June 2019 levels, and saw the largest decreases during COVID-19 in April to June 2020 from April to June 2019.
- While the number of duties owed increased 1.0% from the same quarter last year, lead applicants not registered but seeking work fell 25.9% to 2,340. Those who were registered unemployed remained at a similar level. The employment status that saw the largest increase was for students/those in training, which increased 49.4% to 1,240; followed by those who had retired, up 32.5% to 1,510. Those in full-time and part-time work had also increased 15.8% and 19.1% respectively.

## Outcomes

- In April to June 2021, 33,320 households had secured accommodation for 6 months or more at the end of their prevention or relief duties.
- Over half of the 29,620 prevention duties which ended between April to June 2021 (17,220 or 58.1%) ended because the household secured accommodation for 6 months or more and their homelessness had been prevented. Of these, 32.0% or 5,510, were able to remain in their existing home. The number of households that secured accommodation at the end of the prevention duty increased by 11.5% from the same quarter last year, but the number who were able to stay in existing accommodation decreased by 16.8%.
- 5,370 or 18.1% of households whose prevention duty ended were homeless at the end of

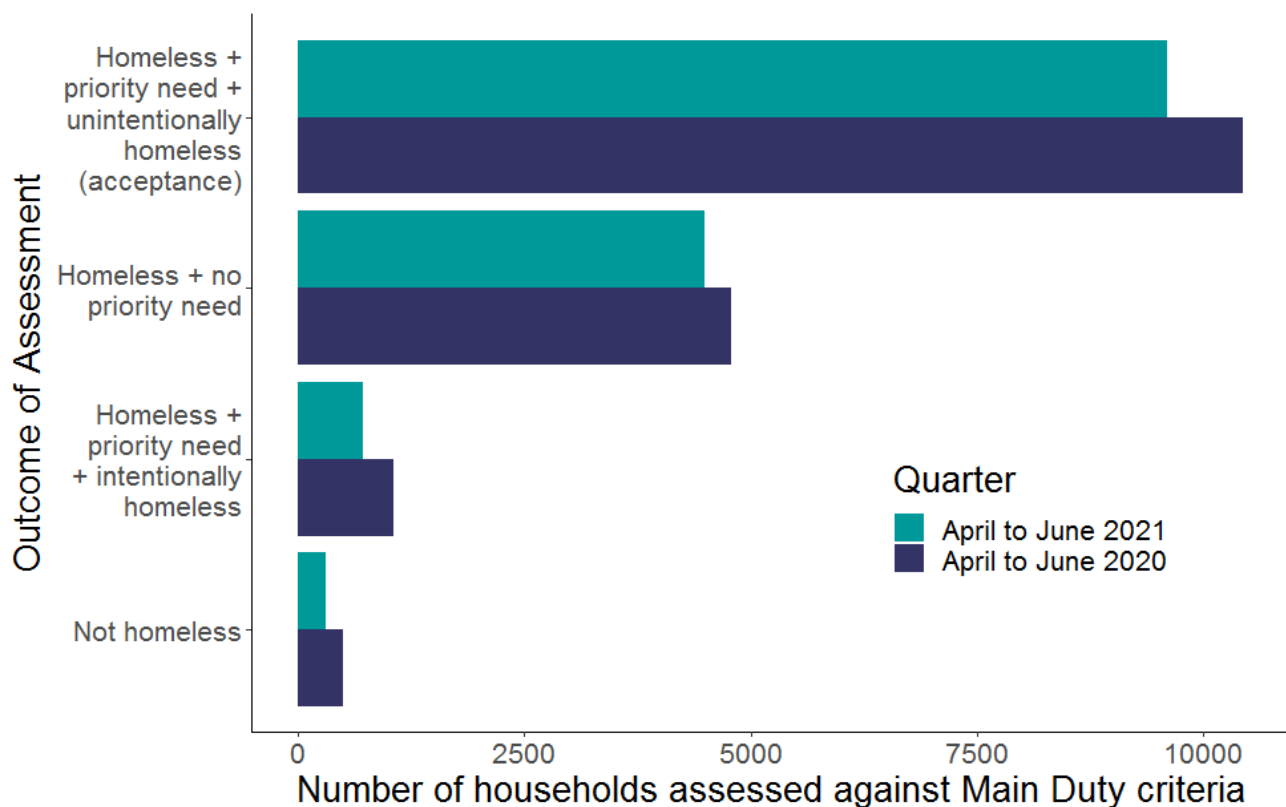
the prevention duty, and therefore owed a subsequent relief duty.

- Of the 40,170 relief duties ended, 16,100 or 40.1% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months. 12,580 single households had secured accommodation through a relief duty, up 6.8% from the previous year.
- 15,590 households, or 38.8% of households whose relief duty ended had ended because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days and the local authority would need to assess whether a main duty is owed to them

## Main Homelessness duty

- Figure 2 below shows main duty acceptances fell to 9,600 in April to June 2021 from 10,440 (a 8.0% decrease), driven by a fall in households with children, down 15.0%. In contrast to the increase in initial assessments this quarter, this fall in main duty acceptances reflects the reduction in homelessness approaches over the last year due to the measures to protect renters, such as the restriction on private rented sector evictions, and lengthened notice periods for landlords.
- The number of households owed a main duty who were vulnerable as a result of domestic abuse has increased 78.6% from April to June 2020, reflecting the increase in initial duties owed due to domestic abuse over the last year.
- Households that were homeless, had priority need and were intentionally homeless decreased from 1,050 to 710, a reduction of 32.4%.

**Figure 2: Number of households assessed against a main duty decision, by outcome**



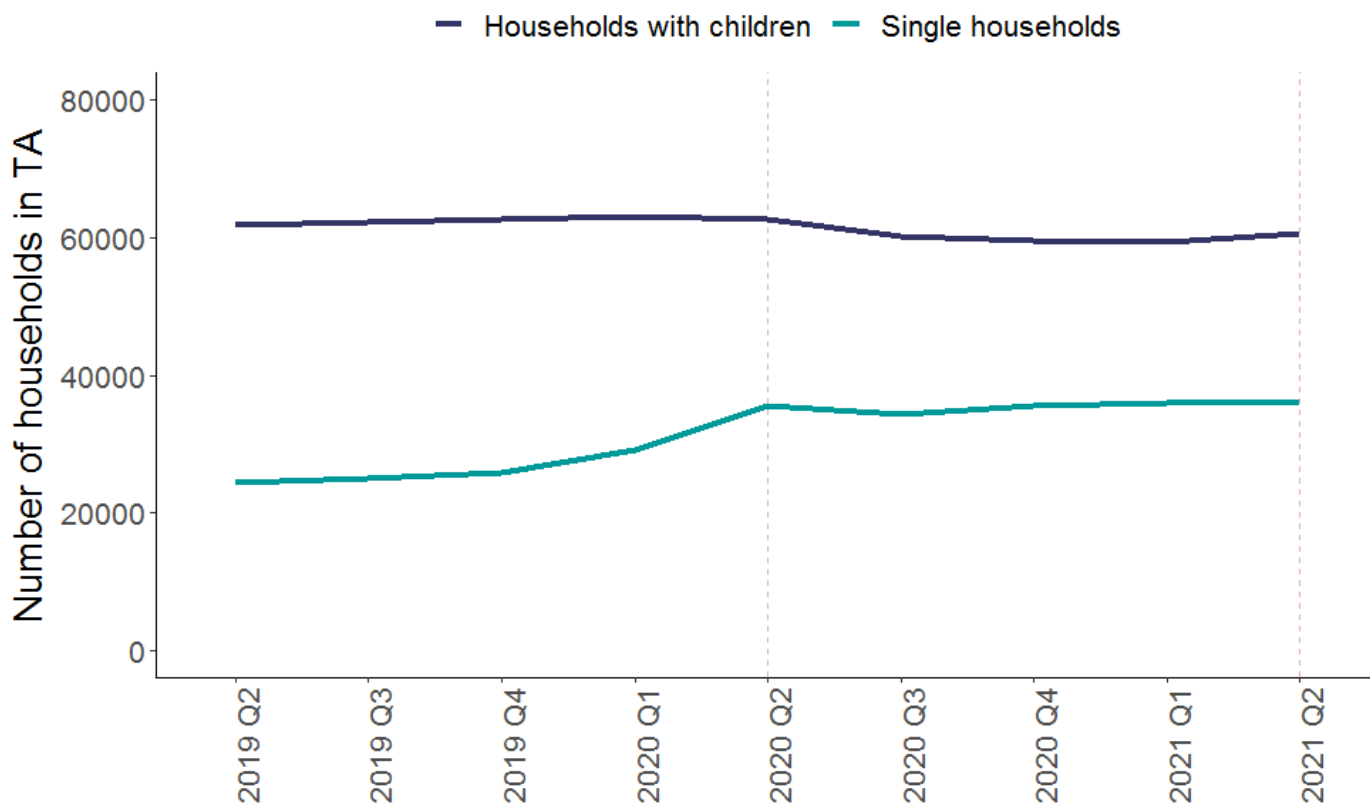
- In April to June 2021, 7,120 households had their main homelessness duty come to an end, up 43.8% from April to June 2020.
- Of these households, 5,430 or 76.3% households accepted an offer of settled

accommodation, a 38.5% increase from the same quarter last year.

## Temporary Accommodation

- Compared to the previous quarter, the total number of households in temporary accommodation increased 1.4% from 31 March 2021; single households remained similar, while households with children increased 2.0%. This will reflect the 2.4% increase in households with children owed a relief duty in this quarter, likely due to the removal of most of the restrictions on private rented sector evictions from May 2021.
- In London, there were 17.1 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households, compared with 1.8 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England. Newham had the highest rate of TA in London with 47.5 households per 1,000 households and Luton had the highest rate of TA outside London with 15.6 households per 1,000 households.
- On 30 June 2021, 26,250 or 27.2% of households in temporary accommodation were in accommodation in a different local authority district. 83.0% of these out of district placements were from London authorities.

**Figure 3: Number of households in temporary accommodation since Q2 2019, by household type**

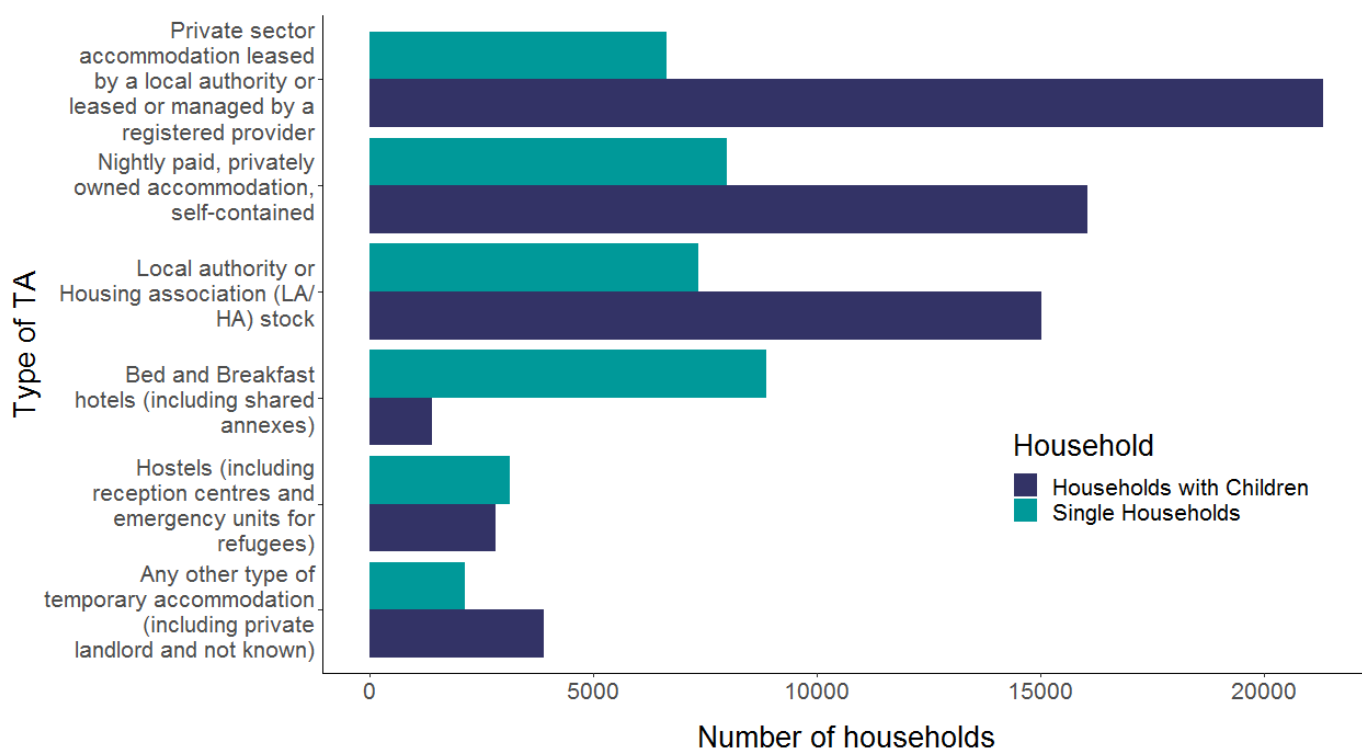


- On 30 June 2021, 60,490 households or 62.6% included dependent children, with a total of 124,290 dependent children living in temporary accommodation.
- As shown in Figure 4 below, most households with children (86.6%) were in self-contained accommodation (private sector, nightly paid, or local authority or housing association accommodation). This is down 1.9 percentage points from the end of June 2020.
- Of the households in temporary accommodation, 10,260 were living in bed and breakfast

(B&B) accommodation, down 9.7% from 11,360 on the same date last year. Of these households in B&B, 8,860 (86.4%) were single households, which had decreased 10.7% from the same date last year.

- The number of households in B&B with dependent children decreased 2.8% from the same date last year to 1,400 households in June 2021. Of the households with children in B&B, 490 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 3.9% from 510 on 30 June 2020.

**Figure 4: Number of households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation**



# 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
- A2P: Reason for loss of last settled home for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A2R: Reason for loss of last settled home for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A3: Support needs of households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A4P: Accommodation at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A4R: Accommodation at time of application for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A5P: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A5R: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A6: Age of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A7: Households referred to a local authority prior to being assessed
- A8: Ethnicity of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention 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\*
- A12: Sexual Identity of main applicants assess 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
- TA3: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by duty provide

\* 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 2020-21 Detailed local authority-level tables.

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

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

Information about statistics at DLUHC 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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