CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT

GREATER LONDON

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026

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CHAIN

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from http://data.london.gov.uk

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1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

Introduction

This quarterly report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London in July-September 2026.

Information in the report is derived from the 'Combined Homelessness and Information Network' (CHAIN), a database commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by Homeless Link. For more information see www.homeless.org.uk/chain.

The data on which this report is based is also available in an accessible tabular format, aggregated to borough and Greater London level, in a separate CHAIN Quarterly Data Tables file. This can be downloaded from the GLA Datastore at http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports. A suite of interactive charts and maps based on the data can be accessed via the CHAIN Quarterly Data Visualisations Tool at https://bit.ly/chain-quarterly-vis-tool.

In the rough sleeping figures in this report people are grouped into three categories:

New rough sleepers	Those who had not been contacted by outreach teams rough sleeping before the period
Living on the streets	Those who have had a high number of contacts over 3 weeks or more which suggests they are living on the streets
Intermittent rough sleepers	People who were seen rough sleeping before the period began at some point, and contacted in the period - but not regularly enough to be 'living on the streets'

For more information about the methods used to derive statistics for this report, and definitions of different groups, please see the Methodology section.

Key findings

New rough sleepers

In the period July-September 2026 outreach teams recorded 2,168 people in London sleeping rough for the first time. Of these:

- 1,655 (76%) spent just one night sleeping rough
- 434 (20%) slept rough for more than one night but did not go on to live on the streets
- 79 (4%) were deemed to be living on the streets.

The number of new rough sleepers recorded during this period was 2% higher than the same period last year.

By comparison, of the 2,116 people recorded as new to the streets in July-September 2025, 1,568 (74%) were seen sleeping rough just once. A higher proportion (22%) went on to spend more than one night without meeting the criteria for living on the streets, and 4% went on to live on the streets.

Living on the streets

During July-September 2026 there were 819 people recorded who were deemed to be living on the streets. This total includes 79 people who were new to rough sleeping in London and remained on the streets during the period.

The number of rough sleepers deemed to be living on the streets is 8% higher than the same period last year, and 20% higher than the immediately preceding period (April-June 2026).

Intermittent rough sleepers

The number of people who were seen rough sleeping during July-September 2026 who were not new, and did not have enough contacts to be deemed as living on the streets, was 1,770. This is 8% lower than the same period last year, and 8% higher than the immediately preceding period.

Of these:

- 818 people (46%) were seen on just a single occasion
- 452 people (26%) were seen just twice, and
- only 11 (1%) had six or more contacts.

Total number of people seen rough sleeping

In total during the period July-September 2026 outreach teams recorded 4,678 individuals sleeping rough in the capital. This is a 1% decrease on the total figure for July-September 2025.

Of that total:

- new rough sleepers account for 46% of all rough sleepers
- intermittent rough sleepers account for 38% of all those recorded in the period, and
- 18% of those recorded during the period were living on the streets.

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

All London Boroughs: Headlines

Table 1: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by new, living on the streets, and intermittent breakdown

NEW ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	**2,168**	**+29%**	**+2%**
New RS with no second night out	1,655	+27%	+6%
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	434	+30%	-8%
New RS joining living on the streets population*	79	+55%	+1%

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of new rough sleepers prevented from spending a second night out	76%	77%	74%

LIVING ON THE STREETS (LOS)

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	**819**	**+20%**	**+8%**
LOS - Transferred from new RS*	79	+55%	+1%
LOS - Known	740	+18%	+9%

INTERMITTENT ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	**1,770**	+8%	**-8%**

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of intermittent rough sleepers seen only once during period	46%	44%	45%

OVERALL TOTAL ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	**4,678**	**+18%**	**-1%**

*This cohort is listed under both new rough sleepers and living on the streets headings, but is only counted once towards the overall total

All London Boroughs: Achieving No Second Night Out

Chart 1: New rough sleepers 2025-26 Q2 to 2026-27 Q2

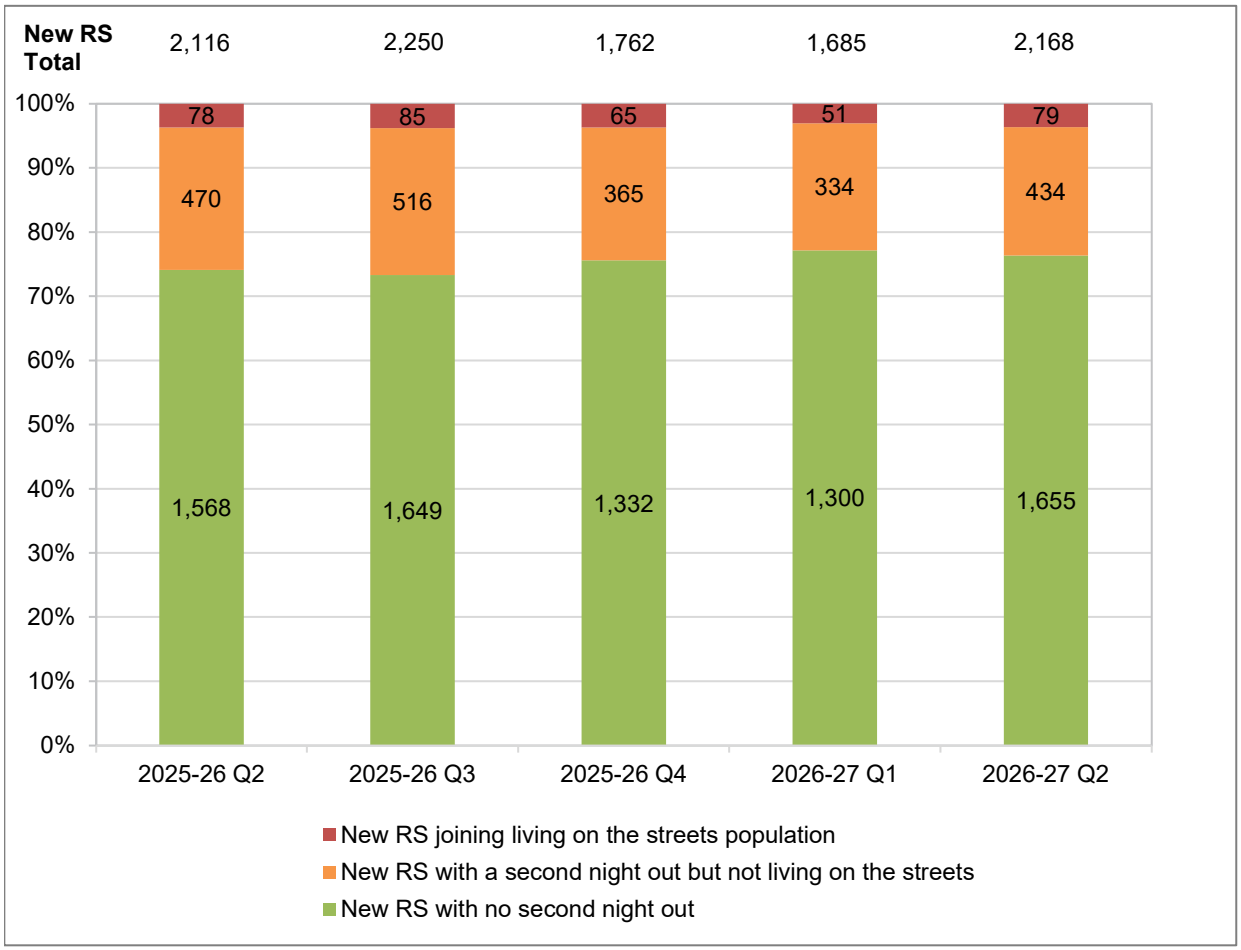


Table 2: New rough sleepers in 2026-27 Q2, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
New RS with no second night out	1,655
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	434
New RS joining living on the streets population	79
Total	**2,168**

New RS = New rough sleepers

All London Boroughs: No One Living on the Streets

Chart 2: People living on the streets 2025-26 Q2 to 2026-27 Q2

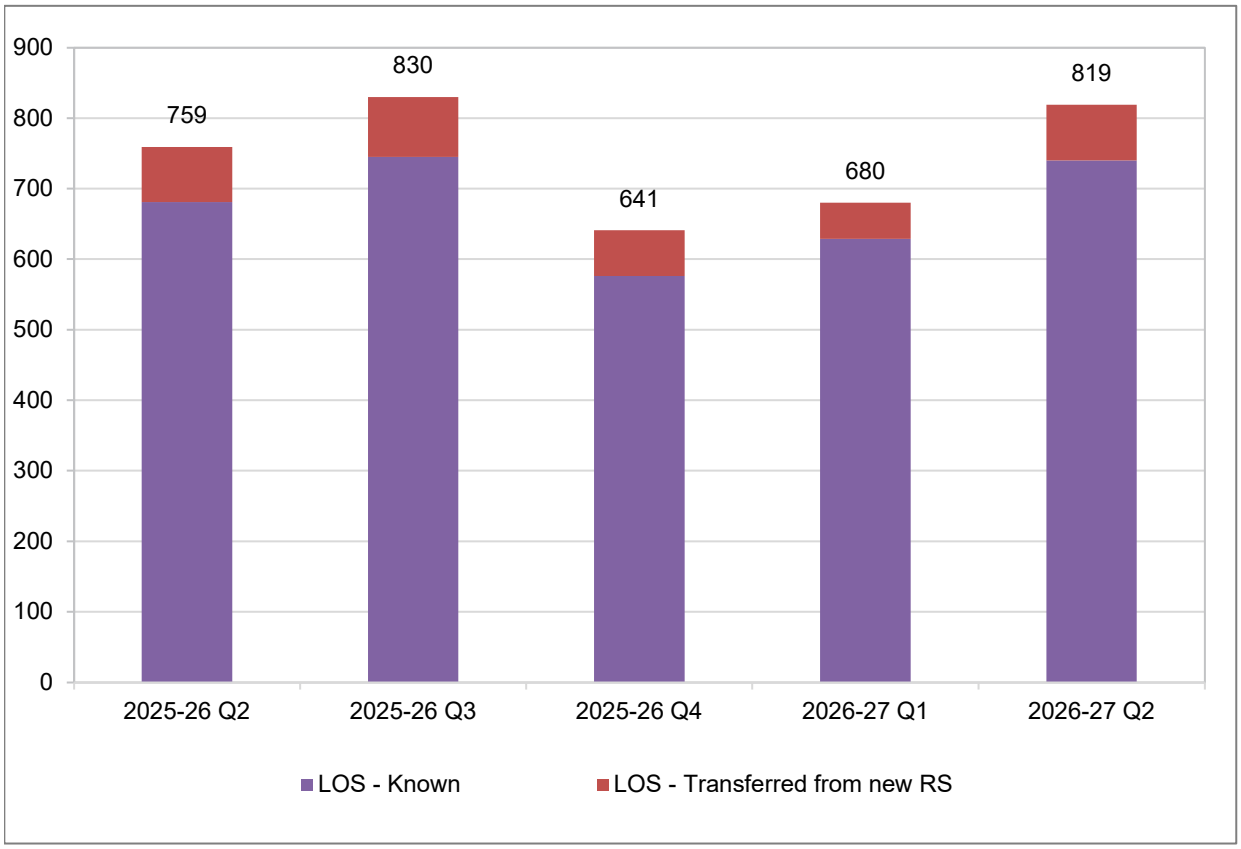


Table 3: People living on the streets in 2026-27 Q2, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
LOS - Transferred from new RS	79
LOS - Known	740
Total	**819**

All London Boroughs: Intermittent Rough Sleepers

Chart 3: Intermittent rough sleepers 2025-26 Q2 to 2026-27 Q2

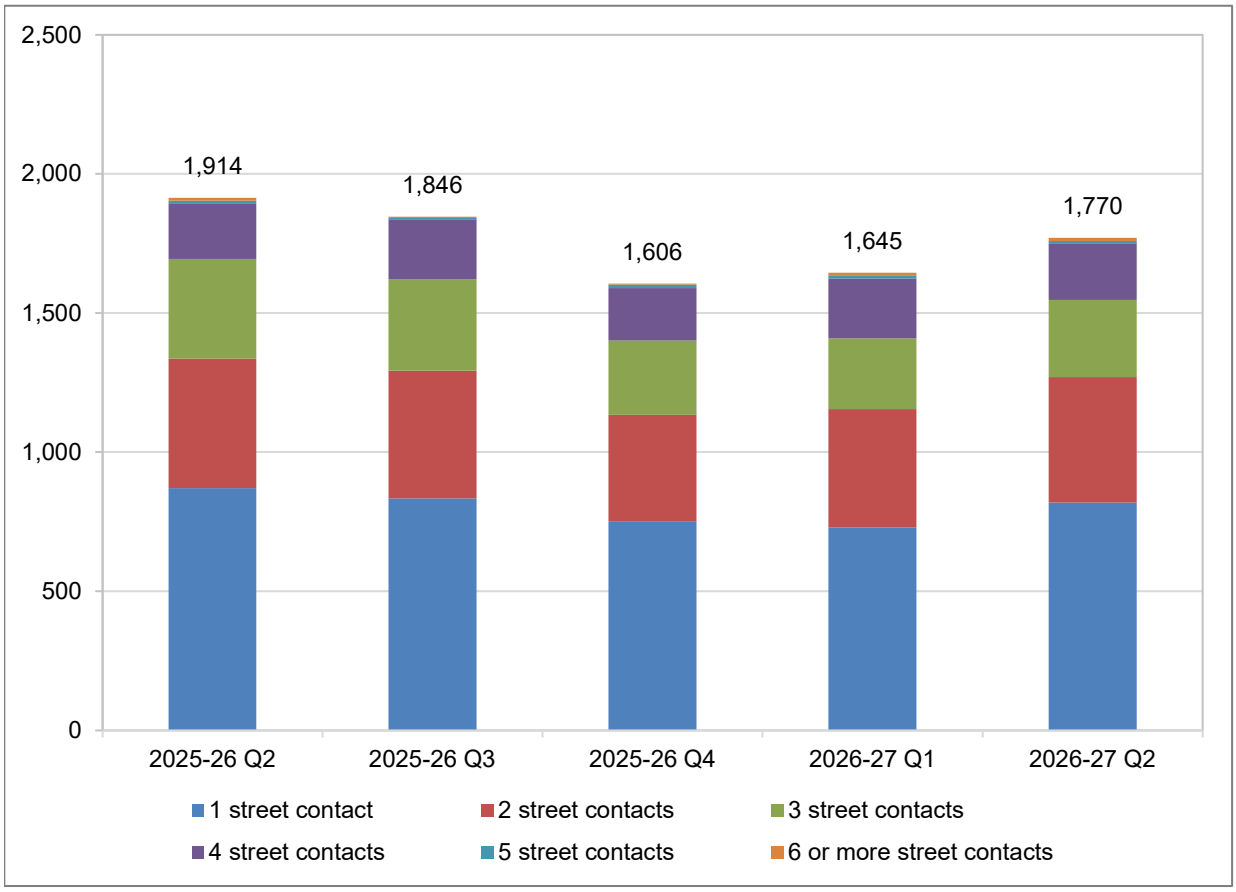


Table 4: Intermittent rough sleepers in 2026-27 Q2, by number of bedded down contacts during the period

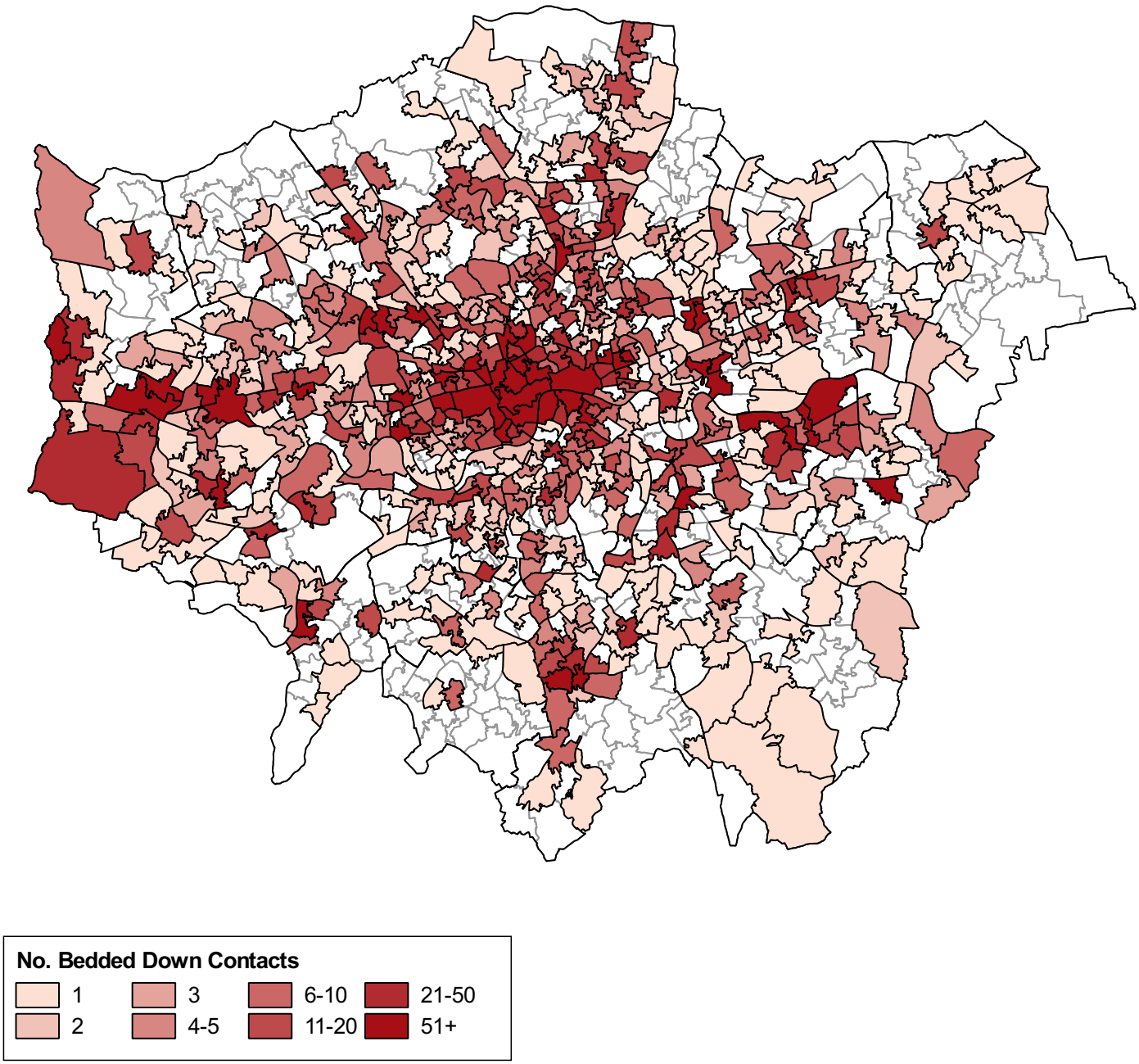
No. bedded down street contacts during this period	No. intermittent rough sleepers
1 street contact	818
2 street contacts	452
3 street contacts	277
4 street contacts	204
5 street contacts	8
6 or more street contacts	11
Total	**1,770**

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Bedded down street contacts by area: Greater London level

It is important to note that this map represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area. Recording of street contacts is to some extent influenced by outreach provision and practice, which can vary across local authority areas.

Map 1: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Middle Super Output Area across Greater London during the period



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4. NATIONALITY

Nationality: Rolling figures

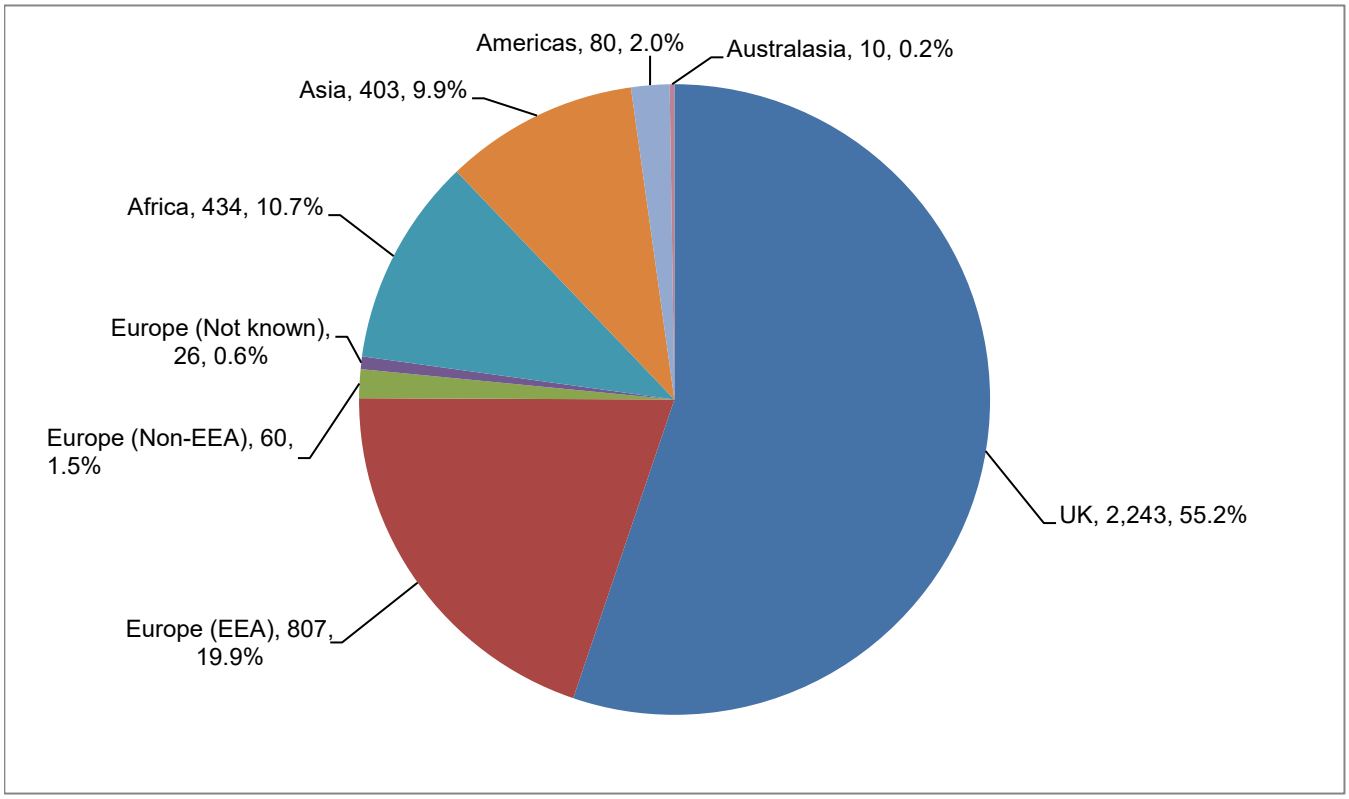
Table 5: People seen rough sleeping 2025-26 Q4 to 2026-27 Q2 by nationality

	Jan-Mar 26		Apr-Jun 26		Jul-Sep 26	
Nationality	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
UK	1,749	50.4%	1,921	54.4%	2,243	55.2%
Romania	260	7.5%	264	7.5%	281	6.9%
Poland	119	3.4%	125	3.5%	169	4.2%
Lithuania	37	1.1%	43	1.2%	53	1.3%
Portugal	34	1.0%	36	1.0%	41	1.0%
Ireland (Republic of)	42	1.2%	50	1.4%	57	1.4%
Bulgaria	35	1.0%	35	1.0%	42	1.0%
Italy	30	0.9%	31	0.9%	39	1.0%
France	16	0.5%	21	0.6%	26	0.6%
Spain	17	0.5%	16	0.5%	18	0.4%
Latvia	13	0.4%	14	0.4%	14	0.3%
Other European (EEA) countries	50	1.4%	53	1.5%	67	1.6%
Europe (EEA)	653	18.8%	688	19.5%	807	19.9%
Europe (Non-EEA)	38	1.1%	46	1.3%	60	1.5%
Europe (Not known)	30	0.9%	16	0.5%	26	0.6%
Eritrea	172	5.0%	89	2.5%	64	1.6%
Sudan	99	2.9%	72	2.0%	65	1.6%
Nigeria	49	1.4%	54	1.5%	68	1.7%
Ethiopia	25	0.7%	19	0.5%	13	0.3%
Somalia	35	1.0%	27	0.8%	31	0.8%
Other African countries	166	4.8%	168	4.8%	193	4.8%
Africa	546	15.7%	429	12.1%	434	10.7%
India	169	4.9%	134	3.8%	168	4.1%
Afghanistan	50	1.4%	49	1.4%	39	1.0%
Iran	46	1.3%	33	0.9%	37	0.9%
Pakistan	18	0.5%	20	0.6%	23	0.6%
Bangladesh	20	0.6%	20	0.6%	18	0.4%
Other Asian countries	92	2.7%	107	3.0%	118	2.9%
Asia	395	11.4%	363	10.3%	403	9.9%
Americas	56	1.6%	62	1.8%	80	2.0%
Australasia	3	0.1%	7	0.2%	10	0.2%
Not known	*474*		*427*		*615*	
Total (excl. not known)	**3,470**	**100.0%**	**3,532**	**100.0%**	**4,063**	**100.0%**
Total (incl. not known)	3,944		3,959		4,678	

Total excluding not known is used as the base for percentages.

Nationality: Breakdown by area

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by nationality

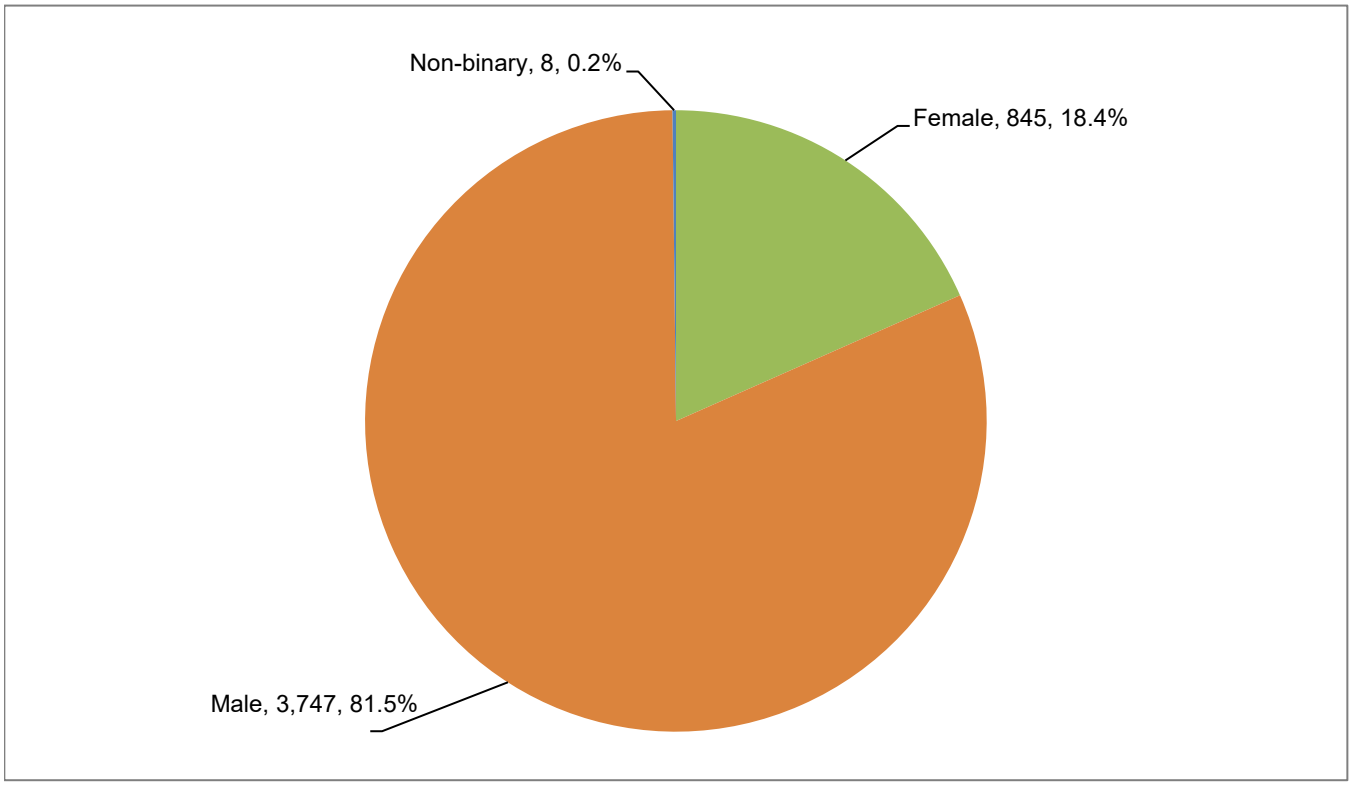


Base: 4,063 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 615 people whose nationality was not known.

5. DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by gender



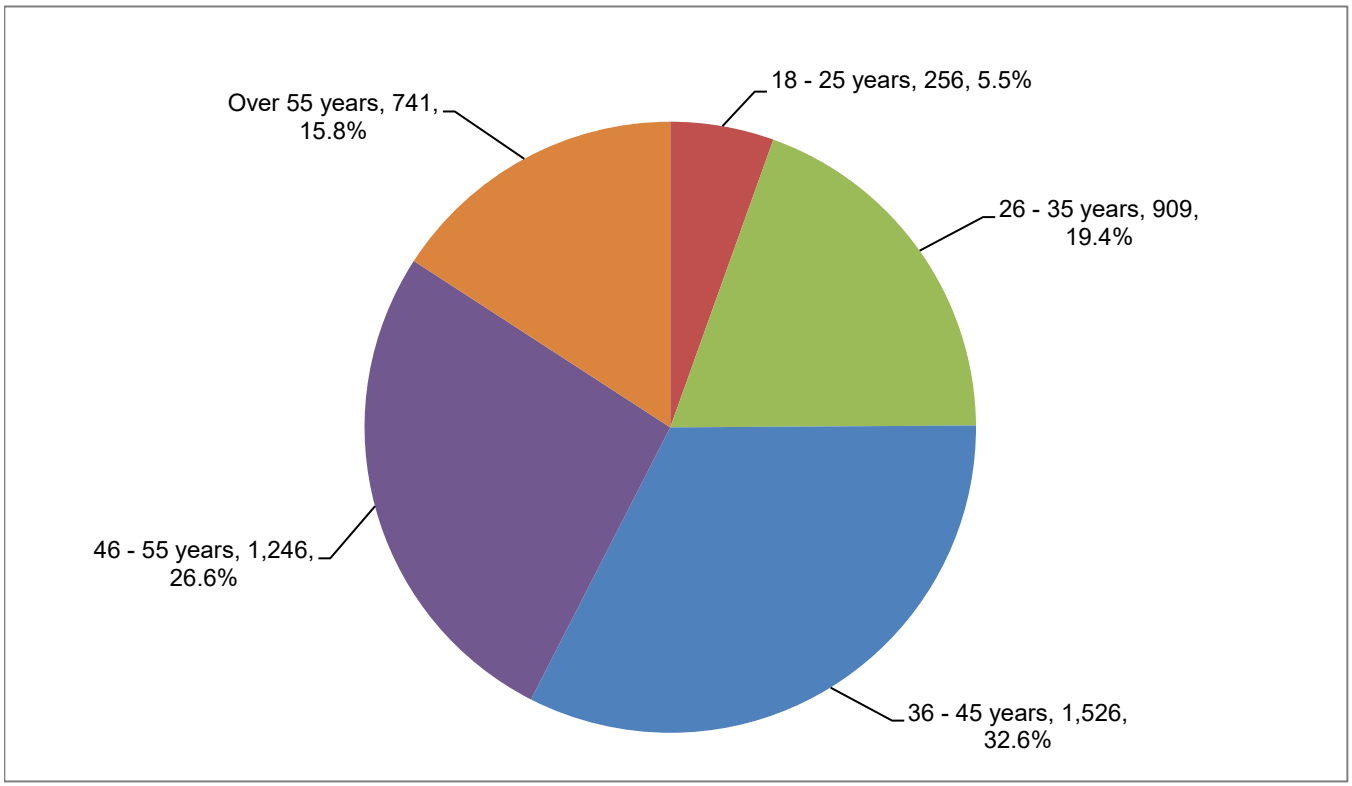
Base: 4,600 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 78 people whose gender was not known.

Table 6: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q2, by gender

Gender	No.	%
Female	845	18.4%
Male	3,747	81.5%
Non-binary	8	0.2%
Not known	78	
Total (excl. not known)	**4,600**	**100.0%**
Total (incl. not known)	**4,678**	

Age

Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by age



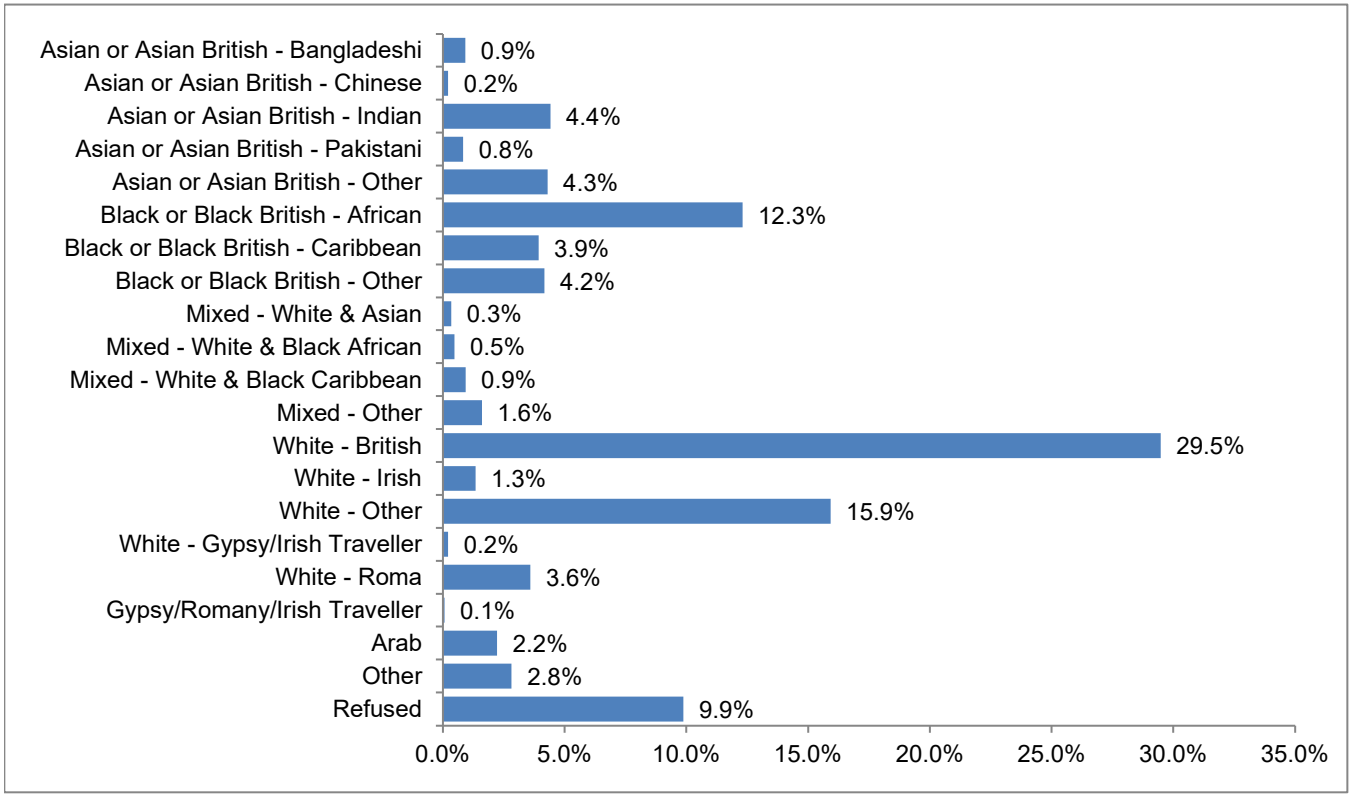
Base: 4,678 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 7: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q2, by age

Age	No.	%
Under 18 years	0	0.0%
18 - 25 years	256	5.5%
26 - 35 years	909	19.4%
36 - 45 years	1,526	32.6%
46 - 55 years	1,246	26.6%
Over 55 years	741	15.8%
Total	**4,678**	**100.0%**

Ethnicity

Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by ethnicity



Base: 4,678 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

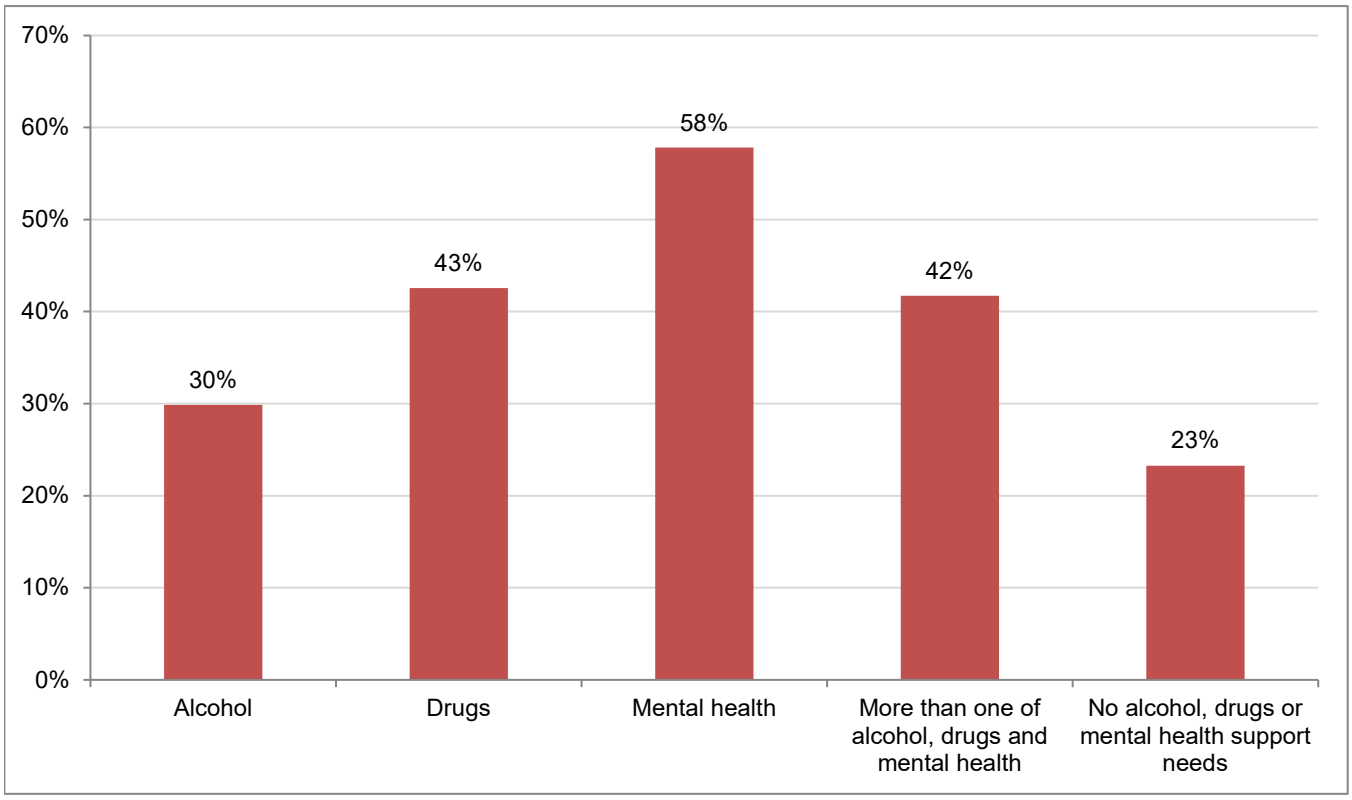
The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' was replaced with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma' in April 2021. However, many people seen rough sleeping during the period may not have had their ethnicity information updated to reflect these new categories, so the original category is also included in the graph.

Table 8: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q2, by ethnicity

Ethnicity	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	500	10.7%
Black	955	20.4%
Mixed	157	3.4%
White (incl. Gypsy/Irish Traveller/Roma)	2,368	50.6%
Arab/Other	236	5.0%
Refused	462	9.9%
Total	**4,678**	**100.0%**

6. SUPPORT NEEDS

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by support needs



Base: 3,285 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 1,393 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by support needs

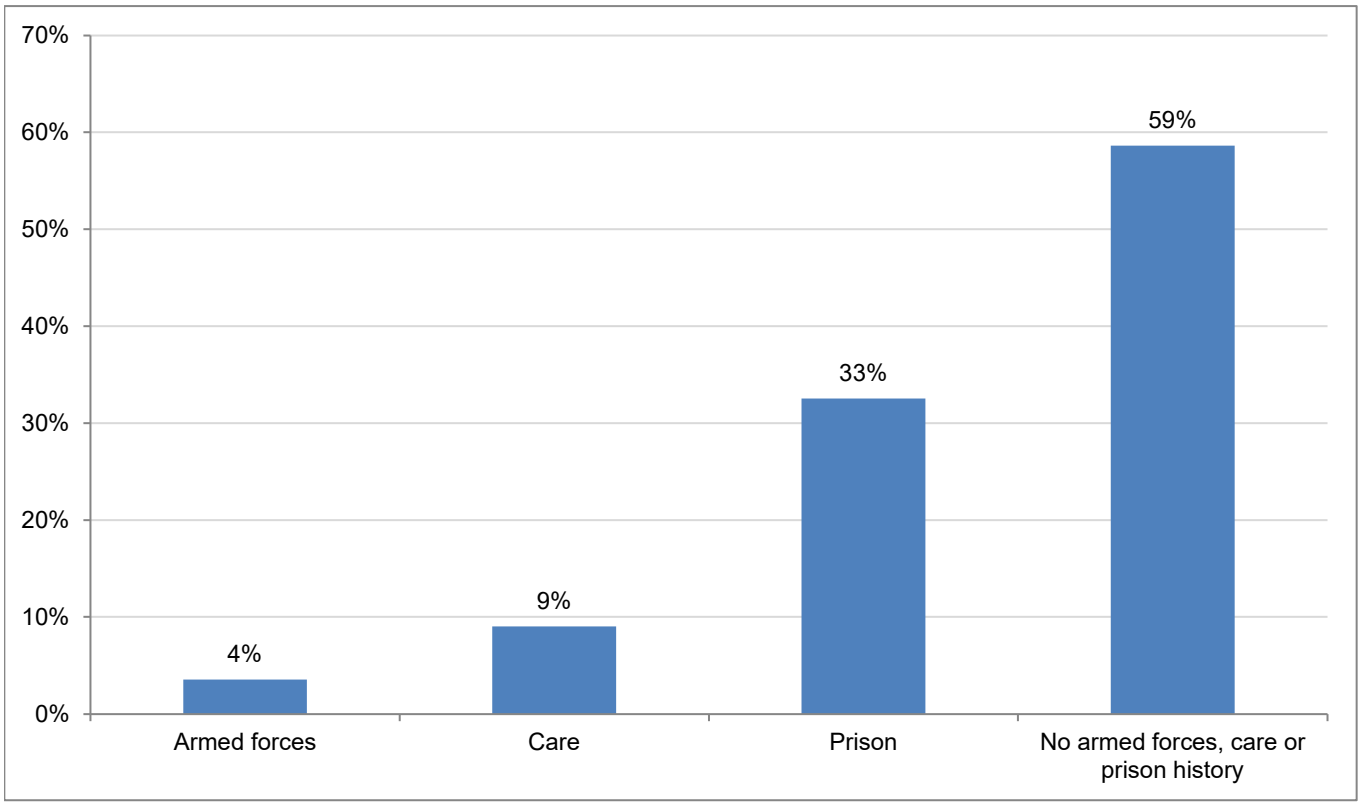
Support need	No.	%
Alcohol	981	29.9%
Drugs	1,398	42.6%
Mental health	1,899	57.8%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	1,370	41.7%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	764	23.3%
Total (excl. not assessed)	**3,285**	
Total (incl. not assessed)	**4,678**	

Base for percentages is people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs.

7. INSTITUTIONAL & ARMED FORCES HISTORY

The chart below indicates the proportions of people seen rough sleeping in Greater London during the period who had experience of spending time in prison or in local authority care as a young person, or of serving in the armed forces. This information indicates whether individuals have ever spent time in one of these settings, and does not necessarily imply that this was recent. It can include time spent in one of these settings in any country, and does not necessarily imply that it was in the UK.

Chart 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by experience of armed forces, care or prison



Base: 3,240 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 1,438 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 10: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q2, by institutional and armed forces history

Type of history	No.	%
Armed forces	115	3.5%
Armed forces - UK nationals	49	1.5%
Care	292	9.0%
Prison	1,054	32.5%
No armed forces, care or prison history	1,900	58.6%
Total (excl. not assessed)	**3,240**	
Total (incl. not assessed)	**4,678**	

Base for percentages is people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three histories.

8. ACCOMMODATION OUTCOMES

Bookings into accommodation achieved by outreach teams, No Second Night Out, and other support services during the period. People included in these figures will have been seen rough sleeping at some point in their history, but not necessarily during the reporting period.

Table 11: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2026-27 Q2, compared to 2026-27 Q1, by number of people

	Apr-Jun 26	Jul-Sep 26
Outcome	**No. people**	**No. people**
Booked into accommodation	1,406	1,415
Booked into hub, shelter or emergency accommodation	607	551
Booked into temporary accommodation	779	783
Booked into long-term accommodation	374	407

Some people may have been booked into more than one type of accommodation during the period.

Table 12: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2026-27 Q2, compared to 2026-27 Q1, by number of outcomes

	Apr-Jun 26		Jul-Sep 26	
Accommodation type	**No. events**	**%**	**No. events**	**%**
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation				
Hub	523	27.2%	518	27.7%
SWEP (Local)	83	4.3%	27	1.4%
SWEP (Pan-London)	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Winter/night shelter	16	0.8%	10	0.5%
Other	27	1.4%	24	1.3%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal	*649*	*33.8%*	*580*	*31.0%*
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	165	8.6%	152	8.1%
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	14	0.7%	11	0.6%
B&B (not local authority TA)	114	5.9%	119	6.4%
Clinic/detox/rehab	8	0.4%	3	0.2%
Hostel	155	8.1%	165	8.8%
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	7	0.4%	14	0.7%
Staging post	144	7.5%	139	7.4%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	234	12.2%	224	12.0%
Other	53	2.8%	46	2.5%
Temporary accommodation subtotal	*894*	*46.5%*	*873*	*46.7%*
Long-term accommodation				
Clearing House	33	1.7%	35	1.9%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	16	0.8%	14	0.7%
Employment-related accommodation	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	8	0.4%	10	0.5%
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	13	0.7%	16	0.9%
Private rented sector - independent	78	4.1%	109	5.8%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	79	4.1%	97	5.2%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	7	0.4%	8	0.4%
Supported accommodation (long-term)	132	6.9%	117	6.3%
Other	12	0.6%	9	0.5%
Long-term accommodation subtotal	*378*	*19.7%*	*416*	*22.3%*
Total	**1,921**	**100.0%**	**1,869**	**100.0%**

An individual may have been booked into accommodation more than once during the period.

9. METHODOLOGY

CHAIN quarterly reports employ the methodology of assigning people seen rough sleeping during the period to categories, based on the following factors:

- Whether they were seen rough sleeping for the first time during the period
- How many times they were seen rough sleeping during the period
- Number of days elapsed between first and last time they were seen rough sleeping during the period

A further explanation of the individual categories follows.

New rough sleepers

People who were seen rough sleeping for the first time during the period. The total number of new rough sleepers is broken down into those who were seen just once and did not have a second night out, those who were seen on several occasions, but as yet have not been on the streets long enough to count as 'living on the streets', and those new to the streets who remained there long enough to fulfil the criteria for 'living on the streets' (outlined below).

Living on the streets (LOS)

With the designation 'living on the streets' we refer to people who have stayed on the streets after arriving, and are entrenched or at risk of becoming so. In determining who is counted as living on the streets we have used a combination of time on the streets (three or more weeks between the earliest and latest bedded down contact) and number of bedded down contacts (five or more contacts) during the period we are reporting on. If a person is seen bedded down six times, but only during one week, he or she does not count. If a person has four bedded down contacts, but spread over two months, he or she would also not count. To be counted, an individual must have both elements.

The reporting period covers three months. However, to ensure that we do not miss those whose rough sleeping crosses over reporting periods, we look back for the three weeks immediately before the start of the three month reporting period. For an individual in these circumstances, if they are not seen again, he or she will not be reported living on the streets in the next period.

The LOS total will include some who were new to the streets in the period, but whose stay extended beyond three weeks and who were seen bedded down at least five times - these are transferred from the new rough sleeper figures (shown in red in both section one and two of the report).

It is important to note that an individual who is included in the LOS total will not necessarily have been living on the streets for the entirety of the quarter in question, but they were living on the streets for a significant period during the quarter. The LOS total will also include some who are no longer on the streets, having gone into accommodation (or disappeared). They will not appear in the subsequent LOS total. An individual will only count as LOS during a period in which they meet the above criteria.

Intermittent rough sleepers

Intermittent rough sleepers are those people who are not new in this period, and have not been seen rough sleeping enough to be deemed living on the streets. This group includes those who sleep rough periodically for very short periods. It also will include those who return to the streets for a longer period (but, in this period, less than the 'living on the streets' definition). Those that go on to be living on the streets will appear in that category in the next period.

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