CHAIN ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER LONDON

APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022

CHAIN

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1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

Introduction

This report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London between April 2021 and March 2022. Information in the report is derived from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN), a multi-agency database recording information about rough sleepers and the wider street population in London. CHAIN represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping, and is commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA). The system is now managed by Homeless Link, but was managed by St Mungo's during the period covered by this report.

Services that record information on CHAIN include outreach teams, accommodation projects and specialist projects such as the GLA commissioned No Second Night Out (NSNO) assessment and reconnection service. The system allows users to share information about work done with rough sleepers and about their needs, ensuring that they receive the most appropriate support and that efforts are not duplicated. Reports from the system are used at an operational level by commissioning bodies to monitor the effectiveness of their services, and at a more strategic level by policy makers to gather intelligence about trends within the rough sleeping population and to identify emerging needs.

CHAIN data differs fundamentally from national street count statistics which are released by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Information recorded on CHAIN constitutes an ongoing record of all work done year-round by outreach teams in London, covering every single shift they carry out. In this sense it is much more comprehensive than street count data, which represents a snapshot of people seen rough sleeping on a single night. However, street count data tends to be referenced more regularly when analysing trends nationwide, as most other areas of the UK do not operate equivalent systems to CHAIN for recording their general work with rough sleepers.

In this report, people are counted as having been seen rough sleeping if they have been encountered by a commissioned outreach worker bedded down on the street, or in other open spaces or locations not designed for habitation, such as doorways, stairwells, parks or derelict buildings. The report does not include people from "hidden homeless" groups such as those "sofa surfing" or living in squats, unless they have also been seen bedded down in one of the settings outlined above.

The final section of the report presents information about people arriving at or departing from temporary accommodation for rough sleepers in London. People included in this section will have been seen rough sleeping in London at some point in their history, but not necessarily during 2021/22.

This report presents the full set of key annual data from CHAIN, for those wanting the most in-depth view. A shorter summary of findings and commentary on the figures is also available in the CHAIN 2021/22 Annual Bulletin, which can be downloaded from the GLA Datastore at http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports.

Key Findings

A total of 8,329 people were seen rough sleeping in London during 2021/22. This is a 24% decrease compared to the total of 11,018 people seen in 2020/21, following previous increases of 3% between 2019/20 and 2020/21, and 21% between 2018/19 and 2019/20. Within the 8,329 overall total, 5,091 were new rough sleepers (also referred to as 'flow'), who had never been seen bedded down in London prior to this year, and this group accounted for the greatest proportion of the decrease in numbers from 2020/21. It should be noted that, notwithstanding the large reduction in the total compared to last year, the figure for 2021/22 is still 29% higher than the total of 6,437 people recorded rough sleeping in London ten years ago, in 2012/13.

It is likely that the reduction in the number of people seen rough sleeping in London in 2021/22 can be attributed at least in part to the effects of the Government's Everyone In initiative, which was launched in March 2020 with the aim of ending rough sleeping during the Covid-19 pandemic. The influence of this on the 2020/21 figures may have been masked somewhat by the large number of people recorded at the very start of the year, meaning that the full benefit has not become apparent in the annual figures until 2021/22, even as much of the Everyone In support began to be phased out.

Homelessness services worked to help 3,865 people who were seen rough sleeping during 2021/22 into any type of accommodation (i.e. 46% of all rough sleepers in the year). Alongside this work, 570 people seen rough sleeping in the year were assisted to reconnect to their home area or country, where they have more options available to them (i.e. 6% of all people seen rough sleeping in the period). In total, 3,963 people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 were either helped into accommodation or to reconnect, which represents 48% of all rough sleepers seen during the year. It should be noted that this does not necessarily mean that the other 52% of people seen rough sleeping during the year are still rough sleeping, as many of them will no longer be in contact with services and may have found their own solutions. The overall proportion of 48% of people seen rough sleeping helped into accommodation or to reconnect during 2021/22 compares to a proportion of 56% for people seen rough sleeping in 2020/21 (when a large number of people were accommodated under the Everyone In initiative), and 42% in 2019/20.

Percentage figures in this report

Please note that, in some cases, percentage figures given in this report are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. This may mean that individual figures in tables and charts do not add up to a combined total of 100%, or that there could be small discrepancies between percentage figures in tables and corresponding charts or commentary.

Glossary of acronyms used in this report

ASB: Anti-Social Behaviour
Defined in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) as acting 'in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator.'

CEE: Central and Eastern European
Used to denote the ten A8 and A2 European Union accession countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia).

CHAIN: Combined Homelessness and Information Network
A multi-agency database recording information about rough sleepers and the wider street population in London, commissioned and funded by the GLA and managed by Homeless Link. The system was managed by St Mungo's prior to April 2022.

EEA: European Economic Area
The 27 countries of the European Union (EU), plus a further three countries that are part of the EU's single market (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). Common usage generally also includes Switzerland, whose citizens have the same rights to live and work in the UK as other EEA nationals.

GLA: Greater London Authority
The top-tier administrative body for Greater London, consisting of a directly elected executive Mayor of London, and an elected 25-member London Assembly.

NSNO: No Second Night Out
A GLA commissioned assessment and reconnection project for rough sleepers. The service originally specifically targeted new rough sleepers, but from October 2014 onwards it has also worked with rough sleepers who are living on the streets. The term is also used in other contexts to refer to a wider strategy to end rough sleeping, both in London and nationwide.

RSI: Rough Sleeping Initiative
Cross-government plan of action, announced in March 2018, to significantly reduce the number of people sleeping rough in England and Wales. The RSI acronym has also previously been used to refer to the 1990s Rough Sleepers Initiative, which was successful in reducing rough sleeping at that time.

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

2.1 Number of people seen rough sleeping: Flow, stock, returner model

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by the flow, stock and returner model.
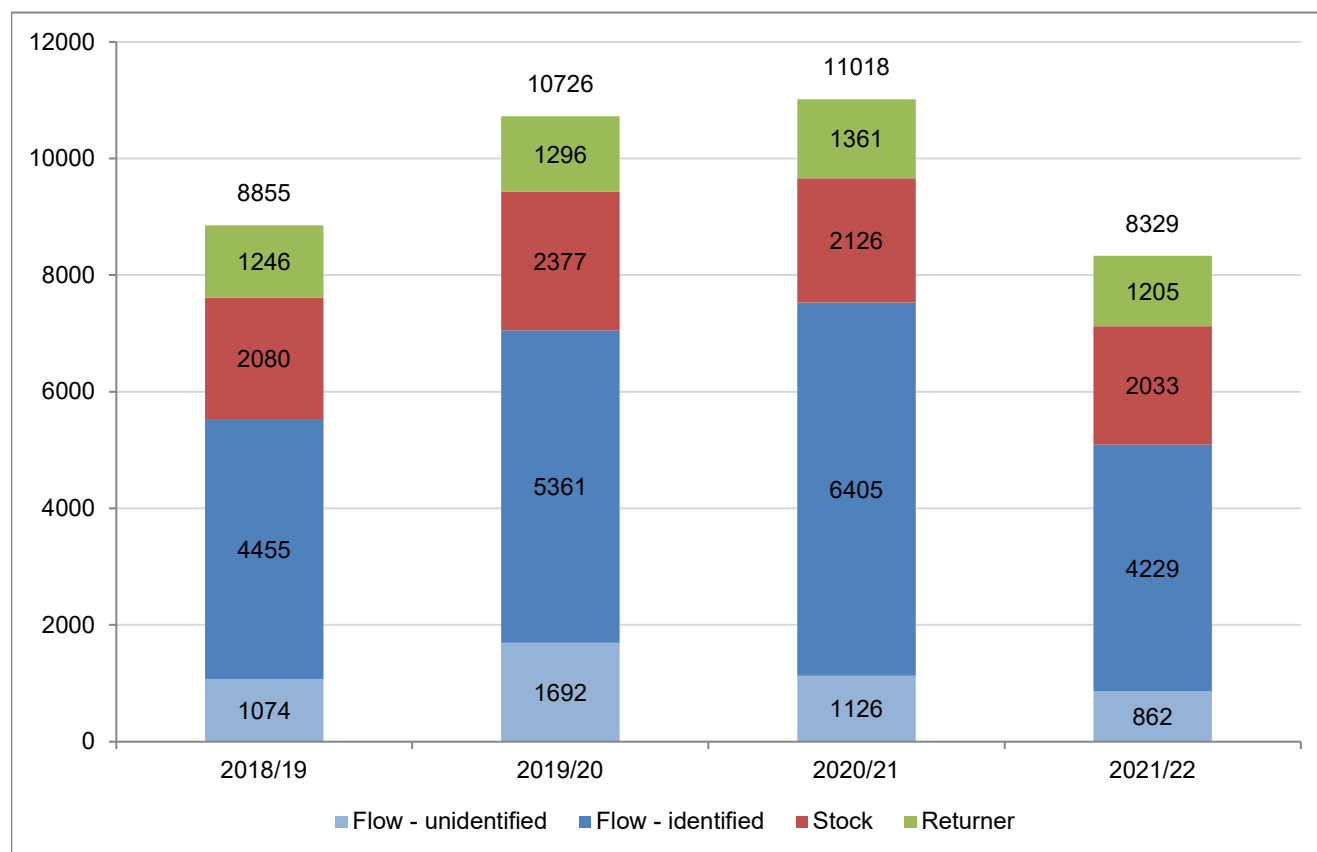
2018/19 base: 8855
2019/20 base: 10726
2020/21 base: 11018
2021/22 base: 8329

The flow, stock and returner model categorises people seen rough sleeping in the year according to whether they have also been seen rough sleeping in previous periods:

Category	Description
Flow	People who had never been seen rough sleeping prior to 2021/22 (i.e. new rough sleepers). Those within this category are further subdivided as follows:
	Unidentified - those new rough sleepers recorded without a name, and with only one contact.
	Identified - those new rough sleepers recorded with a name, and/or with more than one contact.
Stock	People who were also seen rough sleeping in 2020/21 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).
Returner	People who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2020/21, but were not seen during 2020/21 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).

8,329 people were seen rough sleeping in London in 2021/22, which is a 24% decrease compared to the total of 11,018 people seen in 2020/21. This compares to a 3% increase between 2019/20 and 2020/21, and a 21% increase between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

57% of people were seen rough sleeping just once during the year. This is slightly lower than the 62% seen just once in 2020/21, and the 60% seen just once in 2019/20.

5,091 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time this year (also referred to as flow). This is a 32% decrease on the number of new rough sleepers in 2020/21. By comparison, there was a 7% increase in the number of new rough sleepers between 2019/20 and 2020/21, and a 28% increase in the number of new rough sleepers between 2018/19 and 2019/20. 71% of people who were new to the streets were seen rough sleeping just once. This is similar to the proportion of 73% seen just once in both 2020/21 and 2019/20.

2,033 people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 were in the stock group. This is a 4% decrease on the stock figure for 2020/21, compared to an 11% decrease between 2019/20 and 2020/21, and a 14% increase between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

1,205 people seen rough sleeping during the year were returners. This compares to 1,361 in 2020/21, representing a decrease of 11%, compared to increases of 5% between 2019/20 and 2020/21, and 4% between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

All three groups have shown decreases in their numbers between 2020/21 and 2021/22, but the drop in the number of new rough sleepers has been the most marked.

2.2 Number of people seen rough sleeping: Long range trend

People seen rough sleeping by year, over the last ten years.
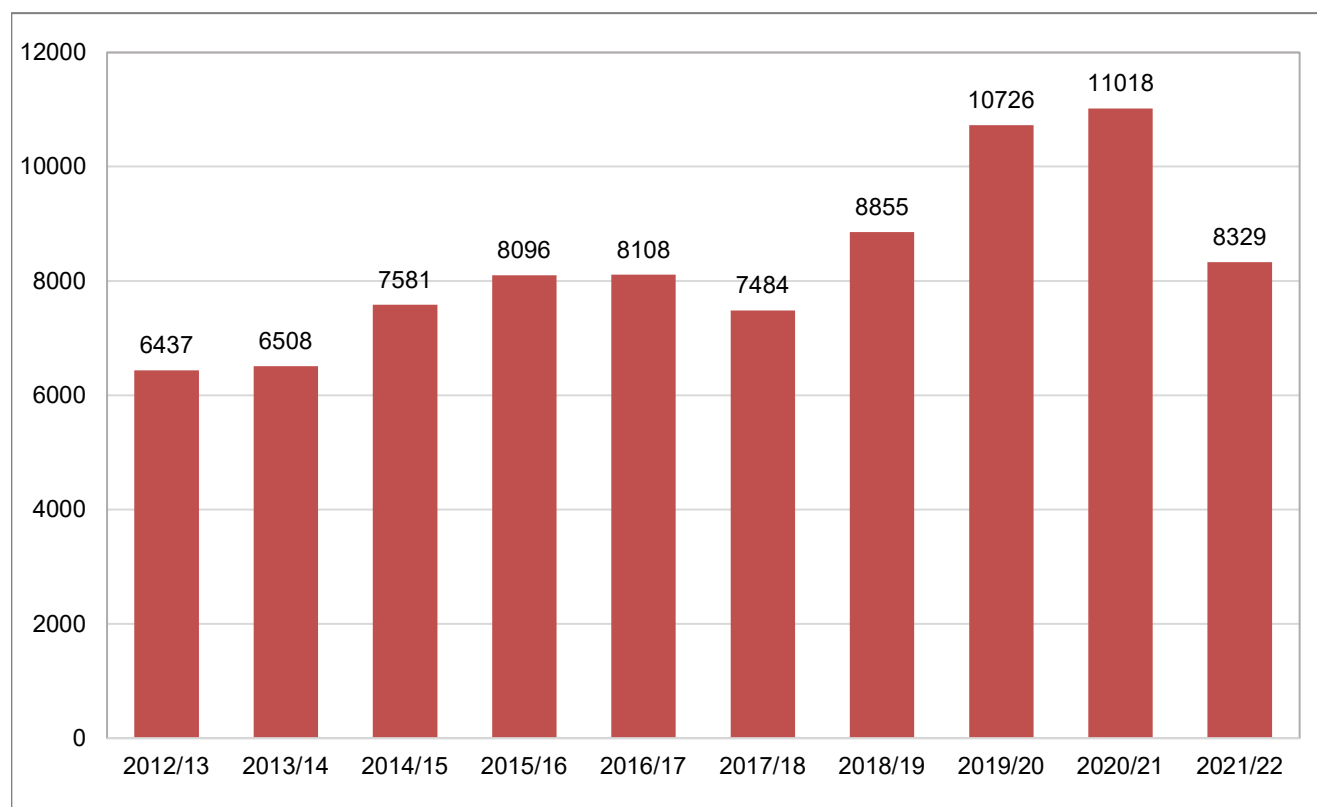
Across the last ten years, the number of people recorded rough sleeping on CHAIN has risen year on year, with the exception of 2017/18, and 2021/22. The 24% decrease in the number of people seen rough sleeping between 2020/21 and 2021/22 is the largest reduction during the ten year period covered by this chart.

The 8,329 people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 is the lowest annual total since 2017/18, but is still 29% higher than the total of 6,437 recorded in 2012/13.

The reduction in the total number of people seen rough sleeping during 2021/22 has been particularly influenced by the lower number of new rough sleepers arriving on the streets during the period. It is likely that the overall reduction in people recorded rough sleeping is at least in part due to the additional resources that have been put into addressing rough sleeping during the pandemic under the Government's Everyone In initiative. Although this initiative started in March 2020, the impact was masked in the 2020/21 CHAIN total by the high starting point at the beginning of that year. The monthly line graph in section 2.5 of this report shows that there was a steady reduction in numbers through 2020/21, followed by maintenance at that lower level during 2021/22.

2.3 Number of times seen rough sleeping

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by number of times seen rough sleeping.
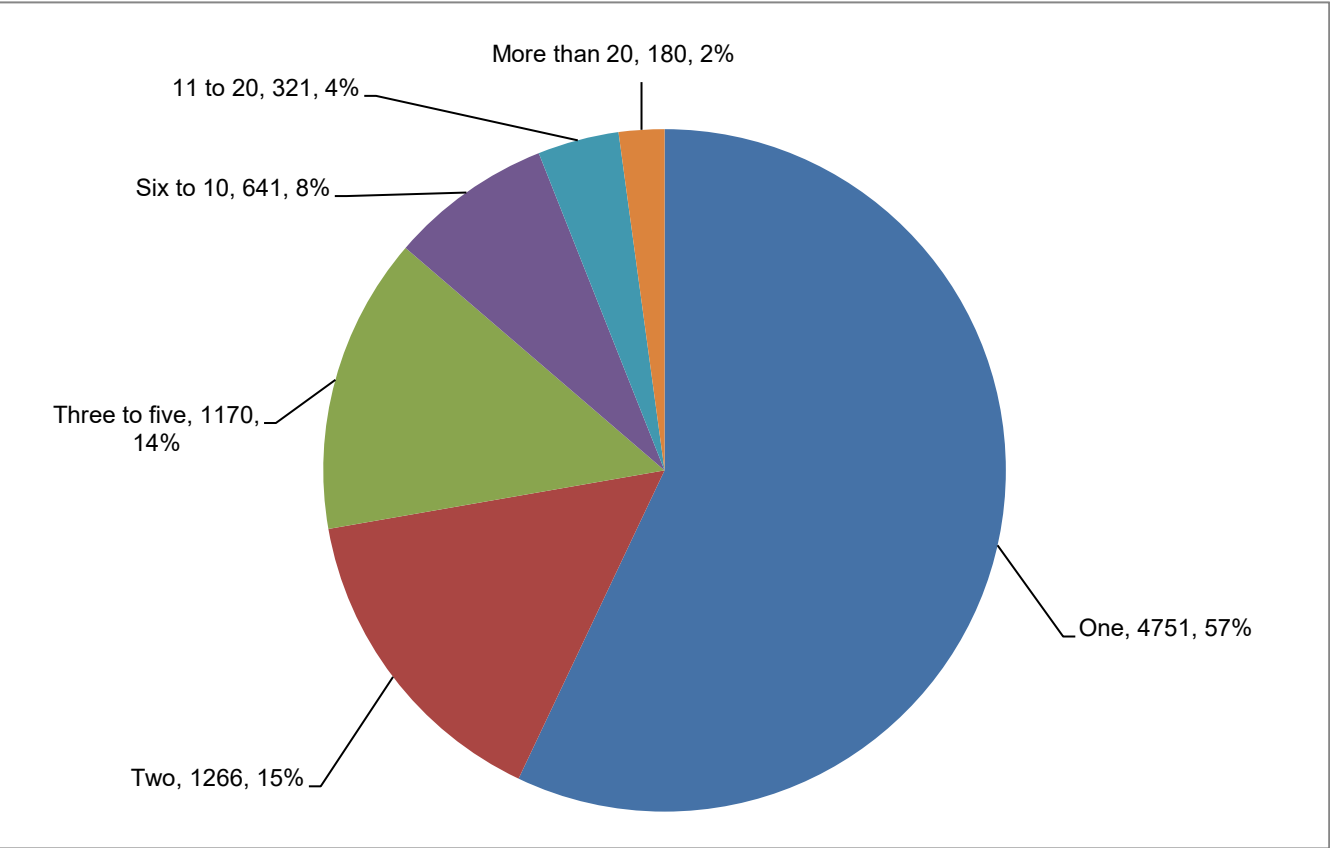
Base: 8329

4,751 (57%) people were seen rough sleeping only once in 2021/22, which compares to 6,870 (62%) seen rough sleeping just once in 2020/21. It is probable that the slight reduction in the proportion of people seen once relates to the decrease in the number and proportion of new rough sleepers in 2021/22, as people in this category tend to be less likely to be recorded on multiple occasions.

Just over one in twenty (6%) of people recorded rough sleeping in 2021/22 were seen more than ten times. Nineteen people were seen rough sleeping more than 50 times in the year, compared to thirteen people with this many contacts in 2020/21, and three in 2019/20.

2.4 Number of quarters seen rough sleeping

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by number of separate quarters in the year within which they were seen.
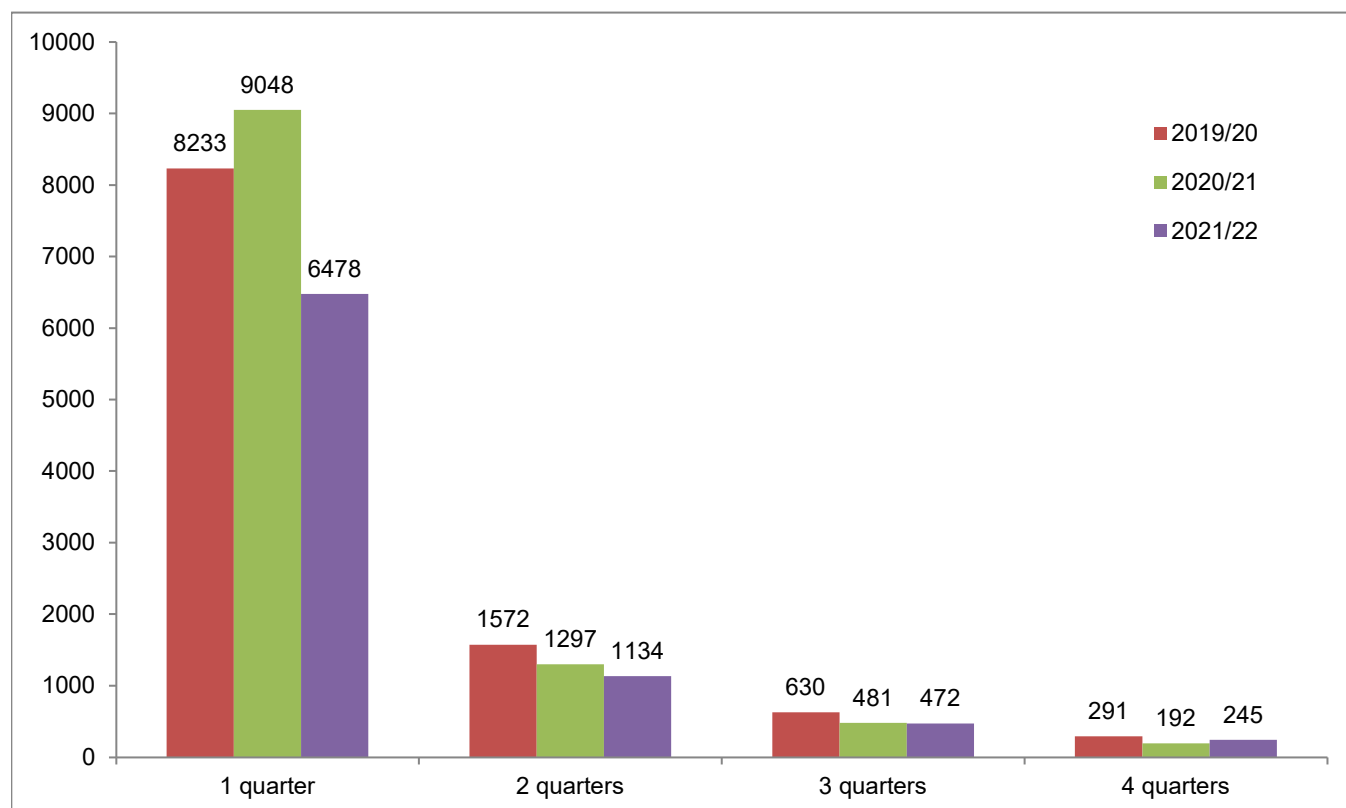
2019/20 base: 10726
2020/21 base: 11018
2021/22 base: 8329

Number of quarters of the year within which rough sleepers were seen	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers
One	8233	77%	9048	82%	6478	78%
Two	1572	15%	1297	12%	1134	14%
Three	630	6%	481	4%	472	6%
Four	291	3%	192	2%	245	3%
Total	**10726**	**100%**	**11018**	**100%**	**8329**	**100%**

The chart and table above show how many people were seen in one, two, three or all four quarters during each of the last three years. It is important to be aware that the figures for each year are limited to the year in question, and people may have also been seen in previous or subsequent years. Just over three quarters (78%) of those seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 were only seen in one quarter of the year. 3% of those seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 were seen bedded down in all four quarters of the year, suggesting that their rough sleeping is an ongoing issue and was not successfully resolved.

The proportion of people seen rough sleeping in just one quarter of the year has decreased slightly compared to 2020/21, when 82% fell into this category.

2.5 Monthly rough sleeping trend

Number of people seen rough sleeping per month, since April 2017.
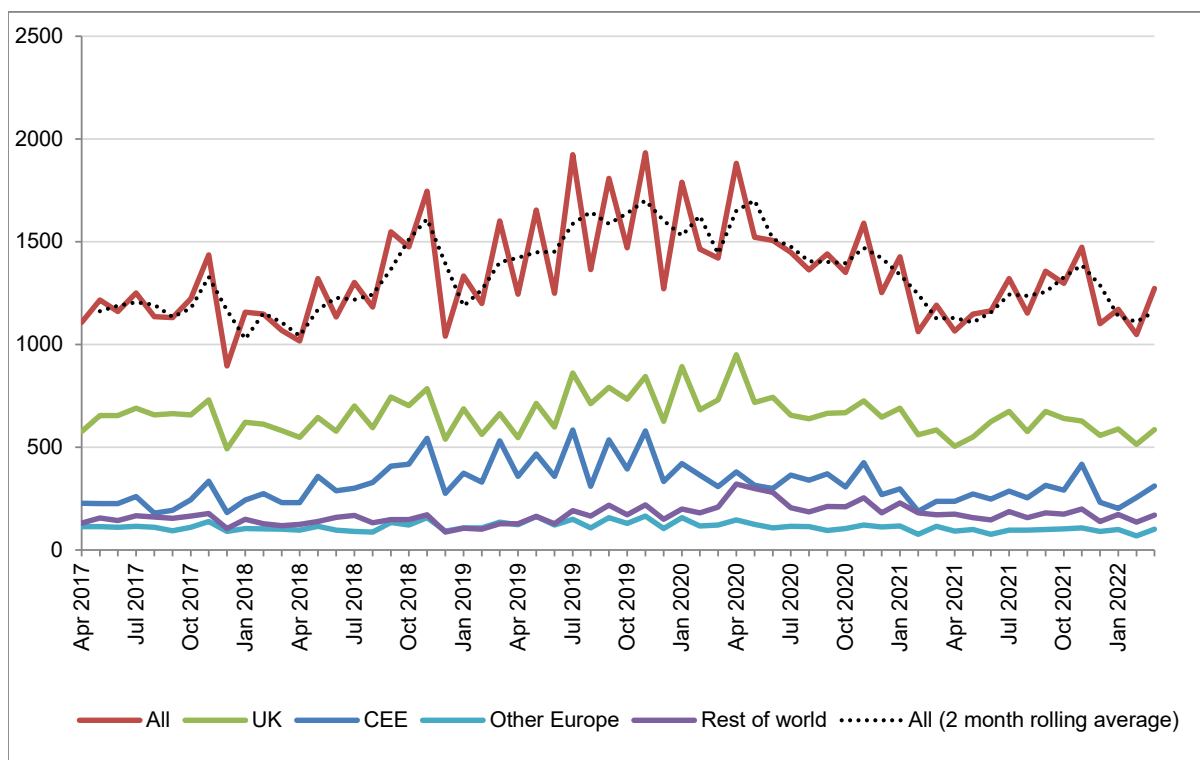
The chart above shows the monthly trend in numbers of people seen rough sleeping over the last five years, broken down by nationality group.

The All line shows overall numbers seen rough sleeping per month. Historically (including periods prior to that shown in this chart), the typical trend includes an annual peak in November, when the Government's annual street count takes place, with the lowest numbers usually recorded in December, when winter shelters come into operation. However, peaks and troughs became much more frequent between late 2018 and early 2020, during which time bimonthly street counts were introduced as part of the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative. The All (2 month rolling average) line smooths out these variations to give a clearer indication of the ongoing trend.

The pattern for the last two years shows further variation from previous periods. There was a peak in April 2020, which appears to be related to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated lockdown. Following that early peak, the ongoing trend throughout the rest of 2020/21 was a decline in numbers seen rough sleeping, which coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic and Government's Everyone In initiative. This downward trend bottomed out in winter 2020/21, followed by a return to regular seasonal patterns, albeit at a lower level, during 2021/22.

The lowest monthly total during 2021/22 was recorded in February 2022, when 1,048 people were seen rough sleeping. The highest monthly total was in November 2021, when 1,474 people were seen.

The nationality comparison shows that the November 2021 peak was specifically produced by the CEE group, although the more general return to seasonal trends was also seen in the UK group, while the trend amongst other nationalities remained flatter. Historically, trends tend to have been mirrored across nationality groups, but more recently there has been greater divergence between the UK and CEE groups.

2.6 New rough sleepers (flow): Number of times seen

People seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2021/22, by number of times seen rough sleeping during the year.
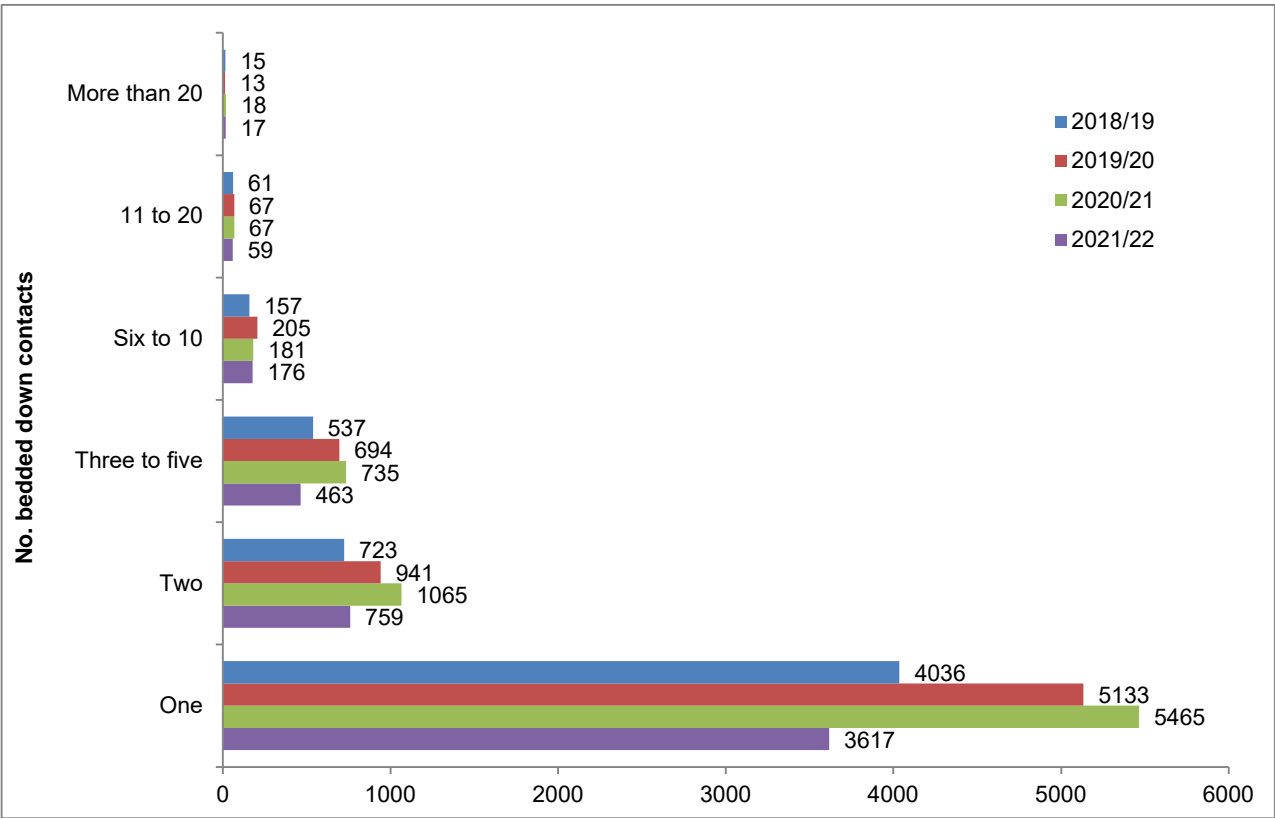
2018/19 base: 5529
2019/20 base: 7053
2020/21 base: 7531
2021/22 base: 5091

New rough sleepers represented 61% of the total rough sleeper population in 2021/22, which is lower than the proportions of 68% in 2020/21 and 66% in 2019/20. The number of new rough sleepers has decreased by 32% compared to 2020/21.

71% of new people were seen rough sleeping only once, which is similar to the proportions of 73% in both 2020/21 and 2019/20. Only 1% of those new to the streets were seen rough sleeping more than ten times in the year.

The chart indicates that the decrease in new rough sleepers has been more pronounced amongst those seen fewer times during the year, while amongst those seen six or more times, the total for 2021/22 is similar to that in previous years.

It should be noted that, of those new rough sleepers seen once who were asked, 66% stated that they had already been rough sleeping for at least a week before they were first recorded on CHAIN by an outreach worker. This information should be treated with caution, as it has not been verified by outreach services, but does give some indication that new rough sleepers may well have been street homeless for some time before first being contacted.

2.7 New rough sleepers (flow): History prior to rough sleeping

People seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2021/22, by history prior to first being seen rough sleeping.

The table below details what kind of accommodation new rough sleepers reported they were living in as their last longer term or settled base prior to first being seen rough sleeping. For some categories of last settled base, recording prior to April 2020 was split between the type of accommodation in which the person was living (e.g. private rented) and their status at that accommodation (e.g. living with parents). Due to the difficulty often encountered in obtaining this level of detail, from April 2020 we simplified recording by combining the two factors into a single field. Under the new system, if the most significant aspect of the person's last settled base was who they were living with, that would take precedence in recording, compared to the type of accommodation. This change in recording practice means that direct comparisons with figures for last settled base prior to 2020/21 should be treated with caution.

Last longer term or settled base	2020/21 No.	2020/21 %	2021/22 No.	2021/22 %
Long term accommodation				
Living with friends/family	1508	28.8%	838	24.9%
Private rented accommodation	1275	24.4%	755	22.5%
Living with partner	413	7.9%	276	8.2%
Living with parents	399	7.6%	243	7.2%
Local authority accommodation	160	3.1%	127	3.8%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	93	1.8%	47	1.4%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	23	0.4%	19	0.6%
Owner occupied accommodation	49	0.9%	18	0.5%
Tied accommodation	22	0.4%	21	0.6%
Long term accommodation subtotal	*3942*	*75.4%*	*2344*	*69.7%*
Short or medium term accommodation				
Hostel	191	3.7%	164	4.9%
Asylum support accommodation	104	2.0%	88	2.6%
Temporary accommodation (Local authority)	93	1.8%	87	2.6%
B&B/other temporary accommodation	29	0.6%	30	0.9%
Clinic/Detox/Rehab	8	0.2%	6	0.2%
Short or medium term accommodation subtotal	*425*	*8.1%*	*375*	*11.2%*
Institution				
Prison	177	3.4%	101	3.0%
Hospital	9	0.2%	27	0.8%
Institution subtotal	*186*	*3.6%*	*128*	*3.8%*
Inappropriately accommodated				
Squat	101	1.9%	52	1.5%
Outhouse	9	0.2%	3	0.1%
Inappropriately accommodated subtotal	*110*	*2.1%*	*55*	*1.6%*
Newly arrived in UK				
Newly arrived in UK - not homeless in home country	191	3.7%	125	3.7%
Newly arrived in UK - homeless in home country	43	0.8%	27	0.8%
Newly arrived in UK subtotal	*234*	*4.5%*	*152*	*4.5%*
Other	332	6.3%	307	9.1%
Not recorded	2302		1730	
Total (excl. not recorded)	**5229**	**100.0%**	**3361**	**100.0%**
Total (incl. not recorded)	**7531**		**5091**	

Note: Total excluding not recorded is used as the base for percentages.

New rough sleepers' reasons for leaving their last longer term or settled base prior to first being seen rough sleeping.

Reason for leaving last longer term or settled base	2020/21 No.	2020/21 %	2021/22 No.	2021/22 %
Asked to leave or evicted				
Asked to leave	1719	32.9%	817	24.3%
Evicted - arrears	209	4.0%	155	4.6%
Evicted - end of tenancy agreement	44	0.8%	43	1.3%
Evicted - ASB	39	0.7%	29	0.9%
Evicted - other	190	3.6%	153	4.6%
Asked to leave or evicted subtotal	*2201*	*42.1%*	*1197*	*35.6%*
Employment and education				
Financial problems - loss of job	572	10.9%	234	7.0%
Seeking work - from outside UK	115	2.2%	49	1.5%
Seeking work - from within UK	101	1.9%	43	1.3%
Study	2	0.0%	6	0.2%
Employment and education subtotal	*790*	*15.1%*	*332*	*9.9%*
Relationships				
Relationship breakdown	716	13.7%	507	15.1%
Death of relative/friend	54	1.0%	48	1.4%
Move nearer family/friends/community	21	0.4%	21	0.6%
Relationships subtotal	*791*	*15.1%*	*576*	*17.1%*
Financial				
Financial problems - debt	75	1.4%	48	1.4%
Financial problems - housing benefit	14	0.3%	17	0.5%
Financial problems - other	66	1.3%	94	2.8%
Financial subtotal	*155*	*3.0%*	*159*	*4.7%*
End of stay in short or medium term accommodation				
End of stay - asylum accommodation	73	1.4%	53	1.6%
Evicted - given non priority decision	13	0.2%	39	1.2%
End of stay - hostel	54	1.0%	25	0.7%
End of stay - other	90	1.7%	64	1.9%
End of stay in short or medium term accommodation subtotal	*230*	*4.4%*	*181*	*5.4%*
Victim of violence, harassment or abuse				
Harassment/abuse/violence	160	3.1%	133	4.0%
Domestic violence - victim	68	1.3%	56	1.7%
Tenancy hijack	5	0.1%	5	0.1%
Victim of violence, harassment or abuse subtotal	*233*	*4.5%*	*194*	*5.8%*
End of stay in institution				
End of stay - prison	177	3.4%	100	3.0%
End of stay - hospital	9	0.2%	26	0.8%
End of stay in institution subtotal	*186*	*3.6%*	*126*	*3.7%*
Housing conditions				
Housing conditions	59	1.1%	40	1.2%
Perpetrator of violence, harassment or abuse				
Domestic violence - perpetrator	19	0.4%	6	0.2%
Transient				
Transient/travelling around	36	0.7%	48	1.4%
Other				
Other	529	10.1%	502	14.9%
Not recorded	2302		1730	
Total (excl. not recorded)	**5229**	**100.0%**	**3361**	**100.0%**
Total (incl. not recorded)	**7531**		**5091**	

Note: Total excluding not recorded is used as the base for percentages.

70% of new rough sleepers reported their last settled base as some kind of long term accommodation (compared to 75% in 2020/21). Within this, people who had been living with friends or family were the most numerous group, at 25%, while people who had been living in private rented accommodation also formed a significant proportion, at 22%.

5% of new rough sleepers in 2021/22 were recorded as having recently arrived in the UK and having had no settled base since arriving. This is consistent with the 4% in this category in 2020/21.

Being asked to leave or evicted continues to constitute the most commonly reported overall category of reason for leaving last settled base, cited by 36% of new rough sleepers (slightly lower than the 42% reporting reasons in this category in 2020/21). More specifically, being asked to leave was reported as the reason for leaving by 24% of new rough sleepers in 2021/22, compared to 33% in 2020/21.

People leaving their last settled base due to a relationship breakdown constituted 15% of new rough sleepers this year, compared to 14% in 2020/21. Loss of job was cited as the reason for leaving last settled base by 7% of new rough sleepers in 2021/22, compared to 11% in 2020/21. As with being asked to leave, it's possible that the loss of job category increased as a proportion in 2020/21 due to the effect of lockdowns, which then eased in 2021/22.

825 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2021/22 were recorded as having approached their local authority Housing Options service for help in the 12 months prior to first being seen rough sleeping. This is 30% of those new rough sleepers for whom this information was recorded (and 16% of all new rough sleepers in the year). Of these, 772 (94%) had approached Housing Options teams in London boroughs.

2.8 New rough sleepers (flow): Nationality

New rough sleepers' nationalities and period spent in UK

Nationality category		Time between date of entry to UK and date first seen rough sleeping						
		Less than 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-4 weeks	4-12 weeks	12 weeks - 1 year	More than 1 year	Total
CEE	No.	18	12	11	31	86	502	660
	%	3%	2%	2%	5%	13%	76%	100%
Other Europe	No.	2	2	2	7	22	231	266
	%	1%	1%	1%	3%	8%	87%	100%
Rest of world	No.	19	6	12	23	36	715	811
	%	2%	1%	1%	3%	4%	88%	100%
Total	**No.**	**39**	**20**	**25**	**61**	**144**	**1448**	**1737**
	%	**2%**	**1%**	**1%**	**4%**	**8%**	**83%**	**100%**

Base: 1737 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2021/22 who were non-UK nationals and had a date of entry to the UK recorded.

There were 1,737 new rough sleepers in 2021/22 who were non-UK nationals and had information recorded concerning the date they first entered the UK. The above table shows the difference between their date of entry to the UK and the first date they were seen rough sleeping in London, broken down by nationality category. It should be noted that this information is self-reported, and in most cases has not been independently verified.

83% of those represented in the table above had been in the UK for more than a year when they were first seen rough sleeping in London, which is very similar to the proportion of 82% in 2020/21. 76% of new rough sleepers from CEE countries had been in the UK for more than a year, compared to 87% of new rough sleepers from other European countries, and 88% of new rough sleepers from non-European countries.

The proportion of new rough sleepers from any nationality group seen rough sleeping within two weeks of entering the country remains low, at 3%.

2.9 Stock rough sleepers: Number of times seen

People seen rough sleeping across a minimum of two consecutive years (stock), by number of times seen rough sleeping in the year.
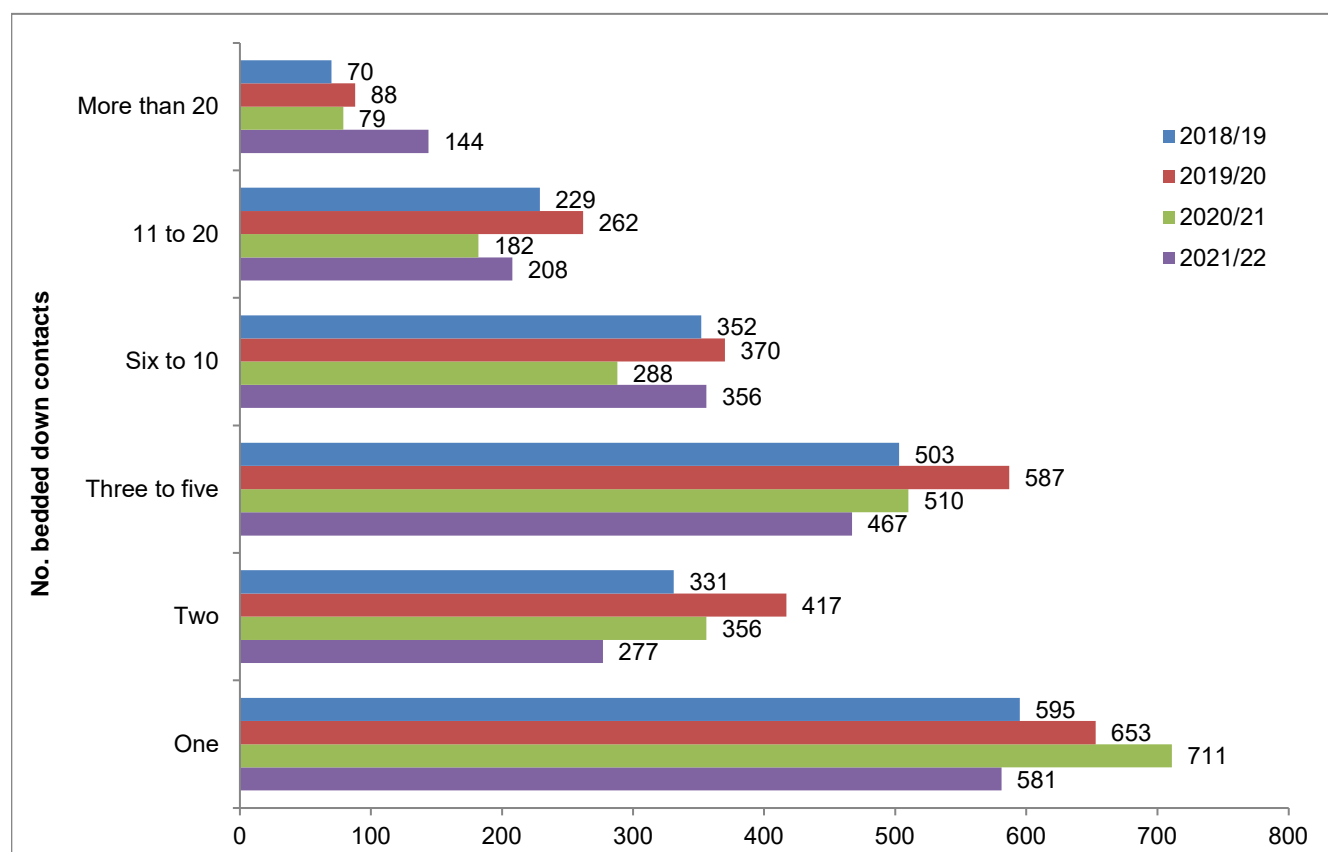
2018/19 base: 2080
2019/20 base: 2377
2020/21 base: 2126
2021/22 base: 2033

The number of people in the stock group has decreased by 4% from 2020/21, and represents 24% of the total rough sleeper population in 2021/22 (compared to 19% in 2020/21). 29% of people in the stock group were seen rough sleeping only once in 2021/22, which is slightly lower than the 33% in 2020/21.

The chart shows that the decrease in the number of people in the stock group is mainly concentrated amongst those who had five contacts or fewer, while the number of people who had six or more contacts was generally closer to, or higher than, the number in previous years.

2.10 Returner rough sleepers: Number of times seen

People seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2020/21, but not seen rough sleeping during 2020/21 (returners), by number of times seen rough sleeping in the year.
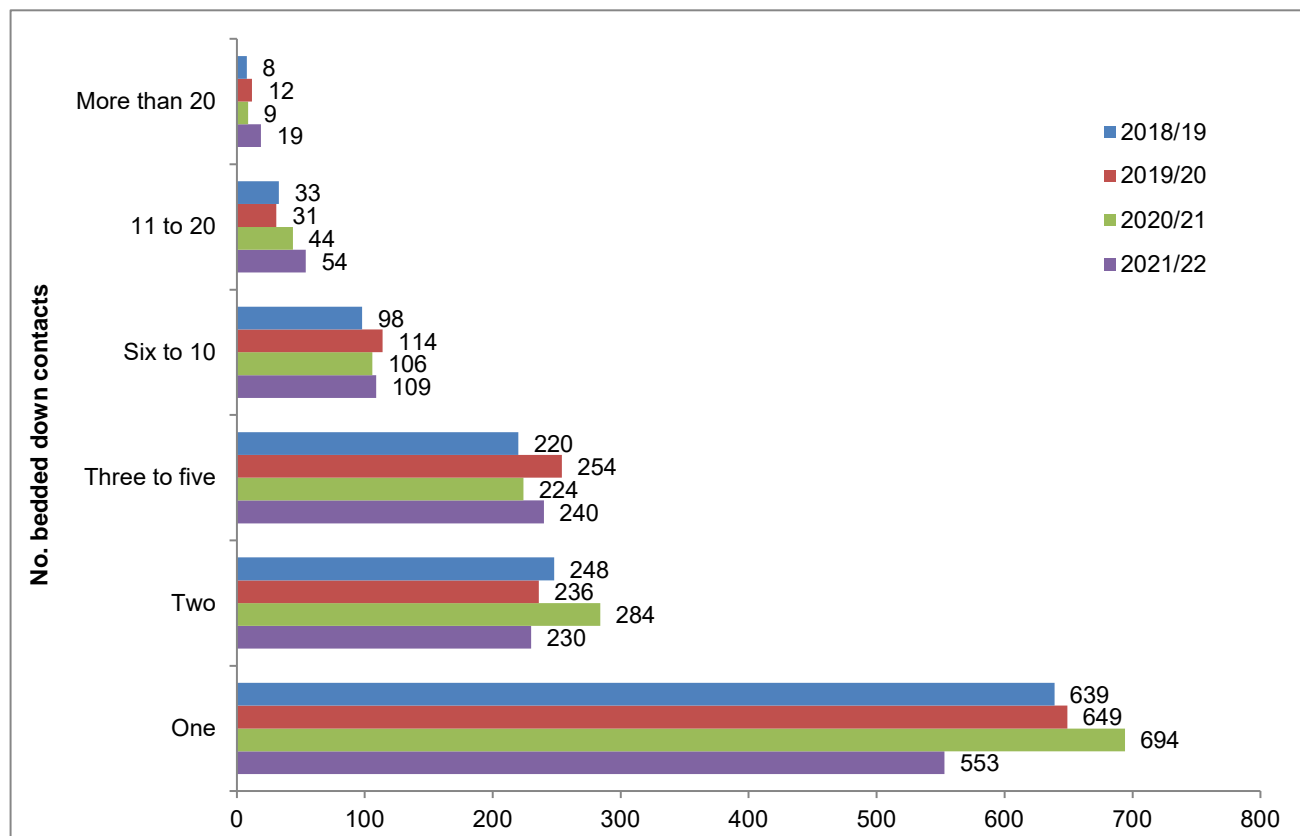
2018/19 base: 1246
2019/20 base: 1296
2020/21 base: 1361
2021/22 base: 1205

The number of people returning to rough sleeping in 2021/22 has decreased by 11%, when compared to 2020/21. Returners constituted 14% of all people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22, which is slightly higher than the proportion of 12% in 2020/21.

The proportion of returners who were seen rough sleeping just once during 2020/21 was 46%. This compares to 51% in 2020/21.

The number of returners in 2021/22 who were seen only once was significantly lower than in previous years, whereas the number seen on multiple occasions was closer to or higher than the numbers in previous years.

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Total rough sleepers by borough: Yearly comparison

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by borough. Combined borough totals will add up to a figure greater than the overall total for London, as some people will have been seen rough sleeping in more than one borough during the period.

Borough	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Change between 2020/21 and 2021/22	Change between 2018/19 and 2021/22
Westminster	2512	2757	2162	1698	-464	-814
Camden	815	639	630	666	36	-149
Ealing	382	493	624	448	-176	66
Lambeth	363	431	581	438	-143	75
Newham	612	724	578	428	-150	-184
Southwark	435	548	567	388	-179	-47
City of London	441	434	350	372	22	-69
Tower Hamlets	316	459	400	297	-103	-19
Brent	248	320	374	283	-91	35
Croydon	274	306	322	271	-51	-3
Haringey	253	327	405	268	-137	15
Lewisham	165	229	301	264	-37	99
Wandsworth	111	203	401	264	-137	153
Redbridge	214	330	380	247	-133	33
Islington	276	367	388	238	-150	-38
Heathrow	283	241	117	233	116	-50
Hackney	163	275	350	229	-121	66
Hammersmith & Fulham	171	266	243	214	-29	43
Kensington & Chelsea	265	316	271	193	-78	-72
Enfield	100	206	326	183	-143	83
Barnet	94	178	282	173	-109	79
Waltham Forest	137	133	261	153	-108	16
Hounslow	87	147	223	144	-79	57
Hillingdon	123	270	282	140	-142	17
Greenwich	91	133	213	135	-78	44
Barking & Dagenham	49	85	161	131	-30	82
Kingston upon Thames	86	124	87	99	12	13
Bexley	32	42	88	93	5	61
Havering	32	71	73	69	-4	37
Richmond	128	152	115	61	-54	-67
Harrow	30	45	67	58	-9	28
Bromley	47	67	54	57	3	10
Merton	57	92	109	45	-64	-12
Sutton	49	34	18	29	11	-20
Bus route	224	183	143	142	-1	-82
Tube line	18	23	0	18	18	0

Note: Although Heathrow is located within the borough of Hillingdon and is not actually a borough in itself, it is counted separately for the purposes of CHAIN reporting due to the specific rough sleeping issues found there. Where rough sleepers have been seen by outreach workers on public transport, their contacts are ascribed to "bus route" or "tube line" rather than to a particular borough.

The boroughs in which the greatest numbers of rough sleepers were seen in 2021/22 were Westminster, Camden, Ealing, Lambeth and Newham, which is consistent with 2020/21.

Of the top ten boroughs, only Camden and City of London recorded a greater number of people rough sleeping in 2021/22 than in 2020/21, and in both cases the increases were relatively minor. The number of people seen rough sleeping in Westminster is at its lowest since 2009/10, when 1,694 people were recorded in the borough (compared to 1,698 in 2021/22).

Eighteen people were seen rough sleeping on the London Underground network in 2021/22, following a period in 2020/21 when nobody was recorded in this setting due to the impact of Covid-19 and the reduction or suspension of tube services.

3.2 Total rough sleepers by borough: Flow, stock, returner model

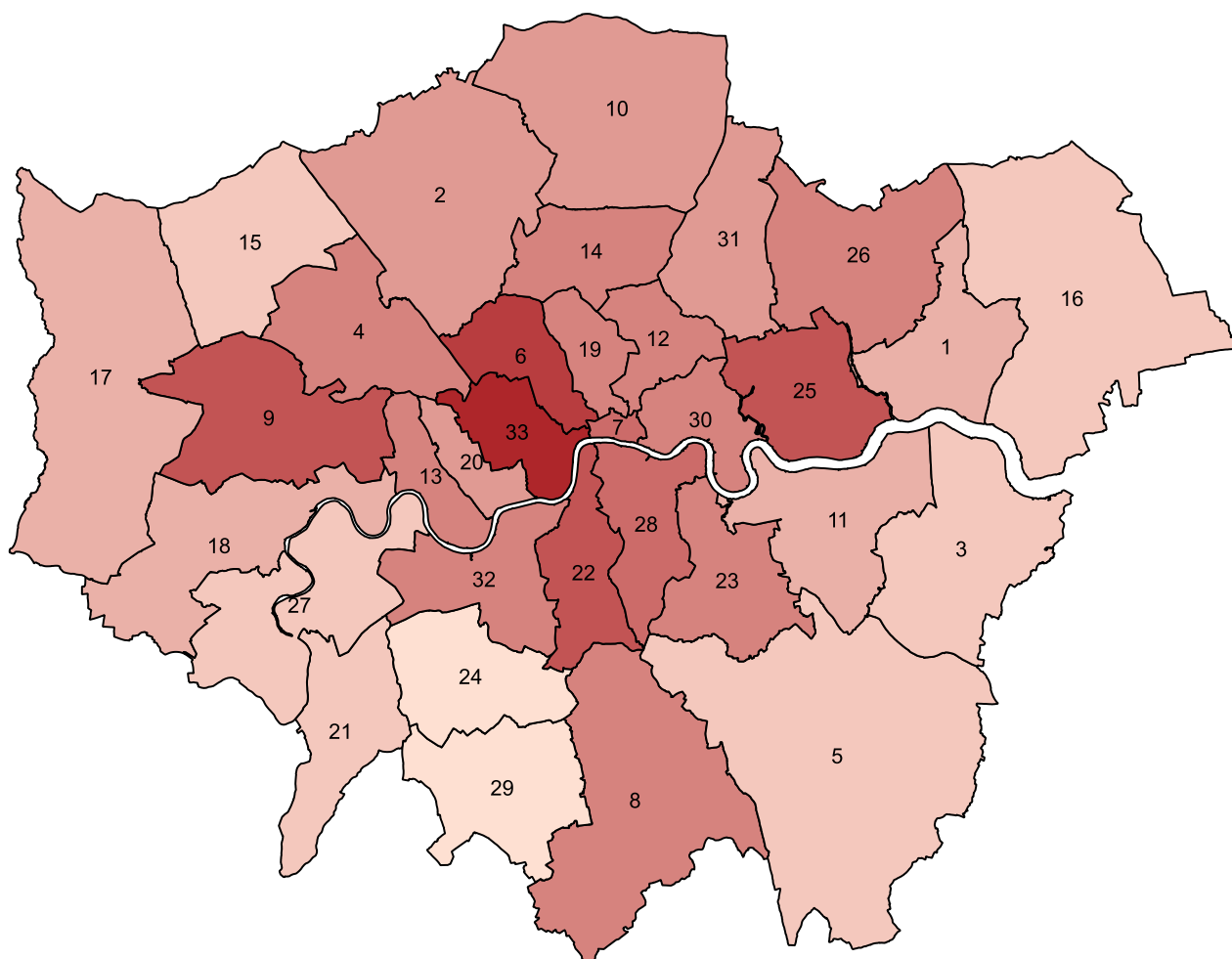People seen rough sleeping in the year, by borough, and flow, stock, returner breakdown.

Borough	Flow		Stock		Returner		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Barking & Dagenham	95	73%	26	20%	10	8%	131
Barnet	112	65%	45	26%	16	9%	173
Bexley	75	81%	13	14%	5	5%	93
Brent	181	64%	60	21%	42	15%	283
Bromley	48	84%	4	7%	5	9%	57
Camden	276	41%	249	37%	141	21%	666
City of London	180	48%	140	38%	52	14%	372
Croydon	176	65%	52	19%	43	16%	271
Ealing	285	64%	104	23%	59	13%	448
Enfield	120	66%	42	23%	21	11%	183
Greenwich	86	64%	32	24%	17	13%	135
Hackney	152	66%	47	21%	30	13%	229
Hammersmith & Fulham	136	64%	51	24%	27	13%	214
Haringey	166	62%	74	28%	28	10%	268
Harrow	45	78%	7	12%	6	10%	58
Havering	50	72%	13	19%	6	9%	69
Heathrow	176	76%	28	12%	29	12%	233
Hillingdon	95	68%	28	20%	17	12%	140
Hounslow	97	67%	25	17%	22	15%	144
Islington	138	58%	63	26%	37	16%	238
Kensington & Chelsea	87	45%	76	39%	30	16%	193
Kingston upon Thames	53	54%	23	23%	23	23%	99
Lambeth	260	59%	116	26%	62	14%	438
Lewisham	187	71%	38	14%	39	15%	264
Merton	28	62%	11	24%	6	13%	45
Newham	274	64%	99	23%	55	13%	428
Redbridge	152	62%	60	24%	35	14%	247
Richmond	32	52%	20	33%	9	15%	61
Southwark	238	61%	100	26%	50	13%	388
Sutton	20	69%	4	14%	5	17%	29
Tower Hamlets	131	44%	110	37%	56	19%	297
Waltham Forest	106	69%	30	20%	17	11%	153
Wandsworth	129	49%	94	36%	41	16%	264
Westminster	851	50%	564	33%	283	17%	1698
Bus route	95	67%	22	15%	25	18%	142
Tube line	9	50%	6	33%	3	17%	18

Note: Although Heathrow is located within the borough of Hillingdon and is not actually a borough in itself, it is counted separately for the purposes of CHAIN reporting due to the specific rough sleeping issues found there. Where rough sleepers have been seen by outreach workers on public transport, their contacts are ascribed to "bus route" or "tube line" rather than to a particular borough.

Bromley and Bexley are the boroughs which recorded the greatest proportion of new rough sleepers (flow) during 2021/22, while Camden and Tower Hamlets recorded the lowest proportions in this group. Kensington & Chelsea and City of London recorded the greatest proportion of people in the stock category, with Bromley recording the lowest proportion, followed by Heathrow and Harrow. Kingston upon Thames and Camden recorded the greatest proportion of returners, while Bexley and Barking & Dagenham saw the lowest proportions in this group.

3.3 Total rough sleepers by borough: Map

The map below shows a colour coded representation of the total number of people seen rough sleeping during the year in each borough.

No. People Seen Rough Sleeping

1 - 50	101 - 150	201 - 300	401 - 500	1001 - 2000
51 - 100	151 - 200	301 - 400	501 - 1000	2001+
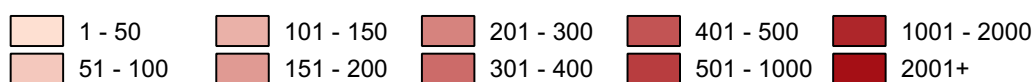
Key	Borough	Total	Key	Borough	Total	Key	Borough	Total
1	Barking & Dagenham	131	12	Hackney	229	23	Lewisham	264
2	Barnet	173	13	Hammersmith & Fulham	214	24	Merton	45
3	Bexley	93	14	Haringey	268	25	Newham	428
4	Brent	283	15	Harrow	58	26	Redbridge	247
5	Bromley	57	16	Havering	69	27	Richmond	61
6	Camden	666	17	Hillingdon	140	28	Southwark	388
7	City of London	372	18	Hounslow	144	29	Sutton	29
8	Croydon	271	19	Islington	238	30	Tower Hamlets	297
9	Ealing	448	20	Kensington & Chelsea	193	31	Waltham Forest	153
10	Enfield	183	21	Kingston upon Thames	99	32	Wandsworth	264
11	Greenwich	135	22	Lambeth	438	33	Westminster	1698
						34	Heathrow	233

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3.4 New rough sleepers by borough: Map

The map below shows new rough sleepers as a percentage of the total number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough during the year, colour coded by relative proportion.
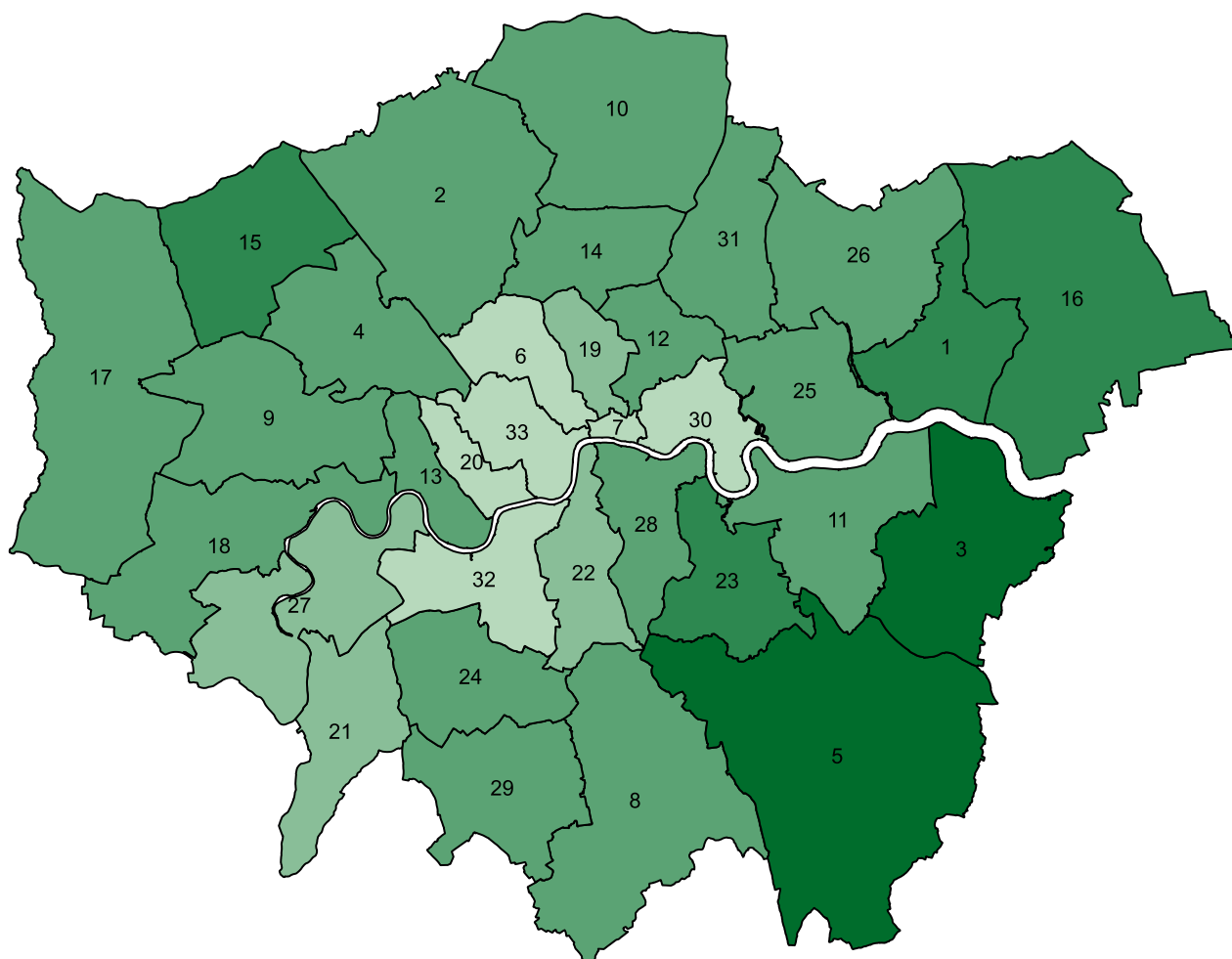
New Rough Sleepers As Percentage Of All

31% - 40%	41% - 50%	51% - 60%	61% - 70%	71% - 80%	81% - 90%

Key	Borough	%
1	Barking & Dagenham	73
2	Barnet	65
3	Bexley	81
4	Brent	64
5	Bromley	84
6	Camden	41
7	City of London	48
8	Croydon	65
9	Ealing	64
10	Enfield	66
11	Greenwich	64

Key	Borough	%
12	Hackney	66
13	Hammersmith & Fulham	64
14	Haringey	62
15	Harrow	78
16	Havering	72
17	Hillingdon	68
18	Hounslow	67
19	Islington	58
20	Kensington & Chelsea	45
21	Kingston upon Thames	54
22	Lambeth	59

Key	Borough	%
23	Lewisham	71
24	Merton	62
25	Newham	64
26	Redbridge	62
27	Richmond	52
28	Southwark	61
29	Sutton	69
30	Tower Hamlets	44
31	Waltham Forest	69
32	Wandsworth	49
33	Westminster	50
34	Heathrow	76

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3.5 Change since 2018/19 by borough: Map

The map below shows a colour coded representation of the change in total number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough, between 2018/19 and 2021/22.

Change In Total Since 2018/19

🟩 < -500	🟩 -100 to -20	🟧 20 to 40	🟥 60 to 100
🟩 -500 to -100	🟨 -20 to 20	🟧 40 to 60	🟥 100+

Key	Borough	Change
1	Barking & Dagenham	82
2	Barnet	79
3	Bexley	61
4	Brent	35
5	Bromley	10
6	Camden	-149
7	City of London	-69
8	Croydon	-3
9	Ealing	66
10	Enfield	83
11	Greenwich	44

Key	Borough	Change
12	Hackney	66
13	Hammersmith & Fulham	43
14	Haringey	15
15	Harrow	28
16	Havering	37
17	Hillingdon	17
18	Hounslow	57
19	Islington	-38
20	Kensington & Chelsea	-72
21	Kingston upon Thames	13
22	Lambeth	75

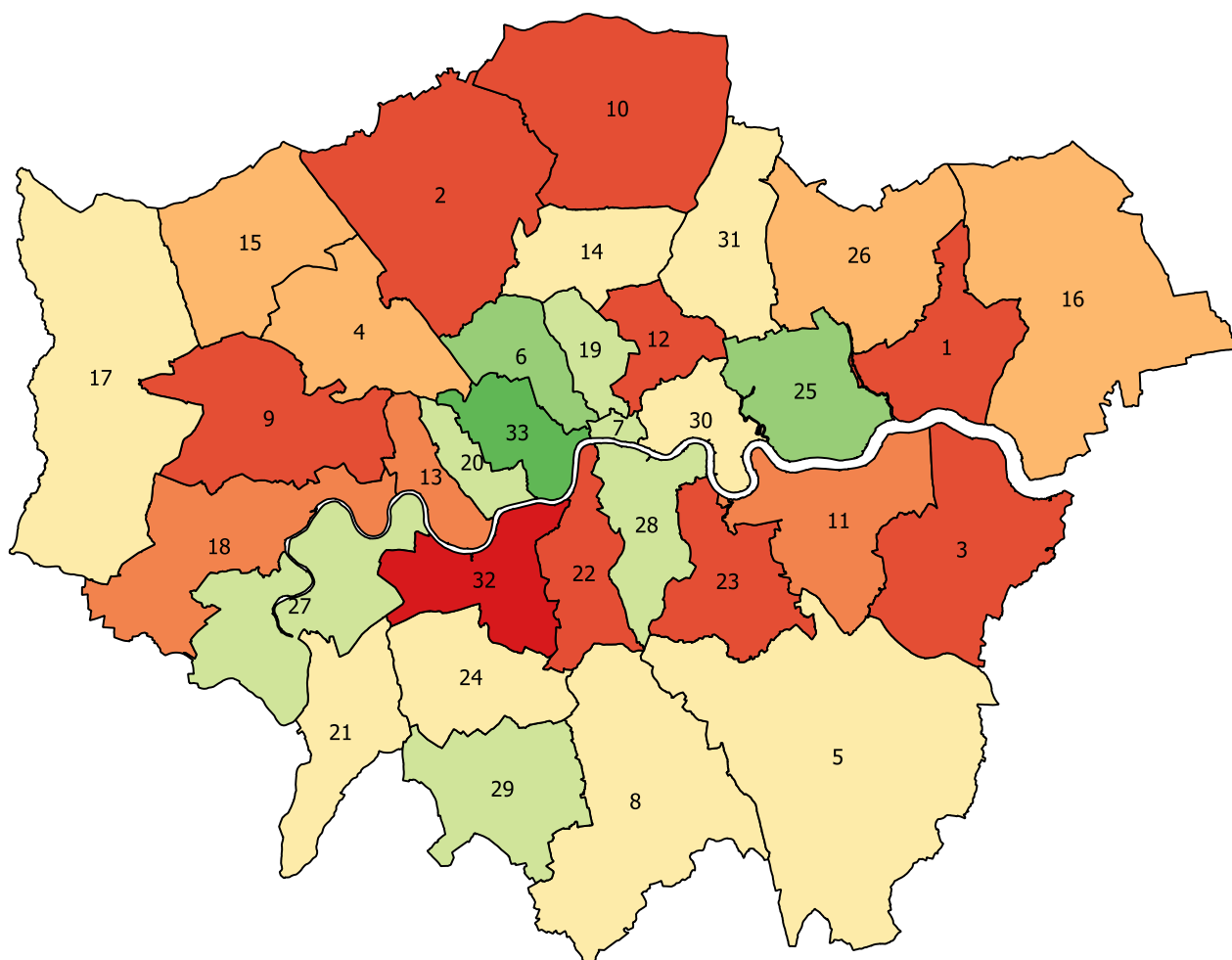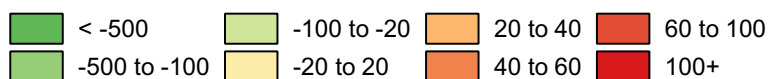| Key	Borough	Change
23	Lewisham	99
24	Merton	-12
25	Newham	-184
26	Redbridge	33
27	Richmond	-67
28	Southwark	-47
29	Sutton	-20
30	Tower Hamlets	-19
31	Waltham Forest	16
32	Wandsworth	153
33	Westminster	-814
34	Heathrow	-50

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3.6 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

The map below shows the number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Middle Super Output Area across Greater London during the period. It is important to note that this represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.

No. Bedded Down Contacts

1	3	6-10	21-50
2	4-5	11-20	51+

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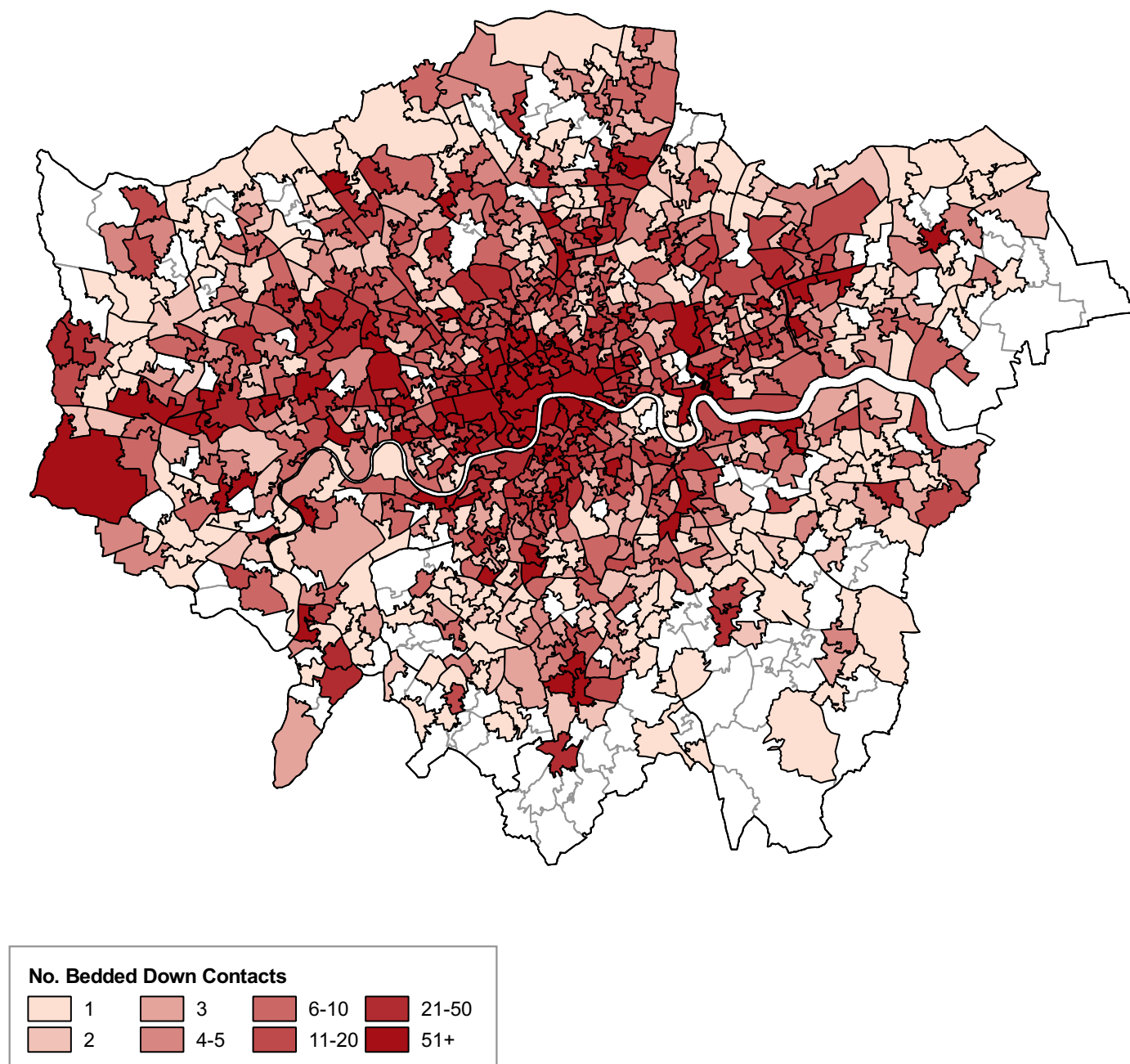
4. DEMOGRAPHICS & SUPPORT NEEDS

4.1 Nationality: Overall composition

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by nationality.
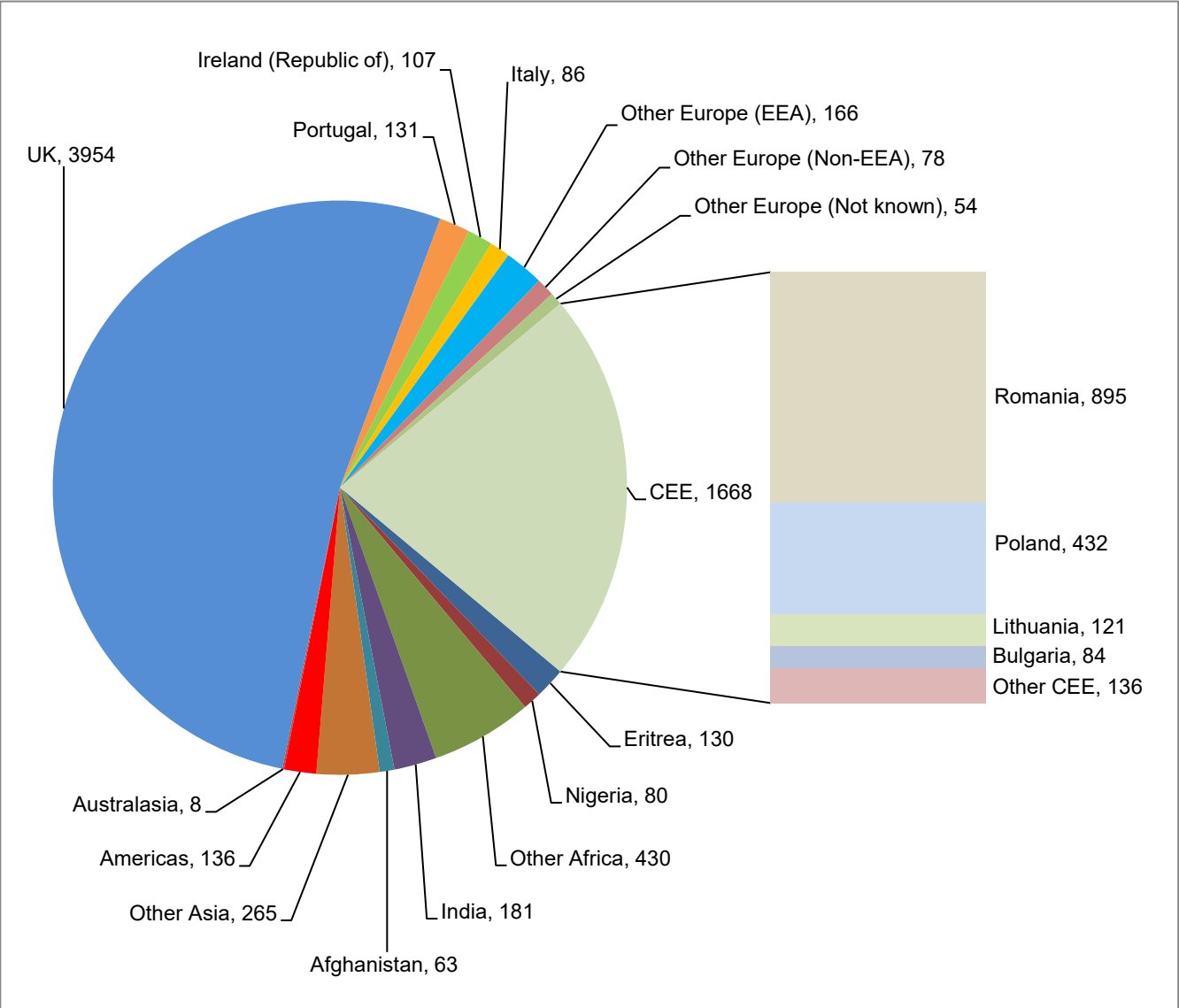
Base: 7537 people seen rough sleeping in the year whose nationality was known.

The nationality profile of rough sleepers in London remains diverse, with a total of 131 different nationalities recorded during 2021/22. The proportion of people seen rough sleeping who were UK nationals was 52%, which is only slightly changed from the proportions of 50% in 2020/21 and 48% in 2019/20. The proportion of rough sleepers from CEE countries was 22%, which is unchanged from 2020/21, following a marked decrease from 30% in 2019/20.

The proportion of people seen rough sleeping who were from non-European countries has declined slightly, at 17% compared to 19% in 2020/21, but is still notably higher than the range of 11%-13% seen in earlier years. People from African countries accounted for 8% of all rough sleepers in 2021/22 (640 people), compared to 11% in 2020/21 (1,118 people) and 7% in 2019/20 (651 people). Asian nationals constituted 7% of people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 (509 people), compared to 7% in 2020/21 (702 people), and 5% in 2019/20 (520 people).

As in previous recent years, Romanians (895, 12%) comprise the single largest non-UK nationality, with Poles (432, 6%) making up the second largest. People from India (181, 2%) and Portugal (131, 2%) are the third and fourth most numerous non-UK nationalities.

The number of people seen rough sleeping whose nationality was not known was 792, which is a small increase on the figure of 771 in 2020/21, but much lower than the 954 in 2019/20.

4.2 Nationality: Yearly comparison

| Nationality	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	4683	47.9%	5139	50.2%	3954	52.5%
Romania	1491	15.3%	1133	11.1%	895	11.9%
Poland	828	8.5%	647	6.3%	432	5.7%
Lithuania	203	2.1%	163	1.6%	121	1.6%
Bulgaria	155	1.6%	114	1.1%	84	1.1%
Hungary	68	0.7%	62	0.6%	48	0.6%
Latvia	71	0.7%	79	0.8%	43	0.6%
Slovakia	31	0.3%	25	0.2%	22	0.3%
Czech Republic	58	0.6%	37	0.4%	15	0.2%
Estonia	16	0.2%	11	0.1%	6	0.1%
Slovenia	3	0.0%	3	0.0%	2	0.0%
CEE subtotal	*2924*	*29.9%*	*2274*	*22.2%*	*1668*	*22.1%*
Portugal	132	1.4%	169	1.6%	131	1.7%
Ireland (Republic of)	111	1.1%	117	1.1%	107	1.4%
Italy	119	1.2%	130	1.3%	86	1.1%
Spain	67	0.7%	70	0.7%	40	0.5%
France	68	0.7%	74	0.7%	33	0.4%
Sweden	15	0.2%	15	0.1%	18	0.2%
Other European (EEA) countries	107	1.1%	124	1.2%	75	1.0%
Other Europe (EEA) subtotal	*619*	*6.3%*	*699*	*6.8%*	*490*	*6.5%*
Ukraine	11	0.1%	13	0.1%	19	0.3%
Other European (Non-EEA) countries	68	0.7%	76	0.7%	59	0.8%
Other Europe (Non-EEA) subtotal	*79*	*0.8%*	*89*	*0.9%*	*78*	*1.0%*
Other Europe (Not known)	187	1.9%	71	0.7%	54	0.7%
Eritrea	144	1.5%	358	3.5%	130	1.7%
Nigeria	46	0.5%	90	0.9%	80	1.1%
Sudan	86	0.9%	92	0.9%	79	1.0%
Somalia	86	0.9%	134	1.3%	58	0.8%
Algeria	28	0.3%	77	0.8%	43	0.6%
Ghana	26	0.3%	23	0.2%	26	0.3%
Ethiopia	31	0.3%	75	0.7%	23	0.3%
Other African countries	204	2.1%	269	2.6%	201	2.7%
Africa subtotal	*651*	*6.7%*	*1118*	*10.9%*	*640*	*8.5%*
Jamaica	33	0.3%	53	0.5%	50	0.7%
USA	22	0.2%	17	0.2%	24	0.3%
Other Americas countries	45	0.5%	72	0.7%	62	0.8%
Americas subtotal	*100*	*1.0%*	*142*	*1.4%*	*136*	*1.8%*
India	218	2.2%	273	2.7%	181	2.4%
Afghanistan	29	0.3%	88	0.9%	63	0.8%
Iran	85	0.9%	83	0.8%	59	0.8%
Pakistan	18	0.2%	52	0.5%	36	0.5%
Sri Lanka	29	0.3%	40	0.4%	30	0.4%
Iraq	16	0.2%	27	0.3%	23	0.3%
Bangladesh	32	0.3%	27	0.3%	14	0.2%
Other Asian countries	93	1.0%	112	1.1%	103	1.4%
Asia subtotal	*520*	*5.3%*	*702*	*6.9%*	*509*	*6.8%*
Australasia	9	0.1%	13	0.1%	8	0.1%
Not Known	954		771		792	
Total (excl. not known)	**9772**	**100.0%**	**10247**	**100.0%**	**7537**	**100.0%**
Total (incl. not known)	**10726**		**11018**		**8329**	

Note: Total excluding not known is used as base for percentages.

Nationality proportions for people seen rough sleeping across the last five years.
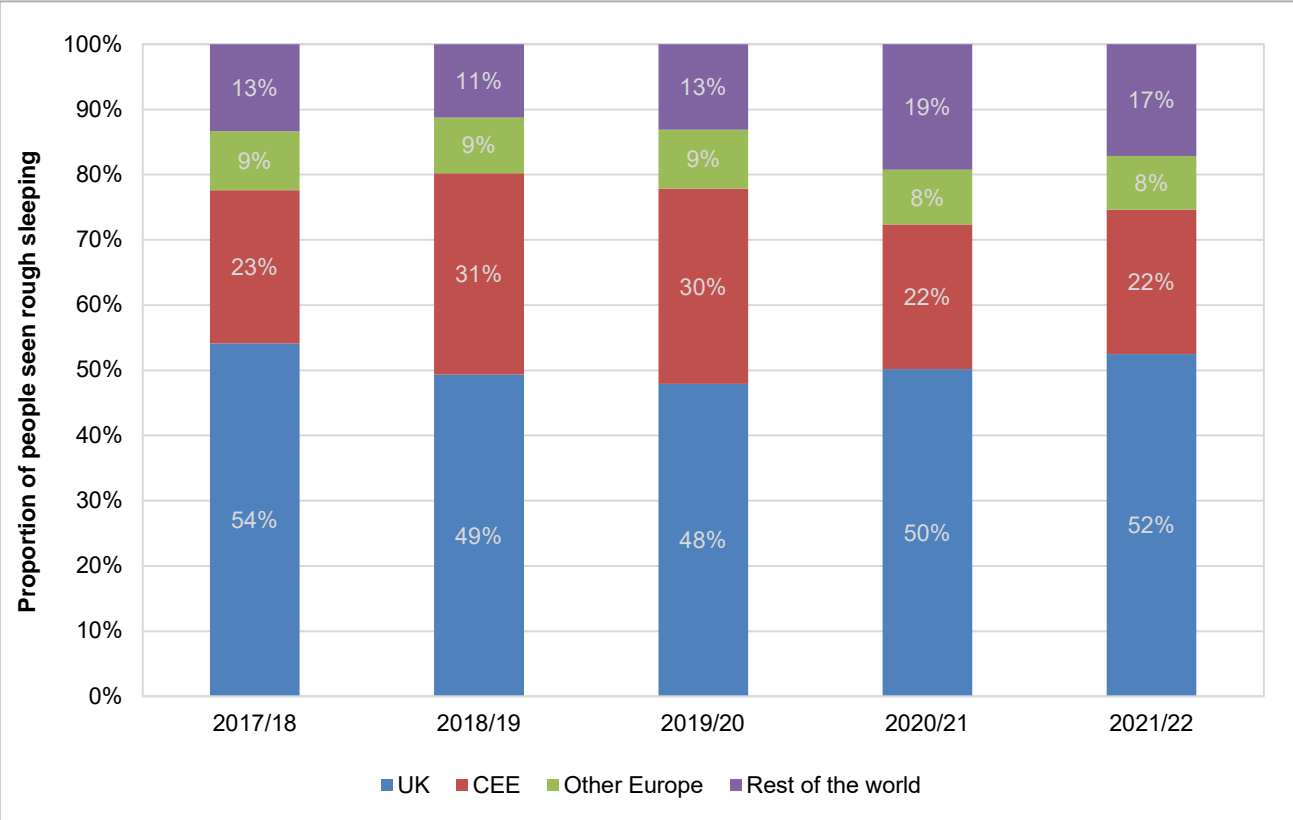
Note: Percentages are based on total people seen rough sleeping for whom nationality was known.

Nationality of people seen rough sleeping across the last ten years.
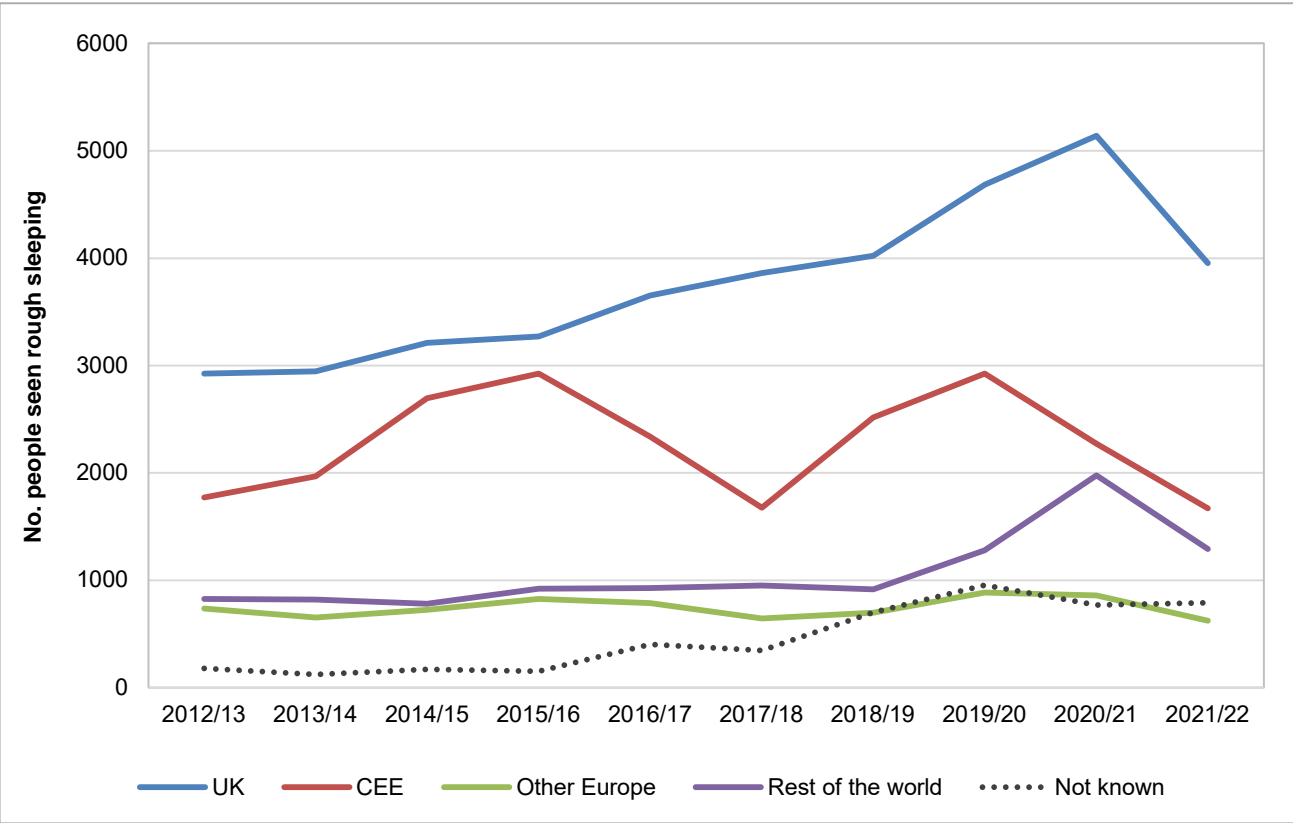
4.3 Nationality: Flow, stock, returner model

The tables below compare flow, stock, returner breakdown and nationality, giving proportions firstly within nationality and then within flow, stock, returner category.

Nationality category	Flow No.	Flow %	Stock No.	Stock %	Returner No.	Returner %	Total No.	Total %
UK	2274	58%	999	25%	681	17%	3954	100%
CEE	810	49%	553	33%	305	18%	1668	100%
Other Europe	372	60%	157	25%	93	15%	622	100%
Rest of world	884	68%	290	22%	119	9%	1293	100%
Not known	751	95%	34	4%	7	1%	792	100%
Total	**5091**	**61%**	**2033**	**24%**	**1205**	**14%**	**8329**	**100%**

Base: 8329 people seen rough sleeping in the year.

The most significant variation appears between the CEE and rest of world (i.e. non-European) nationality groups, with 49% of CEE nationals falling into the flow category, compared to 68% of non-European nationals, and 33% of CEE nationals falling into the stock category, compared to 22% of non-European nationals. This continues a trend which was previously apparent in 2020/21, when 58% of CEE nationals were in the flow category, compared to 78% of non-Europeans.

Nationality category	Flow No.	Flow %	Stock No.	Stock %	Returner No.	Returner %	Total No.	Total %
UK	2274	45%	999	49%	681	57%	3954	47%
CEE	810	16%	553	27%	305	25%	1668	20%
Other Europe	372	7%	157	8%	93	8%	622	7%
Rest of world	884	17%	290	14%	119	10%	1293	16%
Not known	751	15%	34	2%	7	1%	792	10%
Total	**5091**	**100%**	**2033**	**100%**	**1205**	**100%**	**8329**	**100%**

Base: 8329 people seen rough sleeping in the year.

UK nationals form a notably higher proportion of the returner group, while CEE nationals are overrepresented amongst the stock group. As might be expected, the proportion of people whose nationality was not known was markedly higher amongst the flow group.

4.4 Immigration status

The table below compares immigration status amongst different nationality groups, excluding UK nationals. It should be noted that this information is self-reported or based on what outreach workers could conclude from the information given, and in many cases it has not been independently verified by an immigration adviser. Therefore, immigration status data should be treated with caution.

Immigration status	CEE	Other Europe	Rest of world	Total
EEA national - status not known	509	110	2	621
Indefinite Leave to Remain or Settlement	0	26	438	464
EEA national - no status under Settlement Scheme	385	67	0	452
EEA national - pre-settled status	339	63	0	402
EEA national - settled status	273	113	0	386
No valid leave/undocumented	0	15	205	220
EEA national - EUSS application submitted and pending	138	21	0	159
Refugee status	0	1	127	128
Asylum seeker	0	7	114	121
Irish national	0	105	0	105
Other Limited Leave without NRPF condition	0	3	44	47
Refused asylum seeker	0	0	27	27
Discretionary Leave	0	0	13	13
Limited Leave to Remain (LLR)	0	0	11	11
Student visa	0	0	5	5
Humanitarian protection	0	0	0	0
Other Limited Leave with NRPF condition	0	0	0	0
Spouse/partner visa	0	0	0	0
Visitor visa	0	0	0	0
Other	0	9	104	113
Not known	0	67	191	258
Missing	24	15	12	51
Total	**1668**	**622**	**1293**	**3583**

Base: 3583 people seen rough sleeping in the year whose nationality was known and who were not from the UK.

The table above shows that the most commonly recorded immigration status was EEA national with status under the EU Settlement Scheme not known (621 people). The second most commonly recorded status was Indefinite Leave to Remain or Settlement, with 464 people having this status.

Immigration status options were reviewed and updated on CHAIN in 2020. However, many people included above will have had their status recorded prior to this review, meaning that there may be some inconsistent or overlapping categories in the table.

4.5 Gender

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by gender.
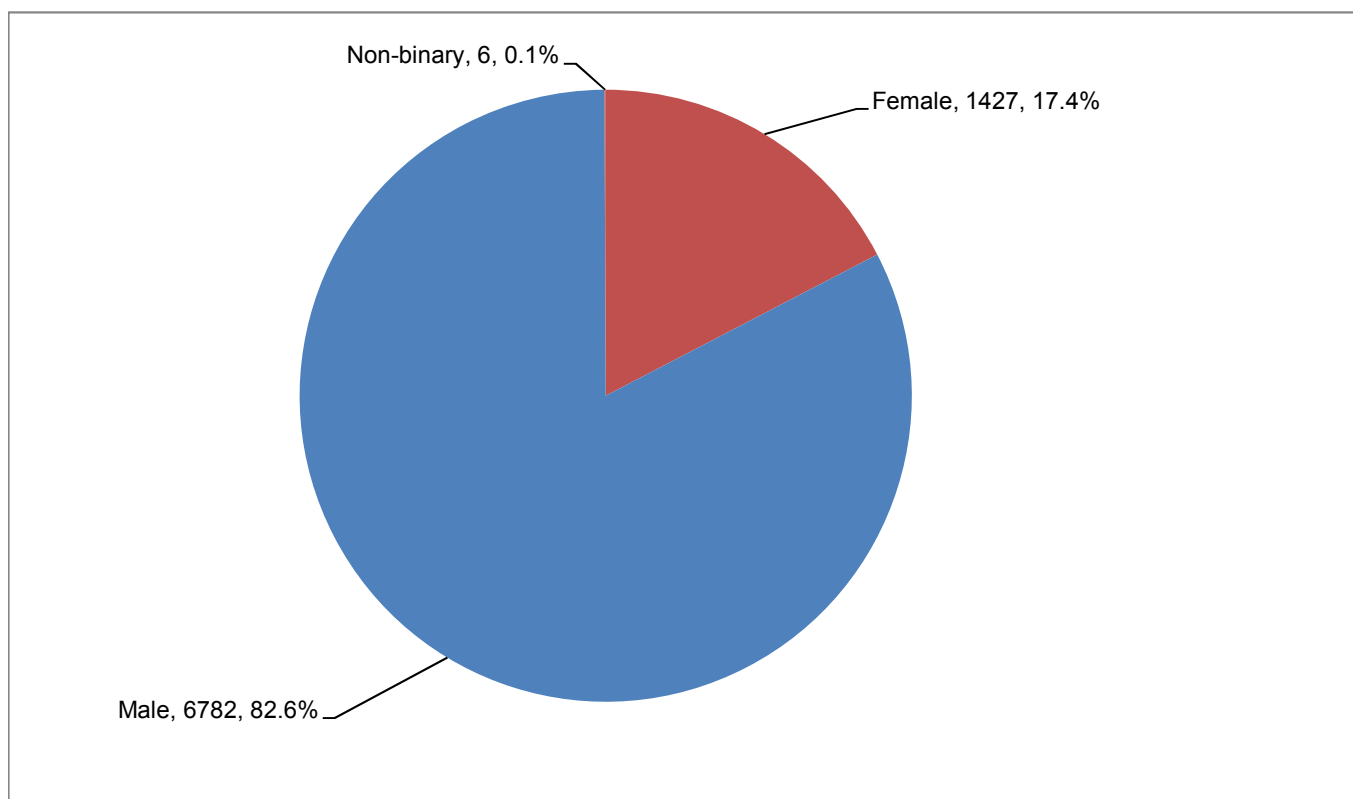
Base: 8215 people seen rough sleeping whose gender was known. This excludes 114 people whose gender was not known.

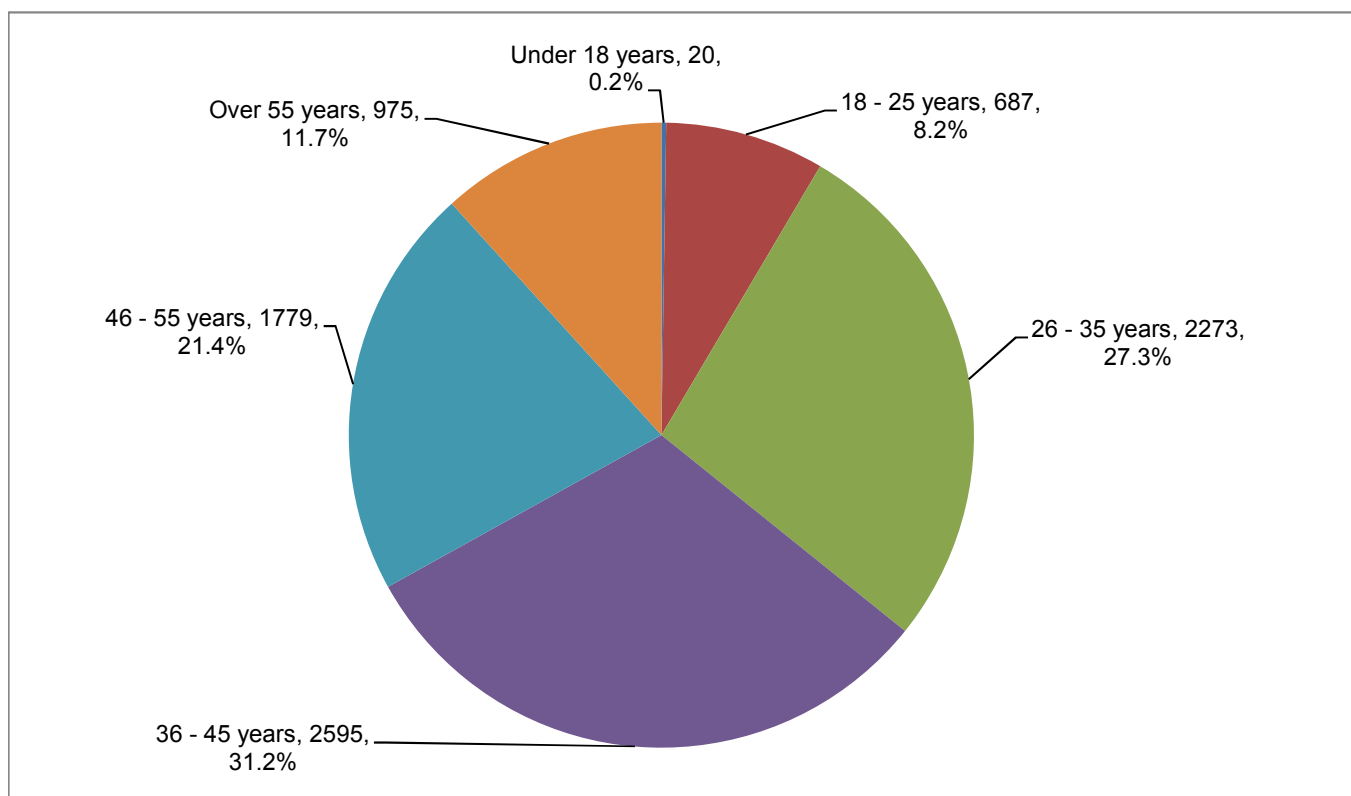People seen rough sleeping, by gender, over the last four years.

Gender	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Female	1401	15.8%	1756	16.6%	1699	15.6%	1427	17.4%
Male	7445	84.1%	8801	83.4%	9217	84.4%	6782	82.6%
Non-binary	9	0.1%	2	0.0%	5	0.0%	6	0.1%
Not known	0		167		97		114	
Total (excl. not known)	**8855**	**100.0%**	**10559**	**100.0%**	**10921**	**100.0%**	**8215**	**100.0%**
Total (incl. not known)	**8855**		**10726**		**11018**		**8329**	

Note: The 'Not known' gender category was introduced in 2019/20. Periods prior to that will always show 0 for 'Not known'.

The gender breakdown of people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 is broadly consistent with that in 2020/21, with 83% of people seen rough sleeping this year being male, compared to 84% last year.

4.6 Age

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by age.

Base: 8329

People seen rough sleeping, by age, over the last four years.

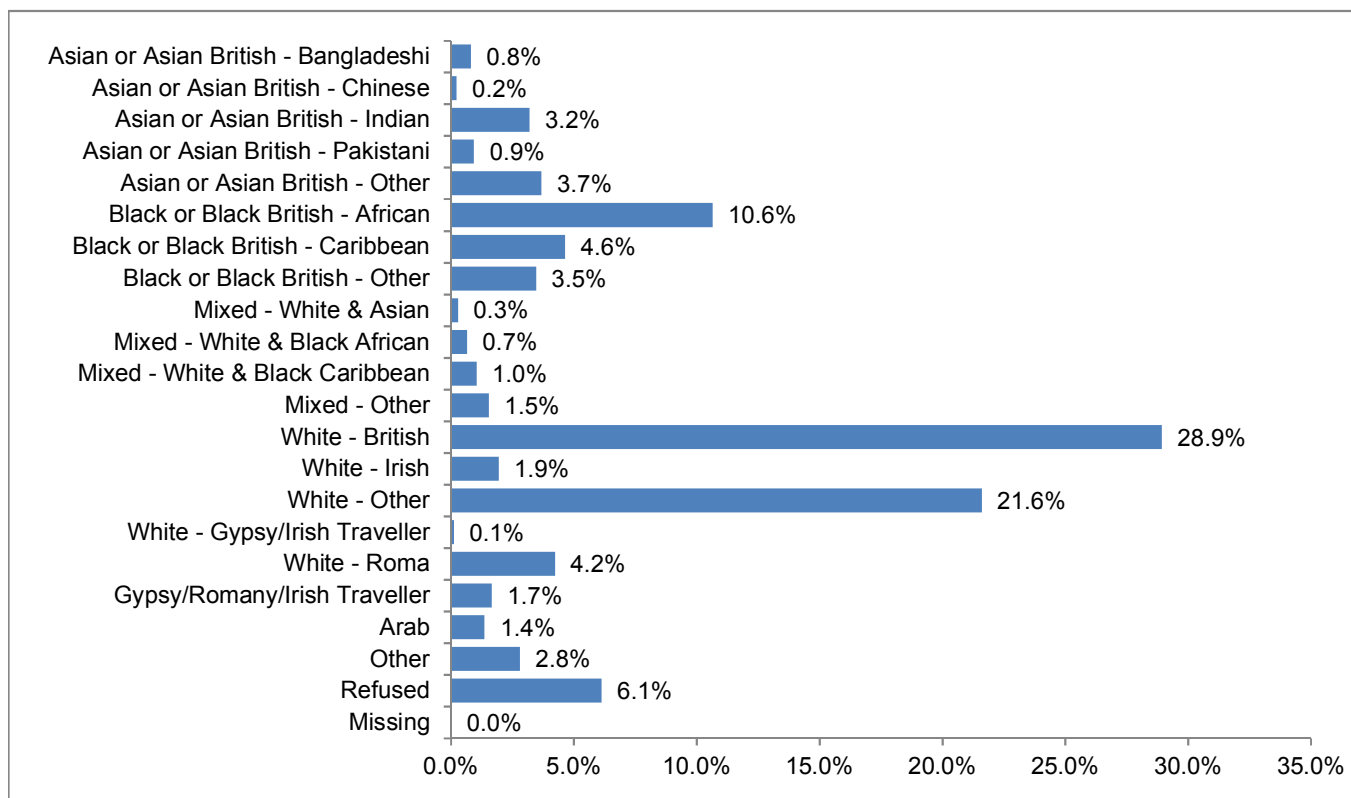|	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
Age	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 18 years	5	0.1%	1	0.0%	7	0.1%	20	0.2%
18 - 25 years	687	7.8%	834	7.8%	1086	9.9%	687	8.2%
26 - 35 years	2179	24.6%	2944	27.4%	3053	27.7%	2273	27.3%
36 - 45 years	2830	32.0%	3420	31.9%	3436	31.2%	2595	31.2%
46 - 55 years	2124	24.0%	2360	22.0%	2353	21.4%	1779	21.4%
Over 55 years	1030	11.6%	1167	10.9%	1083	9.8%	975	11.7%
Total	8855	100.0%	10726	100.0%	11018	100.0%	8329	100.0%

Age distribution amongst rough sleepers remains broadly consistent with previous years, although there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of people seen rough sleeping who were aged 25 or under, with 8% (707 people) of rough sleepers seen in 2021/22 in this group, compared to 10% (1,093 people) in 2020/21. 36% (2,980 people) of rough sleepers in the year were aged 35 or under, compared to 38% (4,146 people) in 2020/21.

People in the over 55 age group represented 12% of rough sleepers in 2021/22 (975 people), which is similar to the 10% seen in 2020/21.

There were 20 people aged under 18 seen rough sleeping this year, which is higher than the seven people in this age group seen in 2020/21.

4.7 Ethnicity

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by ethnicity.

Base: 8329

People seen rough sleeping, by ethnicity over the last four years.

Ethnicity	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	586	6.6%	736	6.9%	988	9.0%	739	8.9%
Black	1235	13.9%	1542	14.4%	2513	22.8%	1563	18.8%
Mixed	191	2.2%	267	2.5%	322	2.9%	295	3.5%
White (incl. Gypsy/ Irish Traveller/Roma)	6157	69.5%	7027	65.5%	6221	56.5%	4873	58.5%
Arab/Other	351	4.0%	445	4.1%	421	3.8%	348	4.2%
Missing/Refused	335	3.8%	709	6.6%	553	5.0%	511	6.1%
Total	8855	100.0%	10726	100.0%	11018	100.0%	8329	100.0%

In order to bring ethnicity recording on CHAIN into line with usage in the national census, some changes have been made, as of April 2021. The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' has been replaced with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma'. 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. The previously employed category 'Chinese' has also been renamed as 'Asian or Asian British - Chinese'.

The majority of people seen rough sleeping in London in 2021/22 were White (including Gypsy, Irish Traveller and Roma), with a proportion of 59%, which is slightly higher than the proportion of 56% in 2020/21. Within this group, White British comprises 29%, compared to 27% in 2020/21, while White Other comprises 22%, compared to 24% in 2020/21. 6% of people seen rough sleeping during the year were of Gypsy, Irish Traveller or Roma ethnicity, compared to 4% in 2020/21.

19% of people seen rough sleeping in the year were Black, which is a slight decrease on the proportion of 23% in 2020/21, but remains higher than the 14% seen in 2019/20 and 2018/19. 9% of people seen rough sleeping in 2020/21 were of Asian ethnicity, which is the same proportion as in 2020/21.

4.8 Support needs

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by support needs.

Support needs data in CHAIN is derived from assessments made by support workers in the homelessness sector. It should be noted that a quarter (25%) of rough sleepers in 2021/22 did not have a support needs assessment recorded, the majority of these (86%) being people who had only been seen rough sleeping once or twice.
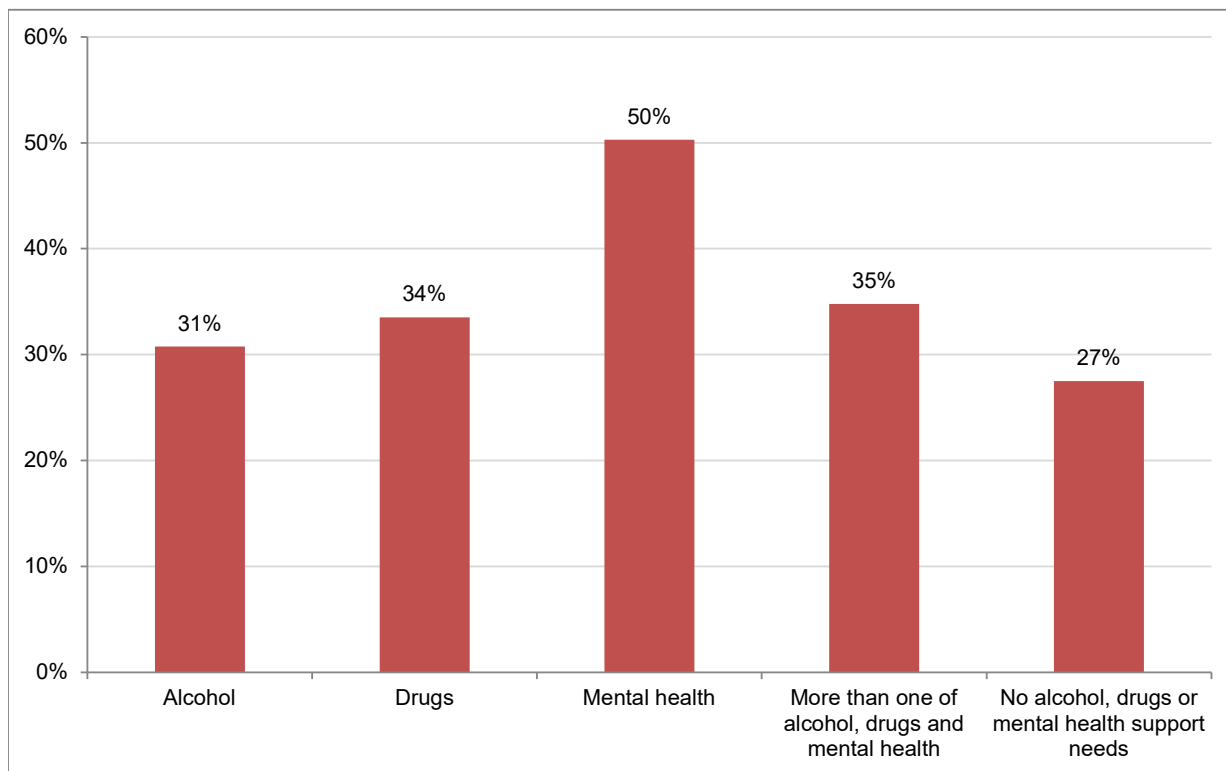

Base: 6225. Note that the base figure for this chart excludes people for whom none of the three support needs were known or assessed (2104).

Support Needs	No. people	% of people seen rough sleeping
Alcohol only	557	9%
Drugs only	424	7%
Mental health only	1204	19%
Alcohol and drugs	239	4%
Alcohol and mental health	503	8%
Drugs and mental health	809	13%
Alcohol, drugs and mental health	615	10%
All three no	1711	27%
All three no, not known or not assessed	163	3%
All three not known or not assessed	2104	
Total (excl. not assessed)	**6225**	**100%**
Total (incl. not assessed)	**8329**	

Note: Total excluding not known or assessed is used as base for percentages.

The most frequently reported support need amongst people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 was mental health, with 50% of those assessed during the period having a need in this area. 34% of people assessed had a support need relating to drug use, while 31% were found to have a support need around alcohol. Just over a third (35%) of those assessed were found to have more than one of the three support needs, while 27% had no support needs in these areas.

The graph below shows changes in the prevalence of alcohol, drug and mental health support needs amongst people seen rough sleeping over the last five years.
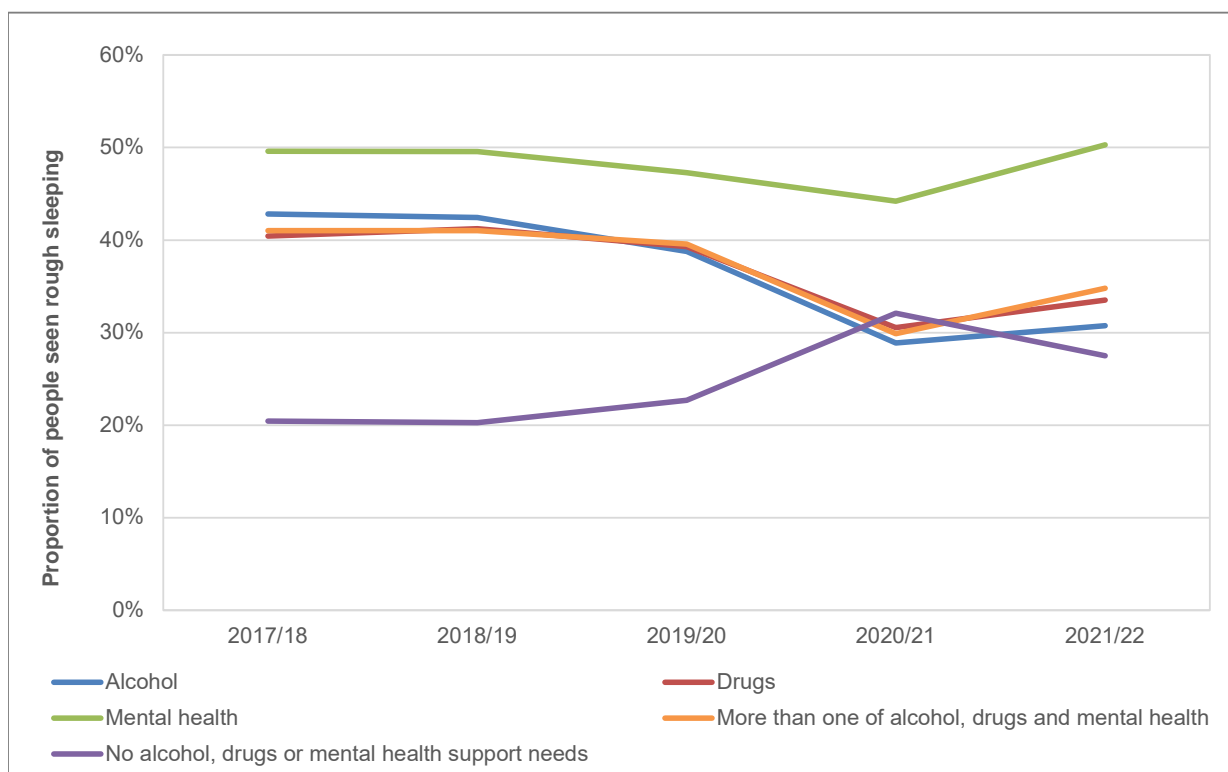
Note: Percentages are based on total people seen rough sleeping who were assessed for at least one of the three key support needs.

2017/18 base: 5320
2018/19 base: 5352
2019/20 base: 6311
2020/21 base: 8111
2021/22 base: 6225

Following a period in which the proportion of rough sleepers assessed as having support needs relating to alcohol, drugs or mental health decreased, 2021/22 has seen slight increases in all these areas. Those found to have a need in relation to mental health constituted 50% of those assessed, compared to 44% in 2020/21. People with an alcohol support need represented 31% in 2021/22, compared to 29% in 2020/21, and people with a drug support need represented 34% compared to 31% in 2020/21. The proportion of rough sleepers assessed as having more than one of the three support needs has also increased, from 30% in 2020/21 to 35% in 2021/22, while the proportion with none of the three support needs has decreased, from 32% in 2020/21 to 27% in 2021/22.

It should be noted that an increase in the proportion of individuals recorded with a particular support need does not necessarily equate to an increase in their number, as the size of the overall base has decreased.

4.9 Institutional & armed forces history

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by experience of armed forces, care or prison.
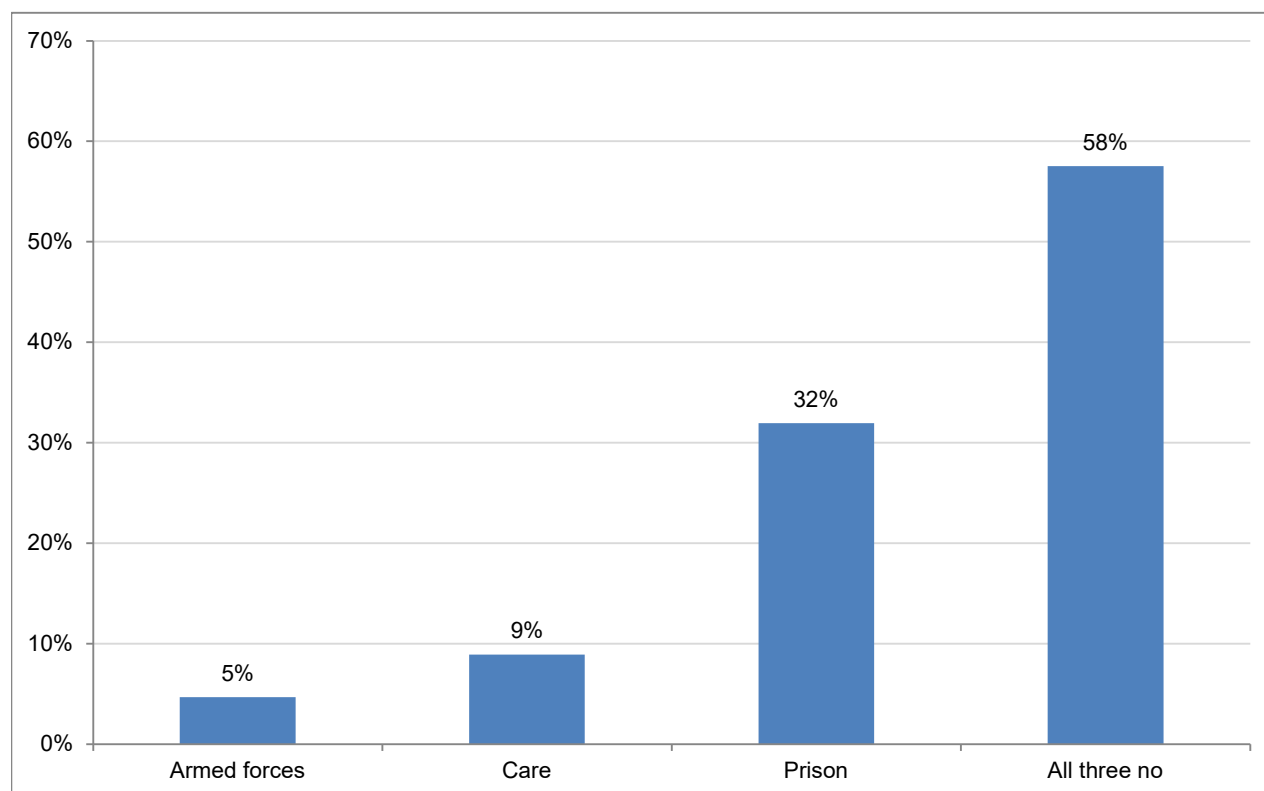
Base: 6209. Note that the base figure for this chart excludes people for whom none of the three institutional histories were assessed (2120).

Nationality of rough sleepers with experience of armed forces:

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
Nationality	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
UK	129	2%	122	2%	110	2%
Non-UK	247	4%	265	3%	181	3%
Total with armed forces experience	376	6%	387	5%	291	5%
Base (total assessed)	**6013**		**7912**		**6209**	

291 people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 had experience of serving in the armed forces, of whom 110 were UK nationals. The proportion of rough sleepers with experience of serving in the armed forces remains largely consistent with previous years. Time spent in the forces could have been at any point in the person's life, and it is not necessarily the case that the person has recently been discharged.

554 people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 had previous experience of living in care (compared to 643 in 2020/21), and 1,984 had experience of serving time in prison (compared to 2,397 in 2020/21). Of the 554 people with experience of living in care, 66 were aged 25 or under.

Proportions of rough sleepers with experience of care (9%) and prison (32%) remain largely consistent with the previous year (8% with experience of care in 2020/21, and 30% with experience of prison).

5. HELPING PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS

5.1 Accommodation outcomes

The table below details the accommodation outcomes achieved with people seen rough sleeping in the year, compared to outcomes for rough sleepers in the previous year. Some people will have had more than one outcome recorded during the year.

In 2021/22, 3,865 people who had been seen rough sleeping during the year were booked into accommodation. This is 46% of all people seen rough sleeping during the year, compared to 55% in 2020/21. The table suggests that the decline in the proportion of people booked into accommodation mainly relates to the phasing out of Covid-19 emergency accommodation provision.

Accommodation type	2020/21		2021/22	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation				
COVID-19 Emergency Accommodation (Local)	3668	32%	364	5%
COVID-19 Emergency Accommodation (Pan London)	1551	14%	70	1%
Hub	46	0%	437	6%
Nightstop	4	0%	3	0%
SWEP (Local)	1014	9%	634	9%
SWEP (Pan-London)	298	3%	204	3%
Winter/Night Shelter	409	4%	547	8%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal	*6990*	*62%*	*2259*	*32%*
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	587	5%	656	9%
Bed & breakfast	545	5%	887	12%
Clinic/Detox/Rehab	17	0%	20	0%
Friends & family	41	0%	30	0%
Hostel	442	4%	409	6%
Local authority temporary accommodation	1026	9%	1320	18%
Staging post	492	4%	551	8%
Other temporary accommodation	316	3%	269	4%
Temporary accommodation subtotal	*3466*	*31%*	*4142*	*58%*
Long term accommodation				
Care home	6	0%	3	0%
Clearing House/RSI	77	1%	58	1%
Local authority tenancy (general needs)	31	0%	25	0%
Private rented sector - independent	278	2%	192	3%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	185	2%	200	3%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	8	0%	2	0%
Sheltered housing	11	0%	6	0%
Supported housing	188	2%	214	3%
Tied accommodation	9	0%	10	0%
Other long-term accommodation	58	0%	41	1%
Long term accommodation subtotal	*851*	*8%*	*751*	*11%*
Total	**11307**	**100%**	**7152**	**100%**

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

5.2 Reconnection outcomes

Confirmed reconnections achieved with people seen rough sleeping in the year.

Outreach teams, NSNO, and other services help people to reconnect to their home area or country, where they have more options available to them, for example through appropriate support networks, entitlement to accommodation or access to an alcohol treatment centre. Reconnection destinations could be another borough within London, an area elsewhere in the UK, or another country. Some people may have had more than one reconnection recorded during the year.

	2020/21		2021/22	
Reconnection reason	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Return to home area	308	79%	476	82%
Seeking work	9	2%	13	2%
Move to area for friends/family	154	39%	164	28%
Move to area with appropriate services	109	28%	158	27%
Reconnections total	**392**		**577**	

Reconnection destination	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
UK - London	134	35%	258	45%
UK - outside London	56	15%	65	11%
Central and Eastern Europe	173	45%	211	37%
Other Europe	13	3%	21	4%
Rest of the world	7	2%	15	3%
Not known	9		7	
Reconnections total (excl. destination not known)	**383**	**100%**	**570**	**100%**

Reconnections can be recorded with multiple reasons, so the overall total will be lower than the combined sum of the separate reconnection reasons. Percentages are based on the total number of reconnections.

521 people seen rough sleeping in 2021/22 also had a confirmed reconnection recorded during the period. This means that 6% of all people seen rough sleeping in the year were reconnected, which is higher than the proportion of 3% in 2020/21.

43% of reconnections this year were to destinations outside the UK, which is a somewhat lower proportion than the 50% in 2020/21. The proportion of reconnections to destinations within London rose significantly, at 45% in 2021/22 compared to 35% in 2020/21, while the proportion to UK destinations outside London fell slightly, at 11%, compared to 15% in 2020/21.

The total of 570 reconnections recorded in 2021/22 is significantly higher than the 383 recorded in 2020/21, following a decrease from 814 in 2019/20. The dip in 2020/21 is likely to have resulted from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the suspension of NSNO assessment hubs, and restrictions on national and international movements.

6. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Arrivals and departures at hostels, assessment centres and second-stage accommodation. All people counted in this section had previously been seen rough sleeping, but not necessarily during 2021/22. The figures in this section of the report do not include arrivals and departures from Covid-19 emergency accommodation.
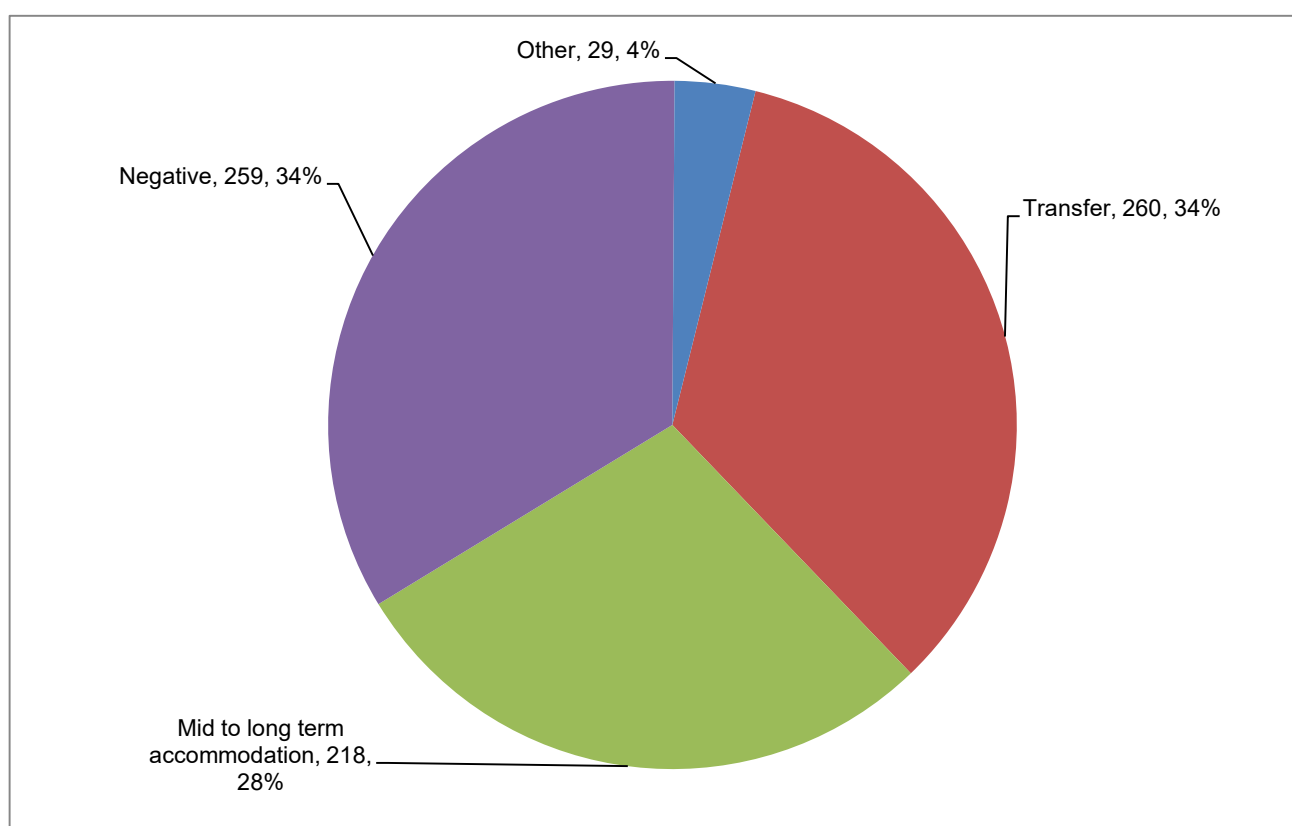
6.1 Arrivals

A total of 612 individuals arrived at temporary accommodation during the period.

6.2 Departures: Destination on departure

A total of 667 individuals departed from temporary accommodation during the period, with a total of 766 departures recorded between them.

Departures from temporary accommodation, by destination on departure.

Base: 766

| Destination on departure	Destination category	Chart colour
Assessment centre, Bed & breakfast, Covid-19 Emergency Hotel, Detox clinic, Hospital - not long term/acute care, Hostel - another organisation, Hostel - within the organisation, Hosting placement, Internal transfer, NASS accommodation, Night shelter, NSNO assessment hub, NSNO staging post, Psychiatric hospital, Rehab clinic, Temporary accommodation (LA)	Transfer	
Accommodation where client is owner, Care home, Clearing House/RSI, Hospital - long term, LA tenancy (general needs), Long stay hospice, Private rented sector - independent, Private rented sector - with some floating support, Returned to home country (EEA), Returned to home country (non EEA), RSL tenancy (general needs), Sheltered housing, Supported housing, Tied accommodation with work	Mid to long term accommodation	
Died by suicide, Not known, Sleeping rough/Returned to streets, Taken into custody	Negative	
Died, Previous home, Staying with family, Staying with friends	Other	

Note: An individual may have had more than one accommodation departure during the period.

Destination on departure	No. departures	%
Transfer		
Assessment centre	27	3.5%
Bed & breakfast	30	3.9%
Covid-19 Emergency Hotel	2	0.3%
Detox clinic	7	0.9%
Hospital - not long term/acute care	8	1.0%
Hostel - another organisation	69	9.0%
Hostel - within the organisation	17	2.2%
Hosting placement	1	0.1%
Internal SWEP transfer	6	0.8%
NASS accommodation	1	0.1%
Night shelter	6	0.8%
NSNO assessment hub	0	0.0%
NSNO staging post	1	0.1%
Psychiatric hospital	8	1.0%
Rehab clinic	2	0.3%
Temporary accommodation (LA)	75	9.8%
Transfer subtotal	*260*	*33.9%*
Mid to long term accommodation		
Accommodation where client is owner	0	0.0%
Care home	4	0.5%
Clearing House/RSI	16	2.1%
Hospital - long term	10	1.3%
LA tenancy (general needs)	5	0.7%
Long stay hospice	0	0.0%
Private rented sector - independent	35	4.6%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	59	7.7%
Returned to home country (EEA)	11	1.4%
Returned to home country (non EEA)	2	0.3%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	5	0.7%
Sheltered housing	6	0.8%
Supported housing	62	8.1%
Tied accommodation with work	3	0.4%
Mid to long term accommodation subtotal	*218*	*28.5%*
Negative		
Died by suicide	1	0.1%
Not known	150	19.6%
Sleeping rough/Returned to streets	78	10.2%
Taken into custody	30	3.9%
Negative subtotal	*259*	*33.8%*
Other		
Died	5	0.7%
Previous home	5	0.7%
Staying with family	8	1.0%
Staying with friends	11	1.4%
Other subtotal	*29*	*3.8%*
Total	**766**	**100.0%**

In 2021/22, 28% of departures from temporary accommodation were moves to mid to long term accommodation, which is a slight decrease from the figure of 32% in 2020/21. There was a small increase in the proportion of negative departures, with 34% in this category in 2021/22, compared to 31% in 2020/21, although the proportion in 2019/20 was higher, at 37%. During 2021/22, 11% of departures were for a move to another hostel, which is only a small change from the 9% recorded in 2020/21. The proportion of departures to supported housing has decreased slightly, with 8% of moves in 2021/22 being to this type of accommodation, compared to 11% last year. Departures to private rented accommodation accounted for 12% of all moves this year, compared to 14% in 2020/21.

6.3 Departures: Reason for leaving

Temporary accommodation departures by reason for leaving.
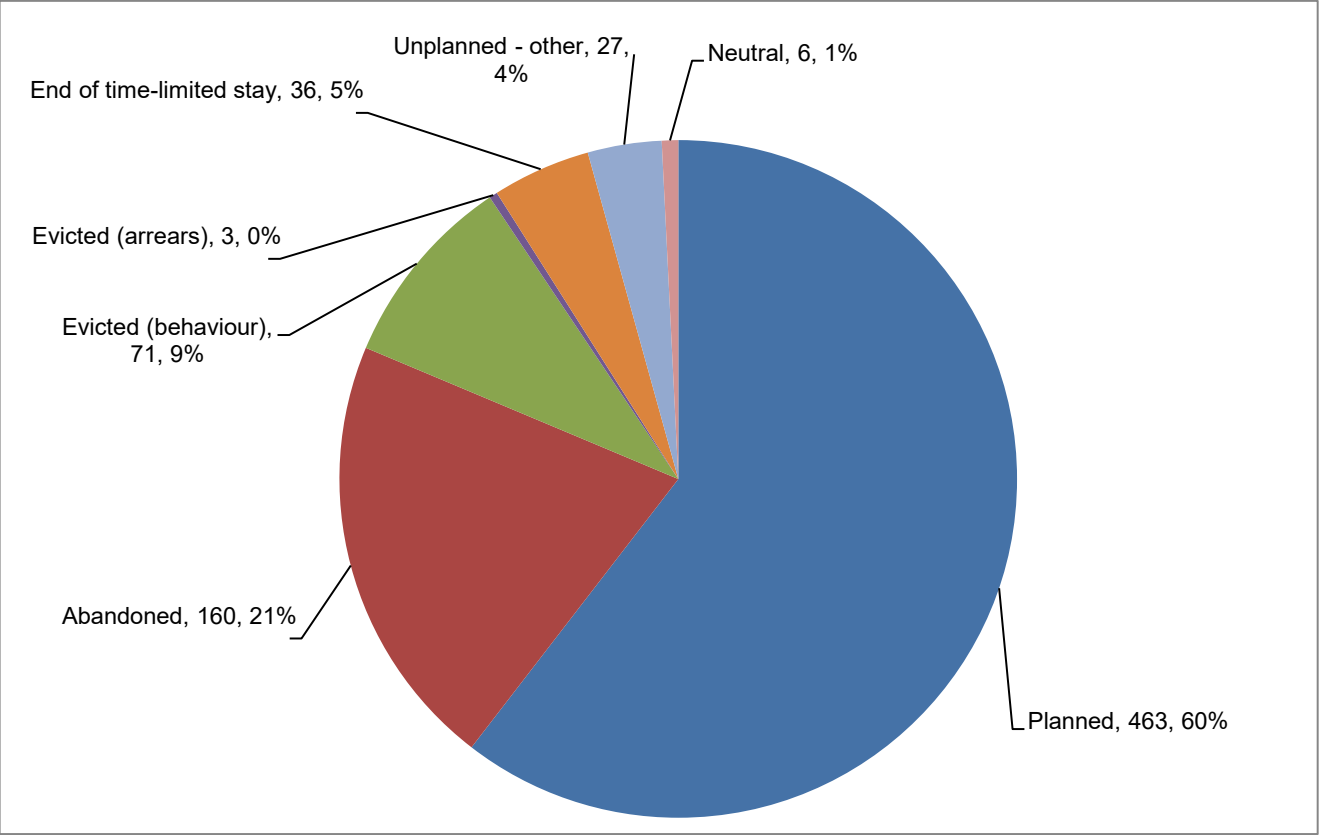
Base: 766

Note: An individual may have had more than one accommodation departure during the period. In most cases where a person's reason for leaving has been recorded as 'Neutral', their tenancy has ended due to them dying.

In 2021/22, 34% of departures from temporary accommodation were for evictions, abandonments and unplanned departures, which is almost unchanged from the proportion of 33% in 2020/21. The proportion of planned moves has slightly decreased, at 60%, compared to 64% in 2020/21.