MAYOR OF LONDON

CHAIN ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER LONDON

APRIL 2015 - MARCH 2016

CONTENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London between April 2015 and March 2016. 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, which is commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by St Mungo's, represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping.

Services that record information on CHAIN include outreach teams, accommodation projects, day centres 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 Communities and Local Government. 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 at some point in their history, but not necessarily during 2015/16.

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 2015/16 Annual Bulletin, which can be downloaded from the GLA Datastore at http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports.

A total of 8,096 people were seen rough sleeping in London during 2015/16, which represents a 7% increase on the number seen in 2014/15. Of these people, 5,276 were new rough sleepers, who had never been seen rough sleeping in London prior to April 2015. Amongst the new rough sleepers, 3,372 (64%) were seen rough sleeping on just a single occasion during the year.

Homelessness services worked to help 2,148 people who were seen rough sleeping during 2015/16 into accommodation during the same period (i.e. 27% of all rough sleepers in the year). Alongside this work, 983 people seen rough sleeping in the year were assisted to reconnect to their home area or country, where they are more likely to find a solution to their homelessness. This represents 12% of all people seen rough sleeping in the period. In total, 2,450 people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 were either helped into accommodation or to reconnect. This represents 30% of all rough sleepers seen during the year.

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%.

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 St Mungo's.

EEA: European Economic Area
The 28 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.

NLOS: No Living on the Streets
A GLA commissioned assessment and reconnection project for rough sleepers who were living on the streets and not eligible for No Second Night Out. From October 2014 onwards the project was integrated into the GLA's No Second Night Out service.

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.

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.
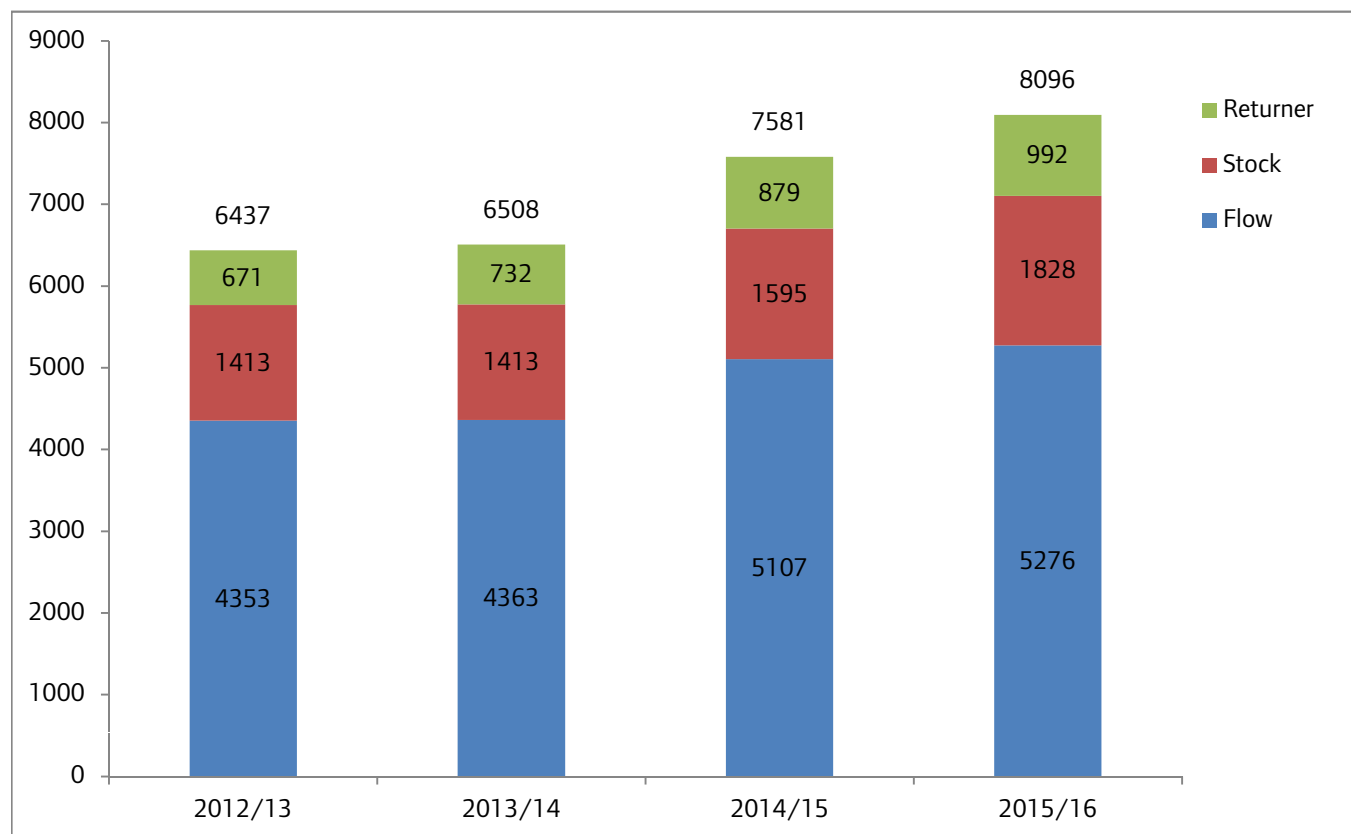
2012/13 base:	6437
2013/14 base:	6508
2014/15 base:	7581
2015/16 base:	8096

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 2015/16 (i.e. new rough sleepers).
Stock	People who were also seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).
Returner	People who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2014/15, but were not seen during 2014/15 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).

8,096 people were seen rough sleeping in London in 2015/16, which represents a 7% increase when compared to 2014/15. This is lower than the previous increase of 16% between 2013/14 and 2014/15, but higher than the 1% increase seen between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

55% of people were seen rough sleeping just once during the year. This compares to 57% of people seen just once in 2014/15 and 58% in 2013/14.

64% of people who were new to the streets were seen rough sleeping just once, and did not spend a second night on the streets during the year. This compares to 67% in 2014/15, and 70% in 2013/14.

5,276 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time this year (also referred to as flow). This is a 3% increase on the number of new rough sleepers in 2014/15. By comparison, there was a 17% increase in the number of new rough sleepers between 2013/14 and 2014/15, while there was no increase from 2012/13 to 2013/14. As with the overall total for all rough sleepers, the number of new people arriving on the streets has increased at a lower rate than in the previous year.

1,828 people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 were in the stock group. This is a 15% increase on the stock figure for 2014/15, which can be compared to a 13% increase between 2013/14 and 2014/15, and no increase between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

992 people seen rough sleeping were returners. This compares to 879 in 2014/15, representing a rise of 13% (compared to an increase of 20% from 2013/14 to 2014/15, and 9% between 2012/13 and 2013/14).

The stock group has thus shown the greatest proportional increase compared to the previous year.

2.2 Number of times seen rough sleeping

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by number of times seen rough sleeping.
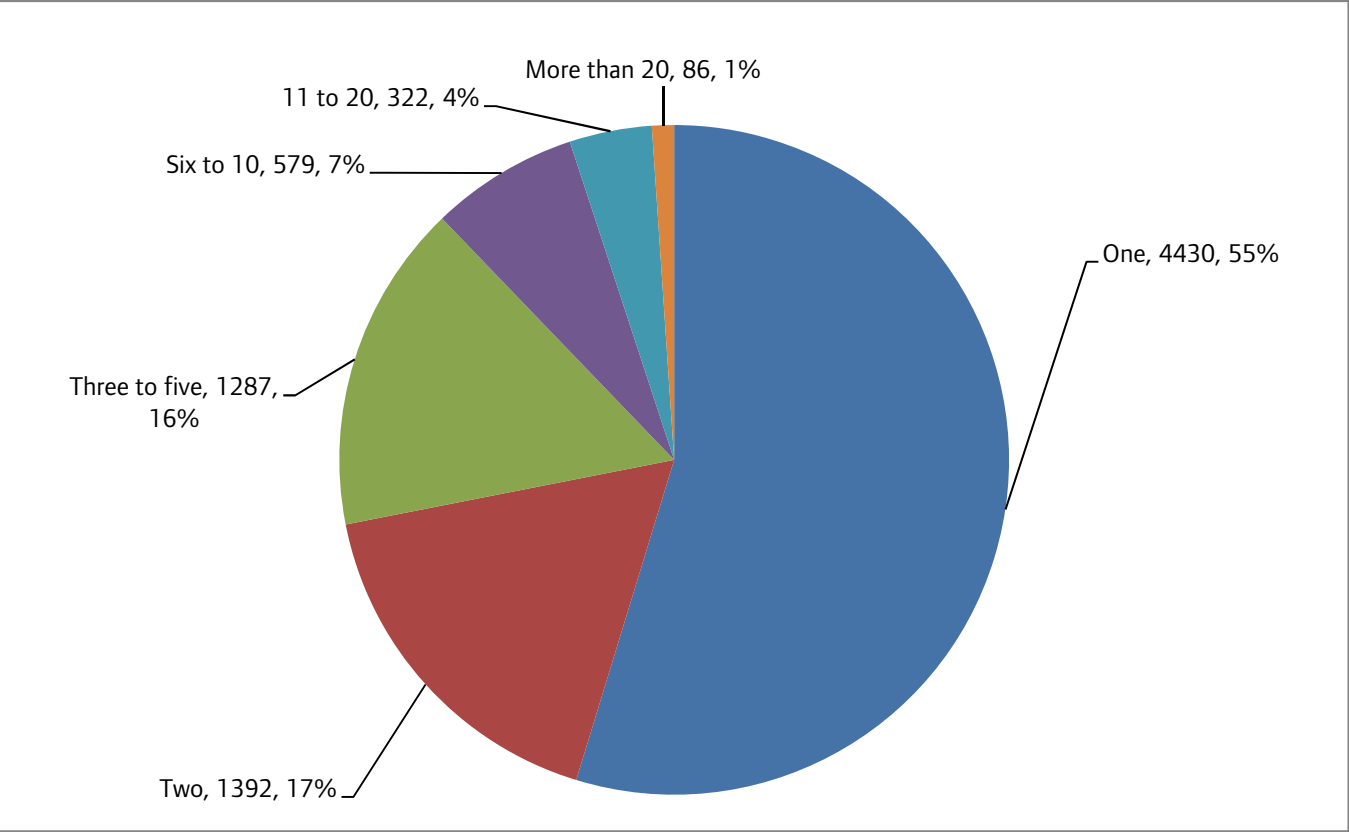
Base: 8096

4,430 (55%) people were seen rough sleeping only once in 2015/16, which compares to 4,315 (57%) seen rough sleeping just once in 2014/15. 72% were seen only once or twice. Around one in twenty people (5%) were seen rough sleeping more than ten times. No one was seen rough sleeping more than 50 times in the year, compared to six people seen more than 50 times in 2014/15 and 24 in 2013/14.

2.3 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.
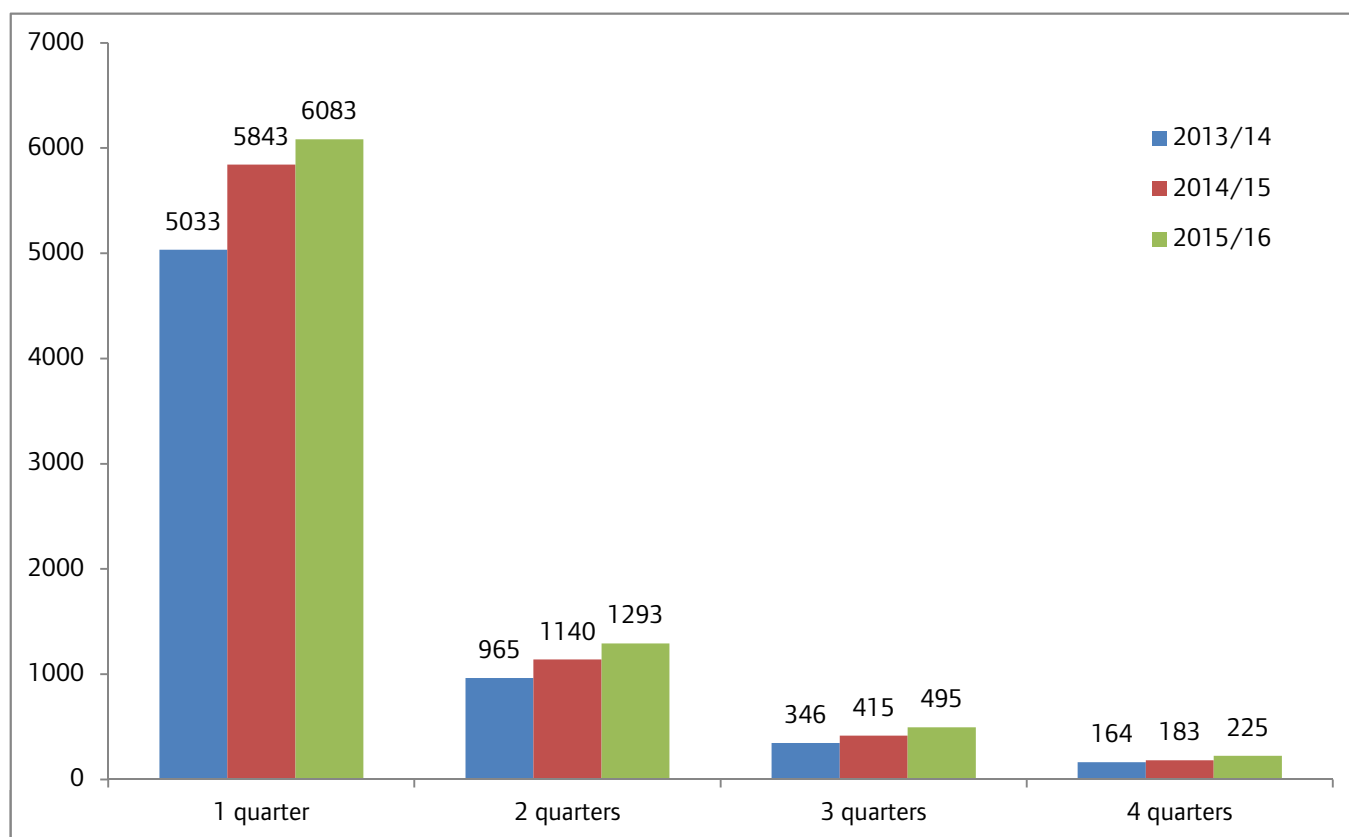
2013/14 base: 6508
2014/15 base: 7581
2015/16 base: 8096

Number of quarters of the year within which rough sleepers were seen	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16	
	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers
One	5033	77%	5843	77%	6083	75%
Two	965	15%	1140	15%	1293	16%
Three	346	5%	415	5%	495	6%
Four	164	3%	183	2%	225	3%
Total	**6508**	**100%**	**7581**	**100%**	**8096**	**100%**

The graph 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. Three in four (75%) of those seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 were only seen in one quarter of the year. 3% of those seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 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 breakdown of rough sleepers by the number of quarters within which they were seen has remained consistent across the last three years.

2.4 Monthly rough sleeping trend

Number of people seen rough sleeping per month, since April 2013.
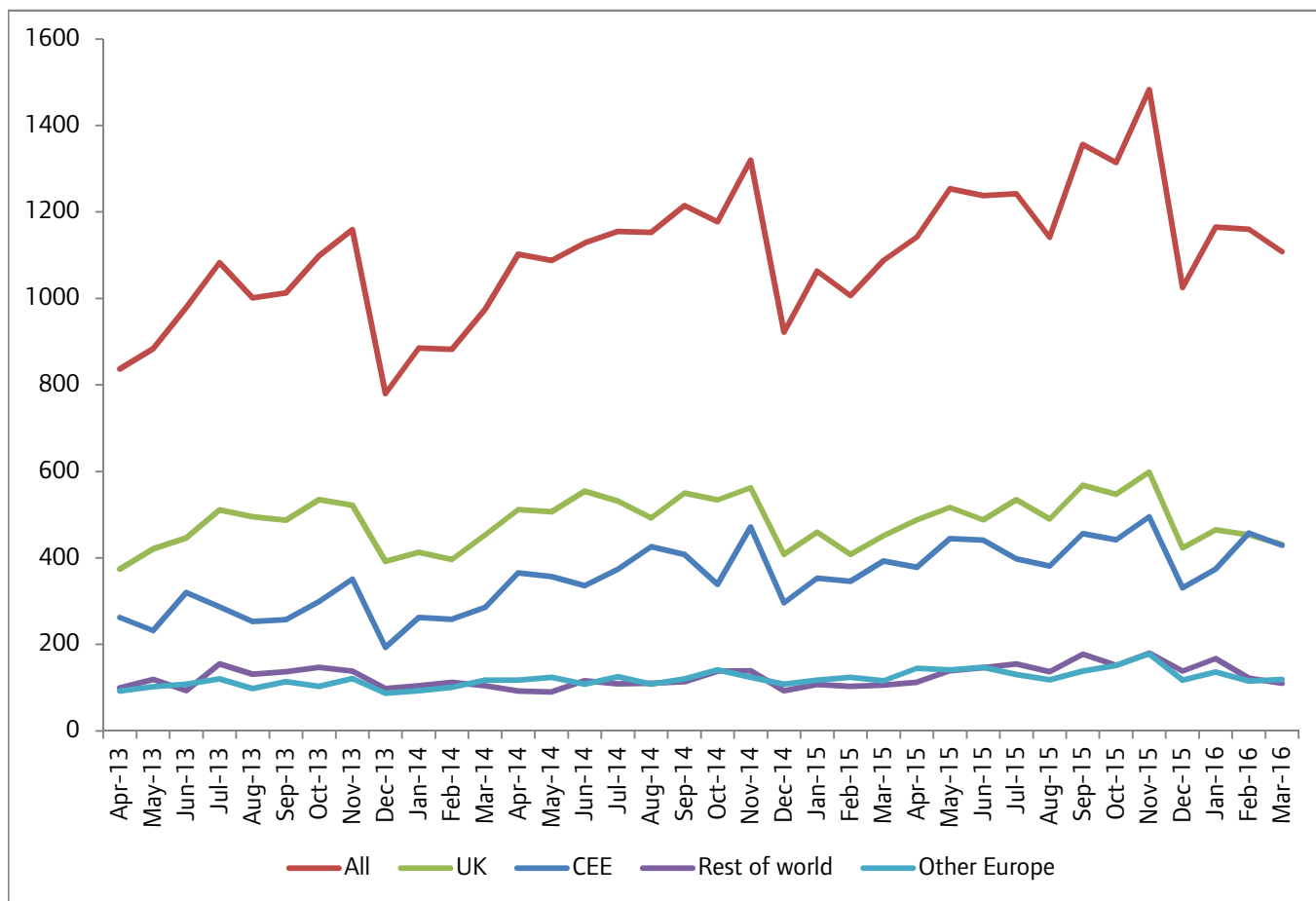
The graph above shows the monthly trend in numbers of people seen rough sleeping over the last three years, broken down by nationality group.

During 2015/16, the month in which the highest number of people were seen rough sleeping was November 2015 (1,483 people), while the lowest number were seen in December 2015 (1,025 people). This follows a pattern consistent with previous years.

There typically tend to be seasonal variations in rough sleeping, with the highest numbers seen in summer and autumn, and the lowest numbers in the winter months of December to February, when winter shelters are usually in operation.

The nationality comparison indicates that trends amongst particular nationality groupings have generally remained consistent with the overall trend. CEE numbers reached parity with UK nationals for the first time in February 2016.

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

People seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2015/16, by number of times seen rough sleeping during the year.
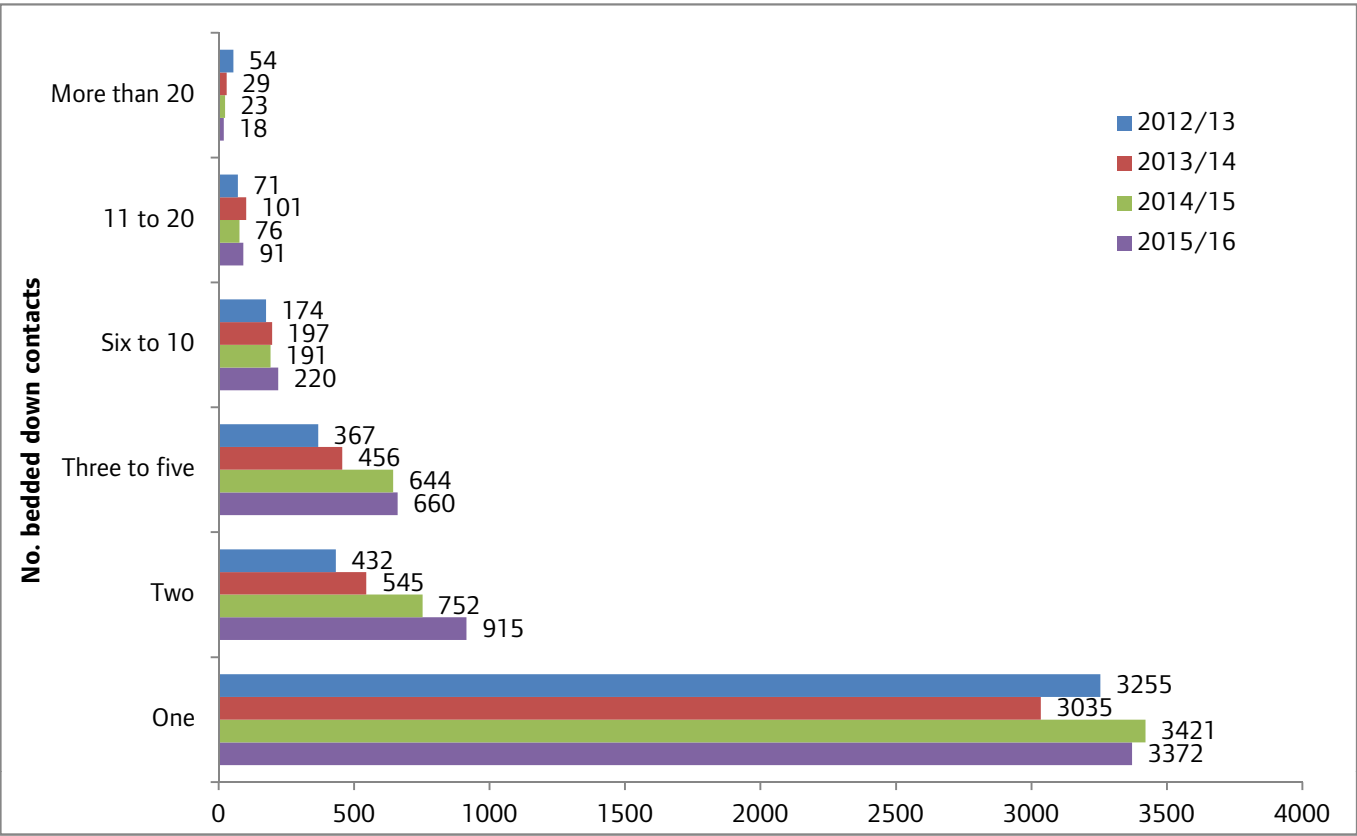
2012/13 base:	4353
2013/14 base:	4363
2014/15 base:	5107
2015/16 base:	5276

New rough sleepers represented 65% of the total rough sleeper population in 2015/16, marginally lower than the proportion of 67% in 2014/15.

64% of new people were seen rough sleeping only once. This compares to 67% in 2014/15, and 70% in 2013/14.

Only 2% of new people were seen rough sleeping more than ten times in the year.

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

People seen rough sleeping for the first time ever in 2015/16, 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.

Last settled base	No.	%
Long term accommodation		
Private rented accommodation	1084	38.8%
Owner occupied accommodation	192	6.9%
Local authority accommodation	185	6.6%
Housing association accommodation	91	3.3%
Tied accommodation	28	1.0%
Long term accommodation subtotal	*1580*	*56.6%*
Short or medium term accommodation		
Hostel	151	5.4%
Temporary accommodation (Local authority)	40	1.4%
Temporary accommodation (non-Local authority)	13	0.5%
Asylum support accommodation	34	1.2%
Short or medium term accommodation subtotal	*238*	*8.5%*
Institution		
Prison	71	2.5%
Hospital	20	0.7%
Institution subtotal	*91*	*3.3%*
Inappropriately accommodated		
Squat	28	1.0%
Outhouse	3	0.1%
Inappropriately accommodated subtotal	*31*	*1.1%*
Newly arrived in UK		
Newly arrived in UK - not homeless in home country	275	9.8%
Newly arrived in UK - homeless in home country	75	2.7%
Newly arrived in UK subtotal	*350*	*12.5%*
Other	502	18.0%
Not recorded	2484	
Total (excl. not recorded)	**2792**	**100.0%**
Total	**5276**	

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

The table below details new rough sleepers' status at their last settled base, for those who were not newly arrived in the UK, and whose last settled base was not of an institutional or inappropriate nature.

Status at last settled base*	No.	%
Tenant	611	45%
Informal arrangement	329	24%
Parental home	187	14%
Living with partner	193	14%
Owner	38	3%
Not recorded/applicable	777	
Total (excl. not recorded/applicable)	**1358**	**100%**
Total	**2135**	

*Applies to people whose last settled base was local authority accommodation, housing association accommodation, temporary accommodation, owner occupied accommodation, private rented accommodation, tied accommodation, and in some cases where "other" has been specified.

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

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

Reason for leaving last settled base	No.	%
Asked to leave or evicted		
Asked to leave	422	15.2%
Evicted - arrears	202	7.3%
Evicted - ASB	44	1.6%
Evicted - other	131	4.7%
Asked to leave or evicted subtotal	*799*	*28.8%*
Employment and education		
Seeking work - from outside UK	337	12.2%
Seeking work - from within UK	201	7.3%
Financial problems - loss of job	243	8.8%
Study	1	0.0%
Employment and education subtotal	*782*	*28.2%*
Relationships		
Relationship breakdown	298	10.8%
Death of relative/friend	31	1.1%
Move nearer family/community	11	0.4%
Relationships subtotal	*340*	*12.3%*
Financial		
Financial problems - debt	24	0.9%
Financial problems - housing benefit	16	0.6%
Financial problems - other	99	3.6%
Financial subtotal	*139*	*5.0%*
End of stay in short or medium term accommodation		
Evicted - given non priority decision	18	0.6%
End of stay - asylum accommodation	19	0.7%
End of stay - hostel	16	0.6%
End of stay - other	79	2.9%
End of stay in short or medium term accommodation subtotal	*132*	*4.8%*
Victim of violence, harassment or abuse		
Domestic violence - victim	42	1.5%
Tenancy hijack	4	0.1%
Harassment/abuse/violence - racial	3	0.1%
Harassment/abuse/violence - gang	2	0.1%
Harassment/abuse/violence - homophobic	1	0.0%
Harassment/abuse/violence - other	47	1.7%
Victim of violence, harassment or abuse subtotal	*99*	*3.6%*
End of stay in institution		
End of stay - prison	79	2.9%
End of stay - hospital	14	0.5%
End of stay in institution subtotal	*93*	*3.4%*
Housing conditions		
Housing conditions	24	0.9%
Perpetrator of violence, harassment or abuse		
Domestic violence - perpetrator	16	0.6%
Transient		
Transient/travelling around	26	0.9%
Other		
Other	321	11.6%
Not recorded	2505	
Total (excl. not recorded)	**2771**	**100%**
Total	**5276**	

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

57% of new rough sleepers reported their last settled base as some kind of long term accommodation, compared to 62% in 2014/15. Within this, private rented accommodation is by far the most frequently recorded specific accommodation type, at 39%. This is similar to the 42% reported in 2014/15.

In 2015/16, CHAIN added the "newly arrived in UK" categories to recording options for last settled base, in order to more clearly account for recent migrants who did not have a settled base in the country prior to rough sleeping. 13% of new rough sleepers in 2015/16 were recorded as having had no settled base since arriving in the UK. As these recording categories were newly introduced during this year, it may have taken some time for outreach workers to adapt to using them, and therefore the figures might not fully reflect the true numbers at this stage.

Being asked to leave or evicted continues to constitute the most commonly reported overall category of reason for leaving last settled base, cited by 29% of new rough sleepers (compared to 30% reporting reasons in this category in 2014/15). However, reasons falling under the employment and education category now account for an almost commensurate proportion, at 28%, with people leaving their last settled base to seek work now accounting for 19% (compared to 17% in 2014/15), and people leaving due to loss of a job standing at 9% (compared to 7% in 2014/15). Relationship breakdown was cited as reason for leaving last settled base by 11% of new rough sleepers, compared to 10% in 2014/15.

804 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2015/16 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 15% of all new rough sleepers in the year. Of these, 731 (91%) had approached Housing Options teams in London boroughs.

2.7 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.	162	160	176	295	242	462	1497
	%	11%	11%	12%	20%	16%	31%	100%
Other Europe	No.	40	29	23	51	50	215	408
	%	10%	7%	6%	13%	12%	53%	100%
Rest of world	No.	10	5	7	9	48	417	496
	%	2%	1%	1%	2%	10%	84%	100%
Total	**No.**	**212**	**194**	**206**	**355**	**340**	**1094**	**2401**
	%	**9%**	**8%**	**9%**	**15%**	**14%**	**46%**	**100%**

Base: 2401 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2015/16 who were non-UK nationals and had a date of entry to the UK recorded.

There were 2,401 new rough sleepers in 2015/16 who were non-UK nationals and had data recorded concerning the date they reported first entering 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

Nearly half (46%) of those represented in the table above had been in the UK for more than a year when they were first seen rough sleeping. People from CEE countries were more likely to be seen rough sleeping within two weeks of entering the UK (22%, compared to 17% for people from other European countries, and 3% for people from outside Europe).

New rough sleepers seen in the first quarter of 2015/16, by total number of quarters in which seen rough sleeping, and nationality

Nationality category		Number of quarters seen rough sleeping in the year				
		One	Two	Three	Four	Total
UK	No.	415	64	18	10	507
	%	82%	13%	4%	2%	100%
CEE	No.	405	111	51	10	577
	%	70%	19%	9%	2%	100%
Other Europe	No.	115	28	12	11	166
	%	69%	17%	7%	7%	100%
Rest of world	No.	133	15	9	7	164
	%	81%	9%	5%	4%	100%
Not known	No.	19	4	1	0	24
	%	79%	17%	4%	0%	100%
Total	**No.**	**1087**	**222**	**91**	**38**	**1438**
	%	**76%**	**15%**	**6%**	**3%**	**100%**

Base: 1438 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in April-June 2015.

1,438 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time in the first quarter of 2015/16 (April-June 2015). The above table shows the total number of quarters in 2015/16 during which these people were seen rough sleeping, broken down by nationality category. This gives a snapshot indication of the comparative likelihood of new rough sleepers from different nationalities remaining on the streets after they have first been seen.

Those from the UK were markedly more likely than those from CEE or other European countries to sleep rough in just one quarter (82% compared to 70% and 69% respectively). However, people from non-European countries showed a similar likelihood to UK nationals of being seen in just the one quarter, at 81%.

Compared to the same snapshot for 2014/15, the table shows a more pronounced discrepancy between the number of quarters in which UK national new rough sleepers are seen rough sleeping and the number for other European nationals. 81% of UK national new rough sleepers in April-June 2014 were seen in only one quarter, compared to 78% of CEE nationals and 77% of other European nationals. This suggests that new rough sleepers from European countries are becoming more likely to remain on the streets than those from the UK.

2.8 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.
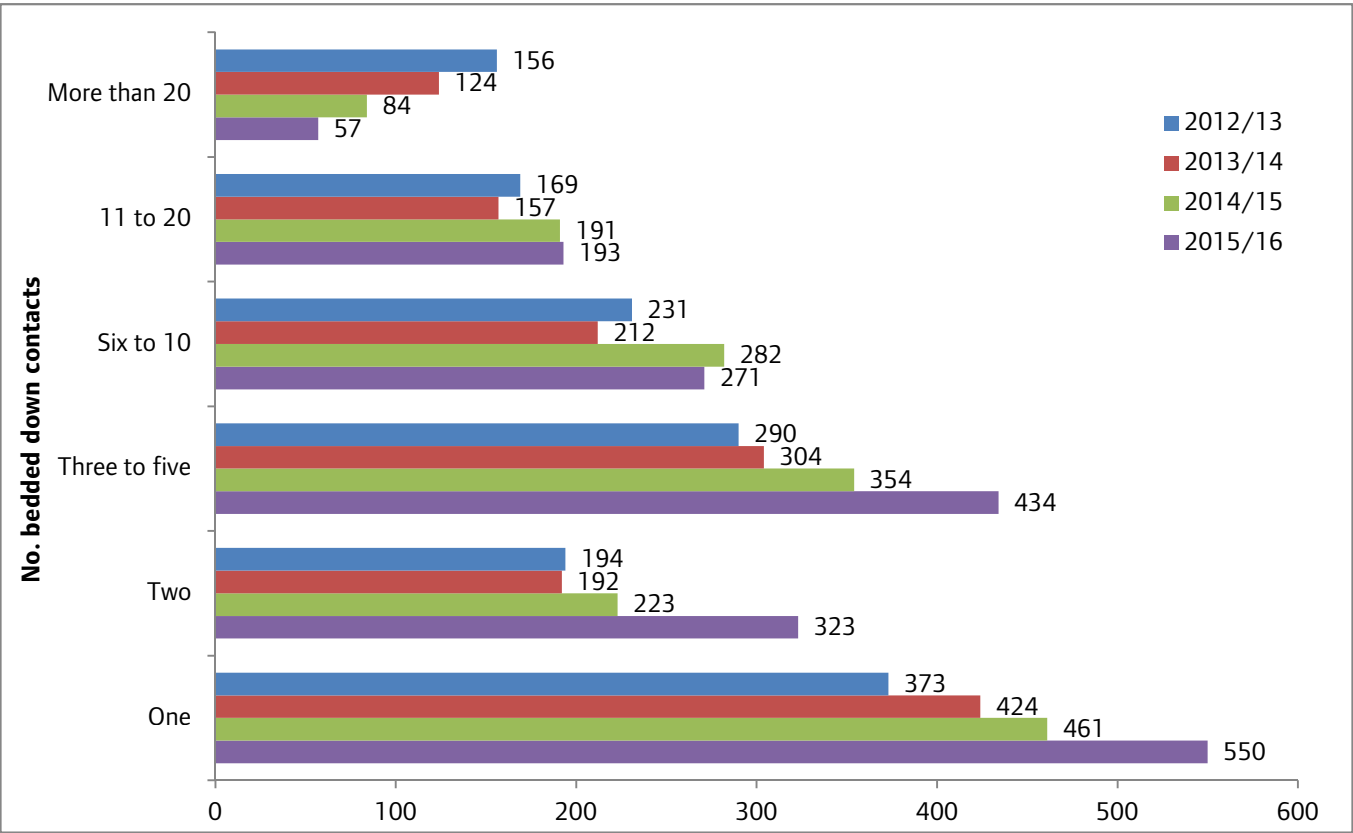
2012/13 base:	1413	
2013/14 base:	1413	
2014/15 base:	1595	
2015/16 base:	1828	

The number of people in the stock group has increased by 15% from 2014/15, and represents 23% of the total rough sleeper population in 2015/16 (compared to 21% in 2014/15).

30% of people in the stock group were seen rough sleeping only once in 2015/16. This compares to 29% of the stock group seen only once in 2014/15. The number of people in the stock group seen rough sleeping only once in the year has increased by 19%, when compared to 2014/15.

2.9 Returner rough sleepers: Number of times seen

People seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2014/15, but not seen rough sleeping during 2014/15 (returners), by number of times seen rough sleeping in the year.
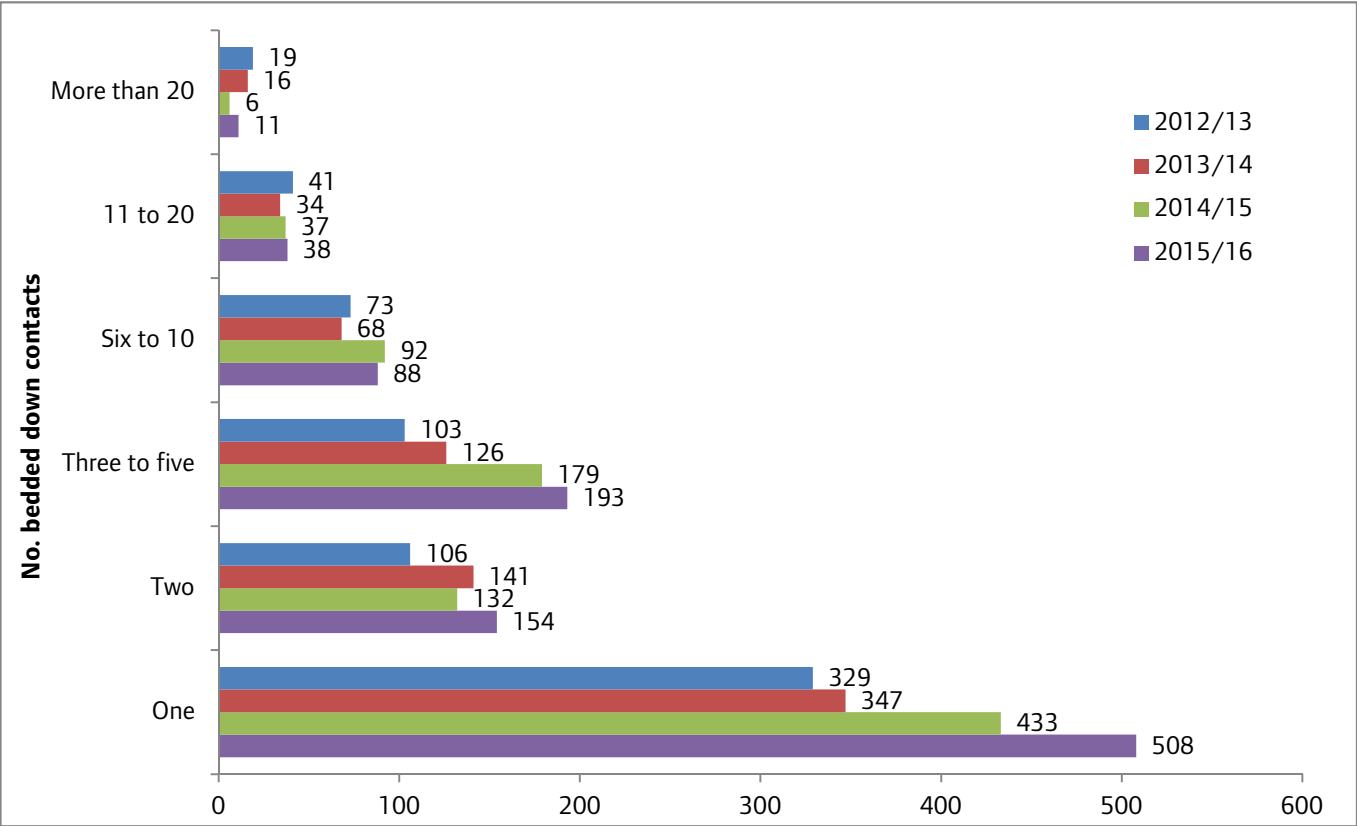
2012/13 base:	671
2013/14 base:	732
2014/15 base:	879
2015/16 base:	992

The number of people returning to rough sleeping in 2015/16 has risen by 13%, when compared to 2014/15. Returners constituted 12% of all people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16, which is unchanged from the proportion in 2014/15.

The proportion of returners who were seen rough sleeping just once during 2015/16 was 51%. This compares to 49% in 2014/15.

67% of returners were seen only once or twice in the year, which suggests that the majority of returners are not continuing a rough sleeping lifestyle over long periods of time. This is broadly consistent with the figure of 64% of returners seen only once or twice in 2014/15.

2.10 Borough distribution: Yearly comparison

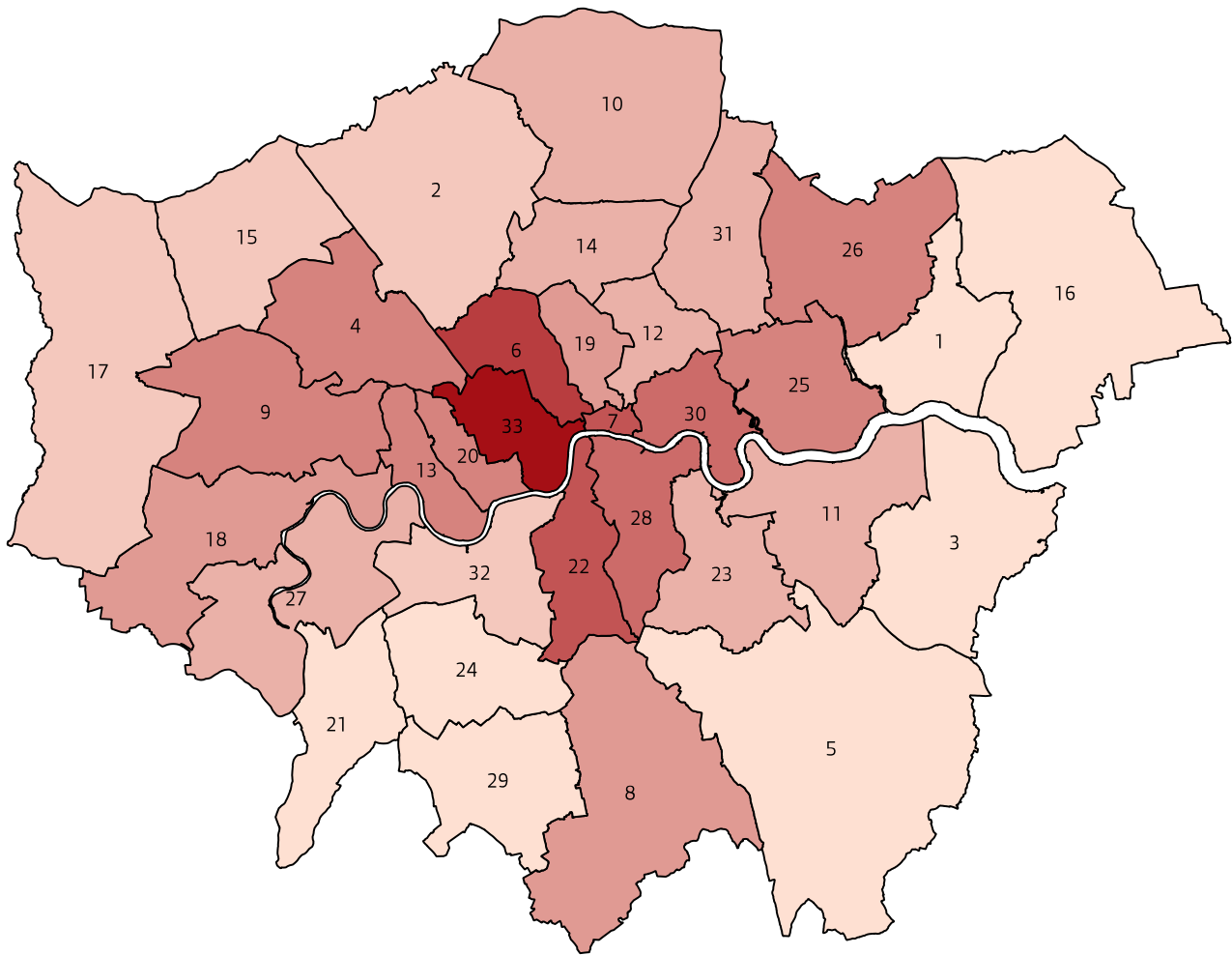People seen rough sleeping in the year, by borough.

Borough	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Change since 2014/15
Westminster	2442	2197	2570	2857	287
Camden	468	501	563	641	78
Lambeth	585	427	468	445	-23
City of London	284	317	373	440	67
Tower Hamlets	326	324	377	395	18
Southwark	393	391	373	372	-1
Ealing	240	249	219	287	68
Newham	124	202	221	260	39
Hammersmith & Fulham	176	157	161	241	80
Heathrow	127	165	266	241	-25
Kensington & Chelsea	215	183	225	230	5
Redbridge	83	83	121	222	101
Brent	233	307	359	212	-147
Hounslow	106	146	161	191	30
Croydon	134	155	157	166	9
Islington	178	163	135	158	23
Hackney	103	141	155	148	-7
Waltham Forest	72	75	118	139	21
Enfield	63	97	174	136	-38
Haringey	85	84	100	135	35
Lewisham	99	141	199	133	-66
Richmond	115	101	120	133	13
Greenwich	56	64	99	110	11
Wandsworth	62	47	125	96	-29
Barnet	92	153	125	88	-37
Harrow	32	48	45	65	20
Hillingdon	50	63	57	56	-1
Merton	21	36	55	49	-6
Bromley	30	46	44	47	3
Sutton	15	23	46	35	-11
Barking & Dagenham	12	14	27	32	5
Kingston upon Thames	19	24	40	31	-9
Bexley	17	8	22	26	4
Havering	18	11	25	20	-5

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 that pertain there.

The boroughs in which the greatest numbers of rough sleepers were seen in 2015/16 were Westminster, Camden, Lambeth, City of London, Tower Hamlets, and Southwark, which remains consistent with 2014/15. Of the top ten boroughs, Lambeth, Heathrow and Southwark (marginally) have shown decreased numbers on the previous year.

2.11 Borough distribution: Map – Total rough sleepers

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+	
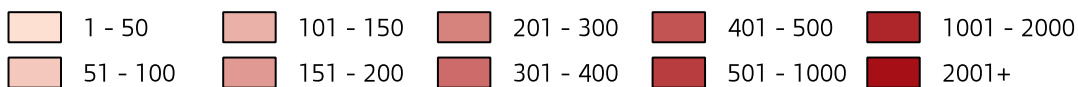
Key	Borough	No.
1	Barking & Dagenham	32
2	Barnet	88
3	Bexley	26
4	Brent	212
5	Bromley	47
6	Camden	641
7	City of London	440
8	Croydon	166
9	Ealing	287
10	Enfield	136
11	Greenwich	110

Key	Borough	No.
12	Hackney	148
13	Hammersmith & Fulham	241
14	Haringey	135
15	Harrow	65
16	Havering	20
17	Hillingdon	56
18	Hounslow	191
19	Islington	158
20	Kensington & Chelsea	230
21	Kingston upon Thames	31
22	Lambeth	445

Key	Borough	No.
23	Lewisham	133
24	Merton	49
25	Newham	260
26	Redbridge	222
27	Richmond	133
28	Southwark	372
29	Sutton	35
30	Tower Hamlets	395
31	Waltham Forest	139
32	Wandsworth	96
33	Westminster	2857
34	Heathrow	241

2.12 Borough distribution: Map – New rough sleepers

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.
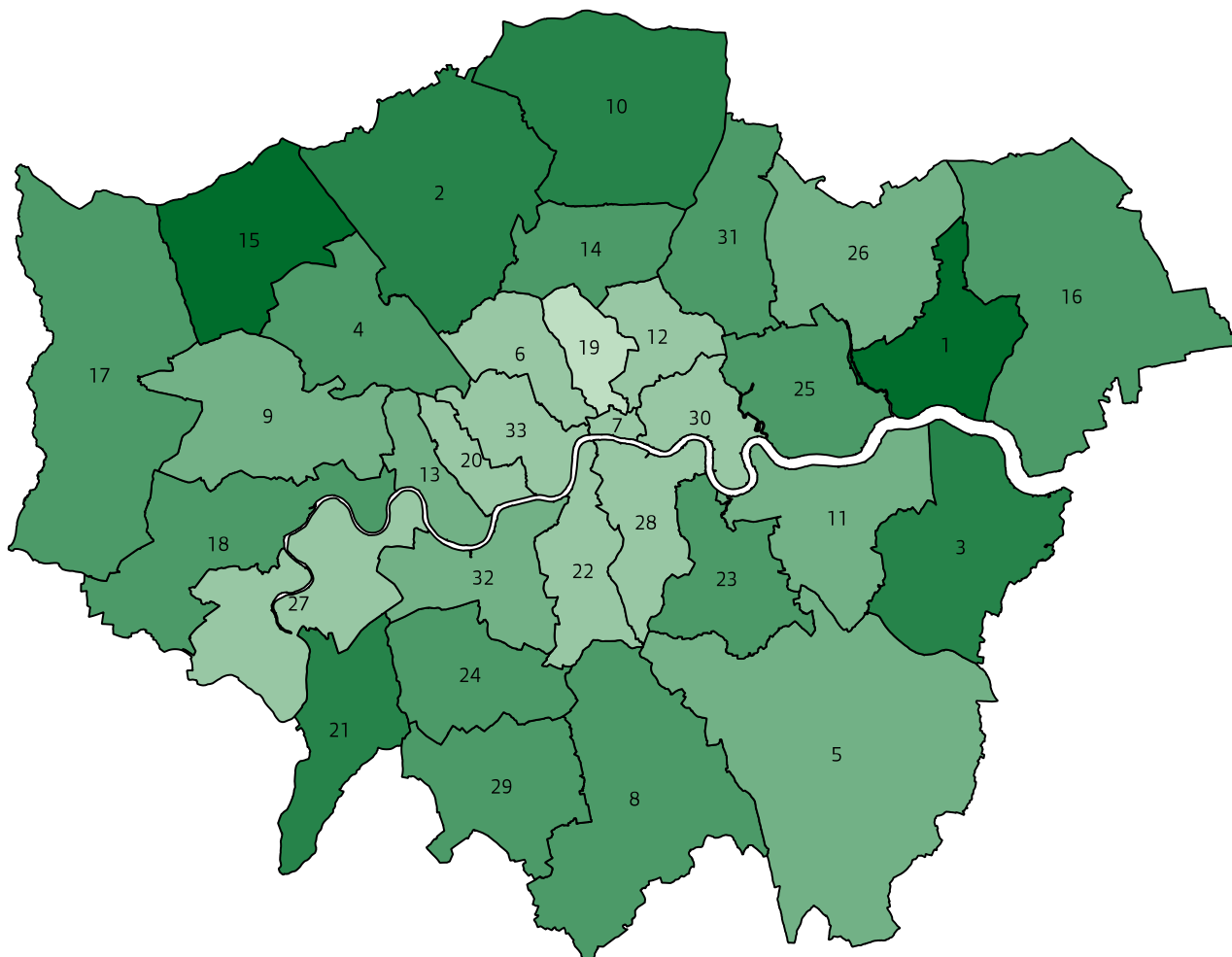
New Rough Sleepers As Percentage Of All

41% - 50%	61% - 70%	81% - 90%
51% - 60%	71% - 80%	91% - 100%

Note: Percentages should be treated with caution where the overall base is low.

Key	Borough	%
1	Barking & Dagenham	100
2	Barnet	84
3	Bexley	85
4	Brent	80
5	Bromley	68
6	Camden	60
7	City of London	51
8	Croydon	72
9	Ealing	61
10	Enfield	82
11	Greenwich	70

Key	Borough	%
12	Hackney	59
13	Hammersmith & Fulham	70
14	Haringey	76
15	Harrow	92
16	Havering	75
17	Hillingdon	79
18	Hounslow	72
19	Islington	49
20	Kensington & Chelsea	58
21	Kingston upon Thames	84
22	Lambeth	59

Key	Borough	%
23	Lewisham	77
24	Merton	78
25	Newham	80
26	Redbridge	68
27	Richmond	56
28	Southwark	58
29	Sutton	80
30	Tower Hamlets	57
31	Waltham Forest	76
32	Wandsworth	66
33	Westminster	59
34	Heathrow	66

3. DEMOGRAPHICS & SUPPORT NEEDS

3.1 Nationality: Overall composition

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by nationality.
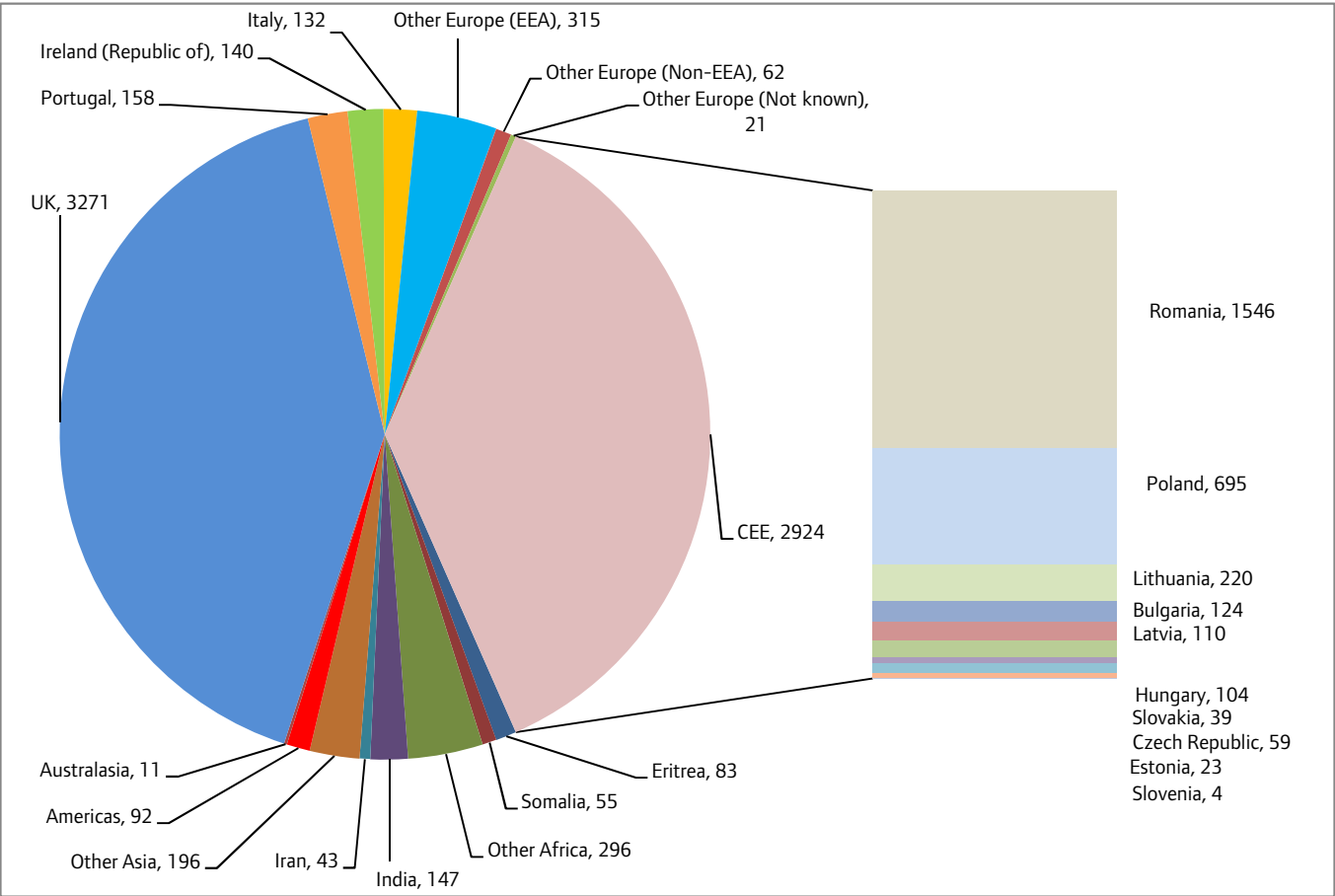
Base: 7946 people seen rough sleeping in the year whose nationality was known.

The nationality profile of rough sleepers in London remains very diverse. 41% of people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 were from the UK – a slight decrease from the figure of 43% in 2014/15 and continuing an ongoing downward trend. The proportion of rough sleepers from CEE countries was 37%, which is virtually unchanged from the figure of 36% in 2014/15. Romanians (1,546, 20%) constitute the predominant non-UK nationality by some distance, with Poles (695, 9%) making up the second largest non-UK nationality group.

There were a significant number of rough sleepers from non-CEE European countries, mostly those in the European Economic Area, with Portugal (158), the Republic of Ireland (140) and Italy (132) continuing to be the most heavily represented. 434 (6%) people seen rough sleeping in the year were from African countries, and 386 (5%) were of Asian nationality.

Nationality figures do not allow us to reliably surmise how long people have been in the UK, or whether they have access to public funds.

3.2 Nationality: Yearly comparison

Nationality	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	2945	46.1%	3212	43.3%	3271	41.2%
Romania	730	11.4%	1388	18.7%	1546	19.5%
Poland	627	9.8%	639	8.6%	695	8.7%
Lithuania	223	3.5%	227	3.1%	220	2.8%
Bulgaria	62	1.0%	119	1.6%	124	1.6%
Latvia	82	1.3%	106	1.4%	110	1.4%
Hungary	99	1.6%	90	1.2%	104	1.3%
Slovakia	44	0.7%	57	0.8%	39	0.5%
Czech Republic	79	1.2%	55	0.7%	59	0.7%
Estonia	20	0.3%	11	0.1%	23	0.3%
Slovenia	1	0.0%	3	0.0%	4	0.1%
CEE subtotal	*1967*	*30.8%*	*2695*	*36.4%*	*2924*	*36.8%*
Portugal	107	1.7%	115	1.6%	158	2.0%
Ireland (Republic of)	134	2.1%	132	1.8%	140	1.8%
Italy	89	1.4%	134	1.8%	132	1.7%
Spain	69	1.1%	82	1.1%	79	1.0%
France	69	1.1%	77	1.0%	77	1.0%
Germany	40	0.6%	35	0.5%	45	0.6%
Netherlands	32	0.5%	23	0.3%	40	0.5%
Other European (EEA) countries	56	0.9%	66	0.9%	74	0.9%
Other Europe (EEA) subtotal	*596*	*9.3%*	*664*	*9.0%*	*745*	*9.4%*
Ukraine	8	0.1%	11	0.1%	16	0.2%
Other European (Non-EEA) countries	37	0.6%	36	0.5%	46	0.6%
Other Europe (Non-EEA) subtotal	*45*	*0.7%*	*47*	*0.6%*	*62*	*0.8%*
Other Europe (Not known)	12	0.2%	14	0.2%	21	0.3%
Eritrea	72	1.1%	62	0.8%	83	1.0%
Somalia	66	1.0%	66	0.9%	55	0.7%
Sudan	11	0.2%	31	0.4%	36	0.5%
Nigeria	53	0.8%	41	0.6%	36	0.5%
Algeria	31	0.5%	26	0.4%	29	0.4%
Ethiopia	20	0.3%	15	0.2%	22	0.3%
Ghana	11	0.2%	18	0.2%	20	0.3%
Other African countries	149	2.3%	134	1.8%	153	1.9%
Africa subtotal	*413*	*6.5%*	*393*	*5.3%*	*434*	*5.5%*
Jamaica	33	0.5%	27	0.4%	30	0.4%
USA	10	0.2%	10	0.1%	20	0.3%
Other Americas countries	40	0.6%	45	0.6%	62	0.8%
Americas subtotal	*73*	*1.1%*	*72*	*1.0%*	*92*	*1.2%*
India	98	1.5%	91	1.2%	147	1.8%
Iran	66	1.0%	48	0.6%	43	0.5%
Sri Lanka	31	0.5%	33	0.4%	43	0.5%
Pakistan	14	0.2%	26	0.4%	25	0.3%
Bangladesh	22	0.3%	22	0.3%	25	0.3%
Afghanistan	16	0.3%	14	0.2%	24	0.3%
Other Asian countries	83	1.3%	75	1.0%	79	1.0%
Asia subtotal	*330*	*5.2%*	*309*	*4.2%*	*386*	*4.9%*
Australasia	6	0.1%	7	0.1%	11	0.1%
Not Known	121		168		150	
Total (excl. Not known)	**6387**	**100.0%**	**7413**	**100.0%**	**7946**	**100.0%**
Total (incl. Not known)	**6508**		**7581**		**8096**	

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

3.3 Nationality: Flow, stock, returner model

The table below compares flow, stock and returner breakdown between different nationality groups.

Nationality category	Flow		Stock		Returner		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	1940	59%	831	25%	500	15%	3271	100%
CEE	2078	71%	598	20%	248	8%	2924	100%
Other Europe	534	64%	185	22%	109	13%	828	100%
Rest of world	624	68%	194	21%	105	11%	923	100%
Not known	100	67%	20	13%	30	20%	150	100%
Total	5276	65%	1828	23%	992	12%	8096	100%

Base: 8096 people seen rough sleeping in the year.

People from the UK were more likely to be in the returner group and less likely to be in the flow group than other rough sleepers. People from CEE countries were markedly more likely to be new rough sleepers (flow).

3.4 Immigration status

The table below compares immigration status amongst different nationality groups, excluding UK nationals.

| Immigration status	CEE	Other Europe	Rest of world	Total
EU National	2396	561	12	2969
Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)	2	13	299	314
Overstayer		6	96	102
Limited Leave to Remain (LLR)		1	56	57
Illegal entrant		5	43	48
Asylum seeker		3	38	41
Failed asylum seeker		1	35	36
Refugee			34	34
Asylum appellant			12	12
Student visa			5	5
Discretionary Leave (DL)			4	4
Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR)			3	3
Other	4	14	59	77
Not known	50	48	201	299
Missing	472	176	26	674
Total	2924	828	923	4675

Base: 4675 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 EU national (2,969 people). For those people from non-European countries, 'indefinite leave to remain' was the most frequently recorded immigration status (299 people).

Due to the difficulties involved in obtaining this information from rough sleepers, immigration status data should be treated with caution.

3.5 Gender

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by gender.

Non-binary, 2, 0%
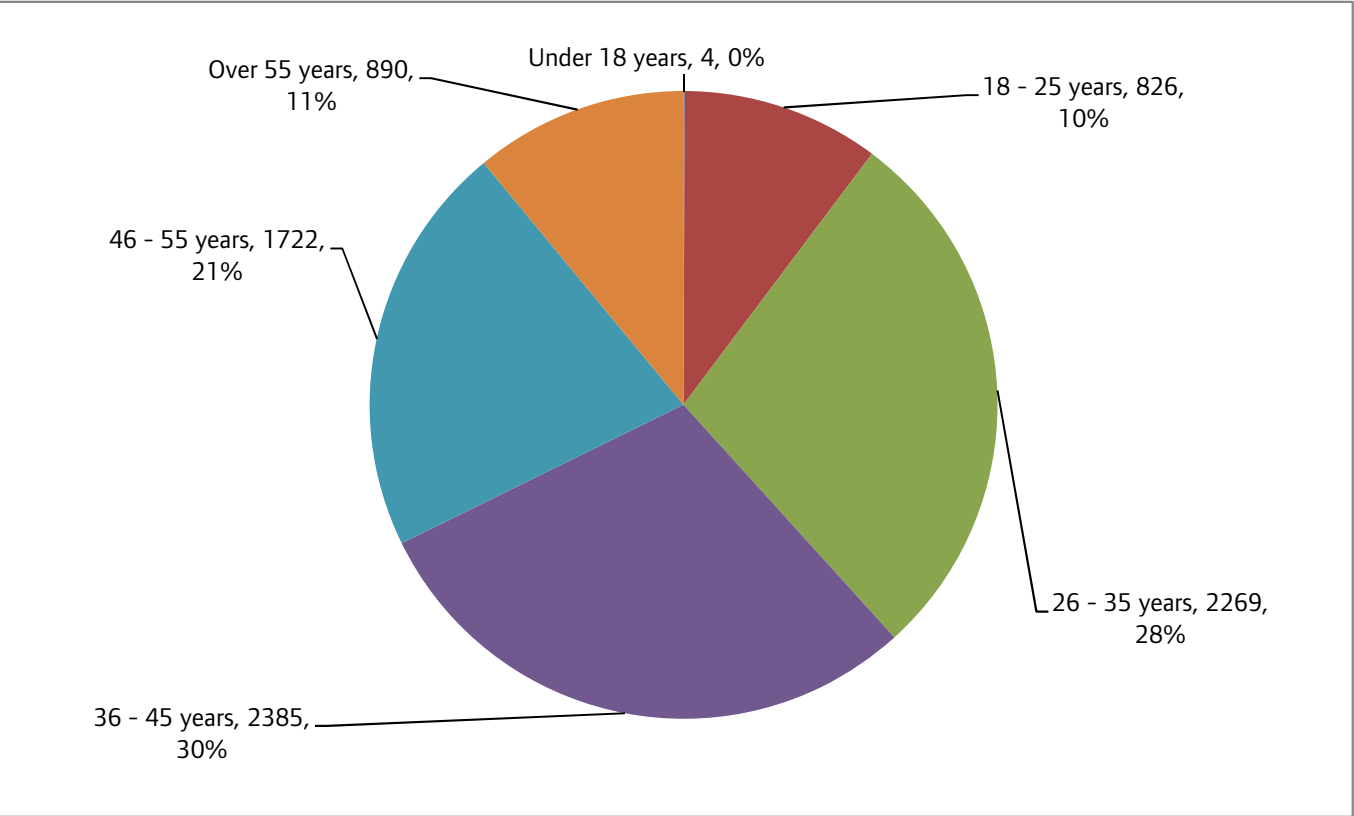
Female, 1216, 15%

Male, 6878, 85%
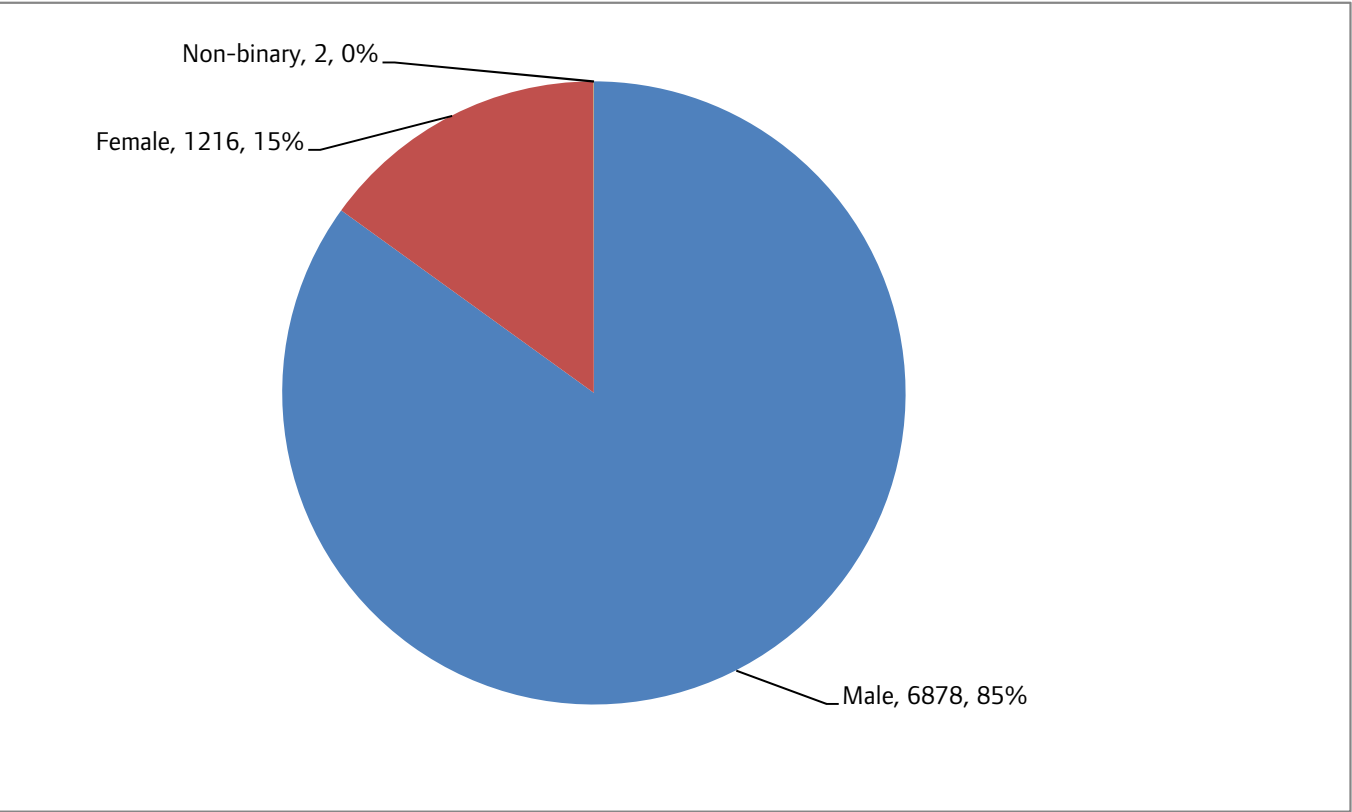
Base: 8096

The proportion of women seen rough sleeping in London has continued to show a slight upward trend, with 15% of rough sleepers being women in 2015/16, compared to 14% in 2014/15 and 13% in 2013/14.

3.6 Age

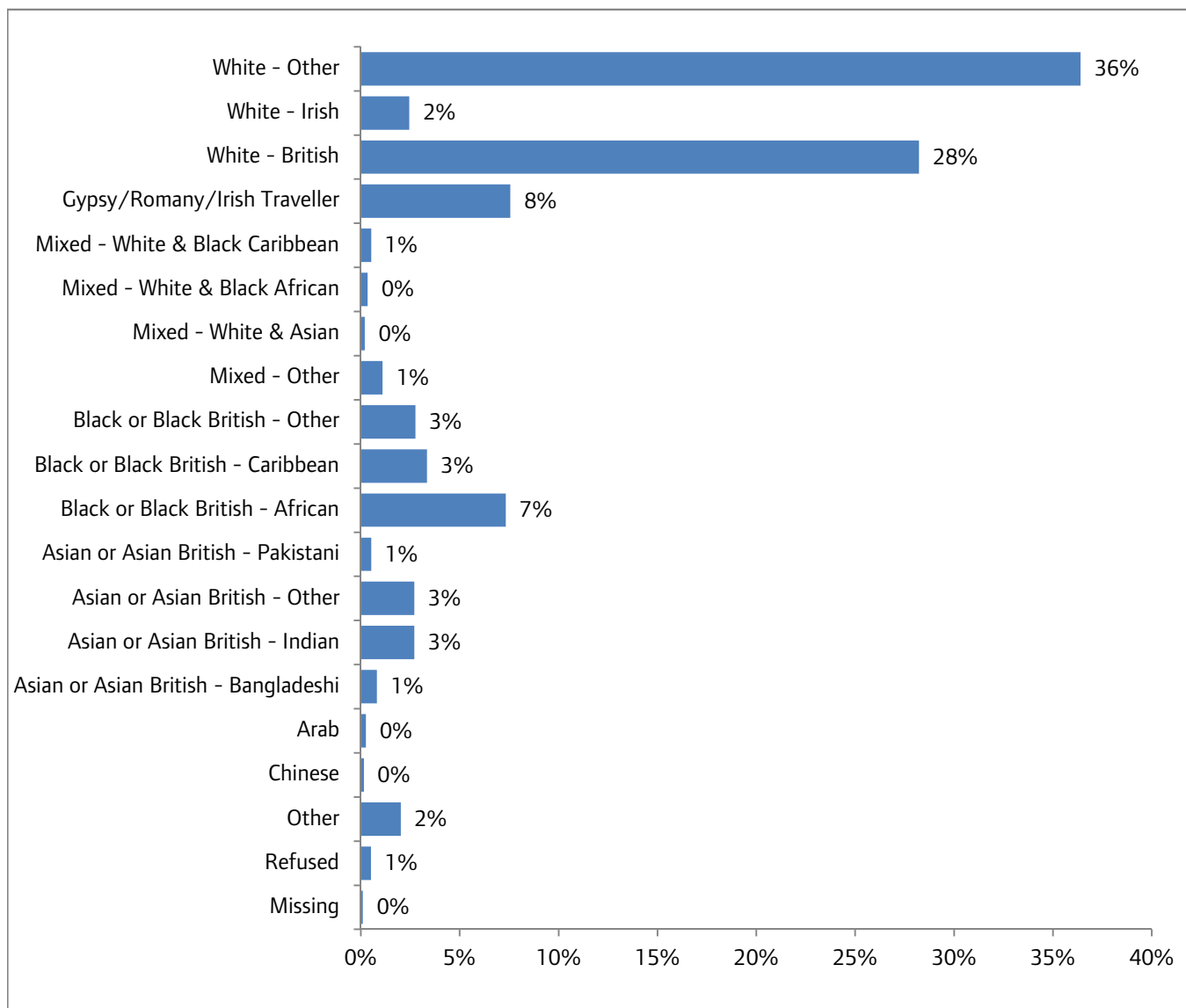People seen rough sleeping in the year, by age.

Base: 8096

Age distribution amongst rough sleepers remains broadly consistent with previous years. 10% (830 people) of rough sleepers seen in 2015/16 were 25 or under, compared to 12% (880 people) in 2014/15. 38% (3099 people) of rough sleepers in the year were aged 35 or under, compared to 40% (3005 people) in 2014/15.

People in the over 55 age group represented 11% of rough sleepers in 2015/16 (890 people), compared to 9% (710 people) in 2014/15.

There were a total of four people aged under 18 who were seen rough sleeping this year, compared to nine people in the previous year. The majority of these (three) were only seen rough sleeping once during the year.

3.7 Ethnicity

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by ethnicity.


Base: 8096

The majority of people seen rough sleeping in London in 2015/16 were White (67%), which is similar to the previous year (69% in 2014/15). Within this group, White Other continues to represent the clearly predominant subgroup, comprising 36% of all rough sleepers, compared to 28% for White British (in 2014/15 the equivalent figures were 37% White Other and 29% White British) . The White Other group mainly consists of people from CEE countries.

13% of people seen rough sleeping in the year were Black and 7% were Asian. This is consistent with the previous three years. 8% of rough sleepers in 2015/16 were from the Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller group, compared to 7% in 2014/15 and 4% in 2013/14.

3.8 Support needs

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

Support needs data in CHAIN is derived from assessments made by those working with rough sleepers in the homelessness sector. It should be noted that almost a third (32%) of rough sleepers in 2015/16 did not have a support needs assessment recorded, the majority of these (82%) being people who had only been seen rough sleeping once or twice.
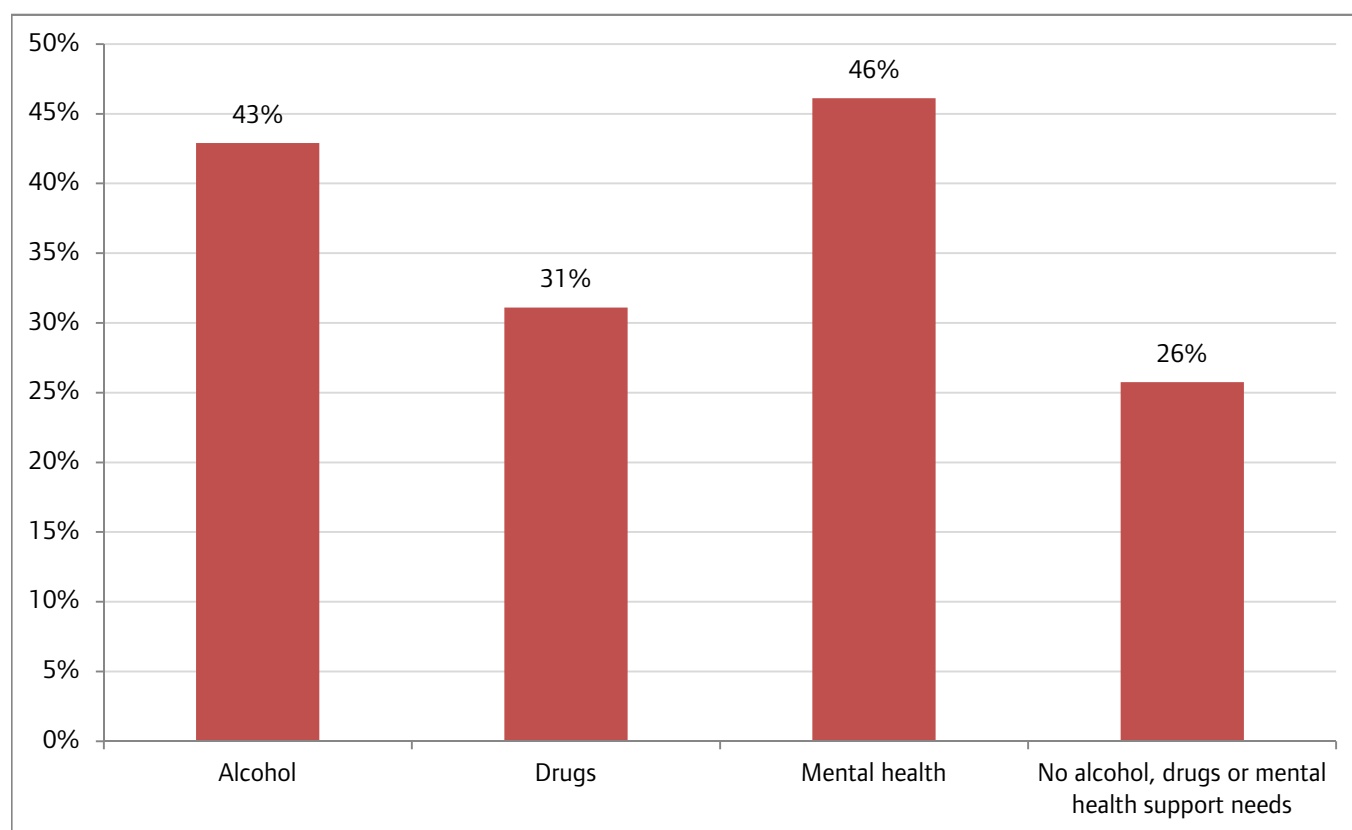
Base: 5481. Note that the base figure for this chart excludes clients for whom none of the three support needs were known or assessed (2615).

Support Needs	No. people	% of people seen rough sleeping
Alcohol only	718	9%
Drugs only	279	3%
Mental health only	900	11%
Alcohol and drugs	359	4%
Alcohol and mental health	561	7%
Drugs and mental health	354	4%
Alcohol, drugs and mental health	713	9%
All three no	1412	17%
All three not known or not assessed	2615	32%
All three no, not known or not assessed	185	2%
Total (incl. not assessed)	**8096**	**100%**

43% of people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 were assessed as having an alcohol support need, which remains consistent with 41% seen in 2014/15, and 43% in 2013/14.

The proportion of people seen rough sleeping with a drug support need has remained static at 31% this year, the same proportion as that reported in 2014/15 and 2013/14.

Mental health needs amongst people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 also remain at a similar proportion when compared to last year (46% in 2015/16, compared to 45% in 2014/15).

3.9 Institutional & armed forces history

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by experience of armed forces, care or prison.
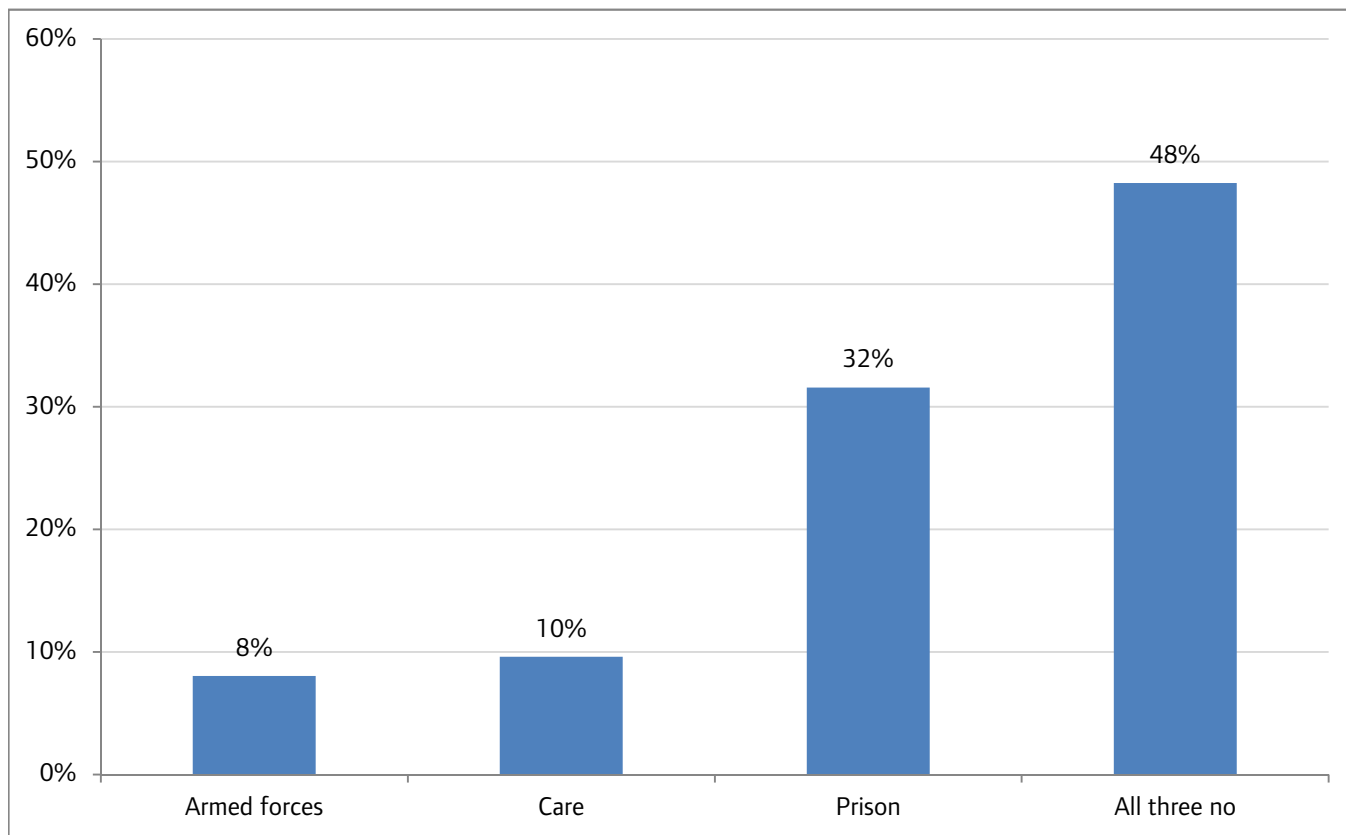
Base: 5635. Note that the base figure for this chart excludes clients for whom none of the three institutional histories were recorded (2461).

Nationality of rough sleepers with experience of armed forces:

Nationality	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	127	3%	151	3%	142	3%
Non-UK	337	7%	299	6%	310	6%
Total with armed forces experience	464	10%	450	9%	452	8%
Base (total assessed)	**4833**		**5073**		**5635**	

452 people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 had experience of serving in the armed forces, of whom 142 were UK nationals. The proportion of rough sleepers with experience of serving in the armed forces remains 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.

541 people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 had previous experience of living in care (compared to 514 in 2014/15), and 1,779 had experience of serving time in prison (compared to 1,641 in 2014/15).

Proportions of rough sleepers with experience of care (10%) and prison (32%) remain consistent with the previous year (10% with experience of care in 2014/15, and 32% with experience of prison).

4. HELPING PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS

4.1 Accommodation outcomes

Outreach teams and other services, including No Second Night Out (NSNO), work to help rough sleepers into a range of accommodation types, most commonly hostels but also the private rented sector and residential treatment centres. In 2015/16, 2,148 people who had been seen rough sleeping during the year were booked into accommodation. This is 27% of all people seen rough sleeping during the year (compared to 29% in 2014/15).

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.

Accommodation type	2014/15		2015/16	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	288	9.2%	243	8.5%
Bed & breakfast	184	5.9%	176	6.1%
Clinic/Detox/Rehab	68	2.2%	70	2.4%
Friends & family	165	5.3%	180	6.3%
Hostel	1256	40.3%	974	34.0%
Local authority temporary accommodation	377	12.1%	377	13.1%
Nightstop	64	2.1%	16	0.6%
Second-stage accommodation	11	0.4%	6	0.2%
Other temporary accommodation	199	6.4%	172	6.0%
Temporary accommodation subtotal	*2612*	*83.7%*	*2214*	*77.2%*
Long term accommodation				
Care home	6	0.2%	3	0.1%
Clearing House/RSI	53	1.7%	88	3.1%
Local authority tenancy (general needs)	15	0.5%	17	0.6%
Private rented sector - independent	205	6.6%	234	8.2%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	55	1.8%	76	2.7%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	5	0.2%	6	0.2%
Sheltered housing	2	0.1%	11	0.4%
St Mungo's complex needs	13	0.4%	21	0.7%
St Mungo's semi-independent	9	0.3%	12	0.4%
Supported housing	110	3.5%	151	5.3%
Tied accommodation	10	0.3%	9	0.3%
Other long-term accommodation	24	0.8%	25	0.9%
Long term accommodation subtotal	*507*	*16.3%*	*653*	*22.8%*
Total	**3119**	**100.0%**	**2867**	**100.0%**

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

4.2 NSNO attendance

People seen rough sleeping during the year who attended the GLA commissioned NSNO service.

	2014/15*	2015/16
NSNO	1989	1980
NLOS	45	

*From October 2014 onwards NLOS ceased operating as a separate service and was integrated into NSNO. Some people may have attended both NSNO and NLOS during 2014/15.

4.3 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 are more likely to find a solution to their homelessness, 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.

Reconnection reason	2014/15		2015/16	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Return to home area	1018	82%	873	82%
Seeking work	274	22%	194	18%
Move to area for friends/family	612	49%	405	38%
Move to area with appropriate services	607	49%	497	47%
Reconnections total*	**1241**		**1067**	

Reconnection destination	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
UK – London	402	33%	426	40%
UK – outside London	197	16%	166	16%
Central and Eastern Europe	486	39%	331	31%
Other Europe	130	11%	121	11%
Rest of the world	20	2%	20	2%
Not known	*6*		*3*	
Reconnections total (excl. destination not known)	**1235**	**100%**	**1064**	**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.

983 people seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 also had a confirmed reconnection recorded during the period. This means that 12% of all people seen rough sleeping in the year were reconnected, compared to 15% in 2014/15.

44% of reconnections this year were to destinations outside the UK, which is a lower proportion than the 51% seen in 2014/15. The majority of reconnections abroad continued to be to CEE countries, although both the number and the proportion were lower than in 2014/15.

5. 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 2015/16.
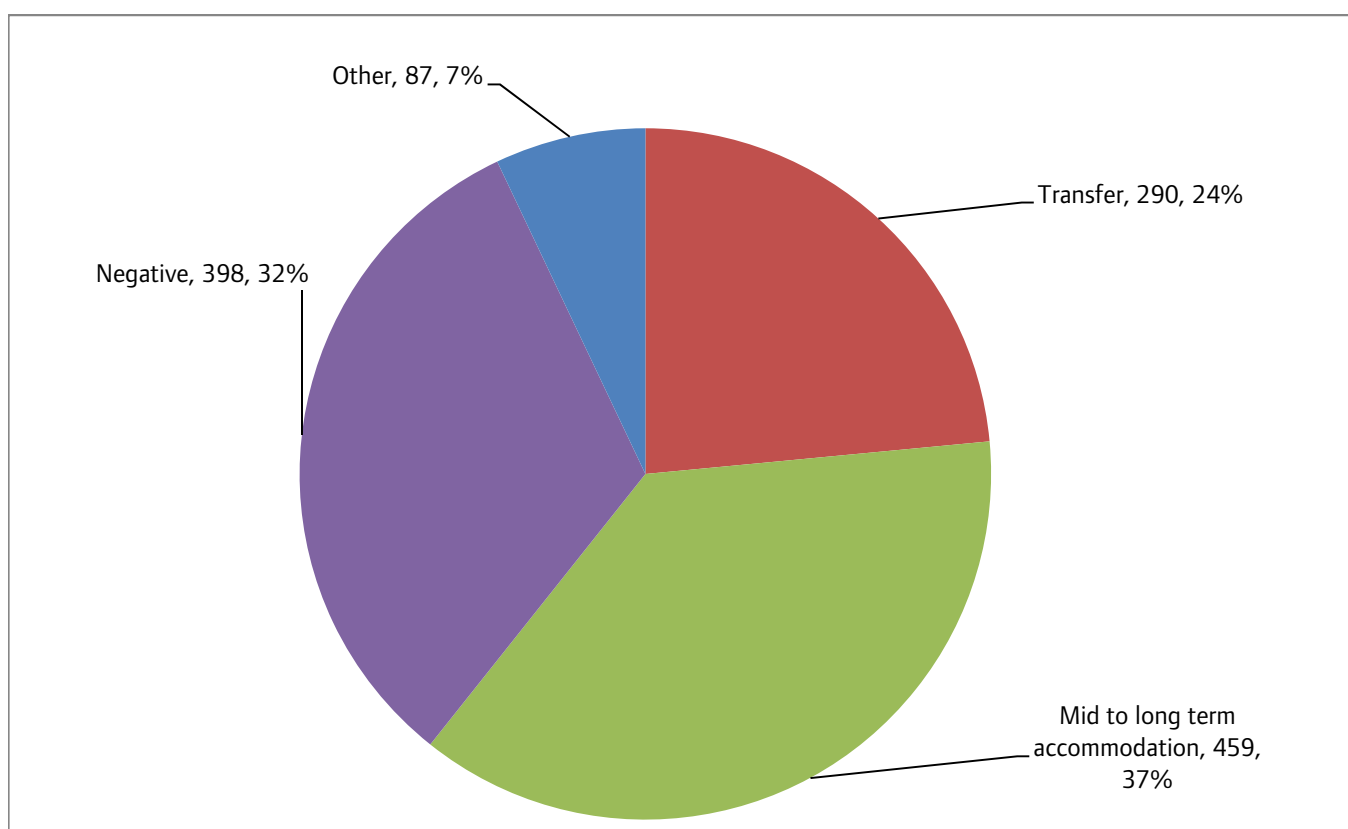
5.1 Arrivals

A total of 1,107 individuals arrived at temporary accommodation during the period.

5.2 Departures: Destination on departure

A total of 1,094 individuals departed from temporary accommodation during the period, with a total of 1,234 departures recorded between them.

Departures from temporary accommodation, by destination on departure.

Other, 87, 7%
Transfer, 290, 24%
Negative, 398, 32%
Mid to long term accommodation, 459, 37%

Base: 1234

Destination on departure	Destination category	Chart colour
Assessment centre, Bed & breakfast, Detox clinic, Hospital - not long term/acute care, Hostel - another organisation, Hostel - within the organisation, 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	
Committed 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 then one accommodation departure during the period.

| Destination on departure	No. departures	%
Transfer		
Assessment centre	8	0.6%
Bed & breakfast	8	0.6%
Detox clinic	37	3.0%
Hospital - not long term/acute care	10	0.8%
Hostel - another organisation	84	6.8%
Hostel - within the organisation	78	6.3%
NASS accommodation	0	0.0%
Night shelter	6	0.5%
NSNO assessment hub	6	0.5%
NSNO staging post	3	0.2%
Psychiatric hospital	6	0.5%
Rehab clinic	5	0.4%
Temporary accommodation (LA)	39	3.2%
Transfer subtotal	*290*	*23.5%*
Mid to long term accommodation		
Accommodation where client is owner	1	0.1%
Care home	7	0.6%
Clearing House/RSI	38	3.1%
Hospital - long term	3	0.2%
LA tenancy (general needs)	13	1.1%
Long stay hospice	0	0.0%
Private rented sector - independent	46	3.7%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	19	1.5%
Returned to home country (EEA)	187	15.2%
Returned to home country (non EEA)	23	1.9%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	8	0.6%
Sheltered housing	11	0.9%
Supported housing	102	8.3%
Tied accommodation with work	1	0.1%
Mid to long term accommodation subtotal	*459*	*37.2%*
Negative		
Committed suicide	0	0.0%
Not known	199	16.1%
Sleeping rough/Returned to streets	142	11.5%
Taken into custody	57	4.6%
Negative subtotal	*398*	*32.3%*
Other		
Died	25	2.0%
Previous home	3	0.2%
Staying with family	23	1.9%
Staying with friends	36	2.9%
Other subtotal	*87*	*7.1%*
Total	**1234**	**100.0%**

In 2015/16, 37% of departures from temporary accommodation were moves to mid to long term accommodation, which is consistent with the figure of 39% in 2014/15. There was a slight decrease in the proportion of transfers, with 24% of departures falling into this category in 2015/16, compared to 27% in 2014/15. 32% of departures in 2015/16 were negative, compared to 29% in 2014/15.

13% of departures in 2015/16 were for a move to another hostel. This is slightly lower than the 16% seen in 2014/15, but consistent with the 12% reported in 2013/14.

17% of departures made were for people to return to their home country, which is a slight decrease on the 20% reported in 2014/15.

5.3 Departures: Reason for leaving

Temporary accommodation departures by reason for leaving.
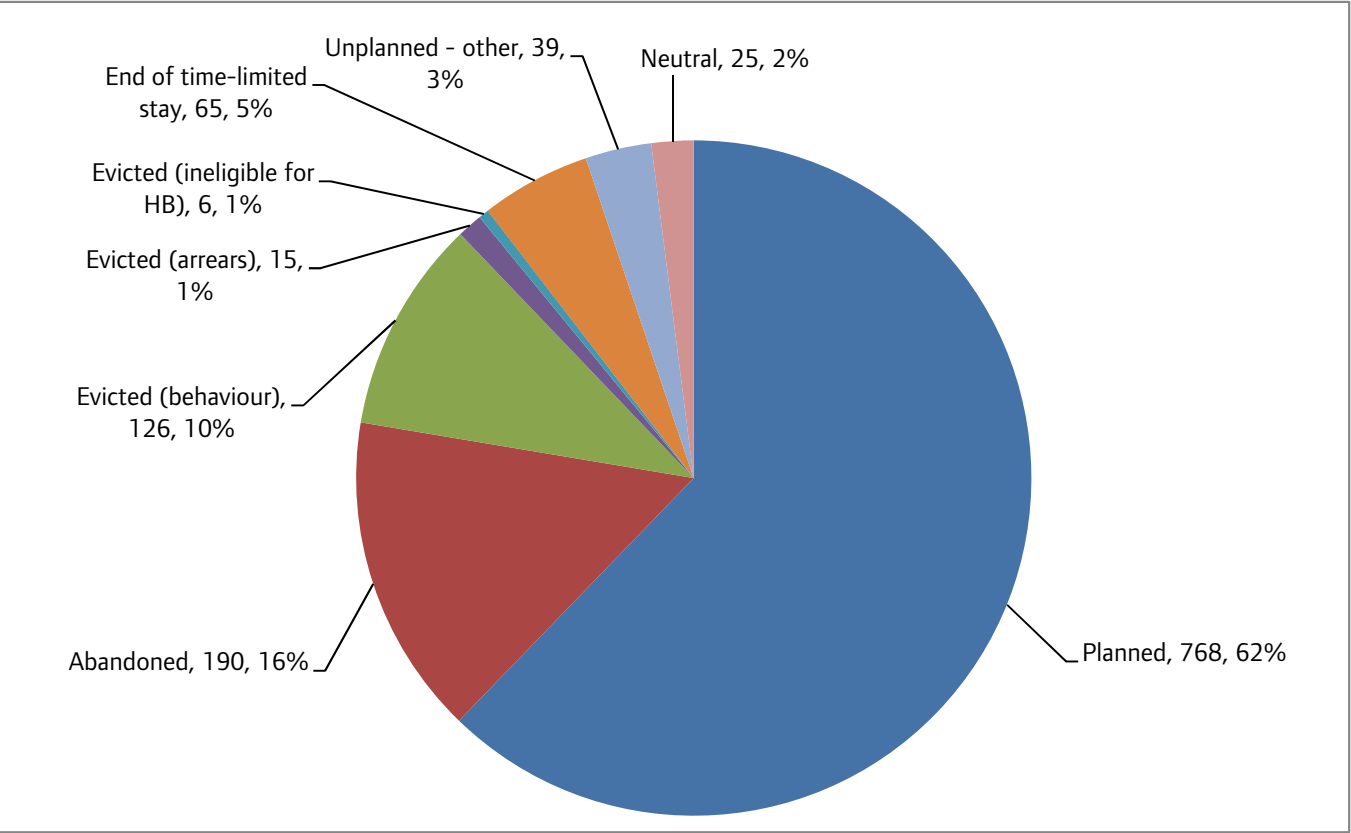
Base: 1234

Note: An individual may have had more then 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 2015/16, 30% of departures from temporary accommodation were for evictions, abandonments and unplanned departures, which is slightly higher than the figure of 26% in 2014/15. The proportion of planned moves has decreased slightly, at 62% compared to 65% in 2014/15.