
CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT

GREATER LONDON

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

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CHAIN

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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

- Introduction
- Key findings

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

- Headlines
- Achieving no second night out
- No one living on the streets
- Intermittent rough sleepers

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- Bedded down street contacts by area: Greater London level

4. NATIONALITY

- Nationality: Rolling figures
- Nationality: Breakdown by area

5. DEMOGRAPHICS

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity

6. SUPPORT NEEDS

7. INSTITUTIONAL & ARMED FORCES HISTORY

8. ACCOMMODATION OUTCOMES

9. METHODOLOGY

1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

Introduction

This quarterly report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London in July-September 2025.

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

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

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

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

For more information about the methods used to derive statistics for this report, and definitions of different groups, please see section 9 – Methodology.

Changes to CHAIN quarterly report content for 2025/26

From 2025/26 Q1 onwards, we have discontinued the use of the LOS - RS205+ population subcategory, which had been part of the overall Living on the Streets (LOS) group. This subcategory had allowed people who were members of the RS205 entrenched rough sleepers cohort to be counted as Living on the Streets during the period even if they had only been seen bedded down once, where other individuals were required to meet the criteria of having five bedded down contacts recorded across at least three weeks. It was felt that more accurate analysis could be achieved by applying the same criteria to all people seen rough sleeping in the period, regardless of prior membership of other cohorts.

This change could have the effect of slightly reducing overall Living on the Streets totals as presented in the report, although it is anticipated that the impact will be minor. The change in methodology should be borne in mind when comparing Living on the Streets totals from before and after April 2025.

Key findings

New rough sleepers

In the period July-September 2025 outreach teams recorded 2,116 people in London sleeping rough for the first time. Of these:

- 1,568 (74%) spent just one night sleeping rough
- 470 (22%) slept rough for more than one night but did not go on to live on the streets
- 78 (4%) were deemed to be living on the streets.

The number of new rough sleepers recorded during this period was 10% lower than the same period last year.

By comparison, of the 2,343 people recorded as new to the streets in July-September 2024, 1,796 (77%) were seen sleeping rough just once. A lower proportion (20%) went on to spend more than one night without meeting the criteria for living on the streets, and 3% went on to live on the streets.

Living on the streets

During July-September 2025 there were 759 people recorded who were deemed to be living on the streets. This total includes 78 people who were new to rough sleeping in London and remained on the streets during the period.

The number of rough sleepers deemed to be living on the streets is 11% higher than the same period last year, and 4% lower than the immediately preceding period (April-June 2025).

Intermittent rough sleepers

The number of people who were seen rough sleeping during July-September 2025 who were not new, and did not have enough contacts to be deemed as living on the streets, was 1,914. This is 4% higher than the same period last year, and 14% higher than the immediately preceding period.

Of these:

- 870 people (45%) were seen on just a single occasion
- 466 people (24%) were seen just twice, and
- only 10 (1%) had six or more contacts.

Total number of people seen rough sleeping

In total during the period July-September 2025 outreach teams recorded 4,711 individuals sleeping rough in the capital. This is a 1% decrease on the total figure for July-September 2024.

Of that total:

- new rough sleepers account for 45% of all rough sleepers
- intermittent rough sleepers account for 41% of all those recorded in the period, and
- 16% of those recorded during the period were living on the streets.

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

All London Boroughs: Headlines

Table 1: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by new, living on the streets, and intermittent breakdown

NEW ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	2,116	+5%	-10%
New RS with no second night out	1,568	+8%	-13%
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	470	-0%	-0%
New RS joining living on the streets population*	78	-19%	+3%

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of new rough sleepers prevented from spending a second night out	74%	72%	77%

LIVING ON THE STREETS (LOS)

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	759	-4%	+11%
LOS - Transferred from new RS*	78	-19%	+3%
LOS - Known	681	-2%	+17%

INTERMITTENT ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	1,914	+14%	+4%

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of intermittent rough sleepers seen only once during period	45%	43%	48%

OVERALL TOTAL ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	4,711	+7%	-1%

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

All London Boroughs: Achieving No Second Night Out

Chart 1: New rough sleepers 2024-25 Q2 to 2025-26 Q2

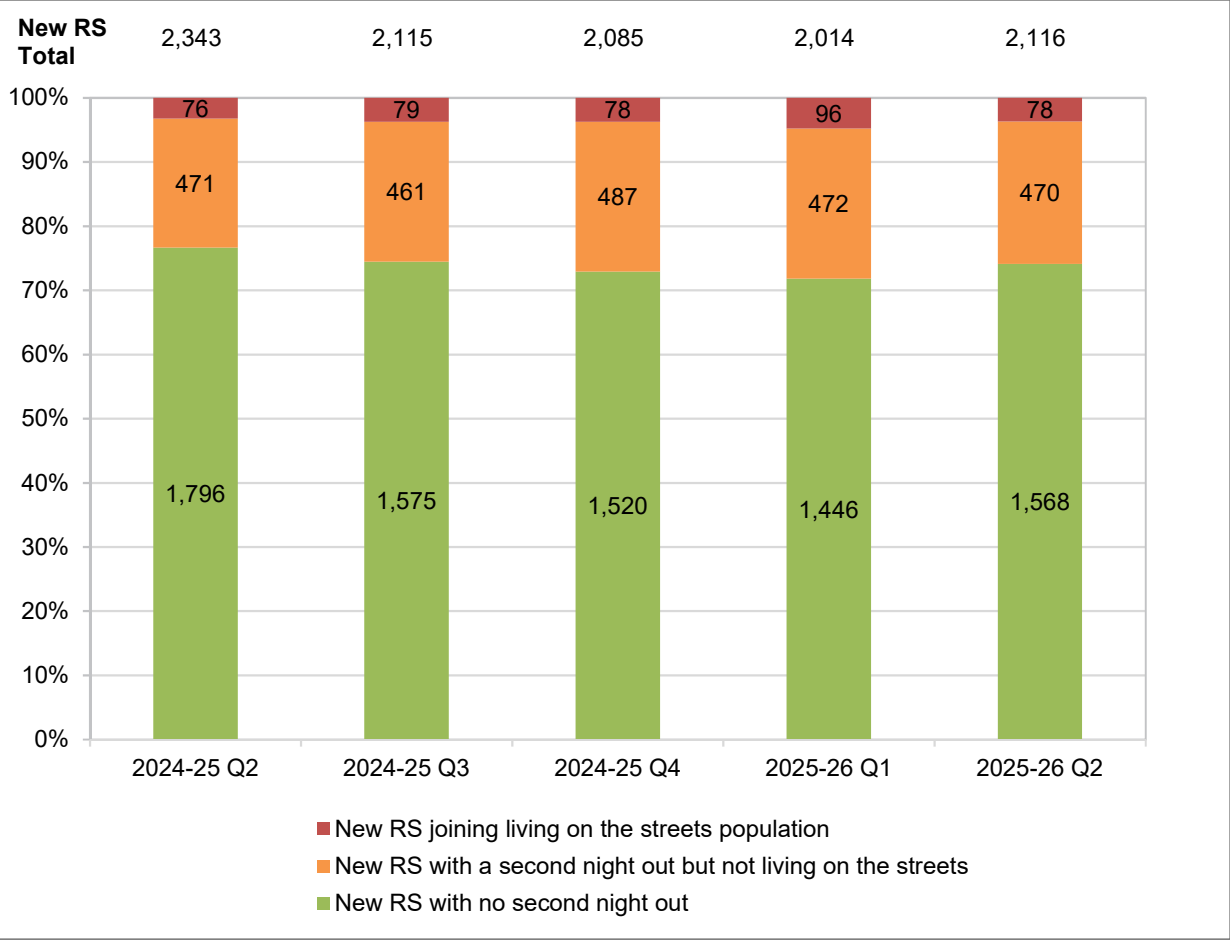


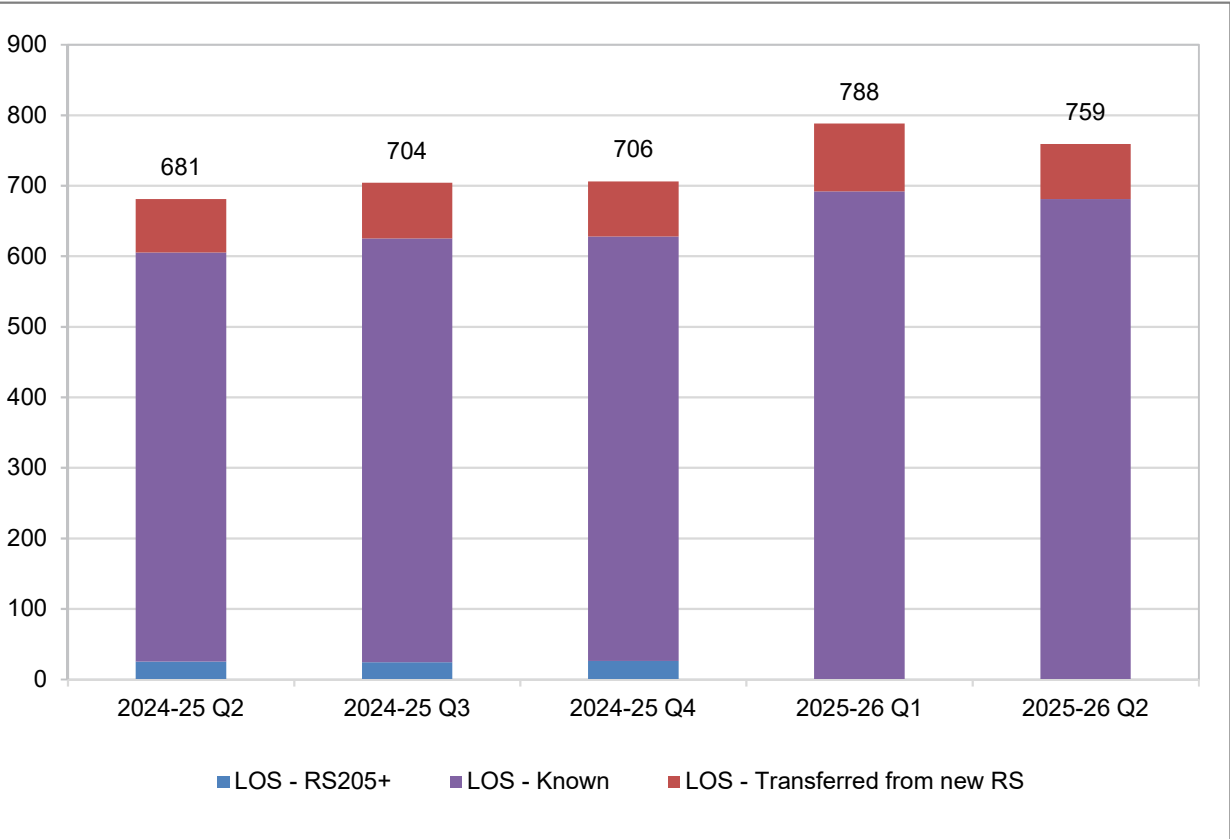
Table 2: New rough sleepers in 2025-26 Q2, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
New RS with no second night out	1,568
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	470
New RS joining living on the streets population	78
Total	2,116

New RS = New rough sleepers

All London Boroughs: No One Living on the Streets

Chart 2: People living on the streets 2024-25 Q2 to 2025-26 Q2



The LOS - RS205+ category was discontinued from 2025-26 Q1 onwards.

Table 3: People living on the streets in 2025-26 Q2, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
LOS - Transferred from new RS	78
LOS - Known	681
Total	759

All London Boroughs: Intermittent Rough Sleepers

Chart 3: Intermittent rough sleepers 2024-25 Q2 to 2025-26 Q2

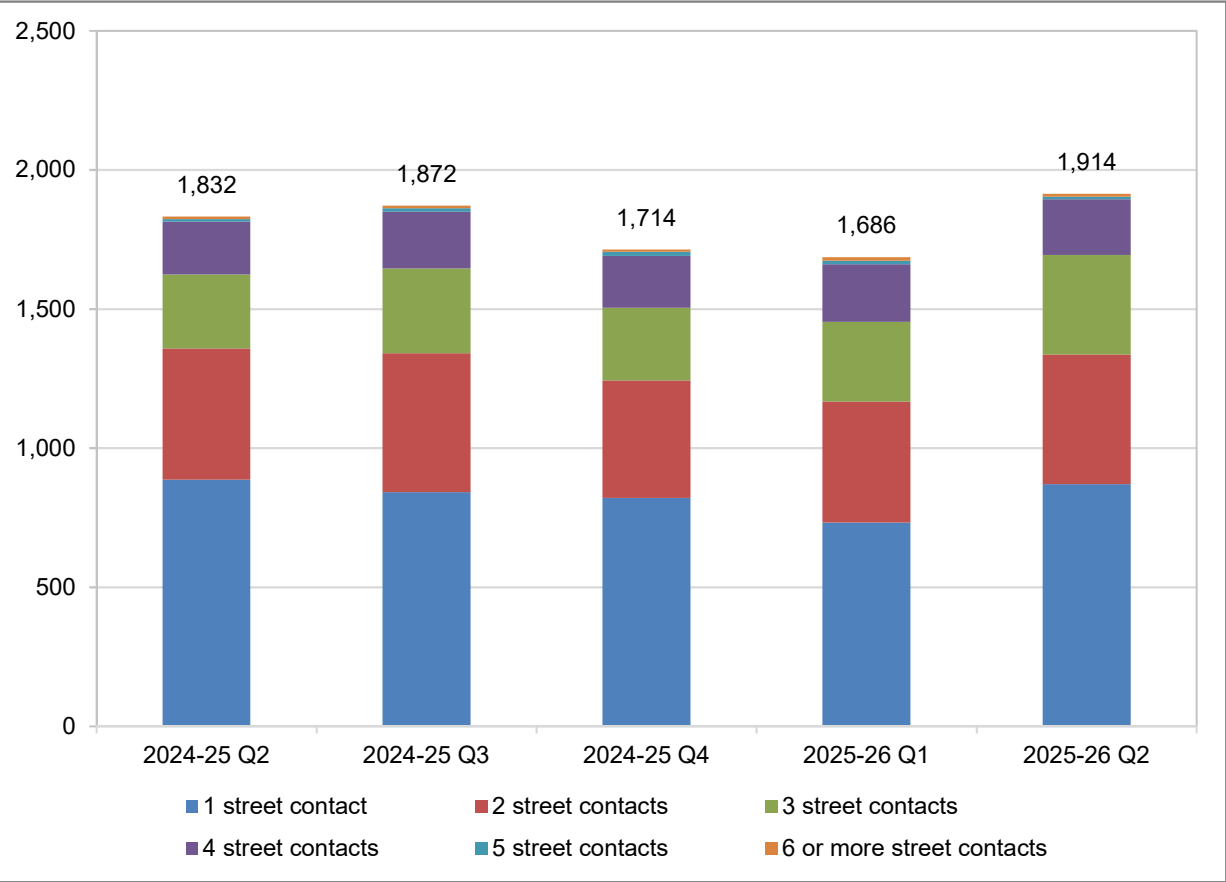


Table 4: Intermittent rough sleepers in 2025-26 Q2, by number of bedded down contacts during the period

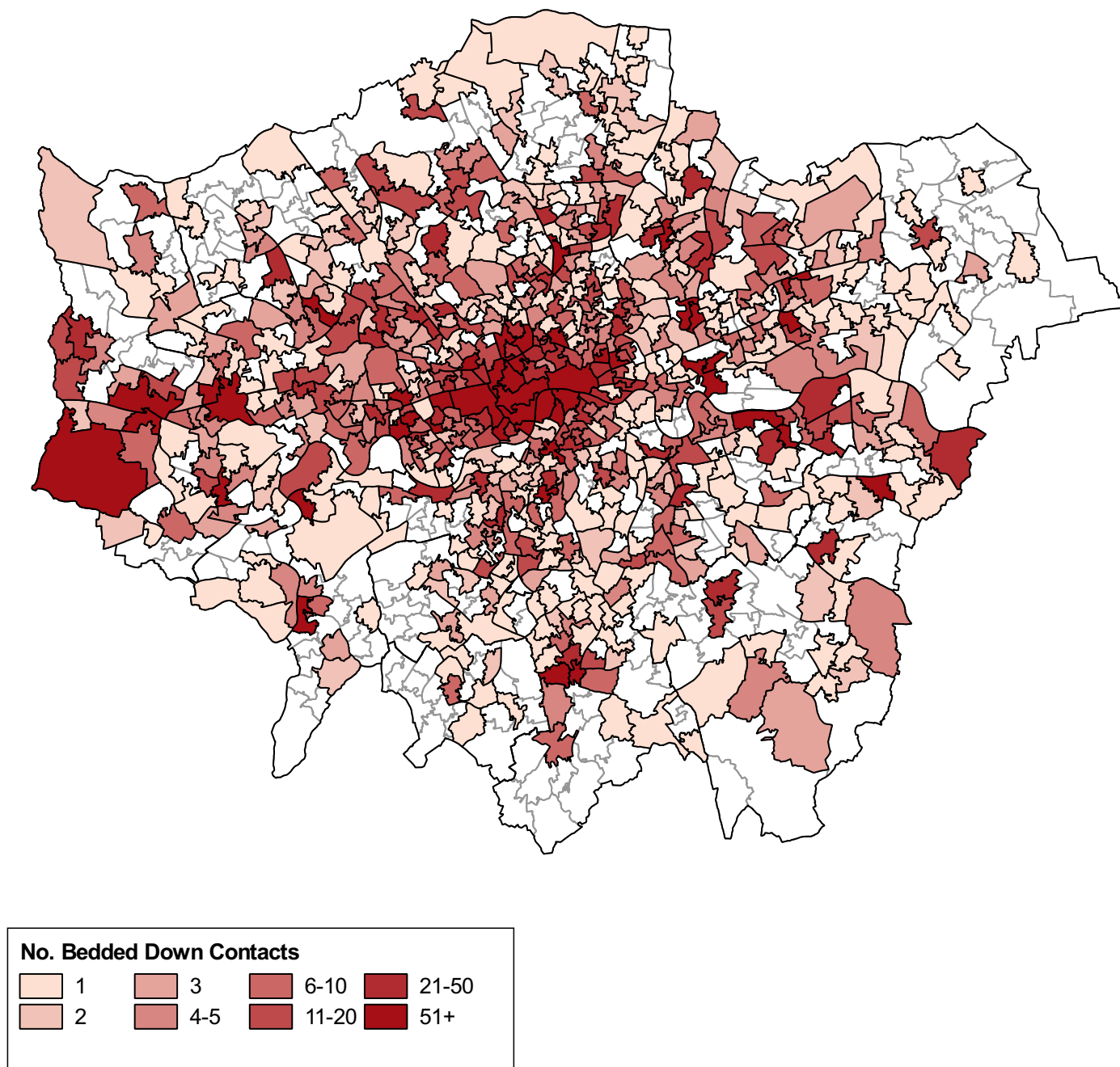
No. bedded down street contacts during this period	No. intermittent rough sleepers
1 street contact	870
2 street contacts	466
3 street contacts	358
4 street contacts	200
5 street contacts	10
6 or more street contacts	10
Total	1,914

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Bedded down street contacts by area: Greater London level

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

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



4. NATIONALITY

Nationality: Rolling figures

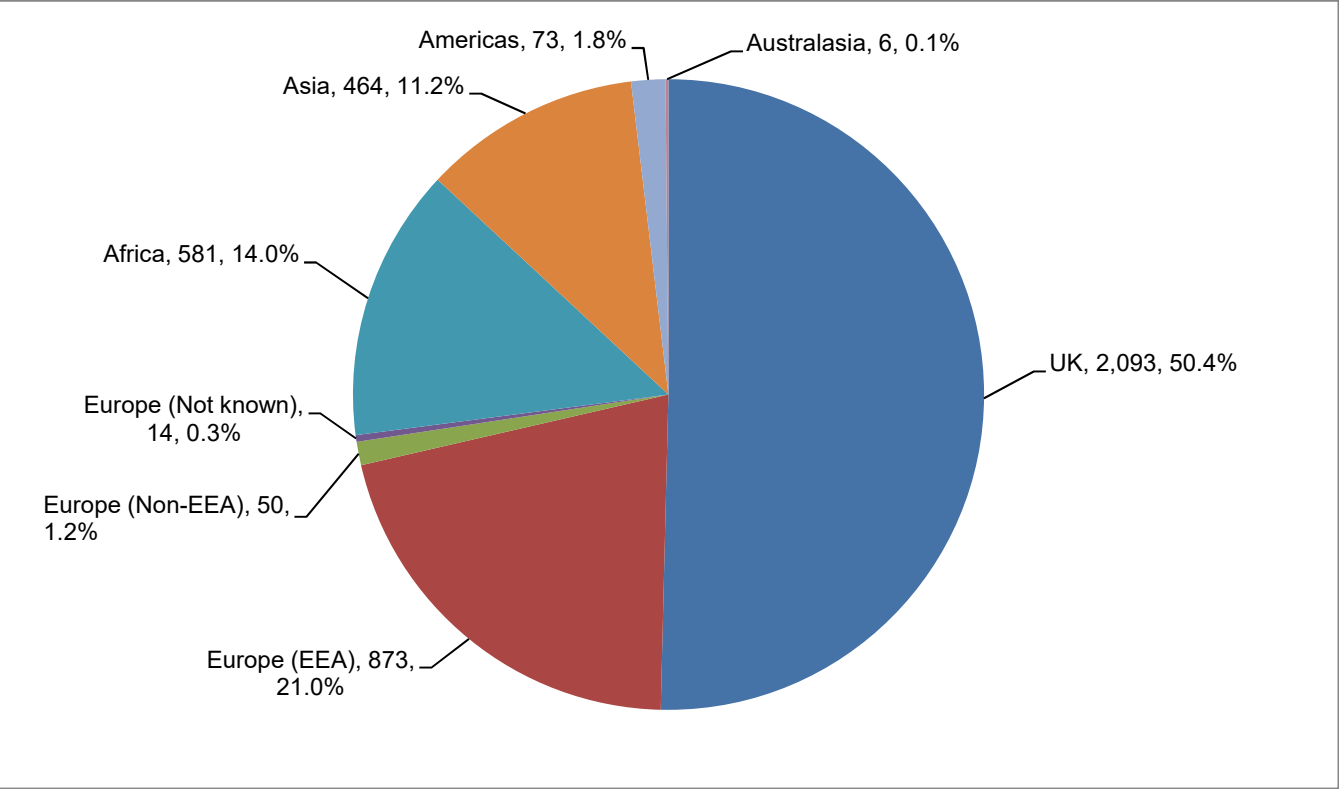
Table 5: People seen rough sleeping 2024-25 Q4 to 2025-26 Q2 by nationality

Nationality	Jan-Mar 25		Apr-Jun 25		Jul-Sep 25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	1,865	47.0%	1,850	47.0%	2,093	50.4%
Romania	328	8.3%	303	7.7%	323	7.8%
Poland	185	4.7%	171	4.3%	185	4.5%
Lithuania	64	1.6%	57	1.4%	56	1.3%
Ireland (Republic of)	40	1.0%	33	0.8%	50	1.2%
Portugal	40	1.0%	44	1.1%	46	1.1%
Bulgaria	43	1.1%	43	1.1%	48	1.2%
Italy	27	0.7%	27	0.7%	39	0.9%
Spain	20	0.5%	18	0.5%	16	0.4%
France	15	0.4%	22	0.6%	22	0.5%
Latvia	18	0.5%	19	0.5%	19	0.5%
Other European (EEA) countries	66	1.7%	60	1.5%	69	1.7%
Europe (EEA)	846	21.3%	797	20.3%	873	21.0%
Europe (Non-EEA)	38	1.0%	39	1.0%	50	1.2%
Europe (Not known)	18	0.5%	18	0.5%	14	0.3%
Eritrea	259	6.5%	262	6.7%	153	3.7%
Sudan	124	3.1%	138	3.5%	109	2.6%
Nigeria	45	1.1%	49	1.2%	53	1.3%
Ethiopia	39	1.0%	46	1.2%	30	0.7%
Somalia	24	0.6%	27	0.7%	33	0.8%
Other African countries	196	4.9%	201	5.1%	203	4.9%
Africa	687	17.3%	723	18.4%	581	14.0%
India	182	4.6%	157	4.0%	177	4.3%
Afghanistan	51	1.3%	45	1.1%	58	1.4%
Iran	58	1.5%	57	1.4%	56	1.3%
Syrian Arab Republic	21	0.5%	13	0.3%	10	0.2%
Bangladesh	13	0.3%	14	0.4%	23	0.6%
Other Asian countries	121	3.0%	140	3.6%	140	3.4%
Asia	446	11.2%	426	10.8%	464	11.2%
Americas	64	1.6%	75	1.9%	73	1.8%
Australasia	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	6	0.1%
Not known	458		459		557	
Total (excl. not known)	3,969	100.0%	3,933	100.0%	4,154	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	4,427		4,392		4,711	

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

Nationality: Breakdown by area

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by nationality

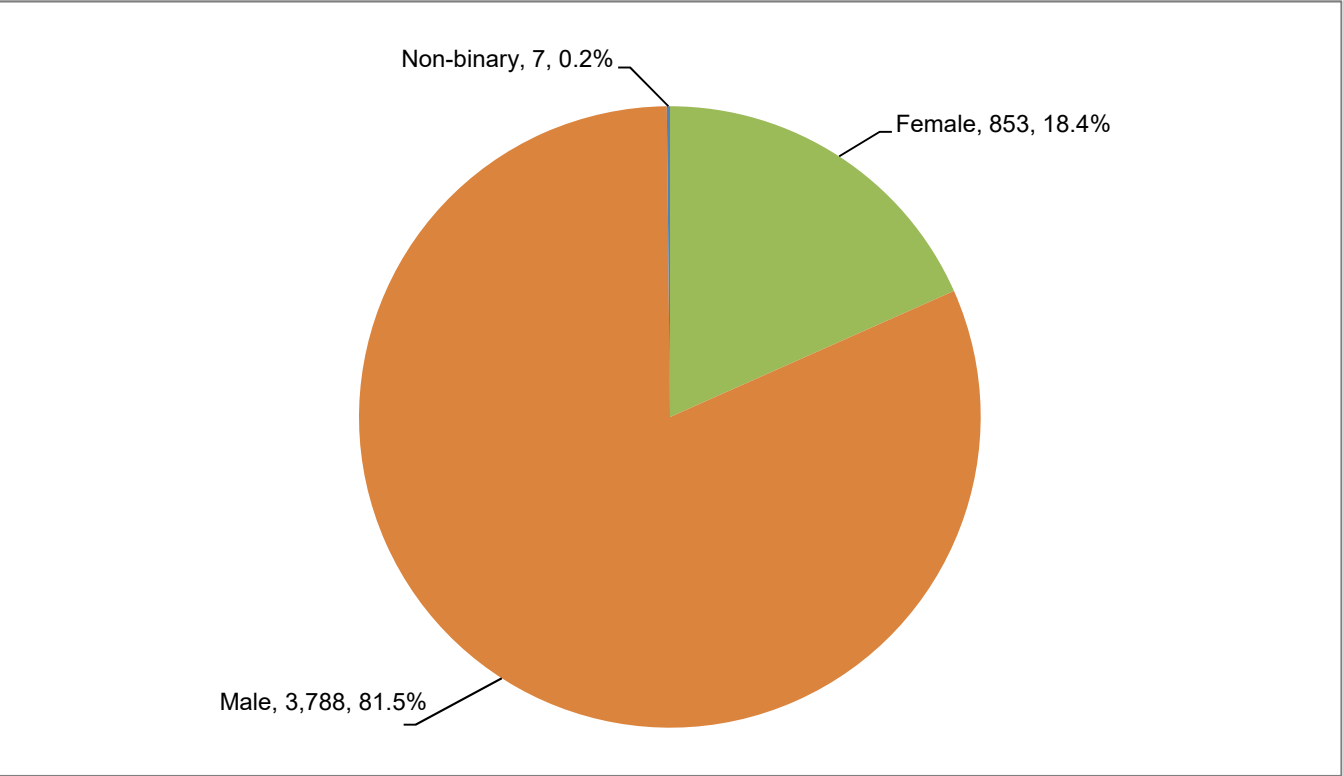


Base: 4,154 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 557 people whose nationality was not known.

5. DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by gender



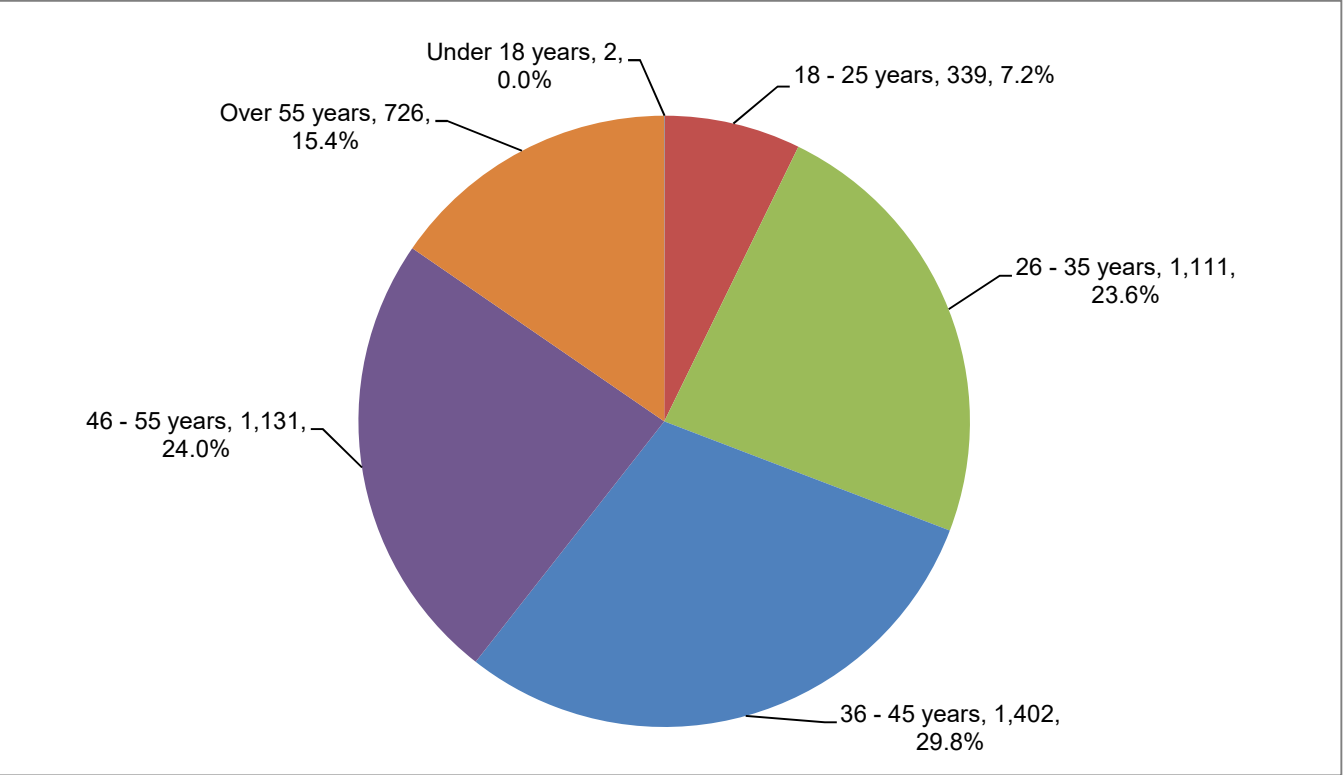
Base: 4,648 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 63 people whose gender was not known.

Table 6: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q2, by gender

Gender	No.	%
Female	853	18.4%
Male	3,788	81.5%
Non-binary	7	0.2%
Not known	63	
Total (excl. not known)	4,648	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	4,711	

Age

Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by age



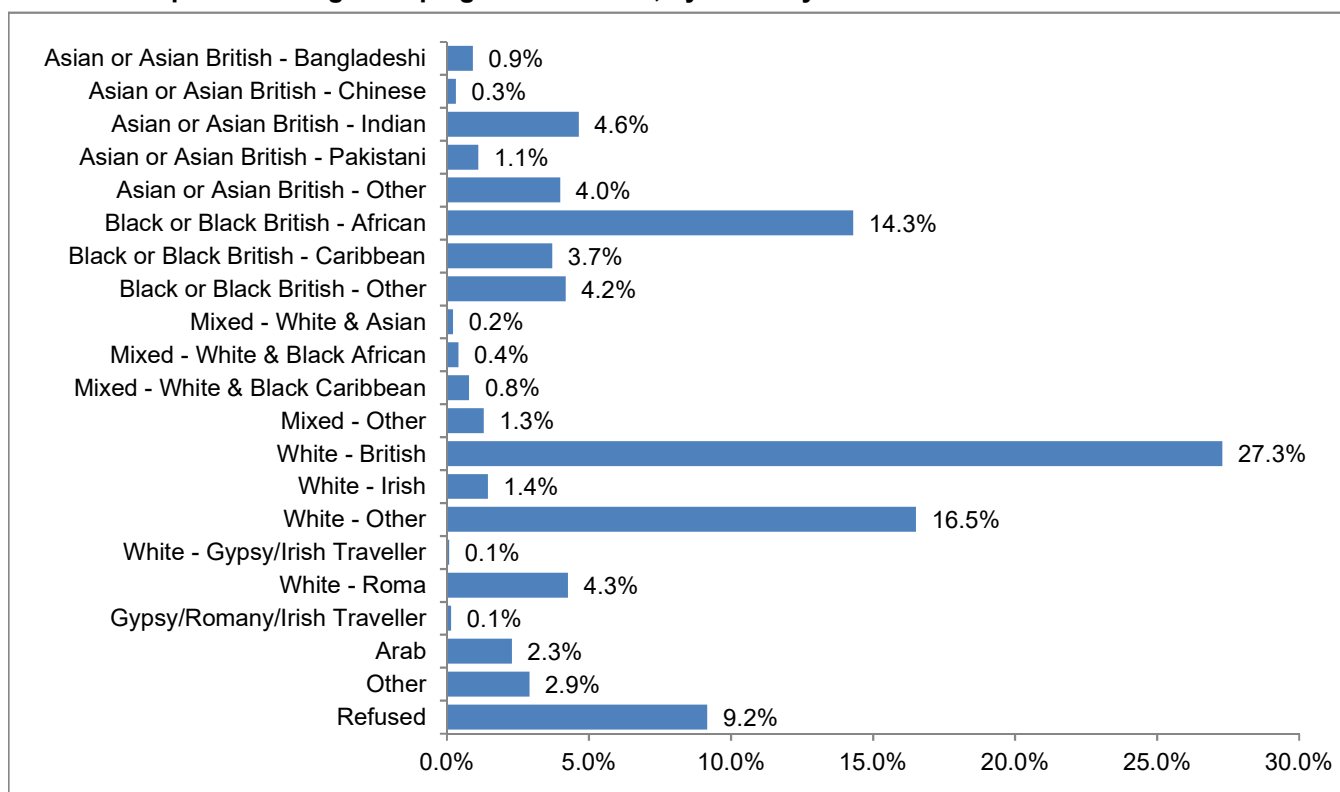
Base: 4,711 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 7: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q2, by age

Age	No.	%
Under 18 years	2	0.0%
18 - 25 years	339	7.2%
26 - 35 years	1,111	23.6%
36 - 45 years	1,402	29.8%
46 - 55 years	1,131	24.0%
Over 55 years	726	15.4%
Total	4,711	100.0%

Ethnicity

Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by ethnicity



Base: 4,711 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

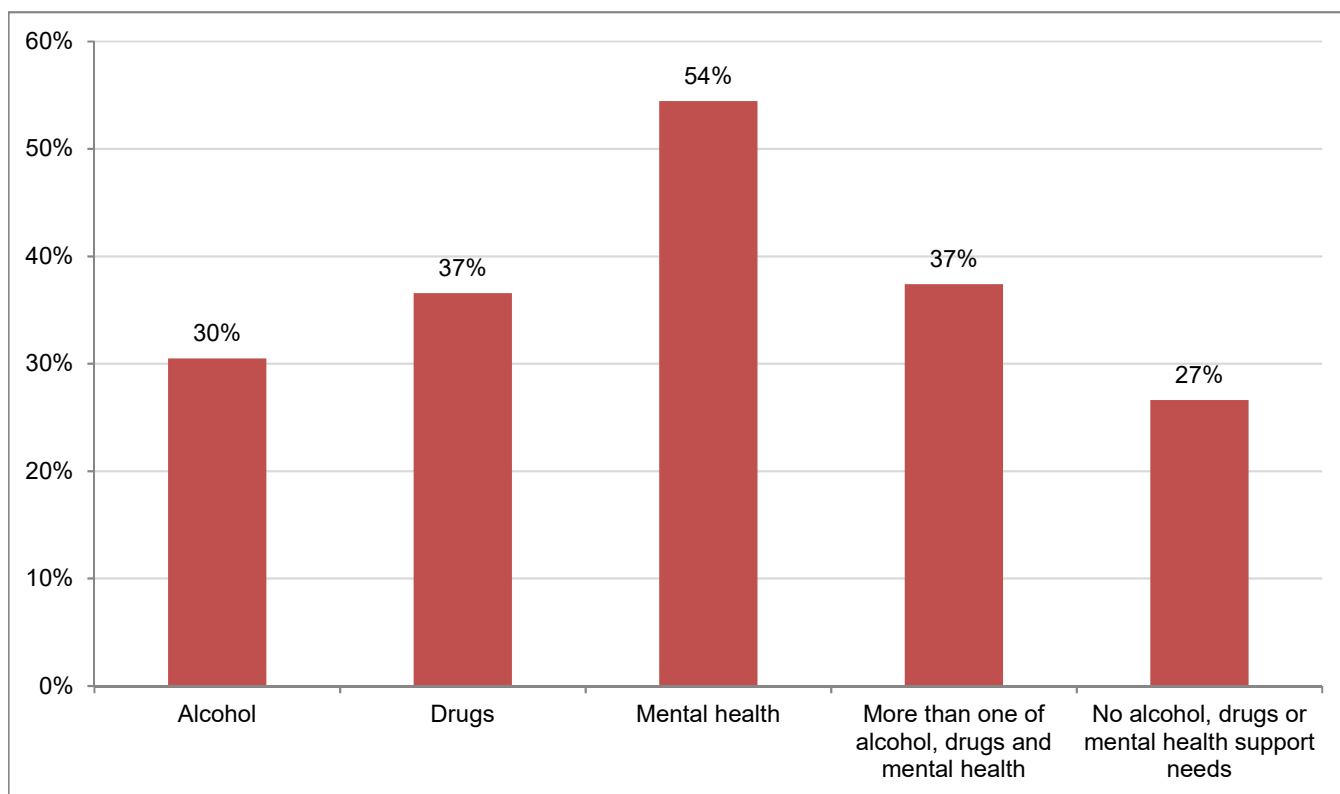
The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' was replaced with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma' in April 2021. However, many people seen rough sleeping during the period may not have had their ethnicity information updated to reflect these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

Table 8: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q2, by ethnicity

Ethnicity	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	517	11.0%
Black	1,046	22.2%
Mixed	127	2.7%
White (incl. Gypsy/Irish Traveller/Roma)	2,344	49.8%
Arab/Other	245	5.2%
Refused	432	9.2%
Total	4,711	100.0%

6. SUPPORT NEEDS

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by support needs



Base: 3,546 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 1,165 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by support needs

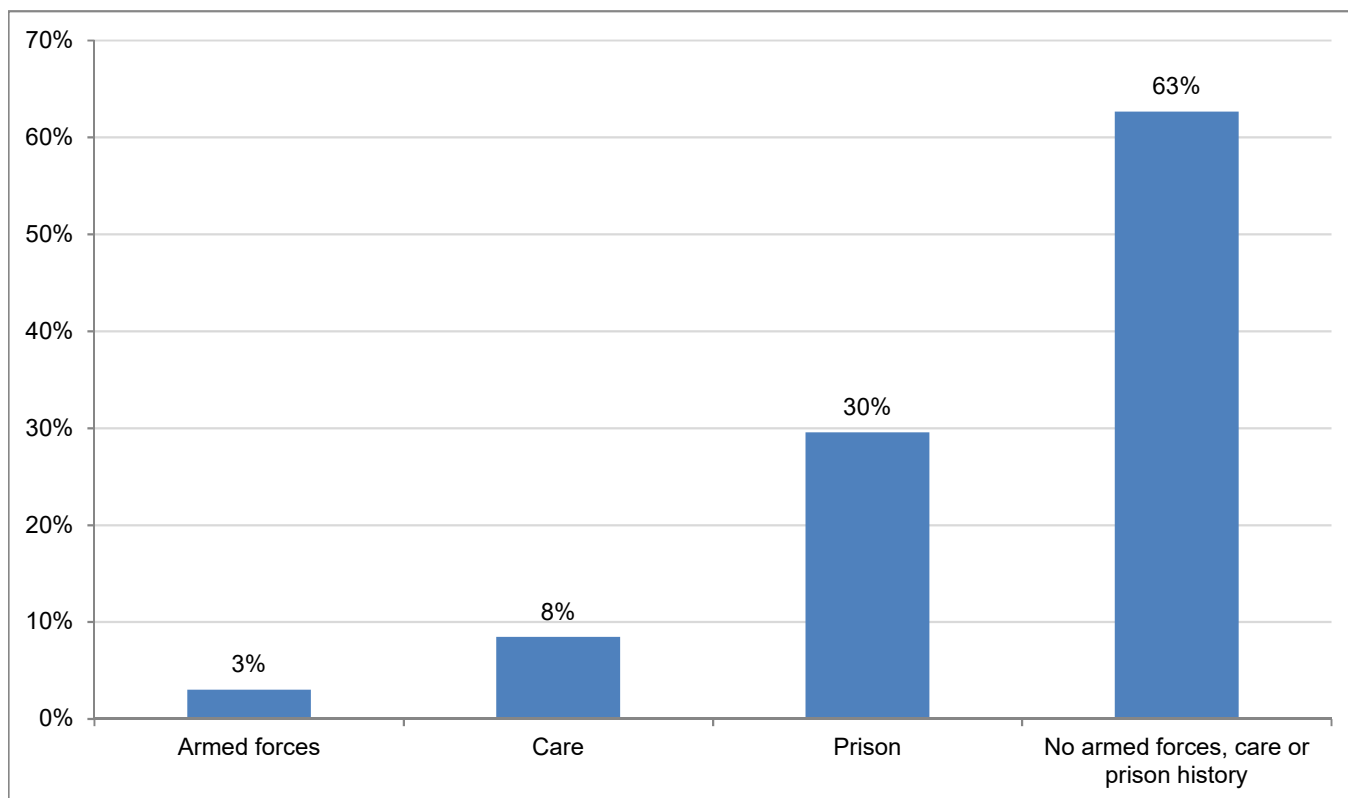
Support need	No.	%
Alcohol	1,081	30.5%
Drugs	1,297	36.6%
Mental health	1,931	54.5%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	1,326	37.4%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	944	26.6%
Total (excl. not assessed)	3,546	
Total (incl. not assessed)	4,711	

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

7. INSTITUTIONAL & ARMED FORCES HISTORY

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

Chart 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by experience of armed forces, care or prison



Base: 3,446 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 1,265 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 10: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q2, by institutional and armed forces history

Type of history	No.	%
Armed forces	104	3.0%
Armed forces - UK nationals	44	1.3%
Care	292	8.5%
Prison	1,019	29.6%
No armed forces, care or prison history	2,159	62.7%
Total (excl. not assessed)	3,446	
Total (incl. not assessed)	4,711	

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

8. ACCOMMODATION OUTCOMES

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

Table 11: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2025-26 Q2, compared to 2025-26 Q1, by number of people

	Apr-Jun 25	Jul-Sep 25
Outcome	No. people	No. people
Booked into accommodation	1,407	1,493
Booked into hub, shelter or emergency accommodation	492	554
Booked into temporary accommodation	808	850
Booked into long-term accommodation	395	445

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

Table 12: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2025-26 Q2, compared to 2025-26 Q1, by number of outcomes

Accommodation type	Apr-Jun 25		Jul-Sep 25	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation				
Hub	435	23.5%	519	25.9%
SWEP (Local)	39	2.1%	19	0.9%
SWEP (Pan-London)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Winter/night shelter	25	1.4%	10	0.5%
Other	31	1.7%	35	1.7%
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>530</i>	<i>28.7%</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>29.1%</i>
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	153	8.3%	178	8.9%
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	17	0.9%	8	0.4%
B&B (not local authority TA)	131	7.1%	122	6.1%
Clinic/detox/rehab	1	0.1%	5	0.2%
Hostel	140	7.6%	174	8.7%
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	8	0.4%	16	0.8%
Staging post	143	7.7%	166	8.3%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	245	13.3%	236	11.8%
Other	78	4.2%	66	3.3%
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>916</i>	<i>49.5%</i>	<i>971</i>	<i>48.5%</i>
Long-term accommodation				
Clearing House	34	1.8%	38	1.9%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	10	0.5%	10	0.5%
Employment-related accommodation	1	0.1%	2	0.1%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	8	0.4%	17	0.8%
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	5	0.3%	8	0.4%
Private rented sector - independent	123	6.7%	117	5.8%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	77	4.2%	102	5.1%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	5	0.3%	5	0.2%
Supported accommodation (long-term)	122	6.6%	131	6.5%
Other	18	1.0%	20	1.0%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>403</i>	<i>21.8%</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>22.5%</i>
Total	1,849	100.0%	2,004	100.0%

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

9. METHODOLOGY

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

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

A further explanation of the individual categories follows.

New rough sleepers

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

Living on the streets (LOS)

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

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

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

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

Intermittent rough sleepers

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

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