

Street to Home Bulletin 2011/12

This bulletin presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London in 2011/12. Information is from the 'Combined Homelessness and Information Network' (CHAIN), a database commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by Broadway. CHAIN is the most detailed and comprehensive source of information available about rough sleeping. Information from CHAIN is used every day to assist work with individuals and to inform rough sleeping strategy.

Headline Findings

5,678 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach workers in 2011/12

This is an increase of 43% compared to 2010/11. Enhanced levels of outreach services as part of 'No Second Night Out' (see context section below) means that people sleeping rough, and in particular new people to the streets, are more likely to be contacted. The greatest increase occurred in April to May 2011, when the 'No Second Night Out' project started.

3,825 people slept rough for the first time in London, 2,696 (70%) of whom spent only one night on the streets

This is an important figure given the Mayor's pledge that no-one new to the streets should spend a second night sleeping rough. The number of people seen just once has increased by 69%, compared to 2010/11. 'No Second Night Out' means that new rough sleepers are more likely to get the help they need straight away and avoid spending a second night on the streets; 1,402 people attended the new No Second Night Out assessment hub and of these people 1,127 (80%) were not seen rough sleeping again.

33% (1,853) rough sleepers had been seen sleeping rough before April 2011

The majority of rough sleepers seen each year are new to CHAIN - this year 7% more people were new to the streets than in 2010/11. 1,853 people contacted this year had also been seen sleeping rough before April 2011. A focus of 'No Second Night Out' and borough services is to move new people away from the streets very quickly, helping to ensure that this group do not become long-term rough sleepers.

170 (3%) rough sleepers were seen in all four quarters of 2011/12

There is a very slight decrease in people sleeping rough in four quarters this year. This group are of particular concern as they are more likely than others to be 'living on the streets'. Only 4% (210) people were seen sleeping rough more than 20 times in the year.

Nearly half (45%, 2,554) of those seen rough sleeping were contacted in Westminster

Westminster consistently sees the highest number of rough sleepers.

Under half (47%) of those seen rough sleeping had a UK nationality. 28% were from Central and Eastern Europe*

Increases in the number of people seen rough sleeping have been fairly consistent across the main nationality groups - UK and CEE groups; the increase in those from CEE groups was very slightly higher than the overall increase in rough sleeping.

12% (658 people) seen rough sleeping were female

The proportion of male and female rough sleepers remains consistent with previous years, although the number of females seen has risen from 374 in 2010/11; a similar proportion (11%) were young people under 25, and only 14 people contacted were under 18.

124 (4%) people from the UK had previously been in the armed forces

The proportion of people from the UK with an armed forces background recorded on CHAIN remains low. The proportion is higher (10%) if people from outside the UK are included.

Outreach teams and NSNO helped 1,014 people into accommodation and 1,081 people to return to their home area

There were particular increases in the number of rough sleepers outreach teams booked into long term accommodation and into the Private Rented Sector.

Hostel outcomes for CHAIN clients have continued to improve

30% of those leaving hostels did so to move to medium to long term accommodation in 2011/12 compared to 24% in 2010/11. 25% left for negative reasons (abandoning or being evicted from their accommodation) - a drop compared to 34% last year.

* EU expansion in 2004 and 2007 enabled people from the following countries to come to the UK to work: Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic and Romania and Bulgaria. These are referred to as Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries in this report.

Context

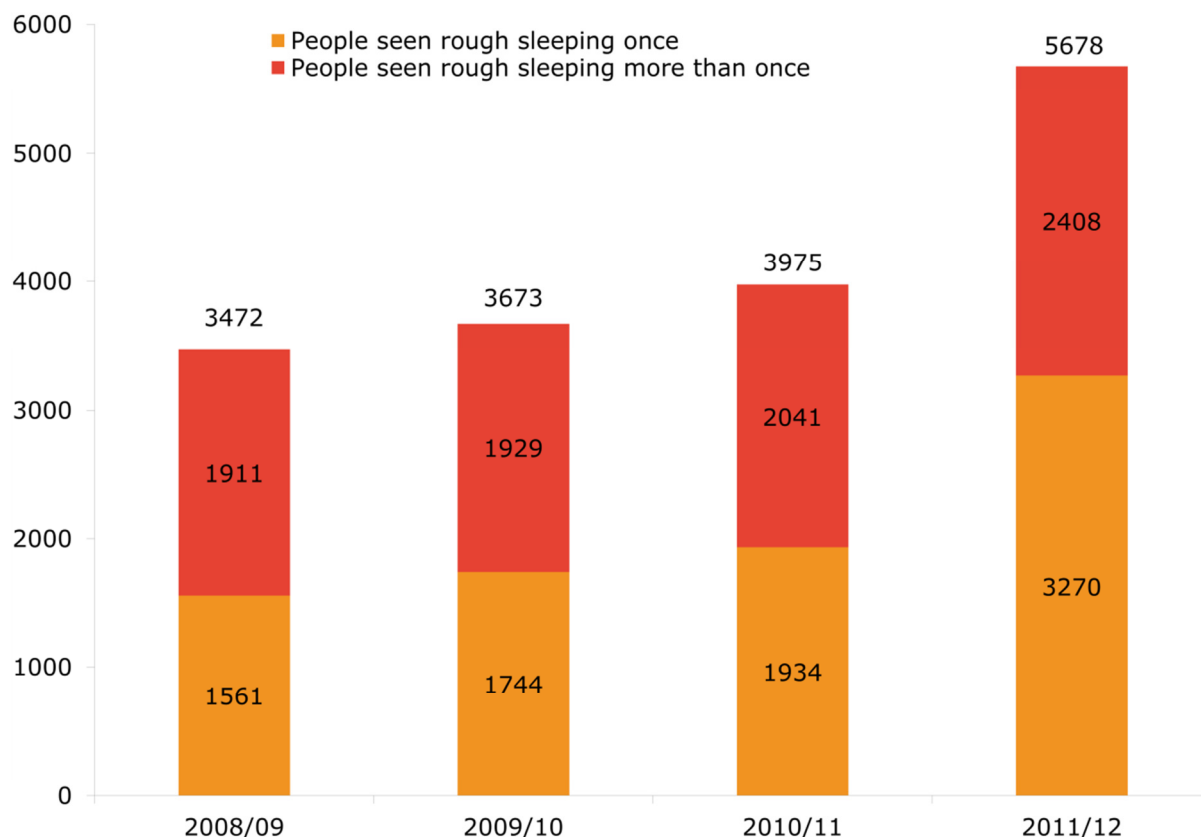
The Mayor of London is committed to ending rough sleeping in the capital by the end of 2012 and established the London Delivery Board – a group of key government, borough and voluntary sector partners – to deliver this. The Board has defined ending rough sleeping to mean that:

'No-one living on the streets and no-one new to the streets of London will sleep out for a second night.'

The enhanced approach seen in the last year included the launch of 'No Second Night Out', a 24/7 service dedicated to tackling rough sleeping among those new to the streets. Its introduction has led to an increase in hours of working and coverage by outreach teams in London, which may explain in part why many more people have been recorded on CHAIN.

Number of people seen rough sleeping

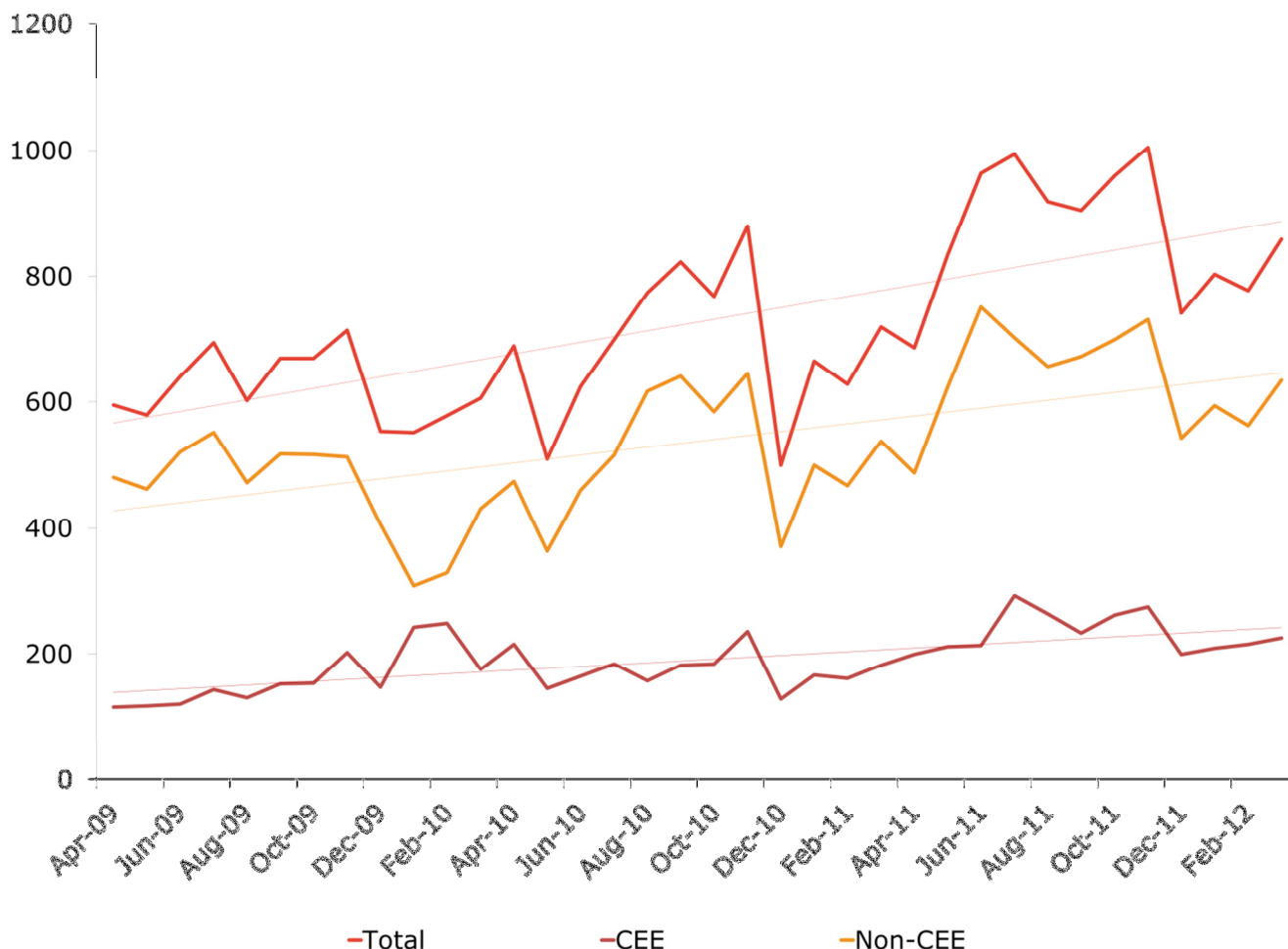
Figure (a) Number of people seen rough sleeping 2008/09 – 2011/12



5,678 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in 2011/12 - of these less than half (2,408) were seen more than once. While overall rough sleeping figures increased considerably in 2011/12 (by 43%), many people are seen rough sleeping just once. In 2011/12, 42% were seen more than once compared to 51% in 2010/11, 53% in 2009/10 and 55% in 2008/09.

Other reasons for an increase in the number of people seen rough sleeping are likely to include people finding it hard to secure employment due to economic conditions, and the continued flow of people onto the streets from Central and Eastern European countries.

Figure (b) Number of people seen rough sleeping month by month, April 2009 - March 2012



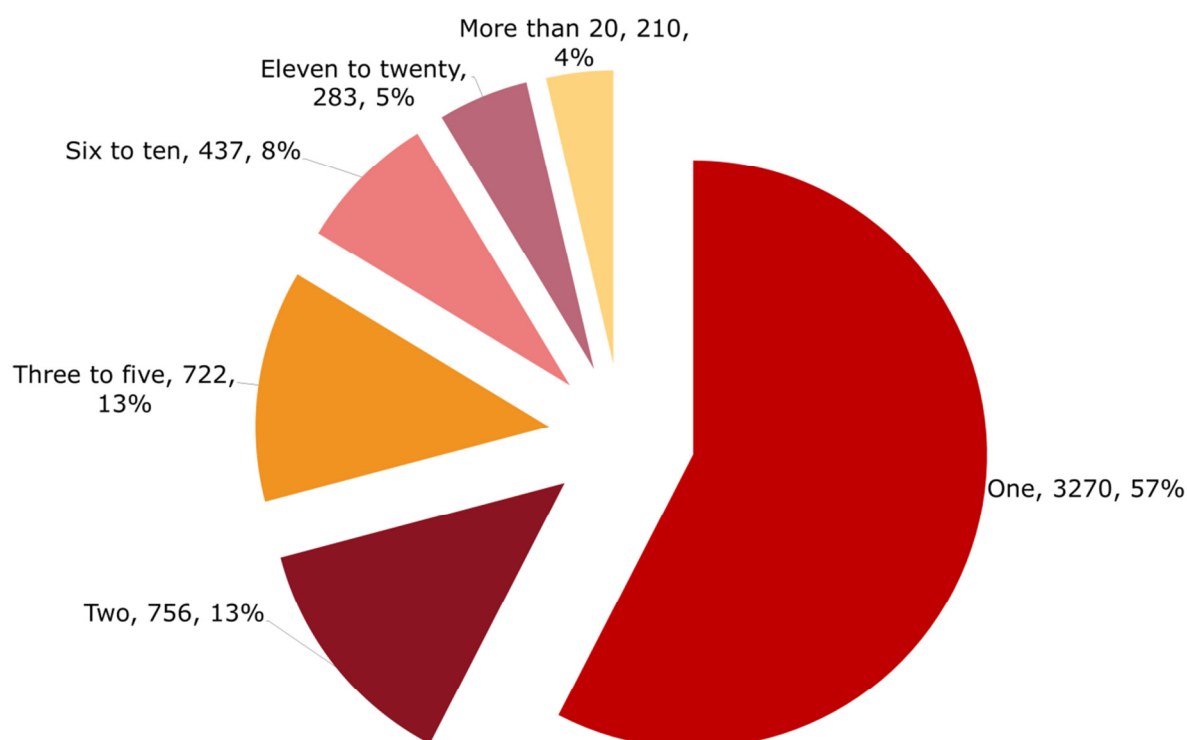
The graph above shows trends in the number of people seen rough sleeping by month. The top line - red - is everyone seen rough sleeping, the middle line - orange - people from Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, and bottom line - crimson - all rough sleepers excluding CEEs.

People from CEE countries are often not entitled to welfare benefits and so require a different service response. This picture becomes more complex as time goes on as more of this client group have worked consistently in the UK for a period, entitling them to claim benefits.

The month with the highest number of people seen rough sleeping was November 2011 (1,005 people) and the month with the fewest was April 2011 (686). The sharpest rise occurred in April to May 2011 – a similar though less marked increase is evident during April to May 2010. This annual increase is partly due to warmer weather. It was more pronounced this year due to the introduction of more outreach shifts when the No Second Night Out project commenced in April 2011.

Volume and regularity of rough sleeping

Figure (c) Number of times seen rough sleeping



Base: people seen rough sleeping in 2011/12 (5,678)

Over half (57%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2011/12 were seen only once. 70% were only seen once or twice. One in ten (9%) of people were seen rough sleeping more than 10 times. A small group of people were seen very regularly with 34 people seen more than 50 times in the year (33 people in 2010/11).

Figure (d) Number of quarters seen rough sleeping in during the year

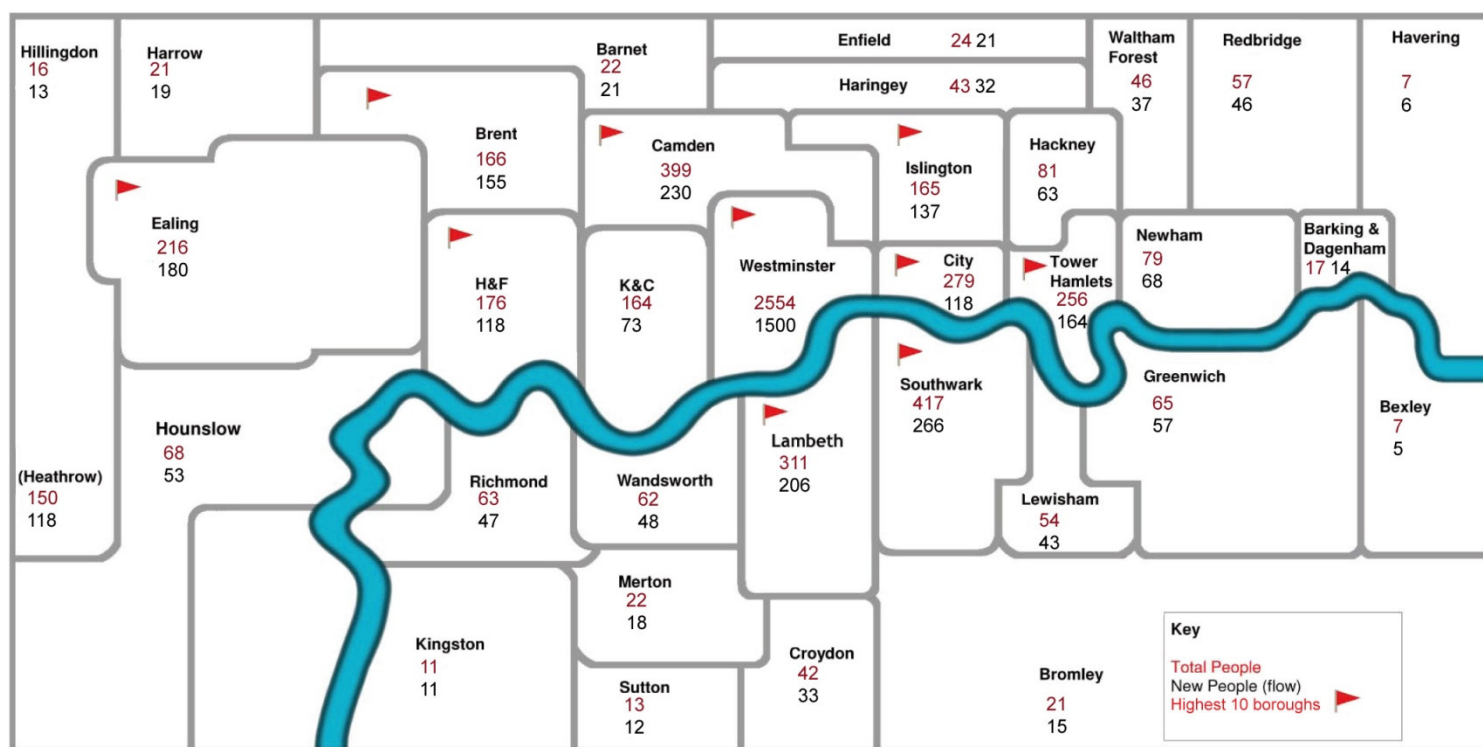
No. of quarters	2010/11		2011/12	
	People	% of all those seen rough sleeping	People	% of all those seen rough sleeping
One	2,846	72%	4,304	76%
Two	672	17%	864	15%
Three	284	7%	340	6%
Four	173	4%	170	3%
Total	3,975	100%	5,678	100%

Figure (e) above shows how many people were seen in one, two, three or four quarters of the year. It is important to be aware that this is limited to 2011/12 and people may have been seen in preceding and subsequent quarters. Three in four (76%) of those seen rough sleeping in total were only seen in one quarter of the year. 3% of those seen rough sleeping were seen bedded down in all four quarters of the year, suggesting that their rough sleeping is an on-going issue and was not successfully resolved.

A focus on this group has seen many long term rough sleepers move into accommodation over the last two years. New initiatives this year have included providing a 'housing first' model (started in March 2012) to some long-term rough sleepers enabling them to move straight into long-term accommodation without first staying in hostels.

Borough by borough rough sleeping figures

Figure (e) People seen sleeping rough in the year by borough

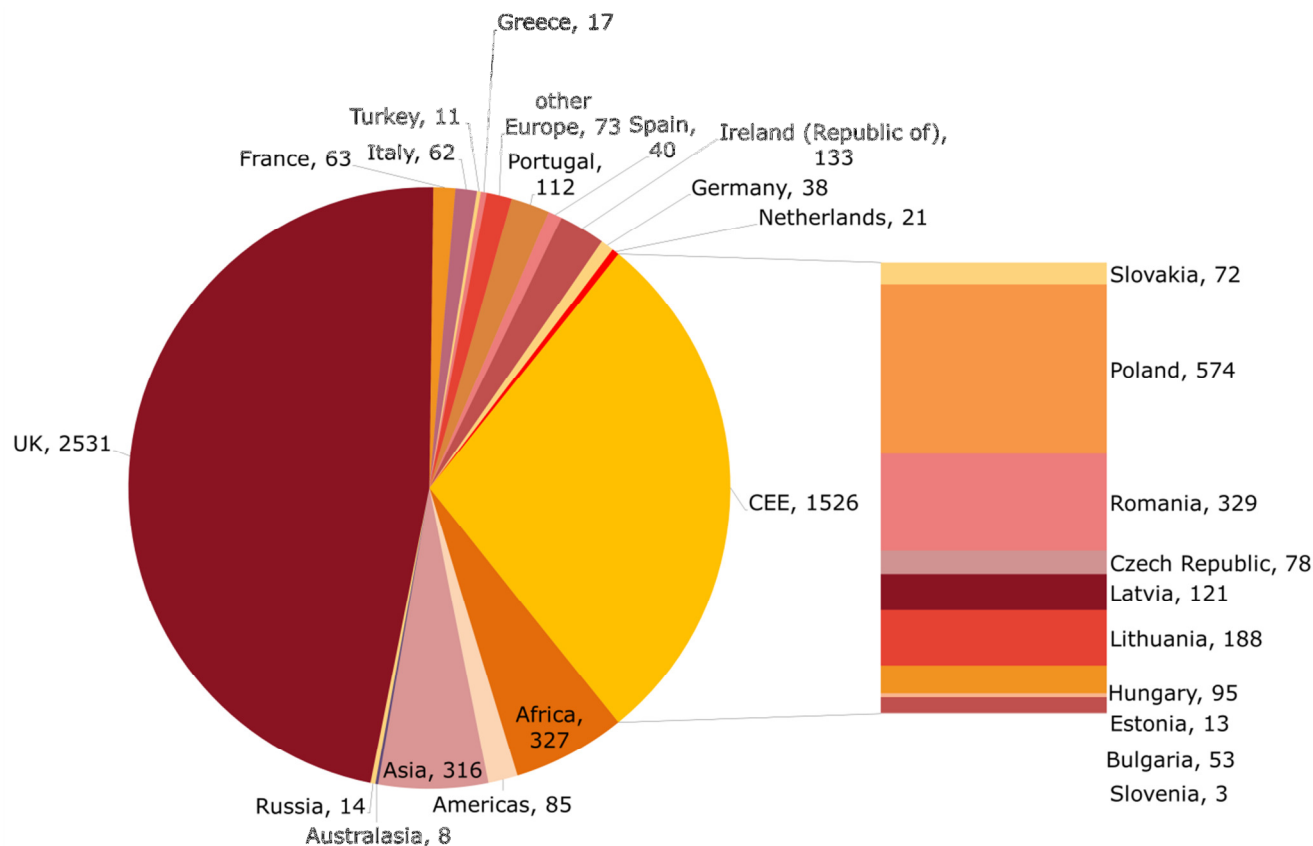


Base:5678

The map above shows the number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough. In this map people can be counted in more than one borough if they were contacted rough sleeping in different areas.

Nationality profile of people seen rough sleeping

Figure (f) Nationality of people seen rough sleeping in 2011/12



Base: all those seen rough sleeping where nationality is recorded (5,377). NB Each country with more than 10 people represented is presented individually, except in the case of CEE countries where all countries are represented to give a full breakdown.

The nationality profile of rough sleepers remains very diverse. 47% of people seen rough sleeping were from the UK – a drop of 1% compared to last year and of 4% and 10% in the preceding years respectively. The proportion of rough sleepers contacted from CEE countries has remained consistent at 28%, the same proportion as last year. A significant number of rough sleepers have other European nationalities, the largest groups amongst these being from the Republic of Ireland (133) and Portugal (112). 372 people contacted had African nationalities and 316 had Asian nationalities. It is not possible to surmise how long people have been in the UK or whether they have access to public funds from nationality figures.

Age and gender profile of people seen rough sleeping

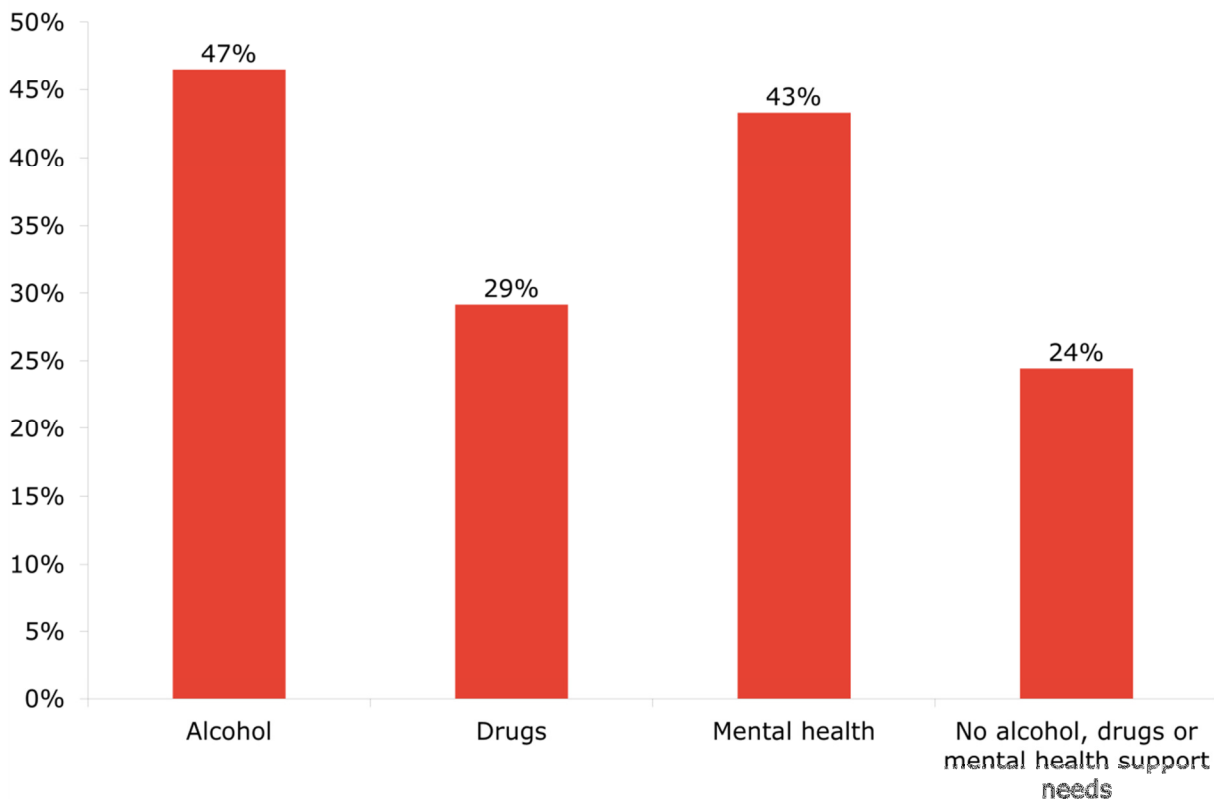
The age and gender profiles of those seen rough sleeping have remained stable over recent years:

- Just over one in ten (12%) were women
- Most of those seen rough sleeping (58%) are in the 26-45 age group
- One in ten (11%) were under 25 years old
- One in ten (10%) were over 55
- 14 people were under 18.

Support needs profile of people seen rough sleeping

CHAIN records assessments of support needs made by those working with rough sleepers in the homelessness sector. It is important to note that a third (32%) of people do not have support needs information recorded – 79% of these people have only been seen rough sleeping once or twice.

Figure (g) Support needs profile of those seen rough sleeping in 2011/12



Base: 3,844 people seen rough sleeping where one or more supports needs assessment was recorded

17% of those for who support needs information was recorded had no such needs identified on the form. The most prevalent support need amongst those assessed was alcohol misuse (47%). Four in ten (43%) of those contacted rough sleeping were assessed as having a mental health support needs and just under three in ten (29%) had a drug support need.

Armed forces and institutional history profile of people seen rough sleeping

CHAIN records whether a person has been in prison, the armed forces and local authority care at any time in their lives.

Figure (h) Experience of serving in the armed forces or spending time in prison or in Local Authority care, amongst people seen rough sleeping 2008/09 – 2011/12

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Prison	32%	32%	37%	34%
Armed forces – all	5%	6%	7%	10%
Armed forces – those from UK only	4%	3%	3%	4%
Care	9%	10%	12%	11%
Base	2,328	1,905	1,176	3,844

34% of people contacted rough sleeping in 2011/12 had been in prison at some point. Overall, 10% of people contacted rough sleeping had served in the armed forces at some point - 4% of people seen rough sleeping who are from the UK had served in the armed forces. 11% of people seen rough sleeping had experience of the care system.

Helping people off the streets

Accommodation and moves to other areas

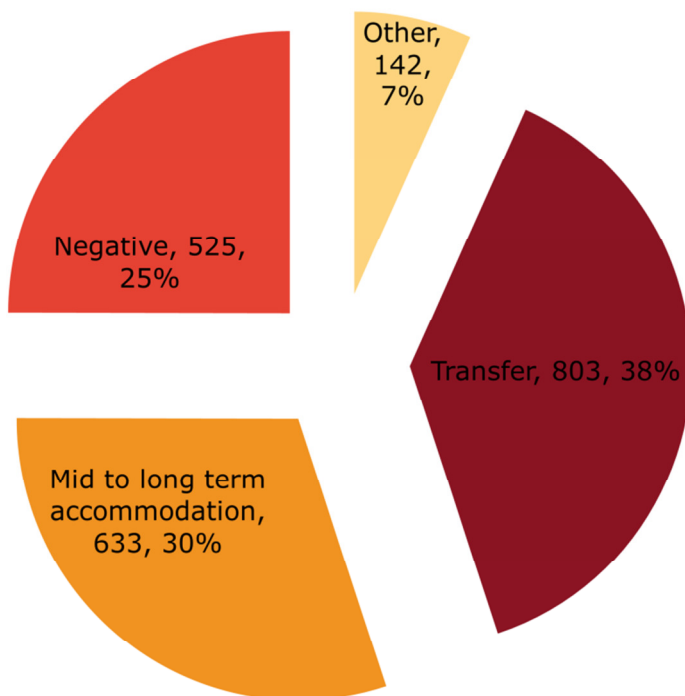
Outreach teams work to help people into a range of accommodation types, most commonly hostels but also the Private Rented Sector and residential treatment centres. Teams also help people to return to their home area, where they are more likely to find a solution to their homelessness, for example where they will be entitled to accommodation or to an alcohol treatment centre in their home country. This year headline figures about work done by the 'No Second Night Out' (NSNO) team are also included in this section. The team at NSNO provide assessments at a central hub and have a strong focus on proactive reconnection work to assist people to move back to a home area where possible.

- In 2011/12 outreach teams booked 1,014 people into accommodation - of these 383 people were booked into long term accommodation.
- Outreach teams also helped 416 people to return to their home area.
- 730 people who had been seen rough sleeping, and a further 54 who were not seen rough sleeping in the period, were reconnected or provided with accommodation via the NSNO team.

Reasons for moving out of hostel and other short term accommodation

Hostels working with outreach teams to accommodate rough sleepers record information about those arriving and departing from hostels. In 2011/12, 1,710 people left accommodation projects.

Figure (i) Reasons for moves out of hostel and other short term accommodation



Base: 2,103 departures

People leaving accommodation often transferred to another short-term accommodation project such as a hostel or detox facility (38% of moves). This is fairly consistent with 2010/11 when 36% of moves out of accommodation were transfers. 30% of moves from short-term accommodation were to medium or long-term accommodation such as the Private Rented Sector (5%) or social housing. This is a significant increase compared to 2010/11 when 24% of moves were into medium or long term accommodation.

A quarter (25%) of moves were for negative reasons, including 4% which were to prison. This is lower than last year (34%). Negative departures have been dropping over the last three years, while moves to medium to long term accommodation have been increasing. This is likely to reflect efforts in the homelessness sector to improve hostel outcomes including Homeless Link's Abandonments and Evictions project.