

Street to Home Bulletin 2013/14



This bulletin presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London between April 2013 and March 2014. 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 Broadway, represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping.

Headline findings

Overall

6,508 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach workers in 2013/14.

- This represents an increase of 1% compared to 2012/13. The increase is markedly lower than the 13% increase observed between 2011/12 and 2012/13, and the 43% increase between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

New rough sleepers

4,363 people (67% of the total) were seen sleeping rough for the first time in London in 2013/14.

- 70% of new rough sleepers were only seen once in the year, compared to 75% in 2012/13 and 70% in 2011/12.
- 41% of new rough sleepers attended No Second Night Out (NSNO) and 1,529 (85%) of these people were not seen rough sleeping again in the year.

Entrenched rough sleepers

164 (3% of the total) rough sleepers were seen in all four quarters of 2013/14.

- The proportion of people seen rough sleeping in all four quarters (3%) remains low and is consistent with the previous two years. This group is of particular concern because they are more likely than others to be 'living on the streets'.

Returning rough sleepers

11% of those seen rough sleeping had returned to the streets after a period of at least one year when they had not been seen rough sleeping.

- Two thirds of this group (488 people) were seen just once or twice, suggesting they didn't return to long term rough sleeping.

Borough profile

34% of those seen rough sleeping were contacted in Westminster.

- While Westminster consistently sees the highest volume of rough sleepers (2,197 in 2013/14), its numbers have fallen for the second year running, with 245 fewer rough sleepers compared to 2012/13 (a 10% decrease).
- Six other boroughs recorded more than 300 rough sleepers in the year (Camden: 501; Lambeth: 427; Southwark: 391; Tower Hamlets: 324; City of London: 317; and Brent: 307).

Nationality

Less than half (46%) of those seen rough sleeping were of UK nationality.

- 31% of those seen rough sleeping were from Central and Eastern Europe* and 10% were from other European countries.

Age and gender

Those who slept rough were predominately male (87%). Just over one in ten were aged under 26.

- 13% (837 people) of those seen rough sleeping were female.
- 12% (762 people) of those seen rough sleeping were aged under 26, of whom just eleven people were under 18 years old.
- 10% of those seen were over 55.

Reason for rough sleeping

2,748 new rough sleepers had information recorded about why they had left their last longer term or settled accommodation.

- 30% left their last settled accommodation after being asked to leave by the person they were staying with, or following eviction.
- 13% left their last settled home due to a relationship breakdown.
- 23% left their last settled home to seek work or following the loss of a job.
- 978 people had sought help and advice from a Local Authority Housing Options service during the 12 months before they were first seen sleeping rough.

Moves off the street

Outreach teams and NSNO helped 2,814 (43%) of the people seen rough sleeping into accommodation or to return to their home area.

- A total of 3,363 bookings into accommodation were made for people seen rough sleeping during 2013/14.
- Just over half (51%) of the total 1,376 reconnections for rough sleepers in 2013/14 were to destinations outside the UK.
- 42% of departures from hostels and other temporary accommodation in 2013/14 were moves to medium to long term accommodation, compared to 39% in 2012/13.

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

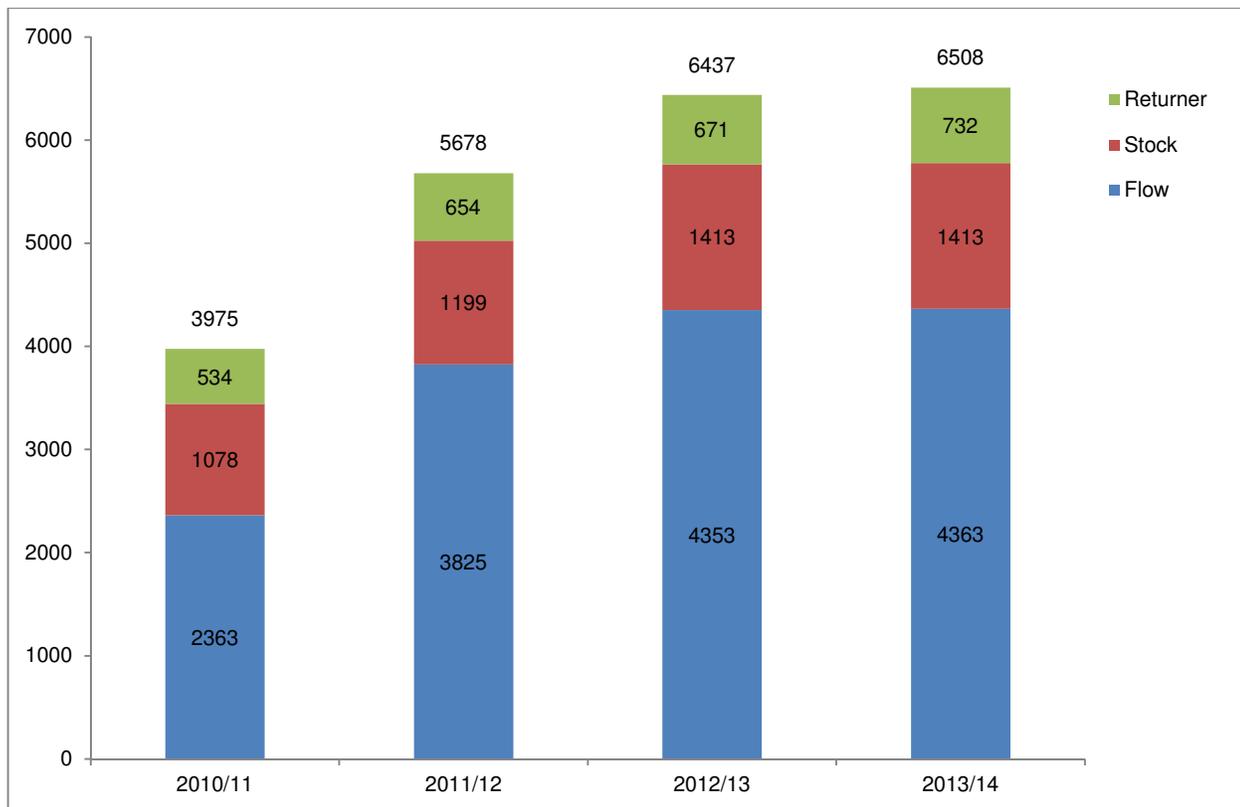
Context

The Mayor of London is working with government, local authority and voluntary sector partners to ensure that no one lives on the streets and no one new to the streets of London will sleep out for a second night. Progress towards this has been delivered by a wide range of specialist services commissioned by London's local authorities and the Greater London Authority.

Number of people seen rough sleeping

6,508 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in 2013/14. Overall rough sleeping figures increased by 1% from 2012/13, compared to an increase of 13% between 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Figure (a) Profile of the number of people seen rough sleeping 2010/11 – 2013/14 using flow, stock returner model



Bases: 2010/11: 3,975, 2011/12: 5,678, 2012/13: 6,437, 2013/14: 6,508.

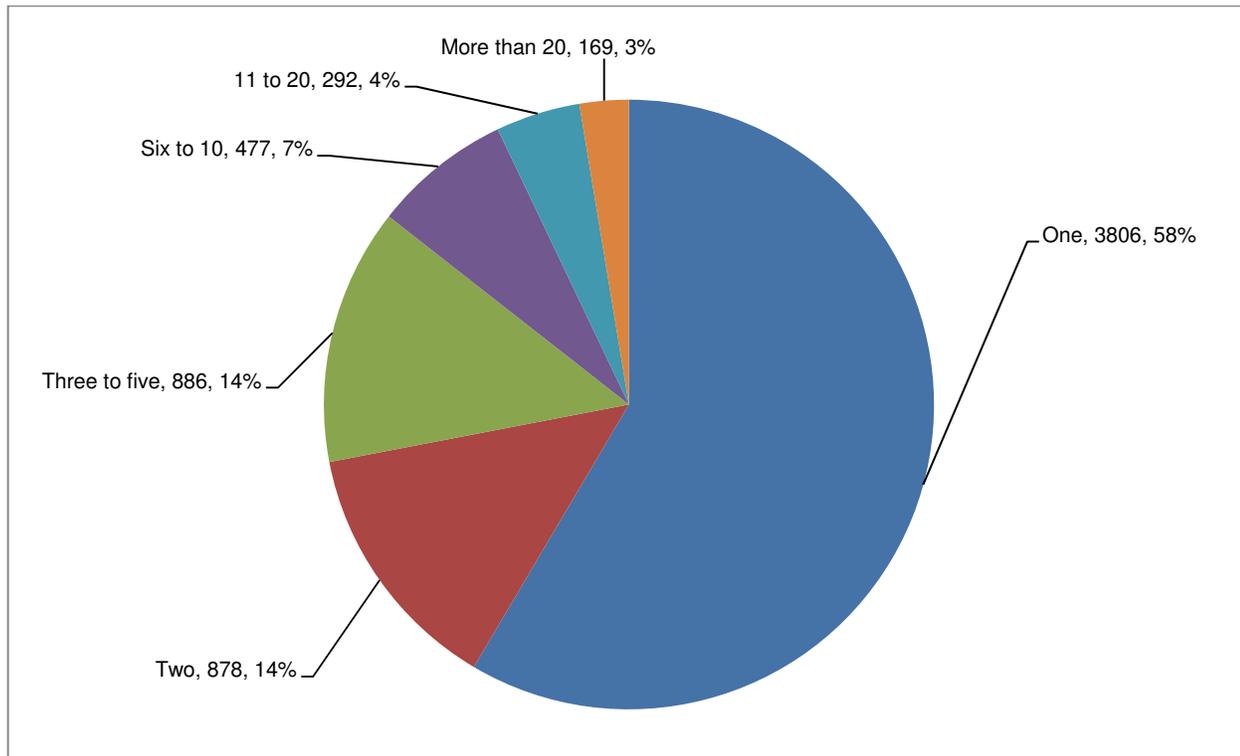
The flow, stock, returner model categorises people seen rough sleeping in the year according to whether they have also been seen rough sleeping in previous periods. Definitions of the categories are as follows:

Category	Description
Flow	People who had never been seen rough sleeping prior to 2013/14 (i.e. new rough sleepers).
Stock	People who were also seen rough sleeping in 2012/13 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).
Returner	People who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2012/13, but were not seen during 2012/13 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).

4,363 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time in London in 2013/14 (flow group), which is 67% of all people seen rough sleeping in the period. Just under three quarters (70%) of new rough sleepers were only seen once, compared to 75% in 2012/13 and 70% in 2011/12. A fifth (22%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2013/14 were also seen in the preceding year (stock group). One in ten (11%) of people seen rough sleeping were in the returner group, meaning they had been seen rough sleeping in the past but not in 2012/13. The proportion of people in each group is consistent with last year.

Volume and regularity of rough sleeping

Figure (b) Number of times seen rough sleeping



Base: 6,508 people seen rough sleeping in 2013/14.

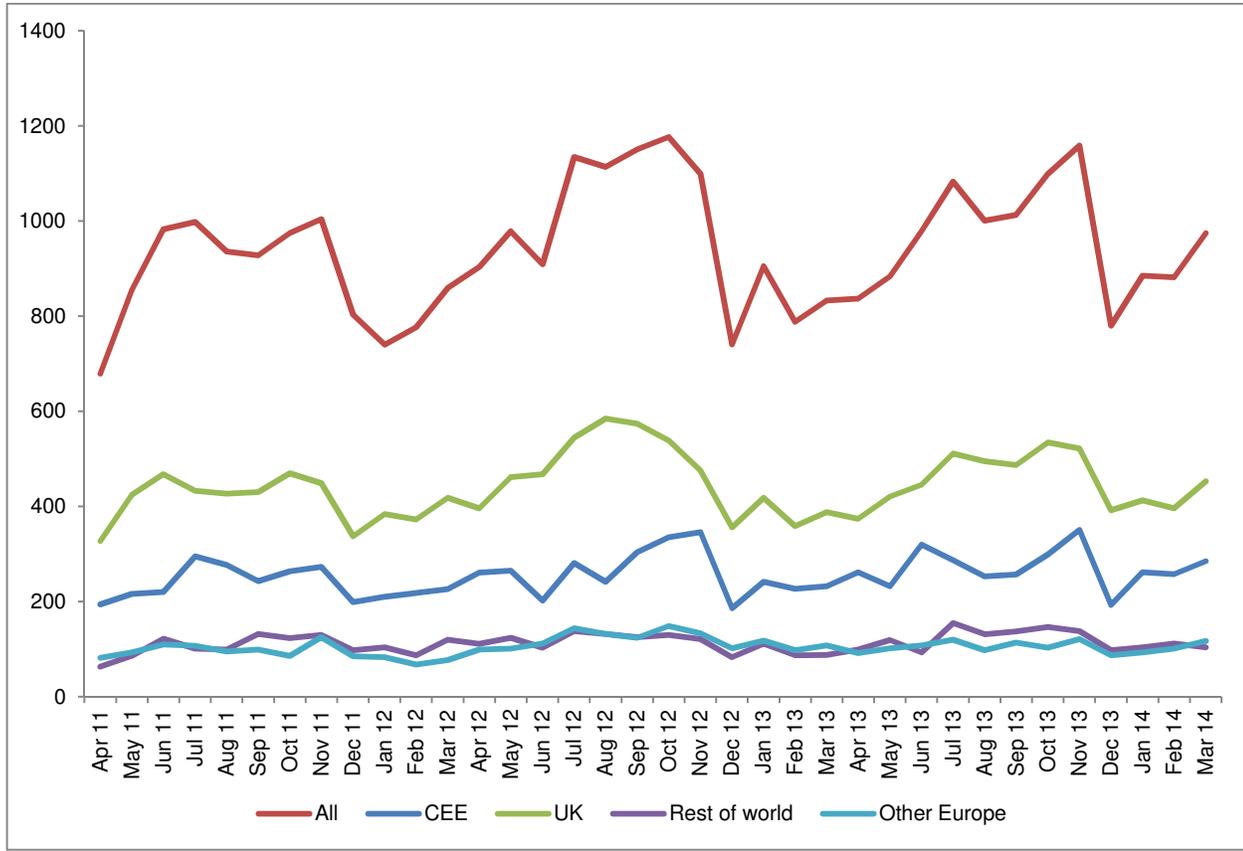
The majority (58%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2013/14 were seen only once. 72% were only seen once or twice. Less than one in ten (7%) of people were seen rough sleeping more than 10 times. Just under one in twenty (3%) people were seen rough sleeping more than 20 times in the year.

Figure (c) Number of quarters of the year in which rough sleepers were seen

Number of quarters of the year in which rough sleepers were seen	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14	
	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers
One	4304	76%	4940	77%	5033	77%
Two	864	15%	915	14%	965	15%
Three	340	6%	385	6%	346	5%
Four	170	3%	197	3%	164	3%
Total	5678	100%	6437	100%	6508	100%

Figure (c) above shows how many people were seen in one, two, three or all four quarters of the years 2011/12 to 2013/14. It is important to be aware that the figures in each column are limited to the year in question – people may have also been seen in previous or subsequent years. Three in four (77%) 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 ongoing issue and was not successfully resolved. These proportions are almost the same as those observed in 2012/13.

Figure (d) Number of people seen rough sleeping month by month, April 2011 - March 2014



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

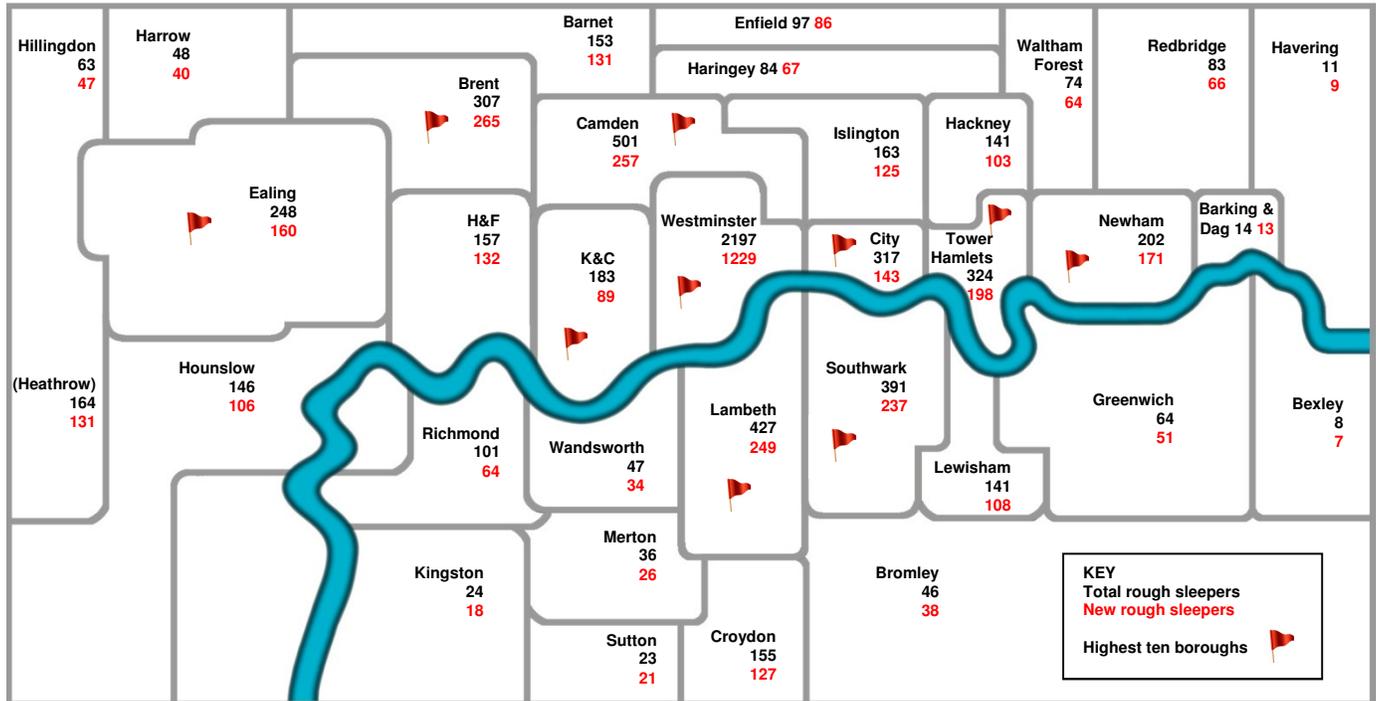
During 2013/14, the month in which the highest number of people were seen rough sleeping was November 2013 (1,159 people), while the lowest number were seen in December 2013 (780 people).

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.

Borough by borough rough sleeping figures

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



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.

Figure (f) Annual change in rough sleeper numbers by borough

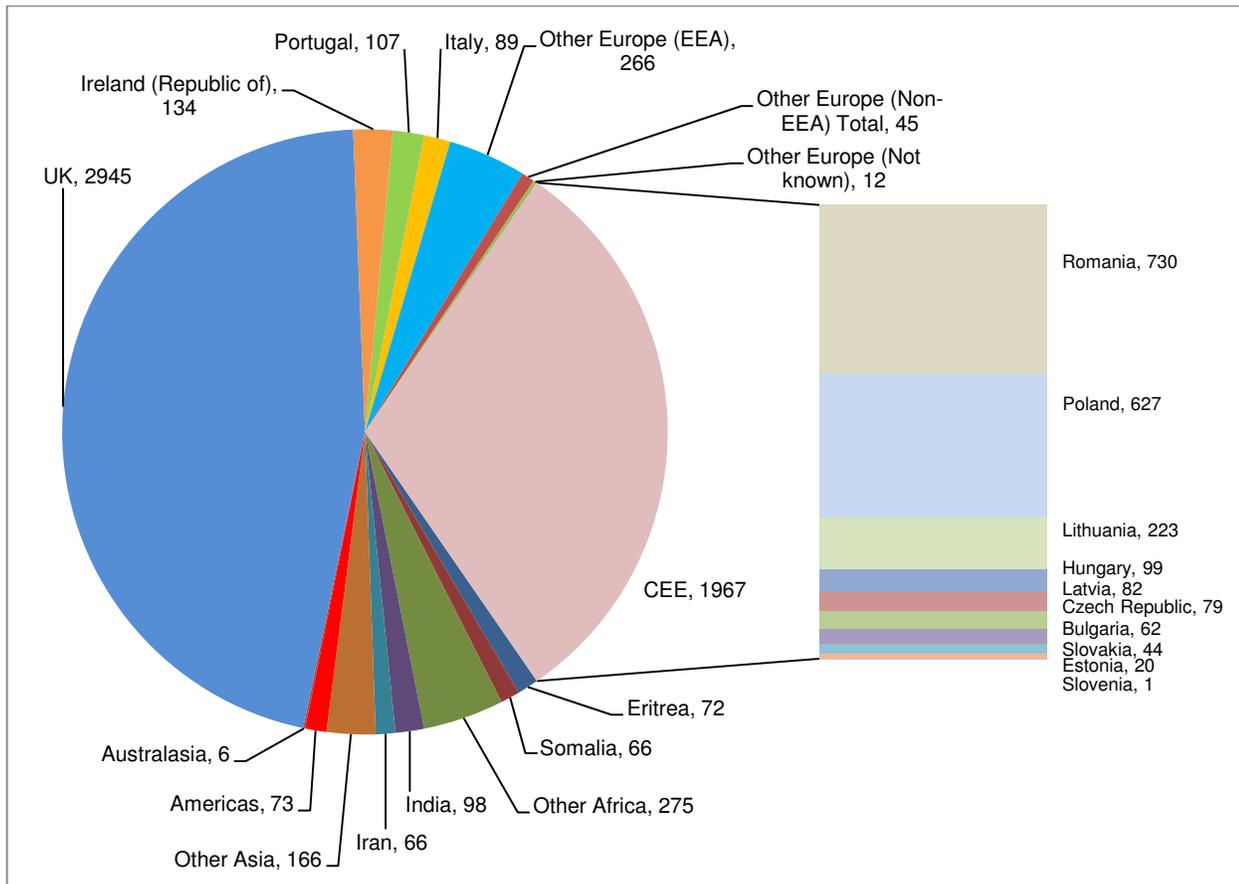
The table below compares numbers of rough sleepers seen in 2012/13 and 2013/14, for the ten boroughs reporting the highest numbers of rough sleepers this year.

Borough	2012/13	2013/14	Change since 2012/13
Westminster	2442	2197	-245
Camden	468	501	33
Lambeth	585	427	-158
Southwark	393	391	-2
Tower Hamlets	326	324	-2
City of London	284	317	33
Brent	233	307	74
Ealing	240	249	9
Newham	124	202	78
Kensington & Chelsea	215	183	-32

The boroughs in which the greatest numbers of rough sleepers were seen in 2013/14 were Westminster, Camden, Lambeth, Southwark, and Tower Hamlets, which remains consistent with 2012/13. However, Westminster and Lambeth have seen significant decreases in numbers since 2012/13, while numbers in Southwark and Tower Hamlets have decreased very slightly.

Nationality profile of people seen rough sleeping

Figure (g) Nationality of people seen rough sleeping in 2013/14



Base: 6,387 (people seen rough sleeping whose nationality is known).

The nationality profile of rough sleepers in London remains very diverse. 46% of people seen rough sleeping in 2013/14 were from the UK – a slight decrease from the figure of 47% in both 2012/13 and 2011/12. The proportion of rough sleepers from CEE countries was 31%, a small increase when compared to the 28% for this group in the previous two years. Romanians (730) have replaced Poles (627) as the most frequently seen nationality amongst this group.

There were a significant number of rough sleepers from non-CEE European countries, mostly those in the European Economic Area, with Republic of Ireland (134), Portugal (107) and Italy (89) being the most prevalent. 413 (7%) people seen rough sleeping in the year were from African countries, and 330 (5%) were of Asian nationality.

Nationality figures do not allow us to surmise how long people have been in the UK, or whether they have access to public funds. Immigration data on CHAIN is not comprehensive, but the most commonly recorded immigration status for those from non-European countries is Indefinite Leave to Remain (287 people), followed by Overstay (58 people) and Limited Leave to Remain (52 people).

Age and gender profile of people seen rough sleeping

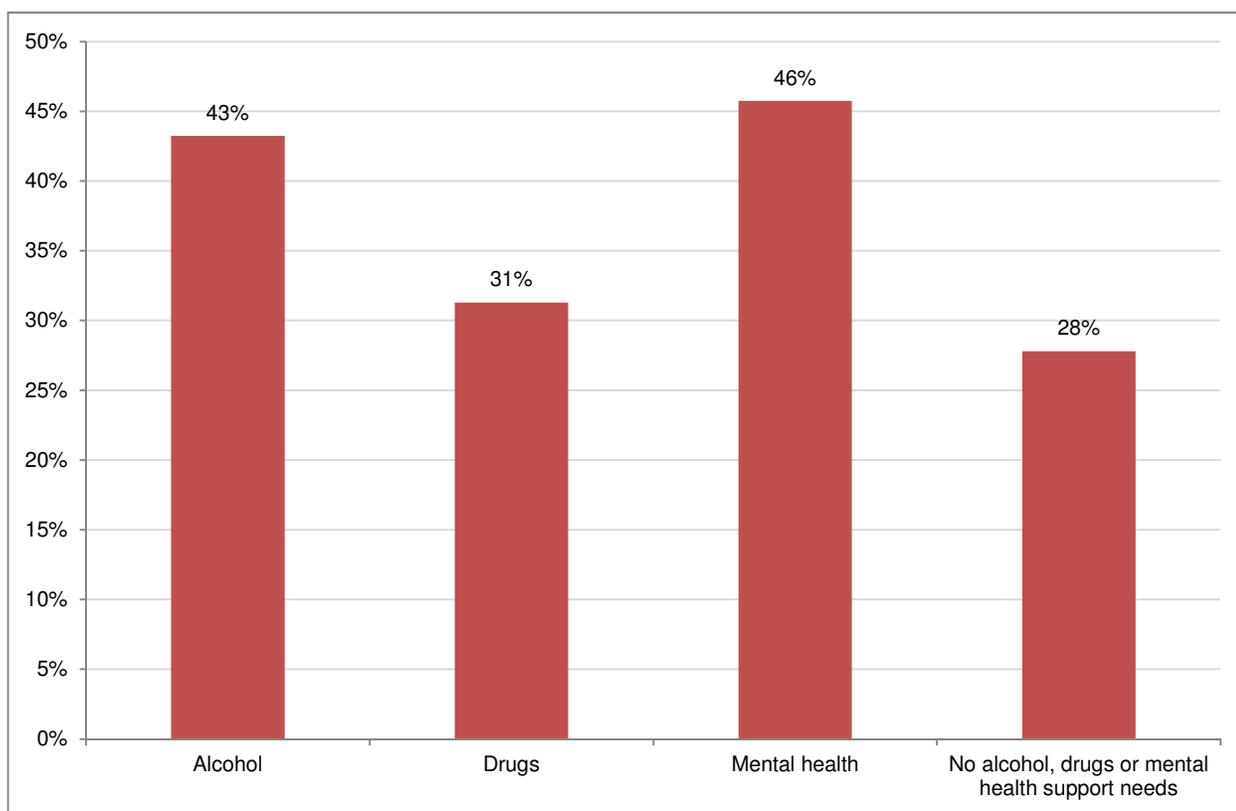
The age and gender profiles of those seen rough sleeping have remained stable over recent years:

- Just over one in 10 (13%) were women
- Most of those seen rough sleeping (57%) are in the 26 - 45 age group
- Just over one in 10 (12%) were under 26 years old
- One in 10 (10%) were over 55
- Eleven people were under 18.

Support needs profile of people seen rough sleeping

Support needs data in CHAIN is derived from assessments made by those working with rough sleepers in the homelessness sector. It is important to note that a quarter (25%) of rough sleepers in 2013/14 did not have a support needs assessment recorded, the majority of these (81%) being people who had only been seen rough sleeping once or twice.

Figure (h) Support needs profile of those seen rough sleeping in 2013/14



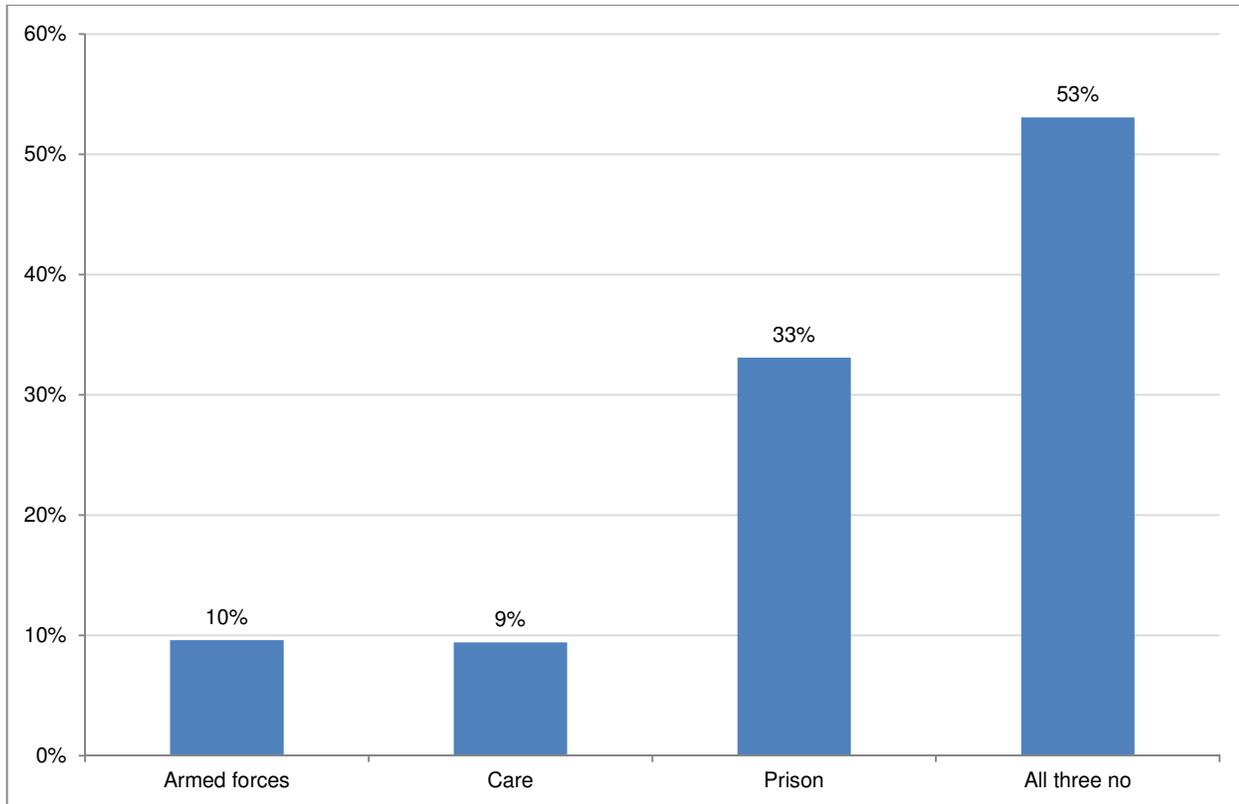
Base: 4,867 people seen rough sleeping where one or more support needs assessment was recorded.

28% of those assessed in 2013/14 had no support needs identified, which is a slight decrease from 31% in 2012/13. The most frequently reported support need amongst those assessed was mental health, at 46% (compared to 44% in 2012/13). Alcohol was the second most prevalent support need, at 43% (compared to 41% in 2012/13). Just under three in ten (31%) people assessed had a drug support need, compared to 28% in the previous year. Proportions of people with drug and mental health support needs are consistent with last year.

Armed forces and institutional history profile of people seen rough sleeping

CHAIN records whether a person has been in prison, the armed forces or Local Authority care at any time in their lives.

Figure (i) Experience of serving in the armed forces, spending time in prison or in Local Authority care, among people seen rough sleeping



Base: 4,833 people seen rough sleeping where one or more institutional history was recorded.

A third (33%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2013/14 have experience of serving time in prison, while 9% had experience of the care system.

Overall, 10% of people seen rough sleeping in 2013/14 had served in the armed forces at some point in their lives. Looking at this in more detail, 3% (127) of people seen rough sleeping in the year were UK nationals who have served in the armed forces.

Proportions of people with experience of the armed forces, care or prison are consistent with 2012/13.

Helping people off the streets

Accommodation and moves to other areas

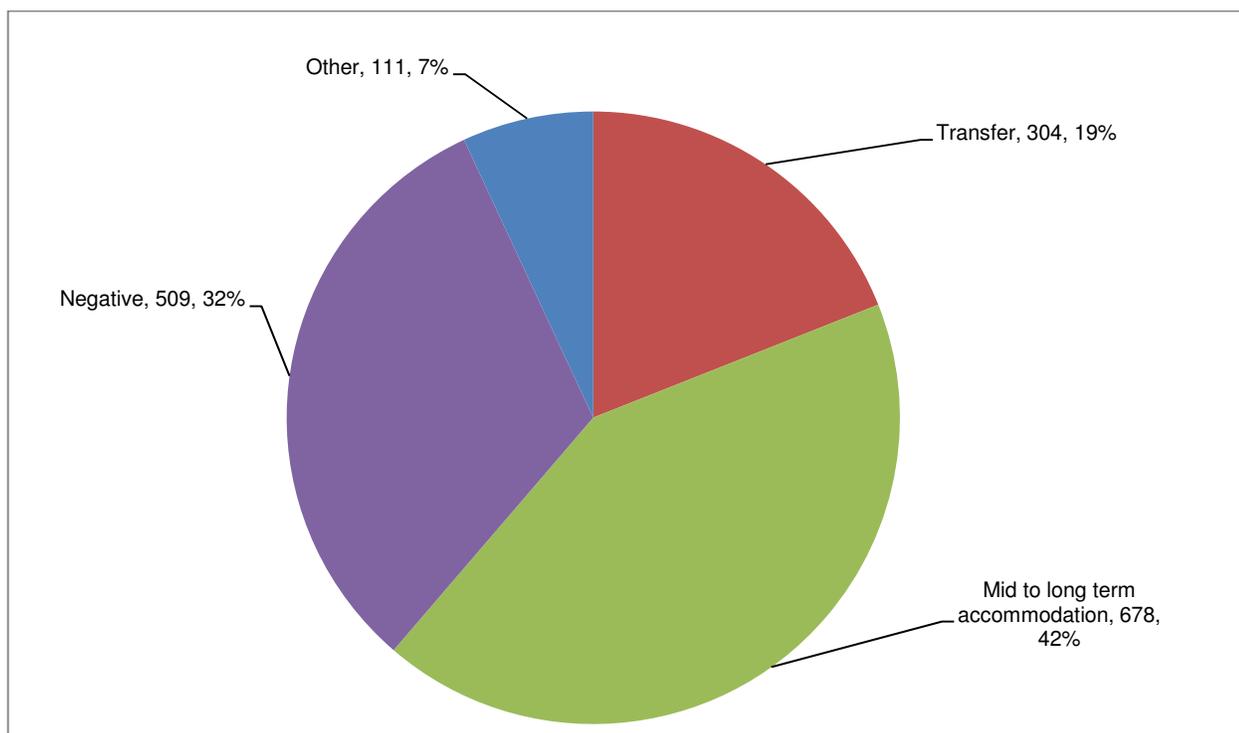
Outreach teams and other services, including No Second Night Out (NSNO), work to help rough sleepers into a range of accommodation types, most commonly hostels but also the private rented sector and residential treatment centres. Services also help people to reconnect to their home area or country, where 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.

In 2013/14, outreach teams and NSNO booked 2,452 (38%) people seen rough sleeping in the year into accommodation; of these 681 were booked into long-term accommodation. 1,149 (18%) people who had been seen rough sleeping were reconnected by outreach teams or NSNO. Overall, 2,814 (43%) of the people seen rough sleeping in 2013/14 were helped into accommodation or to reconnect to an area with appropriate support or networks.

Reasons for moving out of hostel and other short term accommodation

Hostels and other short term accommodation providers record information about those arriving and departing from their services. In 2013/14, accommodation projects recorded departures for 1,425 people who had previously been seen rough sleeping at some point in their history (but who had not necessarily been seen rough sleeping in 2013/14).

Figure (j) Reasons for moves out of hostels and other short term accommodation



Base: 1,602 departures by verified rough sleepers from accommodation projects which report to CHAIN. Some people may have had more than one accommodation departure during the year.

Four in ten (42%) departures were moves to mid to long term accommodation, such as the private rented sector or Clearing House accommodation. Over the past few years there has been a steady increase in the proportion of departures constituting moves to mid to long term accommodation (24% in 2010/11; 30% in 2011/12; 39% in 2012/13).