

Street to Home Bulletin 2012/13



This bulletin presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London in 2012/13. 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 Homelessness and Support. 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

Overall

6,437 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach workers in 2012/13.

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

New rough sleepers

4,353 people (68% of the total) were seen sleeping rough for the first time in London in 2012/13.

- Three quarters (75%) of new rough sleepers were only seen once compared to 70% in 2011/12 and 62% in 2010/11.
- 51% of new rough sleepers attended NSNO and 1,859 (86%) of these people were not seen rough sleeping again in the year.

Entrenched rough sleepers

197 (3% of the total) rough sleepers were seen in all four quarters of 2012/13.

- 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

10% of those seen rough sleeping had returned to the streets after a period of at least one year when they were not contacted rough sleeping.

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

Borough profile

38% of those seen rough sleeping were contacted in Westminster.

- While Westminster consistently sees the highest number of rough sleepers (2,442 in 2012/13), they are one of the few boroughs to experience a fall in recorded rough sleeping last year, with a drop of 112 (5%).
- More than 250 people were seen rough sleeping in five other boroughs (Lambeth: 585; Camden: 468; Southwark: 393; Tower Hamlets: 326; and City of London: 284).

Nationality

Less than half (47%) of those seen rough sleeping were of UK nationality.

- 28% of those seen rough sleeping were from Central and Eastern Europe* and 12% were from other European countries.

Age and gender

Those who slept rough were predominately male (88%). Only one in ten was under 25.

- 12% (786 people) of those seen rough sleeping were female.
- 11% (725 people) of those seen rough sleeping were under 25, of which just six people were under 18 years old.
- 9% of those seen were over 55.

Reason for rough sleeping

2,930 new rough sleepers had information recorded about why they had left their last longer term or settled accommodation.

- 18% left their last settled accommodation because of relationship breakdown.
- 17% were evicted from their last settled home.
- 15% left their last settled home to seek work.
- 640 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 2,794 of the people seen rough sleeping into accommodation or to return to their home area.

- In 2012/13, outreach teams and NSNO helped more people into accommodation or to return to a home area – 2,794 in 2012/13 compared to 2,335 in 2011/12.
- 39% of departures from hostels and similar accommodation were moves to medium to long-term accommodation in 2012/13, compared to 30% in 2011/12. More people are leaving hostels to move into mid to long-term accommodation.

* 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, the Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria. These are referred to as Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries in this report.

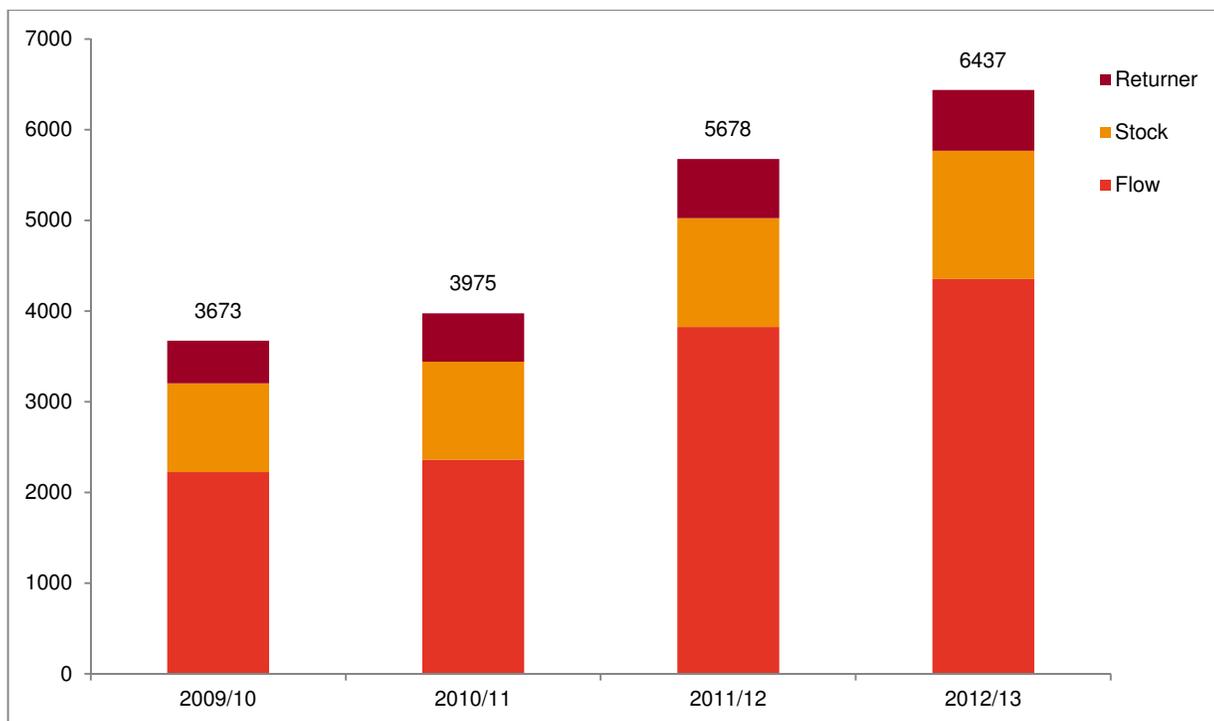
Context

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

6,437 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in 2012/13. Overall rough sleeping figures increased by 13% compared to an increase of 43% between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Figure (a) Profile of the number of people seen rough sleeping 2009/10 – 2012/13 using flow, stock returner model



Bases: 2009/10: 3,673, 2010/11: 3,975, 2011/12: 5,678, 2012/13: 6,437.

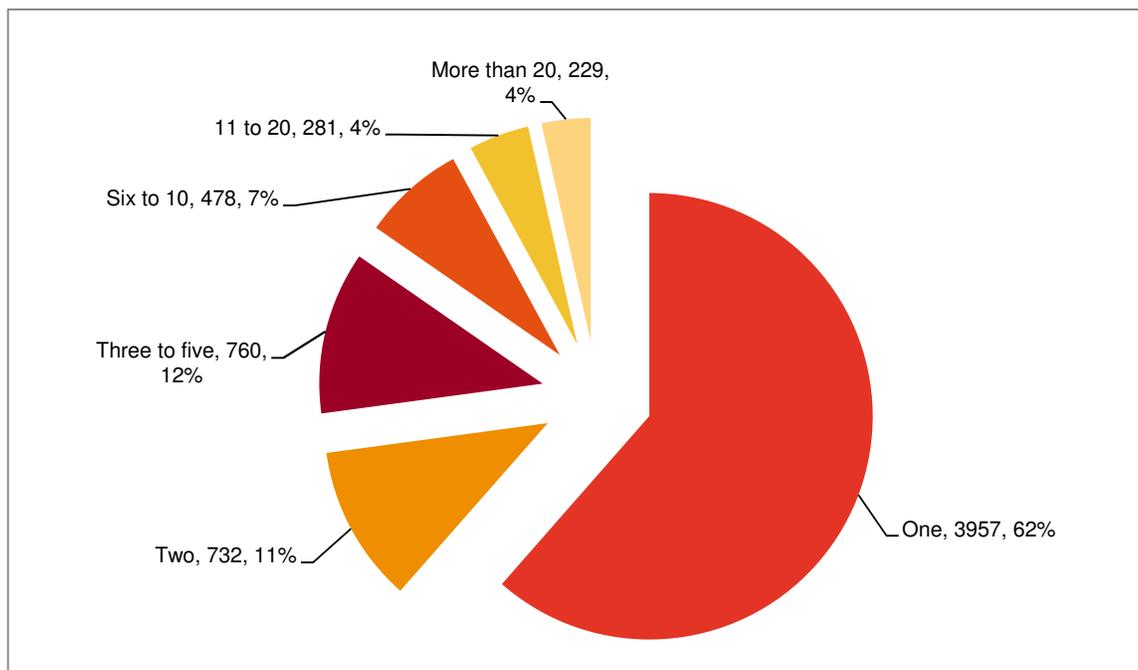
The flow, stock, returner model categorises people seen rough sleeping according to whether they have also been seen rough sleeping in previous periods. Definitions of the categories are as follows:

Category	Description
Flow	People who have never been seen sleeping rough before.
Stock	People who were seen sleeping rough in 2012/13 and also in 2011/12 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).
Returner	People who were also seen sleeping rough over a year ago but were not seen sleeping rough in 2011/12 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).

4,353 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time in London in 2012/13 (flow group), which is 68% of all people seen rough sleeping in the period. Three quarters (75%) of new rough sleepers were only seen once, compared to 70% in 2011/12 and 63% in 2010/11. A fifth (22%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2012/13 were also seen in the preceding year (stock group). One in ten (10%) of people seen rough sleeping were in the returner group, meaning they had had been seen rough sleeping in the past but not in 2011/12. 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: 6,437 people seen rough sleeping in 2012/13.

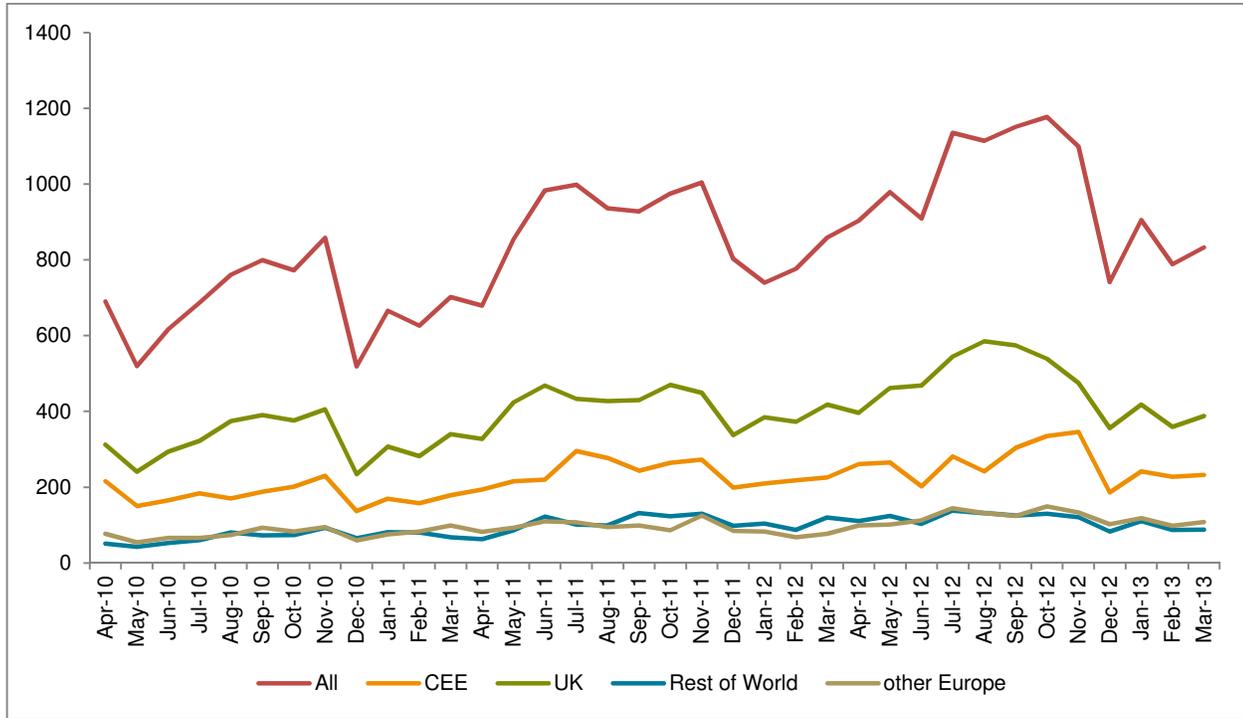
The majority (62%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2012/13 were seen only once. 73% were only seen once or twice. Less than one in ten (8%) of people were seen rough sleeping more than 10 times. Just under one in twenty (4%) people were seen rough sleeping more than 20 times in the year.

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	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13	
	Number of people	% of rough sleepers	Number of people	% of rough sleepers	Number of people	% of rough sleepers
One	2846	72%	4304	76%	4940	77%
Two	672	17%	864	15%	915	14%
Three	284	7%	340	6%	385	6%
Four	173	4%	170	3%	197	3%
Total	3975	100%	5678	100%	6437	100%

Figure (d) above shows how many people were seen in one, two, three or all four quarters of the years 2010/11 to 2012/13. It is important to be aware that the figures in each column are limited to the year in question – people may have been seen in previous or subsequent quarters. 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 2011/12. Of the 197 people seen in all four quarters in 2012/13, 80 had a confirmed reconnection or were booked into accommodation in the year.

Figure (d) Number of people seen rough sleeping month by month, April 2010 - March 2013

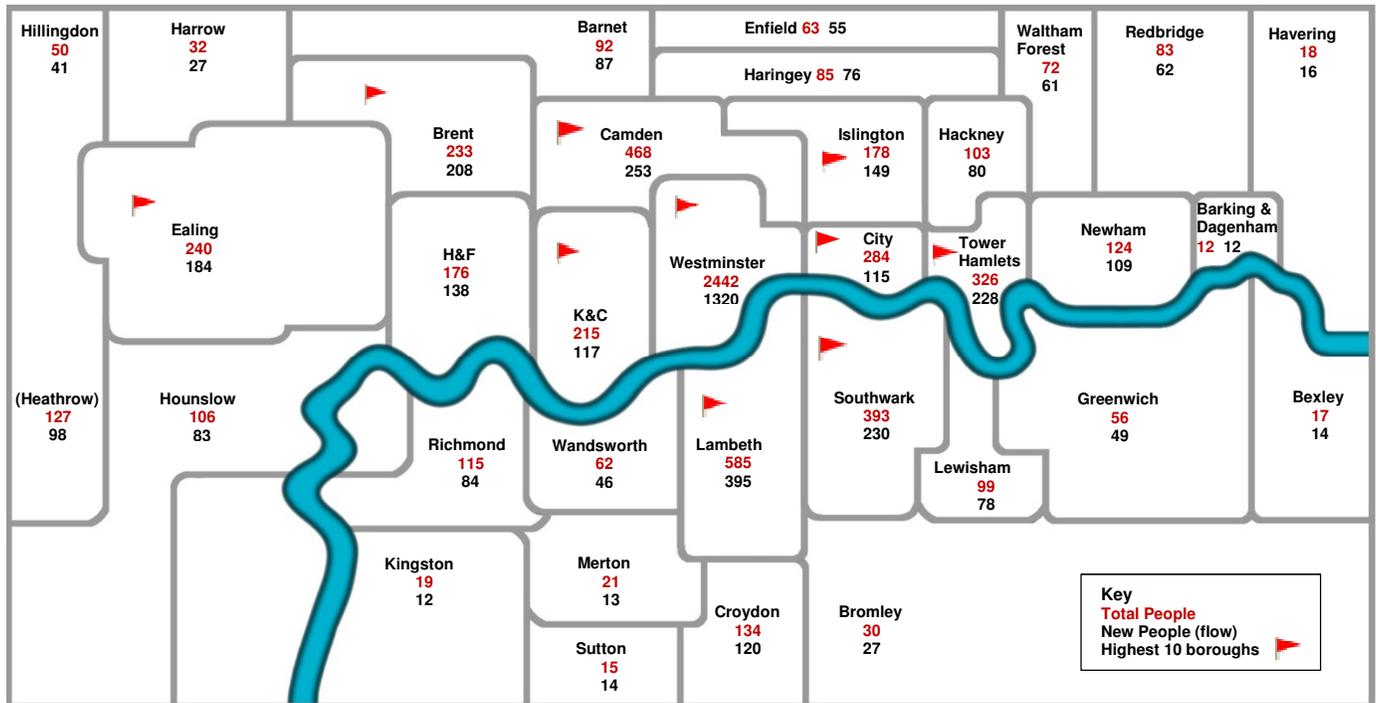


The graph above shows trends in the number of people seen rough sleeping by month by nationality groupings. The lines show all rough sleepers (top red line) and then rough sleepers from the UK, CEE countries, other European countries and the rest of the world. In 2012/13, between 788 (February) and 1,151 (September) people were seen rough sleeping each month.

People from CEE countries are sometimes 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.

Borough by borough rough sleeping figures

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

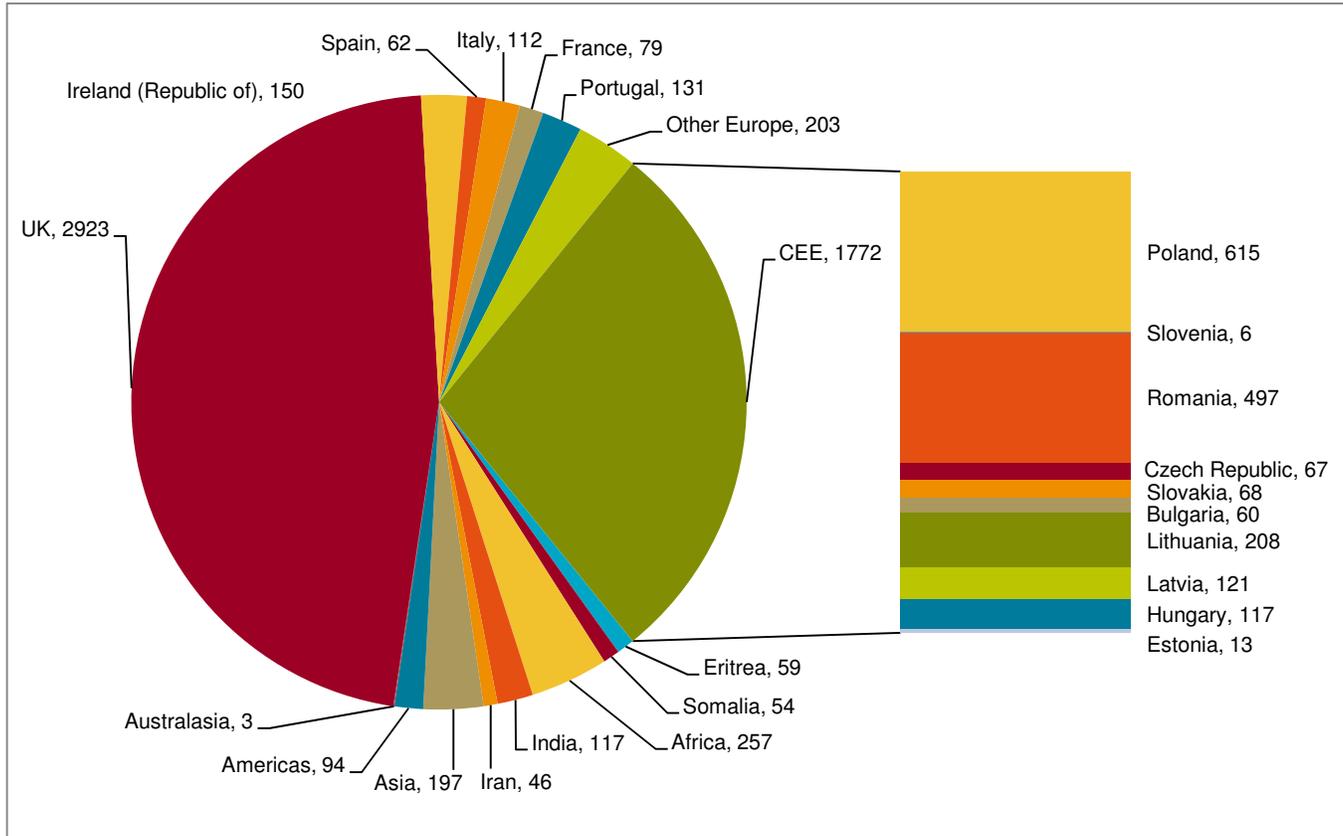


The map above shows the number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough. In this map people can be counted in more than one borough if they were contacted rough sleeping in different areas.

Borough	2012/13	Change since 2011/12
Barking & Dagenham	12	-5
Barnet	92	+70
Bexley	17	+10
Brent	233	+67
Bromley	30	+9
Camden	468	+69
City of London	284	+5
Croydon	134	+92
Ealing	240	+24
Enfield	63	+39
Greenwich	56	-9
Hackney	103	+22
Hammersmith & Fulham	176	0
Haringey	85	+42
Harrow	32	+11
Havering	18	+11
Heathrow	127	-23
Hillingdon	50	+34
Hounslow	106	+38
Islington	178	+13
Kensington & Chelsea	215	+51
Kingston	19	+8
Lambeth	585	+274
Lewisham	99	+45
Merton	21	-1
Newham	124	+45
Redbridge	83	+26
Richmond	115	+52
Southwark	393	-24
Sutton	15	+2
Tower Hamlets	326	+70
Waltham Forest	72	+26
Wandsworth	62	0
Westminster	2442	-112

Nationality profile of people seen rough sleeping

Figure (f) Nationality of people seen rough sleeping in 2012/13



Base: 6,259 (people seen rough sleeping whose nationality is known). NB Each country with more than 50 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 – the same as 2011/12 and a drop of 1% compared to 2010/11. The proportion of rough sleepers contacted from CEE countries has remained consistent at 28%, the same proportion as the previous two years. The number of Romanian rough sleepers contacted increased from 329 in 2011/12 to 497 in 2012/13. A significant number of rough sleepers have other European nationalities, the largest groups among these being from the Republic of Ireland (150) and Portugal (131).

370 people contacted had African nationalities and 360 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. Immigration data on CHAIN is not comprehensive but the most commonly recorded immigration status for those from non-European countries is indefinite or limited leave to remain.

Age and gender profile of people seen rough sleeping

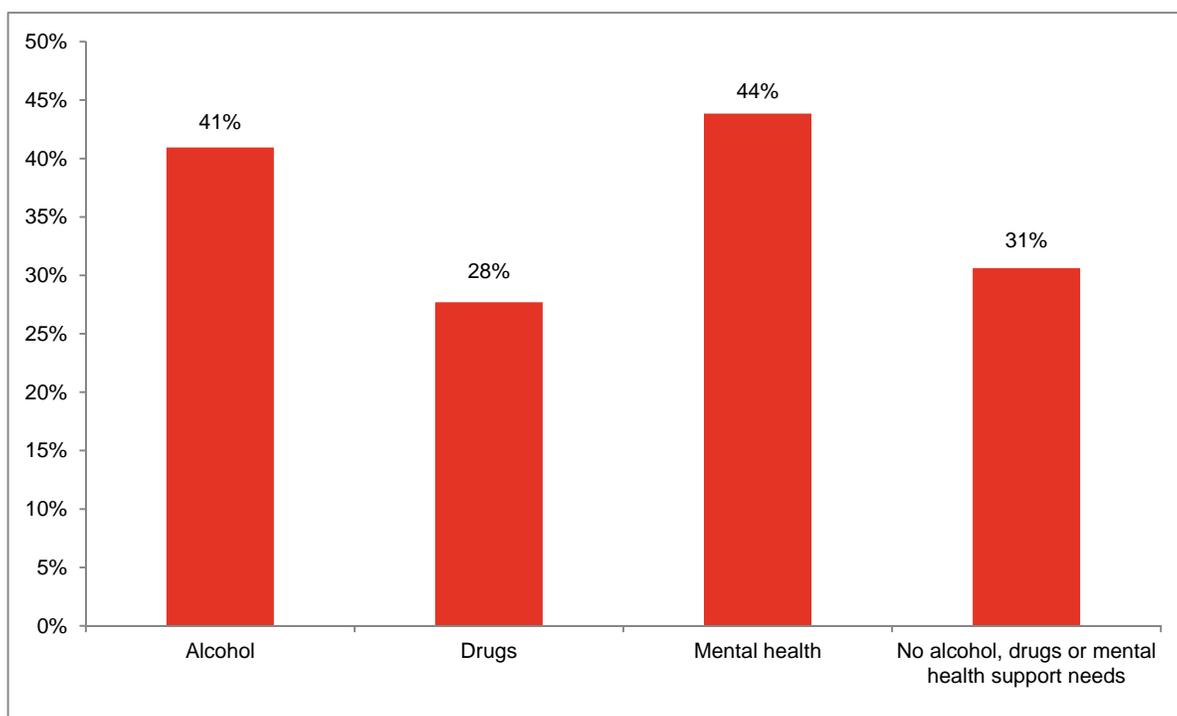
The age and gender profiles of those seen rough sleeping have remained stable over recent years:

- Just over one in 10 (12%) were women
- Most of those seen rough sleeping (58%) are in the 26 - 45 age group
- One in 10 (11%) were under 25 years old
- One in 10 (9%) were over 55
- Six 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 quarter (24%) of people do not have a support needs assessment recorded, the majority of these (80%) being people who have only been seen sleeping rough once or twice.

Figure (g) Support needs profile of those seen rough sleeping in 2012/13



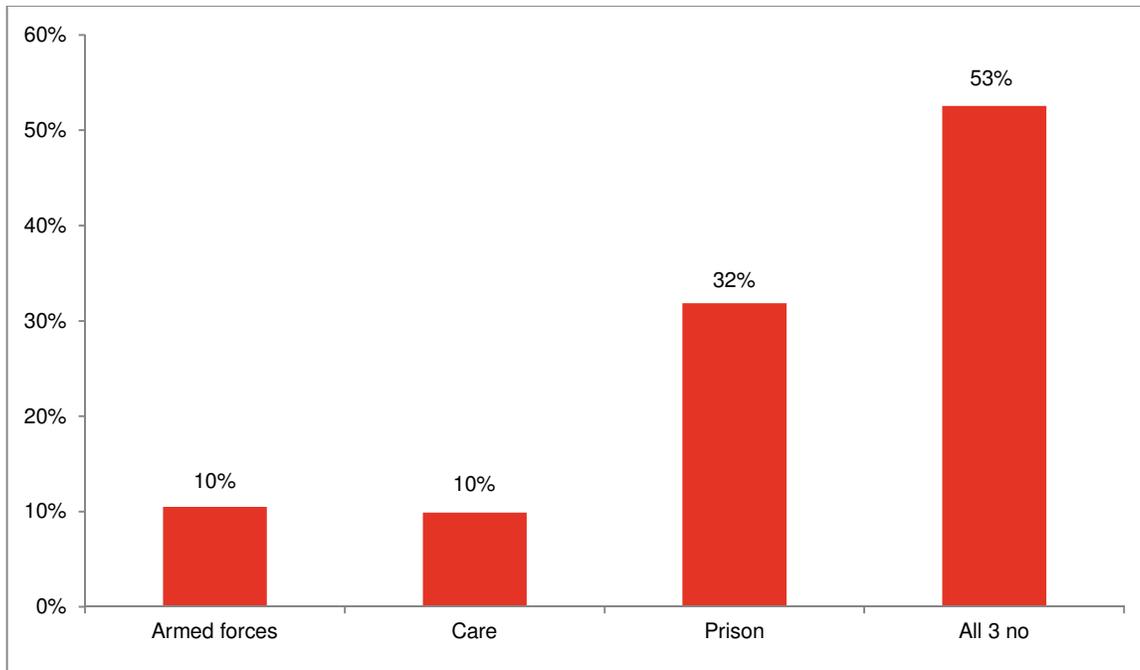
Base: 4,874 people seen rough sleeping where one or more support needs assessment was recorded.

31% of those for whom support needs information was recorded had no such needs identified on the form (an increase from 24% in 2011/12). The most prevalent support need amongst those assessed was mental health, at 44%. Alcohol misuse was the second most prevalent, at 41% (down from 47% in 2011/12). Just under three in ten (28%) people assessed had a drug support need. 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 (h) Experience of serving in the armed forces, spending time in prison or in Local Authority care, among people seen rough sleeping



Base: 4,774 people seen rough sleeping where one or more institutional history was recorded.

32% of people contacted rough sleeping in 2012/13 had been in prison at some point. Overall, 10% of people contacted rough sleeping had served in the armed forces at some point. 3% (145) of people seen rough sleeping who are from the UK had served in the armed forces. 10% of people seen rough sleeping had experience of the care system. Proportions of people with experience of the armed forces, care or prison are consistent with 2011/12.

Helping people off the streets

Accommodation and moves to other areas

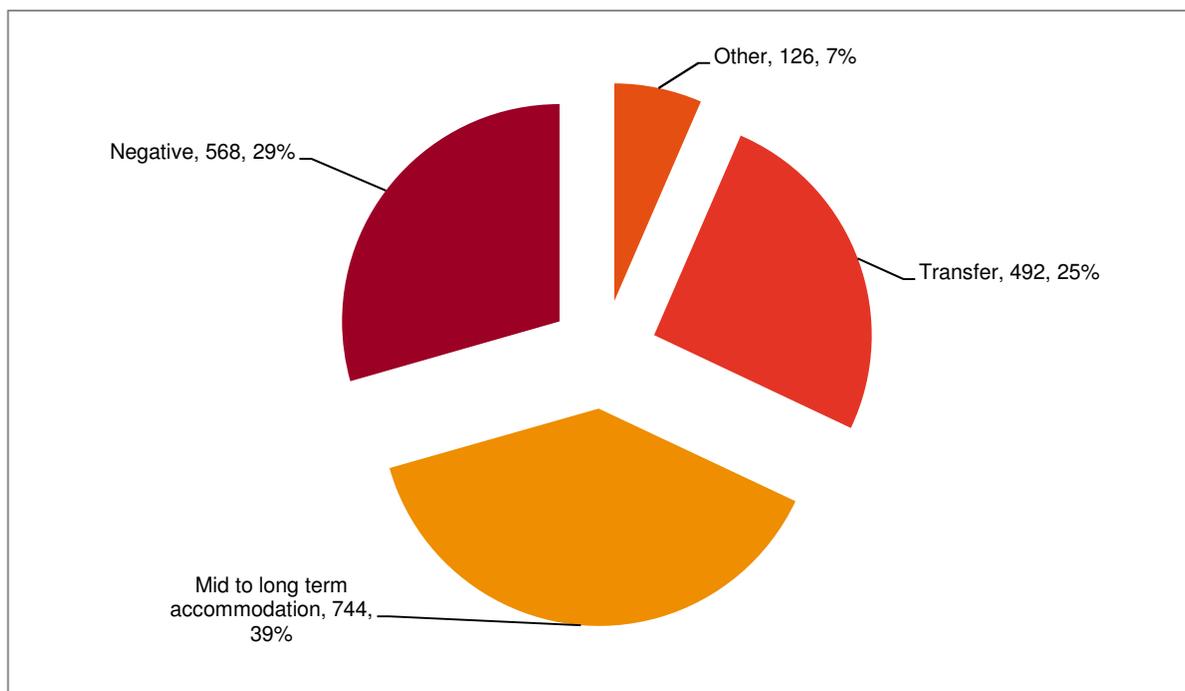
Outreach teams work to help people into a range of accommodation types, most commonly hostels but also the private rented sector and residential treatment centres. Teams also help people to return to their home area or country, where they are more likely to find a solution to their homelessness, for example through entitlement to accommodation or to an alcohol treatment centre. This year, headline figures about work done by the No Second Night Out (NSNO) team are also included. 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 2012/13, outreach teams and NSNO booked 2,179 people seen rough sleeping in the year into accommodation; of these 584 were booked into long-term accommodation. 1,295 people who had been seen rough sleeping were reconnected by outreach teams or NSNO.

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 2012/13, 1,601 people left accommodation projects (some left accommodation more than once in the period).

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



Base: 1,930 departures by verified rough sleepers from accommodation projects who report to CHAIN.

Four in ten (39%) departures from hostel and supported housing accommodation 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 (30% in 2011/12; 24% in 2010/11; and 21% in 2009/10). There was a slight increase in the proportion of departures for negative reasons (29% in 2012/13 compared to 25% in 2011/12) and a lower proportion of moves due to transfers between homelessness sector accommodation (25% in 2012/13 compared to 38% in 2011/12).