

CHAIN ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER LONDON

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



CHAIN

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Number of people seen rough sleeping: Flow, stock, returner model
- 2.2 Number of people seen rough sleeping: Long range trend
- 2.3 Number of times seen rough sleeping
- 2.4 Number of times seen rough sleeping: Flow, stock, returner model
- 2.5 Monthly rough sleeping trend
- 2.6 New rough sleepers (flow): Nationality

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- 3.1 Total rough sleepers by borough: Yearly comparison
- 3.2 Total rough sleepers by borough: Flow, stock, returner model
- 3.3 Total rough sleepers by borough: Map
- 3.4 New rough sleepers by borough: Map
- 3.5 Change since 2023/24 by borough: Map
- 3.6 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

4. HISTORY PRIOR TO ROUGH SLEEPING

- 4.1 History prior to rough sleeping: New rough sleepers
- 4.2 History prior to rough sleeping: Returning rough sleepers
- 4.3 People seen rough sleeping after leaving asylum support accommodation

5. DEMOGRAPHICS & SUPPORT NEEDS

- 5.1 Nationality: Overall composition
- 5.2 Nationality: Yearly comparison
- 5.3 Nationality: Flow, stock, returner model
- 5.4 Immigration status
- 5.5 Gender
- 5.6 Age
- 5.7 Ethnicity
- 5.8 Support needs
- 5.9 Institutional & armed forces history

6. HELPING PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS

- 6.1 Accommodation outcomes

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Glossary of acronyms and terms used in this report

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1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

Introduction

This report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London between April 2024 and March 2025. 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 represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping, and is commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA). The system is managed by Homeless Link.

Services that record information on CHAIN include outreach teams, accommodation projects 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 people who are rough sleeping 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 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). 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 people who are rough sleeping.

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.

Key findings

- A total of 13,231 people were seen rough sleeping in London in 2024/25.
- This is a 10% increase on 2023/24, compared to a 19% increase the previous year.
- The 2024/25 total is 63% higher than the total of 8,096 people seen rough sleeping ten years ago, in 2015/16.
- People who had also been seen rough sleeping in the previous year showed the greatest increase, both in proportion and numbers, compared to new rough sleepers and people who had returned to rough sleeping after at least a year away.
- UK nationals accounted for 47% of all people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, while 22% came from other European countries, and 30% were from countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Australasia.
- 18% of new rough sleepers who had information recorded about their last settled base prior to rough sleeping had previously been staying in asylum support accommodation.
- Homelessness services worked to help 5,177 people who were seen rough sleeping during 2024/25 into any type of accommodation.

Use of rough sleeping category terminology in this report

In September 2022, MHCLG's predecessor department launched a new data-led framework to enable partners to measure and report on their progress towards ending rough sleeping in their areas. In some cases, terminology used in the MHCLG framework is the same or similar to that previously used in CHAIN reports, but is based on different definitions.

The biggest area of overlap in terminology is in reference to new and returning rough sleepers as distinct groups within the overall base of people seen rough sleeping during a reporting period. In order to ensure consistency with previous reports, and to provide information that is most useful when examined at the level of a twelve month time period, this CHAIN annual report has continued to provide much of its analysis based on the flow/stock/returner model. Under this model, new rough sleepers (also referred to as 'flow') are defined as those people seen rough sleeping during the year who have never been seen rough sleeping in London prior to the year. Returners are defined as those seen rough sleeping during the year who had also been seen prior to, but not during, the previous year (i.e. people who have had at least a year away from being seen rough sleeping in London).

By contrast, the MHCLG framework expands the definition of new rough sleepers to include people who have previously been seen rough sleeping, but not during the last five years. The MHCLG framework defines returning rough sleepers as those who have had a period of at least six months (but less than five years) without being seen. The only part of this report in which the MHCLG definitions are used is the section covering rough sleepers' history prior to first being seen rough sleeping.

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%, or that there could be small discrepancies between percentage figures in tables and corresponding charts or commentary.

Further resources

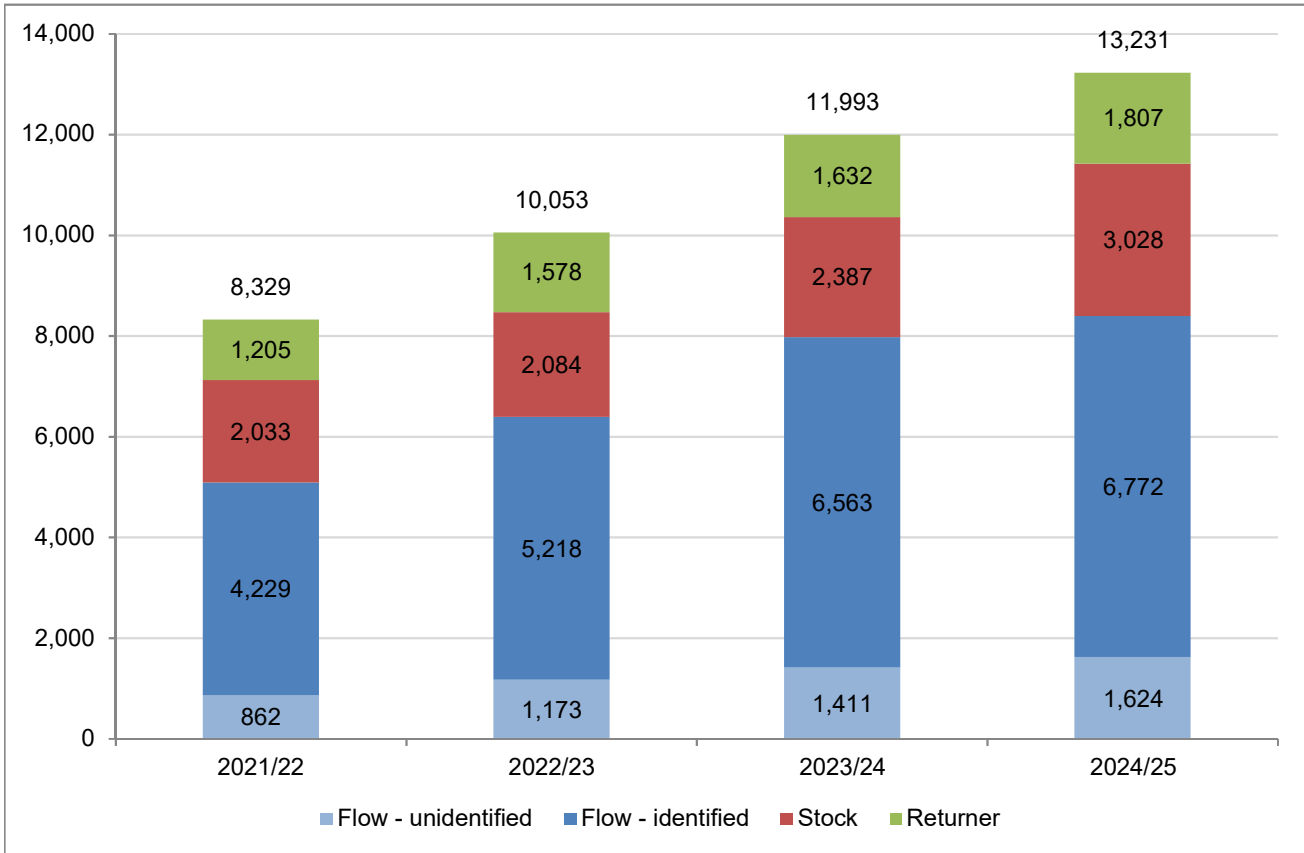
This report presents the full set of key annual data from CHAIN, for those wanting the most in-depth view. A shorter summary of findings and commentary on the figures is also available in the CHAIN 2024/25 Annual Bulletin, which can be downloaded from the GLA Datastore at <http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports>.

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 Annual 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 Annual Data Visualisations Tool at <https://bit.ly/chain-annual-vis-tool>.

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

2.1 Number of people seen rough sleeping: Flow, stock, returner model

Chart 1: People seen rough sleeping, by flow, stock, returner breakdown, 2021/22 - 2024/25

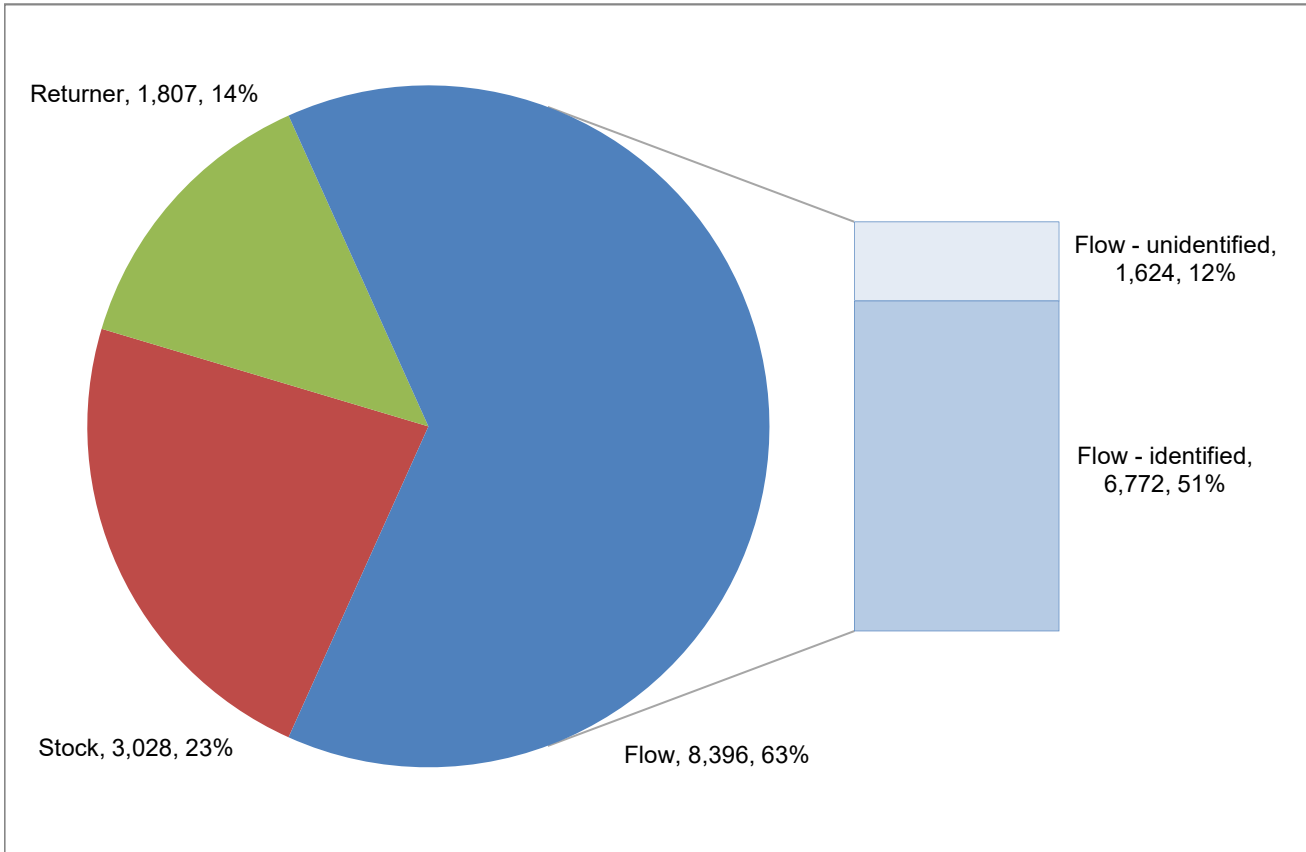


2021/22 base: 8,329
 2022/23 base: 10,053
 2023/24 base: 11,993
 2024/25 base: 13,231

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 2024/25 (i.e. new rough sleepers). Those within this category are further subdivided as follows: Unidentified - those new rough sleepers recorded without a name, and with only one contact. Identified - those new rough sleepers recorded with a name, and/or with more than one contact.
Stock	People who were also seen rough sleeping in 2023/24 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).
Returner	People who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2023/24, but were not seen during 2023/24 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).

Chart 2: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by flow, stock, returner breakdown



Base: 13,231 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

13,231 people were seen rough sleeping in London in 2024/25, which is a 10% increase compared to the total of 11,993 people seen in 2023/24.

8,396 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time this year (also referred to as flow), and this group constitutes 63% of the total. The number of new rough sleepers has increased by 5% compared to that recorded in 2023/24.

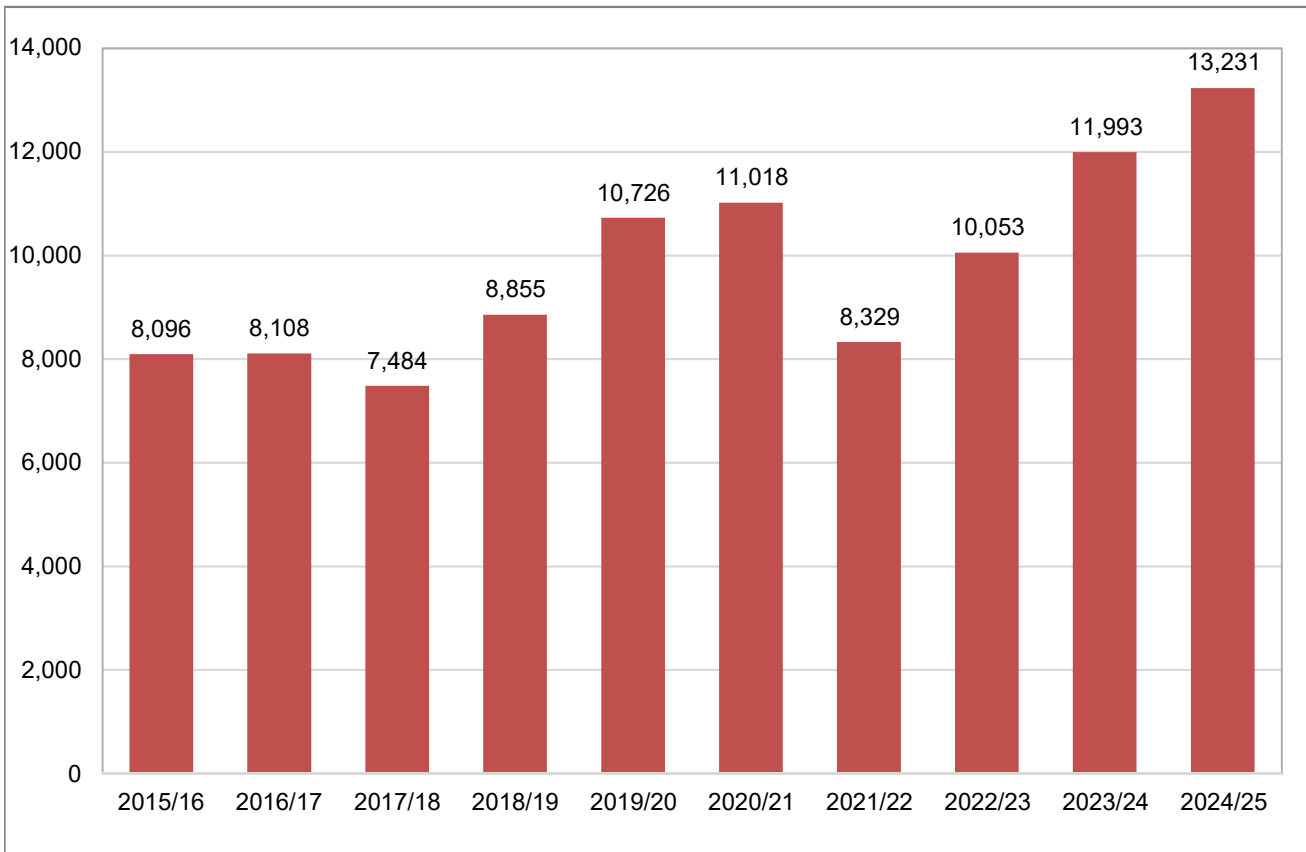
3,028 people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 were in the stock group, which is a 27% increase on the stock figure for 2023/24. This group constituted 23% of the overall total in 2024/25.

1,807 people seen rough sleeping during the year were returners. This compares to 1,632 in 2023/24, representing an increase of 11%. Returners constituted 14% of the overall total for the year.

All three groups saw increases between 2023/24 and 2024/25. The stock group recorded the largest rise, both proportionately and numerically, and this has been the main driver in the overall total increase for the year. This marks the highest stock growth in a decade, surpassing the 15% increases in 2023/24 and 2015/16. The flow group had the smallest proportionate increase, but the second largest in absolute numbers. After two years of sharp growth, the flow group appears to have plateaued, though its total remains the highest on record.

2.2 Number of people seen rough sleeping: Long range trend

Chart 3: People seen rough sleeping by year, 2015/16 - 2024/25

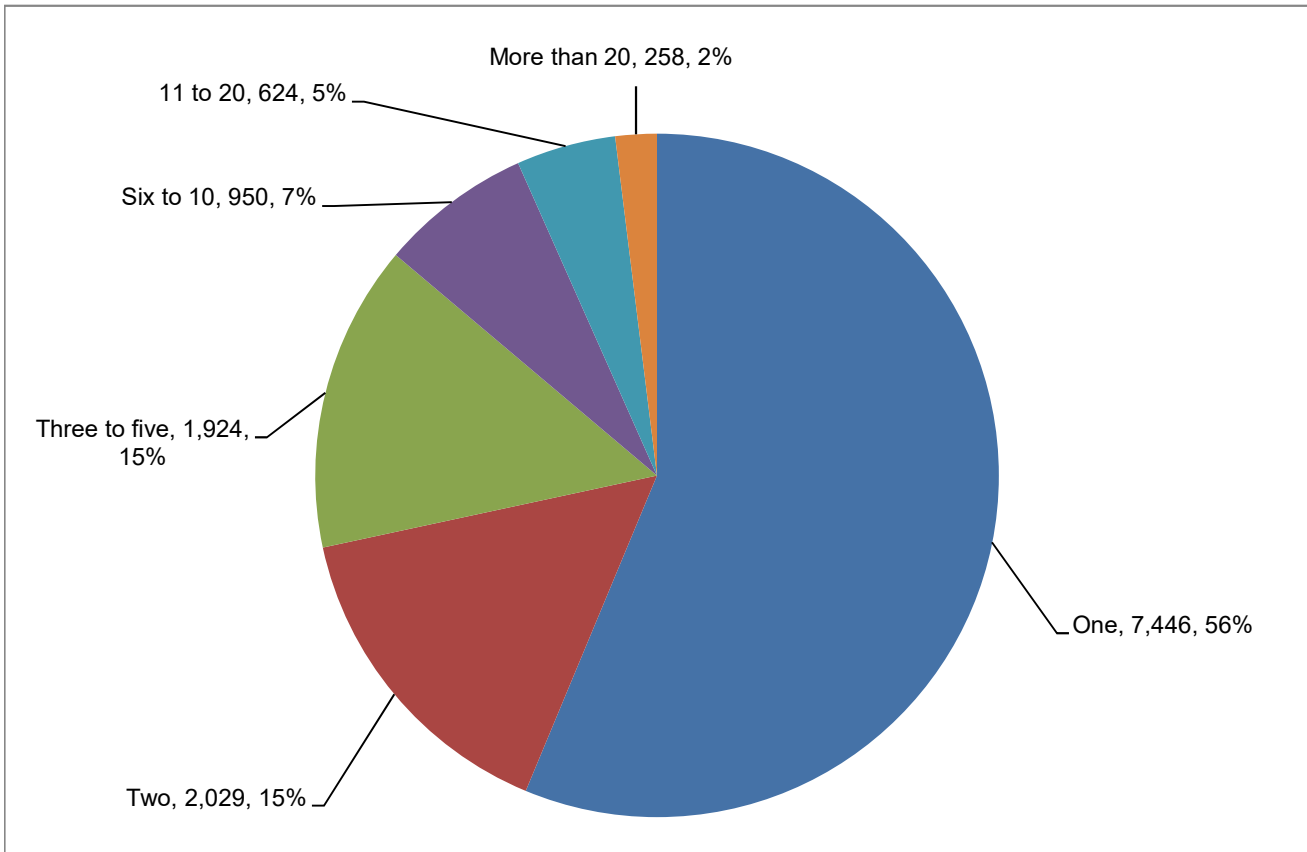


Across the last ten years, the number of people recorded rough sleeping on CHAIN has risen year on year, with the exception of 2017/18, and 2021/22. The increase in 2024/25 is the fifth largest during the ten year period, both in terms of proportion (10%) and actual numbers (1,238 people). The 2024/25 total is the highest ever recorded on CHAIN, and is 63% higher than the total of 8,096 people seen rough sleeping ten years ago, in 2015/16.

It is likely that the reduction in the total number of people seen rough sleeping during 2021/22 was at least in part due to the additional resources that were put into addressing rough sleeping during the Covid-19 pandemic under the government’s Everyone In initiative.

2.3 Number of times seen rough sleeping

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by number of times seen rough sleeping



Base: 13,231 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

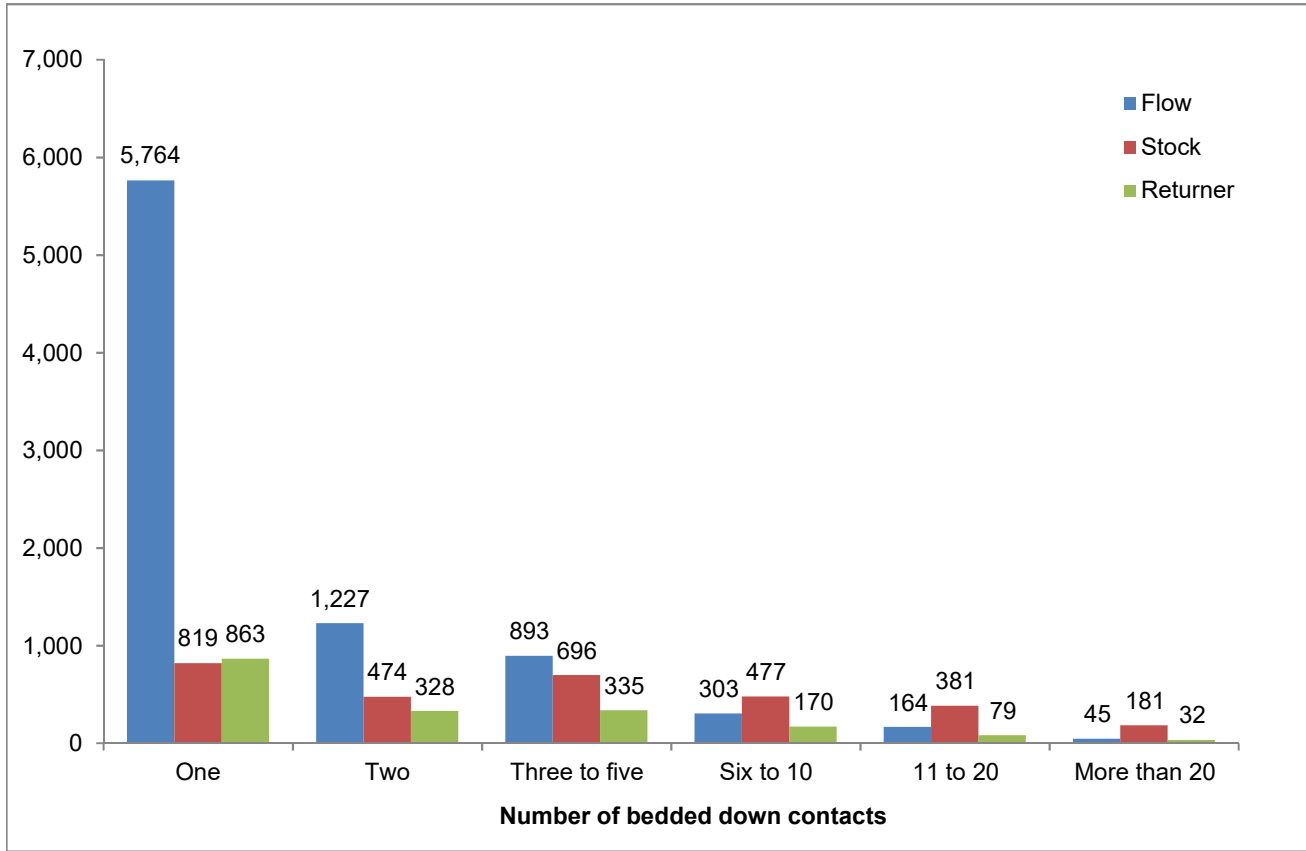
7,446 (56%) people were seen rough sleeping only once in 2024/25, which compares to 6,956 (58%) seen rough sleeping just once in 2023/24.

882 (7%) people recorded rough sleeping in 2024/25 were seen more than ten times. 26 people were seen rough sleeping more than 50 times in the year, compared to 18 people with this many contacts in 2023/24, and 15 in 2022/23.

Outreach resources vary across boroughs, but even in places with extensive outreach coverage there may not be a shift every night. This will affect the frequency with which people may be recorded rough sleeping.

2.4 Number of times seen rough sleeping: Flow, stock, returner model

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by flow, stock, returner model, and number of times seen rough sleeping



Base: 13,231 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

69% of new rough sleepers (5,764 people) were seen rough sleeping just once, which is only marginally changed from the proportions of 70% in 2023/24 and 71% in 2022/23. Only 3% of those new to the streets were seen rough sleeping more than ten times in the year.

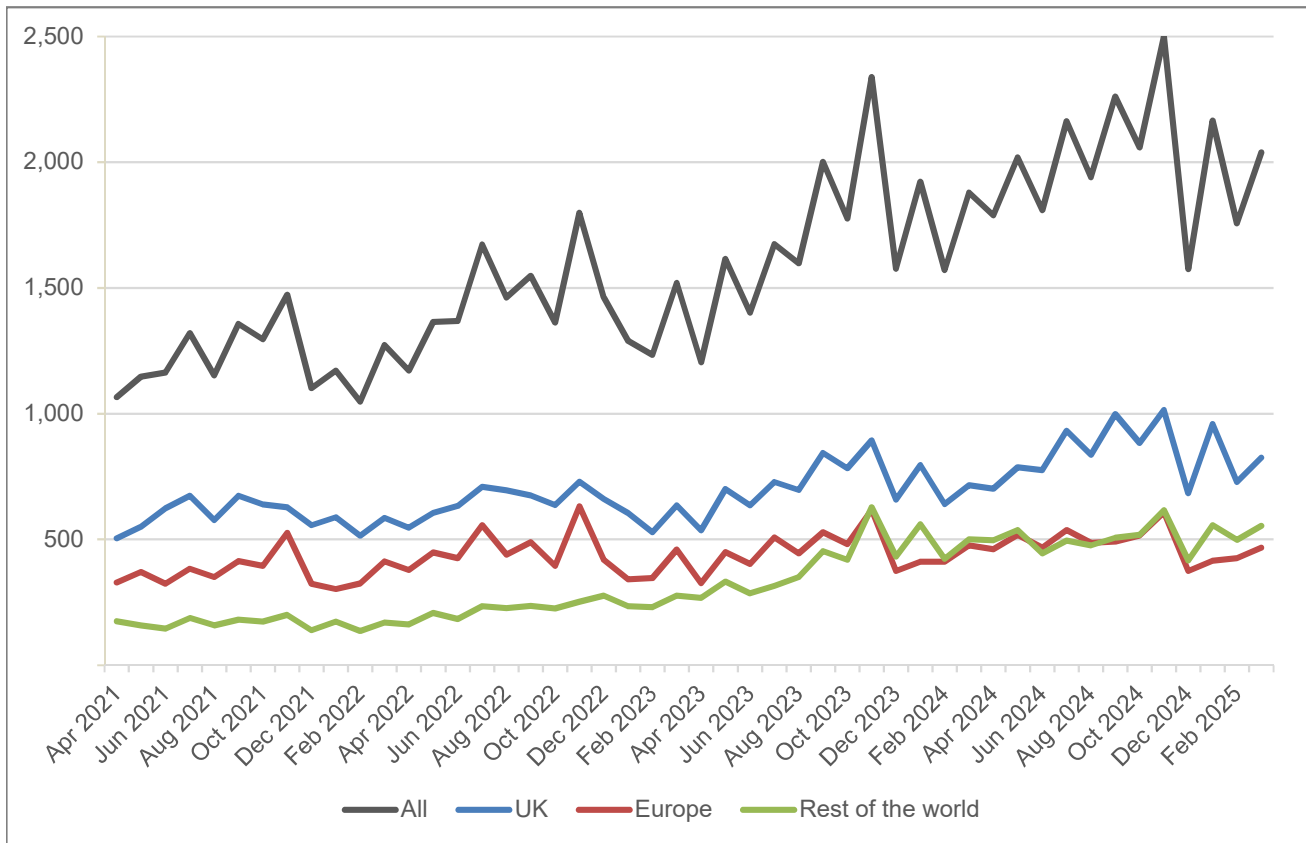
By contrast, 27% (819 people) in the stock group were seen just once, and this proportion is virtually unchanged from that of 28% seen once in 2023/24. 48% (863 people) in the returner group were seen once, which compares to 45% in 2023/24.

The stock group account for a notably higher number of the people who were seen six or more times, compared to flow and returners.

It should be noted that, of those new rough sleepers seen once who were asked, 70% stated that they had already been rough sleeping for at least a week before they were first recorded on CHAIN by an outreach worker. This information should be treated with caution, as it has not been verified by outreach services, but does give some indication that new rough sleepers may well have been street homeless for some time before first being contacted.

2.5 Monthly rough sleeping trend

Chart 6: Number of people seen rough sleeping per month, April 2021 - March 2025



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

The typical seasonal trend shows monthly totals increasing throughout the year from their lowest point during the December to February period, when winter shelters and other additional provision are in operation, and peaking in November, when the government's annual street count takes place. It should be noted that even the lowest monthly totals of recent years are higher than the highest monthly totals in earlier years.

The highest ever monthly total was recorded in November 2024, when 2,500 people were seen rough sleeping. This was followed by the largest ever recorded month-to-month drop, with 1,575 people seen rough sleeping in December 2024 (925 fewer people), and then a large increase to the total of 2,166 people recorded in January 2025.

The nationality comparison confirms the trend first observed in 2023/24, with the numbers for the 'Rest of the world' group continuing to be mostly level with or higher than the numbers for people from Europe (excluding the UK). The higher numbers recorded for the 'Rest of the world' group are at least partially driven by the continuing phenomenon of people arriving on the streets following departure from asylum support accommodation, as detailed in section 4 of this report.

2.6 New rough sleepers (flow): Nationality

Table 1: New rough sleepers in 2024/25, by nationality and period spent in UK

Nationality category		Time between date of entry to UK and date first seen rough sleeping						Total
		Less than 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-4 weeks	4-12 weeks	12 weeks - 1 year	More than 1 year	
Europe	No.	28	20	17	36	30	710	841
	%	3%	2%	2%	4%	4%	84%	100%
Rest of the world	No.	41	11	21	47	335	1,698	2,153
	%	2%	1%	1%	2%	16%	79%	100%
Total		No. 69	31	38	83	365	2,408	2,994
		% 2%	1%	1%	3%	12%	80%	100%

Base: 2,994 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2024/25 who were non-UK nationals and had a date of entry to the UK recorded.

There were 2,994 new rough sleepers in 2024/25 who were non-UK nationals and had information recorded concerning the date they first entered 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 nationality category. It should be noted that this information is self-reported, and in most cases has not been independently verified.

80% of those represented in the table above had been in the UK for more than a year when they were first seen rough sleeping in London, which is lower than the proportion of 85% in 2023/24. 84% of new rough sleepers from European countries had been in the UK for more than a year, compared to 79% of new rough sleepers from non-European countries.

The proportion of new rough sleepers from any non-UK nationality group seen rough sleeping within two weeks of entering the country remains low, at 3%.

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Total rough sleepers by borough: Yearly comparison

Table 2: People seen rough sleeping, by borough, 2021/22 - 2024/25

Borough	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Change between 2023/24 and 2024/25	
					No.	%
Westminster	1,698	2,050	2,102	2,612	510	24%
Camden	666	719	903	975	72	8%
City of London	372	482	656	878	222	34%
Ealing	448	563	710	723	13	2%
Southwark	388	435	549	613	64	12%
Brent	283	373	455	551	96	21%
Islington	238	337	409	546	137	33%
Tower Hamlets	297	460	498	546	48	10%
Newham	428	503	535	545	10	2%
Hillingdon	140	167	296	492	196	66%
Lambeth	438	623	681	483	-198	-29%
Croydon	271	373	449	469	20	4%
Hammersmith & Fulham	214	238	462	439	-23	-5%
Haringey	268	304	442	410	-32	-7%
Greenwich	135	196	337	409	72	21%
Hounslow	144	196	328	336	8	2%
Lewisham	264	296	353	325	-28	-8%
Heathrow	233	233	308	301	-7	-2%
Hackney	229	246	251	298	47	19%
Redbridge	247	248	279	285	6	2%
Enfield	183	219	197	253	56	28%
Waltham Forest	153	186	203	239	36	18%
Kensington & Chelsea	193	199	226	218	-8	-4%
Barnet	173	166	216	204	-12	-6%
Wandsworth	264	173	172	178	6	3%
Bromley	57	92	113	151	38	34%
Barking & Dagenham	131	139	159	144	-15	-9%
Bexley	93	92	106	140	34	32%
Kingston upon Thames	99	120	107	135	28	26%
Harrow	58	96	128	94	-34	-27%
Richmond	61	86	100	85	-15	-15%
Merton	45	63	77	81	4	5%
Havering	69	79	55	67	12	22%
Sutton	29	30	28	43	15	54%
Bus route	142	142	118	86	-32	-27%
Tube line	18	36	14	5	-9	-64%

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 found there. Where people have been recorded rough sleeping on public transport, their contacts are ascribed to 'bus route' or 'tube line' rather than to a particular borough.

Combined borough totals will add up to a figure greater than the overall total for London, as some people will have been seen rough sleeping in more than one borough during the period.

The boroughs in which the greatest numbers of people were seen rough sleeping during 2024/25 were Westminster, Camden, City of London, Ealing, and Southwark. Of the top ten boroughs, all saw an increase on their figures from 2023/24. Westminster, City of London, Islington, and Hillingdon recorded the greatest increases compared to the previous year, both

proportionately and in terms of actual numbers. Hillingdon showed the single highest proportionate year-on-year increase, at 66%, and this has been driven mainly by people sleeping rough after leaving asylum support accommodation, of which there is an especially high concentration in the borough.

Twelve boroughs (including 'bus route' and 'tube line') showed decreases on their 2023/24 totals. Lambeth has notably bucked the trend amongst the higher volume boroughs, by recording a 29% decrease. This is thought to be due to a combination of work to address rough sleeping in particular high intensity locations within the borough, and access by Lambeth services to a successful new rough sleeping prevention hub.

3.2 Total rough sleepers by borough: Flow, stock, returner model

Table 3: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by borough, and flow, stock, returner breakdown

Borough	Flow		Stock		Returner		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Westminster	1,526	58%	729	28%	357	14%	2,612
Camden	468	48%	327	34%	180	18%	975
City of London	560	64%	232	26%	86	10%	878
Ealing	412	57%	215	30%	96	13%	723
Southwark	364	59%	160	26%	89	15%	613
Brent	353	64%	119	22%	79	14%	551
Islington	362	66%	100	18%	84	15%	546
Tower Hamlets	319	58%	141	26%	86	16%	546
Newham	325	60%	138	25%	82	15%	545
Hillingdon	365	74%	89	18%	38	8%	492
Lambeth	286	59%	120	25%	77	16%	483
Croydon	336	72%	71	15%	62	13%	469
Hammersmith & Fulham	295	67%	100	23%	44	10%	439
Haringey	236	58%	109	27%	65	16%	410
Greenwich	269	66%	105	26%	35	9%	409
Hounslow	213	63%	71	21%	52	15%	336
Lewisham	197	61%	70	22%	58	18%	325
Heathrow	235	78%	38	13%	28	9%	301
Hackney	191	64%	60	20%	47	16%	298
Redbridge	144	51%	85	30%	56	20%	285
Enfield	178	70%	36	14%	39	15%	253
Waltham Forest	133	56%	72	30%	34	14%	239
Kensington & Chelsea	90	41%	82	38%	46	21%	218
Barnet	132	65%	47	23%	25	12%	204
Wandsworth	87	49%	73	41%	18	10%	178
Bromley	109	72%	29	19%	13	9%	151
Barking & Dagenham	101	70%	24	17%	19	13%	144
Bexley	89	64%	30	21%	21	15%	140
Kingston upon Thames	71	53%	44	33%	20	15%	135
Harrow	77	82%	6	6%	11	12%	94
Richmond	46	54%	20	24%	19	22%	85
Merton	60	74%	10	12%	11	14%	81
Havering	53	79%	4	6%	10	15%	67
Sutton	30	70%	6	14%	7	16%	43
Bus route	64	74%	12	14%	10	12%	86
Tube line	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	5

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 found there. Where people have been recorded rough sleeping on public transport, their contacts are ascribed to 'bus route' or 'tube line' rather than to a particular borough.

Combined borough totals will add up to a figure greater than the overall total for London, as some people will have been seen rough sleeping in more than one borough during the period.

Aside from the small number of people seen rough sleeping on the tube, Harrow, Havering, and Heathrow were the boroughs which recorded the greatest proportions of new rough sleepers (flow) during 2024/25, while Kensington & Chelsea, Camden, and Wandsworth recorded the lowest proportions. It is often the case that outer London boroughs, which have limited outreach resources and lower overall totals, will be more likely to record a greater proportion of new rough sleepers, as work in the borough will be focused on responding to StreetLink referrals. Heathrow is in contrast with this, as it recorded a higher overall total, and

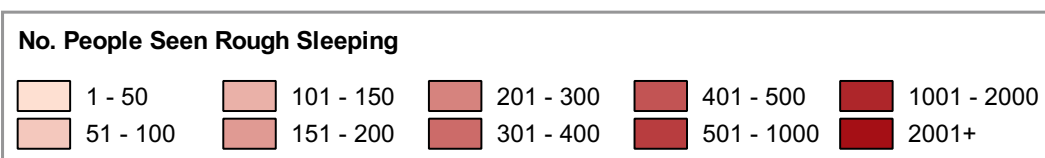
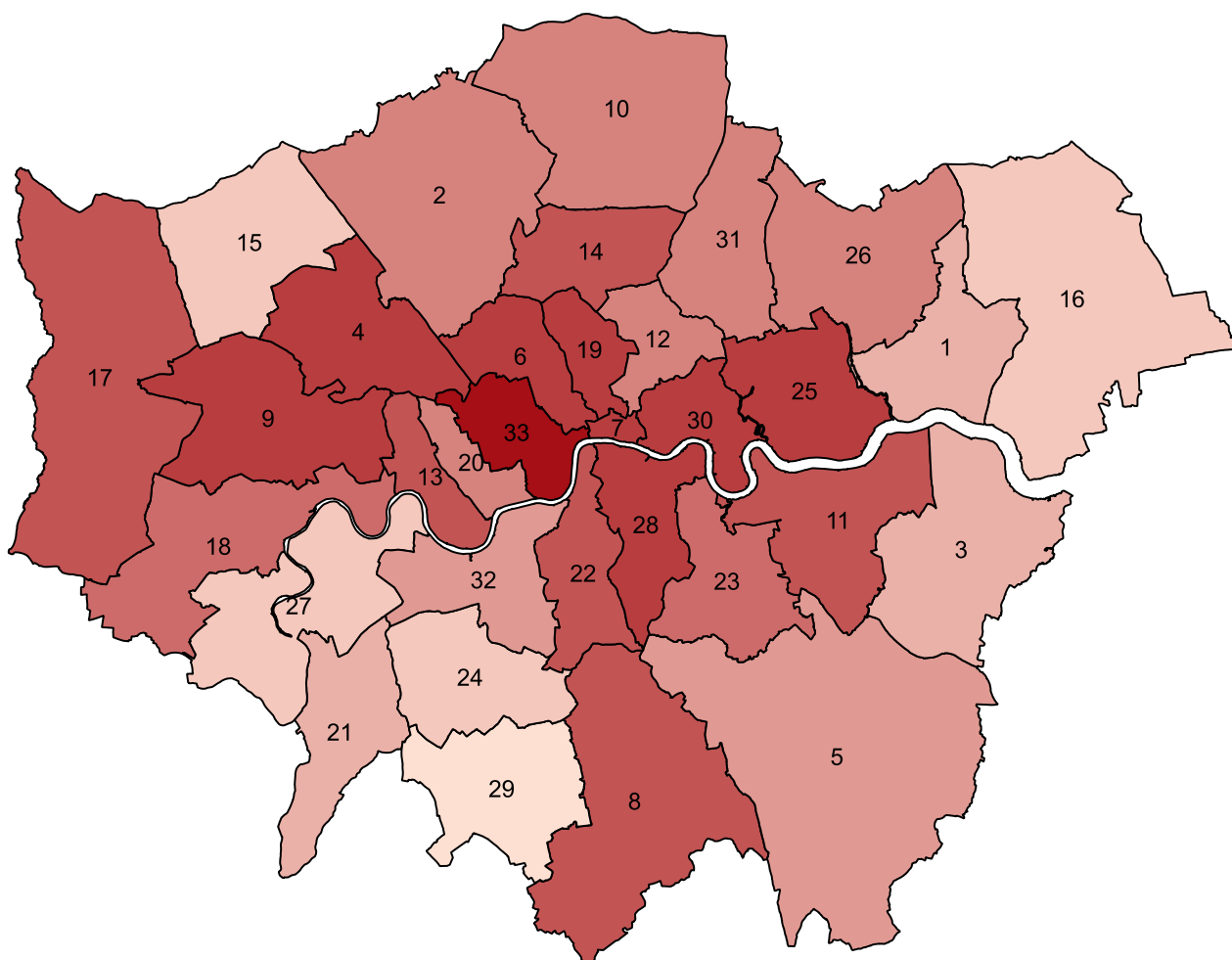
has a deeper resourced outreach service.

Wandsworth and Kensington & Chelsea recorded the highest proportions of people in the stock category, while Havering and Harrow recorded the lowest. The boroughs with the highest proportions of returners were Richmond and Kensington & Chelsea, while the lowest proportions were seen in Hillingdon, Heathrow, Bromley, and Greenwich.

Please see section 2.1 for an explanation of the flow, stock, returner model.

3.3 Total rough sleepers by borough: Map

Map 1: Total number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough during 2024/25

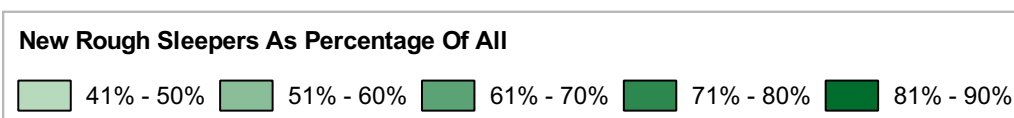
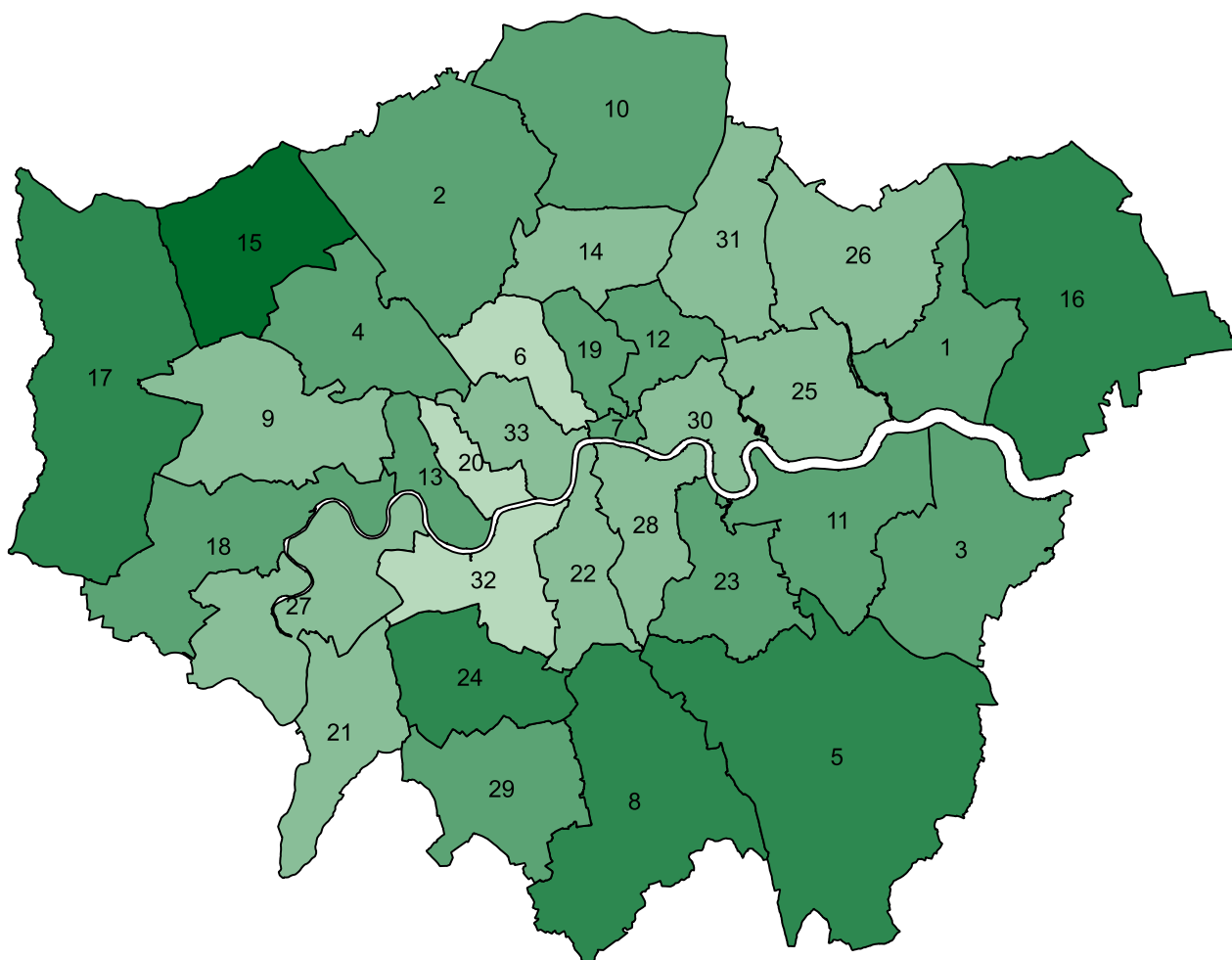


Key	Borough	Total	Key	Borough	Total	Key	Borough	Total
1	Barking & Dagenham	144	12	Hackney	298	23	Lewisham	325
2	Barnet	204	13	Hammersmith & Fulham	439	24	Merton	81
3	Bexley	140	14	Haringey	410	25	Newham	545
4	Brent	551	15	Harrow	94	26	Redbridge	285
5	Bromley	151	16	Havering	67	27	Richmond	85
6	Camden	975	17	Hillingdon	492	28	Southwark	613
7	City of London	878	18	Hounslow	336	29	Sutton	43
8	Croydon	469	19	Islington	546	30	Tower Hamlets	546
9	Ealing	723	20	Kensington & Chelsea	218	31	Waltham Forest	239
10	Enfield	253	21	Kingston upon Thames	135	32	Wandsworth	178
11	Greenwich	409	22	Lambeth	483	33	Westminster	2612
						34	Heathrow	301

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3.4 New rough sleepers by borough: Map

Map 2: New rough sleepers as a percentage of the total number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough during 2024/25



Key	Borough	%
1	Barking & Dagenham	70
2	Barnet	65
3	Bexley	64
4	Brent	64
5	Bromley	72
6	Camden	48
7	City of London	64
8	Croydon	72
9	Ealing	57
10	Enfield	70
11	Greenwich	66

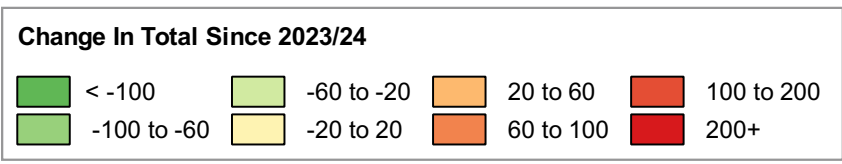
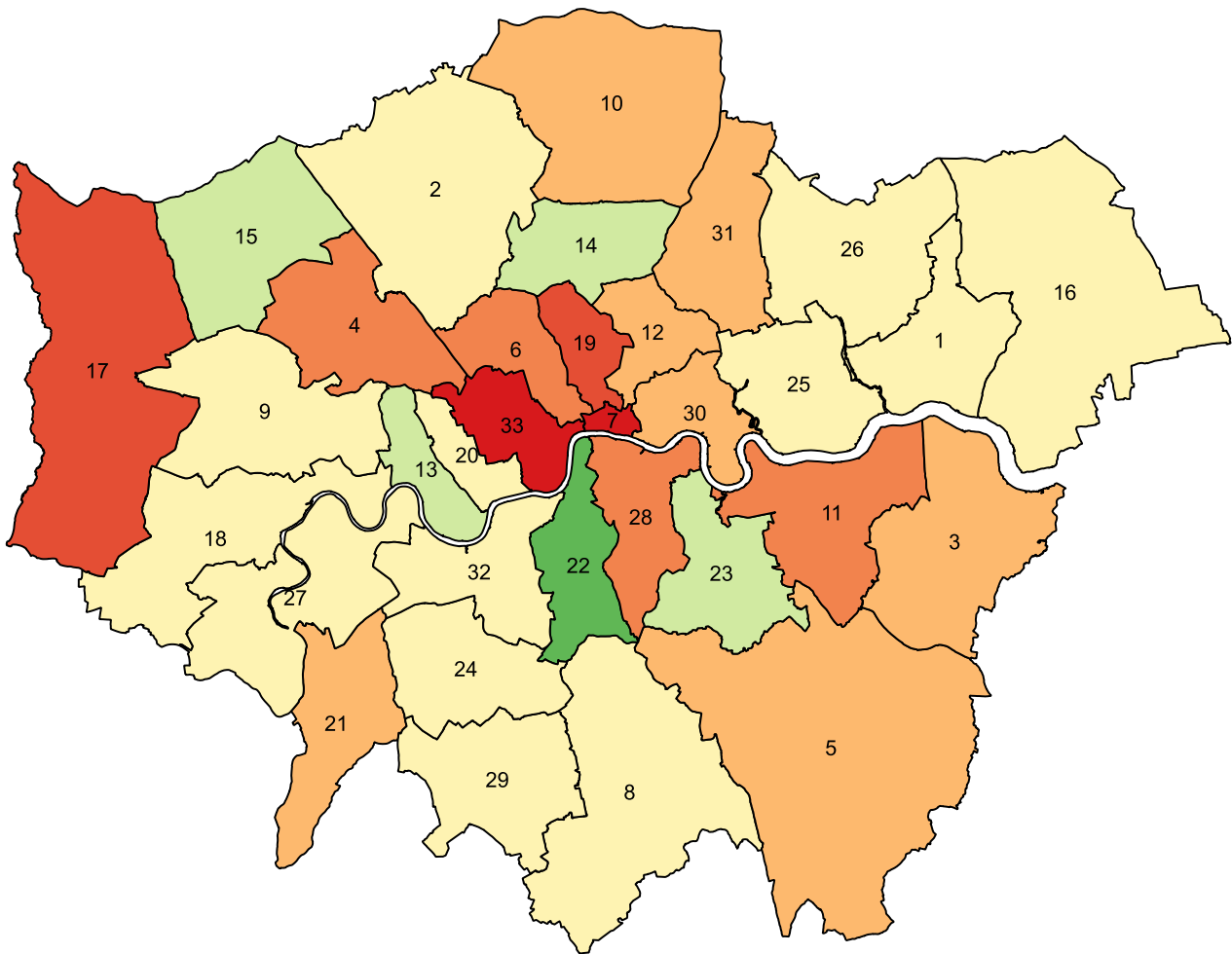
Key	Borough	%
12	Hackney	64
13	Hammersmith & Fulham	67
14	Haringey	58
15	Harrow	82
16	Havering	79
17	Hillingdon	74
18	Hounslow	63
19	Islington	66
20	Kensington & Chelsea	41
21	Kingston upon Thames	53
22	Lambeth	59

Key	Borough	%
23	Lewisham	61
24	Merton	74
25	Newham	60
26	Redbridge	51
27	Richmond	54
28	Southwark	59
29	Sutton	70
30	Tower Hamlets	58
31	Waltham Forest	56
32	Wandsworth	49
33	Westminster	58
34	Heathrow	78

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3.5 Change since 2023/24 by borough: Map

Map 3: Change in total number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough, between 2023/24 and 2024/25



Key	Borough	Change
1	Barking & Dagenham	-15
2	Barnet	-12
3	Bexley	34
4	Brent	96
5	Bromley	38
6	Camden	72
7	City of London	222
8	Croydon	20
9	Ealing	13
10	Enfield	56
11	Greenwich	72

Key	Borough	Change
12	Hackney	47
13	Hammersmith & Fulham	-23
14	Haringey	-32
15	Harrow	-34
16	Havering	12
17	Hillingdon	196
18	Hounslow	8
19	Islington	137
20	Kensington & Chelsea	-8
21	Kingston upon Thames	28
22	Lambeth	-198

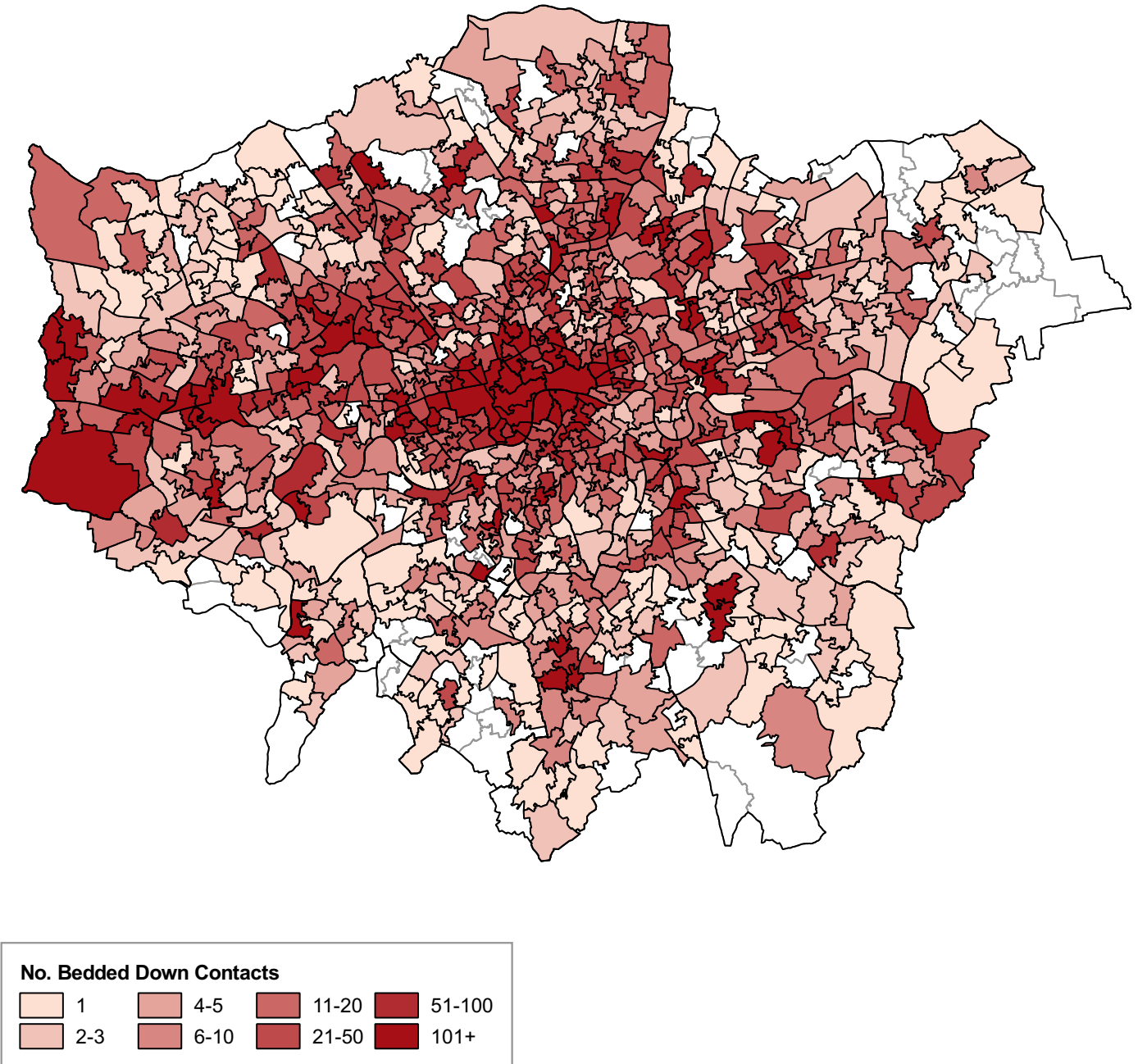
Key	Borough	Change
23	Lewisham	-28
24	Merton	4
25	Newham	10
26	Redbridge	6
27	Richmond	-15
28	Southwark	64
29	Sutton	15
30	Tower Hamlets	48
31	Waltham Forest	36
32	Wandsworth	6
33	Westminster	510
34	Heathrow	-7

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3.6 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

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 4: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Middle Super Output Area across Greater London during 2024/25



4. HISTORY PRIOR TO ROUGH SLEEPING

This section of the report presents information about people's circumstances prior to the start of a rough sleeping episode in 2024/25. This includes information about what type of accommodation people had been staying in, the type of departure from that accommodation, and the main underlying cause of the departure. The information is collected for people who were seen rough sleeping for the first time in London during the period, as well as for those who had returned to rough sleeping after a period away.

As explained in the introduction to this report, the definitions of new and returning rough sleepers used in this section are different to those used for the flow/stock/returner model referenced elsewhere in the report.

In this section, 'last settled base' refers to the last accommodation of a settled nature in which the individual lived. It may be that an individual could also have stayed at some other accommodation in an unsettled situation since leaving their last settled base. If the person was living in private accommodation of some form (e.g. private rented, council tenancy, housing association, owner occupied), and they were a sole or joint legal tenant or owner of the property, their last settled base would be recorded using the option that describes the type of accommodation (e.g. 'private rented accommodation'). If they were staying with someone who was a sole or joint legal tenant or owner of the property, but they themselves were not a sole or joint legal tenant or owner of the property, then they would be recorded as 'living with family/friends/partner'.

In March 2024 a restriction was introduced to prevent assessments of this information being saved with 'not known' returned in all of the key fields (i.e. where no usable information was being recorded). It should be noted that this has had the effect of slightly inflating the percentage values reported for categories other than 'not known' in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24, both for last settled base and type and cause of departure.

Collecting usable information about people's circumstances prior to rough sleeping can be difficult, especially where services have only had limited contact with an individual, or where the person is reluctant to engage. It should be noted that 39% of new rough sleepers and 41% of returning rough sleepers during 2024/25 did not have any information recorded about their previous circumstances.

4.1 History prior to rough sleeping: New rough sleepers

This section of the report presents information about history prior to rough sleeping, for people who had either never been seen rough sleeping in London previously, or whose last rough sleeping contact was over five years (60 months) earlier than their first contact in the report period. It should be noted that the definition of 'new rough sleeper' used for this information is different to the definition of 'flow' used in the 'flow, stock, returner' model referenced elsewhere in this report, and therefore the bases will not be the same.

An individual included in this section could potentially also be included in the figures for returning rough sleepers presented in section 4.2, if they were first seen in the year as a new rough sleeper, had a period of at least 180 days of not being seen, and were then seen again.

Table 4: New rough sleepers, by last settled base, 2023/24 - 2024/25

Last settled base in the UK	2023/24		2024/25	
	No.	%	No.	%
Long-term accommodation				
Living with family/friends/partner	1,463	26.1%	1,516	28.1%
Private rented accommodation	1,231	22.0%	1,226	22.7%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	192	3.4%	188	3.5%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	68	1.2%	82	1.5%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	20	0.4%	34	0.6%
Employment-related accommodation (except armed forces)	34	0.6%	34	0.6%
Owner occupied accommodation	21	0.4%	23	0.4%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	3,029	54.0%	3,103	57.6%
Short or medium-term accommodation				
Hostel or other supported accommodation	167	3.0%	234	4.3%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	96	1.7%	146	2.7%
B&B (not local authority TA)	27	0.5%	22	0.4%
Winter/night shelter	9	0.2%	10	0.2%
Clinic/detox/rehab	3	0.1%	7	0.1%
Squat	13	0.2%	18	0.3%
<i>Short or medium-term accommodation subtotal</i>	315	5.6%	437	8.1%
Institutional & armed forces accommodation				
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	951	17.0%	944	17.5%
Care (local authority youth care)	8	0.1%	11	0.2%
Hospital	9	0.2%	9	0.2%
Prison	121	2.2%	131	2.4%
Probation accommodation	5	0.1%	7	0.1%
Armed forces accommodation	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Institutional & armed forces accommodation subtotal</i>	1,095	19.5%	1,102	20.4%
No settled base since arriving in UK	350	6.2%	444	8.2%
Other	108	1.9%	132	2.4%
Not known	711	12.7%	172	3.2%
Not recorded	2,805		3,502	
Total (excl. not recorded)	5,608	100.0%	5,390	100.0%
Total (incl. not recorded)	8,413		8,892	

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

Of those new rough sleepers during 2024/25 with information recorded about their last settled base prior to sleeping rough in London, 944 (18% of the total) reported that they had been staying in asylum support accommodation. This compares to 17% of new rough sleepers coming from asylum support accommodation in 2023/24, confirming that the asylum system

continues to represent a significant route onto the streets of the capital. Section 4.3 examines this in more detail.

58% of new rough sleepers had come from some form of long-term accommodation, including 28% who had been living with family, friends or a partner, and 23% who had been tenants in private rented accommodation. These proportions are broadly consistent with those seen in 2023/24.

444 new rough sleepers (8%) were recorded as not having had a settled base since arriving in the UK.

Table 5: New rough sleepers in 2024/25, by type of departure from last settled base, and underlying cause of departure

Cause of departure from last settled base in the UK	Type of departure from last settled base in the UK								Cause of departure total (no.)	Cause of departure total (%)
	Asked to leave by person they were staying with	Evicted	Left of own accord	End of time-limited stay	No departure - still has the accommodation	Other	No settled base since arriving in UK	Not known		
Arrears/debts - change in rent/mortgage	0	84	9	0	0	6	0	2	101	1.9%
Arrears/debts - issues with benefits	7	93	5	0	0	1	0	1	107	2.0%
Arrears/debts - living costs	21	103	26	0	0	9	0	3	162	3.0%
Arrears/debts - loss of employment	29	164	44	0	0	13	0	5	255	4.7%
Arrears/debts - other	2	63	2	0	0	3	0	2	72	1.3%
End of tenancy agreement	0	152	22	0	0	14	0	3	191	3.5%
Illegal eviction	0	113	0	0	0	10	0	1	124	2.3%
Given non-priority decision	0	37	0	0	0	5	0	0	42	0.8%
Relationship breakdown	784	0	91	0	0	42	0	10	927	17.2%
Death of relative/friend	14	1	9	0	0	28	0	2	54	1.0%
Domestic violence - victim	6	0	30	0	0	10	0	1	47	0.9%
Harassment/abuse/violence - victim	5	0	75	0	0	23	0	0	103	1.9%
Unmanaged support need	43	19	46	0	0	5	0	9	122	2.3%
Housing conditions	59	0	45	0	0	12	0	2	118	2.2%
Relocated to be nearer family/friends/community	0	0	23	0	0	2	0	1	26	0.5%
Relocated seeking work	0	0	16	0	0	2	0	0	18	0.3%
Transient/travelling around	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	1	17	0.3%
Anti-social behaviour - perpetrator	12	100	8	0	0	8	0	1	129	2.4%
Domestic violence - perpetrator	7	5	1	0	0	2	0	0	15	0.3%
Taken into custody	2	7	0	0	0	19	0	0	28	0.5%
End of time-limited stay	0	0	0	212	0	13	0	6	231	4.3%
End of asylum accommodation - positive Home Office decision	0	0	0	820	0	19	0	2	841	15.6%
End of asylum accommodation - negative Home Office decision	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	1	33	0.6%
End of asylum accommodation - withdrawal of application	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	0.1%
No departure - still has the accommodation	0	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	64	1.2%
Other	160	230	108	4	0	144	0	28	674	12.5%
No settled base since arriving in UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	444	0	444	8.2%
Not known	57	84	25	11	0	26	0	237	440	8.2%
Type of departure total (no.)	1,208	1,255	601	1,084	64	416	444	318	5,390	100.0%
Type of departure total (%)	22.4%	23.3%	11.2%	20.1%	1.2%	7.7%	8.2%	5.9%	100.0%	

Base: 5,390 new rough sleepers for whom information about their last settled base was recorded. This excludes 3,502 new rough sleepers for whom no information was recorded.

The most commonly recorded underlying cause of departure was relationship breakdown (927 people, 17%), and in the majority of these cases (784 people) the type of departure was being asked to leave by the person they were staying with. 841 people were recorded as having left asylum support accommodation with a positive Home Office decision, while 33 had left with a negative decision, representing a combined proportion of 16% of the overall base.

697 people (13%) left their last settled base due to some form of problem with arrears or debts, of which 255 (5%) had lost their employment. 103 people (2%) had left their last settled base due to being the victim of harassment, abuse or violence by other people at the accommodation or in the local area, while 47 (1%) left to escape domestic violence.

The relative proportions of types of departure and underlying causes of departure in 2024/25 are broadly in line with those recorded in 2023/24, albeit with some inflation arising from the restriction placed on recording assessments with 'Not known' in all the key fields, referenced in the introduction to this section of the report.

4.2 History prior to rough sleeping: Returning rough sleepers

This section of the report presents information about history prior to rough sleeping, for people who had returned to rough sleeping after at least 180 days since their previous rough sleeping contact. It should be noted that the definition of 'returning to rough sleeping' used for this information is different to the definition of 'returner' used in the flow, stock, returner model referenced elsewhere in this report, and therefore the bases will not be the same.

An individual included in this section could potentially also be included in the figures for new rough sleepers presented in section 4.1, if they were first seen in the year as a new rough sleeper, had a period of at least 180 days of not being seen, and were then seen again. It is also possible that an individual could have been recorded as returning to rough sleeping more than once during the year. In cases where this has occurred, only the information relating to the individual's most recent return is included in these figures.

Table 6: Returning rough sleepers, by last settled base, 2023/24 - 2024/25

Last settled base in the UK	2023/24		2024/25	
	No.	%	No.	%
Long-term accommodation				
Living with family/friends/partner	243	16.1%	286	16.2%
Private rented accommodation	294	19.4%	349	19.8%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	56	3.7%	64	3.6%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	37	2.4%	32	1.8%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	6	0.4%	25	1.4%
Employment-related accommodation (except armed forces)	7	0.5%	9	0.5%
Owner occupied accommodation	3	0.2%	3	0.2%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	646	42.7%	768	43.5%
Short or medium-term accommodation				
Hostel or other supported accommodation	252	16.6%	310	17.5%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	118	7.8%	124	7.0%
B&B (not local authority TA)	24	1.6%	11	0.6%
Winter/night shelter	16	1.1%	17	1.0%
Clinic/detox/rehab	6	0.4%	4	0.2%
Squat	9	0.6%	13	0.7%
<i>Short or medium-term accommodation subtotal</i>	425	28.1%	479	27.1%
Institutional & armed forces accommodation				
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	17	1.1%	28	1.6%
Care (local authority youth care)	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Hospital	9	0.6%	16	0.9%
Prison	76	5.0%	112	6.3%
Probation accommodation	2	0.1%	7	0.4%
Armed forces accommodation	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
<i>Institutional & armed forces accommodation subtotal</i>	105	6.9%	165	9.3%
No settled base since arriving in UK	131	8.7%	242	13.7%
Other	37	2.4%	56	3.2%
Not known	170	11.2%	57	3.2%
Not recorded	1,141		1,242	
Total (excl. not recorded)	1,514	100.0%	1,767	100.0%
Total (incl. not recorded)	2,655		3,009	

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

The proportions of types of last settled base from which returning rough sleepers in 2024/25 had departed are broadly in line with those recorded in 2023/24. Of those people whose history prior to returning to rough sleeping was recorded, 43% reported their last settled base as having been some form of long-term accommodation (compared to 58% of new rough sleepers), while 27% reported short or medium-term accommodation (compared to 8% of new rough sleepers). 20% were tenants in private rented accommodation, while 16% had been living with family, friends or a partner. 18% had been living in a hostel or supported accommodation (compared to 4% of new rough sleepers), while 7% had been living in local authority temporary accommodation (compared to 3% of new rough sleepers).

The trend of people arriving on the streets following departure from asylum support accommodation was much less pronounced amongst returning rough sleepers, with 2% reporting this type of last settled base, compared to 18% of new rough sleepers.

Table 7: Returning rough sleepers in 2024/25, by type of departure from last settled base, and underlying cause of departure

Cause of departure from last settled base in the UK	Type of departure from last settled base in the UK								Cause of departure total (no.)	Cause of departure total (%)
	Asked to leave by person they were staying with	Evicted	Left of own accord	End of time-limited stay	No departure - still has the accommodation	Other	No settled base since arriving in UK	Not known		
Arrears/debts - change in rent/mortgage	0	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	0.8%
Arrears/debts - issues with benefits	0	36	4	0	0	2	0	0	42	2.4%
Arrears/debts - living costs	0	21	8	0	0	2	0	0	31	1.8%
Arrears/debts - loss of employment	7	33	19	0	0	3	0	0	62	3.5%
Arrears/debts - other	1	30	2	0	0	1	0	0	34	1.9%
End of tenancy agreement	0	52	9	0	0	4	0	2	67	3.8%
Illegal eviction	0	19	0	0	0	2	0	0	21	1.2%
Given non-priority decision	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.6%
Relationship breakdown	131	0	22	0	0	6	0	5	164	9.3%
Death of relative/friend	2	2	2	0	0	9	0	1	16	0.9%
Domestic violence - victim	0	0	9	0	0	5	0	0	14	0.8%
Harassment/abuse/violence - victim	4	0	45	0	0	8	0	1	58	3.3%
Unmanaged support need	10	14	28	0	0	3	0	1	56	3.2%
Housing conditions	8	0	21	0	0	3	0	0	32	1.8%
Relocated to be nearer family/friends/community	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	3	14	0.8%
Relocated seeking work	0	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	8	0.5%
Transient/travelling around	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	5	0.3%
Anti-social behaviour - perpetrator	6	87	4	0	0	2	0	1	100	5.7%
Domestic violence - perpetrator	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%
Taken into custody	0	5	0	0	0	4	0	1	10	0.6%
End of time-limited stay	0	0	0	167	0	17	0	6	190	10.8%
End of asylum accommodation - positive Home Office decision	0	0	0	19	0	1	0	0	20	1.1%
End of asylum accommodation - negative Home Office decision	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.1%
End of asylum accommodation - withdrawal of application	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
No departure - still has the accommodation	0	0	0	0	68	0	0	0	68	3.8%
Other	25	124	69	9	0	46	0	10	283	16.0%
No settled base since arriving in UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	242	0	242	13.7%
Not known	21	44	23	2	0	7	0	101	198	11.2%
Type of departure total (no.)	218	492	289	199	68	127	242	132	1,767	100.0%
Type of departure total (%)	12.3%	27.8%	16.4%	11.3%	3.8%	7.2%	13.7%	7.5%	100.0%	

Base: 1,767 returning rough sleepers for whom information about their last settled base was recorded. This excludes 1,242 returning rough sleepers for whom no information was recorded.

The most frequently recorded cause of departure from last settled base for returning rough sleepers was having reached the end of a time-limited stay, with 190 people (11%) having reported this. As with new rough sleepers, relationship breakdown was also a significant factor, with 164 (9%) people having reported this, the majority of whom (131 people) had been asked to leave by the person they were staying with.

184 (10%) returning rough sleepers left their last settled base due to some form of problem with arrears or debts, with loss of employment being the single most common cause amongst this group, reported by 62 people (4%). 100 people (6%) left their last settled base as the result of being a perpetrator of anti-social behaviour, the majority of whom were evicted (87). 58 people (3%) left due to being the victim of harassment, abuse or violence (not including domestic violence).

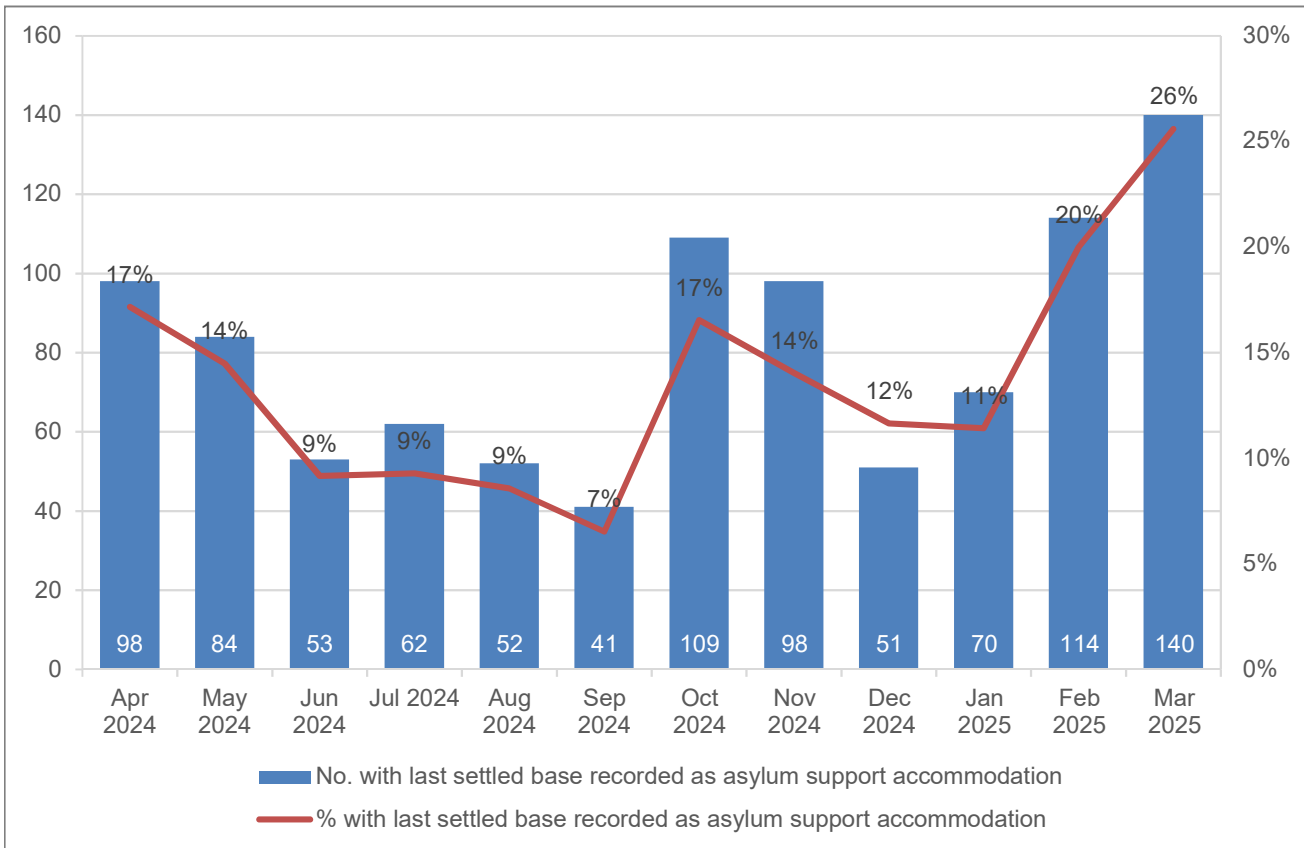
Looking at types of departure, eviction was the most common category, with 492 people (28%) having been evicted. This compares to 23% of new rough sleepers who had been evicted from their last settled base.

The proportions of types and causes of departure for returning rough sleepers in 2024/25 are broadly in line with those recorded in 2023/24 (bearing in mind the reduction in the proportion of those recorded as 'not known', resulting from the change referenced in the introduction to this section). However, a minor exception to this is that the proportion of those recorded as having not had a settled base since arriving in the UK has increased from 9% to 14%.

4.3 People seen rough sleeping after leaving asylum support accommodation

The chart below provides a monthly breakdown of people who started a new rough sleeping episode during 2024/25, either as a new or returning rough sleeper, whose last settled base was recorded as asylum support accommodation. The month designation is based on the month in which their rough sleeping episode started, rather than the month they left the accommodation. People included in this chart are also counted in the asylum support accommodation figures given in tables 4 and 6 in this section of the report.

Chart 7: New and returning rough sleepers during 2024/25 whose last settled base was recorded as asylum support accommodation, by month



Baseline for percentages is the total number of new and returning rough sleepers during the month who had information recorded about their last settled base (including that the last settled base was not known).

A further 28 people who had their last settled base recorded as something other than asylum support accommodation, or who were recorded as never having had a settled base in the UK, were recorded as having stayed in asylum support accommodation as an unsettled situation. Many people starting new rough sleeping episodes during the period did not have any information about their previous circumstances recorded, and it may be that some of these had also been staying in asylum support accommodation.

The chart shows that the number and proportion of people rough sleeping after leaving asylum support accommodation fluctuated throughout the year, albeit at similar overall levels to those recorded in 2023/24. It is likely that the decrease between April and July 2024 is related to a reduction in the pace of Home Office decision making on asylum applications, when there was a pause in the processing of claims made on or after 20 July 2023 for people who arrived in the UK without authorisation. This led to fewer people being evicted from Home Office

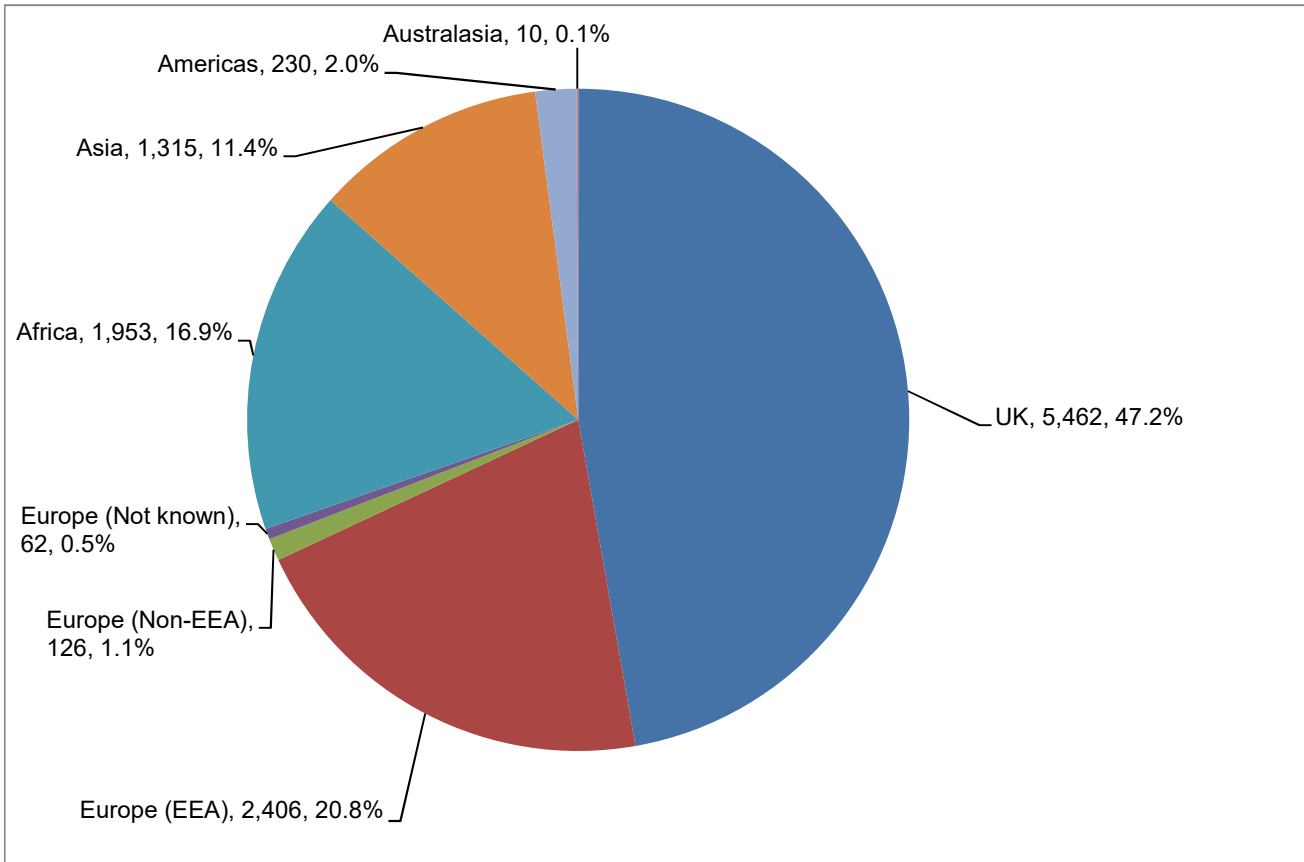
accommodation and subsequently rough sleeping.

From July 2024, following a change in policy, the Home Office accelerated decision making on asylum claims, which led to an increase in the number of evictions from asylum accommodation. This correlates with increases in rough sleeping among people leaving asylum support accommodation between October 2024 and March 2025. The dip in December 2024 is likely to be related to a pause on evictions from asylum support accommodation over the Christmas period, as well as increased availability of winter night shelters for people experiencing homelessness.

5. DEMOGRAPHICS & SUPPORT NEEDS

5.1 Nationality: Overall composition

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by nationality



Base: 11,564 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 1,667 people whose nationality was not known.

The nationality profile of people seen rough sleeping in London remains diverse, with a total of 139 different nationalities recorded during 2024/25. The proportion of people seen rough sleeping who were UK nationals was 47% (5,462 people), which is marginally higher than the proportion of 45% in 2023/24. The proportion of people from EEA countries was 21% (2,406 people), which is slightly lower than the proportion of 23% in 2023/24, and continues a declining trend across the last few years for this group.

People from African countries constituted the third largest nationality group, at 17% (1,953 people). This has remained proportionately steady compared to the 17% from African countries recorded in 2023/24. Asian nationals constituted 11% of people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 (1,315 people), which is again broadly similar in proportionate terms, compared to the 10% from Asian countries in 2023/24.

5.2 Nationality: Yearly comparison

Table 8: Nationality breakdown of people seen rough sleeping, 2021/22 - 2024/25

Nationality	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	3,954	52.5%	4,265	48.6%	4,869	45.5%	5,462	47.2%
Romania	895	11.9%	1,031	11.7%	957	8.9%	828	7.2%
Poland	432	5.7%	550	6.3%	566	5.3%	573	5.0%
Lithuania	121	1.6%	153	1.7%	147	1.4%	153	1.3%
Ireland (Republic of)	107	1.4%	127	1.4%	144	1.3%	133	1.2%
Portugal	131	1.7%	128	1.5%	121	1.1%	127	1.1%
Bulgaria	84	1.1%	120	1.4%	107	1.0%	112	1.0%
Italy	86	1.1%	92	1.0%	113	1.1%	105	0.9%
Spain	40	0.5%	61	0.7%	53	0.5%	61	0.5%
France	33	0.4%	62	0.7%	51	0.5%	58	0.5%
Latvia	43	0.6%	65	0.7%	40	0.4%	45	0.4%
Other European (EEA) countries	186	2.5%	204	2.3%	197	1.8%	211	1.8%
Europe (EEA)	2,158	28.6%	2,593	29.5%	2,496	23.3%	2,406	20.8%
Ukraine	19	0.3%	30	0.3%	31	0.3%	39	0.3%
Turkey	14	0.2%	18	0.2%	30	0.3%	36	0.3%
Other European (Non-EEA) countries	45	0.6%	47	0.5%	46	0.4%	51	0.4%
Europe (Non-EEA)	78	1.0%	95	1.1%	107	1.0%	126	1.1%
Europe (Not known)	54	0.7%	66	0.8%	62	0.6%	62	0.5%
Eritrea	130	1.7%	259	2.9%	671	6.3%	636	5.5%
Sudan	79	1.0%	108	1.2%	393	3.7%	452	3.9%
Nigeria	80	1.1%	84	1.0%	120	1.1%	140	1.2%
Ethiopia	23	0.3%	44	0.5%	89	0.8%	110	1.0%
Somalia	58	0.8%	65	0.7%	79	0.7%	83	0.7%
Ghana	26	0.3%	36	0.4%	45	0.4%	64	0.6%
Algeria	43	0.6%	37	0.4%	48	0.4%	55	0.5%
Egypt	16	0.2%	12	0.1%	28	0.3%	47	0.4%
Other African countries	185	2.5%	214	2.4%	317	3.0%	366	3.2%
Africa	640	8.5%	859	9.8%	1,790	16.7%	1,953	16.9%
India	181	2.4%	255	2.9%	378	3.5%	396	3.4%
Afghanistan	63	0.8%	87	1.0%	175	1.6%	243	2.1%
Iran	59	0.8%	87	1.0%	147	1.4%	186	1.6%
Syrian Arab Republic	10	0.1%	21	0.2%	66	0.6%	67	0.6%
Bangladesh	14	0.2%	36	0.4%	44	0.4%	58	0.5%
Sri Lanka	30	0.4%	36	0.4%	46	0.4%	47	0.4%
Iraq	23	0.3%	31	0.4%	41	0.4%	43	0.4%
Pakistan	36	0.5%	44	0.5%	50	0.5%	43	0.4%
Other Asian countries	93	1.2%	115	1.3%	177	1.7%	232	2.0%
Asia	509	6.8%	712	8.1%	1,124	10.5%	1,315	11.4%
Jamaica	50	0.7%	57	0.6%	77	0.7%	66	0.6%
USA	24	0.3%	29	0.3%	46	0.4%	43	0.4%
Other Americas countries	62	0.8%	97	1.1%	127	1.2%	121	1.0%
Americas	136	1.8%	183	2.1%	250	2.3%	230	2.0%
Australasia	8	0.1%	8	0.1%	7	0.1%	10	0.1%
Not known	792		1,272		1,288		1,667	
Total (excl. not known)	7,537	100.0%	8,781	100.0%	10,705	100.0%	11,564	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	8,329		10,053		11,993		13,231	

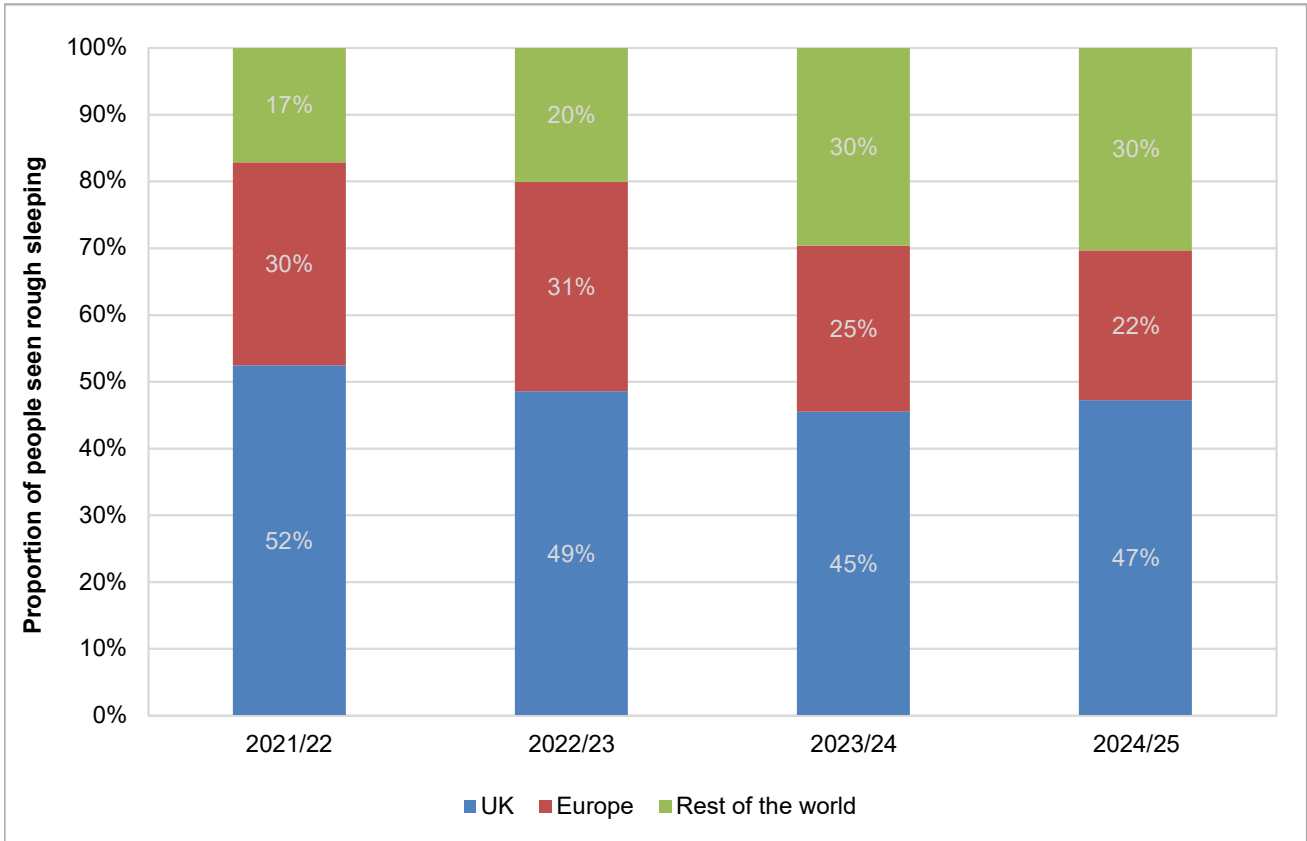
Total excluding not known is used as the base for percentages.

The most commonly recorded nationalities in 2024/25 have remained consistent with those in 2023/24, with Romanians (828, 7%) comprising the single largest non-UK nationality, while Eritreans (636, 5%) are the second most numerous. Poles (573, 5%) have continued to constitute the third most common non-UK nationality, while people from Sudan (452, 4%) and India (396, 3%) are the fourth and fifth most frequently seen. Although Romanians remain the most commonly recorded non-UK nationality, there has been a decrease in their numbers, while the totals for the other top five non-UK nationalities have shown less change compared to those for 2023/24. The total for UK nationals has increased by 593 people.

The number of people seen rough sleeping whose nationality was not known was 1,667, which is a fairly significant increase on the total of 1,288 in 2023/24. The high proportion of people whose nationality was not known means that commentary on nationality trends should be treated with caution. It should be borne in mind that non-UK nationals tend to be more likely than UK nationals to be recorded as unknown nationality.

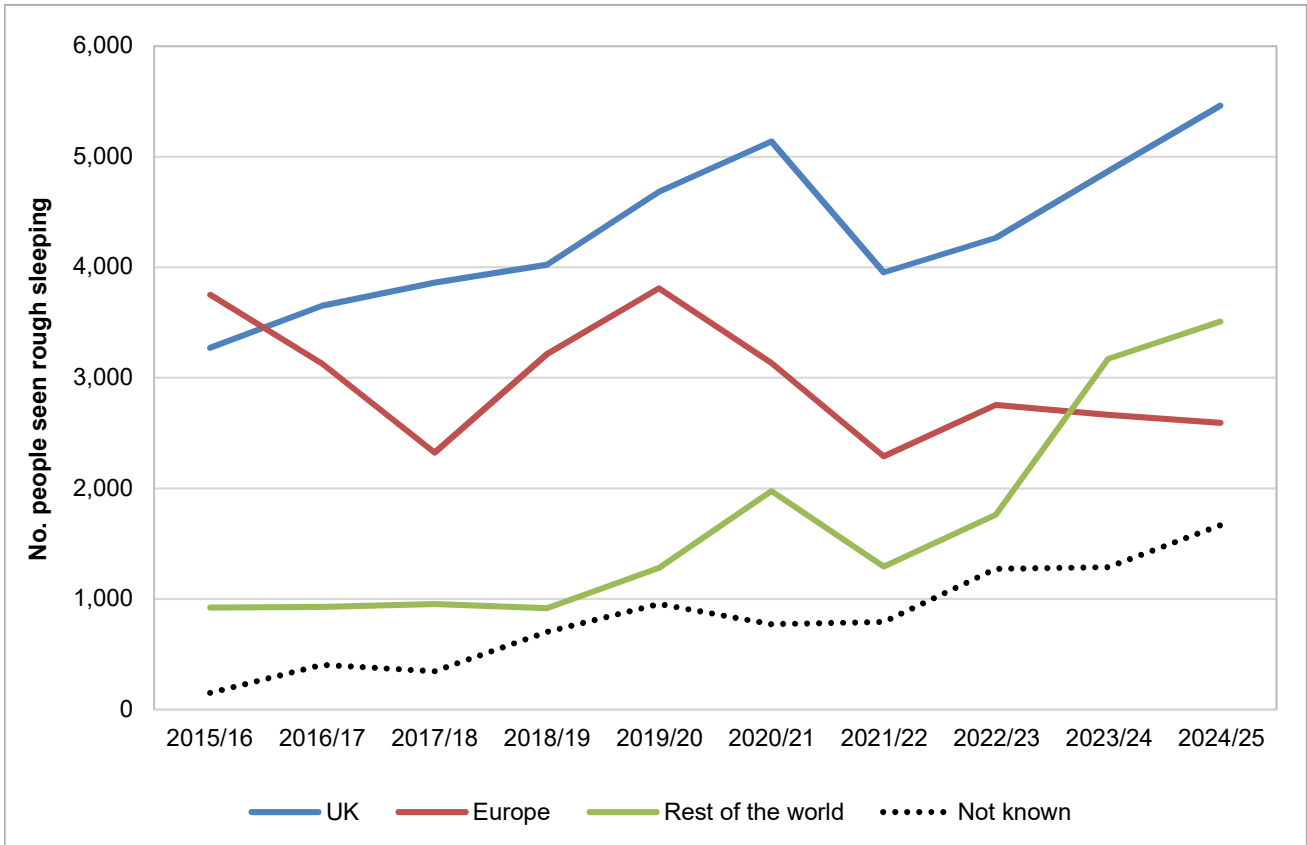
A full breakdown of all nationalities seen rough sleeping during the period can be obtained from the CHAIN Annual Data Tables file which accompanies this report.

Chart 9: Nationality proportions for people seen rough sleeping, 2021/22 - 2024/25



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

Chart 10: Nationality of people seen rough sleeping, 2015/16 - 2024/25



For convenience of reporting, and due to specific implications around benefit entitlements and access to services, people from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Australasia are sometimes grouped together under the overall heading of 'Rest of the world'. During 2024/25, the proportion of people seen rough sleeping from this 'Rest of the world' heading was 30%, which continues the trend first observed in 2023/24 for this group to account for a higher percentage than those from European countries (excluding the UK), who represented 22% of the total this year. Europeans were the only overall grouping which showed a decrease in numbers between 2023/24 and 2024/25, with 71 fewer people seen rough sleeping.

5.3 Nationality: Flow, stock, returner model

Table 9: Nationality of people seen rough sleeping during 2024/25, by flow, stock, returner breakdown

Nationality category	Flow		Stock		Returner		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	3,094	57%	1,359	25%	1,009	18%	5,462	100%
Europe	1,152	44%	932	36%	510	20%	2,594	100%
Rest of the world	2,568	73%	671	19%	269	8%	3,508	100%
Not known	1,582	95%	66	4%	19	1%	1,667	100%
Total	8,396	63%	3,028	23%	1,807	14%	13,231	100%

Base: 13,231 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

The most significant variation appears between the Europe and 'Rest of the world' (i.e. non-European) nationality groups, with 44% of European nationals falling into the flow category, compared to 73% of rest of the world nationals. European nationals have the highest proportion of people falling into the stock category, at 36%, while people from the 'Rest of the world' have the lowest proportion, at 19%. UK and European nationals showed similar proportions of returners (18% and 20% respectively), while people from the 'Rest of the world' were much less likely to be returners, at 8%.

Table 10: Flow, stock, returner breakdown of people seen rough sleeping during 2024/25, by nationality

Nationality category	Flow		Stock		Returner		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	3,094	37%	1,359	45%	1,009	56%	5,462	41%
Europe	1,152	14%	932	31%	510	28%	2,594	20%
Rest of the world	2,568	31%	671	22%	269	15%	3,508	27%
Not known	1,582	19%	66	2%	19	1%	1,667	13%
Total	8,396	100%	3,028	100%	1,807	100%	13,231	100%

Base: 13,231 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

UK nationals form a notably higher proportion of the returner group, while European nationals form a higher proportion of the stock and returner groups. As might be expected, the proportion of people whose nationality was not known was markedly higher amongst the flow group.

5.4 Immigration status

The table below compares immigration status amongst different nationality groups, excluding UK nationals. It should be noted that this information is self-reported or based on what outreach workers could conclude from the information given, and in many cases it has not been independently verified by an immigration adviser. Therefore, immigration status data should be treated with caution.

In this table 'Rest of the world' refers to anywhere outside the EEA, whereas the general usage elsewhere in this report is for 'Rest of the world' to mean anywhere outside of Europe as a whole. This is because EEA nationals have specific immigration statuses available to them, which mostly do not apply to those from other countries.

Table 11: Non-UK nationals seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by immigration status

Immigration status	Europe - EEA	Rest of the world	Total
EUSS settled status	792	51	843
EUSS pre-settled status	485	25	510
Pending EUSS application	74	4	78
EEA national - no status under Settlement Scheme*	27	0	27
Irish national	127	0	127
Indefinite leave to remain	121	741	862
Limited leave to remain	26	399	425
Asylum seeker	1	234	235
Refugee	4	1,148	1,152
No valid leave/undocumented	313	591	904
No clear status	419	483	902
Not recorded	17	20	37
Total	2,406	3,696	6,102

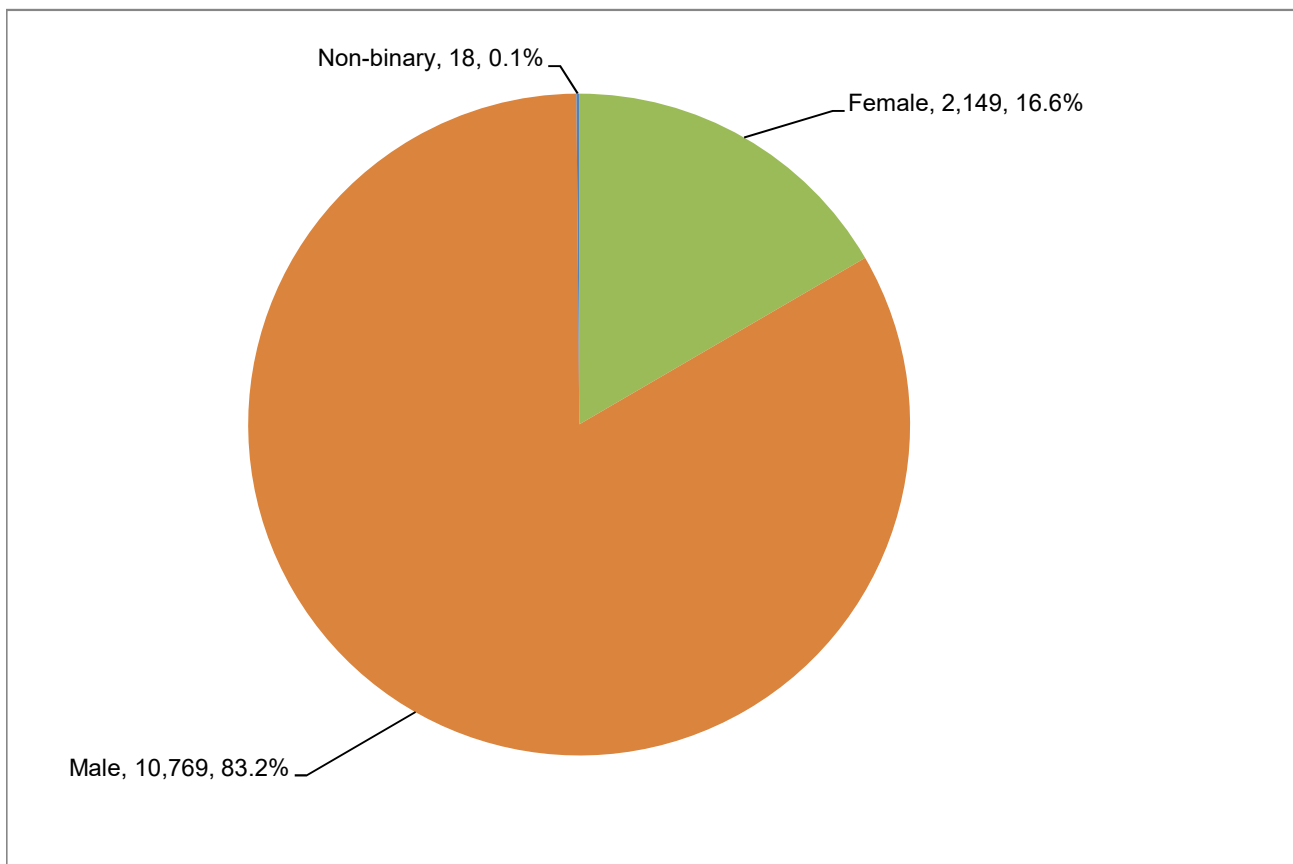
Base: 6,102 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known and who were not UK nationals.

*This category has been discontinued following the April 2023 review of immigration recording on CHAIN, but some people recorded against it have not yet been updated with a new assessment.

The table shows that the most commonly recorded immigration status was 'refugee', with 19% of non-UK nationals recorded as having refugee status in 2024/25, compared to 14% in 2023/24 and 5% in 2022/23. 28% of non-UK nationals were recorded as having either 'indefinite leave to remain' or 'EUSS settled status' (1,705 people), while 30% were recorded as having 'no valid leave/undocumented' or 'no clear status'.

5.5 Gender

Chart 11: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by gender



Base: 12,936 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 295 people whose gender was not known.

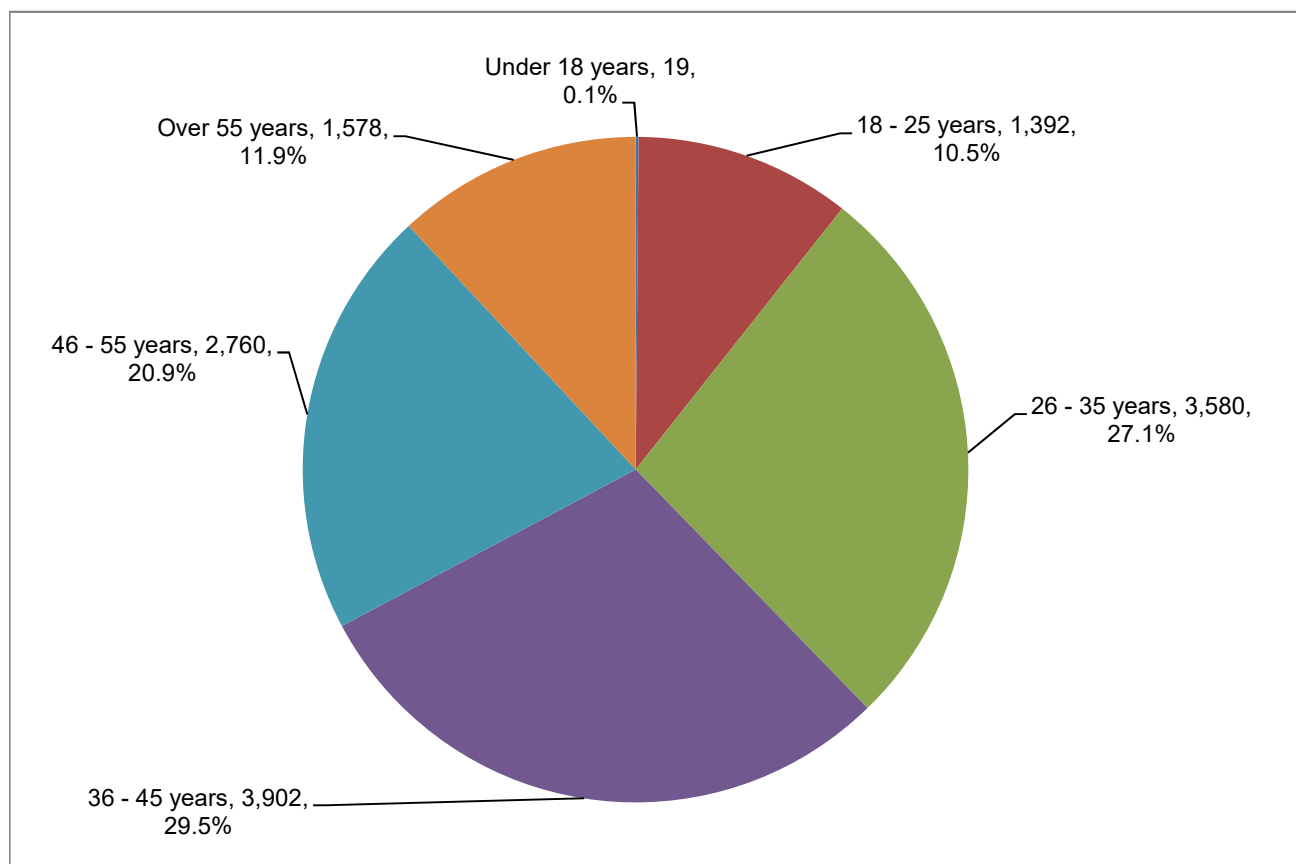
Table 12: People seen rough sleeping, by gender, 2021/22 - 2024/25

Gender	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Female	1,427	17.4%	1,642	16.7%	1,870	15.9%	2,149	16.6%
Male	6,782	82.6%	8,175	83.2%	9,844	84.0%	10,769	83.2%
Non-binary	6	0.1%	11	0.1%	11	0.1%	18	0.1%
Not known	114		225		268		295	
Total (excl. not known)	8,215	100.0%	9,828	100.0%	11,725	100.0%	12,936	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	8,329		10,053		11,993		13,231	

The gender breakdown of people seen rough sleeping has remained broadly consistent across the last four years.

5.6 Age

Chart 12: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by age



Base: 13,231 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 13: People seen rough sleeping, by age, 2021/22 - 2024/25

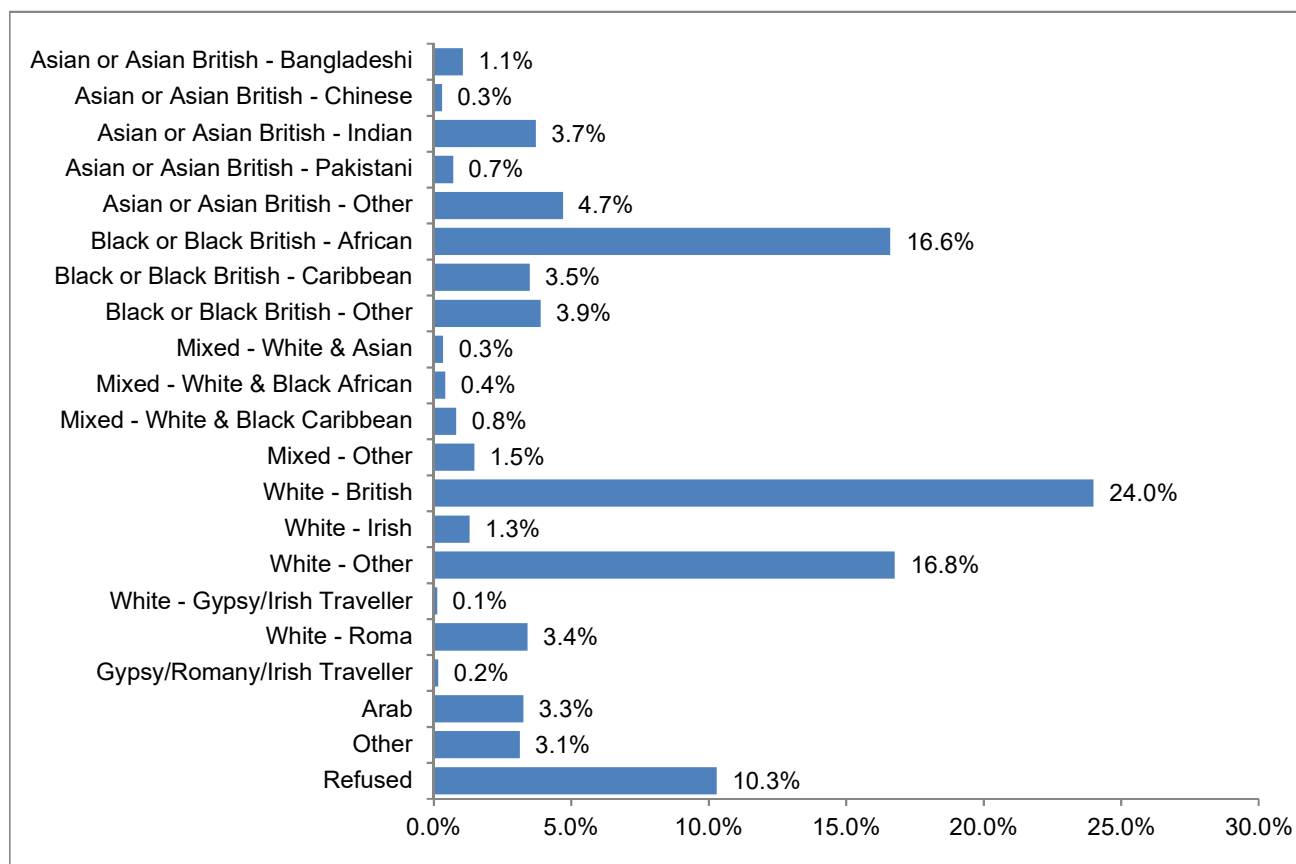
Age	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 18 years	20	0.2%	9	0.1%	13	0.1%	19	0.1%
18 - 25 years	687	8.2%	847	8.4%	1,126	9.4%	1,392	10.5%
26 - 35 years	2,273	27.3%	2,616	26.0%	3,434	28.6%	3,580	27.1%
36 - 45 years	2,595	31.2%	3,229	32.1%	3,645	30.4%	3,902	29.5%
46 - 55 years	1,779	21.4%	2,146	21.3%	2,395	20.0%	2,760	20.9%
Over 55 years	975	11.7%	1,206	12.0%	1,380	11.5%	1,578	11.9%
Total	8,329	100.0%	10,053	100.0%	11,993	100.0%	13,231	100.0%

Age distribution amongst people seen rough sleeping in 2023/24 remains largely consistent with previous years. 11% (1,411 people) of those seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 were aged 25 or under, which is a slight proportionate increase compared to 9% (1,139 people) in 2023/24. People in the over 55 age group represented 12% of the total in 2024/25 (1,578 people), which is the same proportion as recorded in 2023/24.

There were 19 people aged under 18 recorded rough sleeping this year, which is slightly higher than the total of 13 people in this age group recorded in 2023/24.

5.7 Ethnicity

Chart 13: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by ethnicity



Base: 13,231 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' was replaced in 2021 with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma' in order to bring CHAIN recording into line with Office for National Statistics usage. Some people seen rough sleeping during the period have not had their ethnicity information updated to reflect these new categories, so the original category is also included in the chart.

Table 14: People seen rough sleeping, by ethnicity, 2021/22 - 2024/25

Ethnicity	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	739	8.9%	883	8.8%	1,206	10.1%	1,389	10.5%
Black	1,563	18.8%	1,916	19.1%	2,916	24.3%	3,173	24.0%
Mixed	295	3.5%	324	3.2%	389	3.2%	404	3.1%
White (incl. Gypsy/ Irish Traveller/Roma)	4,873	58.5%	5,520	54.9%	5,687	47.4%	6,058	45.8%
Arab/Other	348	4.2%	560	5.6%	681	5.7%	845	6.4%
Missing/Refused	511	6.1%	850	8.5%	1,114	9.3%	1,362	10.3%
Total	8,329	100.0%	10,053	100.0%	11,993	100.0%	13,231	100.0%

The majority of people seen rough sleeping in London in 2024/25 were White (including Gypsy, Irish Traveller and Roma), with an overall proportion of 46%, which is broadly consistent with the proportion of 47% in 2023/24, and confirms the trend towards a lower proportion of people seen rough sleeping being in this group, compared to the 55% in 2022/23 and 59% in 2021/22. 24% of those seen rough sleeping in the year were Black, which is again consistent with the 24% recorded in 2023/24, but higher than the 19% in both 2022/23 and 2021/22. 10% of those seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 were of Asian ethnicity, which also

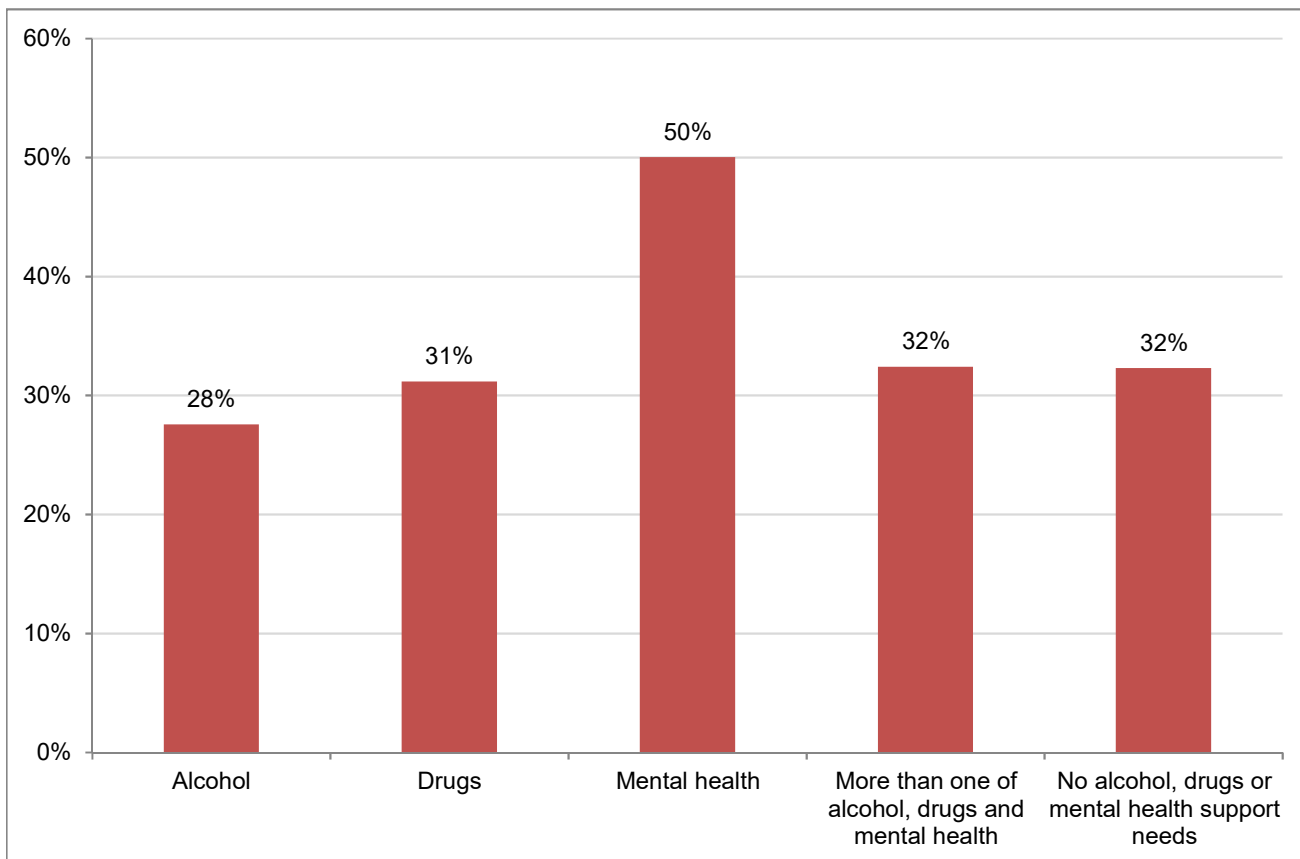
remains unchanged from the proportion recorded in 2023/24.

The ethnicity composition in 2024/25 confirms the trend first observed in 2023/24, which is at least in part related to the increase in the proportions of African and Asian nationals seen rough sleeping, and the related growth in the numbers of people arriving on the streets following departure from asylum support accommodation.

5.8 Support needs

Support needs data in CHAIN is derived from assessments made by support workers in the homelessness sector. It should be noted that 27% of people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 did not have a support needs assessment recorded, the majority of these (89%) being people who had only been seen rough sleeping once or twice.

Chart 14: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by support needs



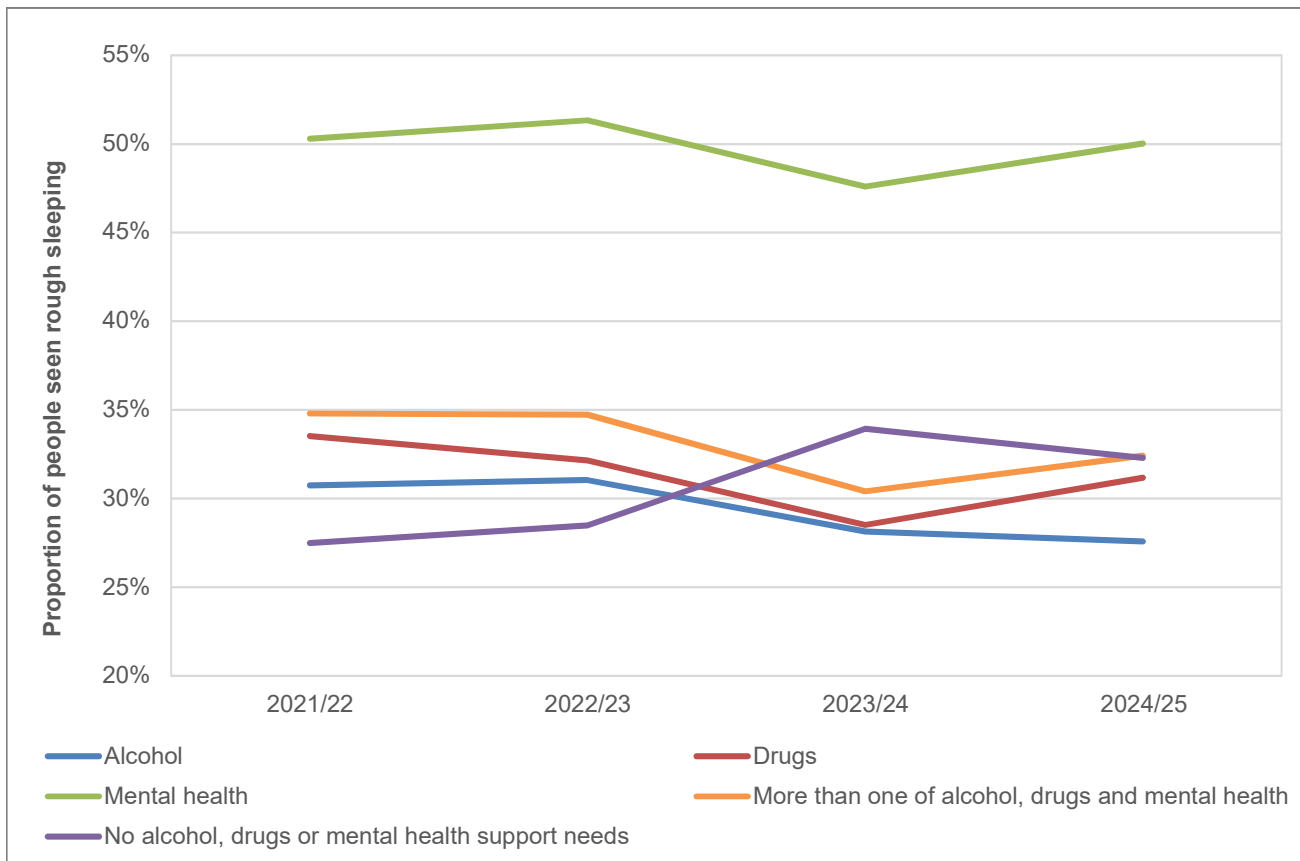
Base: 9,611 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 3,620 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 15: People seen rough sleeping, by support needs, 2021/22 - 2024/25

Support need	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Alcohol	1,914	30.7%	2,228	31.0%	2,527	28.1%	2,650	27.6%
Drugs	2,087	33.5%	2,308	32.2%	2,561	28.5%	2,996	31.2%
Mental health	3,131	50.3%	3,685	51.3%	4,275	47.6%	4,808	50.0%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	2,166	34.8%	2,493	34.7%	2,731	30.4%	3,115	32.4%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	1,711	27.5%	2,045	28.5%	3,048	33.9%	3,104	32.3%
Total (excl. not assessed)	6,225		7,178		8,982		9,611	
Total (incl. not assessed)	8,329		10,053		11,993		13,231	

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

Chart 15: Support needs proportions for people seen rough sleeping, 2021/22 - 2024/25



Percentages are based on total people seen rough sleeping who were assessed for at least one of the three key support needs.

2021/22 base: 6,225
 2022/23 base: 7,178
 2023/24 base: 8,982
 2024/25 base: 9,611

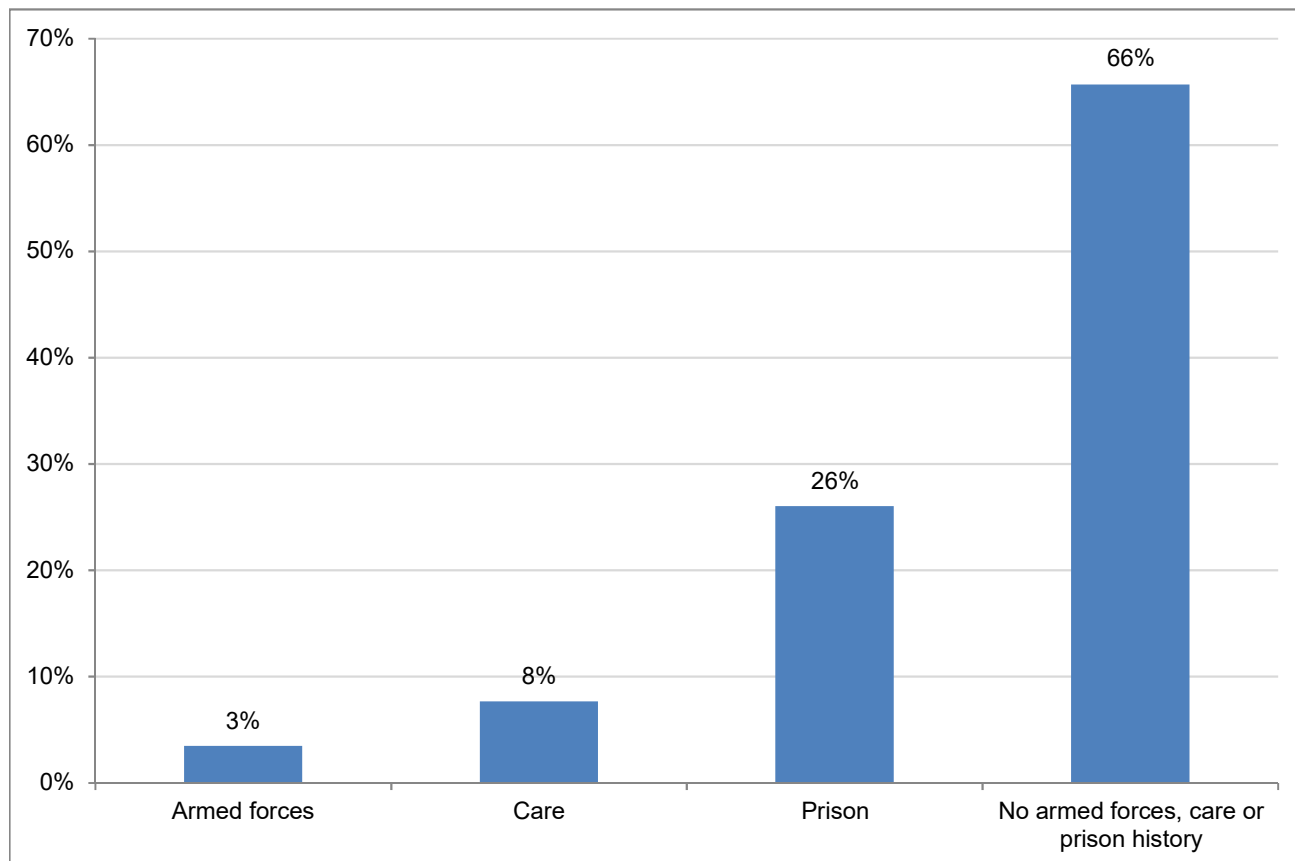
The proportions of people seen rough sleeping with drugs or mental health support needs increased slightly in 2024/25, with 31% recorded as having a drugs support need, compared to 29% in 2023/24, and 50% recorded as having a mental health support need, compared to 48% in 2023/24. The proportion of people with a need relating to alcohol use remained steady, at 28% in 2024/25, compared to the same proportion in 2023/24.

32% of people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 who had received an assessment had more than one of the three needs, compared to 30% in 2023/24, while 32% were found to have none of the three needs, compared to 34% in 2023/24.

5.9 Institutional & armed forces history

The chart below indicates the proportions of people seen rough sleeping during 2024/25 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. Information on people who have recently left an institutional or armed forces setting in the UK can be found in sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this report.

Chart 16: People seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, by institutional and armed forces history



Base: 9,419 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three histories. This excludes 3,812 people for whom none of the three histories were assessed.

Table 16: People seen rough sleeping, by institutional and armed forces history, 2021/22 - 2024/25

Type of history	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed forces	291	4.7%	346	4.9%	357	4.1%	328	3.5%
Armed forces - UK nationals	110	1.8%	119	1.7%	109	1.2%	125	1.3%
Care	554	8.9%	589	8.3%	639	7.3%	721	7.7%
Prison	1,984	32.0%	2,056	28.8%	2,175	24.9%	2,453	26.0%
No armed forces, care or prison history	3,572	57.5%	4,366	61.2%	5,733	65.6%	6,188	65.7%
Total (excl. not assessed)	6,209		7,132		8,744		9,419	
Total (incl. not assessed)	8,329		10,053		11,993		13,231	

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

328 people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 had experience of serving in the armed forces, of whom 125 were UK nationals. 721 people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 had previous experience of living in care (compared to 639 in 2023/24), and 2,453 had experience of serving time in prison (compared to 2,175 in 2023/24). Of the 721 people with experience of living in care, 94 were aged 25 or under.

6. HELPING PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS

6.1 Accommodation outcomes

In 2024/25, 5,177 people who had been seen rough sleeping during the year had bookings into accommodation recorded on CHAIN. This is 39% of all people seen rough sleeping during the year, compared to 37% in 2023/24. It should be noted that this does not necessarily mean that the other 61% are still rough sleeping, as many of them will no longer be in contact with services and may have found their own solutions.

Table 17: Accommodation outcomes achieved with people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, compared to outcomes achieved in 2023/24

Accommodation type	2023/24		2024/25	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation				
Hub	171	2.4%	1,579	17.6%
SWEP (Local)	1,373	19.0%	1,714	19.1%
SWEP (Pan-London)	260	3.6%	73	0.8%
Winter/night shelter	719	9.9%	603	6.7%
Other	17	0.2%	6	0.1%
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>2,540</i>	<i>35.1%</i>	<i>3,975</i>	<i>44.2%</i>
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	564	7.8%	580	6.4%
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	43	0.6%	57	0.6%
B&B (not local authority TA)	695	9.6%	895	10.0%
Clinic/detox/rehab	12	0.2%	13	0.1%
Hostel	541	7.5%	532	5.9%
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	69	1.0%	59	0.7%
Staging post	491	6.8%	463	5.1%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	1,081	14.9%	1,047	11.6%
Other	361	5.0%	387	4.3%
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>3,857</i>	<i>53.3%</i>	<i>4,033</i>	<i>44.8%</i>
Long-term accommodation				
Clearing House	69	1.0%	32	0.4%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	40	0.6%	34	0.4%
Employment-related accommodation	4	0.1%	5	0.1%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	6	0.1%	4	0.0%
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	16	0.2%	28	0.3%
Private rented sector - independent	301	4.2%	314	3.5%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	123	1.7%	241	2.7%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	19	0.3%	17	0.2%
Supported accommodation (long-term)	256	3.5%	311	3.5%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>834</i>	<i>11.5%</i>	<i>986</i>	<i>11.0%</i>
Total	7,231	100.0%	8,994	100.0%

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

There were 8,994 accommodation outcomes recorded for people seen rough sleeping in 2024/25, compared to 7,231 for people seen rough sleeping in 2023/24. The main difference in the outcomes recorded between the two years is the large increase in hub stays, which relates to the resumption of accommodation provision at No Second Night Out (NSNO) assessment hubs, as part of the new service model adopted in April 2024. This has had the effect of reducing the proportions of outcomes accounted for by some other types of accommodation, even when the numbers have remained consistent.

Winter 2024/25 saw an increase in stays at local SWEP, with a concomitant decrease in stays at Pan-London overflow SWEP, compared to 2023/24. This followed the introduction of additional funding by MHCLG to support the provision of this type of emergency accommodation by local authorities, with coordination from subregions.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Glossary of acronyms and terms used in this report

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

A small lodging establishment that offers overnight accommodation and breakfast.

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 Homeless Link.

DELTA

Online system developed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to streamline its processes and systems for collecting statistical data and grant administration.

EEA: European Economic Area

The 27 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.

MHCLG: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ministerial department of the Government of the United Kingdom, responsible for housing, communities, and local government in England.

NASS: National Asylum Support Service

A section of the UK Visas and Immigration division of the Home Office, responsible for supporting and accommodating people seeking asylum while their cases are being dealt with.

NSNO: No Second Night Out

A GLA commissioned 24/7 pan-London assessment and reconnection service for people rough sleeping. It accepts referrals from outreach teams and aims to identify and rapidly deliver a sustainable route off the street for those it supports. Since August 2022, the service has worked with both those who are new to rough sleeping, and existing rough sleepers who do not already have a route away from the streets identified by an outreach team. The term is also used in other contexts to refer to a wider strategy to end rough sleeping, both in London and nationwide.

RSL: Registered Social Landlord

A non-profit organisation, including housing associations, that owns and manages social housing, providing affordable housing and services to tenants.

SWEP: Severe Weather Emergency Protocol

Emergency accommodation provided by local authorities or the GLA for people sleeping rough during periods of increased risk due to extreme weather conditions (e.g. freezing temperatures or heatwaves).

TA: Temporary Accommodation

In the homelessness context, widely used to refer to housing provided by a local authority to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, under the Housing Act 1996 or another legal duty.

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