
CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT

GREATER LONDON

JANUARY - MARCH 2025

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CHAIN

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Greater London Authority
April 2025

Published by
Greater London Authority
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Copies of this report are available
from <http://data.london.gov.uk>

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1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

For more information about the methods used to derive statistics for this report, and definitions of different groups, please see section 11 – Methodology.

Changes to CHAIN quarterly report content for 2024/25

Previous editions of this report have included a section on arrivals and departures at temporary accommodation managed by homelessness support providers (primarily hostels and assessment centres). We have discontinued this section as the number of accommodation services inputting information to CHAIN has declined over recent years, meaning the dataset in this area is incomplete and could be misleading. Data on usage of and outcomes from accommodation services may be available from individual support provider organisations.

We have also discontinued the previously published section on reconnection outcomes achieved with people seen rough sleeping. This is partly because fewer services are focusing on facilitating reconnections abroad than in former years, and partly because there are significant variations across the sector in the understanding of what constitutes a reconnection, meaning it has been difficult to ensure a consistent and reliable dataset in this area.

Key findings

New rough sleepers

In the period January-March 2025 outreach teams recorded 2085 people in London sleeping rough for the first time. Of these:

- 1520 (73%) spent just one night sleeping rough
- 487 (23%) slept rough for more than one night but did not go on to live on the streets
- 78 (4%) were deemed to be living on the streets.

The number of new rough sleepers recorded during this period was 2% higher than the same period last year.

By comparison, of the 2038 people recorded as new to the streets in January-March 2024, 1498 (74%) were seen sleeping rough just once. The same proportion (23%) went on to spend more than one night without meeting the criteria for living on the streets, and 3% went on to live on the streets.

Living on the streets

During January-March 2025 there were 706 people recorded who were deemed to be living on the streets. This total includes:

- 78 people who were new to rough sleeping in London and remained on the streets during the period
- 26 people from the RS205+ cohort who were seen bedded down at least once.

The number of rough sleepers deemed to be living on the streets is 38% higher than the same period last year, and virtually unchanged from the immediately preceding period (October-December 2024).

Intermittent rough sleepers

The number of people who were seen rough sleeping during January-March 2025 who were not new, and did not have enough contacts to be deemed as living on the streets, was 1714. This is 5% higher than the same period last year, and 8% lower than the immediately preceding period.

Of these:

- 821 people (48%) were seen on just a single occasion
- 422 people (25%) were seen just twice, and
- only 8 (<1%) had six or more contacts.

Total number of people seen rough sleeping

In total during the period January-March 2025 outreach teams recorded 4427 individuals sleeping rough in the capital. This is an 8% increase on the total figure for January-March 2024.

Of that total:

- new rough sleepers account for 47% of all rough sleepers
- intermittent rough sleepers account for 39% of all those recorded in the period, and
- 16% of those recorded during the period were living on the streets.

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

All London Boroughs: Headlines

Table 1: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by new, living on the streets, and intermittent breakdown

NEW ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	2085	-1%	+2%
New RS with no second night out	1520	-3%	+1%
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	487	+6%	+3%
New RS joining living on the streets population*	78	-1%	+15%

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of new rough sleepers prevented from spending a second night out	73%	74%	74%

LIVING ON THE STREETS (LOS)

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	706	+0%	+38%
LOS - Transferred from new RS*	78	-1%	+15%
LOS - Known	602	+0%	+44%
LOS - RS205+	26	+8%	+8%

INTERMITTENT ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	1714	-8%	+5%

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

OVERALL TOTAL ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	4427	-4%	+8%

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

All London Boroughs: Achieving No Second Night Out

Chart 1: New rough sleepers 2023-24 Q4 to 2024-25 Q4

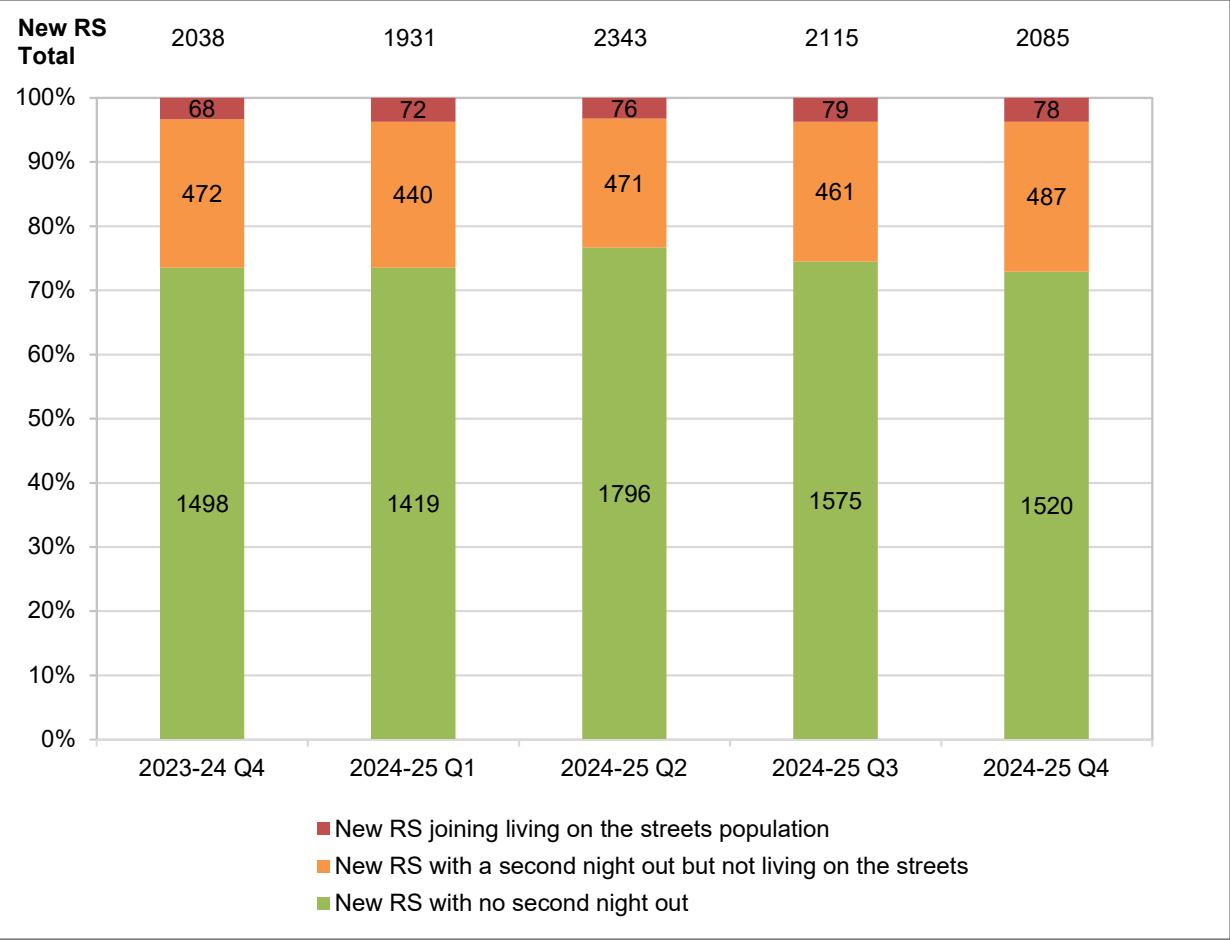


Table 2: New rough sleepers in 2024-25 Q4, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
New RS with no second night out	1520
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	487
New RS joining living on the streets population	78
Total	2085

New RS = New rough sleepers

All London Boroughs: No One Living on the Streets

Chart 2: People living on the streets 2023-24 Q4 to 2024-25 Q4

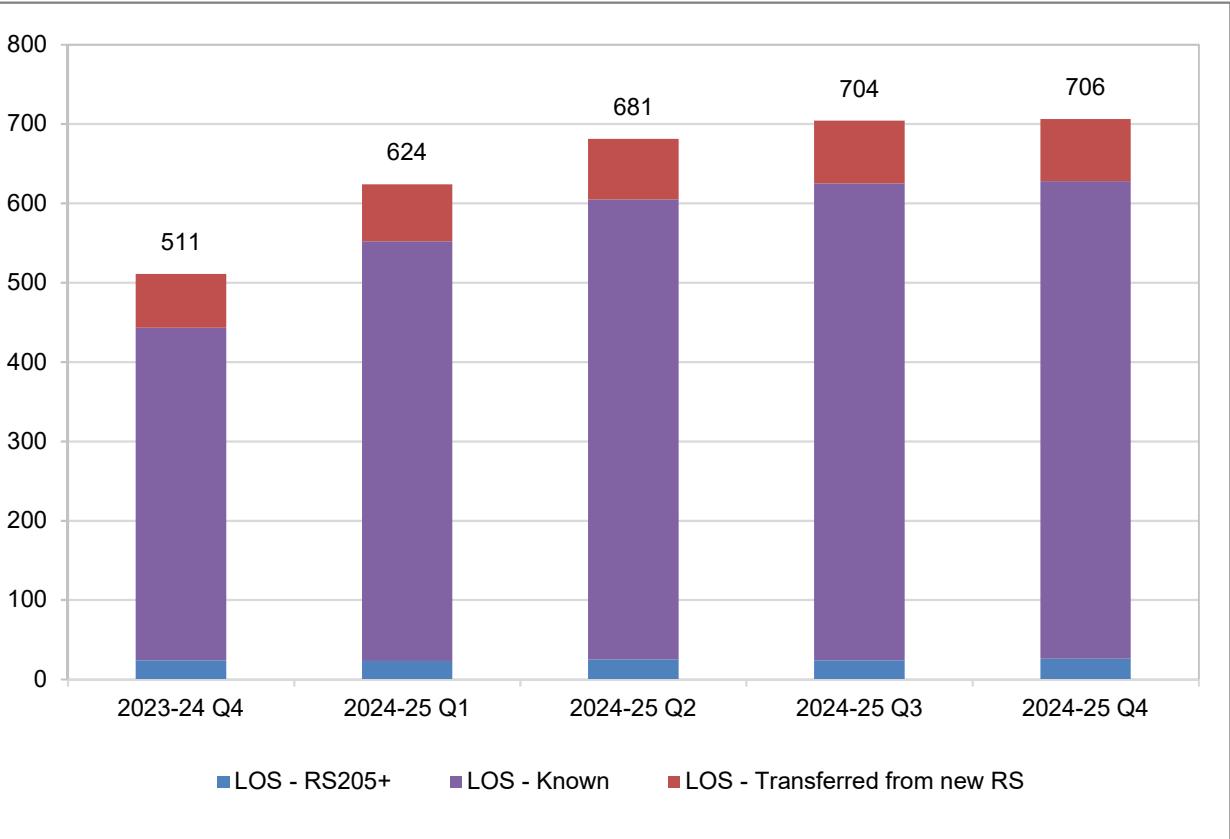


Table 3: People living on the streets in 2024-25 Q4, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
LOS - Transferred from new RS	78
LOS - Known	602
LOS - RS205+	26
Total	706

All London Boroughs: Intermittent Rough Sleepers

Chart 3: Intermittent rough sleepers 2023-24 Q4 to 2024-25 Q4

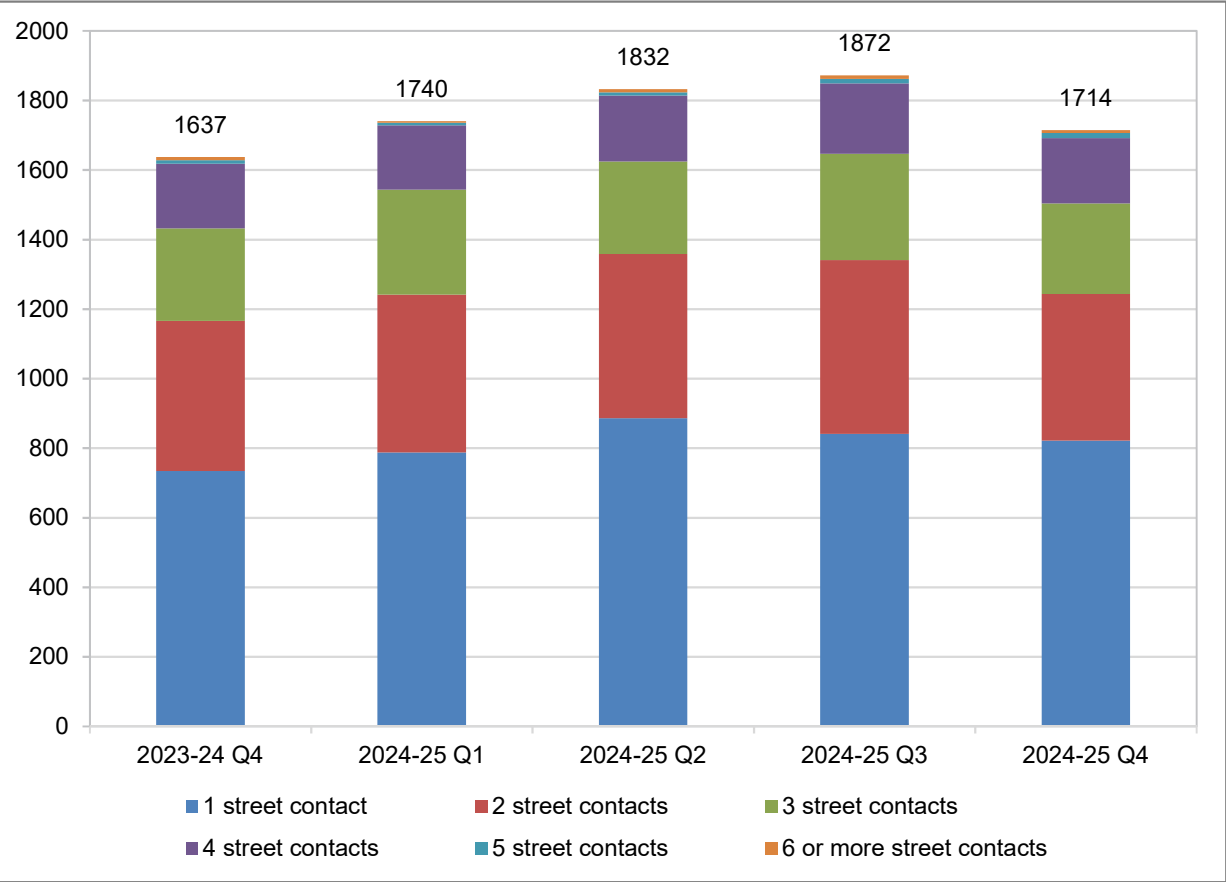


Table 4: Intermittent rough sleepers in 2024-25 Q4, by number of bedded down contacts during the period

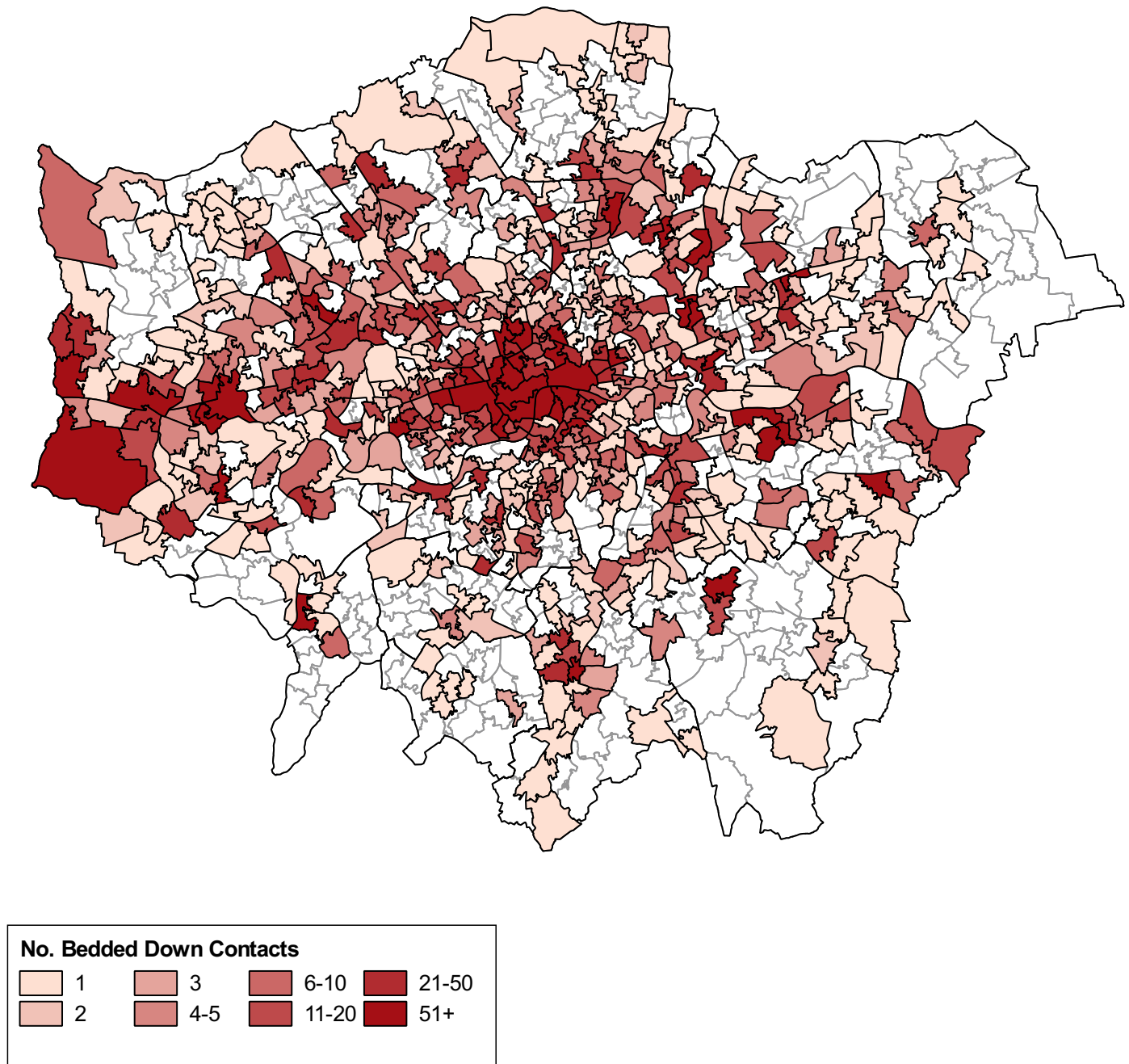
No. bedded down street contacts during this period	No. intermittent rough sleepers
1 street contact	821
2 street contacts	422
3 street contacts	261
4 street contacts	187
5 street contacts	15
6 or more street contacts	8
Total	1714

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Bedded down street contacts by area: Greater London level

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

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



4. NATIONALITY

Nationality: Rolling figures

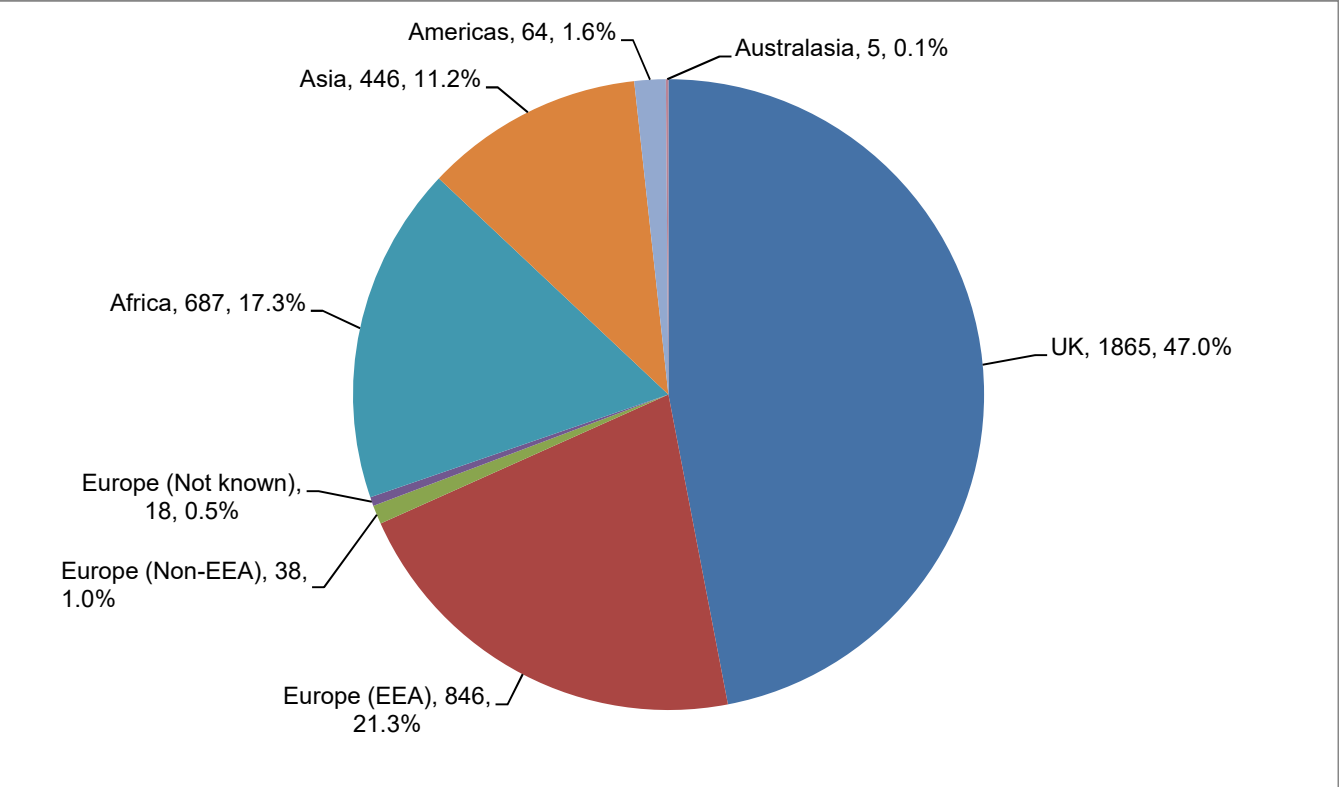
Table 5: People seen rough sleeping 2024-25 Q2 to 2024-25 Q4 by nationality

Nationality	Jul-Sep 24		Oct-Dec 24		Jan-Mar 25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	2079	49.4%	1957	47.1%	1865	47.0%
Romania	342	8.1%	371	8.9%	328	8.3%
Poland	220	5.2%	221	5.3%	185	4.7%
Lithuania	56	1.3%	58	1.4%	64	1.6%
Ireland (Republic of)	58	1.4%	48	1.2%	40	1.0%
Portugal	47	1.1%	44	1.1%	40	1.0%
Italy	44	1.0%	38	0.9%	27	0.7%
Bulgaria	47	1.1%	48	1.2%	43	1.1%
Spain	24	0.6%	20	0.5%	20	0.5%
France	22	0.5%	19	0.5%	15	0.4%
Latvia	14	0.3%	22	0.5%	18	0.5%
Other European (EEA) countries	86	2.0%	72	1.7%	66	1.7%
Europe (EEA)	960	22.8%	961	23.1%	846	21.3%
Europe (Non-EEA)	43	1.0%	50	1.2%	38	1.0%
Europe (Not known)	25	0.6%	16	0.4%	18	0.5%
Eritrea	106	2.5%	193	4.6%	259	6.5%
Sudan	111	2.6%	150	3.6%	124	3.1%
Nigeria	49	1.2%	41	1.0%	45	1.1%
Ethiopia	35	0.8%	25	0.6%	39	1.0%
Somalia	31	0.7%	28	0.7%	24	0.6%
Other African countries	176	4.2%	189	4.6%	196	4.9%
Africa	508	12.1%	626	15.1%	687	17.3%
India	176	4.2%	193	4.6%	182	4.6%
Afghanistan	96	2.3%	57	1.4%	51	1.3%
Iran	64	1.5%	52	1.3%	58	1.5%
Syrian Arab Republic	14	0.3%	19	0.5%	21	0.5%
Pakistan	15	0.4%	16	0.4%	17	0.4%
Other Asian countries	145	3.4%	111	2.7%	117	2.9%
Asia	510	12.1%	448	10.8%	446	11.2%
Americas	76	1.8%	90	2.2%	64	1.6%
Australasia	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	5	0.1%
Not known	574		459		458	
Total (excl. not known)	4206	100.0%	4153	100.0%	3969	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	4780		4612		4427	

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

Nationality: Breakdown by area

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by nationality

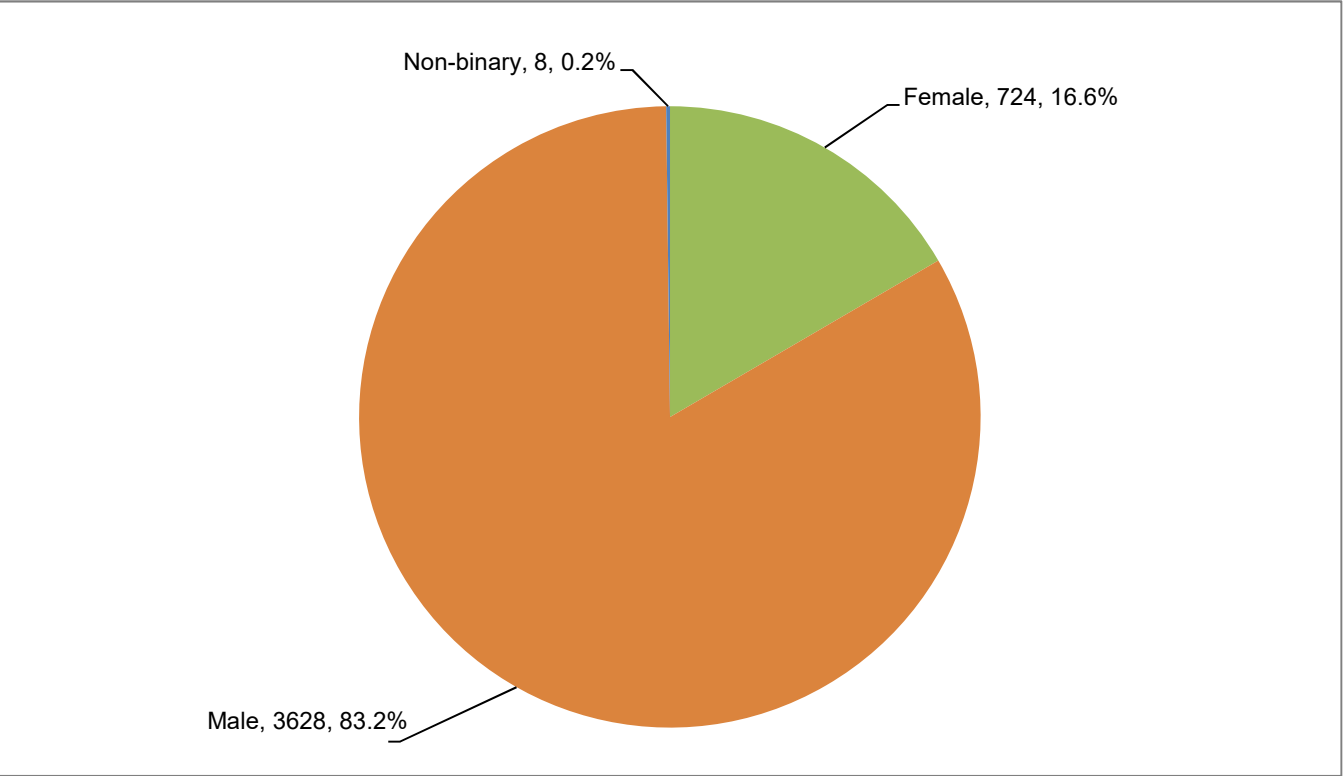


Base: 3969 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 458 people whose nationality was not known.

5. DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by gender



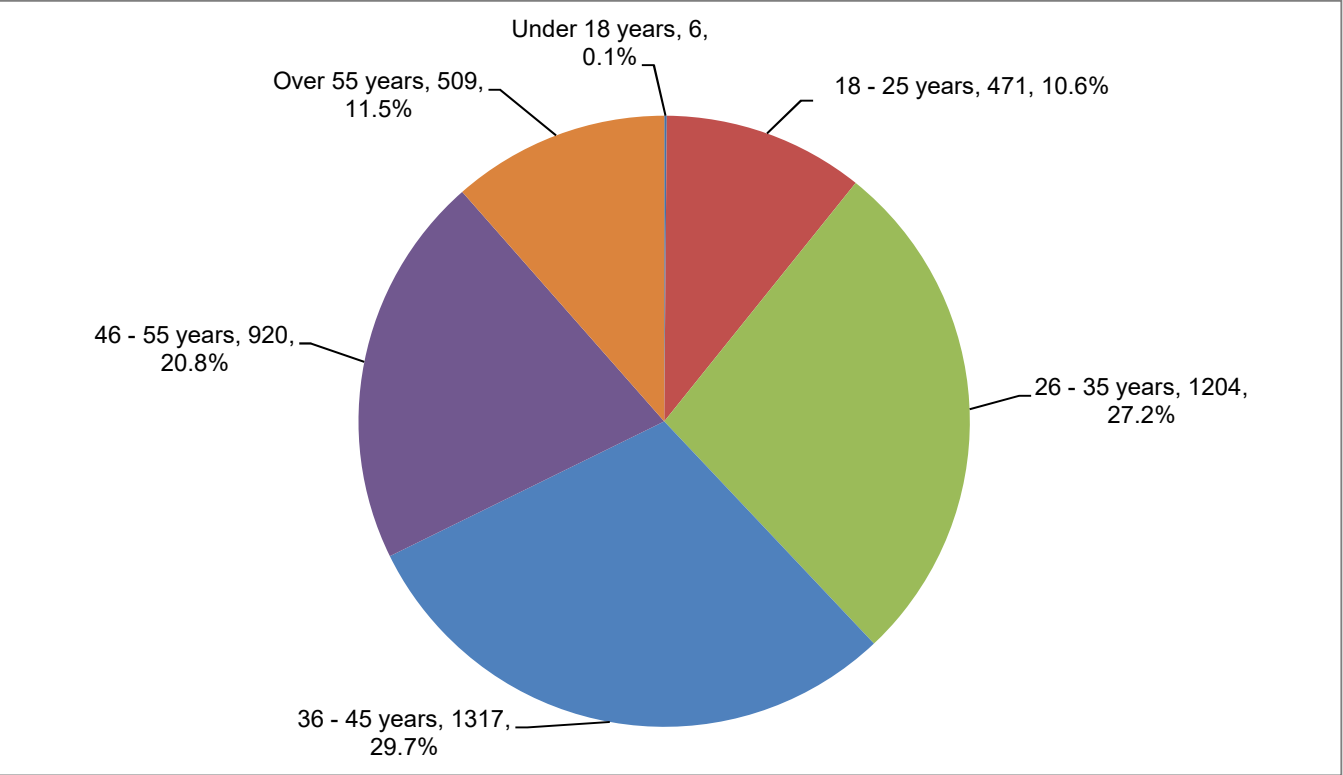
Base: 4360 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 67 people whose gender was not known.

Table 6: People seen rough sleeping during 2024-25 Q4, by gender

Gender	No.	%
Female	724	16.6%
Male	3628	83.2%
Non-binary	8	0.2%
Not known	67	
Total (excl. not known)	4360	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	4427	

Age

Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by age



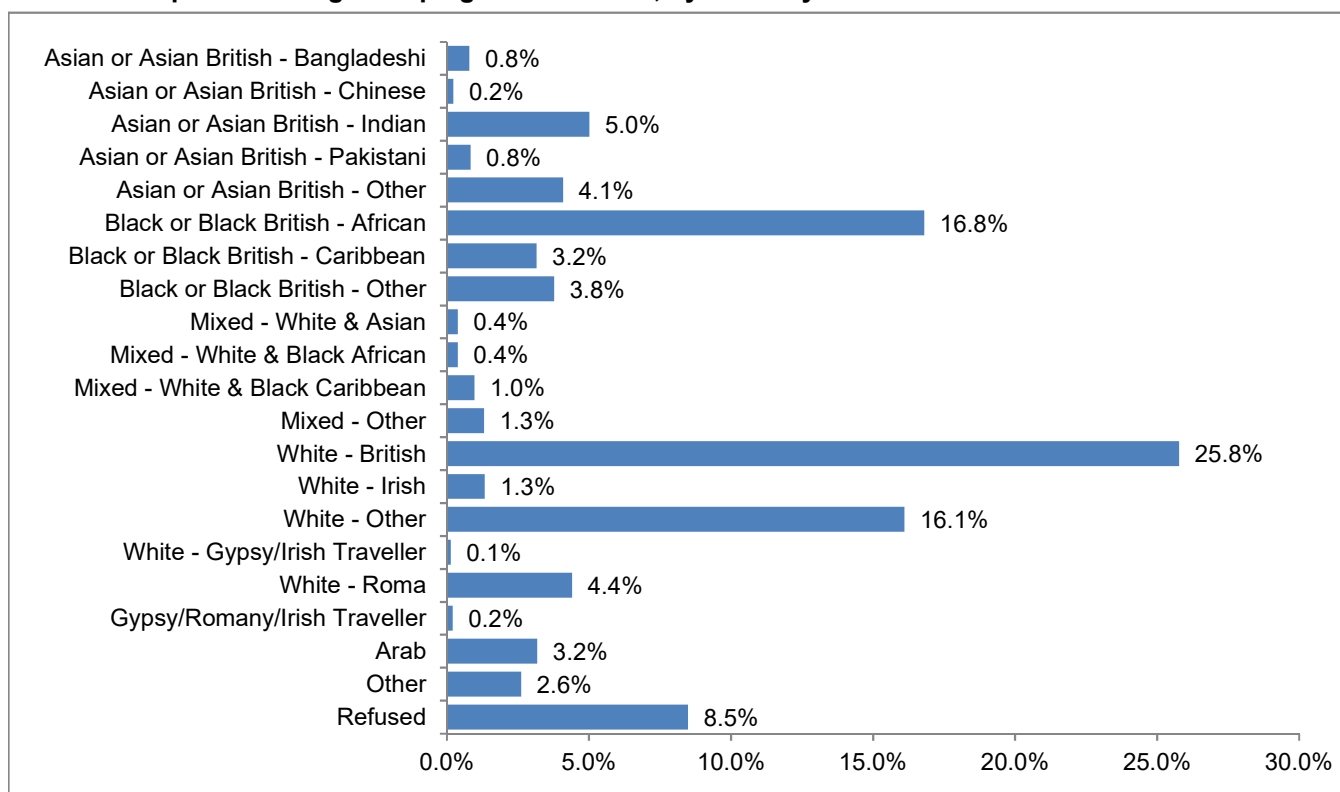
Base: 4427 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 7: People seen rough sleeping during 2024-25 Q4, by age

Age	No.	%
Under 18 years	6	0.1%
18 - 25 years	471	10.6%
26 - 35 years	1204	27.2%
36 - 45 years	1317	29.7%
46 - 55 years	920	20.8%
Over 55 years	509	11.5%
Total	4427	100.0%

Ethnicity

Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by ethnicity



Base: 4427 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

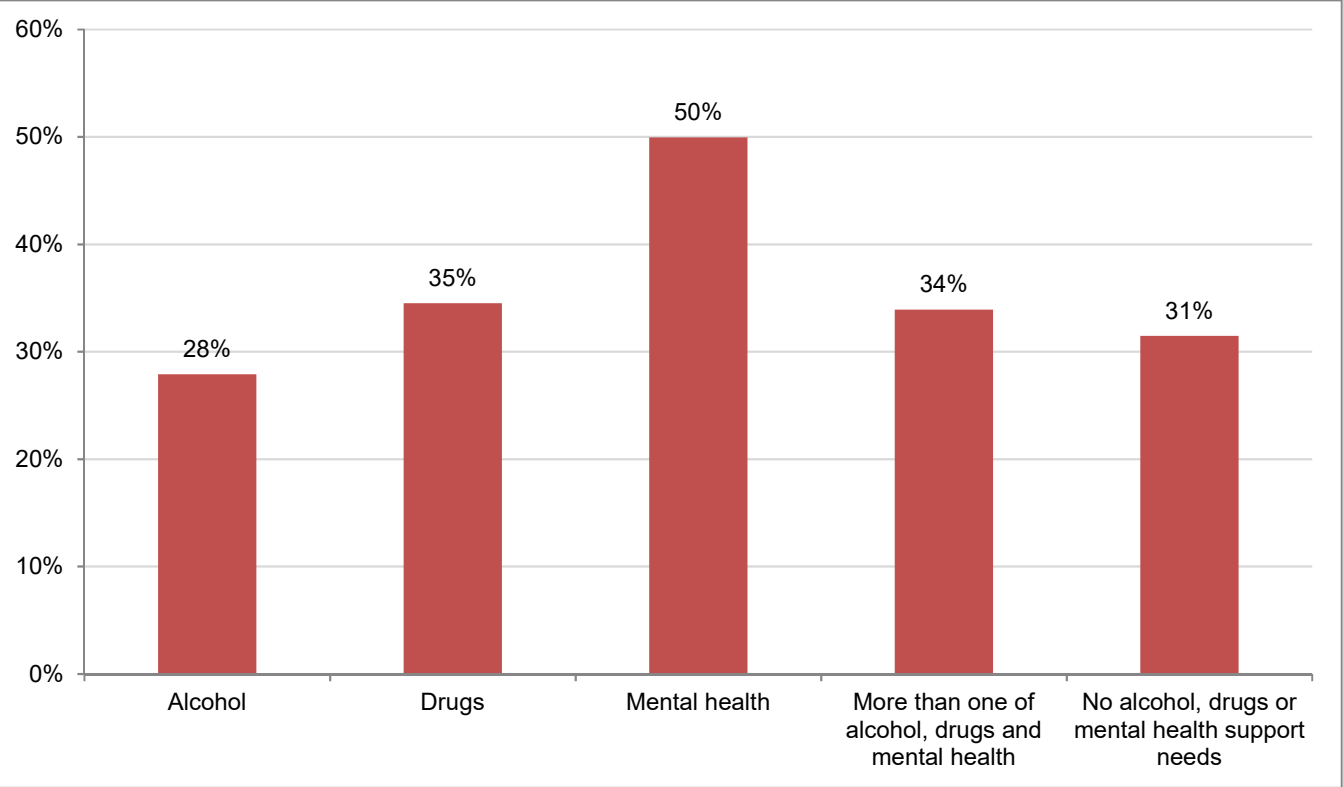
The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' was replaced with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma' in April 2021. However, many people seen rough sleeping during the period may not have had their ethnicity information updated to reflect these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

Table 8: People seen rough sleeping during 2024-25 Q4, by ethnicity

Ethnicity	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	485	11.0%
Black	1051	23.7%
Mixed	135	3.0%
White (incl. Gypsy/Irish Traveller/Roma)	2123	48.0%
Arab/Other	257	5.8%
Refused	376	8.5%
Total	4427	100.0%

6. SUPPORT NEEDS

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by support needs



Base: 3350 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 1077 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by support needs

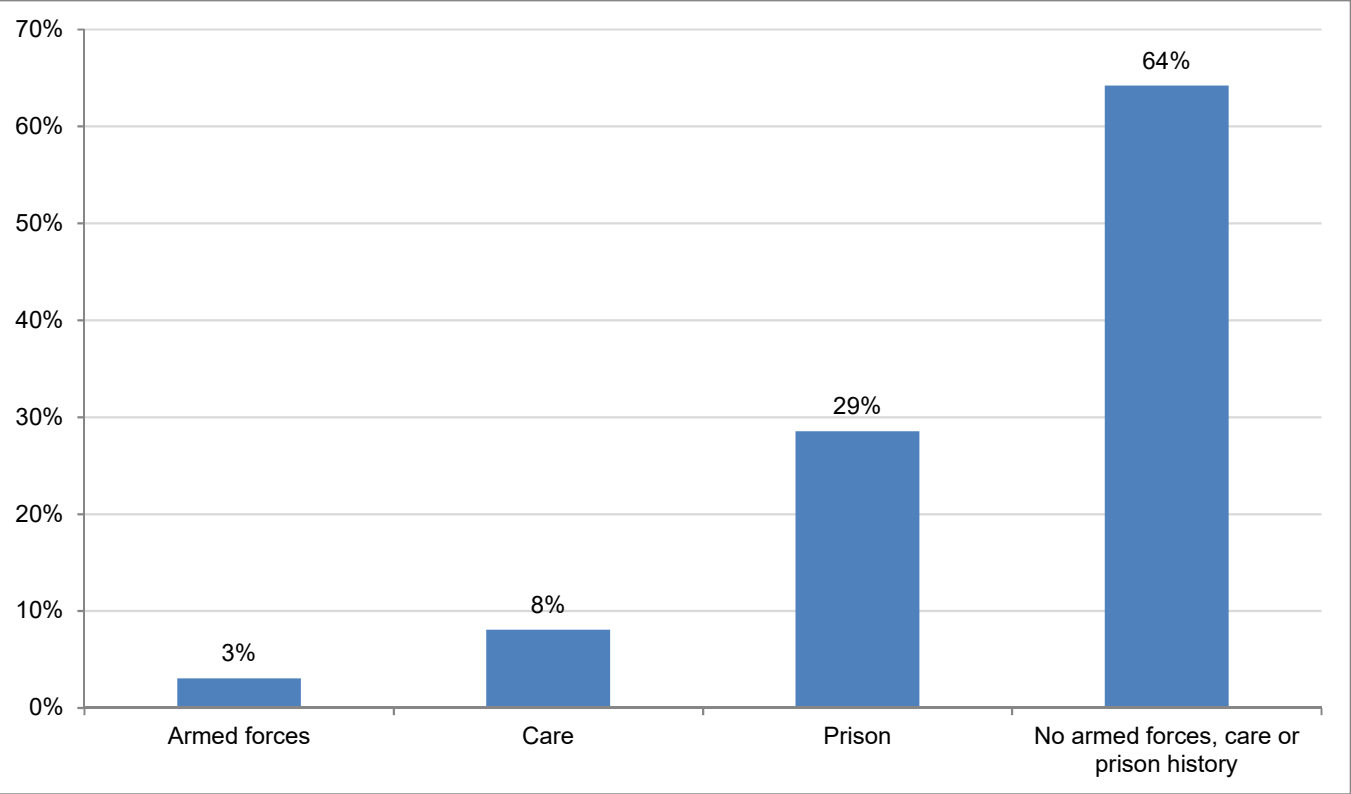
Support need	No.	%
Alcohol	934	27.9%
Drugs	1156	34.5%
Mental health	1673	49.9%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	1136	33.9%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	1054	31.5%
Total (excl. not assessed)	3350	
Total (incl. not assessed)	4427	

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

7. INSTITUTIONAL & ARMED FORCES HISTORY

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

Chart 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by experience of armed forces, care or prison



Base: 3265 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 1162 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 10: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q4, by institutional and armed forces history

Type of history	No.	%
Armed forces	99	3.0%
Armed forces - UK nationals	42	1.3%
Care	263	8.1%
Prison	932	28.5%
No armed forces, care or prison history	2096	64.2%
Total (excl. not assessed)	3265	
Total (incl. not assessed)	4427	

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

8. ACCOMMODATION OUTCOMES

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

Table 11: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2024-25 Q4, compared to 2024-25 Q3, by number of people

	Oct-Dec 24	Jan-Mar 25
Outcome	No. people	No. people
Booked into accommodation	2196	2213
Booked into hub, shelter or emergency accommodation	1221	1429
Booked into temporary accommodation	1072	974
Booked into long-term accommodation	350	307

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

Table 12: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2024-25 Q4, compared to 2024-25 Q3, by number of outcomes

Accommodation type	Oct-Dec 24		Jan-Mar 25	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation				
Hub	458	15%	388	12%
Nightstop	2	0%	1	0%
SWEP (Local)	532	18%	1188	36%
SWEP (Pan-London)	11	0%	62	2%
Winter/Night Shelter	399	13%	190	6%
Other	0	0%	1	0%
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>1402</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>1830</i>	<i>55%</i>
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	164	6%	169	5%
Bed & breakfast	325	11%	245	7%
Clinic/Detox/Rehab	4	0%	6	0%
Friends & family	14	0%	24	1%
Hostel	157	5%	146	4%
Local authority temporary accommodation	283	10%	304	9%
Staging post	115	4%	125	4%
Other temporary accommodation	142	5%	132	4%
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>1204</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>1151</i>	<i>35%</i>
Long-term accommodation				
Care home	4	0%	4	0%
Clearing House/RSI	38	1%	33	1%
Local authority tenancy (general needs)	19	1%	11	0%
Private rented sector - independent	88	3%	95	3%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	80	3%	89	3%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	3	0%	1	0%
Sheltered housing	10	0%	2	0%
Supported housing	96	3%	88	3%
Tied accommodation	3	0%	1	0%
Other long-term accommodation	13	0%	9	0%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>354</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>333</i>	<i>10%</i>
Total	2960	100%	3314	100%

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

9. METHODOLOGY

From January 2014 onwards, CHAIN rough sleeping figures returned to being reported on a quarterly basis, following a two year period of reporting on a bi-monthly cycle.

Alongside the change in reporting period, we have also made some other adjustments to our reporting methodology. People who have been seen rough sleeping in more than one borough during the period will now be counted towards the figures for each relevant borough, rather than being assigned to one borough only, as was previously the case with bi-monthly reports. This means that the overall unique rough sleepers total for London will not be the same as the sum of all separate borough figures.

The new quarterly reports continue to employ the methodology of assigning rough sleepers to categories based on the following factors:

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

We continue to apply the same thresholds for the above factors to the quarterly reporting period that we previously used for bi-monthly reporting. A further explanation of the individual categories follows.

New rough sleepers

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

Living on the streets (LOS)

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

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

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

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

RS205+ refers to people who have been identified as especially hard to help because of their prolific history of rough sleeping. This group appear in the LOS chart if they have any number of bedded down contacts within the two months being reported on.

Intermittent rough sleepers

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

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