



A National Statistics publication for Scotland

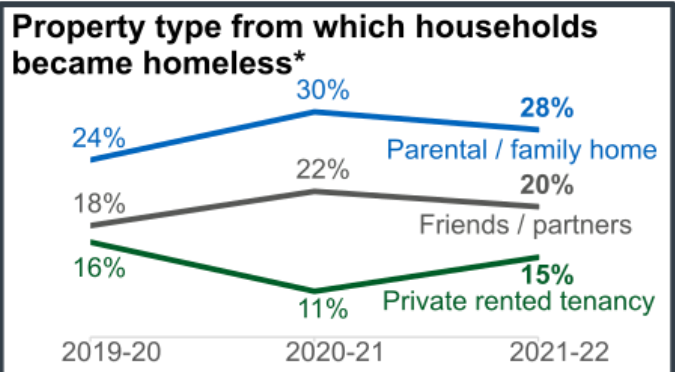
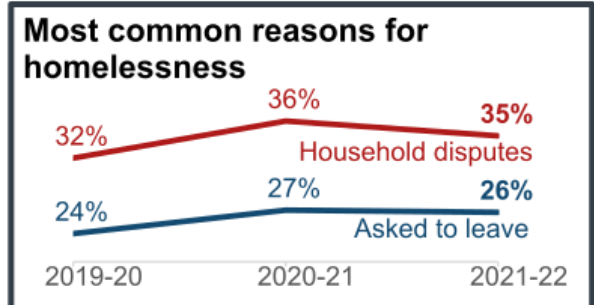
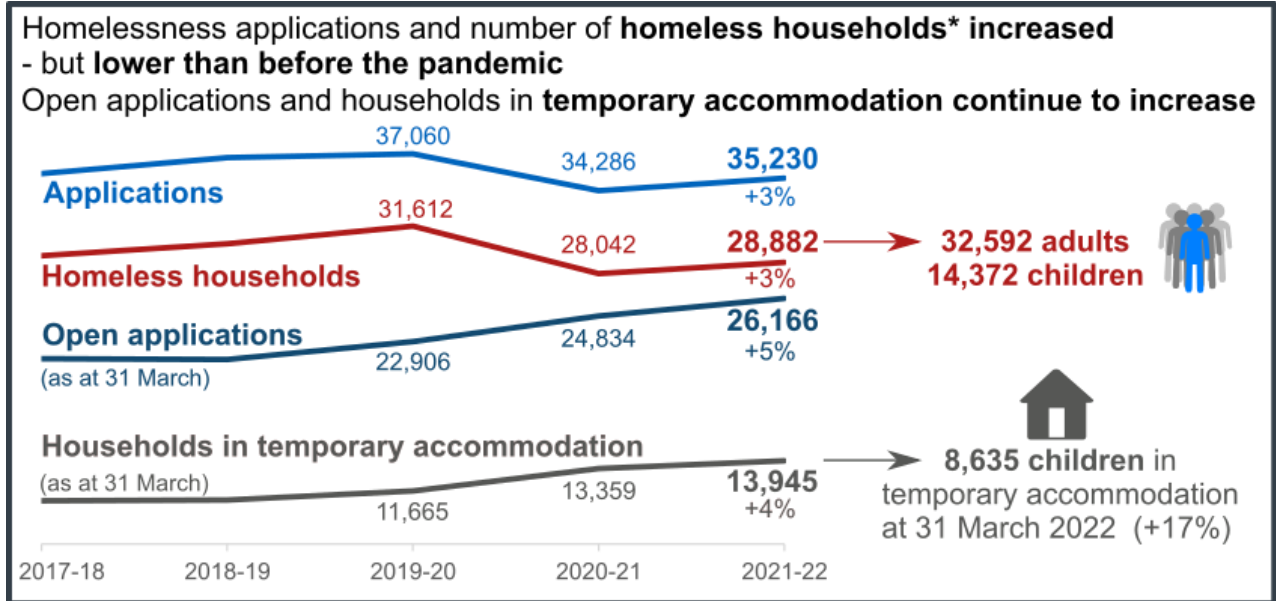
**PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND PLACES**

# **Homelessness in Scotland: 2021/22**

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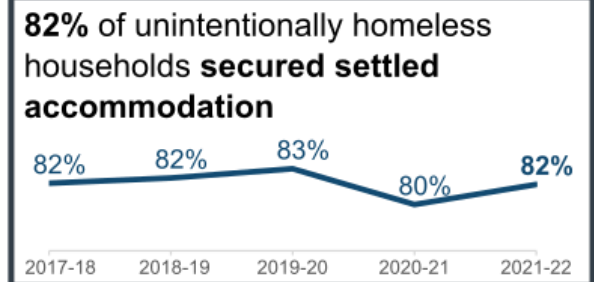
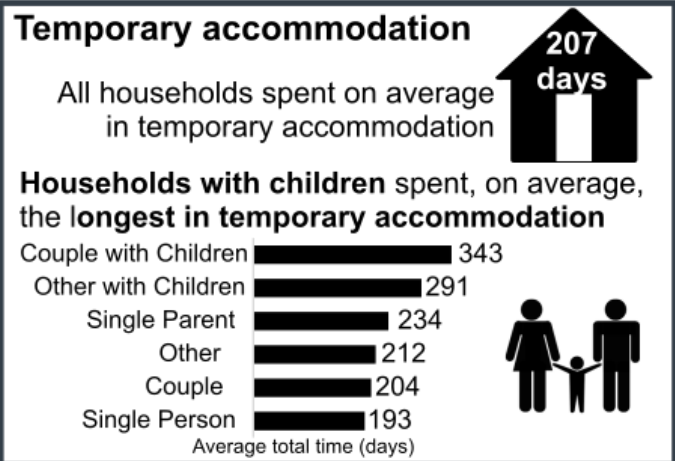
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# Main points for 2021/22

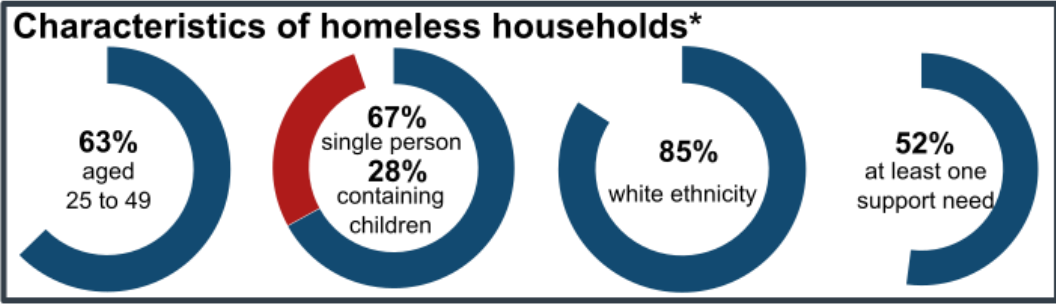


### Rough sleeping

2,129 applicants (6%) reported rough sleeping during the previous three months - down from 7% in 2020/21  
 1,304 (4%) reported rough sleeping the night before - same as in 2020/21



**28,043** homelessness cases closed  
**↑ 5%** compared to 2020/21



\*households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness (intentional or unintentional)

# Introduction

This statistics bulletin provides information on homelessness in Scotland in the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, alongside historical data.

It provides statistical information on all stages of the homelessness process, the circumstances from which households became homeless, use of temporary accommodation and the final outcomes of their application.

Characteristics of the homelessness population, including breakdowns by age, gender and ethnicity have also been released as part of this publication.

The statistics in this publication are based on administrative data collected by local authorities in the course of processing homelessness applications. A limitation of this approach is that data is not collected for any households that are homeless but do not engage with their local authority. For this reason the statistics in this publication do not necessarily cover the entire homeless population in Scotland. More detail on the data sources we use are included at the end of this publication.

Excel workbooks containing the tables and charts referenced in this publication, including local authority breakdowns and historical data, are available to download at:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/homelessness-statistics/>

## A quick guide to the homelessness process

A household is homeless if they have no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere, or have accommodation but cannot reasonably occupy it. A household is threatened with homelessness if it is likely they will become homeless within two months.

There are **three stages involved in a homeless application in Scotland**:

1. The Application stage where the household first presents to the local authority.
2. The Assessment stage which determines:
  - a. If the household is eligible for assistance. Households with no recourse to public funds are not eligible for homelessness assistance, though they may be provided temporary accommodation while their status is assessed.
  - b. whether the household is homeless or threatened with homelessness;
  - c. if the household is homeless, whether this is 'unintentional' or 'intentional';
  - d. and if unintentionally homeless, whether there is a connection to the local authority to which the application was made and/or to any other (Scottish) local authority.
3. The Outcome stage. A case can only be closed once the local authority has fulfilled its statutory duty or contact has been lost for 28 days.

## **What is the statutory duty of the local authority?**

If a household is unintentionally homeless (or threatened with homelessness), the local authority must offer settled accommodation. Until this is available, the local authority must offer temporary accommodation.

If a household is intentionally homeless (or threatened with homelessness), the local authority has no statutory duty to provide settled accommodation (although they may choose to do so). There is a duty to provide temporary accommodation and advice and assistance to help the household secure alternative accommodation.

Temporary accommodation must be offered while the household is awaiting an assessment decision.

The statutory duty lies with the local authority the household applies to. If a household has no local connection to the one to which it applied, but to another local authority, they may be referred.

A household can accept or refuse offers of accommodation. A local authority's duty to secure accommodation for unintentionally homeless people would be fulfilled by an offer that is refused, provided that the offer is a reasonable one.

More information on the duties local authorities have to assist people who are threatened with or experiencing homelessness can be found in the [Code of Guidance on Homelessness](#).

## **A note on interpreting the figures**

It is not possible to make direct links within a reporting year for the different stages of the homelessness process as different households will be at a different stage at different times.

That is, not all applications made in 2021/22 will have an assessment or temporary accommodation placement that year. Similarly, some assessments made in 2021/22 will relate to applications received prior to this; and some temporary placements in 2020/21 will relate to household applications and assessments prior to this also. Furthermore, there will be households who entered and exited temporary accommodation within the same reporting year, and therefore will not appear in the end of year snapshot of households in temporary accommodation.

### **To also note:**

- it is possible for households to make an application and/or be assessed more than once in the same year
- not all households assessed as homeless enter temporary accommodation

The term 'homeless households' is used throughout the publication to denote households who have been assessed as (unintentionally or intentionally) homeless or threatened with homelessness.

## Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19)

In response to the pandemic, local authorities made a huge effort to house all of those in need (including those who would not otherwise be eligible for homelessness support). This included, but was not restricted to, the accommodating of rough sleepers. Where households housed in response to the pandemic have a formal homelessness application to a local authority and/or have a temporary accommodation placement recorded on management information systems, they will be included in the statistics presented in this publication. If there is no corresponding homelessness application and/or temporary accommodation placement recorded, they will not be included.

To protect renters over the COVID-19 period the use of extended notice periods for eviction proceedings were introduced through temporary Coronavirus legislation. In addition, mortgage payment deferrals were introduced across the UK in March 2020 to allow customers experiencing issues paying their mortgage during the COVID-19 pandemic to apply for a break in making mortgage payments for a period of up to 6 months, alongside a temporary ban on home repossessions.

Local authorities are reporting on-going effects of COVID-19 on homelessness service provision. In particular, many are experiencing high levels of backlogs due to both the increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation, and the extended periods households are staying in temporary accommodation. There was an increase in the number of households and length of time in temporary accommodation over the pandemic due local authorities being unable to close cases. This was a result of restrictions limiting the ability to move households into permanent accommodation, including difficulties in carrying out necessary repairs, challenges conducting viewings due to households shielding or self-isolating, and a lower level of lets due to staff, especially registered social landlords, being furloughed. In addition, some households who had previously chosen not to take up temporary accommodation provided by the local authority, now required it as the alternative arrangements they had made were no longer viable due to the pandemic.

These backlogs have more recently been further exacerbated by a shortage of tradespeople and building materials, as well as the increased cost of materials, both of which are limiting the ability to prepare properties for use (as settled and temporary accommodation), particularly between tenancies.

Where findings are believed to have been impacted by COVID-19, including additional protections and on-going effects, these have been outlined within the relevant sections.

To also note that the 2020/21 saw a departure from longer-term trends for some aspects of homelessness, mainly as a result of the unusual circumstances following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and on-going restrictions; this was particularly the case for the period April to June 2020. Caution should therefore be applied when making comparisons with 2020/21 figures, however, these comparisons are in themselves useful in observing any changes in trends since the onset of the pandemic.

# The extent of homelessness in Scotland

## Key Points in 2021/22

- ↑ Homelessness applications and assessments increased but are still below pre-pandemic levels
- ↑ There were 28,882 homeless households comprising 32,592 adults and 14,372 children
- ↑ Open applications and households in temporary accommodation increased
- ↑ Sharper increase in the number of children in temporary accommodation

## Applications, assessments and households in temporary accommodation

**Table A: Annual homelessness applications, assessments and temporary accommodation, 2019/20 to 2021/22.**

Measure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Change 2020/21 to 2021/22	
				Number	Percent
Applications	37,060	34,286	<b>35,230</b>	944	3%
Assessed as homeless	31,612	28,042	<b>28,882</b>	840	3%
Households in temporary accommodation at 31 March	11,665	13,359	<b>13,945</b>	586	4%
Open homelessness applications at 31 March	22,906	24,834	<b>26,166</b>	1,332	5%

Table A shows that there is an increase in the number of applications and households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. This follows a marked reduction between 2019/20 and 2020/21, largely explained by changes in service use as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, [emergency COVID-19 legislation](#) and a [temporary ban on home repossessions](#). The number of homelessness applications and assessments in 2021/22 are still lower than pre-pandemic (2019/20).

Households in temporary accommodation and open homelessness applications continued to increase between March 2021 and March 2022, although not as steeply as between March 2020 and March 2021. This is likely the result of the backlog of cases that built up during COVID-19 and the on-going cost and supply issues for materials and lack of tradespeople which are required to provide settled accommodation.

To note that the national temporary accommodation and open homelessness applications figures are impacted by updated data supplied by Edinburgh Council. Prior to 1 April 2020, Private Sector Lease (PSL) accommodation was not counted as part of Edinburgh's temporary accommodation stock. From a recording perspective, this meant that the homelessness applications associated with these cases were closed and new ones opened if those households re-presented.

The new PSL contract which started on 1 April 2020 allows Edinburgh council to use PSL accommodation for immediate access temporary accommodation placements. This has resulted in cases remaining open with associated PSL temporary accommodation placements. This explains the noticeable increase in the number of temporary accommodation placements within Edinburgh from 1,868 at 31 March 2020 to 2,430 at 31 March 2021 to 3,048 at 31 March 2022. Edinburgh have included Private Sector Leasing in their temporary accommodation statistics for the first time and data has been backdated to 1 April 2020 so figures are on a consistent basis and allowing a meaningful comparison with the previous year.

## **Number of households vs number of people**

While data is provided and reported at a household level, local authorities record the number of people attached to applications. It is therefore possible to understand how many people are affected by homelessness.

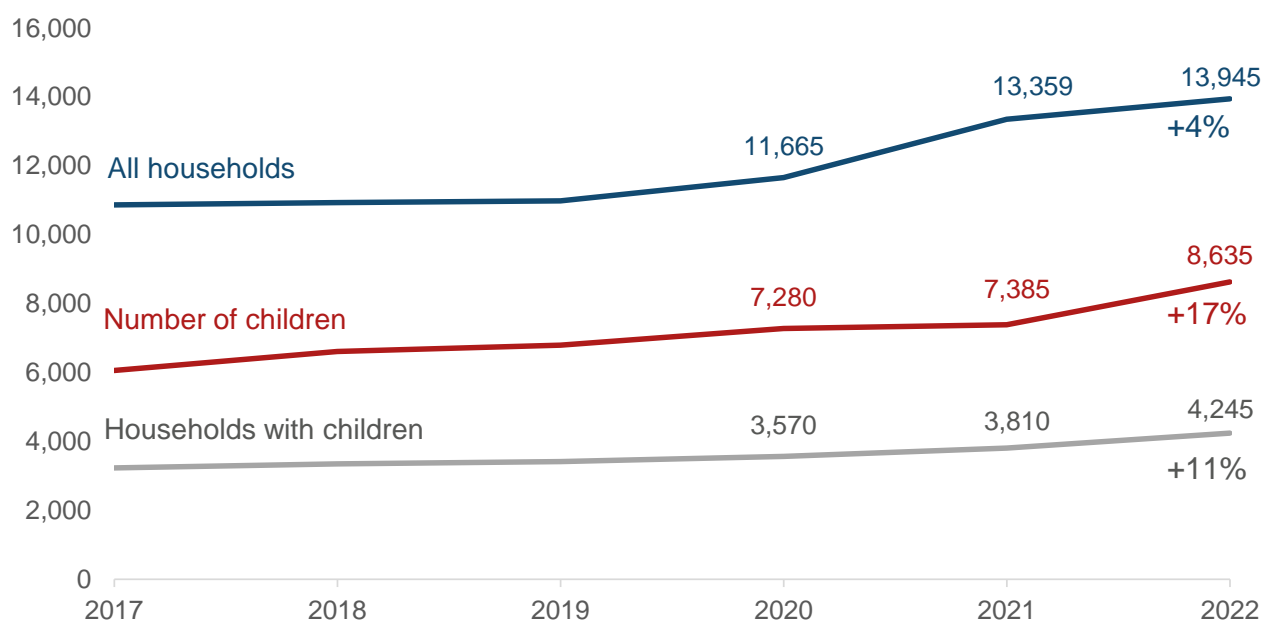
The 28,882 homeless households in 2021/22 contained a total of 46,964 people, comprising 32,592 adults and 14,372 children. The number of adults increased by 6%, while the number of children increased by 17% compared to 2020/21.

This finding is also reflected in the data on temporary accommodation.

## **Sharper increase in the number of children in temporary accommodation than all households in the latest year**



**Chart 1: Number of households, households with children and the number of children in temporary accommodation, as at 31 March 2017 to 2022**



[To note: data is collected through aggregate snapshot temporary accommodation returns for the number of children in temporary accommodation, but not the number of adults.]

The sharper increases in the number of children is a result of the proportion of homeless households with children returning to those similar to what they were pre-pandemic. In 2021/22, 28% of homeless households contained children, which is much more in line with the 29% in 2019/20, both of which were higher than the 25% in 2020/21.

## Intentionality

Of the 28,882 homeless households in 2021/22, 28,513 (99%) were assessed as unintentionally homeless, with the remaining 369 assessed as intentionally homeless.

The small proportion of, and continued numerical decrease in, those assessed as intentionally homeless are due to the changes in legislation from November 2019 which give local authorities the power to assess for intentionality, rather than it being a legal duty to do so.

## Longer term trends

### Longer term trends in homelessness in Scotland are impacted by previous legislation, policy and practice

**Chart 2: Annual homelessness applications, assessments, open applications and households in temporary accommodation, 2002/03 to 2021/22**

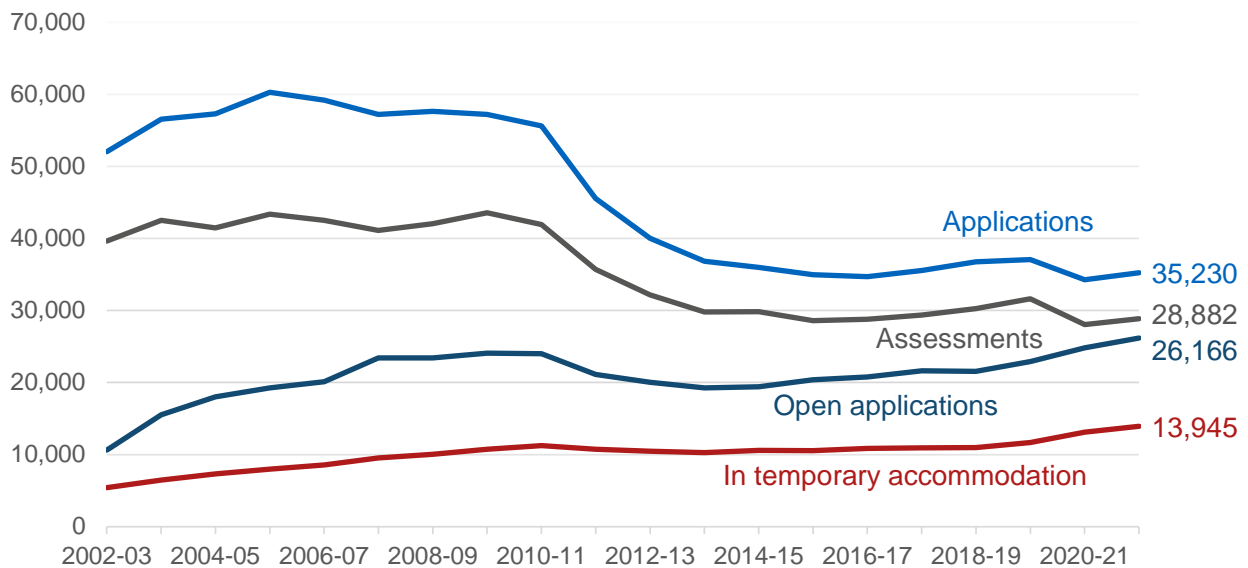


Chart 2 provides a view of the longer-term trends which have been experienced in homelessness. This shows the impact of previous legislation, policy and practice, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21.

In 2001, Scottish homelessness legislation extended councils' duties to non-priority need homeless households. Before 2002, the majority of homeless households in priority need were households with children. Following the 2001 extension duty there was a notable increase in the number of single people applying for homelessness assistance. These single people were also eligible for temporary accommodation. This can, at least in part, explain the increases from 2002/03. The priority need test was abolished on 31 December 2012.

The sharper decrease shown from 2009/10 is likely due to the impact of the introduction of Housing Options services in Scottish local authorities, with a focus on prevention.

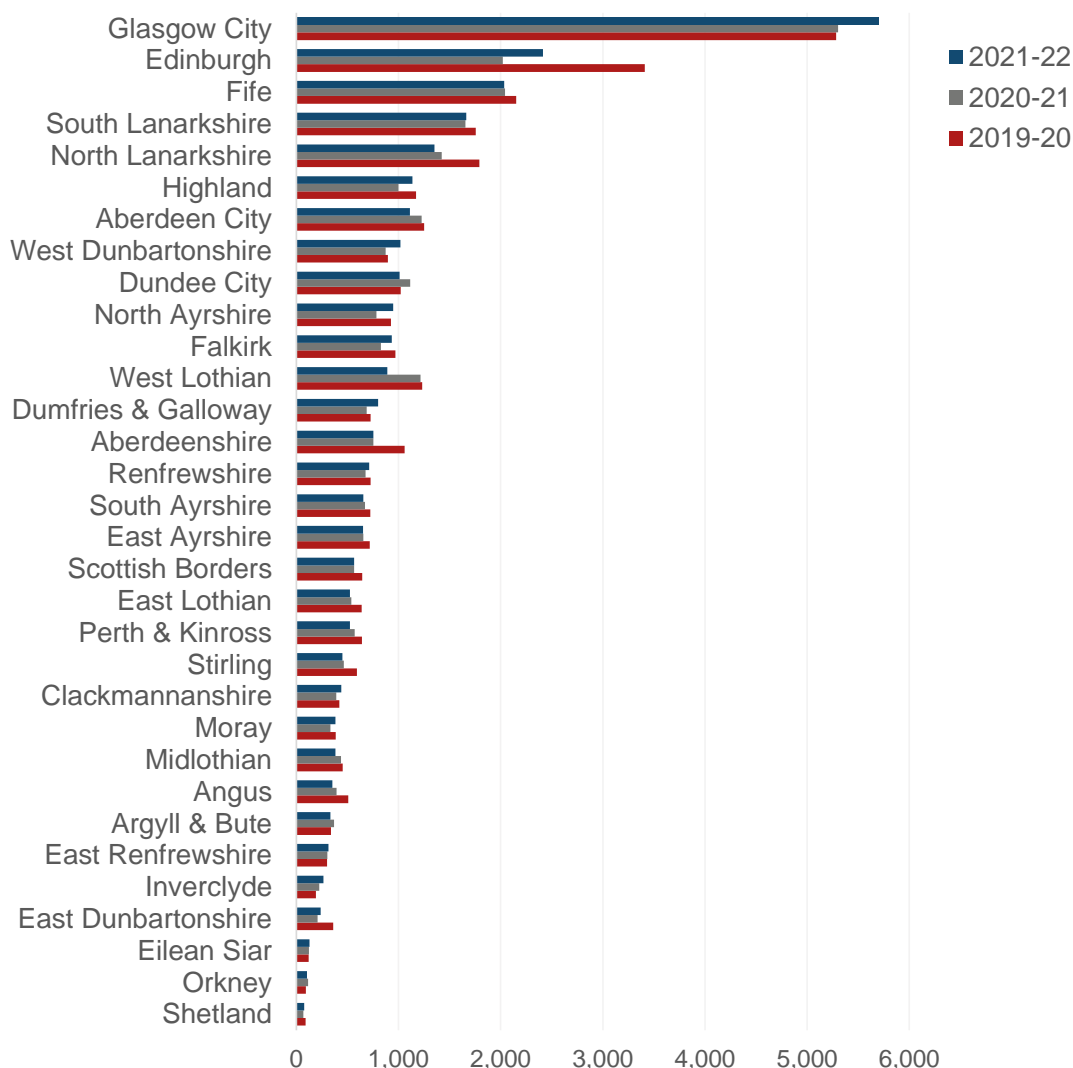
From 2015/16, applications and assessments increased year on year but were markedly lower in 2020/21 as a result of the pandemic. In contrast, open applications and households in temporary accommodation were also increasing but continued to do so during the pandemic. They have now reached the highest levels covered by the data collection.

## How does homelessness vary across Scotland?

Following the reduction in homeless households across most local authorities between 2019/20 and 2020/21 as a result of the pandemic, roughly half recorded increases in 2021/22 compared to the previous year.

### Most homeless households are in Glasgow

**Chart 3: Number of homeless households by local authority, 2019/20 to 2021/22**



Glasgow recorded the largest numerical increase of 399 more homeless households compared to 2020/21 (from 5,302 to 5,701). This is the highest number of homeless households in Glasgow since 2012/13.

This may be partly due to the higher number of applications from refugees who have been granted 'Leave to Remain' status that Glasgow receive compared to other local authorities. For some time Glasgow was the only Scottish local authority the Home Office directed asylum seekers to while their claim was being processed. However, in the last year there have been some placements in other local authorities, albeit not in the same concentration as in Glasgow.

Edinburgh saw a similar increase of 393 homeless households in 2021/22 compared to the previous year (from 2,020 to 2,413). However, this remains well below pre-pandemic figures with 3,412 homeless households recorded in 2019/20. The longer-term trend in Edinburgh has been a reduction in the number of homeless households.

Other notable increases in households assessed as homeless include North Ayrshire (up 166, from 783 to 949), West Dunbartonshire (up 146, from 873 to 1,019) and Highland (up 138, from 999 to 1,137).

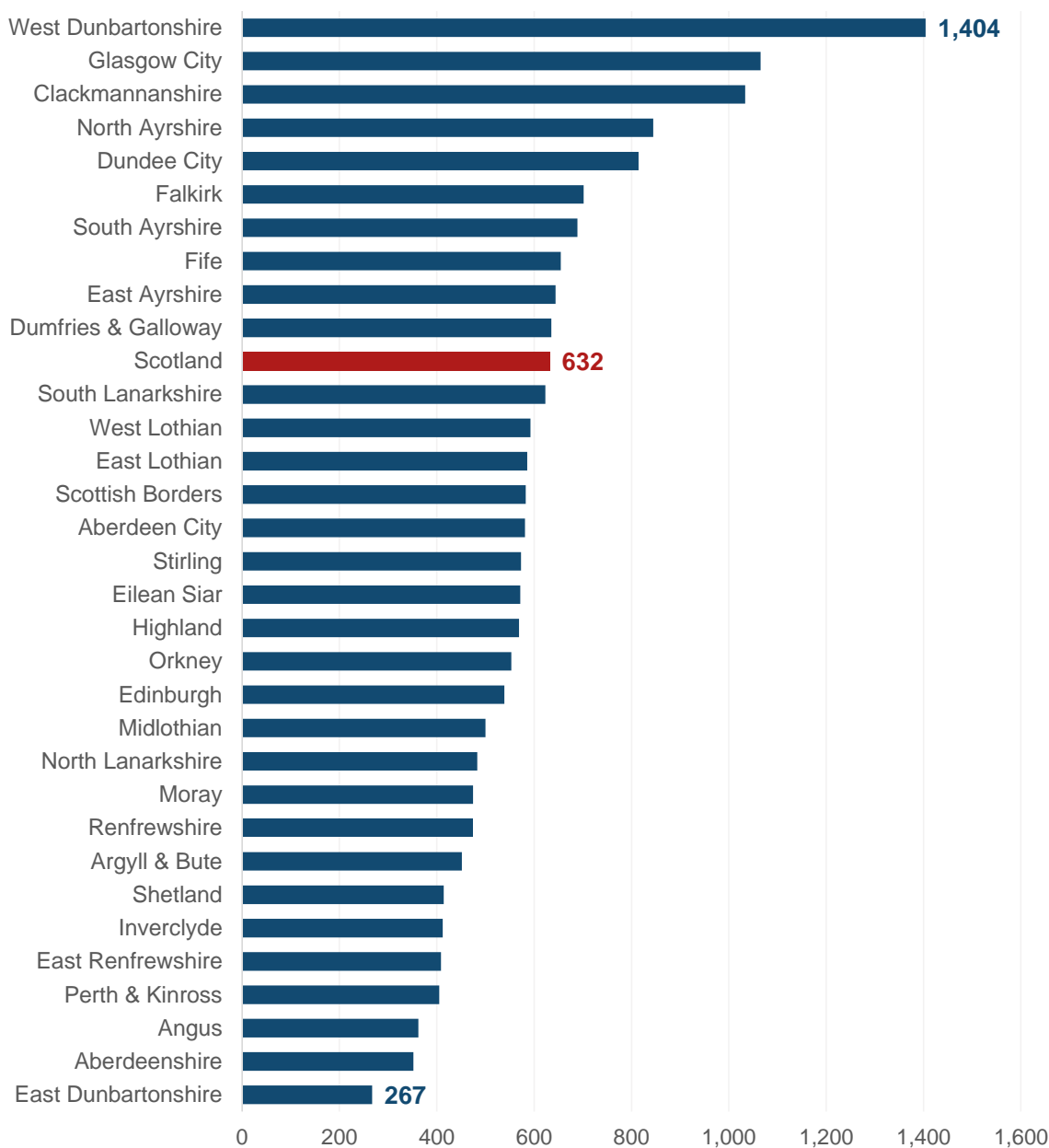
A number of local authorities have seen downwards trends of homelessness over the last few years. West Lothian saw the largest numerical reduction of 326 homeless households in 2021/22 (from 1,217 to 891). This is the lowest number they have recorded since the start of the data collection. Other notable decreases include Aberdeen (down 113, from 1,226 to 1,113) and Dundee (down 104, from 1,114 to 1,010).

## Rates of homelessness and households in temporary accommodation

Comparing homelessness figures with the population for each local authority (i.e. rates) provides a useful insight as to how homelessness varies across Scotland.

### 632 households per 100,000 population in Scotland assessed as homeless

Chart 4: Homeless households per 100,000 population (aged 16+), 2021/22

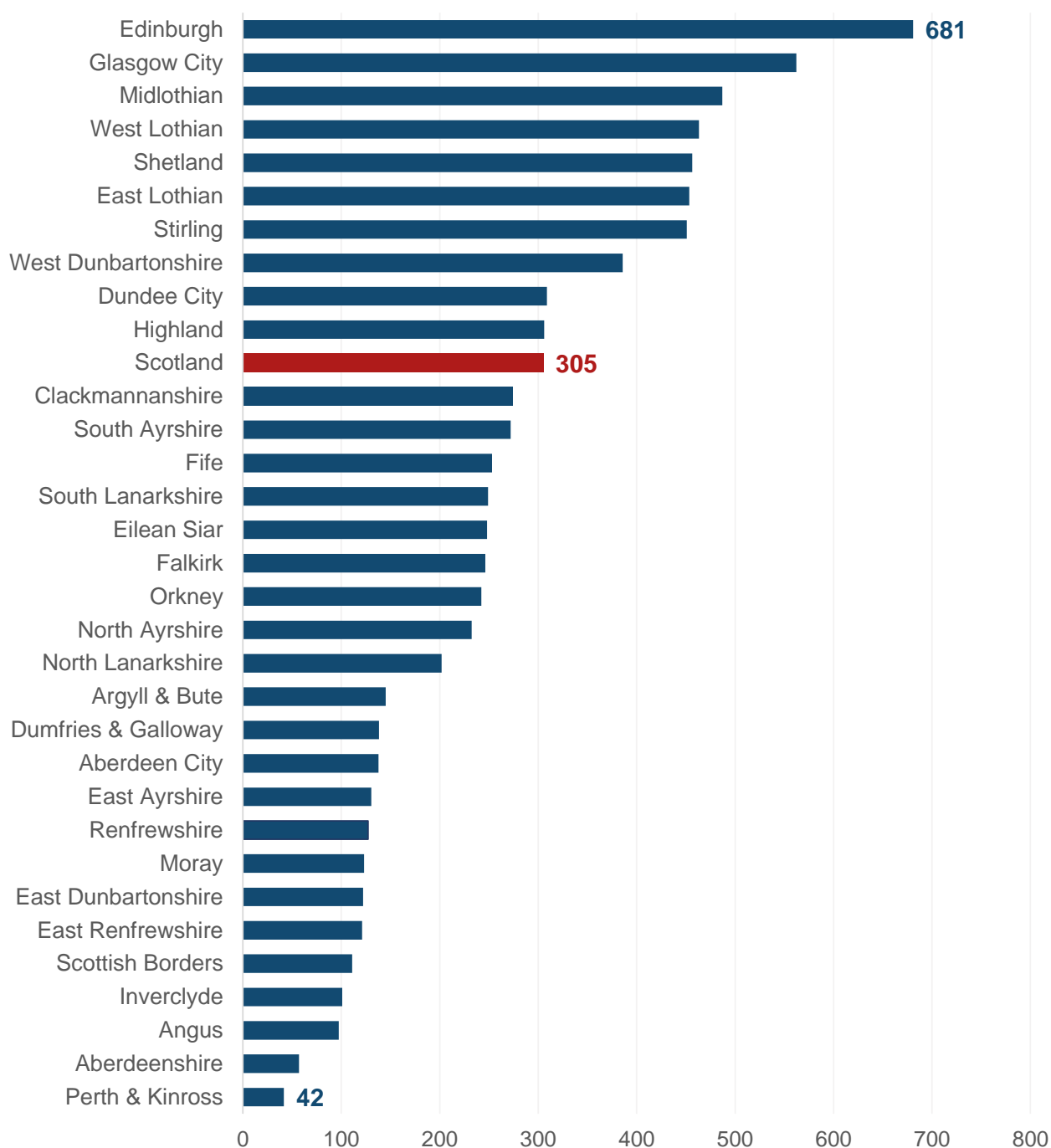


Glasgow has the second highest rate at 1,065 and Edinburgh is below the national average with a rate of 539 households per 100,000 population.

Interestingly, the use of temporary accommodation does not follow the same pattern (in terms of rates) as the number of homeless households at a local authority level. This implies some local authorities have a disproportionately high use of temporary accommodation, while others are disproportionately low.

## Edinburgh has twice the national rate of households in temporary accommodation

**Chart 5: Households in temporary accommodation per 100,000 population (aged 16+), as at 31 March 2022**



Edinburgh having the highest rate of households in temporary accommodation is in contrast to the rate of homeless households in Edinburgh being below the national average.

Glasgow has the second highest rate of households in temporary accommodation at 562 households per 100,000 population, which is in keeping with their rates of homeless households.

# Reasons for homelessness and prior circumstances

## Key Points in 2021/22

- ↓ Household disputes (35%) and asked to leave (26%) remain the most common reasons for homelessness. Although lower in proportion than last year (36% and 27% respectively in 2020/21), they are still higher than pre-pandemic (32% and 24% respectively in 2019/20).
- ↓ The proportions of applicants that became homeless from a family home (28%) or friends/partners (20%) were also lower than last year (30% and 22% respectively in 2020/21), but are still higher than pre-pandemic (24% and 18% respectively in 2019/20).
- ↑ Increase in homelessness from private rented tenancies (from 11% in 2020/21 to 15% in 2021/22)
- ↓ Rough sleeping prior to making a homelessness application continues to decrease; 6% reported rough sleeping in the three months prior and 4% the night before (compared to 7% and 4% of applicants in 2020/21)

## Why do households make a homelessness application?

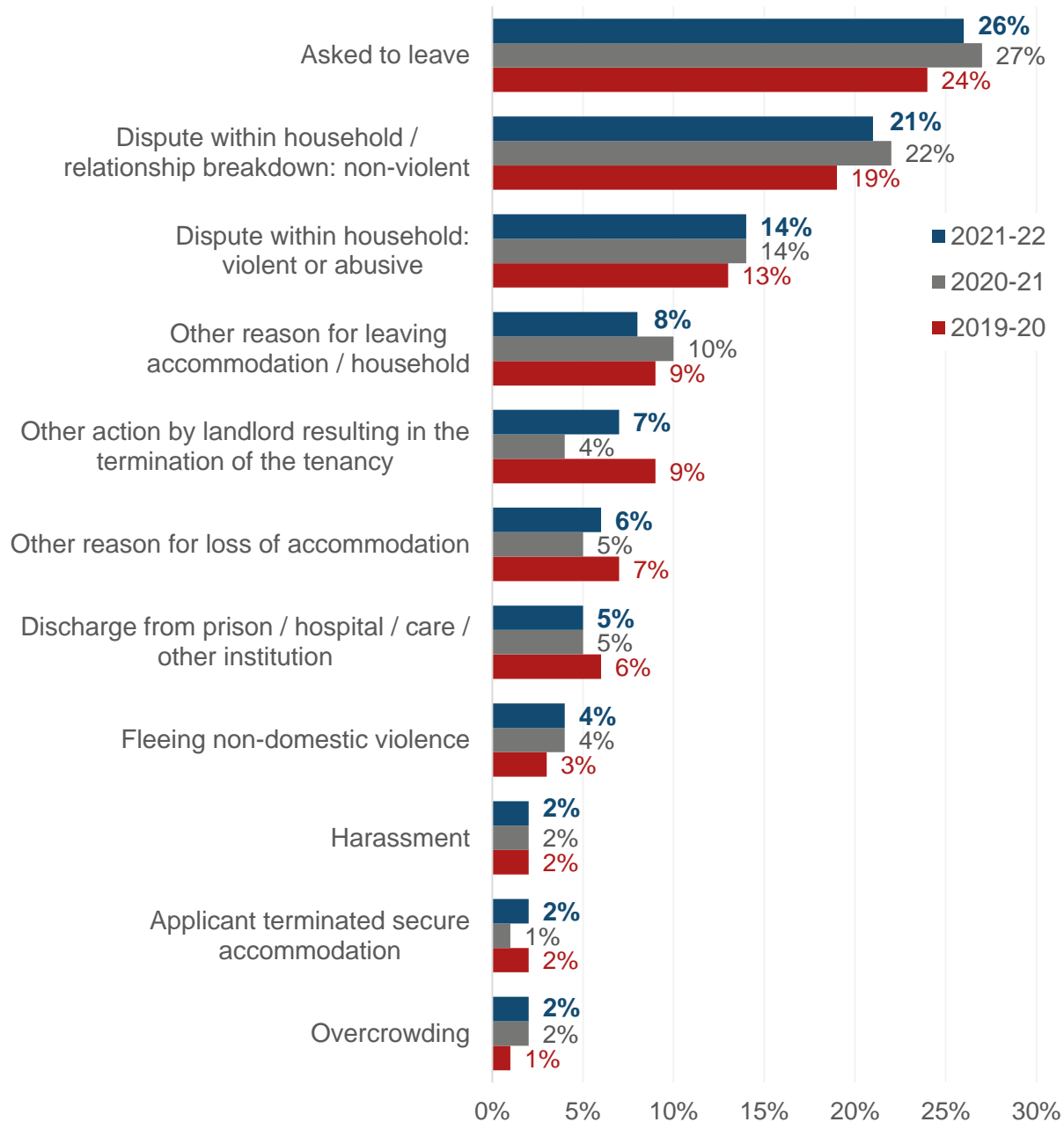
'Asked to leave' and 'household disputes' remain the most common reasons given for making a homelessness application. Although the proportions of applications that state these as reasons decreased in the latest year, they are still higher than pre-pandemic proportions.

The reason of 'other action by landlord resulting in the termination of the tenancy' increased in the latest year, following a reduction between 2019/20 and 2020/21. This may be due to the temporary measures introduced to protect renters over the COVID-19 period being lifted. Measures included the use of extended notice periods for eviction proceedings.

'Fleeing non-domestic violence' has increased over the past five years to reach the highest number of applications stating this as a reason since 2009/10 (1,564 in 2021/22). At the same time, 'discharge from prison / hospital / care / other institution' has decreased to reach its lowest number since the start of the data collection in 2007/08 (1,809 in 2021/22).

## Asked to leave and household disputes remain most common reasons for homelessness

Chart 6: Main reasons for homelessness, 2019/20 to 2021/22



Some applicants (76%) also provide additional reasons for homelessness. 'Not to do with the applicant household' and 'mental health reasons' are increasing compared to 2020/21 (from 33% to 37% and 17% to 20% respectively) to reach their highest levels in the time series. In contrast, 'lack of support from friends and family' has decreased, although still higher than pre-pandemic proportions (16% in 2021/22 compared to 18% in 2020/21 and 14% in 2019/20).

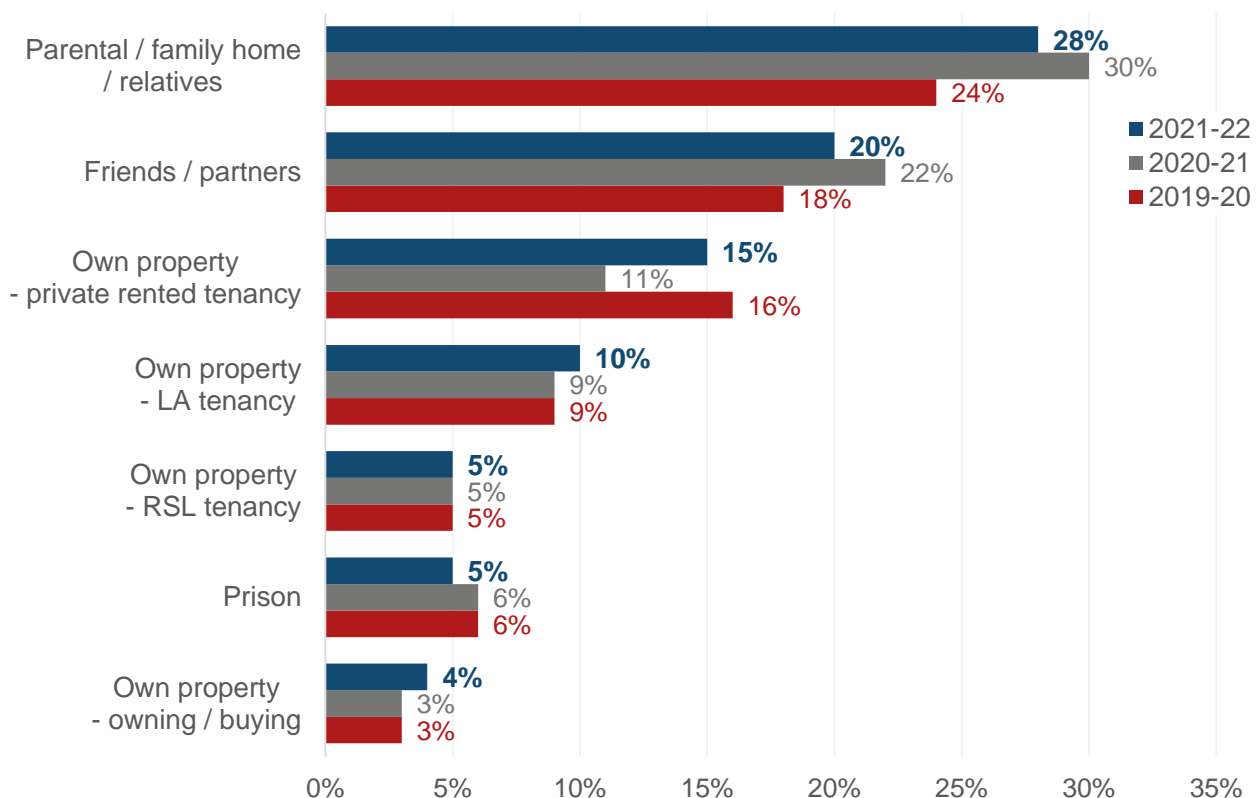


## What are the prior circumstances of the homeless population?

As part of the application process information is gathered on the following: where the household became homeless from; whether anyone in the household had slept rough; whether anyone in the household was former armed forces; whether anyone in the household had been previously looked after by their local authority as a child; and any existing support needs.

## Increase in the proportion becoming homeless from private rented tenancies and a decrease from family, friends and partners

**Chart 7: Property type from which the household became homeless, 2019/20 to 2021/22**

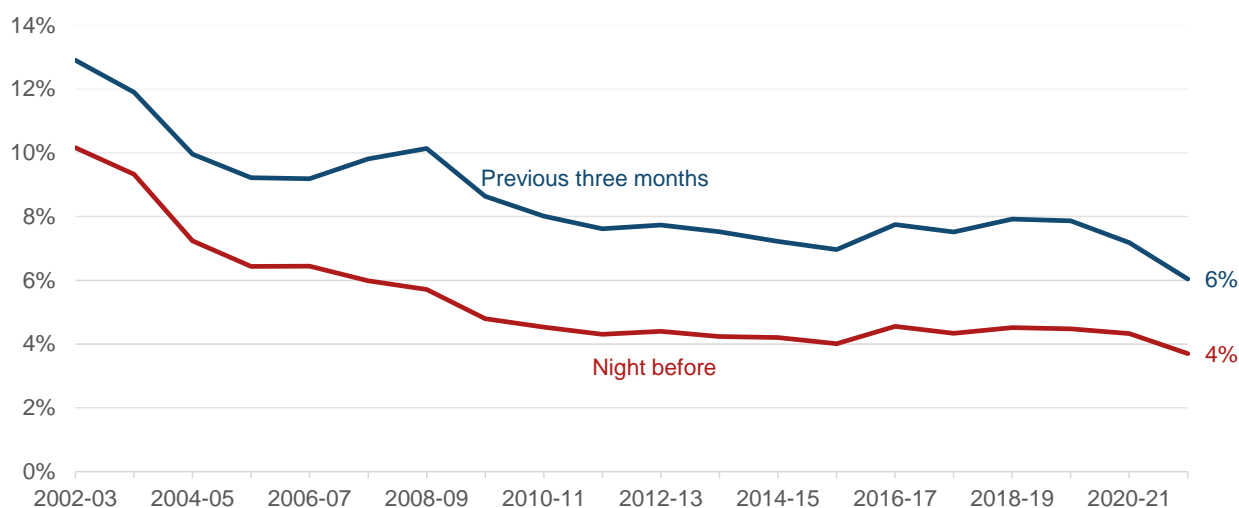


The proportions becoming homeless from a family home or friends/partners still remain above pre-pandemic proportions. The decline in proportion from 2020/21 mirrors the decreases in those becoming homeless following a household dispute.

Those becoming homeless from a private rented tenancy are now much closer to pre-pandemic proportions. The increase here, as well as from a local authority tenancy and from own property, may be due to the ceasing of the [ban on evictions](#), home repossessions and [mortgage deferrals](#), as part of the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

## Rough sleeping prior to making a homelessness application continues to decrease

**Chart 8: Households experiencing rough sleeping as a proportion of applications, 2002/03 to 2021/22**



There were 1,304 households that included at least one household member who experienced rough sleeping the night before their application. A total of 2,129 households reported at least one household member experiencing rough sleeping in the three months prior to their application.

The numbers reporting rough sleeping increase and decrease to reflect the trends in applications. The proportions reporting rough sleeping have remained fairly constant since 2010/11. However, over the past two years the proportions reporting rough sleeping in the three months prior to their application have decreased (from 8% of all applications in 2019/20). This may be related to the efforts made by local authorities to house those in need, which included, but not restricted to, the accommodating of rough sleepers.

There is notable variation between local authorities, with a high of 13% of all applications in Dumfries & Galloway compared to a low of 0% of applications in Fife and Midlothian reporting rough sleeping in the previous three months.

The majority of local authorities report decreases, most notably Dundee and West Lothian (54% and 32% reduction in rough sleeping in the previous three months respectively compared to 2020/21). Some notable increases include Clackmannanshire (33%), East Lothian (25%) and Dumfries & Galloway (19%), who recorded more applications where at least one member of the household had slept rough in the previous three months compared to 2021/22. Note that these proportions represent relatively small numerical changes.

There were 639 households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness that had a household member that was previously a member of the armed forces. This is a 7% fall compared to 2020/21, and accounts for 2% of all homeless households. There was also 963 households that contained a household member aged under 25 that had been looked after by their local authority as a child. This accounts for 5% of all households with a household member under the age of 25.

The proportion of homeless households reporting a support need has increased over time – from 33% in 2007/08 to 52% in 2021/22. The biggest increases have been experienced for support needs for mental health (from 12% to 29%) and basic housing management (10% to 24%).

# Temporary accommodation

## Key Points in 2021/22

- 58% of temporary accommodation used is social sector for all households compared to 67% for households with children
- ↑ The average time in temporary accommodation has increased to 207 days
- Households with children spend longer in temporary accommodation than those without - 47% of households with children spent seven months or more in temporary accommodation compared to 38% of households without children
- There were 690 cases of households not being offered temporary accommodation
- There were 2,015 breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order (**to be treated with caution – see notes below**)

## Sources of temporary accommodation data

Since 2002, local authorities have provided aggregate snapshot information relating to households in temporary accommodation. While this allows trends to be explored over time, understanding around individual placements and how these relate to assessed households is not possible from the snapshot data. Therefore, since 1 April 2016 placement level information on households in temporary accommodation has been provided to enable a more rounded picture of the use of temporary accommodation.

The snapshot data shows 13,945 households in temporary accommodation as at 31 March 2022. The placement level returns show that there were 14,527 temporary accommodation placements open at 31 March 2022 – higher (582, 4%) than the snapshot returns. Differences may be explained by the returns including different types of temporary accommodation and the placement level returns experiencing a lag in cases being closed.

Both of these figures show households in temporary accommodation at a point in time and, as such, will include those who have recently entered temporary accommodation as well as those who have been in temporary accommodation for a longer period of time (including prior to the reporting year).

## Reporting of temporary accommodation

When considering certain aspects of temporary accommodation such as number of placements, average time spent in temporary accommodation etc., the true extent of this can only be fully understood once a household has exited temporary accommodation. A household is considered to have 'exited' temporary accommodation in a reporting year only if their homelessness case has closed.

## How many people entered temporary accommodation? How many exited?

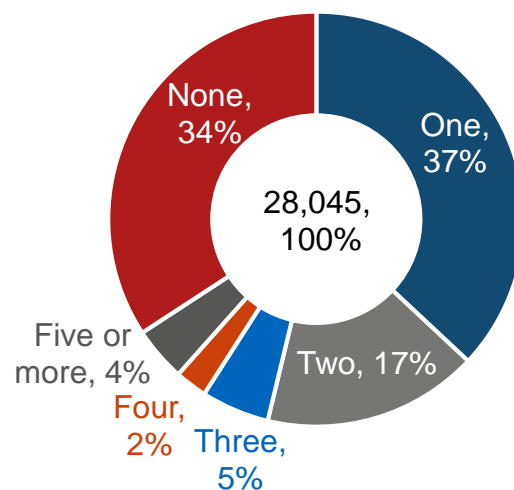
In 2021/22, 21,589 households entered a first temporary accommodation placement. This will include households who made a homelessness application prior to this year. At the same time in 2021/22, 18,974 households exited their final temporary accommodation placement.

These figures give a net difference of 2,615 more households entering temporary accommodation than exiting. This ties in with the increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation which can be seen in the snapshot figures. Although the numbers will not match given the differences outlined above.

The largest increases are seen in Edinburgh, 870 more households entering than exiting, and Glasgow, 836 more households entering than exiting.

## Most homelessness applicants have one or no temporary accommodation placements

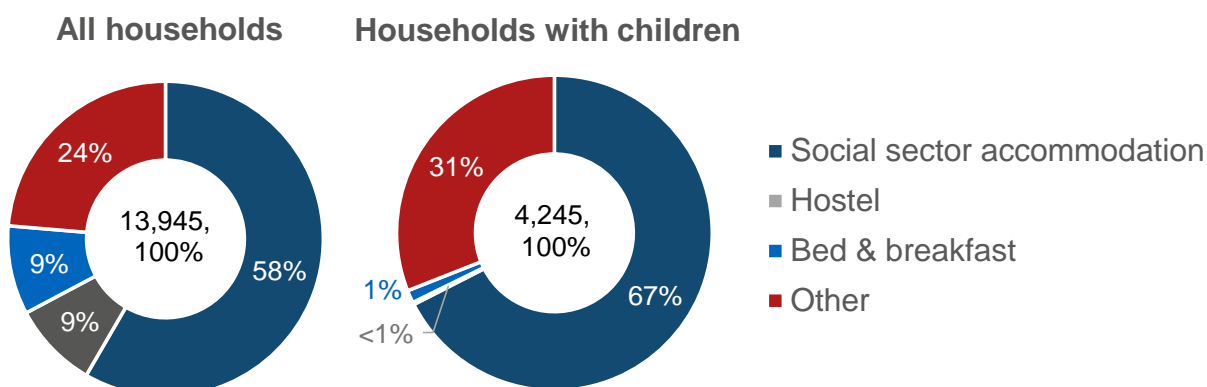
**Chart 9: Number of temporary accommodation placements for applications closing in 2021/22**



There is variation in the number of placements between local authorities. All homeless households in Shetland had at least one temporary accommodation placement. This contrasts with 70% of homeless households in Scottish Borders that had no temporary accommodation placement. Although caution should be applied for local authorities with small numbers of households. In Edinburgh, 28% of homeless households had five placements or more, higher than any other local authority.

## Social sector accommodation is the most common type of temporary accommodation, in particular for households with children

Chart 10: Type of temporary accommodation used as at 31 March 2022



The use of bed & breakfast accommodation as at 31 March 2022 was similar to the previous year after having increased (from 7% in 2020). Local authorities face a backlog of cases in bed & breakfast accommodation that built up during COVID-19 which they are attempting to move to other temporary or settled accommodation. Issues accessing accommodation are ongoing due to the supply and cost of building materials, and the availability of tradespeople to turn around empty properties.

The use of hostel accommodation decreased slightly (from 12% at 31 March 2020 and 10% at 31 March 2021).

Data from the placement level data collection can provide further insight into the total use of temporary accommodation over the lifecycle of homelessness cases. However, it is difficult to make direct comparisons with the snapshot data as different categories of temporary accommodation are used between the two returns.

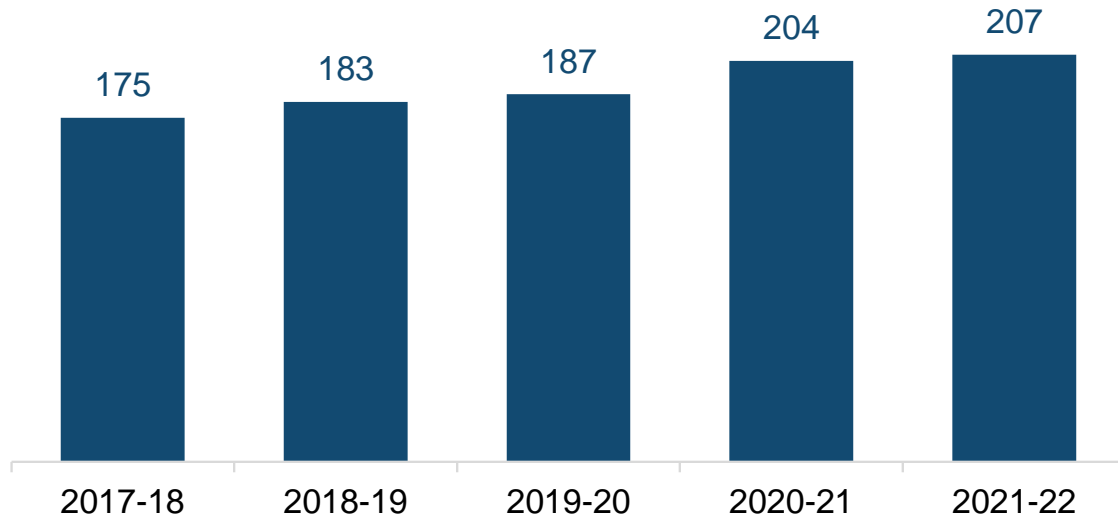
There were 39,340 temporary accommodation placements taken up in 2021/22. 41% of temporary accommodation placements were in local authority or housing association/registered social landlord (RSL) accommodation; 23% of placements were in hostel accommodation; and 22% of placements were in bed & breakfast accommodation.

The higher proportion of hostel and bed & breakfast accommodation in the placement level returns (45% vs 18%) indicates that these types of temporary accommodation are more frequently used than the snapshot data suggests. However, this can be explained by the fact that the average duration for stays in these types of accommodation is much shorter - for example, 36 days in bed and breakfast compared to an average of 107 days for all temporary accommodation – and therefore they account for a much smaller proportion of the overall use of temporary accommodation.

Data on the number of placements and average length of time will help improve understanding of the ways in which different types of temporary accommodation are used.

## Average total time in temporary accommodation is increasing year on year

Chart 11: The average number of days spent in temporary accommodation for cases that closed, 2017/18 to 2021/22



This is a continued increase to 207 days spent in temporary accommodation on average in 2021/22 from 204 days last year. This is likely related to the fact more people are staying in temporary accommodation for longer as a result of the previously mentioned backlog of cases and difficulties providing settled accommodation due to issues with materials and tradespeople.

Note that total duration is calculated by summing the time a household spends in individual placements, excluding time between placements when a household is not in temporary accommodation. As a result the time a household spends in temporary accommodation may not be continuous.

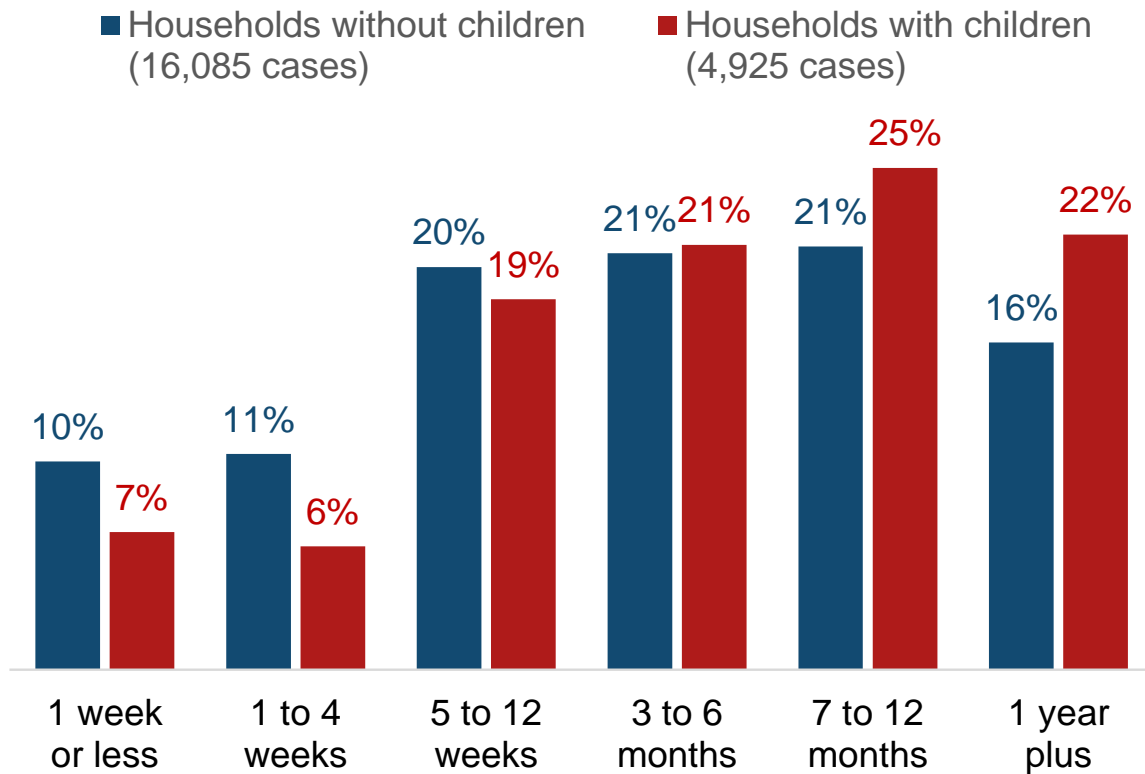
Average total time spent in temporary accommodation varies by local authority. In Midlothian, the average total time is 524 days, a reduction of 87 days from 2020/21. East Dunbartonshire has an average of 340 days which is above the national average (207), but is a reduction of 126 days from 2020/21.

The largest increases in average total time spent in temporary accommodation were in Edinburgh (increase of 85, from 364 to 449 days) and Stirling (increase of 83 from 239 to 322 days).

Average total time spent in temporary accommodation also varies by household type.

## Households with children spend longer in temporary accommodation

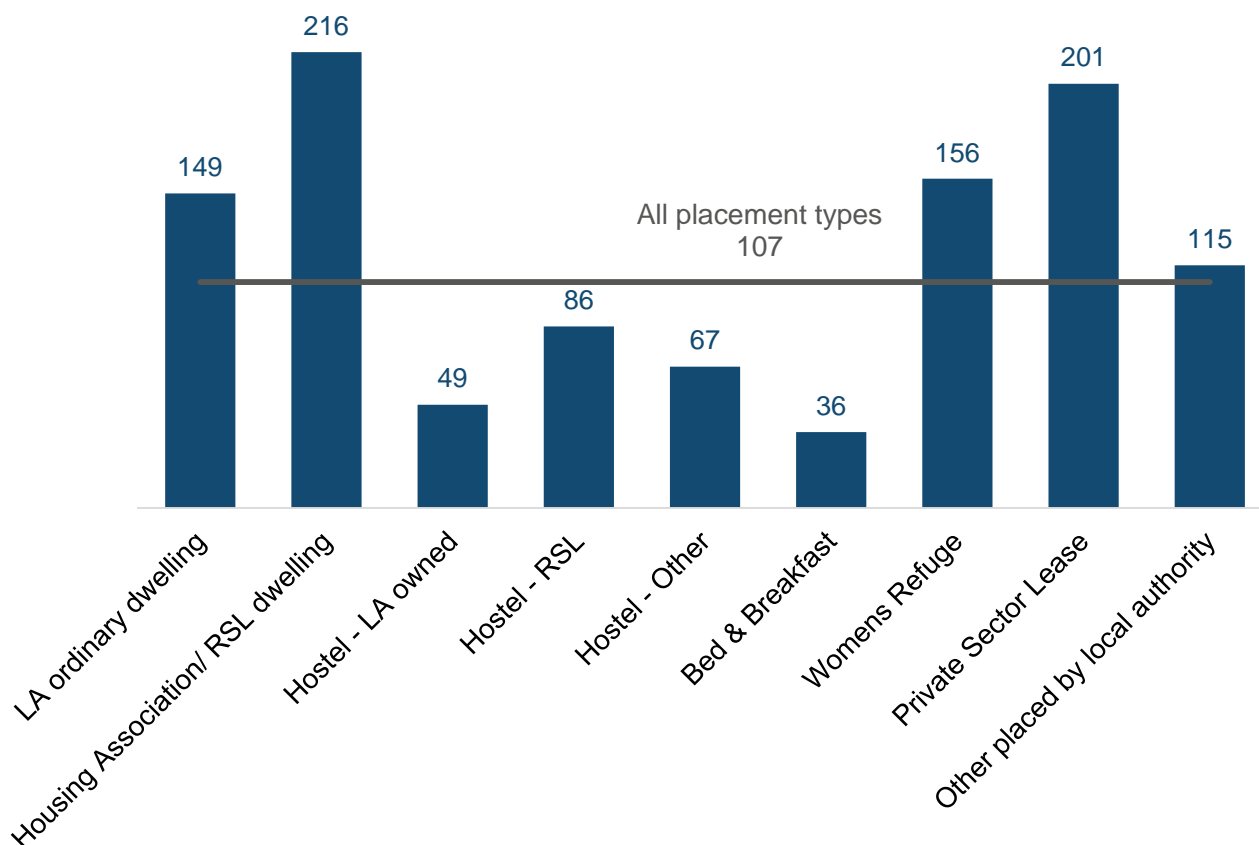
Chart 12: Time households with and without children spent in temporary accommodation (cases that closed in 2021/22)



[To note: information about individuals within temporary accommodation placements is not available from the placement level data. Household type has therefore been derived from the information provided on the homelessness application. This accounts for the difference in the number of households with children compared to the snapshot data return.]

## Households spend the longest, on average, in housing association accommodation and accommodation with a private sector lease

Chart 13: The average number of days spent in temporary accommodation placements, by placement type, 2021/22



This confirms the expected shorter-term use of bed & breakfast and hostel accommodation.

### How often do applicants refuse temporary accommodation?

A household can choose to refuse an offer of temporary accommodation made by the local authority. However, a household that has refused an offer of temporary accommodation may accept a subsequent offer.

In 2021/22, there were 6,920 cases of households refusing offers of temporary accommodation. This is a decrease of 385 (5%) compared to 2020/21, following a previously large increase of 30% between 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Just under half of all local authorities recorded less refusals of temporary accommodation in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. Particularly large reductions were seen in Aberdeenshire (reduction of 435, from 680 to 245) and Glasgow (reduction of 320, from 3,205 to 2,885).



## How often do local authorities fail to provide temporary accommodation?

A local authority is required to indicate when they do not offer temporary accommodation to a household and are therefore acting unlawfully. During 2021/22, there were 690 instances of households not being offered temporary accommodation. This is a 16% increase compared to 2020/21 (from 595 to 690). The majority of these cases were in Edinburgh (670). However, overall this is an 85% decrease compared to 2019/20, mainly due to a reduction in Glasgow from 3,830 to less than 5 in the most recent year.

## How often do local authorities breach unsuitable accommodation legislation?

**Important!** These figures should be treated with caution due to:  
a) reporting anomalies and inconsistencies;  
b) uncertainty caused by the extension of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO) legislation in May 2020; and  
c) the existence of COVID-19 exceptions between May 2020 and September 2021.  
See below for further details on all of these.

Between April 2021 and March 2022 there were 2,015 reported breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order (UAO). There were 370 in the first six months and 1,645 in the last six months. This is an increase of 1,505 breaches from 2020/21. The stark increase is very likely due to the ceasing of the COVID-19 exceptions on 30 September 2021.

These figures being the largest in the series is likely also due to the extension of the legislation to all households. Prior to May 2020, this only applied to households with a pregnant member and/or children.

Edinburgh accounts for the largest number of breaches, 850 (out of the 2,015) with a noticeable increase from October 2021. Fife accounts for 425, West Lothian for 325, Glasgow for 220 and East Lothian for 135.

## Reporting anomalies and inconsistencies

Increased scrutiny of the data brought about by changes in legislation and the introduction of COVID-19 exceptions has uncovered some anomalies and inconsistencies in the reporting of breaches.

- 115 (6%) of the breaches recorded related to temporary accommodation placements less than 8 days. 35 (2% of the 2,015) do not have any other associated placements/or other placements still have the cumulative total less than 8 days. This implies these 35 cases may have been marked as a breach in error.
- 85 (5%) placements which started between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 that were more than 7 days were not recorded as a breach. For 25 of these, it does appear that they have associate placements which were recorded as a breach. This implies that 60 (4%) were not marked as a breach when they should have been.

In addition, it has become evident that not all local authorities approach the reporting of breaches in the same way. Although the majority of local authorities reported a breach

against individual placements only (i.e. if one placement was greater than seven days a breach was recorded: if not, no breach was recorded), some local authorities reported breaches if the cumulative total of all placements associated with the same homelessness application was greater than seven days. This also highlighted that the majority of local authorities were recording breaches at placement level and not application level, in line with the wording used in the legislation, which states "...in total in respect of that person's application".

Enhanced guidance as to how to accurately and consistently record breaches, in line with legislation, has now been issued to local authorities. However, this did not come into effect until 1 April 2022 and therefore is beyond the scope of this publication. From 1 April 2022 there will also be increased scrutiny and additional quality assurance processes built in to ensure accurate and consistent data recording.

## **Changes in legislation**

Prior to 5 May 2020, a breach was encountered when a household with a pregnant member and/or child is in unsuitable temporary accommodation for more than 7 days. From 5 May 2020, this was extended to all households. Therefore, breaches figures before and from the 5 May 2020 are not comparable. To also note, this falls in the middle of a reporting quarter.

## **COVID-19 exceptions**

Temporary exceptions were put in place to allow local authorities to provide households with accommodation in response to COVID-19. The legislation noted that a placement was not considered unsuitable if:

- a person in the household has symptoms of coronavirus and the household requires to isolate; or
- the accommodation is required to provide temporary accommodation to ensure that a distance of 2 metres can be maintained between a member of the household and a person who is not a member of the household in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus; or
- the local authority is unable to place the household in suitable accommodation as a result of the impacts of coronavirus on temporary accommodation supply in the area, provided that where a household includes a child or a pregnant woman, the household is not placed in unsuitable accommodation for more than 7 days.

The first two of these came into effect in May 2020 and the third came into effect on 30 September 2020. All ceased on 30 September 2021. Again, this means that data will not be comparable across the series.

A household placed in unsuitable accommodation for longer than 7 days where an exception did not apply must still be recorded as a breach.

# Outcomes

## Key Points in 2021/22

- ↑ 28,043 homelessness cases closed (unintentionally and intentionally homeless) - an increase of 5%
- ↑ 82% of unintentionally homeless households secured settled accommodation, increasing from 80% in 2020/21
- ↓ The proportions of households re-assessed as homeless are the lowest in the time series; 8% of applicants re-assessed in the previous two years compared to 9% in 2020/21 and 10% in 2007/08

Homelessness cases are closed once the local authority has fulfilled its statutory duty or contact has been lost with the applicant household for 28 days. Local authorities provide information on the circumstances and outcomes of homelessness cases once they have been closed.

## Number of cases closed

Overall, 28,043 cases were closed in 2021/22, an increase of 5% compared to 2020/21.

There were 6% more homelessness cases closed in 2021/22 for applications assessed as unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness (27,679 compared to 26,167 in 2020/21). The number of cases closed declined following the outbreak of COVID-19. They have now started to increase but are yet to reach pre-pandemic levels (28,586 in 2019/20).

There were 37% fewer intentionally homelessness cases closed (from 580 to 364). This, again, is a result of the changes in intentionality legislation as noted previously.

## How often do local authorities lose contact with applicants?

For households assessed in 2021/22, contact was maintained for 93% of those assessed as unintentionally homeless and for 88% assessed as intentionally homeless.

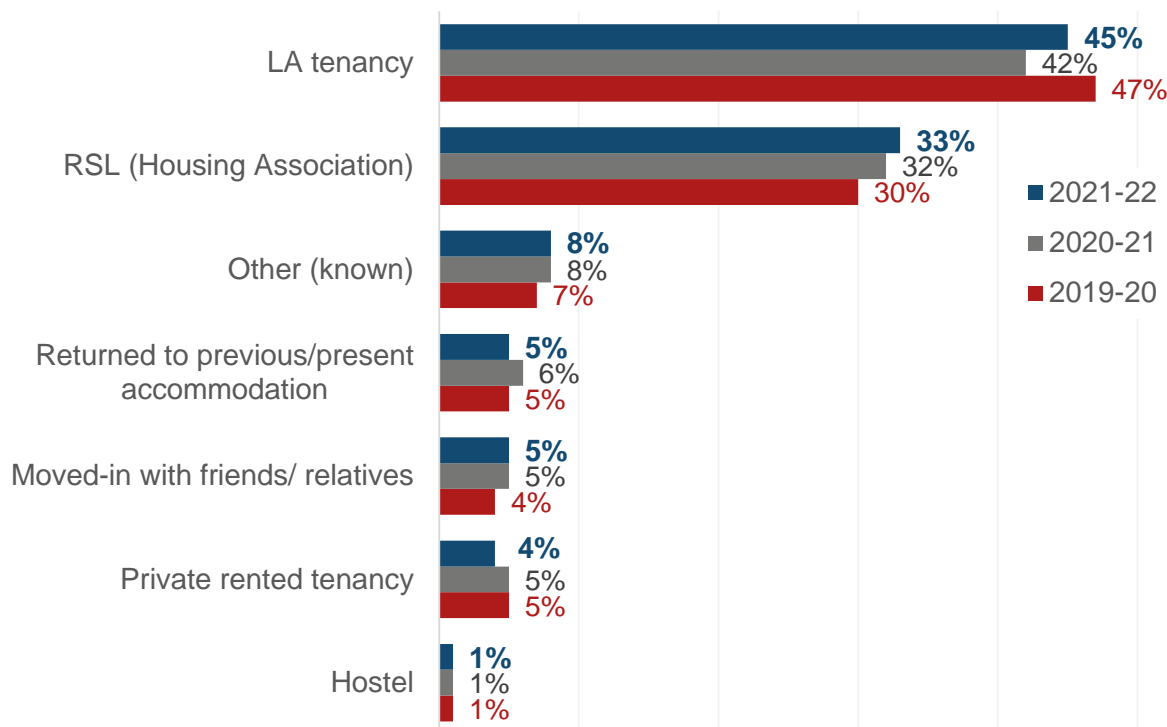
The proportion of households maintaining contact has increased over time for unintentionally homeless households, from 81% in 2007/08. For intentionally homeless households, the proportion has remained more stable, particularly in recent years (between 85 and 88% since 2013/14).

## What are the outcomes for homeless households?

Of the 25,816 unintentionally homelessness cases that closed in 2021/22 (where contact was maintained and the outcome was known), 82% (20,686) secured settled accommodation.

## There is a larger proportion of households settled into local authority tenancies - returning towards pre-pandemic proportions

Chart 14: Known outcomes for households assessed as unintentionally homeless where contact was maintained: 2019/20 to 2021/22



Settled accommodation is defined as a local authority tenancy, a tenancy with a registered social landlord or a private rented tenancy.

The proportion of unintentionally homeless households securing settled accommodation has increased over time, from 64% in 2002/03 to 83% in 2015/16 and 2019/20.

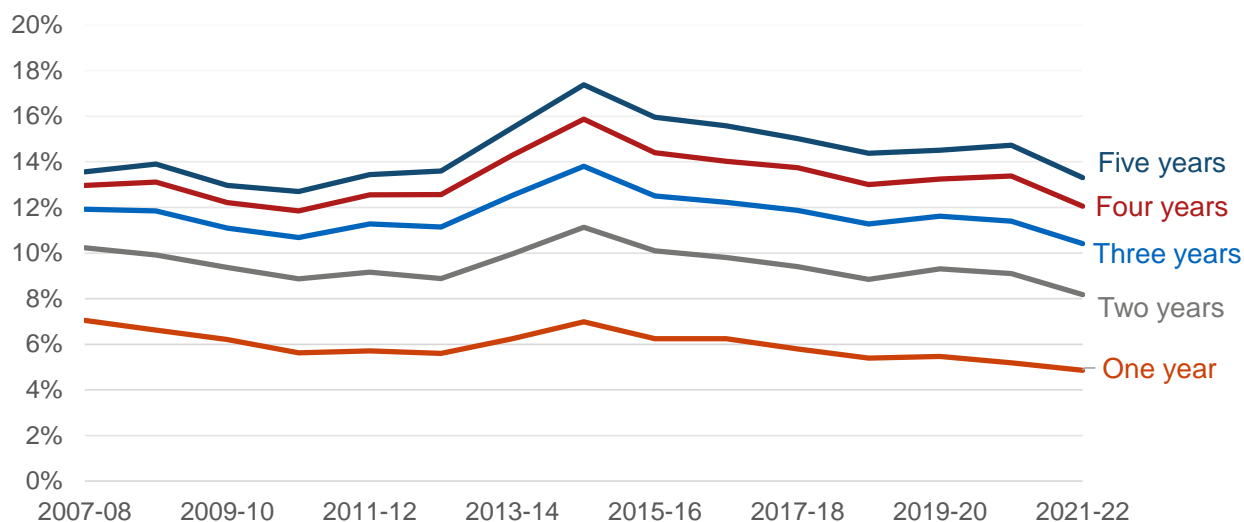
Intentionally homeless households are less likely to secure settled accommodation. However, the proportion increased from 45% in 2020/21 to 52% in 2021/22. To note, these are based on relatively small numbers (which have decreased as a result of changes in intentionality legislation), and are therefore particularly susceptible to natural fluctuation.

### Is there a return to homelessness?

In order to understand the longer-term outcomes for homeless households, and whether outcomes upon case closure are sustained, there is interest in 'repeat homelessness'. This is defined as households previously assessed as homeless re-entering the homelessness system at a later point in time.

## Households re-assessed as homeless as a proportion of all homeless households have shown a decreasing trend since 2014/15

**Chart 15: Households assessed as homeless that have previously been assessed as homeless in the last one to five years (cumulative), as a proportion of all homeless households: 2007/08 to 2021/22**



There were 1,404 households (5%) that had previously been assessed as homeless in the 12 months prior to their most recent assessments, and 3,844 households (13%) in the previous 5 years. Note that these are cumulative.

There is significant local variation between local authorities with respect to repeat homelessness. For example, 9% of homeless households in Glasgow and Inverclyde had previously been assessed as homeless in the 12 months prior to their assessment. This is compared to 0% in Orkney, Shetland and East Dunbartonshire, though these are based on relatively small numbers.

### Were housing support assessments carried out?

Upon closing a homelessness case, local authorities are required to assess whether any housing support services are required by the household for any cases assessed as unintentionally homeless and where it has reason to believe that support would be beneficial. It also has a duty to provide that support if needed.

Across Scotland, assessments for housing support needs were carried out in 82% of cases where there was a duty to assess in 2021/22. In 18% of cases where there was a duty to assess, no assessment took place and no support was provided. Housing support was provided in 43% of all cases. Support was not provided for 6% of cases where a support need was identified.

# How long does it take to complete the homelessness application process?

## Key Points in 2021/22

- ↑ It takes an average of 19 days for a homelessness case to be assessed. This is an increase of 3 days compared to 2020/21 but has fallen from 29 days in 2004/05
- It takes 256 days on average from assessment to closure for cases assessed as homeless. This is similar to 2020/21 (255 days) but an increase from 225 days in 2019/20

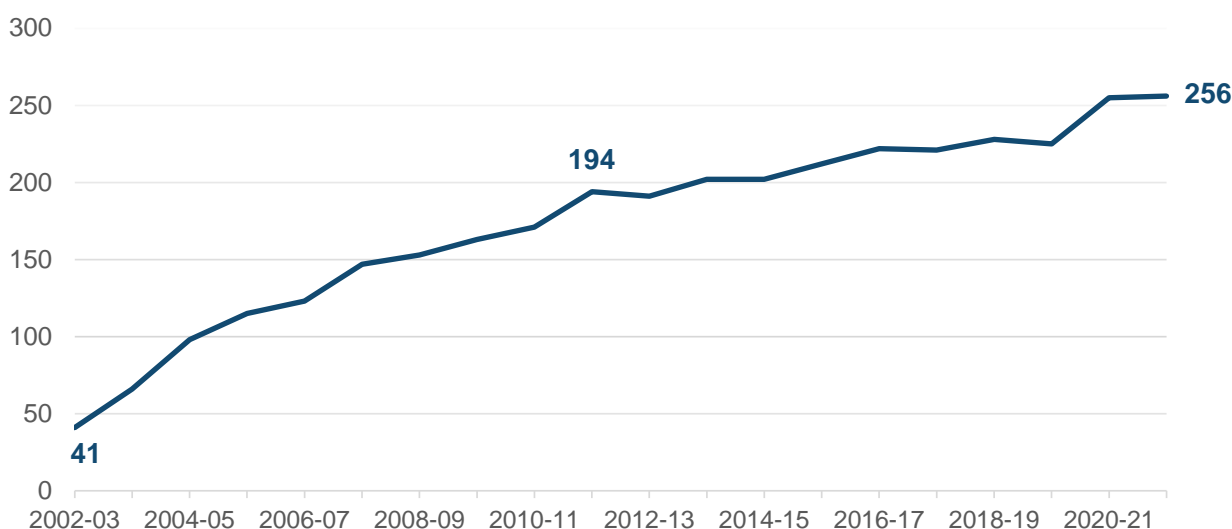
## How long does it take for an application to be processed?

In 2021/22, it took 19 days on average for a case to be assessed following an application. This is three days longer on average than in 2020/21, and the highest since 2015/16. However, over time, this has fallen from an average of 29 days in 2004/05.

Again there is considerable variation among local authorities, with Glasgow taking 9 days on average to assess each case compared to 51 days on average in Edinburgh. In Edinburgh this is a large increase from 12 days on average in 2020/21. The next highest was West Lothian with an average of 32 days (increase from 30 days in 2020/21).

## Average time to close homelessness cases has increased over time

**Chart 16: Average number of days taken to close homelessness applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness**



The time taken from assessment to closure varies depending on the outcome of the assessment.

For homeless households with cases that closed in 2021/22, it took an average of 256 days from assessment to closure. This was similar to the 255 days the year before, but

longer than the 225 days in 2019/20. This increase reflects the ongoing difficulties local authorities are facing placing households into settled accommodation as a result of the backlogs caused by the pandemic and cost and supply issues with building materials and availability of tradespeople. Midlothian had the highest average of 674 days, although this was a decrease from 782 in 2020/21. Perth & Kinross had the lowest average at 64 days (decrease from 85 in 2020/21).

For households not assessed as homeless, where the local authority does not have a duty to provide temporary accommodation or permanent settled accommodation, the average time to close a case was 34 days. This is also an increase on the previous year (30 days) and 2019/20 (27 days).

Edinburgh again experienced particularly large increases – 631 days compared to 480 days the previous year for homeless households and 110 days vs 58 days for households not assessed as homeless.

## **Characteristics of the homeless population**

The following findings provide a broad overview of the characteristics of the homeless population and how they compare to the Scottish (adult) population. They highlight key findings where differences exist for aspects of homelessness across the characteristics of age, gender and ethnicity. Characteristics are based on those of the main applicant.

Although data is captured for the main applicant and a second applicant where applicable, findings are based on the characteristics of the main applicant only for ease of reporting. Given the majority of homeless households only contain one adult, this only affects 10% of all households where there are two or more adults.

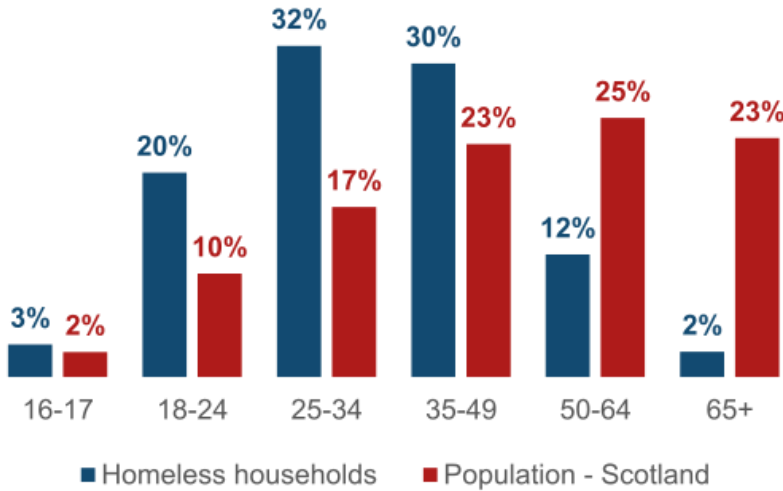
The characteristics of a household are initially collected by the local authority at the application stage. While it is possible for these characteristics to change between application and case closure, it may not be practical for the data collection to be updated to reflect these changes. Therefore, for a small number of households, the characteristics information reported may be out of date. This is most likely to affect household composition.

Detailed figures are available in accompanying equalities tables. Caution should be taken when interpreting results based on small numbers of households. This is particularly true when comparing results for different ethnic groups.



# Age

## The homeless population is younger than the overall Scottish population



## Reasons and prior circumstances

**Younger** people are more likely to become homeless from the family home and for reasons of being asked to leave

**Older** people are more likely to become homeless from the private rented sector and fail to maintain accommodation due to physical health

## Rough sleeping



most common amongst 35 to 49 year olds



## Repeat homelessness

most common amongst 25 to 49 year olds

## Outcomes

For most ages, **81 to 83% secured settled accommodation**

Exception was 16 to 17 year olds where **only 74%** achieved this

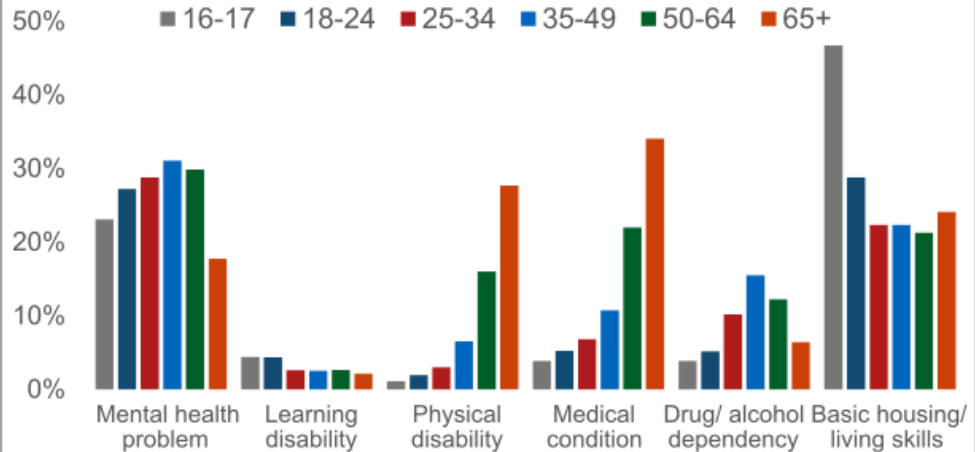
However, a larger proportion of 16 to 17 year olds returned to previous accommodation or moved in with friends or relatives

## Support needs

Older applicants are more likely to have a support need related to a physical disability or medical condition

**Drug/ alcohol dependency** is most common amongst 35 to 49 year olds

**Younger** applicants are more likely to require basic housing/ living skills support



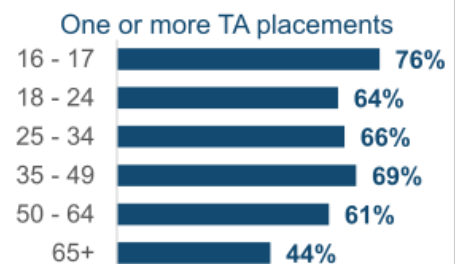
## Temporary accommodation (TA)

**Older** applicants spent the least amount of time in temporary accommodation

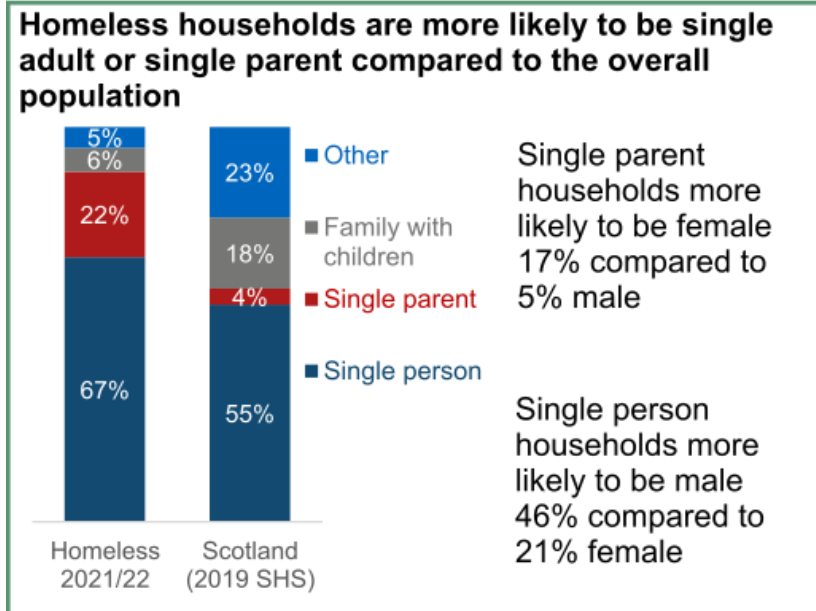
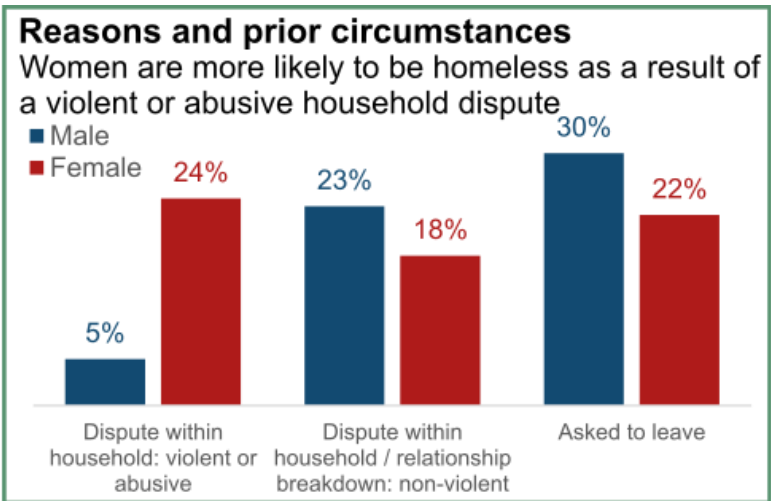
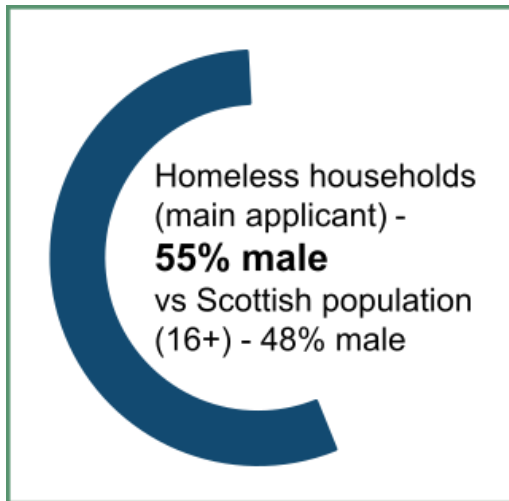
161 days on average compared to an overall average of 207 days

**25 to 49** year olds were most likely not to be offered temporary accommodation accounting for 500 out of 690 cases

**Older** applicants were less likely to take up temporary accommodation (44%)



# Gender and household type



### Rough sleeping and repeat homelessness

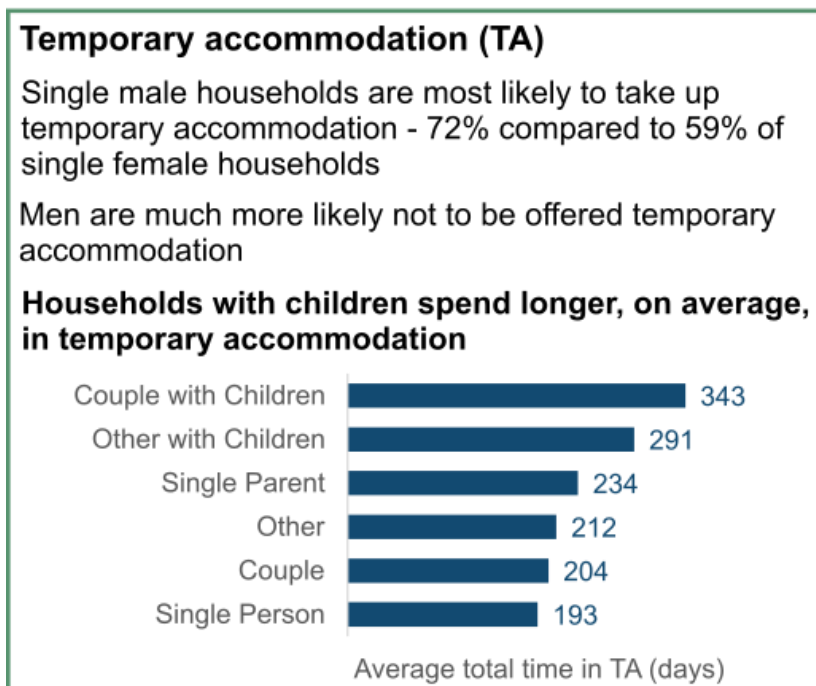
**more common amongst men**

86% of those reported rough sleeping in the previous three months were men

62% of those who had previously been assessed as homeless in the last year were men

### Drug or alcohol dependency more common amongst men

14% of men reported this as a support need compared to 6% of women



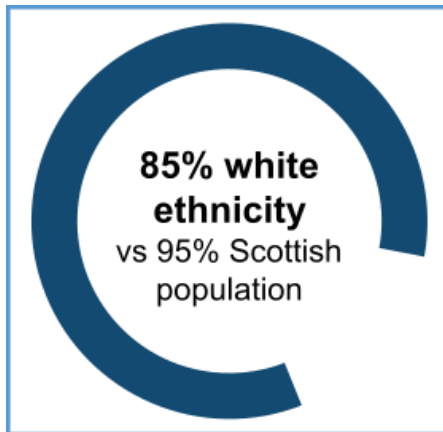
### Outcomes

More women secured settled accommodation - 84% compared to 80% of men

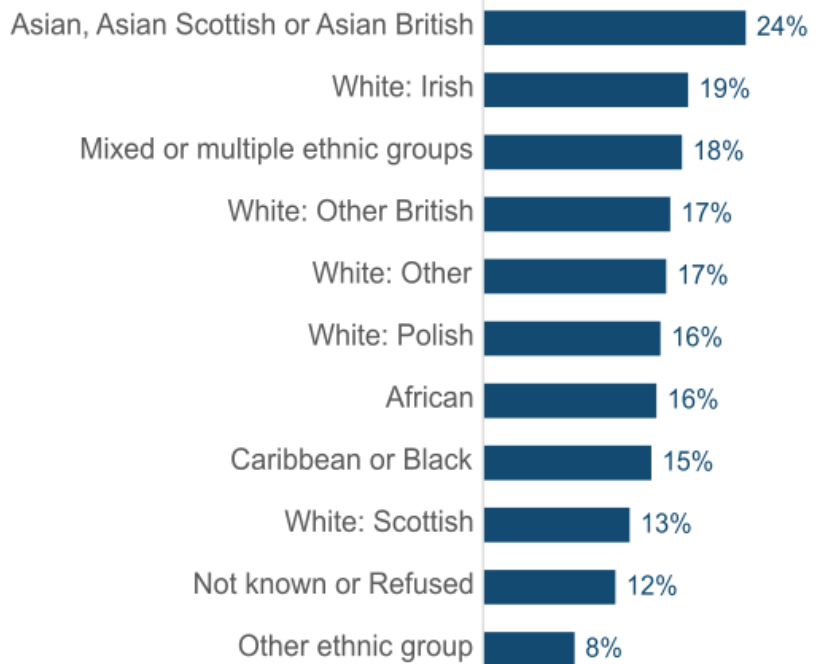
Single male households are least likely to secure settled accommodation - 79% compared to 81% for single female households and 82% overall

Couples and couples with children are most likely to secure settled accommodation 88% and 90% respectively

# Ethnicity



## Asian households most likely to experience homelessness as a result of violent household disputes



### Support needs

White Other British and Mixed or multiple ethnic groups most likely to have a support need - 58% and 56% respectively

White Irish least likely to have a support need - 33%



**Rough sleeping** most common for White Other, White Irish and White Other British

**Repeat homelessness** most common for White Scottish noting that 73% of households assessed as homeless have a White Scottish ethnicity (main applicant)



### Temporary accommodation

White Other British and White Scottish spent on average less time in temporary accommodation - 189 and 205 days on average respectively

Households where the main applicant was of African ethnicity spent on average the longest in temporary accommodation - 333 days

### Outcomes

Households of Asian ethnicity were least likely to secure settled accommodation - 79% vs 82% overall

However, a larger proportion of Asian households returned to previous accommodation or moved in with friends or relatives

## Notes on tables

All of the tables and charts in this publication, including local authority breakdowns and historical data, are available in electronic format at:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/homelessness-statistics/>

The statistics included in this publication are based on administrative data collected by local authorities in the course of carrying out their homelessness activities. This data is collected from local authorities and quality assured by the Scottish Government on a quarterly basis. Details about the data we collect, our quality assurance process, and how we engage with users to improve our statistics are outlined in our [quality assurance statement](#).

The rates of homeless households and households in temporary accommodation per 100,000 population were calculated using [mid-2021 population estimates](#) produced by National Records of Scotland.

### Updates to previous statistics

The data we use in this publication is collected from local authorities on a quarterly basis. As a result of this figures are updated on an ongoing basis and may differ from those previously published. This may be a result of delays in some cases being reported to the Scottish Government due to IT issues, quality assurance processes and delayed entry of data – particularly at the end of the financial year.

For example, this publication estimates that 34,286 homeless applications were made in 2020/21, but the previous 'Homelessness in Scotland: 2020 to 2021' publication gave a figure of 33,792. This is a difference of 494 applications, or approximately 1%. A table comparing the annual number of applications is included in the tables document accompanying this publication.

### Characteristic information

Information on the characteristics of the main applicant / household are gathered and recorded as part of the application stage of a homelessness case. This information is linked to the temporary accommodation placements associated with that household to enable reporting by characteristic for temporary accommodation. To note, it is not possible to do the same for the aggregate snapshot temporary accommodation data.

Comparative data for the Scottish population was taken from [mid-2021 population estimates](#) produced by National Records of Scotland.

Data for household types was taken from the [Scottish Household Survey 2019](#).

Data for ethnicity was taken from the [Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2019](#).

## Known data quality issues

- Not all temporary accommodation placements have an associated homelessness application, however, this accounts for a very small proportion only (1%).
- There are a small number of temporary accommodation cases on the Scottish Government temporary accommodation placement database that are recorded as open but are linked to homelessness applications that we know to be closed. This occurs when a local authority fails to provide an update for these cases after the placement is closed. In these cases we have taken the approach of using the close date of the homelessness application as the exit date of the temporary accommodation placement. This may have the impact of inflating the length of time these households are recorded as using temporary accommodation.
- The figures relating to breaches of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2020 should be treated with caution. This is due to: a) reporting anomalies and inconsistencies associated with differing interpretations of the legislation and issues discovered by further scrutiny of the data; b) uncertainty caused by the extension of legislation – extending breaches from households with only a pregnant women and/or child(ren) to all households – which were put in place quickly and without specific guidance; and c) exceptions put in place in response to COVID-19 which resulted in differing information about these captured across local authorities as well as uncertainty as to how they related to the extension of the legislation, which came about at the same time.

## Comparability with other UK homelessness statistics

Because of the substantial differences in legislative frameworks and data collection methods that exist across the UK care needs to be taken in comparing homelessness statistics across the four countries.

In September 2019 the Office for National Statistics published the [UK homelessness: 2005 to 2018 report](#), which assessed the comparability and coherence of existing UK government homelessness data sources.

Also published in September 2019, the [GSS Homelessness Interactive Tool](#) allows users to explore the similarities and differences between how key concepts relating to homelessness are defined across the four UK countries. It allows users to explore an applicants' process through each of the different homelessness systems and enables users to visualise the different definitions of homelessness currently being used for official statistics and how these compare.

## Summary of current legislation

The Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, now consolidated into [Part II of the Housing \(Scotland\) Act 1987](#), introduced statutory duties on Local Authorities to assist those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness (potentially homeless), including providing accommodation in certain circumstances.

The legislation currently requires Local Authorities to make inquiries into the circumstances of applicants to satisfy themselves whether the applicant is homeless or potentially homeless. Once the authority is satisfied this is the case, prior to 31 December 2012, it also determined whether the applicant had a priority need. However, from 31 December 2012, the priority need test was abolished. The Local Authority may then test whether the applicant became homeless intentionally and, in some cases, whether the applicant has a local connection with another authority in Scotland, England or Wales. There were changes in legislation from November 2019 which give local authorities the power to assess for intentionality, rather than it being a legal duty to do so. A local connection with an authority means that the applicant normally resided in that area from choice, either because he/she was employed in or had family associations with it, or for other special reasons.

Section 24 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as amended, defines homelessness for the purposes of the Act as follows. A person is homeless if they have no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere. A person is also homeless if they have accommodation but cannot reasonably occupy it, for example because of a threat of violence. A person is potentially homeless (threatened with homelessness) if it is likely that they will become homeless within two months. A person is intentionally homeless if they deliberately did or failed to do anything which led to the loss of accommodation which it was reasonable for them to continue to occupy.

Section 25 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as amended, defined the categories of household regarded as having a priority need for accommodation. Further details can be found in the Code of Guidance on Homelessness.

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 amends the 1987 Act and requires councils to provide a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance to all applicants assessed as homeless, regardless of whether they have been assessed as being in priority need.

The Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 is more long-term in scope, notably introducing a phasing out of the distinction between priority and non-priority applications. The ultimate aim of the Act was to ensure that everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless was entitled to settled accommodation from 31 December 2012.

In November 2012, the Scottish Parliament approved the Homelessness (Abolition of Priority Need Test) (Scotland) Order 2012 which gave effect to this commitment. From 31 December 2012, the priority need test for homeless households was abolished. As a result, from this date, all unintentionally homeless households are entitled to settled accommodation.

## **Summary of Local Authority duty to homeless households:**

Unintentionally homeless [and in priority need, if before 31 December 2012]

Provide temporary accommodation until settled accommodation has been secured.

Settled accommodation is defined as:

- A Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST)

- A Private Residential Tenancy

If the applicants have previously been evicted for anti-social behaviour in the last 3 years, or if they are subject to an anti-social behaviour order - a short Scottish Secure Tenancy can be offered.

In some circumstances, the Local Authority can provide non-permanent accommodation. These circumstances are laid out in the Homeless Persons (Provision of Non-permanent Accommodation) (Scotland) Regulations 2010.

Under certain circumstances, a Local Authority may apply a local connection test and refer the applicant to another Local Authority. However, the receiving Local Authority must then secure settled accommodation for the applicant.

Intentionally Homeless [and in Priority Need / Homeless and not in Priority Need]:

Provide temporary accommodation for a reasonable period of time, advice and assistance.

Potentially homeless, unintentionally so [and in Priority Need]:

Take reasonable steps to ensure that accommodation does not cease to be available.

Potentially homeless, intentionally so [and in Priority Need / Potentially Homeless and not in Priority Need]:

Provide advice and assistance to help retain accommodation.

**The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2004 came into force** on 6 December 2004, and is intended to prevent the routine use of unsuitable temporary accommodation for households with family commitments. Under this Order, Local Authorities cannot put households with children and pregnant women into temporary accommodation which is not suitable, unless exceptional circumstances apply. Unsuitable accommodation is defined in the Order as accommodation which does not meet standards relating to the physical properties of the accommodation (the physical standard), its proximity to health and education services (the proximity standard) and its suitability for use by children (the safety standard).

The 2004 order was revoked by The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2014, which came into force on the 21 November 2014. The 2014 order adds the additional requirement that the accommodation must be wind and watertight.

While the Order provides for exceptional circumstances, in which accommodation which does not meet the physical and/or proximity standards may be used, the safety standard must always be met. Further details can be found in the Code of Guidance on Homelessness.

The 2014 Order specifies that the local authority may provide an applicant with temporary accommodation which does not meet the requirements set out by Article 5 of the Order, but for no longer than 14 days in total in respect of that person's application. The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2017,

which came into force in October 2017, reduces the number of days from 14 to 7 days before a 'breach' is recorded for the applicant remaining in such unsuitable accommodation.

The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 extended the order to include all households, rather than just those containing children or a pregnant woman.

The Housing Support Services (Homelessness)(Scotland) Regulations 2012 came into force on 1 June 2013. These Regulations make provision in relation to the duty of Local Authorities to assess whether some persons found to be homeless or threatened with homelessness ("an applicant") need housing support services.

Regulation 2 prescribes four types of housing support services which apply for the purposes of that duty. If a Local Authority has reason to believe that an applicant may be in need of one or more of these services, it must assess whether the applicant, or any person residing with the applicant, is in need of such support. If so, the Local Authority must ensure that the service is provided to the person who needs it. There is guidance available for local authorities on their Housing Support Duty to Homeless Households.



## A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

### Correspondence and enquiries

For specific enquiries about this publication:

Homelessness Statistics & Analysis

E-mail: [homelessness\\_statistics\\_inbox@gov.scot](mailto:homelessness_statistics_inbox@gov.scot)

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442

E-mail: [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- are available via an alternative route [Homelessness statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors.
- cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

### Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Alternatively, you can fill out the official statistics feedback survey at [Scottish Government official statistics feedback survey - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](http://consult.gov.scot)

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