



A National Statistics publication for Scotland



PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

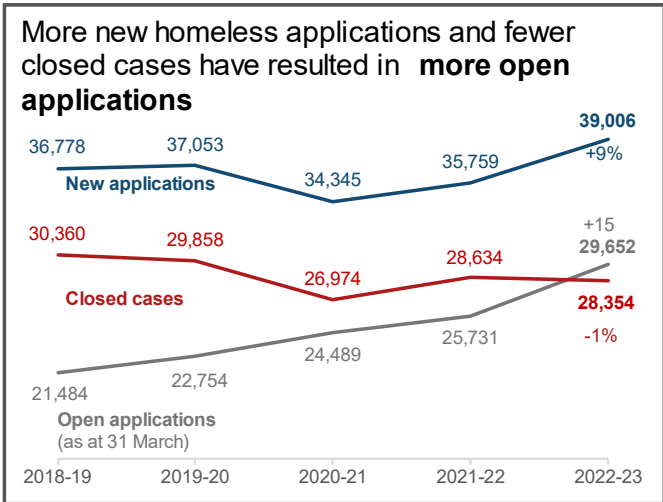
Homelessness in Scotland: 2022-23



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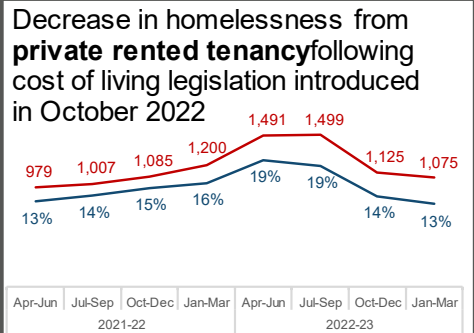
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Main points for 2022-23



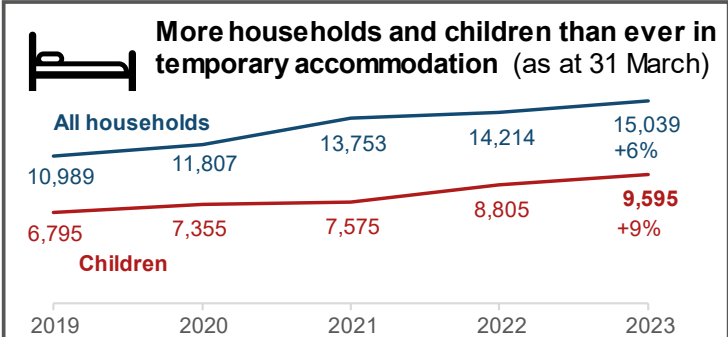
32,242 households assessed as homeless*

36,848 adults
16,263 children



Rough sleeping
More households reporting rough sleeping, although still lower than pre pandemic

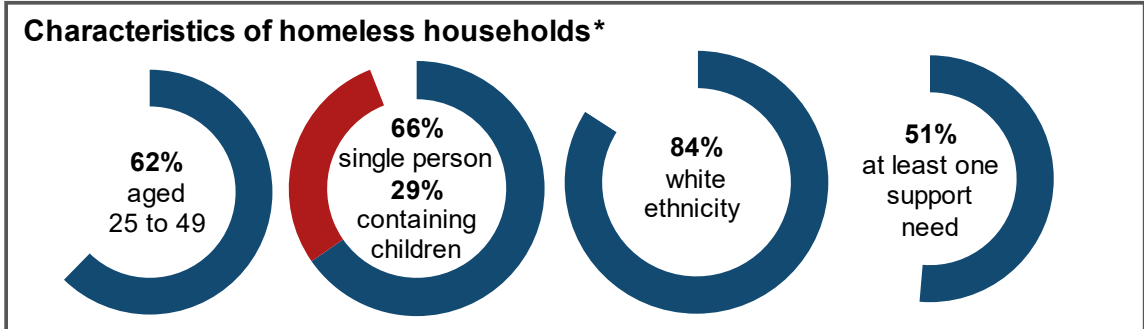
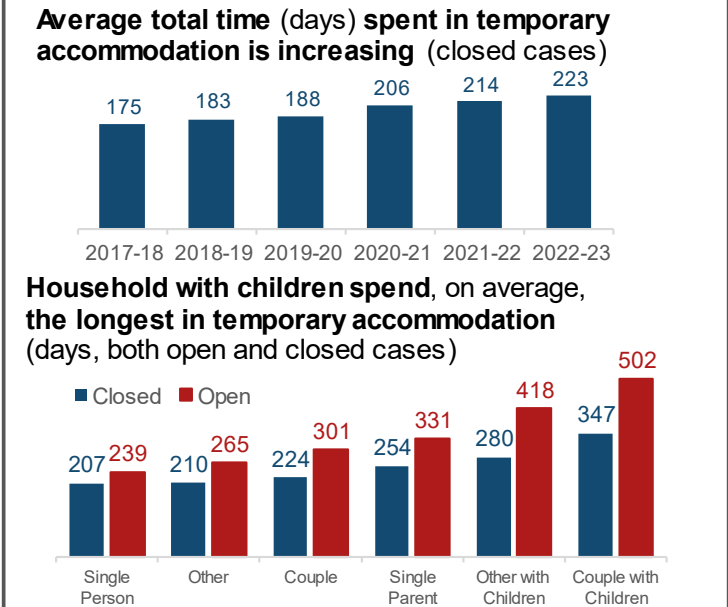
1,500 the night before and 2,438 in the three months before the application (same proportion of applications as last year, 4% and 6% respectively)



Outcomes
83% of unintentionally homeless households secured settled accommodation

Average time (days) from assessment to case closure has increased greatly over time

Year	Average time (days)
2002-03	41
2012-13	~150
2022-23	266



*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 2022 to 31 March 2023, 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.

Workbooks containing the tables and charts referenced in this publication, including local authority breakdowns and historical data, are available to download at our [supporting documents page](#).

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 to all households while awaiting an assessment decision.

The statutory duty lies with the local authority the household applies to. Up until 28 November 2022, if a household had no local connection to the one to which it applied, but to another local authority in Scotland, they may be referred. From 29 November 2022, local authorities no longer have the power to refer an applicant to another local authority in Scotland on the grounds of their local connection. This change came partway through the data reported in this publication.

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 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. (Note: local connection legislation changed in November 2022).
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.

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 2022-23 will have an assessment or temporary accommodation placement that year. Similarly, some assessments made in 2022-23 will relate to applications received prior to this; and some temporary placements in 2022-23 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 2020-21 there was 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.

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 still 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, 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 to 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 now required it as the alternative arrangements they had made were no longer viable due to the pandemic.

These backlogs were noted by local authorities as being exacerbated by a shortage of tradespeople and building materials, as well as the increased cost of materials, both of which limited the ability to prepare properties for use (as settled and temporary accommodation), particularly between tenancies. These were noted especially for data over the 2021-22 reporting period.

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.

Impact of cost of living crisis

The [Cost of Living \(Tenant Protection\) \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#) was introduced from 27 October 2022 in response to the cost of living crisis, to protect residential tenants from increases in rent and from eviction. This came in to force partway through the reporting period 2022-23.

Where figures are believed to have been impacted by cost of living crisis, these have been outlined within the relevant sections.

Impact of Ukrainian displaced people

In order to be able to quantify how many Ukrainian displaced people (UDP) are presenting as homeless, new response categories were added in to the HL1 data collection. Local authorities were asked to provide information backdated to June 2022.

Twenty-nine out of 32 local authorities have been able to provide this information with their data returns that are used for this publication. One provided information at a later date which has enabled application figures (only) for 2022-23 to be estimated. The remaining two have provided figures informally for the number of homelessness applications (only).

For 2022-23, there were 275 applications nationally from UDP households (defined as eligible for support as a result of being a Ukrainian national, lawfully present in the UK through an appropriate scheme). This accounts for less than 1% of all

homelessness applications in 2022-23. If the 275 UDP households were not present in the homelessness application figures, this would change the annual increase in applications from 9% to 8%. Data relating to UDP households has been made available in a separate workbook on our [supporting documents page](#).

Impact of changes to local connection legislation

Of the 32,240 households that were assessed as homeless in 2022-23, 705 (2%) of these were reported as having no local connection to the local authority to which the application was made but to another local authority. This proportion was the same across all quarters, implying no impact on presentations as a result in the change in local connection legislation in November 2022. Furthermore, this was lower than the 3% of cases with a local connection to (only) another local authority in 2021-22.

Temporary accommodation data sources

Local authorities provide two sets of temporary accommodation data:

1. aggregate snapshot information as at the end of the quarter, available since 2002
2. placement level information, provided since 2016

The snapshot data is used to report headline temporary accommodation figures (i.e. households, households with children and number of children as at 31 March). The placement level information is used to provide greater detail and context around the use of temporary accommodation (e.g. number of placements, length of time).

The plan is to discontinue the snapshot collection given the richer placement level data. However, this has been difficult due to:

- figures between the two sources not matching (placement level returns are higher by 4%); and
- the placement level information not containing information on children within the placements.

New questions were introduced into the placement level collection in 2019 and this data has been provided by all 32 local authorities for the first time for 2022-23. This is subject to on-going quality assurance. New data relating to the individual placement return has been made available in a separate workbook on our [supporting documents page](#).

Stock transfer authorities

For six local authorities – Argyll & Bute, Dumfries & Galloway, Eilean Siar, Glasgow, Inverclyde, and Scottish Borders – stock was transferred from local authority control to housing associations between 2003 and 2007. This should be borne in mind when interpreting figures at local authority level, particularly for outcomes by accommodation type.

The extent of homelessness in Scotland

Key points in 2022-23

- ↑ Homelessness applications and households assessed as homeless continued to increase, and now surpass pre-pandemic figures
- ↑ Open homelessness applications and households in temporary accommodation are the highest in the time series
 - Homelessness from private rented tenancies across the year is in line with pre-pandemic proportions, however, there is a notable decrease following cost of living legislation

Applications, assessments, and households in temporary accommodation

Table A: Homelessness applications, assessments and temporary accommodation 2019-20 to 2022-23

Measure	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change 2021-22 to 2022-23	
					Number	Percent
Applications	37,053	34,345	35,759	39,006	3,247	9%
Assessed as homeless	31,618	28,100	29,339	32,242	2,903	10%
Households in temporary accommodation at 31 March	11,807	13,753	14,214	15,039	825	6%
Open homelessness applications at 31 March	22,754	24,489	25,731	29,652	3,921	15%

Table A shows that, compared to the previous year, homelessness applications (both new ones and open cases), households assessed as homeless, and households in temporary accommodation have increased.

The number of applications and households assessed as homeless now exceed pre-pandemic figures. These are the highest in the time series since 2012-13 and 2011-12 respectively.

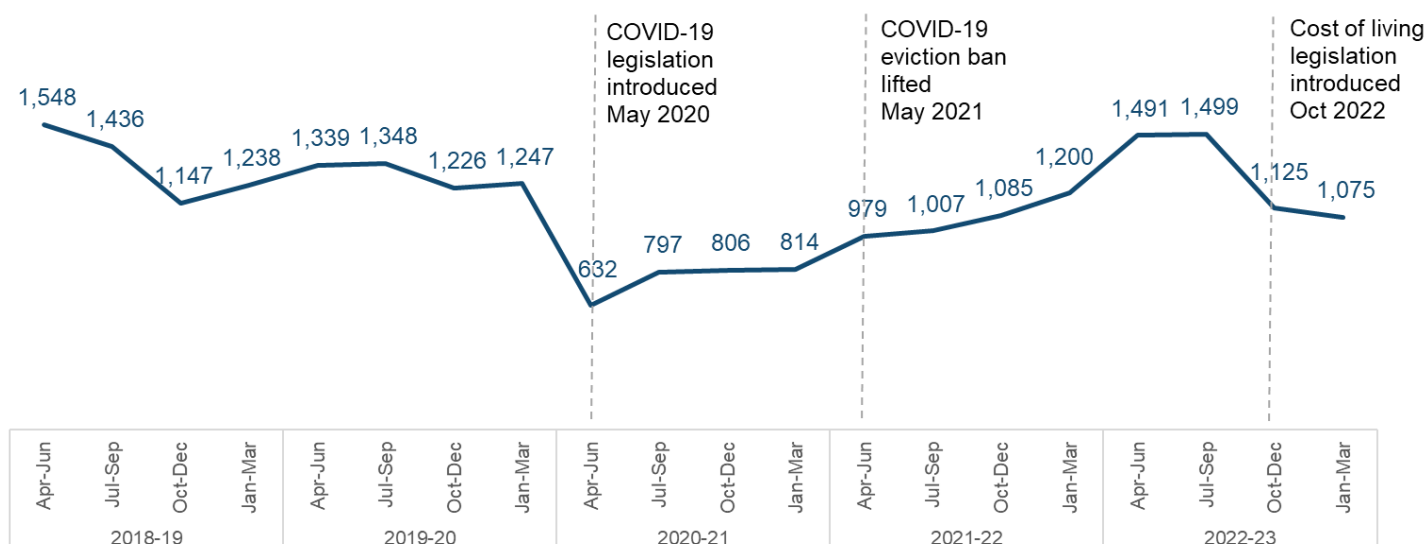
The number of households in temporary accommodation and open homelessness applications as at 31 March 2023 have been increasing over the last few years and are now the highest ever across the time series.

Between 2019-20 and 2020-21 there was a marked reduction in applications and households assessed as homeless, 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 increases over the last couple of years are likely due to the on-going impact of COVID-19, including the ceasing of emergency legislation, and the cost of living crisis.

Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in households becoming homeless from the private rented sector – from 4,271 to 5,190 (22%). Some local authorities have noted increases from the private rented sector as a result of landlords selling or increasing rent. However, there was a notable decrease between the first and last six months of the year. This is likely due to the [cost of living legislation](#) that was introduced in October 2022.

Households becoming homeless from a private rented tenancy have been reacting to changes in legislation

Chart 1: Number of households becoming homeless from a private rented tenancy, quarterly, 2018-19 to 2022-23



There has been negligible impact on the national increase in homelessness applications from Ukrainian displaced households. From 1 April 2022, there were 275 applications from Ukrainian displaced households – 0.7% of the national total. Nearly half of these were in Glasgow, where there was an overall reduction in applications. Data relating to Ukrainian displaced households has been made available in a separate workbook available on our [supporting documents page](#).

The continued increase in the number of open homelessness applications and households in temporary accommodation has largely been attributed to the increase in applications and lack of availability/turnover of settled accommodation. A small number of local authorities noted staff shortages and turnover having an impact also.

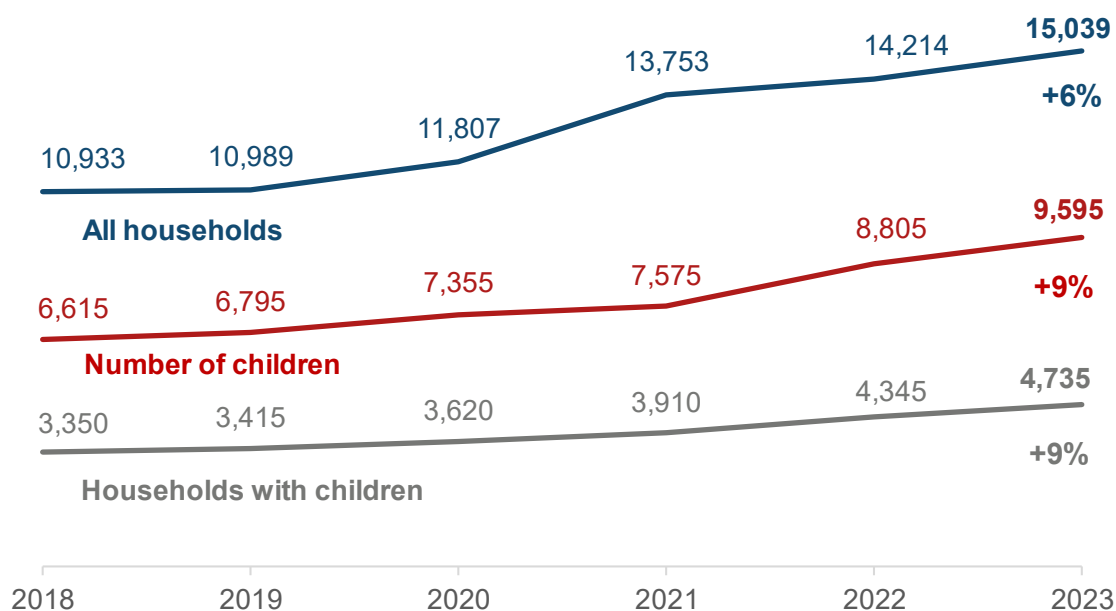
Number of households vs number of people

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

The 32,242 homeless households in 2022-23 contained a total of 53,111 people, comprising 36,848 adults and 16,263 children. Compared to the previous year, the number of adults increased by 11% and the number of children increased by 10%, in line with the overall increase of 10% in homeless households.

Sharper increase in the number of children in temporary accommodation compared to the number of households in the last year

Chart 2: Number of households, households with children and the number of children in temporary accommodation as at 31 March: 2018 to 2023



[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.]

Following the onset of the pandemic, there was a sharper increase in the number of households compared to the number of children in temporary accommodation (16% compared to 3% between 2020 and 2021). Between March 2020 and March 2023, there has been a 27% increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation and a 30% increase in the number of children in temporary accommodation.

Intentionality

Of the 32,242 homeless households in 2022-23, 31,732 (98%) were assessed as unintentionally homeless, with the remaining 510 assessed as intentionally homeless.

In November 2019, legislation changed to give local authorities the power to assess for intentionality, rather than it being a legal duty to do so. This explains the small proportions (1% since 2020-21) of all assessments that are intentionally homeless.

Longer term trends

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

Chart 3: Homelessness applications, assessments, open applications, and households in temporary accommodation: 2002-03 to 2022-23

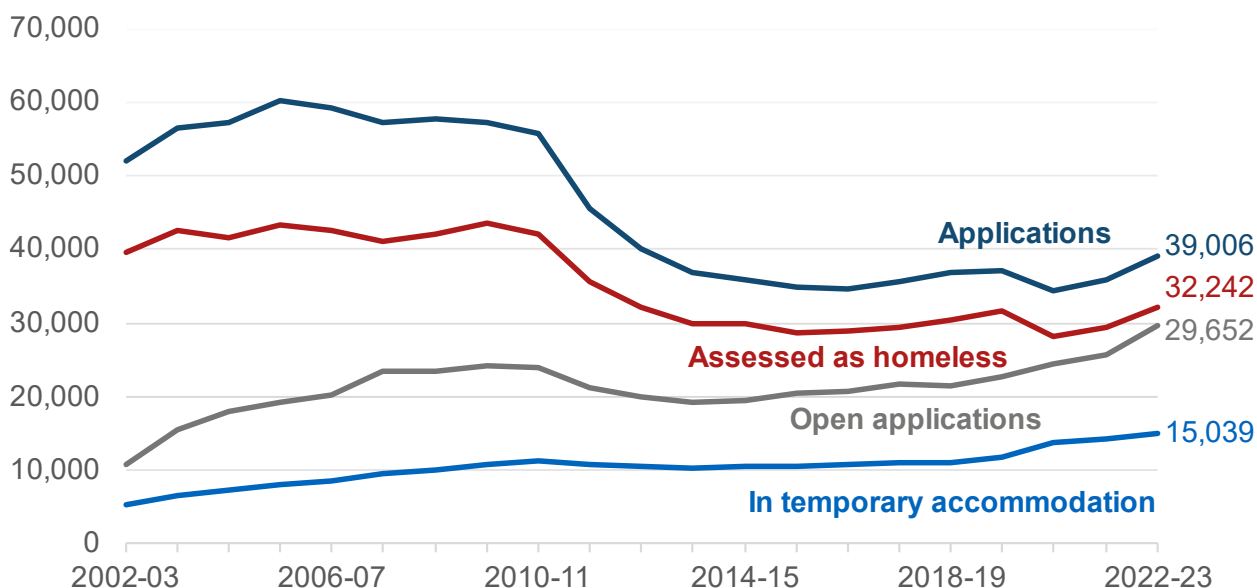


Chart 3 provides a view of longer-term trends which have been experienced in homelessness. This shows the impact of previous legislation, policy, and practice, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21.

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 increase 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.

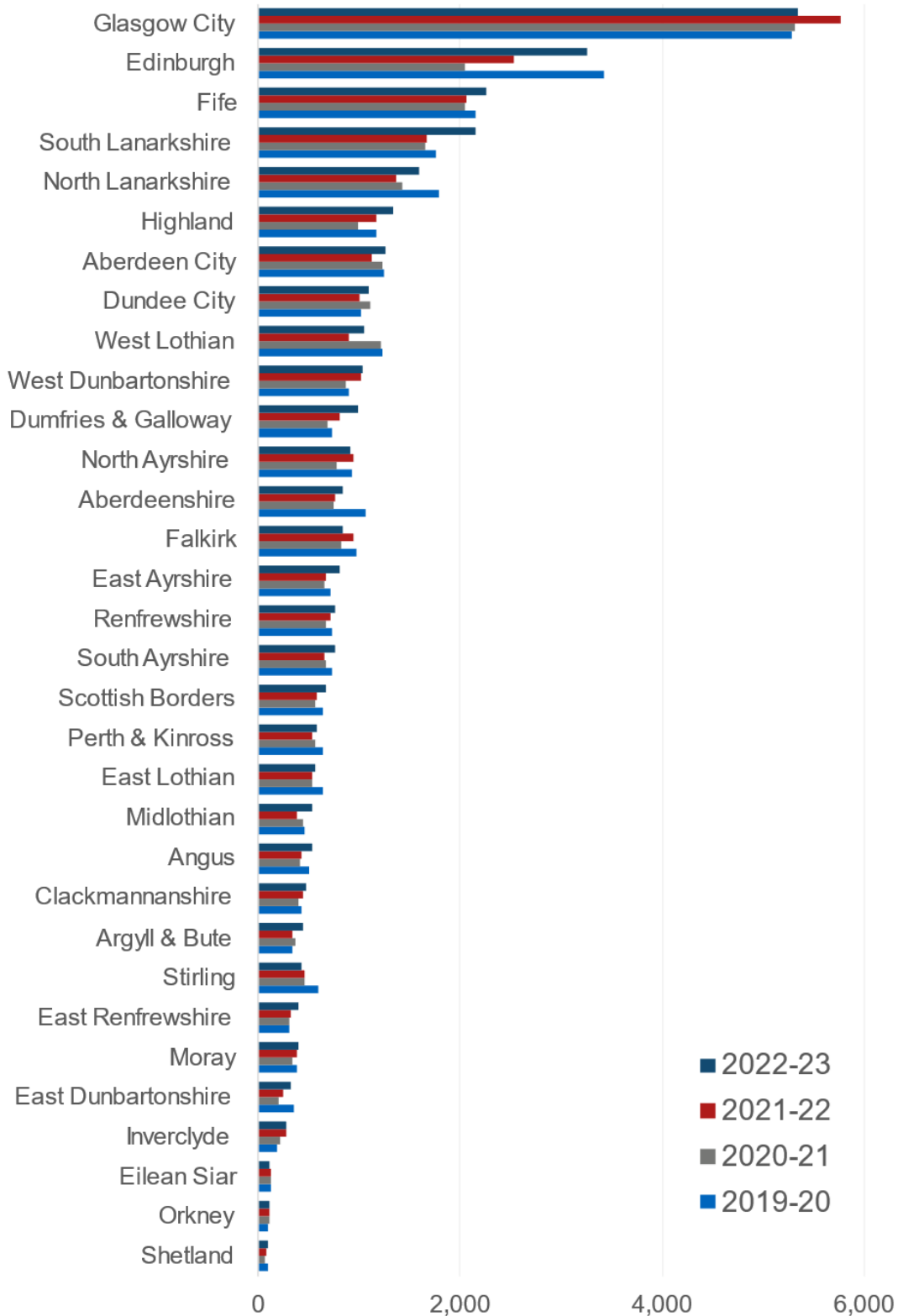
From 2016-17, applications and assessments increased year on year until 2020-21 as a result of the pandemic. These have been increasing again since.

How does homelessness vary across Scotland?

Twenty-six local authorities reported an increase in homeless households compared to 2021-22. Twenty-one reported increases compared to 2019-20.

Glasgow city has experienced differing trends in applications over the last few years compared to most local authorities

Chart 4: Applications assessed as homeless, by local authority: 2019-20 to 2022-23



Glasgow remains the local authority with the largest number of homeless households, although, in contrast to most other local authorities, has experienced a decrease compared to last year (424, 7%). Glasgow council have noted this is due to increased homelessness prevention work.

Edinburgh had the largest numerical increase with an additional 723 (28%) homeless households in the last year. This follows a particularly low number of homeless households in Edinburgh over 2021-22 and 2020-21. Edinburgh's 2022-23 figures are still lower than 2019-20.

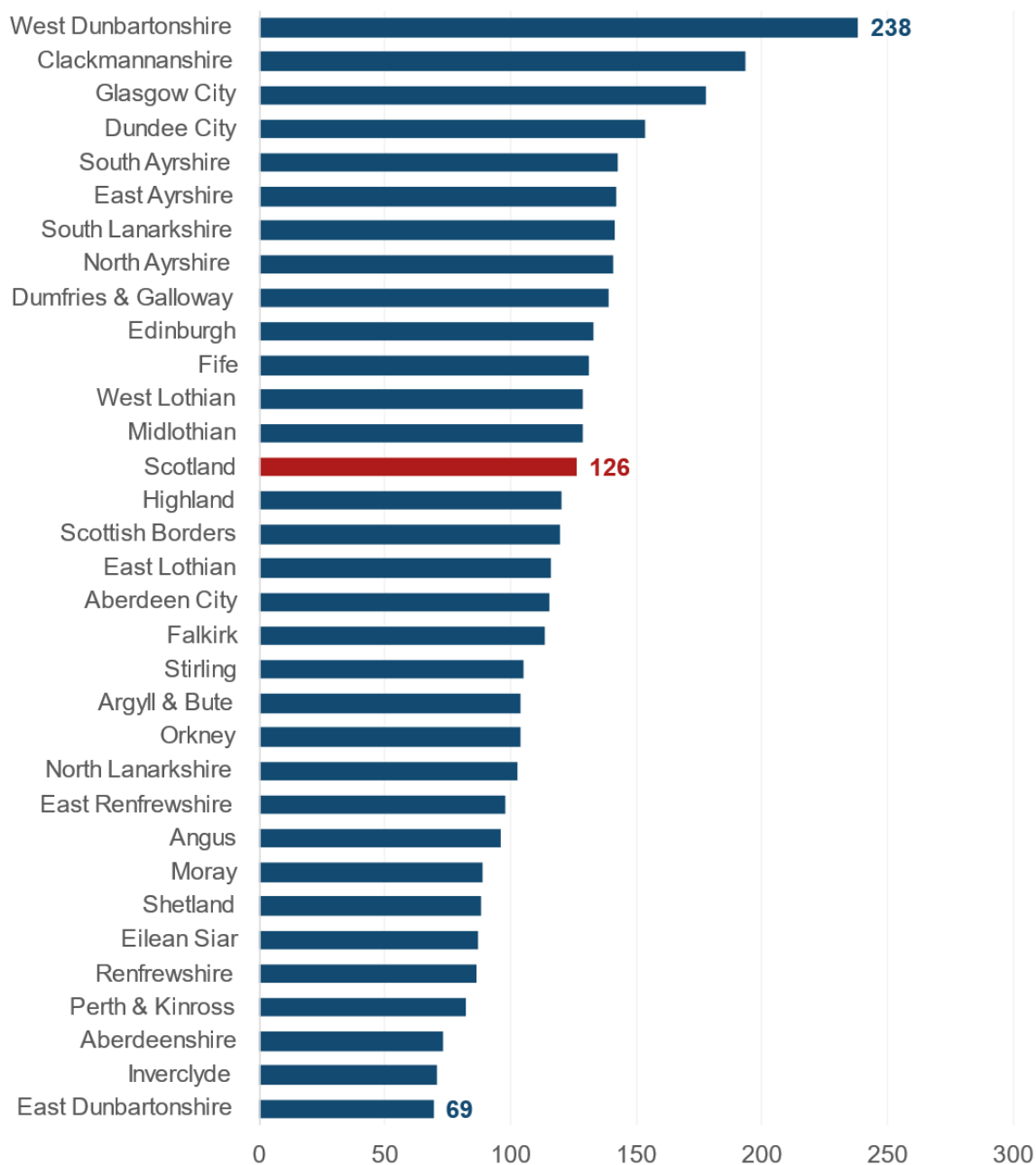
South Lanarkshire had the next largest numerical increases from the previous year (480, 29%) and from 2019-20 (389, 22%). Midlothian had the largest proportionate increase from last year (150, 39%).

Rates of homelessness and households in temporary accommodation

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

126 households per 10,000 in Scotland assessed as homeless

Chart 5: Households assessed as homeless compared to all households, by local authority: 2022-23

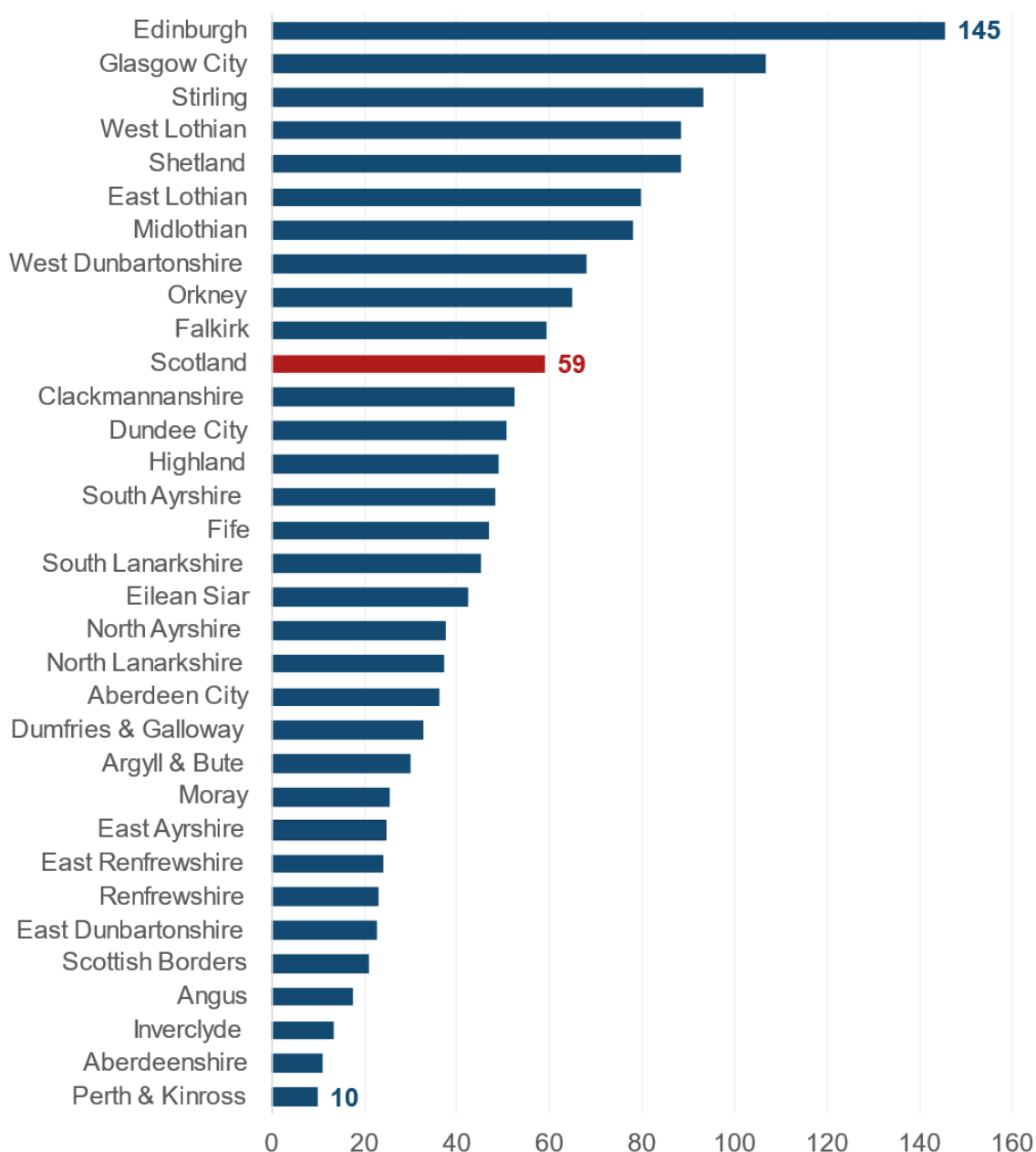


[Please note that there has been a change to how these rates are calculated. These are now based on the number of households, as opposed to total adult population as used previously. The rates are therefore not comparable to those published for 2021-22.]

Interestingly, the local authorities with the highest rates of homeless households do not tend to be the highest for use of temporary accommodation, and vice versa. This implies some local authorities have a disproportionately high use of temporary accommodation, while others have a disproportionately low use.

Edinburgh has more than twice the national rate of households in temporary accommodation

Chart 6: Households in temporary accommodation compared to all households, by local authority: as at 31 March 2023



[Please note that there has been a change to how these rates are calculated. These are now based on the number of households, as opposed to total adult population as used previously. The rates are therefore not comparable to those published for 2021-22.]

Glasgow appears in the top three for both sets of rates.

Reasons for homelessness and prior circumstances

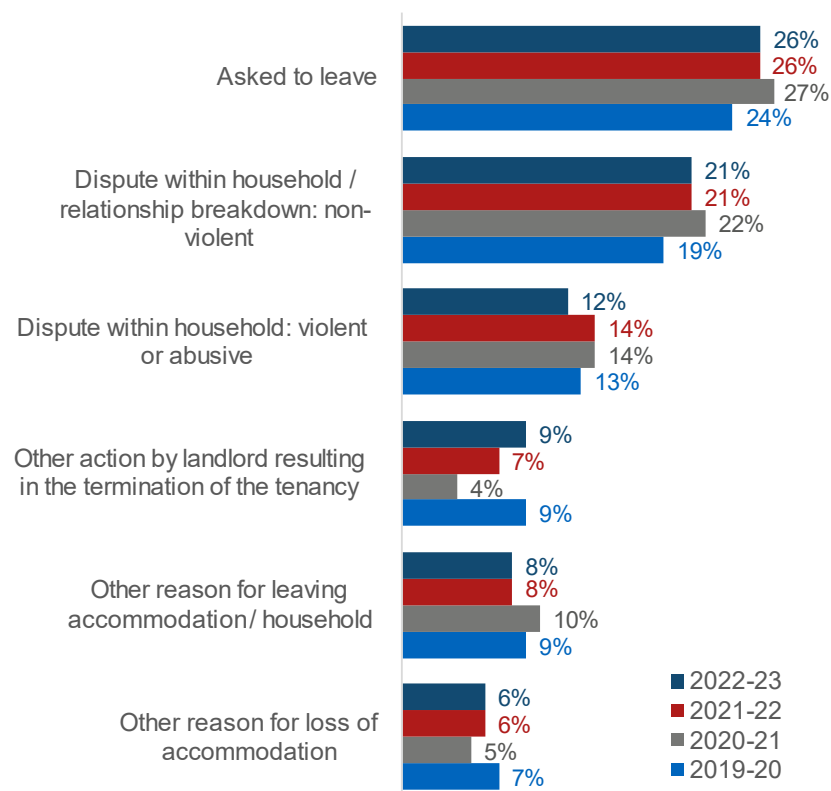
Key points in 2022-23

- The proportion of homelessness applications citing violent household disputes as the main reason have decreased and are now below pre-pandemic, however the number is still higher than pre-pandemic
- Increase in reporting of rough sleeping, although still lower than pre-pandemic

Why do households make a homelessness application?

Top three most common reasons for homelessness remain consistent

Chart 7: Main reason for making an application for homelessness, as a proportion of all applications: 2019-20 to 2022-23



The reasons of asked to leave and non-violent dispute remain above pre-pandemic proportions. Although violent dispute has now fallen below pre-pandemic proportions, and is the lowest since 2016-17, there has been a numerical increase from 4,187 in 2016-17 to 4,859 in 2022-23.

Termination due to rent arrears accounted for 2% of reasons in 2022-23, which is higher than 1% in each of the previous two years. Proportions are higher in the first six months of 2022-23 than the second six, likely again due to the cost of living

legislation previously mentioned. Proportions still remain below pre-pandemic (between 3 and 4%).

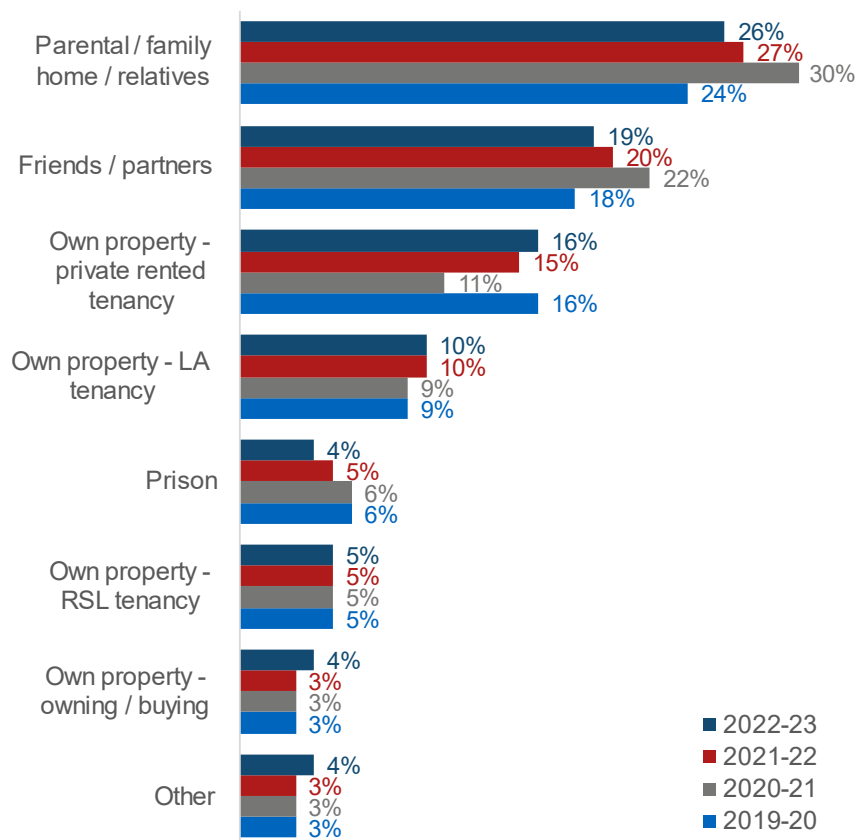
Some applicants (75%) also provide additional reasons for failing to maintain accommodation. The most common reason was 'Not to do with applicant household' (51%). Mental health reasons was the next most common (26%) and the biggest percentage point increase over the series from 10% in 2007-08. The third most common was lack of support from family and friends (20%), which has reduced from a peak of 25% in 2020-21 during the pandemic.

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.

Return to near pre-pandemic proportions for most common property types households become homeless from

Chart 8: Property type from which the households became homeless, as a proportion of all households assessed as homeless: 2019-20 to 2022-23



The patterns in this chart reflect the patterns in reasons for homelessness. This implies there is a connection between the types of property households become homeless from and the reasons for homelessness.

For example, the decreases in the proportions becoming homeless from family and friends since 2020-21 while remaining higher than pre-pandemic may relate to small decrease in reasons of asked to leave and (non-violent) household disputes.

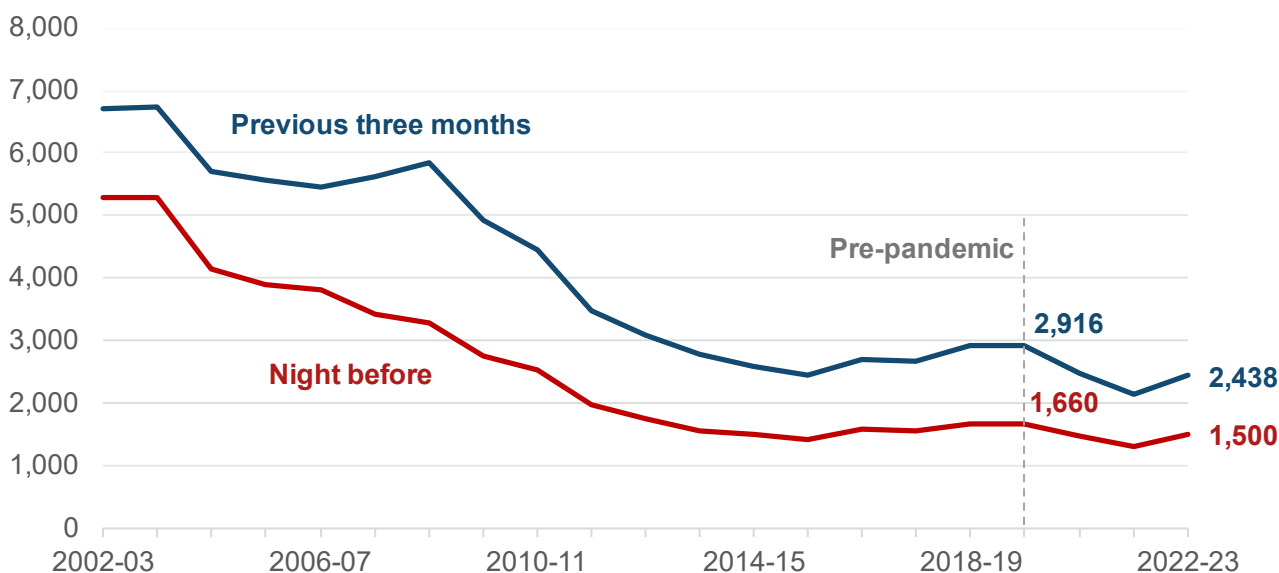
Likewise, the return to pre-pandemic proportions for households becoming homeless from a private rented tenancy may reflect those for reasons of other actions by landlord resulting in the termination of a tenancy.

The increase in other is mainly driven by Glasgow, which is believed to be due to this being used for applicants under resettlement schemes.

Homelessness from prison is now at the lowest (proportion) since 2008-09.

Increase in reporting of rough sleeping from last year, although still lower than pre-pandemic

Chart 9: Applications where at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping: 2002-03 to 2022-23



The proportion of households reporting rough sleeping in the previous three months and the night before making an application remains the same as last year at 6% and 4% respectively.

Falkirk, Fife and Highland had noticeable increases in the reporting of rough sleeping from the previous year. Rough sleeping in the previous three months had increased from 5 to 30 in Falkirk, 125 to 215 in Fife and 100 to 160 in Highland. Conversely, South Lanarkshire have experienced a decrease (from 95 to 35 for the previous three months). This is believed to be due to a rough sleeping action plan introduced by the council.

There were 691 households assessed as homeless that had a household member that was previously a member of the armed forces. This accounts for 2% of all homeless households. This is a 7% increase from 2021-22, which is lower than the 10% increase in homeless households overall.

There were 1,067 homeless households that contained a household member 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 increase of 10% is in line with overall homeless households.

The proportion of households reporting at least one support need was 51% - this is similar to the last few years, although a large increase from 33% in 2007-08 when data collection began. The largest increase is in mental health problems with 30% of homeless households noting this as a support need (compared to 12% in 2007-08). The proportion requiring support for basic housing management has also increased over this period from 10% to 23%.

Temporary accommodation

Key points in 2022-23

- ↑ Average total time in temporary accommodation for homelessness cases that closed in 2022-23 has increased to 223 days
 - Households with children spend longer in temporary accommodation than those without (50% of households with children spent 7 months or more in temporary accommodation compared to 40% of households without children)
 - Higher average times for open cases than closed cases across all household types
- ↓ The number of cases where households were not being offered temporary accommodation has decreased to 445
- ↑ The number of cases in breach of the unsuitable accommodation order has increased to 3,525 (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 15,039 households in temporary accommodation as at 31 March 2023. The placement level returns show that there were 15,602 temporary accommodation placements open at 31 March 2023 – higher (563, 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

Over 2022-23, 41,774 temporary accommodation placements were entered and 40,893 were exited. This is a net difference of 881, which is similar in magnitude to the increase in the snapshot figures of 825 to 15,039 in March 2023. This is a useful measure for showing the overall scale of temporary accommodation usage. However, placement level analysis alone provides limited insight due to the often

very transient nature of the use of temporary accommodation. It is not unusual for households to enter and exit multiple placements, with or without gaps in between.

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's homelessness application has been closed.

How many households entered temporary accommodation for the first time? How many exited for the last time?

In 2022-23, 22,503 households entered a first (ever) temporary accommodation placement. This may include households who made a homelessness application prior to this year. Over the same period, 19,100 households exited their last (ever) temporary accommodation placement. A household is considered to have 'exited' temporary accommodation in a reporting year only if their homelessness case has closed and their last associated temporary accommodation placement is within that year.

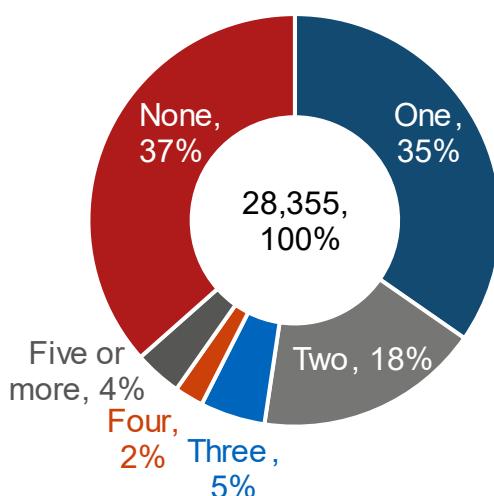
These figures give a net difference of 3,403 more households entering temporary accommodation for the first time than exiting for the last time. This relates to the increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation which can be seen in the snapshot figures. Although the numbers will not match given the differences outlined above.

The largest net increases are in Glasgow and Edinburgh with 797 and 754 more households entering than exiting, respectively.

How commonly used is temporary accommodation?

Nearly two thirds of homelessness applications require temporary accommodation

Chart 10: Number of temporary accommodation placements for applications closed in 2022-23



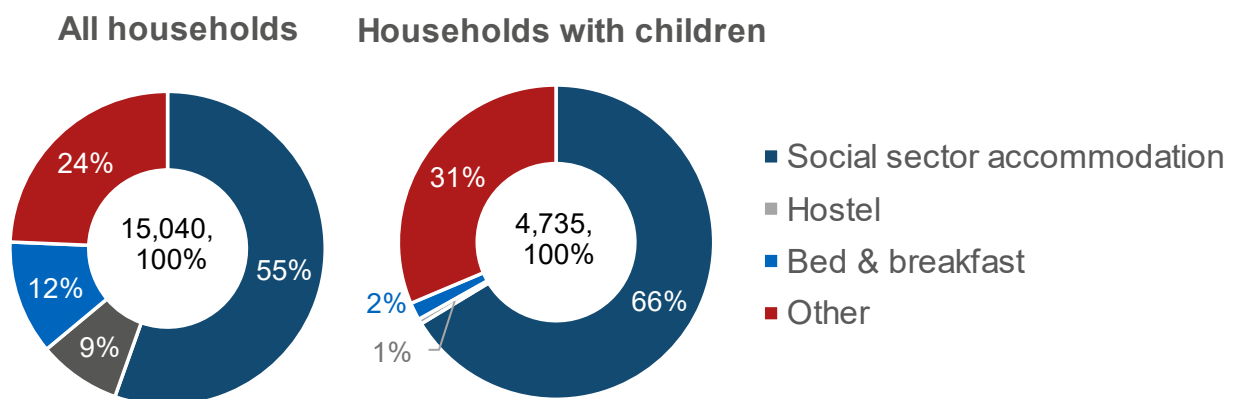
There is variation in the number of placements between local authorities. All homeless households in Shetland had at least one temporary accommodation

placement. This contrasts with 72% of homeless households in Angus that had no temporary accommodation placements. In Edinburgh, 18% of homeless households had five placements or more, much higher than any other local authority. Caution should be applied for local authorities where findings are based on small numbers.

What types of temporary accommodation are used?

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

Chart 11: Households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation, as at 31 March 2023



There has been an increase in the proportion of bed & breakfast accommodation for all households – from [9% as at 31 March 2022](#).

Data from the placement level data collection can provide further insight into the total use of temporary accommodation over the course of homelessness cases. However, it is difficult to make direct comparisons with the snapshot data (shown in Chart 11) as different categories of temporary accommodation are used between the two returns.

There were a total of 39,515 temporary accommodation placements associated with cases that closed in 2022-23. Of which, 38% were in local authority or housing association/registered social landlord (RSL) accommodation; 19% were in hostel accommodation; and 26% were in bed & breakfast accommodation.

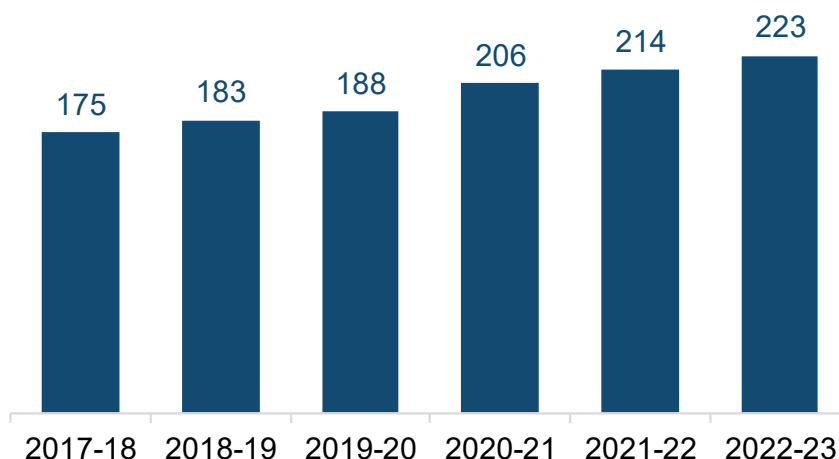
The higher proportion of hostel and bed & breakfast accommodation in the placement level returns (46% vs 20%) indicates that these types of temporary accommodation are more frequently used than the snapshot data suggests. However, this can be explained by the fact that the average duration for stays in these types of accommodation is much shorter - for example, 43 days in bed & breakfast compared to an average of 114 days for all temporary accommodation – and therefore they account for a much smaller proportion of the overall use of temporary accommodation. See Chart 14 for average durations by accommodation type.

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.

How long do households spend in temporary accommodation?

Average total time in temporary accommodation is increasing

Chart 12: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, for cases that closed: 2017-18 to 2022-23



The more recent increases are likely a result of the previously mentioned backlog of cases and difficulties providing settled accommodation.

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.

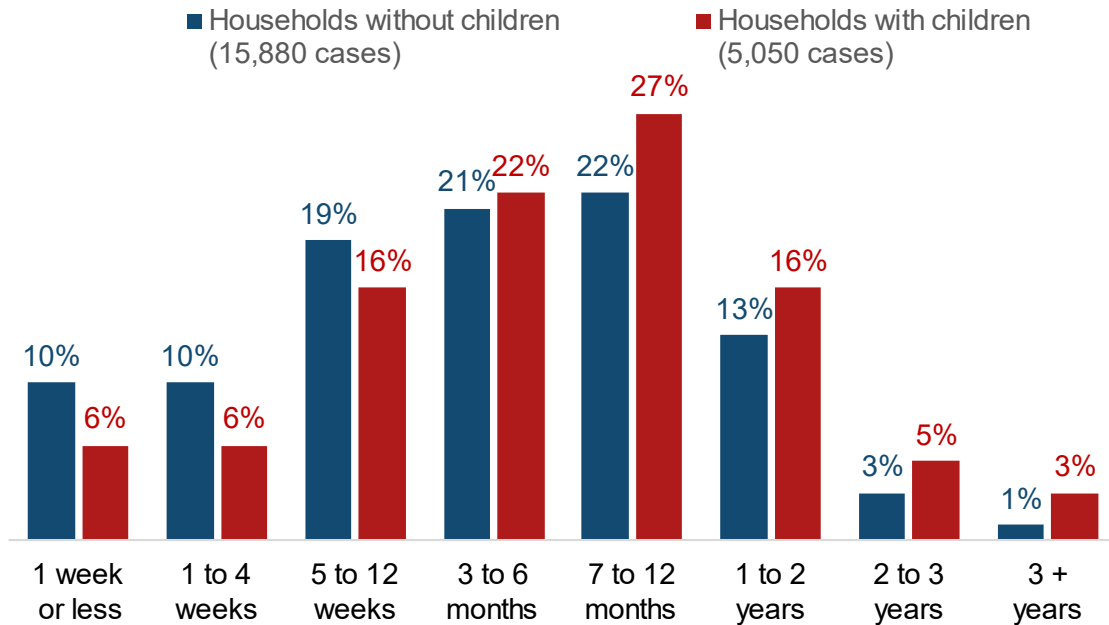
Midlothian has the highest average time at 437 days, although this has reduced from 522 in 2021-22 and 613 in 2020-21. Other notably high durations in temporary accommodation are in Edinburgh (429 days) and East Lothian (423 days).

Perth & Kinross remains the local authority with the lowest average time in temporary accommodation (71 days), although this is an increase from 60 days the previous year. Notable decreases have been experienced in East Dunbartonshire (from 342 to 257 days) and Moray (from 136 to 101 days).

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

Households with children spend longer in temporary accommodation

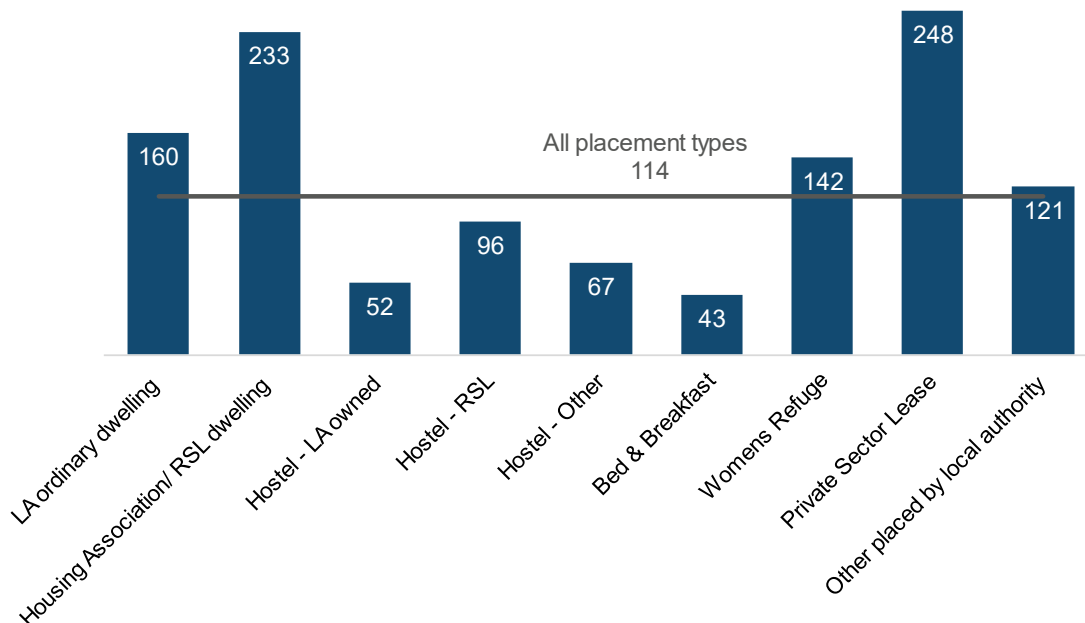
Chart 13: Time households with and without children spent in temporary accommodation (for cases closed in 2022-23)



[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 private sector lease and housing association accommodation

Chart 14: Average duration (days) in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation (for cases that closed in 2022-23)

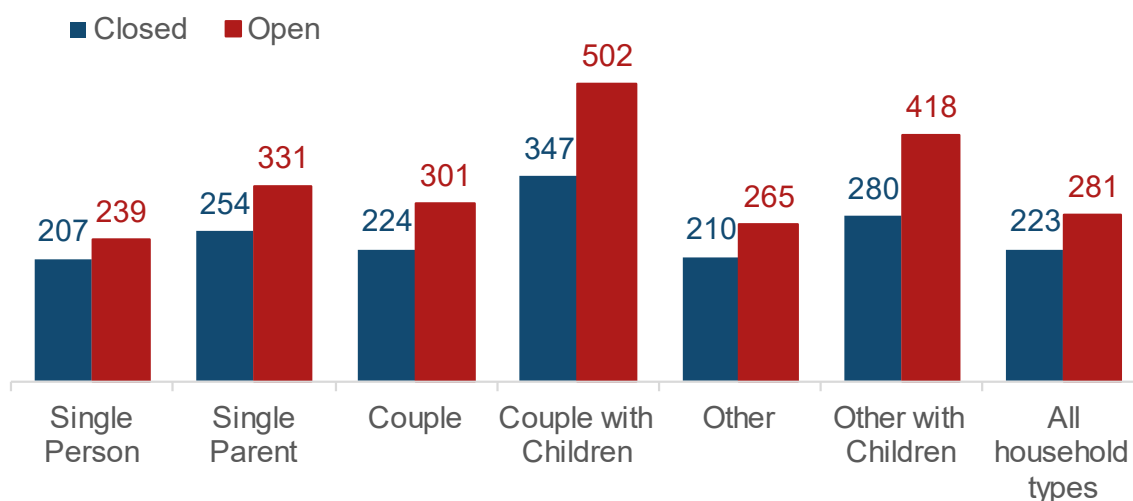


What about households that are still in temporary accommodation?

The time spent in temporary accommodation up to 31 March 2023 can also be calculated for homelessness cases that are still open.

Average time in temporary accommodation is longer for open cases than closed cases for all household types

Chart 15: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, for open and closed cases, by household type: 2022-23



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 2022-23, there were 7,005 cases of households refusing offers of temporary accommodation. This is a decrease of 75 (1%) compared to 2021-22. There were notable reductions in Glasgow (from 2,890 to 2,280), Fife (from 640 to 185) and North Ayrshire (from 115 to 15). Large increases were seen in Edinburgh (from 435 to 765), Aberdeen City (245 to 505), Dumfries & Galloway (70 to 245) and North Lanarkshire (495 to 640).

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 2022-23, there were 445 instances of households not being offered temporary accommodation. This is a 38% decrease compared to 2021-22 (from 715). The majority of these cases were in Edinburgh (420).

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 these.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 there were 3,525 reported breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order (UAO). This is a notable increase from the 2,025 reported in 2021-22. It should be noted that there was a large increase in the number of breaches halfway through 2021-22 (from 410 between April and September to 1,615 between October and March), very likely due to the ceasing of the COVID-19 exceptions on 30 September 2021.

The extension of the legislation to all households will also impact these figures. Prior to May 2020, the UAO only applied to households with a pregnant member and/or children.

Twenty-three local authorities reported breaches in 2022-23. Edinburgh accounted for the most with 1,490 – much higher than the 795 the previous year. West Lothian (505), Fife (410), East Lothian (245), Aberdeen City (220) and Glasgow (190) also had a large number of breaches.

Reporting anomalies and inconsistencies

Increased scrutiny of the data brought about by changes in legislation and the introduction of COVID-19 exceptions uncovered anomalies and inconsistencies in the reporting of breaches. Through this process, it became clear that this was exacerbated by a lack of consistent interpretation of unsuitable accommodation legislation and data collection guidance.

In May 2022, enhanced data collection guidance was issued to local authorities to clarify reporting requirements and, in turn, ensure consistency and improve quality. While many local authorities have been able to update their management information systems in line with the enhanced guidance in time for this publication, some have not.

In addition, some errors have been identified for local authorities who have implemented changes. This is to be expected over the transition period. The vast majority of errors identified have been corrected in time for publication, although there are still some outstanding.

Therefore, issues persist around comparability and correctness of this data.

Additional quality assurance processes have been incorporated to pick up errors quickly and close working with local authorities is ongoing to ensure that consistent reporting against updated guidance is implemented as quickly and correctly as possible.

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.

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

All exceptions ceased on 30 September 2021. Again, this means that data will not be comparable across the series.

Outcomes

Key points in 2022-23

- ↓ The number of homelessness cases closed decreased despite the increase in the number of homelessness applications
- ↑ 83% of unintentionally homeless households secured settled accommodation, increasing from 82% in 2021-22
- ↓ 4% of households were re-assessed as homeless within one year of previous assessment, a decrease from 5% in 2021-22 and now the lowest in the time series

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, 28,354 cases were closed in 2022-23, a decrease of 1% compared to 2021-22. This decrease is in contrast to the increase in applications, which helps explain the increase in open homelessness cases.

How often do local authorities lose contact with applicants?

For households with homelessness cases that closed in 2022-23, contact was maintained for 92% 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 where this has been between 85 and 88% since 2013-14.

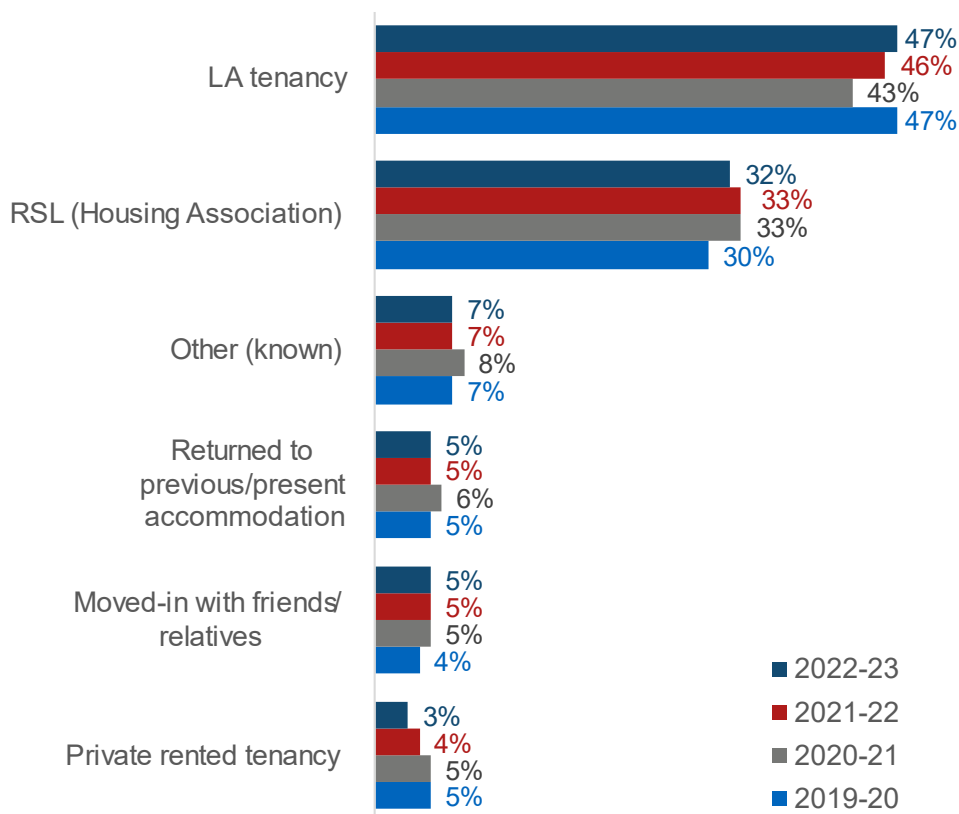
What are the outcomes for homeless households?

Of the 25,265 unintentionally homelessness cases that closed in 2022-23 (where contact was maintained and the outcome was known), 83% (20,860) secured settled accommodation.

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

Registered social landlord proportions remain above pre-pandemic, while private rented tenancy proportions decrease

Chart 16: Outcomes for households assessed as unintentionally homeless where contact was maintained, 2019-20 to 2022-23



A small number of councils noted that the reduction in private rented tenancies is a result of these being a less affordable option and a reduction in availability/increased demand.

The proportion of unintentionally homeless households securing settled accommodation has increased over time, from 64% in 2002-03 to 83% in 2022-23.

Intentionally homeless households are less likely to secure settled accommodation due to there being no statutory duty to provide settled accommodation for these households. In 2022-23, 37% of intentionally homeless households secured settled accommodation. This is the lowest since 2003-04 and likely reflects the lack of available settled accommodation within local authorities. 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.

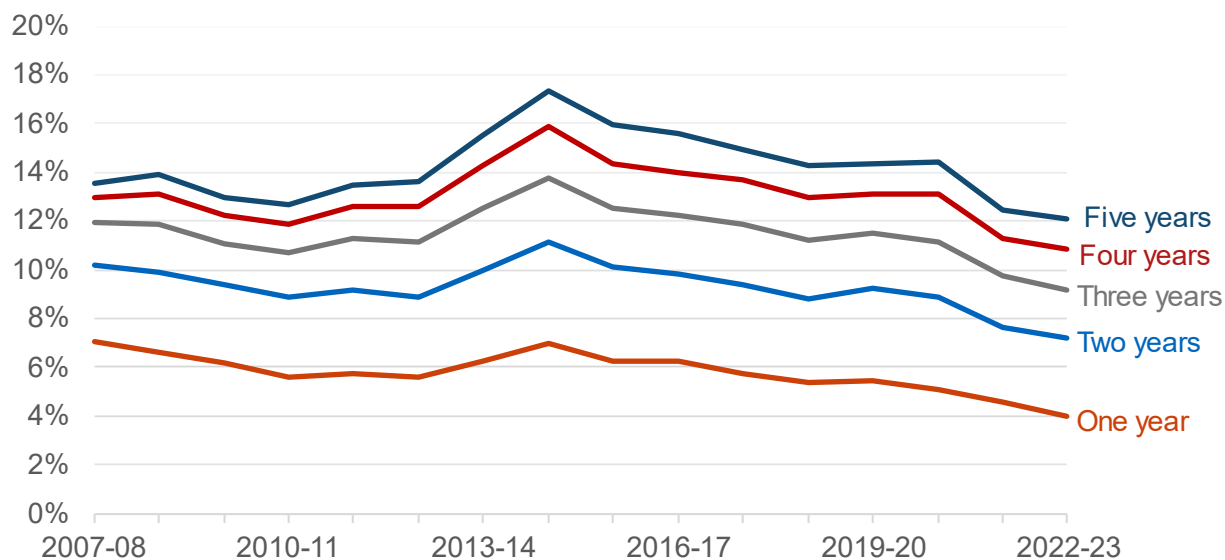
Is there a return to homelessness?

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 reassessed as homeless as a proportion of all homeless households have shown a decreasing trend since 2014-15

Chart 17: Households assessed as homeless that have previously been assessed as homeless in the last one to five years: 2007-08 to 2022-23



There were 1,284 households (4%) that had previously been assessed as homeless in the 12 months prior to their most recent assessments and 3,910 (12%) in the previous 5 years. Note that these are cumulative.

There is significant variation between local authorities with respect to repeat homelessness. For example, 8% of homeless households in Glasgow had previously been assessed as homeless in the 12 months prior to their assessment. This is compared to 0% in East Dunbartonshire and Shetland, though caution should be applied when looking at findings 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 77% of cases where there was a duty to assess in 2022-23. In 22% of cases where there was a duty to assess, no assessment took place, and no support was provided. Housing support was provided in 39% of all cases. Support was not provided for 7% of cases where a support need was identified.

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

Key points in 2022-23

- ↑ It takes an average of 21 days for a homelessness case to be assessed. This is two days longer compared to 2021-22 but is eight days less than 2004-05
- ↑ The average number of days from assessment to closure for cases assessed as homeless has increased to 266, the highest in the time series. This is an increase from 262 days in 2021-22 and 228 days in 2018-19

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

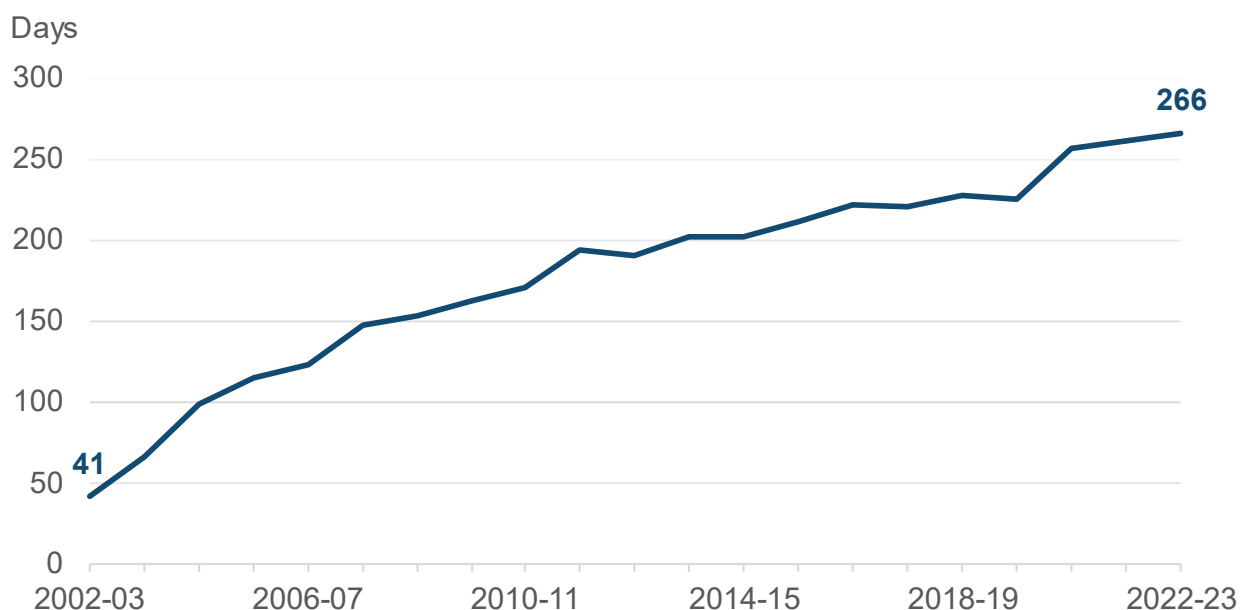
In 2022-23, it took 21 days on average for a case to be assessed following an application. This is two days longer on average than in 2020-21, and the highest since 2009-10. The longest average time in the time series was 29 days in 2004-05.

West Lothian has a particularly long average time (53 days), with Edinburgh the next longest (37 days). Both these councils noted staff resourcing issues having an impact.

Glasgow had the shortest average time of 11 days, which is an increase of 2 days compared to 2021-22.

Average time to close homelessness cases has increased over time

Chart 18: Average time (in days) to close a homelessness case: 2002-03 to 2022-23



This increase reflects the ongoing difficulties local authorities are facing providing households with settled accommodation as previously mentioned.

Edinburgh had the highest average of 654 days; this was an increase from 636 in 2021-22 and 481 in 2020-21. West Lothian (393 to 480) and Stirling (438 to 517) also had large increases from the previous year. Perth & Kinross had the lowest average at 78 days; an increase from 64 days the previous year, but a general decrease since 2014-15. There were notable decreases for average time in East Dunbartonshire (403 to 231) who attributed this to their focus on rapid re-housing efforts and Midlothian (672 to 534) to converting temporary accommodation into permanent accommodation.

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 46 days. This is also an increase on the previous year (33 days) and over time (from 7 days in 2002-03). Edinburgh was again the highest (148 days compared to 101 the previous year).

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.

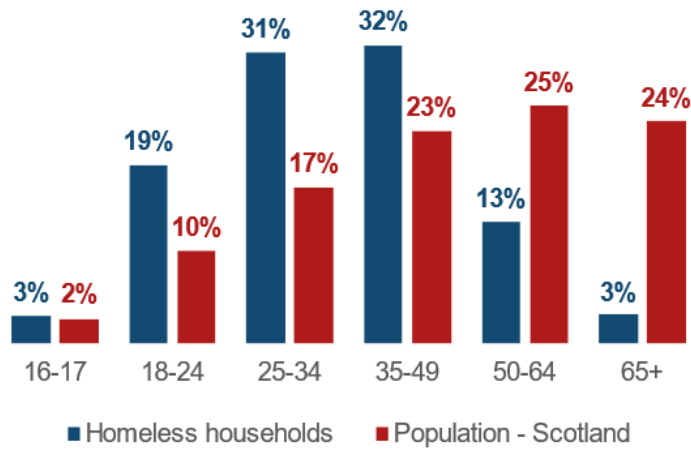
Although data is captured for the main applicant and a second applicant where applicable, findings are based on the characteristics of the main applicant only, for ease of reporting. Given the majority of homeless households only contain one adult, this only affects 12% of all households where there 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 from our [supporting documents page](#). 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



Reason and prior circumstances

Younger people are more likely to become homeless from the family home for the reason of being asked to leave.

Older people are more likely to become homeless from a private rented tenancy and fail to maintain accommodation due to physical health.

Rough sleeping



is most common amongst 35 to 64 year olds

Repeat homelessness



is least common amongst the very youngest and oldest applicants

Outcomes



For most ages, 82% to 84% secured settled accommodation.

Exception was 16 to 17 years old where only 75% achieved this.

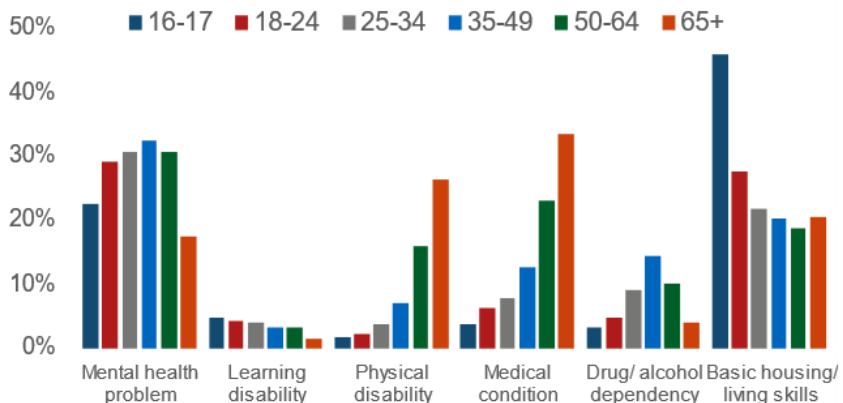
However, a larger proportion of 16 to 17 year olds returned to previous accommodation or moved in with friends or relatives.

Support needs

Older applicants are more likely to have support needs related to 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



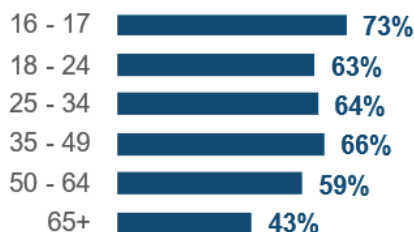
Temporary accommodation



Older applicants are least likely to take up temporary accommodation whilst **younger** applicants are most likely

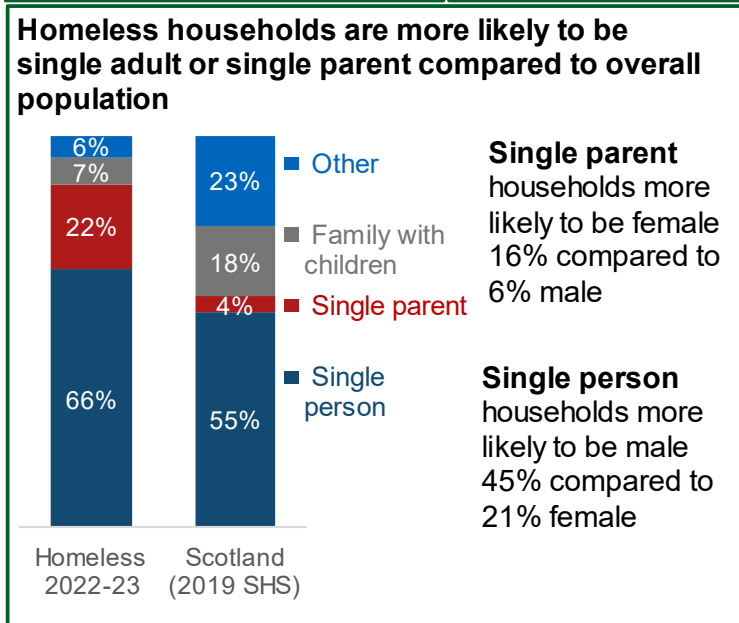
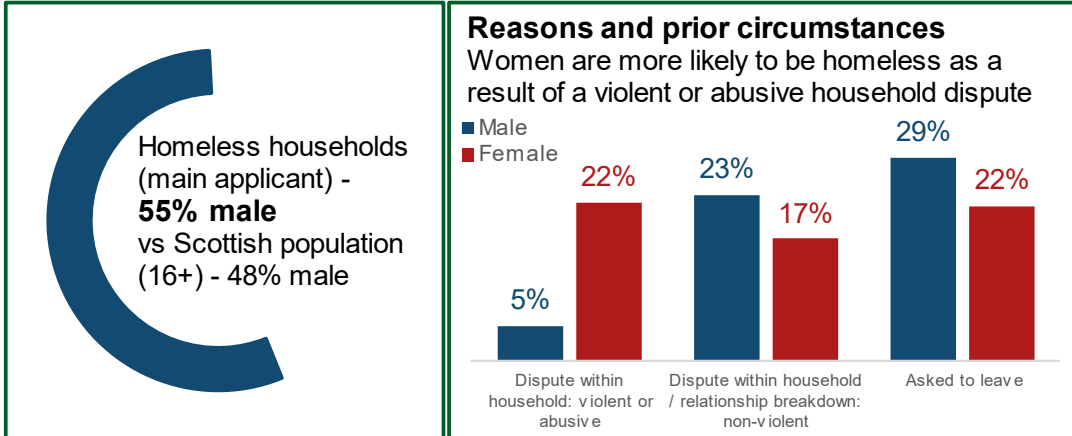
Older applicants spend least time in temporary accommodation, 177 days on average compared to an overall average of 233 days

One or more TA placements



35 to 49 year olds most likely not to be offered temporary accommodation and to breach the unsuitable accommodation order

Gender and household type



Rough sleeping

83% of those reporting rough sleeping in the previous three months were men

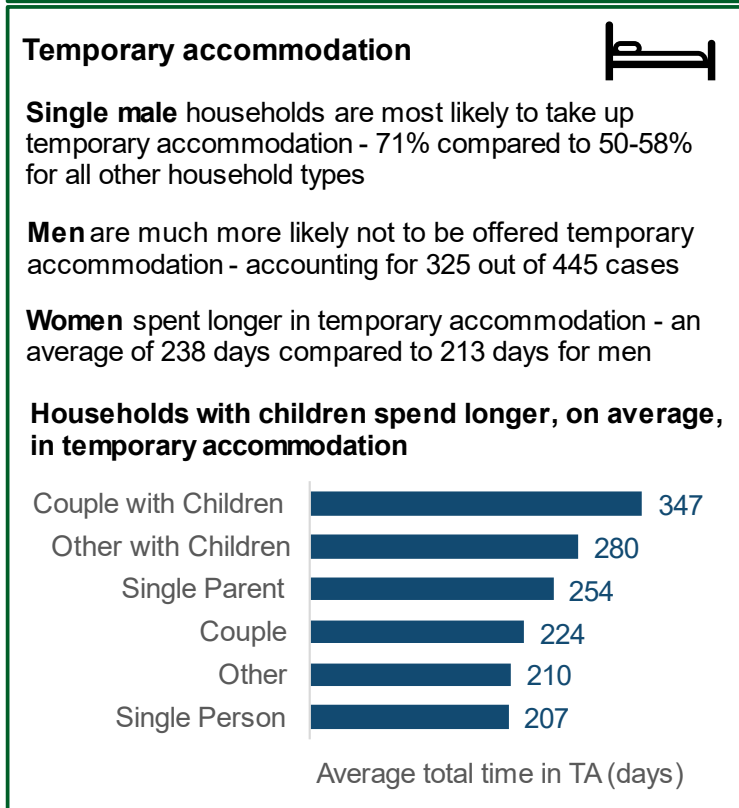
Repeat homelessness

70% of those who had previously been assessed as homeless in the last year were men

Property type homeless from

Women are more likely to become homeless from private rented tenancies

Men are more likely to become homeless from friends/family and prison



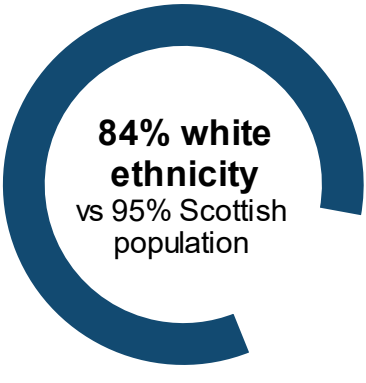
Outcomes

Women are more likely than men to secure settled accommodation - 85% compared to 81%

Single male households are least likely to secure settled accommodation - 79% compared to 81% for single female households and 83% overall

Households with children are more likely to secure settled accommodation than those without - 88% compared to 81%


Ethnicity



84% white ethnicity
vs 95% Scottish population

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

Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	20%
White: Other British	16%
White: Irish	16%
White: Polish	14%
White: Other	13%
African	13%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	13%
White: Scottish	12%
Caribbean or Black	12%
Not known or Refused	12%
Other ethnic group	7%




Rough sleeping most common for White Other British

Support needs

White Other British (58%) and White Scottish (54%) more likely to have a support need compared to other ethnicities (51% for all)

Temporary accommodation

One or more TA placements	
Caribbean or Black	93%
African	80%
Other ethnic group	75%
White: Irish	74%
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	73%
White: Polish	71%
White: Other	67%
White: Other British	64%
White: Scottish	61%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	60%




African and Caribbean or Black most likely to take up temporary accommodation

African and White Polish spend, on average, longest in temporary accommodation than other ethnicities - 336 and 334 days respectively compared to 223 days overall

White Irish and White Other British spent on average less time in temporary accommodation - 190 and 193 days on average respectively

Outcomes



Caribbean or Black(93%) and **White Polish** (90%) were most likely to secure settled accommodation compared to 83% overall

African households took the longest on average to close a case 413 days compared to 266 overall

Notes on tables

Data within this publication is available in electronic format within tables and charts on the [supporting documents page](#).

There are workbooks available which contain data for:

- Main findings
- Equalities
- Ukrainian displaced households
- Children in temporary accommodation (HL3 Q12 & Q13)

In response to user feedback, the number of years available in the main findings and equalities workbooks have been reduced (to the most recent five years) to make these more user friendly. Full time series data is available on the [full statistical time series page](#).

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.

[Data Protection Impact Assessment and Quality Assurance Statement for HL1, HL2, HL3 and PREVENT1 data collections](#)

The rates of homeless households and households in temporary accommodation per 10,000 households were calculated using [Households and dwellings in Scotland, 2022 statistics, 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 these 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 35,759 homeless applications were made in 2021-22, but the previous 'Homelessness in Scotland: 2021 to 2022' publication gave a figure of 35,230. This is a difference of 529 applications, or approximately 1%. A table comparing the annual number of applications is included in the main tables document accompanying this publication (table QA2) available on the [supporting documents page](#).

Characteristics 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.

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

There are other data quality issues of which we are aware:

- 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.
- Snapshot data about temporary accommodation provided by Fife and Orkney do not include all temporary accommodation placements used, and therefore understates the number of households in temporary accommodation within these councils.
- There are inconsistencies between local authorities in the reporting of breaches of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2020. From May 2020 to September 2021 exceptions were put in place in response to COVID-19 which caused confusion for some local authorities, particularly around when the extension of the legislation (from only households with pregnant women and/or children to all) should commence. Local authorities were able to capture different levels of information regarding breaches around this time (i.e. whether an exception could or could not be applied) which has implications for data comparability. In May 2022, enhanced guidance was issued to provide clarity around the reporting of breaches. It was anticipated that this should relate to all data from 1 April 2022, however, not all local authorities have managed to correctly implement changes to management information systems as yet, and therefore over the transition period, there will remain inconsistency and inaccuracies within the data.

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 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.

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](#).

Summary of Local Authority duty to homeless households:

Unintentionally homeless

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.

From 29 November 2022, local authorities no longer have the power to refer an applicant to another local authority in Scotland on the grounds of their local connection. However, the power to refer applicants with a local connection to an authority in England and Wales remains, provided they do not have a local connection with the authority receiving the application. Only applicants who are assessed as being unintentionally homeless may be referred to another authority.

Intentionally Homeless

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

Potentially homeless, unintentionally so

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

Potentially homeless, intentionally so

Provide advice and assistance to help retain accommodation.

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.

Data

Source data for this publication are available in tables from our [supporting documents page](#) and [full statistical time series page](#).

Tell us what you think

We are always interested to hear from our users about how our statistics are used, and how they can be improved.

Feedback survey

We'd appreciate it if you would complete our short [feedback survey](#) on this publication.

Enquiries

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Homelessness Statistics & Analysis

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For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

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