

CHAIN ANNUAL BULLETIN GREATER LONDON 2014/15

This bulletin presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London between April 2014 and March 2015. Information in the report is derived from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN), a multi-agency database recording information about rough sleepers and the wider street population in London. CHAIN, which is commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by St Mungo's Broadway, represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping.

Headline findings

Overall

7,581 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach workers in 2014/15.

- This represents an increase of 16% compared to 2013/14. This is significantly larger than the previous increase of 1% between 2012/13 and 2013/14, but more consistent with the 13% increase seen between 2011/12 and 2012/13.

New rough sleepers

5,107 people (67% of the total) were seen sleeping rough for the first time in London in 2014/15.

- 67% of new rough sleepers were only seen once in the year, compared to 70% in 2013/14 and 75% in 2012/13.
- 34% of new rough sleepers attended No Second Night Out (NSNO) and 1,493 (86%) of these people were not seen rough sleeping again in the year.

Longer term rough sleepers

21% of rough sleepers in 2014/15 had also been seen in 2013/14, while 12% had returned to the streets after a period of at least one year when they had not been seen rough sleeping.

- Returners have shown the greatest proportional increase over 2013/14, at 20% (compared to 17% for new rough sleepers, and 13% for people also seen in 2013/14).
- Two thirds of returners (565 people) were seen just once or twice, suggesting they didn't return to long term rough sleeping.
- 183 (2% of the total) rough sleepers were seen in all four quarters of 2014/15. This figure remains low, but this group is of particular concern because these people are more likely than others to be 'living on the streets'.

Borough profile

34% of those seen rough sleeping were contacted in Westminster (2,570 people).

- The number of people seen rough sleeping in Westminster has risen by 373 (a 17% increase), following two successive years when it decreased.
- Six other boroughs recorded more than 300 rough sleepers in the year (Camden: 563; Lambeth: 468; Tower Hamlets: 377; City of London: 373; Southwark: 373; and Brent: 359).
- Southwark was the only borough in the ten with the highest numbers of rough sleepers which saw a decrease on 2013/14, with 5% fewer people seen rough sleeping.

Nationality

Two fifths (43%) of those seen rough sleeping were of UK nationality.

- The proportion of UK nationality rough sleepers has continued to fall over the last two years (46% in 2013/14, and 47% in 2012/13).
- 36% of those seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 were from Central and Eastern Europe* and 10% were from other European countries.
- Romanians were the single biggest non-UK nationality group, comprising 19% of all people seen rough sleeping in the year.

Age and gender

Those who slept rough were predominately male (86%). Just over one in ten were aged under 26.

- 14% (1,094 people) of those seen rough sleeping were female.
- 12% (880 people) of those seen rough sleeping were aged under 26, of whom just nine people were under 18 years old.
- 9% of those seen were over 55.

Last settled base

2,685 new rough sleepers had information recorded about their last longer term or settled accommodation before rough sleeping.

- 62% reported their last settled base as being some form of long term accommodation, including 42% coming from private rented accommodation.
- 5% had been living in a hostel before first being seen rough sleeping.
- 4% reported their last settled base as prison or hospital.

Reason for leaving last settled base

2,576 new rough sleepers had information recorded about why they had left their last longer term or settled accommodation.

- 30% left their last settled accommodation after being asked to leave by the person they were staying with, or following eviction.
- 10% left their last settled home due to a relationship breakdown.
- 24% left to seek work or following the loss of a job.
- 787 people had sought help and advice from a Local Authority Housing Options service during the 12 months before they were first seen sleeping rough.

Moves off the street

Outreach teams and NSNO helped 2,624 (35%) of the people seen rough sleeping into accommodation or to return to their home area.

- A total of 3,119 bookings into accommodation were made for people seen rough sleeping during 2014/15.
- Just over half (51%) of the total 1,241 reconnections for rough sleepers in 2014/15 were to destinations outside the UK.
- 39% of departures from hostels and other temporary accommodation in 2014/15 were moves to medium to long term accommodation, compared to 42% in 2013/14.

* EU expansion in 2004 and 2007 enabled people from the following countries to come to the UK to work: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. These are referred to as Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries in this report.

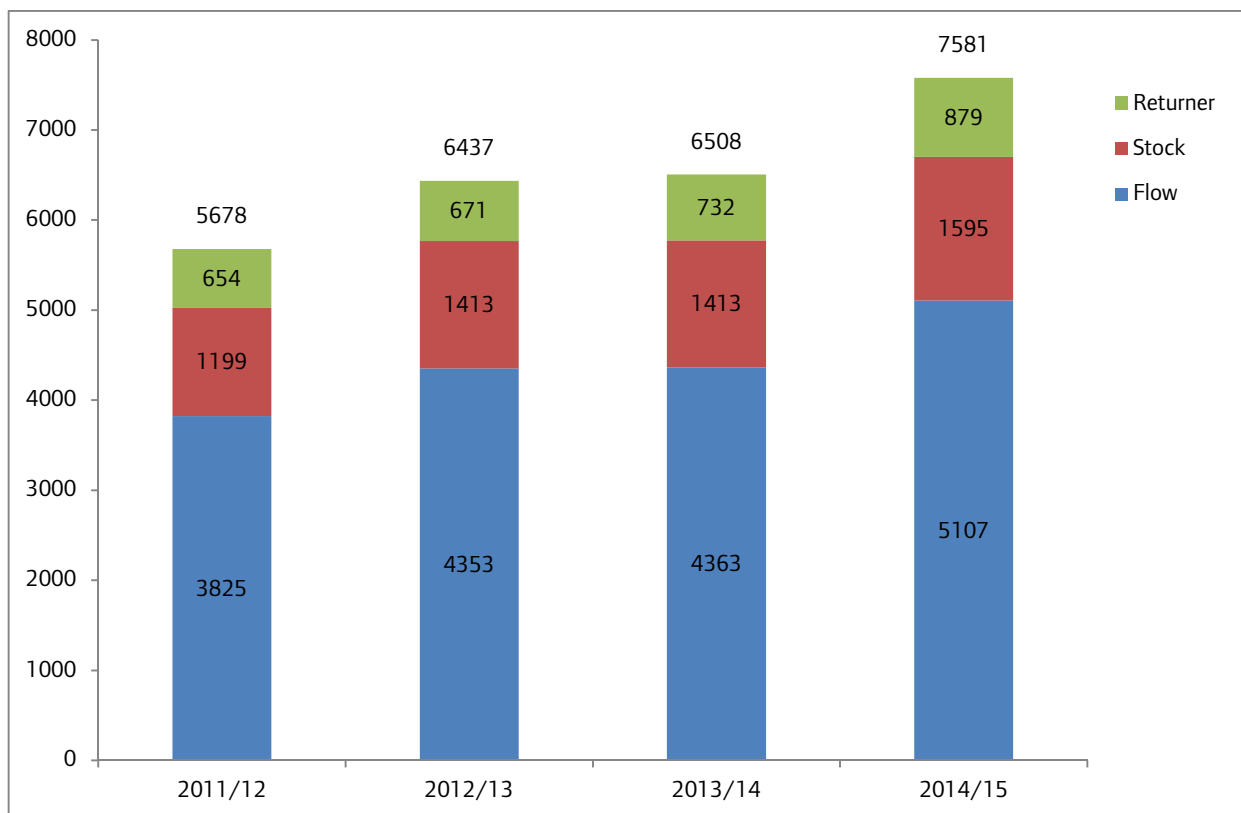
Context

The Mayor of London is working with government, local authority and voluntary sector partners to ensure that no one new to the streets sleeps rough for a second night, no one lives on the streets of London and the flow of new rough sleepers onto the streets is minimised. Progress towards this has been delivered by a wide range of specialist services commissioned by London's local authorities and the Greater London Authority.

Number of people seen rough sleeping

7,581 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in 2014/15. Overall rough sleeping figures increased by 16% from 2013/14, compared to an increase of 1% between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Figure (a) Profile of the number of people seen rough sleeping 2011/12 – 2014/15 using flow, stock returner model



Bases: 2011/12: 5,678, 2012/13: 6,437, 2013/14: 6,508, 2014/15: 7,581.

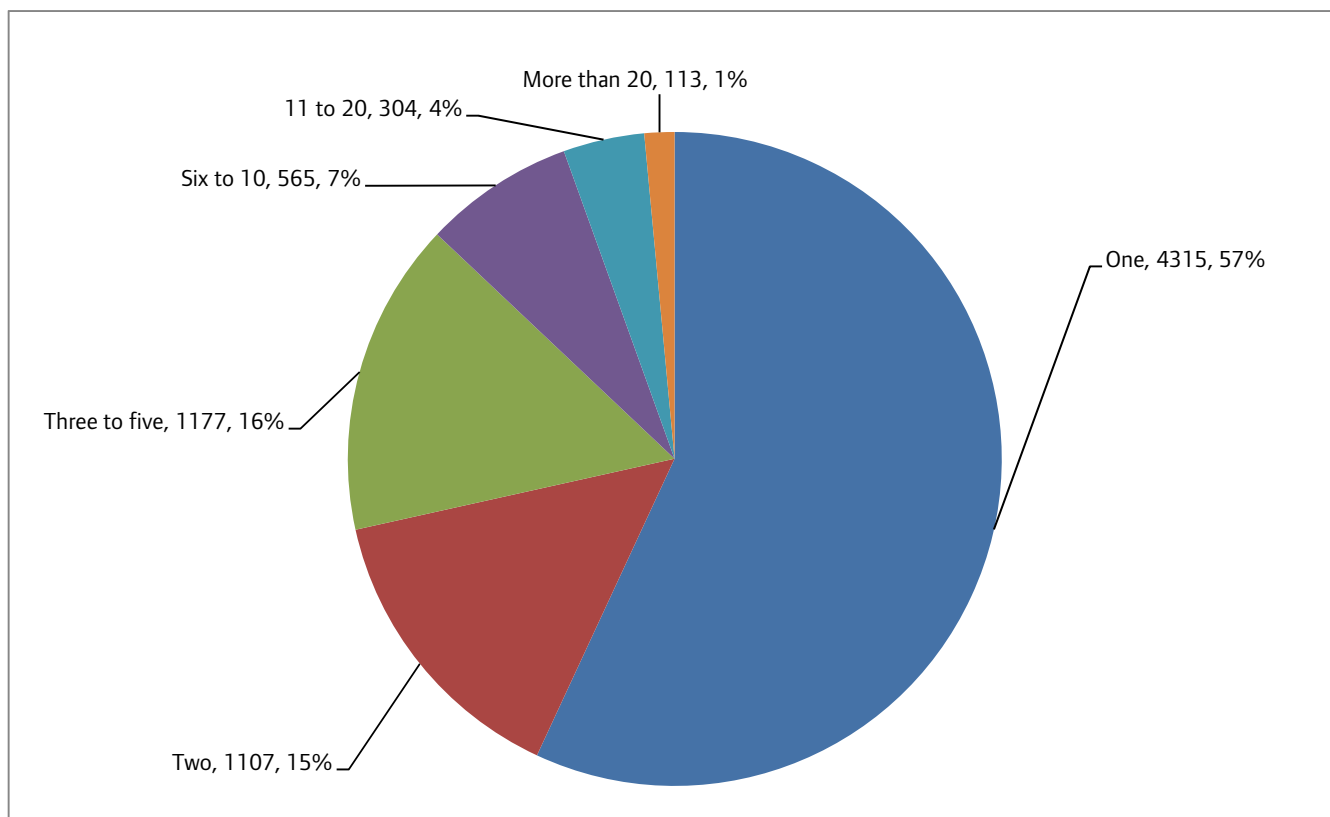
The flow, stock, returner model categorises people seen rough sleeping in the year according to whether they have also been seen rough sleeping in previous periods. Definitions of the categories are as follows:

Category	Description
Flow	People who had never been seen rough sleeping prior to 2014/15 (i.e. new rough sleepers).
Stock	People who were also seen rough sleeping in 2013/14 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).
Returner	People who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2013/14, but were not seen during 2013/14 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).

5,107 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time in London in 2014/15 (flow group), which is 67% of all people seen rough sleeping in the period. Around two thirds (67%) of new rough sleepers were only seen once, compared to 70% in 2013/14 and 75% in 2012/13. A fifth (21%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 were also seen in the preceding year (stock group). Just over one in ten (12%) of people seen rough sleeping were in the returner group, meaning they had been seen rough sleeping in the past but not in 2013/14. The proportion of people in each group is consistent with last year.

Volume and regularity of rough sleeping

Figure (b) Number of times seen rough sleeping



Base: 7,581 people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15.

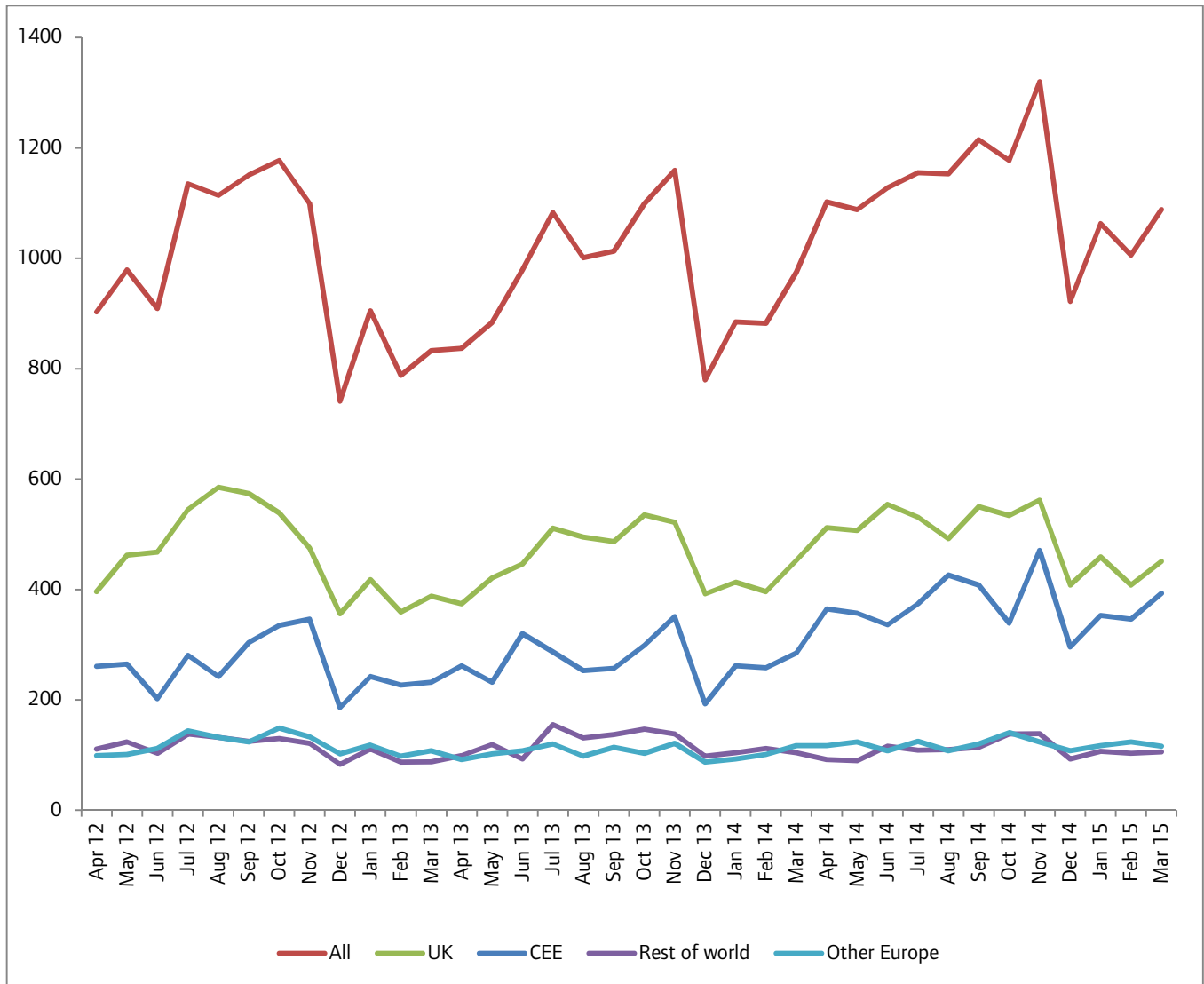
The majority (57%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 were seen only once. 72% were only seen once or twice. Around one in 20 people (6%) were seen rough sleeping more than 10 times. A small group of people were seen very regularly, with six people seen more than 50 times in the year. This is a notably lower figure than the 24 people seen more than 50 times in 2013/14, and the 29 in 2012/13.

Figure (c) Number of quarters of the year within which rough sleepers were seen

Number of quarters of the year within which rough sleepers were seen	2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	
	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers
One	4940	77%	5033	77%	5843	77%
Two	915	14%	965	15%	1140	15%
Three	385	6%	346	5%	415	5%
Four	197	3%	164	3%	183	2%
Total	6437	100%	6508	100%	7581	100%

Figure (c) above shows how many people were seen in one, two, three or all four quarters of the years 2012/13 to 2014/15. It is important to be aware that the figures in each column are limited to the year in question – people may have also been seen in previous or subsequent years. Three in four (77%) of those seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 were only seen in one quarter of the year. 2% of those seen rough sleeping were seen bedded down in all four quarters of the year, suggesting that their rough sleeping is an ongoing issue and was not successfully resolved. These proportions are almost the same as those observed in 2013/14.

Figure (d) Number of people seen rough sleeping month by month, April 2012 - March 2015



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

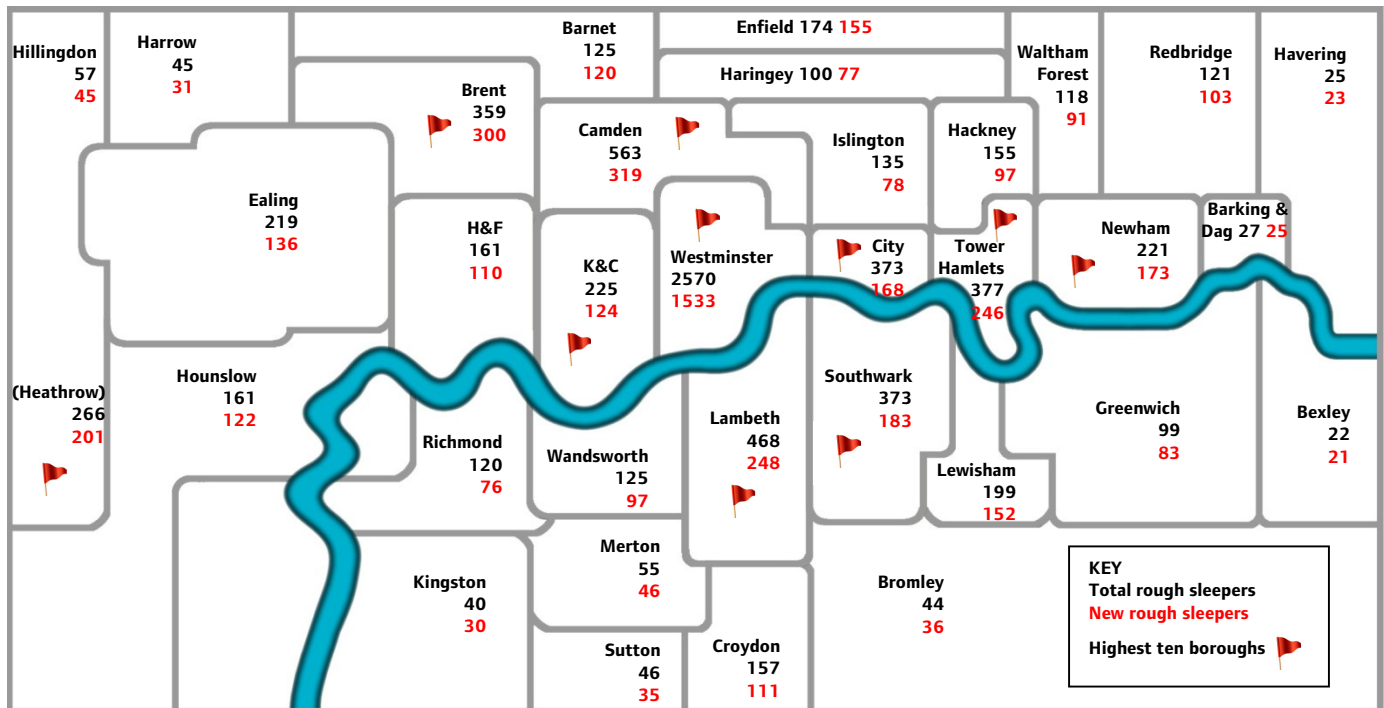
During 2014/15, the month in which the highest number of people were seen rough sleeping was November 2014 (1,320 people), while the lowest number were seen in December 2014 (922 people).

There typically tend to be seasonal variations in rough sleeping, with the highest numbers seen in summer and autumn, and the lowest numbers in the winter months of December to February, when winter shelters are usually in operation.

The nationality comparison indicates that trends amongst particular nationality groupings have generally remained consistent with the overall trend.

Borough by borough rough sleeping figures

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



The map above shows the number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough. In this map an individual will be counted more than once if they were seen rough sleeping in multiple boroughs.

Figure (f) Annual change in rough sleeper numbers by borough

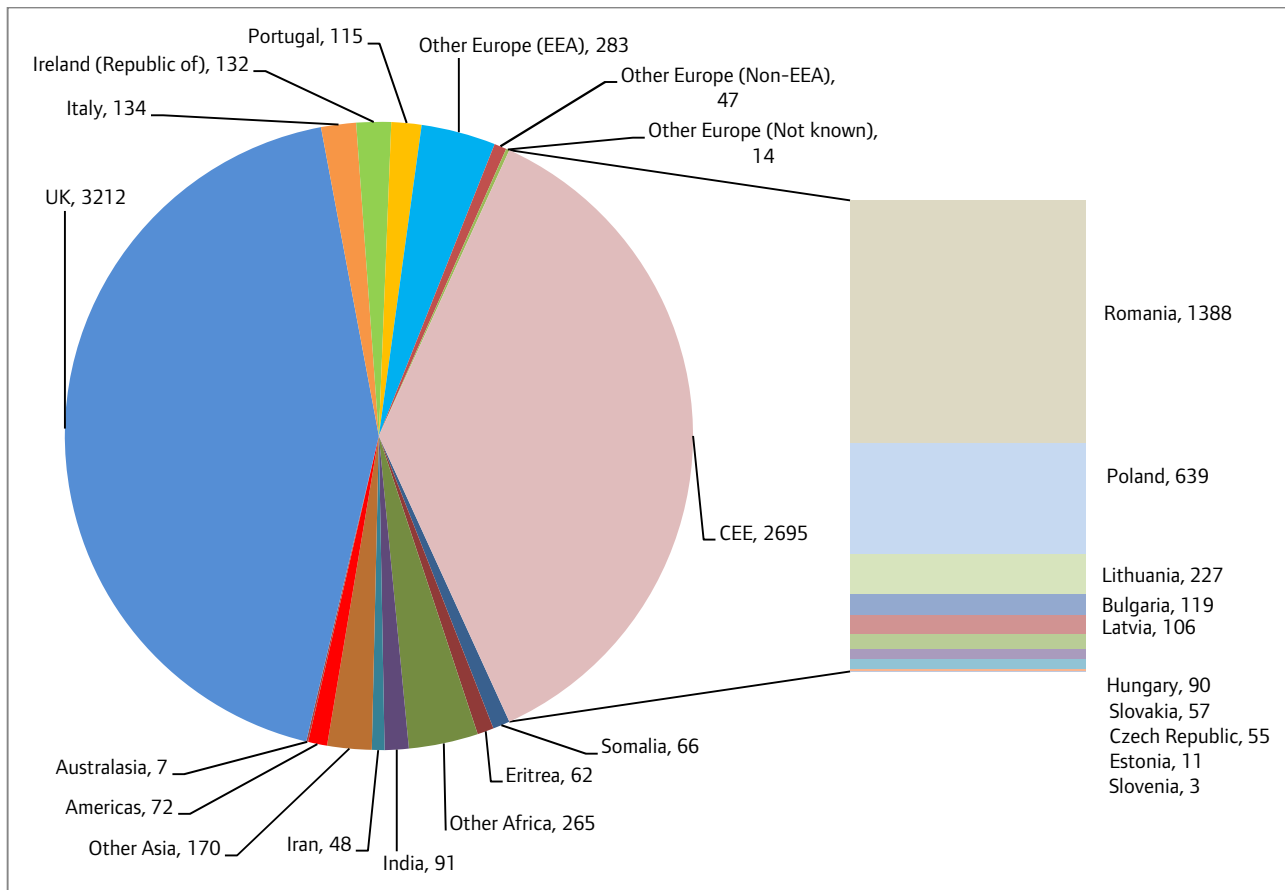
The table below compares numbers of rough sleepers seen in 2013/14 and 2014/15, for the 10 boroughs reporting the highest numbers of rough sleepers this year.

Borough	2013/14	2014/15	Change since 2013/14
Westminster	2197	2570	373
Camden	501	563	62
Lambeth	427	468	41
Tower Hamlets	324	377	53
City of London	317	373	56
Southwark	391	373	-18
Brent	307	359	52
Heathrow	165	266	101
Kensington & Chelsea	183	225	42
Newham	202	221	19

The boroughs in which the greatest numbers of rough sleepers were seen in 2014/15 were Westminster, Camden, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, City of London and Southwark, which remains broadly consistent with 2013/14. Of the ten boroughs with the highest numbers of rough sleepers, only Southwark has shown a decrease on the previous year.

Nationality profile of people seen rough sleeping

Figure (g) Nationality of people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15



Base: 7,413 people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 whose nationality was known.

The nationality profile of rough sleepers in London remains very diverse. 43% of people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 were from the UK – a decrease from the figure of 46% in 2013/14 and continuing an ongoing downward trend. The proportion of rough sleepers from CEE countries was 36%, an increase when compared to 31% in 2013/14 and 28% in 2012/13. Romanians (1,388, 19%) constitute the predominant non-UK nationality by some distance, with Poles (639, 9%) making up the second largest non-UK nationality group.

There were a significant number of rough sleepers from non-CEE European countries, mostly those in the European Economic Area, with Italy (134), the Republic of Ireland (132) and Portugal (115) continuing to be the most heavily represented. 393 (5%) people seen rough sleeping in the year were from African countries, and 309 (4%) were of Asian nationality.

Nationality figures do not allow us to surmise how long people have been in the UK, or whether they have access to public funds. Immigration data on CHAIN is not comprehensive, but the most commonly recorded immigration status for those from non-European countries is indefinite leave to remain (279 people), followed by overstayer (59 people) and limited leave to remain (56 people).

Age and gender profile of people seen rough sleeping

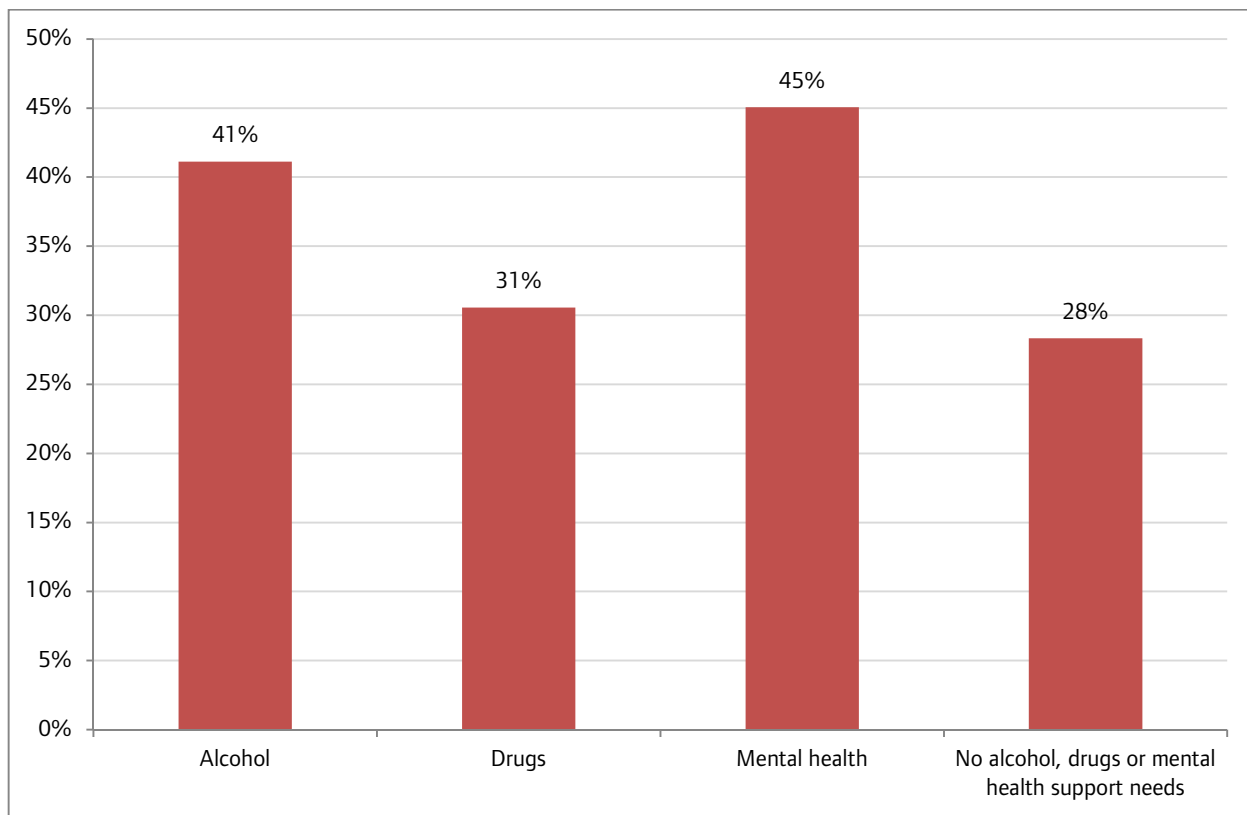
The age and gender profiles of those seen rough sleeping have remained stable over recent years:

- One in seven (14%) were women
- Most of those seen rough sleeping (57%) are in the 26 - 45 age group
- Just over one in 10 (12%) were under 26 years old
- Nine people were aged under 18
- Just under one in 10 (9%) were over 55.

Support needs profile of people seen rough sleeping

Support needs data in CHAIN is derived from assessments made by those working with rough sleepers in the homelessness sector. It should be noted that almost a third (31%) of rough sleepers in 2014/15 did not have a support needs assessment recorded, the majority of these (80%) being people who had only been seen rough sleeping once or twice.

Figure (h) Support needs profile of those seen rough sleeping in 2014/15



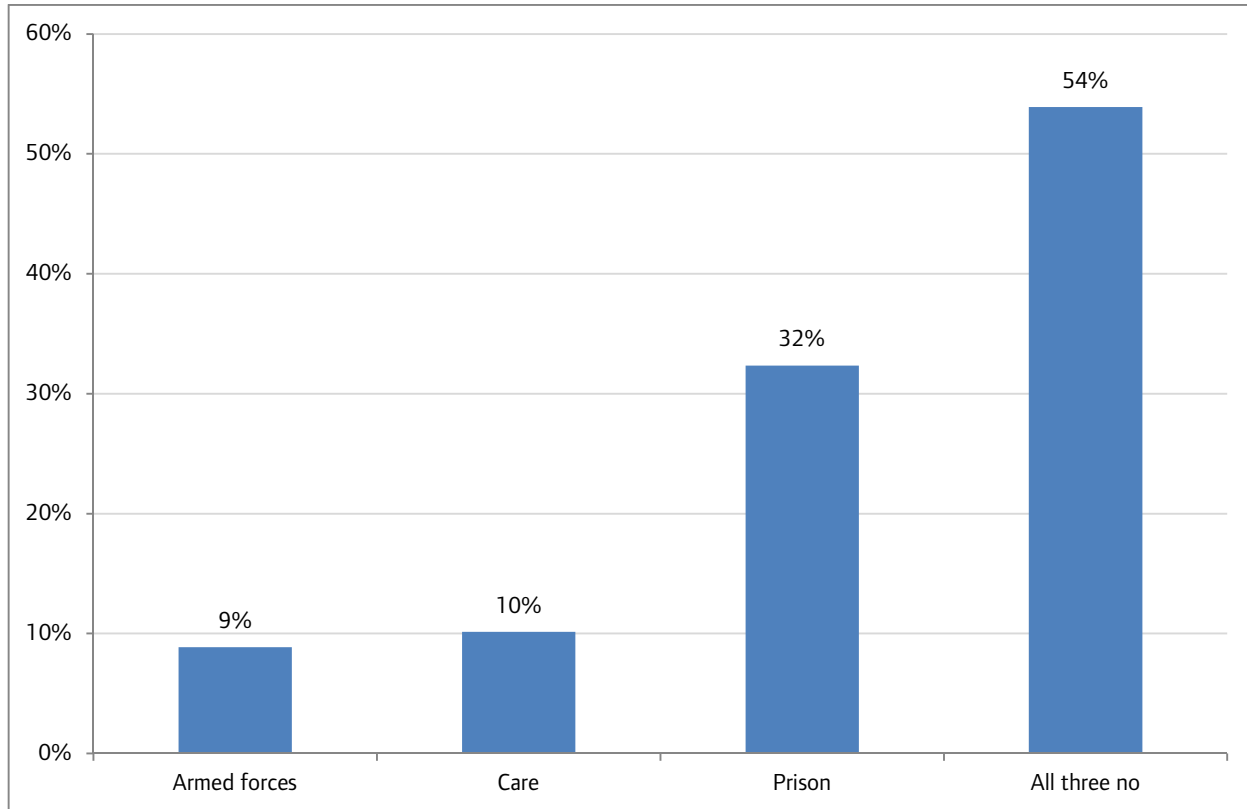
Base: 5,197 people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 who had been assessed for at least one of the three key support needs.

28% of those assessed in 2014/15 had no support needs identified, which is unchanged from the proportion with no needs in 2013/14. The most frequently reported support need amongst those assessed was mental health, at 45% (compared to 46% in 2013/14). Alcohol was the second most prevalent support need, at 41% (compared to 43% in 2013/14). Just over three in ten (31%) people assessed had a drugs support need, which is also unchanged compared to the figure in the previous year.

Armed forces and institutional history profile of people seen rough sleeping

CHAIN records whether a person has spent time in prison, the armed forces or Local Authority care at any time in their lives.

Figure (i) Experience of serving in the armed forces, and spending time in prison or in Local Authority care, among people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15



Base: 5,073 people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 for whom one or more institutional history was recorded.

A third (32%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 have experience of serving time in prison, while 10% had experience of the care system.

Overall, 9% of people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 had served in the armed forces at some point in their lives. Looking at this in more detail, 3% (151) of people seen rough sleeping in the year were UK nationals who have served in the armed forces.

Proportions of people with experience of the armed forces, care or prison are consistent with 2013/14.

Helping people off the streets

Accommodation and moves to other areas

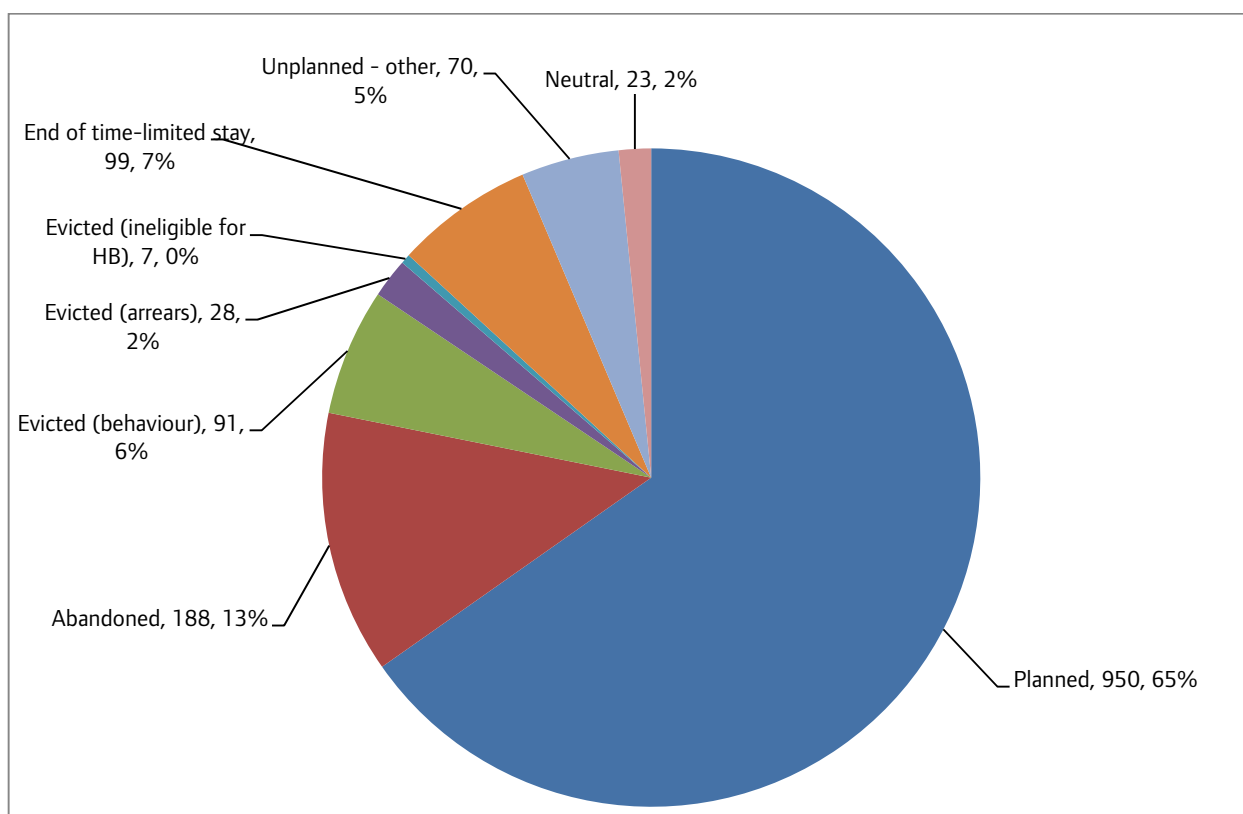
Outreach teams and other services, including No Second Night Out (NSNO), work to help rough sleepers into a range of accommodation types, most commonly hostels but also the private rented sector and residential treatment centres. Services also help people to reconnect to their home area or country, where they are more likely to find a solution to their homelessness, for example through appropriate support networks, entitlement to accommodation or access to an alcohol treatment centre.

In 2014/15, outreach teams and NSNO booked 2,197 (29%) people seen rough sleeping in the year into accommodation; of these 485 were booked into long-term accommodation. 1,141 (15%) people who had been seen rough sleeping were reconnected by outreach teams or NSNO. Overall, 2,624 (35%) of the people seen rough sleeping in 2014/15 were helped into accommodation or to reconnect to an area with appropriate support or networks.

Reasons for moving out of hostel and other short term accommodation

Hostels and other short term accommodation providers record information about those arriving and departing from their services. In 2014/15, accommodation projects recorded departures for 1,255 people who had previously been seen rough sleeping at some point in their history (but who had not necessarily been seen rough sleeping in 2014/15).

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



Base: 1,456 departures by verified rough sleepers from accommodation projects which report to CHAIN. Some people may have had more than one accommodation departure during the year.

In 2014/15, 26% of departures from temporary accommodation were for evictions, abandonments and unplanned departures, which is similar to the figure of 29% in 2013/14. Planned moves also remain consistent with the previous year, at 65% compared to 64% in 2013/14.