

# People on benefits with a “Person Without Accommodation” marker

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# Background

Jobcentre Plus has the facility where a claimant is without an address to record this using a “Person Without Accommodation”, or PWA, marker. The marker can be set at the New Jobseeker Interview or at some other intervention.

The PWA marker is used where a claimant volunteers that they are homeless. This means that it will only capture a fraction of homeless people that are on benefits.

Broader estimates of homelessness are provided for comparison on page four. Note that these estimates do not include a breakdown of how many are on benefits as the sources do not include that data.

## Results

The analysis considers four of the main DWP benefits:

- Jobseekers Allowance
- Employment Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Income Support

Claimants on other benefits are not included unless they are also claiming one of the four benefits above. The data used are from the DWP administrative systems, namely the National Benefit Database, and the Client Extract database.

Rounded to the nearest 500, on 1st March 2011 there were 13,500 people claiming JSA, ESA, IB or IS who had a current PWA marker.

# Estimates from other sources

Homelessness can include:

- sleeping on friends' floors;
- living in squats;
- sleeping rough;
- hostel residents;
- in temporary accommodation; or
- in statutory bed and breakfast accommodation.

The numbers sleeping on friends' floors and in squats, sometimes referred to as "hidden homeless", are unknown but estimates for a snapshot from the other four categories total just over 90,000 people for England:

- an estimated 1,800 rough sleeping from CLG's (Department for Communities and Local Government) statistical release for September 2010  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/roughsleeping-autumn2010>
- around 42,000 in hostels, derived from p.12 of Homeless Link's SNAP (Survey of Needs and Provision) for September 2010  
<http://www.homeless.org.uk/snap-2011> and
- 48,000 in temporary accommodation, including bed and breakfasts, from CLG's statistical release for March 2011  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessness-q12011>

The majority of these are thought to be on DWP benefits, however these sources do not record how many.

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