

Single adults sharing one bedroom properties in Great Britain

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Introduction

This statistical release presents estimates relating to households where adults who are not a couple share a one bedroom property. The estimates are derived from the 2009/10 Family Resources Survey and cover Great Britain.

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Background

The Family Resources Survey

1. The Family Resources Survey collects information on the incomes and circumstances of private households. For the 2009/10 survey around 25,000 households were interviewed between April 2009 and March 2010. The survey covers the United Kingdom, but this analysis is restricted to Great Britain.
2. Further background information and statistics derived from the survey can be found at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/>.

Methodology

3. This analysis uses the 2009/10 Family Resources Survey
4. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government Office Region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to both sampling error and remaining non-response error.
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest percentage point or the nearest 0.1 million. A '-' indicates a non-zero estimate of less than 0.5%.
6. The definition of a household used in the Family Resources Survey is a single person or group of people living at the same address who either share one meal a day or share the living accommodation. A household may include more than one benefit unit, defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple plus any dependent children.
7. For this analysis, a household has been defined as shared if it contains more than one benefit unit.
8. The Family Resources Survey excludes non-private households, e.g. communal establishments such as hostels and boarding houses.
9. In the Family Resources Survey tenure type is recorded at household level. Social renters include all households where the local authority is the landlord, and all housing associations. The private renter category includes small numbers of households who live in a property rent free.

Results

10. The table below gives estimates of the proportion of single adults of working age, without dependent children who are both living in a one bedroom household and sharing it with at least one other adult.

Tenure type of household	Number of single, working age adults without dependent children	Proportion sharing a one bedroom property
Social rented	2.0m	1%
Private rented	2.4m	1%
Owner occupied	5.9m	-
All tenure types	10.3m	-

Source and coverage: Family Resources Survey 2009/10, Great Britain

11. This shows that the proportion of single working age adults without dependent children who are both living in a one bedroom household and sharing it with at least one other adult is small.
12. This could include a variety of different scenarios, such as somebody sleeping on a friend's sofa, a lone parent sharing a one bedroom flat with a non-dependent child, or a recently separated couple who are still co-habiting.
13. More details of the accommodation arrangements of single adults without dependent children are presented in the Equality Impact Assessment of changes to the Shared Accommodation Rate, available at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf> .

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