



Homelessness Prevention and Relief: England 2011/12 Official Statistics

- In 2011/12, a total of **199,000 cases of homelessness prevention or relief** are estimated to have taken place outside the statutory homelessness framework in England. Of these cases, 174,800 (88 per cent) were preventions and 24,200 (12 per cent) were cases of relief.
- The total number of cases of homelessness prevention or relief **increased by 5 per cent** when compared to 2010/11. This is due to prevention cases increasing by 7 per cent, whilst cases of relief decreased by 2 per cent.
- In 2011/12, **57 per cent** of cases of homelessness prevention and relief involved the household being assisted to obtain alternative accommodation. The remaining **43 per cent** involved the cases being assisted to remain in their existing home. This has not changed since 2010/11.
- The most common action taken to prevent or relieve homelessness was the use of landlord incentive schemes to secure private rented sector accommodation. In 2011/12, **27,600 cases (14 per cent)** were assisted in obtaining alternative accommodation this way, though this was a decrease of 10 per cent compared to 2010/11.
- The amount of homelessness prevention and relief activity varied across the regions. **The North East had the highest rate of cases of prevention and relief with 11.8 cases per 1,000 households.** The West Midlands (11.7 cases per 1,000 households), Yorkshire and the Humber (11.5) and the East Midlands (10.8) also had high rates of prevention and relief. The East of England, with 6.8 cases per 1,000 households, had the lowest rate.

16 August 2012

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housing

Introduction

This annual release presents official statistics on homelessness prevention and relief in England that took place outside the homelessness statutory framework in 2011/12. This is the fourth year for which figures on homelessness prevention and relief have been published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Although the previous three releases have been published as 'experimental' official statistics in recognition that this is a relatively new data series, we judge that the response rates and the quality of the figures received for 2011/12 have now improved sufficiently that the 'experimental' label can be removed.

Homelessness prevention means providing people with the ways and means to address their housing and other needs to avoid homelessness. This is done by either assisting them to obtain alternative accommodation or enabling them to remain in their existing home. **Homelessness relief** is where an authority has been unable to prevent homelessness but helps someone to secure accommodation, even though the authority is under no statutory obligation to do so.

Under the *Homelessness Act 2002*, local housing authorities must have a strategy for preventing homelessness in their district. The strategy must apply to everyone at risk of homelessness, including cases where someone is found to be homeless but not in priority need and cases where someone is found to be intentionally homeless.

In this release 'cases' refers to households or individuals.

Further information on homelessness prevention and relief can be found in the *Definitions* and *Background* sections, towards the end of the release.

Total homelessness prevention and relief activity

An estimated total of **199,000** cases of homelessness prevention or relief took place outside the statutory homelessness framework in England during 2011/12.

Of the total cases, **174,800 (88 per cent)** were preventions and **24,200 (12 per cent)** were cases of relief. Outcomes of the prevention cases were split evenly, with 88,800 assisted to obtain alternative accommodation whilst 86,000 were able to remain in their existing home.

Year-on-year comparisons can be made as this is the third year that national and regional figures contain estimates for missing local authority data. Although the three years' figures are comparable, care should be taken in drawing any conclusions based on increases in activity. More comprehensive reporting by authorities over time, including recording and reporting of activity carried out by partner organisations, is known to be a contributing factor to the rise in activity seen in the past two years. Further information can be found in the *Data source and quality* section on page 15 of this release.

Table 1 - Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12

	Total cases of prevention and relief	Number of cases of relief	% of grand total	Number of cases of prevention	% of grand total	of which prevention cases where household			
						assisted to obtain alternative accommodation	% of prevention total	able to remain in existing home	% of prevention total
2009/10	165,200	24,300	15%	140,900	85%	76,500	54%	64,400	46%
2010/11	188,800	24,800	13%	164,100	87%	82,300	50%	81,800	50%
2011/12	199,000	24,200	12%	174,800	88%	88,800	51%	86,000	49%

The total number of cases of homelessness prevention or relief increased by 5 per cent when compared to 2010/11. This is due to prevention cases increasing by 7 per cent, whilst cases of relief decreased by 2 per cent. Of the prevention cases, cases where the household was assisted to obtain alternative accommodation increased by 8 per cent whilst cases able to remain in their existing home increased by 5 per cent.

See Live Tables 787 and 788 published alongside this release for further information, including quarterly figures. Please note the issues discussed in the *Data source and quality* section when making comparisons using these figures.

Type of homelessness prevention and relief activity

For detailed definitions of the types of prevention and relief activities please see the Definitions section on pages 11-13.

(i) Cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation: 57 per cent of total activity

The proportion of activity carried out that assisted households to obtain alternative accommodation did not change between 2010/11 and 2011/12 (57 per cent). In this period, the number of cases of prevention and relief that assisted households to obtain alternative accommodation increased from 107,100 to 113,000.

The largest group of cases obtaining alternative accommodation (27,600 cases or 24 per cent), was assisted by means of private rented sector accommodation with a [landlord incentive scheme](#) provided by the local authority or partner organisation. Although this was still the most common method of finding alternative accommodation, there was a fall in the number of these cases for the second year running, with a decrease of 10 per cent compared to 2010/11.

27,000 cases (24 per cent) were assisted to secure social housing, in the form of a Part 6 offer of the local authorities' own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Social Landlord (RSL), an increase in activity of 31 per cent compared to 2010/11. The increase was driven by higher activity of this type in the North East and in the West Midlands. In the North East, cases increased by 48 per cent from 2,300 to 3,300 cases. In the West Midlands, cases increased by 101 per cent, from 3,500 to 7,000.

14,000 cases (12 per cent) were assisted to obtain private rented sector accommodation [without a landlord incentive scheme](#). This is a decrease in activity of 5 per cent compared to 2010/11.

14,000 cases (12 per cent) took up Supported Accommodation, for example supported lodging schemes, or successful referrals to supported housing projects, an increase in activity of 5 per cent but the same proportion of cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation as in 2010/11.

12,700 cases (11 per cent) were assisted to take up accommodation in [hostels or Houses in Multiple Occupation \(HMOs\)](#), with support (for example, hostel support package or supporting people) or without. This is an increase in activity of 5 per cent but the same proportion of cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation as in 2010/11.

The number of cases where accommodation was arranged with friends or relatives, increased to 8,600 (8 per cent), up 23 per cent compared to 2010/11.

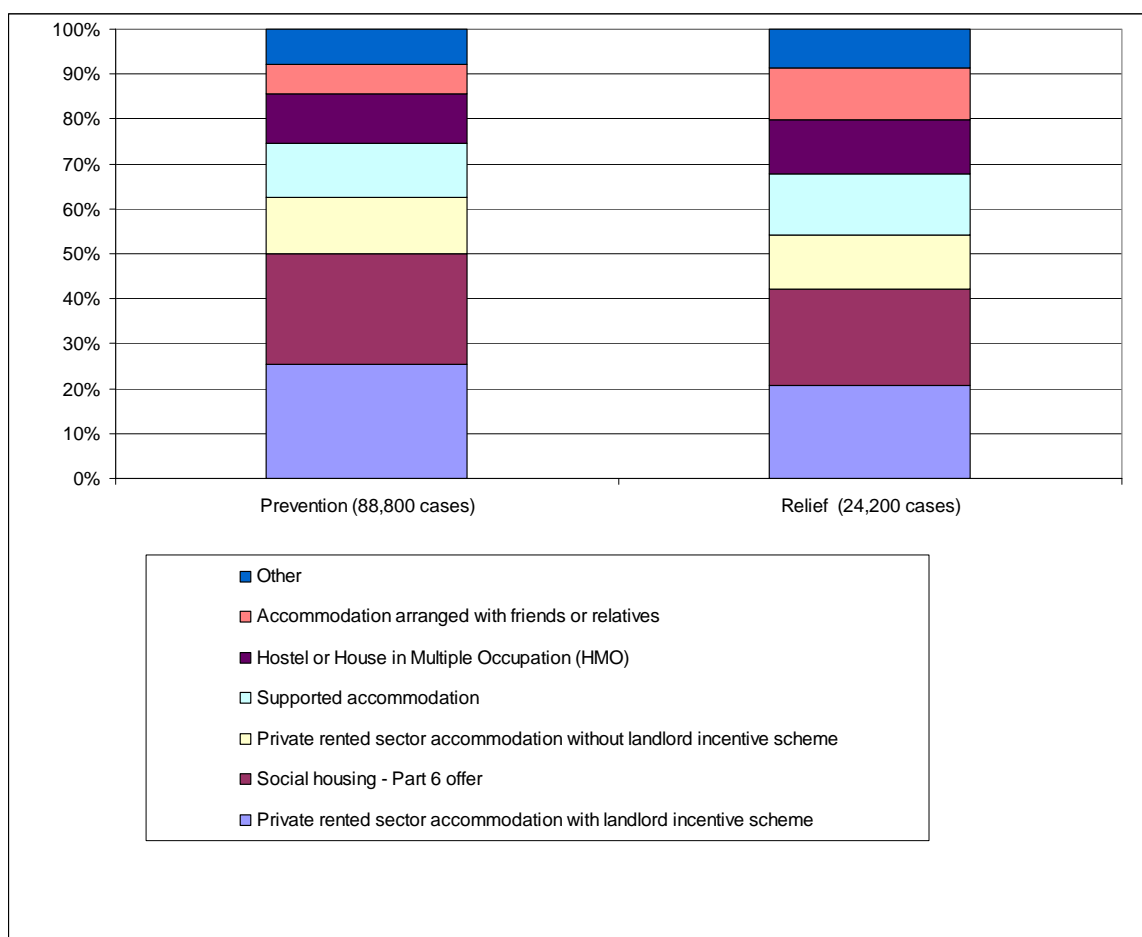
The remaining 9 per cent of cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation were done so through other means, including other social housing (negotiation with an RSL outside of a Part 6 nomination arrangement) (3,100 cases, 3 per cent), a management move of an existing LA tenant (1,800 cases, 2 per cent), or low-cost home ownership schemes or market housing solutions (100

cases, less than 1 per cent).

Live Table 789, published alongside this release, breaks down those cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation further into cases of prevention or relief. Prevention actions accounted for 79 per cent of cases that were assisted in finding alternative accommodation and cases of relief therefore accounted for 21 per cent, similar to last year.

Chart 1 shows the distribution of the types of prevention and relief taken in assisting cases to find alternative accommodation. The types of action taken are broadly similar for relief cases and prevention cases but there are some differences, mainly local authorities (and their partner organisations) more frequently assist relief cases by taking up accommodation arranged with friends or relatives.

Chart 1 – Type of actions taken in assisting cases to obtain alternative accommodation, 2011/12



(ii) Cases able to remain in their existing home: 43 per cent of total activity

The number of cases able to remain in their existing home increased from 81,800 to 86,000 compared to 2010/11, however the percentage of all prevention and relief activity where cases were assisted to remain in their own home stayed at the same level (43 per cent).

The largest category of cases who were assisted to remain in their existing home (17,100 cases, 20 per cent) was as a result of the [provision of assistance](#) (not involving negotiation or advocacy) which enabled the household to remain in their private or social rented sector accommodation. This was an increase of 2 per cent compared to 2010/11.

9,000 cases (10 per cent) were able to remain in their home as a result of the provision of [debt advice](#). This is an increase of 16 per cent compared to 2010/11.

8,900 cases (10 per cent) involved [negotiation or legal advocacy](#) that ensured that households could remain in accommodation in the private rented sector. This is an increase of 4 per cent compared to 2010/11.

8,600 cases (10 per cent) involved the [resolution of housing benefit](#) problems. This is an increase of 10 per cent compared to 2010/11.

6,000 cases (7 per cent) involved [conciliation](#), including home visits where someone may be at risk of homelessness due to a threat of exclusion from parents, other relatives, or friends. It also includes conciliation work by a partner organisation, such as youth counselling. This is a small increase of 1 per cent compared to 2010/11.

6,000 cases (7 per cent) involved [sanctuary schemes for domestic violence](#). This is a small decrease of 1 per cent compared to 2010/11.

5,800 cases (7 per cent) involved [mortgage arrears intervention](#) or mortgage rescue, including, but not exclusively, the government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme. This is a decrease of 9 per cent compared to 2010/11.

The remaining 28 per cent were assisted to remain in their own home through other means. These include: [resolution of rent](#) or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector (7 per cent); [mediation](#) using external or internal trained family mediators (5 per cent); [crisis intervention](#) and the provision of emergency support (4 per cent) and [financial payments](#) from a homeless prevention fund (3 per cent).

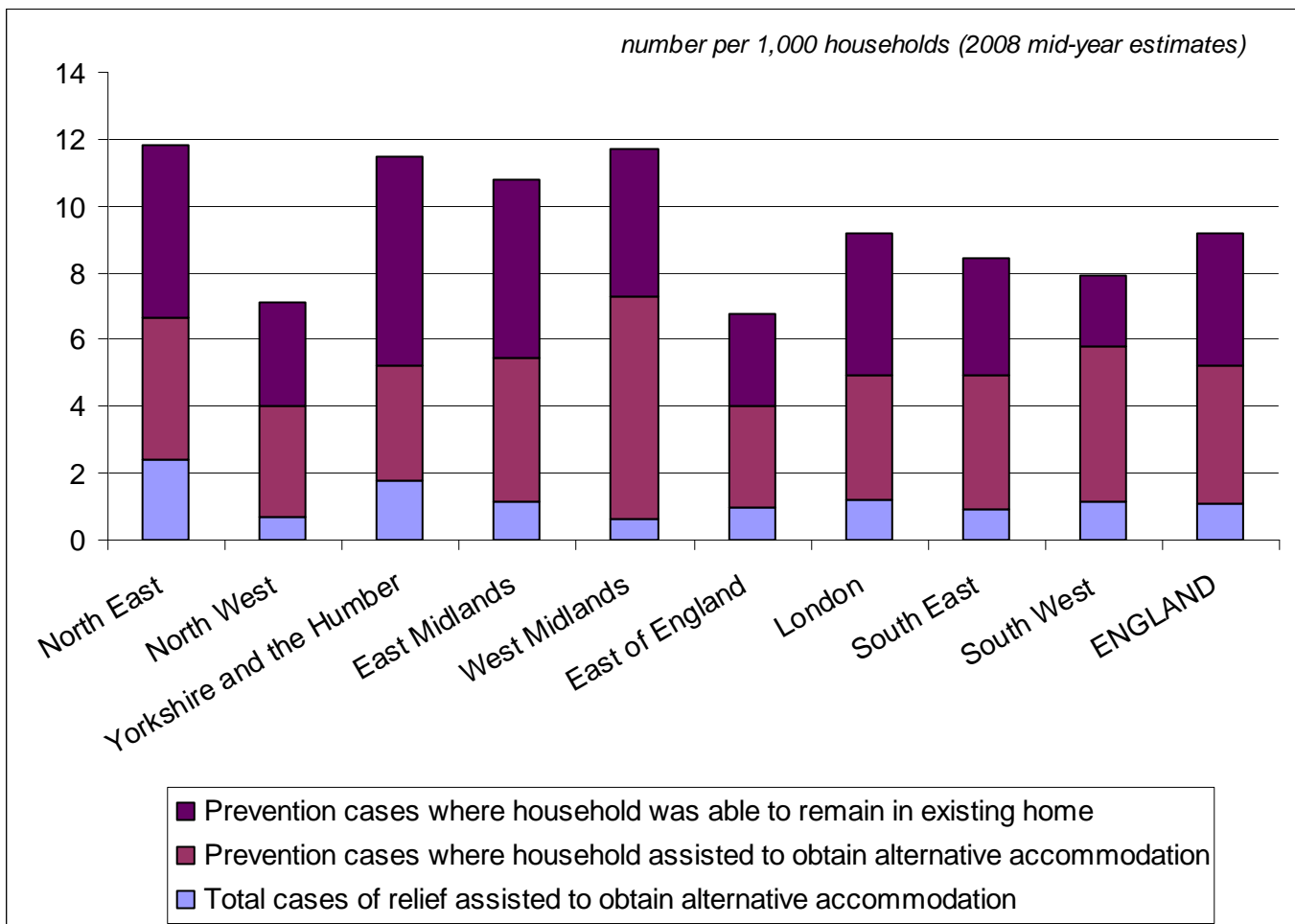
Regional homelessness prevention and relief activity

Regional figures in this release include estimates for missing local authority data.

Homelessness prevention and relief activity varied widely across the regions. In 2011/12, London had the highest total prevention and relief activity of all the regions with 29,800 cases, 15 per cent of the national total, but a small drop compared with 17 per cent of the total in 2010/11. The South East had the next highest level of activity with 29,400 cases whilst the North East had the lowest with 13,100 cases (7% of the national total).

Chart 2 – Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief by region, 2011/12

Chart 2 compares the rates of prevention and relief per 1,000 households in each region. The figures underlying this chart can be found in Live Table 790 accompanying the release.



The North East had the highest rate of cases of **prevention and relief** with 11.8 cases per 1,000 households. West Midlands (11.7 cases per 1,000 households), Yorkshire and the Humber (11.5) and East Midlands (10.8) also had high rates of prevention and relief. The East of England, with 6.8 cases per 1,000 households, had the lowest rate of prevention and relief of the English regions.

Rates of **preventions** alone had a slightly different pattern, with the West Midlands having the highest rate at 11.1 cases per 1,000 households, Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands both having 9.7 cases per 1,000 households and the North East also having a high rate of 9.4 cases per 1,000 households. The East of England had the lowest rate with 5.8 cases per 1,000 households.

There were also differences between the types of actions undertaken in different regions to prevent homelessness. Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands had the highest proportions of total prevention cases helped to remain in their existing home, with 64 per cent and 56 per cent respectively. The South West had a substantially lower proportion than any other region with 31 per cent of cases helped to remain in their existing home.

The North East had the highest rate of cases of **relief** with 2.4 cases per 1,000 households, followed by Yorkshire and the Humber with 1.8. The West Midlands had the lowest rate of relief with 0.6 cases per 1,000 households, however this is double the rate for 2010/11 in the region.

The proportion of all cases that involved relieving homelessness differed widely by region. The North East had the highest proportion of all activity that was relief with 21 per cent. The West Midlands (5 per cent) had the lowest proportions of cases which involved relieving homelessness with all other regions having proportions between 10% and 15%.

The West Midlands had a large increase in prevention and relief activity for the second year running, to 26,200 cases from 19,200 cases in 2010/11. This comprised of an increase in prevention activity from 18,400 cases to 24,800 cases and an increase in relief activity from 700 cases to 1,400 cases. The North East also saw large increases of 14% in prevention and relief activity when compared to 2010/11. London saw a 9 per cent reduction in cases, caused by a 6 per cent reduction in prevention cases and a 26 per cent reduction in relief cases.

Further details on the types of homelessness prevention and relief activity undertaken at regional level can be found in Live Tables 790 and 791, published alongside this release.

Unsuccessful prevention and relief activity

Figures are also collected on the numbers of cases where positive action was unsuccessful in preventing or relieving homelessness during the quarter. The [response rates](#) for these questions were lower than for other questions relating to homelessness prevention and relief. Including estimates for missing data, positive action in 2011/12 was unsuccessful in preventing homelessness in 39,800 cases and in relieving homelessness in a further 13,300 cases.

Comparison with statutory homelessness

Generally, in 2010/11, regions with the highest rates of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty also had high rates of prevention and relief activity. There were some exceptions: London, with the highest rate of acceptances at 3.9 per 1,000 households, had a prevention and relief rate equal to the national rate (9.2); the North East, which had an acceptance rate below the national rate, had the highest rate of prevention and relief; and the East of England, which had the lowest rate of prevention and relief but a similar rate of acceptances as for England as a whole.

Table 2 – Homeless households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and total cases of prevention and relief, by region, 2011/12 (Rate per 1,000 households)

	Acceptance rate	Prevention and relief rate
North East	1.6	11.8
North West	1.4	7.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	2.2	11.5
East Midlands	2.0	10.8
West Midlands	3.8	11.7
East of England	2.2	6.8
London	3.9	9.2
South East	1.5	8.5
South West	1.7	7.9
ENGLAND	2.3	9.2

For further information on statutory homelessness, the most recent statistical release is available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/>

Live tables

The following live tables can be downloaded electronically via this link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessstatistics/livetables/>

- Table 787 Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12
- Table 788 Type of homelessness prevention and relief, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12
- Table 789 Cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation broken down by prevention and relief, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12
- Table 790 Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief by region, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12
- Table 791 Total cases of homelessness prevention and relief by type and region, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12
- Table 792 Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief by Local Authority, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12 – including a map of total cases of prevention and relief by local authority, 2011/12

Definitions of types of prevention and relief

A. Homelessness prevention - household able to remain in existing home

The following are some examples of the many different types of positive action that can prevent homelessness. The list is not exhaustive.

1. Mediation using external or internal trained family mediators: This could be an external mediation service such as Relate or an in-house local authority service where training in mediation has been provided.
2. Conciliation including home visits for family friend threatened exclusion: This includes :
 - home visits, where someone may be at risk of homelessness due to a threat of exclusion from parents, other relatives, or friends.
 - conciliation work by a partner organisation such as youth counselling
3. Financial payments from a homeless prevention fund to enable someone to remain in the existing home: There are many innovative ways that local authorities have used payments from their 'homelessness prevention fund' to resolve a risk of homelessness, including payments to landlords to resolve problems caused by tenant damage. Any payments from a prevention fund to resolve rent arrears should be recorded in this section.
4. Debt advice: This includes casework covering debt advice, including negotiation with creditors and advice on budgeting and money management.
5. Resolving housing benefit problems: This includes actions to resolve housing benefit problems such as assisting a vulnerable person at immediate risk of homelessness through non payment of rent with making a housing benefit claim; action to deal with delays in payment; housing benefit arrears; verification of claim documents where there is a delay in benefit payments leading to a risk of homelessness; backdating of benefit claims; making a discretionary housing payment
6. Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector: This may include case work help that supports a household to manage any arrears repayment schedule.
7. Sanctuary scheme measures for domestic violence: Measures to enable a victim of domestic abuse or harassment to remain in their home with professionally installed security measures. This may also include cases where someone was assisted to take legal action to protect their right to remain safely within the home.
8. Crisis intervention – providing emergency support: This includes cases where there is an imminent risk of homelessness because someone is unable to cope with his or her affairs and

emergency intervention or crisis support is provided. Exclude cases where someone is receiving Supporting People Funded services.

9. Negotiation or legal advocacy to ensure someone can remain in accommodation in the private rented sector: This includes:
- negotiation with private landlords who have or have threatened to issue a section 21 notice to resolve problems.
 - actions to resolve a threat of illegal eviction or to re instate illegally evicted tenant.
 - county court advocacy or court desk work by the local authority or its partners where court representation results in a case being struck-out, dismissed or adjourned
 - assisting someone to afford their rent by negotiating a lower rent, increasing their income through helping them make a claim for benefits or making a discretionary housing payment or charity payment
10. Providing other assistance that will enable someone to remain in accommodation in the private or social rented sector: This includes
- resolving anti-social behaviour,
 - tackling disrepair through action against landlords or grants to improve conditions,
 - adaptations to the property
11. Mortgage arrears interventions or mortgage rescue: This includes
- negotiation with mortgage lenders and banks to reschedule debt payments or payment terms or offer a repayment break period;
 - providing support to enable re-mortgage; conversion to an interest-only mortgage to reduce outgoings; conversion to shared ownership.

B. Homelessness prevention / relief - household assisted to obtain alternative accommodation

The following are different types of alternative accommodation that someone might be helped to obtain to prevent or relieve homelessness. The list is not exhaustive, but could include:

1. Any form of hostel or HMO with or without support (including arrangements where the hostel stay may be less than 6 months but move-on accommodation will be provided as part of the 'exit strategy', excluding night shelter and crisis short-stay accommodation for rough sleepers such as an emergency assessment centre).
2. Private rented sector accommodation (with landlord incentive scheme provided by the local authority or partner organisation, including BOND schemes where no cash is paid up front, "Finders- Fee" schemes where a payment is made to a landlord, deposit payment schemes; rent in advance; landlord insurance payment schemes; or a combination of the above,
3. Private rented sector accommodation (without landlord incentive scheme) for example, where a local authority has built a relationship with a landlord or letting agent which enables the authority to refer households on benefit directly or properties on a specific accreditation scheme.
4. Accommodation arranged with friends or relatives
5. Supported accommodation including supported lodging schemes or successful referrals to supported housing projects.
6. Social housing (a management move of an existing LA tenant)
7. Social housing (a Part 6 offer of LA own accommodation or nomination to an RSL)
8. Social housing (negotiation with an RSL outside Part 6 nomination arrangements)
9. A low cost Home Ownership scheme or low cost market housing solution

Background

In April 2008, the quarterly P1E form (which collects data on local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation) was expanded to include a new section on the homelessness prevention and relief taking place outside the statutory framework. Authorities provide data on the numbers of households for whom casework and positive action took place in order to prevent or relieve homelessness, either by the authority themselves or by a partner organisation.

The Department for Communities and Local Government also publishes a quarterly statistical release, based on data from other sections of the P1E form, which provides summary information on English local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996). The most recent release on Statutory Homelessness for England is available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/>

Local authorities are encouraged to offer prevention assistance to everyone who seeks housing assistance and considers they are at risk of homelessness in the near future, including single person households and others who may not appear to the authority to fall within a priority need category (however local authorities cannot use such prevention assistance to avoid their obligations under the homelessness legislation). Prevention assistance involves providing people with ways and means to address their housing and other needs to avoid homelessness. It includes activities which enable a household to remain in their current home, where appropriate, or enable a planned and timely move and help sustain independent living. All persons who fall within the scope of the authority's scheme and for whom positive assistance was provided during the quarterly period (either by the authority or a partner organisation) should be included.

Additionally, authorities are encouraged to take steps to relieve homelessness and record these cases where someone has been accepted as homeless but is not owed a duty to secure accommodation under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996). These are cases where the authorities have been unable to prevent homelessness, but nevertheless decide to ensure the applicant secures accommodation (although under no statutory obligation to do more than ensure the provision of advice and assistance) – for example, cases where someone is found to be homeless but not in priority need and/or intentionally homeless.

Data source and quality

Local housing authorities report their prevention and relief activities by completing the quarterly P1E statistical return. All P1E returns submitted by local housing authorities undergo thorough validation and cross-checking and late returns are pursued to ensure overall response is as complete and accurate as possible. Anomalous data are highlighted and verified by contacting the local authority.

Local authorities also provide details of any data checks they undertake. These can take the form of audits (by internal or external auditors), periodic quality checks on data extracts, or random quality checks. For the 2011/12 financial year, most authorities reported some form of checking on all data items in the return.

A - Response rate

The following refers to the section of the P1E form collection information on successful prevention and relief activity only.

Full returns for the whole of 2011/12 were provided by 317 out of the 326 local authorities. With the additional partial returns in each quarter, the overall response rate in 2011/12 was **99.3 per cent**. This is down slightly compared with 2010/11, when the overall response was 99.5 per cent. The table below gives a further breakdown by quarter.

*Percentage
of LAs*

	Full return	Partial return	Overall response
Apr - Jun	99.4%	0.0%	99.4%
Jul - Sep	99.4%	0.0%	99.4%
Sep - Dec	99.4%	0.3%	99.7%
Jan - Mar	98.2%	0.6%	98.8%
Total	99.1%	0.2%	99.3%

As in previous years, the overall response rate was lower for the questions on the P1E form relating to *unsuccessful* prevention and relief activity. On average, 25 local authorities out of the 326 local authorities (7.7%) did not report the requested quarterly totals for preventions and reliefs.

B - Comparisons with other years

This is the third year for which estimates for missing local authority data have been made, and there are now three comparable years' worth of figures. Figures published for 2008/09 were as reported by local authorities, based on an overall 93 per cent response rate, and no estimates were made for missing data. National figures for 2008/09 are not therefore directly comparable with those for the three more recent years.

The estimates for missing local authority data are made by allocating local authorities into groups based on the region they are in and by type of authority. For example, the West Midlands is split into two groups, one group of district and unitary authorities, the other of metropolitan districts. London is split into Inner and Outer London. Estimates are then calculated by an automated grossing procedure which either (i) updates previously reported data based on the changes observed in other authorities in the same group or (ii) apportions totals based on ratios reported by these similar authorities. Although more comprehensive reporting by local authorities over time, including recording and reporting of activity carried out by partner organisations, is known to have been a continuing contributing factor to the rise in activity reported for previous years, this appeared to have levelled off by 2011/12, with full responses being made by the large majority of local authorities. This was one of the main reasons for deciding that these no longer need to be regarded as 'experimental' statistics.

C – Possibility of under-reporting

It is possible that the figures include some under-recording of prevention and relief activity in cases where authorities have been able to accurately collate and report their own activity, but do not have systems in place to comprehensively record activity by partner organisations (i.e. any organisation who assists the authority in tackling and preventing homelessness, and is either funded by the authority or has clients referred to them by the authority). However, there is evidence that recording of partner organisation activity by local authorities has improved since data collection started for 2008/09.

Methodology

1. **Rates per 1,000 households** have been calculated using the 2008 mid-year estimates from the 2008 household projections produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These projections were published on 26 November 2010 at the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/householdestimates/>

2. National and regional figures in the text and accompanying tables are presented rounded to the nearest 100 households or applicants. Local authority figures provided in the supplementary tables are as reported and unrounded.

3. The map in Live Table 792 is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office:

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Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statisticalnoticerevisionspolicy>). There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Scheduled Revisions

Local authorities can update their P1E returns following publication of the data. At the end of each financial year the figures for the previous year will be reviewed for revision. A decision on whether to revise will be made based on the impact of any change and the effect it has on the interpretation of the time series. Provisional figures are labelled in the tables with a "P".

Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) should only be made where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition. Where there are small changes that do not substantially change historic data, internal updates are maintained.

No revisions have been made to the 2010/11 data published in this release.

Related Links

Last year's Homelessness Prevention and Relief statistical release, providing summary figures for 2010/11, was published on 18 August 2011 and can be downloaded electronically from the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention201011>

The latest quarterly Statutory Homelessness statistical release which provides summary information on local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation can be downloaded electronically, from the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/>

Rough sleeping statistics can be found at the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/roughsleepingcounts/>

Statistics on Local Authority revenue expenditure and financing in England can be found at the following link. Revenue Outturn 4 relates to Housing Services and includes information on local authorities' expenditure on homelessness activities:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/revenue201011finaloutturn>

Local housing authorities report their activities to prevent and relieve homelessness to the Department for Communities and Local Government by completing the quarterly P1E statistical return. The latest form and guidance note can be found in the "Notes and Definitions" section of the Department's website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/notesdefinitions/>

Devolved administrations

The scope of this data collection and statistical release is limited to prevention and relief activities carried out in England. Scotland publishes information on prevention and relief activity at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/06/9193/downloads>

The other devolved administrations do not publish prevention and relief statistics.

Uses of data

The homelessness prevention and relief figures are increasingly becoming a key basis of evidence on local authorities' homelessness activities. They are used by ministers and officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government in the formulation and monitoring of policy, the allocation of resources, performance monitoring and to support bids for funding from the Treasury. The data are used to ensure democratic accountability in answers to Parliamentary Questions, ministerial correspondence, Freedom of Information Act cases and queries from the public.

Local housing authorities are both providers and users of the statistics and use the data extensively in order to plan services, allocate resources, monitor performance and benchmark against other authorities. The voluntary sector also uses the statistics to monitor and evaluate housing policy and for campaigning and fundraising purposes.

User consultation

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/engagementstrategystatistics>

Other Information

Details of officials who receive pre-release access to the Department for Communities and Local Government Homelessness Preventions and Relief statistical release up to 24 hours before release can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/nationalstatistics/>

The Homelessness Prevention and Relief statistical release is published on an annual basis.

Enquiries

This statistical release, as well as previous releases, can be accessed and all text, tables and charts downloaded electronically, from the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/>

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Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

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