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Latest government homelessness statistics: Record-high numbers of children growing up homeless in temporary accommodation

The government today released two separate sets of data that paint a grim picture of the worsening housing emergency across England. The statutory homelessness figures released today show that:

- 164,040 children are homeless living in temporary accommodation – up 21,650 (15%) in a year, breaking a record for the seventh time in the last eight quarters.
- 126,040 households are homeless in temporary accommodation – up 16% in a year and another record high.
- A total of 24,360 households are living in B&Bs and hostels, which is the most damaging form of temporary accommodation for children – a rise of 17% in a year.
- 38,690 households have been uprooted to out of area temporary accommodation – a 24% rise in a year.

The latest snapshot figures of the number of people sleeping rough in England in 2024 were also released today. They show:

- 4,667 people were recorded sleeping rough on a given night during Autumn 2024, a 20% increase in a year. This has almost doubled since 2021, when the pandemic's 'Everyone in' emergency measures ended.
- The number of people sleeping rough in England has more than doubled since 2010 when the data started being published in this format – up 164%

These statistics lay bare the impact that the housing emergency is having on people, families and children across the country. The lack of a safe, stable home is undermining people's chances in life and it's also costing billions. We need decisive action to end homelessness – in June's Spending Review the government must invest in a new generation of genuinely affordable social rent homes, 90,000 a year for ten years.

Homelessness and Child Poverty

From a child poverty angle the statistics are devastating, with a new record of children homeless in temporary accommodation. Children are being robbed of stability, living in cramped, unsuitable and dangerous conditions, without space to sleep, play or do homework. Families are being uprooted, forced to move out of the communities they call home, accommodated miles away from their communities, jobs and schools.

Life in temporary accommodation is unstable and has a profound impact on children's health, education, growth and development. It also entrenches poverty for families, as they struggle to keep up with the costs of their temporary accommodation. Families are often charged more money for insecure, cramped and poor-quality temporary accommodation than other families pay in mortgage repayments or private rents.

When this is combined with the additional costs associated with the lack of basic facilities – like Wi-Fi, a proper kitchen and washing machine – and expensive commuting costs from being moved out of area, the financial impacts are far reaching.

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- Almost nine in ten households (87%) reported they struggle to keep up with the costs of temporary accommodation.
- More than half of homeless children have missed days of school as a result of being homeless.¹
- One in four parents in temporary accommodation report their child being often unhappy or depressed as a result of living in temporary accommodation.²
- In the last five years, 74 children died with temporary accommodation as a contributing factor to their vulnerability, ill-health, or death.³

Our full submission to the government's Child Poverty Taskforce [can be found here](#). It has further detail on the way the housing emergency impacts child poverty and the solutions to tackle it.

Rough Sleeping

As for rough sleeping, there were 4,667 people in England estimated to be sleeping rough on a given night during Autumn 2024 – a 20% increase from the previous year. Despite the rise, rough sleeping figures are widely considered to be an underestimate of the true scale of street homelessness, as not everyone is counted. Many people find other locations to sleep in, such as public transport. This is especially true for some groups, such as women, who may be more afraid to bed down due to the risk of violence when sleeping rough.

Rough sleeping has almost doubled since the end of the pandemic's 'Everyone In' emergency measures in 2021 and more than doubled since 2010, when the statistics started being published in this format. The 'Everyone In' approach showed what could be achieved with strong political will, something we need to see again.

Social Housing as the sustainable solution to homelessness

We welcome the government's £1bn in funding to tackle homelessness over the coming year. However, you can't end homelessness without homes. Overrun council homelessness teams need homes to help people into rather than having to procure more and more temporary accommodation.

While the statistics released today are bleak, there is a clear solution. It's decision time for the government in the June's Spending Review. To truly end all forms of homelessness, the government must commit to building 90,000 social rent homes a year for 10 years. Social rent homes – with rents tied to local incomes – are the only truly affordable tenure of housing and are the route out of homelessness for people and families across the country. We owe this generation of children the chance of a decent social home, where they can thrive.

For more information, or to discuss these statistics with Shelter, please contact public_affairs@shelter.org.uk

¹ Shelter, 2023 – [Still living in Limbo](#)

² Ibid.

³ APPG for Households in TA, [Child Mortality in TA 2025](#)