



Housing Key Facts

Homelessness & Rough Sleeping

Summary, Commentary & Data Tables

September 2024



Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Summary

September 2024



Advice

1,276

Cases of people seeking council advice relating to housing stress, April to September



Advice

2,289

Cases of people seeking council advice relating to housing stress, April last year to March this year



up
24.9%

Since April to March four years ago



Applications

568

Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, April to September.*



Applications

1,007

Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, April last year to March this year*



up
126

Since April to March a year ago



B&B

60

Applicant households with children/pregnant placed in Bed & Breakfast April to September (average stay much shorter than in other temporary accommodation)



B&B

0

Applicant households with children/pregnant leaving Bed Breakfast April to September who had been there more than 6 weeks



Non B&B

67

Applicant households with children/pregnant in temporary/emergency non-Bed & Breakfast accommodation at the end of September



Rough sleeping

24

Individuals counted as sleeping rough during the last annual November street count



up 1

Since November last year

*See the main body of the report for an explanation on when a statutory homelessness duty applies. Also note that these are just initial assessments, and that some applicants may have made more than one application during the period.

Homelessness & Rough Sleeping: Summary

There were **1,276** cases April to September this year of people seeking council advice relating to housing stress.

There were **2,289** cases April last year to March this year of people seeking council advice relating to housing stress; **Up 24.9%** since April to March five years ago.

There were **568** homelessness applications received April to September where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty. *

There were **1,007** homelessness applications received April last year to March this year where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty; **up 126** since April to March a year ago. *

60 applicant households with dependent children/pregnant were placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation during April to September. (The average stay being much shorter than in other temporary accommodation)

0 applicant households with dependent children/pregnant left Bed and Breakfast during April to September had been there more than 6 weeks.

There were **67** applicant households with dependent children/pregnant in temporary/ emergency non-Bed & Breakfast accommodation at the end of September.

24 individuals were counted as sleeping rough during the last annual November street count; **up 1** since November last year.

*See the main body of the report for an explanation of when a statutory homelessness duty applies. Note also that these are just initial assessments, and that some applicants may have made more than one application during the period.

Homelessness & Rough Sleeping: Commentary

- When people think of homelessness they often think of people sleeping rough, but numbers of people at risk of or becoming homeless who do not end up on the streets are considerably higher.
- Homelessness has always been an issue for Cambridge, but the problem is worsening and is expected to continue to do so.
- There has been a steady increase over the last few years of the number of people approaching the council for advice relating to housing stress, and numbers rose again this year.
- The number of homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty has also risen every year over the last four years.
- At the same time, the number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless before they were owed a statutory duty (i.e. more than 56 days before they were threatened with homelessness) have been falling.
- The number of cases where the council has a statutory duty to relieve homelessness has increased significantly over the past three years. This is due to a reduction in successful homelessness preventions, and increasing numbers of people presenting to the council who are already homeless.
- The numbers of accommodation units available for temporary, non-Bed & Breakfast, accommodation have decreased recently, due to plans to redevelop two council housing blocks at Hanover & Princess Courts. The council is working to bring the number of units back up to target levels, but this is taking time due to competing priorities from other groups, including from other council tenants whose homes are facing redevelopment. This in turn has led to an increase in numbers of households being placed in Bed & Breakfast, including an increase in numbers placed outside of Cambridge City.
- Growing pressures overall reflect the national picture and are due to a combination of factors, particularly the ongoing cost of living crisis, the shortage of social housing, and the growing shortage of private sector accommodation. Homelessness resulting from family/friend evictions and service of section 21 eviction notices in the private rented sector remain significant causes of homelessness.

- Access to private sector housing at rent levels people can afford, in particular for those on welfare benefits, continues to be a significant challenge.
- See also the Housing Register Applications & Lettings, Private Rented Housing, and Population Households & Economy sections of Housing Key Facts.
- For more information on the council's approach to homelessness and rough sleeping see the council's [Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2026](#).

Homelessness Data Tables

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Explanation

This section of Housing Key Facts gives information on households who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. (This should not be confused with rough sleeping as many homeless people are not rough sleeping and not all rough sleepers are necessarily homeless).

It also, more broadly, shows numbers of recorded where the council has been contacted by or on behalf of a person or household for housing advice because they are in some sort of housing stress . (This excludes those just applying for housing through the Home-Link register). These initial contacts may or may not lead to a homelessness application, depending on the circumstances.

The council owes statutory duties to applicants who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

These duties include:

- A duty to take reasonable steps to prevent someone from becoming homeless by helping them to stay where they are or move to somewhere more suitable, whether or not they are considered to be in priority need. This duty applies to people who are at risk of becoming homeless within 56 days.
- A duty, where someone has become homeless, to take reasonable steps to relieve their homelessness through helping them to secure suitable accommodation, again whether or not they are in priority need. This duty also lasts for up to 56 days and may, in some cases, include providing temporary accommodation.
- A 'main' duty to find suitable accommodation which is available for 6 months or more, where an eligible applicant who is homeless has received help from the council to prevent or relieve their homelessness but it has not been successful. This applies where the council is satisfied that the applicant is in priority need (e.g. where the applicant has dependent children or is vulnerable) and not intentionally homeless. In some cases temporary accommodation may be provided before more permanent housing can be found.
- The council also helps to prevent homelessness for applicants where no statutory duty is owed because they are threatened with homelessness in more than 56 days' time.

Where short-term accommodation is provided this may be in the form of emergency Bed and Breakfast, or other temporary or emergency types of accommodation.

Households are usually only placed in Bed and Breakfast for one or two nights, although stays can be longer if no other suitable accommodation is available. There is a statutory requirement that no household with a pregnant mother or with dependent children should remain in Bed & Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks.

It will sometimes be necessary to place households in Bed & Breakfast accommodation outside of Cambridge if nothing suitable is available within the City. Placements in a hotel in north Cambridge, just south of the A14, whilst technically in South Cambridgeshire are counted as being in Cambridge.

Caution

Backdated changes are occasionally made to some data; for example due to time lags or occasional errors in reporting. Please use the most up to date version available.

Figures may not necessarily tie up exactly with those reported through government returns or internal performance figures as reporting criteria may be slightly different and/or backdated changes may have to be made here if figures change after a return has been submitted.

Data source

Internal homelessness data

Cambridge Outreach Team – rough sleeping figures

Housing Advice cases

Table 1: Housing advice cases, April to September

Date	Housing advice cases
April to September 2024	1,276

Table 2: Housing advice cases, last five years

Date	Housing advice cases
April 2019-March 2020	1,832
April 2020-March 2021	1,938
April 2021-March 2022	2,037
April 2022-March 2023	2,245
April 2023-March 2024	2,289

Figure 1: Housing advice cases, last five years



Homelessness applications where a statutory duty is owed

Table 3: Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, April to September this year.

Date	Duty to prevent	Duty to relieve	'Main' duty to rehouse
April to September 2024	151	262	155

Figure 2: Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, April to September this year

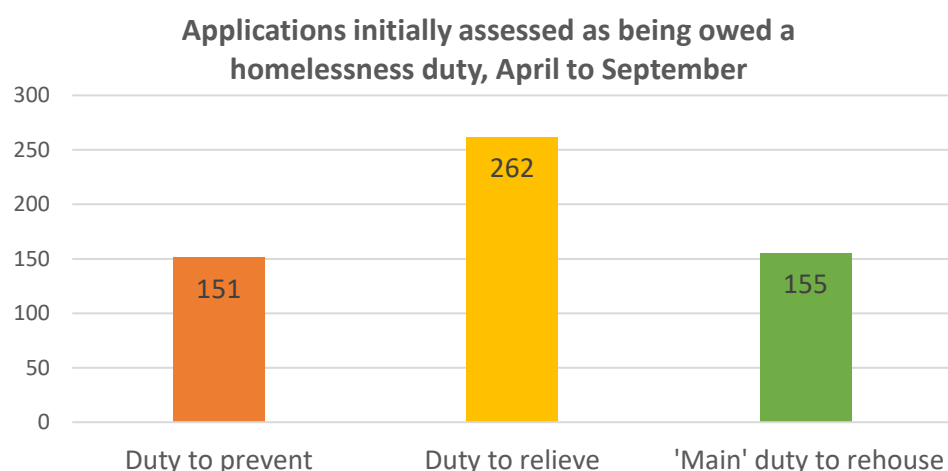


Table 4: Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, last five years

Date	Duty to prevent	Duty to relieve	Main duty
April 2019-March 2020	236	480	214
April 2020-March 2021	174	463	150
April 2021-March 2022	264	394	180
April 2022-March 2023	243	443	195
April 2023-March 2024	264	507	236

Tables 3 & 4 and Figure 1 above show initial assessment that a statutory duty may be owed. The assessment may change over time, for example as further information comes to light, but these figures give an indication of demand for the service.

They show the number of applications, not number of people or households; some households may make more than one application if their circumstances change, or move from one duty to another, so figures cannot be added together.

(2018-19 to 2021-22 figures here are different to those previously reported in Key Facts. Duty to relieve figures in particular are higher than previously reported as the methodology has changed to give a more accurate picture).

Preventing homelessness

Table 5: Cases where accommodation was secured under a statutory prevention duty, April to September

Date	Prevention duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where prevention duty ended
April - September 2024	67	49%

Table 6: Cases where accommodation was secured under a statutory prevention duty, April to March, last four years.

Date	Prevention duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where prevention duty ended
April 2019-March 2020	122	50%
April 2020-March 2021	114	63%
April 2021-March 2022	129	56%
April 2022-March 2023	149	58%
April 2023-March 2024	157	56%

Note that in Tables 5 & 6 above, not having secured accommodation by the end of the prevention duty period means the applicant may have become homeless but not necessarily. For example, their circumstances may have changed and/or they may have withdrawn their application.

Table 7: Cases where homelessness was prevented where no statutory duty was owed, April to September

Date	Homelessness prevented - no prevention duty owed
April - September 2024	22

Table 8: Cases where homelessness was prevented where no statutory duty was owed, April to March, last five years

Date	Homelessness prevented - no prevention duty owed
April 2019-March 2020	85
April 2020-March 2021	148
April 2021-March 2022	162
April 2022-March 2023	88
April 2023-March 2024	72

Relieving homelessness

Table 9: Cases where accommodation was secured under a statutory relief duty, April to September

Date	Relief duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where relief duty ended
April - September 2024	103	33%

Table 10: Cases where accommodation was secured under a statutory relief duty, April to March, last five years

Date	Relief duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where relief duty ended
April 2019-March 2020	188	38%
April 2020-March 2021	187	42%
April 2021-March 2022	155	38%
April 2022-March 2023	151	38%
April 2023-March 2024	184	37%

Note that in Tables 9 & 10 above, not having secured accommodation by the end of the relief duty period may mean the applicant has become homeless, but not necessarily. For example, their circumstances may have changed and/or they may have withdrawn their application.

Main homelessness duty

Table 11: Cases where homelessness was not relieved and a 'main' duty to rehouse was accepted, April to September

Date	Decisions made - 'main' duty to rehouse	Decisions made - no 'main' duty to rehouse	Total main duty decisions made	Main duty accepted as a percentage of all main duty decisions made
April - September 2024	91	64	155	59%

Table 12: Cases where homelessness was not relieved and a 'main' duty to rehouse was accepted, April to March, last five years.

Date	Decisions made - 'main' duty to rehouse	Decisions made - no 'main' duty to rehouse	Total main duty decisions made	Main duty accepted as a percentage of all main duty decisions
April 2019-March 2020	91	123	214	43%
April 2020-March 2021	56	94	150	37%
April 2021-March 2022	103	77	180	57%
April 2022-March 2023	130	65	195	66%
April 2023-March 2024	153	84	237	65%

Temporary and Emergency accommodation

Table 13: Households with dependent children or pregnant in emergency Bed & Breakfast accommodation, April to September

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant <u>placed</u> in Bed & Breakfast	Of which placed outside of Cambridge City	Number leaving B&B who had been there more than six weeks
April-September 2024	59	37	0

Table 14: Households with dependent children or pregnant in emergency Bed & Breakfast accommodation, last five years.

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant <u>placed</u> in Bed & Breakfast	Of which placed outside of Cambridge City	Number leaving B&B who had been there more than six weeks
April 2019-March 2020	74	27	0
April 2020-March 2021	40	22	1
April 2021-March 2022	69	24	0
April 2022-March 2023	115	33	0
April 2023-March 2024	77	35	0

Table 15: Households with dependent children or pregnant in temporary or emergency accommodation other than Bed & Breakfast at the end of September

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant in temporary/ emergency non-B&B at the end of September
Sep 2024	67

Table 16: Households with dependent children or pregnant in temporary or emergency accommodation other than Bed & Breakfast, end of March, last five years

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant in temporary/ emergency non-B&B at the end of March
March 2020	45
March 2021	34
March 2022	54
March 2023	72
March 2024	66

Tables 15 & 16 show numbers who were in temporary/emergency Non-Bed & Breakfast accommodation at the end of the period. Note that this is a snapshot at the end of the quarter/period and so some households may appear more than once. Some may also appear in the Bed and Breakfast figures if they moved from one to another.

Rough Sleeping Data

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Explanation

Rough sleeping and homelessness are not necessarily the same thing. Not all people who are homeless will be sleeping rough, and some rough sleepers may not be homeless

Data here is based on two different methods of assessing numbers of rough sleepers:

- a) The estimated number of people sleeping rough on one single night between 1st October and 30th November each year. All councils are required to report their 'snapshot' street count figures to government.
- b) The number of individuals verified as sleeping rough by the Street Outreach team each month.

As the methods for collecting each are different they cannot be directly compared.

Caution

Backdated changes are occasionally made to some data; for example due to time lags or occasional errors in reporting. Please use the most up to date version available.

Data source

Number of rough sleepers counted on one night during 1st October & 30th November – internal data

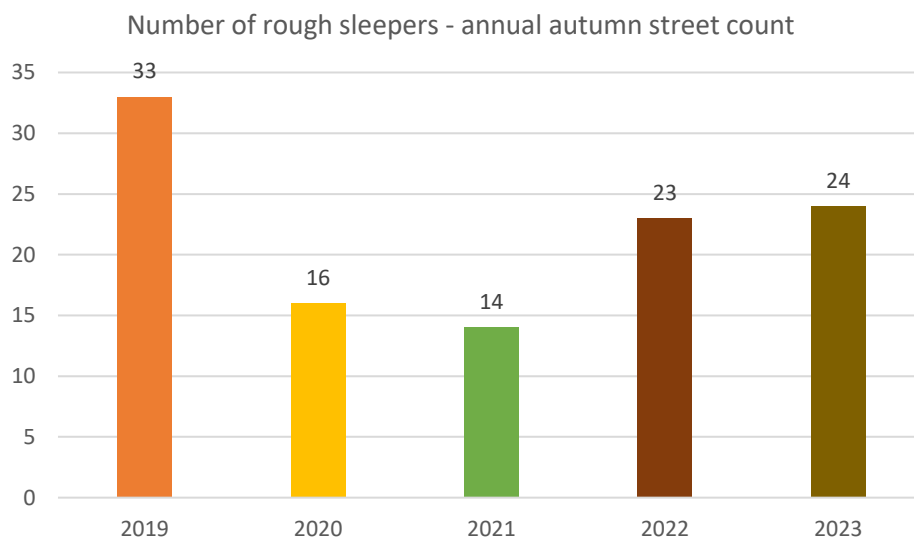
Number of individuals verified as sleeping rough – Cambridge Street Outreach Team.

Annual rough sleeping snapshot, last five years

Table 17: Number of rough sleepers counted during the annual autumn street count, last five years

Year	Number of rough sleepers counted
2019	33
2020	16
2021	14
2022	23
2023	24

Figure 3: Number of rough sleepers counted during the annual autumn street count, last five years



Historic data for all authorities in England is available in the Rough Sleeping Snapshot in England table found on the government's [Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Research and Statistics page](#).

Individuals verified as sleeping rough

Table 18: Number of individuals verified as sleeping rough, April to September

Month	Number of rough sleepers verified
April	26
May	30
June	32
July	23
August	37
September	48

Table 19: Number of individuals verified as sleeping rough, April to March, last five years

Date	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019-2020	32	26	40	35	37	43	37	27	23	29	29	32
2020-2021	17	22	30	47	46	49	21	50	46	62	41	35
2021-2022	28	34	43	50	33	48	40	50	42	44	33	33
2022-2023	35	40	43	42	60	44	62	49	42	30	19	33
2023-2024	29	41	26	49	52	53	51	22	29	32	37	42

The Street Outreach Team will engage and assess anyone regularly sleeping rough in Cambridge. However, there may be some rough sleepers who have been seen but not assessed; those individuals will not show in the above figures to avoid the risk of double-counting.

Note that the figures cannot be added together as some individuals will be included in more than one month's figures. They can also not be compared directly with the snapshot figure above as they are counted differently.