

# Annual Statutory Homelessness Statistics 2023/24

Data covers the period between April 2023 and March 2024

Data published 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

# Statutory Homelessness data

Statutory homelessness data is collected by all Local Authorities across England and reported to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

This data provides critical information about homelessness in England and is published by MHCLG on a quarterly and annual basis.

The data is often referred to as HCLIC data which stands for Homelessness Case Level Information Collection.

The term 'statutory homelessness' refers to households that meet specific criteria under the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017 and are therefore legally entitled to help from their Local Authority.

A 'relief duty' refers to households that are assessed as being homeless.

A 'prevention duty' refers to households that are assessed as being threatened with homelessness.

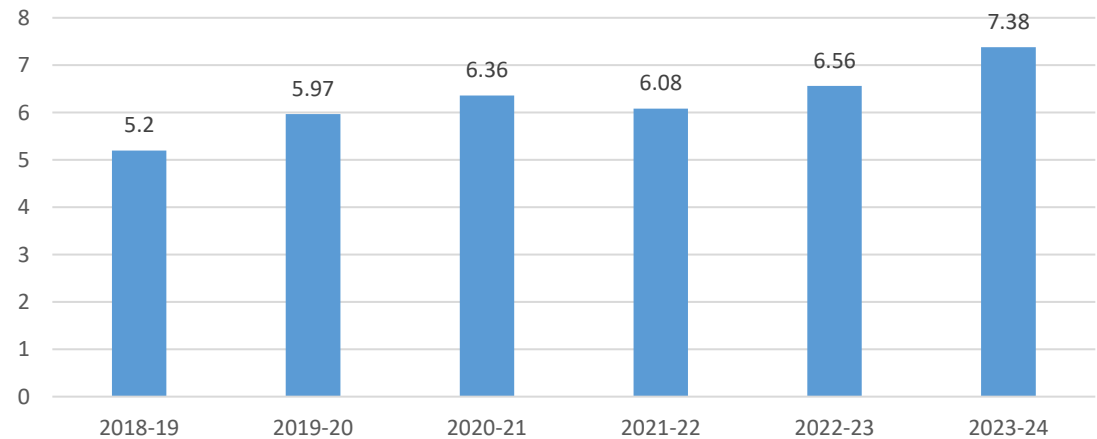
The data collated enables us to monitor changes in the number and characteristics of households approaching their Local Authority as potentially homeless.

# National picture

# England wide data: Homelessness numbers

Year	Number of households assessed as being owed a homelessness duty	Proportion of homelessness applications assessed as being owed a homelessness duty
2018-19	269,510	92%
2019-20	289,790	95%
2020-21	270,560	95%
2021-22	279,460	96%
2022-23	298,430	96%
2023-24	324,990	91%

Households assessed as homeless per 100,000, England



- Homelessness applications were undertaken for 358,370 households between April 2023 and March 2024.

- Of the 358,370 households who presented to local authorities across England in 2023/24, **324,990 (91%) were assessed as being owed a duty.**

- The number of households assessed as being owed a homelessness duty has been significantly increasing since 2020/21.

- The proportion of homelessness applications owed a homelessness duty has varied between 96% (in 2021/22 and 2022/23) and 91% (in 2023/24).

- Across England **7.38 households per 100,000** were assessed as being homeless and owed a duty. A rise from 6.56 the previous year.

# England wide data: Reasons for presenting

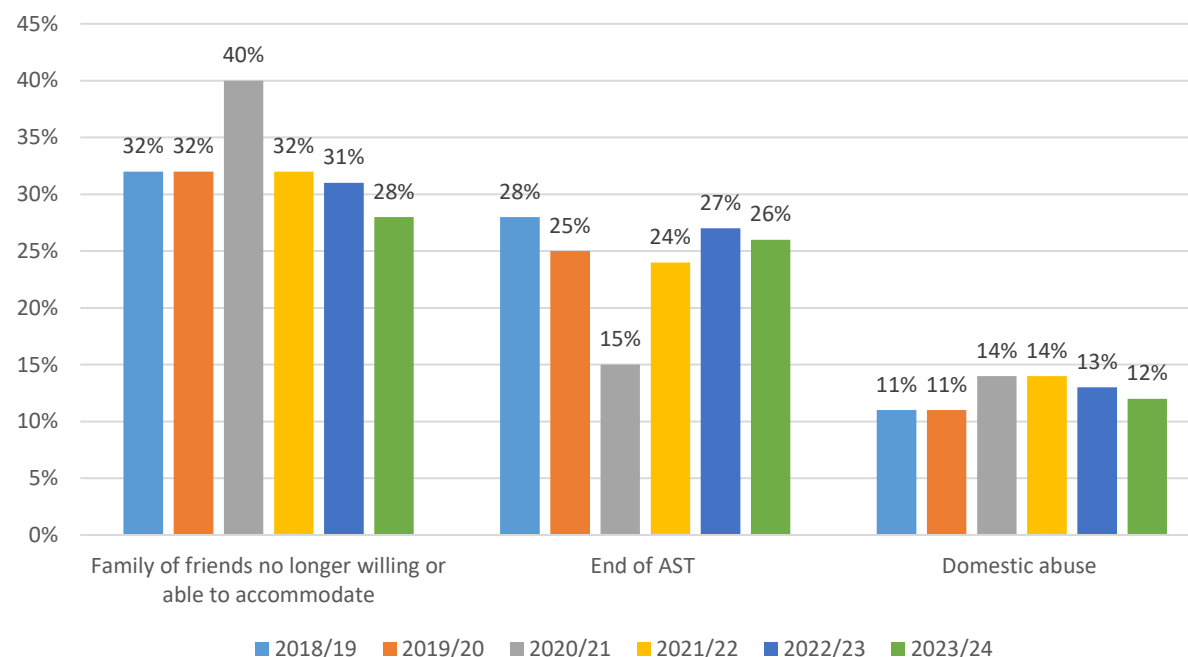
The **top three reasons** for households presenting to local authorities, with a known reason in 2023/24 were:

- Family and friends no longer able or willing to accommodate (28%; 87,290 households)
- Ending of Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) (26%; 79,500 households)
- Domestic abuse (12%; 37,950 households)

The most common underlying reasons for the ending of an Assured Shorthold Tenancy were:

- Landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property (15%; 45,370 households)
- Being served a valid Section 21 Notice (7.3%; 26,150 households)
- Other reason/ not known end of AST (5%; 15,860 households)

Top 3 reasons for presenting as homeless by year, England



# Temporary Accommodation

- As at the end of March 2024, there were **117,450 households in Temporary Accommodation across England**. 63% (74,530) of these households had children.
- As at the end of March 2024, **132,505 children** (aged under 18) were living in Temporary Accommodation, including 41,000 children aged 5 and under.
- 83,280 households (71%) were living in Temporary Accommodation for 6 months or longer.
- The most common age group for the main applicant owed a homelessness duty was 35-44, with 32% of people owed a duty falling in that age category.
- The majority of households in Temporary Accommodation were in nightly paid accommodation (27%), Local Authority or Housing Association (LA/ HA) stock (24%) and the private sector (22%).

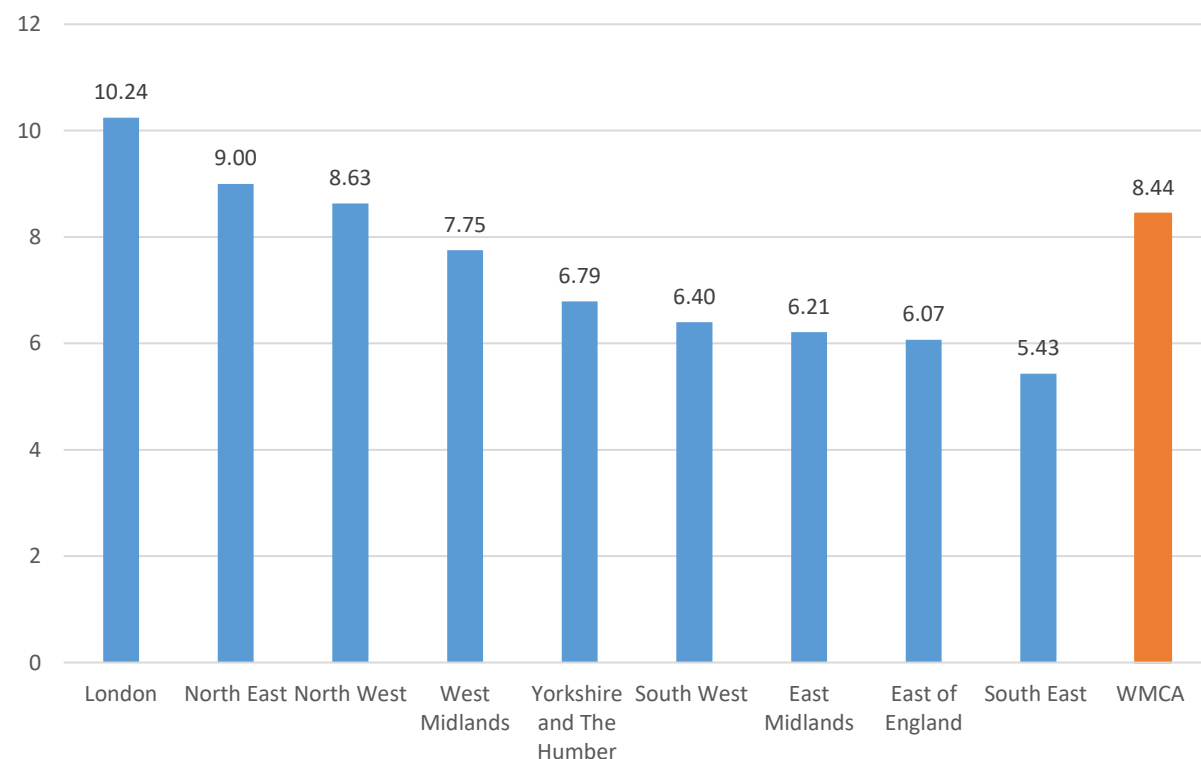
Type of Temporary Accommodation	Number of households	Percentage of households
B&B's	17,750	15%
Hostels	6,270	5%
Local Authority /Housing Authority stock	28,090	24%
Other nightly paid	32,290	27%
Private sector	26,160	22%
Other/ Not known	6,890	6%

# Regional picture

# The (wider) West Midlands region

At a regional level:

Households assessed as homeless per 100,000



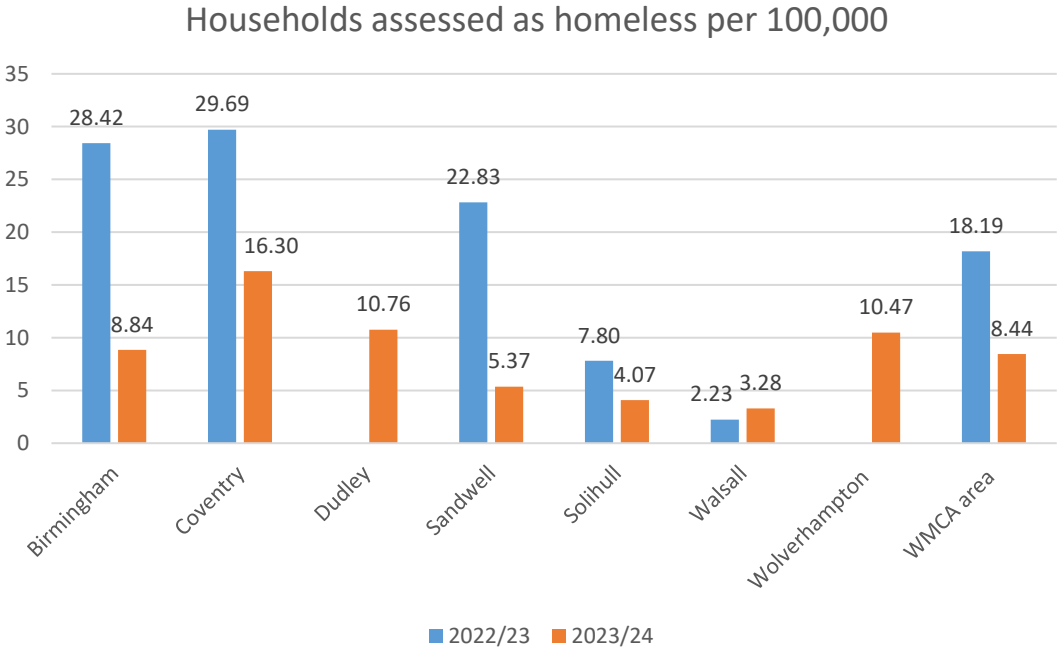
- **31,680 households were assessed as being owed a homelessness duty** across the (wider) West Midlands region in 2023/24, representing a 11% increase from 28,520 in the previous year.
- The (wider) West Midlands region had the **fourth highest** number of households assessed as homeless per 100,000, at 7.75, which is higher than the national figure of 7.38.
- The **WMCA** had a higher number of households assessed as homeless per 100,000, at **8.44**, which is both higher than the (wider) West Midlands figure and the national figure.
- At the end of March 2024, there were **7,780 households living in Temporary Accommodation** in the (wider) West Midlands region. 77% (6,020) of these households had children.



# WMCA picture

# WMCA: Homelessness

	Total number of homeless applications	Total owed a prevention or relief duty	Proportion of homelessness applications assessed as being owed a homelessness duty
Birmingham	7,140	6,900	97%
Coventry	3,803	3,656	96%
Dudley	2,989	1,774	59%
Sandwell	1,791	1,615	90%
Solihull	1,027	981	96%
Walsall	804	795	99%
Wolverhampton	1,698	1,589	94%
<b>WMCA area</b>	<b>19,252</b>	<b>17,310</b>	<b>90%</b>



- In the WMCA area, **17,310 households were owed a prevention or relief duty**, representing a 16%\* increase from 12,007 households in the previous year\*\*.
- Of which 6,825 (39%) were owed a prevention duty and 10,485 (61%) were owed a relief duty. Compared to 4,468 (38%) owed a prevention duty and 7,189 (62%) owed a relief duty in the previous year.
- In the WMCA area 8.44 households were assessed as homeless per 100,000. This is higher than both the England figure (7.38) and the (wider) West Midlands region (7.75). However, it is a noticeable decrease from 18.19 in 2022/23.

\* The 16% increase is calculated excluding data from Dudley and Wolverhampton for both 2022/23 and 2023/24 as data was missing for 2022/23.

\*\* Data from Dudley and Wolverhampton is missing for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

# WMCA: Reasons for presentations

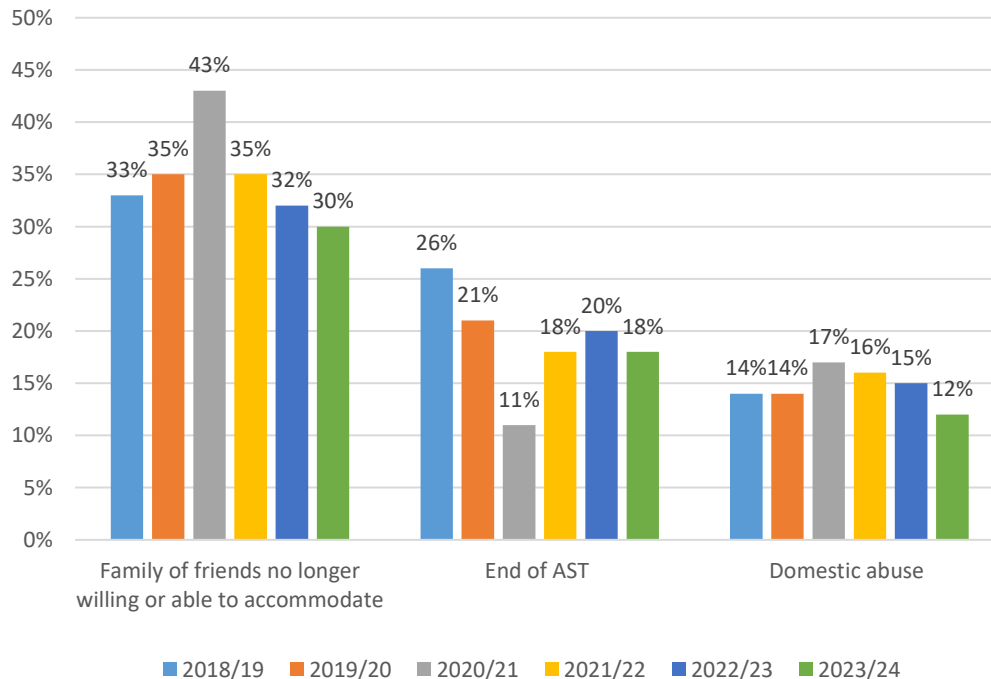
The **top three reasons** for households presenting as homeless, with a known reason, in 2023/24 were:

- Family and friends no longer able or willing to accommodate (30%; 4,908 households)
- Ending of Assured Shorthold Tenancy (18%; 2,994 households)
- Domestic abuse (12%; 2,054 households)

The most common underlying reasons for the ending of an Assured Shorthold Tenancy were:

- Landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property (10%; 1,654 households)
- Other reasons/ not known (4%; 649 households)
- Change in personal circumstances (1%; 184 households)

Top 3 reasons for presenting as homeless by year in the WMCA area



- A greater proportion of households in the WMCA were presenting due to family or friends no longer able or willing to accommodate, than the national figure, a 2 percentage point difference
- A smaller proportion of households in the WMCA area were presenting as homeless due to landlords wishing to sell or re-let the property than nationally, a 5 percentage point difference
- The primary reason for presentations in the WMCA area was due to the breakdown of informal accommodation arrangements, with family or friends unwilling or unable to continue to provide housing. This peaked in 2020/21 which may relate to the COVID-19 pandemic

# Reasons for presentations, by duty owed

## Owed a prevention duty

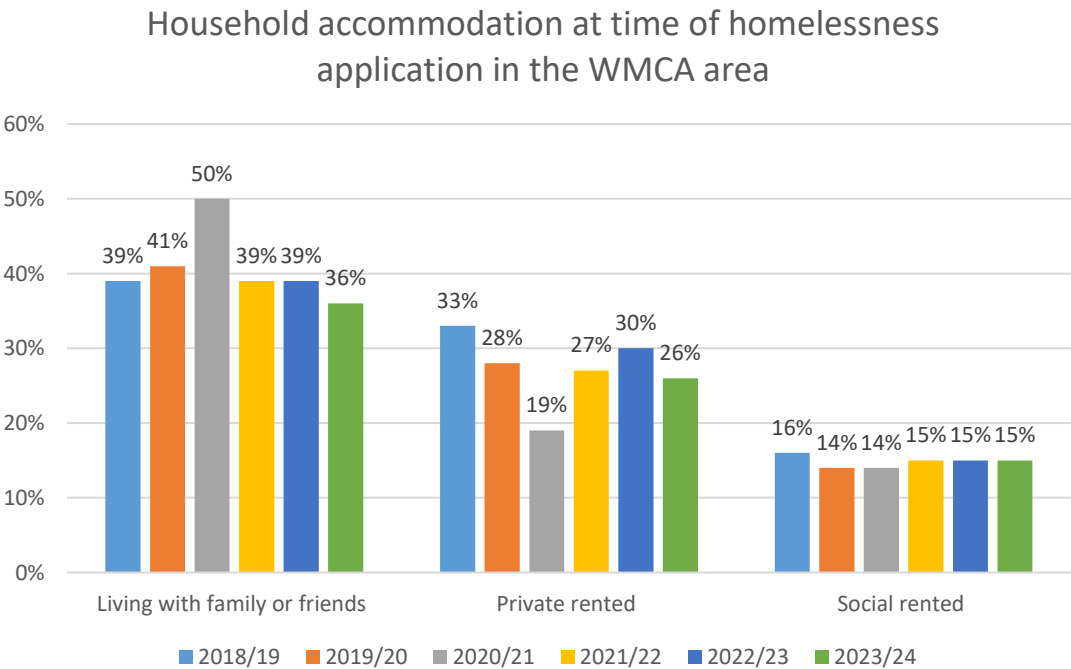
- End of Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) (30%; 1,944 households)
- Family or friends no longer able or willing to accommodate (24%; 1,573 households)
- Evicted from supported housing (9%; 610 households)
- Domestic abuse (8%; 530 households)

## Owed a relief duty

- Family or friends no longer able or willing to accommodate (33%; 3,335 households)
- Domestic abuse (15%; 1,524 households)
- Evicted from accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support (10%; 1,055 households)
- End of Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) (10%; 1,050 households)

# WMCA: Accommodation at time of application

	WMCA	England
Living with friends or family	36%	33%
Private rented sector	26%	29%
Social rented sector	15%	10%

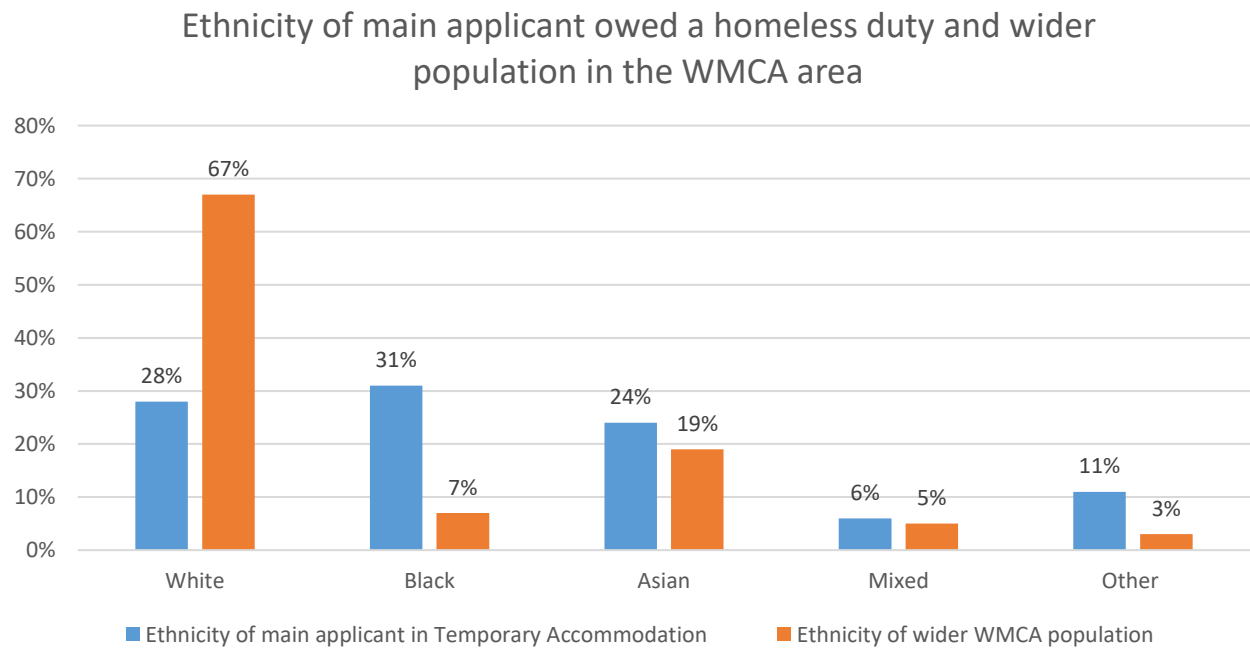


- The top three most recent accommodation for households owed a duty, when accommodation was known, were:
  - **Living with friends or family** (36%)
  - **Private** rented sector (26%)
  - **Social** rented sector (15%)
- A greater proportion of homeless households were in the social rented sector and living with friends and family in the WMCA compared to the national figure, 5 percentage points and 3 percentage points difference, respectively.
- A smaller proportion of homeless households were in the private rented sector in the WMCA compared to nationally, 3 percentage points difference.
- Applicants from households living with family or friends peaked during 2020/21, which may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# WMCA: Temporary Accommodation

Age of main applicant owed a homeless duty	Number	Percentage
16-17	4	-
18-24	477	7%
25-34	2,105	31%
35-44	2,375	36%
45-54	1,265	19%
55-64	321	5%
65-74	53	1%
75+	10	-

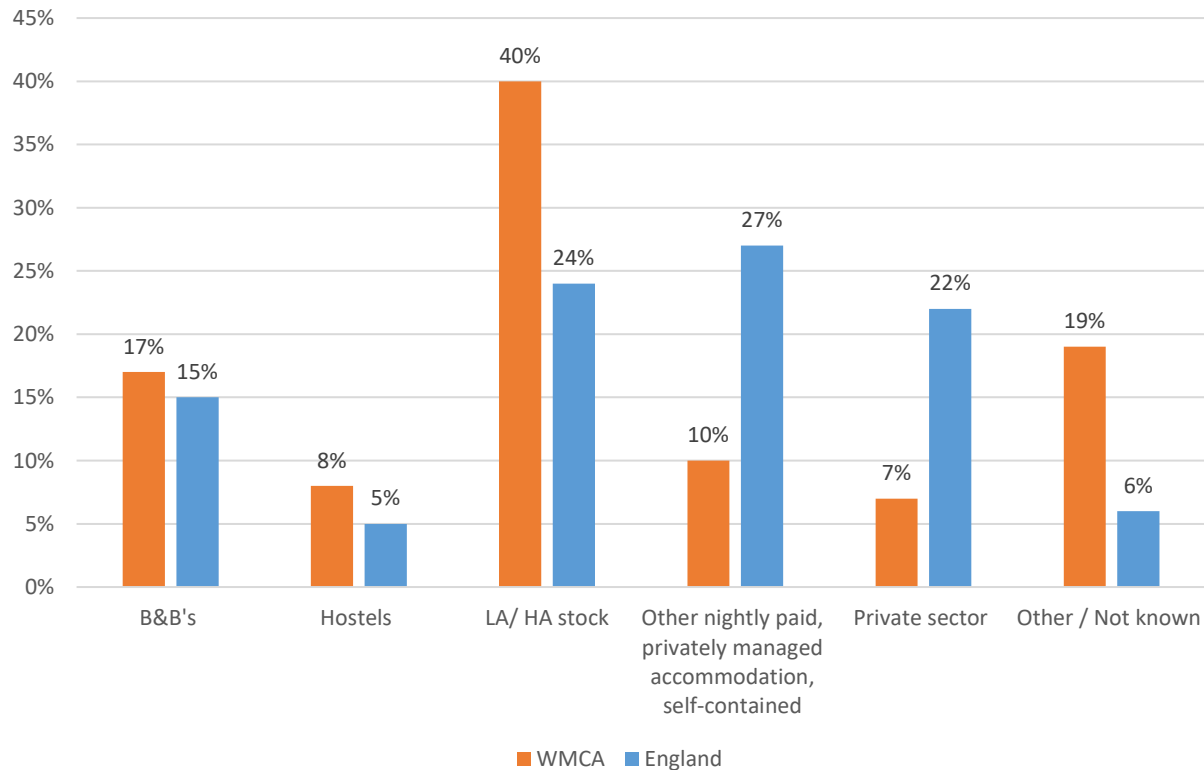
- **At the end of March 2024, there were 6,520 households in Temporary Accommodation** in the WMCA area. This includes 5,537 households with children living in Temporary Accommodation.
- **12,630 children** (aged under 18) were living in Temporary Accommodation as at the end of March 2024, including 3,998 children aged 5 and under.



- In line with the national picture, the most common age group of the main applicant owed a homeless duty was 35-44, with 36% of people owed a duty falling into that category.
- The number of households from ethnic minority groups that were owed a duty was disproportionate to the wider WMCA population. This trend is particularly significant where the main applicant was of Black ethnicity.

# WMCA: Temporary Accommodation type

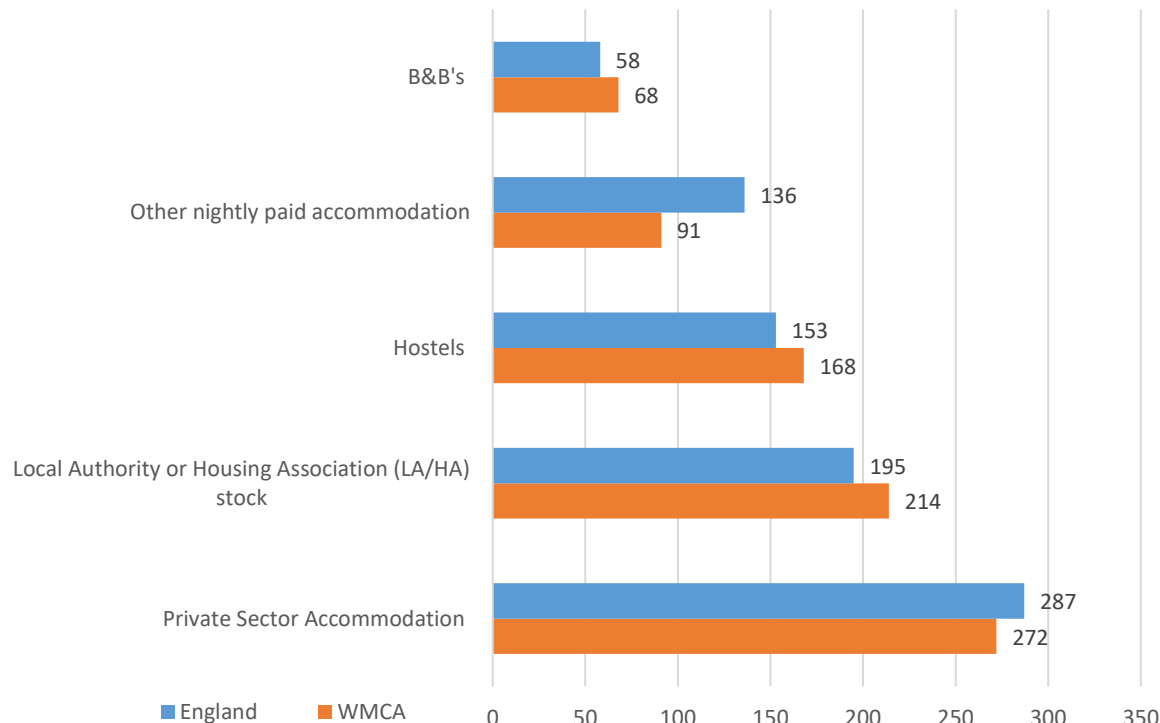
Type of Temporary Accommodation being provided in the WMCA and Nationally



- As at the end of March 2024, Temporary Accommodation being provided in the WMCA was categorised as:
  - Local Authority or Housing Authority (LA/HA) stock (40%; 2,662 households)
  - Any other type of accommodation (including private landlord and not known) (19%; 1,208 households)
  - B&B's (17%; 1,095)
  - Nightly paid (10%; 657 households)
  - Hostels (8%; 503 households)
  - Private sector accommodation (7%; 435 households)

# WMCA: TA type and length of stay

Average (median) number of nights spent in Temporary Accommodation by accommodation type



- In the WMCA area households generally spend fewer nights in Temporary Accommodation across the different forms of Temporary Accommodation than nationally.
- 3,731 households with children (67%) were in Temporary Accommodation for longer than 6 months.
- The average length of stay varied across Temporary Accommodation type, with the longest length of stay seen in private sector accommodation at 272 nights (c.9 months).
- Households staying in private sector accommodation, LA or HA stock, Hostels and B&B's had longer stays on average in the WMCA area compared to the England figures.