

Stats in Brief

Homelessness Statistics

January 2026



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Not so temporary accommodation

The latest homelessness statistics, for Quarter 2, 2025, showed a record number of homeless households in temporary accommodation in England: 132,410 with 172,420 children. 48,930 of those were in the most expensive, nightly accommodation. 31,730 were housed in local authority or housing association properties. Some councils have bought accommodation specifically as temporary accommodation, others have simply put homeless people into their council housing stock, which obviously means that people on the waiting list have to wait longer.

Temporary accommodation is, for many people far from temporary. 52,090 households have been in TA for more than 2 years, 24,460 for more than 5 years.

The government is pressing councils to stop breaking the law by housing people in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks. However, councils are in an impossible situation financially, because the government has maintained the freeze on Local Housing Allowance, which originates from the coalition government. **Councils only receive 90% of the 2011 LHA rate.** This is driving some councils to the wall. For some, the cost of temporary accommodation is eating up half of their General Fund income.

The acute shortage of council housing results in councils sending people they place in TA out of their local authority area. Nearly a third of households in temporary accommodation have suffered this fate; 42,740. In some areas this might mean an adjoining council area, in many others it involves people being told they will have to take TA hundreds of miles away. It is common that they are told if they don't accept the offer they will be 'voluntarily homeless' and abandoned to their fate by a council.

Temporary accommodation, England, June 2025

Total households in temporary accommodation	132,410
Single female with children	43,300
Single male with children	4,080
Couple with children	27,430
Single male	22,390
Single female	15,830
Other gender	520
Other households	18,220
Bed and Breakfast	14,250
Nightly paid	48,930
Private sector accommodation	25,730
Local authority or housing associations	31,750
In temporary accommodation of another local authority	42,740
Total in TA 2 to 5 years	26,310
Total in TA more than 5 years	24,460