



Homelessness in Wales, 2017-18 - Revised

01 August 2018
SFR 63/2018(R)

The release provides summary information on statutory homelessness covering households applying to local authorities for housing assistance under the Housing Act (Wales) 2014. Statutory homelessness does not include persons sleeping rough. Information on persons sleeping rough is available from an [annual national rough sleeper count](#).

9,072 households
Threatened with
Homelessness
(Section 66)

During 2017-18, 9,072 households were assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days. For 6,021 households (66 per cent), homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months, up from 62 per cent in 2016-17.

66%
Households
Successfully Prevented

During 2017-18, 11,277 households were assessed as homeless and owed a duty to help secure accommodation. Of these, 4,653 households (41 per cent) were successfully relieved of their homelessness and helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months. This is similar to the percentage in 2016-17.

11,277
Homeless
Households
(Section 73)

41%
Households
Successfully Relieved

2,229
Unintentionally
homeless and in
priority need

During 2017-18, 2,229 households were assessed to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need. Of these, 1,746 (78 per cent) households were positively discharged¹ through acceptance of settled suitable accommodation, down from 81 per cent in 2016-17.

78%
Positively Discharged

Temporary accommodation

- As at 31st of March 2018, 2,052 (r) households were in temporary accommodation across Wales, an increase of 2 per cent (r) since March 2017.
- 243 (r) households were in bed and breakfast accommodation, a considerable increase from 189 in March 2017.

About this release

This release has been revised following receipt of revised figures for households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2018 from one local authority (see [Quality Report](#) for detail).

This release provides summary information on local housing authorities' activities under the Housing Wales Act 2014. This includes the prevention and relief of homelessness as well as the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation.

This release focuses primarily on activity during 2017-18. Homelessness prevention is a Well Being of Future Generations National Indicator.

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¹ The successful relief of homelessness under Section 75 is referred to as a 'positive discharge' and the local authority must secure suitable accommodation

1. Key points

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, there was a small decrease in the number of households threatened with homelessness, but increases in both the number of households assessed as being homeless and the number assessed to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

Homelessness prevention

- Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 there was a small decrease of 2 per cent in the number of households threatened with homelessness within 56 days (to 9,072 households). Homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months in 66 per cent of cases (6,021 households). This was up from 62 per cent in 2016-17. In 15 per cent of cases prevention was unsuccessful, and other outcomes (including application withdrawn, assistance refused and other reasons) accounted for the remaining 18 per cent of cases. This compares with 18 per cent and 20 per cent respectively in 2016-17. For the 6,021 households where homelessness was prevented, a third were able to stay in their own home, with the remaining two thirds securing alternative accommodation.

Relief of homelessness

- Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 there was a small increase of 3 per cent (revised) in the number of households assessed as being homeless and owed a duty to help secure accommodation (to 11,277). In 41 per cent of cases, the local authority successfully helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months. For 4,143 households (37 per cent), the local authority was unsuccessful in securing such accommodation. These were similar to the proportions recorded in 2016-17. Of the 4,653 households successfully helped, 30 per cent secured accommodation in the social sector and 30 per cent in the private sector. 23 per cent secured supported accommodation, 9 per cent with family, friends or returned home and 8 per cent secured other accommodation.

Priority need

- Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 there was an increase of 7 per cent in the number of households assessed to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need (to 2,229 households). These households qualified for the duty to have accommodation secured for them. The most common category of priority need was the presence of dependent children or pregnant woman (45 per cent). For 78 per cent of all households assessed to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need, an offer of permanent accommodation was accepted (down from 81 per cent in 2016-17).

Households in temporary accommodation (Revised)

- At the end of March 2018, there were 2,052(r) households in temporary accommodation, representing a 2 per cent increase from a year earlier. Private sector accommodation continued to be the main form of temporary accommodation used. It accounted for 38(r) per cent of all households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2018 compared with 39 per cent a year earlier.
- At the end of March 2018, there were 243 (r) households in bed and breakfast accommodation; a considerable increase from 189 a year earlier.

2. Introduction

This is the third in a series of annual statistical releases relating to statutory homelessness under the new homelessness legislation introduced on 27th April 2015 (Part 2 of the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)).

The main aim of the legislation is to reduce levels of homelessness by placing prevention at the centre of local authority duties to help everyone at risk rather than just those in priority need groups. Advice on the duties under this legislation is given in the [Homelessness Code of Guidance \(revised 2016\)](#).

2.1 Structure of release

The broad structure of the release is as follows:

- **Data Limitations:** [Section 3](#) of this release provides important summary information about the limitations of the data.
- **Assessment Outcomes:** [Sections 4](#) and [5](#) cover the outcomes of assessments made by local authorities under Section 62 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 on households who apply to the authority for housing assistance because they are homeless or threatened with homelessness. It is possible for a single household to have up to three separate outcomes under this process depending on the results of the duty owed. It provides all outcomes reached during the financial year, regardless of when the application was made.
- **Prevention and Relief:** [Sections 6](#) to [7](#) cover the actions taken to prevent or relieve homeless and information on the age, gender and ethnicity of applicants.
- **Priority need and reasons for homelessness:** [Sections 8](#) and [9](#) cover the types of priority need for those assessed under Section 75 of the Act as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. It also covers the main reasons why households are either threatened with homelessness or become homeless.
- **Temporary Accommodation:** [Section 10](#) of this release covers households that are in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2017. [Section 11](#) covers the total placements of 16 to 17 and 18 to 21 year olds in Bed and Breakfast accommodation during 2017-18.

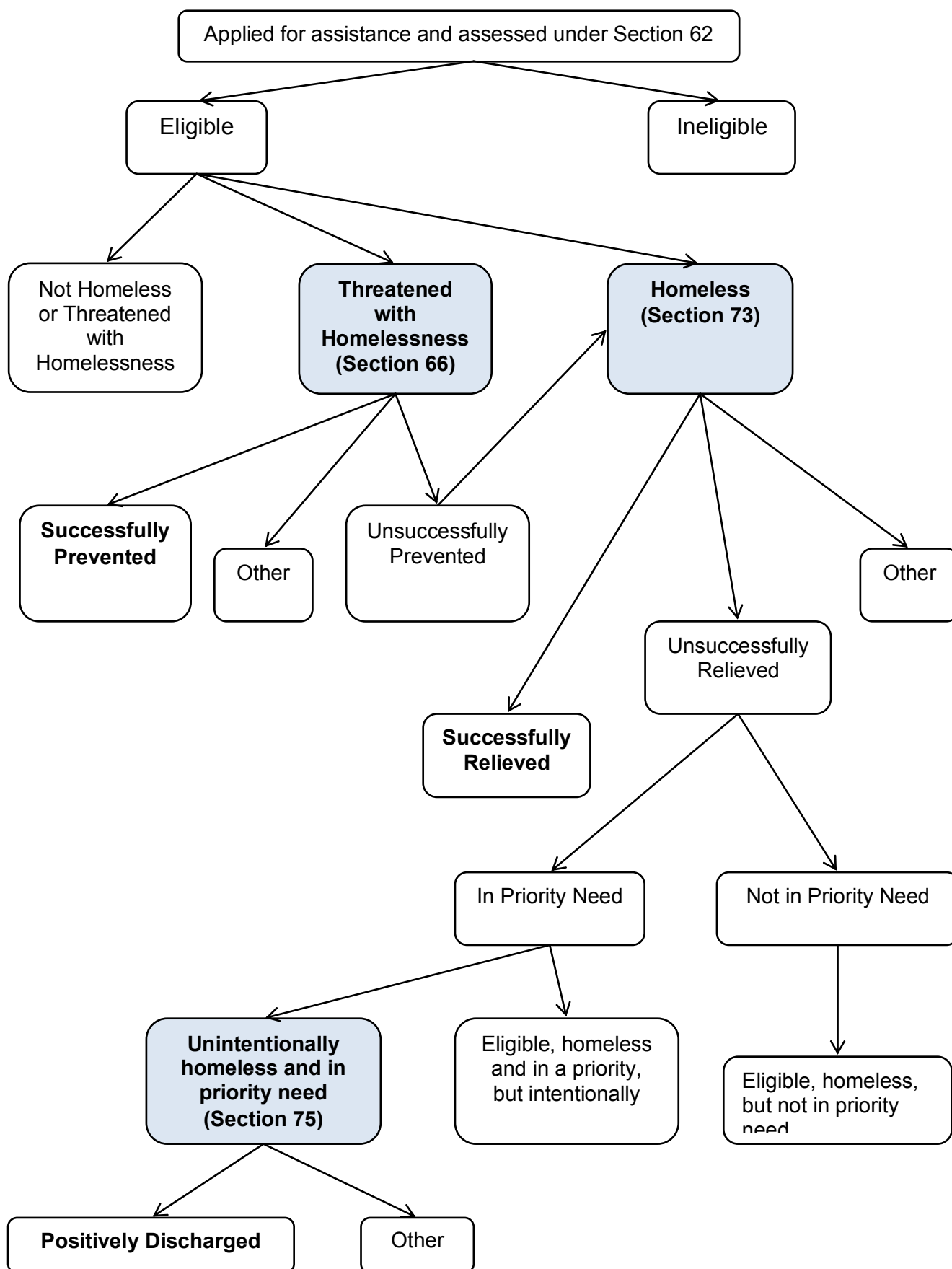
A separate Homelessness in Wales [Quality report](#) is available which includes information on the following headings and should be read in conjunction with this statistical release.

- Policy and operational context
- Users and Uses
- Strengths and limitations of the data
- Data Processing Cycle
- Quality
- Administrative data quality assurance

The complete underlying data set is published on [StatsWales](#).

Disclosure control has been applied to the figures in this release and to accompanying data on [StatsWales](#). All figures less than 3, and percentages based on less than 3 have been suppressed and shown as a '*'. All other figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total. All percentages quoted in this report were calculated using the unrounded data. We would welcome any feedback on the format of this release. Please provide your comments by email to stats.housing@gov.wales.

This release presents information on the outcomes following assessments made about households who apply for assistance with housing and the ending of duties by local authorities under Section 62 of the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#). It is possible for a single household to have up to three separate outcomes under this process depending on the results of the duty owed under the Act. A brief outline of the assessment process is shown in the flowchart below.



3. Limitations of data

It is not possible to directly compare the number of 'homeless households' collected under the current and previous legislations (please see Comparability section of [Quality report](#)).

Care should be taken when comparing both the 2016-17 and 2017-18 statutory homelessness data with the data for 2015-16. This is due both to the data quality issues for 2015-16 and the additions and changes to the quarterly and annual returns for 2016-17 which are outlined in detail in Annex A of the [2016-17 annual release](#).

Continued close working with both policy colleagues and local authority data providers throughout the 2016-17 data collection year resulted in the resolution of previous quality and accuracy issues. The temporary National Statistics de-designation ended in July 2017 following discussion with the Office for Statistics Regulation which is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority. Further information on the designation of National Statistics is available [here](#).

As no further additions or changes were made to the data collection forms for the 2017-18 collection year the data are comparable with 2016-17.

Further information is provided in the 2017-18 [Quality report](#)

4. Homelessness prevention

In its broadest terms, '**homelessness prevention**' is where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the authority considers is threatened with homelessness within 56 days. Prevention work can also be undertaken before meeting the statutory definition, but would not then be recorded against Section 66 prevention outcomes.

Under the new legislation, the outcome of a duty is recorded at each stage following the Section 62 (application for assistance with housing) assessment.

It is possible for up to 3 different outcomes to be recorded for each individual household. This may result in a household being recorded in Charts 1, 2 and 3 below. Further information is available in [Annex A \(Glossary\)](#) of this release.

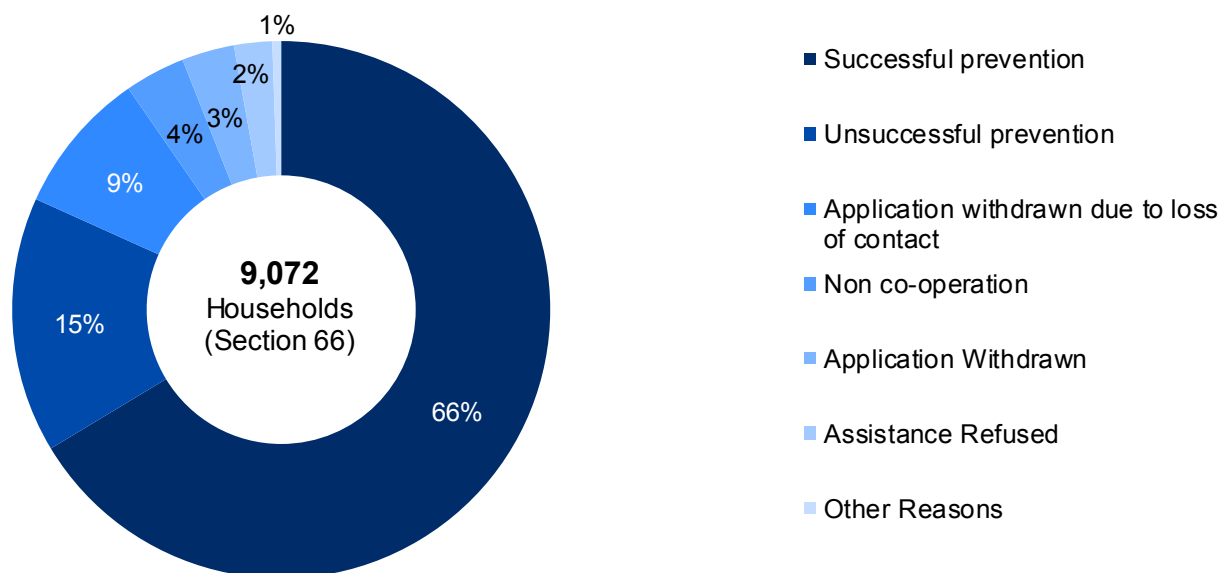
The assessment process will not always result in a household being found to be eligible for assistance nor will it always result in a household being found to be either threatened with homelessness within 56 days or homeless.

During 2017-18 following a Section 62 assessment, 387 households were assessed as ineligible², and in a further 4,194 cases the household was assessed as being neither homeless nor threatened with homelessness.

² Housing authorities need to satisfy themselves that applicants are eligible before providing housing assistance. The provisions on eligibility are complex and housing authorities need to ensure that they have procedures in place to carry out appropriate checks on housing applicants.

During 2017-18, following a Section 62 assessment, a total of 9,072 households in Wales were assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days which is a decrease of 2 per cent on the 9,231 (revised) households recorded during the previous year. [Chart 1](#) below shows the outcomes for those households.

Chart 1. Percentage of households found to be eligible and threatened with homelessness (Section 66), during 2017-18



- During 2017-18, homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months for 66 per cent (6,021 households) of the 9,072 households threatened with homelessness. This compares with a successful homelessness prevention rate of 62 per cent during 2016-17.
- For a further 15 per cent (1,395 households), prevention for at least 6 months was unsuccessful. In these cases, the applying households were discharged and became statutorily homeless³ and may be owed a duty under Section 73. This represents a decrease of 3 percentage points on the number of cases where prevention was unsuccessful during 2016-17.
- For the remaining 1,653 households threatened with homelessness during 2017-18, the prevention duty was brought to an end. The main reason for this was the application being withdrawn (including through loss of contact) which accounted for 12 per cent of all households assessed, compared with 11 per cent during the previous year. Non co-operation was the reason given for 4 per cent of cases and refusal of assistance for 2 per cent ([Chart 1](#)).

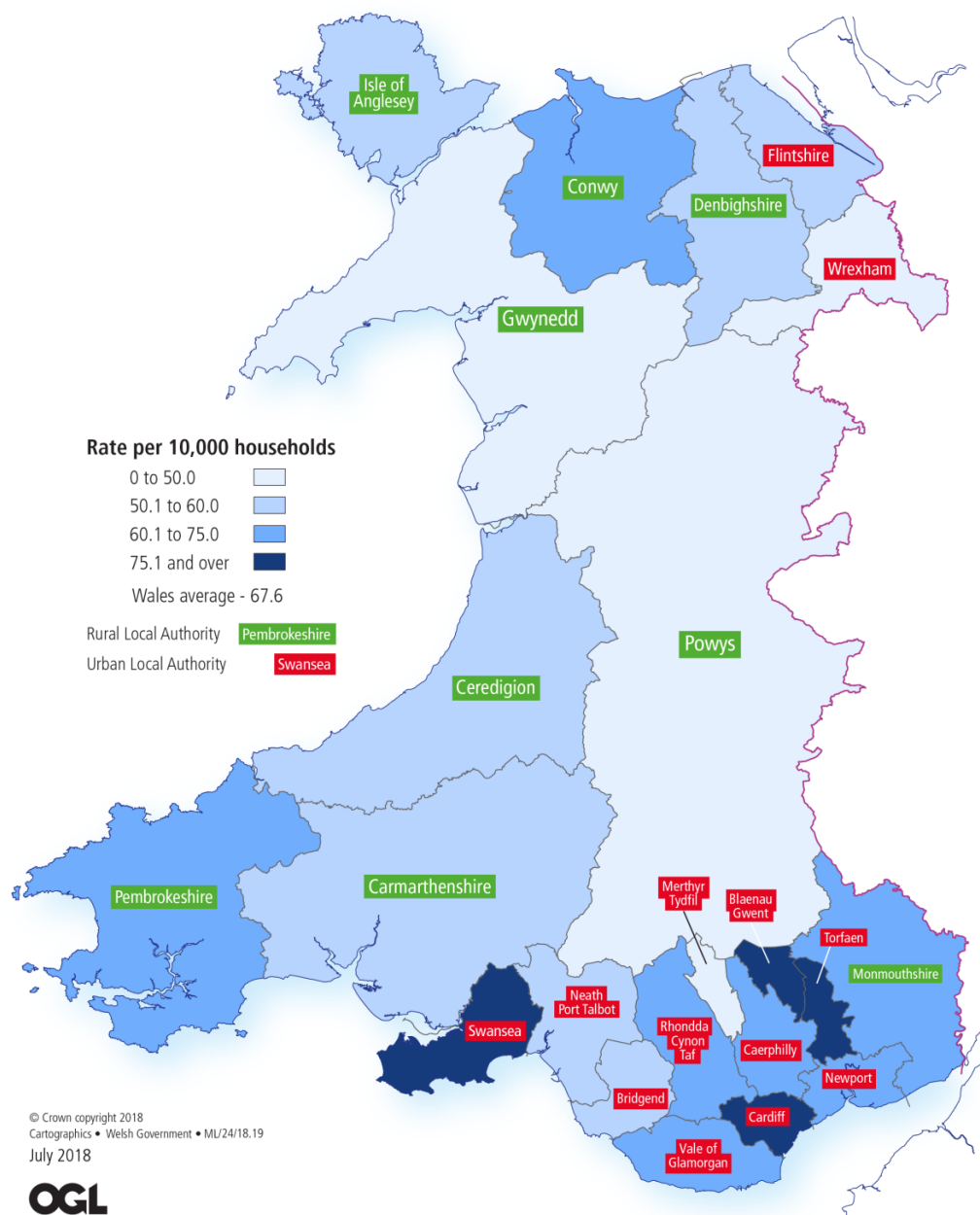
Further information on how these terms should be interpreted is available on the guidance and definitions section of the [data collection forms](#).

³ Statutorily homeless as defined within Section 55 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Maps 1 and 2 show the rate of households threatened with homelessness and the rate of those successfully prevented from homelessness at an individual local authority level.

Homelessness

MAP 1: Households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days during 2017-18 - Rate per 10,000 households

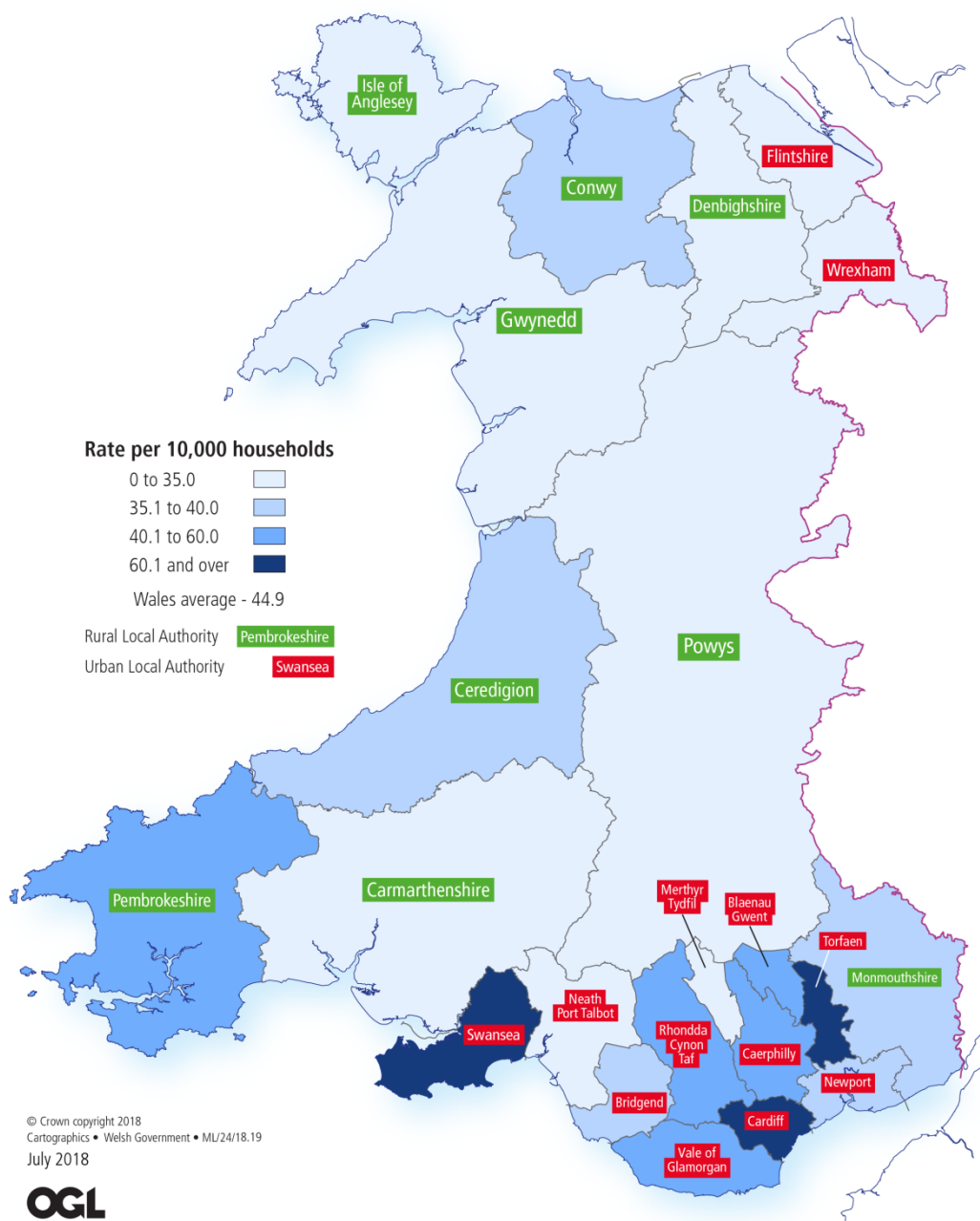


- In Wales as a whole, 67.6 per 10,000 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness in 2017-18. This compares with a rate of 69.3 (revised) a year earlier.
- During 2017-18, Cardiff reported the highest number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days at 1,545 households. However, taking into account the number of households in each area, the highest rate was seen in Torfaen at 108.3 per 10,000 households⁴.
- Methyr Tydfil reported the lowest number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness at 114 households but the lowest rate was in Powys at 21.6 per 10,000 households.

⁴ The household estimates used in this release are the Welsh Government mid-2016 household estimates available from the [StatsWales website](https://stats.wales.gov.uk/).

Homelessness

MAP 2: Households successfully prevented from homelessness during 2017-18 - Rate per 10,000 households



The number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months, as a rate per 10,000 households⁵ is a [Well Being of Future Generations National Indicator](#). During 2017-18 the rate for Wales was 44.9 per 10,000 households compared with 43.0 (revised) during 2016-17.

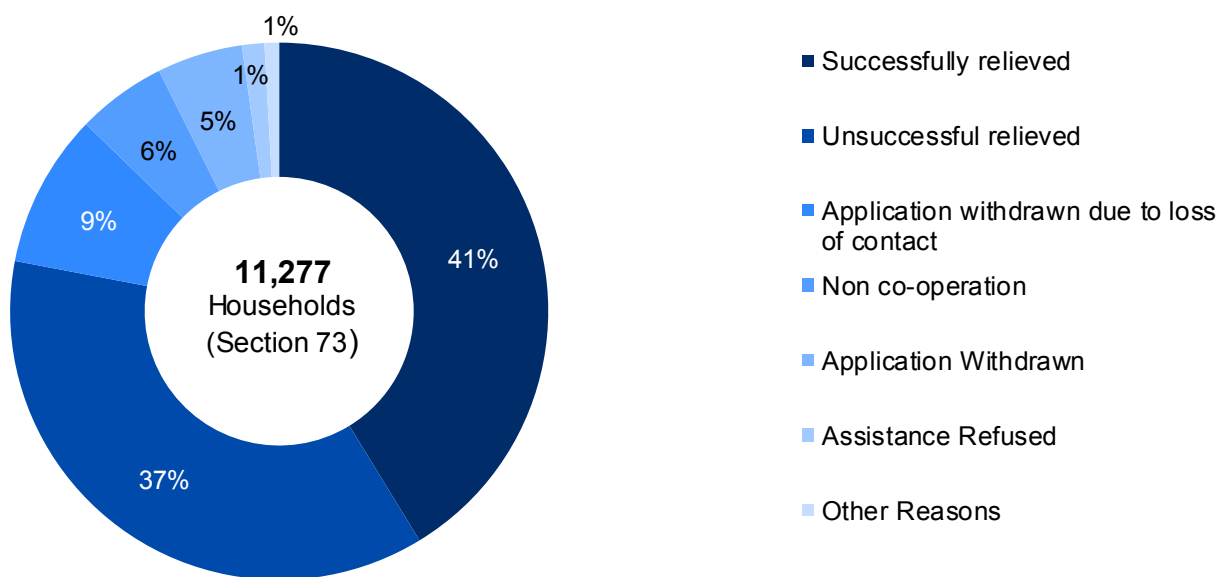
⁵ The rate will vary at an individual local authority level depending on the number of households that are assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days. Information is also shown at a Wales level in Chart 1 on the number of households successfully prevented from homelessness for at least 6 months, expressed as a percentage of the numbers assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

- During 2017-18, Cardiff recorded the highest number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months at 1,125 households, and, taking into account the number of households in each area, Cardiff also had the highest rate of successful prevention at 74.4 per 10,000 households.
- Merthyr Tydfil reported the lowest number of successful prevention outcomes (60 households) whilst Wrexham reported the lowest rate (13.3 per 10,000 households).
- During 2017-18, 8 of the 22 local authorities had rates above the Wales average of 44.9 per 10,000 households.

5. Relief of homelessness under duty to help secure accommodation (Section 73)

[The Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) introduced a new duty for all local authorities in Wales to provide help to any homeless person to help them secure a home. Following notification that an applicant is homeless, the local authority will be under a duty (Section 73) to take reasonable steps to help to secure accommodation. Further information is available in the [Homelessness Code of Guidance \(revised 2016\)](#).

Chart 2. Percentage of households assessed as homeless under duty to help secure accommodation (Section 73) during 2017-18 (a)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Figures do not equal 100 due to rounding

- During 2017-18, a total of 11,277 households were assessed as being homeless and owed a duty to help to secure accommodation (under Section 73 of the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)). This was an increase of 3 per cent on the 10,908 households (revised) assessed as homeless during 2016-17.

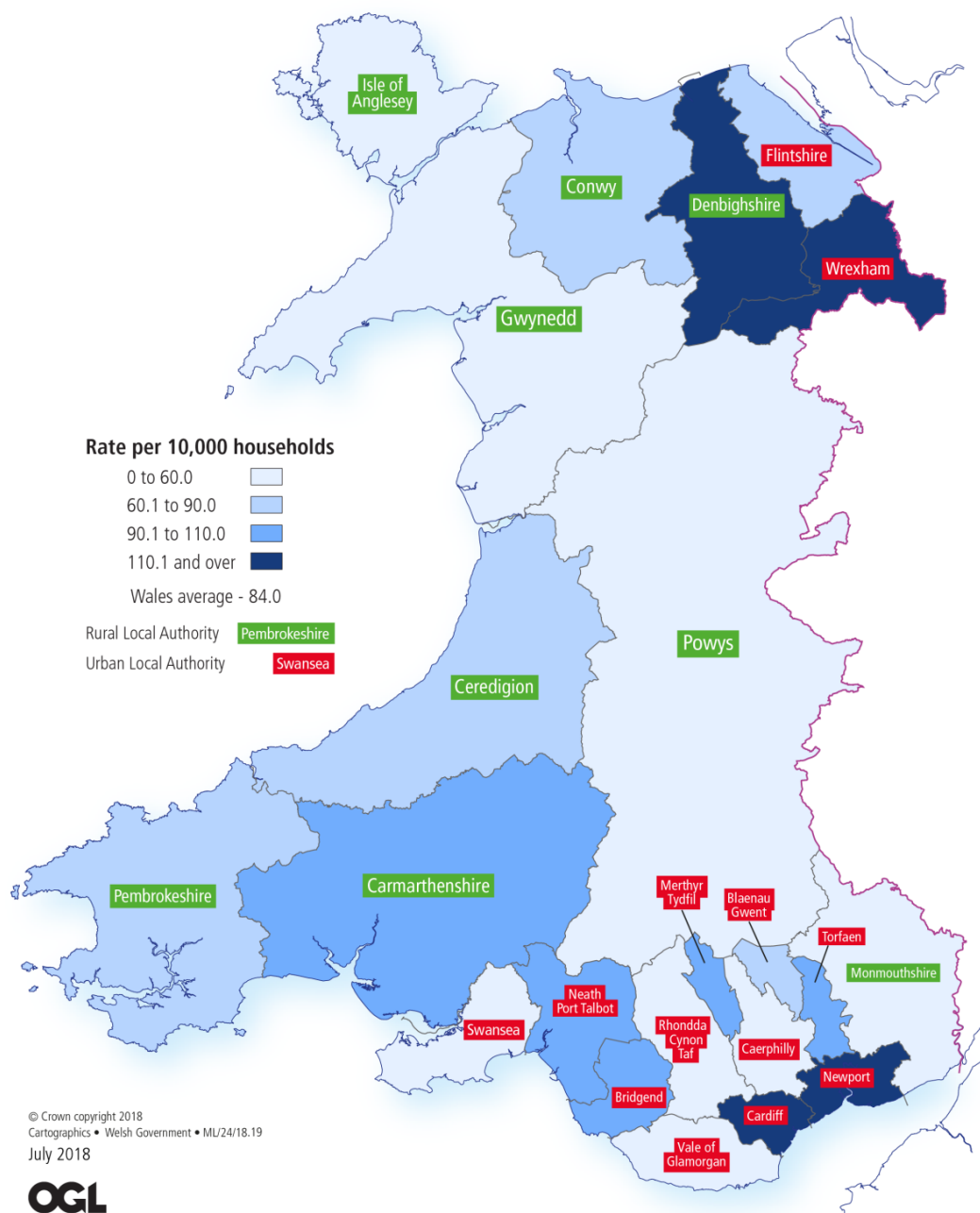
- 41 per cent (4,653 households) of those households assessed as homeless during 2017-18 were relieved of their homelessness following intervention by the local authority and helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months. This was similar to the percentage of successful relief cases recorded during 2016-17.
- In a further 4,143 cases (37 per cent), homelessness was not relieved and the duty was ended⁶. In these cases the assessments were reviewed to establish whether the household was eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. Again this was similar to the percentage reported during the previous year though the actual number of households not relieved of homelessness was 3 per cent lower during 2016-17 at 4,005 households (revised).
- For the remaining 2,481 households assessed as homeless during 2017-18, the Section 73 duty was brought to an end. The main reason reported for the Section 73 duty ending was withdrawal of the application (including withdrawn due to loss of contact) which accounted for 14 per cent of all households assessed as homelessness. This was up by one percentage point on the previous year.
- Non co-operation was the reason given for 5 per cent of cases compared with 6 per cent during 2016-17. Refusal of assistance and 'other' reasons both accounted for 1 per cent of all cases where Section 73 duty ended during 2017-18 and, as with cases of non co-operation, both were down by 1 percentage point compared with the previous year ([Chart 2](#)).

⁶ Under Section 74.2 or 74.3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Map 3 shows the rate of households assessed as homeless during 2017-18 at an individual local authority level.

Homelessness

MAP 3: Households assessed as homeless (Section 73)
during 2017-18 - Rate per 10,000 households



- For Wales as a whole, 84.0 per 10,000 households were assessed as homeless in 2017-18, compared with a rate of 81.9 (revised) during 2016-17.
- Cardiff reported the highest number of households assessed as homeless under Section 73 of the new legislation, at 1,977 households. Taking into account the size and number of households within each local authority, the highest rate of homeless households was in Newport at 153.0 per 10,000 households. This was followed by Wrexham at 133.6 per 10,000 households.
- The Isle of Anglesey reported the lowest number of households assessed as homeless (183 households) but Swansea had the lowest rate (33.9 per 10,000 households).

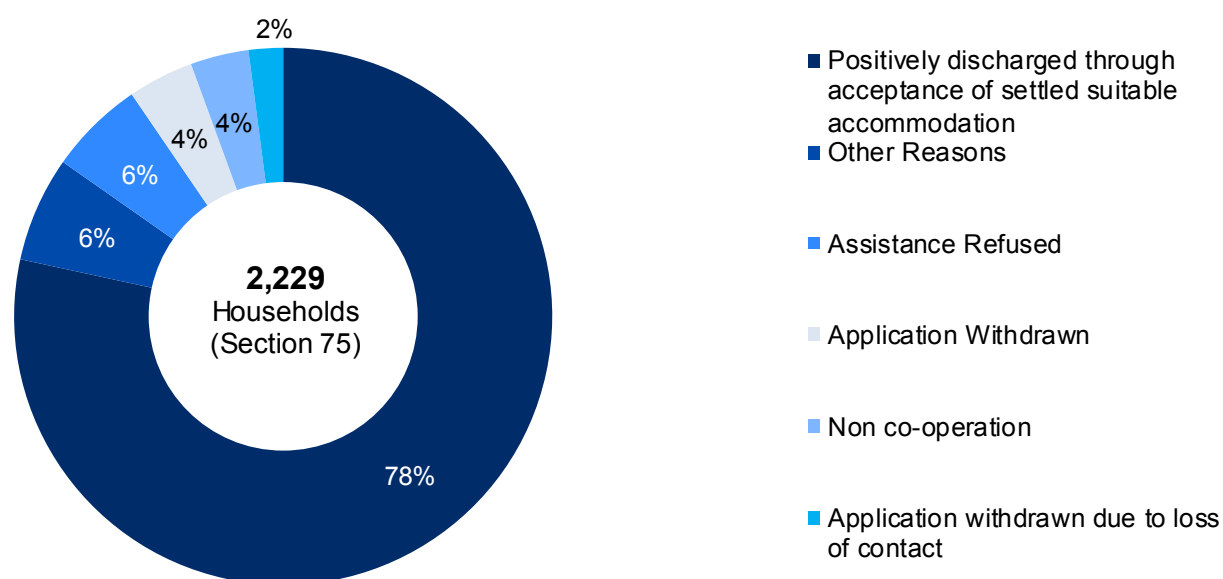
5.2 Relief of homelessness under final duty (Section 75)

Under Section 75 of the new legislation, where households were owed a duty under Section 73 because they were homeless and this duty has ended, the assessment is reviewed.

If the household is homeless, has a priority need and is unintentionally homeless, the local authority will be under a duty to secure suitable accommodation. The successful relief of homelessness under Section 75 is referred to as a 'positive discharge', and the local authority must secure suitable accommodation.

The categories of priority need are as outlined in [Annex A \(Glossary\)](#) of this release and further information is available in the [Homelessness Code of Guidance \(revised 2016\)](#).

Chart 3. Percentage of homeless households owed a under final duty (Section 75), during 2017-18



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

- During 2017-18, a total of 2,229 households were accepted as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and were owed a duty for accommodation to be secured ([under Section 75 of the Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)). This is an increase of 7 per cent on the 2,074 households (revised) recorded during 2016-17.
- 1,746 households (78 per cent) were positively discharged/relieved through accepting an offer of suitable accommodation. This compares with 1,671 households (revised) (81 per cent) during 2016-17.
- For the remaining 480 households assessed as homelessness during 2017-18, the final duty was brought to an end. 'Assistance refused' was given as the reason for the Section 75 duty ending in 6 per cent of cases as was 'Other' reasons'. This compares with 5 per cent and 7 per cent respectively in the previous year.
- 'Application withdrawn' was the reason given in 4 per cent of cases and 'Application withdrawn due to loss of contact' in 2 per cent. This compares with 3 per cent and 1 per cent respectively in 2016-17.
- Cases of 'non co-operation' were also up by 1 percentage point on the previous year ([Chart 3](#)).

5.3 Other outcomes

Whilst assistance is provided for all homeless households as part of the assessment process, this does not always result in accommodation being found. In 1,566 cases, the household was found to be homeless but not in priority need, whilst in a further 159 cases the homeless household was assessed as being eligible and in priority need but intentionally⁷ so. The data are available on the [StatsWales website](#).

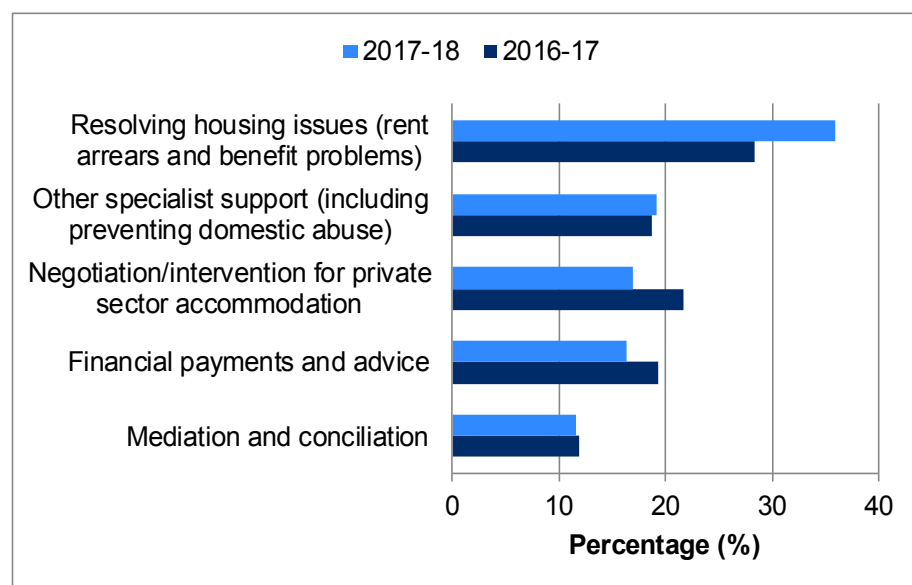
6. Actions taken to prevent and relieve homelessness

Local authorities were asked to provide information on the types of positive action taken during 2016-17 to both prevent homelessness for those assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days and to relieve homelessness for those assessed as homeless under Section 73. Prevention could result in the household either remaining within their existing home or moving to alternative accommodation.

Where more than one action contributed to preventing a household becoming homeless local authorities were asked to only record the most significant action taken.

[Chart 4](#) shows the most significant action taken during 2017-18 to prevent homelessness occurring and allow households to remain within their existing home.

Chart 4: Most significant action taken to successfully prevent homelessness and household remained in existing home. (a) (b)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

(b) Successfully prevented refers to the number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months as a percentage of all households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

- During 2017-18, in 1,968 cases the household was successfully prevented from becoming homeless, and was able to remain in their existing home. This represents a third of the total 6,021 cases of successful prevention during the year compared with under a quarter (23 per cent) during 2016-17.

⁷ Intentionality is described in Section 77 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. Each individual local authority has to nominate which specific priority need groups they apply intentionality to for the purpose of this assessment under Section 78 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

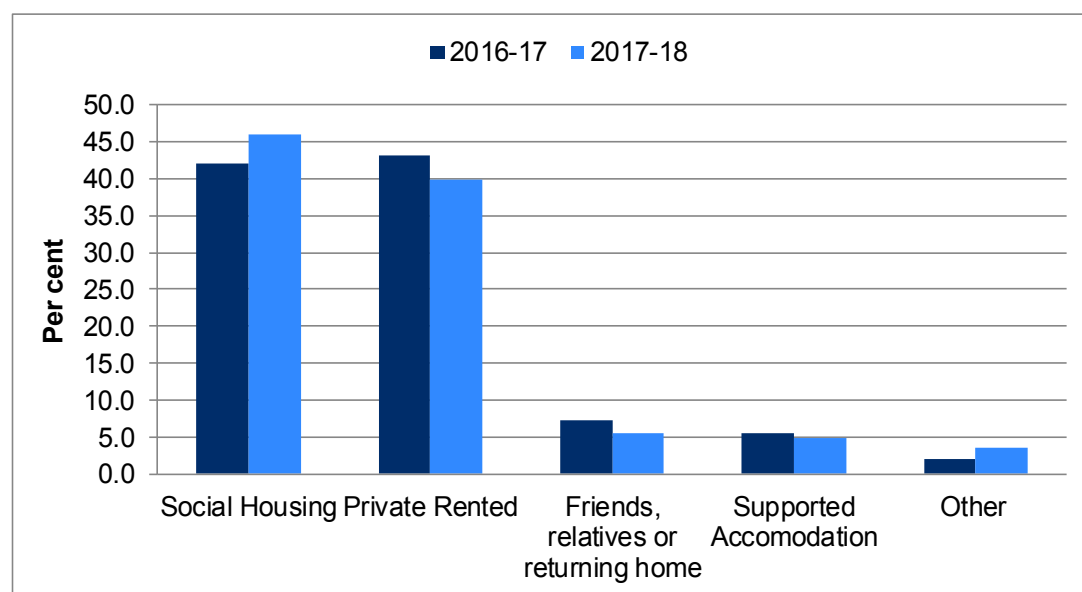
- Of those successfully prevented from becoming homeless, and able to remain in their existing home, over a third (36 per cent) were able to remain home following resolution of housing issues (including rent arrears and benefit problems), up from 28 per cent in 2016-17.
- A further 19 per cent were able to remain in their existing home due to the provision of other specialist support (including the prevention of domestic abuse) which is similar to the percentage recorded in the 2016-17.
- The percentage of cases helped following negotiation or legal advocacy (such as mortgage arrears intervention or mortgage rescue) and the percentage helped through the use of financial payments and advice were both down on last year at 17 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.
- During 2017-18, there were 228 cases (12 per cent) where the households was able to remain in their existing home due to mediation and conciliation work which is an increase of 43 per cent on the 159 cases in the previous year. Of these, 90 cases involved young persons aged 16 to 25 compared with 66 (revised) during the previous year ([Chart 4](#)).

Alternative accommodation secured to prevent and relieve homelessness

- During 2017-18, in 4,053 cases the household was successfully prevented from becoming homeless due to local authority assistance in securing alternative accommodation. This represents over two thirds (67 per cent) of the total 6,021 cases of successful prevention during the year but is down on the 77 per cent recorded during 2016-17.
- During 2017-18, in 4,653 cases the homeless household was successfully relieved of their homelessness (under Section 73) due to local authority assistance in securing alternative accommodation. This represents 41 per cent of the total 11,277 households assessed as homeless during the year which is similar to the percentage recorded during 2016-17.

[Chart 5](#) below shows the main types of alternative accommodation secured to prevent homelessness where households were unable to remain in their existing home. [Chart 6](#) shows the main types of alternative accommodation secured to relieve homelessness for those assessed as homeless (under Section 73 of the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)).

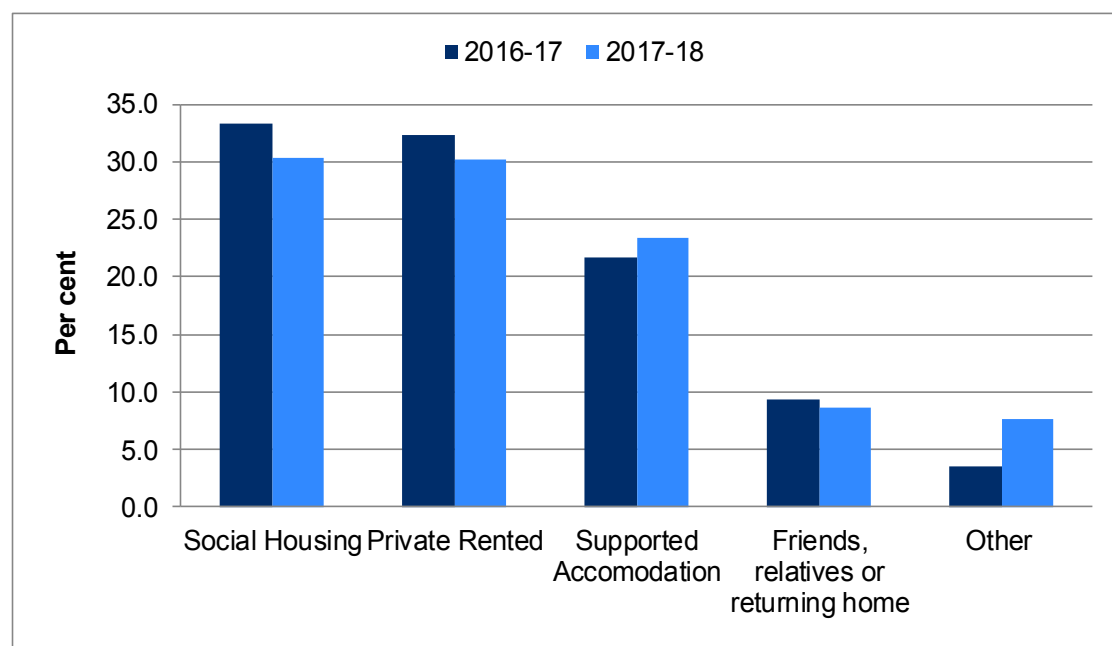
Chart 5: Percentage breakdown of alternative accommodation secured to prevent (Section 66) homelessness (a)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

- (a) Successfully prevented refers to the number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months as a percentage of all households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

Chart 6: Percentage breakdown of alternative accommodation secured to relieve (Section 73) homelessness (a)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

- (a) Successfully relieved refers to the number of households assessed as being homeless under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 who were helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months.

During 2017-18, the two main types of alternative accommodation obtained to both prevent and relieve homelessness were 'Social Housing' and 'Private rented accommodation'. 'Social Housing' was the main type of accommodation used in both prevention cases (46 per cent), and the main type used to relieve homelessness (30 per cent) ([Charts 5 and 6](#)). This differs to the previous year when 'Private rented accommodation' was the main type used to prevent homelessness.

7. Homelessness by age, gender and ethnicity

Age

- Most households prevented from, or relieved of homelessness during 2017-18 continued to be those where the main/lead applicant was aged 25 or older. This age group accounted for 78 percent of all households successfully prevented from becoming homeless, 71 cent of households successfully relieved of homelessness (under Section 73) and 70 per cent of households positively discharged under Section 75. These were broadly similar to the proportions recorded the previous year.
- During 2017-18, the applicant was aged 18 to 24 in a fifth of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented and in a quarter of households successfully relieved of homelessness (under Section 73). These proportions were roughly similar to the previous year though there was an increase from 25 to 27 per cent in the proportion aged 18 to 24 who were positively discharged (under Section 75).
- The applicant was aged 16 to 17 in 2 per cent of successful prevention cases, 4 per cent of cases of successful relief (under Section 73) and 3 per cent of cases of positive discharge (under Section 75). Again the proportions were broadly similar to the previous year.

Gender

- As was the case last year, the applicant was female in the majority of cases where households were both successfully prevented from homelessness (under Section 66) and positively discharged (under Section 75) at 65 per cent and 68 per cent respectively. The situation was reversed however for those households assessed as homeless (under Section 73) where in 55 per cent of cases the applicant was male.
- For homeless households positively discharged under Section 75, this may partly due to the fact that the most commonly stated priority need category during 2017-18 was the presence of dependent children or a pregnant woman (which accounted for 45 per cent of all Section 75 assessments during 2017-18).

Ethnicity

- During 2017-18, the applicant was from a black or minority ethnic background in 6 per cent of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless and 6 per cent of households successfully relieved of homelessness (under Section 73). This is broadly similar to the previous year. In comparison, the 2011 Census estimated that around 4 per cent of Wales' population were from a black or minority ethnic background.
- In both 2016-17 and 2017-18, however, the proportion of households positively discharged under Section 75 where the applicants were from a black or minority ethnic background was much higher at 14 per cent.

8. Households accepted as homeless and in priority need (Section 75)

This section of the release covers the priority needs recorded for those households who were assessed as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and for whom the local authority owed a duty to provide suitable accommodation under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The priority need categories are defined in Section 70 of the Act. The categories of priority need are as outlined in [Annex A \(Glossary\)](#) of this release and further information is available in the [Homelessness Code of Guidance \(revised 2016\)](#).

Table 1: Households eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Section 75) by priority need and household type, during 2016-17 and 2017-18. (a) (b)

Outcomes	2016-17		2017-18	
	Number of households	Percentage (%)	Number of households	Percentage (%)
Households with dependent child(ren)	864	41.7	882	39.6
Households where a member is pregnant and there are no other dependent children	102	4.9	126	5.7
Households where a member is vulnerable due to:	645	31.1	714	32.0
i) Old age	36	1.7	39	1.7
ii) Physical disability	210	10.1	237	10.6
iii) Mental illness / learning disability / learning difficulties	372	17.9	393	17.6
iv) Other special reasons	30	1.4	45	2.1
A care leaver or person at particular risk of sexual or financial exploitation, 18 years or over but under the age of 21	69	3.3	81	3.7
A 16 or 17 year old	63	3.0	66	2.9
A person fleeing domestic abuse or threatened abuse	237	11.4	270	12.1
A person leaving the armed forces	*	0.1	9	0.4
A former prisoner who is vulnerable as a result of having served a custodial sentence	84	4.1	72	3.2
Households homeless in emergency	6	0.3	9	0.4
Total households	2,073 (r)	100.0	2,229	100.0

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(b) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

* Less than 3.

- During 2017-18, a total of 2,229 households were accepted as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and owed a duty to provide accommodation (under Section 75 of the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)). This was an increase of 7 per cent on the 2,073 households in 2016-17.
- As was the case in 2016-17, the presence of dependent children or a pregnant woman in the household was the most commonly stated priority need category. During 2017-18 they accounted for 45 per cent (1,008 cases) of all Section 75 assessments compared with 47 per cent the previous year.

- This was followed by cases where a member of the households was vulnerable due mental illness, a learning disability or learning difficulties, which accounted for 18 per cent (393 cases) of all Section 75 assessments made during 2017-18 which is similar to the previous year.
- Cases where the applicant was fleeing domestic abuse or threatened abuse were up on the previous year at 270 cases (12 per cent) compared with 237 cases (11 per cent) during 2016-17. Those cases where a household member was vulnerable due to a physical disability were also up slightly on the previous year at 237 cases (11 per cent) compared with 210 cases (10 per cent) in 2016-17 ([Table 1](#)).

9. Main reason for household being threatened with homelessness or being homelessness

This section of the release looks at the different reasons why households are either threatened with homelessness within 56 days or have become homeless. More detailed information including a breakdown by individual local authority is available on [StatsWales](#).

Threatened with homelessness

- During 2017-18, the “Loss of rented or tied accommodation” continued to be given as the main reason in over a third (36 per cent) of all cases where households were assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days.
- In just over a fifth (21 per cent) of cases, the main reason given for the household being assessed as threatened with homelessness was because “a parent, or other relative or friends were no longer willing to accommodate”. This was down on the 24 per cent recorded during 2016-17.
- Rent or mortgage arrears was given as the main reason for being threatened with homelessness in around 15 per cent of cases, up from 12 per cent in the previous year.
- The “breakdown of a relationship with a partner” was the main reason given in a further 12 per cent of cases which is similar to the proportion in 2016-17.

Homeless (Section 73)

- During 2017-18, the reason given for the homelessness in over a quarter (28 per cent) of all cases was because “a parent, or other relative or friends were no longer willing to accommodate”. This was down slightly on the previous year.
- The “breakdown of a relationship with a partner” was given as the main reason for loss of home in over a fifth (21 per cent) of all Section 73 cases. This was similar to the proportion recorded during the previous year.
- In a further 16 per cent of cases the “Loss of rented or tied accommodation“, was given as the main reason for homelessness which was down on the 18 per cent recorded the previous year.
- In 11 per cent of cases during 2017-18, the main reason recorded was homelessness after leaving prison and in 9 per cent the main reason was recorded as ‘Other (including homeless in emergency, returned from abroad, sleeping rough or in hostel)’. This compares with 12 percent and 7 per cent respectively during the previous year.

Homeless (Section 75)

- As with Section 73 cases, the most commonly recorded reason for the homelessness was 'Parents or other relatives or friends no longer willing to accommodate' accounting for 29 per cent of all cases and up from 26 per cent (revised) in 2016-17.
- The 'Loss of rented or tied accommodation' was given as the reason in 23 per cent of cases, down from 26 per cent in 2016-17.
- In both 2016-17 and 2017-18, the "Breakdown of relationship with partner" was given as the main reason for the homelessness in 22 per cent of cases.
- Homeless after leaving prison was the main reason in 8 per cent of cases during 2017-18, up slightly from 2016-17.

10. Homeless households in temporary accommodation

This section of the release covers all homeless households who were in **temporary accommodation at the end of March 2018⁸**. **These figures do not include all households placed in temporary accommodation throughout the year. They only include those households who were in temporary accommodation at the end of the period – 31st March 2018.**

It should be noted that, the data collected from April 2015 onwards on homeless households in temporary accommodation under [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) are not directly comparable with the information collected under the previous legislation. Further information is available in section 2 of the [2015-16 statistical release](#) .

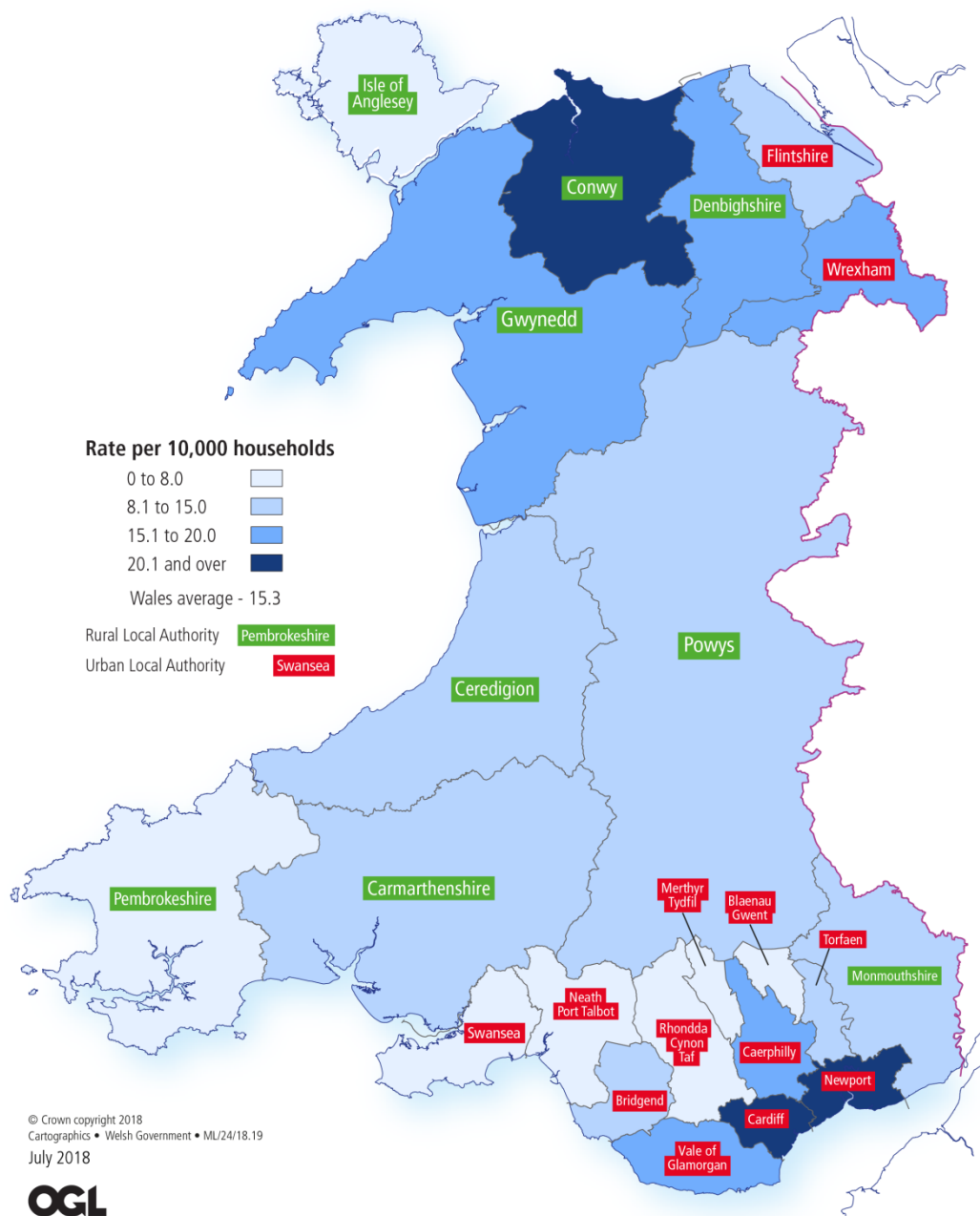
This section has been revised following receipt of revised data from one local authority (see [Quality Report](#) for additional information).

⁸ Households contained within this section would include those provided accommodation under the Interim Duty to provide accommodation (Section 68) either during the assessment period or following acceptance of Section 73 (Duty to help to Secure) This section will also include households accommodated under Section 75 (Duty to Secure Accommodation) and those who are found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need following the ending of Section 73.

Map 4 below shows the number of homeless households who were in temporary accommodation at 31st March 2018 as a rate per 10,000 households at an individual local authority level.

Homelessness

MAP 4: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2018 - Rate per 10,000 households - Revised

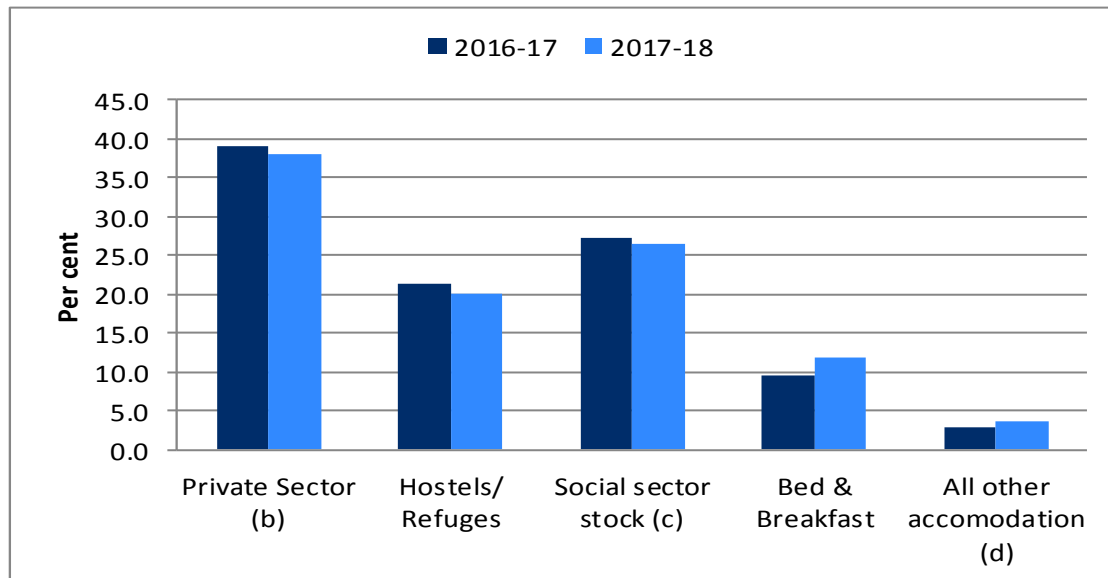


- At the end of March 2018, there were 2,052 (revised) households placed in temporary accommodation across Wales. This is an increase of 2 per cent (revised) on the 2,013 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2017.
- As was the case last year, Cardiff had both the highest number of households in temporary accommodation (642 households) and the highest rate at 42.5 per 10,000 households. Newport had the second (revised) highest number (156 households) and the second highest rate at 24.5 per 10,000 households (revised).

- At 31 March 2018, 8 of the 22 local authorities recorded a rate above the Wales average of 15.3 per 10,000 households (revised).
- Merthyr Tydfil and the Isle of Anglesey recorded the lowest number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2018 at just 15 households, while both the Isle of Anglesey and Swansea had the lowest rate at 4.5 per 10,000 households.

10.1 Types of temporary accommodation

Chart 7: Percentage of households in temporary accommodation, at 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018, by type (a) (b) (c) (d)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

- (a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- (b) Includes households placed directly with a private sector landlord, private sector accommodation leased by local authorities and private sector accommodation leased by registered social landlords
- (c) Includes local authority stock and registered social landlord
- (d) 'Other' accommodation type includes homeless at home

- Private sector accommodation continued to be the main form of temporary accommodation used accounting for 38 per cent (780 homeless households) of all households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2018, but slightly down on the 39 per cent a year earlier.
- Social sector housing (Local authority and RSL stock) was used to provide temporary accommodation for a fifth of all homeless households at the end of March 2018.
- The proportion of homeless households placed in hostels and refuges was down slightly (revised) with 26 per cent (543 homeless households) (revised) in this type of temporary accommodation at the end of March 2018 compared with 27 per cent (549 homeless households) at the end of March 2017.
- Both the number and proportion of households in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation increased compared with the previous year. At 31 March 2018 there were 243 households (12 per cent) (revised) placed in temporary B&B accommodation compared with 189 households (9 per cent) a year earlier.
- Families with children accounted for 13 per cent (revised) of all households placed in B&B and for 20 per cent (revised) of all households placed in hostels and refuges at 31 March 2018.

10.2 Temporary accommodation by household type

- As was the case last year, over half (54 per cent) (revised) of the 2,052 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2018 were single person households.
- A further 39 per cent (801 households) (revised) were families with children, down from 41 per cent a year earlier. Most of these households were accommodated temporarily in private sector accommodation or within local authority or registered social landlord (RSL) stock however 14 per cent (revised) were accommodated in hostels and refuges.

10.3 Length of time spent in temporary accommodation

- 68 per cent (revised) of the 2,052 households (revised) in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2018 had spent less than six months in that accommodation, up slightly from 67 per cent a year earlier.
- At the end of March 2018, 12 per cent (249 households) (revised) had been in temporary accommodation for more than a year which is up slightly on the 11 per cent seen at 31 March 2017. Almost half of these (123 households) were families with children. However, most of these families had been accommodated in public or private sector accommodation rather than in hostels, refuges or bed and breakfast accommodation.

10.4 Households leaving temporary accommodation - Discharge of duty under section 75

- During 2017-18 a total of 2,229 households left temporary accommodation. As was the case during the previous year, most of these (63 per cent) accepted an offer of accommodation through the allocation scheme (part VI 1996 Housing Act)⁹.
- A further 11 per cent (237 households) accepted a private sector offer and 8 per cent (174 households) voluntarily ceased to occupy accommodation made available under Section 75.

⁹ Part VI of the 1996 Housing Act refers to the allocation of social housing and was not replaced under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

11. Total placements of 16 to 17 and 18 to 21 year olds in Bed and Breakfast accommodation

Since April 2016, information has been collected centrally covering the placement of 16 to 17 year olds and 18 to 21 year old care leavers in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation under either Homelessness or Social Services legislation. This information differs to the statistics shown above as they cover every placement in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation during the year and not only those households who were in temporary bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation at 31st March 2017.

The information is collected in order to establish the number of placements made by Local Authorities into Bed and Breakfast accommodation to meet the immediate housing needs of all young people aged 16/17, and also 18-20 year olds (up to 21st birthday) who have previously been in care.

Care should be taken in interpreting these figures as not all local authorities were able to provide a complete set of data for the whole year. The figures are therefore likely to be an undercount¹⁰.

- During 2017-18 across Wales, 16 to 17 year olds were placed in temporary bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation under the current Homelessness legislation on 75 occasions and on a further 114 occasions under children's social services legislation.
- During 2017-18, care leavers aged 18 to 21 years old were placed in temporary bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation under the current Homelessness legislation on 60 occasions.

¹⁰ Flintshire and Powys were unable to obtain information from social services for any of the quarters during 2017-18. Torfaen were unable to obtain data from social services for the July-September quarter 2017-18.

12. Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/homelessness/?lang=en>

Next update

July 2019 (provisional)

Feedback

We welcome feedback on any aspect of these statistics. We would welcome your views on the content and format of this release and accompanying StatsWales table. We would also welcome broader information on how you use these statistics. This can be provided by email to stats.housing@gov.wales.

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Annex A: Glossary

Symbols

The following symbols may have been used in this release:

- negligible (less than half the final digit shown)
- .
- .. not available
- ~ not yet available
- * disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication
- p provisional
- r revised

Bed and breakfast

This will include privately owned or managed hotels/guest houses with some shared facilities. It does not include hotel annexes consisting of self-contained units of accommodation where meals are not provided – these are classified as private sector accommodation.

Ethnic categories

- White (including):Welsh / English / Scottish / Northern Irish / British; Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller; any other white background
- Black or Minority Ethnic background (BME)

This refers to the following ethnicity categories:

Mixed:

- White and black Caribbean
- White and black African
- White and Asian
- Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background

Asian or Asian British:

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

Black / African / Caribbean or Black British:

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other black background

Other Ethnic Group:

- Arab
- Other

Current property unaffordable

The category 'current property unaffordable' includes cases where a person has become homeless as a result of not being able to afford the rent or mortgage on their home and have taken action before rent or mortgage arrears are incurred and eviction or repossession notices have been issued.

Current property unsuitable

The category 'current property unsuitable' should include cases where the home is no longer physically suitable. This will include for example:

- Persons returning from hospital who can no longer live in the property until it has been adapted;
- Environmental issues relating to the property preventing it from being occupied until work has been carried out;
- Overcrowding, e.g. a new born baby, returning family member, etc.

Eligibility

Housing authorities will need to satisfy themselves that applicants are eligible before providing housing assistance. The provisions on eligibility are complex and housing authorities will need to ensure that they have procedures in place to carry out appropriate checks on housing applicants. Ineligible households will include households not eligible for assistance by virtue of Schedule 2 of the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) and the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Homelessness prevention

In its broadest terms, 'homelessness prevention' is where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the Authority considers is threatened with homelessness within 56 days. Prevention work can be undertaken before meeting the statutory definition, but would not be recorded against Section 66 prevention outcomes.

A case is recorded as homelessness prevention where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the authority is satisfied is threatened with homelessness within 56 days and has been notified the duty under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act applies to them. A case ceases to be classed as prevention if the household has become homeless. This only applies to those owed a duty under Section 66.

For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being prevented for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

Homelessness relief

Positive action to prevent homelessness cannot be taken once the authority is satisfied that someone is or has become homeless (for example, the authority has notified the person of a decision and owes a duty under Section 73). Following notification that an applicant is homeless the Authority will be under a duty to take reasonable steps to help to secure accommodation. For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being relieved for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

Following notification that a household is owed a duty under Section 73 of the new legislation, it is the duty of the local authority to take reasonable steps to help that household to secure accommodation.

Under Section 75 of the new legislation ([Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)) where households are no longer owed a duty under Section 73 (as a result of Section 74.2 or 74.3) but following review are found to fall within a priority need category and are unintentionally homeless, it is the duty of the local authority to secure suitable accommodation. The successful relief of homelessness under Section 75 is referred to as a 'positive discharge' and the local authority must secure suitable accommodation.

Homeless at home

Refers to any arrangements whereby a household remains in, or returns to, the accommodation from which they are being made homeless for a temporary period, or in other accommodation found by the applicant. Includes any households which moved from accommodation arranged by the local authority into this type of arrangement.

Hostels/refuges

Hostels include shared accommodation, owned or leased and managed by either a local authority, registered social landlord (housing association) or non-profit making organisation including reception centres and emergency units. Male refuges are included with hostels.

Legislation

[Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)

The figures in this statistical release are based on Welsh local authorities' actions under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Act (Wales) 2014 which became law in Wales on 17 September 2014 and included a number of changes to homelessness legislation aimed at reducing levels of homelessness, by placing its prevention at the centre of local authority duties to help people at risk. The new legislation on homelessness was introduced on 27 April 2015 and replaced the previous legislation, Part VII of the Housing Act 1996, which had come into force in January 1997. Further information on the new homelessness legislation is available on the [Welsh Government website](#).

Loss of rented/tied accommodation

Where the household has lost their accommodation that was rented for example if the landlord has given them notice. Tied accommodation is occupied as part of a job; if they lose their job they will also lose the accommodation.

Priority need groups

The priority need categories are listed in section 4.2 of this release (Page 17) and are defined in Section 70 of the Housing Act 1996 and set out in the Homelessness Code of Guidance. The categories of priority need are as follows:

- a pregnant woman;
- a person with whom dependent children reside;
- a person who is vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability or other special reason;
- a person who is homeless or threatened with homelessness as a result of an emergency such as flood, fire or other disaster;
- a care leaver or person at particular risk of sexual or financial exploitation, 18 years or over but under the age of 21;
- a 16 or 17 year old;
- a person fleeing domestic abuse or threatened domestic abuse;
- a person homeless after leaving the armed forces; and
- a former prisoner who is vulnerable as a result of having served a custodial sentence.

Where more than one priority need category applies the one category which was most crucial in determining priority need should be recorded.

Protected characteristics

The Public Sector Equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 exist to protect people from discrimination on the basis of 'protected characteristics'. The Equality Act 2010 defines people's protected characteristics for those using a service as:

- Disability;
- Sex (gender);
- Gender reassignment (gender identity or transgender);
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sexual orientation;
- Age.

These 'protected characteristics' are used in the statutory homelessness data collection.

Self-contained accommodation

This includes all temporary accommodation where the household has sole use of kitchen and bathroom facilities, including property held by local housing authorities, registered social landlords and private sector landlords. A distinction is made between this type of accommodation and accommodation where such facilities are shared with other households (i.e. bed and breakfast, hostels and women's refuges).

Temporary accommodation

Households in temporary accommodation (excluding those for whom a duty is owed, but no accommodation has been secured) on the last day of the quarter, as arranged by a local housing authority as a discharge of their statutory homelessness functions. In most cases, the authority is discharging a main homelessness duty to secure suitable accommodation until a settled home becomes available for the applicant and his/her household. However, the numbers also include households provided with accommodation pending a decision on their homelessness application, households pending a review or appeal to the county court of the decision on their case, or possible referral to another local authority, and households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need who were being accommodated for such period as would give them a reasonable opportunity to find accommodation for themselves.