

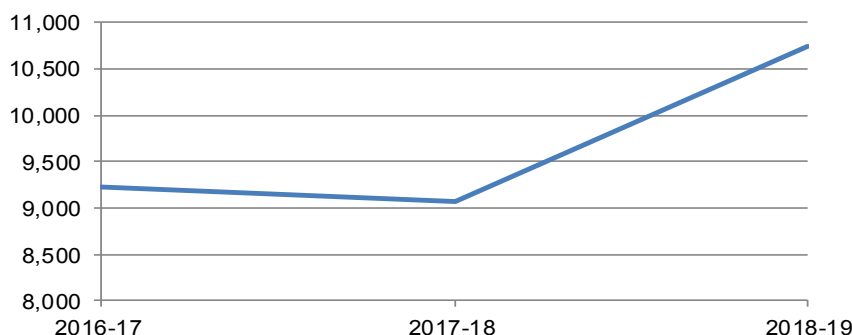


Homelessness in Wales, 2018-19

25 July 2019
SFR 56/2019

The release provides summary information on statutory homelessness which does not include persons sleeping rough. Information on persons sleeping rough is available from an [annual national rough sleeper count](#).

Households threatened with homelessness

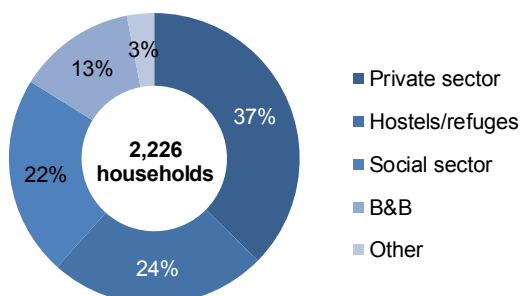


- The number of households threatened with homelessness increased by 18% in 2018-19 to 10,737. Homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months in 68% of cases, up from 66% last year.
- The number of households assessed as homeless increased by 4% to 11,715. Of these, 41% were successfully helped to secure accommodation, similar to recent years.
- 2,631 households were homeless and in priority need – an increase of 18%. Of these, 80% accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation – up from 78% last year.

The total number of outcomes at each stage of the legislation was the highest since the current legislation was introduced in April 2015.

Households in temporary accommodation

- The number of households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2019 was up 8% on the previous year to 2,226 households, and the highest since the current legislation was introduced in April 2015.
- The private rented sector continued to be the main type of accommodation used at 37%.



About this release

This release provides information on households applying to local authorities for housing assistance and 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 2018-19. Homelessness prevention is a Well Being of Future Generations National Indicator.

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1. Introduction

This is the latest 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 \(revised 2016\)](#).

1.1 Structure of release

The broad structure of the release is as follows:

- **Data Limitations:** [Section 2](#) of this release provides important summary information about the limitations of the data.
- **Assessment Outcomes:** [Section 3](#) and [Section 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:** [Section 5](#) and [Section 7](#) cover the actions taken to prevent or relieve homelessness and information on the age, gender and ethnicity of applicants.
- **Priority need and reasons for homelessness:** [Section 7](#) and [Section 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 9](#) of this release covers households that are in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2019. [Section 10](#) covers the total placements of 16 to 17 and 18 to 21 year olds in Bed and Breakfast accommodation during 2018-19.

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.

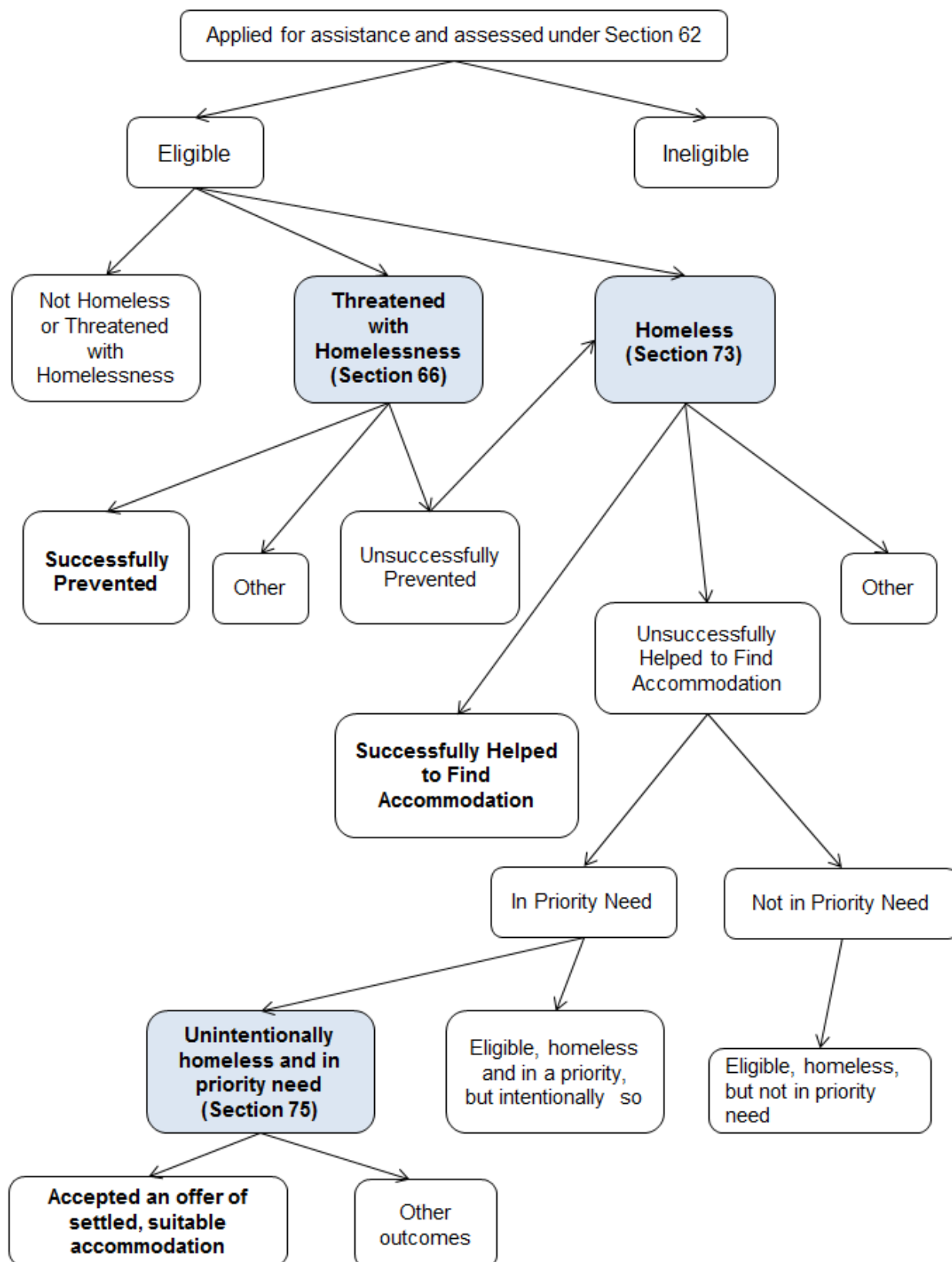
- Policy and operational context
- Users and uses
- Strengths and limitations of the data
- Data processing cycle
- Quality
- Administrative data quality assurance

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.



1 - 'Other' includes assistance refused, non co-operation and other reasons

2. Limitations of data

Whilst it is reasonable to compare data for 2017-18 and 2018-19 with the data captured for 2016-17, care should be taken when comparing data for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 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 onwards 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 from the [UK statistics authority website](#).

In addition, it is not possible to directly compare the number of 'homeless households' collected under the current and previous legislation (that which was in place prior to April 2015) (please see Comparability section of [Quality report](#)).

Further information is provided in the [Quality report](#).

3. 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 current legislation (introduced from 2015), 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.

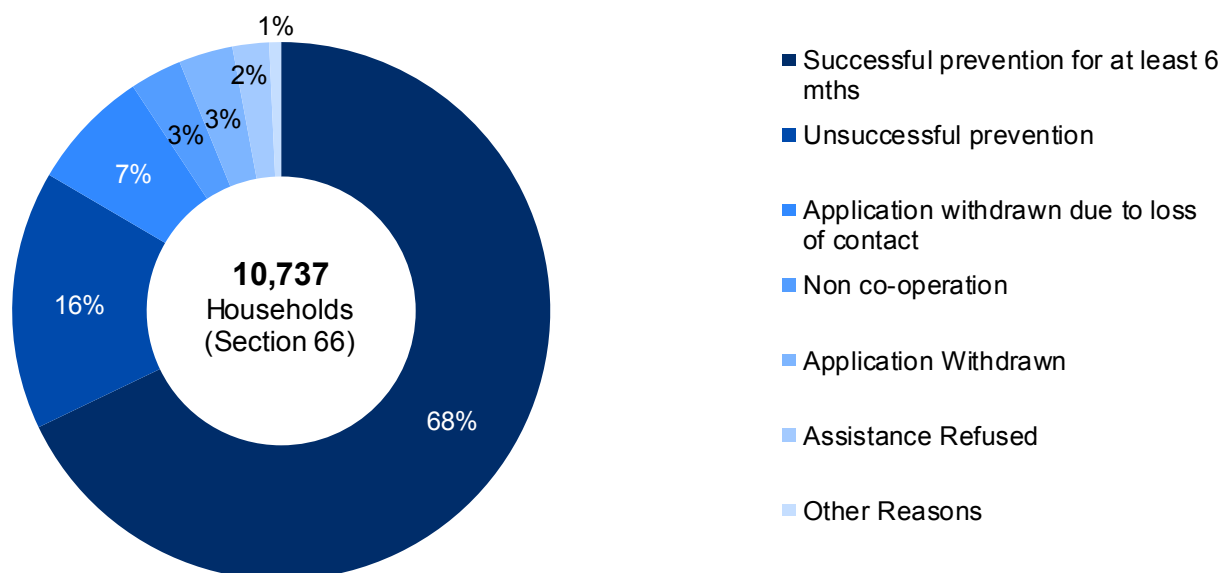
The assessment process will not always result in a household being found to be eligible for assistance nor will it always result in a household being found to be either threatened with homelessness within 56 days or homeless.

During 2018-19 following a Section 62 assessment, 408 households were assessed as ineligible¹, and in a further 3,819 cases the household was assessed as being neither homeless nor threatened with homelessness.

¹ 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 2018-19, following a Section 62 assessment, a total of 10,737 households in Wales were assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days which is an increase of 18 per cent on the 9,072 households recorded during the previous year and is the highest annual figure since the current legislation was introduced. [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 2018-19 by outcome



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

Data available on [StatsWales](#).

- During 2018-19, homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months for 68 per cent (7,290 households) of the 10,737 households threatened with homelessness. The successful homelessness prevention rate has improved since the 62 per cent recorded in 2016-17 and the 66 per cent during 2017-18, despite an increase in the number of households threatened with homelessness.
- For a further 16 per cent (1,671 households), prevention for at least 6 months was unsuccessful. In these cases, the applying households were discharged and became statutorily homeless² and may be owed a duty under Section 73. This represents a slight increase of 1 percentage point on the number of cases where prevention was unsuccessful during 2017-18.
- For the remaining 1,779 households threatened with homelessness during 2018-19, 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 11 per cent of all households assessed, compared with 12 per cent during the previous year. Non co-operation was the reason given for 3 per cent of cases and refusal of assistance for 2 per cent ([Chart 1](#)).

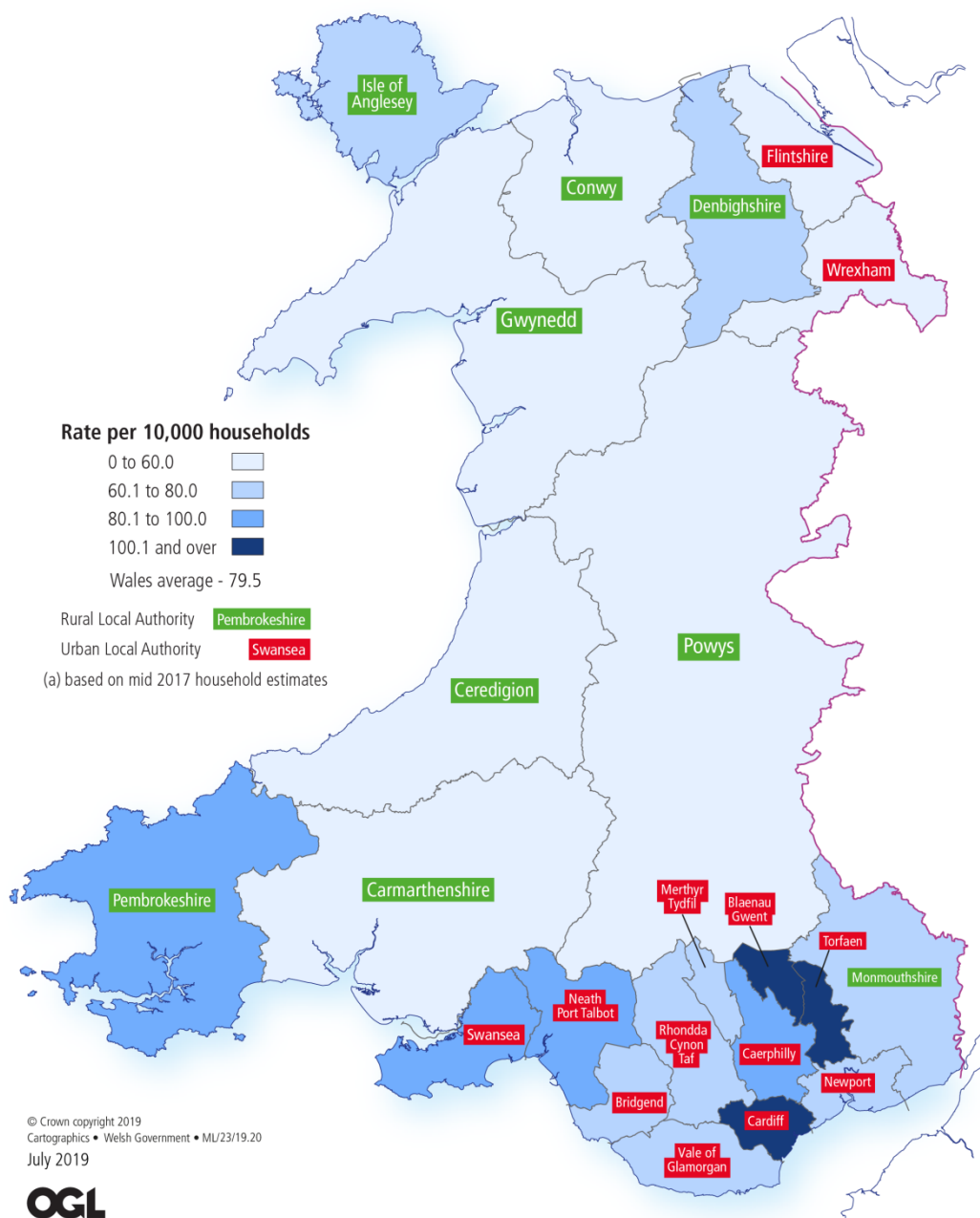
Further information on how these terms should be interpreted is available on the guidance and definitions section of the [data collection forms](#).

² Statutorily homeless as defined within Section 55 of the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#).

Map 1 and [Map 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 2018-19 - Rate per 10,000 households (a)



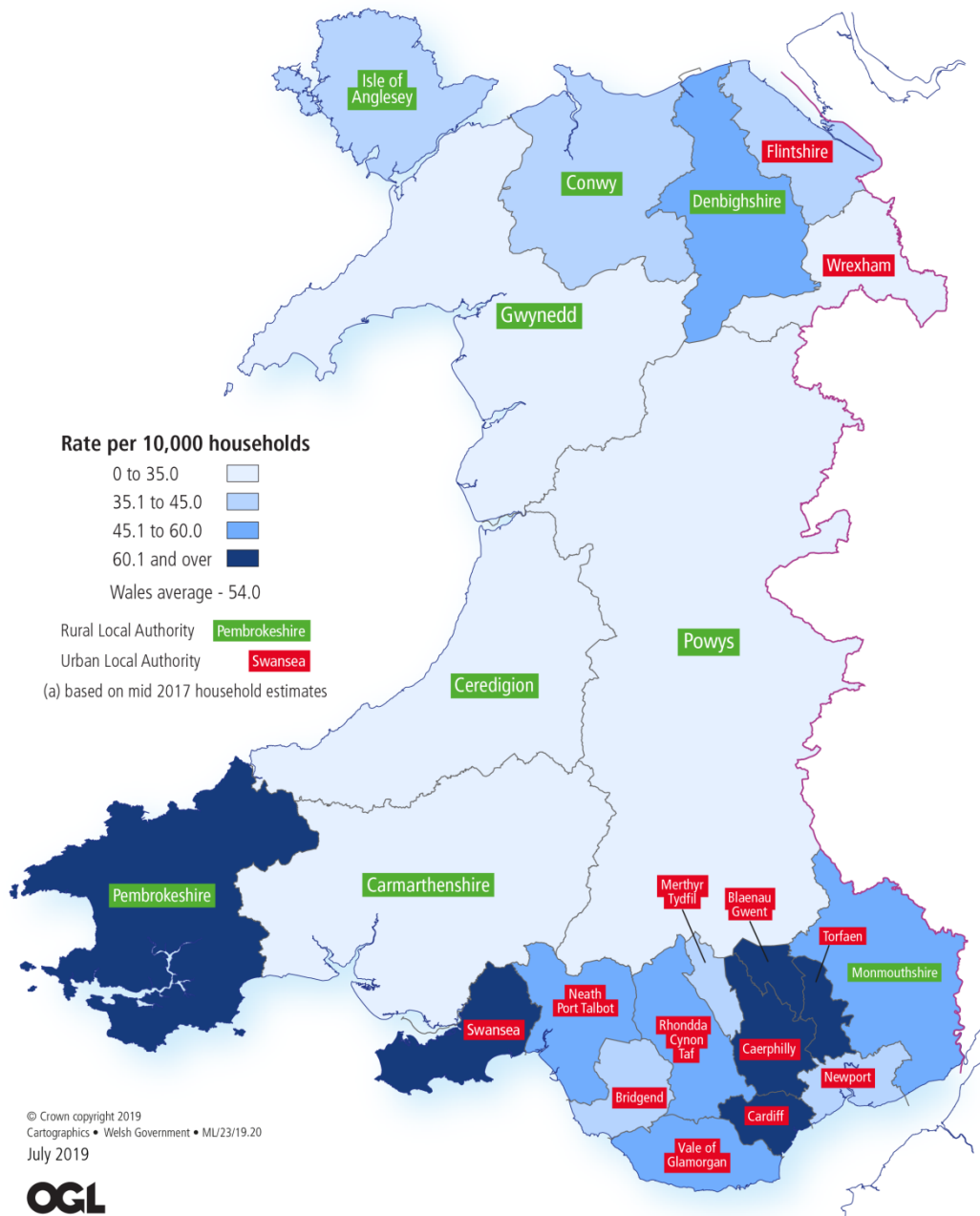
- In Wales as a whole, 79.5 per 10,000 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness in 2018-19. This compares with a rate of 67.6 a year earlier, and is the highest rate since the introduction of the new legislation
- During 2018-19, Cardiff reported both the highest number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days at 2,235 households and, taking into account the number of households in each area, the highest rate at 146.8 per 10,000 households³.

³ The household estimates used in this release are the Welsh Government mid-2017 household estimates available from the [StatsWales website](#).

- Wrexham reported the lowest number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness at 144 households and the lowest rate at 24.7 per 10,000 households.

Homelessness

MAP 2: Households successfully prevented from homelessness during 2018-19 - Rate per 10,000 households (a)



The number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months, as a rate per 10,000 households⁴ is a [Well Being of Future Generations National Indicator](#). During 2018-19 the rate for Wales was 54.0 per 10,000 households compared with 44.9 during 2017-18.

⁴ 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.

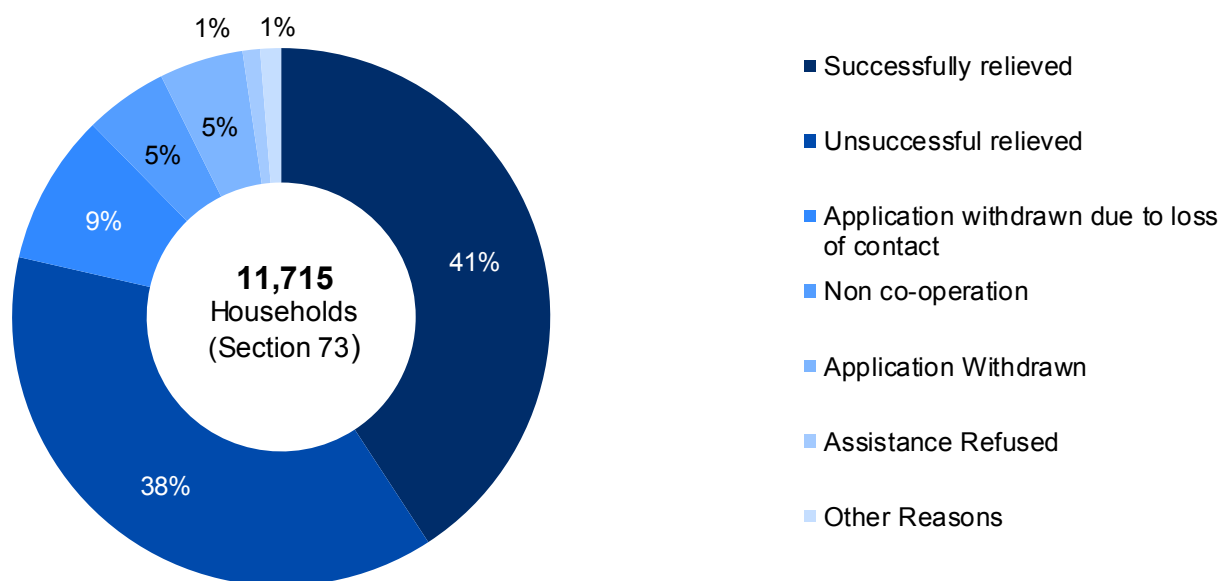
- During 2018-19, Cardiff recorded the highest number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months at 1,707 households, and, taking into account the number of households in each area, Cardiff also had the highest rate of successful prevention at 112.2 per 10,000 households.
- Wrexham reported the lowest number of successful prevention outcomes (75 households) and the lowest rate (12.7 per 10,000 households).
- During 2018-19, 15 of the 22 local authorities had rates of successful prevention below the Wales average of 54.0 per 10,000 households.

4. Relief of homelessness

4.1 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 2018-19 by outcome (a)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Figures do not equal 100 due to rounding

Data available on [StatsWales](#).

- During 2018-19, a total of 11,715 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 4 per cent on the 11,277 households assessed as homeless during 2017-18, and the highest number since the introduction of the current legislation in April 2015.

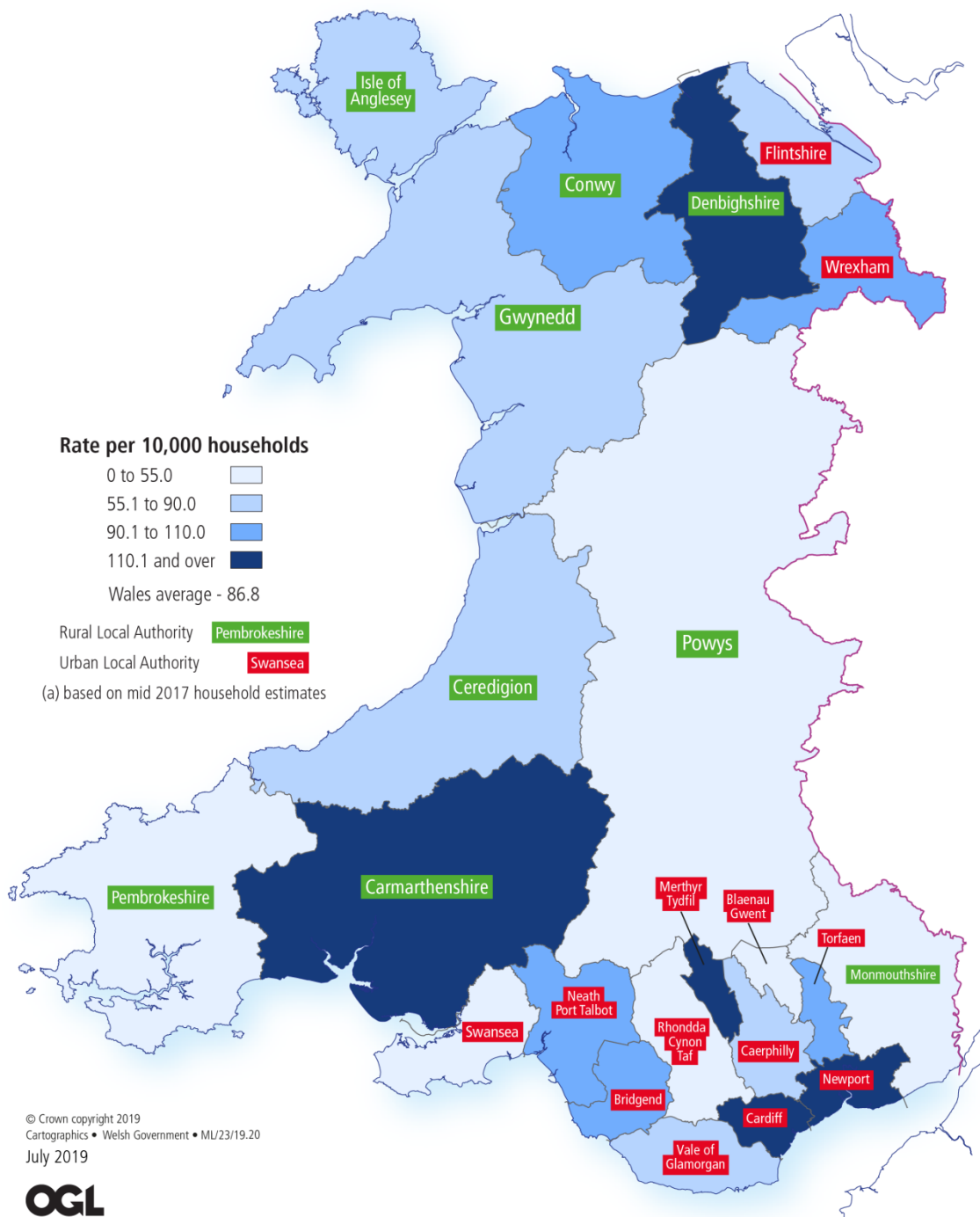
- 41 per cent (4,779 households) of those households assessed as homeless during 2018-19 were successfully relieved of their homelessness following intervention by the local authority and helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months. This was to the same as the percentage of successful relief cases recorded during 2017-18, and in 2016-17.
- In a further 4,428 cases (38 per cent), homelessness was not relieved and the duty was ended⁵. In these cases the assessments were reviewed to establish whether the household was eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. This was up slightly on the 37 per cent reported during the previous year and the actual number of households not relieved of homelessness was 7 per cent higher.
- For the remaining 2,511 households assessed as homeless during 2018-19, 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 the same as the percentage recorded the previous year.
- Non co-operation was the reason given for 5 per cent of cases, which is the same as during 2017-18. Refusal of assistance and 'other' reasons both accounted for 1 per cent of all cases where Section 73 duty ended during 2018-19 and, as with cases of non co-operation, were similar to the percentages recorded in the previous year ([Chart 2](#)).

⁵ Under Section 74.2 or 74.3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Map 3 shows the rate of households assessed as homeless during 2018-19 at an individual local authority level.

Homelessness

MAP 3: Households assessed as homeless (Section 73)
during 2018-19 - Rate per 10,000 households (a)



- For Wales as a whole, 86.8 per 10,000 households were assessed as homeless in 2018-19, compared with a rate of 84.0 during 2017-18 and 81.9 during 2016-17.
- Cardiff reported the highest number of households assessed as homeless under Section 73 of the new legislation, at 2,157 households. Taking into account the size and number of households

within each local authority, the highest rate of homeless households was in Denbighshire at 146.5 per 10,000 households. This was followed by Cardiff at 141.8 per 10,000 households.

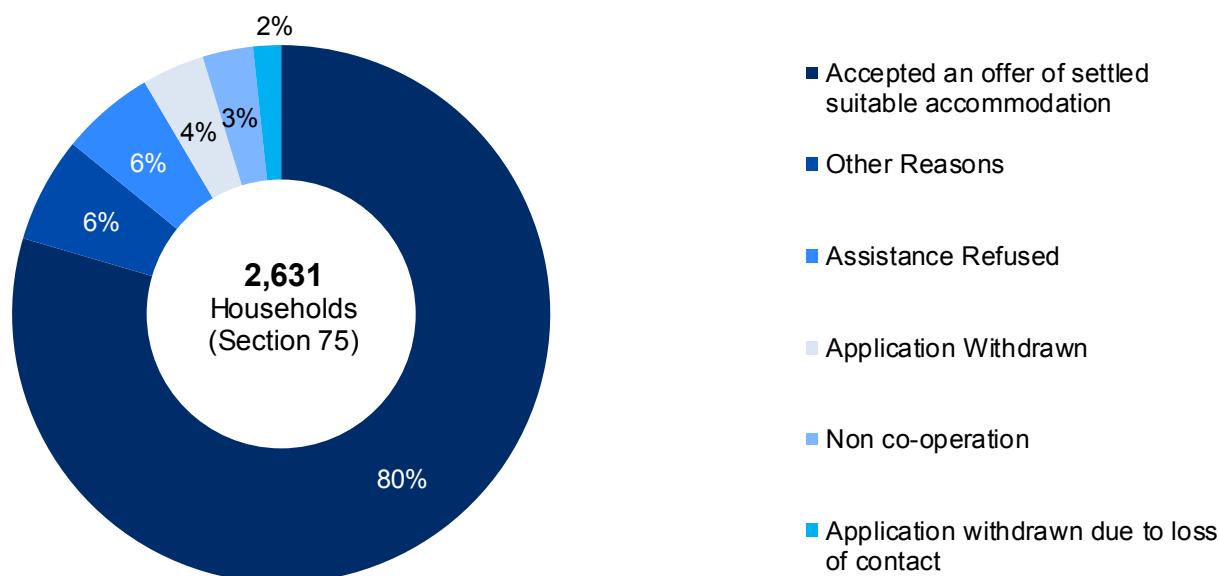
- Blaeanu Gwent reported the lowest number of households assessed as homeless (132 households) and also the lowest rate (42.9 per 10,000 households).

4.2 Relief of homelessness under final duty (Section 75)

Under Section 75 of the current 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 when the local authority must secure settled suitable accommodation. This is sometimes referred to as 'positive discharge' of final duty. 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 2018-19



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

Data available on [StatsWales](#).

- During 2018-19, a total of 2,631 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 18 per cent on the 2,229 households recorded during 2017-18, and is the highest number since the introduction of the current legislation in April 2015
- Although there was a considerable increase in the number of households that were eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, 80 per cent (2,091 households) accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation, higher than the 78 per cent rate during 2017-18.
- For the remaining 537 households assessed as homelessness during 2018-19, 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 was similar to the percentages recorded for these reasons in 2017-18.

- ‘Application withdrawn’ was the reason given in 4 per cent of cases and ‘Application withdrawn due to loss of contact’ in 2 per cent which again were similar to the percentages recorded in 2017-18.
- Cases of ‘non co-operation’ were down by 1 percentage point on the previous year ([Chart 3](#)).

4.3 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 1,659 cases, the household was found to be homeless but not in priority need, whilst in a further 201 cases the homeless household was assessed as being eligible and in priority need but intentionally⁶ so. The data are available on the [StatsWales website](#).

⁶ 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.

5. Positive actions taken to prevent or relieve homelessness

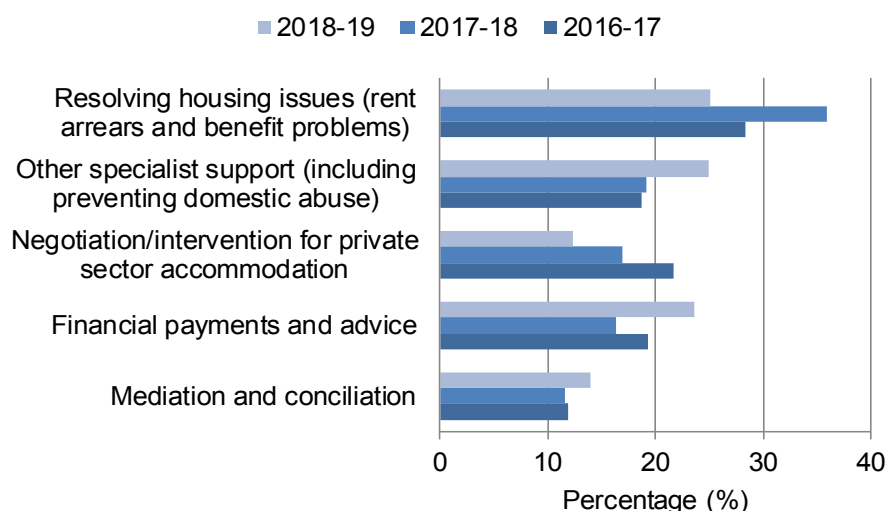
5.1 Actions taken

Local authorities were asked to provide information on the types of positive action taken during 2018-19 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 2018-19 to prevent homelessness occurring and allow households to remain within their existing home, along with comparisons with the previous two years.

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.

Data available on [StatsWales](#).

- During 2018-19, in a third of cases (2,370) the household was successfully prevented from becoming homeless, and was able to remain in their existing home. This is the same percentage as the previous year but up from 28 per cent during 2016-17.
- The two main actions taken to enable households to remain in their existing home during 2018-19 were the resolution of housing issues (including rent arrears and benefit problems) and the provision of other specialist support (including the prevention of domestic abuse). Both were responsible for a quarter of cases compared with 36 per cent and 19 per cent respectively in 2017-18.

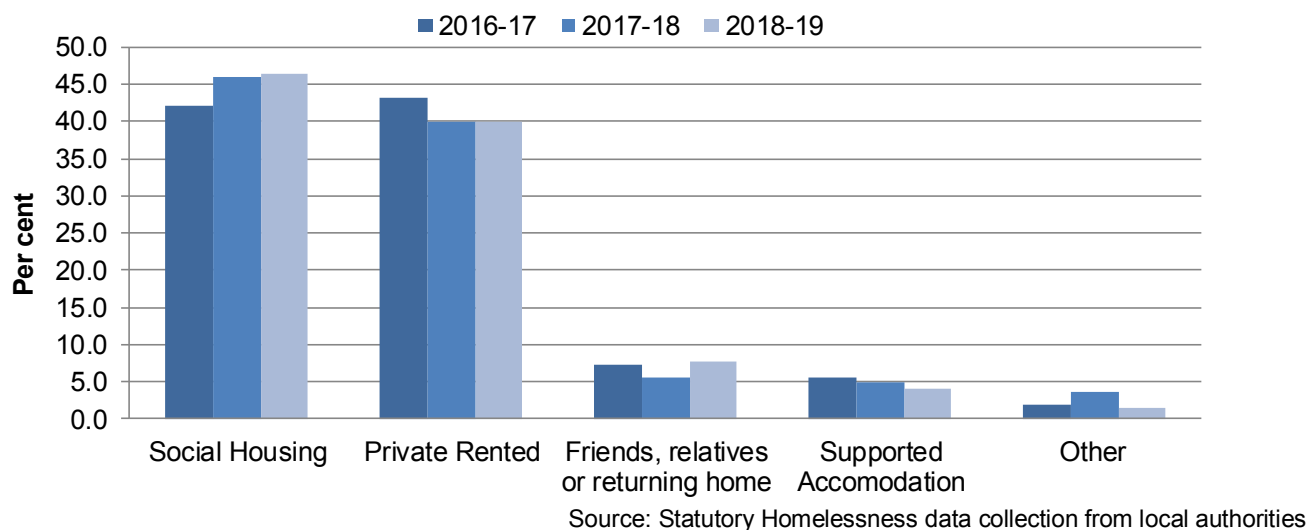
- Financial payments and advice was used to help a further 24 per cent of the 2,370 households remain at home and mediation and conciliation work helped a further 14 per cent.
- The percentage of cases helped following negotiation or legal advocacy (such as mortgage arrears intervention or mortgage rescue) was down on the previous two years at 12 per cent . ([Chart 4](#)).

5.2 Alternative accommodation secured to prevent and relieve homelessness

- During 2018-19, in 4,917 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 7,290 cases of successful prevention during the year which is the same as the percentage recorded during 2017-18.
- During 2018-19, in 4,779 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 11,715 households assessed as homeless during the year which is similar to the percentage recorded during 2017-18 and 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](#)).

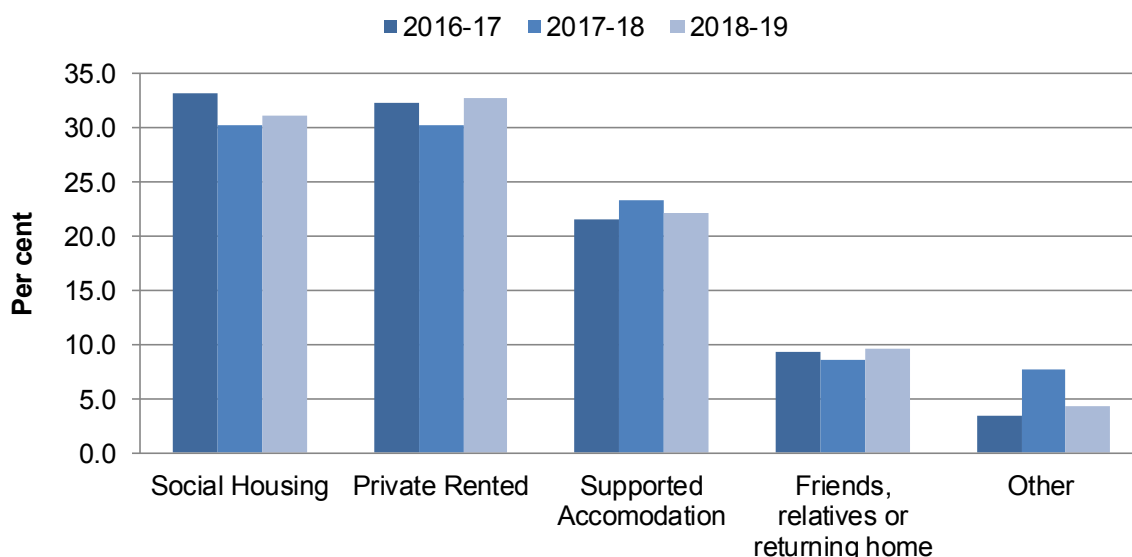
Chart 5: Percentage breakdown of alternative accommodation secured to prevent (Section 66) homelessness (a)



- (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.

Data are available on [StatsWales](#).

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.

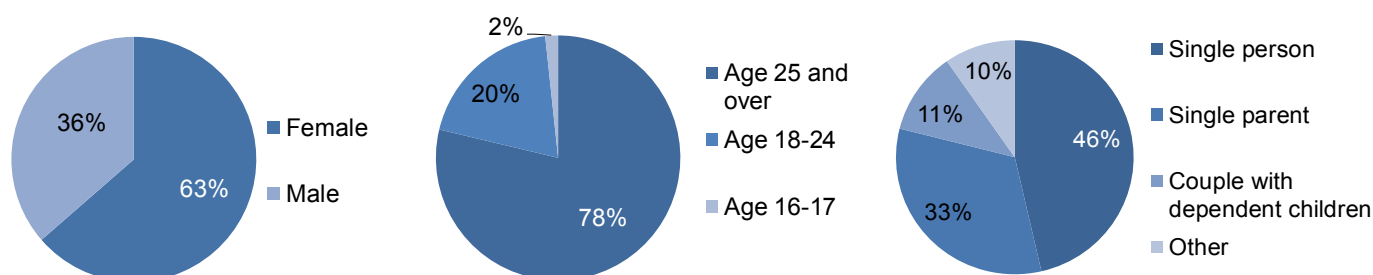
Data are available on [StatsWales](#).

As was the case during the previous two years, during 2018-19, the two main types of alternative accommodation obtained to both prevent and relieve homelessness were 'Social Housing' and 'Private rented accommodation'. In 2018-19, 'Social Housing' was the main type of accommodation used in prevention cases (46 per cent), whilst 'Private rented accommodation' was the main type used to relieve homelessness (33 per cent) ([Chart 5](#) and Chart 6). This differs to the previous year when 'Social Housing' was the main type used to both prevent and relieve homelessness.

6. Applicant characteristics - gender, age and ethnicity

Households threatened with homelessness

Charts 7: Households threatened with Homelessness (section 66) by lead applicant characteristic



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Figures do not equal 100 due to rounding

Data are available on [StatsWales](#).

- The main applicant was female in 63% of cases.
- The majority (78 %) of applicants were over 25 years old, but in 20 % of cases applicants were between 18 and 24 years and in 2% applicants were 16 or 17 years old.
- Whilst 46% of applicants were single, 33% were single parents and 11% were couples with dependent children

Successful Prevention and Relief of homelessness, by gender, age and ethnicity

Gender

- As was the case in the previous two years, the applicant was female in the majority of cases where households were both successfully prevented from homelessness (under Section 66) and cases where the household accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation under Section 75 at 65 per cent. 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 who accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation under Section 75, this may partly due to the fact that the most commonly stated priority need category during 2018-19 was the presence of dependent children or a pregnant woman (which accounted for 43 per cent of all Section 75 assessments during 2018-19).

Age

- In most cases of successful prevention and relief of homelessness during 2018-19 the main applicant continued to be aged 25 or older. This age group accounted for:
 - 79 percent of all households successfully prevented and
 - 71 per cent of both households successfully relieved (under Section 73) and households who accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation under Section 75.
- In just under a fifth of cases of successful prevention the main applicant was aged 18 to 24 compared with a quarter of those households successfully relieved (under section 73) and just over a quarter (26 percent) for those accepting suitable settled accommodation under Section 75
- The applicant was aged 16 to 17 in just 2 per cent of successful prevention cases and in around 3 per cent of both cases of successful relief (under Section 73) and cases where the household accepted accommodation under Section 75.

For all age groups the proportions were broadly similar to those recorded during the previous two years.

Ethnicity

- During 2018-19, the applicant was from a black or minority ethnic background in 7 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 two years. In comparison, the 2011 Census estimated that around 4 per cent of Wales' population were from a black or minority ethnic background.

- In both 2017-18 and 2018-19, however, the proportion of households who accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation under Section 75 where the applicants were from a black or minority ethnic background was much higher at 15 per cent. During 2018-19, 83 per cent of those from a black and minority background that were assessed as unintentionally homeless and in priority need went on to accept an offer of settled suitable accommodation. This was down from 88 per cent in the previous year and 89 per cent in 2016-17.

7. 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, 2016-17 to 2018-19 (a) (b)

Outcomes	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number of households	Percentage (%)	Number of households	Percentage (%)	Number of households	Percentage (%)
Households with dependent child(ren)	864	41.7	882	39.6	1,005	38.3
Households where a member is pregnant and there are no other dependent children	102	4.9	126	5.7	120	4.6
Households where a member is vulnerable due to:	645	31.1	714	32.0	960	36.5
i) Old age	36	1.7	39	1.7	48	1.9
ii) Physical disability	210	10.1	237	10.6	294	11.2
iii) Mental illness / learning disability / learning difficulties	372	17.9	393	17.6	546	20.7
iv) Other special reasons	30	1.4	45	2.1	72	2.7
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	90	3.4
A 16 or 17 year old	63	3.0	66	2.9	69	2.6
A person fleeing domestic abuse or threatened abuse	237	11.4	270	12.1	318	12.1
A person leaving the armed forces	*	0.1	9	0.4	9	0.3
A former prisoner who is vulnerable as a result of having served a custodial sentence	84	4.1	72	3.2	51	2.0
Households homeless in emergency	6	0.3	9	0.4	6	0.2
Total households	2,073	100.0	2,229	100.0	2,631	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.

Data are available on [StatsWales](#).

- During 2018-19, a total of 2,631 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 18 per cent on the 2,229 households in 2017-18 and 27 per cent more than the 2,073 households in 2016-17.
- As was the case in 2017-18 the presence of dependent children or a pregnant woman in the household was the most commonly stated priority need category. The overall percentage of cases for these two categories has been reducing over the last few years however as the numbers for other priority need categories such as mental health problems and fleeing domestic abuse have been increasing.
- During 2018-19, cases where a member of the household was vulnerable due to mental illness, a learning disability or learning difficulties, accounted for 21 per cent (546 cases) of all Section 75 assessments made an increase on the 18 per cent recorded in both 2017-18 and 2016-17.
- Cases where the applicant was fleeing domestic abuse or threatened abuse were up on the previous year at 318 cases (12 per cent) compared with 270 cases (12 per cent) in 2017-18 and 237 cases (11 per cent) in 2016-17.
- The number of cases where a household member was vulnerable due to a physical disability was also up on the previous two years at 294 cases. The proportion was the same as that recorded in 2017-18 at 11 per cent but slightly higher than the 10 per cent recorded in 2016-17 ([Table 1](#)).

8. 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 2018-19, the “Loss of rented or tied accommodation” continued to be given as the main reason accounting for just under a third (32 per cent) of all cases where households were assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days though this has reduced from 36 per cent during 2017-18.
- In over a fifth (22 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 up from 21 per cent the previous year but 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 17 per cent of cases; up from 15 per cent in 2017-18 and 12 per cent in 2016-17. The increase may reflect recent changes in welfare reform and the introduction of Universal Credit.
- 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 both the previous two years.

Homeless (Section 73)

- During 2018-19, the main reason given for the homelessness in over a quarter (29 per cent) of all cases was because “a parent, or other relative or friends were no longer willing to accommodate”. 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 and ‘Loss of rented or tied accommodation’ in a further 17 per cent.
- In 11 per cent of cases during 2018-19 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)’.
- Percentages for all reasons remained fairly similar to the previous year.

Unintentionally Homeless and in priority need (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. During 2018-19 both the ‘Loss of rented or tied accommodation’ and the “Breakdown of relationship with partner” was given as the reason in 22 per cent of cases.
- Homeless after leaving prison was the main reason in 7 per cent of cases during 2018-19.
- Again the percentages remained similar to the previous year.

9. Homeless households in temporary accommodation

This section of the release covers all homeless households who were in **temporary accommodation at the end of March 2018⁷**. **These figures do not include all households placed in temporary accommodation throughout the year. It is a snapshot, and includes only those households who were in temporary accommodation at the end of the period – 31st March 2018.**

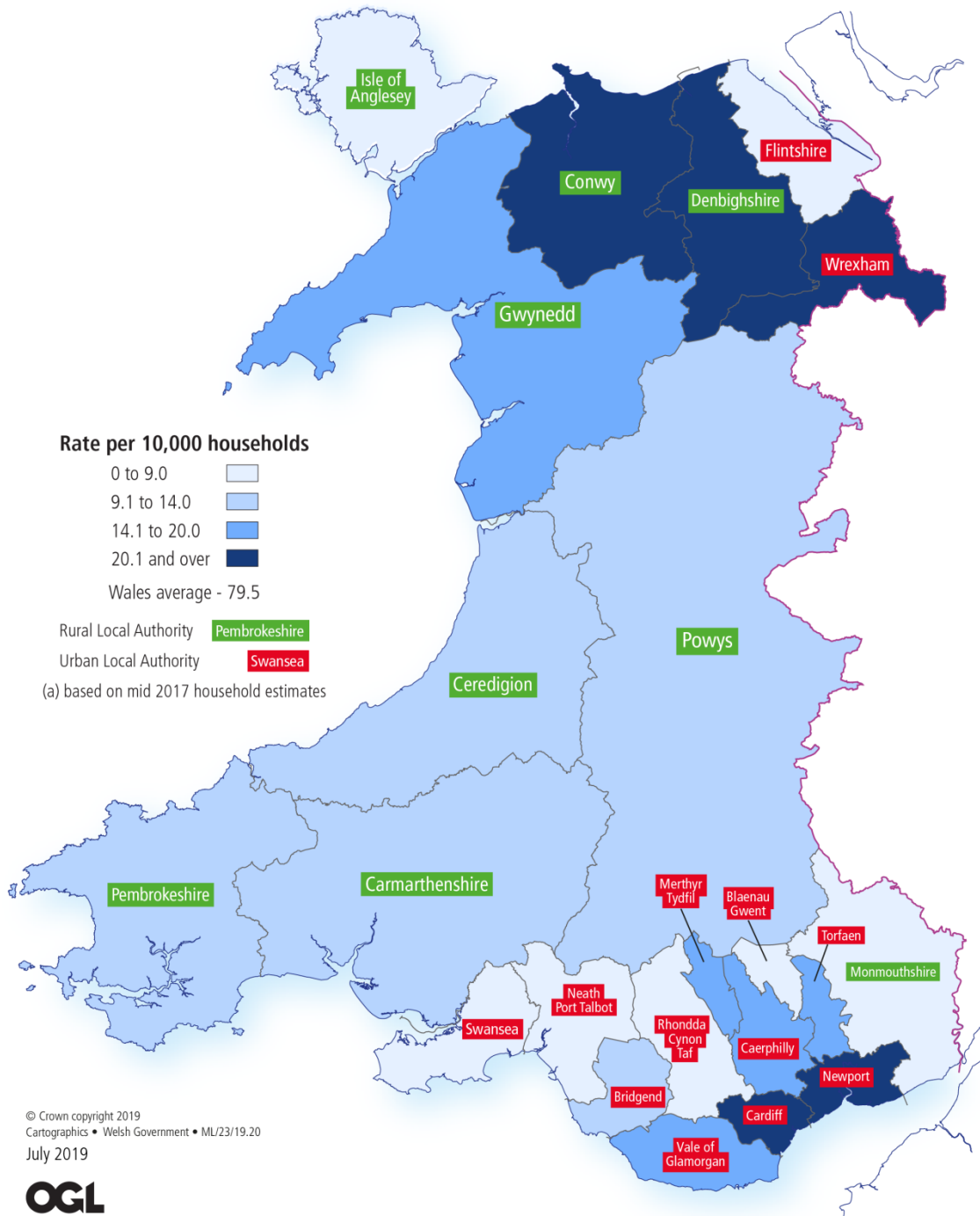
It should be noted that, the data collected from April 2015 onwards on homeless households in temporary accommodation under [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) are not directly comparable with the information collected under the previous legislation. Further information is available in section 2 of the [2015-16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

[Map 4](#) below shows the number of homeless households who were in temporary accommodation at 31st March 2019 as a rate per 10,000 households at an individual local authority level.

⁷ 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.

Homelessness

MAP 4: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2019 - Rate per 10,000 households (a)

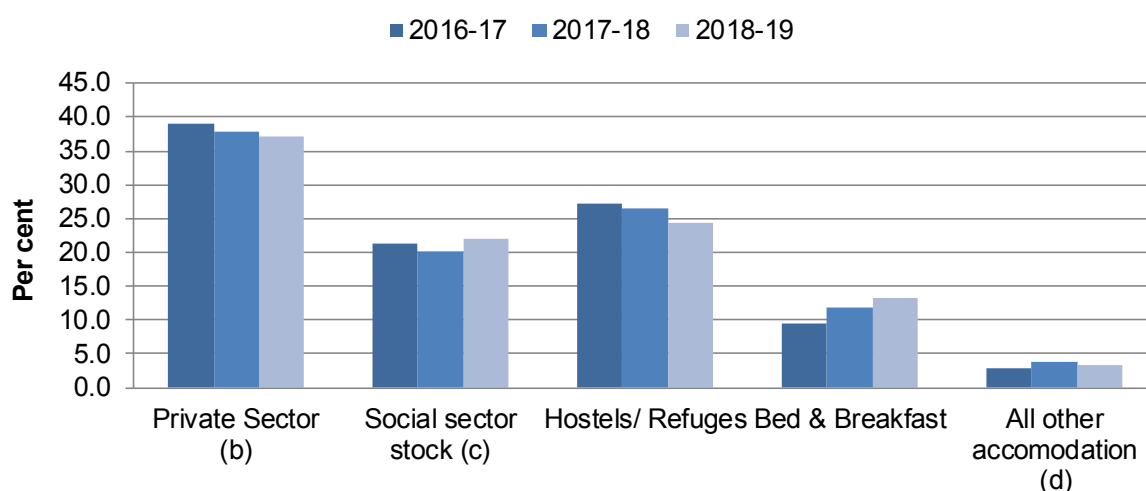


- At the end of March 2019, there were 2,226 households placed in temporary accommodation across Wales. This is an increase of 8 per cent on the 2,052 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2018, and is the highest figure at the end of any quarter since the introduction of the current legislation in April 2015
- Cardiff continued to record both the highest number of households in temporary accommodation (630 households) and the highest rate at 41.4 per 10,000 households. Newport had the second highest number (198 households) and the second highest rate at 31.0 per 10,000 households.

- At 31 March 2018, 7 of the 22 local authorities recorded a rate above the Wales average of 16.5 per 10,000 households.
- As was the case in 2017-18, the Isle of Anglesey and Monmouthshire were the two authorities recording the lowest number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2019 at just 12 and 15 households respectively. The Isle of Anglesey also had the lowest rate at 3.5 per 10,000 households followed by Monmouthshire with a rate of 3.8 per 10,000 households.

9.1 Types of temporary accommodation

Chart 7: Percentage of households in temporary accommodation, at 31 March, 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. At 31 March 2019 it accounted for 37 per cent of all households in temporary accommodation. This was down slightly on the percentages recorded in the previous two years though the number was higher than both at 825 households.
- Social sector housing (Local authority and RSL stock) was used to provide temporary accommodation for 22 per cent of all homeless households at the end of March 2019 which is slightly higher than the percentages recorded in the previous two years. The proportion of homeless households placed in hostels and refuges was down slightly at 24 per cent at the end of March 2019 compared with 26 per cent at the end of March 2018, though the number of households remained the same at 543.
- Both the number and proportion of households in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation was higher than in both the previous two years. At 31 March 2019 there were 294 households (13 per cent) placed in temporary B&B accommodation compared with 243 households (12 per cent) a year earlier and 189 households (9 per cent) at 31 March 2017.
- Families with children accounted for 13 per cent of all households placed in B&B and for 21 per cent of all households placed in hostels and refuges at 31 March 2019.

9.2 Temporary accommodation by household type

- Over half (53 per cent) of the 2,226 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2019 were single person households, which is down slightly on the 54 per cent recorded the previous year.
- A further 40 per cent (894 households) were families with children, up from 39 per cent (801 households) a year earlier. Most of these households (82 per cent) were accommodated temporarily in private sector accommodation or within local authority or registered social landlord (RSL) stock. However, 13 per cent were accommodated in hostels and refuges.

9.3 Length of time spent in temporary accommodation

- 64 per cent of the 2,226 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2019 had spent less than six months in that accommodation, down from 68 per cent a year earlier.
- At the end of March 2019, 16 per cent (366 households) had been in temporary accommodation for more than a year which is up on the 12 per cent seen at 31 March 2018 and the 11 per cent at 31 March 2017. Almost half of these (49 per cent, 180 households) were families with children. However, most of these families (around 93 per cent) had been accommodated in public or private sector accommodation rather than in hostels, refuges or bed and breakfast accommodation.

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

- During 2018-19 a total of 2,631 households left temporary accommodation. Most of these (65 per cent) accepted an offer of accommodation through the allocation scheme (part VI 1996 Housing Act)⁸.
- A further 9 per cent (246 households) accepted a private sector offer and 7 per cent (177 households) voluntarily ceased to occupy accommodation made available under Section 75.

⁸ Part VI of the 1996 Housing Act refers to the allocation of social housing and was not replaced under the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#).

10. 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 the end of a quarter..

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 undercount⁹.

- During 2018-19 across Wales, 16 to 17 year olds were placed in temporary bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation under the current Homelessness legislation on 78 occasions, and on a further 96 occasions under children's social services legislation.
- During 2018-19, 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.

⁹ Newport was unable to obtain information from social services for any quarter during 2018-19, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Carmarthenshire for each of the first 3 quarters and Powys for each of the first 2 quarters. Monmouthshire could not obtain any information from social services during the July to September quarter and Swansea during the January to March quarter.

11. Further details

The document is available at:

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

Next update

July 2020 (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.