



Homelessness in Wales, 2019-20

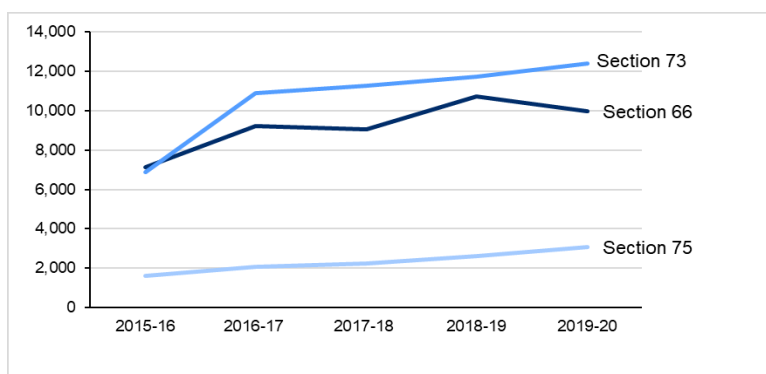
5 November 2020
SFR 192/2020

Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on this release

This release was originally due for publication in July 2020, but was delayed due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) in obtaining data. Also, we only collected key data on homelessness for 2019-20, to reduce burden on local authorities providing this data. Please see [Limitations of data](#) for further information.

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 (Section 66), owed a duty to help secure accommodation (Section 73) and in priority need (Section 75)



- The number of households threatened with homelessness (Section 66) decreased by 7% in 2019-20 to 9,993. Homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months in 67% of cases.
- The number of households assessed as homeless and owed a duty to help secure accommodation (Section 73) increased by 6% to 12,399. Of these, 41% were successfully helped to secure accommodation, similar to recent years.
- 3,060 households were identified as unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Section 75), an increase of 16% on last year. Of these, 78% accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation.

Households in temporary accommodation

- The number of households in temporary accommodation, as at 31 March 2020, was up 4% on the previous year to 2,324 households. This is the highest figure reported since the legislation was introduced in April 2015.
- The private sector accounted for the greatest proportion of temporary accommodation (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 2019-20. Homelessness prevention is a Well Being of Future Generations National Indicator.

In this release

Introduction	2
Limitations of data	4
Homelessness prevention	4
Relief of homelessness	8
Temporary accommodation	12
Placements in B&B	15
Glossary	18

1. Introduction

This is the latest in a series of annual statistical releases relating to statutory homelessness under the 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 4](#) 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.
- **Temporary Accommodation:** [Section 5](#) of this release covers households that are in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2020. [Section 6](#) covers the total placements of 16 to 17 and 18 to 21 year olds in Bed and Breakfast accommodation during 2019-20.

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.

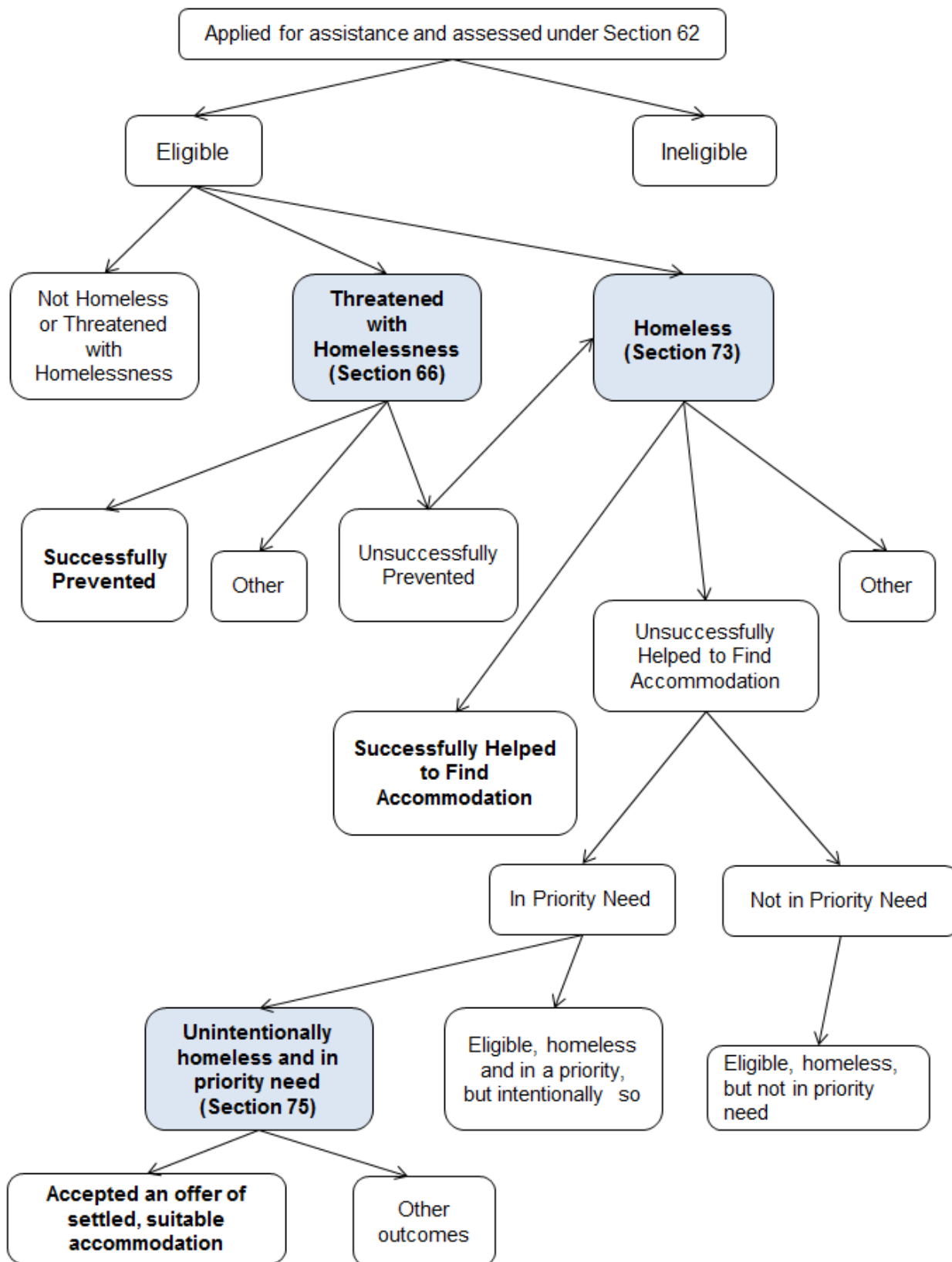
- Policy and operational context
- Users and uses
- Strengths and limitations of the data
- Data processing cycle
- Quality and administrative data quality assurance

The underlying datasets are 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.

Further information on how these terms should be interpreted is available on the guidance and definitions section of the [data collection forms](#). We welcome any feedback on the format of this release 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

Care should be taken when comparing statutory homelessness data for 2016-17 onwards with data produced prior to this. This is due to 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](#)).

The decision was made in April 2020 that this publication would be delayed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, due to available resources in local authorities for providing this information. This meant that the publication has been shortened to provide only key information on homelessness. Information on gender, ethnicity and reason for homelessness was not collected for 2019-20. However, this information is available for previous years and will be included again in future releases.

Further information on data limitations 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.

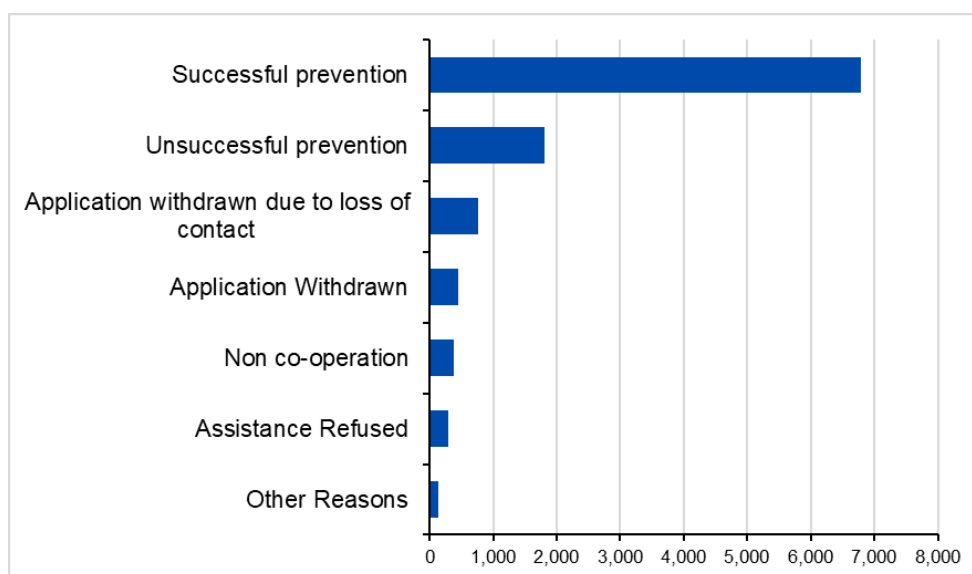
It is possible for up to 3 different outcomes to be recorded for each individual household. This may result in a household being recorded in Charts 1, 2 and 3 below. Further information is available in [Annex A \(Glossary\)](#) of this release.

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 2019-20 following a Section 62 assessment, 320 households were assessed as ineligible¹, and in a further 3,948 cases the household was assessed as being neither homeless nor threatened with homelessness.

In 2019-20, a total of 9,993 households in Wales were assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days. This is a decrease of 7% on the 10,737 households recorded during the previous year, which was the highest annual figure since the current legislation was introduced. [Chart 1](#) below shows the outcomes for those households.

Chart 1. Number of households found to be eligible and threatened with homelessness (Section 66), during 2019-20 by outcome (a)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

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

Data available on [StatsWales](#).

During 2019-20, homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months in 67% of cases (6,699 households). The successful homelessness prevention rate has remained consistent since 2017-18.

In 17% of cases, prevention of homelessness for at least 6 months was unsuccessful. In these cases, the applying households were discharged and became statutorily homeless². Such households 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 2018-19.

For the remaining 1,575 households (16%) threatened with homelessness during 2019-20, 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 10% of all households assessed, slightly less than the previous year (11%).

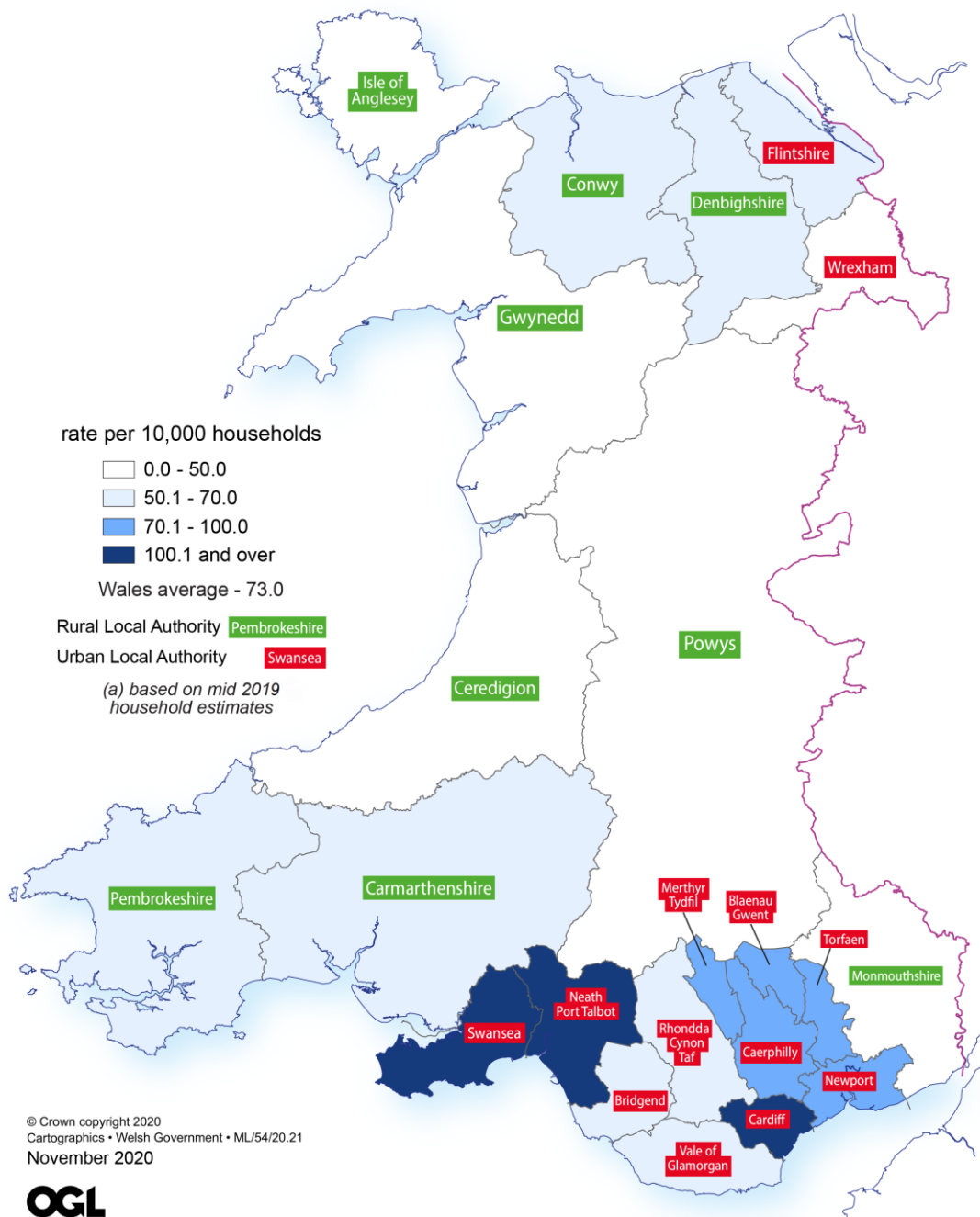
¹ Housing authorities need to satisfy themselves that applicants are eligible before providing housing assistance. The provisions [on eligibility](#) are complex and housing authorities need to ensure that they have procedures in place to carry out appropriate checks on housing applicants.

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 found to be eligible and threatened with homelessness (Section 66), 2019-20 - Rate Per 10,000 households (a)



In Wales, 73 households in every 10,000 were found to be eligible and threatened with homelessness in 2018-19. This is a decrease on 2018-19 (79.5 households in every 10,000).

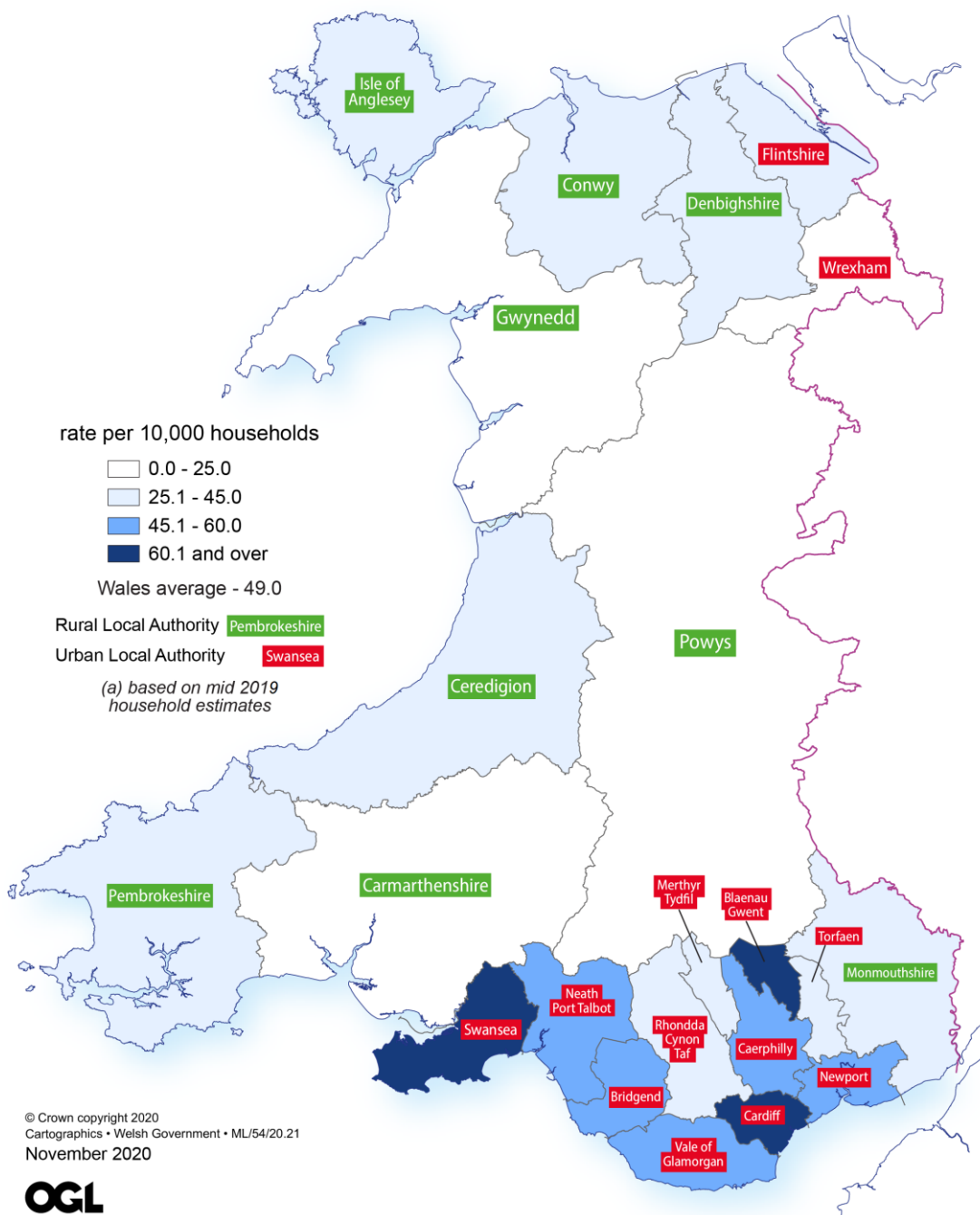
During 2019-20, Cardiff reported both the highest number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days at 2,304 households and, taking into account the number of households in each area, the highest rate at 148.7 per 10,000 households³.

³ The household estimates used in this release are the Welsh Government mid-2018 household estimates available from the [StatsWales website](#).

Comparatively, Gwynedd reported the lowest number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness (111 households) and the lowest rate (20.5 per 10,000 households).

Homelessness

MAP 2: Households successfully prevented from homeless during 2019-20 (section 66) - 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 2019-20 the rate for Wales was 49 per 10,000 households. This is a decrease on the rate reported for 2018-19 (54 per 10,000 households).

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.

During 2019-20, Cardiff recorded the highest number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months (1,794) and the highest rate of successful prevention (116 per 10,000 households).

Wrexham reported the lowest number of successful preventions (78) and the lowest rate (13.1 per 10,000 households).

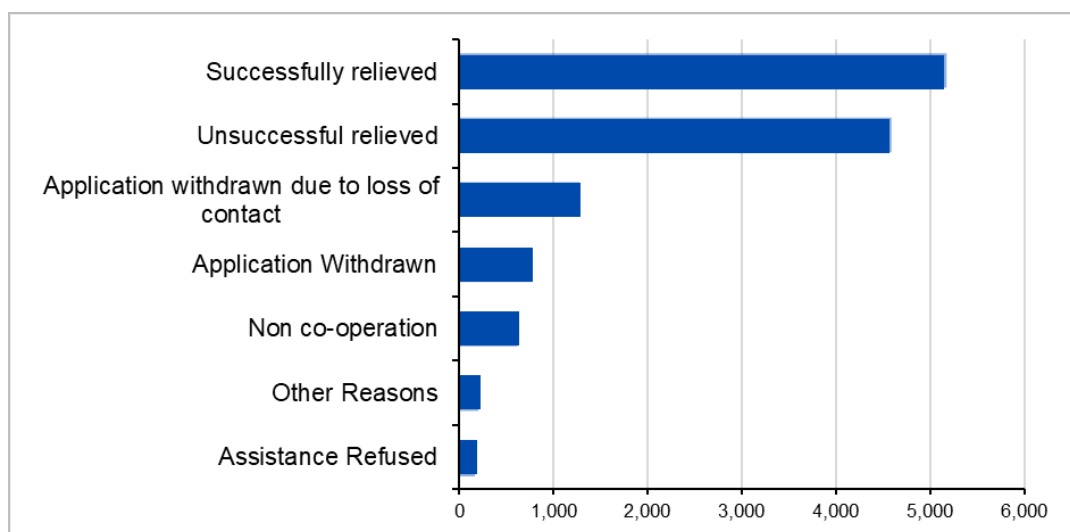
During 2019-20, 17 of the 22 local authorities in Wales reported rates of successful prevention below the Wales average of 49 per 10,000 households.

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. Number of households assessed as homeless under duty to help secure accommodation (Section 73) during 2019-20 by outcome (a)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Data available on [StatsWales](#).

During 2019-20, 12,399 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 6% on 2018-19, and is the highest number reported since the introduction of the current legislation in April 2015.

41% of households (5,088) of those households assessed as homeless during 2019-20 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 percentage has remained unchanged in recent years.

In a further 36% of cases (4,512), 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 down on the 38% reported during the previous year although the actual number of households unsuccessfully relieved of homelessness was 2% higher.

For the remaining 2,799 households assessed as homeless during 2019-20, 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 16% of all households assessed as homelessness. This is 2 percentage points higher than 2017-18 and 2018-19.

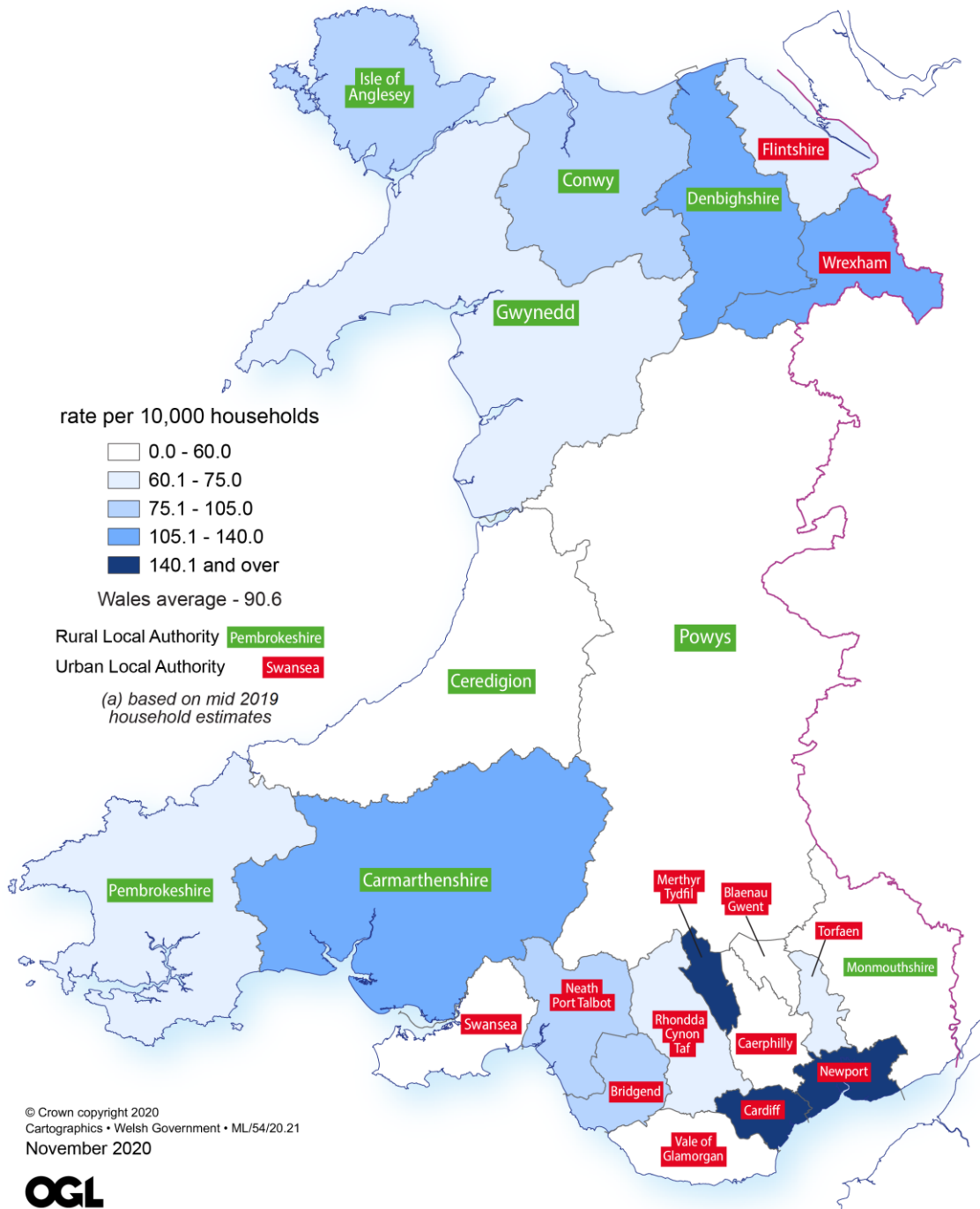
Non co-operation was the reason given for 5% of cases, the same proportion reported for 2017-18 and 2018-19 ([Chart 2](#)).

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 2019-20 at an individual local authority level.

Homelessness

MAP 3: Number of households assessed as homeless (Section 73) during 2019-20 - Rate Per 10,000 households (a)



For Wales, 90.6 cases per 10,000 households were assessed as homeless in 2019-20, an increase on the rate of 86.8 cases per 10,000 households reported for 2018-19.

Cardiff reported the highest number of households assessed as homeless under Section 73 of the new legislation, at 2,226 households. However the local authority with the highest rate of households assessed as homeless was Merthyr Tydfil (166 cases per 10,000 households).

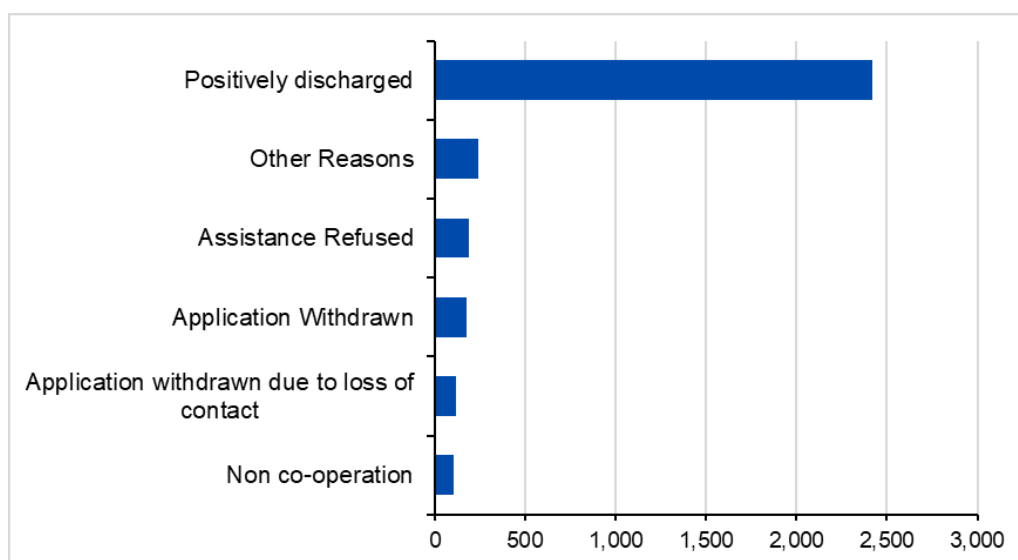
Ceredigion reported the lowest number of households assessed as homeless (180) although the rate was lower in Swansea and Powys (55.7 and 55.8 cases per 10,000 households respectively).

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. Number of homeless households owed a duty under final duty (Section 75), during 2019-20 (a)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

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

Data available on [StatsWales](#).

During 2019-20, a total of 3,060 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 16% on the 2,631 households recorded during 2018-19, and is the highest number reported since the introduction of the current legislation in April 2015

Households that were eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation in 78% of cases (2,388 households). Although the number of cases has increased, the percentage of percentage of households accepting an offer of settled, suitable accommodation is slightly lower than the previous year (80%). For the remaining 672 households assessed as homelessness during 2019-20, the final duty was brought to an end. 'Assistance refused' was given as the reason for the Section 75 duty ending in 5% of cases with 'Other reasons' accounting for 7%. This was similar to the percentages recorded for these reasons in 2018-19.

'Application withdrawn' was the reason given in 5% of cases and 'Application withdrawn due to loss of contact' in 3% which again were similar to the percentages recorded in 2018-19.

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 1,471 cases, the household was found to be homeless but not in priority need, whilst in a further 129 cases the homeless household was assessed as being eligible and in priority need but intentionally⁶ so. The data are available on the [StatsWales website](#).

5. Homeless households in temporary accommodation

This section of the release covers all homeless households who were in **temporary accommodation at the end of March 2020⁷**. **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 2020.**

On 20 March 2020, the Minister for Housing and Local Government announced £10 million additional funding to local authorities to ensure that those who are homeless and sleeping rough were supported into accommodation. Further funding has been provided to enable local authorities to continue to secure additional suitable temporary accommodation and the support people need to keep themselves safe and adhere to public health guidelines around hygiene and isolation.

[Table 1](#) shows the number of homeless households who were in temporary accommodation at 31st March 2020 as a rate per 10,000 households at an individual local authority level.

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.

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.

Table 1: Homeless Households in Temporary accommodation at 31 March 2020 (a)

	Number of households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2020	Mid-year 2019 Household estimates	Rate per 10,000 households
Isle of Anglesey	27	31309	8.9
Gwynedd	84	54711	15.5
Conwy	144	52902	27.2
Denbighshire	171	41855	40.9
Flintshire	39	66575	5.9
Wrexham	129	58875	21.7
Powys	75	59862	12.5
Ceredigion	30	31246	9.9
Pembrokeshire	63	56127	11.0
Carmarthenshire	87	82190	10.5
Swansea	96	109524	8.8
Neath Port Talbot	84	62317	13.6
Bridgend	84	62814	13.2
The Vale of Glamorgan	132	58036	22.7
Cardiff	567	154874	36.5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	81	105773	7.6
Merthyr Tydfil	45	24943	18.4
Caerphilly	123	76894	16.1
Blaenau Gwent	27	31259	9.0
Torfaen	60	40404	15.1
Monmouthshire	21	40407	5.2
Newport	153	65808	23.2
Wales	2325	1368708	17.0

(a) Numbers of households in temporary accommodation are rounded to the nearest 3. Rates are calculated using unrounded numbers (not shown in this table).

At 31 March 2020, there were 2,325 households placed in temporary accommodation across Wales. This is an increase of 4% on 31 March 2019, and is the highest figure recorded since the introduction of the current legislation in April 2015.

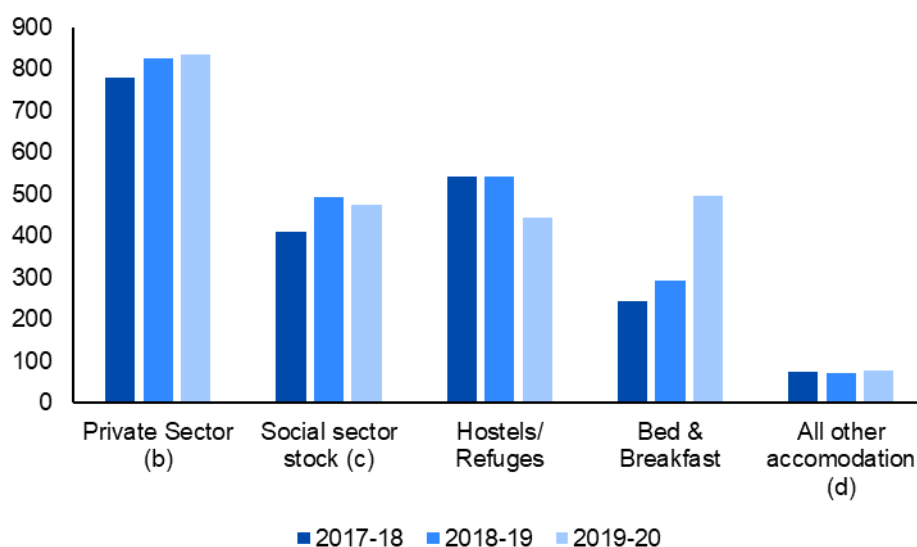
Cardiff reported the highest number of households in temporary accommodation (567) whilst Denbighshire reported the highest rate (40.9 cases per 10,000 households)

Monmouthshire reported the lowest number of households in temporary accommodation (21) and the lowest rate (5.2 cases per 10,000 households).

At 31 March 20120, 7 of the 22 local authorities reported a rate above the Wales average of 17.2 cases per 10,000 households.

5.1 Types of temporary accommodation

Chart 4: 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

Households placed in Bed & Breakfasts at 31 March 2020 increased significantly over March which is possibly due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with lockdown restrictions coming in to effect on 23 March 2020.

Private sector accommodation continued to be the main form of temporary accommodation used. At 31 March 2020, it accounted for 36% of all households in temporary accommodation. Despite a slight decrease in the proportion of private sector accommodation, there was a small increase (1%) in the number of households placed in private sector accommodation.

Compared to 31 March 2019, there was a small decrease in the number and proportion of households placed in social sector (local authority and RSL) accommodation. At 31 March 2020, 20% of households were accommodated by social sector stock.

The number of households accommodated by hostels and refuges remained stable between March 2018 and March 2019 but decreased by 18% as at March 2020. The proportion of households in hostels and refuges also decreased from 24% in 2019 to 19% in 2020.

Compared to previous years, there was a significant increase in the number and proportion of households accommodated by B&Bs. At 31 March 2020, there were 495 households placed in temporary B&B accommodation, an increase of 68% on March 2019. This is possibly due to the national lockdown that was implemented and the increase in funding to ensure more suitable accommodation was available to those that needed it to adhere to public health guidelines.

Families with children accounted for 7% of all households placed in B&Bs and for 29% of all households placed in hostels and refuges at 31 March 2020. 37% of all households placed in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2020 were families with children.

6. 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 the year.

The information is collected in order to establish the number of placements made by local authorities into B&B 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.

In 2019-20, 16 to 17 year olds were placed in temporary B&B accommodation under the current Homelessness legislation on 93 occasions, and on a further 66 occasions under children's social services legislation.

Care leavers aged 18 to 21 years old were placed in temporary B&B accommodation under the current Homelessness legislation on a further 84 occasions.

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in March 2019 following a compliance check by the [Office for Statistics Regulation](#). Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- We have improved the commentary and data visualisation on the front page of the release, removing repetitive text and simplifying the language used.
- We have enhanced accessibility for users by adding direct hyperlinks to the relevant data cube on Stats Wales alongside the tables and charts within the release.
- Within the Quality Report we have included more detail in relation to our knowledge of the quality assurance processes carried out by data providers and have also provided more detail in relation to overall responsibility for the quality management process.
- We have enhanced trustworthiness by reviewing and reducing pre-release access

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes one of the national indicators, “number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless per 10,000 households”.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the wellbeing goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local wellbeing assessments and local wellbeing plans.

7. Further details

The document is available at: <https://gov.wales/homelessness-statistics>

Next update

July 2021 (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.

Open Government Licence

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated.



Annex A: Glossary

Symbols

The following symbols may have been used in this release:

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