



# Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

## Rough Sleepers Autumn 2014

On 26 February 2015, the Department for Communities and Local Government published their annual statistical release on the number of rough sleepers in England. The release provides national summary information on rough sleeping counts and estimates carried out by local authorities between 1 October and 30 November 2014.

The release also includes information supplied by CHAIN (Combined Homelessness and Information Network), which reports the number of rough sleepers recorded during 2013/14 in London.

The full release and associated data can be found [here](#):

### Key points for London:

#### Data from the Department for Communities and Local Government:

In the autumn of 2014 it was estimated that there were 742 rough sleepers in London. London accounted for 27% of the total England figure (2,744), compared to 22% in 2013 and 24% in 2012.

There were 199 more people sleeping rough in London in 2014 than in 2013, a rise of 37%. This compares with a 14% rise in England as a whole and a 7% rise in areas of England other than London (see figure below).

### Rough sleepers in London and England (2010-2014)

	England total		London		Rest of England	
	Number	% change	Number	% change	Number	% change
2010	1,768		415		1,353	
2011	2,181	23%	446	7%	1,735	28%
2012	2,309	6%	557	25%	1,752	1%
2013	2,414	5%	543	-3%	1,871	7%
2014	2,744	14%	742	37%	2,002	7%

Source: DCLG

The rate of rough sleeping per 1,000 households stands at 0.12 for England, 0.22 for London and 0.10 for the rest of England. This compares to 0.11 for England, 0.16 for London and 0.10 for the rest of England in 2013.

At local authority level, the lowest number of rough sleepers recorded in a borough is 1 in Haringey (based on an estimate) and the highest is in Westminster 265 (based on a count). The Westminster total accounts for 36% of the total London estimate.

### **Data from CHAIN:**

6,508\* people were recorded as sleeping rough in London in 2013/14.

2,945 rough sleepers in London were recorded as having United Kingdom as their nationality, representing 46% of all rough sleepers recorded on the CHAIN database.

31% were from Central and Eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 or 2007.

### **About the data:**

This is the fifth annual statistical release following the introduction of revised guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping in September 2010.

Rough sleeping counts and estimates are single night snapshots of the number of people sleeping rough in local authority areas. Local authorities decide whether to carry out a count or an estimate based upon their assessment of whether the local rough sleeping problem justifies counting. They are encouraged to gain intelligence for street counts and estimates from local agencies such as outreach workers, the police, the voluntary sector and members of the public who have contact with rough sleepers on the street.

All 326 local housing authorities in England provided a figure. The total comprises counts provided by 49 local authorities and estimates provided by 277 local authorities.

In London 19 local authorities provided estimates and 14 carried out counts.

\*The CHAIN figure is a count of all individuals who were seen sleeping rough on the streets of London on at least one night during the entire year between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, whereas the DCLG figure is a snapshot of the number of rough sleepers in London as

counted or estimated by each London borough and the City of London on a single night in between 1 October and 30 November 2013.

People who work with rough sleepers record information on CHAIN about people who have been seen 'bedded down' on the streets by outreach workers. This group is known as 'Verified Rough Sleepers'. CHAIN does not cover 'hidden homeless' groups, such as those who are squatting or staying in places which are inaccessible to outreach workers.

Information is recorded onto the CHAIN database by people who work directly with rough sleepers in London (e.g. workers in outreach teams, day centres, hostels, resettlement teams).