

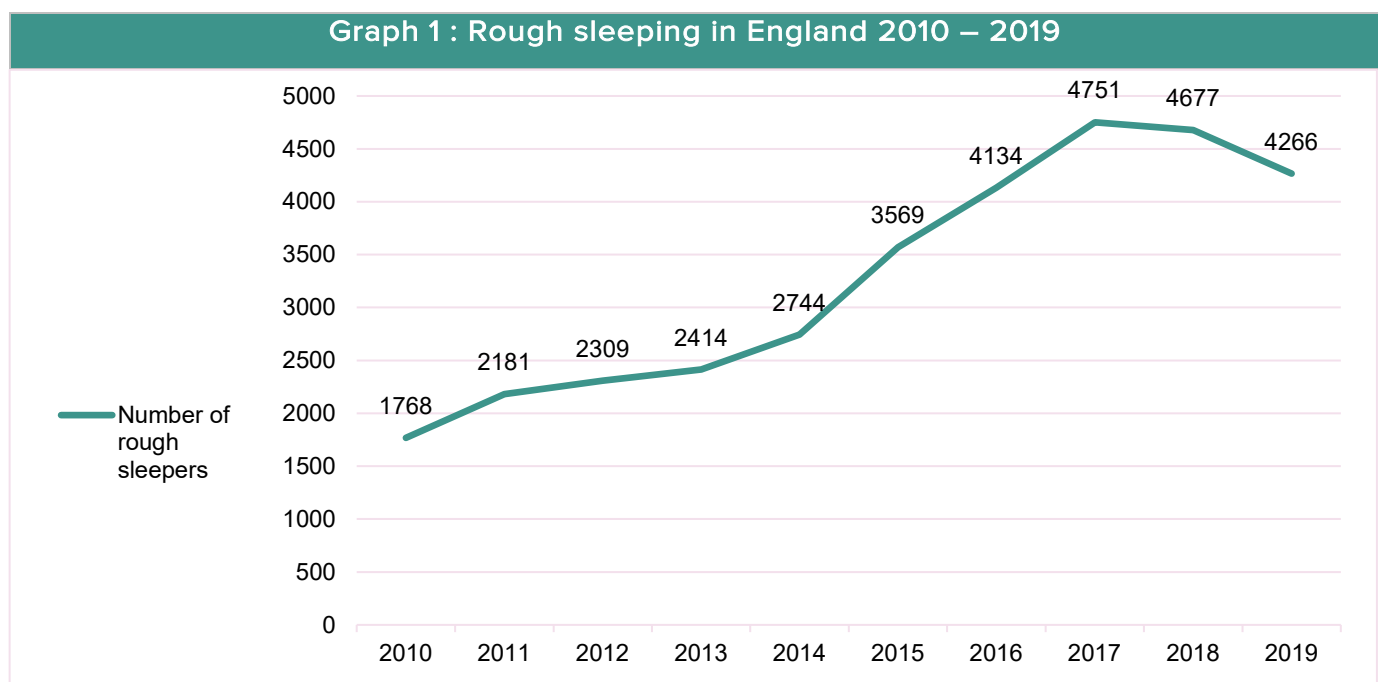
2019 Rough Sleeping Snapshot Statistics

An analysis of 2019 rough sleeping estimates

On the 27th of February 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government released the autumn 2019 figures for rough sleeping. These statistics are based on either a count-based estimate, an evidence-based estimate, or an evidence-based estimate including a spotlight count, which provide a snapshot figure of the number of people sleeping rough on a typical night between October and November 2019¹. The following analysis provides a regional breakdown of the figures, and identifies the local authority areas with the largest changes compared with previous years. The concluding section features a gender-based and nationality-based analysis of the data.

Headline figures

A total of **4,266** people were deemed to be sleeping rough in England on a single 'typical' night in autumn 2019, representing a 9% decrease from the 2018 figure of 4,677. This is the highest percentage decrease since 2010.



The number of people sleeping rough in England has increased by 55% in the last 5 years (see Table 1). Since the current methodology for measuring rough sleeping began in 2010, an additional 2,498 people

¹ Further information regarding the process for the rough sleeping estimates can be found in the toolkit:

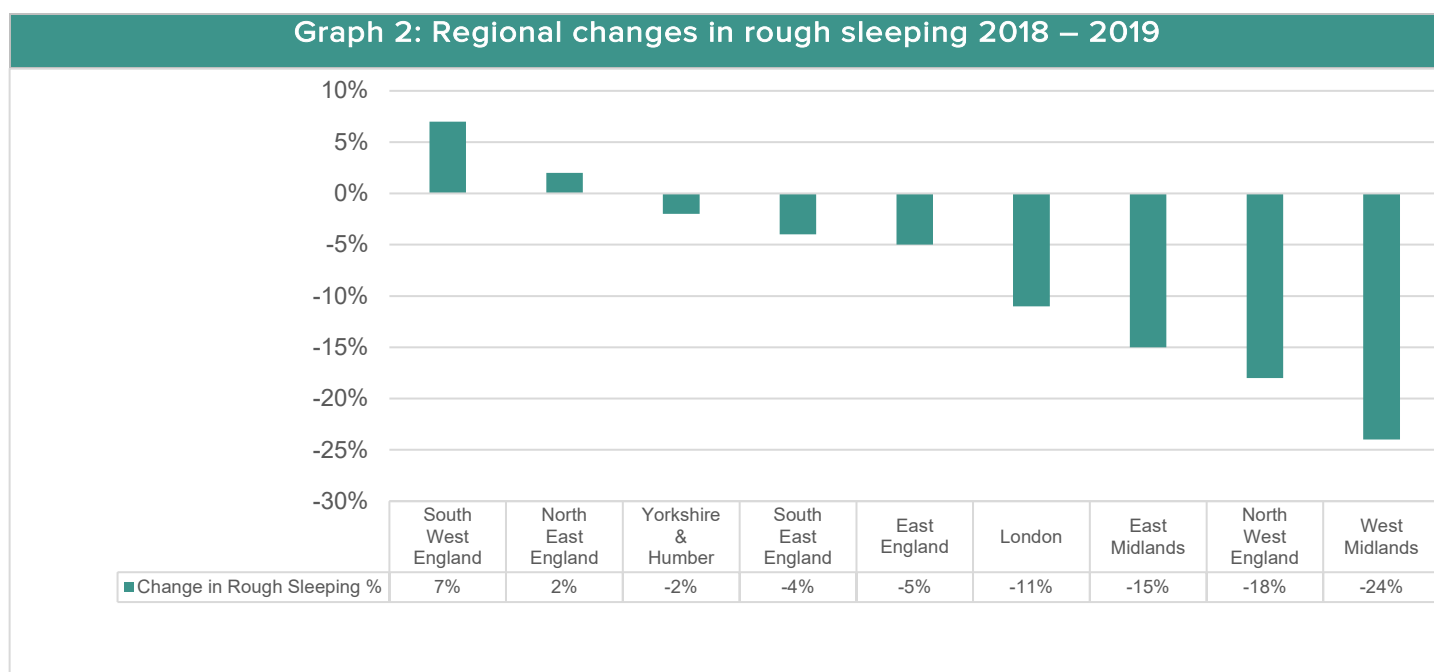
<https://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Rough%20Sleeping%20Estimates%20Toolkit%202019.pdf>

have been deemed to be sleeping rough in England on a single ‘typical’ night. This represents an increase of 141% in the last 9 years.

Table 1: Changes in rough sleeping 2010 – 2019									
	2010 - 2019	2011 – 2019	2012 - 2019	2013 - 2019	2014 - 2019	2015 - 2019	2016 - 2019	2017- 2019	2018- 2019
Percentage change	+141%	+96%	+85%	+77%	+55%	+20%	+3%	-10%	-9%
Numerical Change	+2498	+2085	+1957	+1852	+1522	+697	+132	-485	-411

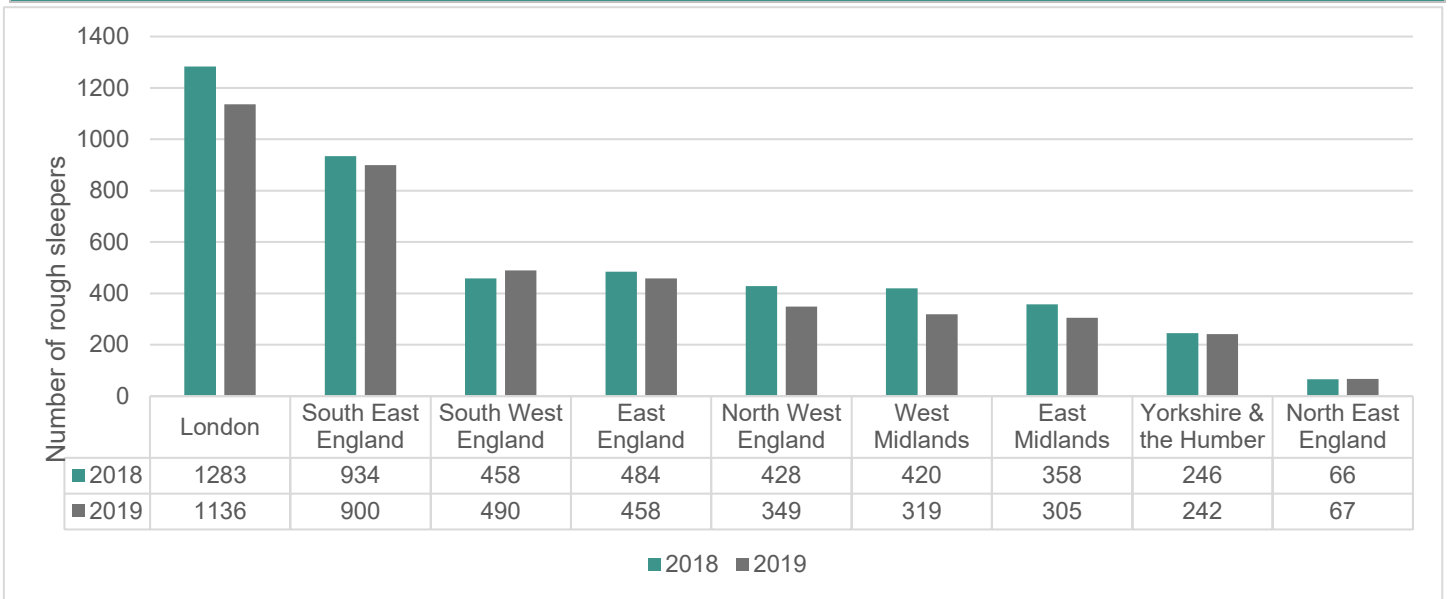
Rough sleeping by region

In 2019, two regions in England reported an increase in rough sleeping, while seven regions reported a decrease (Graph 2). The South West of England and North East of England are the only two regions with an increase in rough sleeping. There was a significant decrease in the West Midlands (-24%), where a total of 319 people were deemed to be sleeping rough on a single ‘typical’ night.



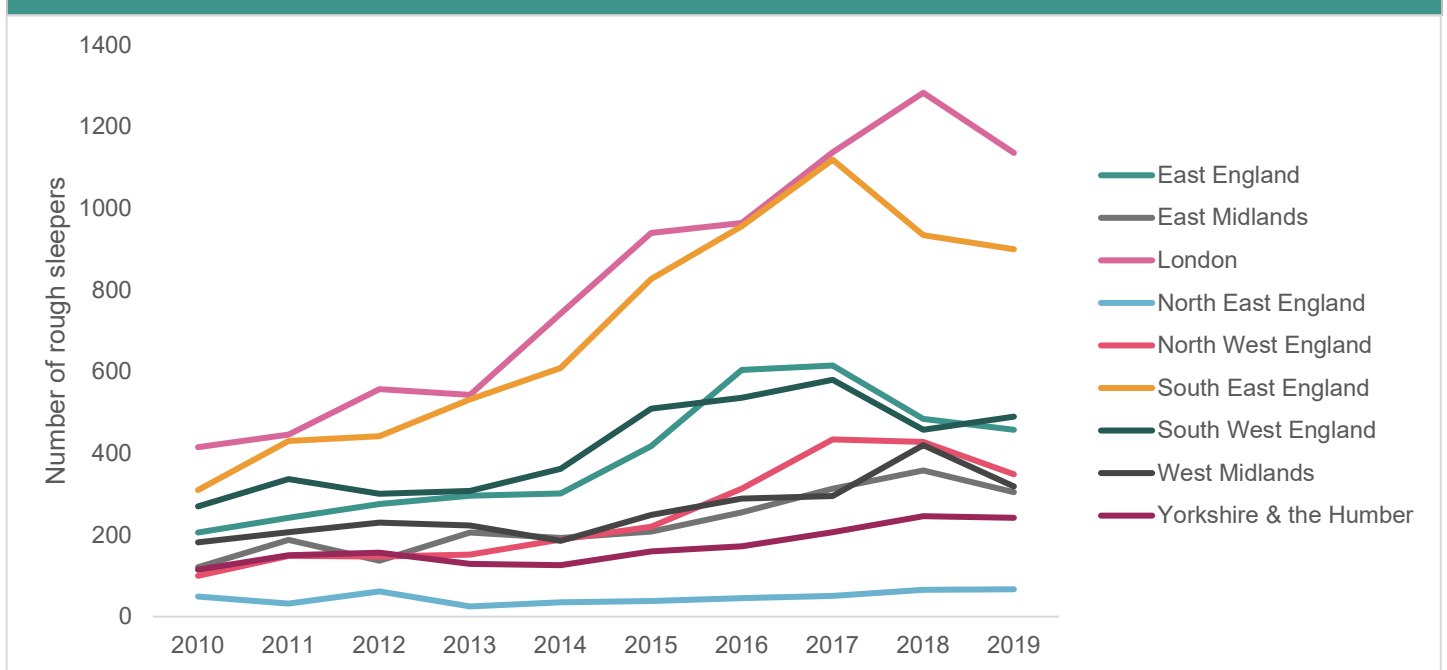
London continues to be the region with the highest number of people sleeping rough, with a total of 1,136 people sleeping rough on a single ‘typical’ night (see Graph 3). The North East of England had the lowest number of reported rough sleeping individuals.

Graph 3: Number of rough sleeping individuals in England, by region, 2018 - 2019



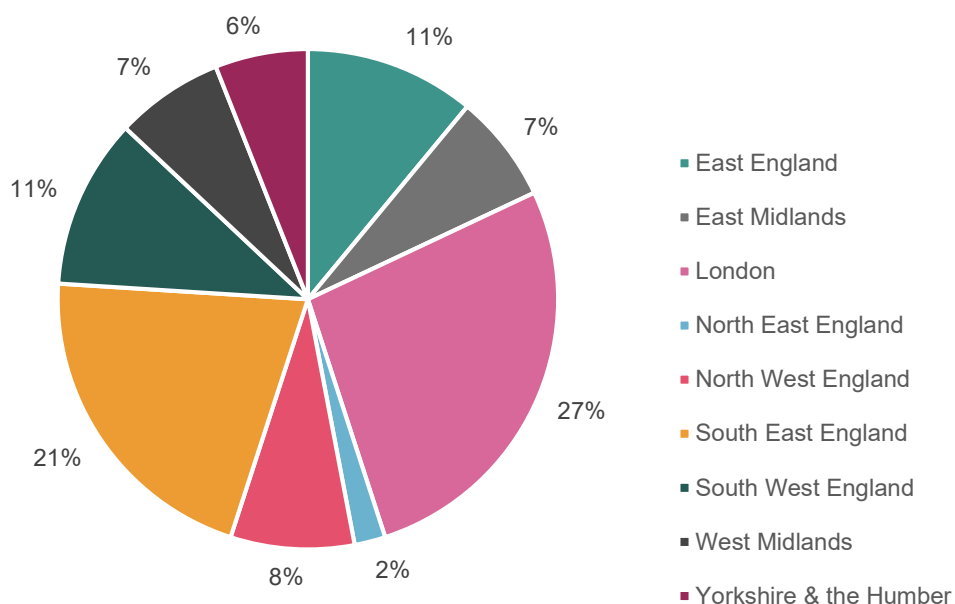
The increase in rough sleeping in England over the past 10 years has varied geographically. London has reported a 174% increase in levels of rough sleeping since 2010 (Graph 4). The North West of England has had the highest increase in levels of rough sleeping since 2010 at 249%.

Graph 4: Rough sleeping by region, 2010-2019



London accounts for 27% of the total number of rough sleeping individuals in England (Graph 5). The North East continues to have the lowest proportion of people sleeping rough (2%).

Graph 5: Regional percentage of total numbers of rough sleepers 2019



Rough sleeping by Local Authority

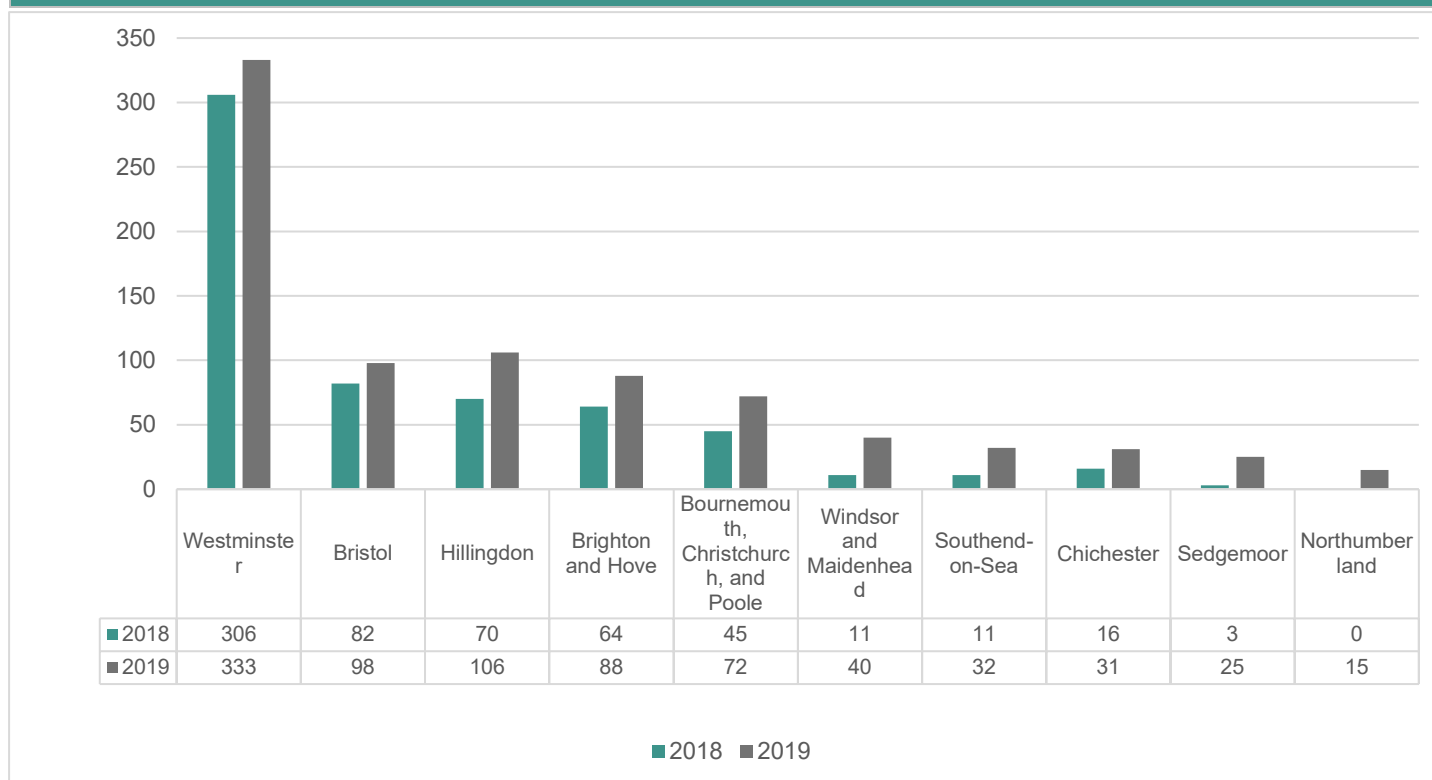
- Westminster consistently remains as the Local Authority with the highest number of people sleeping rough (333) (Table 2).
- Camden (-54%), Birmingham (-43%), Manchester (-26%), and Newham (-19%) are in the top 10 for having the highest number of individuals sleeping rough. However, their 2019 figures have shown a reduction in numbers from the previous year.
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) reported large increases in the number of people sleeping rough (table 2). This Local Authority was not in the top ten in 2018.
- City of London and Enfield are no longer in the top ten (based on the top 10 table from 2018). City of London reported a reduction of 26% and Enfield reported a reduction of 54%.

Table 2: Top 10 local authorities with highest number of rough sleepers, 2018 – 2019

Local Authority	Region	2018	2019	Change from 2018	% change on 2019
Westminster	London	306	333	27	9%
Hillingdon	London	70	106	36	51%
Bristol, City of	South West	82	98	16	20%
Manchester	North West	123	91	-32	-26%
Brighton & Hove	South East	64	88	24	38%
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)	South West	45	72	27	60%
Camden	London	141	65	-76	-54%
Newham	London	79	64	-15	-19%
Birmingham	West Midlands	91	52	-39	-43%
Islington	London	43	51	8	19%

Westminster reported the largest increase in the total number of people sleeping rough (+27) (Graph 6). Other local Authorities also reporting large percentage increase include Sedgemoor (733%), Windsor and Maidenhead (264%) and Southend-on-Sea (191%).

Graph 6: Top 10 local authorities with largest increase in the number of rough sleepers, 2018-2019



Rough sleeping in London

- The number of people sleeping rough has decreased for the first time since 2010 in London (-11%). Outer London Boroughs have continued to show a decrease from last year. This year Inner London Boroughs reported a decrease.
- This year there was an 11% decrease in final figures across London. In 2018 1,283 individuals were estimated to be sleeping rough on a single 'typical' night, compared to the final figure of 1,136 this year. However, since 2010, rough sleeping estimates for London show an increase of 174%.
- In 2019, Havering saw the biggest percentage increase in rough sleeping from the previous year (300%). This is followed by Lewisham (220%), and Greenwich (129%).
- Hammersmith & Fulham saw the biggest percentage decrease in rough sleeping, compared to 2018 (83%). This was followed by Enfield (69%), and then Croydon (60%) respectively.

Graph 7: Rough sleepers year on year in Inner and Outer London Boroughs



Inner London Boroughs

- A total of 689 people were deemed to be sleeping rough in the Inner London Boroughs, representing 16% of the total figure of 4,266.
- Westminster is the local authority with the highest number of rough sleeping individuals (333).
- Lewisham reported the largest increase in number of people sleeping rough at 220%.

Table 3: Inner London boroughs by number of rough sleepers, 2019

Local Authority	2018	2019	Difference from 2018	% change from 2018
Westminster	306	333	27	9%
Camden	141	65	-76	-54%
City of London	67	41	-26	86%
Lambeth	50	43	-7	-14%
Southwark	47	44	-3	-6%
Islington	43	51	8	19%
Wandsworth	25	28	3	12%
Hackney	23	14	-9	-39%
Kensington and Chelsea	20	19	-1	-5%
Hammersmith and Fulham	12	2	-10	-83%
Tower Hamlets	10	17	7	70%
Greenwich	7	16	9	129%
Lewisham	5	16	11	220%
Total (Inner London)	756	689	-67	-9%

Outer London Boroughs

- A total of 447 people were deemed to be sleeping rough in the Outer London Boroughs, representing 10% of the total figure of 4,266.
- Hillingdon is the Local Authority with the highest number of rough sleeping individuals (106).
- Newham (64) and Haringey (33) also have high numbers of people sleeping rough.
- Enfield reported the most significant decrease in the number of rough sleepers (-69%).

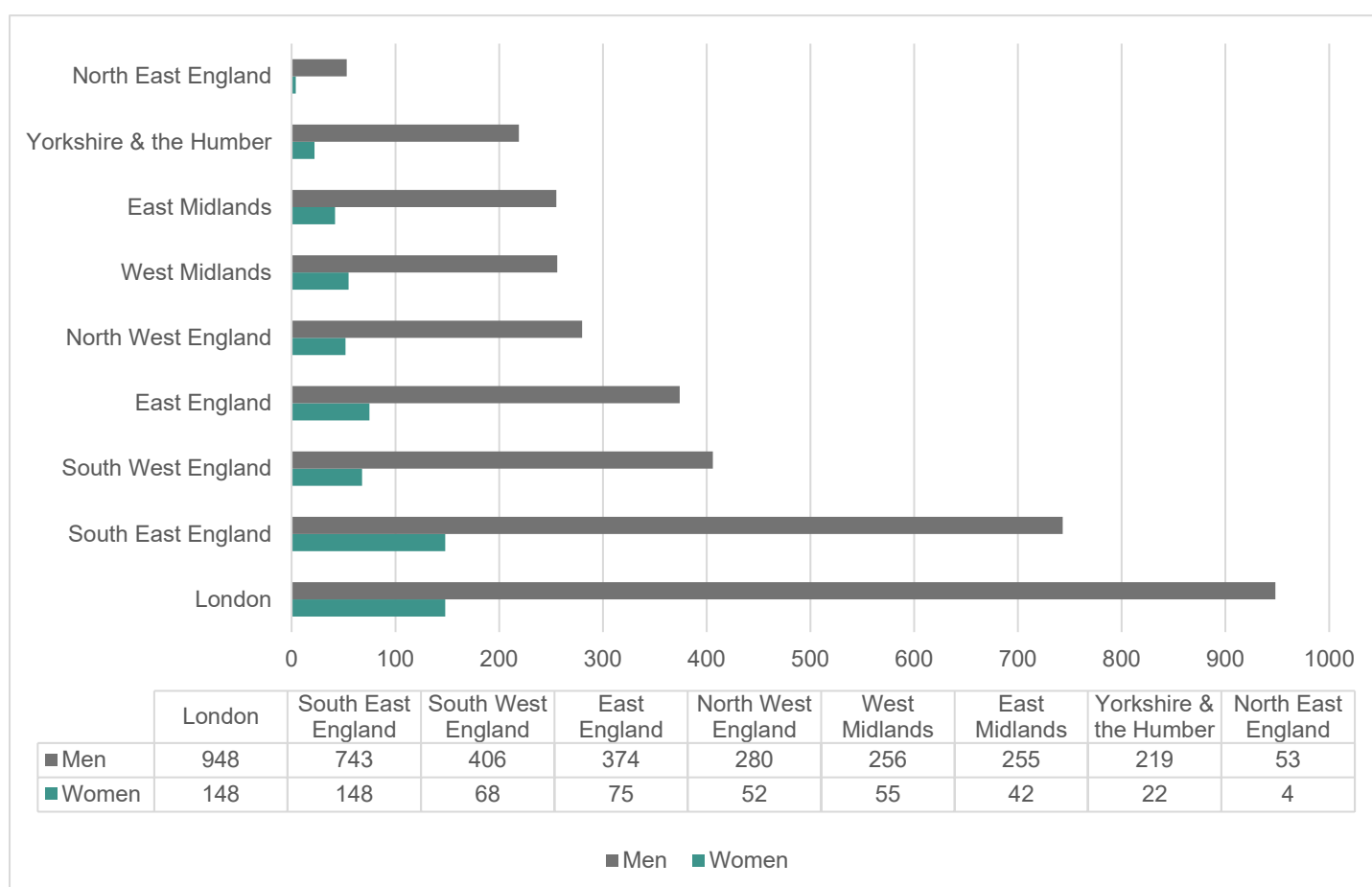
Table 4: Outer London Boroughs by number of rough sleeping individuals, 2019

Local Authority	2018	2019	Change on 2018	% change on 2018
Newham	79	64	-15	-19%
Enfield	78	24	-54	-69%
Hillingdon	70	106	36	51%
Ealing	33	20	-13	-39%
Haringey	32	33	1	3%
Brent	30	25	-5	-17%
Redbridge	26	16	-10	-38%
Barnet	24	24	0	0%
Merton	23	15	-8	-35%
Kingston upon Thames	23	20	-3	-13%
Waltham Forest	22	18	-4	-18%
Hounslow	18	8	-10	-56%
Croydon	15	6	-9	-60%
Richmond	14	14	0	0%
Harrow	13	10	-3	-23%
Barking and Dagenham	9	14	5	56%
Bromley	6	8	2	33%
Bexley	5	9	4	80%
Sutton	5	5	0	0%
Havering	2	8	6	300%
Total (Outer London)	527	447	-80	-15%

Demographics (gender)

- Of the 4,266 individuals deemed to be sleeping rough in England in 2019, a total of 3,534 were male, 614 were female² and 118 were gender unknown.
- 14% of total number of rough sleeping individuals were women.
- London and the South East reported the largest number of women sleeping rough (148) (Graph 8).
- Westminster is the local authority which reported the highest number of women sleeping rough (Table 5).

Graph 8: Gender of individuals sleeping rough 2019, by region



² Research has however shown that both women will tend to stay in ‘hidden homeless’ situations (e.g. sofa surfing) rather than sleep rough: Crisis (2008) *Policy briefing: Homeless Women Briefing*, Available at:

http://www.crisis.org.uk/data/files/publications/2945Homeless_women_policy_recommendations.pdf

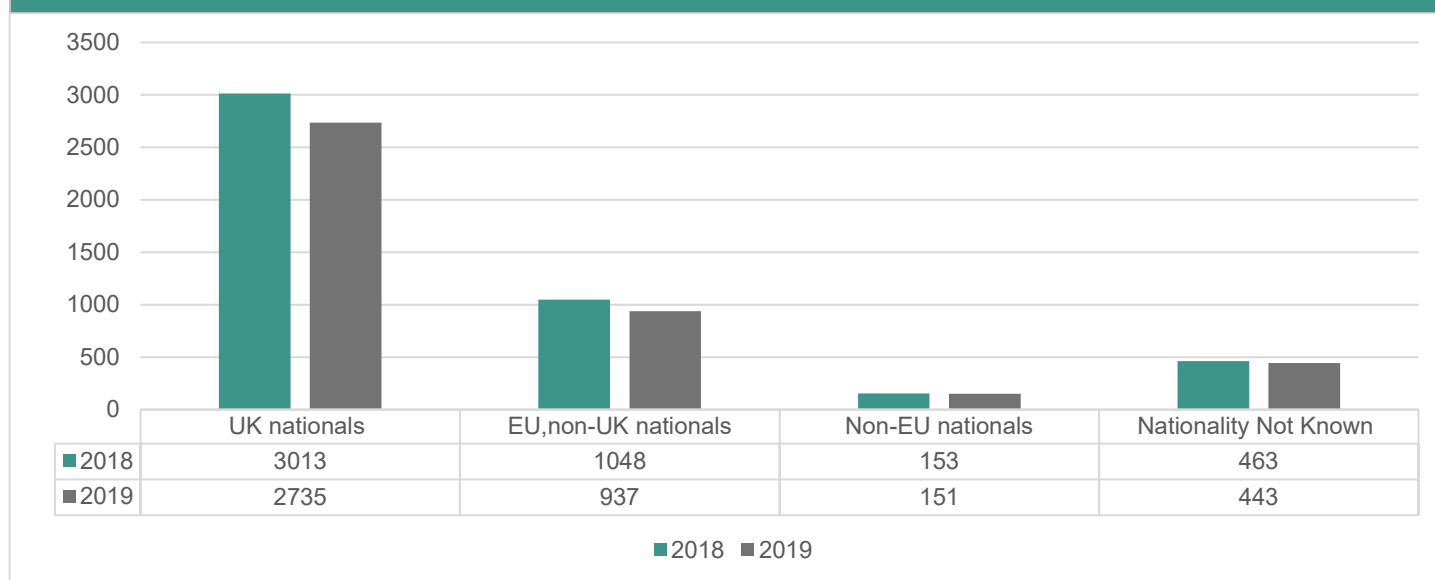
Table 5: Top 10 Local Authorities with highest number of female rough sleeping individuals , 2019

Local Authority	Region	No of female rough sleepers
1. Westminster	London	47
2. Hillingdon	London	23
3. Bristol, City of	South West	13
4. Manchester	North West	12
5. Brighton and Hove	South East	12
6. Nottingham	East Midlands	10
7. Camden	London	10
8. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)	South West	10
9. Islington	London	9
10. Cambridge	East	9

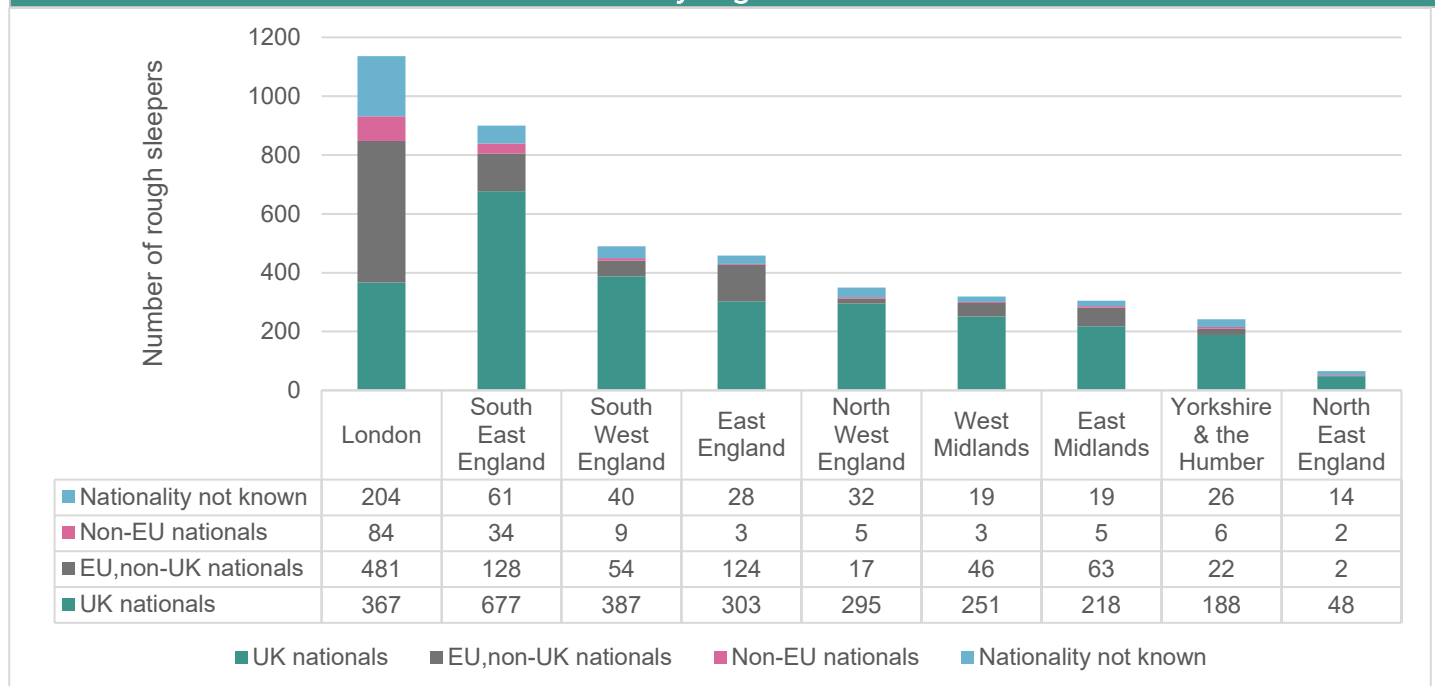
Demographics (nationality)

- Of the total number of 4,266, 2,735 were UK nationals, 937 of people sleeping rough were EU nationals, 151 were non-EU nationals and 443 nationalities were unknown.
- Compared to 2018, the number of UK nationals is lower than last year (-278) and the number of EU, non-UK nationals is also lower than the previous year (-113)
- London is the region with the highest number of EU, non- UK nationals (18% of the total number of people sleeping rough who are UK nationals).
- The South East of England is the region with the highest number of UK national rough sleeping individuals (25% of the total number of people who have identified as UK nationals).
- The North East of England has the lowest number of rough sleeping individuals in each category (Graph 10).

Graph 9: Nationality of individuals sleeping rough 2018-2019



Graph 10: Nationality of individuals sleeping rough sleepers nationality demographics 2019, by region





What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

Let's end homelessness together

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