

2017 Rough Sleeping Statistics

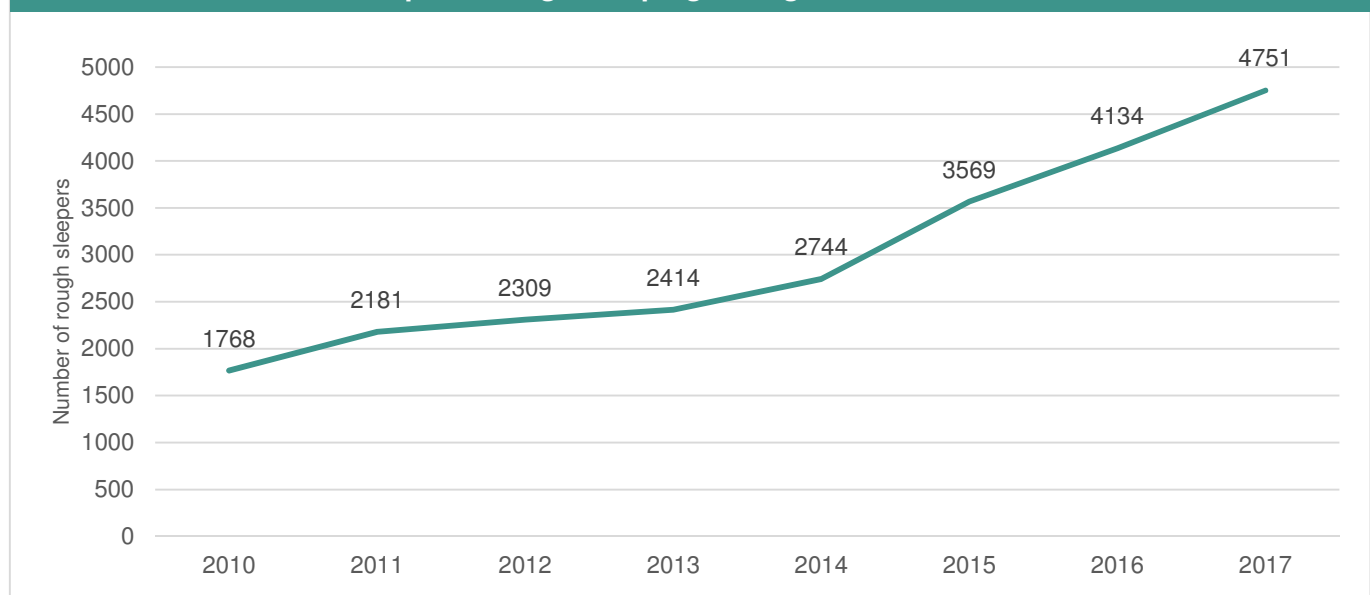
An analysis of 2017 rough sleeping counts and estimates

On 25 January 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government released the autumn 2017 figures for rough sleeping. These statistics are based on counts and estimates carried out by Local Authorities in England, providing a snapshot figure of the number of people sleeping rough on any one night. The following analysis provides a regional breakdown of the figures, and identifies the local authority areas that have seen the largest increases compared with previous years. The concluding section features a gender-based analysis of the data.

Headline figures

A total of **4,751** people were counted or estimated by local authorities to be sleeping rough in England on any one night in autumn 2017, representing 15% increase from the 2016 figure of 4,134.

Graph 1: Rough sleeping in England 2010 - 2017



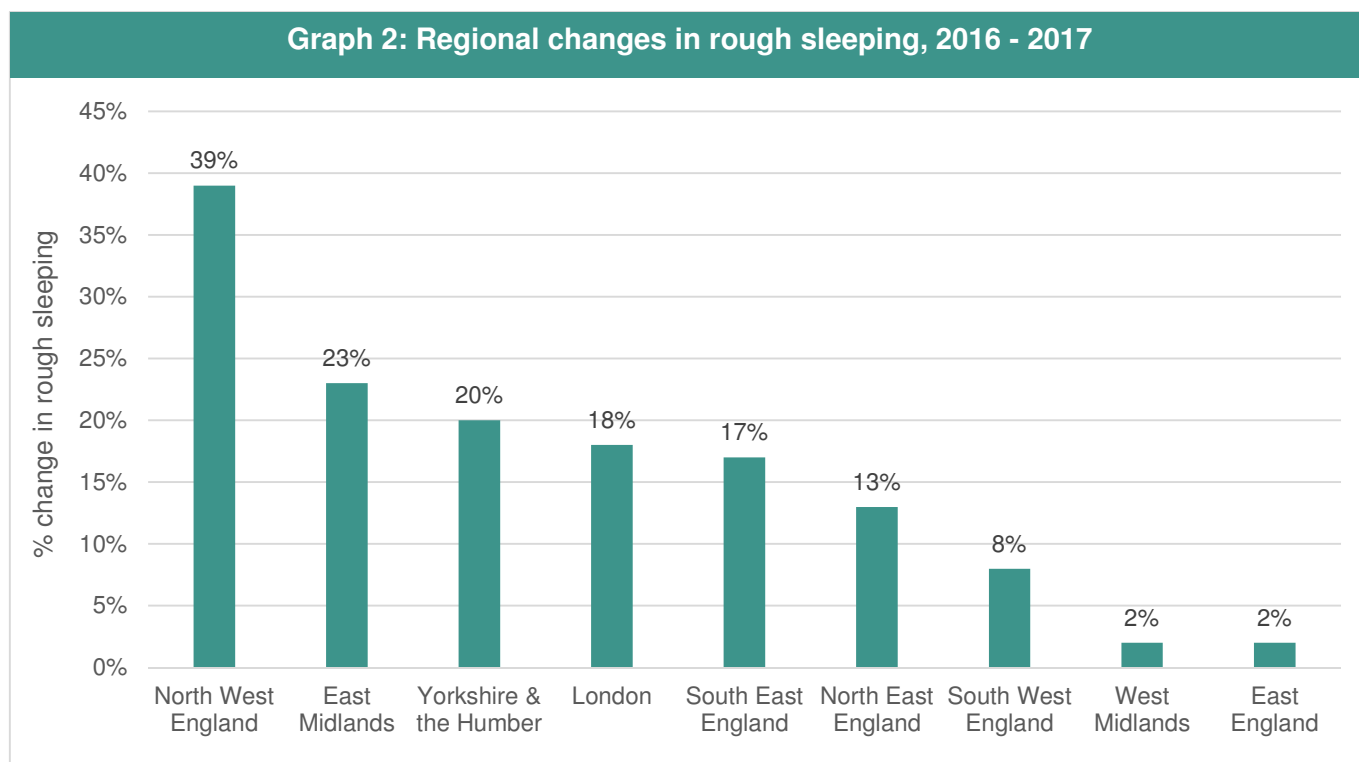
The number of people sleeping rough in England has increased by 73% in the last 3 years (Table 1). Since the current methodology for measuring rough sleeping began in 2010, an additional 2,983 people have been counted or estimated as sleeping rough in England on any given night. This represents an increase of 169% in the last 7 years.

Table 1: Changes in Rough sleeping 2010 – 2017

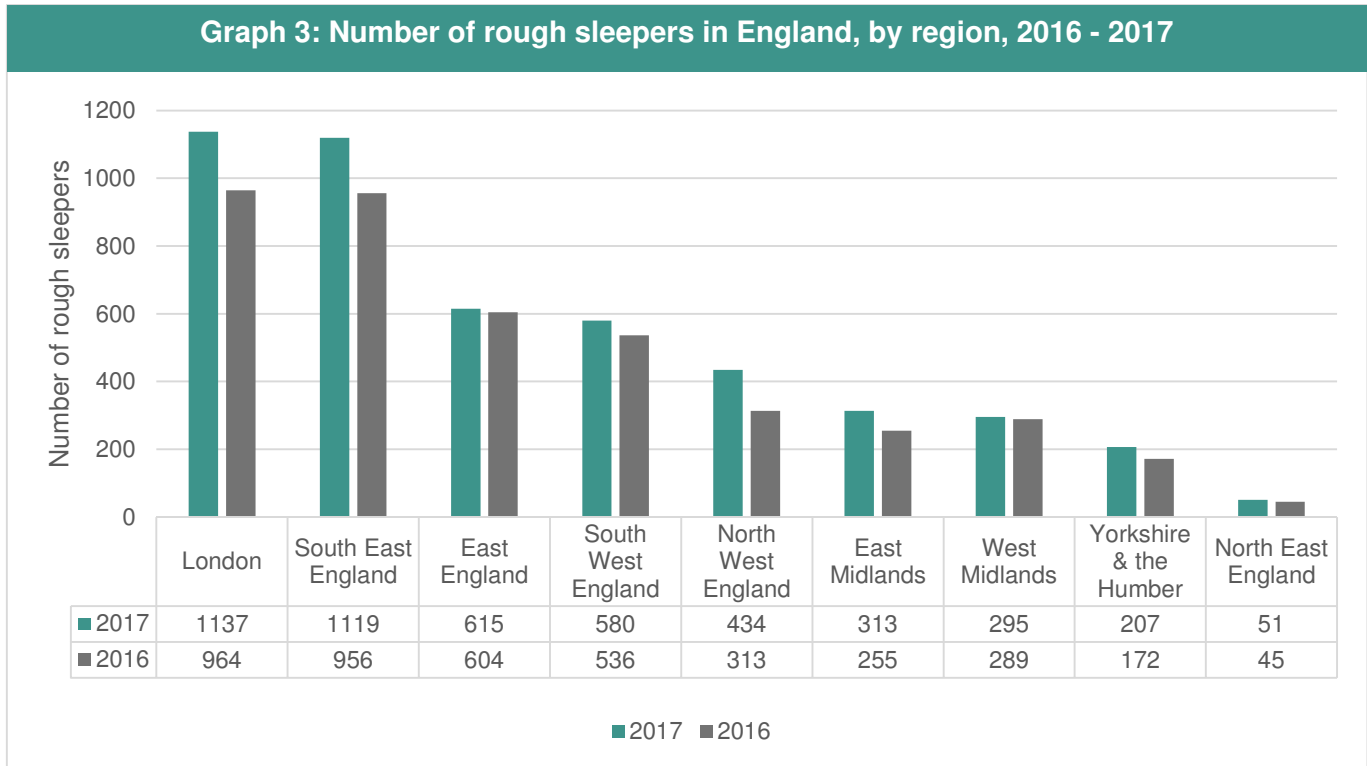
	2010 - 2017	2011 – 2017	2012 - 2017	2013 - 2017	2014 - 2017	2015 - 2017	2016 - 2017
Percentage change	+169%	+118%	+106%	+97%	+73%	+33%	+15%
Numerical change	+2983	+2570	+2442	+2337	+2007	+1182	+617

Rough sleeping by region

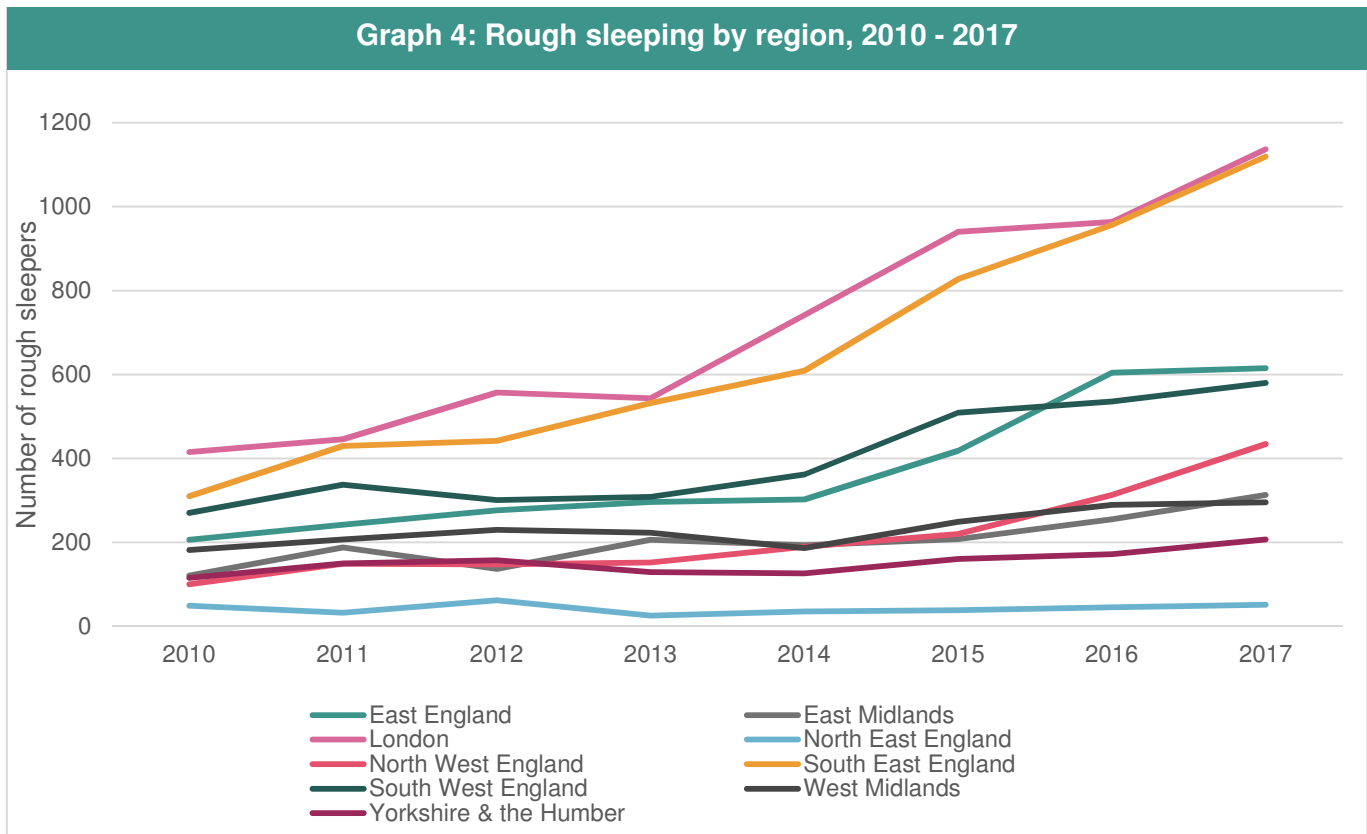
In 2017, all regions in England reported an increase in rough sleeping (Graph 2). There was a significant increase in the North West of England (+39%), where a total of 434 people were estimated or counted as sleeping rough on any given night.



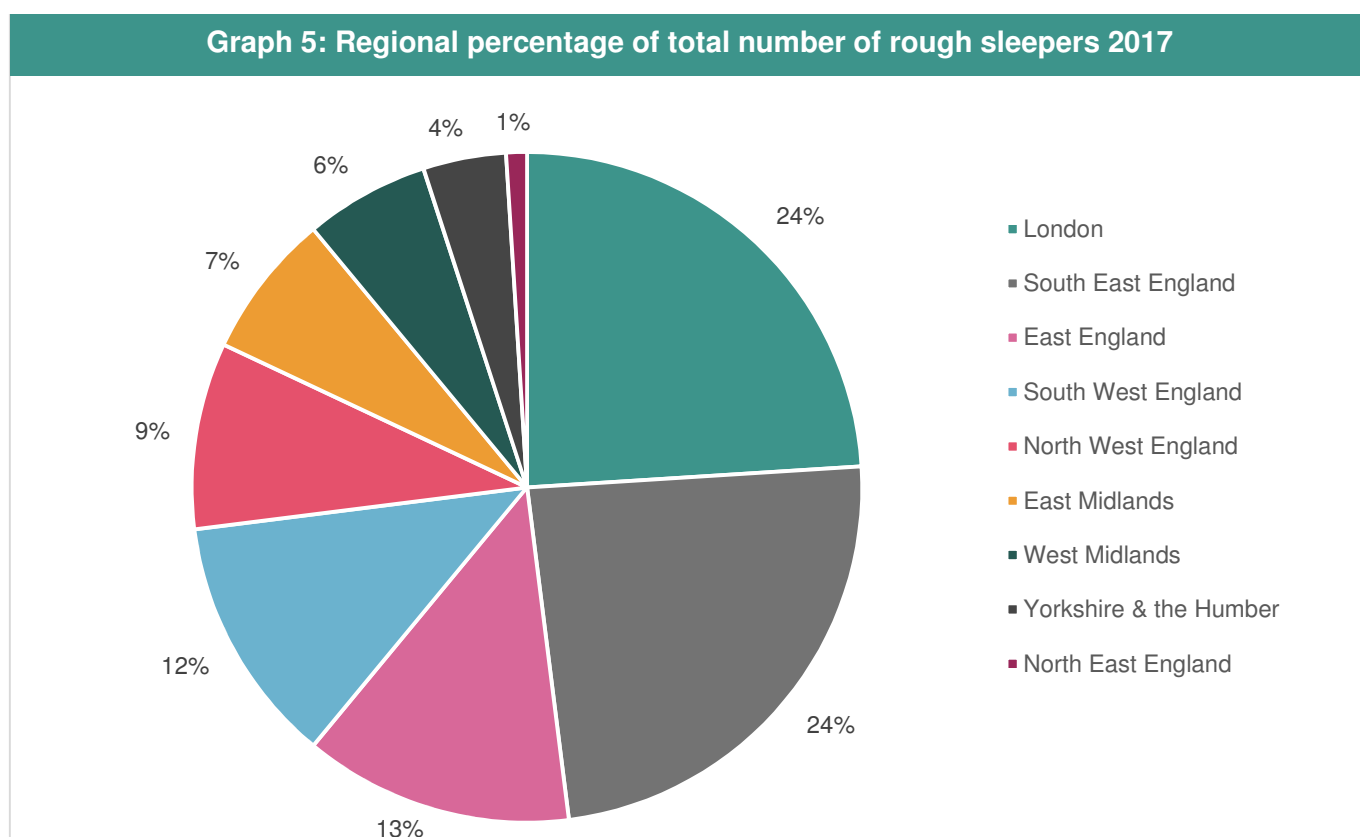
London continues to be the region with the highest number of rough sleepers, with local authorities reporting that a total of 1,137 people sleep rough on any given night (Graph 3). In 2017, The South East of England also reported very high levels of rough sleeping (1,119 people). The North East of England had the lowest number of estimated or reported rough sleepers.



The increase in rough sleeping in England over the past 7 years has varied geographically. The South East of England has reported a 261% increase in levels of rough sleeping since 2010 (Graph 4). In the past 3 years, particularly sharp increases have also been reported in the North West (+130%) and in the East of England (104%).



London and the South East of England both account for 24% of the total number of rough sleepers in England (Graph 5). The North East continues to have the lowest proportion of people sleeping rough (1%).



Rough sleeping by local authority

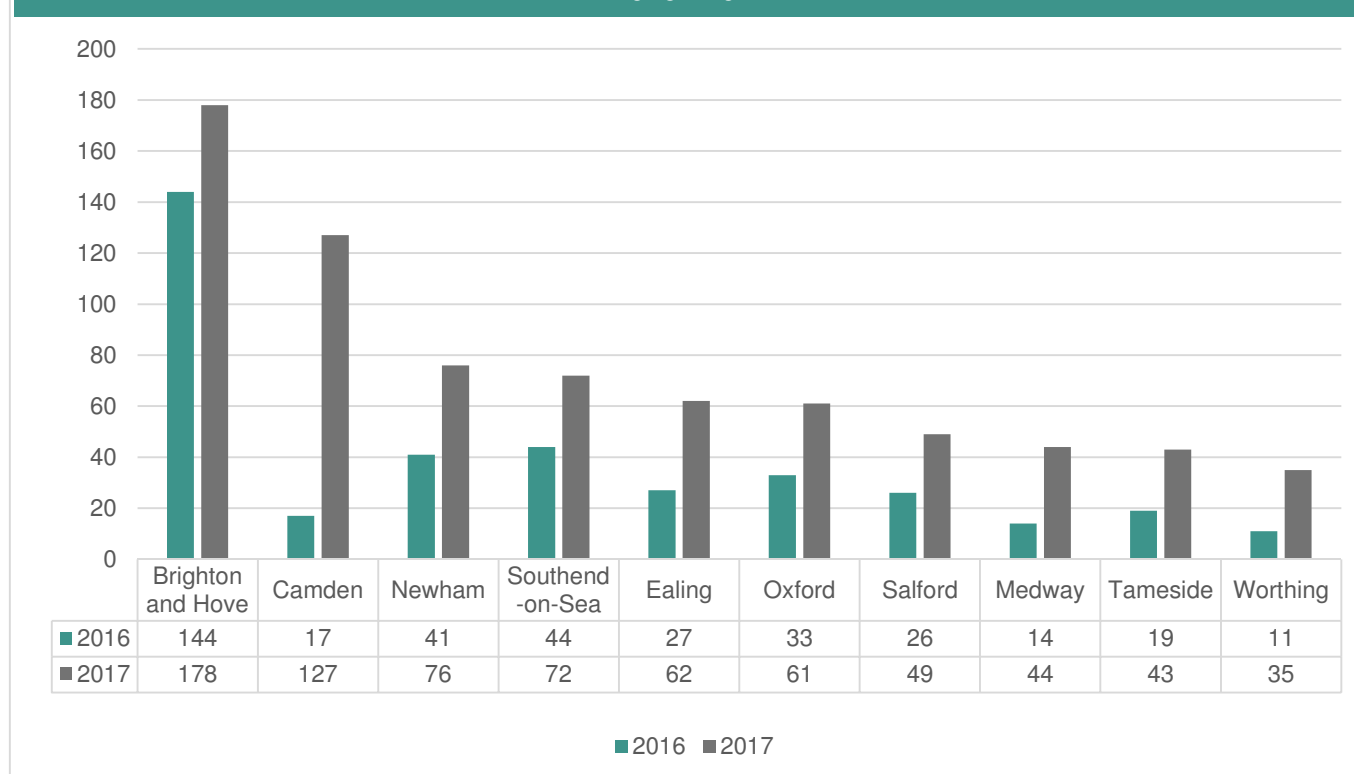
- Despite reporting a decrease of 17%, Westminster remains the local authority with the highest number of rough sleepers (260) (Table 2).
- Cornwall is the only other local authority in the top ten to report a reduction in the number of rough sleepers (-31%).
- Camden, Newham and Southend-on-Sea, reported large increases in the number of rough sleepers (table 2). These local authorities were not in the top ten in 2016.
- Birmingham, Redbridge and Croydon are no longer in the top ten. Birmingham reported a 4% increase and Redbridge an 8% increase total number of rough sleepers. Croydon reported a reduction of 54%.

Table 2: Top 10 local authorities with highest number of rough sleepers, 2016 – 2017

Local Authority	Region	2016	2017	Change from 2016	% change on 2016
1. Westminster	London	260	217	-43	-17%
2. Brighton and Hove	South East	144	178	34	24%
3. Camden	London	17	127	110	647%
4. Manchester	North West	78	94	16	21%
5. Luton	East	76	87	11	14%
6. Bristol, City of	South West	74	86	12	16%
7. Bedford	East	59	76	17	29%
8. Newham	London	41	76	35	85%
9. Southend-on-Sea	East	44	72	28	64%
10. Cornwall	South West	99	68	-31	-31%

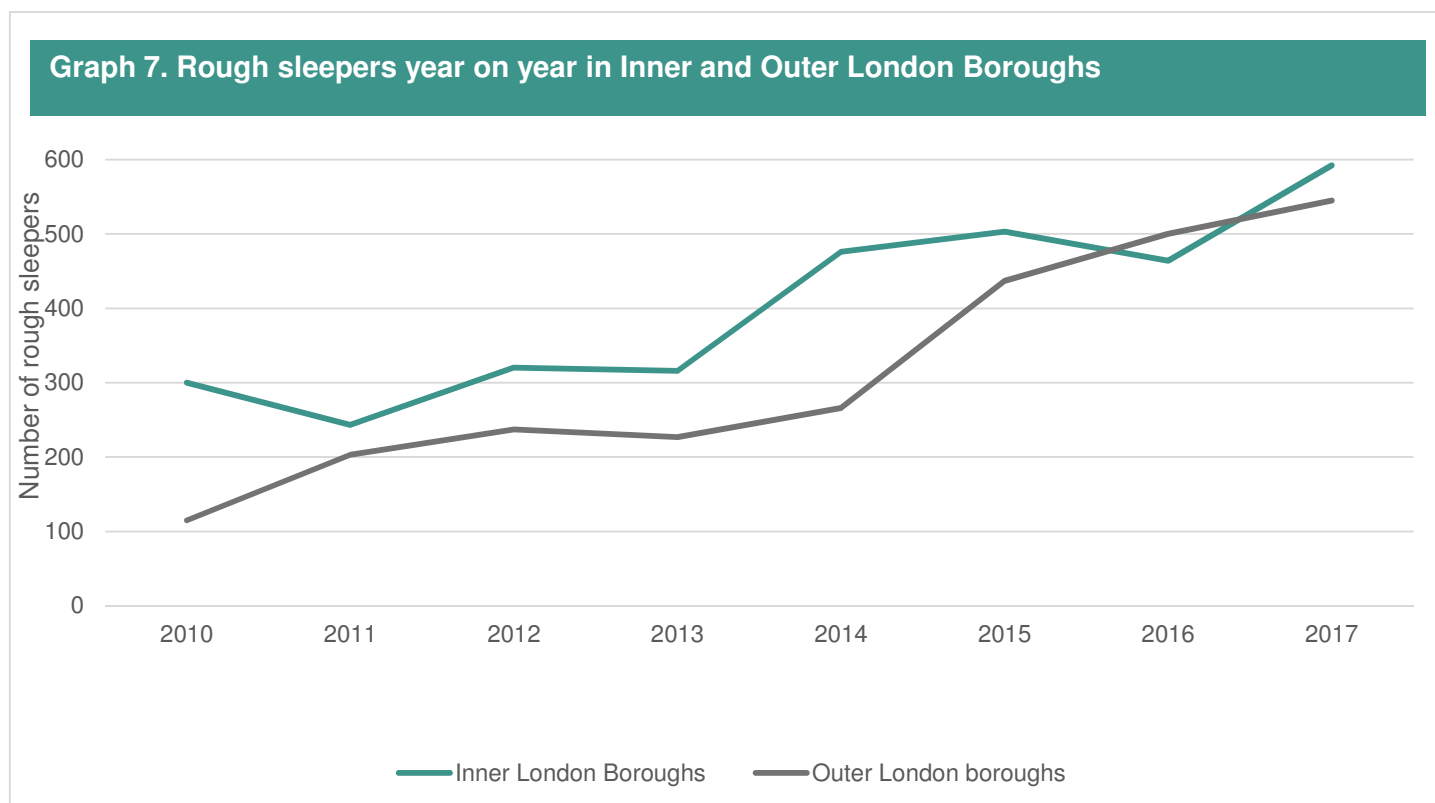
Camden reported the largest increase in the total number of rough sleepers (+110) (Graph 6). Local authorities also reporting large percentage increases includes Worthing (+218%) and Medway (+214%).

Graph 6: Top 10 local authorities with largest increase in the number of rough sleepers, 2016 - 2017



Rough sleeping in London

- Numbers of rough sleepers have increased year on year in both Inner and Outer London Boroughs since 2010.
- Within this overall trend, most boroughs have seen increases in numbers since 2016, especially in Camden, Newham and Ealing.
- A few boroughs have seen decreases since 2017, especially City of London, Westminster and Croydon.



Inner London Boroughs

- A total of 592 people were counted or estimated to be sleeping rough in the Inner London Boroughs, representing 12% of the total figure of 4,751.
- Westminster is the local authority with the highest number of rough sleepers, despite reporting the most significant decrease in the number of rough sleepers (-43).
- Camden also has high numbers of people sleeping rough and reported the largest increase in number of people sleeping rough.

Table 3: Inner London boroughs by number of rough sleepers, 2017

Local Authority	2016	2017	Change on 2016	% change on 2016
Westminster	260	217	- 43	-17%
Camden	17	127	110	647%
Southwark	32	44	12	38%
City of London	50	36	- 14	-28%
Lambeth	17	34	17	100%
Islington	11	27	16	145%
Lewisham	16	22	6	38%
Tower Hamlets	11	21	10	91%
Kensington and Chelsea	14	20	6	43%
Hackney	17	18	1	6%
Wandsworth	5	13	8	160%
Greenwich	8	8	0	0%
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	5	- 1	-17%
Total (Inner London)	464	592	128	28%

Outer London Boroughs

- A total of 545 people were counted or estimated to be sleeping rough in the Inner London Boroughs, representing 11% of the total figure of 4,751.
- Newham is the local authority with the highest number of rough sleepers.
- Redbridge, Ealing and Haringey also have high numbers of people sleeping rough.
- Ealing and Newham reported the largest increases in number of people sleeping rough (35 each).
- Croydon reported the most significant decrease in the number of rough sleepers (-37).

Table 4: Outer London boroughs by number of rough sleepers, 2017

Local Authority	2016	2017	Change on 2016	% change on 2016
Newham	41	76	35	85%
Redbridge	60	65	5	8%
Ealing	27	62	35	130%
Waltham Forest	47	44	-3	-6%
Haringey	29	43	14	48%
Hillingdon	28	36	8	29%
Croydon	68	31	-37	-54%
Brent	24	29	5	21%
Kingston upon Thames	23	27	4	17%
Havering	24	22	-2	-8%
Hounslow	34	22	-12	-35%
Barnet	22	21	-1	-5%
Richmond upon Thames	19	19	0	0%
Bexley	11	16	5	45%
Harrow	10	10	0	0%
Enfield	6	9	3	50%
Bromley	3	5	2	67%
Merton	11	5	-6	-55%
Sutton	8	3	-5	-63%
Barking and Dagenham	5	0	-5	-100%
Total (Outer London)	500	545	45	9%

Demographics (gender)

- Of the 4,751 individuals counted or estimated to be sleeping rough in England in 2017, a total of 3,965 were male, 653 were female and 133 were gender unknown.
- 14% of total number of rough sleepers were women.
- South East England reported the largest number of women sleeping rough (183) (Graph 7).
- Other regions that have high numbers of women sleeping rough includes London (133) and East England (97).
- Camden is the local authority with the largest number of women sleeping rough (Table 3).

Graph 8: Rough sleeper gender demographics 2017, by region

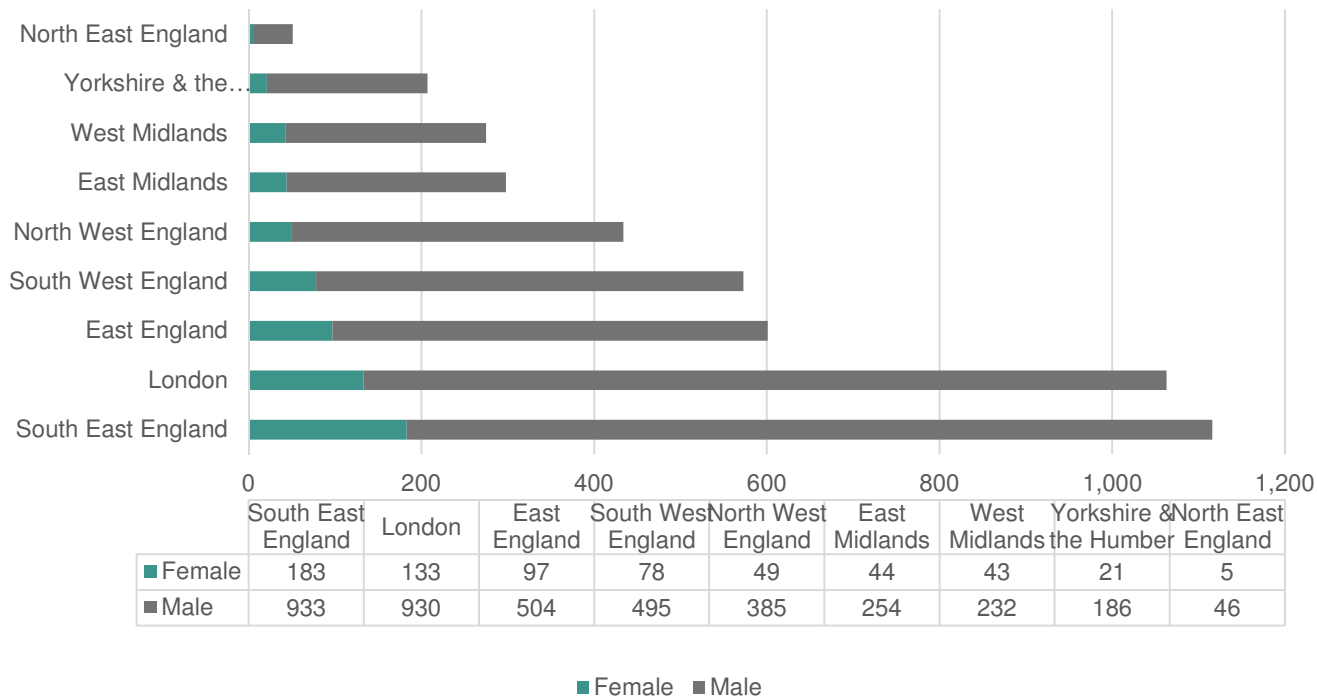


Table 5: Top 10 local authorities with highest number of female rough sleepers, 2017

Local Authority	Region	No of female rough sleepers
1. Camden	London	29
2. Brighton and Hove	South East	19
3. Bristol, City of	South West	18
4. Manchester	North West	14
5. Birmingham	West Midlands	13
6. Southend-on-Sea	East	12
7. Bedford	East	11
8. Luton	East	11
9. Medway	South East	11
10. Thanet	South East	11



What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless or who live with multiple and complex support needs. We work to improve services and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

**Let's end
homelessness
together**

Homeless Link
Minories House, 2-5 Minories
London EC3N 1BJ

020 7840 4430

www.homeless.org.uk

Twitter: @Homelesslink

Facebook: www.facebook.com/homelesslink

© Homeless Link 2017. All rights reserved.
Homeless Link is a charity no. 1089173 and
a company no. 04313826.