



Rough sleeping estimates 2021

Glossary of terms



WHO	
Counters	People who take part in count-based estimate or spotlight counts on the ‘typical’ night. They can be volunteers from the Local Authority staff team (in return for time off in lieu or overtime), volunteers from the local statutory and voluntary sectors or faith and community groups, e.g. police, park rangers, day centre staff, street pastors and advice workers.
Independent partner	Someone who is not commissioned or funded by the local authority, such as community groups, faith groups, soup kitchens, volunteers from the public.
Local authority lead	The lead person appointed by a Local Authority, responsible for overseeing the Rough Sleeping Snapshot Estimate for their LA area and liaising with Homeless Link’s Rough Sleeping Snapshot Project Coordinator for support and to arrange verification. They also ensure the data is submitted accurately to DELTA.
Local partner agencies	<p>The agencies you would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consult about what approach to take Involve in gathering intelligence via your chosen snapshot estimate approach. <p>For example: outreach teams, advice agencies, hostels, day centres, night shelters, housing department, social services, youth workers, probation, police, community safety teams, health and mental health services, housing associations, park rangers, faith groups, soup runs, street pastors, refuse collectors, town centre, local retail security, management, street wardens.</p>



Rough Sleeping Snapshot Project Coordinator	Based at Homeless Link, they coordinate delivery and verification of the rough sleeping snapshot estimate for all Local Authority areas in England.
Snapshot coordinator	The person to whom responsibility is delegated by the Local Authority Lead for organising and/or carrying out the activities involved a count-based estimate, evidence-based estimate meeting or evidence-based estimate meeting including a spotlight count.
Verifier	An individual who is trained by Homeless Link to complete the snapshot estimate verification process. Homeless Link allocates a verifier to all local authority areas.

WHAT	
Bash / Bender	A makeshift shelter structure, often made from tarpaulin or wood.
Evidence of rough sleeping	Applies to evidence-based estimates and evidence-based estimates including a spotlight count. Information provided by partner agencies on individuals they have evidence to suggest was sleeping rough on the chosen 'typical' night. This could include: individuals seen bedded down by the agency, individuals reportedly seen bedded down by another partner agency, individuals known to the agency who it is clear do not have accommodation that they can occupy.



Rough sleeping

People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or ‘bashes’).

HOW

Certification

The process through which the Homeless Link Rough Sleeping Snapshot Coordinator ensured that the figures entered by the Local Authority Lead into DELTA match the figures verified by the Homeless Link Verifier during the verification process.

Data sharing protocol

A data sharing protocol allows agencies to share accurate basic information about an individual’s situation on a particular night, in a safe and lawful way.

DELTA

MHCLG online system. Local authorities submit their snapshot estimate and demographic information to this system.

Demographics

The basic demographic information, included in the Rough sleeping snapshot since 2016, about those people found sleeping rough. It includes age, gender and nationality.



Count-based estimate	A full physical count of the number of people seen sleeping rough in the local authority on a ‘typical’ night – a single date chosen by the local authority between 1 October and 30 November.
Estimate meeting	A meeting held with different partner agencies one or more days after the chosen ‘typical’ night. The purpose is to collate the evidence of rough sleeping – which may include people in hidden rough sleeping sites – discuss any potential duplicates or misinformation and agree an estimate of everyone who was sleeping rough on the ‘typical’ night. The meeting must include at least one independent partner.
Evidence-based estimate meeting	An evidence-based assessment by local agencies, leading to a single snapshot figure that represents the number of people thought to be sleeping rough in the local authority on a ‘typical’ night – a single date chosen by the local authority between 1 October and 30 November.
Evidence-based estimate meeting including a spotlight count	The same as an evidence-based estimate meeting, but with one of the evidence sources also including a street count. This might not be as extensive a count as the count-based estimate but has taken place after midnight on the ‘typical’ night.
Night of X into the morning of X	Used to designate the chosen ‘typical’ night – e.g. the night of 1 November into the morning of 2 November. Here the full count or snapshot count would start after midnight on 2 November.
Snapshot	A record of only those people seen, or thought to be sleeping rough on a single ‘typical’ night.



‘Typical’ night	A single chosen night between 1 October and 30 November. Anyone believed to be rough sleeping on that night will be counted in the estimate.
Verification	The process through which the verifier allocated by Homeless Link ensures that the correct processes have been followed and the snapshot estimate figures are accurate. Verification method is determined by the snapshot estimate approach used.
In-person verification	All count-based estimates and a percentage of evidence-based estimate meeting are verified in-person by a Homeless Link Verifier.
Further verification	The additional verification that takes place where a Local Authority has had to change their previously agreed snapshot estimate approach at the last minute, due to unforeseen circumstances such as a severe weather event or new Covid-19 restrictions.
Verification form	The form completed by the Homeless Link Verifier during the snapshot estimate verification process.



RELATED INITIATIVES	
Everyone In	The campaign to house rough sleepers and other vulnerable people in safe, suitable accommodation during the Covid 19 pandemic
Monthly rough sleeping snapshot estimates	Collected by all Local Authorities and submitted via the Rough Sleeping Monthly Survey on DELTA. They form part of the monthly management information provided to MHCLG about the support being provided for people sleeping rough and those at risk of sleeping rough from all Local Authorities across England. The approaches used are similar to the national rough sleeping snapshot estimate, but the data are not subject to the verification process of the annual statistics.
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	Government funding to Local Authorities which aims to ensure that as few people as possible return to the streets, including providing 3,300 new long term homes this year for rough sleepers.
Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI)	Funds local authorities to provide specialist services to help the most vulnerable people in society off the streets and into secure accommodation.
Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP)	Emergency accommodation provided by Local Authorities and open for short periods when severe weather, such as sub-zero temperatures, is forecast.





What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services, representing over 900 organisations across England. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure that everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

Let's end homelessness together

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