

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24

## Homelessness Prevention Services

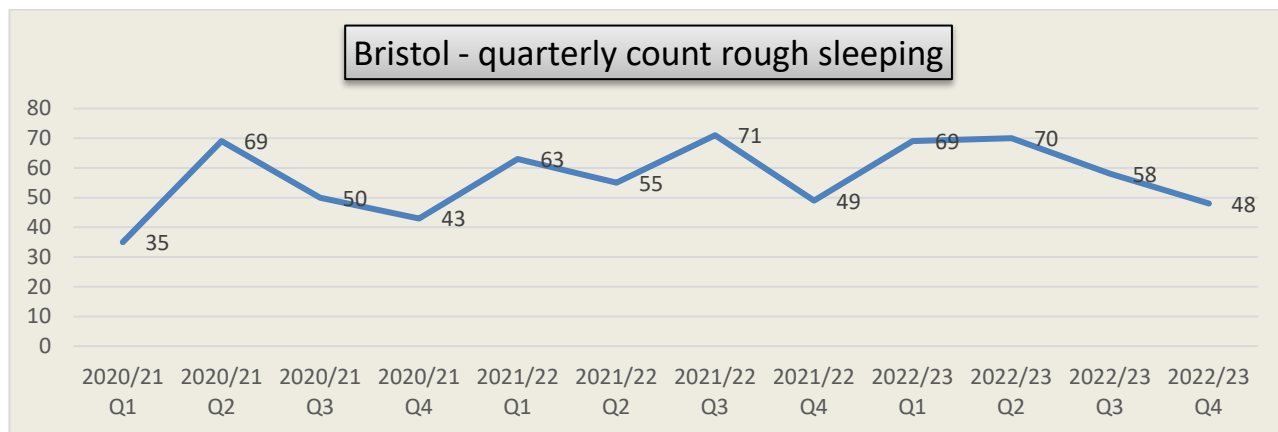
### Summary points

- Homelessness is associated with severe poverty and adverse health whether this is reflected in high visibility rough sleeping or those placed in Emergency Temporary Accommodation.
- Bristol's figure (per thousand households) for those households currently placed in temporary accommodation is the third highest in the core cities, indicating the pressure on providing suitable and affordable move on accommodation for homeless households.
- Bristol reported more than ten times as many households in Emergency Temporary Accommodation than to our West of England (WECA) partners
- Bristol reported 58 street homeless to the at the 2022 (Autumn) National Rough Sleeper Street count, 10 fewer than the number reported to the same count in 2021.
- In 2022 the most common reasons given for a homelessness presentation were due to 'family or friends no longer being able to accommodate' and 'loss of Assured Shorthold Tenancy'. A reflection of post covid household pressures and a lack of available affordable move-on accommodation in the city.
- The number of Relief duties accepted has remained very high into 2023. This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of homelessness duties accepted into the homeless pathway.
- We have also seen a continuation of the trend showing an increase in the reason given for homelessness as domestic violence

### Homelessness Findings

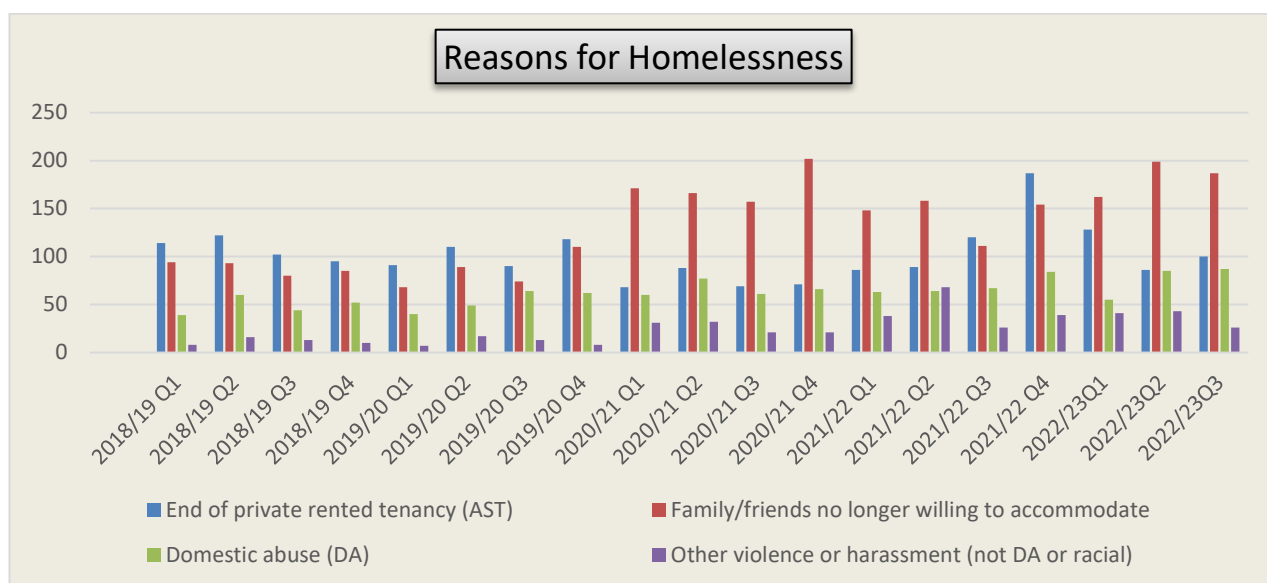
Homelessness is associated with severe poverty and adverse health, education and social outcomes and this came into focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. Households who have become homeless through no fault of their own and are in priority need (such as street homeless, hidden homeless, families, victims of domestic abuse and people with significant health conditions) are some of the most vulnerable and needy members of the community. Although there are many different types of homeless households, rough sleeping is the most visible manifestation of homelessness. Many people who sleep rough will suffer from complex and multiple health problems, such as mental health problems and addiction and they are also in greater danger of violence than in the general population. Other health impacts associated with rough sleeping include higher rates of communicable diseases such as TB, HIV and hepatitis.

### Numbers reported as sleeping rough



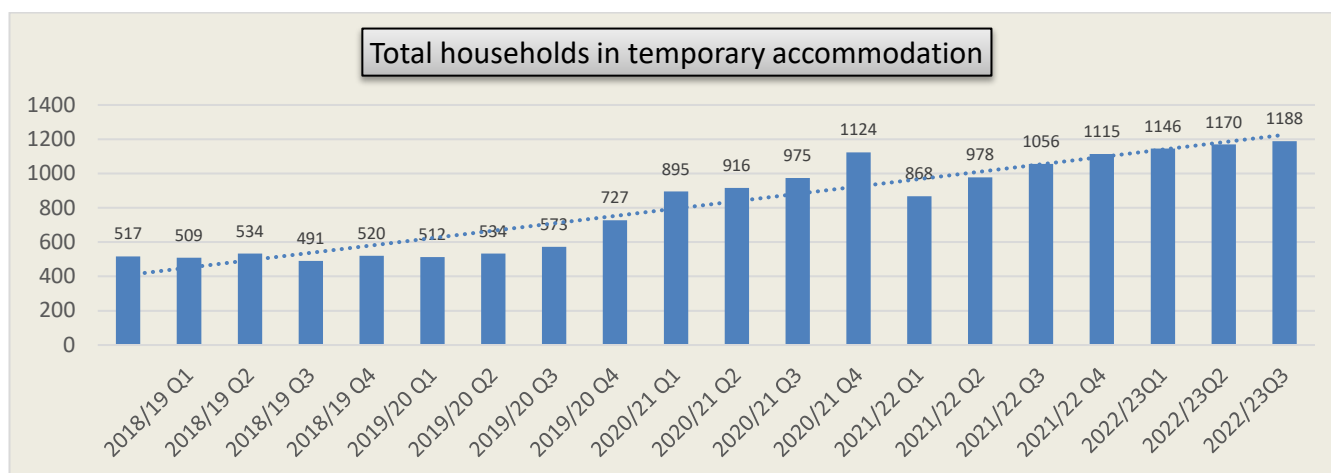
People who end up sleeping rough often experience barriers in accessing both health and care services and experience poor health outcomes in comparison to the rest of society. The average age of death of men is 47 years old and even lower for homeless women at 43. The monthly rough sleeper hotspot returns in Bristol have remained static since 2021. The numbers correlate with the impact of several initiatives associated with the National Rough Sleeping Strategy and with the increase in single adults being placed in Temporary Accommodation (below).

### Reasons given for homelessness



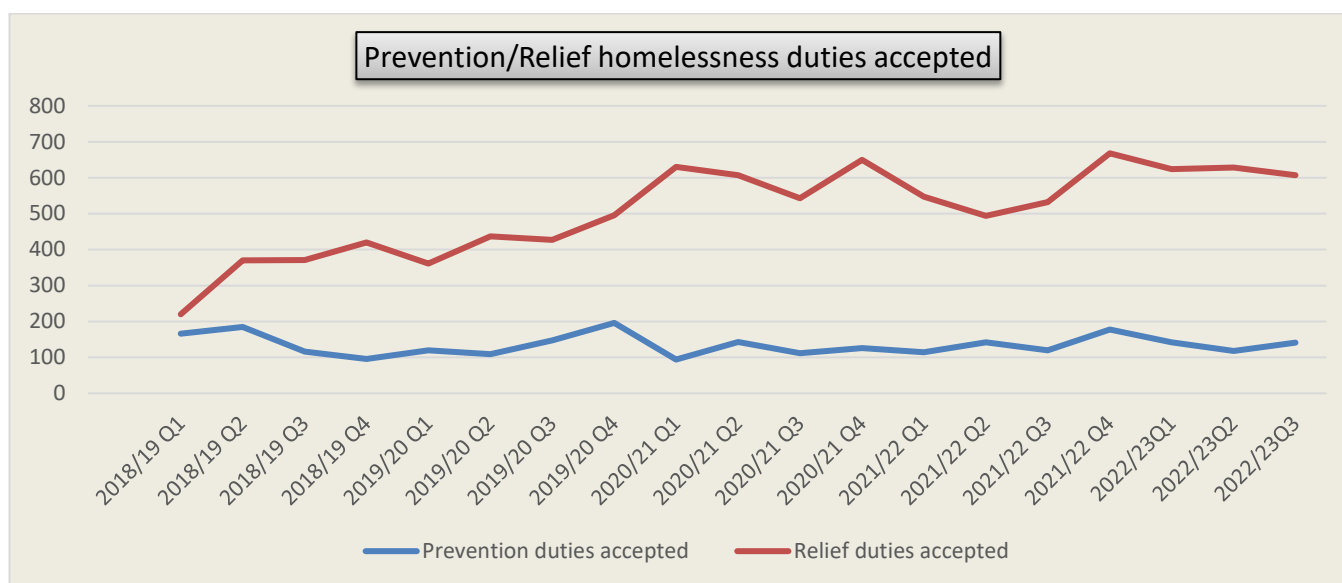
Family and friends no longer willing to accommodate remains the primary reason for presenting to homelessness services in the city. Loss of Assured Shorthold Tenancy remains significant as does domestic abuse and other violence. Domestic Abuse continues to incrementally rise as a reason for homelessness.

### Households in Temporary Accommodation



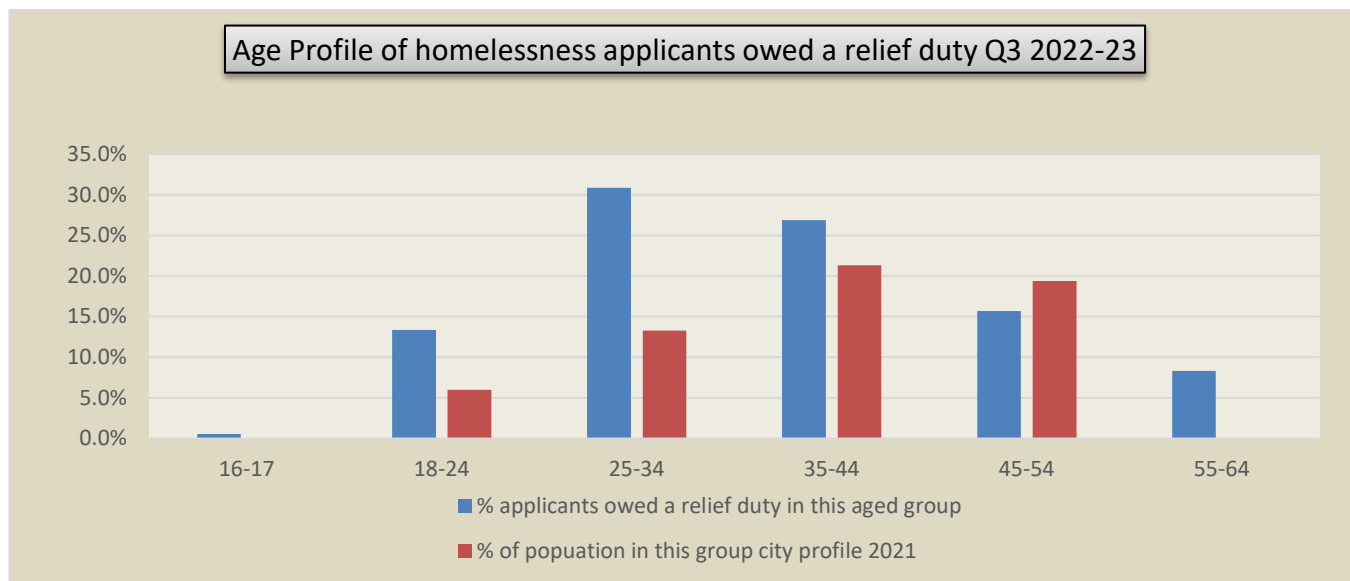
Temporary Accommodation is a key indicator of homelessness and poor housing supply. The number of households placed in temporary accommodation in Bristol has doubled since 2020 and without the availability of affordable move-on accommodation there are no signs of it returning to pre-pandemic levels. Evidence indicates long term placement in temporary accommodation particularly for children and families has adverse health, education and social outcomes.

### Homelessness Prevention and Relief duties



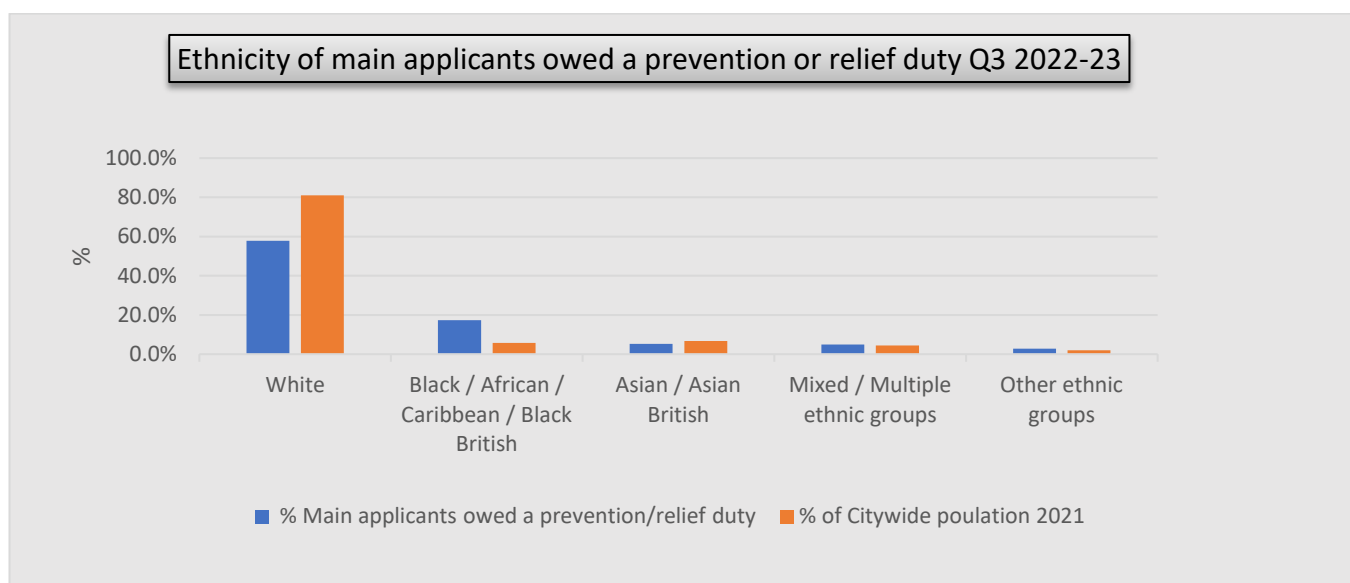
When a relief duty is accepted, this will add to pressure on homelessness prevention services, particularly to the numbers placed in Temporary Accommodation. The increase in quarterly relief duties combined with static homelessness prevention duties has contributed to a financial burden placed on services associated with the homelessness pathway.

**Equalities data:**



Applicants owed a homelessness relief duty by the city in the 18-24 and 25-34 age groups are significantly overrepresented compared with their overall profile for the population of the city.

This reflects the housing pressures placed on younger age groups in the city due to affordability and availability.



Main applicants owed a prevention or relief duty from Black African/Caribbean are overrepresented when compared to city population profiles. Whereas white applicants are underrepresented.

This reflects a continued manifestation of citywide health, education and social inequality between different ethnic groups.

**Further data / links / consultations:**

- [Bristol CC – Reducing Rough Sleeping Commissioning Plan](#)
- [Ending Rough Sleeping for Good](#) – DLUHC strategy
- [Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant](#) – DLUCH
- [Bristol Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy](#)
- National Rough Sleeping Strategy [Rough Sleeping Strategy August 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Data dashboard](#) – DLUHC

**Covid-19 impact:**

The pandemic has had a major impact on Homelessness Prevention Services in the city. It exposed the homeless community to additional danger. This new community of younger, single hidden homeless and sofa surfers had previously gone largely unnoticed. This community now remains part of the homelessness pathway contributing to an increase in the numbers of households in Temporary Accommodation reported as 1188 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. Recovery is slow and a longer-term resource and financial impact on services has emerged where increased support will be required to move on this community to more sustainable long-term affordable accommodation.

**Date updated:** May 2023

**Next update due:** May 2024

**Contact details:** Graham Jones