

World
Homelessness
Day
10th October
2025



What is homelessness?

Homelessness is scary and very poorly understood. We tend to think of rough sleepers when we hear the term, but it encompasses more than that - you can be classed as homeless even if you have a roof over your head

You may not have any rights to stay where you live, such as a squat

You might be temporarily staying with friends or family (which we tend to call sofa surfing) or staying in a hostel or night shelter

You could be considered homeless if you live in very overcrowded conditions, are in poor conditions that affect your health, or you're at risk of violence or abuse in your home

Your home is unsuitable due to severe overcrowding or other reasons

Why do people become homeless?



You could become homeless for many different reasons including

- *Being evicted because of rent arrears caused by money problems*
- *Illegal eviction or harassment by a landlord*
- *The breakdown of your relationship with your partner, parents or family*
- *Having to leave your home because of domestic violence or abuse*
- *A disaster such as a fire or flooding*

4 We can all be very judgemental and simplistic about how we perceive homelessness, but that's more generalisation than the reality

People tend to think that the homeless must be

- ← Tramps
- ← Drunks
- ← Addicts
- ← Criminals

The actual picture is that many homeless fall into several categories

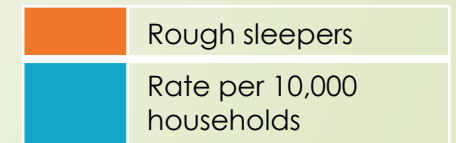
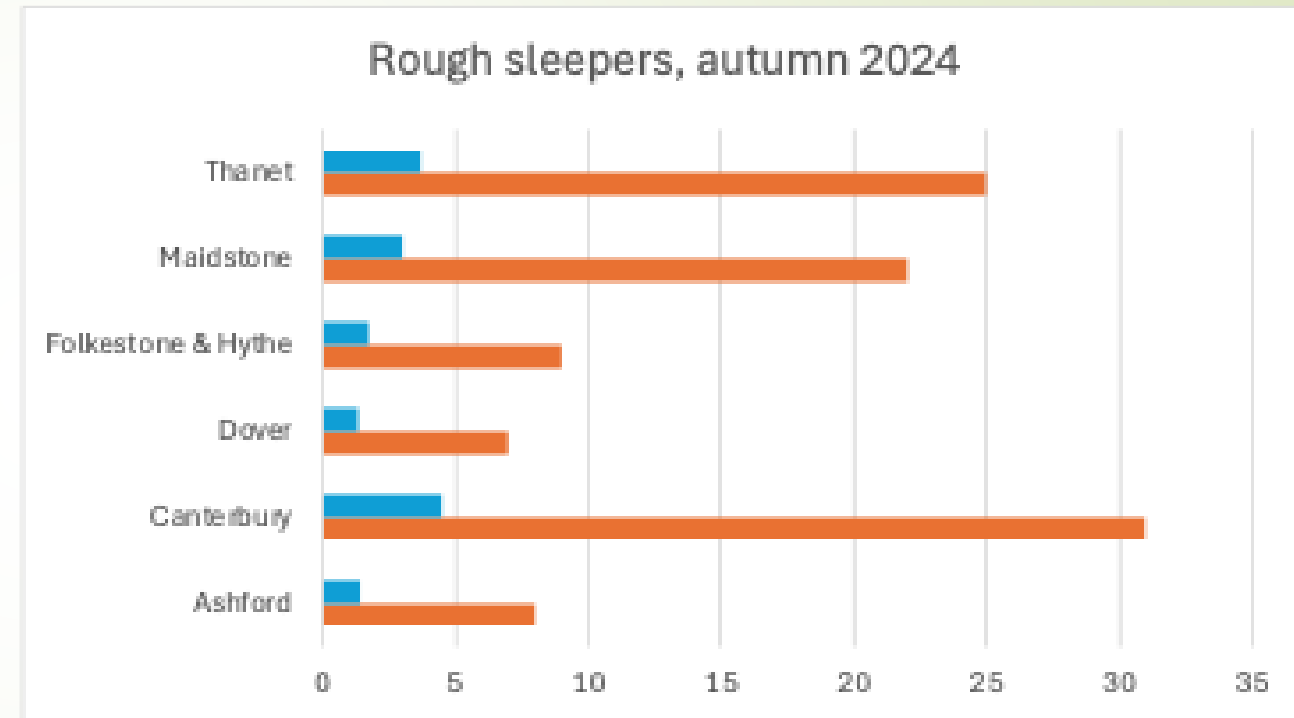
- Ex-military 3%
- Local Authority Care Leavers 8%
- Aged 16 – 25 17%
- Released from prison 18%
- Drug and Alcohol addiction 39%
- Mental health difficulties 70%

Compared to the general public, people sleeping rough...

- Die 30 years younger on average
 - Homeless men die at 47 years of age and homeless women at 43 years of age
- Are almost 17 times more likely to be a victim of violence
- Are usually not registered with a GP
- Have mental health needs (70%)
- Spend the entire day alone (38%)

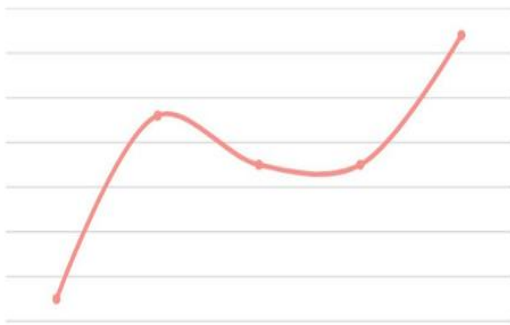
How many rough sleepers are there in England?

- The number of people estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in autumn 2024 was 4,667
 - This was a rise of 20% on 2023
 - 45% were in London and the South East
 - There were 139 rough sleepers in Kent, and 7 in Dover



Sources: [kent.gov.uk](https://www.kent.gov.uk), [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

Rough sleeping facts



THE 2024/25 TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ROUGH SLEEPING IS **63% HIGHER** THAN THE TOTAL OF 8,096 PEOPLE SEEN ROUGH SLEEPING TEN YEARS AGO, IN 2015/16.

4,796

ESTIMATED GUESTS ACCESSED A BED IN THE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER NETWORK DURING WINTER 2024-25

1 in 50

LONDONERS ARE ESTIMATED TO BE HOMELESS AND LIVING IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED BY THEIR LOCAL BOROUGH, THAT'S MORE THAN **183,000 PEOPLE**

Dover Outreach Centre

Established 2016

Victory House
Snargate Street,
Dover



DOC Daily Drop In:

Open weekdays between 9am and 11am

- Showers
- Laundry facilities
- Lockers
- Postal address
- Free use of a telephone and computers
- Benefits and housing advice
- Health services: Mental Health professional, GP, dentist
- Access to Resettlement Support Worker
- Signposting to other agencies



DOC 2024 Statistics



277 total Drop
In guests

- 172 UK Nationals
- 105 Foreign Nationals



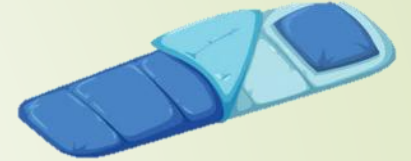
27 guests
per day



20,250
Teas/coffees



13,500
food



116 Sleeping
bags



2050 Showers
a year



24 guests
repatriated

- 17 UK
- 7 Overseas



10 Move on: from
accommodation

- 7 VH
- 1 OH
- 2 RQ



Move on: other

- 7 Prison
- 2 Deaths