

Operation of the homeless persons legislation in Scotland: 2007-08

INTRODUCTION

1. This Statistics publication provides information on applications to local authorities for assistance under the homeless persons legislation covering the period to 31 March 2008. It includes information on the characteristics of applicant households, local authority assessments and the action taken in respect of cases that were concluded. Snapshot data on households in temporary accommodation at 31 March are presented, together with data on the implementation of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2004.

2. This bulletin provides the first full year's analysis following revision of homelessness data collection which took effect from 1 April 2007. In particular the bulletin provides new analyses on the housing circumstances of homeless applicants in the period immediately before applying for assistance, provides more detail on support needs and on outcomes of applications. This bulletin provides summary tables and charts. More detailed reference tables have also been published on the Scottish Government website at [Housing and Regeneration - Publications](#)

Main points

3. The main points are:-

Applications and applicant households

- There were an estimated 56,609 applications to local authorities under the Homeless Persons legislation in 2007-08. This represents a decrease of 4.9% compared to the 59,550 applications during 2006-07 (Table 1 and Chart 1).
- The majority of households applying were single-person households (60%), mainly men. Single parents, predominantly women, accounted for the next largest group (24%) (Table 2 and Chart 2).
- The main reasons for applying as homeless were household disputes or relationship breakdown (27%) and being asked to leave their current accommodation (25%) (Table 5 and Chart 11).
- 42% of applicants in 2007-08 had been living with relatives or friends before applying, 35% had been living in accommodation which they either rented or owned, 3% had come from prison and 3% had come from supported accommodation. (Table 3).
- For those who had been living with family or friends the main contributing factors for loss of accommodation were external factors such as the landlord selling the property, harassment or antisocial behaviour by others, flood or fire – cited by 27%- and lack of support from family or friends – cited by 15%. (Table 4 and Chart 10)
- Of the 4,228 applications for homelessness assistance from owner occupiers, 26% cited financial difficulties/ debt or unemployment as contributing to their loss of accommodation while 22% cited external factors. (Table 4 and Chart 9)
- Just under a third (32%) of those who had been renting cited external factors as a contributing to their loss of accommodation while 15% cited financial difficulties/ debt or unemployment. (Table 4 and Chart 9)
- In 2007-08 some 6% of applicants – an average of 282 applicants per month – slept rough the night before applying for assistance. The proportion of applicants sleeping rough the night before applying varied from around 15% in Edinburgh and Aberdeen to below 1% in North Lanarkshire, West Lothian, Dundee, South Lanarkshire and Midlothian. (Chart 13).

- 36% of applications were from households on councils' waiting lists. This varied widely between councils from 70% in Aberdeenshire to around 10% in South Ayrshire. (Chart 12)
- The percentage of homeless applications identified as repeat applications (i.e. where a previous application from the household had been closed less than 12 months before the current application¹) has fallen from 9.2% in 2003-04 to 6.7% in 2007-08. (Chart 14)

Local authority assessment

- At the time of this analysis, of the 56,609 applications in 2007-08, 40,299 had been assessed as homeless 14,633 were either not homeless or lost contact and 1,677 had not yet been assessed. (Table 1)
- Of the 40,299 applications assessed as homeless, 32,111 (79.7%) were assessed as priority. (Table 1). This was a 3.0 percentage points increase over 2006-07, which in turn was a 1.2 percentage points increase over 2005-06. (Table 1 and Chart 3).
- The proportion of homeless households assessed as priority in 2007-08 varies widely between councils, from 96% in West Dunbartonshire to under 70% in Moray, Fife, Stirling, Aberdeen City, East Ayrshire, East Lothian and Shetland. (Chart 16)
- By 2007-08 single people aged between 25 and retirement were the largest priority group, their numbers having increased from a little over 5,000 in 2000-01 to over 9,000 in 2007-08. (Chart 15)
- In 2007-08, 34% of households were assessed as having one or more support needs. 12% of homeless applicants required support because of a mental health issue, 11% needed support on skills for independent living and 10% required support because of alcohol dependency. (Chart 17)
- In 2007-08 the most common reasons for a priority assessment were that the household had dependent children (39% of all priority assessments), a household member was vulnerable (16%), the applicant household was fleeing domestic violence or abuse (14%) or mental illness or personality disorder of a household member (12%). (Chart 18)

Action taken by local authorities

- There were 51,476 applications actioned by local authorities during 2007-08. Of these 10,835 were cases in which the application had been withdrawn or contact lost with the applicant before an assessment could be made and a further 7,209 were cases where contact was lost before the council discharged its duty.
- In 2007-08 17,447 households were offered a social rented tenancy of whom 15,598 (89%) took up the offer. Temporary accommodation was offered to 4,289 households of whom 59% took up the offer and a private rented tenancy was offered to 1,573 households of whom 99% took up the offer. (Chart 19)
- The most common actions taken by councils to try to prevent homelessness in the 6,383 households who were either threatened with homelessness² or were assessed as not homeless in the period were:-
 - assistance in finding alternative accommodation, provided to 28% of this group of households;
 - assessment of support needs, provided to 23% of this group;
 - independent financial, legal or housing advice, provided to 16%;
 - basic housing support to manage finances or living alone, provided to 12%;
 - assistance in dealing with landlord or mortgage provider, provided to 9%;
 - assistance in claiming benefits, provided to 8%
 - use of a rent deposit/ guarantee scheme, provided to 6%
 - services such as counselling, mediation and befriending, provided to 5%
 - involvement of a social work/ health/ community care service, provided to 4%.

¹ The household must have been assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness in both applications for the second application to be classed as a repeat application.

² The analysis excludes Dundee which could not provide the information for 2007-08.

- The number of homeless households securing a permanent let in social rented accommodation increased from a little under 12,000 in 2002-03 to reach around 17,500 in 2005-06 and 2006-07 falling to around 16,300 in 2007-08. The reduction between 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the number of homeless households securing social rented accommodation reflects a reduction in the total number of homeless households whose cases were resolved in 2007-08. (See table 7)

Households in temporary accommodation

- At 31 March 2008 there were 9,518 households in temporary accommodation who had been placed there under the Homeless Persons legislation. (Table 8)
- This represents an increase of 11% compared to the situation at 31 March 2007. However, the inclusion by Glasgow for the first time of 542 previously asylum seeker households assessed as homeless overstates the underlying rate of increase in numbers in temporary accommodation. Adjusting for this gives an underlying rate of increase of 4.7% between 2006-07 and 2007-08.
- At 31 March 2008 there were 3,986 households with children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation. (Table 8)
- At 31 March 2008, 64% of households in temporary accommodation were in local authority or housing association accommodation, with a further 12% in hostels and 17% in bed and breakfast accommodation (Table 9).
- Households with children tend on the whole to be provided with local authority or housing association accommodation (87%), with a minority (3%) being placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. (Table 9)
- At 31 March 2008, there were 118 households with children or pregnant women in bed and breakfast accommodation. This varied by local authority, with 18 local authorities having none or only one household with children in bed and breakfast and 4 local authorities having more than 10. (Table 10)
- Councils with the largest number of households with children or pregnant women in bed & breakfast accommodation were Perth & Kinross (22), Highland (14) Moray (13) and Midlothian (12). (Table 10)

Implementation of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order

- A total of 62 breaches of the Order were reported at 31 March 2008; an increase from 34 breaches reported at 31 March 2007. (Table 12)
- Councils with the largest number of households housed in breach of the order were Perth & Kinross (11 households), Midlothian (10 households), Moray and Highland (9 households) and Falkirk (5 households).
- The number of breaches of the Order represents 1.6% of households with children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation at that point.

Context

4. In interpreting the statistics and analyses in this release, it is important to bear in mind that the information is derived from councils' administration of homelessness legislation. Trends can be affected by legislative changes, changes in interpretation of legislation or guidance and by changes in local authority recording practice. Where these have been identified, these are highlighted in the description of the main trends.

5. In 2001, the Scottish Parliament passed legislation which placed additional duties on councils to provide a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance to all applicants assessed as homeless. In particular, from September 2002, councils have been required to provide temporary accommodation, advice and assistance to non-priority applicants who in the past would have received advice and assistance only. This has had a noticeable impact on applications, which has been reflected

in changing assessments and outcomes for homeless people. Some tables in this release therefore present time series data so that this impact can be tracked.

6. The Homelessness Etc (Scotland) Act 2003 aims to ensure that by 2012 everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless is entitled to settled accommodation. In the homelessness statistics we would generally expect to see progress towards this commitment reflected in increasing proportions of those applicants who are assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness as also in priority need, and reducing proportions assessed as non-priority.

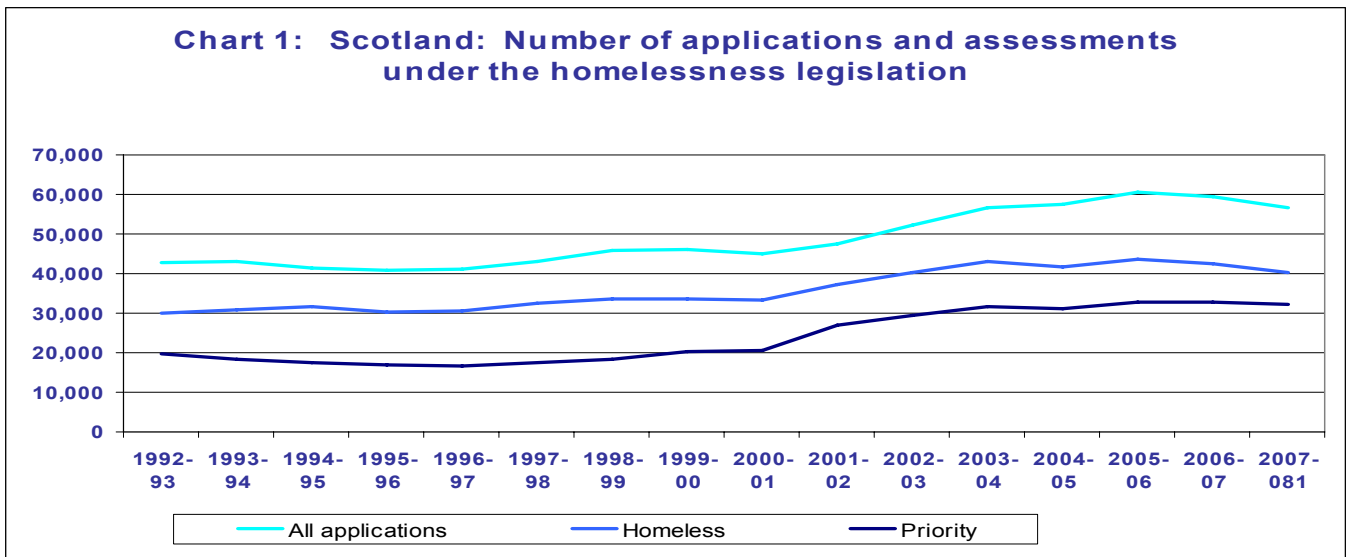
7. The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order came into force in December 2004. This Order requires councils to ensure that households with children or pregnant women are not placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation, unless exceptional circumstances apply. Changes in the data collection to monitor the implementation of the Order are described in the notes section before the tables.

MAIN NATIONAL TRENDS

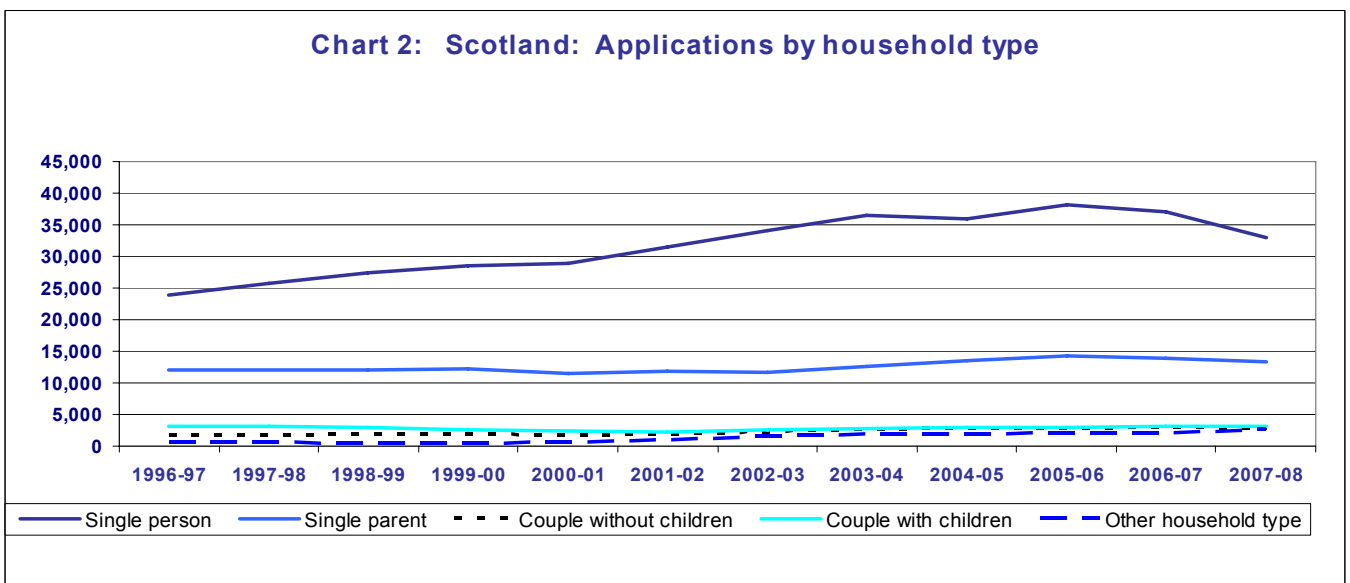
Applications

8. The number of applications to councils for assistance each year under the homelessness legislation, which had remained between 40,000 and 45,000 per year in the mid to late 1990s, increased rapidly from 2000-01 to a high point of about 60,500 in 2005-06. Changes in duties to provide temporary accommodation to all those assessed as homeless and the expectation that higher proportions of applicants are likely to be assessed as priority need in order to meet the 2012 commitment are likely to have encouraged applications from households who previously would have received advice and assistance only.

9. The most recent figures indicate that that, for Scotland as a whole, numbers applying for assistance, which levelled out in 2006-07, have begun to fall. The 56,609 applications in 2007-08 represent a drop of 4.9% over 2006-07 (Chart 1).

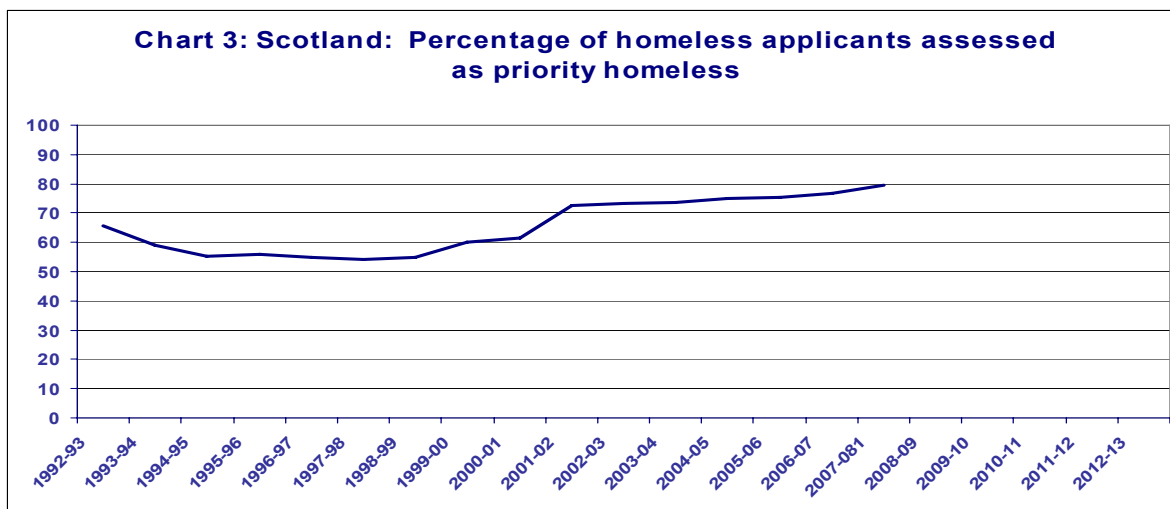


10. In recent years, the observed increases in levels of applications have primarily been due to the increase in the numbers of single-person households applying, together with a more modest increase in applications from single parents (Chart 2). Legislative change is likely to have been an important driver of this increase as single applicants have benefited most from the changes. However, some of the increase may also reflect wider social change with increasing proportions of young people living independently as well as an increase in the rate of household dissolution following breakdown of relationships. The reduction in applications since 2005-06 is also mainly due to a reduction in applications by single person households.



Assessments

11. Of the 56,609 applications in 2007-08 40,299 were assessed as homeless or potentially homeless, 32,111 were assessed as priority and 1,677 had yet to be assessed at the time of the analysis. (Chart 1 and Table 1). Those with a priority assessment represent 79.7% of those assessed as homeless. This is a 3.0 percentage points increase over 2006-07 which in turn was a 1.2 percentage points increase over 2005-06. (chart 1 and table 3). The proportion of homeless households assessed as priority measures progress against national indicator 28 – “All unintentionally homeless households will be entitled to settled accommodation by 2012”³.

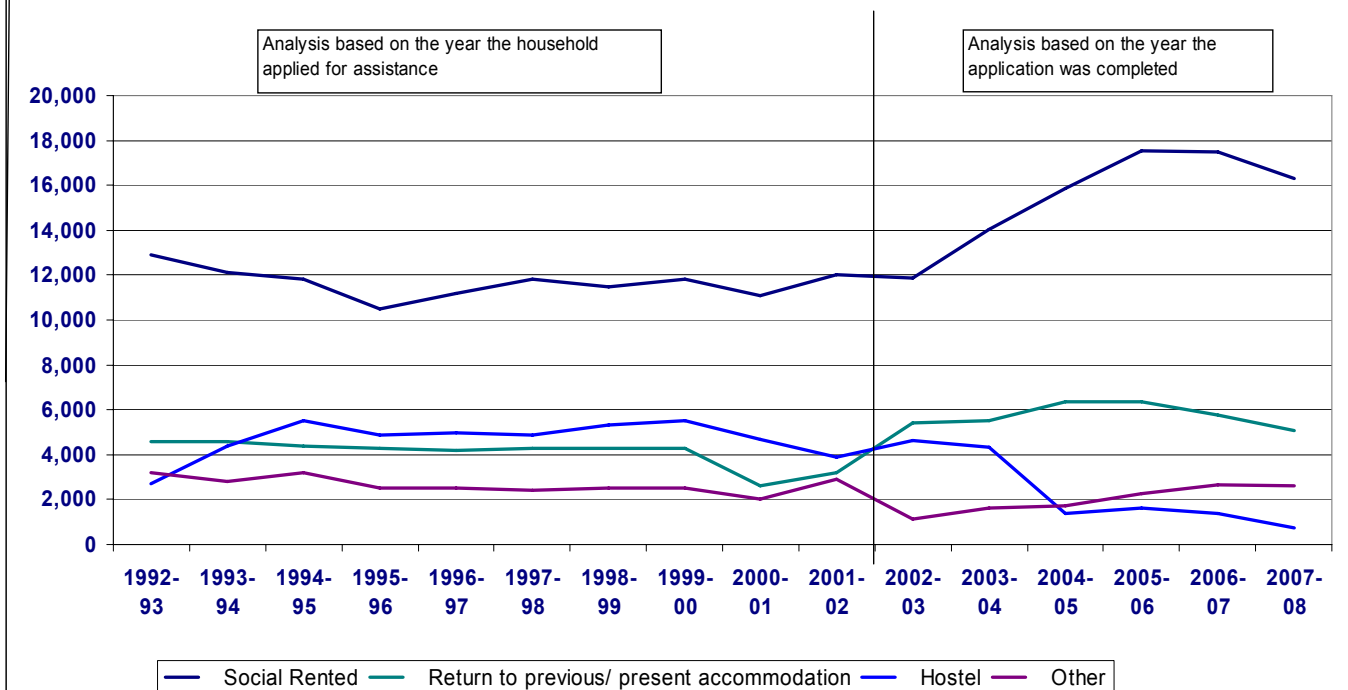


Outcomes

12. As a consequence of the increasing numbers of households assessed as priority, the number securing permanent accommodation has increased markedly since 2001-02 while the number securing hostel accommodation has fallen. (See chart 4 and table 7). The number of homeless households securing a permanent let in social rented accommodation increased from a little under 12,000 in 2002-03 to reach around 17,500 in 2005-06 and 2006-07 falling to around 16,300 in 2007-08. The reduction between 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the number of homeless households securing social rented accommodation reflects a reduction in the total number of homeless households whose cases were resolved in 2007-08. (See table 7)

³ The basis of the indicator is set out in detail in the Spending Review Technical Note on the Scottish Government website at [..Technical Notes for the 2007 Spending Review](#)

Chart 4: Scotland: Accommodation secured by homeless applicants



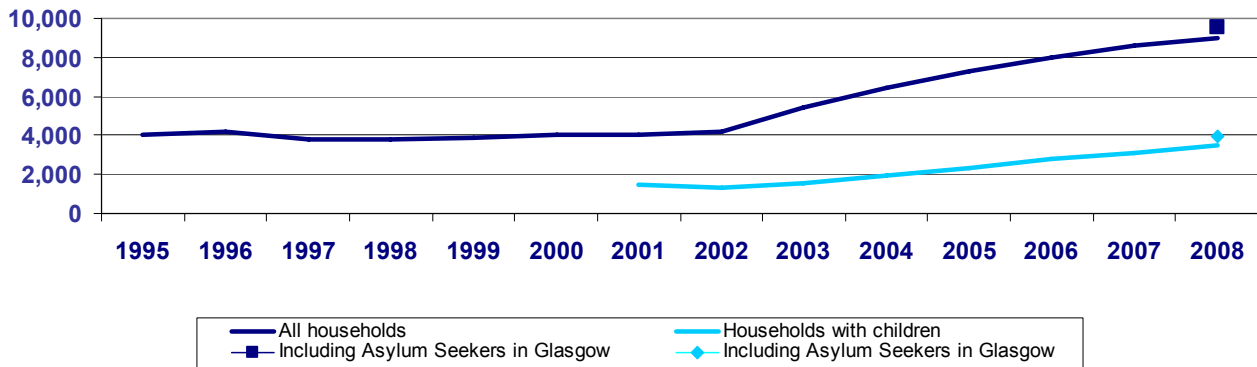
Temporary accommodation

13. Homeless applicants may be placed in temporary accommodation while the council assesses their application or while awaiting the offer of a permanent let. Also, non-priority applicants and those assessed as intentionally homeless may be placed in temporary accommodation as the outcome of their application.

14. Mainly reflecting the increase in applications since 2001-02, there has been a marked and consistent increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation from around 4,000 at 31 March 2002 to around 9,000 at 31 March 2008⁴. (Chart 5). The number of households with children in temporary accommodation has also increased since 2002, and these households currently represent about two fifths (42%) of all households in temporary accommodation.

⁴ In early 2008 Glasgow council accepted around 646 asylum seekers as homeless applicants. This reflects the review undertaken by the Home Office of failed asylum seeker cases which had previously been given leave to remain. A number of these households have now had positive decisions, chosen to stay in Glasgow and have made homeless applications. In March 2008, 542 of these households were in temporary accommodation, and of these, 522 were households with dependent children or a household member pregnant. Chart 4 shows the break in comparability with the previous series.

Chart 5: Scotland: Households in temporary accommodation at 31 March each year



Note:

Figures for households with children or pregnant women are not strictly comparable prior to June 2005 as previous figures did not include households with pregnant women and no children.

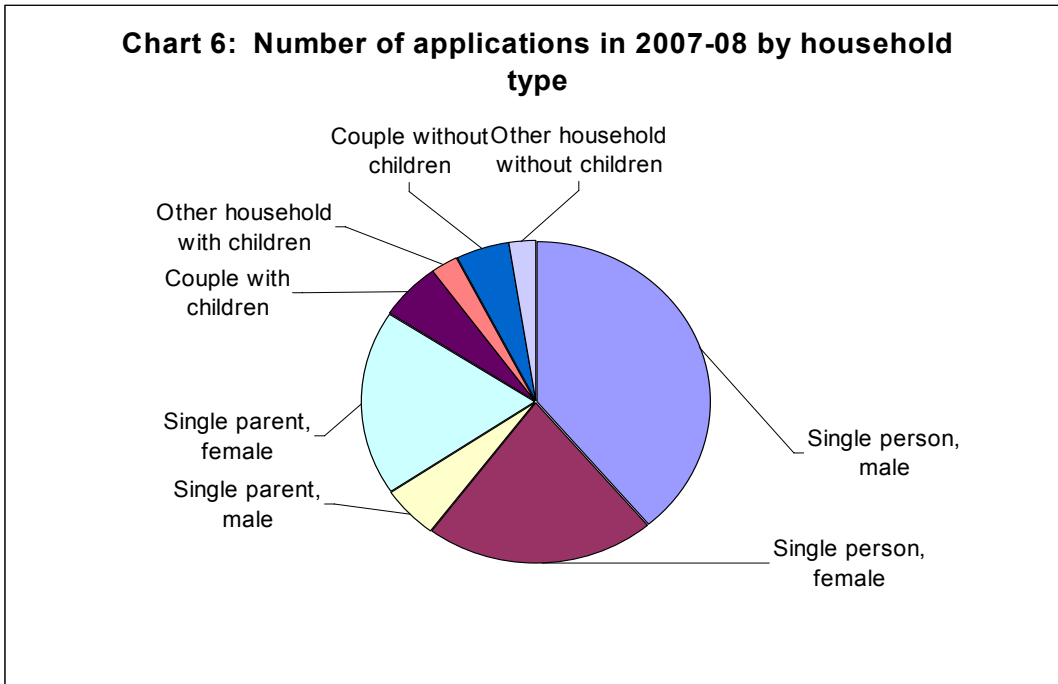
542 of the 9,518 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2008 were asylum seekers in Glasgow who have not previously been included in the homelessness statistics. 522 of these were households with dependent children.

Numbers in temporary accommodation in North Ayrshire from 31 March 2003 have been revised significantly downwards since previous publications to correct for previous mis-reporting. See paragraph 30 for a full explanation of the revisions.

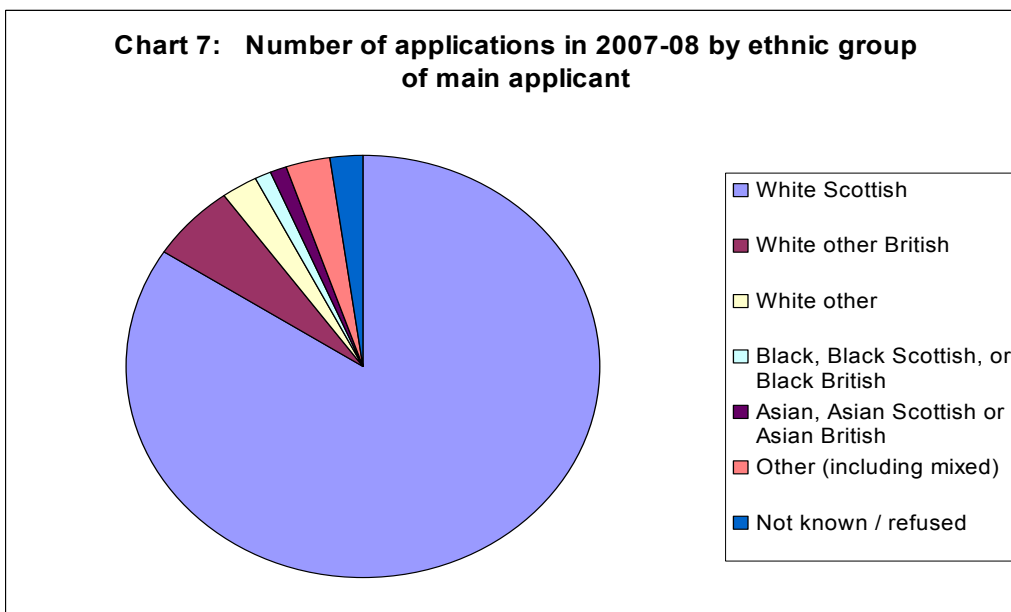
KEY FEATURES OF APPLICATIONS AND OUTCOMES

Characteristics of applicants

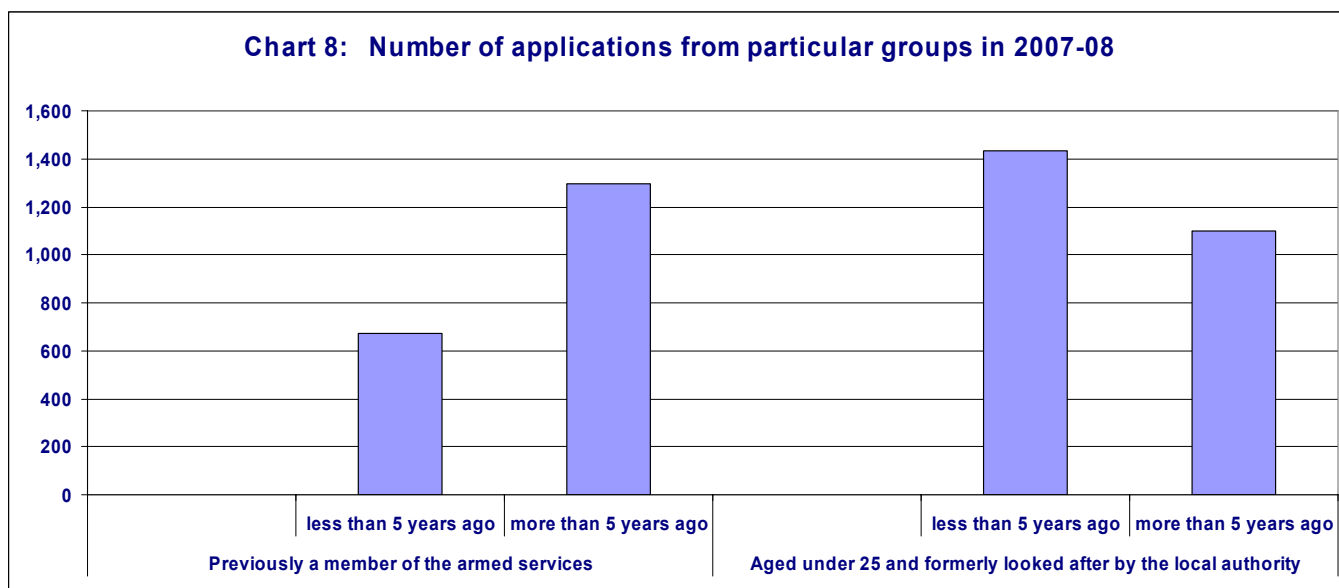
15. Of the 56,609 applications for assistance in 2007-08, around 34,000 (60%) were single people of whom almost 22,000 were men and 12,000 were women. (See chart 6 and table 3). Just under 18,300 applications (30% of applications) were from households with children, most of whom were single parent households - (24% of all applications).



16. In 92.6% of applications in 2007-08 the main applicant was recorded as White, 1.0% were recorded as Black, Black Scottish or Black British, 1.1% were recorded as Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British and 3.0% as in other ethnic groups. An ethnic group was not recorded for 2.3% of all applicants. (Chart 7). Also, in 2007-08, 474 applicants described themselves as a gypsy/ traveller. However, it is important to note that no response was given to this question for 2,797 applicants in 2007-08, so the number of gypsy/ travellers applying for assistance may be understated slightly.



17. In 2007-08, 1,968 homeless applicants had previously been in the armed forces. Of these, 671 had been in the armed forces less than 5 years ago and 1,297 more than 5 years ago. In the same period, 2,531 applicants aged under 25 had been formerly looked after by the local authority. This represents about 6% of all applicants aged under 25. (See chart 8).

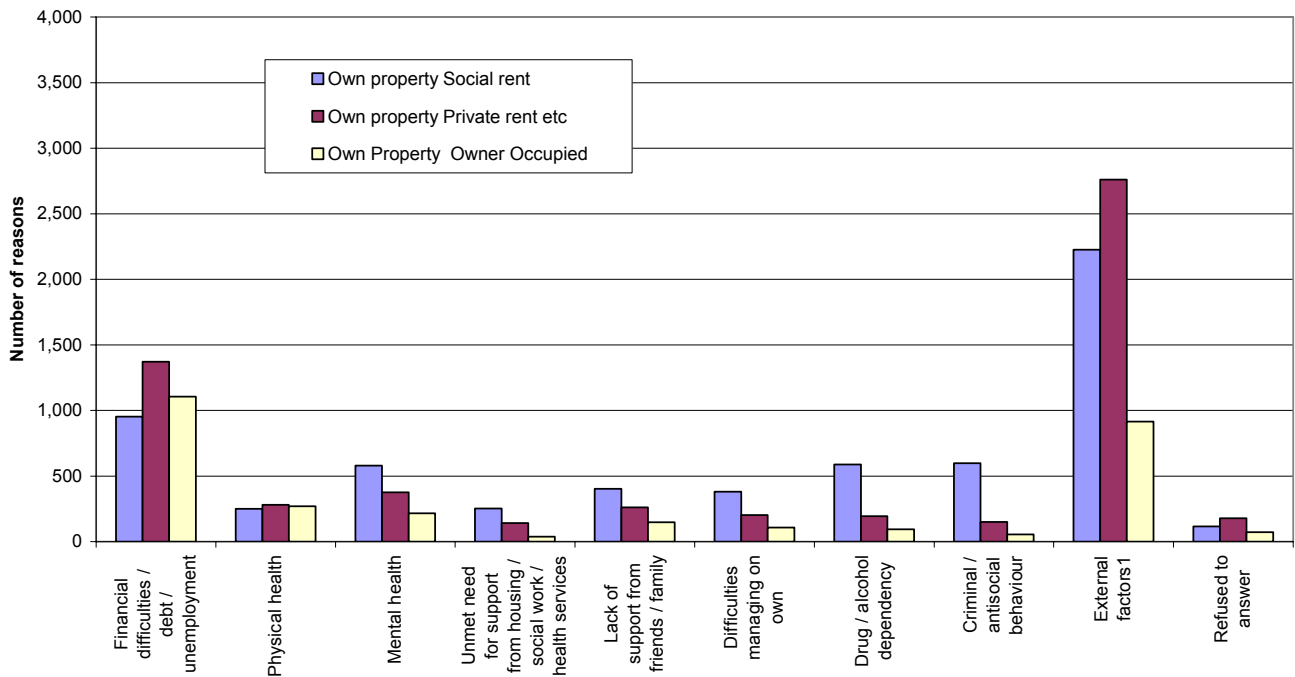


Prior circumstances of applicants and reasons for homelessness

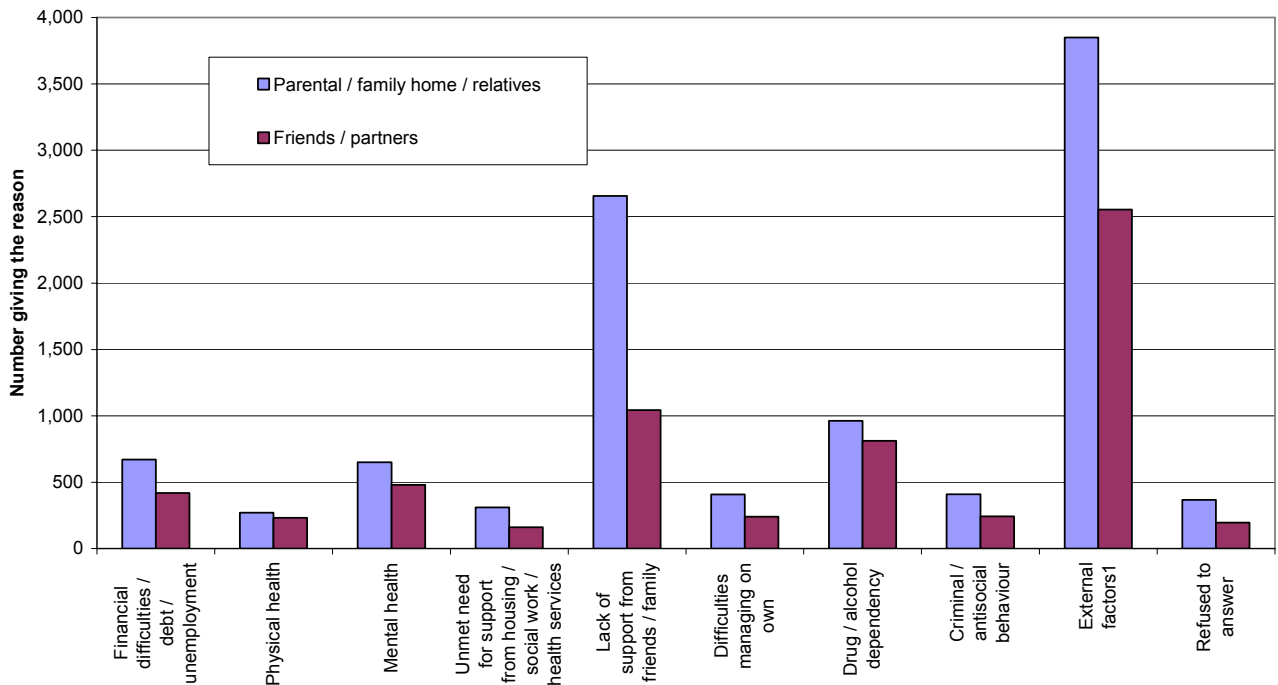
18. Of the 56,609 applications for assistance in 2008-09, 24,044 (42%) had been living with friends and relatives while 19,989 (35%) had been living in their own accommodation (i.e. which they either rented or owned), 1,938 (3%) had come from prison and 1,438 (3%) had come from supported accommodation. (See table 3). Of those who had been in their own accommodation, 7,801 were in social rented accommodation, 7,488 were renting privately, 472 had been in a tenancy secured through employment and 4,228 were owner occupiers.

19. Of the 4,228 applicants who had been owner occupiers, 1,106 - a little over a quarter – cited financial difficulties/ debt or unemployment as a contributory reason to their loss of accommodation. For those previously renting socially or privately, external factors such as landlord selling the property, harassment by others or changes in household circumstances were most likely to be given as reasons for loss of accommodation. (See chart 9). For the 14,652 applicants previously staying with friends or relatives, external factors were cited as the main reason for loss of accommodation with lack of support from friends or family also a significant factor - cited by 2,656 (18%). (See chart 10).

**Chart 9: Reason for loss of accommodation by previous housing circumstances:
Households coming from their own property
Scotland: 2007-08**

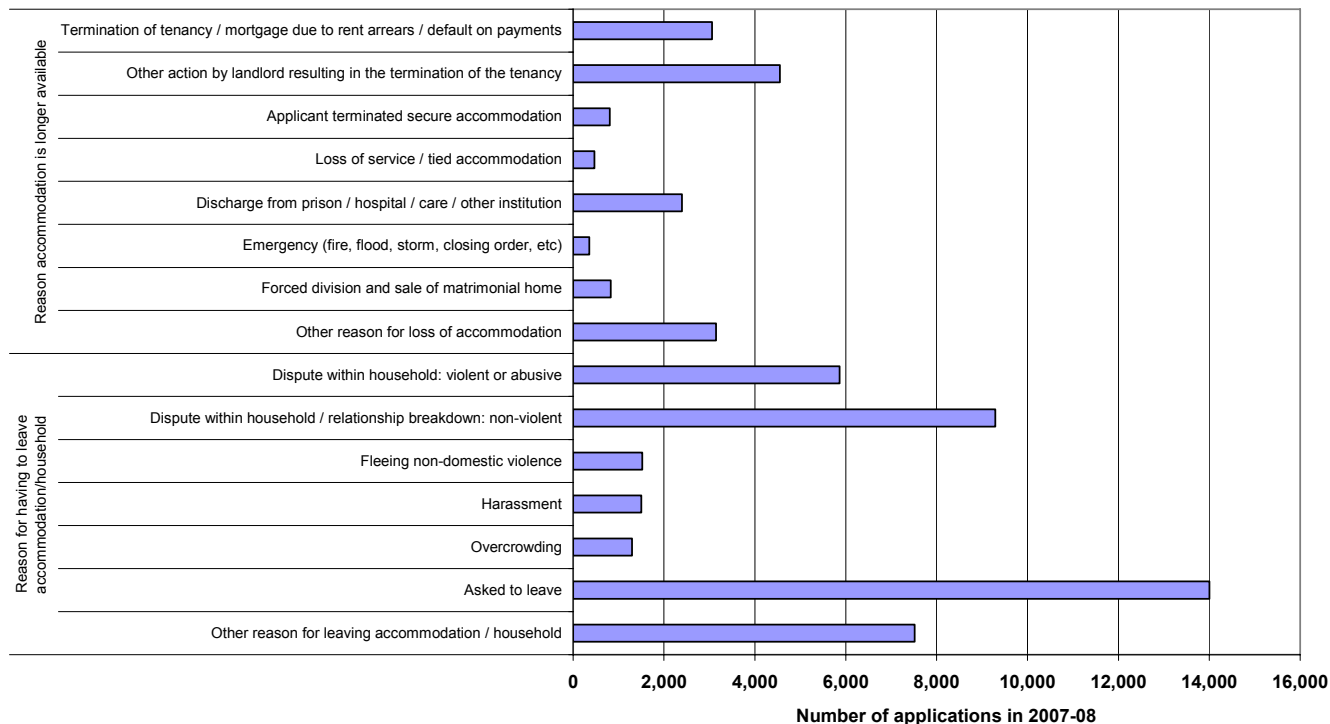


**Chart 10: Reason for loss of accommodation by Previous housing circumstances
Applicants previously staying with relatives or friends
Scotland 2007-08**



20. In 2007-08 the main reason for applying, given by a quarter of all applicants (14,007 of the 56,609 applications in the period) was that they were asked to leave their present accommodation. Other specific reasons were non-violent dispute/ relationship breakdown given by 9,291 (16%) applicants, A violent or abusive dispute within the household 5,865 (10%) of applications, and action by a landlord resulting in termination of tenancy 4,549 (8%). (See Chart 11 and Table 5).

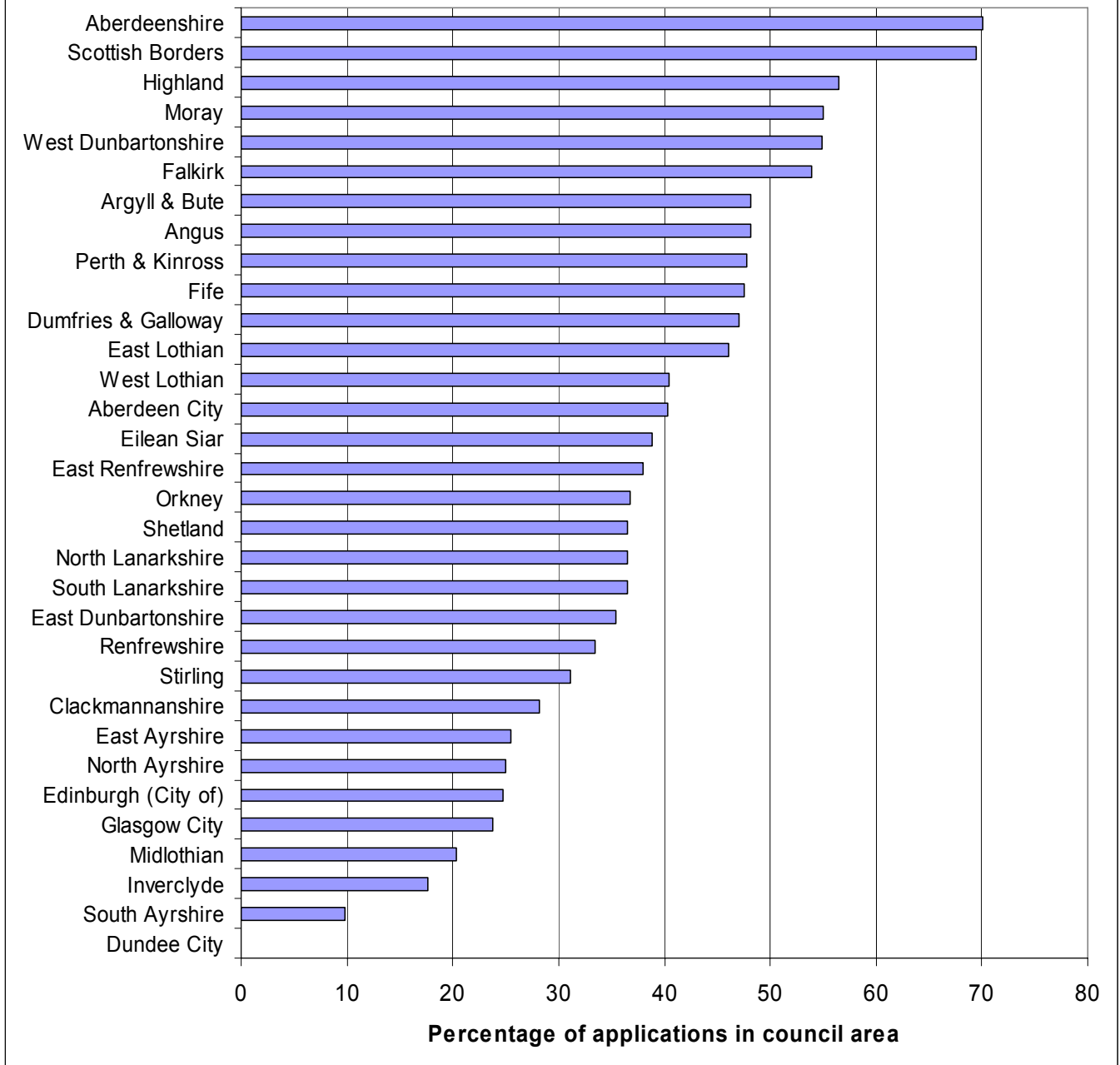
Chart 11: Main reason for applying for assistance: All applications: Scotland: 2007-08



21. In 2007-08 36% of homelessness applications were from households on the council's waiting list. This proportion varied widely between councils from around 70% in Aberdeenshire and Scottish Borders, to around 10% in South Ayrshire. (See Chart 12) This question was asked for the first time in 2007-08, so there may be some under-reporting in some council areas⁵.

⁵ Note that because of difficulties with their electronic homelessness HL1 system Dundee was unable to provide information on this, and other new questions, for most of 2007-08.

Chart 12: Percentage of applications in 2007-08 from households on the council's waiting list



22. In 2007-08 6% of applicants – 282 applicants per month - had slept rough the night before applying for assistance. The incidence of rough sleeping among homeless applicants was highest in Edinburgh and Aberdeen (around 15% of applicants in 2007-08) while less than 1% of applicants were recorded as sleeping rough the night before application in North Lanarkshire, West Lothian, Dundee, South Lanarkshire and Midlothian. (See Chart 13).

23. The percentage of homeless applications identified as repeat applications (i.e. where a previous application from the household had been closed less than 12 months before the current application⁶) has fallen from 9.2% in 2003-04 to 6.7% in 2007-08. (Chart 14) Single men are much more likely than any other household group to apply for assistance more than once.

⁶ To be classed as a repeat application the applicant household must be assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness in both applications.

Chart 13: Percentage of homeless applicants in 2007-08 who slept rough the night before applying for assistance

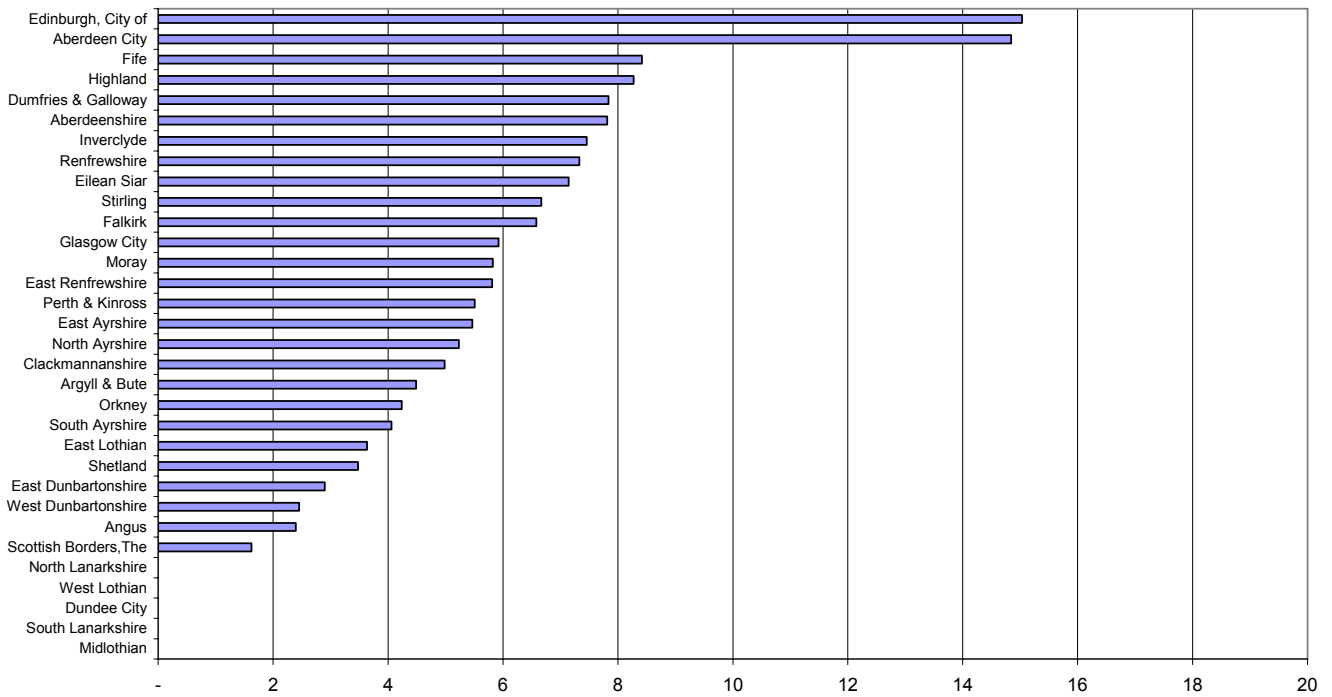
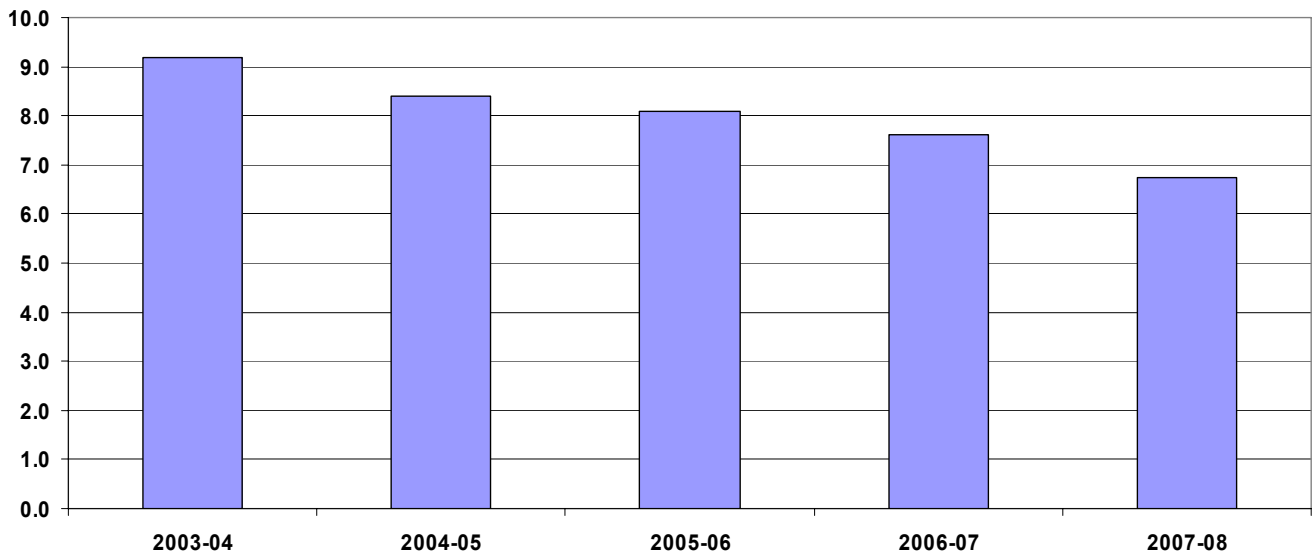


Chart 14: Scotland: Percentage of repeat applications



The chart shows for each year the percentage of assessments where the applicant household was assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness, had previously applied and been assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and whose previous application had been closed within 12 months of their current application.

Assessments

23. Table 1 provides the main summary statistics on the progress of homelessness applications, analysed by the year in which the application was received by the council. The year of application is also the basis by which we measure progress against national indicator 28 – “All unintentionally homeless households will be entitled to settled accommodation by 2012”⁷. However, it takes time for councils to assess a homelessness application. As a consequence, 1,677 applications in 2007-08 have yet to be assessed. In order to provide a clearer picture of patterns of assessment this section of the report presents analyses of assessments based on the year the assessment was made, rather than the year of application.

24. In 2007-08, councils assessed 40,649 applications as either homeless or threatened with homelessness⁸. Of these, 32,287 (79.4%) were assessed as priority⁹. The proportion of those assessed as homeless/ threatened with homelessness who are also assessed as priority has increased in each year since 2000-01 as councils have progressed towards the 2012 homelessness commitment. Over the period all households with children have been assessed as priority and the main impact of the commitment has been that increasing numbers and proportions of other, mainly single person households have been assessed as priority. Chart 14 shows the impact of these changes on the number and characteristics of priority households. In 2000-01, the largest group in priority need were single parent households with parent aged 25 or over. By 2007-08 single people aged between 25 and retirement were the largest priority group, their numbers having increased from a little over 5,000 in 2000-01 to over 9,000 in 2007-08.

25. The proportion of homeless households assessed as priority in 2007-08 varies widely between councils, from 96% in West Dunbartonshire to under 70% in Moray, Fife, Stirling, Aberdeen City, East Ayrshire, East Lothian and Shetland. (Chart 16)

26. Of the 40,649 households assessed as homeless in 2007-08 13,711 (34%) were assessed as having one or more support needs. (Table 6 and Chart 17) A higher proportion of applicants in priority need (40%) were assessed as having one or more support needs. Of those with support needs 4,769 (12% of all assessed as homeless) required support because of mental health, 4,487 (11%) required support on skills for independent living, and 4,197 (10%) required support because of alcohol or dependency problems.

27. For applicants assessed as priority councils record reasons why the household has priority. Councils must identify at least one reason for the priority assessment, but more than 1 reason can be given. In 2007-08, the main reasons for priority assessment were that the household had dependent children (39% of all priority assessments), the household was fleeing domestic violence or abuse (14%), mental illness or personality disorder of a household member (12%) and a household member vulnerable for other special reasons. (Chart 18)

⁷ The basis of the indicator is set out in detail in the Spending Review Technical Note on the Scottish Government website at [..Technical Notes for the 2007 Spending Review](#)

⁸ Of these 40,299 had applied for assistance in 2007-08 and 350 had applied for assistance before 2007-08.

⁹ The slight difference between this and the national indicator in table 1 is because this analysis is based on the year of assessment rather than the year of application.

**Chart 15: Number of applicants assessed as priority by broad household type:
Scotland: 2000-01 and 2007-08**

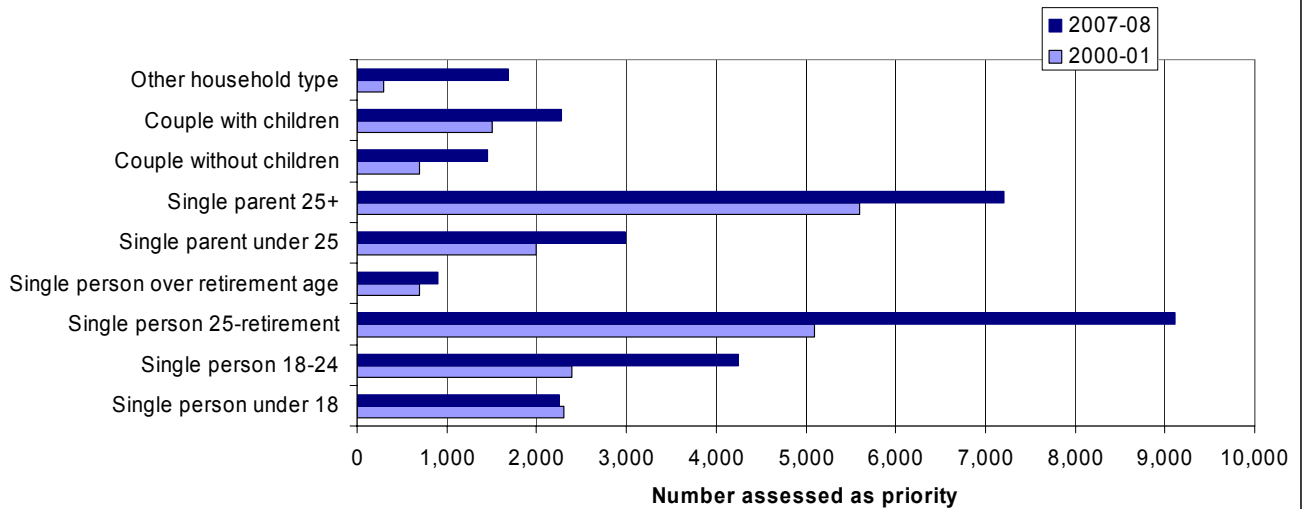
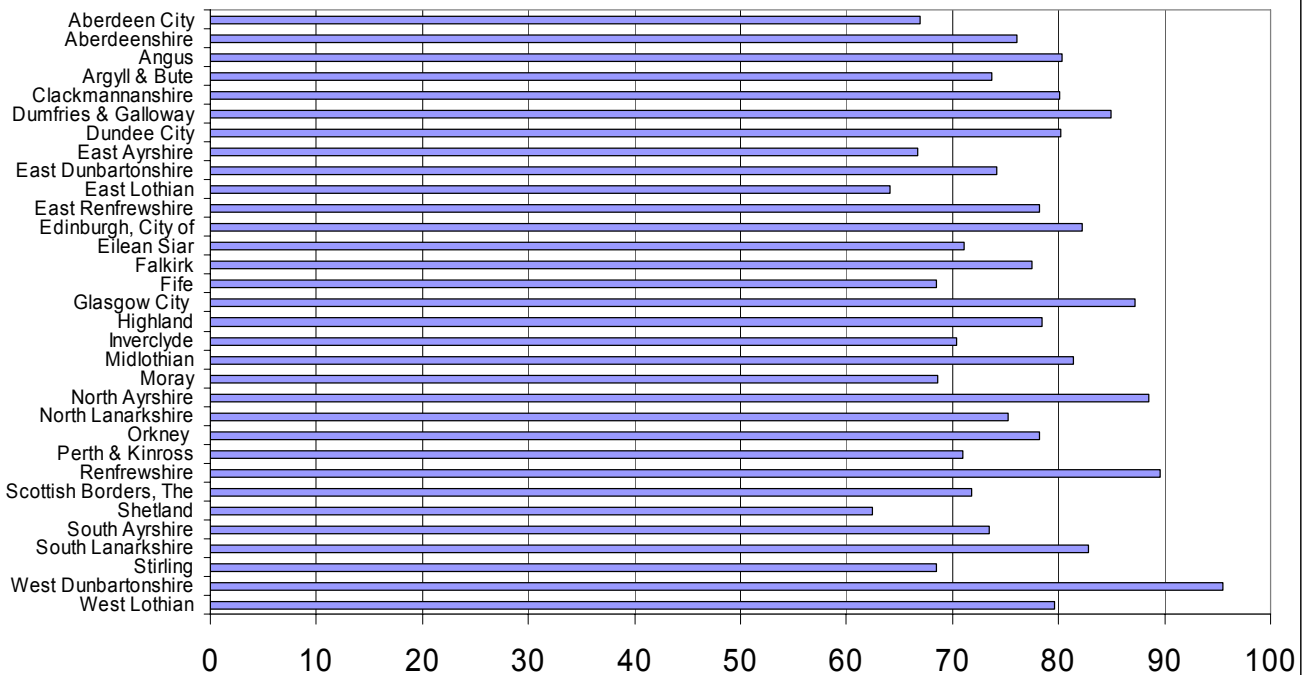


Chart 16: Of households assessed as homeless or potentially homeless in 2007-08: Percentage assessed as priority



**Chart 17: Identified support needs of homeless households:
Scotland: 2007-08**

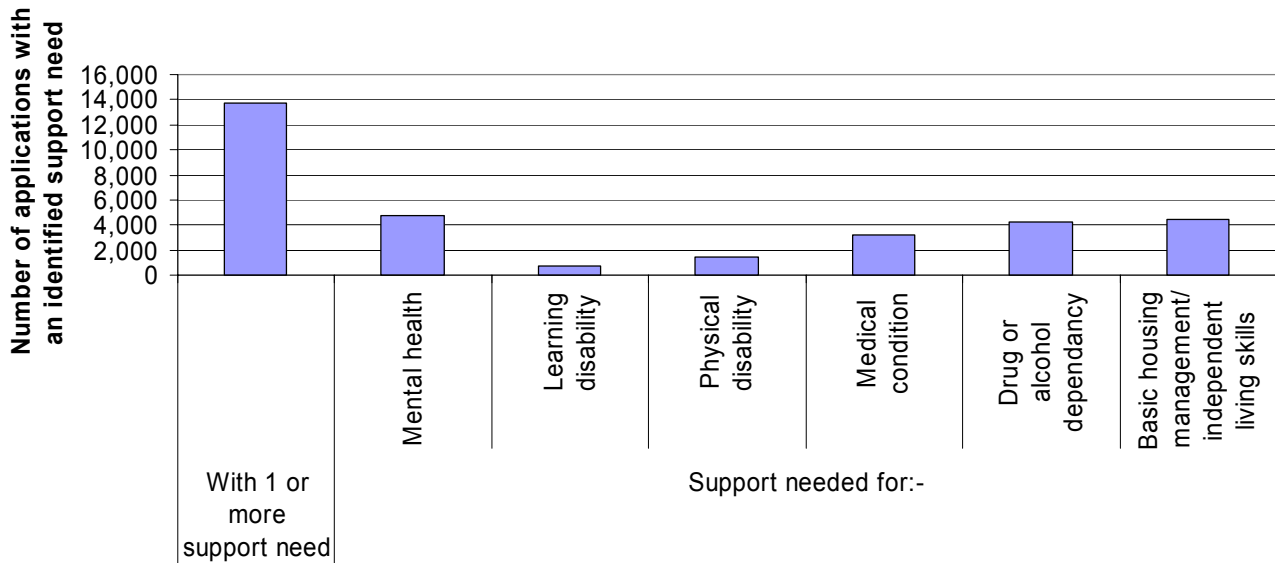
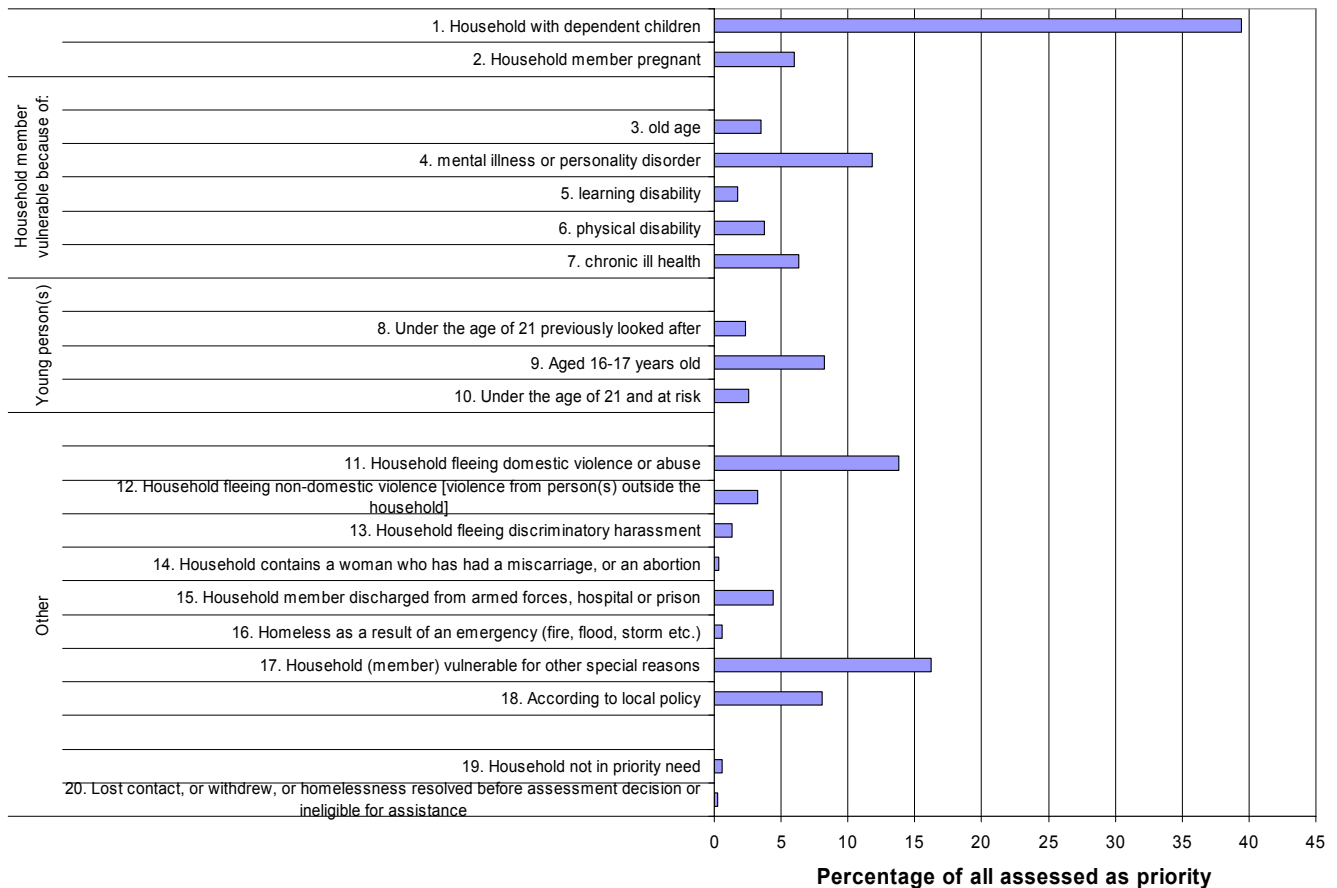
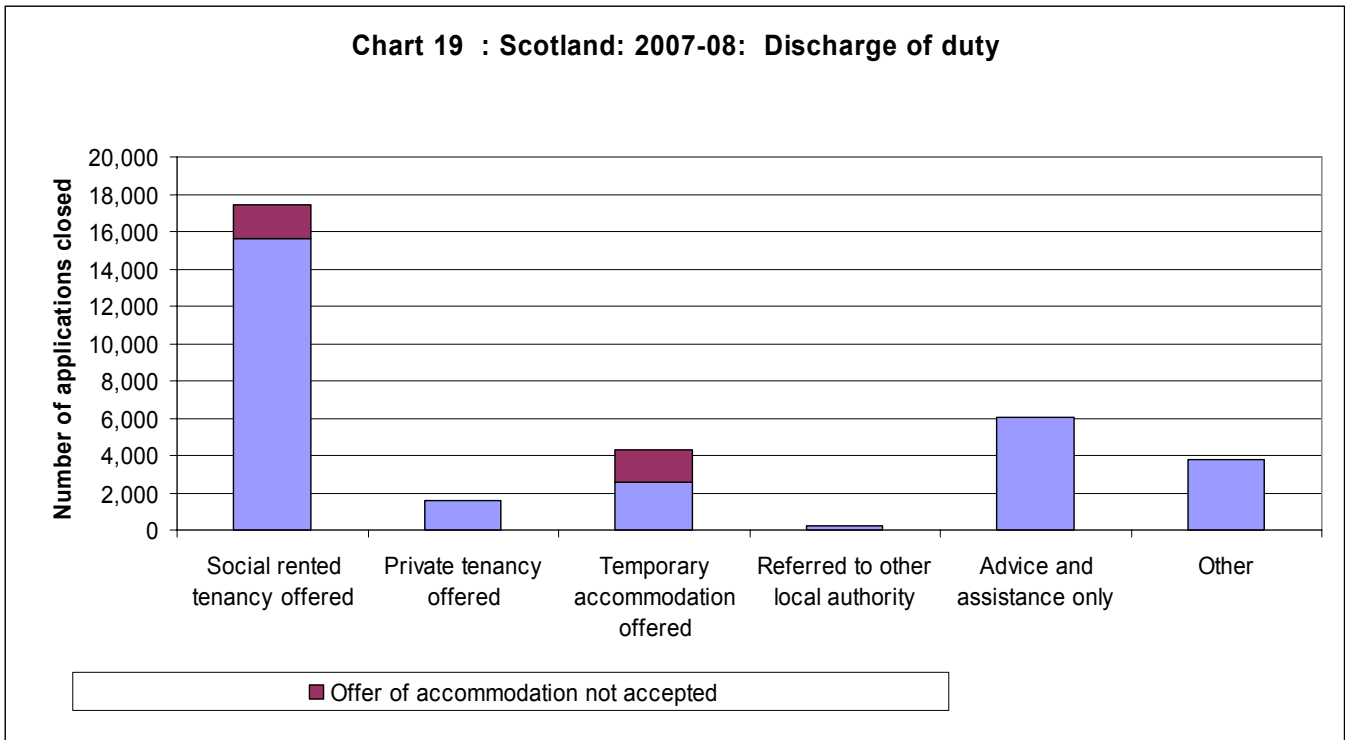


Chart 18 : Scotland: Reasons for priority assessment: 2007-08



Outcomes

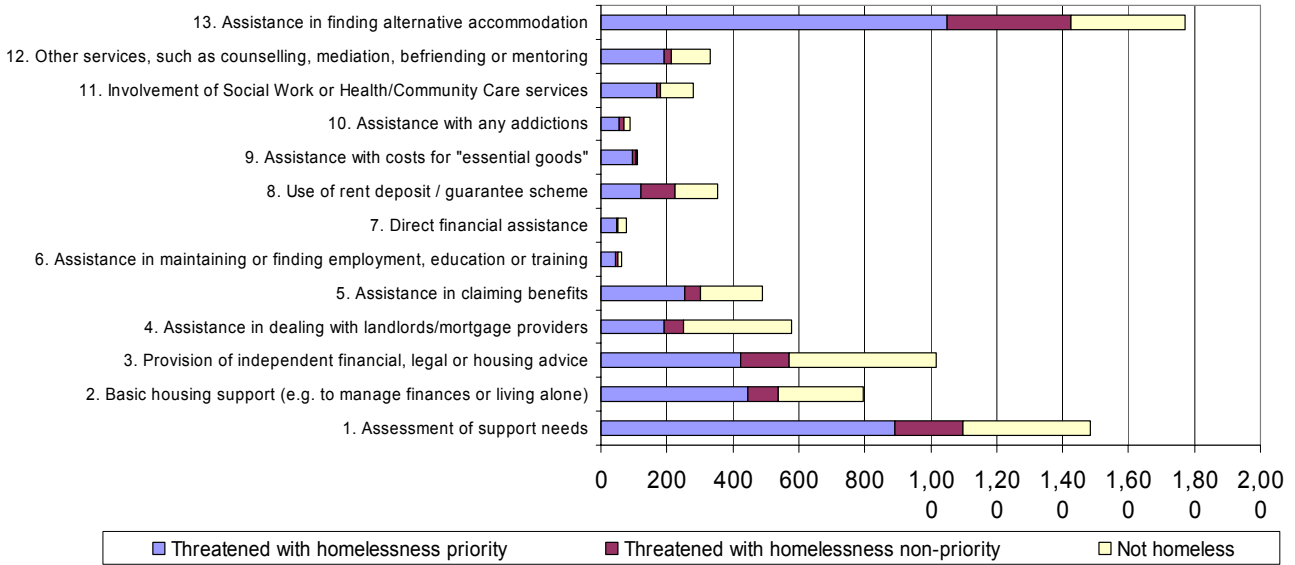
27. In 2007-08 councils closed 51,476 cases. Of these, 10,835 were cases in which the application had been withdrawn, or contact lost with the applicant before an assessment could be made. Contact was lost before the council discharged its duty in a further 7,209 cases. Chart 17 shows the offers of accommodation and outcomes for the remaining 33,432 applications where contact was maintained through to completion of the application. Of these, 17,447 households were offered a social rented tenancy, most of whom 15,598 (89% of those offered a social tenancy) took up the offer; temporary accommodation was offered to 4,289 households of whom 2,551 (59%) took up the offer; and a private rented tenancy was offered to 1,573 households almost all of whom (99%) accepted the offer. (chart 19)



28. A new question introduced from 1 April 2007 asks councils, at the time they close an application to identify action they took to prevent homelessness for households assessed as threatened with homelessness or assessed as not homeless. Councils can record more than one prevention activity for each application. Chart 20 shows prevention actions taken for the 6,383 households who applied in 2007-08, were assessed as threatened with homelessness or not homeless and whose case was closed in 2007-08 and for which councils supplied this information¹⁰. Of these, 1,770 (28%) were provided with assistance in finding alternative accommodation, 1,486 (23%) were provided with an assessment of their support needs, 1,016 (16%) received independent financial, legal or housing advice, 794 (12%) received basic housing support, 578 (15%) received assistance in dealing with their landlord or mortgage provider, 490 (8%) had assistance in claiming benefits 354 (6%) were assisted to use a rent deposit/ guarantee scheme, for 331 (5%) services such as counselling or mediation were provided and for 280 households (4%) a Social Work/ Health/ or Community Care service was involved.

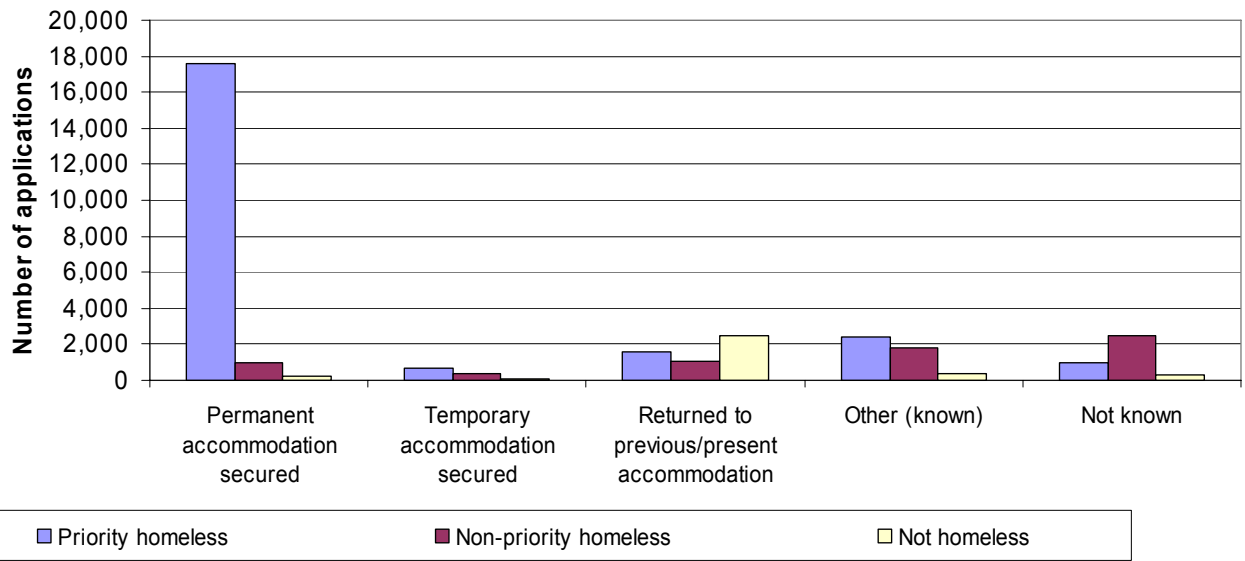
¹⁰ Because of technical difficulties in introducing this new question Dundee did not provide any information on prevention activity for 2007-08. Activity may also be understated in other councils which began providing the information part way through 2007-08.

Chart 20: Scotland: 2007-08: Actions taken to prevent homelessness



29. In 2007-08, permanent accommodation was secured for 18,759 of the 33,432 applications where contact was maintained through to completion of the application. (See chart 21). Within this, 17,562 priority homeless applicants (75% of priority homeless) secured permanent accommodation, 956 non-priority homeless (14% of non-priority homeless) and 241 who were assessed as not homeless (7% of those not homeless) secured permanent accommodation. For 2,515 (37%) of the 6,757 non-priority homeless the authority did not know the type of accommodation taken up by the applicant following discharge of the council's duty. Other known outcomes include those who moved in with friends or relatives and those obtaining a tenancy with a voluntary organisation.

Chart 21: Scotland: 2007-08: Housing outcome of applications



Temporary accommodation

30. Statistics on numbers of households in temporary accommodation are taken from a quarterly statistical return by councils¹¹. The return provides summary information on households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter who have been placed there as a consequence of their homelessness application. Homeless applicants may be placed in temporary accommodation while the council assesses their application or while awaiting the offer of a permanent let. Also, non-priority applicants and those assessed as intentionally homeless may be placed in temporary accommodation as the outcome of their application.

31. In interpreting the statistics presented in this report the following points should be noted:-

- Up to March 2005 the summary information on households in temporary accommodation separately identified households with children from households without children. From June 2005 those households without children where a household member was pregnant have been grouped with households with children. This change will have led to a minor break in comparability in the time series.
- Following publication of the 2006-07 annual homelessness bulletin, North Ayrshire revised its figures on numbers of households in temporary accommodation downwards to correct an error in the way in which the council was recording these. Essentially the council had, from 2002, been reporting numbers of households placed in temporary accommodation during the quarter rather than the number remaining in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter. Adjusted figures from 2005 were published in the April 2008 homelessness publication. This publication includes revised national totals reflecting revised North Ayrshire estimates from 2002.
- In early 2008 Glasgow council accepted around 646 asylum seekers as homeless applicants. This reflects the review undertaken by the Home Office of failed asylum seeker cases which had previously been given leave to remain. A number of these households have now had positive decisions, chosen to stay in Glasgow and have made homeless applications. In March 2008, 542 of these households were in temporary accommodation, and of these, 522 were households with dependent children or a household member pregnant. Inclusion of these households in numbers in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2008 overstates the underlying rate of increase in numbers in temporary accommodation when compared with March 2007.

32. At 31 March 2008 there were 9,518 households in temporary accommodation, having been placed there under the Homeless Persons legislation, of whom 3,986 (42%) were households with children. (Table 8)

33. The number of households in temporary accommodation has increased in each year from March 2002. This increase has been driven both by the increase in applications and by the new duties placed on councils since September 2002. Although the numbers continue to rise, the longer term data indicate that, after adjusting for the discontinuity in the Glasgow data, there is a continuing gradual reduction in the underlying rate of increase from a 30% increase between March 2002 and March 2003 reducing to an adjusted underlying 4.7% increase between March 2007 and March 2008. (Table 9 and Chart 4).

34. At 31 March 2008 42% of households in temporary accommodation were households with children or with a pregnant household member. This is notably higher than the 36% share at 31 March 2007 and a low of 30% in March 2003. While the inclusion of asylum seekers by Glasgow in 2007-08, most of whom were households with children, has affected the comparison, nevertheless there is a clear upwards trend in this proportion¹².

¹¹ This is the quarterly HL2 summary return. Copies of the return and guidance notes are available at ...[HL2 Form and Guidance](#)

¹² Removing the asylum seekers from the figures gives a 38% share for households with children or household member pregnant, a notable increase over 31 March 2007. The increase between March 2005 and March 2006 will also have been affected to some extent by the inclusion of households where a household member is pregnant in this grouping. See paragraph 31.

35. The majority of households in temporary accommodation were in local authority or housing association accommodation (64%), with a further 12% in hostels and 17% in bed and breakfast. (See Tables 8 & 9). Households with children or pregnant women are mainly provided with local authority or housing association accommodation (87%), with a small proportion (3%) being placed in bed and breakfast accommodation.

35. On 31 March 2008, there were 118 households with children or pregnant women in bed and breakfast accommodation. This varied by local authority, with 14 local authorities having none or only one household with children in bed and breakfast, and four local authorities having more than ten.

36. Councils with the largest number of households with children or pregnant women in bed & breakfast accommodation were Perth & Kinross (22), Highland (14) Moray (13) and Midlothian (12).

Implementation of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order

37. For each quarter from June 2005, councils have reported on the number of households at the end of the quarter in temporary accommodation which was in breach of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order. The snapshot figures show:

- Fourteen councils reported breaches of the order on 31 March 2008, affecting 62 households, this shows an increase from 34 reported breached at 31 March 2007.
- The 62 households whose accommodation breached the order comprised 1.6% of all households with children or pregnant household member in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2008.
- Councils with the largest number of households housed in breach of the order were Perth & Kinross (11 households), Midlothian (10 households), Moray and Highland (9 households) and Falkirk (5 households).

NOTES ON TABLES

1. The statistics presented in this release relate to applications made under the legislation as well as individual households. Given the continuous nature of the recording system, figures are updated on an on-going basis and may differ from those previously published.
2. The data presented in these tables are based on the time period relevant to the analysis. In some cases this might be the year of application, while in others this might relate to the year in which the assessment was made or action taken. All years refer to financial years.
3. To facilitate comparisons between authorities, some of the local authority tables are presented in the form of percentages. However, where the number of applications is small the percentage figures should be treated with caution.
4. Unless otherwise stated, the assessment category of 'homeless' includes both homeless and those threatened with homelessness, as well as unintentional and intentional homeless. Although the focus of the current legislative changes is on providing settled accommodation to those assessed as unintentionally homeless, the proportion of applications assessed as intentionally homeless and in priority need is relatively small. This category has therefore been combined with that of unintentionally homeless and in priority need for the more complex analyses.
5. In December 2001, the Scottish Executive changed the data collection system for the case-based HL1 return to provide more detailed information on applications by individual households and to allow more timely reporting. This entailed changing to an electronic data capture system which allows cases to be registered and updated on a continuous basis, as well as enabling applications made by the same household to be linked.
6. The data collection system introduced in December 2001 allows analysis by individual households and the identification of repeat applications. However, this is not the case for earlier data and so analyses comparing data over time will tend to refer to applications rather than individual households. This is also the case for analyses of flow through the assessment process where repeat applications by the same individual household might be assessed differently and have different outcomes. For other analyses it is useful to distinguish individual households and so the unit of analysis (applications or individual households) is specified in the footnotes for each table.
7. The data collection was further revised in April 2007 in the light of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003, with some additional information included to reflect current best practice. Further information on the HL1 can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15257/HL1revisions>.
8. The figures on households in temporary accommodation relate to households which have been placed in temporary accommodation by a local authority under the Homeless Persons legislation. This will include households for whom the local authority's decision and final action is still pending, as well as households which were secured such accommodation as a final action by the authority under the legislation. The data provide a snapshot picture of the numbers in temporary accommodation as at the last day of each quarter and are collected in the summary HL2 return.
9. Hostels, as temporary accommodation under the homeless persons legislation, were used mainly by Glasgow. In fact, almost all households in hostels in Glasgow were placed there by the authority under the Homeless Persons legislation. In other authorities, particularly in the cities, there are many households in hostels that have not been placed there by the local authority under the Homeless Persons legislation. Consequently, they are not recorded in the statistics.
10. In June 2005, the HL2 return was revised in order to monitor the implementation of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2004. The revised return records the number of households with children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation as at the end of the quarter, the number of those in unsuitable accommodation as defined by the Order, and the number of those in accommodation which breaches the Order. Not all use of unsuitable accommodation is in breach of the Order as such use may be allowed under exceptional circumstances as defined in the Order (see summary of legislation below), and therefore the focus of this release is on actual breaches rather than all instances of use of unsuitable accommodation where exceptions may apply. The latter figure provides a useful process measure to assess implementation in practice. To put the figures into the context, as at

30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2007 there were respectively 103, 81 and 58 instances of use of unsuitable accommodation. On the whole, the Order was actually breached in around half of cases.

11. The following symbols are used in all tables:

- nil

* less than half the final digit shown (less than: 0.5%, 50 for figures rounded to nearest 100, or 5 for figures rounded to nearest 10)

..not available.

12. Additional tables may be obtained from the Housing Statistics branch on request. Housing statistics publications are available in the published data section of the Housing Statistics reference website <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/Publications>.

TABLES

Number of applications to local authorities under the Homeless Persons legislation: 1992-93 to 2007-08					
					Table 1
	All applications	Assessed as homeless		Assessed as homeless and in priority need	
		Number	% of all applications	Number	% of applications assessed as homeless
1992-93	42,822	30,100	70	19,800	65.8
1993-94	43,038	30,900	72	18,200	58.9
1994-95	41,495	31,600	76	17,500	55.4
1995-96	40,936	30,300	74	16,900	55.8
1996-97	40,989	30,600	75	16,800	54.9
1997-98	43,135	32,500	75	17,600	54.2
1998-99	45,723	33,500	73	18,400	54.9
1999-00	46,023	33,600	73	20,200	60.1
2000-01	45,004	33,300	74	20,500	61.6
2001-02	47,493	37,100	78	26,900	72.5
2002-03	52,122	40,202	77	29,409	73.2
2003-04	56,634	42,947	76	31,543	73.4
2004-05	57,427	41,617	72	31,199	75.0
2005-06	60,622	43,483	72	32,828	75.5
2006-07	59,550	42,575	71	32,661	76.7
2007-08 ¹	56,609	40,299	71	32,111	79.7

Notes:- Data prior to 2002-03 are estimated (see notes and definitions). Percentages for 2002-03 onwards are based on applications made during the period, including lost contact/withdrawal/resolved prior to assessment, as well as cases which have not yet been assessed.

1. For applications made in 2007-08, there were 1,677 cases which had not been assessed by the end of the period (this may include some cases where contact has been lost). Assessment figures for 2007-08 are therefore provisional.

Total applications by household type**Table 2**

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Single person	23,900	25,700	27,500	28,500	28,800	31,400	34,078	36,509	35,987	38,122	37,067	33,054
Single parent	12,000	12,100	12,000	12,200	11,500	11,800	11,600	12,522	13,524	14,229	13,971	13,327
Couple without children	1,700	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,700	1,800	2,215	2,554	2,834	2,844	2,904	2,816
Couple with children	3,100	3,100	2,900	2,600	2,400	2,300	2,583	2,802	3,015	3,031	3,131	3,086
Other household type	500	600	400	400	600	1,000	1,515	1,903	1,863	2,043	2,103	2,649

Notes: Data prior to 2002-03 are estimated see notes and definitions).

Previous housing circumstances of all applicant households in 2007/08

Table 3

From what type of property did the applicant become homeless/threatened with homeless?	All	Percentage by property type
Own property-LA Tenancy	5,434	9.6
Own property-RSL Tenancy	2,367	4.2
Own property-private rented tenancy	7,488	13.2
Own property-tenancy secured through employment/ tied house	472	0.8
Own property - owning/buying	4,228	7.5
Parental/family home/relatives	14,653	25.9
Friends/partners	9,391	16.6
Armed services accommodation	484	0.9
Prison	1,938	3.4
Hospital	372	0.7
Children's residential accommodation(looked after by the local authority)	209	0.4
Supported accommodation	1,438	2.5
Hostel (unsupported)	274	0.5
Bed & Breakfast	174	0.3
Caravan/mobile home	363	0.6
Long-term roofless	289	0.5
Long-term "sofa-surfing"	635	1.1
Other	1,698	3.0
Not Known/Refused	4,702	8.3
All	56,609	100.0

Previous housing circumstances of applicants by factors contributing to failing to maintain accommodation Table 4

	Financial difficulties / debt / unemployment	Physical health	Mental health	Unmet need for support from housing / social work / health services	Lack of support from friends / family	Difficulties managing on own	Drug / alcohol dependency	Criminal / antisocial behaviour	External factors¹	Total applications
Own property - LA tenancy	586	161	366	145	265	250	385	398	1,512	5,434
Own property - RSL tenancy	367	89	213	108	138	131	202	200	714	2,367
Own property - private rented tenancy	1,329	241	356	133	248	199	176	143	2,588	7,488
Own property - tenancy secured through employment / tied house	43	39	19	8	13	3	18	6	173	472
Own property - owning / buying	1,106	270	216	38	147	107	93	55	915	4,228
Parental / family home / relatives	671	270	651	310	2,656	408	962	409	3,849	14,652
Friends / partners	419	232	479	161	1,044	239	812	243	2,554	9,390
Armed services accommodation	28	15	24	7	46	9	22	18	64	484
Prison	55	30	119	70	131	112	483	756	230	1,938
Hospital	23	53	136	25	36	43	78	17	41	372
Childrens residential accommodation (looked after by the local authority)	4	1	5	10	16	35	3	12	31	209
Supported accommodation	158	24	101	56	187	102	228	63	590	1,438
Hostel (unsupported)	37	13	21	8	20	13	66	17	57	274
Bed & Breakfast	14	3	9	5	11	5	18	9	50	174
Caravan / mobile home	31	33	28	12	24	12	14	7	148	363
Long-term roofless	33	22	54	31	53	39	104	32	57	289
Long-term "sofa-surfing"	76	35	51	30	115	39	101	36	169	635
Other	90	40	74	51	136	53	131	55	538	1,698
Not known / refused	88	16	41	11	242	22	47	30	210	4,702
Total	5,158	1,587	2,963	1,219	5,528	1,821	3,943	2,506	14,490	56,607

Note:- 1. Includes factors such as landlord selling property, fire / floods, circumstances of other people sharing property, and harassment.

Main reason for applying for assistance by household type: All applicants: Scotland 2007/08

Table 5

	Household type								All	Percentage by reason
	Single person male	Single person female	Single parent male	Single parent female	Couple without children	Couple with children	Other household without children	Other household with children		
<i>Reason accommodation is longer available</i>										
Termination of tenancy / mortgage due to rent arrears / default on payments	943	457	127	641	195	364	157	172	3,056	5.4
Other action by landlord resulting in the termination of the tenancy	1,290	652	173	1,049	400	601	186	198	4,549	8.0
Applicant terminated secure accommodation	335	160	29	115	65	63	28	13	808	1.4
Loss of service / tied accommodation	154	64	14	31	76	93	16	22	470	0.8
Discharge from prison / hospital / care / other institution	1,987	246	58	29	56	6	9	5	2,396	4.2
Emergency (fire, flood, storm, closing order, etc)	138	67	9	48	28	38	18	14	360	0.6
Forced division and sale of matrimonial home	150	123	81	323	19	25	51	57	829	1.5
Other reason for loss of accommodation	1,259	509	92	542	157	412	74	100	3,145	5.6
<i>Reason for having to leave accommodation/ household</i>										
Dispute within household: violent or abusive	867	1,991	159	2,376	77	43	148	204	5,865	10.4
Dispute within household / relationship breakdown: non-violent	3,920	1,956	1,008	1,728	258	141	130	150	9,291	16.4
Fleeing non-domestic violence	454	268	60	387	88	149	44	74	1,524	2.7
Harassment	400	223	42	435	113	189	41	54	1,497	2.6
Overcrowding	311	303	65	304	112	136	37	30	1,298	2.3
Asked to leave	6,664	3,411	697	1,517	833	520	250	115	14,007	24.7
Other reason for leaving accommodation / household	3,099	1,644	396	1,127	440	461	196	151	7,514	13.3
All	21,971	12,074	3,010	10,652	2,917	3,241	1,385	1,359	56,609	100.0

Homeless households by type of support need identified: Scotland: Percentage of all applications assessed in 2007-08

Table 6

	All applications assessed in the period	With 1 or more support need identified	Support needed for:-					
			Mental health	Learning disability	Physical disability	Medical condition	Drug or alcohol dependency	Basic housing management/independent living skills
Homeless or potentially homeless priority	32,287	13,031	4,690	751	1,455	3,135	3,974	4,075
Homeless or potentially homeless non-priority	8,362	680	79	12	10	59	223	412
Total all homeless or potentially homeless	40,649	13,711	4,769	763	1,465	3,194	4,197	4,487

Accommodation secured by homeless applicants. 1992-93 to 2007-08					Table 7
	All applicants for whom accommodation was secured	Social Rented	Return to previous/ present accomm.	Hostel	Other¹
1992-93	23,400	12,900	4,600	2,700	3,200
1993-94	23,900	12,100	4,600	4,400	2,800
1994-95	24,900	11,800	4,400	5,500	3,200
1995-96	22,200	10,500	4,300	4,900	2,500
1996-97	23,000	11,200	4,200	5,000	2,500
1997-98	23,400	11,800	4,300	4,900	2,400
1998-99	23,700	11,500	4,300	5,300	2,500
1999-00	24,000	11,800	4,300	5,500	2,500
2000-01	20,400	11,100	2,600	4,700	2,000
2001-02	22,000	12,000	3,200	3,900	2,900
2002-03	23,037	11,890	5,431	4,606	1,110
2003-04	25,558	14,062	5,530	4,356	1,610
2004-05	25,351	15,880	6,364	1,397	1,710
2005-06	27,781	17,554	6,350	1,613	2,264
2006-07	27,299	17,492	5,780	1,365	2,662
2007-08	24,649	16,288	5,053	721	2,587

Notes:- Analysis up to 2001-02 is based on the year of application and includes estimates for missing case returns.

Analysis from 2002-03 is based on the year the application was concluded.

1: Other includes bed & breakfast accommodation, private rented accommodation and other forms of temporary accommodation.

**Households in temporary accommodation by accommodation type:
at 31 March 1996 to 31 December 2007**

Table 8

		Social sector accommodation ¹	Hostel ²	Bed & Breakfast	Other ³	Total	Households with dependent children ⁴	
							Number	% of total
1995	as at 31 March	1,851	1,648	449	80	4,028	..	..
1996	as at 31 March	1,884	1,776	454	100	4,214	..	..
1997	as at 31 March	1,741	1,562	355	114	3,772	..	..
1998	as at 31 March	1,859	1,465	360	80	3,764	..	..
1999	as at 31 March	1,855	1,543	413	53	3,864	..	..
2000	as at 31 March	1,826	1,608	500	61	3,995	..	..
2001	as at 31 March	1,968	1,512	502	78	4,060	1,438	35
2002	as at 31 March	2,152	1,363	569	69	4,153	1,329	32
2003	as at 31 March	2,984	1,380	898	141	5,403	1,599	30
2004	as at 31 March	3,537	1,586	1,190	132	6,445	1,997	31
2005	as at 31 March	4,136	1,490	1,516	159	7,301	2,330	32
2006	as at 31 March ³	4,747	1,328	1,494	416	7,985	2,785	35
2007	as at 31 March ³	5,164	1,242	1,528	643	8,577	3,094	36
2008	as at 31 March ^{3,4}	6,114	1,099	1,609	696	9,518	3,986	42

Notes:

1. Includes Glasgow Housing Association stock from 2003, and all other housing associations from June 2005 onward.

2. The category 'other' includes mainly private landlords. Prior to June 1999 the figures may also include an unknown number of local authority-owned chalets or mobile homes.

3. From June 2005, this includes households with pregnant women. Figures from this point onward are therefore not strictly comparable with previous ones.

4. 542 of the 9,518 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2008 were asylum seekers in Glasgow who have not previously been included in the homelessness statistics. 522 of these were households with dependent children. 1,092 dependent children were in the households.

5. Figures from March 2003 have been substantially revised to adjust for previous over-reporting of numbers in temporary accommodation by North Ayrshire council.

Households in temporary accommodation by household type and accommodation type:

Table 9

Household type		Social sector accommodation ¹		Hostel		Bed & Breakfast		Other ²		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	% increase on previous year
<i>All households</i>											
2002	as at 31 March	2,152	52	1,363	33	569	14	69	2	4,153	
2003	as at 31 March	2,984	55	1,380	26	898	17	141	3	5,403	30.1%
2004	as at 31 March	3,537	55	1,586	25	1,190	18	132	2	6,445	19.3%
2005	as at 31 March	4,136	57	1,490	20	1,516	21	159	2	7,301	13.3%
2006	as at 31 March	4,747	59	1,328	17	1,494	19	416	5	7,985	9.4%
2007	as at 31 March	5,164	60	1,242	14	1,528	18	643	7	8,577	7.4%
2008	as at 31 March ⁴	6,114	64	1,099	12	1,609	17	696	7	9,518	11.0% / 4.7% (see note 4)
<i>Households with dependent children³</i>											
2002	as at 31 March	1,107	83	103	8	94	7	25	2	1,329	
2003	as at 31 March	1,347	84	64	4	108	7	80	5	1,599	20.3%
2004	as at 31 March	1,692	85	102	5	146	7	57	3	1,997	24.9%
2005	as at 31 March	1,981	85	86	4	163	7	100	4	2,330	16.7%
2006	as at 31 March	2,374	85	81	3	130	5	200	7	2,785	19.5%
2007	as at 31 March	2,589	84	76	2	84	3	345	11	3,094	11.1%
2008	as at 31 March ⁴	3,482	87	70	2	118	3	316	8	3,986	28.8% / 12.0% (see note 4)
<i>Total number of dependent children³</i>											
2002	as at 31 March	2,046	86	156	7	142	6	45	2	2,389	
2003	as at 31 March	2,567	86	110	4	183	6	128	4	2,988	25.1%
2004	as at 31 March	3,233	86	195	5	228	6	100	3	3,756	25.7%
2005	as at 31 March	3,668	86	152	4	257	6	168	4	4,245	13.0%
2006	as at 31 March	4,230	88	106	2	161	3	316	7	4,813	13.3%
2007	as at 31 March	4,648	85	100	2	116	2	592	11	5,456	13.3%
2008	as at 31 March ⁴	6,302	88	97	1	180	3	545	8	7,124	30.6% / 10.6% (see note 4)

- Notes:
1. Includes Glasgow Housing Association stock from 2003, and all other housing associations from June 2005 onward.
 2. The category 'other' includes mainly private landlords. Prior to June 1999 the figures may also include an unknown number of local authority-owned chalets or mobile homes.
 3. From June 2005, this includes households with pregnant women. Figures from this point onward are therefore not strictly comparable with previous ones.
 4. 542 of the households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2008 were asylum seekers in Glasgow who have not previously been included in the homelessness statistics. 522 of these were households with dependent children. 1,092 dependent children were in the households. As the inclusion of these households would overstate the underlying year-on-year change the table shows the % increase from March 2007 both including and excluding these households.

Households with dependent children or pregnant women by accommodation type and local authority: as at 31 March 2008:

Table 10

	Total number of households					Number of households with children or pregnant women					Total number of children				
	Social sector ¹	Hostel ²	Bed & Breakfast	Other ³	Total	Social sector ¹	Hostel ²	Bed & Breakfast	Other ³	Total	Social sector ¹	Hostel ²	Bed & Breakfast	Other ³	Total
Scotland	6,114	1,099	1,609	696	9,518	3,482	70	118	316	3,986	6,302	97	180	545	7,124
Aberdeen city	78	41	73	-	192	66	3	-	-	69	107	8	-	-	115
Aberdeenshire	164	23	102	3	292	134	12	8	2	156	250	14	13	3	280
Angus	136	-	-	-	136	47	-	-	-	47	90	-	-	-	90
Argyll & Bute	33	10	44	87	174	10	-	1	32	43	20	-	1	54	75
Clackmannanshire	79	-	20	5	104	44	-	1	1	46	56	-	2	2	60
Dumfries & Galloway	133	62	59	23	277	81	4	-	2	87	127	2	-	3	132
Dundee City	110	26	3	17	156	84	3	2	12	101	178	3	2	24	207
East Ayrshire	43	30	16	18	107	14	-	1	14	29	20	-	3	23	46
East Dunbartonshire	111	6	27	5	149	69	-	5	1	75	127	-	11	1	139
East Lothian	110	27	60	10	207	101	-	7	10	118	93	-	5	20	118
East Renfrewshire	26	-	6	6	38	7	-	-	4	11	9	-	-	7	16
Edinburgh, City of	434	-	257	-	691	255	-	-	-	255	422	-	-	-	422
Eilean Siar	31	-	17	4	52	15	-	-	-	15	22	-	-	-	22
Falkirk	170	60	65	39	334	109	-	4	9	122	209	-	4	16	229
Fife	326	43	37	-	406	152	7	6	-	165	330	11	8	-	349
Glasgow City ²	2,087	315	134	8	2,544	1,316	-	7	-	1,323	2,537	-	12	-	2,549
Highland	135	40	193	86	454	88	5	14	30	137	180	9	20	61	270
Inverclyde	60	24	7	-	91	27	-	1	-	28	35	-	-	-	35
Midlothian	82	30	78	5	195	57	-	12	2	71	99	-	25	3	127
Moray	28	64	49	18	159	22	10	13	5	50	41	12	21	10	84
North Ayrshire	178	45	4	19	246	47	2	-	19	68	76	3	-	23	102
North Lanarkshire	391	18	-	9	418	166	-	-	3	169	320	-	-	3	323
Orkney	52	-	1	2	55	26	-	-	-	26	45	-	-	-	45
Perth & Kinross	153	24	87	3	267	120	-	22	-	142	200	-	31	-	231
Renfrewshire	153	-	33	-	186	52	-	-	-	52	82	-	-	-	82
Scottish Borders, The	56	-	64	-	120	24	-	8	-	32	42	-	12	-	54
Shetland	50	20	-	3	73	20	4	-	1	25	36	4	-	1	41
South Ayrshire	106	21	83	14	224	60	3	2	2	67	97	5	2	2	106
South Lanarkshire ⁴	116	47	44	176	383	52	4	4	94	154	85	4	8	158	255
Stirling	48	49	46	44	187	40	12	-	14	66	77	21	-	20	118
West Dunbartonshire	213	31	-	8	252	54	-	-	7	61	95	-	-	11	106
West Lothian	222	43	-	84	349	123	1	-	52	176	195	1	-	100	296

1. Includes Glasgow Housing Association stock from 2003, and all other housing associations from June 2005 onward.

2. The category 'other' includes mainly private landlords.

3. Accommodation in 'other' category consists of property leased by the local authority to provide temporary accommodation for homeless applicants.

Households with dependent children in temporary accommodation by local authority area: as at 31 March 2007 to 31 March 2008

Table 11

	Households in temporary accommodation						Households with children in temporary accommodation ¹					
	Number					Percentage of all households ²	Number					Percentage of all households with children ²
	31-Mar-07	30-Jun-07	30-Sep-07	31-Dec-07	31-Mar-08		31-Mar-07	30-Jun-07	30-Sep-07	31-Dec-07	31-Mar-08	
Scotland	8,577	8,523	8,401	8,633	9,518	0.42	3,094	2,947	3,007	3,311	3,986	0.66
Aberdeen City	143	146	159	165	192	0.19	26	29	48	59	69	0.33
Aberdeenshire	246	273	248	267	292	0.30	127	145	134	153	156	0.54
Angus	103	127	151	124	136	0.28	34	41	37	36	47	0.38
Argyll & Bute	212	213	193	189	174	0.42	56	57	57	55	43	0.43
Clackmannanshire	134	136	128	116	104	0.48	58	60	54	49	46	0.74
Dumfries & Galloway	262	263	240	250	277	0.41	87	76	82	71	87	0.53
Dundee City	154	155	150	147	156	0.23	92	100	93	93	101	0.63
East Ayrshire	99	87	82	90	107	0.21	29	33	29	31	29	0.19
East Dunbartonshire	122	130	132	155	149	0.35	68	65	67	73	75	0.59
East Lothian	192	180	188	203	207	0.52	91	89	99	105	118	1.04
East Renfrewshire	31	30	33	29	38	0.11	12	11	7	8	11	0.10
Edinburgh, City of	595	613	673	684	691	0.32	185	88	36	260	255	0.56
Eilean Siar	61	50	45	46	52	0.45	15	19	17	14	15	0.54
Falkirk	233	273	264	301	334	0.50	78	76	89	121	122	0.65
Fife	430	452	382	422	406	0.26	191	202	162	170	165	0.39
Glasgow City	2,094	1,951	1,882	1,959	2,544	0.92	708	700	740	794	1,323	1.92
Highland	368	413	437	410	454	0.47	90	104	138	107	137	0.56
Inverclyde	113	85	73	77	91	0.25	33	34	30	20	28	0.28
Midlothian	310	225	167	160	195	0.58	186	88	61	62	71	0.72
Moray	118	115	149	149	159	0.42	33	38	49	41	50	0.50
North Ayrshire	184	184	188	214	246	0.41	44	12	41	49	68	0.41
North Lanarkshire	437	430	417	434	418	0.30	148	135	145	157	169	0.40
Orkney	56	51	46	40	55	0.62	36	33	29	22	26	1.18
Perth & Kinross	207	206	207	228	267	0.43	93	98	122	125	142	0.93
Renfrewshire	166	202	192	177	186	0.24	79	79	89	62	52	0.25
Scottish Borders	86	91	92	110	120	0.24	28	30	28	30	32	0.26
Shetland	108	99	103	98	73	0.77	30	31	33	36	25	0.98
South Ayrshire	234	244	249	233	224	0.44	60	77	73	78	67	0.53
South Lanarkshire	365	387	368	376	383	0.29	124	141	142	147	154	0.40
Stirling	143	166	181	189	187	0.50	56	55	63	67	66	0.67
West Dunbartonshire	245	240	237	240	252	0.61	51	57	48	44	61	0.54
West Lothian	326	306	345	351	349	0.50	146	144	165	172	176	0.79

1. From June 2005, this includes households with children or pregnant women. Figures from this point onward are therefore not strictly comparable with previous ones.

2. Percentages are calculated using the 2004-based projection for 2006.

Figures previously provided by North Ayrshire for 31 March 2003-31 March 2007 included all households placed in temporary accommodation during the quarter. Figures have been revised for this publication using corrected data.

1. Percentages are calculated using the 2004-based projection for 2007.

Breaches of Unsuitable Accommodation Order by local authority area as at the end of the quarter: 2005 to 2007

Table 12

Breaches of Unsuitable Accommodation Order by local authority area as at the end of the quarter: 2005 to 2008

	As at 30 June 2005	As at 30 September 2005	As at 31 December 2005	As at 31 March 2006	As at 30 June 2006	As at 30 September 2006	As at 31 December 2006	As at 31 March 2007	As at 30 June 2007	As at 30 September 2007	As at 31 December 2007	As at 31 March 2008
Scotland	47	58	33	55	43	63	49	34	50	50	35	62
Aberdeen City	1	2	1	1	5	2	-	1	-	3	1	1
Aberdeenshire	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	4	4	3	3	4
Angus	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Argyll & Bute	13	10	7	6	1	9	11	2	2	2	-	-
Clackmannanshire	2	-	1	2	1	7	7	10	5	4	3	2
Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dundee City	6	6	9	1	16	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
East Ayrshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Dunbartonshire	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Lothian	1	9	3	6	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	2
East Renfrewshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh, City of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eilean Siar	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Falkirk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	7	5
Fife	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	1
Glasgow City	5	5	-	7	1	8	-	-	1	1	1	2
Highland	7	12	5	5	9	1	3	2	4	4	-	9
Inverclyde	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midlothian	7	9	-	7	2	15	12	4	21	14	4	10
Moray	2	3	-	4	1	2	2	2	-	8	6	9
North Ayrshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Lanarkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orkney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Perth & Kinross	-	-	5	13	5	3	8	4	9	8	3	11
Renfrewshire	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scottish Borders	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	4	3
Shetland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Ayrshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
South Lanarkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stirling	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Dunbartonshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Lothian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

13. The Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, now consolidated into Part II of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, introduced statutory duties on housing authorities to assist those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness (potentially homeless), including providing accommodation in certain circumstances.

14. The legislation currently requires local authorities to make inquiries into the circumstances of applicants to satisfy themselves whether the applicant is homeless or potentially homeless. Once the authority is satisfied this is the case, it must also determine whether the applicant has a priority need, whether he/she became homeless intentionally and, in some cases, whether the applicant has a local connection with another authority in Scotland, England or Wales. A local connection with an authority means that the applicant normally resided in that area from choice, either because he/she was employed in or had family associations with it, or for other special reasons.

15. Section 24 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as amended, defines homelessness for the purposes of the Act as follows. A person is homeless if he/she has no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere. A person is also homeless if he/she has accommodation but cannot reasonably occupy it, for example because of a threat of violence. A person is potentially homeless (threatened with homelessness) if it is likely that he/she will become homeless within two months. A person is intentionally homeless if he/she deliberately did or failed to do anything which led to the loss of accommodation which it was reasonable for him/her to continue to occupy.

16. Section 25 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as amended, defines the categories of household regarded as having a priority need for accommodation. Further details can be found in the Code of Guidance on Homelessness. This is available on-line at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/31133334/33366>.

17. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 amends the 1987 Act and requires councils to provide a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance to all applicants assessed as homeless, regardless of whether they have been assessed as being in priority need. The Homelessness Etc (Scotland) Act 2003 is more long-term in scope, notably introducing a phasing out of the distinction between priority and non-priority applications, and enabling the suspension of the test of local connection. The ultimate aim of the Act is to ensure that everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless is entitled to settled accommodation by 2012.

18. The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2004 came into force on 6 December 2004, and is intended to prevent the routine use of unsuitable temporary accommodation for households with family commitments. Under this Order, local authorities cannot put households with children and pregnant women into temporary accommodation which is not suitable, unless exceptional circumstances apply. Unsuitable accommodation is defined in the Order as accommodation which does not meet standards relating to the physical properties of the accommodation (the physical standard), its proximity to health and education services (the proximity standard) and its suitability for use by children (the safety standard).

19. While the Order provides for exceptional circumstances in which accommodation which does not meet the physical and/or proximity standards may be used, the safety standard must always be met. Further details can be found in the Code of Guidance available on-line at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/31133334/33366>.

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