



## Homelessness stats

### Scale of the issue

- Around 83,000 homeless young people receive help from homelessness services each year.<sup>i</sup>
- Around 150,000 young people ask their local authorities for help because they are homeless or at risk of homelessness.<sup>ii</sup>
- There are around 35,000 young people in homeless accommodation at any one time across the UK.<sup>iii</sup>
- In total, it is estimated that in the last year around 1.3 million young people aged 16-24 have slept rough or in an unsafe place, and just under 300,000 are doing so on any one night.<sup>iv</sup>
- In 2015/16, 13,280 young people were accepted as homeless by local authorities. This is 23% of all acceptances.<sup>v</sup>
- An estimated 30,000 young people are turned away from their local authority every year in England and Wales.<sup>vi</sup>

### Causes of homelessness

- Some young people are more at risk than others. 14% of young people experiencing homelessness are young offenders; 14% are care leavers.<sup>vii</sup>
- 67% of young people in homelessness accommodation are there because relatives or friends are no longer willing to accommodate them.<sup>viii</sup> This is usually due to relationship breakdown.<sup>ix</sup>
- 6% of young homeless people became homeless upon leaving or being evicted from their previous home.<sup>x</sup>
- 9% of young people became homeless abuse and domestic violence.<sup>xi</sup>

### Need

- 41% of homeless young people are not in education, training or employment<sup>xii</sup>
- 40% of young homeless people are likely to be experiencing depression compared 21% of non-homeless young people<sup>xiii</sup>

- 27% of homeless young people have been diagnosed with a mental health condition by a doctor compared with 7% of the group of non-homeless young people<sup>xiv</sup>
- One in four homeless young people (27%) have been diagnosed with a mental health problems<sup>xv</sup>
- One in two homeless young people (50%) use illegal substances<sup>xvi</sup>
- One in five homeless young people (21%) have self-harmed<sup>xvii</sup>
- Young homeless people are twice as likely to die as people their age who have homes<sup>xviii</sup>

### Support for young homeless people

- 59% of supported accommodation providers had to turn young people away at some point in 2015 because the young person's needs were too high<sup>xix</sup>
- 52% homelessness organisations were unable to support a young person due to limited capacity<sup>xx</sup>
- 49% of areas do not have a Nightstop or similar scheme, 43% do not have a youth specific assessment centre.<sup>xxi</sup>

### Runaways

- More than one in four (27%) children in the UK have thought about running away<sup>xxii</sup>
  - More than one in ten (14%) say they have spent a night away from home without telling their parents<sup>xxiii</sup>
  - Half of children (52%) who had run away said they did so because of arguing with their parents<sup>xxiv</sup>
  - One in five (21%) know other children who are homeless or regularly sleep away from home because of problems with their family<sup>xxv</sup>
    - 83,000 homeless young people in the UK
      - 63,976 in England
      - 12,107 in Scotland
      - 4,133 in Wales
      - 3,025 in Northern Ireland
    - 150,000 young people ask their local authorities for help because they are homeless or at risk of homelessness
      - 130,000 in England
      - 9,800 in Scotland
      - 6,800 in Wales
      - 3,800 in North Ireland
  - One in five (20%) young people say they have sofa surfed
  - One in six(17%) young people say they have slept rough
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<sup>i</sup> Clarke, A., Burgess, G. Morris, S. & Udagawa, C. (2015) Estimating the scale of youth homelessness in the UK. Cambridge: Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research)

<sup>ii</sup> Youth Homelessness Databank (2015) Beyond statutory homelessness. London: Centrepoin)

<sup>iii</sup> Clarke, A., Burgess, G. Morris, S. & Udagawa, C. (2015) Estimating the scale of youth homelessness in the UK. Cambridge: Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research)

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid.

<sup>v</sup> DCLG, Table 781: Age of applicants Households accepted<sup>1</sup> by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by age of applicant. Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/463064/Statutory\\_Homelessness\\_Live\\_Tables\\_201506.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/463064/Statutory_Homelessness_Live_Tables_201506.xlsx)

<sup>vi</sup> Clarke, A., Burgess, G. Morris, S. & Udagawa, C. (2015) Estimating the scale of youth homelessness in the UK. Cambridge: Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research)

<sup>vii</sup> Homeless Link (2015) Young and homeless 2015. [pdf] Available from:

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/201512%20-%20Young%20and%20Homeless%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>viii</sup> Homeless Link (2015) Young and homeless 2015. [pdf] Available from:

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/201512%20-%20Young%20and%20Homeless%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>ix</sup> Centrepoin) Families under pressure. [pdf] Available from:

[https://centrepoin.org.uk/media/1701/families-under-pressure\\_final.pdf](https://centrepoin.org.uk/media/1701/families-under-pressure_final.pdf) Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>x</sup> Homeless Link (2015) Young and homeless 2015. [pdf] Available from:

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/201512%20-%20Young%20and%20Homeless%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>xi</sup> Homeless Link (2015) Young and homeless 2015. [pdf] Available from:

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/201512%20-%20Young%20and%20Homeless%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>xii</sup> Homeless Link (2015) Young and homeless 2015. [pdf] Available from:

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/201512%20-%20Young%20and%20Homeless%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>xiii</sup> DePaul (2012) Making it matter. [pdf] Available from:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/dms/scc/management/corporate-communications/documents/social-care-health/public-health/homelessness/Making-it-Matter---Improving-the-Health-of-Young-Homeless-People/Making%20it%20Matter%20-%20Improving%20the%20Health%20of%20Young%20Homeless%20People.pdf> Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>xiv</sup> DePaul (2012) Making it matter. [pdf] Available from:

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<sup>xv</sup> DePaul (2012) Making it matter. [pdf] Available from:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/dms/scc/management/corporate-communications/documents/social-care-health/public-health/homelessness/Making-it-Matter---Improving-the-Health-of-Young-Homeless-People/Making%20it%20Matter%20-%20Improving%20the%20Health%20of%20Young%20Homeless%20People.pdf> Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>xvi</sup> Centrepoin) Toxic Mix. [pdf] Available from: <https://centrepoin.org.uk/media/1717/toxic-mix-exec-sum.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>xvii</sup> Centrepoin) Toxic Mix. [pdf] Available from: <https://centrepoin.org.uk/media/1717/toxic-mix-exec-sum.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.

<sup>xviii</sup> Crisis (2012) Homelessness kills. [pdf] Available from:

<http://www.crisis.org.uk/data/files/publications/Homelessness%20kills%20-%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.

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<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/201512%20-%20Young%20and%20Homeless%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.
- <sup>xx</sup> Homeless Link (2015) Young and homeless 2015. [pdf] Available from:  
<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/201512%20-%20Young%20and%20Homeless%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.
- <sup>xxi</sup> Homeless Link (2015) Young and homeless 2015. [pdf] Available from:  
<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/201512%20-%20Young%20and%20Homeless%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 9 February 2017.
- <sup>xxii</sup> Action for Children poll of 1000 UK 8-16 year olds conducted by OnePoll.
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