

2016 Rough Sleeping Count

On 25 January 2017, the Department for Communities and Local Government released the autumn 2016 figures for rough sleeping. These statistics provide a snapshot figure of the number of people every local authority estimates or counts to be sleeping rough on any one night. The following analysis provides a regional breakdown and identifies the local authority areas that have seen the largest increases compared with previous years.

Headline figures

A total of **4,134** people were counted or estimated by local authorities to be sleeping rough in England on any one night in autumn 2016, an increase of 16% from the **3,569** figure of 2015 (Table 1).

Table 1: Rough sleeping in England 2010-2016

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of rough sleepers	1,768	2,181	2,309	2,414	2,744	3,569	4,134
Numerical increase on previous year	N/A	413	128	105	330	825	565
% change on previous year	N/A	23%	6%	5%	14%	30%	16%

Source: DCLG

The figures show that the number of people sleeping rough has more than doubled in the last two years. Local authorities' counts and estimates indicate an increase of 2,366 rough sleepers (134%) since the current methodology for measuring rough sleeping began in 2010 (Table 2).

Table 2: Rough sleeping changes 2010–2016

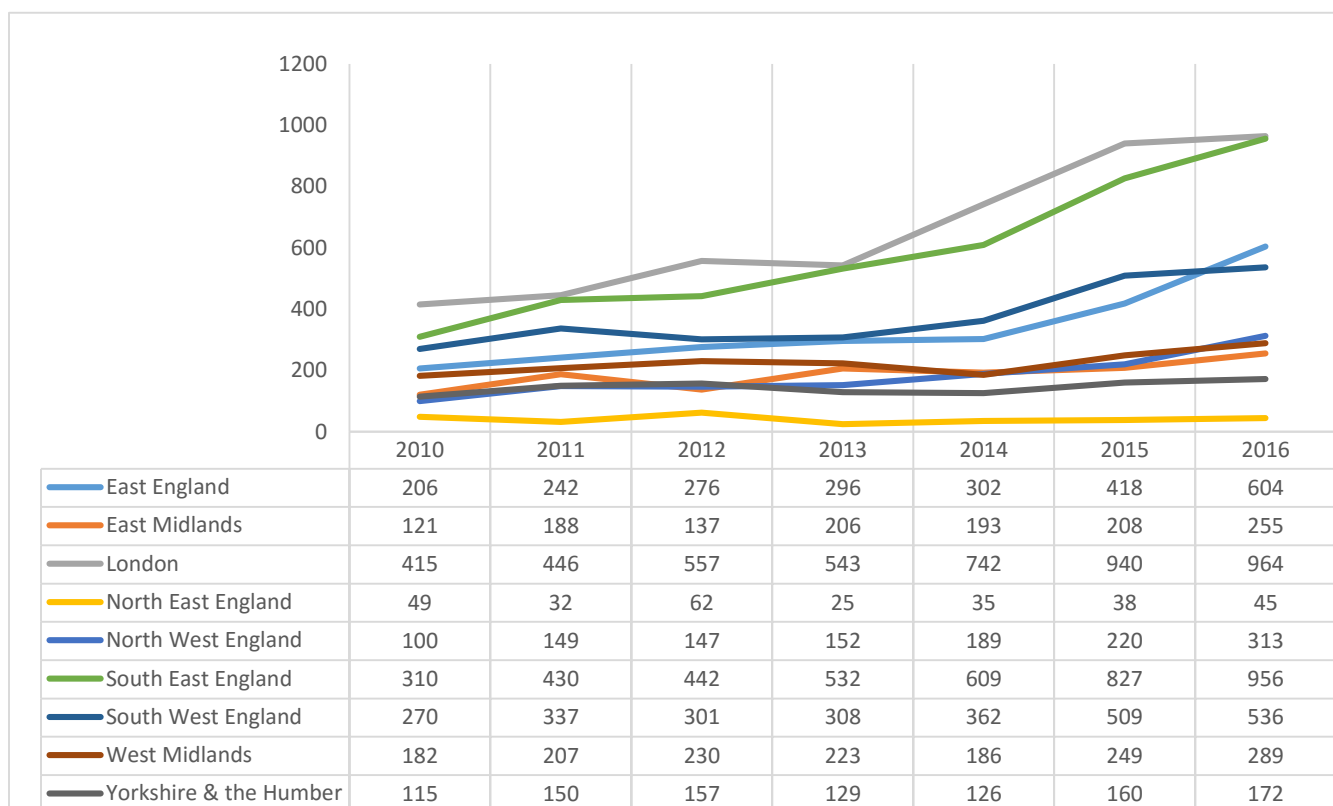
	2016 v 2010	2016 v 2011	2016 v 2012	2016 v 2013	2016 v 2014	2016 v 2015
% difference 2016 and previous years	134%	90%	79%	71%	51%	16%
Numerical difference 2016 and previous years	+2366	+1953	+1825	+1720	+1390	+565

Source: DCLG

Rough sleeping by region

- London has a total of 964 people sleeping rough, an increase of 3% from the 2015 figure of 940.
- There were significant increases in rough sleeping in East England (44%) and in the North West (42%) (Table 3).
- All regions reported an increase in rough sleeping compared to 2015 (Graph 1).

Graph 1: Rough sleeping by region 2010-2016



Source: DCLG

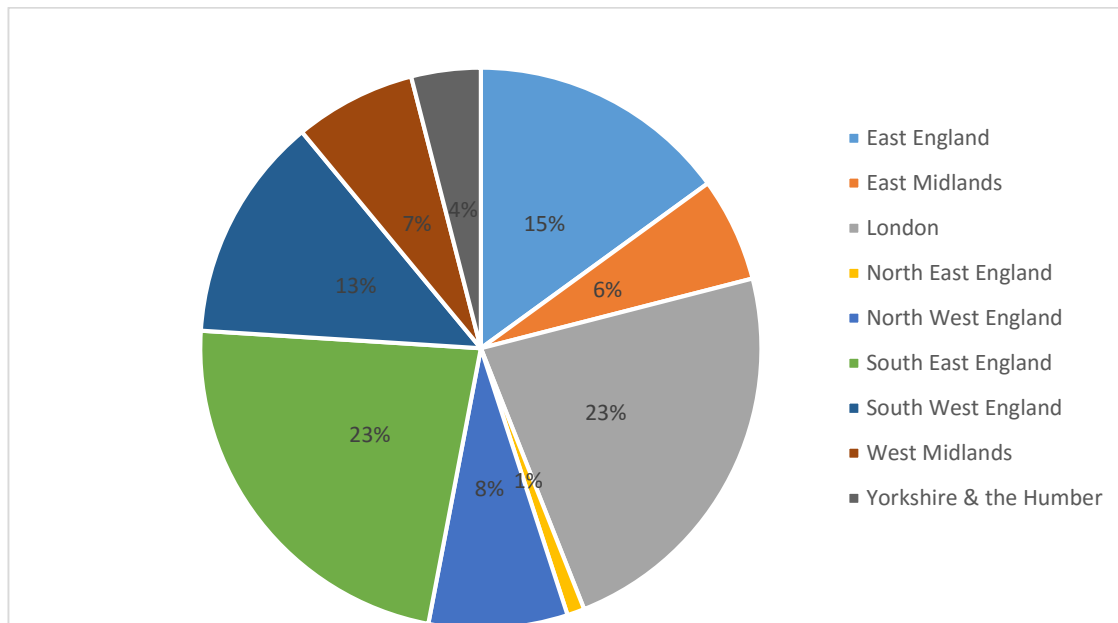
Table 3: Rough sleeping percentage increases since 2015, by region.

East England	44%	South East England	16%
East Midlands	23%	South West England	5%
London	3%	West Midlands	16%
North East England	18%	Yorkshire & the Humber	8%
North West England	42%		

Source: DCLG

- In 2016, London accounted for 23% of the total number of rough sleepers, compared to 26% in 2015.
- The South East continues to account for a high percentage of the total number of people sleeping rough (23%).
- The North East continues to have the lowest proportion of people sleeping rough (1%) (graph2).

Graph 2: Regional percentage of total number of rough sleepers 2010-2016



Source: DCLG

Rough sleeping by local authority

- Westminster remains the local authority with the highest number of rough sleepers, a total of 260 people compared to 2015 figure of 265 (Table 4).
- Bristol is the only other local authority in the top 10 to report a reduction in the number of rough sleepers (-23).
- Birmingham and Redbridge are in the top 10 in 2016 but were not in the top ten in 2015.
- The City of London and Brent are no longer in the top 10. Brent reported a 56% decrease and the City of London a 4% increase in the number of rough sleepers.

Table 4: Top 10 local authorities with highest number of rough sleepers, 2016

Local Authority	Region	2015	2016	Change from 2015	% change on 2015
Westminster	London	265	260	-5	-2%
Brighton and Hove	South East	78	144	66	85%
Cornwall	South West	65	99	34	52%
Manchester	North West	70	78	8	11%
Luton	East	53	76	23	43%
Bristol	South West	97	74	-23	-24%
Croydon	London	51	68	17	33%
Redbridge	London	43	60	17	40%
Bedford	East	51	59	8	16%
Birmingham	West Midlands	36	55	19	53%

Source: DCLG

- Brighton and Hove reported the largest increase in the number of people sleeping rough (66).
- Three of the top ten Local Authorities reporting the largest increase in the counted or estimated number of rough sleepers are in East England (Table 5).

Table 5: Top 10 local authorities with largest increase in number of rough sleepers, 2016

Local Authority	Region	2015	2016	Change from 2015	% change on 2015
Brighton and Hove	South East	78	144	66	85%
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	East	5	42	37	740%
Cornwall	South West	65	99	34	52%
Wigan	North West	3	28	25	833%
Luton	East	53	76	23	43%
Portsmouth	South East	15	37	22	147%
Cambridge	East	18	40	22	122%
Norwich	South East	13	34	21	162%
Nottingham	East Midlands	14	35	21	150%
Walsall	West Midlands	7	26	19	271%

Source: DCLG

For more data, visit the Homeless Link website: <http://www.homeless.org.uk/facts/homelessness-in-numbers/how-many-people-sleep-rough-in-england>

