

2015 Rough sleeping Count

On 25 February 2016, the Department for Communities and Local Government released the autumn 2015 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 when compared with previous years.

Headline figures

- **3,569** people were counted or estimated by local authorities to be sleeping rough on any one night in autumn 2015. This was up 30% from **2,744** in 2014 (Table 1).

Table 1: Rough sleeping in England, 2010–15

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

Source: DCLG

- The 3,569 figure shows that rough sleeping has more than doubled since the current methodology for measuring rough sleeping began in 2010 (Table 2).

Table 2: Rough sleeping percentage changes, 2010–15

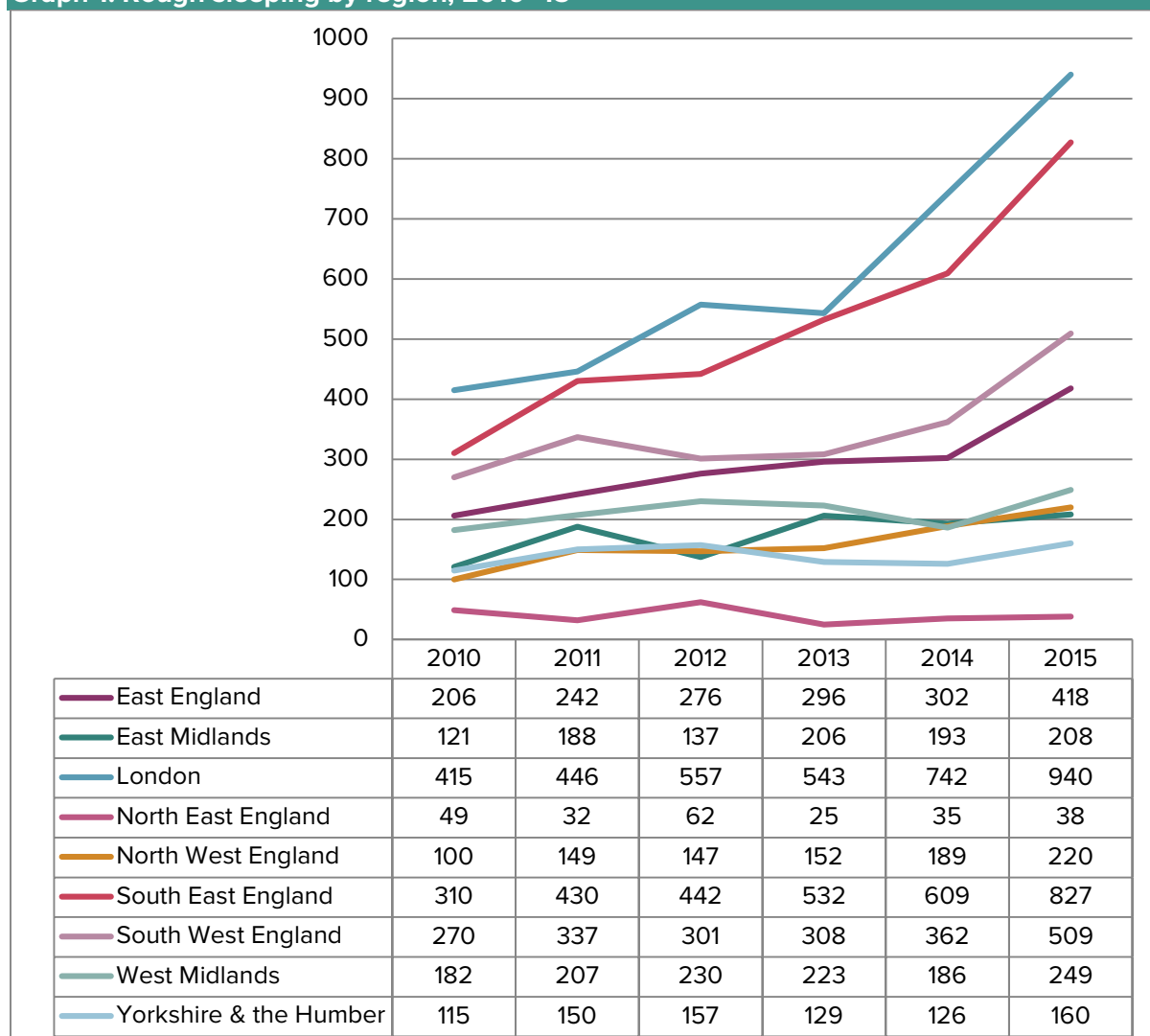
	2015 v 2010	2015 v 2011	2015 v 2012	2015 v 2013	2015 v 2014
% difference between 2015 and previous years	102%	64%	55%	48%	30%

Source: DCLG

Rough sleeping by region

- A quarter of people sleeping rough are in London (26%). There is also a high percentage in the South East (23%). The North East continues to have the lowest proportion of people sleeping rough (1%).
- All regions reported an increase in the numbers of people sleeping rough compared to 2014 (Graph 1).
- The highest numerical increase was in South East England (+218).
- The highest proportional increase was in South West England (+41%), (Table 3).
- Since 2010, rough sleeping has increased the most in South East England (+167%).
- North East England is the only region to see a decrease in rough sleeping since 2010 (-22%).

Graph 1: Rough sleeping by region, 2010–15



Source: DCLG

Table 3: Rough sleeping percentage changes by region, 2010–15

	2015 v 2010	2015 v 2011	2015 v 2012	2015 v 2013	2015 v 2014
East England	103%	73%	51%	41%	38%
East Midlands	72%	11%	52%	1%	8%
London	127%	111%	69%	73%	27%
North East England	-22%	19%	-39%	52%	9%
North West England	120%	48%	50%	45%	16%
South East England	167%	92%	87%	55%	36%
South West England	89%	51%	69%	65%	41%
West Midlands	37%	20%	8%	12%	34%
Yorkshire & the Humber	39%	7%	2%	24%	27%

Source: DCLG

Rough sleeping by local authority

- Westminster remains the local authority with the largest number of rough sleepers, with the total figure (265) unchanged from last year (Table 4).
- Four of the top ten local authorities are based in London.
- Local authorities in the top 10 in 2015, which were not in the top 10 in 2014, are Brent, Luton, Bedford and Croydon.

Table 4: Changes in rough sleeping figures by local authority, 2014–15

Local Authority	Region	2014	2015	Change from 2014	% change on 2014
Westminster	London	265	265	0	0%
Bristol	South West England	41	97	56	137%
Brighton & Hove	South East England	41	78	37	90%
Manchester	North West England	43	70	27	63%
Cornwall	South West England	40	65	25	63%
Brent	London	11	55	44	400%
Luton	East England	33	53	20	61%
Bedford	East England	25	51	26	104%
Croydon	London	30	51	21	70%
City of London	London	50	48	-2	-4%

Source: DCLG

- Other local authorities that saw large increases in the number of people rough sleeping are Windsor and Maidenhead (+29), Southend on Sea (+26), Redbridge (+24) and Waltham Forest (+23).
- Other local authorities that saw large percentage increases in the number of people rough sleeping are Haringey (+2100%), Welwyn Hatfield (+1300%), Rugby (+850%), Medway (+600%) and Wokingham (+600%). Please note, large percentage increases may reflect the fact that 2014 figures were low.

For more data, visit the Homeless Link website:

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/facts/homelessness-in-numbers/rough-sleeping/rough-sleeping-explore-data>