

Wandsworth Housing and Regeneration Department
2022/23 Equalities Information
Housing Advice / Homelessness / Provision of Temporary Accommodation

Introduction

Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 sets out the duties owed by local housing authorities to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Local Authorities have a duty to provide housing advice and assistance to everyone in their local area but the type of advice and assistance depends on whether the person is eligible for assistance (i.e. not subject to immigration control), whether they are actually homeless, whether they are intentionally homeless (they did or did not do something which caused their homelessness i.e. not pay their rent), whether they have a priority need for accommodation and local connection.

In April 2018 the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) came into force. Prior to the HRA much of the assistance provided to homeless applicants was predicated on whether after assessment a priority need was identified. A priority need included having dependent children, a disability and/or other instances of vulnerability. Those assessed as not having a priority need were less likely to be assisted. Within the HRA the emphasis on priority need has now been removed and all local authorities are expected to provide assistance in the form of prevention or relief of homelessness irrespective of the applicant's priority needs, if they are facing homelessness within 56 days of approach. Prevention is where an applicant is prevented from becoming homeless, such as the Council mediating with the landlord or host so that the applicant can remain in their accommodation. Relief is where reasonable steps are taken to relieve the applicant of their homelessness such as by helping them secure suitable accommodation of at least 6 months.

In order to monitor homelessness approaches and also local authority performance, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have a set of data requirements known as H-Clic which supersedes the previous P1E data returns. Whereas previously the data submitted to DLUHC was a snapshot of a local authority's homelessness cases at the end of each quarter, H-Clic covers all cases that the Council has dealt with and includes case-level details such as client name, gender, national insurance number etc. Such data is treated as mandatory within DLUHC's H-Clic Data Specification document.

Housing Advice Homeless Cases by Ethnic Group (2022-2023)

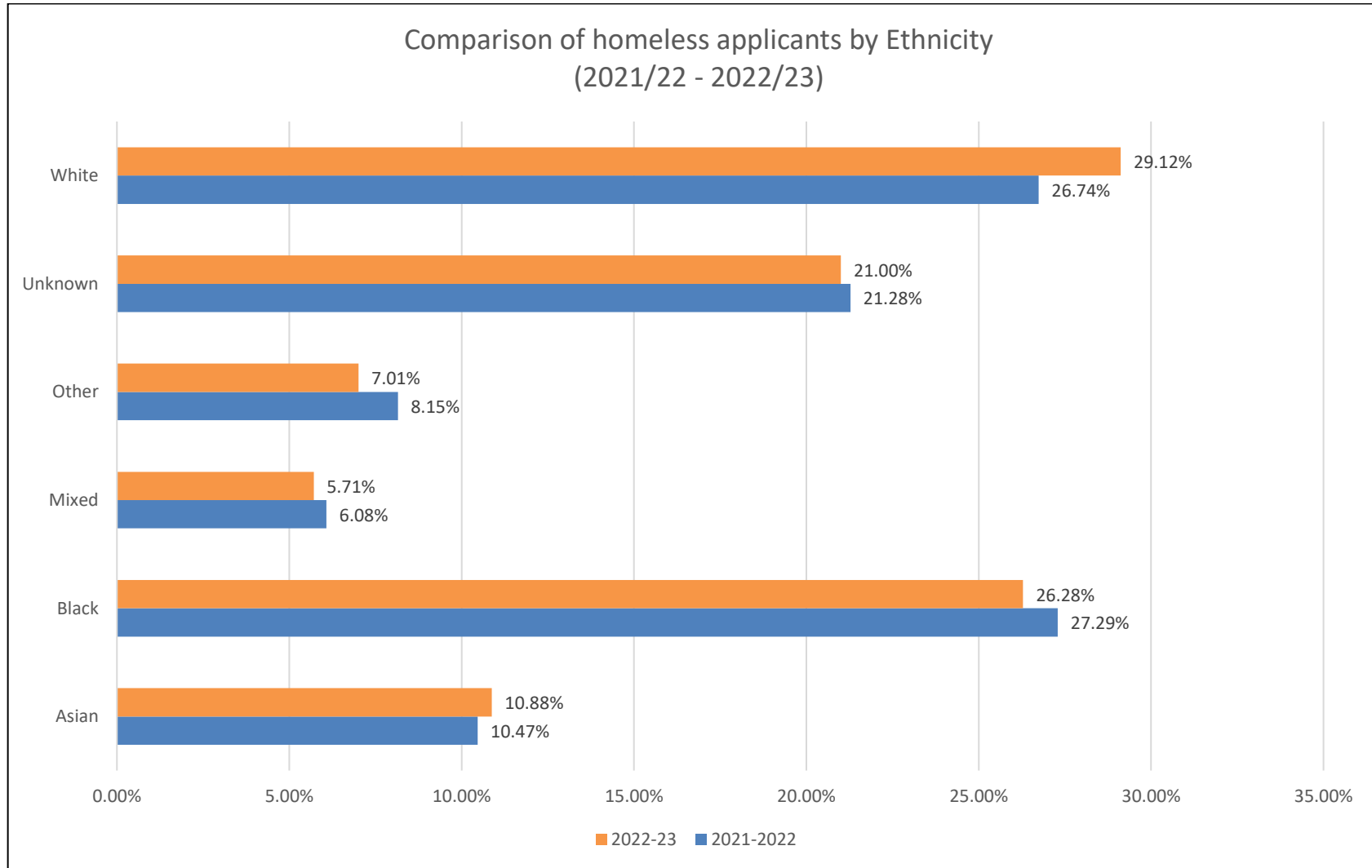
		White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other	Unknown	Total
Homeless applications received	No.	964	189	360	870	232	695	3310
	%	29.12%	5.71%	10.88%	26.28%	7.01%	21.00%	100%
Cases admitted into temporary accommodation	No.	351	77	139	295	72	266	1200
	%	29.25%	6.42%	11.58%	24.58%	6.00%	22.17%	100%
Prevention duty: cases closed	No.	27	3	10	20	4	7	71
	%	38.03%	4.23%	14.08%	28.17%	5.63%	9.86%	100%
Homeless cases prevented *	No.	41	5	4	22	12	12	96
	%	42.71%	5.21%	4.17%	22.92%	12.50%	12.50%	100%
Relief duty: cases closed	No.	97	14	25	62	25	64	287
	%	33.80%	4.88%	8.71%	21.60%	8.71%	22.30%	100%
Homeless cases relieved *	No.	71	9	12	38	9	40	179
	%	39.66%	5.03%	6.70%	21.23%	5.03%	22.35%	100%
Cases accepted: duty to house	No.	194	47	100	249	58	163	811
	%	23.92%	5.80%	12.33%	30.70%	7.15%	20.10%	100%

* these are cases where the Council has either prevented or relieved an applicant's homelessness by securing suitable accommodation of more than 6 months. These do not include all of the council's prevention schemes due to the availability of ethnicity data

In 2022/23, there was a 13% increase in the number of applications recorded by the Housing Assessment team which is likely due to the continued high incidences of domestic abuse, and in such cases it is difficult to prevent homelessness.

In 2022/23, the number of households who were accepted as homeless was – in most instances - proportionate to the number of households presenting as homeless for each ethnic group. However, those from the White group received a smaller proportion of acceptances (23.92%) when compared to the number of homeless applications received (29.12%). The Black ethnic group had the greatest difference, representing 26.28% of applicants while contributing 30.70% of all accepted cases.

The Black ethnic group also had the second highest number of prevented cases, representing 22.92% of all homeless preventions.



The percentage breakdown of homeless applications across all ethnic groups has remained largely the same in 2022/23 when compared to 2021/22. The group with the largest difference is the white ethnic group, which represented 26.74% of all applications in 2021/22 and now represents 29.12% of all applications.

Housing Advice and Homelessness Cases by Gender *

		Female with Children	Female without Children	Male with Children	Male without Children	Total
Homeless applications received	No.	817	964	191	1338	3310
	%	24.68%	29.12%	5.77%	40.42%	100%
Cases admitted into temporary accommodation	No.	380	323	86	411	1200
	%	31.67%	26.92%	7.17%	34.25%	100%
Prevention duty: cases closed	No.	22	21	4	24	71
	%	30.99%	29.58%	5.63%	33.80%	100%
Homeless cases prevented *	No.	32	31	6	27	96
	%	33.33%	32.29%	6.25%	28.13%	100%
Relief duty: cases closed	No.	64	80	7	136	287
	%	22.30%	27.87%	2.44%	47.39%	100%
Homeless cases relieved *	No.	37	54	4	84	179
	%	20.67%	30.17%	2.23%	46.93%	100%
Cases accepted: duty to house	No.	303	191	90	227	811
	%	37.36%	23.55%	11.10%	27.60%	100%

* each gender category represents the lead applicant (male or female), and each category may include joint applicants or spouses / partners

The largest gender group was male without children, representing 40.42% of all applicants, while representing 34.25% of all admissions into temporary accommodation. The second largest group was females without children and represented 29.12% of all homeless applications and 26.92% of all admissions into temporary accommodation. However, females with children represent 24.68% of all applicants but have a higher percentage as cases admitted into temporary accommodation (31.67%).

A similar pattern can be observed in the number of homeless cases prevented, with males without children representing 28.13% of all homeless cases prevented, while females without children represented 32.29% of all homeless cases prevented.

Similar to previous years, female with children represented the largest group of accepted homeless cases (37.36%), and male with children also received a higher proportion of positive decisions (11.10%) when compared to the number of applications received (5.77%). This will almost certainly be due to their having a priority need due to dependent children.

Households in Temporary Accommodation by Ethnic Group

There has been a slight 0.91% increase in the number of households being placed into temporary accommodation when compared to the previous year (2,944 in 2021/22). Similar to 2021/22, the black ethnic group remains the largest group accommodated (29%). This figure is much higher than the borough demographic as members of the black ethnic group constitutes 10.1% of the population (Census, 2021). The white ethnic group is the second largest group accommodated, representing 23% of households in temporary accommodation.

Households in Temporary Accommodation *		White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other	Unknown	Total
2021/22	No.	670	171	503	856	265	479	2944
	%	23%	6%	17%	29%	9%	15%	100%
2022/23	No.	686	173	501	874	266	471	2971
	%	23%	6%	17%	29%	9%	16%	100%

* this does not include households who have arranged temporary accommodation themselves (homeless from home cases)

The distribution of ethnic groups that were placed in temporary accommodation is very similar for the years 2021/22 and 2022/23. In keeping with the slight increase in placements being made all groups have increased in numbers with the exception of the Asian ethnic group, which had a very slight decrease in temporary accommodation placements.

Households in Bed and Breakfast (not self-contained) Accommodation by Ethnic Group

The number of B&B placements have remained steady over the past three years.

Households placed into B&B (not self-contained) by ethnic group		White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other	Unknown	Total
2021/22	No.	27	3	9	16	4	26	86
	%	31%	3%	10%	19%	5%	30%	100%
2022/23	No.	26	3	9	19	4	26	87
	%	30%	3%	10%	22%	5%	30%	100%

Where applicants are placed in B&B accommodation that is not self-contained, the largest proportion are in the white ethnic group at 30%, which is a slight increase from 31% in the preceding year. The number of B&B placements for the white ethnic group (30%) is disproportionate to the number of overall temporary accommodation placements (23%). The Black ethnic group represent 19% of all B&B placements which is slightly under proportion when compared to the overall percentage of temporary accommodation placements (29%) for this group. For the Asian group, the proportion of B&B placements (10%) is significantly lower when compared to the cases admitted into temporary accommodation (17%).

Households in Temporary Accommodation by Gender

Households in Temporary Accommodation		Female with children	Female without children	Male with children	Male without children	Total
2021/22	B&B (not self-contained)	2 (2%)	26 (31%)	2 (2%)	56 (65%)	86 (100%)
	Total	1310 (44%)	465 (16%)	475 (16%)	694 (24%)	2944 (100%)
2022/23	B&B (not self-contained)	2 (2%)	25(29%)	2 (2%)	58(67%)	87 (100%)
	Total	1354 (44%)	447 (16%)	478 (16%)	692 (24%)	2971 (100%)

The largest proportion of applicants in any type of temporary accommodation are households with children. The combined total of these groups is 1,832 households which equates to 60% of all households placed into temporary accommodation, which is similar to 2021/22’s figure of 60.6%.

However, the largest proportion of applicants accommodated in B&B that is not self-contained is households without children. A total of 83 out of 87 households make up this group which equates to 95.4% of the B&B placements. This is to be expected since B&B placements are only offered to households with children on a short-term basis if no other accommodation is available. The number of B&B placements in 2022/23 (87) remains similar to 2021/22 (86).

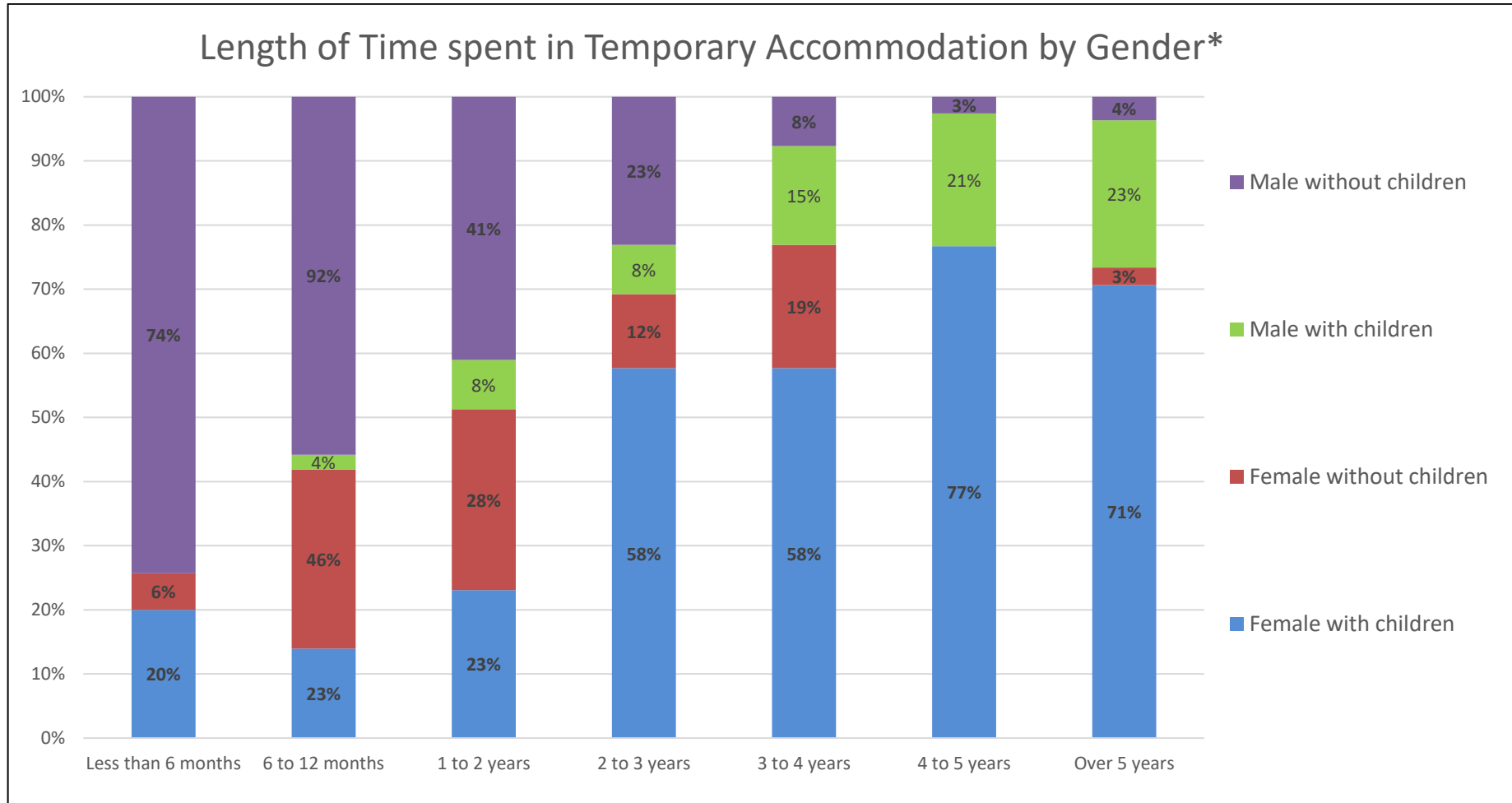
Length of Time Spent in Temporary Accommodation by Ethnic Group



* length of time spent in temporary accommodation is measured from the date a household was admitted into temporary accommodation to the date they left temporary accommodation as a result of being made a final offer of permanent accommodation

The white ethnic group represents the largest group for the least amount of time spent in temporary accommodation, representing 34% of those accommodated for less than 6 months, compared to 17% of those accommodated for less than 6 months for the black ethnic group. The black and Asian ethnic group represented 34% and 27% of households accommodated for over 5 years, compared to 19% households in the white ethnic group. However, households who have been in temporary accommodation for a substantial amount of time tend to require larger properties, which are in shorter supply and are in high demand, therefore leading to longer waiting times.

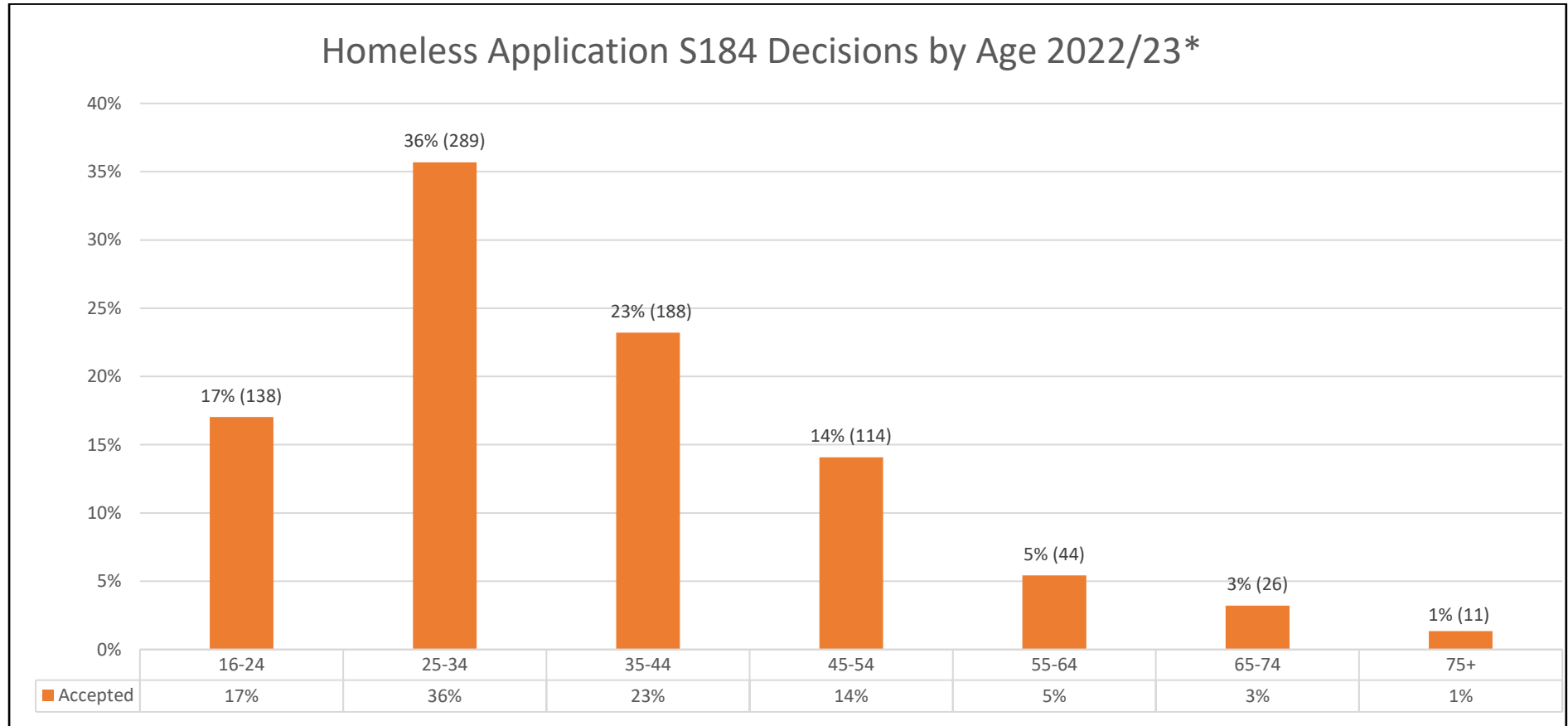
Length of Time Spent in Temporary Accommodation by Gender



*length of time spent in temporary accommodation is measured from the date a household was admitted into temporary accommodation to the date they left temporary accommodation as a result of being made a final offer of permanent accommodation

The group that spent the least amount of time in temporary accommodation were those groups without children, representing 80% of those applicants accommodated for 6 to 12 months. This is due to these households having more flexibility over permanent placements. Overall, females with children spent the most time in temporary accommodation, which is to be expected considering this is the largest group admitted into temporary accommodation and will often require larger accommodation.

Homeless Decisions by age



*Age of applicant at date of decision notice

In 2022/23 the largest percentage of decisions issued were to the 25-34 and 35-44 age groups which equated to 59% of all section 184s served, which is similar to last year’s figure of 58%. This is in proportion to the percentage of homeless approaches in these age groups, which account for 59% of all homeless approaches. No data is available for applicants who received negative section 184 decisions due to the very low number of these decisions currently being made.

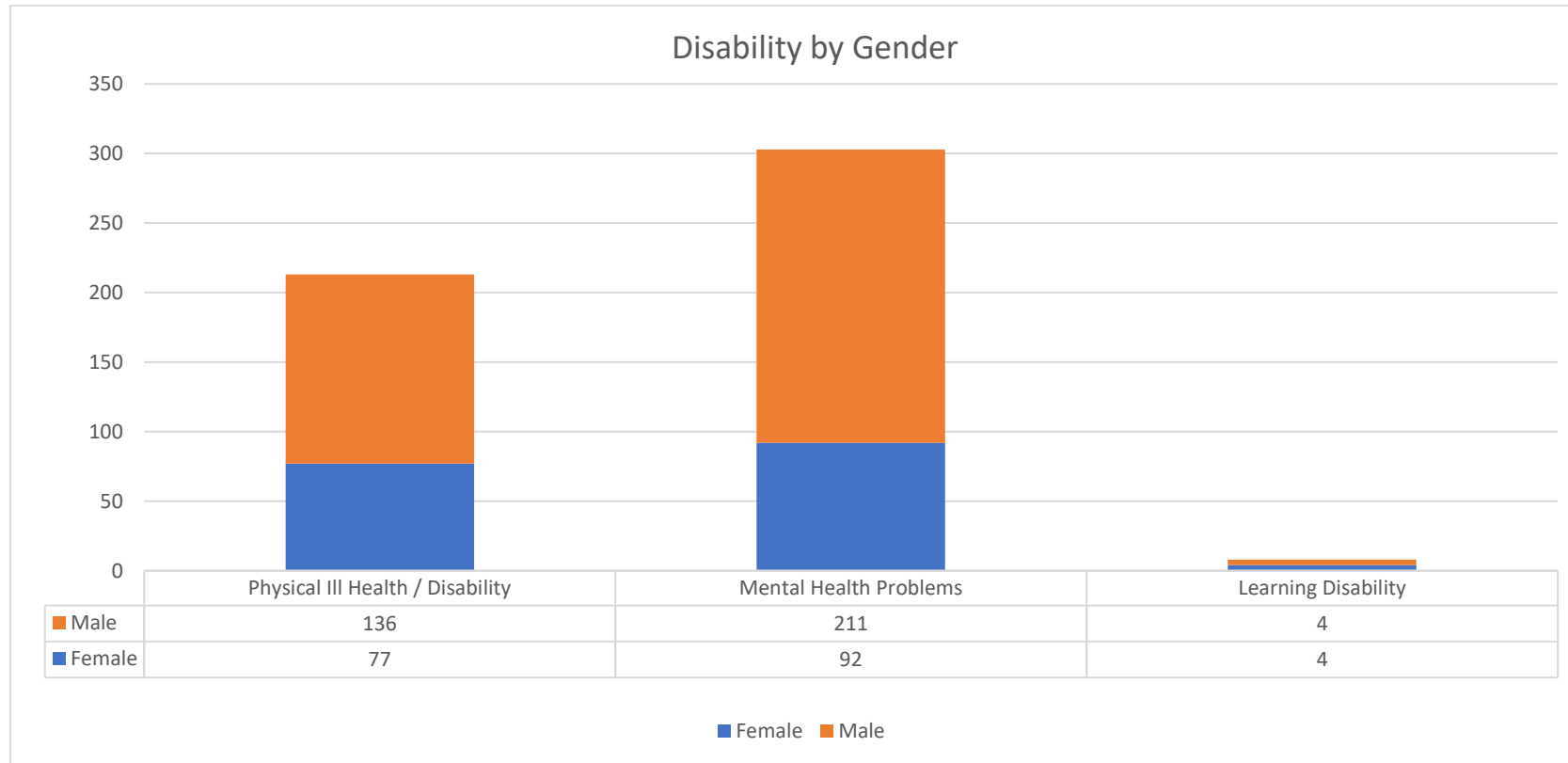
Accepted Housing Duty by Age

Age	Accepted Housing Duty (2021/22)	Percentage of Accepted Cases	Accepted Housing Duty (2022/23)	Percentage of Accepted Cases
16-24	133	19%	138	17%
25-34	226	32%	289	36%
35-44	186	26%	188	23%
45-54	104	15%	114	14%
55-64	39	6%	44	5%
65-74	11	2%	26	3%
75+	4	1%	11	1%
Total	703	100%	810	100%

The total number of accepted section 184 decisions issued across all age groups in 2022/23 has increased by approximately 9% when compared to the previous year. The distribution of positive decisions by age group is similar for both years.

Disability

Since the advent of the HRA in April 2018, there has been emphasis on local authorities to identify support needs of applicants' and/or household members. It should be noted that an applicant that has not had a disability identified during the initial HRA assessment may subsequently have a disability identified during the main duty assessment. These have been factored into the tables below.



The most common disability identified is for applicants who are experiencing mental health issues which account for 58% of all disabilities. Learning disability is the lowest identified disability, with 4 males and 4 females identified as having a learning disability.

Disability identified at HRA Assessment and Disability Confirmed at Main Duty

Disability Identified at HRA Assessment		Female	Male	Total
Physical Ill Health / Disability	No.	47	83	130
	%	36.10%	63.90%	100.00%
Mental Health Problems	No.	71	165	236
	%	30.00%	70.00%	100.00%
Learning Disability	No.	4	3	7
	%	57.14%	42.86%	100.00%
Disability Confirmed at Main Duty *				
Physical Ill Health / Disability	No.	30	53	83
	%	36.00%	64.00%	100.00%
Mental Health Problems	No.	21	46	67
	%	31.30%	68.70%	100.00%
Learning Disability	No.	0	1	1
	%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
* not assessed as such at HRA Assessment				

The chart above shows the percentage breakdown of identified disabilities at HRA assessment and confirmed at main duty assessment. The majority of identified disabilities are found within male applicants who represent on average 67% of all identified disabilities. The majority of applicants have their disability identified during the HRA assessment.