Nottinghamshire County Council



Health and Homelessness (2019)

What is homelessness?

Shelter, the housing and homelessness charity, defines homelessness as not having a home. You are homeless if you have nowhere to stay and are living on the streets, but you can be homeless even if you have a roof over your head. Homelessness is a far wider problem than the aspect that is most visible to the public – rough sleeping which is considered the tip of the iceberg. Tackling homelessness at the crisis stage is estimated to cost between £20,128 and £34,500 per person per year.

Estimated homeless population in Nottinghamshire at any one point in time

48

individuals sleeping rough on a given night

129

households in temporary accommodation

18%

identified a history of mental health problems

11%

experienced physical ill health and disability

657

households assessed by LA as owed a duty

2%

had alcohol dependency needs

23.5%

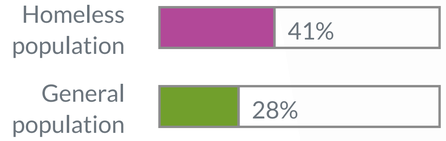
had drug dependency needs

478 (21%)

of individuals accessing structured substance misuse treatment with no fixed abode or housing problems

Many more are hidden homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

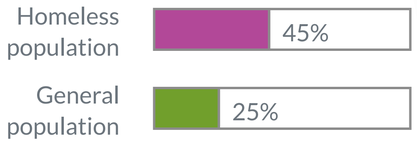
Long term physical health problems



It is estimated in Nottinghamshire the greatest problems are:

- musculoskeletal
- dental
- chest pain/ respiratory

Diagnosed mental health problems



In Nottinghamshire long term depression rates are the highest followed by mental health problems co-existing with substance misuse.

Key Message

The causes of homelessness and who is most at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping is complex and warrants action to both address those at risk of, and who are currently homeless, as well as prevention of homelessness in the future. This can only be done by public sector agencies working together in a more systematic and joined up way over an extended period. Physical, mental and substance misuse issues remain higher in the homeless population and flexible, innovative and targeted approaches in healthcare are needed to address barriers.

You can find the full Health and Homelessness(2019) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapter on Nottinghamshire Insight: www.nottinghamshireinsight.org.uk