Ending Homelessness
The report on the final recommendations of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group

Better Data Better Results
An options appraisal for a national data and monitoring system for street homelessness in Scotland
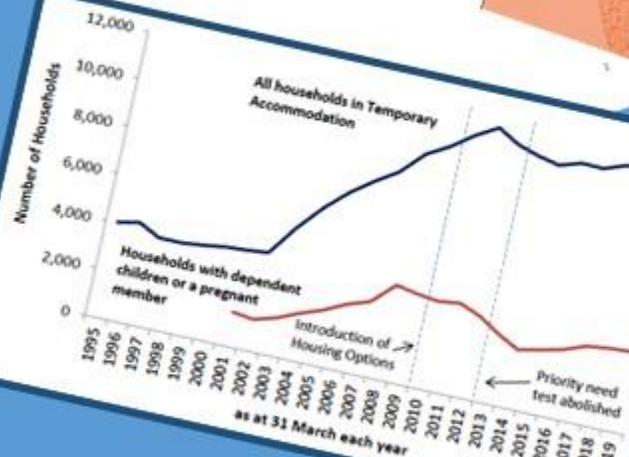
Government Statistical Service

Harmonisation of Definitions of Homelessness for UK Official Statistics: A Feasibility Report
February 2019

Health and Homelessness in Scotland
Executive Summary

PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

social research

In Scotland during 2018/19,

3% increase in homeless applications since 2017/18

29,894 households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness

Household Type of Homeless Applicants 2018/19

45% single male
21% single female
17% female single parent
4% male single parent
4% couple with children
3% couple without children
2% other with children
2% other without children

Homelessness Statistics User Event
15th October, Edinburgh

Homelessness Statistics 2018/19

Homelessness Statistics User Event, 15th October 2019

Data Collections

Homelessness data is collected by local authorities and shared with the Scottish Government on a quarterly basis.

These collections are:

HL1 – Homeless applications (Case level)

HL2 – Temporary Accommodation (Aggregate level, snapshot at end of each quarter)

HL3 – Temporary Accommodation (Case level)

PREVENT1 – Prevention activities (Housing Options) carried out by local authorities (Case level)

Organise a Homelessness Statistics User Group whose remit is to assess and improve the quality of the data collections.

Publications

Scottish Government gathers this data, carries out quality assurance, and publishes the results on a biannual basis.

June – Annual Homelessness and Housing Options publication.

January – Mid-year homelessness update.

In addition we frequently carry out 'ad hoc' analysis on our website.

Prevention

Key points

Compared with the same period one year ago, there has been a reduction of 2,995 approaches across Scotland (-7%). 24 Local Authorities have seen a reduction in approaches.

The most common type of activity was to provide general housing advice and tenancy rights advice - this accounted for 37% of all activities during 2018/19.

For approaches closed during the 2018/19 financial year:

50% of approaches made a homelessness application.

22% remained in their current accommodation.

13% had an unknown outcome or contact was lost.

15% found alternative accommodation, including a social rented tenancy (5%), a private rented tenancy (2%) and moving in with family and friends (2%). Other known outcomes accounted for a further 6%.

Housing Options Approaches by Month
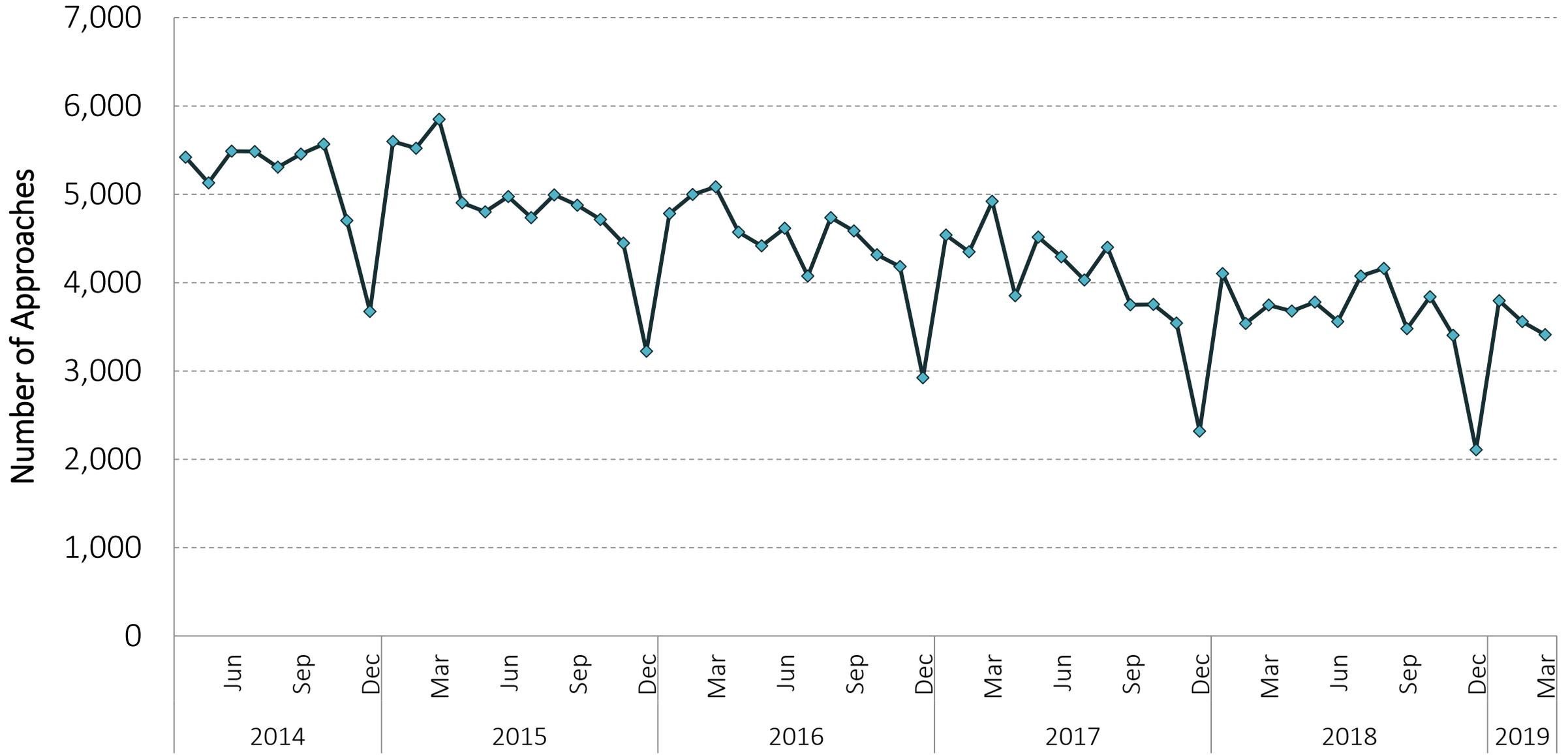
Outcome of Housing Options Approaches by Quarter

Legend:
- Made homelessness application to local authority
- Remained in current accommodation
- Lost Contact/ Not known
- Moved into Alternative Accommodation

Y-axis: Number of Outcomes (ranging from - to 8,000)

X-axis: Q2, Q3, Q4 (2014); Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 (2015); Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 (2016); Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 (2017); Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 (2018); Q1 (2019)
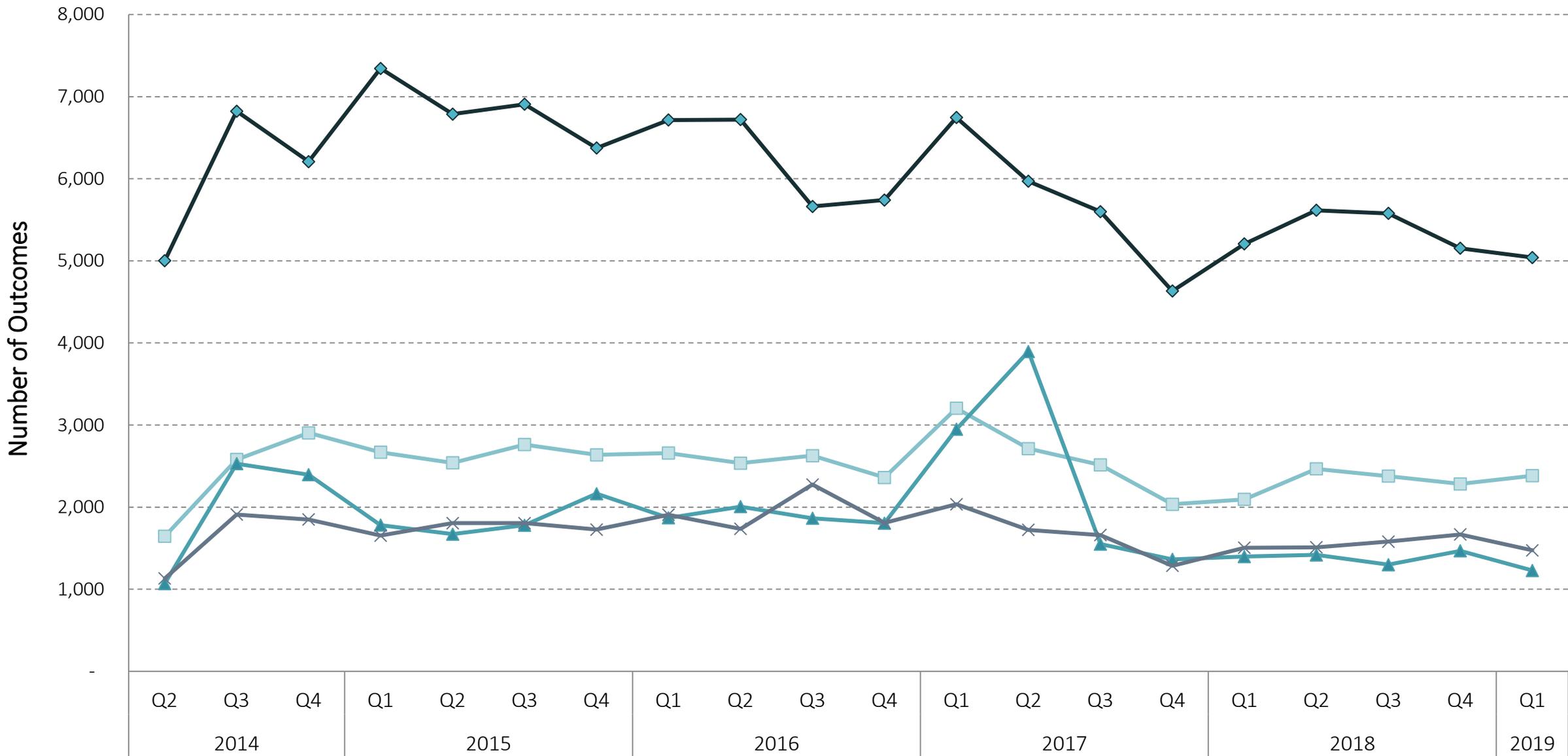
Applications

Key points

Applications rose by 3% to 36,465 in 2018/19. This is the second year applications have risen following a period of consistent decline since 2005/06.

The most common reason cited as the main reason for making a homelessness application was being 'Asked to leave' their previous accommodation, which accounted for 25% of applications.

The second most common reason was 'Dispute within the household / relationship breakdown: non-violent' (18%), followed by 'Dispute within the household: violent or abusive' (13%).

Chart 1A: Applications and assessments under the homelessness legislation

All applications

Assessed as homeless/threatened with homelessness

Assessed as in priority need

Start of Housing Options

Priority need test abolished

Number of Applications

Financial Year of Application

Chart 1B: Applications by local authority area

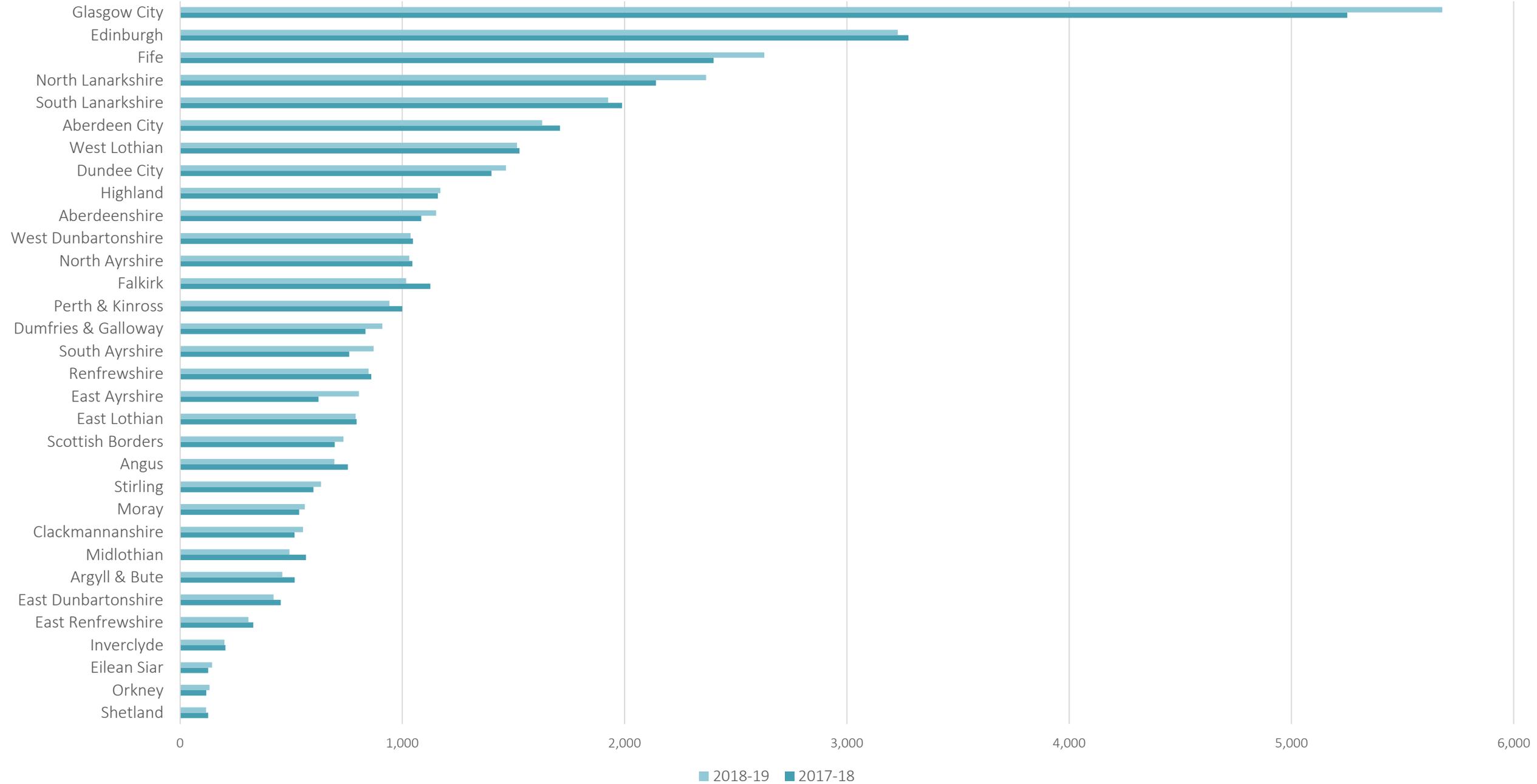| Local authority	2018-19	2017-18
Glasgow City		
Edinburgh		
Fife		
North Lanarkshire		
South Lanarkshire		
Aberdeen City		
West Lothian		
Dundee City		
Highland		
Aberdeenshire		
West Dunbartonshire		
North Ayrshire		
Falkirk		
Perth & Kinross		
Dumfries & Galloway		
South Ayrshire		
Renfrewshire		
East Ayrshire		
East Lothian		
Scottish Borders		
Angus		
Stirling		
Moray		
Clackmannanshire		
Midlothian		
Argyll & Bute		
East Dunbartonshire		
East Renfrewshire		
Inverclyde		
Eilean Siar		
Orkney		
Shetland		

■ 2018-19 ■ 2017-18

Chart 3: Percentage of homelessness applicants in 2018/19 who slept rough the night before applying

Horizontal bar chart showing Percentage of applications (x-axis, 0% to 8%) by Local Authority (y-axis):

Local Authority	Percentage of applications
Glasgow City	~7.5%
Orkney	~7.4%
Edinburgh	~7.1%
West Lothian	~6.6%
Argyll & Bute	~6.5%
Moray	~6.25%
Dumfries & Galloway	~5.5%
Clackmannanshire	~5.4%
South Ayrshire	~5.2%
Highland	~5.1%
Inverclyde	~5.0%
East Ayrshire	~4.95%
Aberdeenshire	~4.8%
East Dunbartonshire	~4.75%
Stirling	~4.7%
Renfrewshire	~4.7%
Dundee City	~4.45%
Shetland	~4.35%
Aberdeen City	~3.65%
South Lanarkshire	~3.6%
Eilean Siar	~3.45%
Fife	~3.4%
West Dunbartonshire	~3.35%
Angus	~2.15%
Scottish Borders	~2.05%
North Ayrshire	~1.95%
East Renfrewshire	~1.6%
Perth & Kinross	~1.6%
East Lothian	~1.3%
Midlothian	~1.0%
Falkirk	~0.5%
North Lanarkshire	~0.45%

Chart 4: Prior housing circumstances of applicants 2018-19

Prior housing circumstance	Number of applications
Living with relatives, friends or partners	15,202
Owning or renting	13,966
From institutional accommodation	3,229
Not known / refused	1,528
From temporary accommodation	1,302
Other	1,238

Number of applications
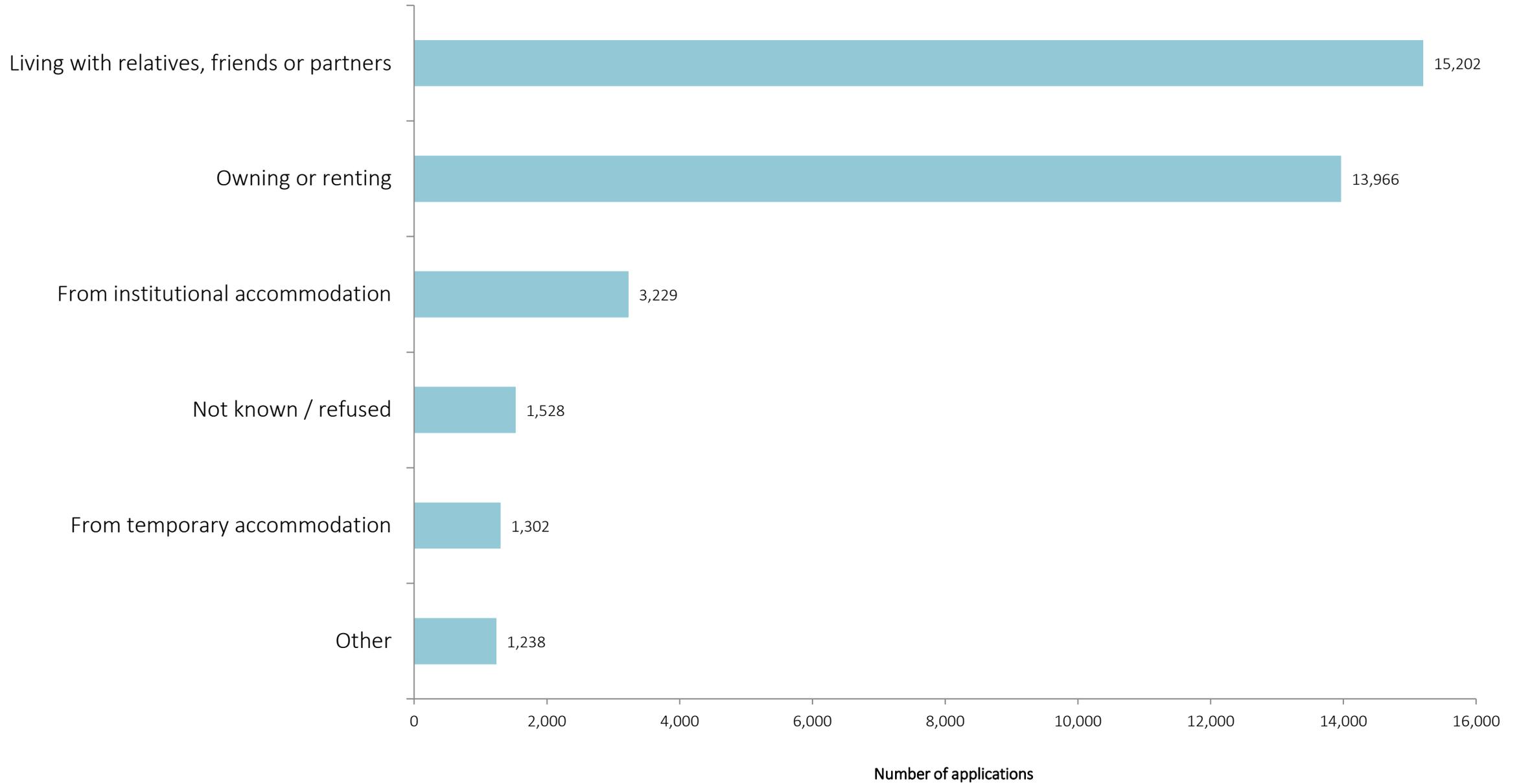
Chart 5: Main reason for applying for assistance 2018-19

Number of Applications

Reason	
Asked to leave	
Dispute within household / relationship breakdown: non-violent	
Dispute within household: violent or abusive	
Other action by landlord resulting in the termination of the tenancy	
Other reason for leaving accommodation / household	
Other reason for loss of accommodation	
Discharge from prison / hospital / care / other institution	
Fleeing non-domestic violence	
Termination of tenancy to rent arrears: Private rented tenancy	
Harassment	
Applicant terminated secure accommodation	
Overcrowding	
Termination of tenancy to rent arrears: LA tenancy	
Termination of tenancy to rent arrears: RSL tenancy	
Loss of service / tied accommodation	
Emergency (fire, flood, storm, closing order from Environmental…	
Forced division and sale of matrimonial home	

Chart 6: Reason(s) for failing to maintain accommodation: Scotland

Not to do with applicant household (e.g. landlord selling property, fire, circumstances of other persons sharing previous property, harassment by others, etc)

Mental health reasons

Lack of support from friends/ family

Financial difficulties/ debt/ unemployment

Criminal/ anti-social behaviour

Drug/ alcohol dependency

Physical health reasons

Difficulties managing on own

Unmet need for support from housing/ social work/ health services

Refused

■ 2018/2019   ■ 2017/2018

**e.g. landlord selling property, fire, circumstances of other persons sharing previous property, harassment by others, etc

0   2,000   4,000   6,000   8,000   10,000

Number of applications

Assessments

Key points

29,894 applications were assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness, a rise of 523 (2%) on 2017/18.

This represents 82% of the 36,392 assessments made in 2018/19.

5.1% of those assessed as homeless were assessed as intentionally homeless.

5.8% of those assessed as homeless were repeat homeless, a proportion that has fallen from 7.0% in 2014/15.

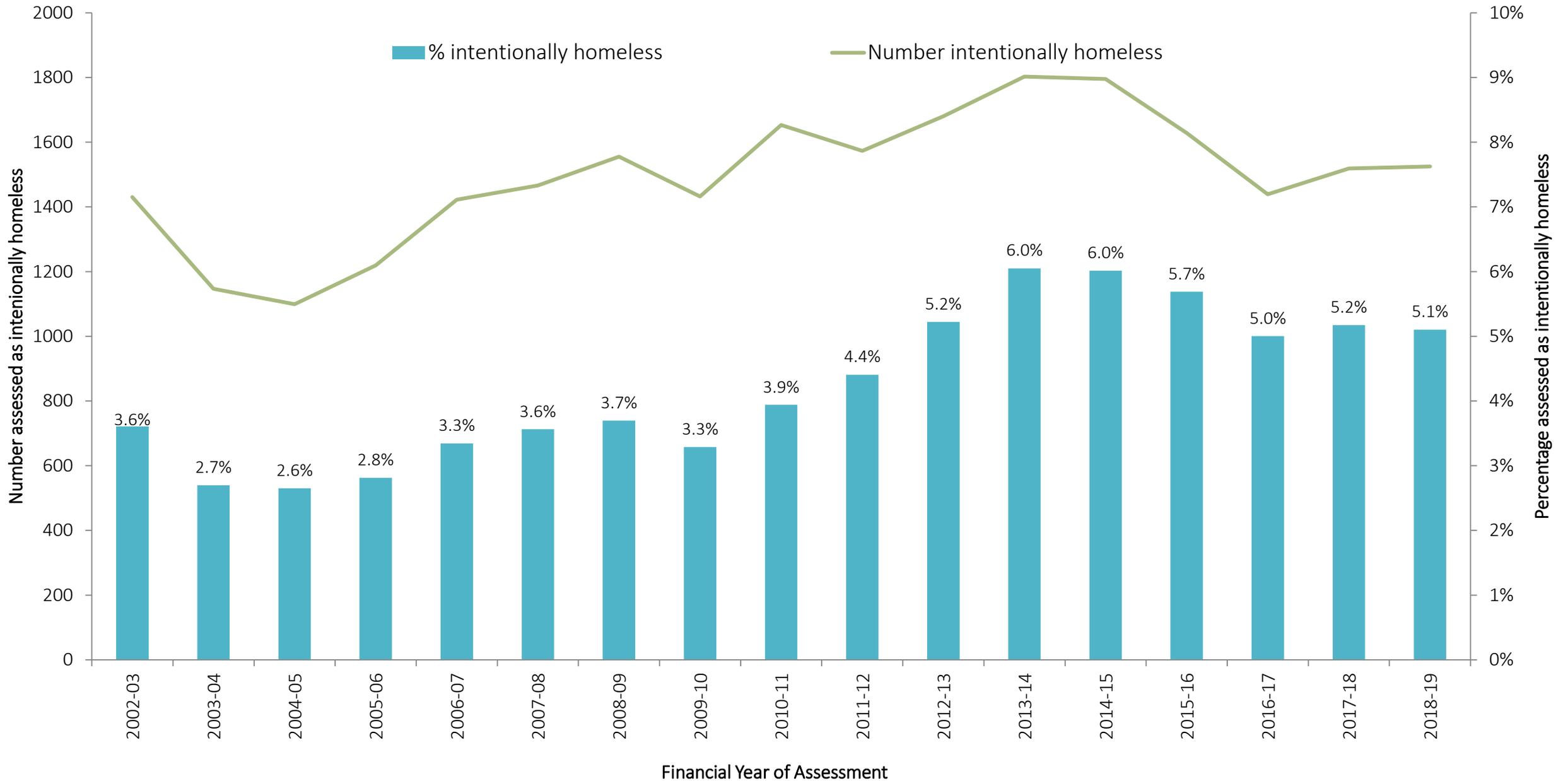# Chart 7: Scotland: Intentionally homelessness assessments

Legend: % intentionally homeless (bar) — Number intentionally homeless (line)

Y-axis (left): Number assessed as intentionally homeless — 0 to 2000
Y-axis (right): Percentage assessed as intentionally homeless — 0% to 10%
X-axis: Financial Year of Assessment

Financial Year of Assessment	% intentionally homeless
2002-03	3.6%
2003-04	2.7%
2004-05	2.6%
2005-06	2.8%
2006-07	3.3%
2007-08	3.6%
2008-09	3.7%
2009-10	3.3%
2010-11	3.9%
2011-12	4.4%
2012-13	5.2%
2013-14	6.0%
2014-15	6.0%
2015-16	5.7%
2016-17	5.0%
2017-18	5.2%
2018-19	5.1%

Chart 8: Scotland: Repeat homelessness assessments

Bar chart showing the percentage of repeat homelessness assessments in Scotland by financial year of assessment.

Financial Year of Assessment	Number of repeats
2002-03	9.8%
2003-04	9.3%
2004-05	8.4%
2005-06	8.0%
2006-07	7.9%
2007-08	7.0%
2008-09	6.6%
2009-10	6.2%
2010-11	5.6%
2011-12	5.7%
2012-13	5.6%
2013-14	6.2%
2014-15	7.0%
2015-16	6.3%
2016-17	6.3%
2017-18	5.9%
2018-19	5.8%
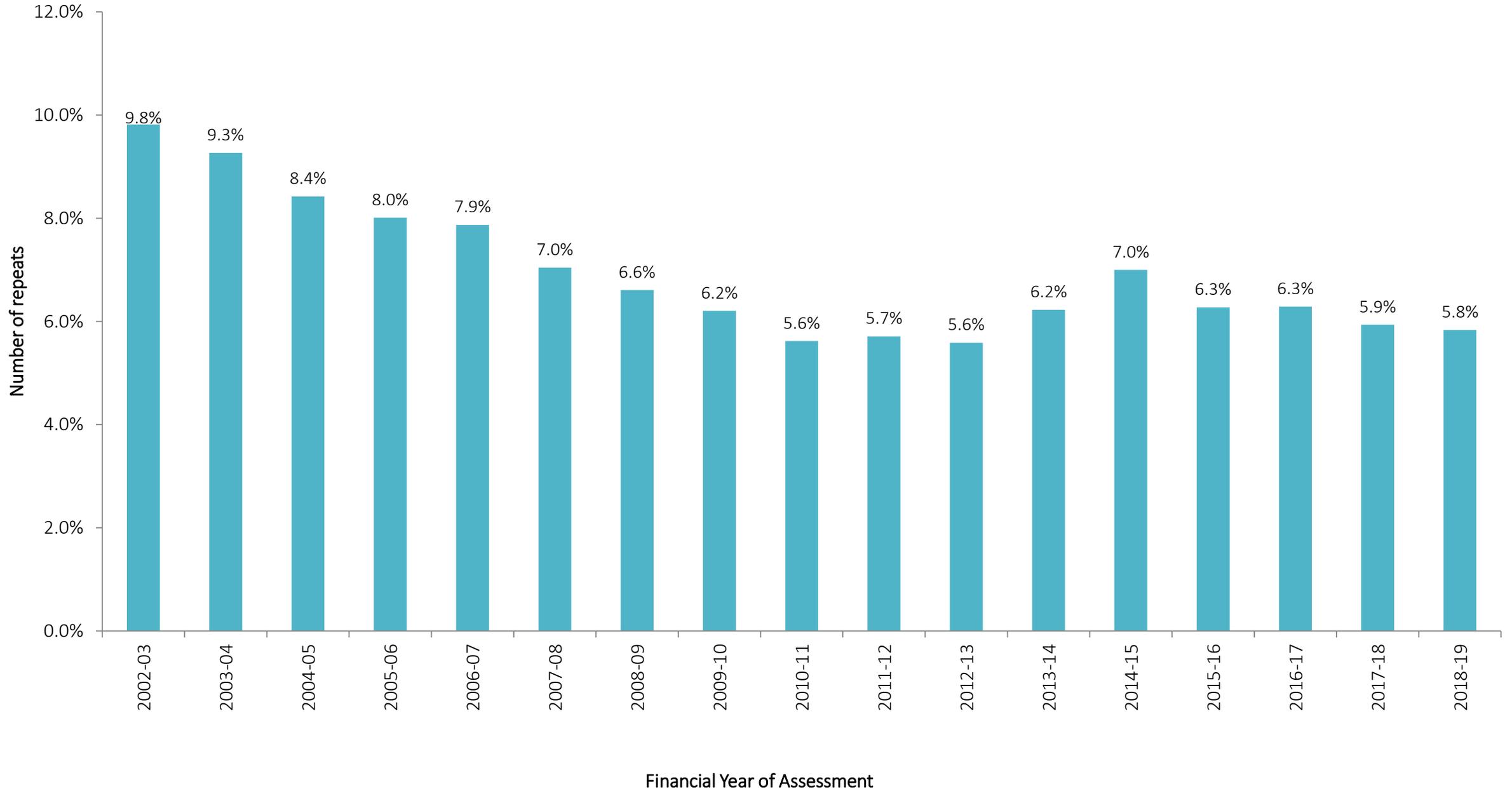
Chart 9: Identified Support Needs of Homeless Households Scotland 2018-19

Category	Number of applications
Where at least one support need identified	14,506
Mental health problem	7,410
Basic housing management / independent living skills	6,866
Drug or alcohol dependency	3,345
Medical condition	2,873
Physical disability	1,533
Learning disability	792

Number of applications with
an identified support need
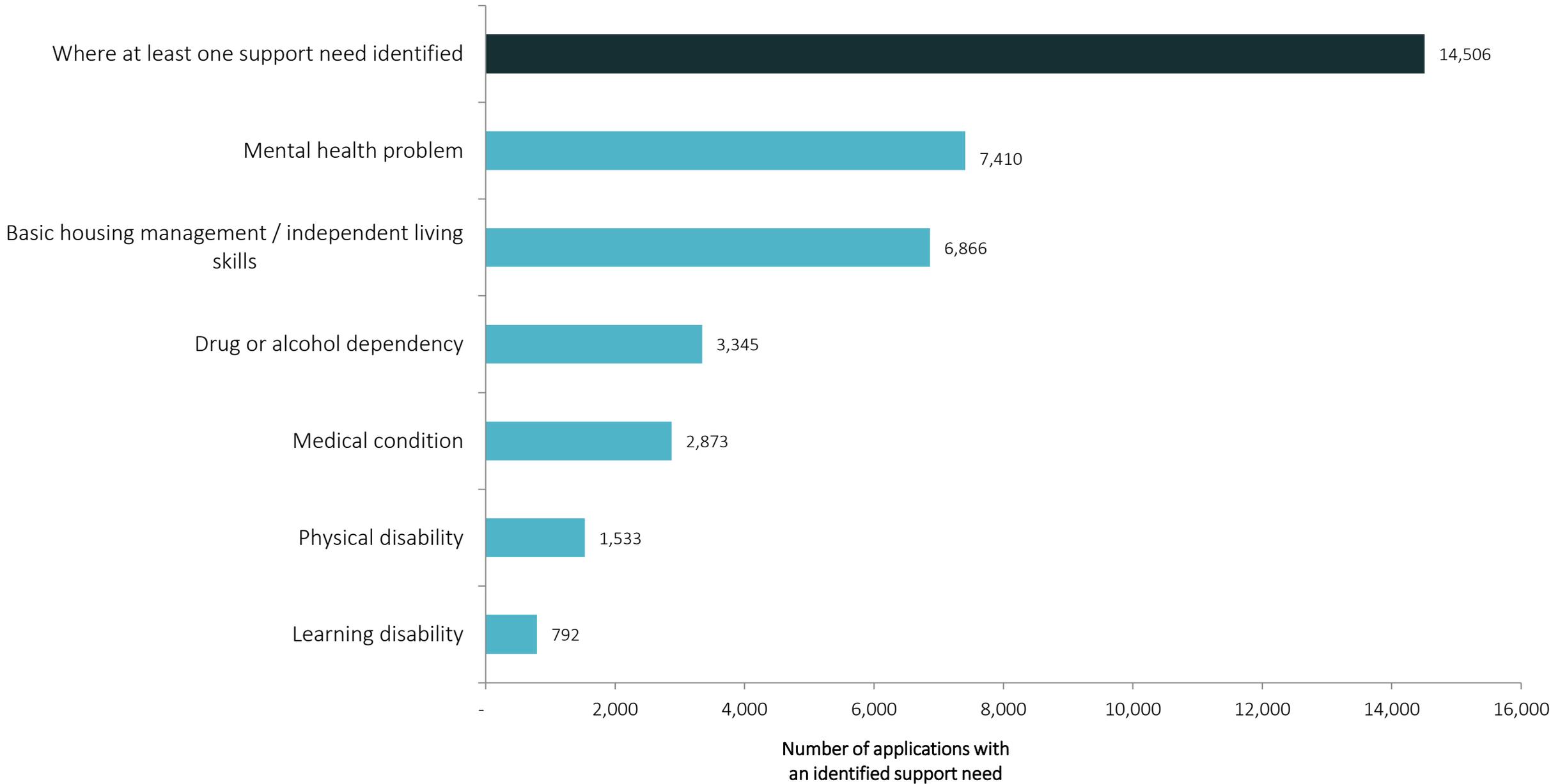
Temporary Accommodation

Key points

There were 10,989 households in temporary accommodation as at 31 March 2019, an increase of 1% since last year.

Of these households in temporary accommodation, 3,315 had children or a pregnant woman – an increase of 2% compared with one year earlier.

The number of children in temporary accommodation increased by 3%, to 6,795 compared with the same date one year ago.

Between 1 April 2018 and 31st March 2019 there were 620 placements involving a breach of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation Order) (Scotland). Most of these were in Edinburgh (465 breaches).

Chart 10: Households in temporary accommodation at 31 March each year

All households in Temporary Accommodation

Households with dependent children or a pregnant member

Number of Households

as at 31 March each year
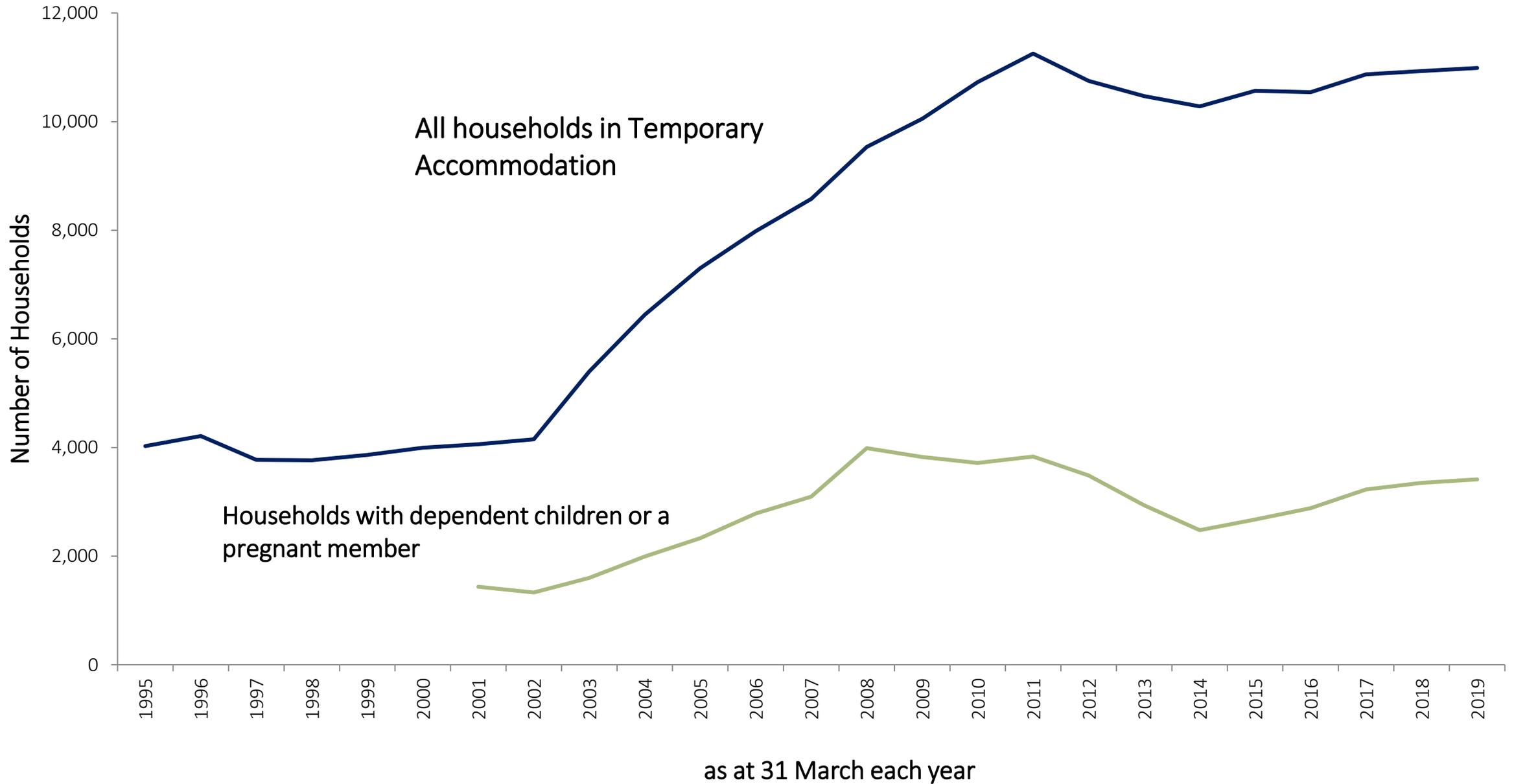
Chart 12: Total duration in temporary accommodation by household exiting in 2018-19
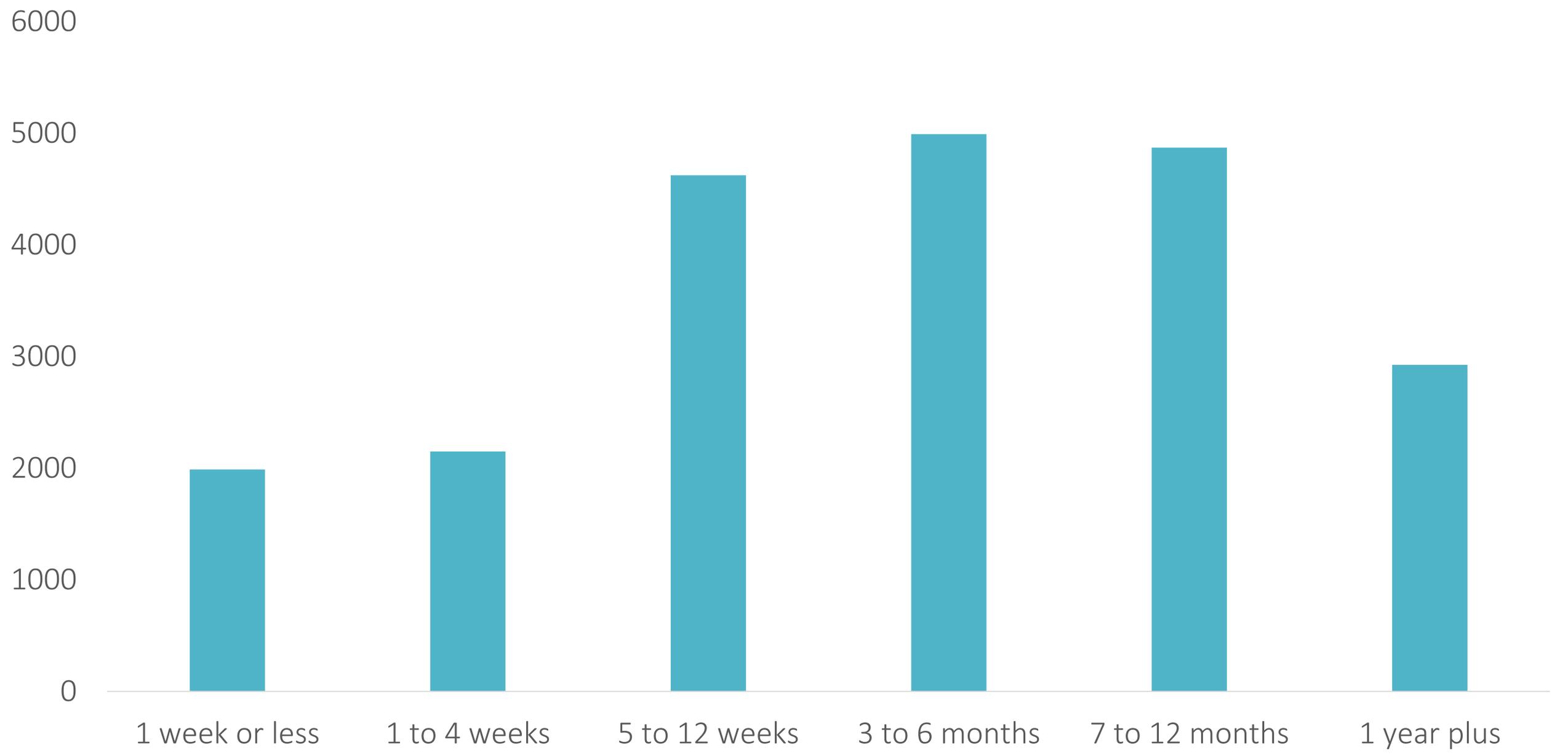
Outcomes

Key points

71% of those assessed as unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness secured settled accommodation. This proportion has risen consistently from 48% in 2002/03.

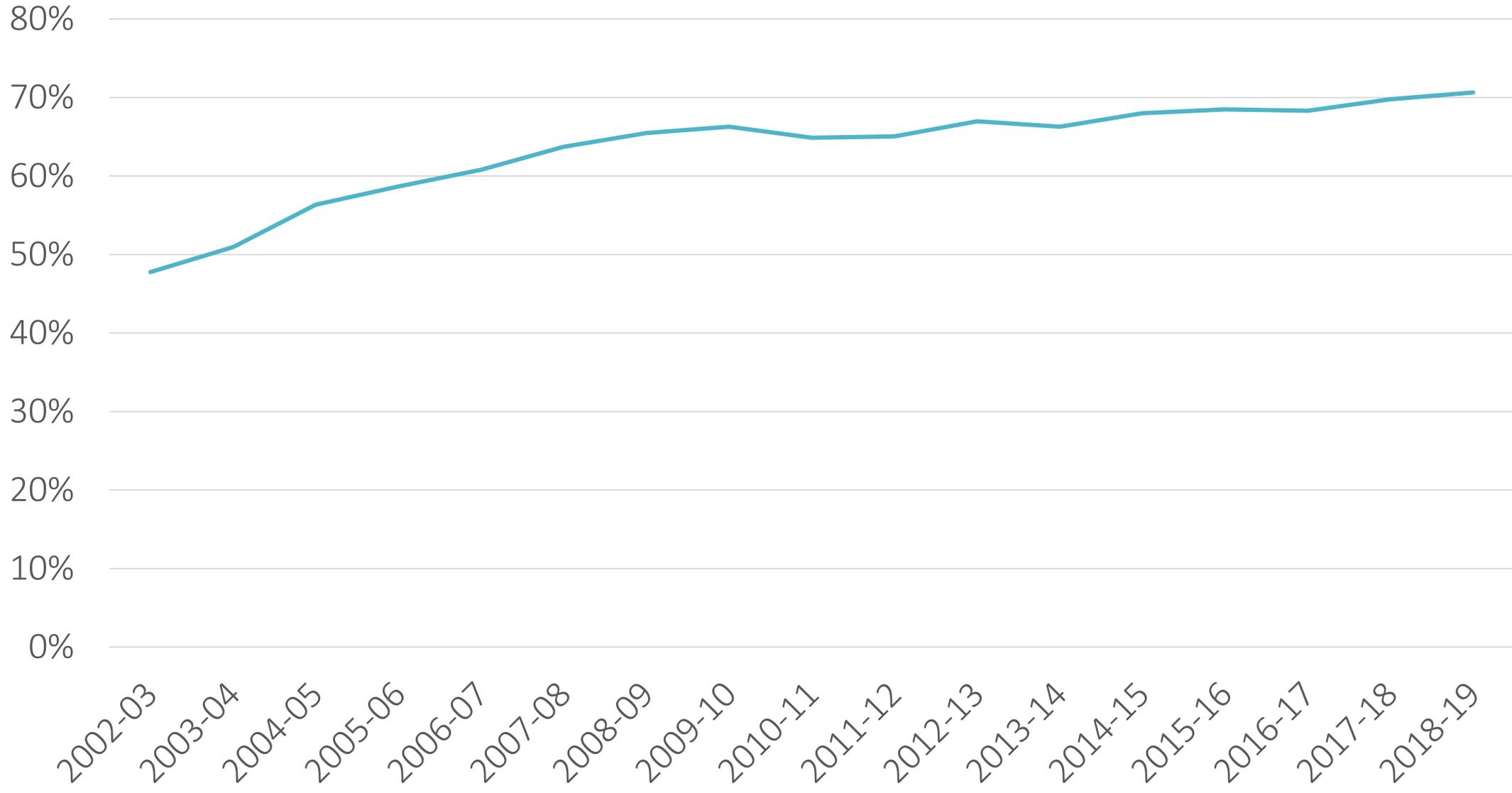# Chart 21: Proportion of unintentionally homeless securing settled accommodation

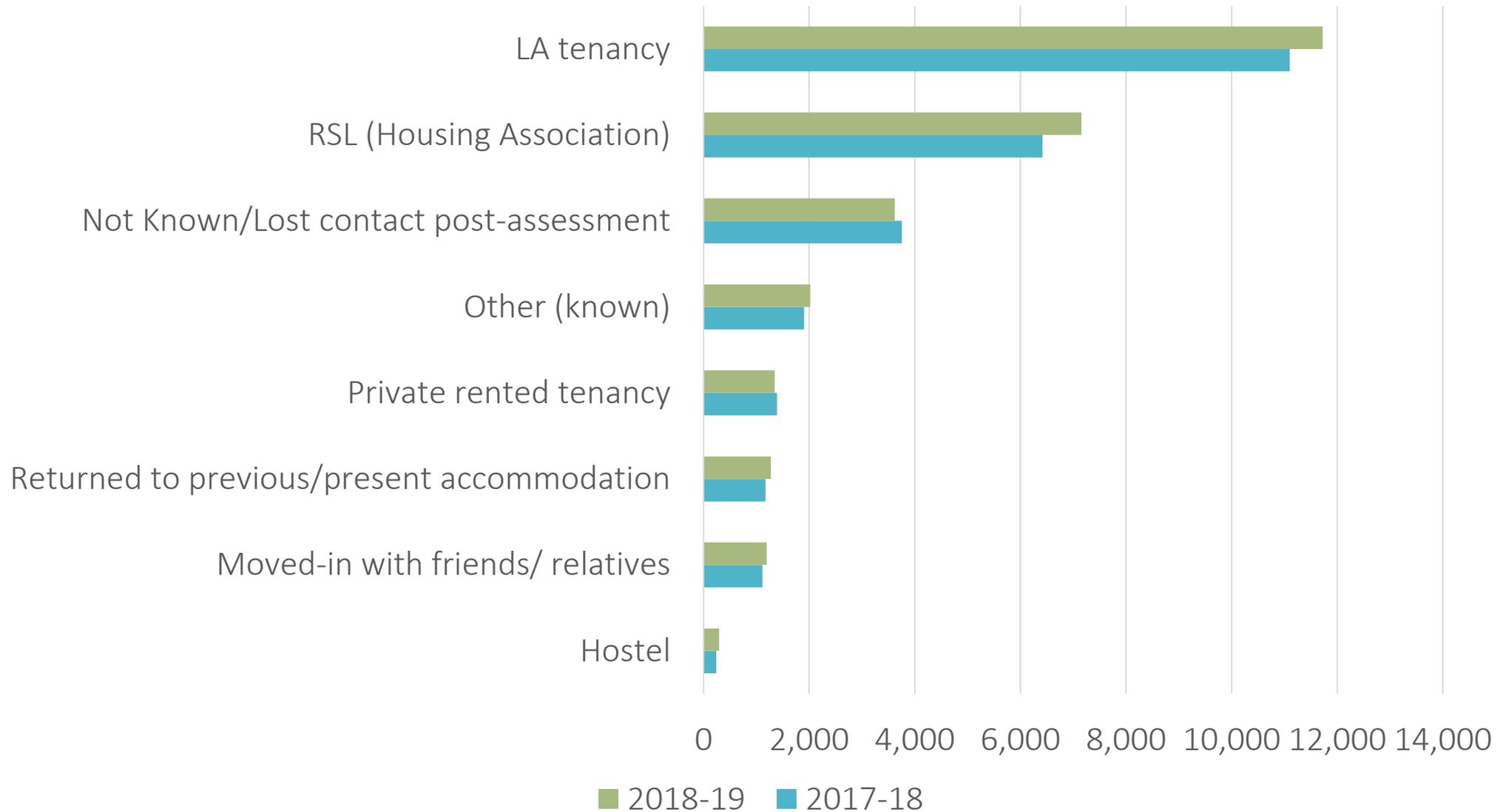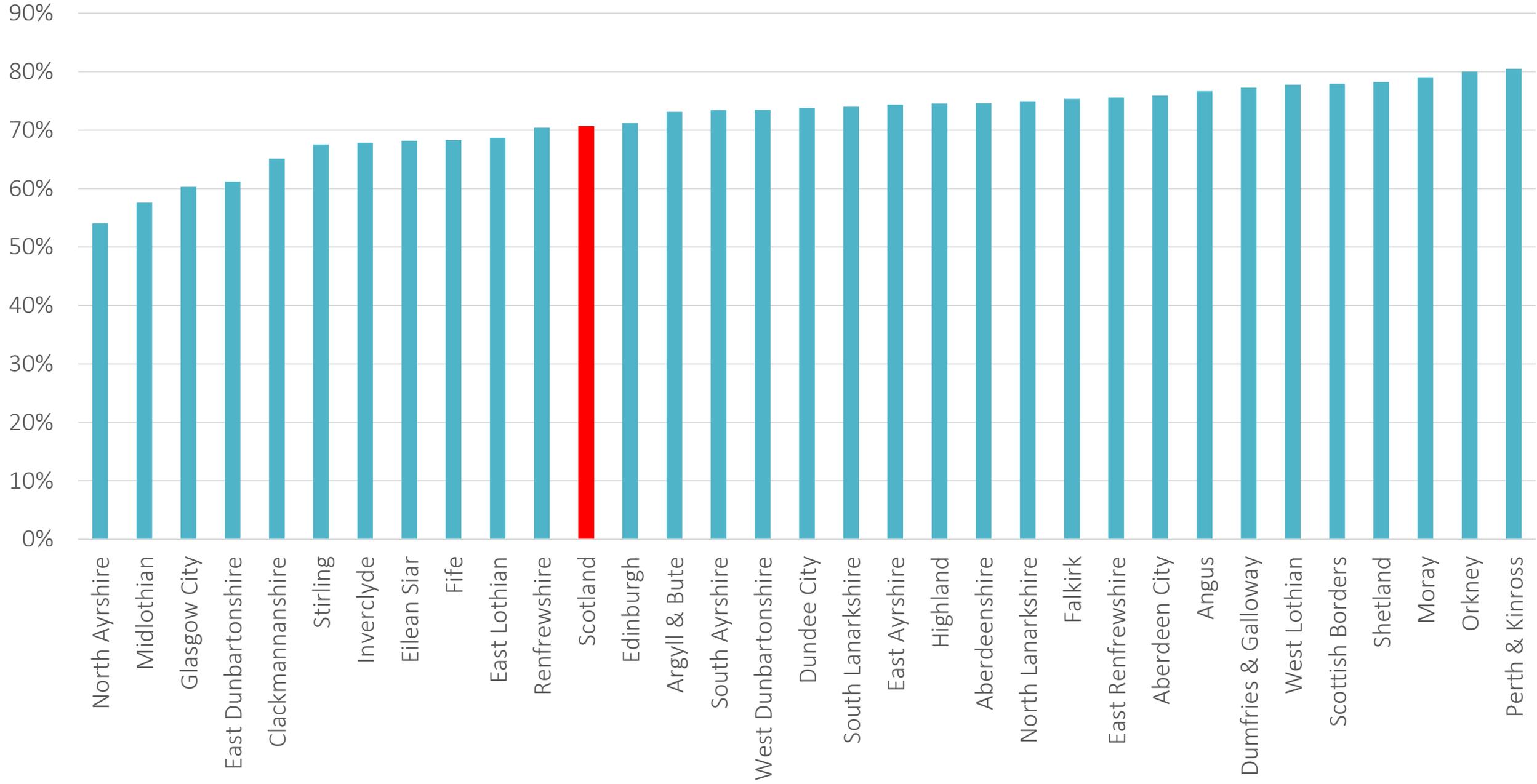# Chart 22: Outcome type for applicants assessed as unintentionally homeless

Legend: ■ 2018-19 ■ 2017-18

Categories (top to bottom):
- LA tenancy
- RSL (Housing Association)
- Not Known/Lost contact post-assessment
- Other (known)
- Private rented tenancy
- Returned to previous/present accommodation
- Moved-in with friends/ relatives
- Hostel

X-axis: 0, 2,000, 4,000, 6,000, 8,000, 10,000, 12,000, 14,000

Chart 23: Proportion of applicants assessed as unintentionally homeless securing settled accommodation by local authority

Questions?