

## Homelessness in Glasgow Needs assessment

**Date**

2003

**Location**

City of Glasgow

**Key Partners**

Glasgow Homelessness Partnership.  
Glasgow Homeless Network.  
Glasgow City Council.  
Greater Glasgow NHS Board.

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**Links**

<http://www.ghn.org.uk/>  
[www.hipinglasgow.com](http://www.hipinglasgow.com)  
<http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/home/index.cfm>  
<http://www.crisis.org.uk/>  
<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/gghb/> see Reports, Homelessness

**Summary of project and achievements****The extent, nature, and causes of homelessness in Glasgow**

This work provides the most comprehensive account of homelessness in any UK local authority or NHS board area.

At any one time there are about 4000 homeless adults in Glasgow. A quarter have dependent children. Glasgow City Council provides about 2000 places. Most of these are temporary furnished flats and hostels with about 240 households in bed and breakfasts on behalf of the Council. Private and charitable organisations accommodate over 1200 people in a range of large hostels, smaller group living, and flats. An unknown group are "hidden homeless" because they do not present to statutory services.

All areas of Glasgow generate newly homeless people and temporary accommodation for them is also spread throughout the city. Health and social services need to be provided locally to where homeless people live and spend their time.

In a year, about 9000 people present to Glasgow City Council as homeless of whom at least 1100 different people report having slept rough at some point. About a quarter of them present more than once a year, indicating that they have not successfully resolved their homelessness.

Homeless people in Glasgow are mainly young and male. About two thirds of them are under 35 years old and a third under 25. About two thirds are men. Nearly 90% of presentations to Glasgow City Council are by people who come from Glasgow City itself with the remainder coming mainly from other local Scottish areas.

The reasons that people give for being homeless often do not indicate their serious underlying psychological and personal vulnerability. Most commonly, people say that their friends or family cannot (or will not) accommodate them. 1 in 10 homeless people say they've just been discharged from prison and 1 in 100 have just left hospital. Alcohol excess, drug addiction, mental and physical illness are all highly prevalent in homeless people.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kershaw A, Singleton N, Meltzer H. Survey of the health and well-being of homeless people in Glasgow. London, National statistics, 2000.