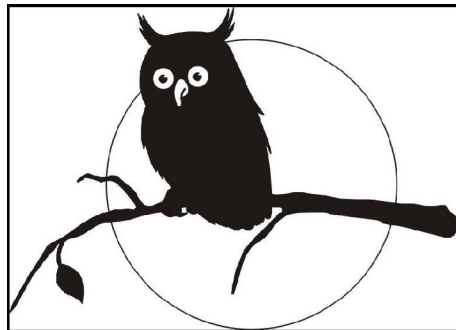


# **Homeless Watch 2005**

## **A Snapshot Survey Of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire**

**19<sup>th</sup> September – 2nd October 2005**



## **Nottingham City Council – Mini Report**

HLG Resource Service  
Mar 2006

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at  
[www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm](http://www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm)

## **1. Background**

The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey 2005 is the second County wide snapshot survey of people who present as homeless during a two week period, which ran from the 19<sup>th</sup> September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2005. The survey is co-ordinated by a steering group comprising representatives from the eight local authorities which make up the area, the Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, the Supporting People Partnership For Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire County Council. Funding for the survey has been provided by the eight district authorities in the County and Nottinghamshire County Council's Social Services Department. The survey has been conducted on their behalf by HLG – a Nottinghamshire umbrella organisation for voluntary sector services working with homeless and other vulnerable people.

In addition to the main Homeless Watch report, which covers the results from the snapshot survey for the whole of Nottinghamshire, a series of eight mini reports have been produced, covering the main findings for the eight district authority areas in Nottinghamshire. The main report and the district reports are all available for download from the Homeless Watch website at [www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm](http://www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm).

For the purpose of these mini district reports, figures on the number of presentations and homeless people are calculated using a different methodology than has been used for the area analysis in the main Nottinghamshire wide Homeless Watch report. Figures in this mini report for Nottingham City Council are based on presentations by people who were either:

- a. Recorded by the Homeless Watch survey as receiving advice about their homelessness within the Nottingham area.
- b. Recorded as not seeking advice in Nottingham (i.e. they sought advice in another Nottinghamshire authority area), but were recorded as having a local connection with Nottingham. A local connection was defined as: family connection, residence in area for 6 of the last 12 months or 3 of the last 5 years, or employment in the area.

This methodology is consistent with that used in some of the district based homelessness snapshot surveys that have taken place in previous years, notably the regular annual surveys conducted in Ashfield.

## **2. Overall Numbers**

638 presentations fitted the two categories detailed in the background section. However, there were very significant numbers of duplicate presentations within the Nottingham City data and therefore table one records the actual number of individuals who presented to one or more agencies during the Homeless Watch fortnight, namely 541. In addition, there were 103 children recorded as being part of a presenting household – again this figure is calculated after removing any duplicates and any situations where both members of a couple have had their children recorded. Duplicates are identified by matching initials, gender and date of birth information from the presenting adults.

Table One: Homeless People In Nottingham, Or With A Local Connection To The Area

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b> Adjusted Figure To Take Account Of Duplicate Presentations
<b>Adults</b>	541
<b>Children</b>	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>644</b>

### 3. Gender

The percentage of men at 63% was slightly higher than was recorded for the County data (including Nottingham City) which equated to 57%. If we exclude the cases where no date of birth data was supplied the respective percentages are Nottingham City, 65% and Nottinghamshire, 60%.

Table Two: Gender

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Male</b>	342	63
<b>Female</b>	183	34
<b>Not stated</b>	16	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>100</b>

### 4. Age

The figures (see table three on the next page) show the age profile of people who presented as homeless. Of those cases where an age has been supplied 39% are aged under 25, meaning of course that the majority of people were aged 25 and over (61%). In common with the County wide findings, the majority of 16 and 17 year olds were women, accounting for 56% of those cases where a gender has been specified.

The person who was aged under 16, was homeless outside of Nottinghamshire, but approached a City based advice agency for assistance.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
Under 16 years old	0	1	0	1
16 & 17 Years old	17	22	1	40
18 -24 Years Old	93	52	7	152
25 – 40 Years Old	158	67	6	231
41 - 59 Years Old	57	13	0	70
60 years old and over	2	0	1	3
No Date Of Birth Supplied	15	28	1	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>541</b>

## 5. Ethnic Origin

Unfortunately there are 11 cases where two or more ethnic origins had been recorded for the same person and therefore it has not been possible to account for all duplicate ethnic origins in table four. However, wherever possible duplicate presentations by the same person have been removed and the table also excludes any cases where no ethnic origin had been recorded. Using this method enables some comparison with the ethnic profile for Nottingham as recorded by the 2001 UK Census, although caution should be exercised in reaching firm conclusions from this comparison due to the conflicting Homeless Watch data. Nevertheless, the data does indicate that people from a non White: British ethnic origin are more likely to have presented as homeless than would be expected given the census profile. We would expect 18.9% of presentations to be from black and minority ethnic communities, whereas the Homeless Watch survey has recorded 26.1%. Making firm statements about over-representation among specific ethnic groups is sometimes problematic, due to the low actual numbers which have been recorded, but the data does suggest over-representation among African and Caribbean ethnic groups.

Table Four: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage – Homeless Watch	Census 2001 Percentage
White: British	399	73.9	81.1
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	28	5.2	2
Black/Black British: Caribbean	22	4.1	3.4
White: Other	19	3.5	2.5
Black/Black British: African	13	2.4	0.5
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	13	2.4	3.6
White: Irish	9	1.7	1.4
Mixed: Other	6	1.1	0.5
Asian/Asian British: Other	6	1.1	0.6
Mixed: White & Black African	4	0.7	0.2
Mixed: White & Asian	3	0.6	0.5
Asian/Asian British: Indian	3	0.6	2.3
Black/Black British: Other	2	0.4	0.4
Other	13	2.4	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6. Presentations By Household Type

There is some inconsistency in the data recorded by agencies, because there are different household types recorded for the same person. This makes it difficult to remove any duplicates from the household types and therefore the figures shown are for the full 638 presentations. Compared to the household type breakdown for Nottinghamshire, the figures for Nottingham City show a slightly higher percentage of single people (83% compared to 77% for the County) and a lower proportion for all the other groups.

Table Five: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Nottingham	Percentage Across Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	531	83	77
Single Parent With Children	68	11	13
Childless Couple	19	3	5
Couple With Children	14	2	4
Not Stated	6	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## 7. Children

A total of 103 dependent children were recorded within the data for Nottingham City. This figure has been adjusted to take account of a duplicate presentation by one family and any cases where both members of a couple presented and details about their children were recorded twice.

Table Six: Age & Number Of Dependent Children

Age Of Children	Number Of Children In this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	43
5 -10 Years Old	30
11 – 15 Years Old	24
16 & 17 Years Old	5
18 years old and over	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>

## 8. Care Leavers

76 people are recorded as having been in the care of the local authority as a young person. This figure takes account of duplicate presentations by care leavers and equates to 14% of the individuals who presented as homeless.

Table Seven: Age Of Care Leavers

Age	Number Of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	4
18 -21 Years Old	14
22 and over	55
No Date Of Birth Provided	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>

## 9. Presenting Support Needs

Table eight records the support needs of people who presented during the survey fortnight. As different data is recorded by agencies for different presentations by the same person, these figures are based on the full 638 presentations rather than the 541 individuals. The two percentage columns show the percentage of presentations (i.e. 638 for Nottingham City and 1187 for Nottinghamshire) where this support need was identified.

Please note that people could record more than one support need, which is why the total in table eight is greater than the number of presentations. A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs, shows that for 108 presentations (17%) the person specifically recorded that they had no support needs.

As can be seen from table eight the support needs of those in, or connected to, Nottingham City vary in some respects from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. The proportion of people requesting support due to drug abuse, alcohol abuse, mental health issues and offending behaviour are higher than for Nottinghamshire as a whole, but are the same or similar for other support need categories.

Table Eight: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage Of Presentations - Nottingham	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	226	35	32
Ex-Offender	188	29	23
Mental Health	143	22	17
Alcohol Abuse	143	22	18
Domestic Violence	66	10	10
Learning Difficulties	52	8	8
Physically Disabled	33	5	4
Other	82	13	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## 10. Previous Night

As this could change during the course of the two week survey period, the figures shown in table nine are for all 638 presentations, rather than the 541 individuals who were

homeless. In percentage terms, the figures for Nottingham City are very similar to the findings for the County as a whole. The percentage of rough sleepers is slightly higher at 30% than the 27% recorded for Nottinghamshire (including the City). Within the overall figure of 194 rough sleeper presentations, 171 of these presentations were to Nottingham based agencies, with the remaining 23 elsewhere in the County, including 12 presentations to agencies in Rushcliffe. It is important to remember that these figures are for presentations over a two week period and, as already been noted, there are significant numbers of duplicate presentations among the Nottingham City data. If we exclude duplicate presentations where a person's circumstances are the same for each of their presentations, and those cases where people with a local connection with Nottingham sought advice in another local authority area, this shows that 138 individuals were recorded as rough sleeping the night prior to contacting an agency in Nottingham.

Table Nine: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent The Previous Night	Number	Percentage – Nottingham	Percentage- Nottinghamshire
Slept Rough	194	30	27
Friend's Home	161	25	24
Hostel	53	8	7
Parents' Home	49	8	10
Own Home	38	6	9
Other Relative's Home	37	6	6
Other	29	5	4
Not Stated	22	3	3
Custody	11	2	1
Partner's Home	9	1	2
Hospital	9	1	1
Emergency Bed	9	1	1
Grandparents' Home	8	1	1
B&B Lodgings	5	1	2
Social Services	4	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## 11. Profile Of Rough Sleeping

Agencies were asked to record whether people sleeping rough, were sleeping in the open air, or in a building or structure not designed for human habitation. These categories are based on a definition of rough sleeping used by the Office Of The Deputy Prime Minister. As a person's circumstances may change over the two week survey period, the figures are based on all the presentations by rough sleepers, not the actual number of individuals recorded as sleeping rough. The figures show that most rough sleepers who presented for advice in the area (or with a connection to Nottingham City) are sleeping in the open air, although it should be noted that no data has been supplied in some cases. If we exclude those cases where no data has been supplied, this shows that 73% of rough sleepers are recorded as sleeping in the open air, compared to 64% for the whole of Nottinghamshire.

Table Ten: Type Of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Nottingham	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping In Open Air	118	61	55
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	44	23	30
Don't Know/Not Stated	32	16	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Agencies were also asked to record the approximate amount of time that a person had been rough sleeping. A summary of this data is shown in table eleven. In Nottinghamshire 53% of those rough sleeping were recorded as doing so for longer than one month, whereas for Nottingham City this percentage is slightly less at 50%. The percentage for Nottingham City recorded as rough sleeping for more than twelve months is lower at 9% than for the County, which recorded 14%.

Table Eleven: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number In This Category	Percentage - Nottingham	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night	13	7	7
More than a night up to 1 week	31	16	17
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	36	19	16
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	49	25	21
More Than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	20	10	9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	12	6	9
More than 12 mths	17	9	14
Not Stated	16	8	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## 12. Comparison Of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation.

Agencies were asked to record details of where a person was likely to spend the coming night. Table twelve on the next page summarises these responses and enables comparison between where people spent the previous night, with information about their likely accommodation circumstances the night after contact with an agency.

There is evidence that people leaving institutions are prone to sleeping rough the night following their discharge. 50% of those leaving custody and hospital were recorded as likely to be rough sleeping. Although the actual numbers (5 in total) are very small this could mean a large number of people if this trend was replicated over the course of a year. Likewise, 33% of those who left hostel accommodation are recorded as expected to be sleeping rough the coming night. Again the actual numbers are small (4 cases) but over the course of a year this could form a large number of people.

Table Twelve: Comparison of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation

		Where Person Is Sleeping the Night Following Contact With An Agency															
		B&B Lodgings	Custody	Emergency Bed	Friends Home	Grandparents	Hospital	Hostel	Other Relative	Own Home	Parents Home	Partner's Home	Sleeping Rough	Social Services	Other	No Data Supplied	Totals
<b>Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice</b>	B&B Lodgings	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
	Custody	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	11
	Emergency Bed	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Friend's Home	1	0	1	126	1	0	8	1	2	0	0	11	0	5	5	161
	Grandparents	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	9
	Hostel	0	0	2	1	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	3	53
	Other Relative	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	23	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	37
	Own Home	0	0	2	1	0	0	5	0	24	0	1	2	0	2	1	38
	Parents' Home	0	0	1	3	0	0	5	0	1	30	1	0	1	3	4	49
	Partner's Home	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	9
	Sleeping Rough	1	1	8	5	0	4	9	0	0	0	0	158	0	1	7	194
	Social Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
	Other	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	20	0	29
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	13	22
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>		