

**LIFTING THE LID
ON HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS**

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Who is Justlife?



- Justlife Foundation
- We exist to support people who are close to the streets
- Our vision is to ensure stays are as short, safe and healthy as possible



Why?



Because we know that every day thousands of people living in unsupported temporary accommodation suffer. They suffer with deteriorating mental and physical health, become victims of crime, lose control of their life, drop off the bottom rung of the housing ladder or die prematurely.



What is Unsupported Temporary Accommodation?



UTA Defined:

Unsupported Temporary Accommodation (UTA) is accommodation in which residents have no permanent residency status and limited access to local authority support to secure settled accommodation. It is popularly known as B&Bs, private guest houses, short-stay HMOs, private hostels or emergency accommodation.



Current challenges



1. UTA is still largely unknown
2. Huge impact on health and wellbeing
3. More people are living like this than we realise
4. Complexity of current climate could lead to further challenges



UTA is still largely unknown

Lots of questions around UTA:

- Is it part of the PRS?
- Is it part of homelessness provision?
- Is it both? Or Neither?



UTA is still largely unknown



Definitions of Homelessness:

- Shelter 1972
- Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977
- Housing Act 1996:
 - States that a person is homeless if they have no accommodation in the UK or abroad available for occupation or that individuals are entitled to occupy by virtue of an interest in, a court order or expressed interest or license. Simply having 'accommodation available for occupation' does not ensure the safety and security that everyone should have a right too.



UTA is still largely unknown



UTA Definition:

- Unsupported Temporary Accommodation (UTA) is accommodation in which residents have no permanent residency status and limited access to local authority support to secure settled accommodation. It is popularly known as B&Bs, private guest houses, short-stay HMOs, private hostels or emergency accommodation.
- Still widely **unknown** and **unacknowledged**



UTA is still largely unknown



Challenges to move us beyond this being 'unknown' to 'known':

- Homelessness = Rough Sleeping Narrative
- Shame
- Resources



Impact on Health and Wellbeing



In their own words...



A middle-aged man with short, light brown hair is sitting on a black leather sofa. He is wearing a dark navy blue jacket with grey reflective stripes on the sleeves over a light blue t-shirt, and blue denim jeans. He is holding a large white rectangular sign in front of his chest with both hands. The sign has the text "Finding a Bed" written in a black, sans-serif font. The background is a plain, off-white wall. A small portion of a framed picture is visible in the top left corner.

Finding
a Bed

More people are living like this than we realise



How do we even begin to quantify such a hidden part of the sector?

- Freedom of Information Requests to all 326 Local Authorities in England
- Bed & Breakfast as a proxy
 - Quantifiable and can be compared to government statistics
 - A similar count had been done before in 1996



More people are living like this than we realise



The Last Resort, 1996 (Mary Carter – Shelter)

Count of how many people living in B&Bs in England and Wales compared to government statistics held:

- Official B&B population recorded: 7,660 households
- Estimate of actual number of individuals in B&Bs: 72,550



More people are living like this than we realise



Our Research:

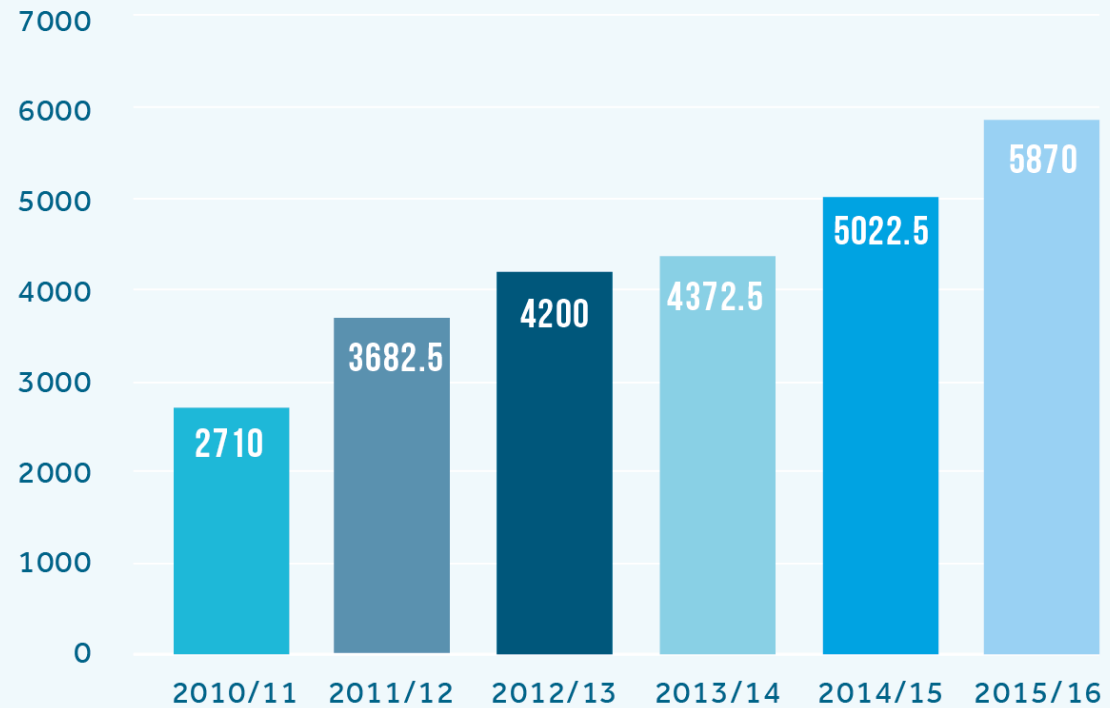
- Looked at the five financial years from 2010/11 – 2015/16
- Similarly compare official B&B statistics to our estimates reached through data provided in FOI Responses
- 326 Local Authorities – 309 Responses – 219 useable data



More people are living like this than we realise



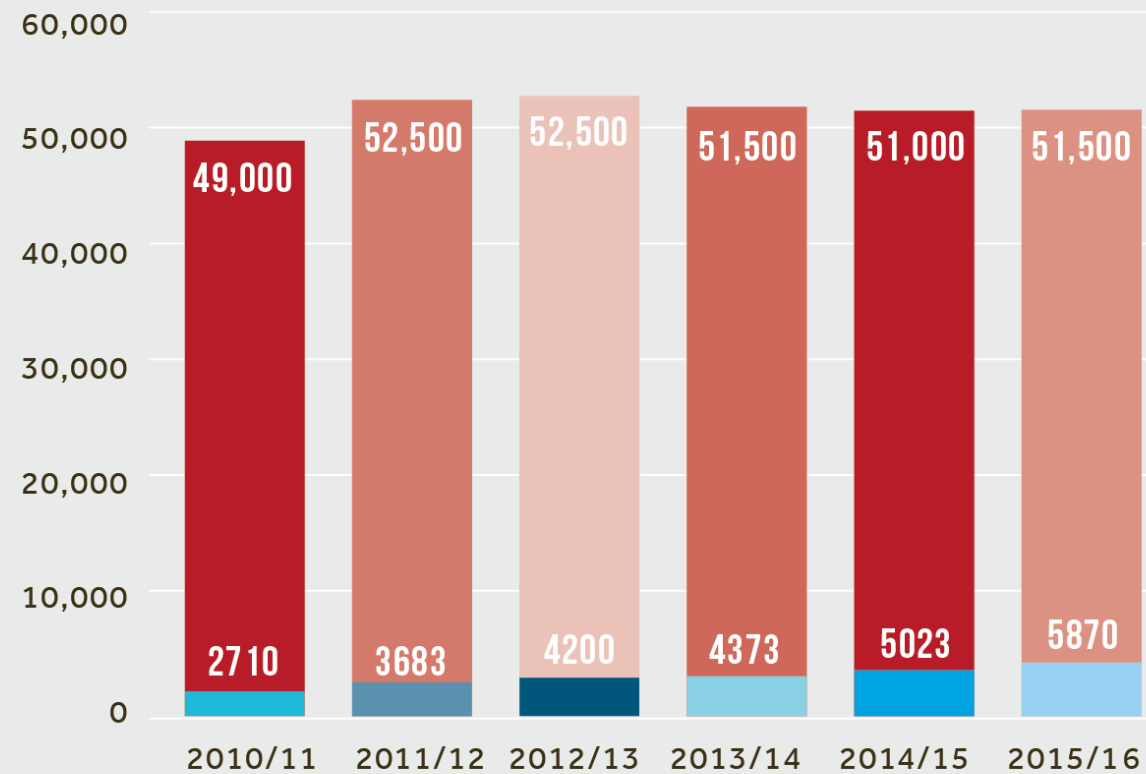
OFFICIAL QUARTERLY
AVERAGE B&B
PLACEMENT FIGURES



More people are living like this than we realise



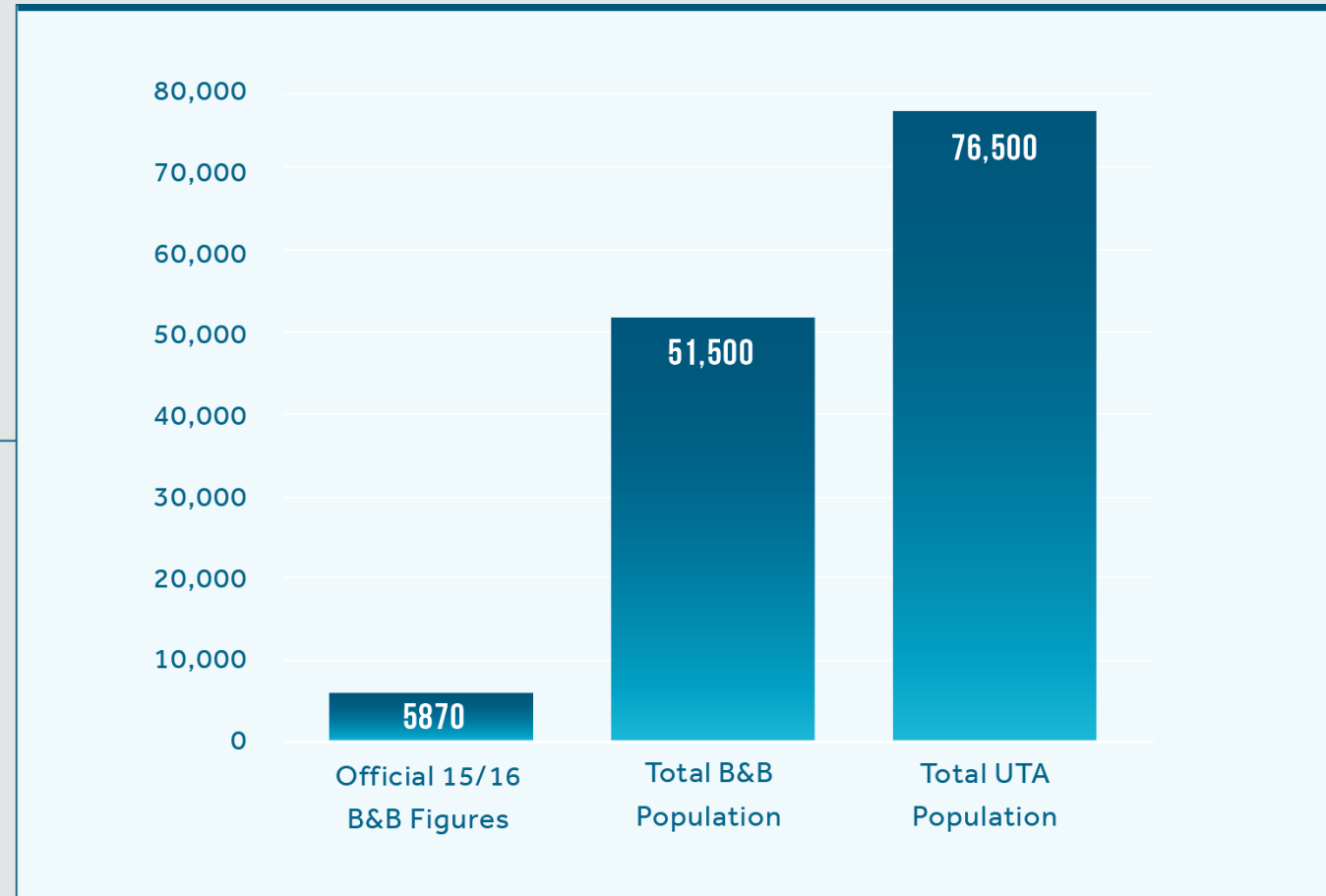
GOVERNMENT
FIGURES COMPARED
TO TOTAL FIGURES



More people are living like this than we realise



FULL UTA POPULATION ESTIMATES



More people are living like this than we realise



Updated Figures (through 16/17 and 17/17) will be available in the coming weeks.



Complexity of Current Climate



1. Universal Credit, reducing the number of bedspaces
2. Landlord/Local Authority Relationships
3. Lack of Services
4. UTA residents 'too high needs' for hostel accommodation



Conclusion



- UTA is largely unknown
- It impacts health and wellbeing
- There are more people living in it than we know
- And it adds to the complexity of current climate



Conclusion

What we are calling for -

- UTA to be acknowledged as part of homelessness in the UK
- Creation of collaborative network—Unsupported Temporary Accommodation Group Network (UTAG:N)—to drive national change from local collective action through Temporary Accommodation Action Groups (TAAGs)

