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Households
in Temporary
Accommodation

child
Mortality in
Temporary
Accommodation

2025

New data uncovers that 80 children have died in temporary accommodation in one year.

The APPG for Households in Temporary Accommodation can announce that out of the 3,605 child deaths in England, 80 have died while living in temporary accommodation. These numbers were obtained from the National Child Mortality Database between 1st October 2023 and 30th September 2024, accounting for 3% of the total number of child deaths during this period.

The deaths reported account for all causes of mortality, yet the total number is significant as this is the first time this data has been collected in England. This has been due to the collaborative work from the APPG, its co-secretariats and the NCMD. In October 2023, the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) process was updated with questions about temporary accommodation. Whether temporary accommodation was a contributing factor to these deaths will be assessed through the CDOP process as usual.

Between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2024, 74 children have died with temporary accommodation as a contributing factor to their vulnerability, ill-health, or death. Of these 74 children, 58 were under the age of 1.

The latest findings are an increase from the [55 deaths of children living in temporary accommodation](#) (42 under 1) with homelessness listed as a contributory factor towards their death, highlighted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Households in Temporary Accommodation in March 2024.

An increasing reliance on unsuitable temporary accommodation and the chaos of homelessness and poverty are significant contributing factors towards an increased vulnerability to mortality. Child deaths are more likely to occur when homelessness is combined with environmental influences including overcrowding, mould and a lack of safer sleep options, for instance, cots and Moses baskets.

There is a disproportionate number of children from deprived areas represented in the figures, with 72% of deaths affecting families living in the 1st and 2nd deprivation quintiles.

Children from the BAME community are disproportionately represented in the data, with 38% of deaths coming from within non-white families, despite making up only 27% of the population.

Dame Siobhain McDonagh MP, Chair of the APPG for Temporary Accommodation

“74 children have died in 5 years with temporary accommodation contributing to their death. That is more than 1 every month. How shocking is that? In the fifth largest economy in the world. Last year, the APPG I chair was successful in getting the Homelessness Code of Guidance changed to include cots for homeless families. This guidance needs to be made law to ensure that deaths in temporary accommodation are zero.”



Sylvia Stoianova, NCMD Deputy Director

“Every child death is a tragedy, and these new figures underline how much work there is still to be done to address the number of child deaths associated with temporary accommodation. Our data, which is unique and comes from child death overview panels around the country, gives an equally unique opportunity to better understand the links between child mortality and temporary accommodation. We hope that those with the power to make a change will use this insight to improve and save children’s lives.”



Dr Laura Neilson, CEO of Shared Health, co-secretariat of the APPG for Households in Temporary Accommodation

It is unsurprising but deeply upsetting to see the increase in child deaths associated with temporary accommodation. Each death is a tragedy. Each death is a family ripped open. The impact of homelessness on children is profound with death being the worst of all outcomes. We know that if you repeatedly move a child or or baby, place them in accommodation without a cot or cooking facilities and disconnect a family from support, the chance of death is increased. The result is the deaths of 74 children that, outside of temporary accommodation, would still be alive. This situation is preventable and fixable.



The 80 child deaths in temporary accommodation in one year should shock us all. This number shows that there is likely to be a far larger group of children dying as a result of living in TA. Now that more information on this is being collected, we will likely see temporary accommodation as a contributing factor increase. We can and should do better to protect the most vulnerable.”

Simon Gale, CEO of Justlife, co-secretariat of the APPG for Households in Temporary Accommodation

“The loss of 74 young lives is a shocking reminder of the inhumanity of the current temporary accommodation crisis. Behind every number is a family left devastated by a potentially preventable tragedy. It’s time for those in power to treat child homelessness with the urgency it deserves, by tackling the terrible standards in TA, providing the necessary support for families who need it, and ensuring we do everything we can to move people safely into settled accommodation.”



Table 1. Deaths identified where temporary accommodation was a factor, by age

	Deaths		Population (2021 census)
	n	%	%
Under 1	58	78%	5%
1 - 17 years	16	22%	95%
Total	74		

Table 2. Deaths identified where temporary accommodation was a factor, by area of country

	Deaths		Population (2021 census)
	n	%	%
London	16	22%	16%
Elsewhere	58	78%	84%
Total	74		

Table 3. Deaths identified where temporary accommodation was a factor, by deprivation quintile

	Deaths		Population (2021 census)
	n	%	%
1 (most deprived)	33	45%	24%
2	20	27%	21%
3	8	11%	19%
4	10	14%	18%
5 (least deprived)	*	*	18%
Total	74		

Table 4. Deaths identified where temporary accommodation was a factor, by ethnicity

	Deaths		Population (2021 census)
	n	%	%
Asian, Black, Mixed or Other	28	38%	27%
White	46	62%	73%
Total	74		

Table 5. Deaths identified where temporary accommodation was a factor, by accommodation type

Accommodation type (where info could be extracted)	Deaths	
	n	%
B&B, hotel, hostel	11	15%
Friend or family member accommodation	14	19%
Refuge/shelter/shared accommodation	6	8%
Temporary accommodation/housing	24	32%
Other	*	*
Unknown or Unclear	17	23%
Total	74	

Table 6. Number of child (0-17 years) deaths that occurred between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024, by whether the child was resident in temporary accommodation

	Deaths		Population (2021 census)
	n	%	%
Is this temporary accommodation?			
Yes		80	3%
No		2616	97%
Not known		909	-
Total		3605	-

Table 7. Number of child (0-17 years) deaths that occurred between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024, by housing status

	Deaths	
	n	%
Housing status of the child's usual place of residence		
Caravan		* *
Holiday let		* *
homeless	6	1%
Hotel (including B&B) or Hostel	5	1%
Other temporary accommodation	48	5%
owner occupied	461	45%
Private rented accommodation	255	25%
Social/council housing	241	24%
Sofa-surfing		* *
Tent		* *
Not Known	2582	-
Total		3605

In 2024 the APPG for Temporary Accommodation reported that 55 children had died with their TA being a contributing factor. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a process that happens whenever a child dies in England. The 55 figure was only recorded due to professionals deeming that the temporary accommodation was relevant to the case and was taken out of free text during the review.

Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) take on average 12-18 months minimum to complete.

The additional 19 deaths that show that TA was a contributing factor are not likely to have occurred in the past 12 months but sometime over the past 5 years. However, due to the nature of the CDOP procedure, in 12-18 months' time we will have more detail on accurate numbers for more recent years.

The 5-year data is taken from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2024.

The additional question about temporary accommodation that is now applied to all child deaths in England is taken from 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024.

Campaigners for the APPG are pleased to see steps being taken to introduce concrete and enforceable standards in TA, with the government committing itself through the Renters' Rights Bill, to a review of the need to introduce the Decent Homes Standard to temporary accommodation. However, they are sceptical that this review is necessary as they argue standards are needed to protect families and children. Campaigners will push the government to carry out this review quickly once the Bill has passed, so that we can see an enforceable set of standards introduced to TA as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the Government's cross-departmental strategy to end all forms of homelessness is welcomed, but there needs to be a stronger focus on the unique issues facing children in temporary accommodation and reducing child mortality should be a priority.

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