Richmond Housing Department
2022/23 Equalities Information
Housing Advice / Homelessness / Provision of Temporary Accommodation

Introduction

Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 sets out the duties owed by local housing authorities to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Local Authorities have a duty to provide housing advice and assistance to everyone in their local area but the type of advice and assistance depends on whether the person is eligible for assistance (i.e. not subject to immigration control), whether they are actually homeless, whether they are intentionally homeless (they did or did not do something which caused their homelessness i.e. not pay their rent), whether they have a priority need for accommodation and local connection.

In April 2018 the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) came into force. Prior to the HRA much of the assistance provided to homeless applicants was predicated on whether after assessment a priority need was identified. A priority need included having dependent children, a disability and/or other instances of vulnerability. Those assessed as not having a priority need were less likely to be assisted. Within the HRA the emphasis on priority need has now been removed and all local authorities are expected to provide assistance in the form of prevention or relief of homelessness irrespective of the applicant's priority need if they are facing homelessness within 56 days of approach. Prevention is where an applicant is prevented from becoming homeless, such as the Council mediating with the landlord or host so that the applicant can remain in their accommodation. Relief is where reasonable steps are taken to relieve the applicant of their homelessness such as by helping them secure suitable accommodation of at least 6 months.

In order to monitor homelessness approaches and also local authority performance, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have a set of data requirements known as H-Clic which supersedes the previous P1E data returns. Whereas previously the data submitted to DLUHC was a snapshot of a local authority's homelessness cases at the end of each quarter, H-Clic covers all cases that the Council has dealt with and includes case-level details such as client name, gender, national insurance number etc. Such data is treated as mandatory within DLUHC's H-Clic Data Specification document.

Housing Advice Homeless Cases by Ethnic Group (2022-2023)

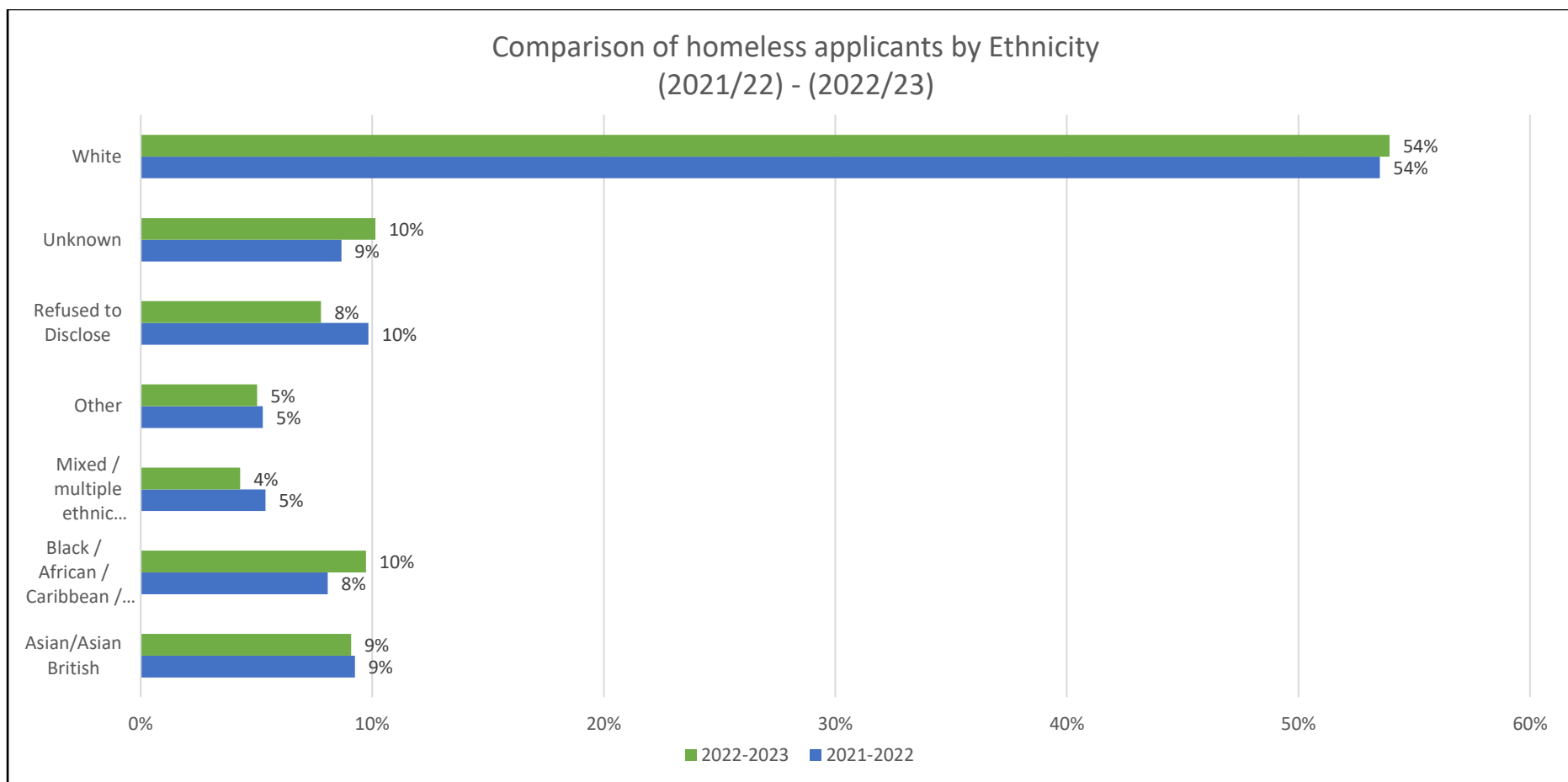|		White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other	Unknown	Refused to disclose	Total
Homeless applications received	No.	665	53	112	120	62	125	96	1233
	%	54%	4%	9%	10%	5%	10%	8%	100%
Cases admitted into temporary accommodation	No.	242	14	43	41	26	51	40	457
	%	53%	3%	9%	9%	6%	11%	9%	100%
Prevention duty: cases closed	No.	15	1	2	1	1	0	1	21
	%	71%	5%	10%	5%	5%	0.00%	5%	100%
Homeless cases prevented *	No.	45	0	5	3	3	4	2	62
	%	73%	0.00%	8%	5%	5%	6%	3%	100%
Relief duty: cases closed	No.	40	2	8	6	4	11	10	81
	%	49%	2%	10%	7%	5%	14%	12%	100%
Homeless cases relieved *	No.	46	5	3	12	7	6	6	85
	%	54%	6%	4%	14%	8%	7%	7%	100%
Cases accepted: duty to house	No.	79	2	14	14	4	7	12	132
	%	60%	2%	11%	11%	3%	5%	9%	100%

* these are cases where the Council has either prevented or relieved an applicant's homelessness by securing suitable accommodation of more than 6 months. These do not include all of the council's prevention schemes due to the availability of ethnicity data

The percentage of applicants from the white ethnic group (54%) is lower than the overall borough demographic (80.5%)[1]. All other ethnic groups have a higher proportion of homeless approaches when compared to the borough demographic, with the black ethnic group showing the greatest difference by making up 10% of all homeless approaches while representing 1.9% of the borough demographic.

During 2022/23, the number of households who were accepted as homeless was – in most instances – proportionate to the number of households presenting as homeless for each ethnic group. However, the white ethnic group received a higher proportion of acceptances (60%) when compared to the number of homeless applications received (54%).

[1] Richmond statistics and census 2021 information

For the percentage of homeless cases prevented, the white ethnic group were the largest group in this category, making up 73% of all homeless preventions while representing 54% of homeless approaches. Contrary, the black ethnic group represented 5% of homeless cases prevented while making up 10% of homeless approaches.

Comparison of homeless applicants by Ethnicity
(2021/22) - (2022/23)

Ethnicity	2022-2023	2021-2022
White	54%	54%
Unknown	10%	9%
Refused to Disclose	8%	10%
Other	5%	5%
Mixed / multiple ethnic…	4%	5%
Black / African / Caribbean /…	10%	8%
Asian/Asian British	9%	9%

The percentage breakdown of homeless applications in the white and black ethnic groups has remained consistent, respectively representing 54% and 8% of applications in 2021/22 and is 54% and 10% in 2022/23. All other groups have remained fairly similar compared to 21/22 with only 1 or 2 percentage point difference.

Housing Advice and Homelessness Cases by Gender *

		Female with Children	Female without Children	Male with Children	Male without Children	Total
Homeless applications received	No.	385	364	71	413	1233
	%	31%	30%	6%	33%	100%
Cases admitted into temporary accommodation	No.	157	135	30	135	457
	%	34%	30%	7%	30%	100%
Prevention duty: cases closed	No.	9	30%	2	5	21
	%	43%	24%	10%	24%	100%
Homeless cases prevented *	No.	33	14	2	13	62
	%	53%	23%	3%	21%	100%
Relief duty: cases closed	No.	23	25	3	30	81
	%	28%	31%	4%	37%	100%
Homeless cases relieved *	No.	20	22	4	39	85
	%	24%	26%	5%	46%	100%
Cases accepted: duty to house	No.	53	41	10	28	132
	%	40%	31%	85	21%	100%

* each gender category represents the lead applicant (male or female), and each category may include joint applicants or spouses / partners

The largest gender groups were households without children, representing 63% of homeless approaches, compared to 37% for households with children. However, despite households without children having a larger proportion of homeless approaches, they had a lower proportion of homeless cases prevented (44%) when compared to households with children (56%).

Households in Temporary Accommodation by Ethnic Group as of 31st March 2023

Households in Temporary Accommodation *			White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Refused to Disclose	Other	Unknown	Total
2022/23	Total no. in temporary accommodation	No.	178	13	40	34	32	13	21	331
	%	%	54%	4%	12%	10%	10%	4%	6%	100%
	B&B / Hostel (not self-contained)	No.	17	1	1	0	3	1	3	32
	%	%	53%	3%	3%	0%	9%	3%	9%	100%

* this does not include households who have arranged temporary accommodation themselves (homeless from home cases)

The white ethnic group is the largest group accommodated (54%) for all temporary accommodation placements, which is below the borough demographic (80.5%) for this ethnic group. The black ethnic group represents 10% of all households accommodated, which is much larger than the borough demographic as members of the black ethnic group constitutes approximately 1.9 % of the population. The percentage of households in B&B / hostels between the ethnic groups does not vary much when compared to the total percentage of households in temporary accommodation, although there is a slightly higher percentage of households in the white group in a B&B / hostel when compared to the total number of households in temporary accommodation.

Households in Temporary Accommodation by Gender as of 31st March 2023

Households in Temporary Accommodation			Female with children	Female without children	Male with children	Male without children	Total
2022/23	Total no. in temporary accommodation	No.	141	68	29	93	316
	%	%	43%	21%	9%	28%	100%
	B&B / Hostel (not self-contained)	No.	7	10	0	15	32
	%	%	22%	31%	0%	47%	100%

The largest proportion of applicants accommodated in B&B / hostels that is not self-contained is households without children. A total of 25 households makes up this group which equates to 78% of the B&B / hostel placements. This is to be expected since B&B placements are only offered to households with children on a short-term basis if no other accommodation is available.
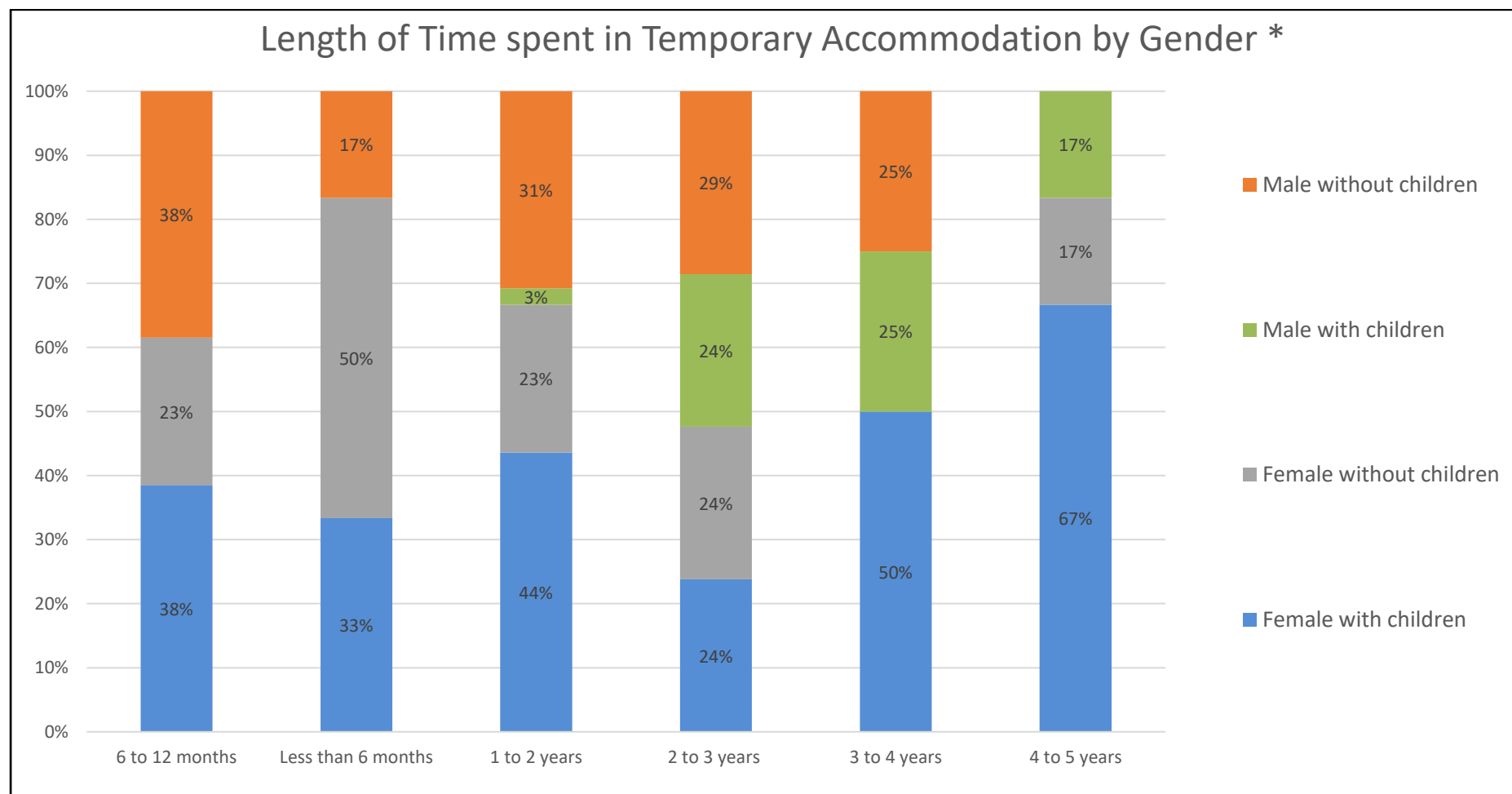
Length of Time Spent in Temporary Accommodation by Ethnic Group
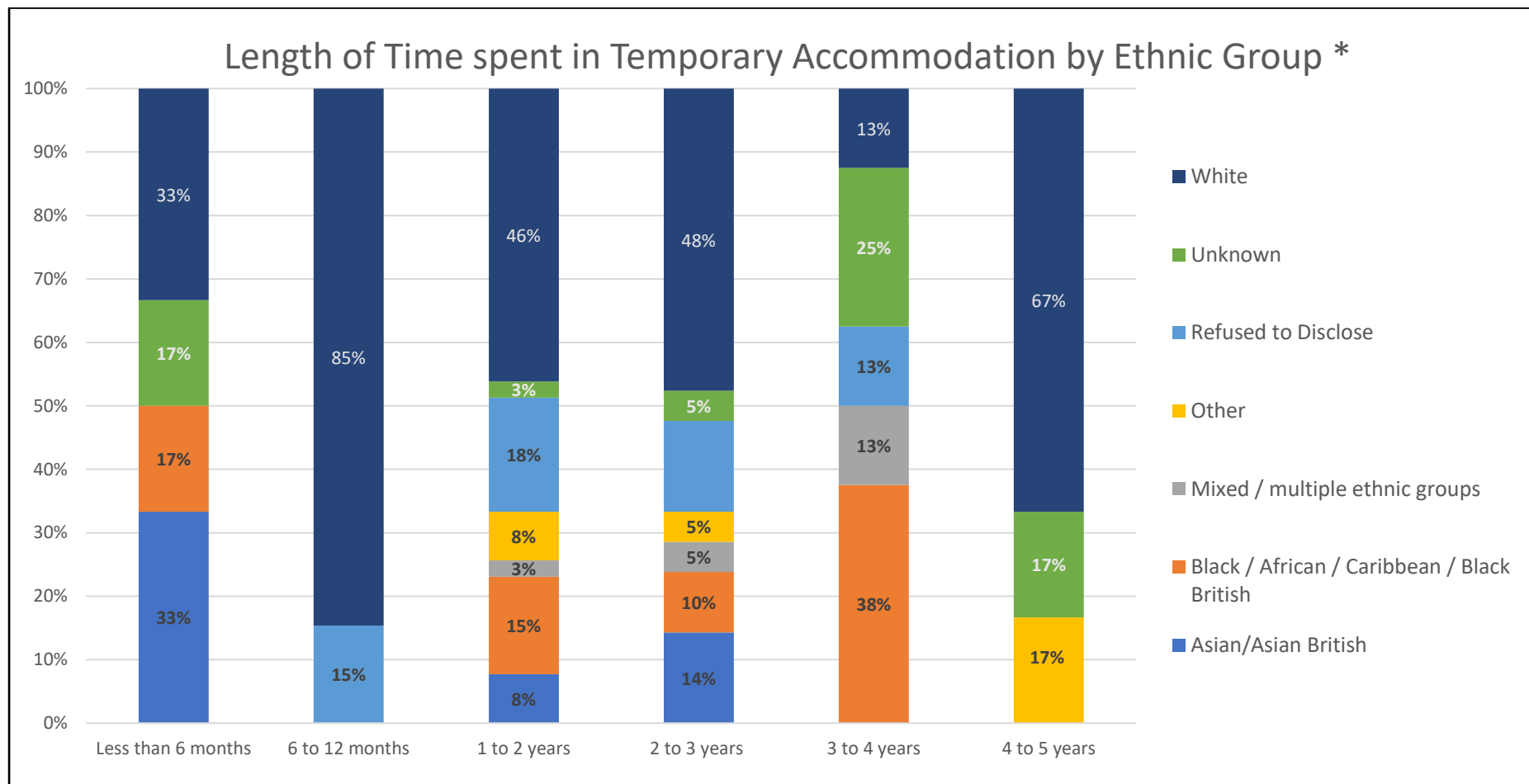
Length of Time spent in Temporary Accommodation by Ethnic Group *

*length of time spent in temporary accommodation is measured from the date a household was admitted into temporary accommodation to the date they left temporary accommodation as a result of being made a final offer of permanent accommodation.

The white and other ethnic groups spent the least amount of time spent in temporary accommodation, each representing 33% of those accommodated for less than 6 months. The black and other ethnic groups each represented 38% and 25% of households respectively accommodated for 3 to 4 years. However, households who have been in temporary accommodation for a substantial amount of time tend to require larger properties, which are in shorter supply and are in high demand, therefore leading to longer waiting times.
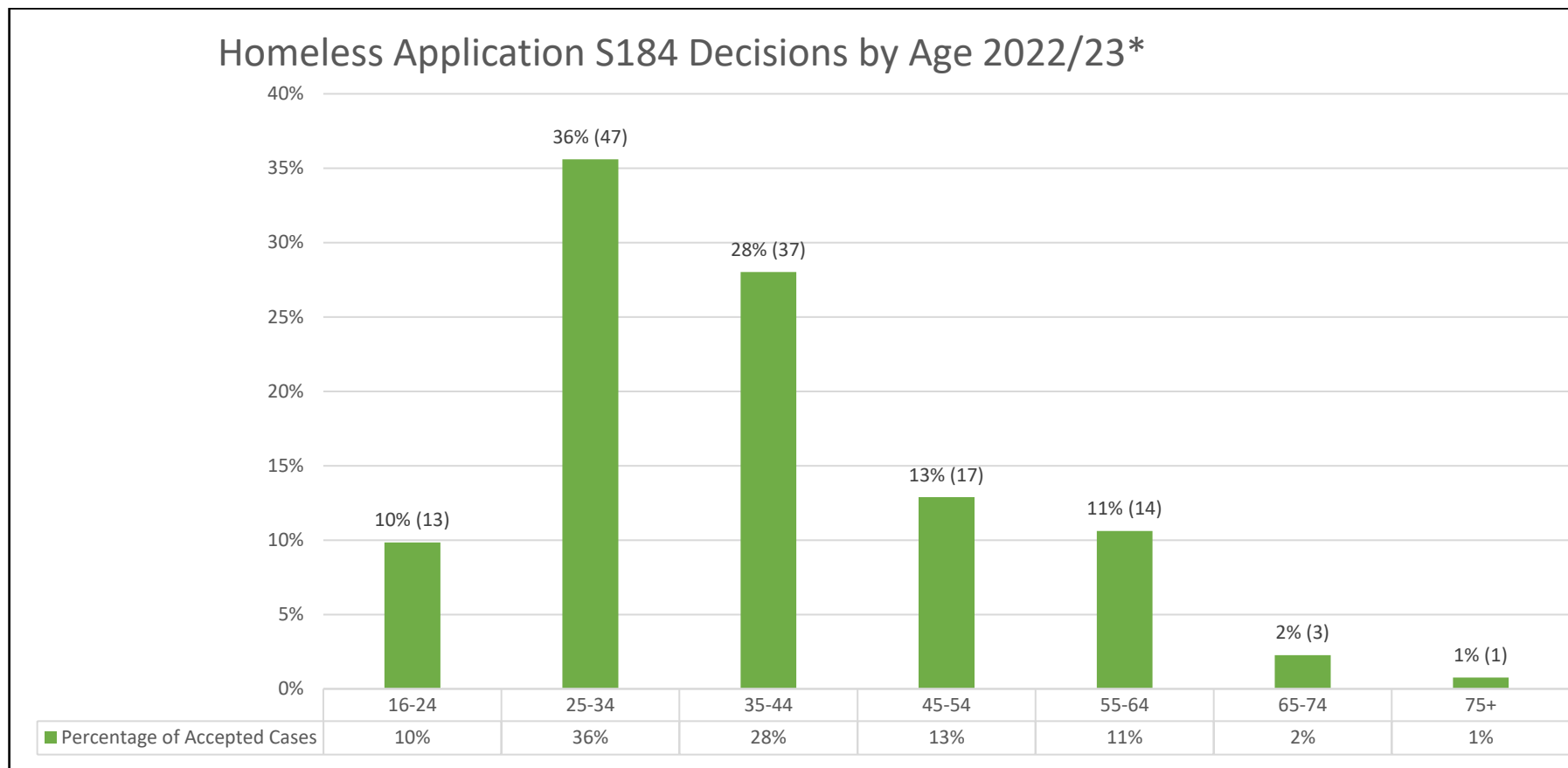
Length of Time Spent in Temporary Accommodation by Gender

Length of Time spent in Temporary Accommodation by Gender *

Legend:
- Male without children
- Male with children
- Female without children
- Female with children

Data by category:

6 to 12 months: Female with children 38%, Female without children 23%, Male without children 38%

Less than 6 months: Female with children 33%, Female without children 50%, Male without children 17%

1 to 2 years: Female with children 44%, Female without children 23%, Male with children 3%, Male without children 31%

2 to 3 years: Female with children 24%, Female without children 24%, Male with children 24%, Male without children 29%

3 to 4 years: Female with children 50%, Male with children 25%, Male without children 25%

4 to 5 years: Female with children 67%, Female without children 17%, Male with children 17%

* length of time spent in temporary accommodation is measured from the date a household was admitted into temporary accommodation to the date they left temporary accommodation as a result of being made a final offer of permanent accommodation

The group that spent the least amount of time in temporary accommodation were those groups without children, representing over 61% of applicants accommodated for 6 to 12 months. This is likely due to these households having more flexibility over permanent placements. Overall, females with children spend the most amount of time in temporary accommodation, which is to be expected considering this is the largest group admitted into temporary accommodation and will often require larger accommodation.

Homeless Decisions by age

Homeless Application S184 Decisions by Age 2022/23*

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Percentage of Accepted Cases	10%	36%	28%	13%	11%	2%	1%

Bar values: 16-24: 10% (13); 25-34: 36% (47); 35-44: 28% (37); 45-54: 13% (17); 55-64: 11% (14); 65-74: 2% (3); 75+: 1% (1)

*Age of applicant at date of decision notice

The largest percentage of decisions issued were to the 25-34 age group equating to 36% of all section 184s served, which is slightly over proportion to the percentage of homeless approaches (28%) for this age group. In 2020/21 the age group with the largest percentage of decisions was the 35-44 age group. For all other age groups, the percentage of s.184 decisions are in proportion to the number of all homeless approaches.
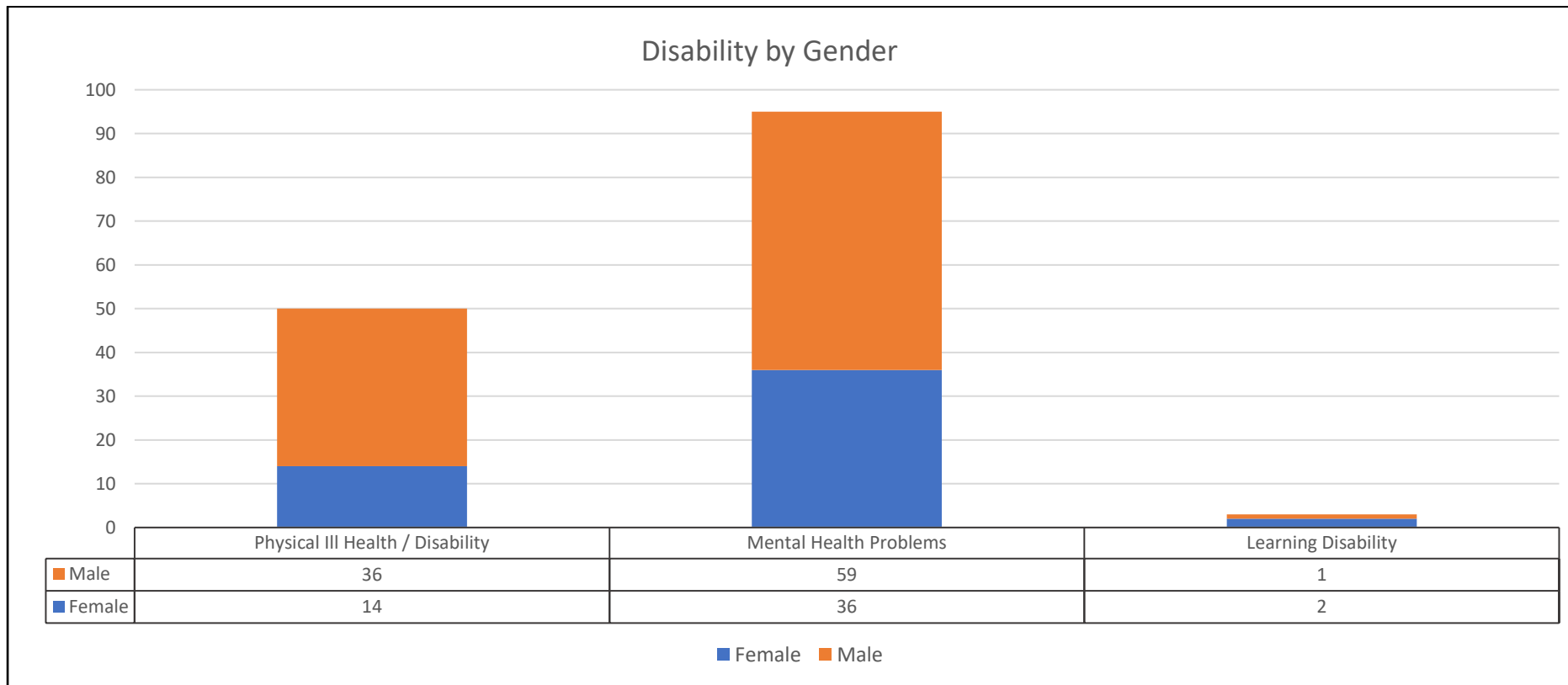
Accepted Housing Duty by Age

Age	Accepted Housing Duty (2021/22)	Percentage of Accepted Cases	Accepted Housing Duty (2022/23)	Percentage of Accepted Cases
16-24	33	17%	13	10%
25-34	61	32%	47	36%
35-44	45	23%	37	28%
45-54	33	17%	17	13%
55-64	15	8%	14	11%
65-74	4	2%	3	2%
75+	1	1%	13	1%
Total	192	100%	132	100%

The total number of accepted s.184 decisions issued in 2022/23 has decreased by approximately 31% when compared to the previous year. This decrease is seen in the age groups 25-44. Age groups 55-64, 65-74 and 74+ retained similar percentages. In 2021/22, the 25-34 age group were the largest age group representing 32% of s.184 decisions, and in 2022/23 the 25-34 age group again received the largest percentage of accepted cases (36%). It should be noted however that the overall number of applicants across the age groups is relatively small, meaning small changes can show greater percentage differences.

Disability

Since the advent of the HRA in April 2018, there has been emphasis on local authorities to identify support needs of applicants' and/or household members. It should be noted that an applicant that has not had a disability identified during the initial HRA assessment may subsequently have a disability identified during the main duty assessment. These have been factored into the tables below.

Disability by Gender

	Physical Ill Health / Disability	Mental Health Problems	Learning Disability
Male	36	59	1
Female	14	36	2

Female Male

The most common disability identified is for applicants who are experiencing mental health issues which account for 64% of all disabilities. There are more male applicants than female applications, and male applications also represent 65% of all mental health applicants. There are higher numbers of male applicants experiencing physical health. Learning disability is the lowest identified disability, with one male and two females identified as having a learning disability.

Disability identified at HRA Assessment and Disability Confirmed at Main Duty

Priority Need Identified at HRA Assessment		Female	Male	Total
Physical Ill Health / Disability	No.	12	27	39
	%	31.00%	69.00%	100%
Mental Health Problems	No.	26	45	71
	%	37.00%	63.00%	100%
Learning Disability	No.	1	0	1
	%	100.00%	0.00%	100%
Priority Need Confirmed at Main Duty				
Physical Ill Health / Disability	No.	2	9	11
	%	18.00%	82.00%	100%
Mental Health Problems	No.	10	14	24
	%	42.00%	58.00%	100%
Learning Disability	No.	1	1	2
	%	50.00%	50.00%	100%
* not assessed as such at HRA Assessment				

The chart above shows the percentage breakdown of identified disabilities at HRA assessment and confirmed at main duty assessment. The majority of identified disabilities are found within male applicants who represent on average 65% of all identified disabilities. The majority of applicants have their disability identified during the HRA assessment.