

# Finding out what's happening in your area



## Do you know how homelessness affects children where you live?

You can use statistics and information to add force to your campaigning – for example in a letter to your MP or local councillor or even when talking to local journalists (to find out more about doing these things, see the Change It! campaign pack and website: [www.crae.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-young-activist](http://www.crae.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-young-activist)).

You can find out what's happening in your area by looking at the official figures published by the Government which show, area by area, how many children and their families are living in B&Bs and how many families have been in B&Bs for longer than the six-week legal limit.

**As our campaign grows, the sorts of things we want to ask politicians to do may also change. Before you start campaigning make sure you check out the Change It section on our website: [www.crae.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-young-activist](http://www.crae.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-young-activist)**

## To do this:

1. Go to the official Government website: [www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness)
2. Scroll down the page to find the latest spreadsheet with "Detailed Local Authority Level Responses" (for example, for July to September 2016)
3. Open the spreadsheet and select the tab at the bottom of the page marked "Section 6" (this is where statistics on homeless children can be found)
4. Look for the row with the name of your local authority or area, for example, Birmingham.
5. When you've found the right row, read across the columns to find the number of families with children living in B&Bs (in Column F); the numbers of children living in B&B accommodation (in Column G); and the numbers of families with children who have been living in B&Bs for longer than the six-week legal limit (Column H).
6. This gives you the information you need to put into your letter to your MP or press release. For example, from July to September 2016 in Birmingham there were 217 families with children living in B&Bs. In total there were 341 children living in B&Bs during this time. Of the 217 families, 59 had been living in B&Bs for longer than the six-week legal limit.