



## Summary of key findings

### Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.BEL)

Belgium follows the definition of homelessness as provided by the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS).

### Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.BEL)

- 7 134 individuals, representing 0.57% of the total population; data only refer to the Brussels Capital Region (2022)
- Point-in-time count, based on the Bruss'help street count
- ETHOS Light groups included:
  - ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces
  - ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters)
  - ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women's refuges)
  - ETHOS 4: People in institutions
  - ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents)
  - ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)

### Legal framework to collect data on homelessness (Table 3.BEL)

There is no legal obligation to collect data on homelessness in Belgium.

### National homelessness strategy (Table 4.BEL)

Inter-federal Cooperation Agreement involving all the federated and federal entities

### Approaches to collect data on homelessness (Table 5.BEL)

- Bruss'help street count: Street count of people experiencing homelessness in Brussels and selected cities (Table 5.1.BEL)

*This project was funded by the European Union. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of the OECD member countries or the European Union.*



Table 1.BEL. Official statistical definition of homelessness

<b>Homelessness</b>	Belgium follows the definition of homelessness as provided by the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS).
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Table 2.BEL. Data on people experiencing homelessness

Regional data, presented according to [ETHOS Light Typology](#)

Headline estimate of homelessness (Individuals)	% of total population	ETHOS 1 People living rough	ETHOS 2 People in emergency accommodation	ETHOS 3 People in accommodation for the homeless	ETHOS 4 People living in institutions	ETHOS 5 People living in unconventional dwellings	ETHOS 6 People staying with family/friends
7 134	0.57%	809	1 593	1 473	155	2 435	375

Type of count: Point-in-time  Flow

Year: 2022

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

Temporary accommodation for: Asylum seekers  Refugees  Victims/survivors of domestic violence

Note: **Data only refer to the Brussels Capital Region.** The headline estimate includes 294 people at risk of homelessness.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Bruss'help and King Baudouin Foundation, (2023), Bruss'help street count

Table 3.BEL. Legal framework to collect data on homelessness

<b>Law that governs data collection on homelessness</b>	None.
<b>Legal obligations</b>	None.

Table 4.BEL. National homelessness strategy

<b>National homelessness strategy in place</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Inter-federal Cooperation Agreement involving all the federated and federal entities <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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**Table 5.BEL. Approaches to collect data on homelessness**

<b>5.1.BEL. Bruss'help street count</b>	
<b>Description</b>	
<p>Bruss'help performs a nocturnal street count with volunteers in pre-determined locations where people experiencing homelessness are known to congregate. Shelters, homelessness service providers, prisons and hospitals also collect information from people experiencing homelessness through a questionnaire, which aims to collect detailed qualitative information on the profiles, trajectories and pathways into homelessness.</p> <p>The street count only takes place in the Brussels Capital Region.</p>	
<b>Type of count generated</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	<b>Methods</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street Count</li> </ul>
<b>Lead authority(ies)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruss'help</li> </ul>	<b>Source(s) of information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness shelters and services, prisons, hospitals, and volunteers performing a street count provide information to Bruss'help</li> </ul>
<b>Scope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brussels Capital Region</li> </ul>	<b>Depth of data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of people experiencing homelessness, their profile (gender, age, situation), where they were counted and their Ethos category.</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual/Biennial</li> </ul>	
<b>ETHOS Light groups included</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women's refuges) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 4: People in institutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)	
<p>Note: Each ETHOS Light group includes one or more sub-categories of living situations. ETHOS Light groups are considered as "included" in the data collection approach if at least one of the sub-categories is counted.</p>	
<b>Notes</b> <a href="#">Rapport denombrement 2022_FR.pdf (bruss'help.org)</a>	