



## Summary of key findings

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

A person experiencing homelessness is defined as a person who does not have access during the reference period to housing that meets human habitability criteria to housing that meets commonly accepted criteria of human habitability, whether or not the housing is legally owned, rented, or occupied free of charge with the permission of the owner, or under contract or other arrangement of a non-temporary nature (including those provided by the public sector or non-governmental organisations and those provided by employers).

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

- 28 552 individuals, representing 0.06% of the total population (2022)
- 23% are women, 77% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the Survey of the Homeless People
- 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.ESP)

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

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

[National Strategy to Combat Homelessness in Spain 2023-2030](#)

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

- Survey of the homeless people (*Encuesta a las personas sin hogar*) (EPSH): Interviews with people experiencing homelessness in homelessness service centres (Table 5.1.ESP)
- Survey on centres and services for homeless people (*Encuesta de centros y Servicios de atención a las personas sin hogar*) (ECAPSH): Online questionnaire to be filled out by homelessness service centres (Table 5.2.ESP)
- [Forthcoming] Pilot project for the implementation of overnight counts of homeless persons (*Proyecto piloto para la implementación de conteos nocturnos de personas sin hogar*): Overnight count with a questionnaire of unsheltered and sheltered people experiencing homelessness in large cities (Table 5.3.ESP)

*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.ESP. Official statistical definition of homelessness

<b>Homelessness</b>	<p>According to the Survey of the Homeless carried out by the National Institute of Statistics (INE), a homeless person is defined as: A homeless person is defined as a person who does not have access during the reference period to housing that meets commonly accepted criteria of human habitability, whether or not the housing is legally owned, rented, rented, or occupied free of charge with the permission of the owner, or under contract or other arrangement of a non-temporary nature (including those provided by the public sector or non-governmental organisations and those provided by employers).</p> <p>As a result, in the absence of a home, these people find themselves obliged to sleep temporarily: On the street; In buildings that are commonly considered to be unfit for human habitation; In emergency housing provided by the public sector or non-governmental organisations; In collective long-stay housing provided by the public sector or non-governmental organisations (non-emergency centres organisations centres for irregular migrants); In boarding houses or guesthouses (in cases where the stay is paid for by an institution either public or private, in view of the person's lack of resources); In other short-stay accommodations (in cases where the stay is paid for by an institution, whether public or private, due to the person's lack of resources); In squats; In subsidized housing/sheltered housing (as long as the housing is owned by an institution, either public or private).</p> <p>In addition, the following types of centres are included to ensure the continuity of the historical series and comparability: Shelters for women who are victims of gender-based violence; Centres for the reception of returned emigrants; Centres for immigrants: Centres for the temporary stay of immigrants (C.E.T.I.) and Centres for the Reception of Refugees (C.A.R.); Centres for the housing of seasonal workers and private employer under labour contract, regardless of who manages such housing.</p> <p>On the other hand, excluded from this definition are persons living in the following types of accommodation: Hospitals; mental health homes; facilities for the elderly; Prisons; internment centre; Student residences; boarding schools; Juvenile facilities; Barracks; military missions at sea; Moored ships; Mobile homes (circuses); Au-pairs; domestic service; hotel staff living in the hotel itself; Tourists staying in hotels; Subsidised accommodations (as long as the ownership of the dwelling is not held by an institution, whether public or private).</p>
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Table 2.ESP. Data on people experiencing homelessness

National 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
28 552 77% men 23% women	0.06%	7 277	Included under ETHOS 3	18 567	Not included	2 709	Not included

Type of count: Point-in-time  Flow 

Year: 2022

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18) Temporary accommodation for: Asylum seekers  Refugees  Victims of domestic violence Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; National institute of Statistics (*Instituto Nacional de Estadística*), 2022, Survey of the homeless people (*Encuesta a las personas sin hogar*) (EPSH).



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

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	None.
Legal obligations	None.

Table 4.ESP. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <a href="#">National Strategy to Combat Homelessness in Spain 2023-2030</a> <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.ESP. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.ESP. Survey of the homeless people (EPSH)	
<b>Description</b>	
<p>Information is collected from interviews with individuals who are at least 18 years old that have used accommodation assistance centres and restoration centres in municipalities of at least 20 000 inhabitants in a given year. Accommodation assistance centres refer to centres where people experiencing homelessness are offered accommodation services (to sleep) and restoration centres refer to centres where people experiencing homelessness are served meals. The survey takes place during the time where the demand for homelessness services is predicted to be the highest. In the 2022 edition, the sampling took place between February and March.</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>• Service-based method</li> </ul>
<b>Lead authority(ies)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Institute of Statistics (<i>Instituto Nacional de Estadística</i>) (INE)</li> </ul>	<b>Source(s) of information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals experiencing homelessness who are users of an accommodation assistance centre or a restoration centre directly provide information to interviewers from the National Institute of Statistics (INE).</li> </ul>
<b>Scope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Coverage</li> <li>• Approximately 3500 accommodation assistance centres and restoration centres were considered in the 2022 survey.</li> </ul>	<b>Depth of data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sociodemographic characteristics were considered: sex, age, time of residence in Spain, nationality, economic situation, health, family and social ties, use of social services, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No fixed periodicity. The first survey was carried out in 2005, the second in 2012 and the latest in 2022.</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 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 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>	

**5.2.ESP. Survey on centres and services for homeless people (ECAPSH)****Description**

An online questionnaire is distributed to homeless care centres offering housing, catering services and/or street assistance. The survey focuses on services provided, the characteristics of clients, and funding sources. All homelessness centres registered in the directory of clients of the National Institute of Statistics (*Instituto Nacional de Estadística*) (INE) are provided with the questionnaire.

<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>• Service-based method</li> </ul>
<b>Lead authority(ies)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Institute of Statistics (<i>Instituto Nacional de Estadística</i>) (INE).</li> </ul>	<b>Source(s) of information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless care centres complete the questionnaire directly.</li> </ul>
<b>Scope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National level</li> </ul>	<b>Depth of data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The questionnaire disaggregates the centres by their specialisation (women who are victims of gender-based violence, migrants, other specialisation or none) and by the service provided: (accommodation in flats or apartments, shelters, overnight shelters, soup kitchens, etc).</li> <li>• The number of clients is disaggregated by sex for some services.</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biennial.</li> </ul>	

**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)

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.

**Notes**

The questionnaire does not intend to enumerate the precise number of individuals experiencing a situation of homelessness, but rather the number of people using services from homeless care centres and the characteristic of these services and of its users (among other variables).

[Survey on centers and services for homeless people, 2020, National Institute of Statistics \(INE\), Press note](#)

[Survey of centers and services for homeless people, 2020, National Institute of Statistics \(INE\), Methodology](#)

[Survey of the homeless people, 2022, Methodology, National Institute of Statistics \(INE\)](#)

**5.3.ESP. [Forthcoming] Pilot project for the implementation of overnight counts of homeless persons****Description**

A nationwide count with a questionnaire for unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons was carried out for the first time in 2023. Volunteers counted people sleeping in public spaces, and certain housing centres were sampled. A common methodology was adopted by all cities/towns participating in the pilot project.

<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> <li>• Service-based method</li> </ul>
<b>Lead authority(ies)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda (Directorate General for Family Diversity and Social Services)</li> </ul>	<b>Source(s) of information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers and housing centres collect information from people experiencing homelessness directly. The information is then provided to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda (directorate General for Family Diversity and Social Services).</li> </ul>
<b>Scope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The count is conducted in cities with more than 100 000 inhabitants, as well as in provincial capitals.</li> </ul>	<b>Depth of data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key demographic characteristics</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biennial</li> </ul>	

**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)
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- ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)

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.