



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.GRC)

The legal definition of homelessness (which does not correspond to the national homelessness statistics reported in Table 2.GRC) is as follows: The homeless are recognised as a vulnerable group to which social protection is provided, and are defined as all persons legally residing in the country with no or insecure access to adequate owned, rented or bestowed housing that meets the necessary technical standards and is equipped with basic services of water and electricity. The homeless include especially those living on the streets, in shelters, those hosted temporarily out of necessity in institutions or other structures, as well as those living in inadequate accommodation.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.GRC)

- 1 387 individuals, representing 0.01% of the total population (2023)
- 22% are women, 78% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the digital registry of homeless structures and the Housing and Work for the Homeless programme
- 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.GRC)

There is no legal obligation to collect data on homelessness in Greece. However, under the Presidential Decree 77/2023, all homeless structures (night shelters and hostels) must register in the digital registry and all municipalities implementing the *Housing and Work for the Homeless* programme must provide data to the Ministry of - Social Cohesion and Family.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.GRC)

[National Action Plan to Combat Homelessness.](#)

Approaches to collect data on homelessness (Table 5.GRC)

- Digital registry of homeless structures: Information on people experiencing homelessness who use night shelters and hostels (Table 5.1.GRC)
- Housing and Work for the Homeless programme: Information on people living in public transitional housing facilities (Table 5.2.GRC)
- Administrative data on guaranteed minimum income: Information on people experiencing homelessness receiving the guaranteed minimum income (Table 5.3.GRC)
- Pilot survey on homelessness: Enumeration and survey of people experiencing homelessness (Table 5.4.GRC)

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.GRC. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	<p>According to Law 4052/2012 (art.29) the legal definition of homelessness – which does not fully correspond to the national homelessness statistics reported in Table 2.GRC – is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The homeless are recognised as a vulnerable group to whom social protection is provided. • The homeless are defined as all persons legally residing in the country with no or insecure access to adequate owned, rented or bestowed housing that meets the necessary technical standards and is equipped with basic services of water and electricity. • The homeless include especially those living on the streets, in shelters, those hosted temporarily out of necessity in institutions or other structures, as well as those living in inadequate accommodation.
---------------------	---

Table 2.GRC. 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
1 387 78% men ^(a) 22% women ^(a)	0.01%	Not included	440 ^(b)	947 ^(c)	Not included	Not included	Not included

Type of count: Point-in-time Flow

Year: 2023

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

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

Note: The headline estimate includes a combination of the digital registry and the Housing and Work Programme. (a) Data refer to the gender breakdown as recorded by the digital registry (b) Data refer to people currently residing in night shelters, among them two minors as recorded by the digital registry. (c) Data refer to 704 people living in transitional housing through the *Housing and Work for the Homeless* programme and -243 living in homeless hostels among them four minors as recorded by the digital registry.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable Housing (QuASH), 2023; Greek Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2023), Digital registry of homeless structures and Housing and Work for the Homeless programme.

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

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	None.
Legal obligations	There is no legal obligation for the national government to collect data on homelessness. However, under the Presidential Decree 77/202, all homeless structures (night shelters and hostels) are obliged to register in the digital registry. All Municipalities implementing the Housing and Work for the homeless programme are obliged to provide data.

Table 4.GRC. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: National Action Plan to Combat Homelessness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
--	---



Table 5.GRC. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.GRC. Digital registry of homeless structures	
<p>Description</p> <p>The digital registry of homeless structures records information on people experiencing homelessness who use night shelters and hostels. The digital registry is used to facilitate coordination between homeless structures, collect point-in-time and flow data on the number and profile of people experiencing homelessness and collect data on the type and quality of services provided by homeless structures.</p>	
<p>Type of count generated</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)</p>	<p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service-based method • Information management system on individuals experiencing homelessness
<p>Lead authority(ies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of - Social Cohesion and Family 	<p>Source(s) of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night shelters and hostels provide information to the Ministry of - Social Cohesion and Family through the digital platform
<p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	<p>Depth of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key demographic characteristics
<p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	
<p>ETHOS Light groups included</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women’s refuges)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 4: People in institutions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)</p> <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>	
<p>Notes</p> <p>www.astegoi.gov.gr/referral/</p>	



5.2.GRC. Housing and Work for the Homeless programme

Description

A housing led programme called "Housing and Work for the Homeless" is implemented every two years, providing, among others, a two-year transitional supported housing (subsidised rented apartments) for approximately 800 homeless persons (600 households). The number and characteristics of people benefitting from the programme is recorded.

<p>Type of count generated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period) <p>Note: Both PIT and flow data is collected</p>	<p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service-based method
<p>Lead authority(ies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family 	<p>Source(s) of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People experiencing homelessness living in the transitional supported housing provide information directly
<p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	<p>Depth of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key demographic characteristics
<p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	

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

[Social housing policies](#) - Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family (minscfa.gov.gr)



5.3.GRC. Administrative data on guaranteed minimum income

Description

Data are recorded on the number of beneficiaries of the guaranteed minimum income experiencing homelessness according to the following categories: rough sleepers, people experiencing homelessness in night shelters and homeless structures, women residing in women’s shelters and people living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing.

<p>Type of count generated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period) <p>Note: Both PIT and flow data are collected</p>	<p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative data
<p>Lead authority(ies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of - Social Cohesion and Family 	<p>Source(s) of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information regarding people experiencing homelessness receiving the Guaranteed Minimum Income is submitted through a digital platform.
<p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	<p>Depth of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key demographic characteristics
<p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	

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

keaprogram.gr



5.4.GRC. Pilot survey on homelessness

Description

The national pilot survey on homelessness was mandated by the Greek Ministry of Social Solidarity in 2018 and brought together a wide array of institutional actors, from municipalities to NGOs. First, questionnaires were administered through a street count to enumerate people sleeping rough. Soup kitchens were also visited in order to conduct surveys with people experiencing homelessness. Second, social workers from shelters and dormitories for people experiencing homelessness conducted surveys with clients.

<p>Type of count generated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period) 	<p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street count • Service-based method
<p>Lead authority(ies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in conjunction with Panteion University and NGOs 	<p>Source(s) of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The source of data is mixed: for those who answered the survey, the source of data is the individual's experiencing homelessness. For the individuals that were observed and reported as homeless but were not interviewed, the source of data are the surveyors.
<p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	<p>Depth of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data disaggregated by: gender, age, nationality, etc.
<p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fixed periodicity (the pilot survey was carried out in 2018) 	

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

[Lessons Learned from the Pilot Implementation of the Point-In-Time Method for Counting the Homeless in Six Municipalities in Greece](#)