Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.ISR)
In Israel, the official statistical definition homelessness is a person who is at least 18 years old, who lives in abandoned houses, gardens, public places, or building locations; suffers from physical and emotional neglect. Usually, without active relationships with their family, doesn't put in the effort to change his way of life and cannot lead a normal lifestyle.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.ISR)
- 3 900 individuals, representing 0.04% of the total population (2021)
- 13% are women, 87% are men
- Flow count, based on the local authority data collection
- 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.ISR)
There is no legal obligation to collect data on homelessness in Israel.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.ISR)
Israel does not have a national homelessness strategy.

Approaches to collect data on homelessness (Table 5.ISR)
- Local authority data collection: The Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs collects information from local authorities through a questionnaire (Table 5.1.ISR).
COUNTRY NOTE: DATA ON HOMELESSNESS IN ISRAEL

Table 1.ISR. Official statistical definition of homelessness

| Homelessness                                                                 | A person who is at least 18 years old, who lives in abandoned houses, gardens, public places, or building locations; suffers from physical and emotional neglect. Usually, without active relationships with their family, doesn't put in the effort to change his way of life and cannot lead a normal lifestyle. A homeless person faces one or more of the following: • A history of instability in living locations and constant mobility across the country • Doesn't have a national identification • Lacks resources for survival • Addiction to psychoactive substances like alcohol and drugs • A history of violence and personal and family crises • A history of physical and/or mental illness with psychiatric hospitalisation backgrounds • Fundamental lack of trust towards the establishment and its authorities • Not functioning in most aspects of life and has a history of failures and rejections In Israel, there is a distinction between a homeless person and a person without a home due to housing problems who are actively trying to change their situation with the help of the Ministry of Construction and Housing. The following are not considered homeless: • Individuals or families who cannot repay their loans and are evicted from their houses • Individuals who have restraining orders due to violence in their homes • Ex-inmates • Minors under the age of 18 |

Table 2.ISR. Data on people experiencing homelessness

National data, presented according to ETHOS Light Typology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headline estimate of homelessness (Individuals)</th>
<th>% of total population</th>
<th>ETHOS 1 People living rough</th>
<th>ETHOS 2 People in emergency accommodation</th>
<th>ETHOS 3 People in accommodation for the homeless</th>
<th>ETHOS 4 People living in institutions</th>
<th>ETHOS 5 People living in unconventional dwellings</th>
<th>ETHOS 6 People staying with family/friends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 900</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>Included in headline estimate but not specified</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>Not included</td>
<td>Not included</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of count: Point-in-time</th>
<th>Flow</th>
<th>Year: 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Included in headline estimate: Children (&lt;18)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary accommodation for: Asylum seekers</td>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td>Victims/survivors of domestic violence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data only cover Israeli citizens, and only represent a sample of local jurisdictions. Data exclude children under 18 years old. Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023, Local authority data collection.

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

| Law that governs data collection on homelessness | None. |
| Legal obligations                               | None. |
Table 4.ISR. National homelessness strategy

| National homelessness strategy in place | ☐ Yes | ☐ No, but regional and/or local strategies exist | ☒ No |

Table 5.ISR. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

4.1.ISR. Local authority data collection

**Description**
The Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs circulates a questionnaire on homelessness to local authorities every year. Reported data is then cross-checked with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs’ information systems, which record information on homelessness service usage.

**Type of count generated**

| ☐ Point-in-time | ☒ Flow (period) |

**Methods**
- Service-based method

**Lead authority(ies)**
- Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs

**Source(s) of information**
- Local authorities fill out a questionnaire on homelessness service usage

**Scope**
- National level

**Depth of data**
- Data disaggregated by: individuals making use of social services for the homeless that were registered and individuals making use of social services for the homeless that were not registered.

**Frequency**
- Annual

**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**
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