Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.NLD)

In official statistics, the Netherlands defines people experiencing homelessness in accordance with the definition of Wolf et al. (2002) which includes: people living on the street or other public space, without a permanent place of residence; persons who make short-term use of night care or accessible care; and persons without permanent residence, who sleep with family or friends on a non-structural basis and do not know where they will sleep the next night.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.NLD)

- 30 600 individuals, representing 0.17% of the total population (2023)
- 20% are women, 80% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the Homelessness in the Netherlands Study
- 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.NLD)

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

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.NLD)

The Dutch National Action Plan on Homelessness: Housing First

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

- Homeless in the Netherlands Study: Estimation of people experiencing homelessness through the capture-recapture statistical method using administrative data (Table 5.1.NLD).
The Netherlands defines homeless people in accordance with the definition of Wolf et al. (2002) which includes:

- people living on the street or other public space, without a permanent place of residence;
- persons who make short-term use of night care or accessible care; and
- persons without permanent residence, who sleep with family or friends on a non-structural basis and do not know where they will sleep the next night.

### Table 2.NLD. 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>30,600</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
<td>Included in headline estimate but not specified</td>
<td>Included in headline estimate but not specified</td>
<td>Included in headline estimate but not specified</td>
<td>Not included</td>
<td>Included in headline estimate but not specified</td>
<td>Included in headline estimate but not specified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of count: Point-in-time ☒ Flow ☐

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18) ☐

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

Year: 2023

Note: Data refer to people between the age of 18 and 65 years old. The headline estimate was estimated using the capture-recapture method and was therefore not directly observed. Although ETHOS 1,2,3,5 and 6 are included in the headline estimate, each ETHOS category is only partially counted.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Statistics Netherlands (CBS) (2024), Homelessness in the Netherlands Study

### Table 3.NLD. Legal framework to collect data on homelessness

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

### Table 4.NLD. National homelessness strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National homelessness strategy in place</th>
<th>☒ Yes: <a href="#">The Dutch National Action Plan on Homelessness: Housing First</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ No, but regional and/or local strategies exist</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5.NLD. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1. NLD. Homeless in the Netherlands Study

Description
Using the capture-recapture method, three registers are used to estimate the total number of people experiencing homelessness in the Netherlands:
- People at reception addresses: A list compiled by the CBS of persons who, according to the personal records database, stay at day and night shelters
- WWB: A list available in the CBS of persons who were on the social assistance register as persons without a permanent place of residence
- LADIS: A selection of people experiencing homelessness from the National Alcohol and Drug Information System.

Since 2020, a selection of people experiencing homelessness who were known to one of three probation organisations in the Netherlands has been used instead of the LADIS: (1) Probation Netherlands (RN); (2) Stichting Verslavingsreclassering GGZ (SVG); and (3) Salvation Army Youth Protection & Probation Foundation. The data are comparable despite the change in methodology in 2020. The reference date is always the first of January of the year in question.

Type of count generated
☑ Point-in-time
☐ Flow (period)

Methods
- Capture-recapture
- Administrative data

Lead authority(ies)
- Statistics Netherlands (CBS)
- Ministry of health, welfare and sports

Source(s) of information
- Administrative data is used to perform the capture-recapture method

Scope
- National level

Depth of data
- Key demographic characteristics (gender, age, origin and place of residence)

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.

Homeless in the Netherlands (cbs.nl)
30.6 thousand homeless people at the start of 2023 (cbs.nl)
StatLine - Daklozen 18 tot 65 jaar; persoonskenmerken, 1 januari (cbs.nl)