



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.SWE)

Sweden's definition of homelessness considers four situations: acute homelessness; institutional care, category housing and penal institutions; long-term housing solutions; and short-term housing solutions.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.SWE)

- 33 269 individuals, representing 0.33% of the total population (2017)
- 38% are women, 62% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the National Homelessness Survey
- 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.SWE)

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

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.SWE)

[The government's strategy to combat homelessness 2022–2026](#)

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

- National Homelessness Survey: National mapping of homelessness through service providers (Table 5.1.SWE).

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.SWE. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	<p><i>Situation 1: Acute homelessness:</i> Emergency accommodation, overnight shelters, women's shelters, rough sleeping. Hotels, campsites, hostels, caravans, mobile homes, etc.</p> <p><i>Situation 2: Institutional care, category housing, penal institutions:</i> Penal or correctional institutions, healthcare institutions, treatment centres. - Leaving within 3 months and do not have a place to live or stay longer than needed due to lack of housing.</p> <p><i>Situation 3: Long-term housing solutions:</i> Housing solutions provided by the municipal social services (temporary accommodation, transitional supported accommodated housing, housing first sublease)</p> <p><i>Situation 4: Short-term housing solutions:</i> Temporary involuntary living in conventional housing with friends, acquaintances, family or relatives. Temporary (less than 3 months) sublet contracts in conventional housing. The person must have been in contact with social services or other care providers to be included in the statistics.</p>
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Table 2.SWE. 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
33 269 62% men 38% women	0.33%	647	2 554 ^(a)	2 367 ^(b)	4 899	343	5 726 ^(c)

Type of count: Point-in-time Flow

Year: 2017

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

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

Note: People living in long-term living arrangements are also included in the headline estimate (15 838 people). For 871 individuals, the type of living arrangement is not known. (a) Data refer to people in shelters/emergency housing and temporary housing/emergency shelters. (b) Data refer to people living in a hotel/hostel or in protected housing/women's shelter. (c) Data refer to people living in involuntary living arrangements with family members, friends or acquaintances without a lease, in a temporary sublease less than three months in other persons' homes and temporary lodgers less than three months in other persons' homes.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; National Board for Health and Welfare (2017), National homelessness survey.

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

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

Table 4.SWE. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: The government's strategy to combat homelessness 2022–2026 <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.SWE. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.SWE. National Homelessness Survey	
Description	
<p>The Swedish government conducts its national mapping of homelessness through municipalities, correctional authorities, healthcare providers, churches, NGO's, among others over a week period (normally in April). The National Board of Health and Welfare retrieves data on the population experiencing homelessness in two steps: first, the actors that will be sampled are selected (the actors providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness) and second, each actor fills out an individual questionnaire for each individual experiencing homelessness they are in contact with during the reference period (this constitutes the survey). The mapping includes all four categories described in the definition (see Table 1.SWE).</p>	
Type of count generated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service-based method • Administrative data
Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Board of Health and Welfare (<i>Socialstyrelsen</i>) 	Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers interview people experiencing homelessness directly and then report the data.
Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociodemographic characteristics are taken into account and results are disaggregated by: sex, age, migrant status (just of those legally residing and who are part of the count), income, children, reason for homelessness etc.
Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every six years (the last one was carried out in 2017) 	
ETHOS Light groups included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
Notes Official Report National Board of Health and Welfare	