



## Summary of key findings

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

In the 2023 report of the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, a person experiencing homelessness was defined as someone who does not have their own home (rented or owned residence) and if they live:

- outside, in stairways or temporary shelters
- in dormitories or hostels
- in welfare home-type housing units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions
- temporarily with friends or relatives due to lack of housing.

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

- 3 429 individuals, representing 0.06% of the total population (2023)
- 22% are women, 78% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA) homelessness reports
- 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.FIN)

Finland has no legal obligation to collect data on homelessness.

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

- [Programme to end long-term homelessness by 2027](#)

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

- Homelessness in Finland Report: Municipalities fill out surveys on homelessness (Table 5.1.FIN)

*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.FIN. Official statistical definition of homelessness

<b>Homelessness</b>	<p>According to the 2023 report of the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, a <i>person experiencing homelessness</i> is defined as someone who does not have their own home (rented or owned residence) and if they live outside, in stairways or temporary shelters; in dormitories or hostels; in welfare home-type housing units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions; temporarily with friends or relatives due to lack of housing.</p> <p><i>Long-term homelessness</i> refers to “a homeless person who has a significant social or a health problem, such as debt, substance abuse or mental health problems, and whose homelessness has been prolonged or is in danger of being prolonged due to a lack of conventional housing solutions and appropriate support services. Homelessness is considered long-term if it has lasted for at least one year or if the individual has repeatedly experienced homelessness over the last three years.”</p> <p><i>Homeless families</i> include “families living in emergency and temporary shelters and in crisis homes. The number of children belonging to a family will also be included in the data.”</p>
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Table 2.FIN. 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
3 429 78% men 22% women	0.06%	Included in ETHOS 2	464	414	412	Not included	2 139

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 refers to the number of homeless people living alone; however, there were 123 families and couples experiencing homelessness. Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA) (2024), Homelessness reports.

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

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

Table 4.FIN. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <a href="#">Programme to end long-term homelessness by 2027</a> <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.FIN. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.FIN. Homelessness in Finland Report	
<b>Description</b>	
<p>The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland gathers nationwide data on homelessness through surveys circulated to municipalities. Municipalities collect and report data from social welfare and housing service registers, housing applicant registers of municipal rental housing companies, the register of the Social Insurance Institution, and the Digital and Population Data Services Agency’s Population Information Register. Data collection methods may vary among and within municipalities.</p>	
<p><b>Type of count generated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative data</li> <li>• Service-based method</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lead authority(ies)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Source(s) of information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service providers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scope</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National level (only mainland Finland)</li> <li>• 71% of municipalities responded to the survey (2023)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Depth of data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sociodemographic characteristics are taken into account: sex, age, individuals or families, migrant status, etc.</li> <li>• The results are disaggregated by people experiencing long-term homelessness, people living alone, people experiencing homelessness as families or couples, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Frequency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual</li> </ul>	
<p><b>ETHOS Light groups included</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women’s refuges)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 4: People in institutions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)</li> </ul> <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><b>Notes</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.ara.fi/en-US/Materials/Homelessness_reports/Homelessness_in_Finland_2023">www.ara.fi/en-US/Materials/Homelessness_reports/Homelessness_in_Finland_2023</a></p>	