Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.FRA)

The following statistical definition of homelessness is used: people who have spent the previous night in a place not intended for habitation (e.g., street, tent, car, car park, park or wood, place of public transport, slum) or in an accommodation (emergency accommodation, hotels, accommodation and social reintegration centres called "CHRS", specific centres for asylum seekers - i.e., accommodation without rental contract, sublease contract, or residence contract in social residences, that would be considered as housing).

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.FRA)

- 333 000 individuals, representing 0.49% of the total population (2022)
- Approximately 60% are men, 40% are women
- Point-in-time count, based on an estimate from the *Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement (DIHAL)*
- 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.FRA)

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

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.FRA)

[Housing First Plan](#) *(Le plan quinquennal pour le Logement d'abord et la lutte contre le sans-abrisme)*

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

- Night of Solidarity (*Nuit de la solidarité*): Street count with questionnaire performed by volunteers in major cities (Table 5.1.FRA)
- Homelessness survey *(Enquête sans domicile)*: Individuals using services which provide meals, housing or night shelters were sampled through interviews and questionnaires (Table 5.2.FRA)
- Slum clearing platform *(Plateforme résorption-bidonvilles)*: Organisations working with people living in non-conventional housing settlements regularly update information on an online platform (Table 5.3.FRA)
- Information system – Integrated reception and orientation service *(Système Information – Service intégré d'accueil et d'orientation (SI-SIAO)):* Information regarding individuals requesting housing assistance through SIAO is recorded (Table 5.4.FRA)

Table 1.FRA. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	The following statistical definition is used: people who have spent the previous night in a place not intended for habitation (e.g. street, tent, car, car park, park or wood, place of public transport, slum) or in an accommodation (emergency accommodation, hotels, accommodation and social reintegration centres called "CHRS", specific centres for asylum seekers – i.e. accommodation without rental contract, sublease contract, or residence contract in social residences, that would be considered as housing).

Table 2.FRA. 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
333 000	0.49%	~5 500	~ 316 000	Included in ETHOS 2	Not included	~11 200	Not Included

Type of count: Point-in-time ⊠ Flow ☐   Year: 2022
Included in headline estimate: Children (<18) ⊠
Temporary accommodation for: Asylum seekers ⊠   Refugees ⊠   Victims/survivors of domestic violence ⊠

Note: Estimate by the Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement (DIHAL), based on the aggregation of several point-in-time data sources from across the country. The data in ETHOS 2 include approximately 113 000 individuals staying in temporary accommodation for asylum seekers.
Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable Housing (QuASH), 2023; DIHAL (2023)

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

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

Table 4.FRA. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	⊠ Yes: Housing First Plan (Le plan quinquennal pour le Logement d'abord et la lutte contre le sans-abrisme) ☐ No, but regional and/or local strategies exist ☐ No

Table 5.FRA. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.FRA. Night of Solidarity *(Nuit de la solidarité)*

Description

The *Nuit de la Solidarité* is organised once a year, on a given night in January or February in numerous French cities. Volunteers count the number of people who plan to spend the night or are already asleep in the street, tent, camp, car, car park, park or wood, place of public transport, camp, etc. They also administer a questionnaire. (The city of Paris piloted a second street count in the summer of 2023, in addition to the winter street count).

Type of count generated	Methods
☒ Point-in-time ☐ Flow (period)	• Street Count

Lead authority(ies)	Source(s) of information
• Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement (DIHAL)	• Cities perform the data collection themselves and report the results to DIHAL

Scope	Depth of data
• 41 major French cities in 2023	• Key demographic characteristics

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

Nuit de la Solidarité hiver 2023 : 3015 personnes - Ville de Paris

Guide de la Nuit de la solidarité (2021)

5.2.FRA. Homelessness survey *(Enquête sans domicile)*

Description

Individuals using services providing meals, housing or night shelters are sampled through interviews and questionnaires. Although not all people sampled were necessarily experiencing homelessness, their status was established through the questionnaire. The survey previously took place in 2001 and 2012. The sampling was a random 3-degrees sampling, which included choosing random conurbations, time of visits (within a given frame to maximise responses) and users attending the service on the day of the planned visit. The sampling process was informed by a pre-survey realised by regional offices and enriched by telephone surveys. French-speaking people filled out a form face to face with an interviewer. Non-French speaking people had the option to choose between 14 languages and filled out a self-administered questionnaire if they understood one of the languages.

Type of count generated	**Methods**
☒ Point-in-time ☐ Flow (period)	• Service-based method
Lead authority(ies)	**Source(s) of information**
• Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (INSEE)	• Users of hosting services or meal distribution provide information through the questionnaire
Scope	**Depth of data**
• National level; The survey is conducted in a sample of services in cities over 20.000 inhabitants with an aim of statistical representativeness.	• Detailed demographic information, as well as pathways into homelessness
Frequency	
• Irregular; The next survey is scheduled to be conducted in 2024-2025.	

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

[Présentation statistique − Survey about people attending hosting services or meal distribution - 2012 | Insee](#)

[L'hébergement des sans-domicile en 2012 - Insee Première - 1455](#)

5.3.FRA. Slum clearing platform *(Plateforme résorption-bidonvilles)*

Description

The Résorption-bidonvilles platform is a tool for information, sharing and steering, that is used to move people from non-conventional housing settlements to conventional housing. Organisations working with people living in non-conventional housing settlements regularly update information on corresponding settlements in the platform.

Type of count generated	Methods
☒ Point-in-time ☒ Flow (period) Note: Both point-in-time and flow data can be generated through this method.	• Other (Information system on non-conventional housing)
Lead authority(ies)	**Source(s) of information**
• Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement (DIHAL)	• NGOs, government services, associations and other organisations working with people living in non-conventional housing update information directly in the platform.
Scope • The platform collects information on all non-conventional settlements in France. • Limited monitoring in Overseas departments and territories. **Frequency** • Ongoing	**Depth of data** • Number and characteristics of people living in non-conventional housing • Characteristics of non-conventional housing

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

Résorption-bidonvilles – Agir pour résorber les bidonvilles (beta.gouv.fr)

5.4.FRA. Information system – integrated reception and orientation service *(Système Information – Service intégré d'accueil et d'orientation (SI-SIAO))*

Description

The number of people requesting emergency housing assistance, transitional housing and/or social support through the Information system – integrated reception and orientation service (SIAO) is recorded, as well as the outcome of the decision. *Départements* provide individual activity reports each year.

Type of count generated	Methods
☒ Point-in-time ☒ Flow (period) Note: Both point-in-time and flow data can be generated through this approach.	• Information management system on individuals experiencing homelessness
Lead authority(ies)	**Source(s) of information**
• Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement (DIHAL)	• People applying for homelessness related services provide information directly through the online portal
Scope	**Depth of Data**
• National	• Key demographic characteristics and current situation
Frequency	
• 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

https://basedeconnaissances.sisiao.social.gouv.fr/support