



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.KOR)

People experiencing homelessness are defined as persons who have lived without a permanent abode for a substantial period, persons who have used a facility for the homeless or have lived in a facility for the homeless for a substantial period and persons who have lived at a place with substantially low habitability for a substantial period.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.KOR)

- 8 469 individuals, representing 0.02% of the total population (2022)
- 28% are women, 72% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the Status Study of the Homeless
- 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.KOR)

According to the *Act on Support for Welfare and Self-Reliance of the Homeless*, the Minister of Health and Welfare must conduct a fact-finding survey every five years as to the current state, needs, and psychological state of homeless persons and the state of assistance provided to such persons by the public and private sectors.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.KOR)

[The 2nd Comprehensive Plan for Welfare and Self-Reliance Support for the Homeless](#)

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

- Status Study on the Homeless: Enumerators count and survey people experiencing homelessness in homelessness facilities and public locations (Table 5.1.KOR).

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Table 1.KOR. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	According to the Act on Support for Welfare and Self-Reliance of the Homeless, homeless persons are defined as: (a) Persons who have lived without a permanent abode for a substantial period; (b) Persons who have used a facility for the homeless or have lived in a facility for the homeless for a substantial period; (c) Persons who have lived at a place with substantially low habitability for a substantial period;
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Table 2.KOR. 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
8 469 72% men 28% women	0.02%	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Not included	Included in headline estimate but not specified	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

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Ministry of Health and Welfare (2023), Status study on the homeless.

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

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	Act on Support for Welfare and Self-Reliance of the Homeless
Legal obligations	The Minister of Health and Welfare must conduct a fact-finding survey every five years as to the current state, needs, and psychological state of homeless persons and the state of assistance provided to such persons by the public and private sectors, and publish the results thereof. The Minister of Health and Welfare may also request the head of a relevant central administrative agency, local government, public institution, corporation, or other organization to submit necessary materials or to present their opinions to inform the survey.

Table 4.KOR. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: The 2nd Comprehensive Plan for Welfare and Self-Reliance Support for the Homeless <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.KOR. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.KOR. Status Study on the Homeless	
<p>Description</p> <p>Enumerators count and survey people experiencing homelessness sleeping rough and in temporary living facilities. The homelessness survey includes both a point-in-time enumeration and interviews of a sample of those being enumerated. In 2021, the interviews were conducted with 1700 people, while 14,404 people were interviewed. The enumeration was conducted in May while the interviews were conducted in June and July. The enumeration took place in 1197 facilities and 1548 outside survey sites.</p>	
<p>Type of count generated</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)</p>	<p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street count • Service-based method
<p>Lead authority(ies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health and Welfare 	<p>Source(s) of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People experiencing homelessness were enumerated and/or interviewed directly
<p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	<p>Depth of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enumeration includes basic demographic information while the interviews provide detailed demographic information, as well as information about the living conditions for people experiencing homelessness and pathways into homelessness
<p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every five years 	
<p>ETHOS Light groups included</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women’s refuges)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 4: People in institutions</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)</p> <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>Notes</p> <p>2021 Homeless Survey Results Announced - Press Release Briefing Room News Republic of Korea Policy Briefing</p>	