Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.LVA)

There is no official statistical definition of homelessness in Latvia.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.LVA)

- 5 977 individuals, representing 0.32% of the total population (2022)
- 19% are women, 81% are men
- Flow count, based on the Reports on Social Services and Social Assistance
- 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.LVA)

There is no legal obligation to collect data on homelessness in Latvia. However, municipalities are obliged to collect data on provided social services, including for services provided by shelters.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.LVA)

There is no national homelessness strategy in Latvia.

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

- Reports on Social Services and Social Assistance: Shelters report information on the number of clients using their services (Table 5.1.LVA)

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Table 1.LVA. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	No official statistical definition of homelessness in Latvia.

Table 2.LVA. 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
5 997 81% men 19% women	0.32%	Not included	5 997	Included under ETHOS 2	Not included	Not included	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 ☐

Notes: The gender breakdown refers to 2021.
Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Ministry of Welfare (2023), Reports on Social Services and Social Assistance

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

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	None.
Legal obligations	There is no legal obligation to collect data on homelessness in Latvia. However, municipalities are obliged to collect data on provided social services, including for services provided by shelters.

Table 4.LVA. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	☐ Yes ☐ No, but regional and/or local strategies exist ☒ No

Table 5.LVA. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.LVA. Reports on Social Services and Social Assistance

Description

Every time a person receives a shelter service, information about them is entered into the municipal social services registration database by the shelter's social worker. The Ministry of Welfare collects the data provided by municipalities including the number of persons who have received the shelter service. The reference period begins and ends in June. Information is collected on all people who have received a shelter service, which does not necessarily indicate that a person is experiencing homelessness.

Type of count generated	**Methods**
☐ Point-in-time ☒ Flow (period)	• Service-based method
Lead authority(ies)	**Source(s) of information**
• Ministry of Welfare	• Shelter services report information to the Ministry of Welfare directly through the central database.
Scope	**Depth of data**
• National level	• Simple enumeration
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

Gada dati | Labklājības ministrija (lm.gov.lv)