



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.POL)

Homelessness is defined as a person who does not stay in a living accommodation and who is not registered for permanent residence therein or a person who does not stay in a living accommodation and is registered for permanent residence in a dwelling which is not adequate for living.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.POL)

- 30 330 individuals, representing 0.08% of the total population (2019)
- 15% are women, 85% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the National Research on the Number of Homeless People
- 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.POL)

There is no legal framework to collect data on homelessness in Poland.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.POL)

Homelessness is addressed in the [Strategy of development of social services, public policy until 2030 \(with a perspective until 2035\)](#)

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

- Nationwide research of the number of homeless people: Enumeration and survey of people experiencing homelessness performed nationwide on a single winter night (Table 5.1.POL)

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Table 1.POL. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	According to the Social Assistance Act of 12 March 2004, homelessness is defined as a person who does not stay in a living accommodation and who is not registered for permanent residence therein or a person who does not stay in a living accommodation and is registered for permanent residence in a dwelling which is not adequate for living.
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Table 2.POL. 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
30 330 85% men 15% women	0.08%	2 551	4 299	14 422	3 062	3 456 ^(a)	Not included

Type of count: Point-in-time Flow

Year: 2019

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

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

Note: 2 540 people experiencing homelessness cannot be categorised. (a): Data refer to the sum of vacant lots, houses on plots, and allotment gazebos.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Ministry of Family and Social Policy (2019), National Research on the Number of Homeless People.

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

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	None.
Legal obligations	National research on the number of people experiencing homelessness is implemented only on the initiative of Ministry of Family and Social Assistance

Table 4.POL. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Homelessness is addressed in the Strategy of development of social services, public policy until 2030 (with a perspective until 2035) <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.POL. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.POL. Nationwide research of the number of homeless people	
Description	
National count of the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single winter night in Poland. Municipalities administer individuals experiencing homelessness with a written, oral or electronic survey. The following locations are targeted: night shelters and shelters for people experiencing homelessness, warming houses, homes for mothers with minor children and pregnant women, crisis intervention centers, specialist support centers for victims of domestic violence, hospitals, hospices, ZOLs, other health facilities, prisons, detention centers, sobering-up centres, social emergency services, vacant lots, houses on plots, allotment gazebos and non-residential places: on the streets, staircases, railway and bus stations, garbage sheds, cellars, etc.	
Type of count generated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street count • Service-based method
Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Family and Social Policy 	Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is collected at the municipality level, by social workers, NGO representatives, municipal guards, police and volunteers. It is then aggregated at the voivodship level.
Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociodemographic characteristics: age, gender, nationality, marital status, education) • Duration and main causes of homelessness • Income source • Type of assistance received and support required
Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennale (the last results are from 2019). 	
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 type="checkbox"/> 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 www.gov.pl/web/rodzina/ogolnopolskie-badanie-liczby-osob-bezdomnych-i	