



## Summary of key findings

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

Portugal's definition of homelessness considers people living rough or in emergency accommodation, in precarious places, and in accommodation for the homeless

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

- 10 773 individuals, representing 0.1% of the total population (2022)
- 28% are women, 72% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the Characterization Survey 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.PRT)

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

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

The [National Strategy for the Inclusion of People Experiencing Homelessness 2025-2030](#) (*Estratégia Nacional para a Integração das Pessoas em Situação de Sem-Abrigo 2025-2030*)

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

- Characterization Survey of Homeless People: Enumeration and survey of people experiencing homelessness (Table 5.1.PRT)

*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.PRT. Official statistical definition of homelessness

<b>Homelessness</b>	<p>The person who, irrespective of his / her nationality, racial or ethnic origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and physical and mental health condition, is:</p> <p>People living rough or in emergency accommodation: the people are living in the public space, housed in an emergency shelter or living in a precarious place;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public space - spaces for public use such as gardens, metro / bus stations, bus stops, parking lots, sidewalks, viaducts, bridges or others;</li> <li>Emergency accommodation - any equipment which immediately accommodates, free of charge and for short periods of time, persons who do not have access to another overnight accommodation;</li> <li>Precarious place - place that, due to the conditions in which it is allowed, a public use, such as abandoned cars, stairwells, entrances of buildings, abandoned factories and buildings, abandoned houses or others.</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <p>People living in accommodation for the homeless (temporary):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary accommodation - equipment which accommodates persons who do not have access to permanent accommodation and who promote their insertion. It corresponds, for example, to the social response of the nomenclature of Social Security or others of a similar nature, known as the Temporary Accommodation Centre: "social response, developed in equipment, aimed at the reception, for a limited period, of adults in situation of deficiency, with a view to the most appropriate social response."</li> </ul>
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Table 2.PRT. 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
10 773 72% men 28% women	0.10%	5 975	Included under ETHOS 1	4 798	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

Note: Data refer to mainland Portugal.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People (2023), Characterization Survey of Homeless People

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

<b>Law that governs data collection on homelessness</b>	None.
<b>Legal obligations</b>	None.



Table 4.PRT. National homelessness strategy

<b>National homelessness strategy in place</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <a href="#">National Strategy for the Inclusion of People Experiencing Homelessness 2025-2030 (Estratégia Nacional para a Integração das Pessoas em Situação de Sem-Abrigo 2025-2030)</a> <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.PRT. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

### 5.1.PRT. Characterization Survey of Homeless People

**Description**

The Characterization Survey of Homeless People seeks to provide a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness in Portugal and their demographic characteristics. The count and the survey are carried out at the municipal level through public institutions that have a local mandate through the Local Councils of Social Action (CLAS) or Homeless Planning and Intervention Centers (NPISA). The data is officially reported by the National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People 2017-2023.

<b>Type of count generated</b>	<b>Methods</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street count</li> <li>• Service-based method</li> </ul>
<b>Lead authority(ies)</b>	<b>Source(s) of information</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security</li> <li>• National Strategy for the Integration of People homelessness - ENIPSSA</li> <li>• National Strategy Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Group - GIMAE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People experiencing homelessness are surveyed directly.</li> </ul>
<b>Scope</b>	<b>Depth of data</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National level, but only mainland Portugal. All 278 mainland municipalities are covered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-demographic characteristics are surveyed: (age, sex, marital status, nationality, education level, income sources, etc).</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual (since 2018)</li> </ul>	

**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.

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