



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.EST)

A person experiencing homelessness is a person, who has no legal relationship (ownership, lease agreement, permanent accommodation agreement) to any buildings, rooms or parts thereof that would qualify as housing and who has no source of income necessary for acquiring a place to live and no social skills to change his or her status in the given circumstances.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.EST)

- 1 068 individuals, representing 0.08% of the total population (2021)
- 33% are women, 67% are men
- Point-in-Time count, based on Population and Housing Census 2021
- 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.EST)

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

National homelessness strategy (Table 5.EST)

Estonia does not have a national homelessness strategy, but local strategies exist.

Approaches to collect data on homelessness (Table 4.EST)

- Population and Housing Census: Questionnaire which includes a question on dwelling type and homelessness (Table 4.1.EST).
- Social Welfare Statistics: Local municipalities and homeless services provide data through an online portal (Table 4.2.EST).



Table 1. EST. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	For statistical purposes, a person experiencing homelessness is a person, who has no legal relationship (ownership, lease agreement, permanent accommodation agreement) to any buildings, rooms or parts thereof that would qualify as housing and who has no source of income necessary for acquiring a place to live and no social skills to change his or her status in the given circumstances.
---------------------	---

Table 2. EST. 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
1 068 67% men 33% women	0.08%	Not included	Included in headline estimate but not specified ^(a)	Included in headline estimate but not specified ^(b)	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Not included	Included in headline estimate but not specified

Type of count: Point-in-time Flow

Year: 2021

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

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

Note: (a) The yearly social welfare statistics include an enumeration of 1 673 people in emergency accommodation. However, these data are a flow count and cannot be compared with the headline estimate; therefore, they are not reported in this table. (b) The yearly social welfare statistics also enumerate 10 807 people who were provided accommodation by local authorities under the Provision of Dwelling service (*eluruumi tagamise teenus*) at the end of 2021; they are not reported in this table.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Statistics Estonia (2023), Census 2021.

Table 3. EST. 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. However, homeless shelters and local municipalities have to report to the state on the number of people that received services for shelter and accommodation.

Table 4. EST. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
--	---



Table 5. EST. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1. EST. Population and Housing Census	
Description	
The population of Estonia must fill out the census, which includes a question on type of dwelling that includes homeless/roofless as an answer. The census is to be completed online. If it is not submitted online, census staff collect the information through phone and face-to-face interviews.	
Type of count generated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population census
Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics Estonia 	Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General population
Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National level 	Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key demographic characteristics
Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every 10 years 	
ETHOS Light groups included <input 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 type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents) <input checked="" 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 Home Statistikaamet (rahvaloendus.ee)	



5.2. EST. Social Welfare Statistics

Description

Local municipalities and homeless shelter service providers provide data on the number (age and gender) of homeless people that have received shelter and accommodation services once a year online. The social insurance board at the Ministry of Social Affairs then approve the reports of the services before making them publicly available.

<p>Type of count generated</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)</p>	<p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service-based method
<p>Lead authority(ies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Affairs 	<p>Source(s) of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter services provide information directly through the online portal.
<p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	<p>Depth of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data disaggregated by age and gender
<p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

- <https://hveeb.sm.ee/>
- <https://sveeb.sm.ee/>