



Summary of key findings

Official Statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.IRL)

In the 1988 Housing Act, a person is considered homeless if:

(a) there is no accommodation available which, in the opinion of the authority, he, together with any other person who normally resides with him or who might reasonably be expected to reside with him, can reasonably occupy or remain in occupation of, or

(b) he is living in a hospital, county home, night shelter or other such institution, and is so living because he has no accommodation of the kind referred to in paragraph (a), and he is, in the opinion of the authority, unable to provide accommodation from his own resources.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.IRL)

- 13 179 individuals, representing 0.26% of the total population (October 2023)
- 38 % are women, 62 % are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the Pathway Accommodation Support System (PASS)
- 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.IRL)

The 1988 Housing Act requires that local authorities carry out periodic assessments of the number of people who are homeless in their administrative area, as part of their housing needs assessment.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.IRL)

- [Housing for all](#)
- [Youth Homelessness Strategy](#)

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

- Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS): online shared case-management system used by every homeless service provider and all local authorities (Table 5.1.IRL).
- Census of population: Census Field officers conduct interviews and questionnaires with people experiencing homelessness in pre-selected establishments and locations (Table 5.2.IRL)

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Table 1.IRL. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	<p>According to the Housing Act (1988): A person shall be regarded by a housing authority as being homeless for the purposes of this Act if:</p> <p>(a) there is no accommodation available which, in the opinion of the authority, he, together with any other person who normally resides with him or who might reasonably be expected to reside with him, can reasonably occupy or remain in occupation of, or</p> <p>(b) he is living in a hospital, county home, night shelter or other such institution, and is so living because he has no accommodation of the kind referred to in paragraph (a), and he is, in the opinion of the authority, unable to provide accommodation from his own resources.</p>
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Table 2.IRL. 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
13 179 62% men 38% women	0.26%	Not included	13 179	Included in ETHOS 2	Not included	Not included	Not included

Type of count: Point-in-time Flow

Year: 2023

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

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

Note: Data refer to the number of individuals staying in state-funded accommodation during the count week of October 23-29.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (2023). Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS)

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

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	<p>The Housing Act, 1988</p> <p>Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009</p>
Legal obligations	<p>The 1988 Act requires that local authorities carry out periodic assessments of the number of people who are homeless in their administrative area, as part of their housing needs assessment. The Housing (Misc Provisions) Act 2009 outlines a statutory obligation to have an action plan in place and the formation of a Homelessness Consultative Forum and a Statutory Management Group.</p>

Table 4.IRL. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Housing for all and Youth Homelessness Strategy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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Table 5.IRL. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.IRL. Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS)	
Description	
<p>The Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) is an online shared system used by every homelessness service provider and all local authorities in Ireland. The system provides real-time information in terms of homelessness presentation and bed occupancy across the Dublin region. The lead local authorities for homelessness in each region provide monthly reports on homelessness which identify the number of people using State-funded emergency accommodation on a regional and county basis. These reports are collated into a national report on homelessness by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Information from PASS is used to publish the Quarterly Progress Report and the Monthly Homelessness Report.</p>	
Type of count generated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period) Note: Both PIT and flow data is collected	Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information management system on individuals experiencing homelessness
Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 	Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on people experiencing homelessness is submitted directly from local authorities to the department of housing, local government, and heritage through the PASS system.
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"> Ongoing; Data published monthly or quarterly 	
ETHOS Light groups included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 4: People in institutions <input 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) <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>	
Notes www.gov.ie/en/collection/80ea8-homelessness-data/	



5.2.IRL. Census of Population

Description

All people living in Ireland must complete the Census. To reach people experiencing homelessness, Census Field officers conduct interviews and questionnaires with people experiencing homelessness in pre-selected establishments and locations. The method used to identify a person as homeless is agreed upon in advance at a meeting of the Census Homeless Methodology Liaison Group, which includes major stakeholders involved in providing services to people experiencing homelessness. The Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) is also used to help identify establishments that provide support to people experiencing homelessness. In 2016, a count of rough sleepers took place on the night of the Census. This was organised by local authorities, in conjunction with the central statistics office and supported by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive.

<p>Type of count generated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period) 	<p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census of the general population • Street Count
<p>Lead authority(ies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Statistics Office (CSO) 	<p>Source(s) of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Population
<p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	<p>Depth of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key demographic characteristics
<p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every five years 	

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

[Homeless Persons in Ireland - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)