



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.ITA)

People experiencing homelessness are defined as those who are registered with the civil registry at a national residential address and at the address of associations working in their support, and those who elect their domicile at the municipality where they usually reside.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.ITA)

- 96 197 individuals, representing 0.16% of the total population (2021)
- 32% are women, 68% are men
- Flow count, based on the Permanent Census of Population and Housing
- 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.ITA)

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

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.ITA)

[National Plan of Social Interventions and Services \(2021-2023\)](#). The development of a new strategy is underway, in co-operation with the regions.

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

- Permanent Census of Population and Housing (*Censimento Permanente della Popolazione e delle Abitazioni*): Administrative records are linked with municipal registries to collect information on people experiencing homelessness (Table 5.1.ITA)

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Table 1.ITA. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	ISTAT has adopted an administrative definition of the people who are homeless in the Permanent Population Census as of December 31, 2021. Per the law <i>Regolamento Anagrafico</i> , homeless persons are those who are registered with the civil registry at a national residential address and at the address of NGOs/associations that provide assistance to people experiencing homelessness, and those who elect their domicile at the municipality where they usually reside.
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Table 2.ITA. 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
96 197 68% men 32% women	0.16%	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Not included	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Not included

Type of count: Point-in-time Flow

Year: 2021

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

Temporary accommodation for: Asylum seekers Refugees Victims of domestic violence

Note: Data do not include the number of people who reside in authorised camps or in tolerated and spontaneous settlements (15 759 people).
Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; ISTAT (2021), Permanent Census of Population and Housing

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

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	None.
Legal obligations	None.

Table 4.ITA. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: National Plan of Social Interventions and Services (2021-2023) <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.ITA. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.ITA. Permanent Census of Population and Housing (<i>Censimento Permanente della Popolazione e delle Abitazioni</i>)	
Description	
<p>The permanent population and housing census produces information on the population of usual residents in each municipality, thus providing an overview of the demographic and social structure of Italy and its territories. It is a combined census, based on the integration of registers and <i>ad hoc</i> sample surveys. Data on the following three aggregates are extracted yearly from the statistical Population Register and submitted to municipalities for validation: 1) people living in institutional households; 2) people experiencing homelessness; 3) people living in formal or informal camps. As for category 2, this is possible since, according to the law (<i>Regolamento Anagrafico</i>), municipalities must identify fictitious addresses for the registration of people experiencing homelessness and people without a fixed residence. In some cases, addresses of NGOs providing assistance to/taking care of people experiencing homelessness are used for this purpose (in the same municipality, it is possible to have both fictitious and real addresses used for this purpose).</p> <p>Each year, the addresses and the corresponding population aggregates are extracted from the Population Register by Istat and submitted to Municipal Census Offices validation. These may include people living rough or in different kind of accommodations. In some cases, municipalities also use these addresses for victims of domestic violence and for other groups in need of protection (i.e., unaccompanied minors). These data are affected both by an overcount error (i.e., data include people who are not experiencing homelessness) and an undercount error (i.e., data do not include all people experiencing homelessness; for instance, data exclude foreigners who do not hold a permit of stay, as the permit of stay is a prerequisite for being registered in the municipal Population Register; in addition, data exclude people who have become homeless but are still registered at their previous address).</p>	
Type of count generated <input type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population census Administrative data
Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT). 	Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipalities provide information to ISTAT.
Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National level 	Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sociodemographic characteristics: sex, age, nationality (country of origin, continent), etc.
Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual 	
ETHOS Light groups included <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 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)	
Notes http://dati-censimentipermanenti.istat.it/	