



## Summary of key findings

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

In official statistics, the Netherlands defines people experiencing homelessness in accordance with the definition of Wolf et al. (2002) which includes: people living on the street or other public space, without a permanent place of residence; persons who make short-term use of night care or accessible care; and persons without permanent residence, who sleep with family or friends on a non-structural basis and do not know where they will sleep the next night.

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

- 30 600 individuals, representing 0.17% of the total population (2023)
- 20% are women, 80% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on the Homelessness in the Netherlands Study
- 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.NLD)

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

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

[The Dutch National Action Plan on Homelessness: Housing First](#)

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

- Homeless in the Netherlands Study: Estimation of people experiencing homelessness through the capture-recapture statistical method using administrative data (Table 5.1.NLD).

*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.NLD. Official statistical definition of homelessness

<b>Homelessness</b>	<p>The Netherlands defines homeless people in accordance with the definition of Wolf et al. (2002) which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people living on the street or other public space, without a permanent place of residence;</li> <li>• persons who make short-term use of night care or accessible care; and</li> <li>• persons without permanent residence, who sleep with family or friends on a non-structural basis and do not know where they will sleep the next night.</li> </ul>
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Table 2.NLD. 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
30 600 80% men 20% women	0.17%	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	Included in headline estimate but not specified

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 people between the age of 18 and 65 years old. The headline estimate was estimated using the capture-recapture method and was therefore not directly observed. Although ETHOS 1,2,3,5 and 6 are included in the headline estimate, each ETHOS category is only partially counted. Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Statistics Netherlands (CBS) (2024), Homelessness in the Netherlands Study

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

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

Table 4.NLD. National homelessness strategy

<b>National homelessness strategy in place</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <a href="#">The Dutch National Action Plan on Homelessness: Housing First</a> <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.NLD. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.NLD. Homeless in the Netherlands Study	
<b>Description</b>	
<p>Using the capture-recapture method, three registers are used to estimate the total number of people experiencing homelessness in the Netherlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People at reception addresses: A list compiled by the CBS of persons who, according to the personal records database, stay at day and night shelters</li> <li>• WWB: A list available in the CBS of persons who were on the social assistance register as persons without a permanent place of residence</li> <li>• LADIS: A selection of people experiencing homelessness from the National Alcohol and Drug Information System.</li> </ul> <p>Since 2020, a selection of people experiencing homelessness who were known to one of three probation organisations in the Netherlands has been used instead of the LADIS: (1) Probation Netherlands (RN); (2) Stichting Verslavingsreclassering GGZ (SVG); and (3) Salvation Army Youth Protection &amp; Probation Foundation. The data are comparable despite the change in methodology in 2020. The reference date is always the first of January of the year in question.</p>	
<b>Type of count generated</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	<b>Methods</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capture-recapture</li> <li>• Administrative data</li> </ul>
<b>Lead authority(ies)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics Netherlands (CBS)</li> <li>• Ministry of health, welfare and sports</li> </ul>	<b>Source(s) of information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative data is used to perform the capture-recapture method</li> </ul>
<b>Scope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National level</li> </ul>	<b>Depth of data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key demographic characteristics (gender, age, origin and place of residence)</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual</li> </ul>	
<b>ETHOS Light groups included</b> <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 checked="" 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>	
<p><a href="https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/indicatoren/18010-01/homeless-people">Homeless in the Netherlands (cbs.nl)</a>  <a href="https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/indicatoren/18010-01/homeless-people-at-the-start-of-2023">30.6 thousand homeless people at the start of 2023 (cbs.nl)</a>  <a href="https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/indicatoren/18010-01/homeless-people-at-the-start-of-2023">StatLine - Daklozen 18 tot 65 jaar; persoonskenmerken, 1 januari (cbs.nl)</a></p>	