



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.HRV)

The State Bureau of Statistics defines the homeless as a person who, due to a lack of accommodation, has no other options than to live on the street and without a shelter that is considered a residential area (so-called primary homelessness) or as a person without a usual place of residence who often moves from one type of placement to another, including apartments, shelters, institutions for the homeless or other residential premises (so-called secondary homelessness).

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.HRV)

- 561 individuals, representing 0.01% of the total population (2021)
- 19% are women, 81% are men
- Flow count, based on internal data from the Ministry of Labour, Pension system, Family and Social Policy
- 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.HRV)

The Social Welfare Act requires Social Welfare Homes to submit an annual statistical report to the Ministry responsible for social welfare affairs by 31 March each year for the previous year.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.HRV)

[National Development Strategy 2030](#)

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

- Internal Data of the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy: Regional offices of service providers provide information to the Ministry on service use (Table 5.1.HRV)

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Table 1.HRV. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	<p>The State Bureau of Statistics defines the homeless as a person who, due to a lack of accommodation, has no other options than to live on the street and without a shelter that is considered a residential area (so-called primary homelessness) or as a person without a usual place of residence who often moves from one type placement in another, including apartments, shelters, institutions for the homeless or other residential premises (so-called secondary homelessness).</p> <p>For the purpose of exercising the right to benefits and services in the social welfare system, the Social Welfare Act defines a homeless person as a person who does not have a place of residence or the means to cover the costs of housing, and is accommodated or uses the service of organised housing in a shelter or overnight accommodation or resides in public or other places that are not intended for housing.</p>
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Table 2.HRV. 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
561 81% men 19% women	0.01%	Not included	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Included in headline estimate but not specified	Not included	Not included	Not included

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: Data refer to the total number of individuals exercising rights from the social welfare system in 2021.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable Housing (QuASH), 2023; Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy (2023), Internal data.

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

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	Social Welfare Act (2022)
Legal obligations	The Social Welfare Act requires Social Welfare Homes to submit an annual statistical report to the Ministry responsible for social welfare affairs by 31 March each year for the previous year.

Table 4.HRV. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: National Development Strategy 2030 <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.HRV. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.HRV. Internal data of the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy	
<p>Description</p> <p>The regional offices of the Croatian Institute for Social Work on the homeless provide data to the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy on the use of homelessness services.</p>	
<p>Type of count generated</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time</p> <p><input 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 Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy 	<p>Source(s) of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters and Overnight Shelters (service providers).
<p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level 	<p>Depth of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enumeration
<p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual 	
<p>ETHOS Light groups included</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women’s refuges)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 4: People in institutions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)</p> <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>	