



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.ISR)

In Israel, the official statistical definition homelessness is a person who is at least 18 years old, who lives in abandoned houses, gardens, public places, or building locations; suffers from physical and emotional neglect. Usually, without active relationships with their family, doesn't put in the effort to change his way of life and cannot lead a normal lifestyle.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.ISR)

- 3 900 individuals, representing 0.04% of the total population (2021)
- 13% are women, 87% are men
- Flow count, based on the local authority data collection
- 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.ISR)

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

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.ISR)

Israel does not have a national homelessness strategy.

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

- Local authority data collection: The Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs collects information from local authorities through a questionnaire (Table 5.1.ISR).

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

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Table 1.ISR. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	<p>A person who is at least 18 years old, who lives in abandoned houses, gardens, public places, or building locations; suffers from physical and emotional neglect. Usually, without active relationships with their family, doesn't put in the effort to change his way of life and cannot lead a normal lifestyle.</p> <p>A homeless person faces one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A history of instability in living locations and constant mobility across the country • Doesn't have a national identification • Lacks resources for survival • Addiction to psychoactive substances like alcohol and drugs • A history of violence and personal and family crises • A history of physical and/or mental illness with psychiatric hospitalisation backgrounds • Fundamental lack of trust towards the establishment and its authorities • Not functioning in most aspects of life and has a history of failures and rejections <p>In Israel, there is a distinction between a homeless person and a person without a home due to housing problems who are actively trying to change their situation with the help of the Ministry of Construction and Housing.</p> <p>The following are not considered homeless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals or families who cannot repay their loans and are evicted from their houses • Individuals who have restraining orders due to violence in their homes • Ex-inmates • Minors under the age of 18
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Table 2.ISR. 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
3 900 87% men 13% women	0.04%	600	322	Included in headline estimate but not specified	686	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 only cover Israeli citizens, and only represent a sample of local jurisdictions. Data exclude children under 18 years old.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023, Local authority data collection.

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

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



Table 4.ISR. National homelessness strategy

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

4.1.ISR. Local authority data collection	
Description	
<p>The Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs circulates a questionnaire on homelessness to local authorities every year. Reported data is then cross-checked with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs' information systems, which record information on homelessness service usage.</p>	
Type of count generated <input type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service-based method
Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs 	Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities fill out a questionnaire on homelessness service usage
Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National level 	Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data disaggregated by: individuals making use of social services for the homeless that were registered and individuals making use of social services for the homeless that were not registered.
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 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 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	
Knesset ReportStreetDwellers_2022	

