



FEANTSA

National Report for the European Observatory on Homelessness:

Statistics Review 2005

Belgium

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This document is written for FEANTSA only and is not made for wider distribution.

Introduction

The 2005 Statistics Review has three main objectives:

1. to develop the generic classification of homeless accommodation,
2. to develop the data definition of the operational categories,
3. to collate the latest available data for each category.

This objective was steered by a template (Appendix 2 of the guidelines) indicating that we should present:

1. a description of the subcategories of the ETHOS typology,
2. a country description of the subcategories,
3. the sources of the data,
4. the way of access to the data,
5. the area covered,
6. the nature of the measurement,
7. the latest date,
8. the latest data.

From our previous work for Feantsa, it could be expected that this exercise would be difficult. This was the case. Several reasons are in play:

1. Belgium is a regional state, implying that in order to fill in the template we need information on at least four different governments. This concerns (1) the Belgium federal state, (2) the Flemish region, (3) the Walloon region and (4) the Brussels Capital Region (BCR), which have constitutionally independent responsibilities. This construction is further complicated by the fact that the Flemish region and the Walloon region concerning personal matters – among welfare work resides – can interfere in the BCR. The consequences is that in the BCR concerning homeless we have services which belonging to either the Flemish or Walloon community, while others are supported by both regions;
2. There is an organisational difference between the regions. Especially in Flanders, the government is tending to work with umbrella organisations (e.g. Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk SAW, Vlaams Overleg Bewonersbelangen VOB, two Feantsa members¹), implying that for subsidisation they have obligations. Often one of it is registering the clients;
3. There generally is a lack of data collecting and research, which is difficult to explain. Especially concerning housing and homelessness, Wallonia and the BCR show a lack of global registration. In Flanders, concerning homelessness SAW is organising a structural counting, but SAW is one eyed in the land of the blind. Nevertheless, the work of SAW does not mean that for Flanders a full picture can be given since other initiatives are taken by the local social services which are for the first time researched (not classifiable in the ETHOS typology, see further). Since this research is rather

¹ AMA, the French speaking organisation of Feantsa, is not subsidised and is therefore self-supporting.

superficial, the initiators intend to elaborate, but the responsible minister shows no interest so far.

4. Some subcategories could be filled in through the existence of one-shot information (e.g. census data, the Réa research on homelessness in the BCR).

The consequence of this is that our stock-taking, which was very time consumptive, only led to a fragmentary filling out of the ETHOS typology.

Besides going through all major data bases and websites, in order to get the information, we contacted:

- the responsible administrations in all regions (by mail, since they all offer this possibility),
- the relevant umbrella organisations (if existing),
- individual persons functioning as gatekeepers (e.g. colleagues from university of people working for core organisations²).

The results of our actions were disappointing. Most of our contacts indicated that no information was available. Others referred us to other organisations or people. And still others did not react³. One positive note is that the Brussels Welzijnsraad intends to take an initiative to collect relevant data for the BCR.

In what follows we present the data in the asked formulae, except for the information collected for the services for homeless organised by the local social services in Flanders, which is – as a consequence of the way of counting – not placeable.

² E.g. Brusselse Welzijnsraad.

³ E.g. Vlastov the umbrella organisation of outreach services financed by the Flemish community. Again Feantsa member AMA did not react.

Roofless

1. Living in public space

1.1. Sleeping rough

Brussels: not available

Flanders: not available

Wallonia: not available

1.2. Contacted by outreach services

Brussels

Existing services, but no overall data are available.

Flanders

Existing, no data

Wallonia

No info.

2. Night shelter/in public for certain amount of hours

2.1. Low-access/direct access shelter

Brussels:

Night shelters

- for homeless women, man & families
- priority for those who were not in the night before
- no conditions, anonymous free
- data:
 - o (1) 2 dormitories with 24 beds & minimal sanitation & (2) 30 places
 - o no info on aid persons
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel.

Flanders

Night shelters: although the sector of care for homeless for a long time resisted the foundation of night shelters, some are recently set up in the larger cities (Antwerpen, Gent & Aalst)

- general info
 - o Method: hotel function
 - o source: NGO umbrella (SAW Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk)
 - o info access: direct from organisation
 - o info area: number of beds + persons
 - o measure: stock
 - o data:
 - 52 beds in Flanders & Brussels
 - Persons
 - Number of applications 12,490
 - Number receipted during take in 581
 - Number accepted for residential care 1,399
 - o date: 2004
 - o www.steunpunt.be

Wallonia

Abris de nuit/night shelters: existing services; no data available.

2.2. Arranged (low budget) hotel

n.a.

2.3. Short-stay hostels

n.a.

Houseless

3. Homeless hostels/temporary

3.1. Short-stay homeless hostels

Brussels

Crisis reception: every body (sometimes except non-accompanied youngsters)

- source: survey
- info access: no direct access
- area: BCR
- measure: stock + nights + persons
- data
 - o capacity: 43
 - o number of nights: 6,850 (underestimation)
 - o reached persons: 935
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel.

Flanders & Brussels (financed by Flemish community)

Crisis reception centres: places where one with acute need can get a short stay. From this point further care (other reception centre, ambulatory care, independent living,...) is arranged. Stays should be as short as possible (max. 21 days → www.artevelde.be)

- o source: NGO umbrella
- o info access: direct from organisation
- o info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- o measure: stock
- o data:
 - 158 beds
 - Persons:

Number of applications	10,991
Number received during take in	2,342
Number accepted for residential care	3,787
- o date: 2004
- o Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

Wallonia

Services exist, but no data could be brought together.

Taken together

3.2. Temporary housing (no defined time)

3.3. Temporary housing (transitional defined)

3.4. Temporary housing (longer stay)

Brussels

General homeless reception centres

- source: survey
- info access: no direct access
- area: BCR
- measure: stock + nights + persons
- data
 - o capacity: 221 (including places for children)
 - o number of nights: 50,997 (underestimation)
 - o reached persons: 3,220 (underestimation)
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel

Reception centres for homeless males

- source: survey
- info access: no direct access
- area: BCR
- measure: stock + nights + persons
- data
 - o capacity: 369
 - o number of nights: 121,188 (underestimation)
 - o reached persons: 1,941 (underestimation)
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel

Reception centres for young adults

- source: survey
- info access: no direct access
- area: BCR
- measure: stock + nights + persons
- data
 - o capacity: 12
 - o number of nights: 3,285
 - o reached persons: 42
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel

Reception centre for couples or singles with children

- source: survey
- info access: no direct access
- area: BCR

- measure: stock + nights + persons
- data
 - o capacity: 30
 - o number of nights: 8,376
 - o reached persons: 185
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel

Reception centre for addicts

- source: survey
- info access: no direct access
- area: BCR
- measure: stock + nights + persons
- data
 - o capacity: 20
 - o number of nights: 3,907
 - o reached persons: 358
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel

Flanders & Brussels (subsidized by the Flemish community)

General reception centres are targeted at homeless persons older than 18 years. Sometime the public is mixed. The stay is limited in time and is aimed at independent living.

One should differentiate between:

- general reception for men
- general reception for women and children
- mixed general reception
- reception of youngsters
- reception of couples and families (which are experimental so far)

General reception for men

- o source: NGO umbrella
- o info access: direct from organisation
- o info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- o measure: stock
- o data:
 - 595 beds
 - Persons

Number of applications	5.386
Number receipted during take in	1.304
Number accepted for residential care	2.458
- o date: 2004
- o Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

General reception for women & children

- source: NGO umbrella
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - 214 beds
 - Persons
 - Number of applications 3,900
 - Number receipted during take in 464
 - Number accepted for residential care 1,053
- date: 2004
- Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

General reception mixed

- source: NGO umbrella
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - 164 beds
 - Persons
 - Number of applications 2,418
 - Number receipted during take in 306
 - Number accepted for residential care 708
- date: 2004
- Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

General reception for youngster (older than 18 years)

- source: NGO umbrella
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - 132 beds
 - Persons
 - Number of applications 1,527
 - Number receipted during take in 73
 - Number accepted for residential care 497
- date: 2004
- Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

Wallonia

Maisons d'accueil: service existing, no data could be collected.

Maison de vie communautaire: idem

4. Women's shelter/refugee

4.1. Women's shelter accommodation

Brussels

General

- source: survey
- info access: no direct access
- area: BCR
- measure: stock + nights + persons
- data
 - o capacity: 189 adults + 111 babies & children
 - o number of nights: 84,853 (underestimation)
 - o reached persons: 695 adults + 460 babies & children (underestimation)
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel

Flanders & Brussels (financed by Flemish community)

General

- o source: NGO umbrella
- o info access: direct from organisation
- o info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- o measure: stock
- o data:
 - 80 beds
 - Persons
 - Number of applications 1,627
 - Number receipted during take in 453
 - Number accepted for residential care 780
- o date: 2004
- o Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)
- o Comment: Can also be 2.1

Wallonia

Maisons d'hébergement de type familial : service is existing, but no data could be collected.

4.2. Women's Supported accommodation

n.a

5. Asylum seekers & international migrants

5.1. Reception centres (asylum)

Belgium

During the period of investigation candidates get materiel relief in different kinds of infrastructure.

Large scaled reception is organised in (1) federal reception centres and (2) reception centres organised by the Red Cross.

Small scaled reception is organised by (1) ngo partners and (2) local social services, which manage the so-called LOI.

Above that an emergency reception is organised in one place.

- source: Fedasil (official department)
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- measure: stock + received persons
- data:

providers	capacity	Received persons
Federal centres	3,778	3,625
Red Cross	3,173	3,022
NGO Erezée	47	47
NGO VwV & CIRE	1,262	1,188
LOI	7,271	6,459
Total	15,531	14,341
Emergency reception (2003)		7,500*

*most stay for one to three nights. Due to procedural questions 40% stay between one and four weeks

- date: 01-06-2005
- www.fedasil.be

Flanders

Reception places for persons who are a victim of human trade

- source: NGO umbrella
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - 10 beds
 - Persons
 - Number of applications 0
 - Number received during take in 36
 - Number accepted for residential care 44
- date: 2004
- Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

5.2. Repatriate accommodation

Existent, but no hard data could be collected.

5.3. Migrant workers hostels

Not available.

6. Institutional release

6.1. Penal institutions

Belgium : prisons

- source: FOD Economie (federal administration)
- info access: Statistical bureay
- measure: stock + persons
- data:

	2002	2003	2004
Capacity	7,436	7,866	8,092
Number of prisoners (01/03/xxxx)	8,605	9,308	9,249
- men	8,248	8,913	8,861
- women	357	395	388
Total number of persons imprisoned (year)	15,695	15,398	15,260

- statbel.fgov.be

Brussels

No overall information found.

Flanders

Psychiatric hospitals

- source: statistical bureau (VRIND)
- info access: web
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of institutions + beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - institutions 40 (stable)
 - beds: 10,556 (slightly decreasing)
 - persons: n.a.
- date: 2002
- www.vrind.be

Psychiatric care institutions

- source: statistical bureau (VRIND)
- info access: web
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of institutions + beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - institutions: 25
 - beds: 2,471
 - persons: n.a.
- date: 2002
- www.vrind.be

Special youth care

- source: statistical bureau (VRIND)
- info access: web
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of institutions + beds
- measure: stock + new applicants
- data:

	New arrivals	capacity
Accompaniment home	749	2,888
Family home	10	75
Reception & Orientation Centre	1,023	297
Community institution	389	-

- date: 2002
- www.vrind.be

Wallonia

No information found.

6.2. Institutions (care & hospital)

n.a.

7. Specialist/supported accommodation

Taken together

7.1. Supported accommodation (group)

7.2. Supported accommodation (individual)

Brussels

Supported accommodation

- source: survey
- info access: no direct access
- area: BCR
- measure: number of dossiers
- data: 426 (underestimated)
- date: 1999
- Source : Réa, A. et al. (2001) : De problematiek van de thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Eindrapport, ULB, Brussel

Flanders & Brussels (subsidized by the Flemish community)

One should distinguish between:

- general supported accommodation: reception without limited time for people who are not able to live independently and need permanent support
- supported accommodation for young adults: idem but limited to 1 year
- pension housing: although the services generally are oriented at independent living, it is observed that people stay longer in the services. Because they lack the skills to live independent or because they are old but not old enough for an old peoples home. These people need a permanent and structured environment in an institution
- care housing: is an answer to the ageing of the population in supported accommodations. It aims at keeping older and ill persons in the existing environment

General supported accommodation

- source: NGO umbrella
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - 813 units
 - Persons

All requests	1,917
Support started (all)	1,702
Request from new clients	1,379
Support started (new clients)	658
- date: 2004
- Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

Supported accommodation for young adults

- source: NGO umbrella
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - 201 units
 - Persons

All requests	549
Support started (all)	247
Request from new clients	578
Support started (new clients)	148
- date: 2004
- Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

Care & pension accommodation (zorgwonen)

- source: NGO umbrella
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity (Flanders + Brussels): number of beds
- measure: stock
- data:
 - 136 units
 - Persons

All requests	39
Support started (all)	83
Request from new clients	29
Support started (new clients)	19
- date: 2004
- Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk (www.steunpunt.be)

Wallonia

No overall information found.

7.3. Foyers

Brussels: existing, but no data.

Flanders: not available

Wallonia: not available

7.4. Teenage parent accommodation

Not available since no differentiation is made.

Insecure housing

8. No tenancy

8.1. Living temporarily with family or friends

n.a.

8.2. Living in dwelling without a standard legal (sub)tenancy

Belgium

Legally every (sub)tenancy should have a written agreement (contract). Above that the contract should be registered. Since this is not controlled and as a consequence there is no penalty, contracts are hardly registered. As a consequence no information on the 'legality' of contracts is available.

9. Eviction order

9.1. Legal orders enforce (rental housing)

No permanent registration.

Brussels

n.a.

Flanders

A joint effort of the Flemish local social services reveals that in Flanders every week 100 families are confronted with a procedure of eviction before Court.

Source: VVSG, dossier "Gerechtelijke Uithuiszetting: naar een maximale preventie" (dossier "Legal evictions: towards a maximal prevention), 2005

www.vvsg.be

Wallonia

n.a.

9.2. Repossession orders (owner-occupation)

No registration of evictions.

Belgium

Neither in Belgium nor in its regions, the number of home losses (for whatever reason) is statistically collected or empirically researched in a coherent way. Nevertheless, we can get

some clues from the Socio-Economic panel survey held at different occasions by the Centre of Social Policy of Antwerp University, which collected information on socio-economic characteristics, as well as on the housing situation at household level from 1985 onwards. To analyse changes in tenure, we matched the different waves (1985-1988-1992-1997). This implies analyses at the individual level instead of the household level, since changes in households often occur. This means that all individuals are included: heads of the households, partners, but also children and other members of the family. Therefore, in a second phase, we specified our analyses for the independent individuals only. This group includes only heads of the households and partners in the last wave (1997) who were also head of the household or partner in all of the previous waves. With regard to tenure, we divided the population into 5 subgroups. The first two contain individuals who did not change tenure in any of the waves⁴: permanent homeowners and permanent tenants. The third group consists of persons who were homeowners in 1985 and became tenants in 1988, in 1992 or in 1997 and stayed tenant in the next waves. In the fourth group we find individuals who were tenant in 1985 and became homeowner in one of the next waves and then stayed homeowner until the last wave. The last category consists of all others, i.e. individuals belonging to the category “others” in one of the waves and individuals making more than one transition.

The table shows the mobility between tenures between 1985 and 1997 in Belgium. First of all, we see that for tenures mobility within the housing market is rather limited⁵. The owner-occupation sector is stable. 58.9% of heads of households and partners are permanently homeowner. Only 4% of the heads of households and partners who were homeowner in 1985 left the owner-occupation sector during the next 12 years. This corresponds with 6.3% of all home owners (when excluding the category ‘other’). If we take all individuals into account – thus including children -, the share of "lost own homes" corresponds with 7.6%. Or approximately 0.6 percent of all individuals in Belgium are confronted with "home loss" – whether or not voluntarily - every year. This concerns on average 61,500 persons. Although this is a very tentative assumption, this percentage corresponds with 25,600 households.

Belgium, tenure mobility between 1985-1997.

	%	Average age in 1997	N
<i>All individuals</i>	100	44	4,520
• permanent owner	52.3	48	2,362
• permanent tenant	14.2	46	641
• loss of property	7.6	37	344
• became home owner	14.7	36	665
• other	11.2	39	507
<i>Only heads of households and partners</i>	100	56	2,698
• permanent owner	58.9	59	1,589
• permanent tenant	15.3	57	413
• loss of property	4.0	55	107
• became home owner	14.3	45	386
• other	7.5	54	203

Source: Belgian SEP - Taken from De Decker & Geurts (2003)

⁴ or better "who belong to a household that", because housing indicators are measured at the household level

⁵ Data do not say anything about moves from one house to another in the same housing sector.

In 1997 the SEP contains extra information on motives for moving and more detailed questions were asked so that we can make a distinction between the social rented and private rented sector and between subsidised ownership and non-subsidised ownership. If we look at the homeowners in 1992, we find that in 1997 92.2% still owned the house. So, 7.8% left ownership (6.4% to private renting, 0.4% to social renting and 1% to "others"). From the answers on the question “why” they moved, we can conclude that in most cases it has to do with the breaking up of the family.

The main motivations for leaving owner-occupation are:

- changes in household composition – dominantly breaking up (49%),
- changes in professional situation (17%)
- dwelling too large (11%)
- health (6%)
- housing costs too high (6%)
- house too small (6%)
- neighbourhood not nice (6%).

Although a majority of the moves out of homeownership will relate to a decrease in income, too high housing costs are seldom given as a reason for moving.

In a previous study we analysed the effects of so called ‘life-events’ on the housing conditions of households in Belgium (Meulemans, Geurts & De Decker, 1996). Especially relevant in this context is the transition from employed to not-employed (unemployment, sickness or disability, pension) and the transition from married to not-married (divorced, separated, widowhood). Both transitions had negative consequences for the quality/comfort and for the affordability of housing for the households. Only the negative family transition had some effect on tenure. More detailed analyses showed that the effect was fully due to divorce or separation (table 13).

This confirms what we found in the previous paragraph: separation or divorce can have severe effects on the housing conditions of (at least one of) the partners. The effects of unemployment seem to be rather limited.

Table 13. Effects of life-events on housing conditions, Belgium.

	N	tenure: non-owner			quality: no full equipment			costs: % spending > 20% of income*		
		'85	'92	%	'85	'92	%	'85	'92	%
negative family transition										
- widowhood	140	27.5	32.0	+16	50.7	55.5	+9.5	29.9	48.0	+61
- separation / divorce	101	48.3	66.2	+37	38.1	44.9	+18	27.3	42.1	+54
total	280	36.1	46.1	+28	44.8	50.2	+12	25.7	41.4	+61
negative employment transition										
- unemployment / sickness	128	52.5	38.4	-27	47.3	43.0	-9	26.6	24.8	-7
- pension	414	19.8	19.9	+0.5	29.9	32.8	+10	13.5	18.7	+39
total	555	28.2	24.7	-12	33.9	35.4	+4	19.5	20.5	+5

* only households with housing costs in both waves

Source: Meulemans, et al (1996)

Aiming at combating excessive debts of private persons, it is the “Centrale voor Kredieten aan particulieren” (Bureau of Credit to private persons) that is commissioned to register all

information. Until 1 June 2003, this registration only concerned arrears (“negative registration”). Since June 2003 the registration deals with all information on all kind of loans⁶ (“positive registration”). So the Nationale Bank/Banque Nationale has the whole picture and allows the mortgagors to control the creditworthiness of the applicant, which is, as mentioned, an obligation.

The Bureau became operational in 1987 for the registration of arrears on different kinds of personal loans, except mortgages. In executing the 1991 Law, the Bureau started the registration on mortgage arrears in 1993.

Some information on the evolution of arrears is available. Table 16 shows the yearly new registrations of mortgage arrears. In the first registration year approximately 25,000 new clients in trouble were registered. Until the end of 2000 this number dropped, showing a moderate rise since then – a similar pattern to rising arrears all over the credit sector.

On a year-to-year basis, the total number of arrears fluctuates between 64,000 and 58,000. Although this estimation is very tentative, this equals 6% of the households with down payment^{7 8}.

Belgium, evolution of the new registered mortgage arrears by natural persons, 1994-2004

Registration period	Numbers
10/1994 → 09/1995	25,966
10/1995 → 09/1996	23,199
10/1996 → 09/1997	24,957
10/1997 → 09/1998	23,266
10/1998 → 09/1999	19,571
10/1999 → 09/2000	16,146
10/2000 → 09/2001	20,154
10/2001 → 09/2002	19,303
10/2002 → 09/2003	21,894
10/2003 → 09/2004	22,170

Source: BVK

Belgium, the total number of registered mortgage arrears, 1996-2004

	numbers
31.05.1996	60,233
31.05.1997	62,173
31.05.1998	64,512
31.05.1999	64,618
31.05.2000	59,100
30.09.1999	61,921
30.09.2000	56,314
30.09.2001	58,971
30.09.2002	59,373
30.09.2003	59,356
31.07.2004	58,856

Source: BVK

⁶ This is recently re-regulated (mail correspondence with BVK). Before this was managed by UCB-BVK, the professional umbrella organisation of the creditors, which already for nearly 60 years monitored the debts (BVK, 2004).

⁷ Based on 4,200,000 households (2000) and the assumption that the Flemish figures observed by Van Dam & Geurts (2000) count for the whole of Belgium. These are that 70% of the households own their house and of these 30.8% has a mortgage or a loan.

⁸ For some information concerning the public agencies, see already De Decker & Geurts (2003).

10. Violence

10.1. Living under threat of violence

Brussels

No general information found.

Flanders

Reported number of children living under threat of violence

- source: official department (Kind & Gezin)
- info access: direct from organisation
- info area capacity: Flanders + Brussels
- measure: reporting
- data

	2003	2004
Incest	1,117	1,185
Other sexual abuse	629	665
Total	1,746	1,850
Corporal abuse	1,335	1,436
Corporal negligence	966	964
Total	2,321	2,297
Emotional abuse	870	921
Emotional negligence	529	629
Total	1,399	1,550
Mûnchhausen by proxy-syndrome	24	36
Risk on abuse/negligence	1,217	1,159
Problems unclear	619	505
Dealing with form maltreatment	107	120
No abuse, other problem	346	357
General total	7,779	7,874

- Kind & Gezin (www.kindengezin.be)

Wallonia

No general information found.

Inadequate housing

11. Temporary structure

11.1. Mobile home/caravan

Brussels

Not applicable.

Flanders

People living in recreation areas (caravan + permanent construction)

- source: Toerisme Vlaanderen (government)
- info access: collected by VOB (umbrella ngo)
- measure: persons + households
- data:
 - persons: 1,354
 - households: 537
- date: 2004
- regular registration
- note: this concerns only the people who are registered – not registered persons are not counted

Wallonia

People living in recreation areas (caravan + permanent construction)

- source: municipalities
- info access: official department – Ministère Region Wallonne
- measure: persons
- data: 8,514
- date: 1999
- once available

11.2. Illegal occupation of a site

n.a.

11.3. Illegal occupation of a building

Existing and often tolerated, but no data available

12. Unfit housing

12.1. Dwellings unfit for habitation under national legislation

Seen from a legislative point of view, it is the Belgian Constitution that formulates the goal that all citizens should have decent housing (1/1/1994). All regions have translated this in their regional legislations. Generally in the regional laws accepted by the various parliaments this consist of very open formulations which are executed by the governments. If executed

this concerns generally table with items and score leading to a judgement on the house. These are practical – according to some, theoretical – instruments not leading to an adequate insight in the housing quality. It more reflects the eager – if existing - of administrations.

Today all Belgium regions have in one way or another, quality criteria. Above that at federal two other legislations are to mention. The first one is the private rental legislation which defines quality criteria. But these can only be use as means in a legal procedure and does not generate useful data.

Next to that and step by step quality criteria were introduced in the Aliens legislation in order avoid the exploitation of (illegal) refugees. This very often led to spectacular actions, but nevertheless no useful data on the condition of the Belgium housing stock can be detected.

In the past, in order to obtain information of the housing quality, surveys were organised. For Flanders the last useful one was held in 1994/995, in Wallonia it was done in 1996. For the BCR we have to go back to the 1970s, when a survey was done in the still unitary Belgium state. Luckily the 2001 Census added for the first time questions that made it possible to appreciate housing quality. It are these data that are used below. The are the result of complex statistical work using all kind of quality criteria (damp, state of the roof, state of the wall, state of the windows...need of repairs). Explaining them would lead us to far.

Physical state of the dwelling

- source: Census
- info access: not (via publications)
- info area capacity: per region
- measure: stock
- data:

Brussels Capital Region

condition	total	Owner-occupied dwellings	Rental dwellings
Good	40.1%	47.2%	34.2%
Average	36%	36.1%	36.2%
Bad	21%	15.6%	25.2%
Very bad	3%	1.1%	4.4%
Bad+ very bad	24%	16.7%	29.6%
total	408,882	162,475	217,799

Flanders

state	total	Owner-occupied dwellings	Rental dwellings
Good	57.6%	62.7%	42.8%
Average	29.1%	27.8%	33%
Bad	11.7%	8.7%	20.2%
Bad very bad	1.6%	0.7%	4%
Bad +very bad	13.3%	9.4%	24.2%
total	2,348,025	1,666,840	590,566

Wallonia

state	total	Owner-occupied dwellings	Rental dwellings
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Good	47%	51.6%	35.9%
Average	34%	33.3%	35,8%
Bad	17%	14%	24.2%
Very bad	2.1%	1.2%	4.1%
Bad+ very bad	19.1%	15.2%	28.3%
total	1,327,084	880,553	379,890

- date: 2001
- publication: Vanneste, D., Thomas, I. & I. Laureyssen (2004): Fysieke staat van de woning (Physical condition of the dwelling), in: Ruimte&Planning, jg. 24, nr. 4, p. 12-36.

13. Extreme overcrowding

13.1. Highest national norm of overcrowding

The Flemish housing code (1997) stipulates that a dwelling should not be overcrowded. This is technically translated and used (although not frequently). This norm was never used to count the number of overcrowded dwellings.

Nevertheless some info on this item can be obtained from the different census. The ‘norms’ are created by the researchers, based on a confrontation between the number of persons living in a house and the living surface. The minimum norm should be read as a arbitrary.

Housing occupation:

- source: Census
- info access: not (via publications)
- info area capacity: per region
- measure: stock
- data:

Housing occupation 1991 and 2001 in Belgium and its regions

		Flanders		Wallonia		Brussels		Belgium	
		1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
Over crowded	Small*	2.869	5.913	1.958	3.400	1.469	1.474	6.296	10.787
		2,7	6,1	3,3	6,1	9,2	10,2	3,4	6,4
	Rather small	16.266	16.663	9.733	9.654	3.214	2.729	29.213	29.046
		15,1	17,1	16,4	17,3	20,1	18,8	16,0	17,3
	Adapted*	23.537	17.486	12.354	10.061	4.074	2.701	39.965	30.248
		21,9	17,9	20,8	18,1	25,5	18,6	21,9	18,0
Under occupied	Rather spacious*	30.851	24.604	16.113	14.560	3.250	3.621	50.214	42.785
		28,7	25,2	27,1	26,1	20,3	25,0	27,5	25,5
	Spacious*	33.945	32.893	19.203	18.007	3.994	3.987	57.142	54.887
		31,6	33,7	32,3	32,3	25,0	27,5	31,3	32,7

Totaal	107.468	97.559	59.361	55.682	16.001	14.512	182.830	167.753
	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

*statement based on a calculation combining number of persons with the size of the dwelling and the number of rooms

- date: 1991 & 2001
- publication: expected by the end of 2005

Miscellaneous

Residential reception of homeless persons through OCMW's (local social services) in Flanders

The recognised care for homeless in Flandes is organised by Algemeen Welzijnswerk (General Welfare Work). Through the years other initiators have installed accompaniment and reception for homeless persons. Local social services (OCMW's) organise transit houses, emergency dwellings etc. These initiatives were never mapped. In order to compensate that, the VVSG (the umbrella organisation of municipalities) organised a survey to picture 'the residential reception of roof- and homeless persons' organised by the OCMW's.

Mapped is the residential care targeted at:

- 'pure' homeless persons (people urgently in need for a dwelling – e.g. after a fire)
- 'temporary' homeless persons (people losing their home temporarily – e.g. battered women, evicted persons)
- 'chronic' homeless persons.

Not mapped are:

- supported housing for psychiatric patients, homes for the elderly, social rental dwelling in the circuit of supported housing
- LOI (see higher on Asylum seekers).

Asked is for the number of:

- dwellings
- capacity as 'item in client system'. Consequence: a family can be 1 client and does not concern all individual persons.

Results (2003)

- 592 services have 1,110 client systems.
- In 2002 the OCMW's receipted 1,431 client systems