

SPAIN

Homelessness Data and Policies

- An average of **16,437** people were admitted to emergency shelters **per day** in 2016, an increase of **20.5%** between 2014 and 2016.

Housing Exclusion

- Poor households spend an average of **37.7%** of their disposable income on housing (which is lower than the EU average of **42.1%**). (Here 'poor' means having an average income lower than 60% of the national median income).
- The proportion of households overburdened by housing costs (meaning they spend more than 40% of their income on housing) is **36.4%** amongst poor population (around same as EU average) and is **10.2%** amongst total population.
- The share of households in rental or mortgage arrears is the **fourth highest** in Europe. The proportion is **13.6%** among poor households, and **5.2%** among the total population (well above the EU average).
- The number of people facing overcrowding increased by 38% between 2010 and 2016, especially amongst poor households, where the figure is **12.7%**. Despite this large increase, the rate is low compared to the EU average of **29.8%**.
- Spain is the **9th worst** country in Europe in terms of the number of households unable to keep their homes adequately warm. **23.2%** of poor households experience financial difficulty in maintaining an adequate temperature in their homes (up **49%** since 2010) and **10.1%** among the total population (up **35%** since 2010).
- Nationality is a huge factor of housing exclusion with non-EU citizens far more likely to experience housing cost overburden and overcrowding than the rest of the population. For example, non-EU citizens are **5 times** more likely to experience housing cost overburden than Spanish citizens (**38,9%** compared to **7%**).

Housing Rights

- The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recently ruled that Spain had violated the right to housing when a family were evicted from their rental home in October 2013. As they were evicted without being offered adequate alternative accommodation, the Committee ruled that Spain had violated the right to housing.
- This decision recognises the onus on the State to protect the right to adequate housing. The Committee urged Spain to take all necessary measures to help the family obtain adequate housing as well as paying compensation. Spain was also asked to implement a comprehensive plan to guarantee the right to adequate housing for people with low incomes.