

HOMELESSNESS IN SWEDEN

KEY STATISTICS

National data collection is carried out by the National Board of Health and Welfare every six years over one week in April. The survey covers people in 4 broad categories:

1. “Acute” homelessness;
2. Institutional and longer-term care;
3. Long-term housing on the secondary housing market;
4. Insecure housing.

In several large cities, data collection takes place more frequently.

Latest Statistics (2017)

The 2017 count by the National Board of Health and Welfare identified 33,300 homeless people in total. This covers most of the ETHOS typology, and can be broken down into the following living situations:

1. Public space / outdoor: 647
2. Tent Caravan / camping site: 343
3. Shelters: 1,229
4. Hotel / hostel: 1,903
5. Temporary accommodation: 1,325
6. Women’s emergency centres: 464
7. Supported housing: 3,300
8. Transitional supported housing, e.g. training flats: 2,4521
9. Social lease/municipal lease: 13,800
10. Institutions - discharge within 3 months: 1,397
11. Correctional institution / custody - discharge within 3 months: 705
12. Involuntary staying with family / relatives: 2,452
13. Involuntary staying with friends / acquaintances: 2,300
14. Private sublet, shorter than 3 months: 560
15. Temporarily renting a room, less than 3 months, from a private individual: 1,980
16. Other: 1,600

Key pull-out statistics

2017 Count by National Board of Health
33,300 homeless people

INCREASE/DECREASE IN NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

In 2017, according to the National Board of Health and Welfare survey, the data shows increases in “acute homelessness” and homeless parents. Although the number of inhabitants in Sweden has increased and the housing market is under considerable strain, the number of homeless reported was less or almost as many as in the year 2011. There could be a “bug” in counting when 18% of all municipalities did not reply to the survey.

CHANGE IN PROFILE OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

Women and foreign-born inhabitants represent an increasing proportion of the homeless population. And those of who we see most of sleeping rough is not counted.

POLICIES & STRATEGIES

- **National Strategy**

There is no up-to-date national strategy. The previous strategy was Homelessness, Multiple Faces, Multiple Responsibilities – A Strategy to Combat Homelessness and Exclusion from the Housing Market, 2007-2009.

There are currently regional strategies against homelessness in the larger cities, such as Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö.

REMARKS ON KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Positive

- Larger cities are cooperating more regarding local homeless strategies.
- Sweden's national associations of city missions received national project funding, to start a Swedish hub. It starts January 2018 and main goal is to scale up Housing first in close cooperation with municipalities and Lund University.
- The Swedish national Housing First network have been on "standby mode" but are now excited to cooperate with the Swedish HUB project.

Negative

- The government has no national strategy and homelessness low prioritized. They are still depending on the national strategy that ended in 2009, but there is no following up.
- 2017 national data collection showed that the acute homelessness and homeless parents with children under 18 year increases.
- Mobile EU citizens, people without paper, unaccompanied children are excluded from the data collection.

