



HOMELESSNESS IN SWEDEN

KEY STATISTICS

National data collection is carried out by the National Board of Health and Welfare every five years over one week in May. 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 (2011)

The 2011 count by the National Board of Health and Welfare identified 34,000 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: 280
2. Tent: 50
3. Caravan / camping site: 250
4. Shelters: 1,100
5. Hotel / hostel: 1,100
6. Temporary accommodation: 1,400
7. Women's emergency centres: 430
8. Supported housing: 3,300
9. Transitional supported housing, e.g. training flats: 2,200
10. Social lease/municipal lease: 11,700
11. Institutions - discharge within 3 months: 1,700
12. Correctional institution / custody - discharge within 3 months: 710
13. Involuntary staying with family / relatives: 2,600
14. Involuntary staying with friends / acquaintances: 2,300
15. Private sublet, shorter than 3 months: 560
16. Temporarily renting a room, less than 3 months, from a private individual: 1,400
17. Other: 1,600

INCREASE/DECREASE IN NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

In 2011, according to the National Board of Health and Welfare survey, overall homelessness had increased by almost by 50% since the last count in 2005. This reported increase is partly the result of a change in the definition that meant better account was taken of people in long-term secondary housing in the second survey. Nonetheless, the data shows increases in all 4 of the homeless situations measured. Although "acute homelessness" has increased overall, the number of rough sleepers has decreased. This probably reflects the implementation of the 2007-09 strategy which introduced a guarantee that everyone should have a roof over their head. Other figures will be available in 2017, when there will be a new national mapping.

CHANGE IN PROFILE OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

Migrants and women represent an increasing proportion of the homeless population.

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*. Its main priorities were:

1. Everyone shall be guaranteed a roof over his/her head and be offered further coordinated action based on individual needs;
2. There shall be a reduction in the number of women and men who are in prison or at a treatment unit, or have supported accommodation and who do not have any housing arranged before being discharged or released;

3. Entry into the ordinary housing market shall be facilitated for women and men who are in temporary and transitional supported accommodation provided by the social services and others;

4. The number of evictions shall decrease and no children shall be evicted.

In 2007-09, this strategy was evaluated by researchers and the National Board of Health and Welfare.

There are currently regional strategies against homelessness in the larger cities.

REMARKS ON KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Positive

- The mission of the Homelessness Coordinator, appointed in 2012, ended in July 2014.
- A new national homeless mapping is decided to take place in 2017.
- A national EU migrant coordinator has been appointed in January 2015; his mission ended in March 2016.
- Growing interest in the Housing First model. In November 2013, a national Housing First network started with mostly Municipalities, and City Missions.
- Larger cities are cooperating more regarding homeless strategies.

Negative

- There was a very good ending report made at the time, but the new government hasn't been doing any follow up on that.
- There was an ending report on how to act according to legal matters, for municipalities.
- The government has no national strategy for homelessness. They are still depending on the national strategy that ended in 2009.
- National mapping is only every 6 years.
- No budget for the Network.
- NGOs are normally not invited except in Gothenburg.