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Sweden

FEANTSA Country Fiche¹

Key Statistics	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. “Acute” homelessness;2. Institutional and longer term care;3. Long-term housing on the secondary housing market;4. Insecure housing. <p>In several large cities, data collection takes place more frequently.</p> <p>Latest Statistics (2011)</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Public space / outdoor: 2802. Tent: 503. Caravan / camping site: 2504. Shelters: 1,1005. Hotel / hostel: 1,1006. Temporary accommodation: 1,4007. Women’s emergency centres: 4308. Supported housing: 3,3009. Transitional supported housing, e.g. training flats: 2,20010. Social lease/municipal lease: 11,70011. Institutions - discharge within 3 months: 1,70012. Correctional institution / custody - discharge within 3 months: 71013. Involuntary staying with family / relatives: 2,60014. Involuntary staying with friends / acquaintances: 2,30015. Private sublet, shorter than 3 months: 56016. Temporarily renting a room, less than 3 months, from a private individual: 1,40017. Other: 1,600
Increase/Decrease in Number of Homeless People	<p>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.</p>

¹ Last updated January 2014

Change in Profile of Homeless People	Migrants and women represent an increasing proportion of the homeless population.
National Strategy	<p>National Strategy</p> <p>There is no up-to-date national strategy. The previous strategy was <i>Homelessness, Multiple Faces, Multiple Responsibilities – A Strategy to Combat Homelessness and Exclusion from the Housing Market, 2007-09</i>. Its main priorities were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>In 2007-09, this strategy was evaluated by researchers and the National Board of Health and Welfare.</p> <p>There are currently regional strategies against homelessness in Stockholm and Gothenburg.</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>Under the Social Services Legislation ("<i>socialtjänstlagen</i>"), municipalities are in charge of implementing homelessness initiatives and they are in charge of allocating funding for those purposes. There are no specific objectives but the former strategy is still a key reference. Municipalities are generally advised to focus on housing solutions and eviction prevention.</p> <p>A Homeless Coordinator was appointed in January 2012 for two years by the Social Affairs Ministry. His mission is to disseminate knowledge and understanding generated from the former strategy, as well as by the National Board of Health and Welfare, and to monitor municipal action. A budget of 1 million Euros is earmarked to support this mission until July 2014. A final report is expected in June 2014, detailing experiences and proposals such as a new national homeless strategy.</p> <p>The National Board of Health and Welfare plays an important role as an expert authority and knowledge generator. It advises municipalities on the development and implementation of homelessness policies.</p> <p>County administrative boards are also a complimentary advisor to the municipalities, for the strategies, especially regarding the eviction of children.</p> <p>There is no formal channel for stakeholder involvement in homelessness policy but the Government involves federations of NGOs in an advisory capacity.</p>
Targeted Prevention	The Homelessness Coordinator is particularly targeting families with children at risk of eviction. There is statistical evidence that evictions have slightly decreased. The previous strategy also mentioned that people leaving institutions or prison should be supported into permanent housing. There is considerable space for municipalities to interpret this broad

	guidance and the level of progress is unclear.	
Housing-Led Approaches	<p>The predominant approach to tackling homelessness is the staircase model, where homeless people are offered first shelter services and then a range of transitional housing options. The aim is that over time they will become independent tenants with real contracts. Sweden has thus developed a large “secondary” housing market where social services rent flats and provide semi-contracts to people in various forms of transitional and longer-term supported housing as opposed to in mainstream rental housing. According to national statistics, 13,900 people are housed in this fashion.</p> <p>However, over the past two years, the Housing First approach has become increasingly influential and a number of projects have been developed. This remains very small-scale.</p>	
Quality of Homeless Services	The well-developed staircase model means that staff is often available 24/7. The overall quality of this type of service is high. Moreover, people are not forced to share a room and single rooms are common, even in emergency shelters.	
Remarks on Research	The two main research fields identified in Sweden in recent years are: 1) the exploration of housing solutions and comparison of different models; 2) a better clarification of the definition of homelessness.	
Remarks on Budget Evolution	There is no special funding earmarked at national level. Every municipality is responsible for deciding on the budget channelled to homelessness interventions. Hence, budget evolution cannot be estimated.	
Remarks on Key Policy Developments	Positive	Negative
	<p>Appointment of a Homelessness Coordinator 2012.</p> <p>Growing interest in the Housing First model.</p>	<p>There is no overall follow up for the national strategies.</p> <p>Six years between the national mappings is too long an interval.</p>