

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 people experiencing some form of homelessness, housing exclusion or housing insecurity 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: 24,521
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. Involuntarily staying with family/relatives: 2,452
13. Involuntarily 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 landlord: 1,980
16. Other: 1,600

Those included in the national homelessness survey are people over the age of 18 who are experiencing homelessness and who have Swedish citizenship or are legally residing in Sweden, either temporarily or permanently.

KEY PULL-OUT STATISTICS

According to 2017 figures there are 33,000 people affected by homelessness & housing issues, the largest category being transitional housing (24,521 people). Mobile EU citizens, undocumented people and unaccompanied minors are not counted.

INCREASE/DECREASE IN NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

In 2017, according to the National Board of Health and Welfare survey, the data shows an increase in “acute homelessness” and homeless families. Although the number of inhabitants in Sweden has increased and the housing market is under considerable strain, the number of homeless people reported was less or almost the same as in the year 2011. The possibility of the unreliability of this data must be considered as 18% of the municipalities did not respond to the survey.

CHANGE IN PROFILE OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

Women and foreign nationals represent an increasing proportion of the homeless population. There is no available data on the demographic make-up of rough sleepers.

POLICIES & STRATEGIES

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.

Two government investigative reports are in the process of being carried out. One study is about how social housing policy will help more people enter the housing market and it should be completed in November 2021. The second study is commissioned by the National Board of Health to analyse and propose measures to prevent and combat homelessness in the long term, which will be completed in September 2021.

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

REMARKS ON KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Positive

- Homelessness is a little bit more prioritised on national level and larger cities are cooperating more on local homeless strategies.
- The Swedish HUB www.bostadforst.se have spread Housing first knowledge around Sweden. They been doing different courses for both officials and civil society in 15 larger municipalities, for 600-700 persons.
- The Swedish national Housing First network work in close cooperation with the Swedish HUB project.

Negative

- The government has no national strategy.
- 2017 national data collection showed that the numbers of acute homelessness and homeless families with children under 18 year are on the rise. The next data collection is 2023.
- Mobile EU citizens, people without documentation, and unaccompanied children are excluded from the data collection.

