

Report 3/2019

# Homelessness in 2018

05/03/2019

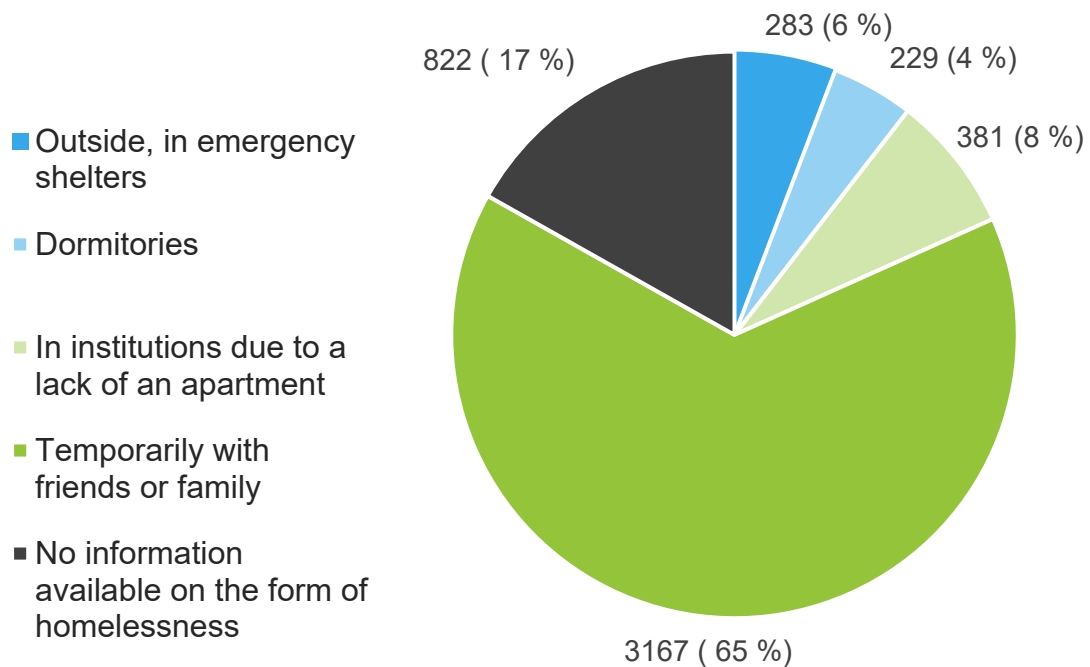


Figure 1. The forms of homelessness for people living alone (n=4,882) in Finland in 2018.

## Contents

Summary.....	3
1 On the Homelessness in 2018 report.....	3
2 In 2018, a total of 5,482 homeless people were living in Finland.....	4
2.1 Helsinki.....	4
2.2 The rest of Finland, excluding Helsinki.....	5
2.3 The different forms of homelessness in the whole country.....	6
3 Municipalities with the most homelessness in 2018.....	9
3.1 Comments made by the municipalities on the development of homelessness.....	10
4 Homeless prisoners who are due for release.....	11
5 The results of the homelessness programmes.....	12
6 New guidelines for the compilation of statistics on homelessness.....	13
Appendix 1 Definitions of homelessness.....	14
<a href="#">Appendix 2. Statistics for homelessness per municipality in 2018</a>	

## REPORT 3/2019: HOMELESSNESS IN 2018

This report contains key statistical information on homelessness in Finnish municipalities in 2018. The data is based on ARA's homelessness survey which was answered by 230 municipalities of the 295 municipalities in Mainland Finland in 2018. The report includes separate assessments of the forms of homelessness and the different groups that the homeless fall into.

Appendix 1 of the report includes the definitions for homelessness and appendix 2 contains the statistics for homelessness per municipality in 2018.

### Authors:

The Y Foundation: Raine Helskyaho MA, Maria Ohisalo PhD (Soc Sc) and Saija Turunen PhD.

### Further information:

Hannu Ahola, ARA  
tel. +358 29 525 0855

Raine Helskyaho,  
Y Foundation  
tel. +358 40 510 3090

## SUMMARY

In 2018:

- A total of 5,482 homeless people were living in Finland:
  - of these, 4,882 lived alone
  - while homeless families (159) and couples (105) accounted for the remaining 600 people
- The number of long-term homeless was 1,162. Long-term homelessness decreased for the 10th year in a row.
- There were homeless people in 99 municipalities, and the highest numbers of homeless people were reported in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area (3,018 in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa) as well as 504 people in Turku 504 and 254 in Tampere.
- Over half (55 %) of all homeless people in Finland were located in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and over a third (38.6 %) in Helsinki.
- This year, Helsinki adjusted the way it collects its homelessness statistics, which is why the figures for Helsinki and Finland in 2018 are not comparable to previous years.
- Elsewhere in Finland, the statistics for homelessness remained almost unchanged when compared to the figures from 2017.
- Now, for the first time, we also have information on the situation of homeless single-parent families: there were 123 homeless single parents, which accounts for 77,4 % of all homeless families.

## 1 ON THE HOMELESSNESS IN 2018 REPORT

The annual Homelessness report of ARA, the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, addresses developments in homelessness by making comparisons with figures from the previous year. The cut-off point for this statistical comparison was 15/11/2018. The data is based on ARA's homelessness survey which was answered by 230 municipalities of the 295 municipalities in Mainland Finland in 2018. Previously, this data on homelessness was collected as part of ARA's housing market survey. In 2018, the response rate was 78 %. The municipalities that did not participate in the survey were primarily smaller municipalities that have not had many homeless people in previous years. The definitions of homelessness used in this report are described at the end of the report (Appendix 1).

ARA's data on homelessness was collected from the municipalities that participated in the survey. The municipalities' data on homelessness has been collected from various sources, such as data on rental apartment applicants, social service customer data and service provider customer data. Some municipalities have also used the population register and other registers that are based on personal identity codes, such as data on the recipients of the basic amount of social assistance from Kela, for determining the figures.

Chapter four focuses on the housing situation of homeless prisoners who are due for release, based on the statistics reported by the Criminal Sanctions Agency. The author of the text is project manager Heidi Lind from the Criminal Sanctions Agency's Programme of measures for the prevention of homelessness (AUNE).

## **2 IN 2018, A TOTAL OF 5,482 HOMELESS PEOPLE WERE LIVING IN FINLAND**

Due to the adjustments made to the statistical method employed by the City of Helsinki, the following section focuses first on the figures for homelessness in Helsinki and then the rest of the country. Finally, we will look at the different forms of homelessness for the country as a whole.

### **2.1 Helsinki**

As has been evident for a number of years, the majority of homeless people (38.6 %) were located in Helsinki. In 2018, the City of Helsinki adjusted the statistical method it employs for homelessness, which is why the figures in Table 1 provide a better description of the current status, but these figures cannot be compared to previous figures.

The statistics on homelessness in Helsinki in 2018 were compiled using three sources: the recipients of the basic amount of social assistance from Kela, social welfare customers, and the City's rental apartment applicants. All personal identity code-based data was cross-referenced to remove any duplicate entries. The homelessness status of all applicants for the City's rental apartments who declared themselves as homeless (3,077) were reviewed using for example the Population Information System.

Based on the data received from the City of Helsinki, Helsinki's homelessness is not dominated by long-term homelessness, and the majority of Helsinki's homeless live for varied periods of time with relatives or friends. These periods may, however, be long, especially for persons with immigrant backgrounds, and they often occur in small spaces that feature multiple adults. In addition, homeless couples and families with children often end up living temporarily with friends or relatives. There is still a lack of supported housing services in Helsinki as well as a need for more temporary residences.

In previous years, the figures for those who live outside in Helsinki were partly based on estimates. In 2018, the largest groups of homeless people in Helsinki were those who lived temporarily with friends or relatives and the group whose form of homelessness could not be classified in greater detail. The latter group is estimated to include those who live with others as well as those who live outside, in stairwells and in so-called overnight shelters. On 15 November 2018, a total of 61 people were spending the night in the emergency housing services provided by the service centre in Hietaniemi. In autumn 2018, the Yökiitäjät outreach team of No Fixed Abode, a Finnish NGO, provided assistance to 43 people per month on average. The Kalkkers Night Centre was visited by 111 different individuals in November.

Table 1. **Helsinki:** Different forms of homelessness in 2018.  
*The figures for 2018 are not comparable to the figures from previous years.*

	<b>Homeless people who live alone</b>	of which long-term homeless
In dormitories, boarding houses	71	0
Institutional units	84	23
Temporarily with friends or relatives	841	97
No data available on the form of homelessness	822	361
<b>Homeless people who live alone, total</b>	<b>1818</b>	481
Women	651	172
Young people (under 25)	309	82
Immigrant backgrounds	702	186
<b>Families and couples</b>		
Homeless families with adults	75	
children	96	
Immigrant families with adults	82	
children	32	
Out of all families, single-parent families	51	
Couples	51	
Out of all families, single-parent families	54	
Couples	59	
<b>Homeless people who live alone and homeless families, total (persons)</b>	<b>2114</b>	

## 2.2 The rest of Finland, excluding Helsinki

Table 2 presents the homelessness situation in Finland, excluding Helsinki. Elsewhere in Finland, the statistics for homelessness remained almost unchanged when compared to the figures from 2017 (an increase on 16 people). The number of homeless who live alone decreased by 51 persons between 2017 and 2018, and the number of long-term homeless decreased by 82 persons. The number of people who live in dormitories and boarding houses increased slightly (23), while the number of people who represent other forms of homelessness decreased. The number of homeless women and young people (under 25) decreased and the number of immigrants increased.

Family statistics were amended in the ARA survey for 2018 so that families and couples were calculated separately, when previously they had been in the same category. In 2018, a total of 84 families were homeless, and these included 212 people in all (99 adults and 113 children). 46 couples were classified as homeless.

Table 2. **The rest of Finland, excluding Helsinki:** Different forms of homelessness in 2018.

	2018		Change year-on-year	
	Homeless people who live alone	of which long-term homeless	Homeless people who live alone	of which long-term homeless
<b>Homeless people</b>				
Outside, in staircases, shelters etc.	238	109	- 2	- 26
In dormitories, boarding houses	158	48	+ 14	+ 23
Institutional units	297	89	- 31	- 39
Temporarily with friends or relatives	2,326	435	- 32	- 40
<b>Homeless people who live alone, total</b>	<b>3,064</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>- 51</b>	<b>- 82</b>
Homeless women	593	107	- 45	- 21
Young people under 25 years	692	99	- 93	- 23
Immigrants	457	56	+ 115	+ 10
	<b>Number</b>		<b>Change year-on-year</b>	
<b>Homeless families with</b>	84			
adults	99			
children	113		0	
Immigrant families with	30			
adults	34			
children	54		+ 22	
Out of all families, single-parent families	69			
Couples	46			
<b>Families and couples, total (persons)</b>	<b>304</b>		<b>+ 67</b>	
<b>Homeless who live alone and homeless families, total</b>	<b>3,368</b>		<b>+ 16</b>	

### 2.3 The different forms of homelessness in the whole country

At the end of 2018, there were 5,482 homeless people in Finland. Of these, 4,882 lived alone and 1,162 were long-term homeless. There were 159 homeless families. Now, for the first time, we also have information on the situation of homeless single-parent families: there were 123 homeless single parents, which accounts for 77,4 % of all homeless families. Out of all homeless families with immigrant backgrounds, 45.9 % were single-parent families.

Table 3. **Finland:** Different forms of homelessness in 2018. The figures for 2018 are not comparable to the figures from previous years.

	<b>Homeless people who live alone</b>	<b>of which long-term homeless</b>
<b>Homeless people</b>		
women	1244	279
young people (under 25)	1001	181
immigrant backgrounds	1159	242
<b>Homeless people who live alone, total</b>	<b>4882</b>	<b>1162</b>
<b>Families and couples</b>		
homeless families with	159	
adults	195	
children	195	
families with immigrant backgrounds with	62	
adults	85	
children	105	
out of all families, single-parent families	123 (77.4 %)	
couples	105	
<b>People living alone, families and couples, total (persons)</b>	<b>5482</b>	

Homelessness has been decreasing consistently in Finland since the 1980s, when Finland began collecting statistics on homelessness (Figure 2). People temporarily residing with acquaintances or relatives are still the largest group of homeless. Institutional and street homelessness has decreased and the majority of the homeless live with other people. The factors behind these changes include, for example, the reduction in institutional housing offered by actors in the social welfare and health care sector (Mikkola et al. 2010) and the national homelessness programme's measures for transforming dormitory housing into apartments. Regrettably little research data is available on the people who live with other people and their situations and living conditions.

No precise data is available for the entire country on the share of people who are staying temporarily with friends or family, since the City of Helsinki's statistics on the "no information available on the form of homelessness" group includes people who live outside, in stairwells and emergency shelters as well as with others. Elsewhere in Finland, 76 % of homeless people who live alone were staying temporarily with friends or family.

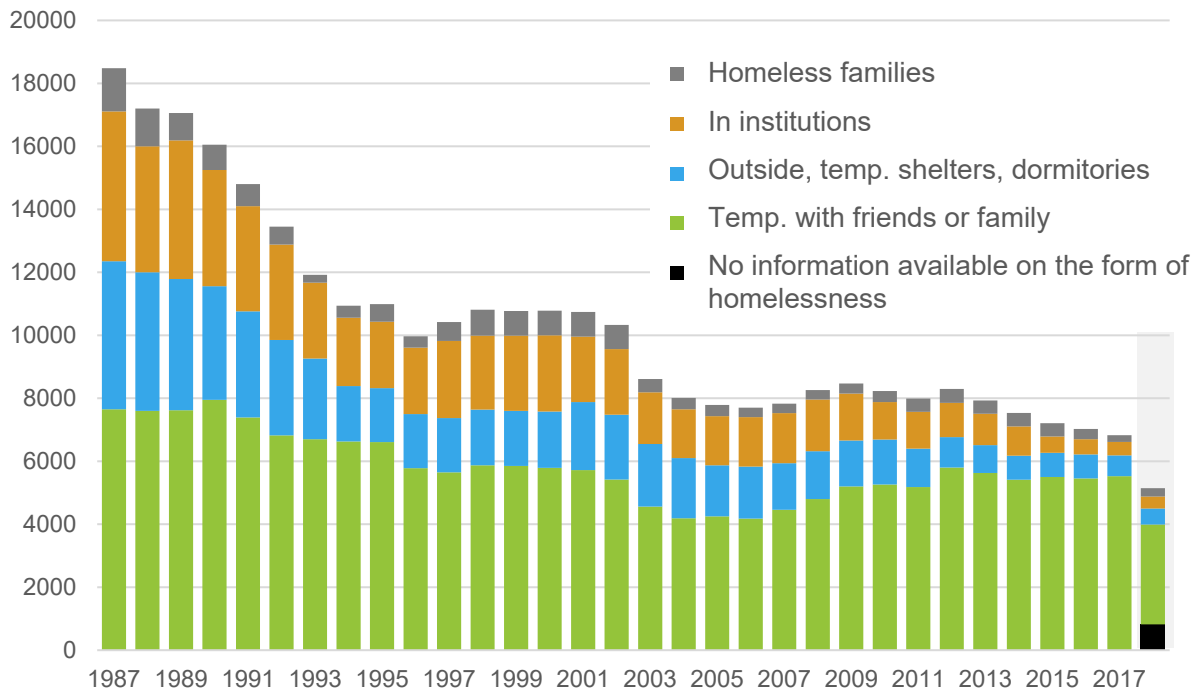


Figure 2. Homelessness in Finland 1987-2018.

**NOTE.**  
The figures for 2018 are not comparable to the figures from previous years.

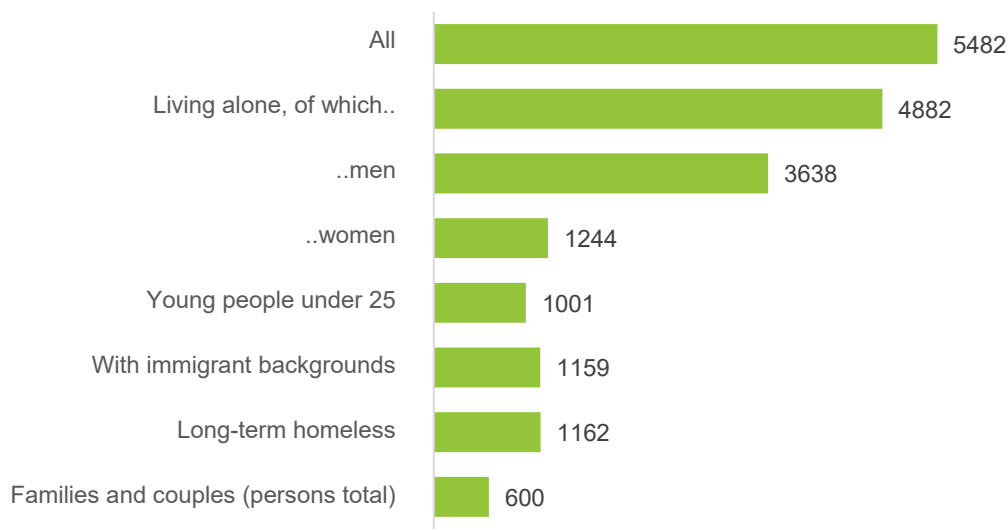


Figure 3. Homelessness in different groups in 2018.

Figure 3 presents the homelessness experienced by various groups in 2018. One person can belong to more than one group.



### 3 MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE MOST HOMELESSNESS IN 2018

Table 4 presents the 11 municipalities that had the greatest number of homeless people in 2018. Out of the 295 municipalities in Mainland Finland, homelessness was a factor in 99 of the municipalities. The highest numbers of homeless people were reported in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area (3,018 in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa) as well as 504 people in Turku 504 and 254 in Tampere.

Over half (55 %) of all homeless people in Finland were located in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and two fifths (38.6 %, 2,114) in Helsinki.

The clearest increases in the number of homeless people were reported in Turku, Tampere, Jyväskylä, Järvenpää, and Hyvinkää.

Long-term homelessness decreased elsewhere in Finland, apart from Helsinki, by 82 persons (Table 1). Statistics showed an especially clear decrease in long-term homelessness in Turku and a marked increase in Kuopio and Hyvinkää.

Table 4. Municipalities with the highest number of homeless people in 2018.

	Homelessness in 2018			Change from 2017					
	All (% of municipal population*)	Living alone	Long-t. homel.	All	%	Living alone	%	Long-t. homel.	%
<b>Helsinki</b>	2,114 (0.3)	1,818	481						
<b>Espoo</b>	658 (0.2)	547	158	5	0.2 %	-20	-4 %	5	3 %
<b>Turku</b>	504 (0.3)	475	23	52	10 %	23	5 %	-90	-391 %
<b>Tampere</b>	254 (0.1)	230	63	31	12 %	28	12 %	10	16 %
<b>Vantaa</b>	246 (0.1)	228	32	-10	-4 %	6	3 %	6	19 %
<b>Jyväskylä</b>	204 (0.2)	202	39	73	36 %	71	35 %	9	23 %
<b>Kuopio</b>	126 (0.1)	124	64	-2	-2 %	-2	-2 %	35	55 %
<b>Oulu</b>	94 (0.1)	92	22	-3	-3 %	0	0 %	-8	-36 %
<b>Pori</b>	82 (0.1)	82	22	-8	-10 %	-6	-7 %	-22	-100 %
<b>Järvenpää</b>	76 (0.2)	64	5	21	28 %	23	36 %	-3	-60 %
<b>Hyvinkää</b>	68 (0.2)	63	43	18	26 %	15	24 %	22	51 %

\*The percentage of homeless people in relation to the municipality's population is based on the municipalities' populations in 2017.

Table 5 (next page) presents the different forms of homelessness in the municipalities that feature the most homelessness. For Helsinki, only the figures for 2018 are presented.

Apart from Jyväskylä and Turku, there was a decrease in the homelessness of young people. The homelessness of women decreased the most in Tampere and Hyvinkää, and increased in Espoo and Turku. Immigrant homelessness grew in Espoo and Turku in particular. The number of homeless families increased in Turku and Espoo and decreased in Vantaa.

Table 5. Municipalities with the highest number of homeless people in 2018, categories of homeless. (change from 2017 in brackets)

	Young people under 25	Women	Immigrants	Families – persons	Families – households
<b>Helsinki</b>	309	651	702	178	75
<b>Espoo</b>	127 (-18)	125 (13)	181 (54)	99 (13)	33 (5)
<b>Turku</b>	126 (19)	109 (11)	108 (27)	23 (23)	8 (8)
<b>Tampere</b>	29 (-12)	34 (-18)	17 (-15)	18 (-3)	9 (-1)
<b>Vantaa</b>	32 (-19)	50 (-6)	47 (14)	(-34)	7 (-5)
<b>Jyväskylä</b>	72 (38)	33 (4)	15 (12)	2 (2)	1 (1)
<b>Kuopio</b>	31 (-6)	20 (1)	4 (-3)	2 (0)	1 (0)
<b>Oulu</b>	21 (-9)	11 (-1)	5 (1)	0 (-5)	0 (-2)
<b>Pori</b>	9 (-6)	6 (-3)	5 (2)	0 (-2)	0 (-1)
<b>Järvenpää</b>	14 (-1)	5 (-3)	6 (6)	12 (-2)	4 (-2)
<b>Hyvinkää</b>	13 (-30)	7 (-14)	2 (2)	3 (1)	2 (1)

### 3.1 Comments made by the municipalities on the development of homelessness

Municipalities were surveyed about the possible reasons for the decrease or increase of homelessness as well as about the means that municipalities implement in order to decrease homelessness.

#### Turku

“The service structure in Turku has been changed in recent years to favour supported housing. The City has organised housing services for substance abusers, and this process has been primarily based on the rehabilitative emphasis of the stage-by-stage housing model. However, since 2017, we have also begun favouring a housing model that follows the ‘housing first’ approach. With the help of subleasing, we have offered rental housing to homeless people with substance abuse problems as an outsourced service from private service providers, in accordance with the ‘housing first’ approach. These measures have helped house around 50 people during the year.”

#### Jyväskylä

“There has been a marked increase in homelessness due to number of people moving to the city and the increase in substance and alcohol abuse among young people, which also often leads to homelessness. The homeless include a large number of people whose whereabouts we have not been able to determine since they wander from place to place among friends and family, and especially young people are moving to the city without securing a home beforehand.”

## Hyvinkää

“The municipal rental housing company recently constructed a new place, which has allowed us to house more people and decrease the number of applicants who are still on the waiting list.”

## Vantaa

“It is difficult to clearly demonstrate which factors best explain homelessness. These factors include not only unpaid rent, but also breakups, divorces and expired fixed-term leases. Rent debt can be partially explained by Vantaa’s overly expensive rent figures, which is the result of the high level of rent in the city. Some people seek help for their payment difficulties when it is far too late.”

## 4 HOMELESS PRISONERS WHO ARE DUE FOR RELEASE

According to the statistics, despite the measures made by the Criminal Sanctions Agency’s homelessness prevention project, there has not been a marked decrease in the number of prisoners who are released without a home to go during the project period. Table 6 presents the figures for released homeless prisoners. Around a third of prisoners who are released every year are homeless, and 10–15 % of people who have been sentenced to community sanction are homeless. In practice, this accounts for around 1,200 criminal sanctions clients every year. Young people and people serving shorter sentences constitute a particular risk group, as the system is unable to address their situations due to the short length of their imprisonment. Studies show that those who are released while they are homeless are more likely to reoffend immediately after they have been released. Housing-related social work for prisoners must take into account the fact that the housing support cannot focus solely on just housing-related factors, as it must also include other, more general areas that are related to everyday skills and life. The organisation of transitional housing support includes general “rules” that apply to all groups as well as the challenges faced by specific groups, such as linguistic and cultural differences, that must also be identified.

The goal is to establish this housing-related social work approach as part of the work done by the Criminal Sanctions Agency in both prisons and community sanctions offices. In short, the idea is to recognise the status of housing as a key part of the individual needs of the clients in the criminal sanctions system. Success in the reduction of homelessness will require coordinated measures from the Criminal Sanctions Agency that focus on the perspective of prevention at every activity level. In connection with this, the second key measure is to tackle homelessness as part of the Criminal Sanctions Agency’s efforts to prevent exclusion and promote social integration, on the basis of the “housing first” principle. In practice, this requires that the housing situation of and housing assurance for each criminal sanctions client is taken into account during every transitional stage. It will also require even more in-depth joint development efforts with various actors, peer learning and the modelling of good practices. In addition, the aim is to ensure that, in the future, all personnel are familiar with the basics of housing-related social work and, in connection with their own tasks, are able to promote the inclusion of the “housing first”

principle in the homelessness prevention work related to criminal sanctions clients, identify the risk factors that lead to homelessness and understand the importance of stakeholder cooperation and how it supports their own work. To help support the identification process and any possible measures, the “Asuminen puheeksi” (Let’s Talk About Housing) form and the related work method will be firmly integrated into the client work done by the Criminal Sanctions Agency.

Table 6. The housing situation of prisoners due for release in 2016–2018.

	Prisoner			Default prisoner			Prisoner awaiting trial			Total		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
No apartment	547	575	545	163	142	164	5	0	4	715	717	713
Permanent apartment	1826	2004	2032	353	342	328	18	7	12	2197	2353	2372
Rehabilitation unit	110	159	158	39	31	37	0	0	0	149	190	195
Not known	740	460	431	692	731	730	1038	1125	1090	2470	2316	2251
<b>Total</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>3198</b>	<b>3166</b>	<b>1247</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>1259</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>1132</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>5531</b>	<b>5576</b>	<b>5531</b>

## 5 THE RESULTS OF THE HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMMES

Finland has gained international recognition for its national programmes that aim at decreasing and preventing homelessness. Since 2008, Finnish governments have undertaken to decrease long-term homelessness (PAAVO programmes 2008–2015), and the current government participates in the **Programme of measures for the prevention of homelessness (AUNE)** which will be active from 2016 to 2019. Prime Minister Juha Sipilä decided in the spring of 2018 to halve homelessness by 2022.

For three years, the Programme of measures for the prevention of homelessness (AUNE) 2016–2019 has focused on the prevention of homelessness and the recurrence of homelessness. During the past few years, the cities involved in the programme have built or acquired nearly 1,800 new accommodations for the homeless and more than 5,000 homes from existing housing stock have been allocated for homelessness-related work. The project has also developed for example a new insurance product to make it easier for apartment seekers who have lost their credit rating to find an apartment, designed low-threshold work activities for the housing services related to the homeless to ensure the success of the housing work, and worked together with experts through experience on new ways to make use of their particular expertise in the elimination of homelessness. As part of the AUNE programme, new municipal Strategies to Prevent Homelessness have been created for different cities.

Developing and strengthening housing advice activities is a central part of the AUNE programme. Housing advice activities have proven to be an effective means of preventing homelessness. In 2018, the cities involved in the programme already had 90 housing advisors who, together with the partnership network, helped prevent the realisation of around 4,500 evictions. In 2019, a EUR 0.9 million subsidy authorisation was allocated in the Government Budget for housing advice, and the funding percentage was set at a maximum of 35%.

Aid was granted to 26 projects that will be used to hire 54 housing advisors around Finland.

The work for tackling homelessness is set to continue at an active pace in the future. In spring 2019, together with Lahti University of Applied Sciences, the programme will initiate the first housing-related social welfare study module, and the programme will also establish a change laboratory together with the universities of Tampere and Helsinki. In 2019, the five cities participating in the programme will finish the preventive homelessness plans that will help guide the implementation of their future homelessness work. At the same time, the programme's external effectiveness and impact assessment will also be completed, where researchers will also present recommendations on future measures that can be used to help remove and prevent of homelessness.

## **6 NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPILATION OF STATISTICS ON HOMELESSNESS**

More detailed statistics on homelessness and linking these statistics with broader population-level data would allow for the more detailed study and analysis of the phenomenon, and it would also help improve the measures used to locate the homeless and the allocation of the services that are meant for them. Current statistical measures must be developed to increase the correctness of the data, as the data collection methods can vary annually and between different municipalities. The current method does not provide sufficiently accurate data on the socioeconomic and sociodemographic factors related to homelessness.

The possible social welfare and health care reform would also affect how statistics on homelessness would be collected: municipal rental housing companies would be left with information on homeless applicants, and Kela would, in connection with the social assistance it provides, continue to be able to collect data on homelessness, but the data on the homeless who participate in various social welfare and health care services would likely be moved to the regional authorities. National and personal identification number-based statistics on homelessness would also be important with this possible change in mind.

## APPENDIX 1 DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

(ARA's guidelines for municipalities on decreasing homelessness)

A person is considered **homeless**, if they do not have an own home (rented or owned apartment) and if they live

1. outside, in stairways or overnight shelters,
2. in dormitories or boarding houses,
3. in welfare home-type housing service units, rehabilitative units, hospitals or other institutions and
4. temporarily with acquaintances or relatives due to lack of own home.

**A long-term homeless person** means a homeless person who has a health-related or social problem that makes housing remarkably more difficult, such as debt, substance or mental health-related problem, and whose homelessness has been prolonged or is in danger to be prolonged because normal housing solutions are not adequate for their situation and because of the lack of suitable support services. Homelessness is considered long-term if it has lasted for at least one year or if the individual has repeatedly experienced homelessness over the last three years. In cases of long-term homelessness, the emphasis is on the need for assistance and treatment – the length of time is of secondary importance.

The category **outside, in stairways or overnight shelters etc.** is used for those without a permanent residence who live in and move between different temporary shelters and locations. People who reside in, for example, dormitory-type housing or in boarding houses with the help of daily social assistance vouchers belong in the category **in dormitories or boarding houses due to the lack of own home**. The category **in welfare home-type housing service units, rehabilitative units, hospitals or other institutions due to the lack of own home** comprises people who reside in, for example, substance treatment service's rehabilitative units, various institutional treatment units, sheltered homes etc. This list does not include separate dwellings that are administered by housing services. A person who temporarily lives in this kind of apartment is not considered homeless.

In welfare home units, individuals *are not considered homeless* if they

- are there permanently for treatment purposes and are not seeking other housing solutions
- have signed a rental agreement with the welfare home or other type of institutional housing unit in which they reside.

Individuals in welfare home units are thus *considered to be homeless* if they have a rental housing application which is currently active.

The category **temporarily with acquaintances or relatives due to the lack of own home** is for those individuals who, according to assessments or

municipal data, are living temporarily at, or moving between, the homes of relatives and acquaintances due to not having their own home. **The category does not include young people who live with their parents.**

- It can be assumed that the category **temporarily with acquaintances or relatives** involves the largest number of people who can be offered normal rental apartments through public housing services.
- In the **temporarily with acquaintances or relatives category**, *regarding a person long-term homeless* should be based on social service customership. This would allow determining whether or not the criteria of being long-term homeless are met.
- In addition, 'other solid evidence' on being long-term homeless can be considered a classification criterion. This includes, for example, the concerned person's known history of homelessness.
- Service providers' customer data can also provide information about those long-term homeless people that receive a pension and therefore do not frequent the social welfare office. These may also be young people with substance abuse and mental health problems.

The shares of **women, young people (below 25) and those with immigrant background** who live alone will be asked. All homeless people who live alone, who are not Finnish nationals and whose mother tongue is not Finnish or Swedish are considered homeless with immigrant background. Immigration-related information can be obtained from the population register by searching under mother tongue and place of birth.

The category of **families and couples living apart from each other or in temporary housing due to the lack of own home** is for those families and couples that are living apart from each other or in temporary housing because they do not have a shared home. They may therefore be in hostels or hotels or staying with relatives or acquaintances. Families who live in homes for unmarried mothers, sheltered homes and crisis apartments are also considered homeless families. *The number of children and adults belonging to the families* will also be asked. In addition, the share of families with immigrant backgrounds of homeless families will be asked.