

Report 2/2022

Homeless people 2021

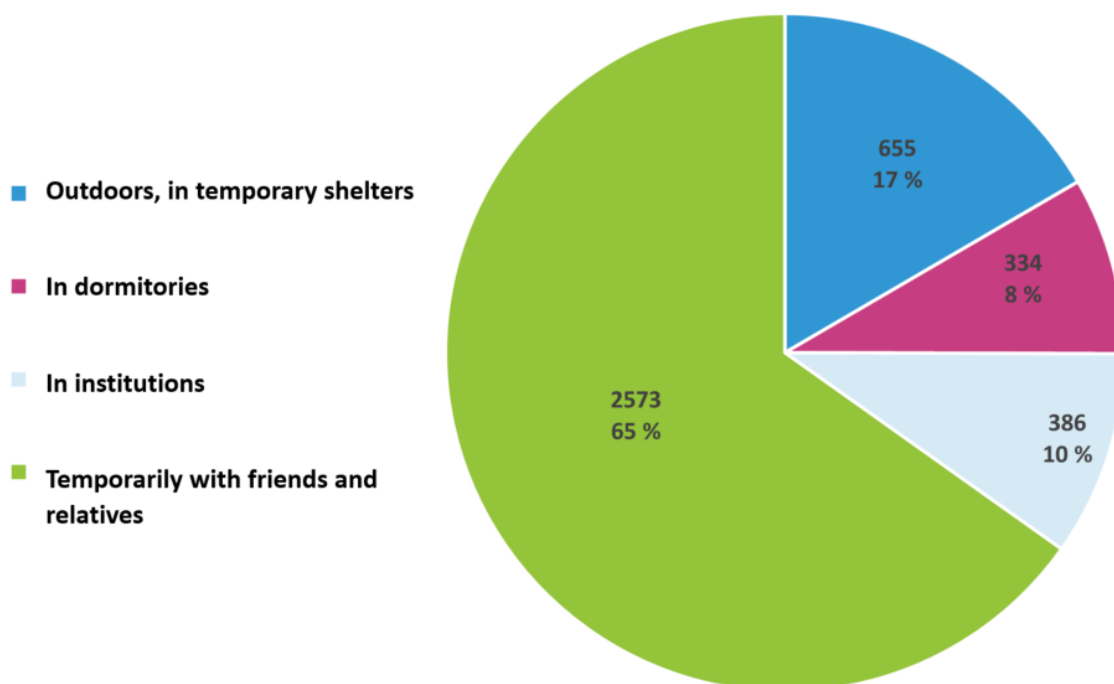


Figure 1. Different forms of homelessness in 2021 - figures and percentages.

Contents

1	Information in the report and interpretation of the results.....	3
2	Homelessness decreased in 2021	3
3	Homelessness is concentrated in large cities	4
4	Different forms of homelessness	6
5	Homelessness decreased in all groups	6
	Appendix 2: Data on homelessness by municipality	9
	Homeless people living alone by group in 2021.....	9
	Homeless families and couples 2021	12
	Total homeless 2021	13
	Appendix 3: Definition of homelessness.....	16
	Appendix 4: Homelessness in Finland 1987-2021.....	19

Report 2/2022: Homelessness in 2021

Published: 25 February 2022

updated 29 April 2022: Correction of long-term homelessness figures in Helsinki 2019-20: Tables 1 and 3; text in chapters 2-5

Record No: ARA-08.02.00-2022-1

The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA)

1 Information in the report and interpretation of the results

In autumn 2021, the Housing Finance and Development Centre (ARA) sent a homelessness survey to all 293 municipalities in mainland Finland. The survey was taken by 233 cities and municipalities, and the survey response rate was 80%. There were homeless people in 103 municipalities.

The cross-section time of the survey is 15 November 2021. Municipalities collected data from social welfare and housing service registers and from the housing applicant registers of municipal rental housing companies. Some municipalities use Kela's Social Assistance Register or the Digital and Population Data Services Agency's Population Information Register to obtain and verify homelessness data.

Despite its apparent accuracy, the data on the number of homeless persons presented in the report is indicative, as the municipalities' methods of gathering information and assessment criteria differ from each other, and the data presented by one municipality in different years may also vary in terms of its accuracy.

2 Homelessness decreased in 2021

In November 2021, there were 3,948 homeless people living alone in Finland. This was 393 less than in 2020.

There were 1,318 people classified as long-term homeless. Their number decreased by 80 compared to the previous year.

Long-term homelessness refers to a homeless person who has a significant social or a health problem, such as debt, substance abuse or mental health problems, and whose homelessness has been prolonged or is in danger of being prolonged due to a lack of conventional housing solutions and appropriate 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 number of homeless families and couples was 165, which is 36 less than in 2020 (Table 2).

3 Homelessness is concentrated in large cities

The number of homeless people living alone in Greater Helsinki has decreased by 329 since 2020. The number fell by 325 in Helsinki. In Espoo and Kouvola, homelessness increased slightly, but in other large cities homelessness decreased (Table 1).

Table 1. Homelessness of people living alone persons in large cities 2021.

Town/city	Total homeless 2021	Homeless people, change from 2020	Long-term homeless 2021	Long-term homeless, change from 2020	Under 25 years of age 2021	Under 25 years of age, change from 2020
Helsinki	1209	-325	518	-83	152	-87
Espoo	433	4	154	9	103	10
Vantaa	219	-8	76	43	24	-22
Turku	341	-43	25	14	91	-16
Tampere	259	-35	67	-9	39	-27
Jyväskylä	101	-24	35	-10	21	-20
Oulu	114	-3	52	8	30	1
Kuopio	118	-25	47	-25	31	-6
Lahti	93	-4	22	-7	18	-10
Pori	50	-3	13	0	13	6
Total	2 937	-466	1 009	-60	522	-171
Whole country	3 948	-393	1 318	-80	711	-143

Long-term homelessness decreased in Helsinki¹, Tampere, Jyväskylä, Kuopio and Lahti. Long-term homelessness increased from the previous year in Espoo, Vantaa, Turku and Oulu. In Pori, it remained unchanged.

The highest relative number of homeless people is in Helsinki, where there are 2.2 homeless people per 1,000 residents. The homeless ratio in Espoo is 1.8 and 1.9 in Turku. In relative terms, the lowest number of homeless people is found in Oulu, which has 0.5 per 1,000 inhabitants.

Table 2. Homelessness of families in large cities 2021.

Town/city	Homeless families 2021 (incl. child-free couples)	Change from 2020
Helsinki	88	-34
Espoo	31	4
Vantaa	0	0
Turku	10	-3
Tampere	7	0
Jyväskylä	0	0
Oulu	0	-2
Kuopio	2	1
Lahti	6	5
Pori	0	-1
Total	144	-30
Whole country	165	-36

¹ The long-term homelessness in Helsinki in 2020 was corrected after the original publication of the report: The number of long-term homeless was 601 and not 257.

4 Different forms of homelessness

Nearly two-thirds (65 %) of the homeless people living alone were temporarily staying with friends or relatives. The number decreased by 200 from the previous year (Table 3).

There were 655 people living outside and in stairways and overnight shelters. There were 334 homeless people living in dormitories or hostels. The number of people in these two forms of homelessness now took a downward turn compared to the previous two years, during which the number rose to over 1,200. The number decreased by 221 in 2021 compared to the previous year. The number of people living in institutional units now increased for the second consecutive year, totalling 386 people. This represents an increase of 28 people from the previous year.

Table 3. Different forms of homelessness in 2021.

Types of homelessness	Living alone	% of homeless people	Long-term homeless	% of homeless people
Temporarily with friends or relatives	2 571	65 %	598	45 %
Outside, in stairwells, shelters etc.	655	17 %	316	24 %
In dormitories or hostels	334	8 %	162	12 %
Institutional units	386	10 %	241	18 %
Total	4 341	100 %	1 318	100 %

5 Homelessness decreased in all groups

The number of homeless women decreased by 174 in comparison to 2020. The number of homeless women is 891 and they amount to approximately 23 % of homeless people. Women's homelessness has declined for five consecutive years. There were 3,057 homeless men, which is 219 fewer than in the previous year.

In 2021, there were 711 homeless young people under 25 years of age in Finland. The number of young people amounted to 18 % of all homeless

people. Homelessness among young people decreased by 143 compared to 2020.

There were 720 homeless immigrants. The number decreased by 243 people in comparison to 2020.

Table 4. Homelessness by group in 2021.

Group	Living alone	% of homeless people	Long-term homeless	% of homeless people
Women	891	23 %	321	24 %
Men	3 057	77 %	997	76 %
Young people (under 25)	711	18 %	145	11 %
Immigrants	720	18 %	213	16 %

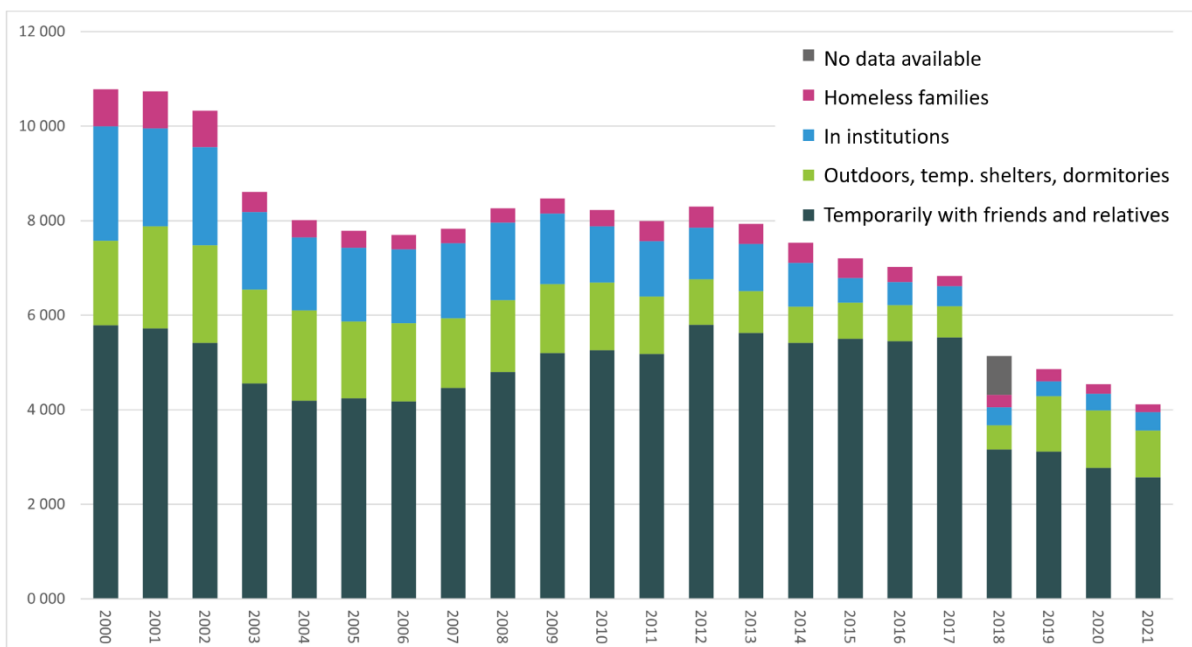


Figure 2. Homeless people 2000-2021

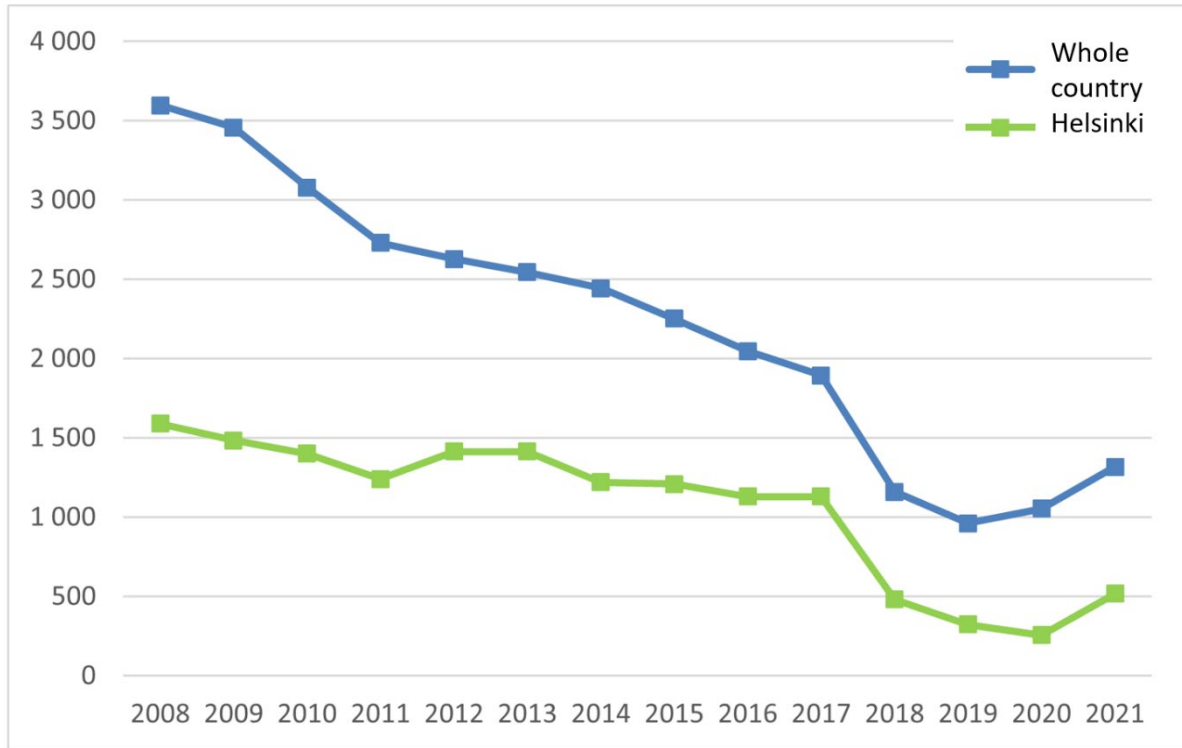


Figure 3. Number of long-term homeless people in the whole country and in Helsinki in 2008-2021.

Appendix 2: Data on homelessness by municipality

Homeless people living alone by group in 2021

Municipality	Total number of people living alone	Long-term homeless	Women	Young	Immigrants
Helsinki	1209	518	320	152	345
Espoo	433	154	92	103	108
Turku	341	25	64	91	94
Tampere	259	67	58	39	27
Vantaa	219	76	68	24	57
Kuopio	118	47	21	31	3
Oulu	114	52	13	30	9
Jyväskylä	101	35	14	21	11
Lahti	93	22	24	18	11
Rovaniemi	71	1	19	9	2
Porvoo	65	65	20	30	0
Pori	50	13	7	13	1
Kotka	47	3	9	3	3
Salo	44	28	9	7	0
Joensuu	42	4	18	12	5
Vaasa	42	3	9	7	11
Järvenpää	38	8	5	6	1
Kerava	38	16	6	1	4
Kouvola	37	34	3	3	1
Mikkeli	37	3	12	12	0
Nokia	30	0	0	0	0
Forssa	27	2	3	8	0
Lohja	23	7	3	6	0
Tornio	23	23	3	4	0
Kemi	21	5	7	1	0
Hyvinkää	18	0	2	2	1
Lappeenranta	18	4	3	4	0
Rauma	18	0	3	4	1
Savonlinna	18	0	3	3	0
Raahe	17	8	6	5	0
Seinäjoki	17	9	4	4	1
Uusikaupunki	17	0	1	8	7
Pietarsaari	13	3	1	3	2
Raisio	13	6	2	0	2
Tuusula	13	0	1	4	3
Kirkkonummi	11	2	1	1	2
Sipoo	11	0	5	3	0

Municipality	Total number of people living alone	Long-term homeless	Women	Young	Immigrants
Ylöjärvi	11	11	5	3	0
Riihimäki	10	1	8	7	0
Siilinjärvi	10	2	5	0	0
Valkeakoski	10	0	2	2	2
Kajaani	9	4	4	0	0
Naantali	9	2	0	3	0
Nurmijärvi	9	5	2	0	0
Kokkola	8	1	2	1	1
Heinola	7	0	1	0	0
Mäntsälä	7	3	1	0	0
Vihti	7	0	2	0	0
Kangasniemi	6	0	1	1	0
Lempäälä	6	1	3	0	0
Suonenjoki	6	3	0	1	1
Äänekoski	6	3	1	0	0
Akaa	5	5	0	3	0
Eurajoki	5	0	1	0	0
Kurikka	5	3	0	2	0
Polvijärvi	5	5	0	0	0
Inari	4	0	1	0	0
Kitee	4	1	0	0	0
Muurame	4	0	1	2	0
Pieksämäki	4	4	0	0	0
Pyhtää	4	0	0	0	0
Sodankylä	4	0	1	1	0
Taivassalo	4	0	0	0	4
Iisalmi	3	0	0	0	0
Ikaalinen	3	2	1	0	0
Lapua	3	0	0	0	0
Laukaa	3	2	1	1	0
Muhos	3	0	1	0	0
Mynämäki	3	2	0	0	0
Oulainen	3	0	0	0	0
Paimio	3	2	0	0	0
Sulkava	3	0	1	0	0
Suomussalmi	3	1	0	0	0
Eura	2	1	0	2	0
Haapajärvi	2	0	0	1	0
Hankasalmi	2	2	1	1	0
Iitti	2	0	0	0	0
Jämsä	2	1	1	1	0
Keuruu	2	0	0	0	0
Laitila	2	1	0	2	0
Masku	2	0	0	1	0
Mustasaari	2	0	0	2	0

Municipality	Total number of people living alone	Long-term homeless	Women	Young	Immigrants
Outokumpu	2	2	0	0	0
Pelkosenniemi	2	1	0	0	0
Toholampi	2	0	0	0	0
Tuusniemi	2	0	0	1	0
Hamina	1	0	1	0	0
Ii	1	1	0	0	0
Joutsa	1	0	0	0	0
Kankaanpää	1	0	0	0	0
Karkkila	1	0	1	0	0
Kauhajoki	1	0	0	0	0
Keminmaa	1	1	0	0	0
Liperi	1	0	0	0	0
Nurmes	1	0	0	0	0
Paltamo	1	0	0	1	0
Posio	1	0	0	0	0
Punkalaidun	1	0	0	0	0
Saarijärvi	1	0	0	0	0
Sotkamo	1	1	0	0	0
Taivalkoski	1	0	1	0	0
Urjala	1	1	0	0	0
Utajärvi	1	0	1	0	0
Whole country	3948	1318	890	711	720

Homeless families and couples 2021

Municipality	Families	Families with children	Couples	Families and couples, total
Helsinki	48	92	40	88
Espoo	25	48	6	31
Turku	4	8	6	10
Tampere	4	2	3	7
Kuopio	0	0	2	2
Lahti	6	7	0	6
Rovaniemi	1	2	2	3
Kotka	0	0	2	2
Salo	1	3	0	1
Joensuu	3	7	1	4
Vaasa	1	3	1	2
Kerava	2	6	1	3
Rauma	2	7	0	2
Riihimäki	1	1	0	1
Lempäälä	1	1	0	1
Äänekoski	0	0	1	1
Kankaanpää	1	2	0	1
Whole country	100	189	65	165

Total homeless 2021

Municipality	Total	Homeless per 1000 residents
Helsinki	1440	2,19
Espoo	527	1,78
Turku	365	1,87
Tampere	274	1,12
Vantaa	219	0,91
Kuopio	122	1,00
Oulu	114	0,54
Jyväskylä	101	0,70
Lahti	106	0,88
Rovaniemi	79	1,23
Porvoo	65	1,27
Pori	50	0,60
Kotka	51	0,99
Salo	49	0,95
Joensuu	55	0,71
Vaasa	48	0,71
Järvenpää	38	0,84
Kerava	48	1,29
Kouvola	37	0,46
Mikkeli	37	0,71
Nokia	30	0,86
Forssa	27	1,63
Lohja	23	0,50
Tornio	23	1,08
Kemi	21	1,05
Hyvinkää	18	0,38
Lappeenranta	18	0,25
Rauma	29	0,74
Savonlinna	18	0,55
Raahe	17	0,70
Seinäjoki	17	0,26
Uusikaupunki	17	1,10
Pietarsaari	13	0,68
Raisio	13	0,52
Tuusula	13	0,33
Kirkkonummi	11	0,27
Sipoo	11	0,50

Municipality	Total	Homeless per 1000 residents
Ylöjärvi	11	0,33
Riihimäki	13	0,46
Siilinjärvi	10	0,47
Valkeakoski	10	0,48
Kajaani	9	0,25
Naantali	9	0,46
Nurmijärvi	9	0,20
Kokkola	8	0,17
Heinola	7	0,38
Mäntsälä	7	0,34
Vihti	7	0,24
Kangasniemi	6	1,15
Lempäälä	8	0,33
Suonenjoki	6	0,87
Äänekoski	8	0,44
Akaa	5	0,30
Eurajoki	5	0,54
Kurikka	5	0,25
Polvijärvi	5	1,20
Inari	4	0,57
Kitee	4	0,40
Muurame	4	0,38
Pieksämäki	4	0,23
Pyhtää	4	0,78
Sodankylä	4	0,49
Taivassalo	4	2,40
Iisalmi	3	0,14
Ikaalinen	3	0,44
Lapua	3	0,21
Laukaa	3	0,16
Muhos	3	0,34
Mynämäki	3	0,39
Oulainen	3	0,42
Paimio	3	0,27
Sulkava	3	1,23
Suomussalmi	3	0,40
Eura	2	0,18
Haapajärvi	2	0,29
Hankasalmi	2	0,42

Municipality	Total	Homeless per 1000 residents
Iitti	2	0,30
Jämsä	2	0,10
Keuruu	2	0,21
Laitila	2	0,24
Masku	2	0,21
Mustasaari	2	0,10
Outokumpu	2	0,31
Pelkosenniemi	2	2,16
Toholampi	2	0,68
Tuusniemi	2	0,83
Hamina	1	0,05
Ii	1	0,10
Joutsa	1	0,23
Kankaanpää	4	0,32
Karkkila	1	0,11
Kauhajoki	1	0,08
Keminmaa	1	0,13
Liperi	1	0,08
Nurmes	1	0,11
Paltamo	1	0,31
Posio	1	0,33
Punkalaidun	1	0,37
Saarijärvi	1	11 %
Sotkamo	1	0,10
Taivalkoski	1	0,26
Urjala	1	0,21
Utajärvi	1	0,39
Whole country	4396	0,79

Appendix 3: Definition of homelessness

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

1. outside, in stairways or temporary shelters,
2. in dormitories or hostels,
3. in welfare home-type housing units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions, and
4. temporarily with friends or relatives due to lack of housing.

Long-term homelessness refers to a homeless person who has a significant social or a health problem, such as debt, substance abuse or mental health problems, and whose homelessness has been prolonged or is in danger of being prolonged due to a lack of conventional housing solutions and appropriate 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 stairwells or temporary 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 hostels with the help of daily social assistance vouchers belong in the category **in dormitories or hostels due to the lack of their own home**.

The category **in welfare home-type housing units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions due to the lack of their 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 covered by housing services. In these dwellings, even temporary residents are not considered to be 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, or
- 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 considered to be homeless if they have a rental housing application which is currently active.

The category **temporarily with friends or relatives due to the lack of their 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 is expected that the category **temporarily with friends or relatives** includes the largest number of people whose housing can be arranged through the general distribution of housing from a standard rental housing stock.
- In the **temporarily with friends or relatives category**, *long-term homelessness should primarily be based on social service customership*, whereby the need for services can determine whether the long-term homelessness criteria are met.
- Another 'strong indication' of long-term homelessness can also be deduced from examining the individual's housing and homelessness record over time.
- Service providers' customer data can also provide information about long-term homeless people who receive a pension and therefore do not use the city's social welfare office. These may also include young people with substance abuse and mental health problems.

The percentages of **women, young people (below 25 years) and those with an immigrant background** who live alone will be surveyed. Those with an immigrant background includes all homeless who live alone, who are not Finnish citizens or whose mother tongue is other than Finnish or Swedish. 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 their 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 staying in hostels or hotels or staying with relatives or acquaintances. The homeless families category includes families living in emergency and temporary shelters and in crisis homes. *The* number of children belonging to a family will also be included in the data. In addition, for the homeless families category, the percentage of families with an immigrant background will be included in the data.

Appendix 4: Homelessness in Finland 1987-2021

Year	Outdoors, in temporary shelters, dormitories	In institutions	Temporarily with friends and relatives	Total homeless people who live alone	Homeless families
1987	4 700	4 760	7 650	17 110	1 370
1988	4 400	4 000	7 600	16 000	1 200
1989	4 170	4 400	7 620	16 190	870
1990	3 610	3 690	7 950	15 250	800
1991	3 370	3 340	7 390	14 100	700
1992	3 030	3 030	6 820	12 880	570
1993	2 560	2 410	6 700	11 670	250
1994	1 760	2 170	6 630	10 560	380
1995	1 710	2 110	6 610	10 430	560
1996	1 720	2 110	5 780	9 610	360
1997	1 720	2 450	5 650	9 820	600
1998	1 770	2 350	5 870	9 990	820
1999	1 750	2 390	5 850	9 990	780
2000	1 790	2 420	5 790	10 000	780
2001	2 160	2 080	5 720	10 000	780
2002	2 060	2 080	5 420	9 560	770
2003	1 990	1 640	4 560	8 190	420
2004	1 910	1 550	4 190	7 650	360
2005	1 620	1 560	4 250	7 430	360
2006	1 650	1 570	4 180	7 400	300
2007	1 480	1 590	4 460	7 530	300
2008	1 520	1 640	4 800	7 960	300
2009	1 460	1 490	5 200	8 150	320
2010	1 430	1 190	5 260	7 880	350
2011	1 221	1 171	5 180	7 572	420
2012	965	1 087	5 800	7 852	446
2013	880	1 000	5 630	7 510	420
2014	764	929	5 414	7 107	427
2015	766	516	5 503	6 785	424
2016	765	480	5 455	6 700	325
2017	659	428	5 528	6 615	214
2018*	512	378	3 165	4 882	264
2019	1 168	312	3 120	4 600	264
2020	1 210	358	2 773	4 341	201
2021	989	386	2 573	3 948	165

*) No data available on the form of homelessness: 822