



Homelessness in Norway - national surveys 2008

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Evelyn Dyb

Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research



Definition of homelessness

Persons counted as homeless are those without owned or rented dwelling and who are

- Referred to casual or temporary accommodation
- Live temporarily with friends, relatives or acquaintances
- Under criminal ward due to release within two months and are without permanent residence
- In institution due to be discharged within two months
- No arrangement for the coming night (rough sleeping)



A cross section study

- Gives a picture of homelessness at a certain point in time
- Conducted during the last week of November
- Gives no information on the number of homeless people during one year/a longer period
- Four surveys – time series



The Method

A two step survey

- Mapping of the respondents
 - 1292 respondents; municipal, national and private bodies
- Registration of homeless persons
 - The respondents fill in a questionnaire for each homeless person they are in contact with or know of during the registration week



Methodological challenges

- Identify double counts
 - restricted ID information
- Authorisation and exemption of client confidentiality
- Registration of native municipality
- Drop outs among the respondents

Increase in the number of homeless persons

	No.	Pr. 1000 pop.	Changes from 1996
2008	6,091	1,27	- 2 %
2005	5,500	1.19	- 11 %
2003	5,200	1.14	- 16 %
1996	6,200	1.50	100 %

Homelessness - an urban issue

Proportion of homeless persons
in groups of municipalities, per 1,000 pop.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>1996</u>
Major cities	2.36	2.45	2.56	4.01
Munic. >49,000	1,35	1,17	1,35	1,53
10,000-39,000	1,07	1,06	0,78	0,63
Munic. <9,999	0,48	0,32	0,27	0,36

The statistical construction of “the homeless person”

- Male (three out of four are men)
- 34 years of age
- Born in Norway
- Single
- Main income: social support
- With a drug addiction
- Living temporarily with friends/relatives or in temporary accommodation
- Duration of homelessness: 6 months or more

Problems facing homelessness

- Evicted in the last 6 months 23 %
- Loss of home due to broken relationship or family conflict 18 %
- Loss of home due to disturbance/
damage/conflict 15 %
- Loss of home due to rent arrears 8 %
- Not able to live at home due to violence 7 %

- Unmet need for support 24 %



The youngest homeless persons

- The percentage below 25 years is increasing
- 34 % are women (vs. 27 % of the total)
- 53 % are staying temporarily with friends/relatives/aquaintances
- 44 % have been homeless for more than 6 months
- The youngest homeless persons are in primary school age



Homelessness and children

- More than one in four has under-aged children
- 13 % of these has daily care and 3 % shared care
- 27 % has the right of access to the children
- Approx. 400 children are homeless together with their parents



Some conclusions

- The figure of homeless persons are rising
 - increased efforts to counteract and prevent homelessness since 2000
- The share and number of young homeless persons are increasing
- Children are homeless with a parent and registered as independent homeless persons