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Environment Finland

Centre for State-subsidised
Housing Construction

Homeless people 2025

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Centre for State-Subsidised Housing Construction

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Homeless people 2025

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Abstract

The Centre for State-Subsidised Housing Construction collected data on homelessness from municipalities as observed on 15 November 2025. The response rate was 81%. There were homeless people in 99 municipalities.

Based on the data reported by the municipalities that responded to the survey, the number of homeless people living alone was 4,579. Of them, 1,306 were long-term homeless. The number of homeless people living alone was 773 higher than in the previous year. Homelessness increased by 20% from 2024. The number of homeless people has now increased for two consecutive years. Until 2023, homelessness declined steadily for over 10 years. The number of long-term homeless people increased by about 294. This is the first time in five years when there was an increase in long-term homelessness.

The number of homeless people is the highest in cities with the largest population. With the exception of Kuopio and Oulu, homelessness increased from the previous year in all of them. Homelessness increased the most in Helsinki, where their number was 193 higher than in 2024. In Helsinki the number of homeless people was almost 980 and in Tampere, Turku and Espoo it was about 450. In Joensuu, Vaasa, Kotka, Pori and Rovaniemi the number of homeless people was over 70.

Of the homeless people, over 1,000 were women and about 760 were young people. Women accounted for 22% and young people for 17% of the homeless people living alone. The number of homeless people with foreign backgrounds was 966 and they accounted for 21% of the homeless people living alone.

Provision	This publication appears in the publication series of the Centre for State-Subsidised Housing Construction. The Centre for State-Subsidised Housing Construction is part of the Ministry of the Environment and is an independent body responsible for the tasks within its remit.
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Keywords	homeless people, homelessness, report, housing
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Asunnottomat 2025

Valtion tukeman asuntorakentamisen keskuksen julkaisuja 2026:3		Teema	Asuminen
Julkaisija	Ympäristöministeriö		
Yhteisötekijä	Valtion tukeman asuntorakentamisen keskus		
Kieli	Englanti	Sivumäärä	53

Tiivistelmä

Valtion tukeman asuntorakentamisen keskus keräsi kunnilta tietoja asunnottomuudesta tarkasteluhetkeltä 15.11.2025. Kyselyn vastausprosentti oli 81. Asunnottomia oli 99 kunnassa.

Yksineläviä asunnottomia henkilöitä oli kyselyyn vastanneiden kuntien ilmoittamien tietojen perusteella Suomessa 4 579. Heistä pitkäaikaisasunnottomia oli 1 306. Yksineläviä asunnottomia oli 773 enemmän kuin edellisvuonna. Asunnottomuus nousi 20 % vuoteen 2024 verrattuna. Asunnottomuus on noussut nyt kahtena vuotena peräkkäin. Vuoteen 2023 asti asunnottomuus väheni yhtäjaksoisesti yli 10 vuoden ajan. Pitkäaikaisasunnottomien määrä nousi ensimmäistä kertaa viiteen vuoteen. Muutos edellisvuodesta oli noin 294 asunnotonta.

Eniten asunnottomia oli väkiluvultaan suurimmissa kaupungeissa. Edellisvuoteen verrattuna asunnottomuus nousi näistä kaupungeista kaikissa paitsi Kuopiossa ja Oulussa. Eniten asunnottomuus nousi Helsingissä, jossa asunnottomia oli 193 enemmän kuin vuonna 2024. Helsingissä asunnottomia oli lähes 980, Tampereella, Turussa ja Espoossa noin 450. Lisäksi kuntia, joissa oli yli 70 asunnotonta, olivat Joensuu, Vaasa, Kotka, Pori ja Rovaniemi.

Asunnottomia naisia oli yli 1 000 ja nuoria noin 760. Naisten osuus yksinelävistä asunnottomista oli 22 % ja nuorten 17 %. Ulkomaalaistaustaisia asunnottomia oli 966 ja heidän osuutensa yksinelävistä asunnottomista oli 21 %.

Klausuuli	Tämä julkaisu kuuluu Valtion tukeman asuntorakentamisen keskuksen julkaisuja -sarjaan. Valtion tukeman asuntorakentamisen keskus toimii osana ympäristöministeriötä ja vastaa itsenäisesti toimivaltaansa kuuluvista tehtävistä.
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Asiasanat	asunnottomat, asunnottomuus, selvitys, asuminen
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Publikationer från Centralen för statligt stött bostadsbyggande 2026:3	Tema	Boende
Utgivare	Miljöministeriet	
Utarbetad av	Centralen för statligt stött bostadsbyggande	
Språk	Engelska	Sidantal 53

Referat

Centralen för statligt stött bostadsbyggande samlade in uppgifter från kommunerna om bostadslöshet vid granskningstidpunkten den 15 november 2025. Svarsprocenten var 81. Det fanns bostadslösa i 99 kommuner.

Enligt uppgifterna från de kommuner som besvarade enkäten fanns det 4 579 ensamstående bostadslösa personer i Finland. Av dem var 1 306 långtidsbostadslösa. Antalet ensamstående bostadslösa var 773 fler än året innan. Bostadslösheten hade ökat med 20 procent jämfört med 2024. Bostadslösheten har nu ökat två år i rad. Fram till 2023 minskade bostadslösheten kontinuerligt i över 10 års tid. Antalet långtidsbostadslösa ökade för första gången på fem år. Förändringen jämfört med året innan var cirka 294 bostadslösa.

Flest bostadslösa fanns det i de folkrikaste städerna. Jämfört med året innan ökade bostadslösheten i alla de städerna utom i Kuopio och Uleåborg. Bostadslösheten ökade mest i Helsingfors, där antalet bostadslösa var 193 fler än år 2024. I Helsingfors var antalet bostadslösa nästan 980, i Tammerfors, Åbo och Esbo cirka 450. Kommuner med fler än 70 bostadslösa var dessutom Joensuu, Vasa, Kotka, Björneborg och Rovaniemi.

Över 1 000 kvinnor och cirka 760 unga var bostadslösa. Kvinnornas andel av alla ensamstående bostadslösa var 22 procent och de ungas andel 17 procent. Antalet bostadslösa med utländsk bakgrund var 966. De utgjorde 21 procent av alla ensamstående bostadslösa.

Klausul	Denna publikation ingår i serien Publikationer från Centralen för statligt stött bostadsbyggande. Centralen är en del av miljöministeriet och ansvarar självständigt för de uppgifter som hör till dess ansvarsområde.
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Nyckelord	bostadslösa, bostadslöshet, utredning, boende
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1 Collection of homelessness data and the premise of the report

In autumn 2025, the Centre for State-Subsidised Housing Construction sent a homelessness survey to 292 municipalities in mainland Finland. The survey asked for information on the number of homeless people in the municipality at the time of the examination on 15 November 2025.

The response rate was 81%.

238 municipalities responded to the survey:

- according to the responses, there were homeless people in 99 municipalities
- 139 municipalities reported that they had no homeless people
- 54 municipalities did not respond to the survey.

A large proportion of the municipalities that did not respond were small municipalities that presumably do not have homeless people. Appendix 1 contains municipality-specific data and a list of the municipalities that did not have homeless people as well as municipalities that did not respond to the survey.

Municipalities collected homelessness data from one or more sources: social services registers, housing applicant registers of municipal rental housing companies and customer registers of service providers. Some municipalities use Kela's social assistance register and/or the Digital and Population Data Services Agency's population register (VTJ) to obtain homelessness information and check it.

1.1 Interpretation of results

Despite apparent accuracy, the data on the number of homeless people presented in the report are indicative, as the municipalities' information acquisition methods and assessment criteria vary. In addition, information presented by one municipality for different years may also vary in accuracy. For example, Vantaa expanded its data collection with the wellbeing services county of Vantaa and Kerava in 2025, which

may have some impact on the fact that the statistics show more homeless people than before. However, the increase in homelessness in Vantaa cannot be explained solely by the better coverage of information sources.

The number of respondents to the survey may also vary from year to year, as not all municipalities necessarily respond to the homelessness survey every year. For more information on the limitations of the data and the interpretation of the data in the report, see section 6.

1.2 Definition of homelessness

The definition of homelessness used in the homelessness survey is in line with the ETHOS Light European Typology on Homelessness and Housing Exclusion, which is commonly used in the EU.

Homeless people are defined as people who do not have their own dwelling (rented or owned) and who live due to a lack of dwelling in one of the following:

1. outdoors, in stairwells or in so-called overnight shelters
2. dormitories or accommodation businesses
3. housing service units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions
4. temporarily with friends or relatives.

A person defined as **long-term homeless** has been homeless for at least one year or repeatedly homeless in the past three years. In addition, they either have a social or health problem that affects their possibilities of successful housing, or their homelessness has been prolonged due to the unsuitability of housing solutions or the lack of support services. The need for help and treatment is emphasised in long-term homelessness – the duration is secondary.

The definitions of homelessness are described in more detail in Appendix 3.

2 Homelessness increased again in 2025

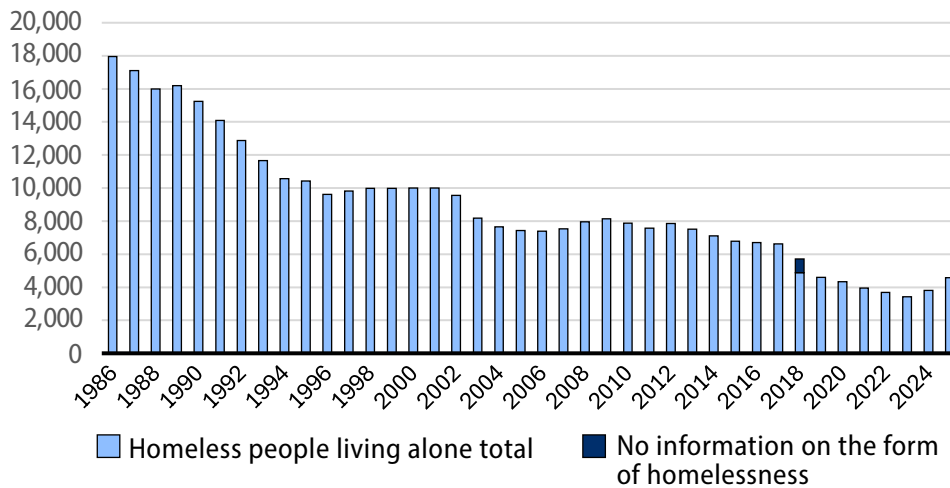
Based on the information reported by the municipalities that responded to the survey, there were a total of 4,579 homeless people living alone in Finland (as of 15 November 2025). Of these, 1,306 were long-term homeless. The number of homeless people living alone rose by 773 from the previous year (Table 1).

Table 1. Homelessness in 2025 and change from 2024. The number of long-term homeless people is included in the number of homeless people living alone.

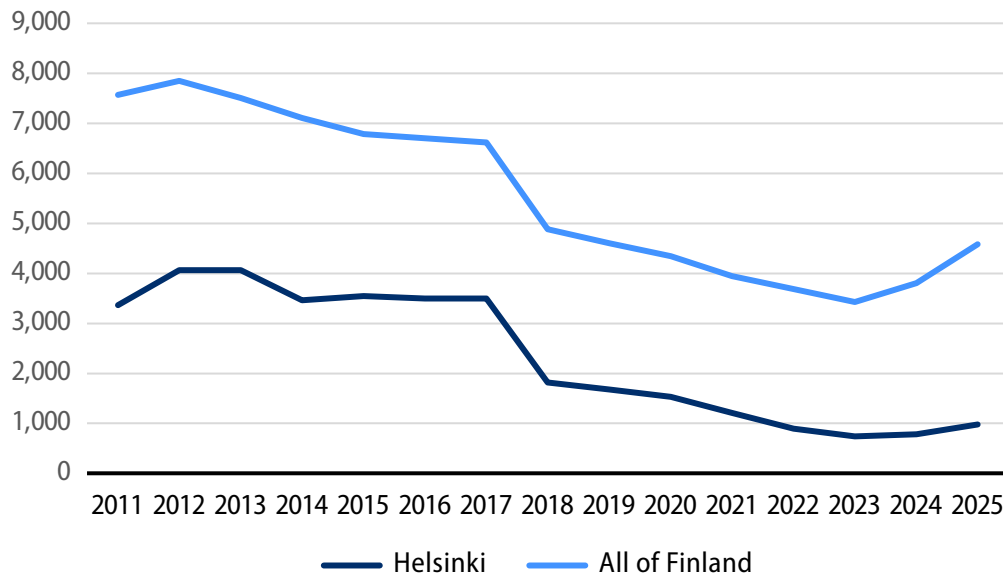
Form of homelessness	2025	Change	Change %
Homeless people living alone	4579	773	20%
Long-term homeless*	1306	294	29%

Homelessness rose by 20% compared to 2024. Homelessness has now risen for two consecutive years. Until 2023, homelessness was reduced continuously for more than 10 years. Between 2023 and 2024, the trend reversed and homelessness increased by 10% (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Homeless people living alone in 1986–2025. Helsinki specified its statistical method in 2018, which is why the figures are not fully comparable with previous years.



The number of homeless people has returned to the 2019 level. In 2025, however, homelessness was more evenly divided between municipalities, whereas in 2019, Helsinki's share of homeless people was higher. In 2019, there were almost twice as many homeless people in Helsinki, and this figure covered more than one third of all homeless people in the country. In 2025, one fifth of the homeless people in the whole country were in Helsinki (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Homelessness throughout the country and in Helsinki in 2011–2025.

In the homelessness survey, an open-ended question was used to inquire about the reasons for changes in homelessness in the municipality. In the responses, it was stated that the rise in homelessness is influenced by many factors. The following were mentioned as key factors for the rise in homelessness:

- changes in social security
- rising living costs
- increased housing costs and disproportion between rent level and housing costs approved by Kela
- rising unemployment
- financial difficulties, rent payment problems and payment default entries
- increased substance abuse and mental health problems

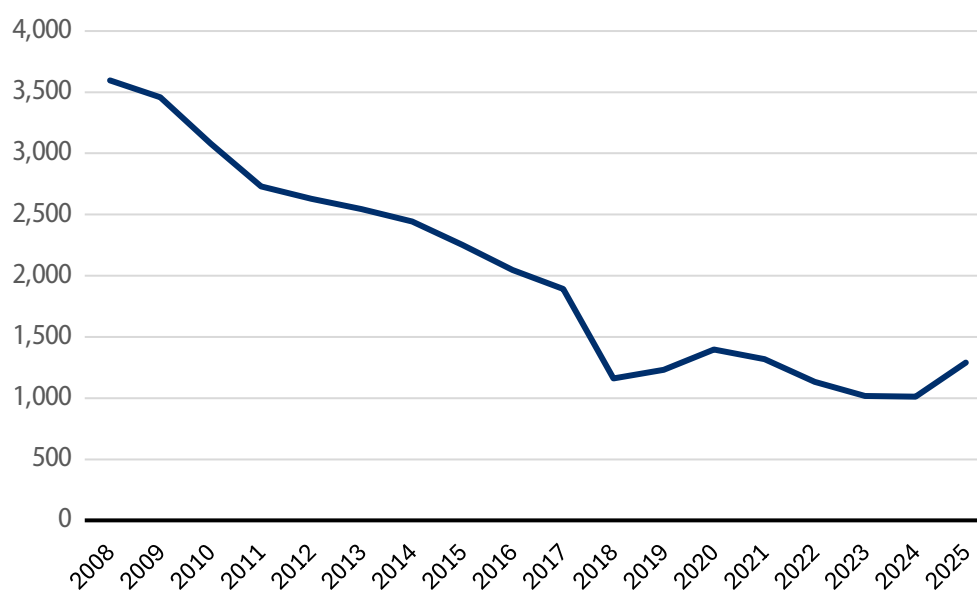
Respondents' views on the homelessness situation and the measures taken by municipalities and wellbeing services counties to influence the situation are compiled in Appendix 4.

Data on long-term homelessness have been collected from municipalities since 2008. Recognising long-term homelessness requires more consideration than recognising homelessness, such as investigating the reasons for homelessness and the housing history over a longer period of time. As a result, not all municipalities can provide reliable estimates of the number of long-term homeless people. The figures describing long-term homelessness should therefore be taken with caution. The actual figure may be somewhat higher.

The number of long-term homeless people rose for the first time in five years.

The change from the previous year was 294 homeless people. The proportion of long-term homeless people among all homeless people living alone remained almost unchanged, at about 29%. (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Long-term homelessness in Finland in 2008–2025.

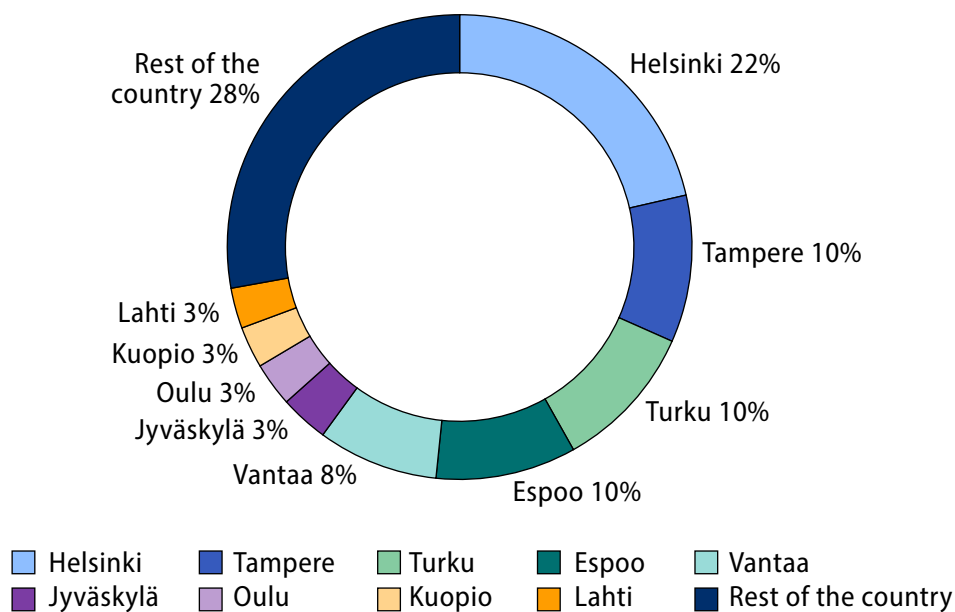


3 Homelessness increased in large cities

3.1 Homelessness is concentrated in large cities

One fifth of homeless people living alone were in Helsinki. After Helsinki, the largest proportions of homeless people are located in Tampere, Turku and Espoo. Together, these four cities cover more than half of the homeless in the country (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Cities with the largest number of homeless people in 2025.



Of the medium-sized municipalities, Joensuu, Vaasa, Kotka, Pori and Rovaniemi stand out with the number of homeless people. There were more than 90 homeless people living alone in Joensuu and Vaasa. There were about 80 in Kotka, Pori and Rovaniemi.

3.2 Homelessness in relation to the population in the region

When examining the number of homeless people in relation to the population of the city, the highest number of homeless people was in

- Turku (2.3 homeless per 1,000 inhabitants)
- Tampere (1.8 homeless per 1,000 inhabitants)
- Vaasa (1.8 homeless per 1,000 inhabitants)
- Kotka (1.6 homeless per 1,000 inhabitants)

The ratio includes homeless people living alone as well as homeless people living as families and couples.

3.3 Development of homelessness in cities

The number of homeless people was highest in the ten largest cities. Compared to the previous year, homelessness increased in all of these cities except Kuopio and Oulu. Homelessness increased numerically the most in Helsinki, where the number of homeless people was 193 higher than in 2024. On the day of examination in November 2025, there were almost 980 homeless people in Helsinki. The change from the previous year was steeper than in 2023–2024, when the number of homeless people in Helsinki increased by less than 50. (Table 2)

There was also a significant increase in Vantaa (+115) and Tampere (+77). Some of the increase in the number of homeless people in Vantaa may be explained by the wider use of information sources for homelessness calculations, but there is also a real increase.

Table 2. The cities with the largest number of homeless people in 2025 and the change from 2024.

City	Homeless people living alone	Change	Change %
Helsinki	979	193	25%
Tampere	468	77	20%
Turku	467	33	8%
Espoo	447	43	11%
Vantaa	384	115	43%
Jyväskylä	154	10	7%
Oulu	140	-2	-1%
Kuopio	132	-16	-11%
Lahti	129	26	25%

In addition, Joensuu, Vaasa, Kotka, Pori and Rovaniemi were municipalities with more than 70 homeless people. In Kotka, the number of homeless people more than doubled compared to the previous year. The increase from the previous year was 68% in Pori and 76% in Rovaniemi. In Vaasa, the number of homeless people rose by 12% from the previous year, but compared to 2023, it has increased by almost 70%. (Table 3)

For more detailed information on all municipalities that responded to the survey, see Appendix 1.

Table 3. Cities with more than 70 homeless people in 2025 and the change from 2024.

City	Homeless people living alone	Change	Change %
Joensuu	96	1	1%
Vaasa	92	10	12%
Kotka	80	44	122%
Pori	79	32	68%
Rovaniemi	74	32	76%

In Turku, Jyväskylä and Joensuu, homelessness has increased continuously since 2022 and in Vaasa since 2023. In Helsinki, Tampere and Lahti, homelessness has increased for two consecutive years (Figures 5 and 6).

Figure 5. The cities with the largest number of homeless people in 2021–2025.

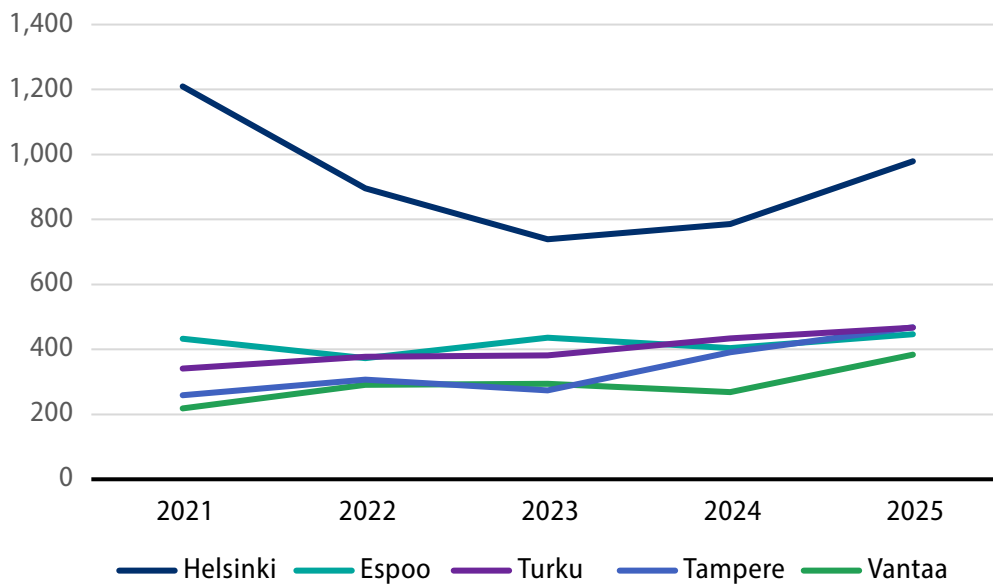
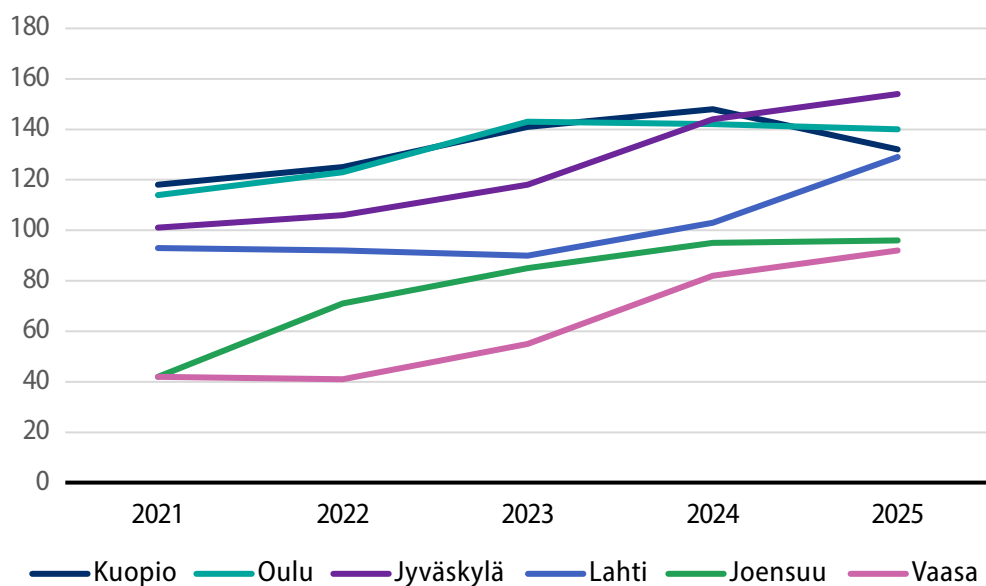


Figure 6. Development in other cities with the largest number of homeless people in 2025.



3.4 Development of long-term homelessness in large cities

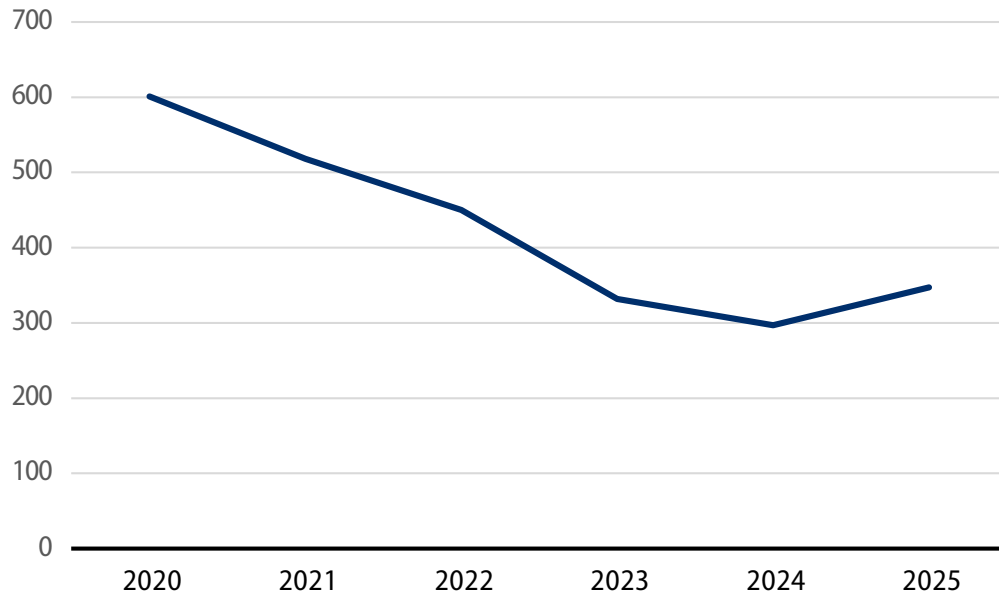
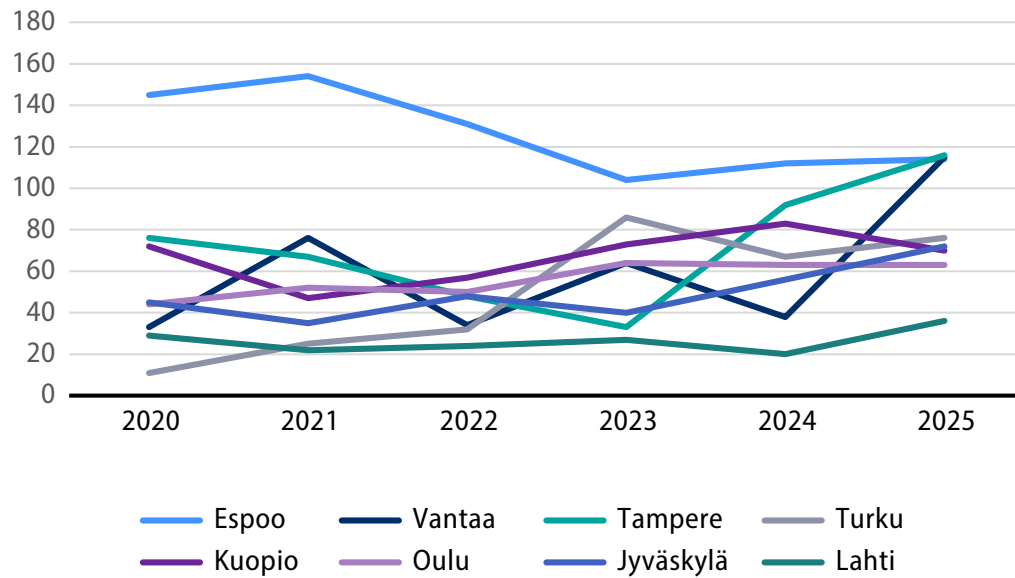
Long-term homelessness continues to concentrate in the largest cities. The number of long-term homeless people decreased or remained almost unchanged only in Kuopio, Oulu and Espoo. In other large cities, the number of long-term homeless people increased from the previous year (Table 4).

Table 4. The cities with the largest number of long-term homeless people in 2025 and the change from 2024.

City	Long-term homeless	Change	Change %
Helsinki	347	50	17%
Espoo	114	2	2%
Vantaa	115	77	203%
Tampere	116	24	26%
Turku	76	9	13%
Kuopio	70	-13	-16%
Oulu	63	0	0%
Jyväskylä	72	16	29%
Lahti	36	16	80%

In 2025, a cooperation project to eliminate long-term homelessness was launched in the cities and the corresponding wellbeing services counties listed in Table 4. It is likely that the projects have made it easier for long-term homeless people to access services and, in addition, be included in homelessness calculations.

In Helsinki, the number of long-term homeless people increased for the first time after 2020 (Figure 7). In other cities, the trend has been varied (Figure 8).

Figure 7. Long-term homelessness in Helsinki in 2020–2025.**Figure 8.** Long-term homelessness in other large cities in 2020–2025.

3.5 Development of the number of homeless families with children

The number of homeless families with children was highest in Espoo, Helsinki, Vaasa and Tampere. The numbers remained largely the same as in the previous year.

Table 5. The cities with the largest number of homeless families with children in 2025 and the change from 2024.

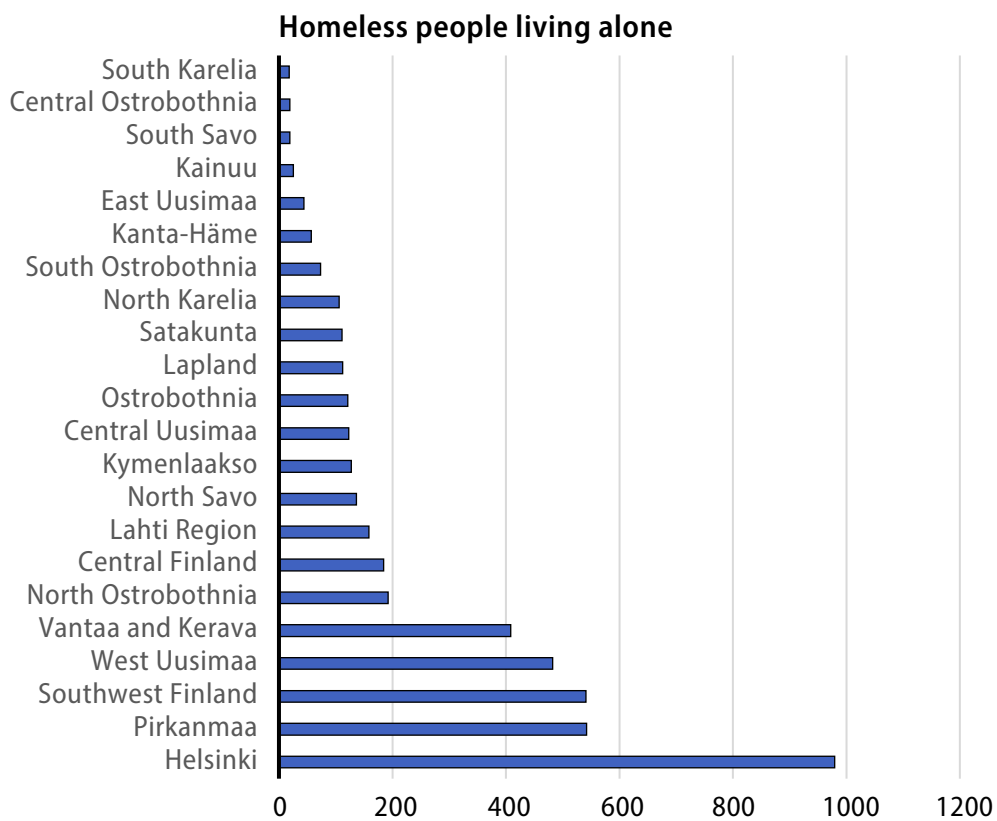
City	Homeless families with children	Change	Children in families	Change
Espoo	14	2	27	3
Helsinki	12	2	23	0
Vaasa	7	-2	15	-5
Tampere	4	-2	8	0

Many municipalities were unable to provide comprehensive information on homeless families. Therefore, it is difficult to assess how common homelessness among families with children is at the national level or how many children homelessness affects.

3.6 Homelessness by wellbeing services county

In addition to Helsinki, the largest number of homeless people living alone was found in the wellbeing services counties of Pirkanmaa, Southwest Finland, Western Uusimaa, and Vantaa and Kerava. In addition to these, 10 other wellbeing services counties had 100–200 homeless people and seven wellbeing services counties had less than 100 homeless people. (Figure 9)

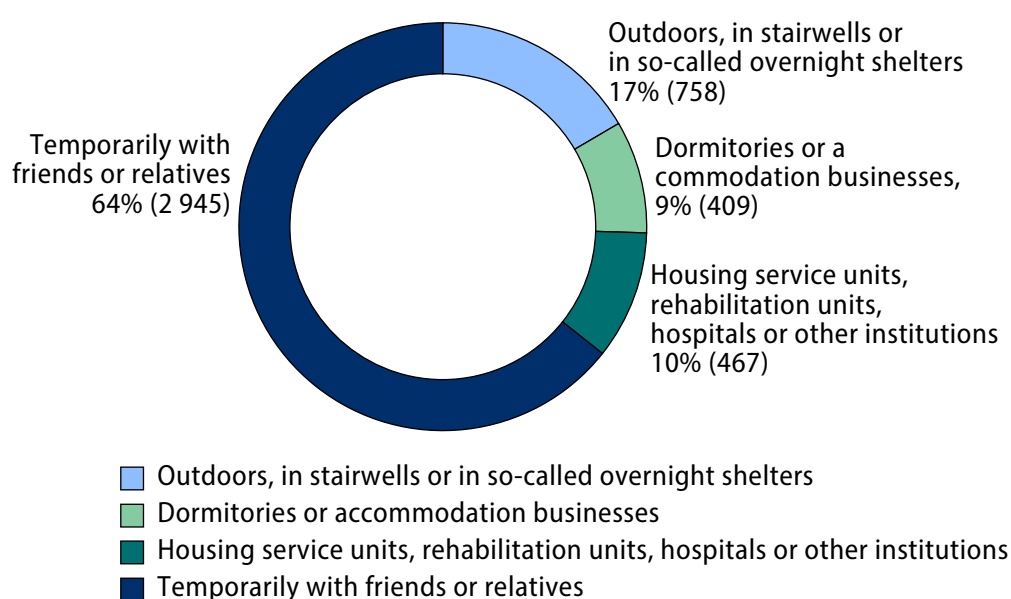
Figure 9. Number of homeless people living alone by wellbeing services county in 2025.



4 Most homeless people temporarily stay with friends or relatives

In the report, homelessness is divided into four categories according to the place of accommodation. Homeless people can accommodate outdoors, in stairwells or overnight shelters, in dormitories or in accommodation establishments, housing service units, hospitals or institutions, or temporarily with friends or relatives. Approximately two thirds of homeless people living alone are temporarily staying with friends or relatives (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Forms of homelessness among homeless people living alone.



Homelessness increased in all groups. The largest increase was seen in the number of homeless people temporarily staying with friends and relatives, the figure more than 500 over that of 2024 (Table 6). In relative terms, the highest increase, 31%, was among those accommodated in housing service units, hospitals and institutions. When interpreting the figures, it should be borne in mind that not all

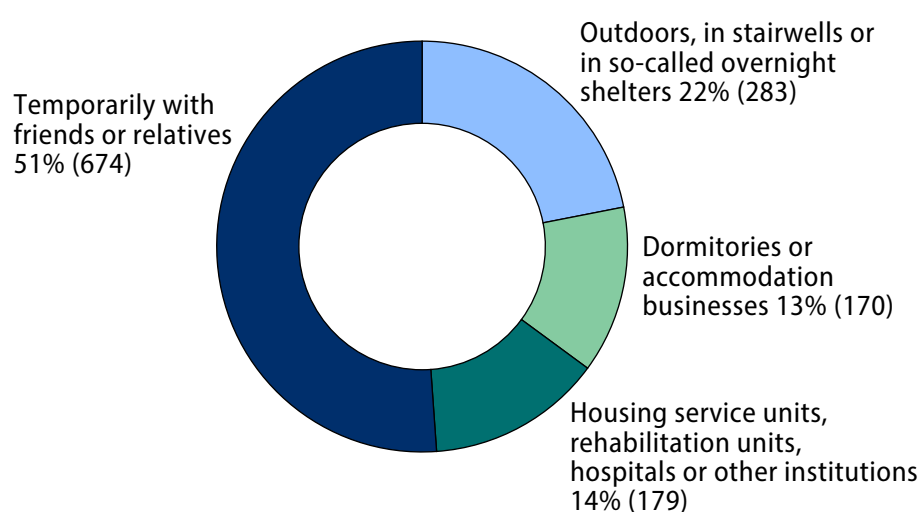
municipalities can provide information on homeless people in the groups “Housing centres or accommodation establishments” and “Housing service units, hospitals, institutions”.

Table 6. Forms of homelessness in 2025 and change from 2024.

Form of homelessness	Homeless people living alone in 2025	Change	Change %
Temporarily with friends or relatives	2945	567	24%
Outdoors, stairwells, overnight shelters, etc.	758	64	9%
Dormitories or accommodation businesses	409	32	8%
Housing service units, hospitals, institutions	467	110	31%

Among long-term homeless people, accommodation outside, in stairwells and in overnight shelters was more common than among all homeless people living alone. Accommodation at acquaintances and relatives, on the other hand, was less common. (Figure 11)

Figure 11. Forms of long-term homelessness.



Compared to 2024, the number of people living outdoors, in stairwells and in overnight shelters increased more among the long-term homeless than among all homeless people living alone. The number those accommodated with temporary acquaintances or relatives also increased the most among the long-term homeless, while the relatively highest increase was in the number of those accommodated in housing service units, hospitals and institutions (Table 7).

Table 7. Forms of long-term homelessness and change since 2024.

Forms of long-term homelessness	Long-term homeless	Change	Change %
Temporarily with friends or relatives	674	150	29%
Outdoors, stairwells, overnight shelters	283	71	33%
Dormitories or accommodation businesses	170	18	12%
Housing service units, hospitals, institutions	179	55	44%

5 Homeless women, young people and people with a foreign background

The number of homeless women and young people under the age of 25 increased from the previous year. There were more than 1,000 homeless women and about 760 young people. Both figures increased by approximately 200. The change was sharper than between 2023 and 2024, when the number of homeless women increased by 72 and the number of homeless young people by 25. (Figure 12)

Women accounted for 22% of homeless people living alone and young people for 17%. There were 966 homeless people with a foreign background, and their share of homeless people living alone was 21%. (Table 8.) The proportions remained fairly unchanged from the previous year.

Table 8. Homeless women, men, young people and people with a foreign background in 2025 and change from the previous year. The numbers of young people and immigrants overlap and are included in the figures of women and men.

Homeless	Volume	Change	Change %
Women	1023	196	24%
Men	3556	577	19%
Young people (under 25)	761	206	37%
People with a foreign background	966	172	22%

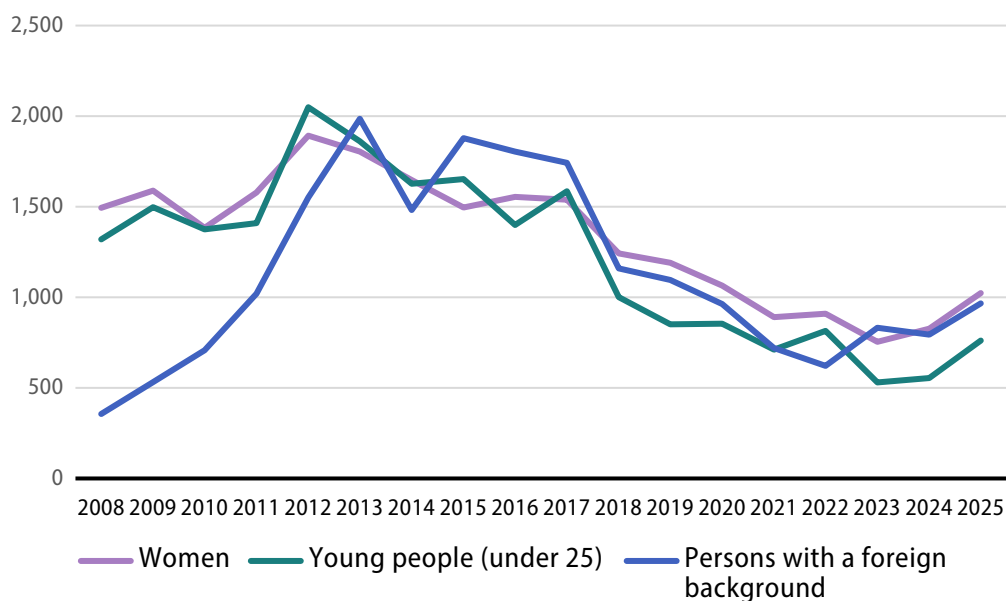
As of 15 November 2025, the survey on homelessness introduced the use of Statistics Finland's definition **people with a foreign background**. In previous years, the group "immigrants" was used in the survey, defined as: *"Immigrants are homeless people living alone who are not Finnish citizens or whose mother tongue is other than Finnish or Swedish. The immigrant status can be determined in the population information system with mother tongue and place of birth."*

People with a foreign background are homeless people living alone who meet the definition of Statistics Finland. In the definition of Statistics Finland, the following persons are considered to be with a foreign background:

- Persons whose both parents were or the only known parent was born abroad
- Persons born abroad, neither of whose parents is known in the population information system
- In addition, persons born in Finland before 1970 and speaking a foreign language (other than Finnish, Swedish or Sámi) have been considered to be with a foreign background, as well as persons born in Finland in 1970 or thereafter neither of whose parents are known in the population information system.

The change of definition may have had a slight impact on the number of homeless people included in the calculation, and the figures for 2025 are not fully comparable with the previous ones. In the table above and in the graph below, the figures for 2024 and earlier describe the number of homeless immigrants, and the figures for 2025 describe the number of people with a foreign background.

Figure 12. Homeless women, young people and people with a foreign background in 2008–2025.



6 Limitations and benefits of the report

The data collected describe the homelessness situation on one specific day, 15 November 2025. Thus, the data do not include, for example, homeless people got a home on the day before the day of examination, even if they had been homeless the whole of the previous year. Despite its limitations, the snapshot method is also used elsewhere in Europe to monitor homelessness.

The figures presented in the report on homelessness are indicative, as the municipalities' information acquisition methods and assessment criteria differ from each other. In addition, information presented by one municipality for different years may also vary in accuracy. Not all municipalities necessarily respond to the homelessness survey every year, which is why the number of respondents on which the report is based may also vary from year to year.

It should also be noted that the City of Helsinki changed the statistics compilation method for homelessness in 2018, which significantly changed the number of homeless people in Helsinki. As the number of homeless people in Helsinki is a significant proportion of homeless people in the whole country, the figures for the number of homeless people in the whole country are also not fully comparable with the years preceding 2018.

Homelessness data collected by surveys since 1986

The Centre for State-subsidised Housing Construction (Varke), established in March 2025, will continue the study related to homelessness, previously part of the tasks of the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland Ara, the predecessor of Varke. Homelessness data have been collected since 1986. Data on long-term homelessness have also been collected since 2008. The data published by Varke and Ara do not have the status of official Finnish statistics, and the collection of homelessness data is not regulated by law. The collection of homelessness data is voluntary.

As commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment, Statistics Finland investigated the possibility of carrying out a homelessness survey on the basis of national register data in 2023. Based on the report, no reliable figures on homelessness were obtained from the data available to Statistics Finland.

Despite its limitations, the current method provides a picture of the development of homelessness, and it can be used to monitor trends and larger changes in homelessness, especially in the long term. The information provides a good basis for monitoring the municipalities' homelessness work and for planning services and housing offerings.

Many of the municipalities that responded to the homelessness survey use the data they have collected, for example, in the preparation of housing policy programmes. Some municipalities collect homelessness data for their own use at a more detailed level than what is requested in Varke's annual homelessness survey.

Appendix 1: Homelessness data by municipality

Homeless people living alone in different groups 15 November 2025

Municipality	Total	Long-term homeless	Women	Young people	Immigrants
Helsinki	979	347	247	91	277
Tampere	468	116	104	94	93
Turku	467	76	104	77	138
Espoo	447	114	104	106	207
Vantaa	384	115	107	71	130
Jyväskylä	154	72	27	27	13
Oulu	140	63	16	27	9
Kuopio	132	70	27	24	8
Lahti	129	36	26	27	17
Joensuu	96	14	8	16	7
Vaasa	92	12	26	19	0
Kotka	80	32	21	8	3
Pori	79	18	13	15	3
Rovaniemi	74	22	15	19	4
Seinäjoki	60	22	21	7	8
Järvenpää	41	28	9	2	0
Hyvinkää	40	0	18	25	0
Kouvola	30	17	4	13	0
Nurmijärvi	28	2	7	4	1
Salo	28	6	5	2	2
Kajaani	25	15	5	1	0
Porvoo	25	11	6	2	1

Municipality	Total	Long-term homeless	Women	Young people	Immigrants
Kerava	24	6	5	8	9
Jakobstad	24	9	6	5	8
Orimattila	23	1	7	8	3
Forssa	22	0	0	0	0
Raahe	22	0	5	5	0
Kirkkonummi	19	4	5	2	2
Savonlinna	19	0	3	5	2
Kokkola	18	2	3	2	0
Loviisa	18	1	6	1	2
Hamina	17	0	1	4	0
Kemi	17	7	0	1	1
Riihimäki	17	1	1	1	1
Lappeenranta	16	0	5	3	0
Nokia	15	5	0	1	0
Tornio	14	0	0	1	1
Sastamala	13	2	4	0	0
Tuusula	13	0	2	0	0
Jämsä	12	9	1	3	1
Pirkkala	12	3	8	6	1
Rauma	12	1	1	0	0
Janakkala	11	0	3	4	0
Kangasala	11	0	1	0	0
Lieto	11	1	2	1	3
Lohja	11	0	0	3	0
Säkylä	11	0	2	0	0
Ylöjärvi	10	6	1	1	1

Municipality	Total	Long-term homeless	Women	Young people	Immigrants
Kaarina	9	3	1	0	0
Loimaa	8	0	0	0	1
Inari	7	1	3	1	0
Kitee	7	0	1	0	5
Kuusamo	7	1	1	2	1
Valkeakoski	7	5	2	2	0
Hattula	6	0	0	1	0
Kurikka	6	0	1	2	0
Muhos	6	1	2	0	0
Uusikaupunki	6	1	0	0	3
Ylivieska	6	0	3	3	0
Asikkala	5	5	1	4	0
Eura	5	0	0	0	0
Haapavesi	5	1	1	1	0
Karkkila	5	0	1	0	0
Laihia	5	5	1	0	0
Laukaa	5	1	2	0	0
Akaa	4	0	1	0	0
Naantali	4	3	0	0	0
Parainen	4	0	0	0	0
Saarijärvi	4	0	0	2	0
Uurainen	4	0	2	0	0
Kalajoki	3	0	0	0	0
Paimio	3	0	1	0	0
Toivakka	3	3	1	0	0
Ulvila	3	0	0	0	0

Municipality	Total	Long-term homeless	Women	Young people	Immigrants
Imatra	2	0	0	0	0
Keuruu	2	2	0	0	0
Kiuruvesi	2	0	0	0	0
Kuhmo	2	0	1	0	0
Lapua	2	0	0	0	0
Mynämäki	2	1	1	0	0
Nurmes	2	2	0	0	0
Pöytyä	2	0	0	0	0
Askola	1	0	1	0	0
Heinola	1	0	0	0	0
Hämeenkyrö	1	1	0	0	0
Jämijärvi	1	0	0	0	0
Kauhajoki	1	0	0	0	0
Kärsämäki	1	1	1	0	0
Lapinlahti	1	0	1	1	0
Liperi	1	0	0	0	0
Mäntsälä	1	2	1	0	0
Nivala	1	0	0	0	0
Perho	1	0	0	0	0
Reisjärvi	1	0	0	0	0
Somero	1	0	0	0	0
Suonenjoki	1	1	0	0	0
Tammela	1	0	0	0	0
Vesilahti	1	0	0	0	0

Kunnat, joissa ei ollut asunnottomia 15.11.2025

Alajärvi	Keitele	Nousiainen
Alavus	Kimitoön	Oripää
Aura	Kempele	Orivesi
Enonkoski	Kihniö	Oulainen
Enontekiö	Kinnula	Outokumpu
Eurajoki	Kittilä	Paltamo
Evijärvi	Kokemäki	Parikkala
Hailuoto	Konnevesi	Parkano
Halsua	Kontiolahti	Pedersöre
Hankasalmi	Kristiinankaupunki	Pelkosenniemi
Hangö	Kronoby	Pello
Harjavalta	Kuhmoinen	Petäjävesi
Hartola	Kuortane	Pielavesi
Heinävesi	Kyyjärvi	Pihtipudas
Ii	Kärkölä	Polvijärvi
Iisalmi	Laitila	Pomarkku
Iitti	Lapinjärvi	Posio
Ikaalinen	Lappajärvi	Pukkila
Ilmajoki	Lemi	Punkalaidun
Isojoki	Leppävirta	Puolanka
Isokyrö	Liminka	Puumala
Joroinen	Loppi	Pyhäjoki
Joutsa	Larsmo	Pyhäjärvi
Juuka	Malax	Pyhäntä
Juva	Marttila	Raseborg
Kangasniemi	Masku	Ranua
Kankaanpää	Merikarvia	Rautavaara
Kannonkoski	Miehikkälä	Rautjärvi
Karjajoki	Multia	Ristijärvi
Karvia	Muonio	Ruokolahti
Kaskinen	Myrskylä	Ruovesi
Kauniainen	Mänttä-Vilppula	Rusko
Kaustinen	Mäntyharju	Rääkkylä

Salla	Sotkamo	Ujala
Sauvo	Sulkava	Utajärvi
Savitaipale	Suomussalmi	Vaala
Savukoski	Sysmä	Varkaus
Sievi	Taipalsaari	Vesanto
Siikainen	Taivalkoski	Veteli
Siikajoki	Tervo	Vieremä
Siikalatva	Tervola	Vimpeli
Siilinjärvi	Teuva	Virrat
Simo	Tohmajärvi	Ylitornio
Sodankylä	Toholampi	Ypäjä
Soini	Tuusniemi	Ähtäri
Sonkajärvi	Tyrnävä	Äänekoski

Municipalities that did not respond to the homelessness survey

Alavieska	Keminmaa	Pieksämäki
Haapajärvi	Kivijärvi	Pornainen
Hausjärvi	Kolari	Pudasjärvi
Hirvensalmi	Korsnäs	Pyttis
Hollola	Koski	Pyhärinta
Huittinen	Kustavi	Pälkäne
Humppila	Lempäälä	Raisio
Hyrnsalmi	Lestijärvi	Rantasalmi
Hämeenlinna	Lieksa	Rautalampi
Ilomantsi	Luhanka	Sibbo
Ingå	Lumijoki	Sjundeå
Jokioinen	Luumäki	Taivassalo
Jomala	Merijärvi	Utsjoki
Juupajoki	Mikkeli	Nykarleby
Kaavi	Korsholm	Vehmaa
Kannus	Muurame	Vihti
Karstula	Nakkila	Viitasaari
Kauhava	Padasjoki	Virolahti
Kemijärvi	Pertunmaa	Vörs

Homeless families and couples 15 November 2025

Municipality	Families	Children in families	Couples
Espoo	14	27	3
Helsinki	12	23	0
Vaasa	7	15	3
Tampere	4	8	1
Kirkkonummi	3	3	0
Joensuu	3	4	0
Seinäjoki	3	7	4
Jakobstad	2	3	0
Hyvinkää	2	1	1
Oulu	2	4	0
Vantaa	2	no information	0
Turku	2	3	8
Närpes	1	2	0
Suonenjoki	1	2	0
Kurikka	1	2	0
Hattula	1	2	0
Kuusamo	1	2	0
Kaarina	1	2	0
Kangasala	1	1	0
Lieto	1	1	0
Lohja	1	2	1
Nurmijärvi	1	2	0
Salo	1	4	0
Jyväskylä	1	2	1

Appendix 2: Homelessness 1986–2025

Year	Outdoors, stairwells, overnight shelters, dormitories, etc.	Housing service units, hospitals, institutions	Temporarily with friends or relatives	Homeless people living alone total	Homeless families
1986	5970	4712	7276	17958	1876
1987	4700	4760	7650	17110	1370
1988	4400	4000	7600	16000	1200
1989	4170	4400	7620	16190	870
1990	3610	3690	7950	15250	800
1991	3370	3340	7390	14100	700
1992	3030	3030	6820	12880	570
1993	2560	2410	6700	11670	250
1994	1760	2170	6630	10560	380
1995	1710	2110	6610	10430	560
1996	1720	2110	5780	9610	360
1997	1720	2450	5650	9820	600
1998	1770	2350	5870	9990	820
1999	1750	2390	5850	9990	780
2000	1790	2420	5790	10000	780
2001	2160	2080	5720	10000	780
2002	2060	2080	5420	9560	770
2003	1990	1640	4560	8190	420
2004	1910	1550	4190	7650	360
2005	1620	1560	4250	7430	360
2006	1650	1570	4180	7400	300
2007	1480	1590	4460	7530	300

Year	Outdoors, stairwells, overnight shelters, dormitories, etc.	Housing service units, hospitals, institutions	Temporarily with friends or relatives	Homeless people living alone total	Homeless families
2008	1520	1640	4800	7960	300
2009	1460	1490	5200	8150	320
2010	1430	1190	5260	7880	350
2011	1221	1171	5180	7572	420
2012	965	1087	5800	7852	446
2013	880	1000	5630	7510	420
2014	764	929	5414	7107	427
2015	766	516	5503	6785	424
2016	765	480	5455	6700	325
2017	659	428	5528	6615	214
2018	512	378	3165 ¹	4882	264
2019	1168	312	3120	4600	264
2020	1210	358	2773	4341	201
2021	989	386	2573	3948	165
2022	794	328	2564	3686	155
2023	878	412	2139	3429	123
2024	1071	357	2378	3806	110
2025	1167	467	2939	4579	99

¹ No information on the form of homelessness: 822. In 2018, the City of Helsinki adjusted its statistics on homelessness, which reduced homelessness in Helsinki. Due to the change, the figures are not fully comparable with previous years.

Appendix 3: Definition of homelessness

Homeless people are defined as people who do not have their own dwelling (rented or owned) and who live:

- outdoors, in stairwells, overnight shelters,
- dormitories or accommodation businesses,
- housing service units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions
- temporarily with acquaintances or relatives due to lack of housing.

The forms of homelessness are defined as follows:

1. The group of persons living **outdoors, in stairwells, overnight shelters** includes persons living in various temporary shelters and places without a permanent place of residence and roaming persons. For example, people accommodated outdoors, in stairwells, tents, cars, public transport vehicles or stations, shopping centres or car parks are included in this group. This group also includes homeless people who stay in overnight shelters, service centres or similar places where they can only stay for one night or weekend at a time.
2. The group of persons living in **residential homes or accommodation establishments** due to a lack of housing includes persons living in dormitory-type accommodation or, for example, in temporary accommodation, most commonly with the financial commitments of a wellbeing services county or municipality. Compared to overnight shelters, the housing solutions for persons included in this group are longer-term, however limited in duration and temporary (usually weeks or months).
3. The group of persons living in **housing service units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions** include homeless persons those living in substance abuse service units, various institutional care units, hospitals, prisons, shelter homes for victims of domestic violence, etc. This group includes homeless people who are accommodated in units/ establishments that are not primarily intended for homeless people.

The person is either being discharged/released from somewhere into homelessness or has to stay in the unit/institution for a longer period than would otherwise be necessary due to the lack of housing.

- If the person lives in a housing service unit and has a pending rental housing application, the person is included in this category. However, if a person lives permanently in a unit for the purpose of care and does not seek other housing solutions or has concluded a rental agreement with the housing unit in question, they will not be counted as homeless.
 - If a person lives in a separate dwelling within the scope of a housing service, even temporarily, they are not counted as homeless.
4. The group of persons living **temporarily with friends or relatives** due to the lack of housing includes persons who, according to the information provided by the municipality/wellbeing services county or according to an estimate, live without a permanent dwelling.
- Young people under 25 years of age living with their parents are excluded from the group.

Classification of long-term homelessness

Long-term homelessness refers to homeless people who have a social or health problem that significantly impedes housing, such as debt, substance abuse or mental health problems, and whose homelessness has been prolonged or threatens to be prolonged due to the ineffectiveness of ordinary housing solutions and the lack of suitable support services. Homelessness is long-term when it has lasted at least one year or the person has repeatedly been homeless in the past three years. The need for help and treatment is emphasised in long-term homelessness – the duration is secondary.

In the group Temporarily with friends or relatives, being counted as a long-term homeless person must primarily be based on a client relationship with social services, whereby the need for services can be used as a basis for determining whether the criteria for long-term homelessness are met.

Other strong evidence of long-term homelessness may be a classification criterion, for example, knowledge of the person's housing or homelessness history. The client data of service providers may show long-term homeless people who receive a pension and therefore do not deal with the social welfare office. They may also be young people with substance abuse and mental health problems.

Homeless women, young people and people with a foreign background

Regarding homeless people living alone, the share of women, young people (under the age of 25) and people with a foreign background is asked.

People with a foreign background² are homeless people living alone who meet Statistics Finland's definition.

- Persons whose both parents were or the only known parent was born abroad
- Persons born abroad neither of whose parents is known in the population information system
- In addition, persons born in Finland before 1970 and speaking a foreign language (other than Finnish, Swedish or Sámi) have been considered to be with a foreign background, as well as persons born in Finland in 1970 or thereafter neither of whose parents are known in the population information system.

Undocumented persons, i.e., persons in the country without a permit, are not considered homeless.

Homeless families and couples

A homeless family or couple is a family or couple who, in the absence of a shared residence, lives in separation or in temporary accommodation, hotels or with relatives and acquaintances. Homeless families also include families living in mother and child homes and shelters for victims of domestic violence and in crisis housing.

Information asked about the families includes the number of adults and children belonging to the family and the share of families and couples with a foreign background.

2 As of 15 November 2025, the survey on homelessness uses [Statistics Finland's](#) definition **people with a foreign background**. In previous years, the group "immigrants" was used in the survey, defined as: "Immigrants are homeless people living alone who are not Finnish citizens or whose mother tongue is other than Finnish or Swedish. The immigrant status can be determined in the population information system with mother tongue and place of birth."

Appendix 4: Measures taken and assessments of trends in homelessness

Espoo

In Espoo, the number of homeless people has increased clearly. The weak economic situation, changes in social security, the increase in unemployment and the strong increase in the number of long-term unemployed are reflected in problems with rent payments and large numbers of evictions compared to the situation a few years ago. This has also increased the number of homeless people. The number of homeless people with a foreign background has increased the most. In this respect, a change in the way statistics are compiled may have an impact from 2025 onwards. The number of people living in rehabilitative housing service units, hospitals or other institutions due to a lack of housing has decreased considerably, which also reflects a change in statistics, as housing units are rented, and residents are not counted as homeless.

Supported housing is organised in the wellbeing services county of West Uusimaa and Espoo for homeless people and families in need of support, as well as home-based support services for people who face a threat of homelessness or other housing challenges. The prevention of homelessness is carried out, for example, by means of social work and guidance. In 2025, the City of Espoo and the wellbeing services county of West Uusimaa launched a joint project aimed at eliminating long-term homelessness. The project is based on the utilisation of ecosystem thinking to develop cooperation between different actors. The project's outreach work produces data on homelessness in the Espoo region, encountering homeless people, for example in public spaces. Outreach work is used to investigate the situation of long-term homeless people and to produce information for the development of service paths and cooperation. The project also develops cooperation with landlords in the Espoo region, and the project measures are also targeted at young people in cooperation with various actors, such as the Espoo One-Stop Guidance Centre.

Helsinki

The increase in homelessness has been affected by major changes in the operating environment, such as social security cuts, higher living costs, rising unemployment and a lack of affordable housing. Moving from the provincial areas and abroad to Helsinki to become homeless has also continued moderately.

The housing agency in the urban environment sector of the City of Helsinki has relayed 1,345 Heka flats to applicant municipalities that have been proven to be homeless. The housing subsidy for the social welfare, health care and rescue services of the City of Helsinki has accommodated 400 homeless people in rented housing units or small flats. Housing counselling has provided people facing the threat of homelessness with 440 homes and 138 for homeless customers. A good two-way customer guidance model has been built between housing counselling homeless people's housing search service and Housing support, increasing the positive flow of homeless people from supported housing to standard housing. Social work and guidance have been increased for those at risk of homelessness. The cooperation process with the urban environment has been intensified.

Jyväskylä

Homelessness in Jyväskylä is growing by 6%. For long-term homeless people, the increase is 22%, which means that the share of long-term homeless people of all homeless people is already nearly half, or approximately 47%.

Together with the wellbeing services county of Central Finland, Jyväskylä participates in the national programme for eliminating long-term homelessness. It is believed that the project in accordance with the programme has brought more visibility and outreach to homeless people, which in turn has led to more efficient referral to services. It is also estimated that cooperation between the authorities and increased homelessness training have increased the number of registered clients in the wellbeing services county, which is reflected in the increased figures, especially for long-term homeless people.

It can also be assumed that the increase in homelessness and long-term homelessness is affected by the recent cuts in social security, the increase in unemployment and the rapid rise in living costs. This is reflected, among other things, in the fact that the need for affordable small flats within Kela limits, of which there is a shortage in Jyväskylä, has increased further.

In housing advisory services, the challenges of housing and finances are reflected in rapidly changing situations that challenge the timeliness of the service, and which still requires the development of housing advisory services and increased awareness.

There are also challenges regarding keeping a dwelling in situations where other issues that weaken life management, such as substance abuse and mental health problems, have not been tackled or overexpensive housing has been accepted, for which there is ultimately no solvency.

The City of Jyväskylä has further developed housing advisory services through multiple channels. In order to increase the accessibility and awareness of the housing advice service, cooperation has been carried out with landlords and operators at Ohjaamo Jyväskylä. In the wellbeing services county, the housing advisory service has been presented to adult social work personnel and the substance abuse and mental health team for adults and young people, with the aim of increasing not only awareness of the service but also closer cooperation.

The eviction prevention network, which was compiled in autumn 2024, launched pilots related to the prevention of evictions in 2025, which can be assumed to have contributed to the decline in the number of evictions that had previously been growing in Jyväskylä.

From the perspective of preventive work, the City of Jyväskylä's key measures have been related to identifying and intervening in homelessness and the threat of homelessness. The operating model for addressing and identifying homelessness was piloted in spring 2025 with church social welfare work and employment services, and training on the operating model has been part of the training series of the National Enforcement Authority Finland. The aim is to expand the use of the model to outreach youth work and the services of the wellbeing services county as part of the Home for All project in accordance with the national programme for the elimination of long-term homelessness, in which Jyväskylä also participates together with the wellbeing services county of Central Finland.

The measures of the wellbeing services county have primarily been in accordance with the Home for All project plan.

Kotka

In Kotka, changes in central government housing allowances can be seen, for example, in eviction statistics and increased housing insecurity. In Kotka, the low income rate is high and there are not enough dwellings meeting the welfare criteria, the need for housing advice has increased, and the general trend of homelessness has started to rise dramatically.

Housing advisors in the area have networked and cooperate. The working group on homelessness meets regularly. The planning of an overnight shelter was launched in the autumn, and the necessary permits are currently expected. The facilities are ready for deployment.

Kuopio

The number of homeless people in Kuopio has decreased slightly. The number of clients of housing services for substance abuse and mental health rehabilitees in supported housing in a housing unit rented from a service provider has increased. The day centre service has also reached the priority group well. The social rehabilitation service has been developed to provide enhanced support for everyday management challenges and coping with everyday activities. A joint project has been launched in the wellbeing services county of North Savo together with the City of Kuopio, and the project aims to reduce homelessness through multi-actor cooperation. The project involves outreach work to reach homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. Cooperation with the Criminal Sanctions Agency, for example, has been intensified, and efforts have been made to prevent the homelessness of released prisoners, and prisoners released have also become known to the wellbeing services county earlier than normal.

However, the lack of affordable rental housing remains a challenge. Demand for affordable small flats has increased as a result of cuts in social security. The level of Kela's rental limits is too low, and the elimination of individual consideration continues to make the situation more difficult. The number of homeless young people under the age of 25 has increased worryingly.

The housing advisory services of the City of Kuopio and the new long-term homelessness project of the wellbeing services county of North Savo have done impressive work to prevent homelessness, provide homeless people with access to housing and services.

Lahti

The reason for the increase in homelessness is the sum of many factors, but the greatest contributor has probably been the weakening of social security combined with the tightening economic situation and rising prices as well as rising unemployment. Although there is free rental housing stock in Lahti, there are no more affordable flats left, as even flats that were previously difficult to rent, in poor condition and located far from the centre of Lahti have become occupied. The threat of homelessness and actual homelessness affect a larger group due to the

general situation in society. The range of homeless people is diverse. The situation of the most vulnerable people has become even more stringent. Increasingly, substance-abusing clientèle has also shown completely unpredictable and uncontrolled behaviour.

Housing advisory work is still carried out by three housing advisors. The number of customers has increased during the year, and the number of customer contacts has increased by nearly 1,000 from the year before. The City of Lahti and the wellbeing services county of Päijät-Häme have started to work together to reduce long-term homelessness as part of the Ministry of the Environment's programme to eliminate long-term homelessness. The city's rental housing company has intensified its operations over the past two years and has exceptionally managed to reduce its rents this and next year. This has prevented people from seeking more affordable housing, for example, and it has made the financial situation of many residents easier. As a result of the project to reduce long-term homelessness, the wellbeing services county will develop services to make them smoother and, in particular, develop service paths for customers with challenging housing needs. Since 2025, a day centre service has been organised as an internal activity for people who have substance abuse problems. In addition to responding to basic needs, social counselling is offered. The service is also provided for intoxicated persons, and its services can be used anonymously.

Oulu

The number of people experiencing homelessness has remained more or less the same. The relative share of long-term homeless young people has increased. The wellbeing services county's procurement of mental health and substance abuse housing has been actively strengthened for substance abusers. In addition, efforts have been made to strengthen services available at home in the counsellor services for mental health and substance abuse clients to prevent homelessness. In a joint project between the wellbeing services county and the municipality to eliminate long-term homelessness, a housing rehabilitation unit has been opened actively for substance abusers to rehabilitate clients and evaluate their need for housing services.

The city's long-term land and land use policy creates the preconditions for a successful plot and housing policy, which aims, among other things, at preventing homelessness and at a reasonable price and rent level for housing.

Oulu has continued its interim rental activities to accommodate people with an immigrant background and clients of social services in the wellbeing services county of North Ostrobothnia who do not otherwise get a flat from the normal rental housing stock. Between these two customer groups, the focus has shifted strongly from people with an immigrant background to clients of social services. In 2025, 26 new customers were accommodated with interim rental, 21 of which were long-term homeless. The interim rental resource is 2 person-years.

Since 2023, Oulu has also had a permanent housing advisory service aimed at preventing housing challenges, evictions and the threat of homelessness. Housing advisors also work in cooperation networks to provide housing for people experiencing homelessness. The housing advisory service resource is 2.5 person-years.

The City of Oulu has also participated in the procurement of a cost-effectiveness tool for housing advice with six other municipalities. The tool was handed over to the municipalities in November 2025. In addition, the City of Oulu and the wellbeing services county of North Ostrobothnia are engaged in a joint project aimed at eliminating long-term homelessness.

Although the societal conditions are challenging, Oulu has also been able to keep the number of evictions reasonable and, in practice, prevent the increase in the number of evictions.

Rovaniemi

For clients of social services, contributors of homelessness are long-term substance abuse and mental health problems. It should be possible to manage their root causes in order to keep a possible flat. The stricter social security has caused financial difficulties, which has resulted in difficulties and evictions for residents in paying their housing costs, making it difficult to get a new flat.

There is not enough affordable rental housing available, especially for customers with bad credit record (let alone those who owe rent to a landlord). Especially during the tourism season, also working people and students in Rovaniemi have difficulties finding housing, as many rental flats are in short-term use. The rents have increased and often exceed the reasonable price determined by Kela. Rovaniemi has not had housing advisor services (excluding housing advice for young people in NAL Rovaniemi, which is also assisted by the city as part of the partnership agreement). Cooperation between the wellbeing services county and the municipality should be intensified in connection with homelessness.

In October, the city government decided to grant a total of €3 million to the Domus Arctica Foundation from the Arctic Research and Education Fund and the City of Rovaniemi Development Fund for the construction of a new student housing building, provided that the city council grant the necessary budget appropriations for the grant and requires the recipient to start building new student housing and keeping them in student housing use in accordance with the foundation's rules for at least 10 years and requires annual reporting on the use of the grant.

Tampere

Factors related to the increase in homelessness can be divided into factors related to the rental housing market and factors related to the tightening of social security, which have increased income poverty and deepened the demanding social conditions, which have been exacerbated by income poverty. These factors are reflected in the increase in service demand in the wellbeing services county's services and in the housing advice provided by the City of Tampere.

The reasonable amount of housing costs as per Kela's basic social assistance has been lagging behind the price development of state-subsidised rental housing. The need for extremely affordable dwellings has increased, but the number of rental dwellings suitable for these limits has decreased in the city. The most affordable rental flats are mainly in the housing stock to be renovated. As a result of the renovation, the rent level will increase, and the renovated housing stock often corresponds to the rent level of new production. In recent years, a lot of state-sponsored housing construction has been produced in Tampere, but with the rent level close to the market price of new construction, it is often not possible to assign housing to households living in the weakest social and economic conditions.

Contacts to the housing advice services of both the City of Tampere and the wellbeing services county have increased in 2025. According to a professional assessment, the financial difficulties of families with children in particular have increased as a result of weakened social security. Homelessness among young people and students is more visible in social welfare services and housing counselling in the city. In addition, working persons have sought the services of the housing emergency unit, which indicates that the problem of homelessness has expanded to a larger group than before.

Although the number of evictions carried out appears to have decreased in 2025, no similar development can be verified for the number of evictions that have been initiated. For its part, the trend can be seen as an indication that even though the services of the municipality and the wellbeing services county have striven to

respond to the changed social policy environment and growth in the low income rate by developing their services, the economic problems of residents cannot be prevented only by developing services in a situation where repeated cuts have been made to basic security.

Based on the professional observations of the City of Tampere housing counselling and the categorisation of the social conditions of homeless people in connection with homelessness calculations, it can be estimated that income poverty alone is increasingly the cause of homelessness without other damaging circumstances exposing people to homelessness. A particular threat of homelessness applies to households that still have a flat but whose rent exceeds the housing costs considered reasonable in basic social assistance, and whose housing costs are therefore not accepted when deciding on basic social assistance as a whole, even if the housing advisory services of the City of Tampere had issued a statement that the household has applied for housing in a versatile manner without any limitations that Kela would consider unacceptable.

Based on the observations made in the wellbeing services county's homelessness work, it is estimated that problematic drug use has been emphasised for the reasons behind homelessness during the past and this year. In addition to the increase in the amount of use, the profile has changed as the number of users of Alpha-PVP has increased. The use of Alpha-PVP involves an exceptional amount of impulsive, aggressive behaviour and a significant degradation of mental functional capacity, which are reflected in living capacity and the opportunities for professionals to work.

The side-effects of the narcotics culture affect the entire residential community, which reduces the landlords' prerequisites and willingness to offer housing to substance abusers. It has increasingly been necessary to end the provision of housing because of disturbance-related reasons. Although psychiatric services can be accessed faster in late 2025 than in previous years, the need for psychological care remains high and the services available do not always meet the actual needs of individuals, especially in terms of long-term care and service needs.

In advancing the measures of the joint Omaan kotiin project of the City of Tampere and the Pirkanmaa wellbeing services county, which implements the action programme for the elimination of long-term homelessness, administered and funded by the Ministry of the Environment, use has been made of the City of Tampere's partnership-model cooperation network. Several cooperation meetings have been organised in 2025 with public utilities and the largest rental actors operating in Tampere, building, among other things, a common understanding

of the available housing support in different transition points of housing or when housing faces a crisis. The housing security model, which brings together practical operating methods for working with homeless people and those experiencing a threat of homelessness in a multidisciplinary manner, has been developed in cooperation and will be developed further to correspond to the changed societal environment. The aim is to significantly reduce homelessness.

The City of Tampere organises housing advice so that the city's housing advisory team has a total of five personnel providing practical housing advice. Between 1 January and 19 December 2025, housing advice provided by the city had a total of about 1,000 clients and nearly 4,000 client contacts. Although the city's housing advice focuses primarily on securing housing in situations where the housing crisis or problem situation can still be solved, approximately 22% of the city's housing advice clients are homeless Tampereans. The housing advisory services of the City of Tampere have succeeded in ending homelessness for about 40 people and securing the continuity of housing in 40% of the customer relationships that end systematically. Homelessness has been prevented in approximately 25% of all customer relationships ending as planned.

Housing counselling work in the wellbeing services county has been expanded to cover the residents of the wellbeing services county more extensively with funding from the Omaan kotiin project. In addition, the team has been strengthened with two permanent professionals. The number of customers increased by about 20% in 2025. During 2025, housing advisory services have prevented evictions, termination of tenancy or the termination of housing for some other reason in 321 cases.

The wellbeing services county has promoted and organised the living of a total of 87 homeless people either in a dispersed rental dwelling or in a housing service through the work of the Omaan kotiin project. In addition, in accordance with the entries in the action plan, the wellbeing services county has promoted the availability, accessibility and coordination of social welfare and health care services for persons experiencing homelessness by organising cooperation meetings between social welfare, health care and various stakeholders.

In the areas of social services, more attention has been paid to preventing homelessness, and the use of financial support, for example, has been encouraged in situations where it has secured housing. The theme of homelessness has been highlighted in communications within the wellbeing services county, emphasising that homelessness work belongs to all social welfare and health care professionals. In addition, the wellbeing services county has promoted the development of a service network for housing services to meet the service needs of people who have

experienced and experienced homelessness: the number of emergency housing places has been increased, housing service units based on the Housing First model have been launched and housing service unit staff have been trained.

Turku

The cuts in housing allowance and social benefits have weakened the situation of the most vulnerable and also raised the risk of homelessness to new groups, such as low-income employed people. In Turku, the proportion of low income people is considerably higher than the national average (19% instead of 13.5%), and income poverty is increasingly the cause of homelessness.

Housing costs have risen rapidly in Turku, but Kela's limit for housing costs has fallen behind the rental level: in 2025, the subsidy limit for a single person was only €540, which is €50 less than in Tampere. For the past ten years, the development of rents in Turku has been the fastest among the six largest cities in Finland when examining average rents per square metre both as a whole and separately by room type (units, doubles, larger ones). Out of the C21 cities, Turku is growing the fastest and insufficient housing is a challenge. Turku stands out clearly from other municipalities when examining the number of Kela-issued exhortations to move in spring 2025, as as many as 24% of the recipients of social assistance in Turku lived in a flat that was too expensive according to the current limits and received an exhortation to move from Kela.

One reason for the increase in long-term homelessness is the lack of a Housing First unit, but this is currently under construction and will start operating in Turku in autumn 2026.

The City of Turku participates in the Government's programme to eliminate long-term homelessness. The programme provided Turku and the wellbeing services county of Southwest Finland with the opportunity to apply for project funding for a joint project aimed at eliminating long-term homelessness and the TurVa project (Turku and Varha together to eliminate long-term homelessness) began in spring 2025. The project aims to create permanent structures between 2025 and 2027, to strengthen collaboration between the city and the wellbeing services county, to identify risk groups early and to streamline the referral to services, to strengthen multidisciplinary cooperation and to promote affordable housing. The role of the City of Turku in the project is to develop measures to prevent housing challenges as priority groups, especially young people and immigrants.

A regional action plan for the elimination of homelessness for 2026–2027 has been drawn up in cooperation between Turku and Varha. The action plan is the first of its kind and sets common goals, actions, responsible parties and indicators.

Since December 2024, Turku has had a network aiming to eliminate homelessness, which met regularly in 2025. The network is chaired by Mirka Muukkonen, Deputy Mayor of the City of Turku, and it includes experts and decision-makers from the City of Turku, Varha, private service providers and landlords, the third sector, the University of Turku and the parish of Turku and Kaarina. In addition, a trained expert by experience is a member of the network. The aim of the network is to collaborate between Turku actors providing housing support and to develop measures to prevent homelessness in a cross-cutting manner. The network meets 3–4 times a year.

For more than 10 years, the Asumisen toimijat cooperation network has been operating in Turku, consisting of different parties working with housing and homelessness. The network includes employees from the City of Turku, the wellbeing services county Varha, the third sector, the National Enforcement Authority Finland, private service providers and the Turku and Kaarina parish, most of whom work on the front line at the customer interface. The aim of the network is to exchange information and good practices, to provide information on current phenomena and to highlight the voice of homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

In 2025, the City of Turku participated in the European Commission's Homelessness Counts project as the only Finnish city through the TurVa project. This has been implemented in cooperation with Varha, the University of Turku and the Centre for State-Subsidised Housing Construction (Varke). The aim of the project is to harmonise European homelessness calculations and collect more detailed data on homeless people so that we can better understand the priority group.

Vaasa

There were 92 homeless people living alone in Vaasa on 15 November 2025. The number of homeless people has increased by about 12 per cent over the past year. Compared to 2023, the number of homeless people is nearly 70% higher. Homelessness has increased at an alarming rate.

The increase in homelessness is mainly due to a significant increase in housing and living costs in the 2020s, cuts in housing and other subsidies, the scarcity of rental housing that is sufficiently affordable in relation to income, the large number

of payment defaults and indebtedness of customers, and the lack of temporary housing in the Vaasa area. The population of Vaasa has grown at a record rate at the same time as rental housing production has collapsed. Population growth focuses on students and young adults. The city's population has increased by about 3,600 people since 2022. Approximately 60 per cent of new residents are aged 20–34.

The housing advisory service of the City of Vaasa has been developed vigorously, and housing advisors strive to reach out to all known homeless people or those at risk of homelessness in order to safeguard their housing. Cooperation is carried out with an extensive service network. An important advantage of the housing advisory service is a contact network consisting of dozens of landlords.

A new homelessness network was established in Vaasa in 2025 as part of the housing advisory service's development measures. The core group of the homelessness network includes representatives from different units of the wellbeing services county of Ostrobothnia, the largest rental housing company in the city, KOy Pikipruukki, and several city units. The network holds regular meetings and formulates measures to improve homelessness. The key measure is to increase affordable rental housing for the homeless in accordance with the Housing First principle. KOy Pikipruukki is currently planning a state-subsidised housing construction project for which housing earmarked for long-term homeless people will be realised with investment aid from special groups. The project is an experiment and, when successful, the aim is to implement more similar projects.

Vantaa

The increase is partly due to a more detailed method of data collection and a more extensive report sample, covering several service areas in Vake in this year compared to the previous one. The audit process of data collection has improved, which has improved the reliability of the data. However, the increase is likely to be due to an actual increase in homelessness, which is probably due to several societal phenomena.

In spring 2025, the Housing for Everyone project was launched in accordance with the national long-term homelessness elimination programme, and several development measures will be taken to reduce homelessness and eliminate long-term homelessness. Developing a more detailed situation picture, statistics and data collection is one of these project development measures and is also essentially related to Varke's calculations.

Comprehensive availability of guidance and counselling has been improved (face-to-face without booking an appointment, by phone, chat), enabling early intervention.

Housing counselling has proved particularly necessary. It is also possible to use services anonymously, which lowers the threshold. A continuation has been applied for the housing counselling project to strengthen early support and guidance and to prevent a housing crisis.

In addition, transitions from housing services to independent housing have been strengthened as the need for support decreases.



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