

Homelessness Facts 2023

Who is homeless

- On any given night, 122,494 people in Australia are experiencing homelessness (ABS Census 2021).
- One in seven people experiencing homelessness are children under 12 (ABS Census 2021).
- 23 per cent of people experiencing homelessness (almost one in 4) are children and young people between 12 and 24 (ABS Census 2021).
- One in five people experiencing homelessness are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (ABS Census 2021).
- Homelessness is not "rooflessness". Only 6.2 per cent of people without a home are sleeping rough. The majority of homelessness is hidden - people in crisis accommodation, rooming houses, insecure housing, overcrowded dwellings or couch surfing.

Homelessness services

- In 2021-22, 272,700 people were supported by homelessness services (AIHW, Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2021-22)
- In 2021-22, a further 105,000 people sought help but were unable to be assisted because of shortages of staff, or accommodation or other services (AIHW 2022).
- That's 300 people a day turned away because services are overstretched (AIHW 2022).

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Why do people become homeless

- 52% of people seeking homelessness services report issues with housing or finances, such as the affordability of rent, as the main reason they need help
- 28% cite family violence or other violence and abuse as the main reason they need help
- 5% cite other family relationship issues
- 15% cite other issues

What is needed to end homelessness

To end homelessness once it occurs people need:

- Adequate incomes
- A home
- To be free from violence and abuse
- Effective support to gain and retain housing

More information

To read more about ending homelessness read: [Homelessness Australia: A Plan to End Homelessness \(2022\)](#) and [Critical Issues in Australia's 10-year national housing and homelessness plan](#).

Both can be found at <https://homelessnessaustralia.org.au/our-advocacy/>