

Homelessness in Victoria –

Key statistics

In Victoria, over 22,000 people were recorded as homeless on Census night in 2011.

They included people sleeping outside or in impoverished dwellings, sleeping temporarily with friends or relatives, staying in boarding houses, or staying in government-funded crisis or temporary accommodation or severely crowded dwellings.

Homelessness occurs when a person or family does not have access to a safe, secure, affordable home. Many situations trigger homelessness including lack of access to affordable housing, leaving state care as a young person without accommodation and escaping violence at home. Physical and mental health issues and financial hardship can also contribute to a person becoming homeless.

Snapshot of homelessness in Victoria

On Census night 2011:

- 22,789 people were counted as homeless, including 1,092 people 'sleeping rough' (without any shelter or accommodation at all).
- Almost half were young people under 25.
- Almost one in six Victorians counted as homeless was a child under 12.

Specialist homelessness services reported in 2010-11

- 68,500 men, women and children accessed homelessness services in Victoria
- Nationally, more than half of all people needing immediate accommodation were turned away.

Who experiences homelessness in Victoria?

Young people (12 to 25):

- Approximately 6,130 Victorians between 12 and 25 have nowhere to call home.
- Almost 60% of homelessness service users are under the age of 25.

Families and children (under 12):

- More than 26,000 children accompanied their families to homelessness support services in 2010-11, the highest number ever recorded in Australia.

People experiencing family violence:

- Government-funded agencies reported that one in every two women with children seeking homelessness services was escaping a violent home situation
- In 2010-11, over a quarter of homelessness service users cited family violence or abuse as the reason for their homelessness.



Indigenous

- Indigenous people continue to be over-represented in the homeless population. The 2011 Census reported that while Indigenous people make up only 0.5% of the total Victorian population, they account for 4% of the homeless population.

Older people:

- People aged 55 or more made up 2,710, or approximately 12% of the recorded homeless population in the 2011 Census.

References

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About the Council to Homeless Persons

CHP is the peak Victorian body representing organisations and individuals with an interest in or commitment to end homelessness. Our mission is to work towards ending homelessness through leadership in policy, advocacy, capacity building and consumer participation.

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