

21 December 2012

**Survey on Homeless Persons**  
Results preview. Year 2012

**22,938 homeless persons are tended to in accommodation and catering care centres in 2012**

**45.0% of them have become homeless due to losing their jobs, and 20.9% due to relationship break-ups**

**Half of homeless persons have children**

The Survey on Homeless Persons for the year 2012, whose results preview is published herein, provides information regarding the living conditions of those homeless persons aged 18 years old or over who have used the accommodation and/or catering care centres located in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants.

All of the results refer to this group.

**Sociodemographic characteristics of homeless persons**

A total of 22,938 homeless persons used accommodation and/or catering care centres in the year 2012. Most of these persons were men (80.3%).

57.7% of homeless persons were under 45 years of age, 38.4% were aged 45 to 64 years old, and 3.9% were over 64 years of age. The average age of these persons was 42.7 years old.

Regarding nationality, 54.2% were Spaniards and 45.8% were foreign nationals. 98.0% of the Spaniards were registered in a municipality, as compared with 77.0% of the foreign nationals.

In terms of the foreign nationals, the majority group was African (56.6%), followed by the Europeans (22.3%) and the Americans (15.2%). As per the time of residence, 57.8% of the homeless foreign nationals had lived in Spain for more than five years.

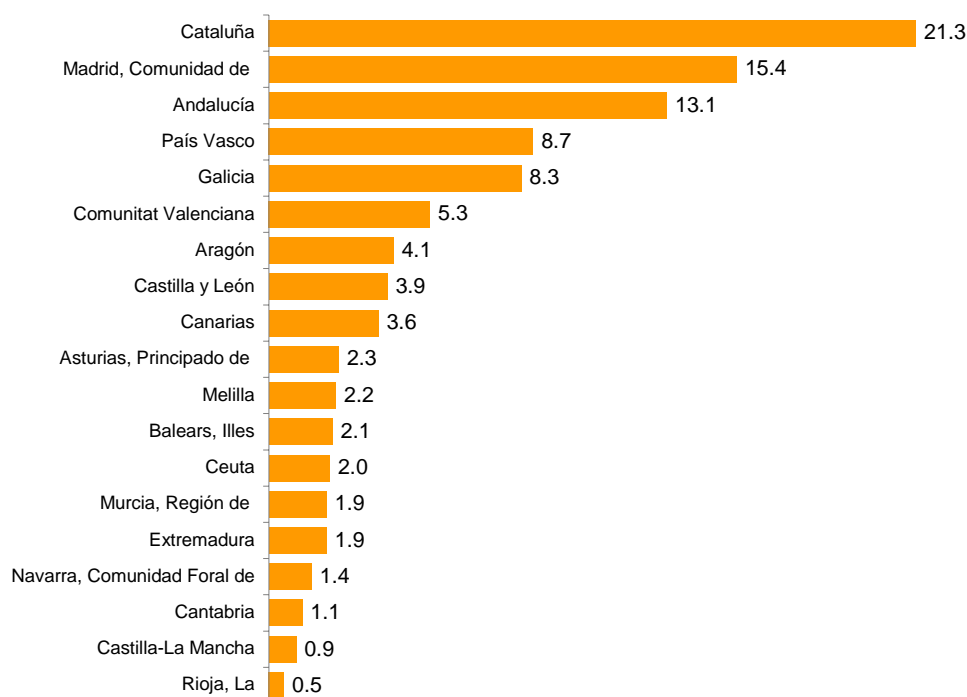
Within the foreign homeless population, the younger age groups carried a greater weight. 78.6% of foreign homeless persons were under 45 years of age, as compared with 40.2% of Spanish homeless persons. This difference grew in the group aged 18 to 29 years old.

## Homeless persons, according to nationality. Year 2012

	Total		Spanish Nationality		Foreign Nationality	
	Absolute Values	Percentages	Absolute Values	Percentages	Absolute Values	Percentages
<b>TOTAL</b>	22,938	100.0	12,425	100.0	10,513	100.0
<b>Sex</b>						
Men	18,425	80.3	9,855	79.3	8,570	81.5
Women	4,513	19.7	2,570	20.7	1,943	18.5
<b>Age groups</b>						
18 to 29 years old	4,434	19.3	1,026	8.2	3,408	32.4
30 to 44 years old	8,817	38.4	3,964	31.9	4,854	46.2
45 to 64 years old	8,808	38.4	6,790	54.7	2,018	19.2
Over 64 years of age	879	3.9	645	5.2	233	2.2

On distributing the homeless population by Autonomous Community, Cataluña (21.3%), Comunidad de Madrid (15.4%) and Andalucía (13.1%) recorded the highest percentages. In turn, La Rioja (0.5%), Cantabria (1.1%) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (1.4%) registered the lowest percentages.

### Percentage distribution of homeless persons, by Autonomous Community. Year 2012



There were 71.3 homeless persons for every 100,000 inhabitants. The highest rates were observed in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (638.4) and Ceuta (549.9), followed by the Autonomous Communities of País Vasco (141.3) and Galicia (133.0).

In turn, Castilla-La Mancha (24.4), Comunitat Valenciana (32.8), Región de Murcia (35.4) and Canarias (48.2) registered the lowest rates.

### Homeless persons per 100,000 inhabitants, by Autonomous Community. Year 2012



Source: Municipal Register at 1 January 2012. Population of municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants

From the perspective of the time spent homeless, 31.9% of homeless persons had lived less than one year without accommodation, 23.6% between one and three years, and 44.5% had lived more than three years without their own accommodation.

## Homeless persons, according to the time spent without their own accommodation. Year 2012

	Persons	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	22,938	100.0
<b>Time living without their own accommodation</b>		
Less than one month	1,029	4.5
One to six months	3,541	15.4
Six to 12 months	2,749	12.0
One to three years	5,411	23.6
More than three years	10,208	44.5

These persons indicated that the main reasons why they became homeless were the loss of jobs (45.0%), not being able to pay for their accommodation (26.0%) and relationship break-up (20.9%).

### Homeless persons, by the reasons why they became homeless (%). Year 2012



■ The sum of percentages is greater than 100, due to the fact that persons may have had several reasons

### Family context of homeless persons

In order to complete the social characteristics of homeless persons, it is necessary to ascertain the family context before and after arriving at this situation.

16.2% of homeless persons were married or had a partner. 28.2% were separated or divorced, 51.7% were single and 3.9% were widowed. 48.6% of the total persons with partners, 48.6% cohabited with that partner.

Regarding children, five out of 10 homeless persons had children.

In terms of the family background, it was observed that until the age of 18 years old, 77.8% of the total had lived with their parents, 8.8% only with their father or mother, 5.8% with their

grandparents or other relatives, 4.2% in a foster institution and 3.4% with other persons who were not relatives.

The most frequent family situations experienced by homeless person up until the age of 18 years old were lack of money (41.5%) and the death of a family member (41.6%).

Moreover, 36.3% had lived through situations of fighting or serious conflict between their parents, or of violence in the family, and 23.6% had suffered through the serious illness of one of their parents.

## Homeless persons, by the family situation before the age of 18. Year 2012

	Persons <sup>1</sup>	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	22,938	100.0
<b>Family situations before the age of 18</b>		
Lack of money	9,525	41.5
Extended unemployment of a family member	5,368	23.4
Death of a family member	9,540	41.6
Severe illness, incapacity or accident of parents	5,408	23.6
Divorce of the parents or abandonment by one of the parents	3,289	14.3
Serious fighting or conflict between the parents	4,361	19.0
Problems with violence in the family	3,977	17.3
Problems with alcoholism in the family or in the person	4,784	20.9
One or the parents was in prison	1,010	4.4
Serious conflict between the person and her/his family	4,142	18.1
The family being forced to leave the dwelling	1,072	4.7
Frequent changes in the place of residence	2,933	12.8
Other	750	3.3

<sup>1</sup> The sum of percentages is greater than 100, due to the fact that persons may have had several family situations

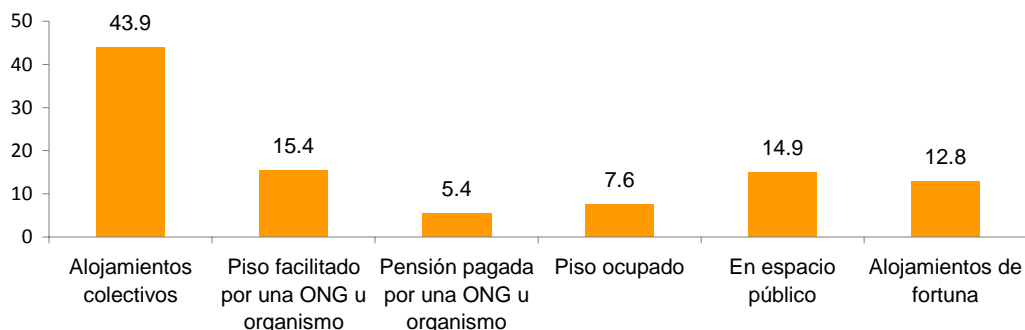
### Accommodation of homeless persons

89.0% of homeless persons slept in the same place every night. 43.9% slept in group accommodation (43.2% in a hostel or residence, 0.5% in shelters for abused women and 0.2% in centres for refugees).

Another 20.8% slept in flats or pensions provided by an NGO or other body, and the 35.3% remaining stayed outside of the existing care network, either in public spaces (14.9%), in make-shift accommodation (12.8%) or in squats (7.6%).

Among those sleeping in places not set out for accommodation (public spaces or make-shift accommodation), 62.7% washed themselves in the centre where they went to eat, 61.5% in public bathrooms, 54.6% in bar and restaurant bathrooms, 34.7% in parks and open spaces, 29.5% on the street and 22.5% in the home of a relative and/or friend.

**Homeless persons, by sleeping arrangements (%). Year 2012**



**Training and employment situation of homeless persons**

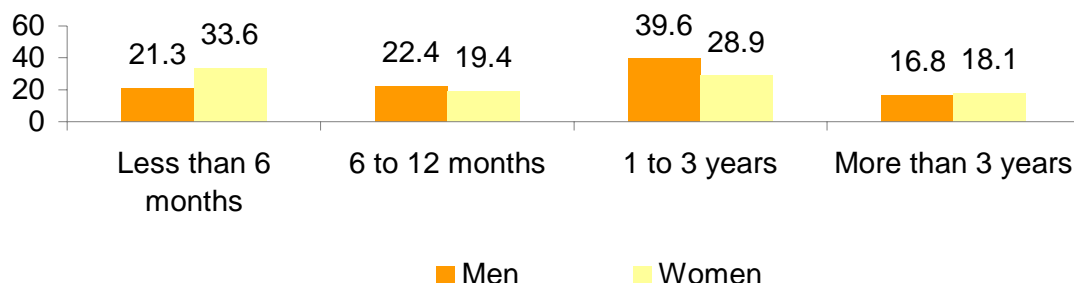
Regarding completed studies, 60.3% of the population had attained a secondary education level, 22.2% primary studies or lower, and 11.8% had completed higher education. 5.7% of these persons stated that they had no studies. There was no significant difference by sex. The average age at leaving school was 15.5 years old.

From the labour situation perspective, most noteworthy in the homeless participation was their low participation. Thus, 77,8% claimed that they neither had work, nor were retired nor were unable to work (this percentage included both persons seeking work and persons not doing so).

By age, 73.7% of the persons aged 18 to 29 years old and 76.6% of those aged 45 to 64 years old did not have jobs, as compared with the 85.6% of the group aged 30 to 34 years old.

More than half of these persons claimed to be looking for work (52.1%). 38.0% had been looking for one to three years, and 17.0% had been looking for more than three years.

**Homeless persons looking for work, by the time spent looking. Year 2012**



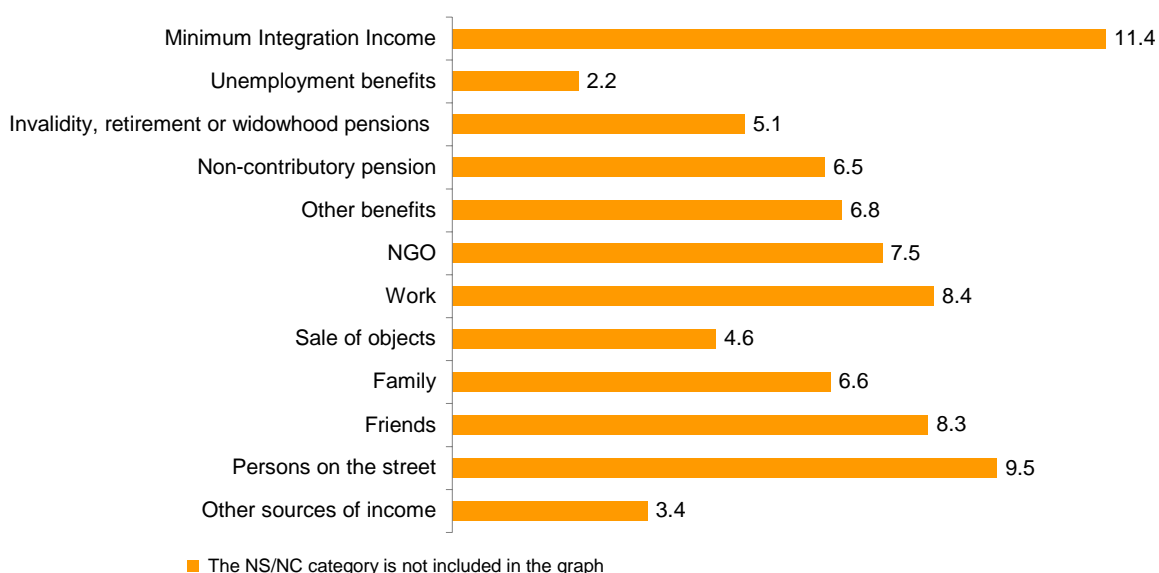
3.6% of the total homeless persons did have work. 21.0% of them were self-employed workers, while the rest worked for others.

### Sources of income and expenses of homeless persons

The main sources of income of the homeless population were public benefits (Minimum integration income, unemployment benefits, contributory and non-contributory pensions and other types of public benefits) that were received by 32.0% of persons; the money that other persons gave them on the street (9.5%); friends or acquaintances (8.3%) and NGOs (7.5%).

The Minimum Integration Income (MII), the most specific public benefit for persons with integration problems, was received by 11.4% of persons. Another 6.5% received non-contributory pensions.

**Homeless persons, according to the source of income (%). Year 2012**



Regarding the goods and services on which they spent most of their money, worth noting were food, beverages and clothing, as well as transport and accommodation services.

### Homeless persons, according to the goods and services on which they spend most of their money. Year 2012

	Total	
	Persons <sup>1</sup>	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	22,938	100.0
<b>Expenditure on goods and services</b>		
Food	13,876	60.5
Beverages	2,550	11.1
Accommodation	4,248	18.5
Clothing	4,977	21.7
Transport	4,868	21.2
Entertainment	495	2.2
Home delivery	902	3.9
Medication	1,312	5.7

<sup>1</sup> The sum of the percentages is greater than 100 because persons may choose several goods or services.

### The health of homeless persons

In terms of health coverage, 80.2% of homeless persons had a health card. Foreign nationals had health cards to a lesser extent than Spaniards.

### Homeless persons, according to whether they have a health card, by nationality. Year 2012.

	Nationality					
	Total		Spanish		Foreign	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	22,938	100.0	12,425	100.0	10,513	100.0
<b>Possession of a health card</b>						
Yes	18,393	80.2	11,321	91.1	7,072	67.3
No	4,545	19.8	1,104	8.9	3,441	32.7

58.6% of homeless persons claimed to have good or very good health, whereas 14.2% perceived their health to be poor or very poor.

The perception of the state of health was better for men than for women. 60.7% of men stated that they had a good or very good state of health, as compared with 49.7% of women.

30.7% of persons claimed to have a chronic illness. Worth noting was that 16.6% of the persons with a chronic illness were classified in the mental disorder category. These illnesses carried greater weight among women (22.3%) than among men (15.0%).

It is also important to highlight that 15.2% had a recognised disability.

Regarding health-related living habits, 86.4% of homeless persons stated that they did not drink alcohol or did so only lightly. Only 4.1% of persons stated heavy or excessive alcohol intake. There were more non-drinkers and light alcohol consumers among women than among men.

### Homeless persons, by alcohol intake and sex. Year 2012

	Sexo					
	Total		Men		Women	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	22,938	100.0	18,425	100.0	4,513	100.0
<b>Alcohol intake</b>						
No alcohol intake	12,819	55.9	9,354	50.7	3,465	76.8
Light	7,005	30.5	5,998	32.6	1,007	22.3
Moderate	2,164	9.5	2,137	11.6	27	0.6
Heavy	262	1.1	259	1.4	3.0	0.1
Excessive	688	3.0	677	3.7	11	0.2
<b>Drug use</b>						
<b>TOTAL</b>	22,938	100.0	18,425	100.0	4,513	100.0
Yes	8,567	37.3	7,463	40.5	1,104	24.5
No	14,371	62.7	10,962	59.5	3,409	75.5

As per drug use, 62.7% stated that they had never used drugs, and 37.3% had used them at some point in time. The proportion of women who used drugs (24.5%) was lower than that of men (40.5%).



### Social services for homeless persons

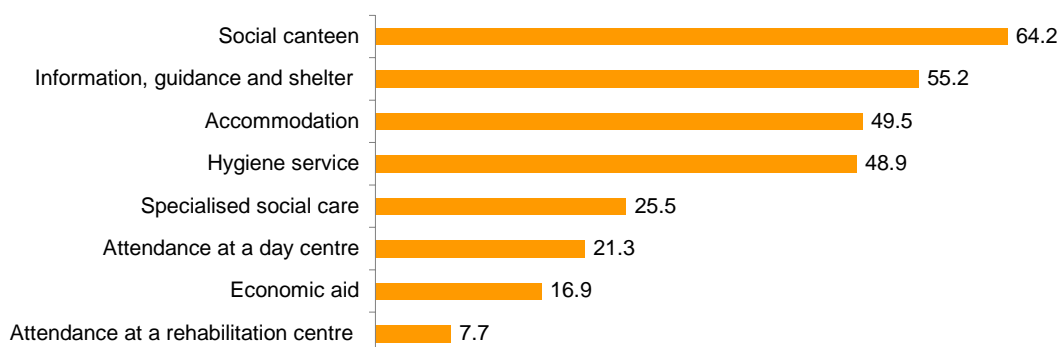
The social services aimed at homeless persons, especially vulnerable and excluded, or at risk of social exclusion, have the purpose of covering their basic needs.

Homeless persons mainly request, in addition to accommodation (60.2% of persons) and catering (67.3%) services, included in the definition of homeless person for the purposes of this survey, other social services, such as those of information, orientation and fostering (56.7%) and hygiene (53.6%) services.

The services most frequently granted to homeless persons were catering (64.2%), information, guidance and fostering (55.2%) and accommodation (49.5%).

Regarding the opinion of homeless persons regarding the aid they have received, 55.6% thought that they helped enough or a great deal, where as 44.4% thought that they helped little or not at all.

**Homeless persons who had requested social services or social benefits, by type of service or benefit granted (%). Year 2012**



■ The sum of percentages is greater than 100 because persons may choose more than one service or benefit

### Equality and relationship with the law

An important factor associated with the vulnerability and social exclusion situations lived by homeless persons is their exposure to assaults or crimes.

51% of homeless persons had been the victim of a crime or assault. The most frequent crimes and assaults were insults and threats, robberies and aggressions.

**Homeless persons who have been victims of a crime or assault. Year 2012**

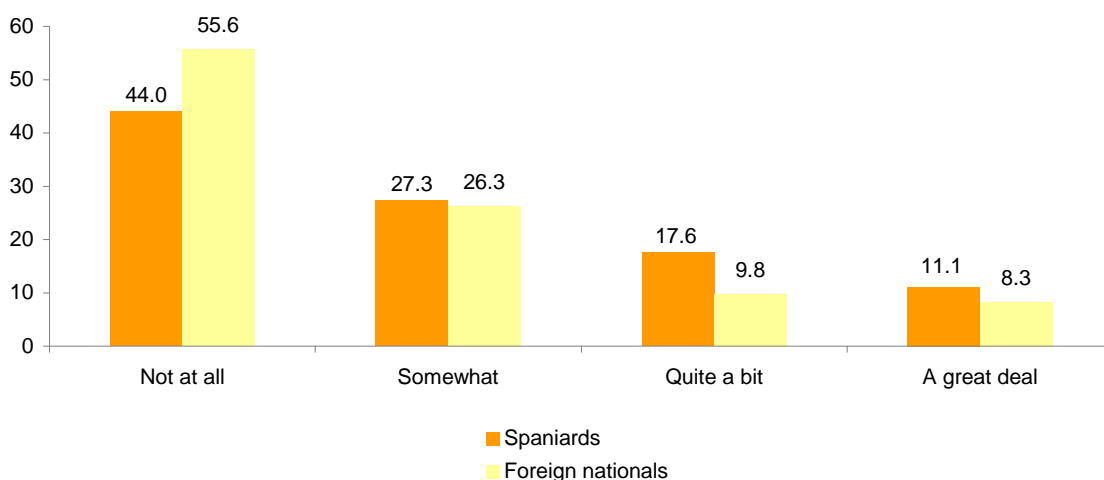
	Sex					
	Total <sup>1</sup>		Men <sup>1</sup>		Women <sup>1</sup>	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	11,692	100.0	9,560	100.0	2,132	100.0
<b>Victims</b>						
They have been assaulted	4,774	40.8	3,910	40.9	864	40.5
They have stolen their money, belongings, documentation (passport, ID card, etc.)	7,228	61.8	5,911	61.8	1,317	61.8
They have been sexually assaulted	657	5.6	141	1.5	517	24.2
They have fallen victim to a scam	3,312	28.3	2,450	25.6	862	40.5
They have been insulted or threatened	7,652	65.4	6,139	64.2	1,513	71.0
Other	437	3.7	291	3.0	146	6.8

<sup>1</sup> The sum of percentages is greater than 100 because persons may have been victims of several crimes.

On the other hand, 76.1% of homeless persons state that they felt little or not at all discriminated. 9.8% stated that they felt very discriminated.

By nationality, 71.3% of Spaniards felt little or not at all discriminated, as compared with 81.9% of foreign nationals.

**Homeless persons, according to whether they feel discriminated, by nationality (%). Year 2012**



Lastly, and regarding their relationship with the law, worth noting is that 44.7% of homeless persons had been arrested or reported at some point in time. Almost half of them had been convicted by the courts.

By nationality, Spaniards exceeded foreign nationals (55.2% of Spaniards had been convicted at some point in time, as compared with 32.3% of foreign nationals).

**Variation of the main characteristics of homeless persons in 2012, as compared with the year 2005**

**Main characteristics of homeless persons**

	Year 2012	Year 2005	Relative variation (%)
Homeless persons	22,938	21,900	4.8
Foreign homeless persons	10,513	10,559	-0.4
Homeless persons who became homeless due to job loss	10,328	6,678	55.0
Homeless persons with secondary studies	13,805	14,002	-1.4
Homeless persons who sleep in group accommodation	10,062	9,739	3.3
Homeless persons who are unemployed without being retired or incapacitated to work	17,835	16,582	7.6
Homeless persons who have sought work since more than 1 year ago	5,100	2,195	132.3
Homeless persons with a health card	18,393	14,656	25.5
Homeless persons whose main source of income is the MII	2,617	874	199.4
Homeless persons who do not drink alcohol	12,819	8,941	43.3

## Methodological note

Survey on Homeless Persons 2012 has been conducted by the National Statistics Institute (INE). The Euskal Estatistika-Erakundea/Basque Statistics Institute (EUSTAT) has collaborated in conducting the Survey within the territorial scope of the Autonomous Community of País Vasco.

SHP-2012 is a sample study. The population studied is that which is aged 18 years old or over and that goes to centres that offer accommodation and/or catering services located in those municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants.

Information has been collected on *sociodemographic characteristics* (sex, age, time of residence in Spain, nationality, registration), *accommodation* (frequency, type, characteristics, background and search), *relationship with economic activity, economic situation, training, health, family links and background, use of social services and relationship with the law, non-discrimination and equality*.

The data collection is extended to the entire Spanish territory in those centres located in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants, and has been carried out over the course of six weeks, beginning on 13 February and ending on 25 March, the period during which the greatest demand for accommodation and catering services is recorded. The collection method has been the computer assisted personal interview (CAPI), and the interviewers have been specifically trained social workers.

The sample has been designed in order to obtain information on a national level regarding the group considered to be homeless persons. The survey uses a two-stage sampling with first-stage unit stratification. The first-stage units comprise those centres located in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants and that provide services to the target population of study. The centres have been stratified according to a dual criterion: type of service provided and number of services. The second-stage units comprise the services provided by the centres.

### Definition of homeless person:

For the purposes of this Survey, a homeless person is considered to be that person who is aged 18 years old or over, who during the week prior to that of the interview had used an accommodation and/or catering care centre, and who had slept at least once in one of the following accommodations located in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants. a hostel, a residence, a shelter, shelters for abused women, centres for refugees, centres for asylum-seekers, a flat provided by a public administration, an NGO or body, an occupied flat, a pension paid by a public administration, an NGO or body, a public space (train, bus or metro station, parking lot, public garden, open space, etc.), make-shift accommodation (entrance of a building, cave, car, etc.)