

# **COUNTING THE HOMELESS 2006**

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# Reports from COUNTING THE HOMELESS 2001

[www.countingthehomeless.com.au](http://www.countingthehomeless.com.au)



# Concept

**Primary homelessness:** people living without conventional accommodation - living on the streets, in deserted buildings, improvised buildings, under bridges and in parks etc.

**Secondary homelessness:** people moving between various forms of temporary shelter including: friends, relatives, emergency accommodation (refuges, hostels etc) and boarding houses.

**Tertiary homelessness:** people living in single rooms in private boarding houses on a long-term basis - without their own bathroom, kitchen and security of tenure.

**Marginally housed:** people in housing situations close to the minimum standard, e.g. people renting caravans on a medium to long-term basis where no-one in the caravan has full-time job.

# Conceptual and Operational Categories

<b>Conceptual category</b>	<b>Operational category</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Primary homelessness	Improvised home, tent or sleepers out	Problem is undercounting
Secondary homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hostels for the homeless, night shelter, refuge</li><li>• Visitors to private dwellings with 'no usual address'</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SAAP services can be miscoded as private dwellings</li><li>• Use Q7 about each person's usual address</li></ul>
Tertiary homelessness	Boarding house residents	Census category is 'boarding house/private hotel'. Complicated because of 'hotel/motel' category.

## Category - 'improvised homes, tents and sleepers out'

Includes:

'sheds, tents, humpies, and other improvised dwellings occupied on Census night ... also includes people sleeping on park benches or in rough accommodation' (ABS 2001, p.197)

# Primary Homelessness

Number of people in 'improvised dwellings, tents and sleepers out' after excluding overseas visitors and Australians on camping holidays.

**14,158**

**Table 1: Persons in 'hostels for the homeless' compared with the number of people identified by national SAAP data collection (excluding Victoria)**

	<b>NSW</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>All</b>
National SAAP data collection	3,918	2,285	1114	945	315	212	299	9,088
Hostels for the homeless	1,557	1,208	440	564	117	229	123	4,259

**Source:** Census of Population and Housing, SAAP client collection

# No usual address

Persons staying with other households reporting  
'no usual address'

**29,439**

# Conventions

## **FIRST CONVENTION:**

Dwellings are removed from the boarding house category, if 60 per cent or more of their adult residents are working and earning \$400 or more per week. These are either 'hotels' or 'staff quarters'.

## **SECOND CONVENTION:**

Hotels are recoded as boarding houses if they have the following characteristics:

- (1) 20 per cent or more of their residents report that they are living there permanently (unusual for a hotel).
- (2) 75 per cent or more of residents are either unemployed or outside of the labour force and earning less than \$400 per week (hotels are not full of people on low incomes who do not have a job).

Table 2: Persons in different sectors of the homeless population, Census night 2001 (provisional figures)

	N
Boarding houses	22,877
SAAP Accommodation	14,251
Friends and relatives	29,439
Improvised dwellings, sleepers out	14,158
	80,725

**Source:** Census of Population and Housing, SAAP client collection

**Table 3: Method for estimating the number of homeless youth aged 12-18 years**

	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>All</b>
No. of homeless school students	2,116	1,898	2,029	778	635	385	432	212	8,485
% of school students in SAAP	33.9	40.7	31.8	32.5	18.1	38.2	29.5	53.0	34.8
Estimated no. of homeless youth	6,242	4,663	6,381	2,394	3,508	1,008	1,464	400	26,060

**Source:** Census of Population and Housing, SAAP client collection

# Where does the person usually live?

Four choices:

- (1) The address shown on the front of the form;
- (2) Elsewhere in Australia - please specify address;
- (3) Other country;
- (4) For persons who have no usual address write 'no usual address'.

Table 4: Persons in different sectors of the homeless population, 1996 and 2001

	1996	2001
Boarding houses	23,299	22,877
SAAP accommodation	12,926	14,251
Friends and relatives	48,500	48,614
Improvised dwellings, sleepers out	20,579	14,158
	105,304	99,900

**Source:** ABS Census of Population and Housing, 1996 and 2001; SAAP client collection, 1996 and 2001; National Census of Homeless Students, 1994 and 2001.

Table 5: Number of homeless and rate of homelessness per 10,000 of the population, 2001

	NSW	Vic	SA	Tas	ACT	Qld	WA	NT
Number of homeless	26,676	20,305	7,586	2,415	1,229	24,569	11,697	5,423
Rate of homelessness	42.2	43.6	51.6	52.4	39.6	69.8	64.0	288.3

**Source:** ABS Census of Population and Housing, 1996 and 2001; SAAP client collection, 1996 and 2001; National Census of Homeless Students, 1994 and 2001.

Table 6: Number of homeless people and rate per 10,000 of population, Sydney

	City core	Inner city ring	Outer city ring	Growth corridors	Total
Number	4,681	4,475	4,121	2,179	15,456
Rate	164	47	22	26	39