

ITALY

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The survey was conducted between 21 November and 21 December 2014. It targets those who requested basic assistance (food, shower, shelter) in one of the 768 service providers in the 158 cities concerned. According to the ETHOS typology, the Italian survey identifies homeless people as people living on the streets, in emergency shelters and night shelters, in transitional and temporary accommodation, in women's shelters.

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The report, on poverty and social exclusion in Italy, is based on a needs survey compiled by social workers and volunteers from the homelessness sector. This survey was conducted in 1,801 Caritas services, in more than 180 Dioceses (over 80% of the national territory). Caritas Italiana, *Futuro Anteriore*, 2017. <http://bit.ly/2zxxGfs>

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Eurostat/EU-SILC 2016.

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In Italy, there are three types of social housing: subsidised housing (*Edilizia sovvenzionata*) for low-income people; assisted housing (*Edilizia agevolata*) for the middle classes; and subsidised housing (*Edilizia convenzionata*) facilitating affordable rental prices. To find out more about social housing in Italy, see RIZZICA C. (2017), "New social and affordable housing in Italy: between public and private initiatives", *Housing Solutions Platform*, available at: <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/publication/new-social-and-affordable-housing-italy-between-public-and-private-initiatives> and Housing Europe (2017), *The State of Housing in the EU 2017*, available at: <http://www.housingeurope.eu/resource-1000/the-state-of-housing-in-the-eu-2017>.

● Recent data on homelessness

Official statistics by the ISTAT (National Institute of Statistics)¹⁷ showed that in 2014, 50,724 homeless people lived in the 158 Italian cities surveyed. In 2011, 47,648 people were homeless, an increase of 3,076 people, or 6% between 2011 and 2014. 86% of the homeless population were male. 58% were foreign nationals. Four out of ten homeless people had been homeless for four years or more. The majority of homeless people were living in Northern Italy (56%). Some 23.7% were living in the centre of the country, and only 20.3% in the south and the Italian islands. Milan had the largest number of homeless people (12,004 people), followed by Rome (7,709 people) and Palermo (2,887 people). The estimated number of young people aged between 18 and 34 was 13,012, or 25.7% of the total homeless population.

Chronic homelessness is on the rise. The proportion of homeless people sleeping rough for between two and four years has increased from 11% in 2011 to 20% in 2014, and the proportion of people living on the street for more than four years has increased by 16% in 2011 to 21% in 2014. The number of homeless people with mental health problems or drug or alcohol abuse problems and who were not able to respond to the census survey increased by 60%, from 4,429 in 2011 to 7,130 in 2014 (representing 14% of the homeless population).

According to the 2017 Caritas report¹⁸, of the 205,090 people who received assistance from one of the 1,801 Caritas support services where the study was conducted, 26,078 were homeless. They were mostly men (74%), migrants (67%) and single (45%).

Total population as of 1 January 2016:
60,665,551 people

GDP/resident in 2016
(purchasing power parity): 28,200

Number of homeless people known:
50,724 in 1 month in 2014

Percentage of poor households: 20.6%

● Housing market situation in Italy

In 2016¹⁹, 72.3% of Italy's population were homeowners (15.9% with a mortgage, 56.3% without a mortgage) and 27.7% were renters (16.8% at market price, 11% at reduced-rent prices or free).

In 2008, the adoption of reform legislation defining social rental housing made it possible to diversify the supply of affordable housing²⁰. Social rented housing accounts for about 4% of the national housing stock. This system is based on partnerships between public and private stakeholders for rentals for a minimum of eight years and affordable property sales. Private investors (builders, investors, banking foundations) can benefit from public co-financing through housing benefits, urban renewal programs and social rental housing assistance (individual rental assistance). The beneficiaries of social housing are mainly low-income people and families who cannot access either rent-free contracts or the private market. Priority is given to people experiencing housing exclusion, families with children and people living in forced cohabitation. Recently, the Italian Government created an integrated real estate fund (*FIA*) dedicated to investment in social housing, but this fund is little used at present.

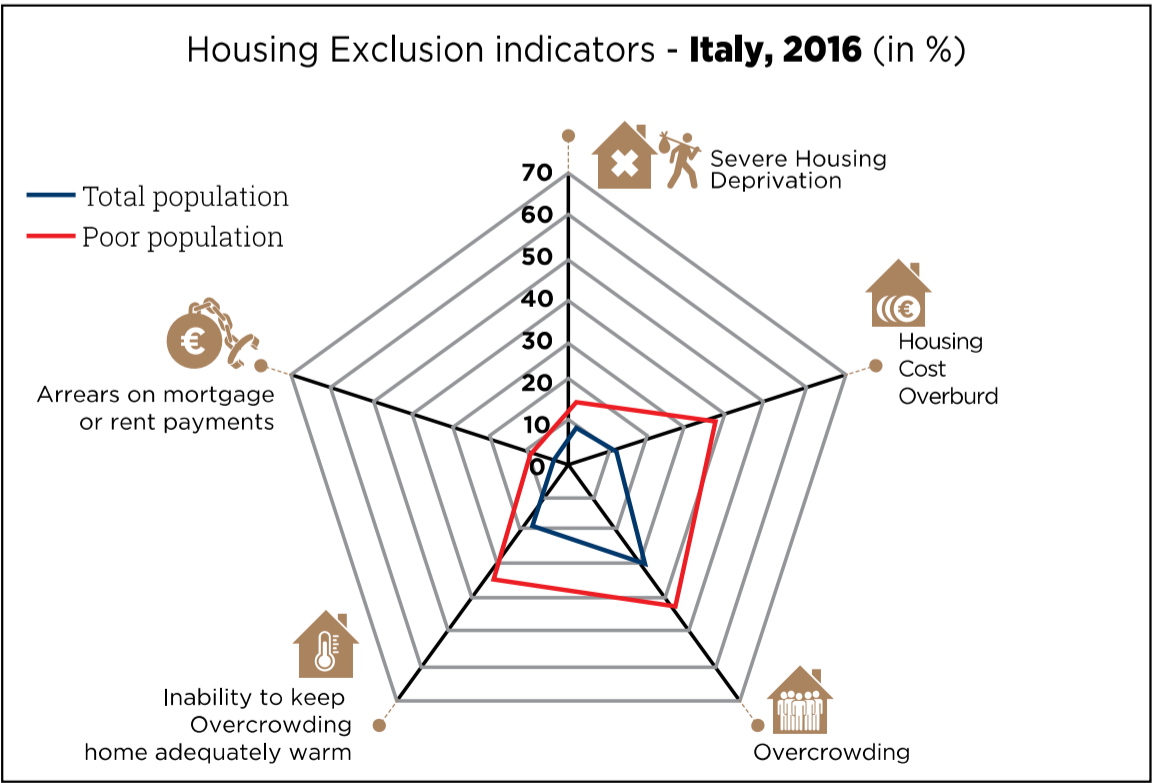
In terms of housing quality, according to available data (Eurostat 2016), 27.8% of the population were living in overcrowded conditions in 2016.

Overcrowding varies depending on age: only 10% of the elderly were affected (as they are more likely to be owners), compared to 42% of minors (and their families) and 30% of 18-64 year olds. In Italy, 9.6% of households experienced severe housing deprivation – almost twice the EU average (5%). This indicator differs according to tenure status: 6.5% of homeowners (with a mortgage) versus 14.8% of tenants in the private market experienced severe housing deprivation. The proportion of people living in damp housing has declined in recent years (from 25% in 2014 to 21% in 2016). In 2015, ISTAT developed a poor housing quality index, defined by the ratio of people living in overcrowded accommodation and also having one of three problems: A) Structural problems in housing (ceilings, installations, etc.); B) No bath/shower with running water; C) Absence of natural light. According to the latest Equitable and Sustainable Well-being report (2017), one in ten people were living in overcrowded accommodation with one of the three problems mentioned above. This index is more severe in the south of the country (11.8%) than in the north (8.4%).

As part of the national strategy to fight poverty, the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has introduced various mechanisms for local and regional stakeholders, including a call for innovative projects to end homelessness targeting Housing First projects and introducing a basic income. This strategy is partly financed by EU funds (European Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived and European Regional Development Fund).

● Key statistics to housing exclusion and changes between 2010 and 2016

General population				
Indicator	2016		Change 2010-2016	
	Total	Poor	Total	Poor
Housing cost overburden rate	9.6%	35.8%	+ 18%	+ 15%
Total cost of housing (PPP)	341.9	308.1	+ 3%	+ 6%
Mortgage/rent arrears	4.2%	9.8%	- 7%	- 12%
Overcrowding	27.8%	39.2%	+ 14%	+ 3%
Severe housing deprivation	7.6%	14.3%	+ 9%	- 5%
Inability to maintain adequate home temperature	16.1%	32.8%	+ 39%	+ 17%
Young people				
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 18-24)	8.5%	30.3%	+ 5%	+ 11%
Overcrowding (aged 16-24)	46.6%	57%	+ 11%	+ 2%
Non-EU citizens				
	2016		Change 2010-2016	
	Aged 18+	Aged 16-29	Aged 18+	Aged 16-29
Housing cost overburden rate	27.3%	20%	+ 7%	- 24%
Overcrowding	53%	61.3%	+ 10%	+ 8%



FOCUS ON...**New profiles of homeless people in Italy**

Conducted between 2014 and 2016, the fio.PSD survey (2017) revealed two trends:

- The emergence of new profiles of homeless people;
- An increase in the number of traditional users of emergency accommodation.

Young people (aged 18-25), asylum seekers, rejected asylum seekers, families and low-skilled jobseekers are becoming more and more numerous as new users of homeless services. Low-skilled jobseekers face "episodic homelessness" correlated with low income and frequent loss of unstable jobs. Irregular and precarious jobs, the loss of affordable housing or an official residence result in exclusion and marginalisation.

Female victims of domestic violence and abuse, migrants and Italian nationals are also more likely to use referral, counselling and psychological support services for homeless people. At the same time, services are changing: there was an increase in beds for newcomers; help centres for asylum seekers; emergency stations for hygiene and food;

support measures to promote social inclusion (vocational guidance, legal aid, counselling); targeted housing projects (Housing First, housing co-ops, pilot projects for the implementation of the right to housing).

Homelessness among young people is a major issue in Italy. According to the ISTAT survey, in 2014, there were 13,012 young people among 50,724 homeless people (25%). According to the new Caritas report, almost 30% of homeless people were aged between 18 and 34 (7,484 out of 26,078 homeless people passed through one of Caritas's 1,801 help centres in 2017). 12% were Italian, 88% foreign nationals. Italian homeless young people were mainly male (60%), with a low level of education, a complex social background (family-related) and unemployed. On the other hand, many were young unemployed migrants with an intermediate level of education and residence permit, unemployed and with children in 30% of cases.

Increased numbers of the working poor, unaccompanied minors and families of foreign nationals in the homeless population are new challenges facing the homeless sector.