

# »Capturing Women's Homelessness«

Results of the German Homelessness Count  
and the BAG W-Statistics



## »Capturing Women's Homelessness«

### Content

Framework for Statistics: Help Landscape in Germany

Why and how the Statistics differ: Subgroups of People experiencing Homelessness and Housing Exclusion in Context of German Homelessness Count and BAG W-Statistics

Women's Homelessness: What this data shows us and what not



## Help Landscape in Germany addresses...

People experiencing all kinds of »Wohnungsnotfälle«

- Lit. »Housing Emergencies« are families and individuals with urgent housing needs
- Require professional assistance in order to obtain and secure adequate housing



Category	Number	Description	Code	Notes
ROOFLESS	1	People Living Rough		
	2	People in emergency accommodation		
HOUSELESS	3	People in accommodation for the homeless		
	4	People in Women's Shelter		
	5	People in accommodation for immigrants		
	6	People due to be released from institutions		
INSECURE	7	People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)	7.1 Residential care for older homeless people 7.2 Supported accommodation for formerly homeless people	Long stay accommodation with care for formerly homeless people
	8	People living in insecure accommodation	8.1 8.2 8.3	
	9	People living under threat of eviction	9.1 9.2	
INADEQUATE	10	People living under threat of violence	10.1	Police recorded incidents Where police action is taken to ensure place of safety for victims of domestic violence
	11	People living in temporary/non-conventional structures	11.1 11.2 11.3	Mobile homes Makeshift shelter Semi-permanent structure
	12	People living in unfit housing	12.1	Occupied dwellings unfit for habitation Defined as unfit according to building regulations
	13	People living in extreme over-crowding	13.1	Highest national norm of overcrowding Defined as exceeding the highest national norm of overcrowding per floor-space or unit

## Help Landscape in Germany

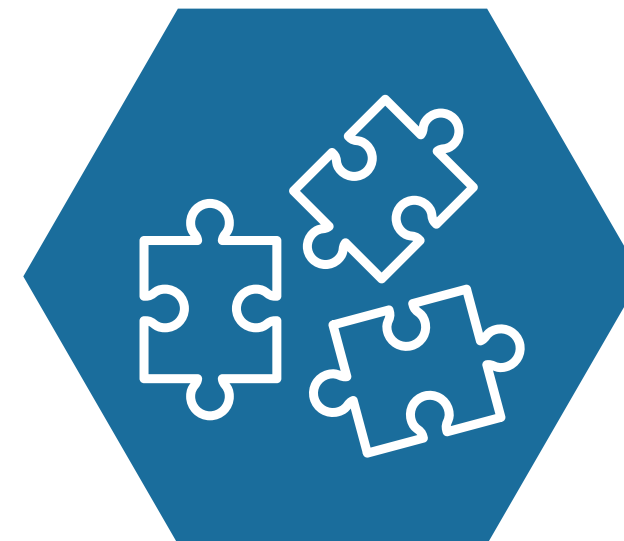
### BAG Wohnungslosenhilfe e.V.

Lit. »The Federal Working Group for Homeless Aid«

Umbrella association for service providers working with people experiencing homelessness and housing exclusion

Services like...

- ... assisted & supported accomodation
- ... emergency shelters
- ... streetwork
- ... specialised information/advice centres for people experiencing or at the risk of homelessness
- ... preventative services
- ... day centres / meeting places...



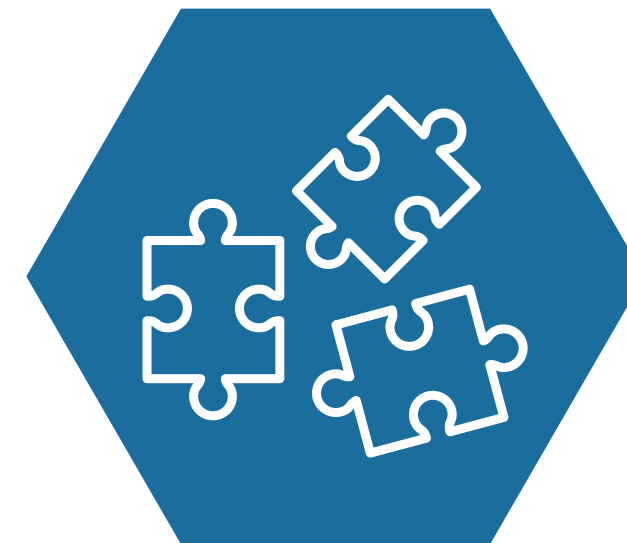
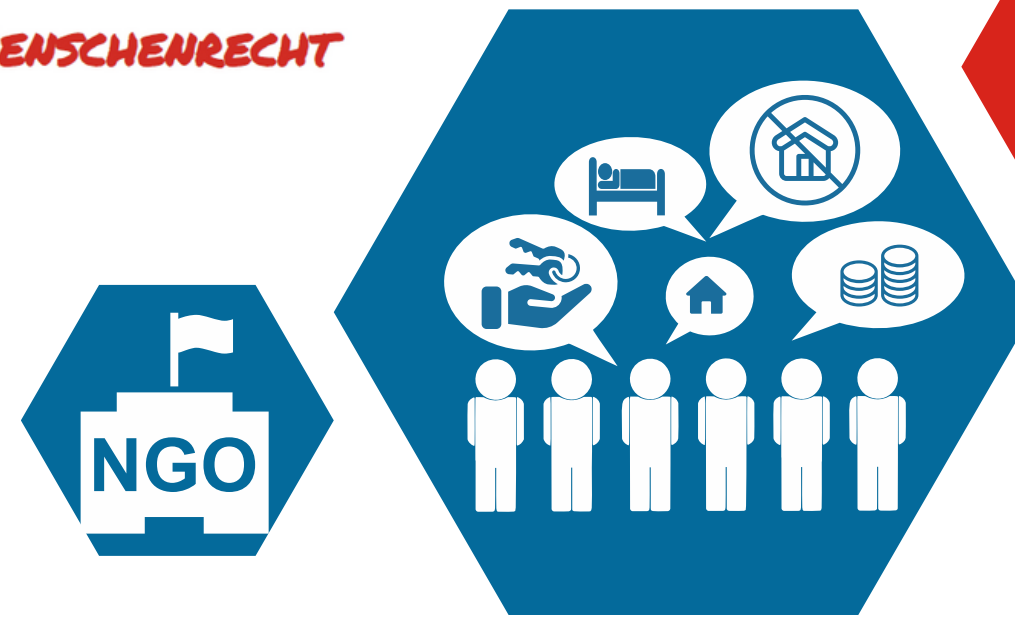
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Services in the  
Free Welfare  
Sector



## Help Landscape in Germany

Services like...

- ... police assigned accommodation
- ... Emergency shelters

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Services in the Sector of the Police and Regulatory Law

Services in the Free Welfare Sector

## Help Landscape in Germany

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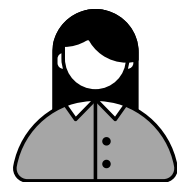
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Services in the Free Welfare Sector





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»Wohnungsnotfall-  
situationen« if they...

**...are homeless**

who does not have a  
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agreement (or property)



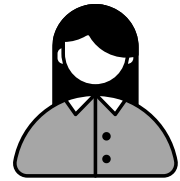
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homelessness**



**...are living in  
inadequate housing**







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German Public and Police Law**

who is police-assigned accommodated

**Accommodated in the Free Welfare Sector**

who is nongovernmental accommodated

**...are at risk of  
homelessness**

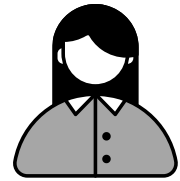


**...are living in  
inadequate housing**



**Refugees**

who still lives in asylum-  
seeker accommodations  
although he/she is  
recognised as having a right  
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## Homeless Count by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany Statistisches Bundesamt

### Statistik untergebrachter wohnungsloser Personen des Statistischen Bundesamtes [1]

lit. »Statistic on accommodated homeless people«

What it is:

- since 2022 Germany has a legally-required, nationwide data collection on homelessness, repeated annually from now on
- covers the institutionally accommodated persons in nongovernmental and governmental accommodations => core statistics

How it works:

- all municipalities have to inform the Federal Statistical Office how many people were accommodated in their territory in the night of 31. January to 01. February each year
- the participation is mandatory

[1] [https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Soziales/Wohnungslosigkeit/\\_inhalt.html](https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Soziales/Wohnungslosigkeit/_inhalt.html)



Accommodated

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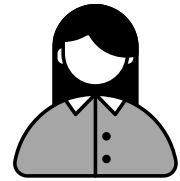
- The Wohnungslosenberichterstattungsgesetz (WoBerichtsG) [2], lit. »Homeless Reporting Act« states the procedure, how the data has to be transferred, which data has to be transferred (variables e.g. gender, age, nationality), who is in duty to give information, when the deadlines are etc.

What about the missing subgroups:

- rough sleepers, hidden homeless people and other relevant groups are not included in these core statistics
- Therefore the law includes additional empirical surveys for groups that are not included in the core statistics, repeated at two-year intervals

2] <https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/woberichtsg/index.html>





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who is police-assigned accommodated

Accommodated in the Free Welfare Sector

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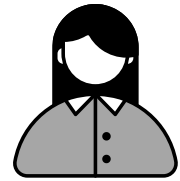


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who temporarily stays with friends / family / relatives

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## Homeless Count by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany

**Additional Survey by GISS/KANTAR PUBLIC 2022: »Empirische Untersuchung zum Gegenstand nach § 8 Abs. 2 und 3 WoBerichtsG« [3]**

lit.»Empirical Survey on the Subject Matter according to § 8 paras. 2 and 3 WoBerichtsG«

- the research institutes GISS & KANTAR were mandated to count and query
  - (1) hidden homeless persons who temporarily live with friends / relatives
  - (2) rough sleepers (including people living in their own super provisional shelters in representative communities and estimate (extrapolate on the basis of population classes) their total number in Germany
- february 2022: sample survey (one week after core statistic)
- persons that have been recorded in both statistics have been identified and extracted from total number

**Empirische Untersuchung zum Gegenstand nach § 8 Absatz 2 und 3 WoBerichtsG**

[3] [https://www.giss-ev.de/filestorage/publikationen/fb-605-empirische-untersuchung-zum-wohnungslosenberichterstattungsgesetz\\_titel\\_bmas.pdf](https://www.giss-ev.de/filestorage/publikationen/fb-605-empirische-untersuchung-zum-wohnungslosenberichterstattungsgesetz_titel_bmas.pdf)



Accommodated

# Homeless Count by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany



## Overall results

	Male	Female	Total
Accommodated homeless persons	66 %	71 %	<b>178.100</b>
Homeless persons without accommodation	17 %	8 %	<b>37.400</b>
Homeless minors without accommodation			<b>1.100</b>
Hidden homeless persons	17 %	21 %	<b>49.300</b>
Hidden homeless minors			<b>5.500</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	
			<b>- 8.800</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>262.600</b>

93.300 persons without accommodation / hidden homeless people

Double counting

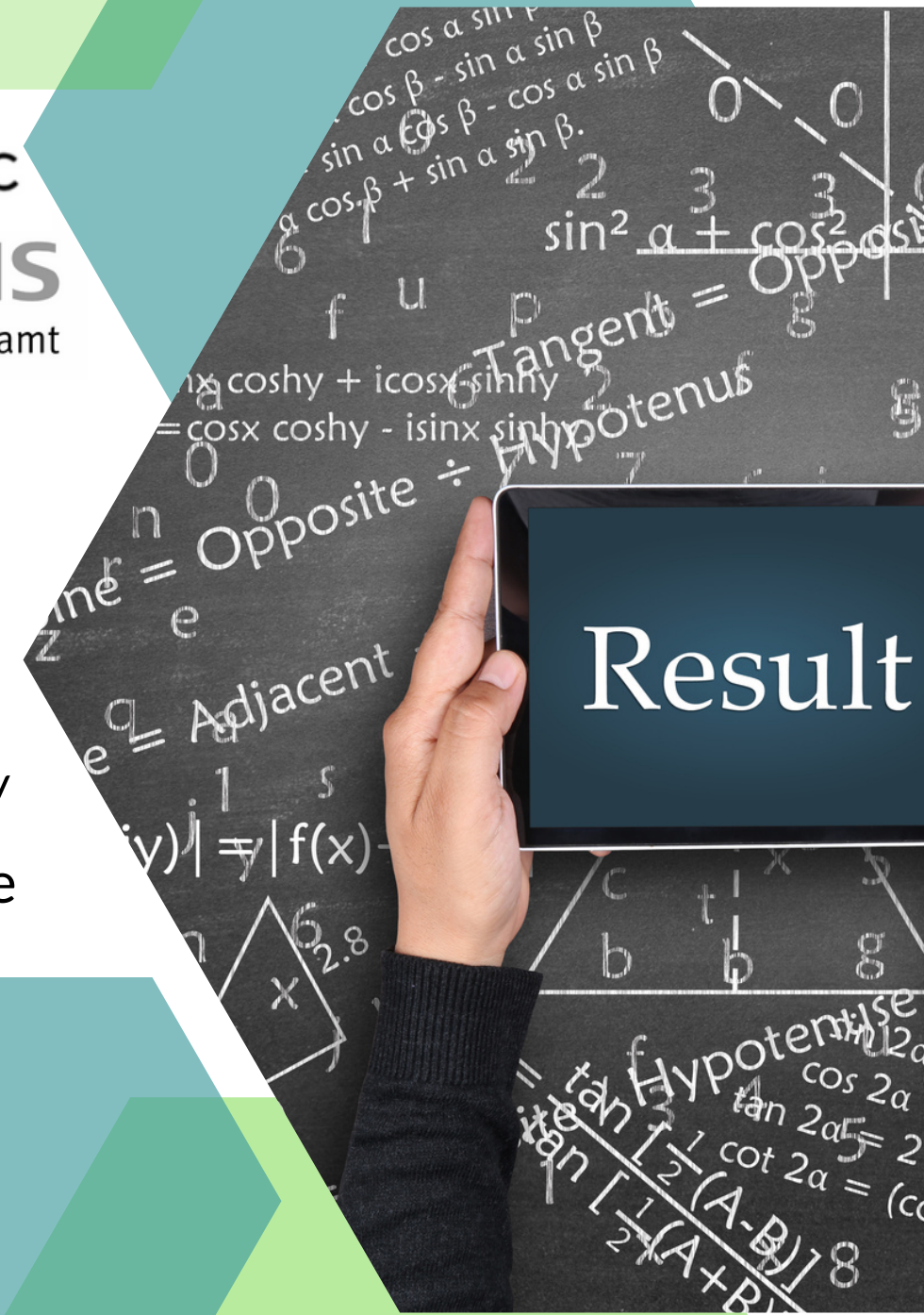


Tabelle 5.1.1 „Übersicht zu Zahl und Verteilung der wohnungslosen Personen“ Ausmaß und Struktur von Wohnungslosigkeit: Der Wohnungslosenbericht 2022 des Bundesministeriums für Arbeit und Soziales, S. 54

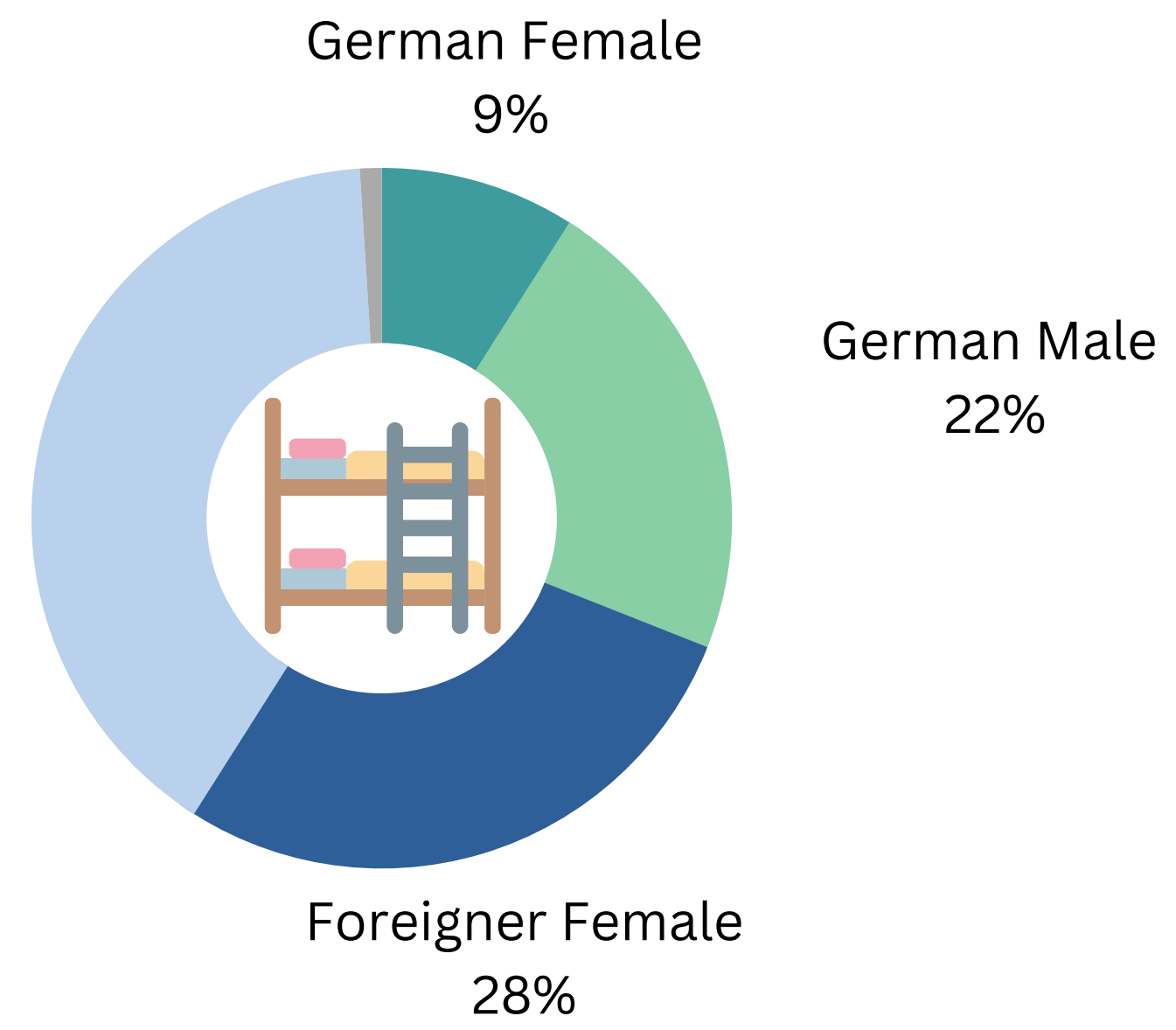
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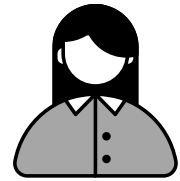
# Homeless Count by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany



## Gender

- In all three groups studied, men represent the majority
  - Accommodated = 62 % Male, 37 % Female, 1 % Unknown
  - Rough Sleepers = 79 % Male, 19 % Female, 1 % Non-Binary
  - Hidden homeless = 60 % Male, 40 % Female
- Differences between Germans and foreigners
  - Much more foreigners (governmental) accommodated because they often are excluded from support services the Free Welfare System provides
  - High number of Females = Women and female Children
- In the group of single-parents and their children, more woman and female children are in single-parent households (61 %)





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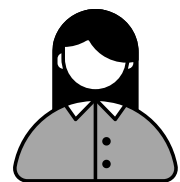
who stays emergency accommodation (overnight shelters), women's shelters,  
refuge accommodation, health care institutions etc.

who lives in (cheap) guesthouses

who lives in temporary/non-conventional structures (mobile homes, makeshift  
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who temporarily stays with friends / family / relatives

who is living rough



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**Supportet by institutions of  
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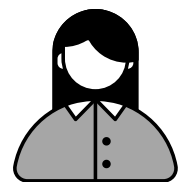
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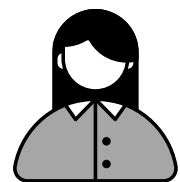
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Accompanying Study of the  
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GISS / Kantar 2022

Homelessness  
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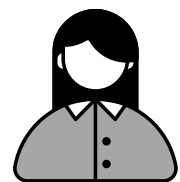
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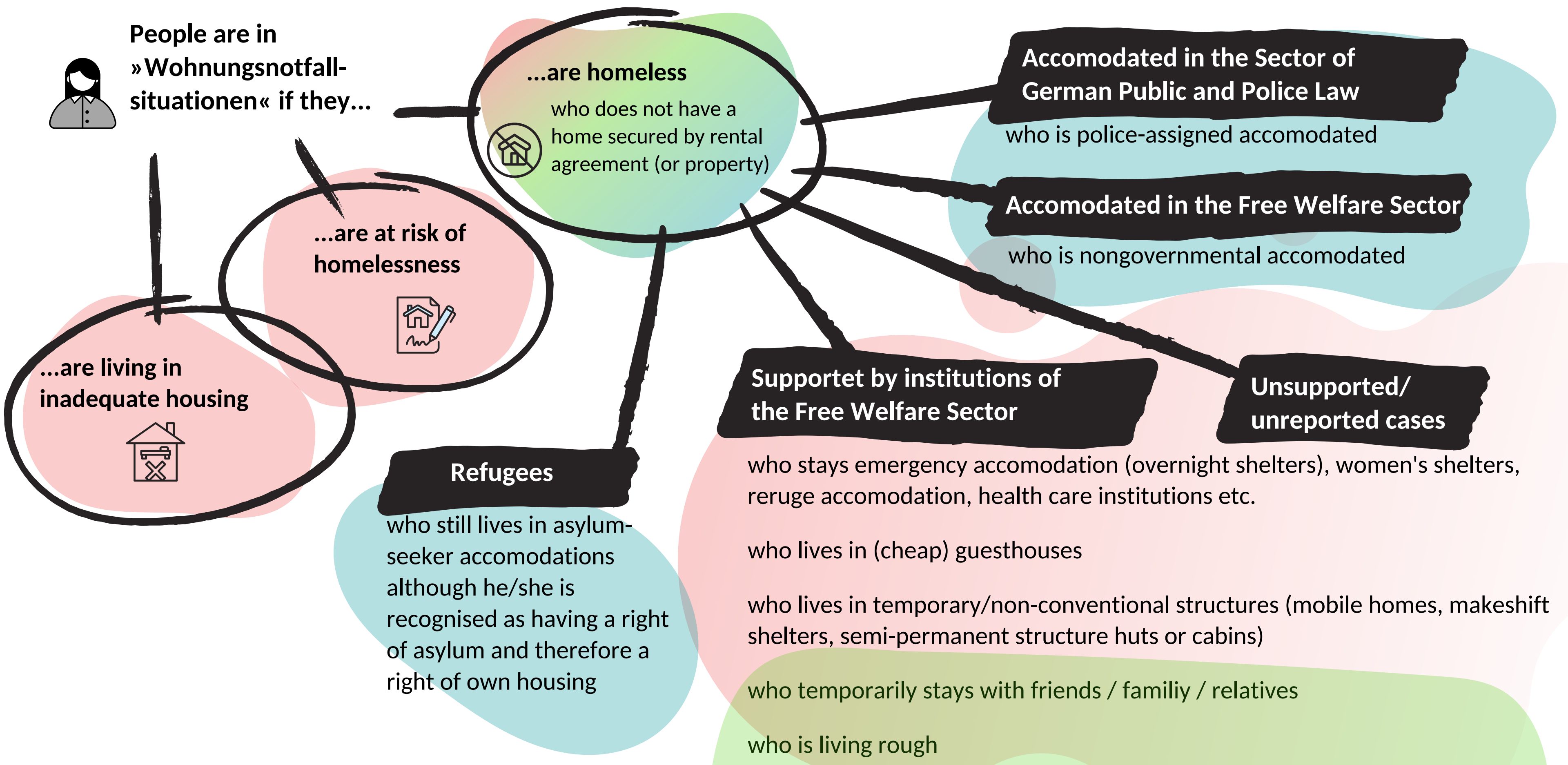
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## DzW by the BAG W

**Dokumentationssystem zur Wohnungslosigkeit** [4],  
lit. »Homelessness Documentation System«

What it is:

- standardized nationwide, software-supported System, designed to collect data about the assistances people in need get at the (emergency) support organisations/services
- the data is provided by non-governmental support organisations (free welfare sector)

How it works:

- if one is in need for help and involved in the helping system of the free welfare sector the help organisation will collect data about the helping process and their client - digitally, in the best case
- standardised transfer points can grab the information in aggregated format

[4] <https://www.bagw.de/de/themen/statistik-und-dokumentation/uebersicht>



### Statistikbericht

Zu Lebenslagen wohnungslos  
Wohnungslosigkeit bedroht  
in Deutschland – Lebenslagen

Schwerpunktthema: Medizin

Berichtsjahr 2020

Sarah Lotties



## DzW by the BAG W

What it is based on:

- all organisations participate voluntarily - it is therefore no complete population survey but a great sample
- 1999 a nationwide group of experts developed which and how the data can be collected, the first collection started 2002
- In addition to sociodemographic data (gender, age, nationality etc.) many specific characteristics of the clients and the help provided are included, e.g.
  - start & end of support, duration of homelessness
  - accommodation situation (friends, family, on the streets, at home...)
  - trigger and reason for homelessness
  - income, debts, bank account, health insurance

Central findings are published annually in BAG W-Statistics Report:

<https://www.bagw.de/de/themen/statistik-und-dokumentation/statistikberichterstattung/uebersicht>



### Statistikbericht

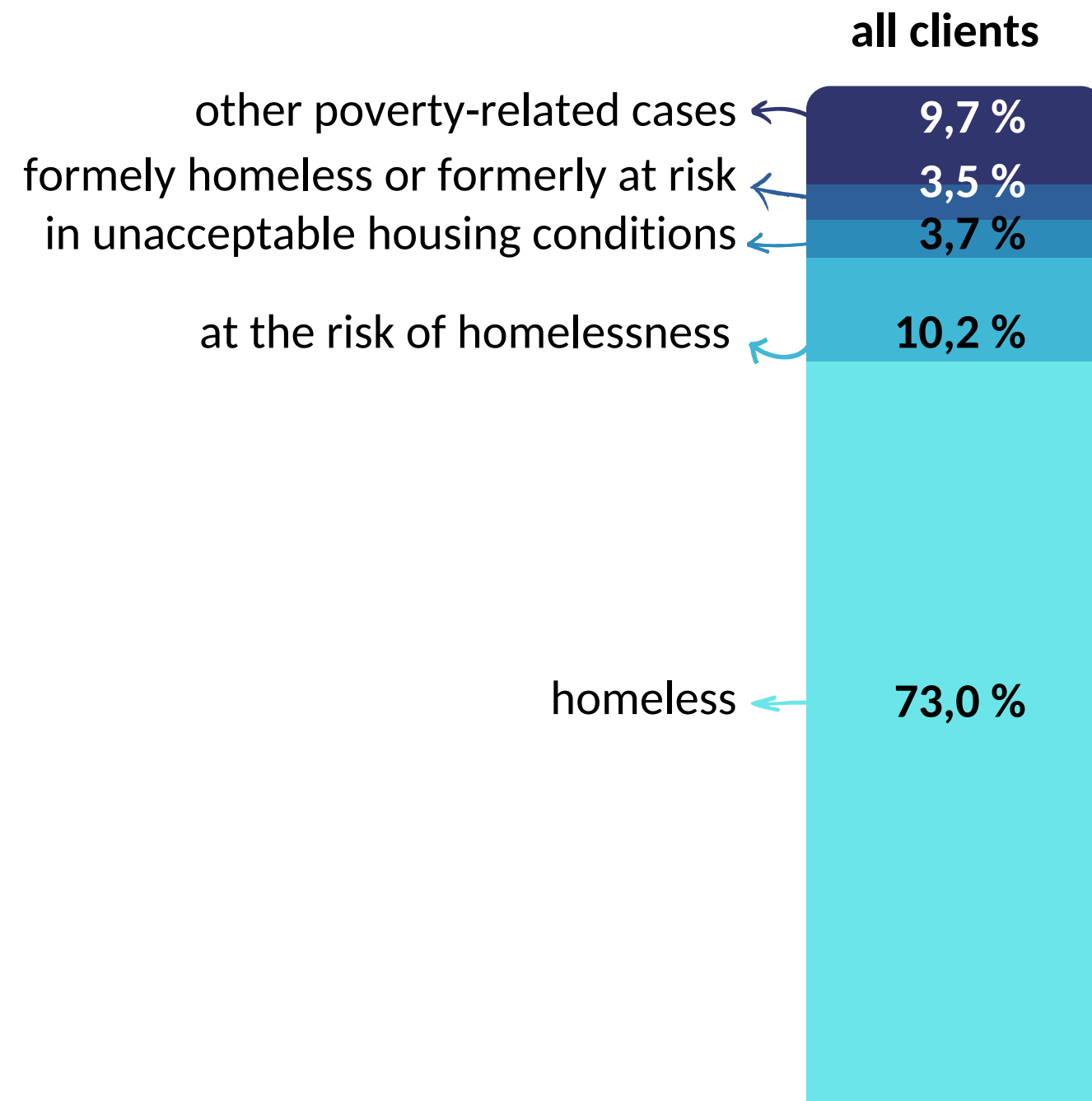
Zu Lebenslagen wohnungslos  
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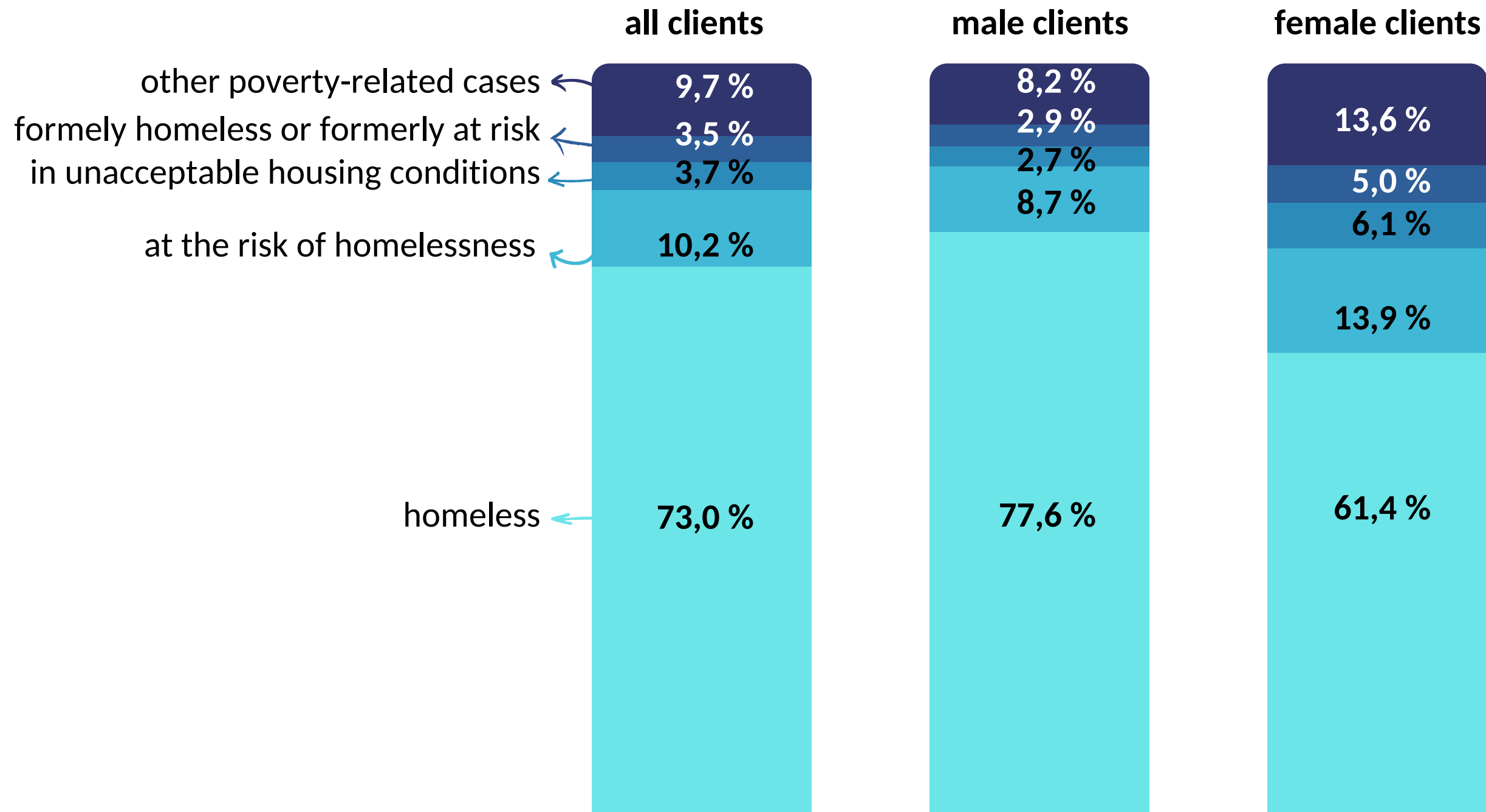
Berichtsjahr 2020

Sarah Lotties

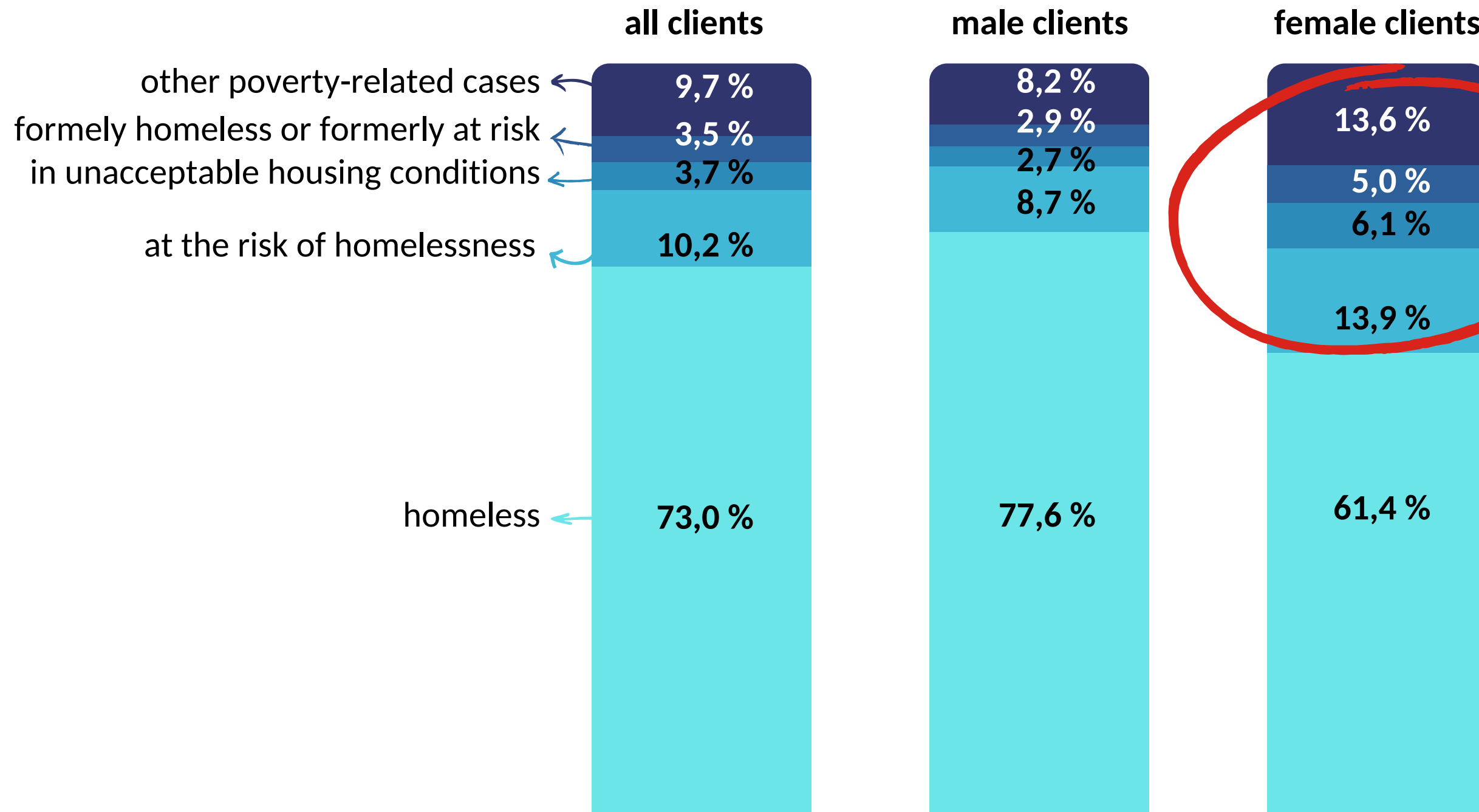
## Wohnungsnotfälle »Housing Emergencies« (DzW)



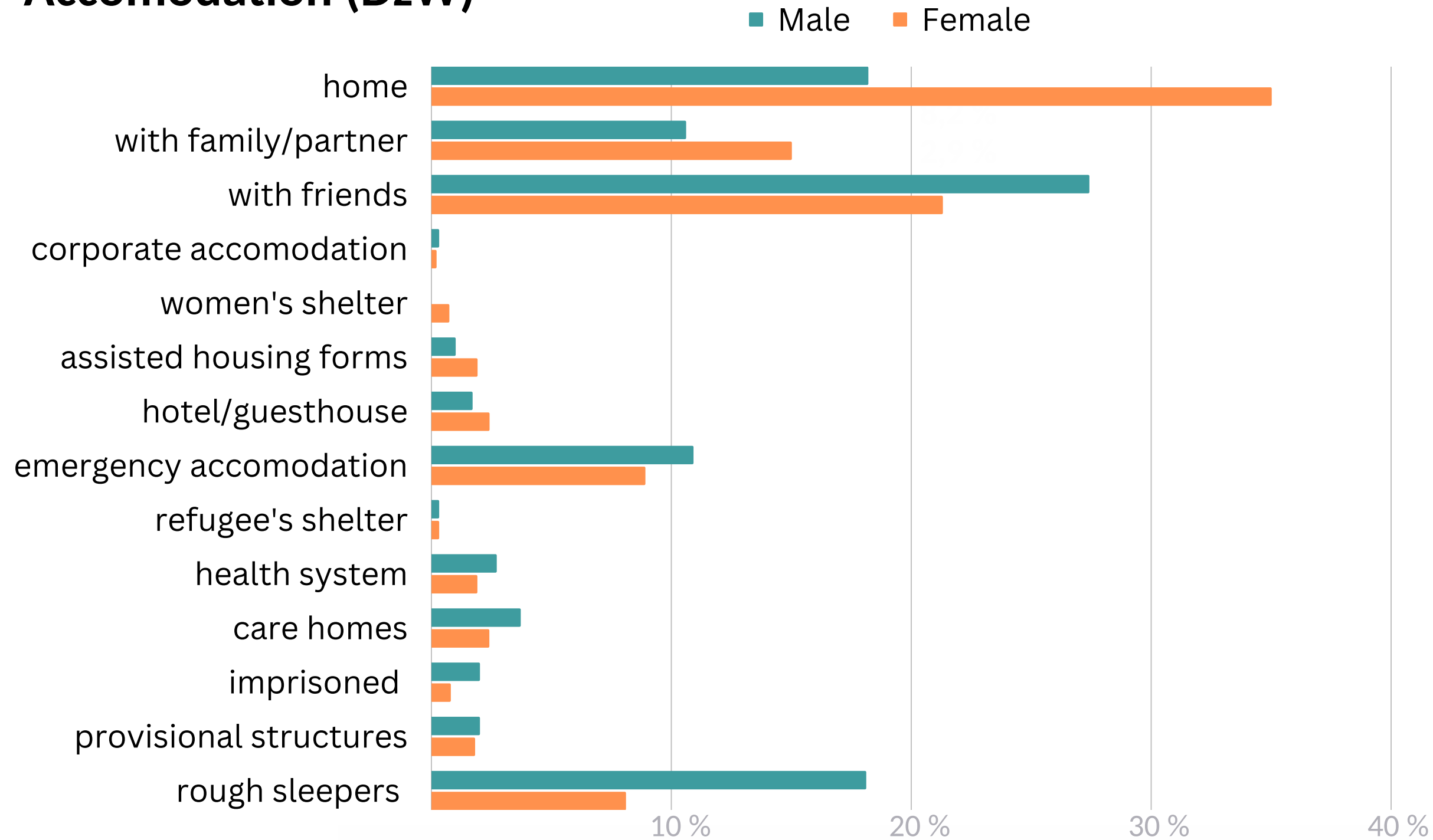
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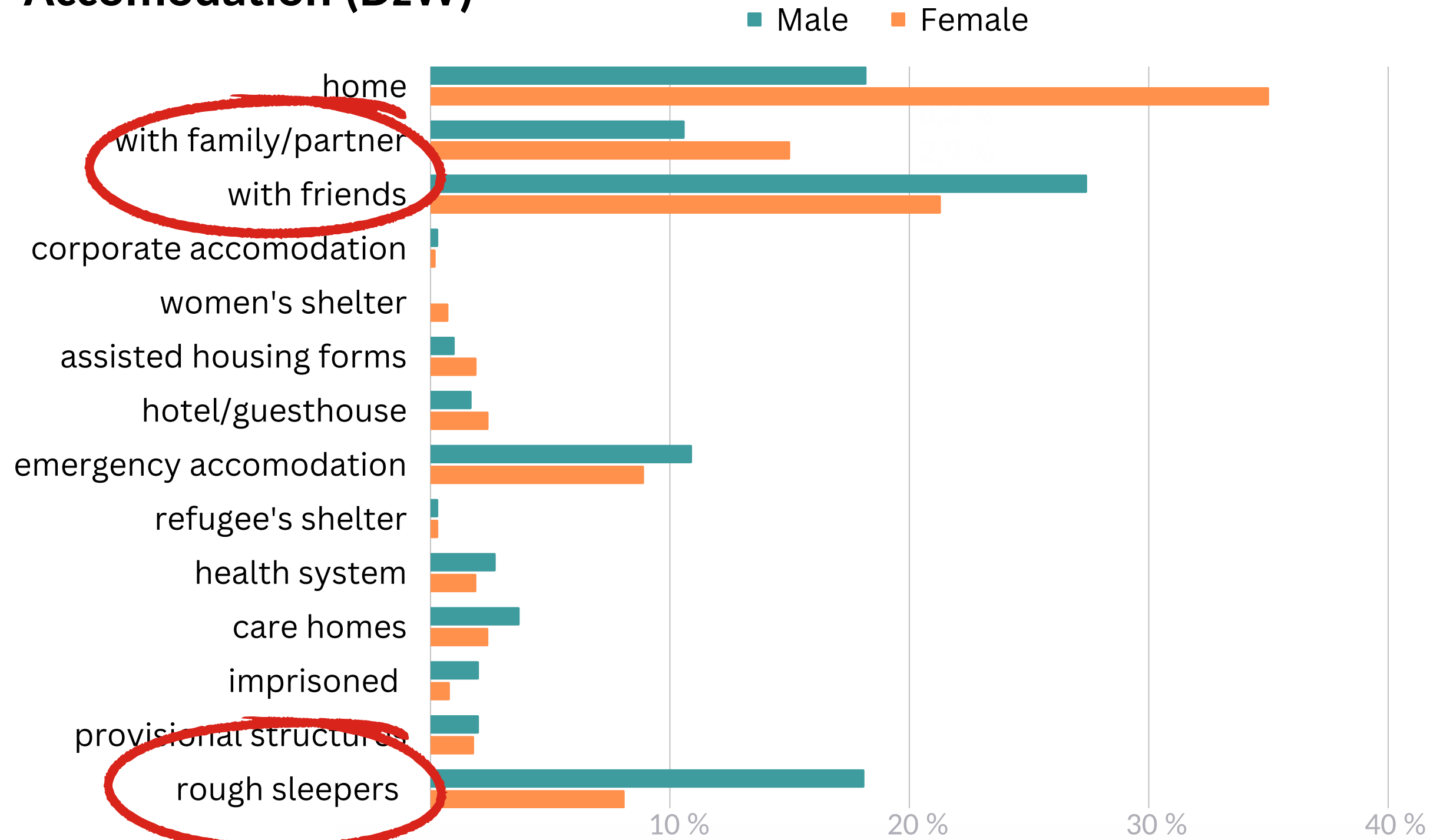
## Accomodation (DzW)



[www.bagw.de/fileadmin/bagw./nmedia/Doc/STA/STA\\_Statistikbericht\\_2020.pdf](http://www.bagw.de/fileadmin/bagw./nmedia/Doc/STA/STA_Statistikbericht_2020.pdf), S. 9



## Accommodation (DzW)

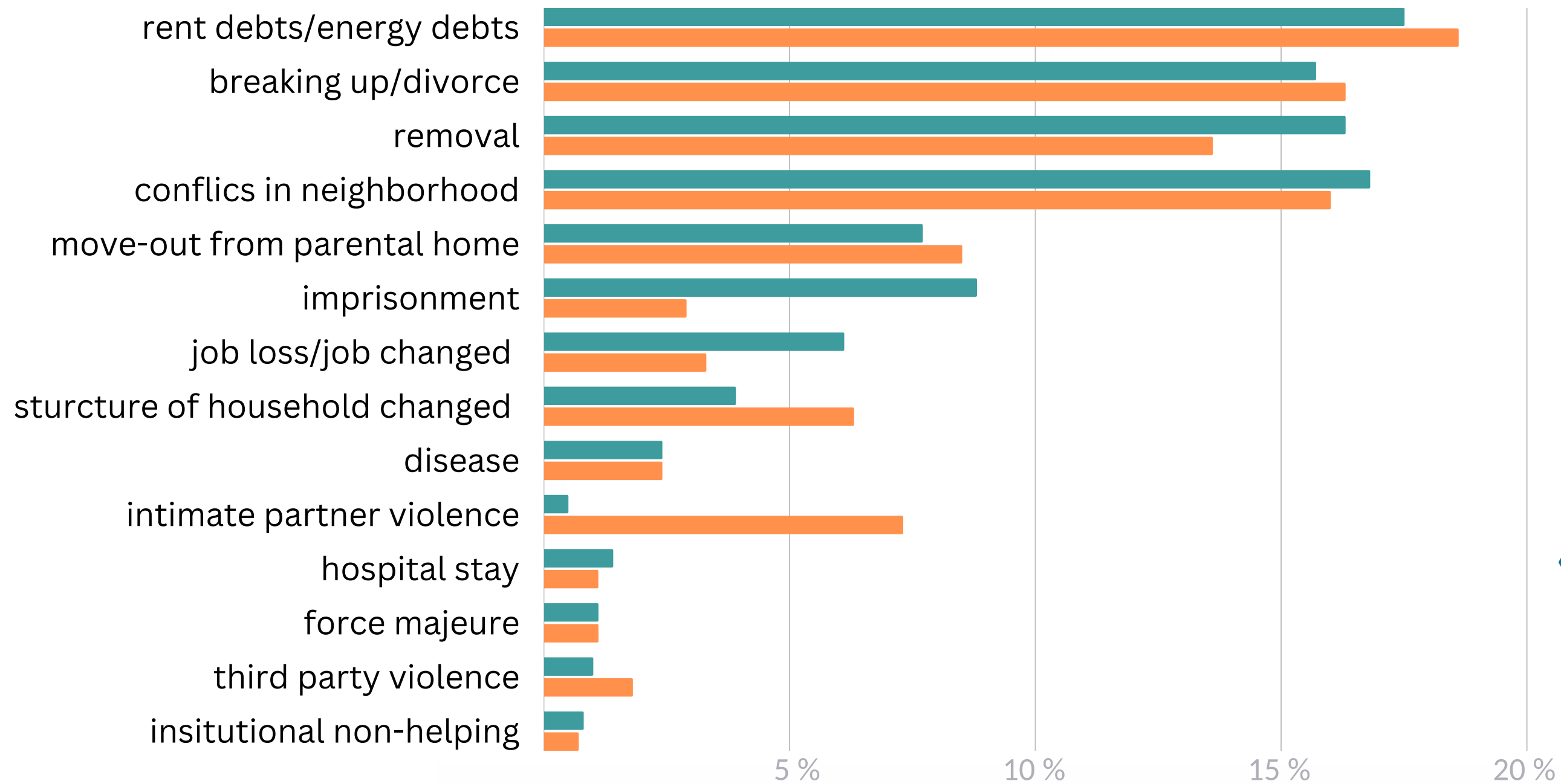


[www.bagw.de/fileadmin/bagw./nmedia/Doc/STA/STA\\_Statistikbericht\\_2020.pdf](http://www.bagw.de/fileadmin/bagw./nmedia/Doc/STA/STA_Statistikbericht_2020.pdf), S. 9



## Trigger of the last homelessness or the risk of homelessness (DzW)

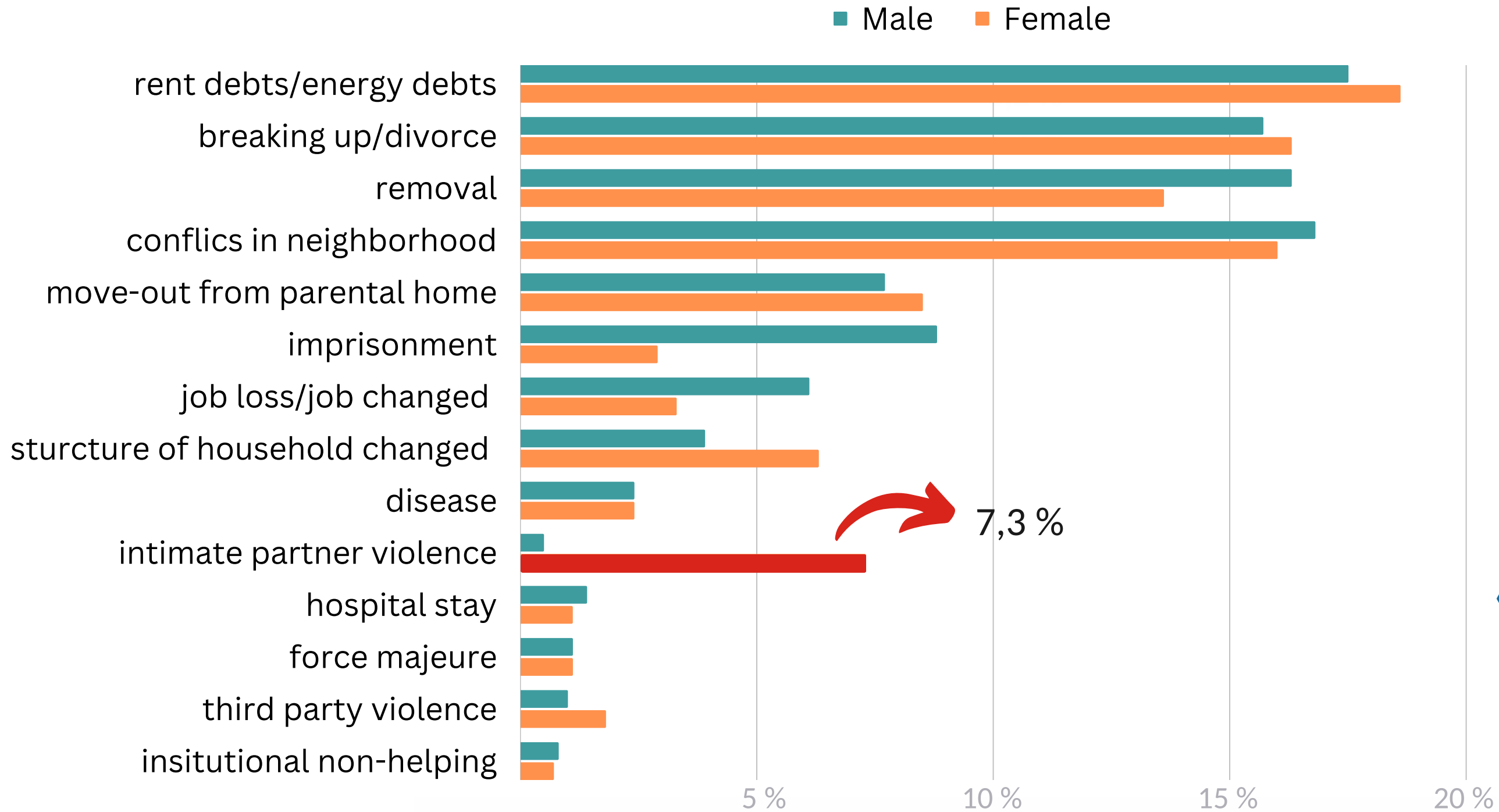
■ Male ■ Female



[www.bagw.de/fileadmin/bagw./nmedia/Doc/STA/STA\\_Statistikbericht\\_2020.pdf](http://www.bagw.de/fileadmin/bagw./nmedia/Doc/STA/STA_Statistikbericht_2020.pdf), S. 10



## Trigger of the last homelessness or the risk of homelessness (DzW)



[www.bagw.de/fileadmin/bagw./nmedia/Doc/STA/STA\\_Statistikbericht\\_2020.pdf](http://www.bagw.de/fileadmin/bagw./nmedia/Doc/STA/STA_Statistikbericht_2020.pdf), S. 10

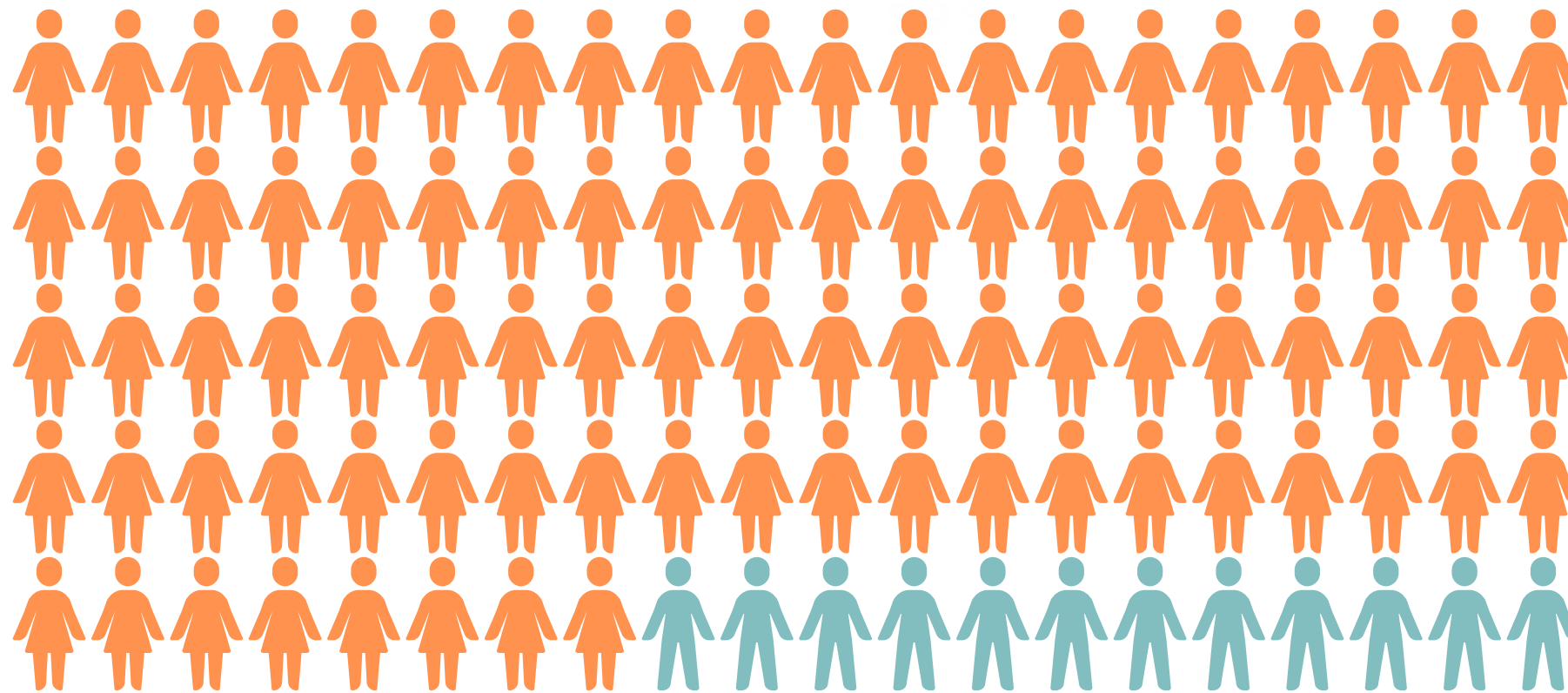




## Household - Single-Parents (DzW)

the majority of single-parent clients are woman

88 % of the single-parenting clients are women



12 % are male





## Conclusion - pt. I

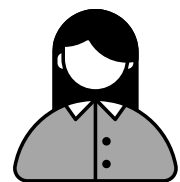
### The »Accommodated Homeless Count« by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany

- gives an overview on how many people are institutionally accommodated
- has a small set of variables but can provide absolute numbers
- due to the structure of the German support system for people experiencing homelessness more persons with migration background are institutionally accommodated - this also applies to woman

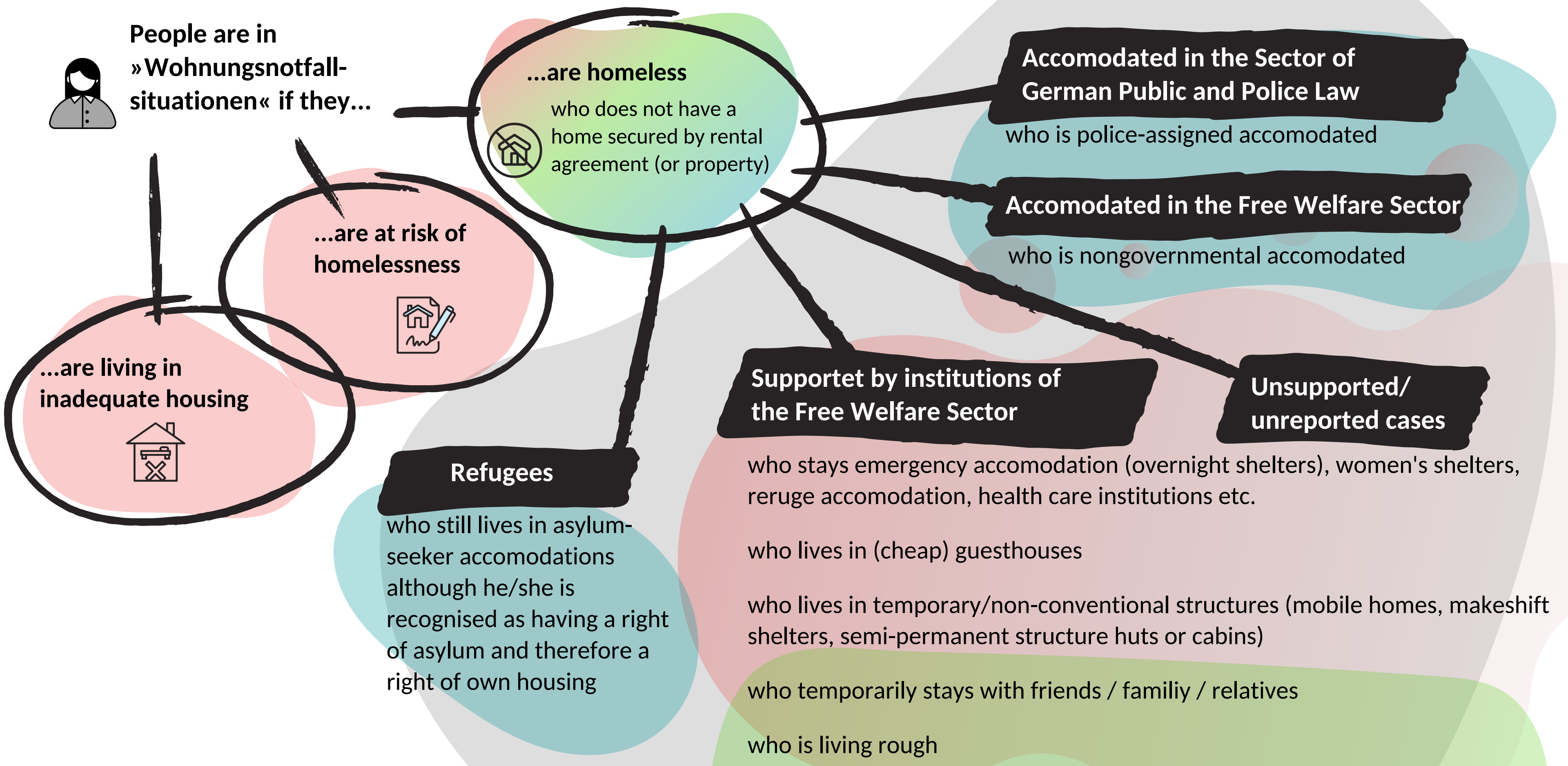
### The DzW by BAG W

- is able to examine broader correlations due to its much more variety of variables and its age but can only provide distributional numbers
- is representative for all kinds of help provided in the Free Welfare Sector

Moreover, both the Accommodated Homeless Count and the DzW can hardly make reliable statements about people in the refugee sector. Necessary legal amendments are already being planned so that the Accommodated Homeless Count can do this in the future.



People are in  
»Wohnungsnotfall-  
situationen« if they...



Homeless Count by the  
Federal Statistical Office  
of Germany

Accompanying Study of the  
Homeless Count by  
GISS / Kantar 2022

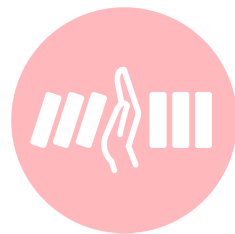
Homelessness  
Documentation System by  
the BAG W

Estimation of the number  
of homeless people by the  
BAG W



## Conclusion - pt. II

What do we know from the data about women's needs in housing emergencies?



Preventive services has to be strengthened



Services for women in partnerships are needed...



...as well as low-threshold / female-specific services for woman only



Protection from violence for woman and their children must be ensured (e.g. separate shelters, violence protection concepts, implentation of the Istanbul Convention)



## Conclusion - pt. II

What do we know from the data about women's needs in housing emergencies?



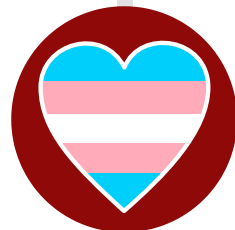
Services need to be multilingual and culturally open



Different and needs-based services for women with children who live with them and women with children who do not live with them



Cooperations between different sectors of help providers / welfare is necessary (e.g. youth welfare office)



Trans\* women are women

Despite the above mentioned needs also trans\* specific needs must also be taken into account

## »Capturing Women's Homelessness«

Sarah Lotties

Policy Officer at  
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Wohnungslosenhilfe e.V.

