



# Nordic Homeless Monitor

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# Overview

- Why compare?
- Methodology
- Results
- Use and impact – by Ilja Sabaj-Kjær

# Why compare?

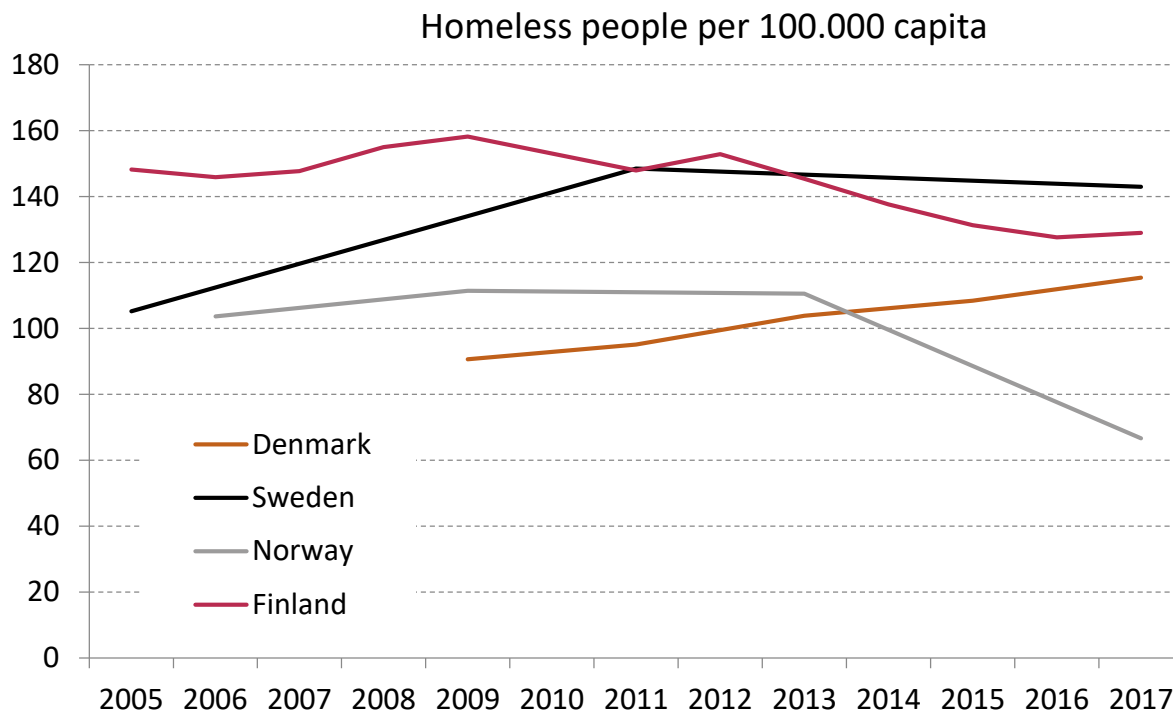
- Comparison of development of homelessness in the Nordic Countries
  - Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland
  - Individual data
- Similar societies: Nordic welfare states
  - If one country have reduced a problem, the other countries can do it too
- First step in solving the problem: Measure the problem

# Methodology

- Comparison of national countings in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland
- Denmark: Every 2nd year: Several organizations with homeless clients answers a survey for each of their homeless clients in week 6
- Sweden and Norway: Similar to the Danish methodology
- Finland: Survey answered by municipalities every year. Data from e.g. rental apartments and social service
  - Different methodology, reduces comparability
  - Not all variables available for Finland
- Disclaimer: Not easy to find all homeless people => do not overinterpret the results

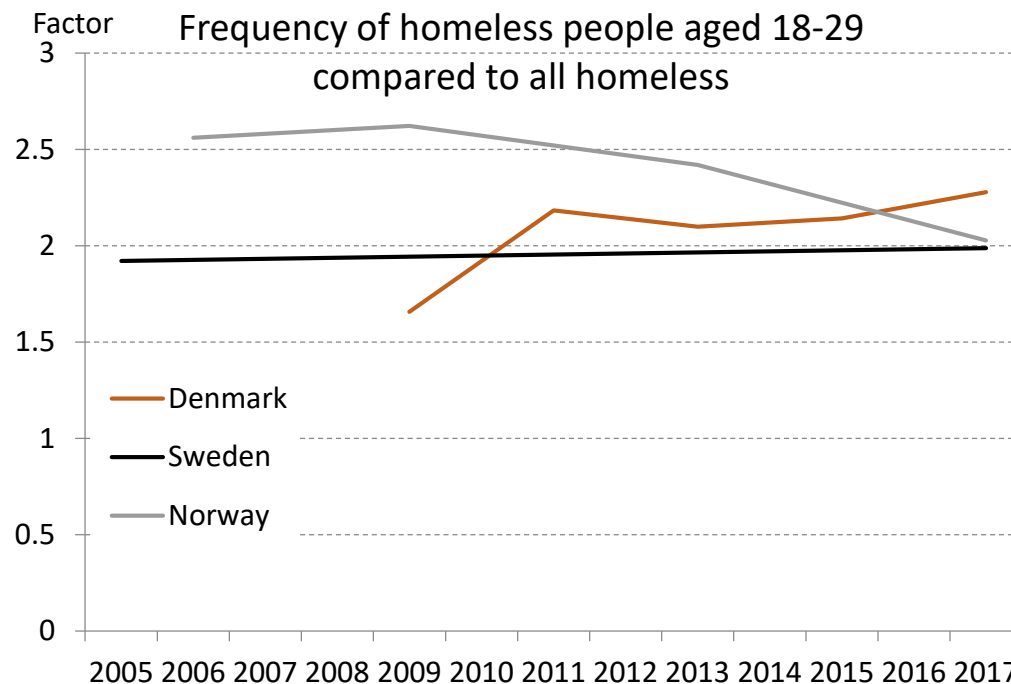
# Homelessness in the Nordic countries

- Quite dramatic developments
  - Increasing frequency in Denmark and in Sweden
  - Decreasing frequency in Finland and especially in Norway



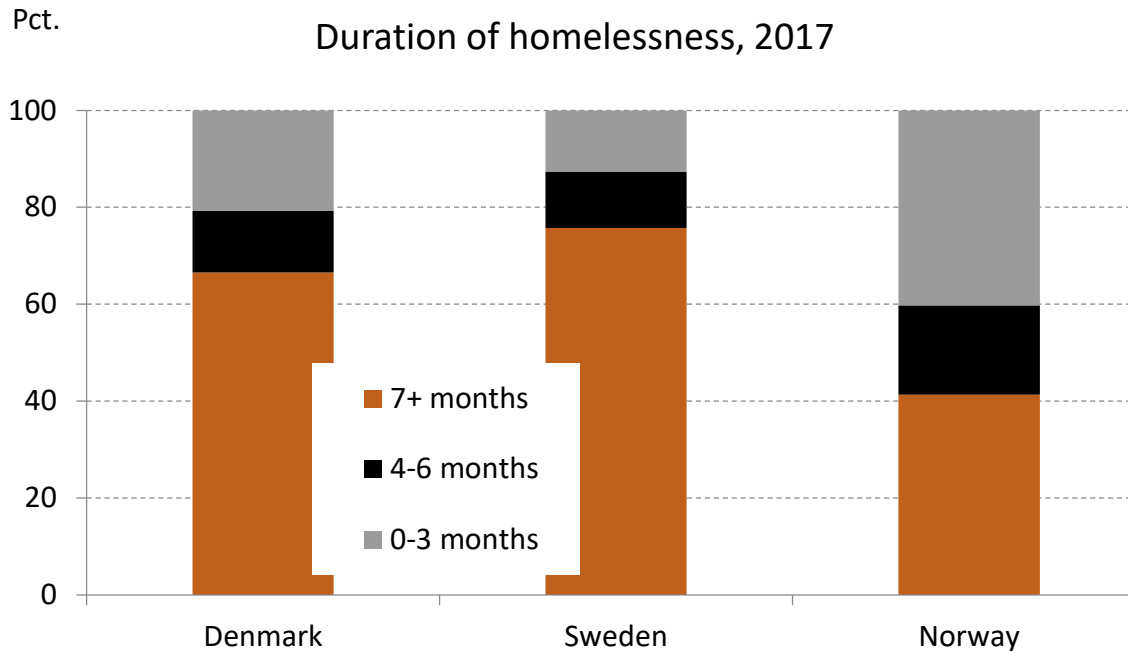
# Youth homelessness

- In these three countries: More likely for youth than for others to be homeless
- Very different developments in Denmark and Norway



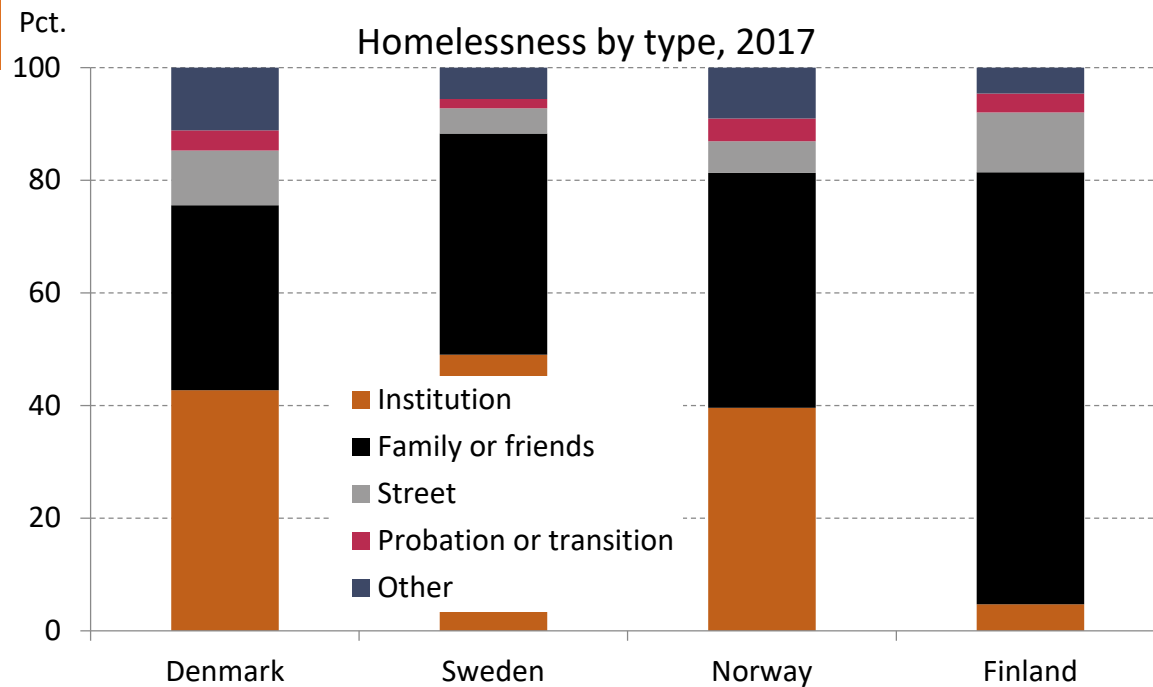
# Duration of homelessness

- Longer duration of homelessness in Denmark and Sweden than in Norway



# Types of homelessness

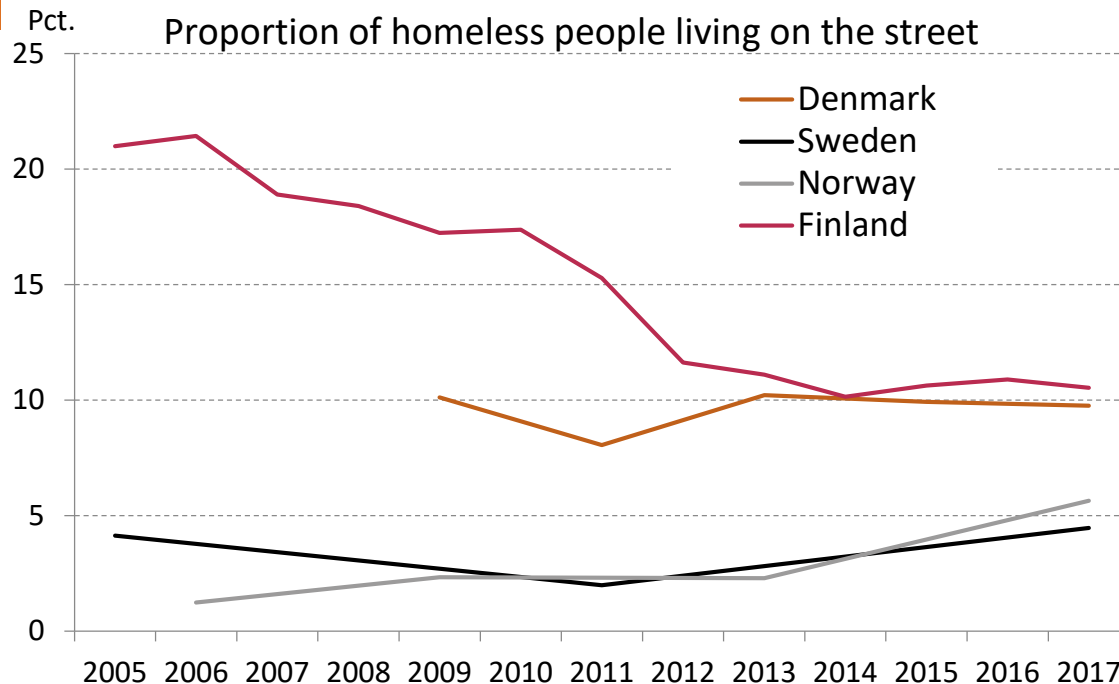
- Large differences between Finland and the other countries
  - Beware of the counting methodology





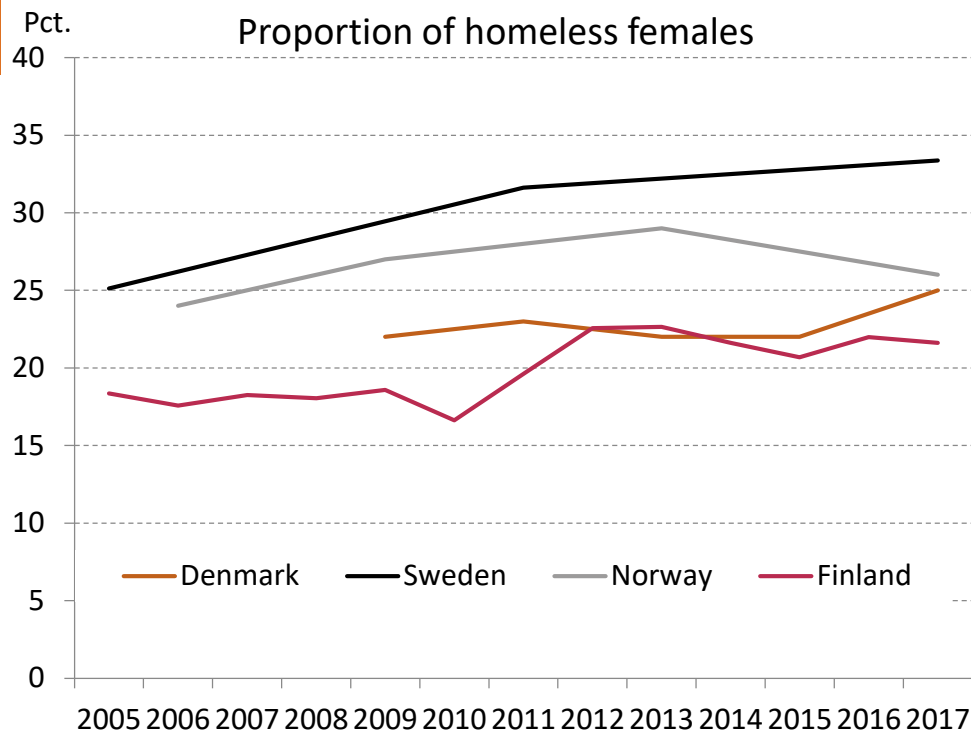
# Development of street homelessness

- Dramatic reductions in street homelessness in Finland over a decade
  - Maybe the most important result



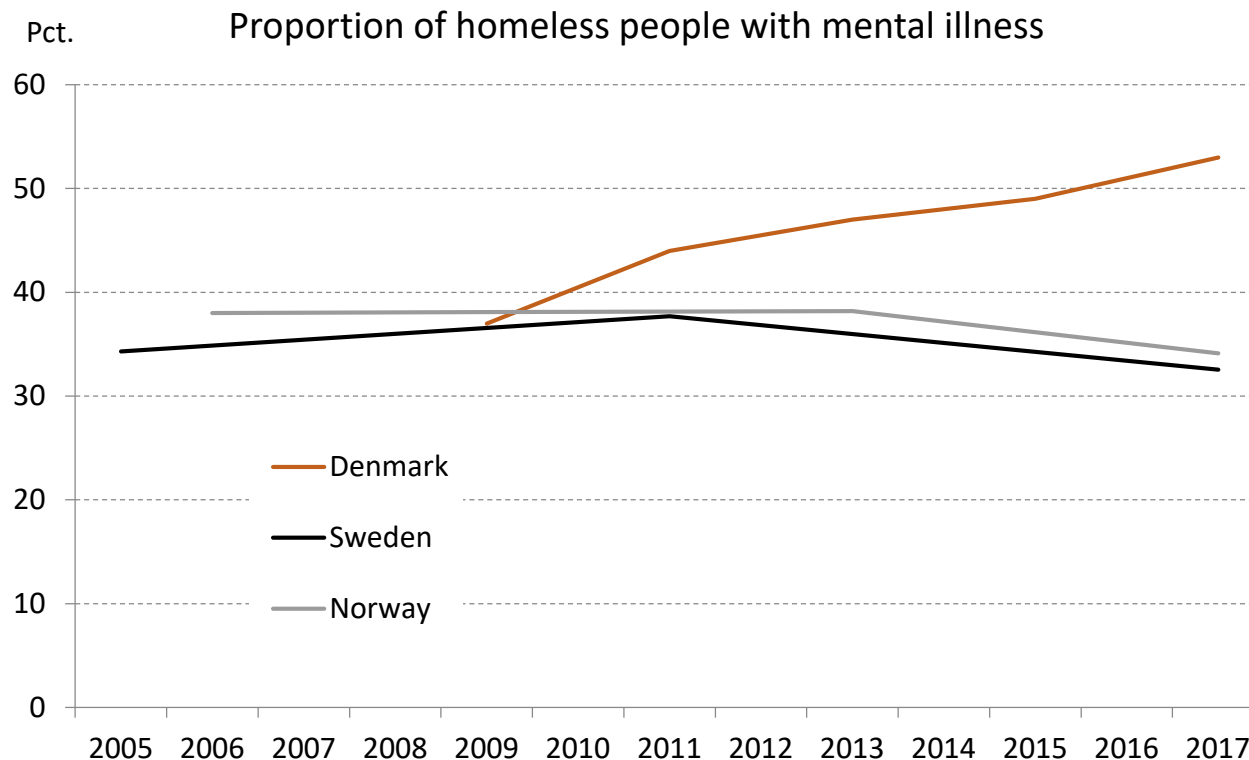
# Homelessness and gender

- Increasing share of females in Denmark, Sweden and Norway - why?



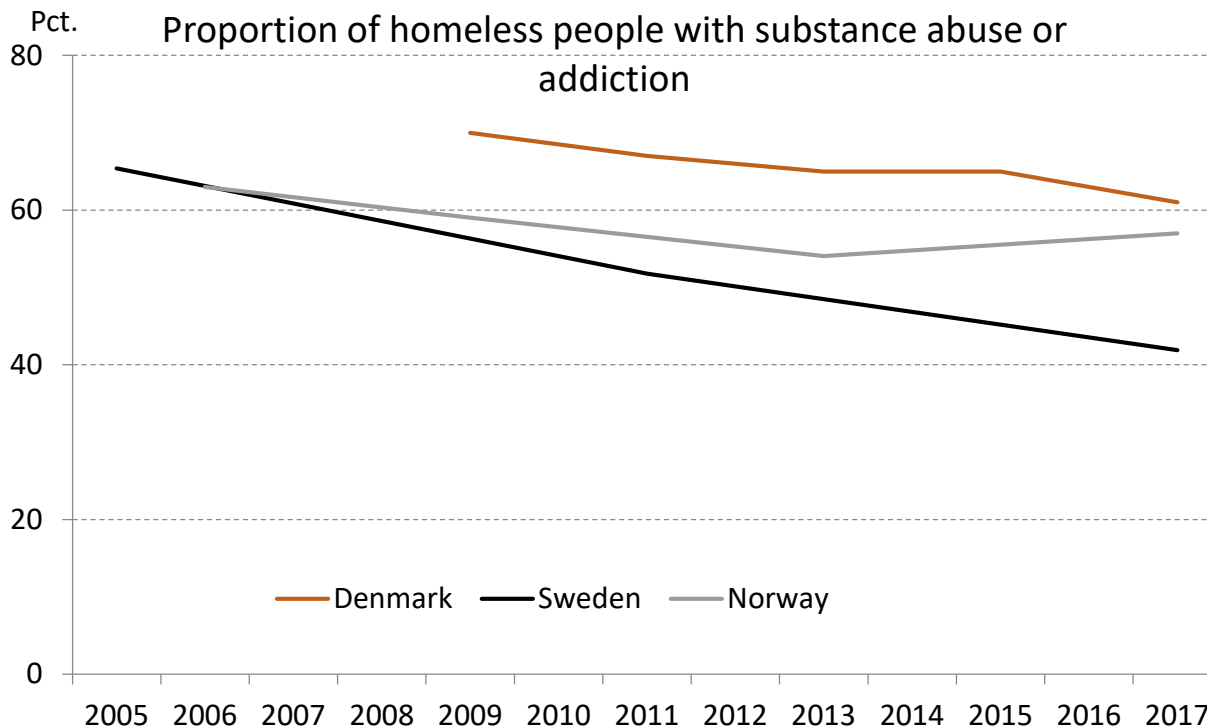
# Homelessness and mental/physical health

- Rapid increase in share with mental illness in Denmark
  - Danish reform removes early retirement schemes for people younger than 40 (in 2013 however)



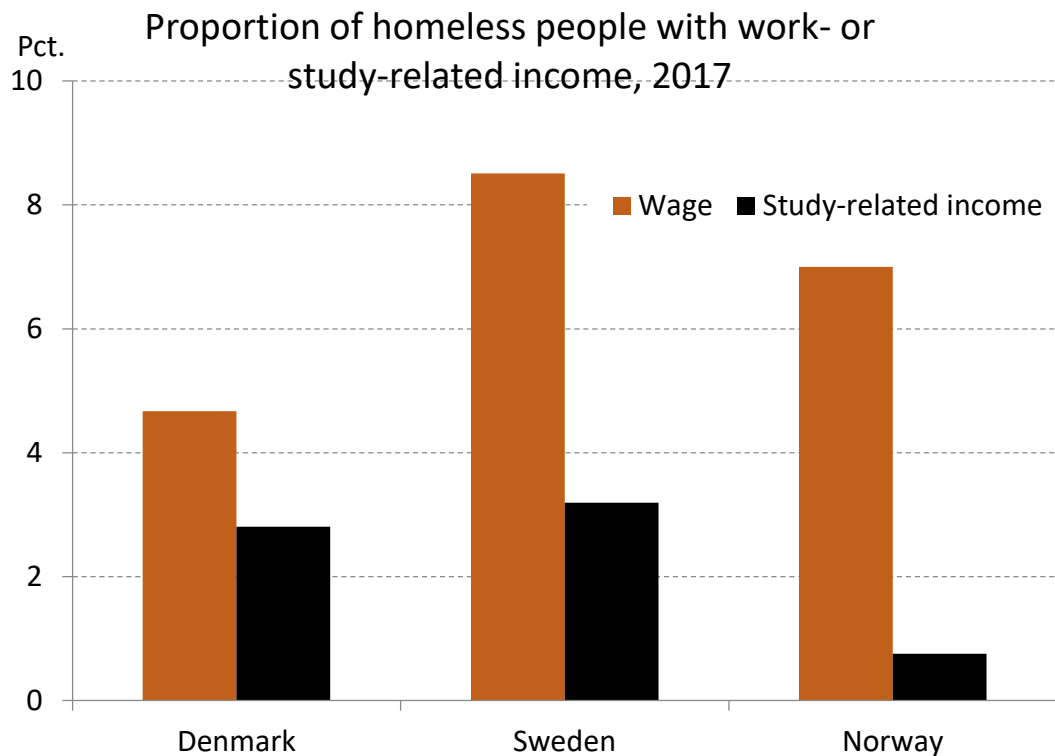
# Homelessness and substance abuse

- Massive substance abuse among homeless people
  - General reductions in share



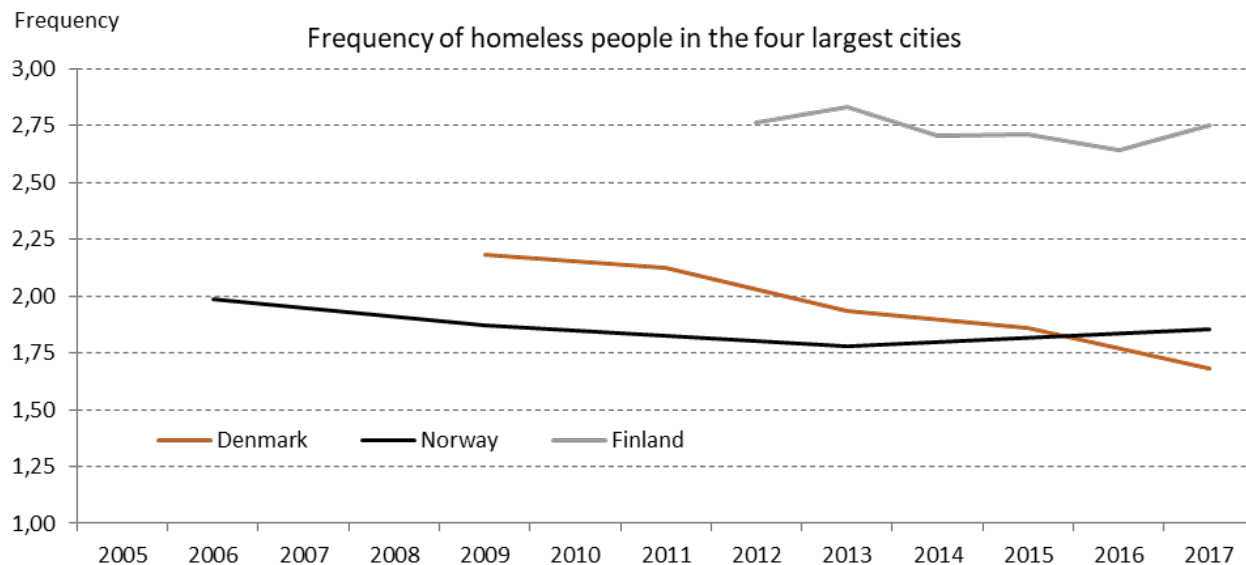
# Homelessness and income

- Small minorities of homeless people have work or study income
  - Unexplained variations among countries



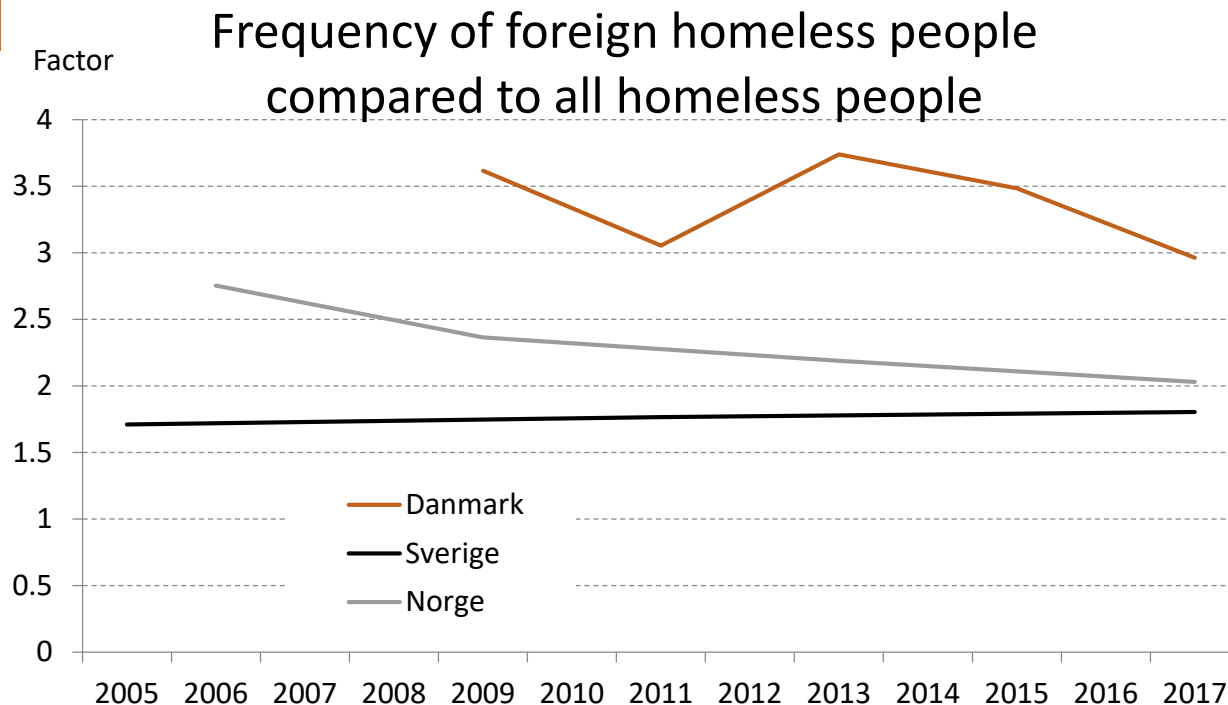
# Concentration of homeless in the four largest cities

- Def.: Share of homeless in major cities / population share of major cities
  - Major cities attracts homeless people in all countries
  - Higher level in Finland than in other countries



# Homelessness and origin

- Foreigners are more exposed to homelessness
  - Convergence among countries, but still highest level in Denmark



# Topics for further research

- Differences in overall developments in Denmark and Finland/Norway, why?
- Rapid decrease in street homeless in Finland, why?
- Why is the share of homeless females in general increasing?
- Why is the share of homeless people with mental illness increasing in Denmark?
- Higher homelessness in major cities in Finland – why?



# Conclusion

- Simple measures and country comparisons create important insights and raises important questions
- Denmark and Sweden might learn from Norway and especially Finland who has had a strong political focus on homelessness for several years
- Differences and positive developments in Sweden and Finland indicates that homelessness can be reduced

# Use and Impact of the analysis

- Plenary discussion on possible impacts of the analysis
- Plenary discussion on how international comparisons can be used to lift an agenda
- Plenary discussion on how to compare across borders.