

The First General Count of Homeless Persons in the Czech Republic in 2019

*14th European Research Conference on Homelessness
Sweden, Helsingborg, 20th September 2019*

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Purpose and Background of the Count

Who conducted the count?

- **The Submitter:** Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Czech Republic)
- **The Solver:** Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs (Prague)

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- Strong demand for *numbers* as the essential argument for political action in the area of social work and social policy

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When did we count?

- **Second week in April (8 - 14 April 2019)**

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Participation of 403 Czech municipalities

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Participating municipalities covered 54% of the population of the Czech Republic

- Participation of 17 of the Czech Republic's 18 largest cities with populations of over 50 000
- Regarding municipalities that refused to join the project, geographical extrapolation was applied based on data from the participating municipalities

Who was counted?

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How did we count?

Four types of methodology were prepared and applied.

Fitting scenarios for particular municipalities were chosen according to:

- General interest and approach towards the phenomenon of homelessness
- Willingness and ability to offer a sufficient number of numerators
- Size of the municipality area/population

The keystone to our approach was to motivate and involve as many municipalities as possible in the count. We involved every municipality that expressed an interest.

How did we ensure enough numerators for the field-work?

- Presentation of the project to regional civil servants responsible for the social agenda in all 14 Czech regions. We arranged meetings so as to coincide with their regular visits to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- Convincing them to act as regional coordinators for our project or to suggest an alternative responsible person at the regional government level
- Appointments in 13 of the Czech Republic's 14 regions with social workers from all the respective regions' municipalities. We presented our project in an effort to convince them to participate

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How did we motivate local public authorities to join our project?

- Emphasis on the purpose and importance of the project
- Unique opportunity to obtain important data on the local homeless population
- Strong methodological and partial financial support from our institution
- Access to reports on the local as well as the national count in return for active participation

Methodology of the Count

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- 3) The collection of data in the field in municipalities with low threshold facilities (shelters for homeless people and/or day centres for homeless people)

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- 4) The capture-mark-recapture method was applied in the largest Czech municipalities

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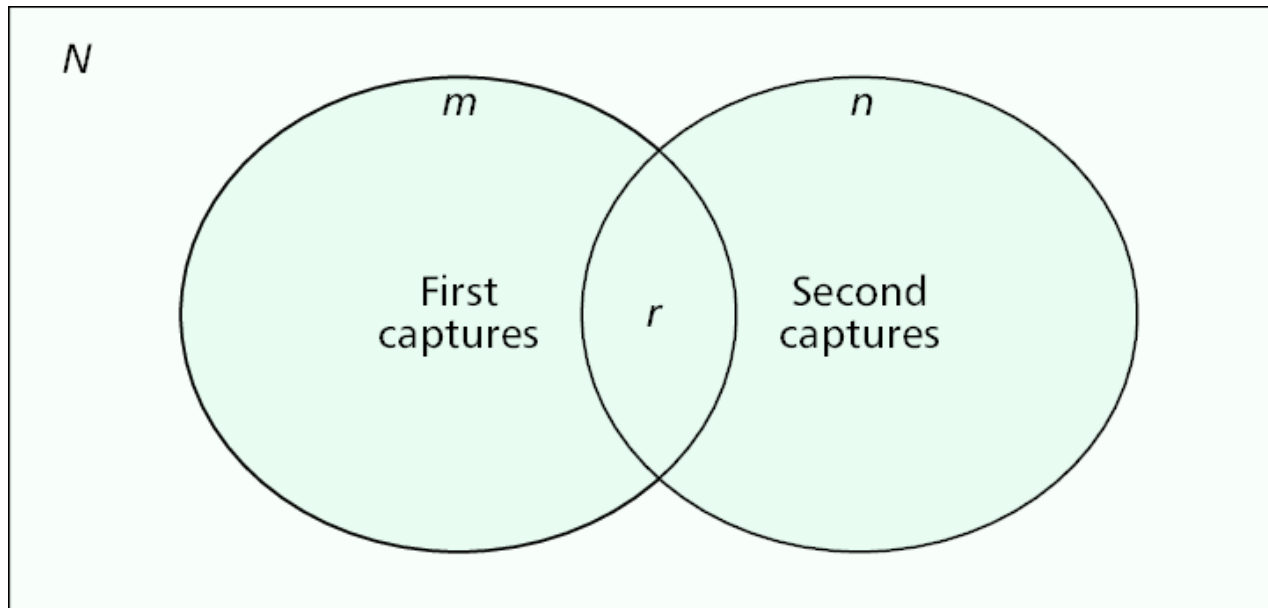
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Essential approach of the methodology

- Continuous monitoring of the city area for several months (before the week of the count) to identify areas where the homeless spent their time
- All the sites at which homeless persons were encountered during the day and the places in which they stayed overnight were recorded on a map of the city
- Numerators repeatedly visited the recorded sites during the week of the count until they met only those homeless persons already encountered.

The capture-mark-recapture method was applied in the largest cities

Capture Mark Recapture method



$$N/m = n/r$$

$$N = n/r * m$$

N – counted population

m – persons contacted in the first capture

n – persons contacted in the second capture

r – persons contacted in both captures

Confidence interval must be determined

Enquiry of contacted persons

Contact was made with each of the homeless persons encountered and enquiries made concerning:

- Type of the current (usual) place in which they passed the night
- Age
- How long they had been roofless/houseless
- Persons identified as homeless were given a small green card so as to prevent him/her being counted again by another numerator

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Collecting the data from institutions

Beside the counts in Czech municipalities, we have been running 3 online surveys:

- Survey in shelters for long term accommodation and in halfway houses (based on national register of social services)
- Survey in Czech prison
- Survey in Czech health care facilities

Return rate was 80 – 100 % depending on the type of facility

Geographical extrapolation of the data gathered in municipalities

- Data was gathered from municipalities that covered 54% of the Czech population
- We sorted the surveyed municipalities into groups according to population size
- The ratio of homeless to non-homeless persons was determined for each group
- The ratios were applied to those Czech municipalities that did not participate in the count

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Extrapolation of the data from online survey

- Analyses of declared capacities of those shelters and halfway houses, which didn't reply to our emails (and phone calls)
- Figuring out of the ratio of average occupation and applying it on those facilities

Results of the Count

Final estimate of the number of homeless persons in the Czech Republic

Czech republic has approx. 10 600 000 inhabitants (8 700 000 adults)

	total	per 1000 inhab.
Adults (total)	21220	2,00
Under the age of 18 (total)	2680	0,25
Low-threshold shelters and public spaces	11608	1,01
Long term acc. Shelters – adults	3949	
Long term acc. Shelters – under 18	2186	
Nonformal dormitories - adults	1258	
Nonformal dormitories – under 18	382	
Halfway houses – adults	247	
Halfway houses – under 18	24	
Prison	1500	
Health care facilities – adults	2770	
Health care facilities – under 18	4	

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