

The housing, service and benefit pathways of the homeless in Finland

Niemi, Veera

University of Turku, Finland, Department of Social Research

Introduction

We analyze the housing, service and benefit pathways of the homeless in Turku, Finland, in a longitudinal data combining several national and regional social and health sector administrative registers. The new methodological possibilities utilized are based on the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The analytical method is retrospective sequence analysis suitable for longitudinal data. Phase of the process 9/2022: building data.

Theoretical background

- * Quantification of homelessness (hard-to-reach population)
- * Periodicity of homelessness
- * Complex service needs
- * Individual, systemic and structural explanations of homelessness

Finland as special case in homelessness

- * Decreasing trend (the only in Europe)
- * Leading countries in the Housing First –model
- * Good-quality homelessness statistics since 1980s



Definition of homelessness:

A person who does not have their own home and live:

1. outside, in stairways or temporary shelters,
2. in dormitories or hostels,
3. in welfare home-type housing units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions, and
4. temporarily with friends or relatives due to lack of housing

(Ethos 1,1; 2,2; 3,4-6; 5,9-11; 12,12)

Research question

What are the housing, service and benefit pathways preceding homelessness?

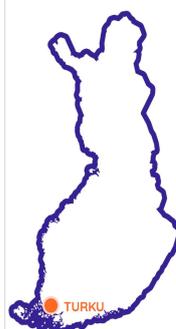
- * variation among the homeless population
- * compared to non-homeless income assistance recipients

Context Turku, Finland

200 000 inhabitants.

The 6th largest city in population and 3rd largest urban area in Finland.

Pilot in Turku, goal to broaden later to other areas.



Sample

The Finnish yearly homelessness counts 2018-2022 (source The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, cross-sectional census, November 15th).

Year	Turku	Finland
2018	475	5482
2019	433	4600
2020	384	4341
2021	341	3950
2022	?	?

Referral group non-homeless income support recipients, weighted with age and gender (1:1).

FINDATA
Social and Health Data Permit Authority

Variables

Population register

- * Age, gender, nationality
- * Cities, housing tenure
- * House-hold-dwelling units
- * Custodies and parenthoods of children
- * Marriages and divorces

Register of social benefits

Housing, unemployment, study, sickness, rehabilitation, disability, family and income assistance benefits, pensions



Social sector register

Adult social work, addiction services, supported housing, day centre, rehabilitative work activities, child protection aftercare, social lending, invalidity services, emergency social services

Health sector register

Addiction and mental health services, hospital periods, 'special need' health care visits

National registers

Regional registers

References of pictures (Common Creatives)

Theoretical background from left to right:

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"homeless-shelter" by Federal Register, Flickr is licensed under [CC BY-NC 4.0](#)

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Tampereen yliopisto
Tampere University