



STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS, 2016

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1933 & 1947 Censuses:

'Number of persons (if any) who slept out throughout the year on verandahs (not enclosed sleep-outs).'

1996 Census: first homeless enumeration strategy

Chris Chamberlain authors paper “Counting the Homeless, 1996” based on cultural definition of homelessness using ABS data.

2001 and 2006 Censuses:

Chris Chamberlain and David MacKenzie author “Counting the Homeless, 2001” and “Counting the Homeless, 2006”.

2009:

In response to “The Road Home” white paper, the NAHA and NPAH were born. CTH data was the basis for several performance indicators, and used to distribute NPAH funding to state governments based on State/Territory proportions.

2011 Census:

ABS methodological review of “Counting the Homeless” culminates in new statistical definition of homelessness, revised methodology and estimates from 2001 to 2011.

2016 Census:

Digital-first approach to Census. Online response of 59%. Independent assessment confident of statistical quality. Homeless Enumeration Strategy largely unchanged, and homeless estimation methodology unchanged.

2018:

Release of 2016 homelessness estimates. Peer reviewed and Homelessness Statistics Reference Group (HSRG) endorses its quality.

Performance Indicator “Proportion of Australians who are homeless” in upcoming National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (?)

Developing new content and strategies for 2021 Census. Government decision on final content in early 2019.

The ABS Statistical Definition



A person without suitable accommodation alternatives is considered homeless if their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate; or
- has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or
- does not allow them to have control of or access to space for social relations.

There are some specific exclusions such as prisons, hospitals, student halls and religious orders.

People **not in a dwelling** on Census night

Persons who are in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out

People **in a non-private dwelling** on Census night

Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless

Person in other temporary lodging

Persons staying in boarding houses

People **in a private dwelling** on Census night

Persons staying temporarily with other households

Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings



Not in a dwelling

- Personal interview using Special Short Form at known “hotspots”
- Short enumeration period to minimise double counting

In a non-private dwelling

- Enumerated by non-private dwelling strategy
- Dwellings pre-identified from service provider lists. Visits to assist enumeration

In a private dwelling

- Enumerated using the private dwelling strategy
- Engagement and communication to ensure Census participation

Enumeration challenges

Not in a dwelling

- Minimise double counting as mobile population
- Safety issues (unsafe locations, behavioural issues)
- Weather dependent

In a non-private dwelling

- Identifying boarding houses (legal and illegal)
- Gain trust of providers to source address lists so ABS can identify sensitive supported dwellings

In a private dwelling

- Fear of reporting overcrowded tenancies
- Correct reporting to identify homeless couch-surfers from other visitors.

Estimating Homelessness

Improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out (8,200)



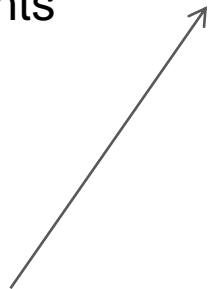
There is no “*Are you homeless?*” question in Census.

We derive homeless estimates using a set of rules for each operational group

Here is an example for people who are in improvised dwellings, tents or sleepers out.

It has 10 steps.

For example, step 5 filters out likely construction workers.



Step	Minus / Plus	Steps taken to create homeless estimates	Reason
1		All persons enumerated in an improvised home, tent, sleepers-out	
2	Minus	All persons who reported a usual address elsewhere in Australia and overseas visitors.	Australian holiday makers and international visitors - these people are not homeless
3	Equals	All persons enumerated in an improvised home, tent, sleepers-out who reported being 'at home' or having 'no usual address'	
4	Minus	All imputed records ^a	There is little evidence that all these people exist. For those that do, most would be removed using the other rules if the information were available. The imputed dwellings are most likely dwelling which are occupied on an intermittent basis where the occupants were enumerated (or even imputed) at their principal residence
5	Minus	Any person in a dwelling with a tenure type of owned outright, owned with a mortgage, being purchased under a rent/buy scheme, being rented, or being occupied under a life tenure scheme where at least one person was employed full-time ^b	People for whom the nature of their employment indicates that, on balance, their accommodation could be because of their employment e.g. construction workers, road workers; and others in their own dwelling
6	Minus	Any person in a dwelling with a tenure type of being occupied rent free, 'other' tenure, or without a stated tenure where at least one person was employed full-time, and the combined income of all persons in the dwelling was at least \$2,000/week ^{bc}	People who, on balance, were mostly likely construction workers, road workers etc.
7	Minus	Any person who reported being 'at home' in a dwelling with a tenure type of owned outright where no one was employed full-time ^b	People who, on balance, were most likely owner builders / hobby farmers
8	Minus	Any person in a dwelling with a tenure type of owned with a mortgage with reported mortgage repayments of at least \$1,600/month where no one was employed full-time ^{bc}	Remove those who, on balance, were most likely owner builders / hobby farmers
9	Minus	Any person in a dwelling with a tenure type of being rented with reported rental payments of at least \$450/week where no one was employed full-time ^{bc}	People for whom the rental payments indicate they could rent elsewhere (have accommodation alternatives)
	Equals	Those who are likely to be homeless	

Estimating Homelessness

Supported accommodation for the homeless (21,235)



Step	Minus / Plus	Steps taken to create homeless estimates	Reason
1		All persons enumerated in dwellings identified by the Address Register and by Census Area supervisors and Field Officers as non-private dwellings classified as 'hostels for the homeless, night shelter, refuge'	Include people residing in non-private dwellings offering supported accommodation for the homeless on Census night
2	Plus	Any person in a dwelling flagged as being supported accommodation	Include people enumerated in private dwelling identified as being supported accommodation for the homeless
3	Minus	Any person identified above who reported being either an overseas visitor or an "owner, proprietor, staff and family"	Remove overseas visitors and 'owner, proprietor, staff and family' in supported accommodation

= Persons in publicly known establishments (step 1) + Persons in additionally identified sensitive private dwellings (step 2)

Estimating Homelessness

Persons staying temporarily with other households (17,725)



Also referred to as
'homeless couch-surfers'

Persons enumerated in a private dwelling who reported 'no usual address'

Exclude:

- Grey nomads
- Other travellers (Young, employment).
- Recent migrants, not humanitarian intake
- Returning resident from overseas

Step	Minus / Plus	Steps taken to create homeless estimates	Reason
1		All persons enumerated in a private dwelling which was not classified as an improvised home, tent, sleepers-out who reported 'no usual address'	
2	Minus	Any person who was in a dwelling where all persons in the dwelling were aged 55 years and over, reported 'no usual address', were not in the labour force, and were staying in a caravan, cabin or houseboat	Persons who on balance, would most likely to be 'grey nomads' and who were travelling and would have accommodation alternatives
3	Minus	Any person in a 'visitor only' household staying in a caravan, cabin or houseboat (except for persons in a 'caravan/residential park or camping ground' who report a tenure of being 'occupied rent free' or a tenure type of 'being rented' but not stating their weekly rent payments)	Persons who on balance, would be most likely to be travelling except those who appear to be clients of supported accommodation services who were referred to caravan parks
4	Minus	Any person in a 'visitor only' household that was a 'separate house', 'semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.', 'flat, unit or apartment', or a 'house or flat attached to a shop, office, etc.' and which was owned either outright or with a mortgage, or being rented	Persons who, on balance, were most likely to be moving frequently for employment reasons, staying in their second dwelling or who have moved after retirement etc.
5	Minus	Any person who was born overseas, first arrived in Australia in the Census calendar year and wasn't born in one of the top ten countries for humanitarian settlers in Australia ^a	Persons who, on balance, were most likely to be recent migrants to Australia who at the time of the Census have not had time to choose their home and report a usual residence according to Census definitions
6	Minus	Any person who was born in Australia and reported being overseas the year before the Census	Australians who, on balance, were most likely to be recently returning residents and who at the time of the Census have not had time to choose their home and report a usual residence according to Census definitions
7	Minus	All imputed records ^b	There is little evidence that these people even exist, in addition the 'no usual address' status has been imputed. Removes double counting for some 'visitor only' dwellings which were in holiday areas and may have appeared occupied when in fact they were not
8	Minus	Any person who was already considered homeless in homeless operational group 'Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless' ^c	These people are already counted as homeless in the previous homeless operational groups, this step removes double counting
	Equals	Those who are likely to be homeless	

Estimating Homelessness

Boarding houses (17,503)

- A guest or resident in a 'boarding house or private hotel',
- Living in other dwelling types as 'staff quarters' and 'hotel, motel, bed and breakfast', 'other and non-classified dwellings'.
- Unrelated group households in a private dwelling (identified from boarding house lists)

Filtered by varying proportions of individual household and personal characteristics to determine if it is a boarding house.

For example: step 13

"All persons enumerated in a private dwelling which was classified as a group household, where the dwelling had at least 4 bedrooms or the number of bedrooms was 'Not stated' and the dwelling had at least 5 'usual residents' where, for people reported being at home, less than 60% of those people reported a weekly income of \$650 or more and less than 60% reported a labour force status of 'employed' and less than 60% reported either attending any type of educational institution (above 'primary' level) or a labour force status of 'Employed, worked full-time' and less than 60% reported a need for assistance of 'Has a need for assistance with core activities'.

Estimating Homelessness

Staying in other temporary lodgings (678)



Step	Minus / Plus	Steps taken to create homeless estimates	Reason
1		Persons enumerated in dwellings identified by the Census Area supervisors and Field Officers as non-private dwellings and classified as 'hotel, motel, bed and breakfast', who were not previously identified as being homeless, who reported having 'no usual address' on Census night and reported a weekly income of less than \$500 per week and reported a labour force status of 'Unemployed' or 'Not in the labour force' ²	Persons in dwellings which were classified as 'hotel, motel, bed and breakfast' who, on balance, were most likely to be homeless
2	Minus	All persons who reported a student status of 'Full-time student'	Students who, on balance, were unlikely to be homeless
3	Minus	All persons who reported a residential status of 'Owner, proprietor, staff, and family'	Persons who were owners / managers staff or family
4	Minus	All persons who were overseas visitors	Remove overseas visitors

Staying temporarily in 'hotel, motel and B&B' and have 'no usual address'

Estimating Homelessness

Severely crowded dwellings (51,088)



Usual residents in private dwelling.

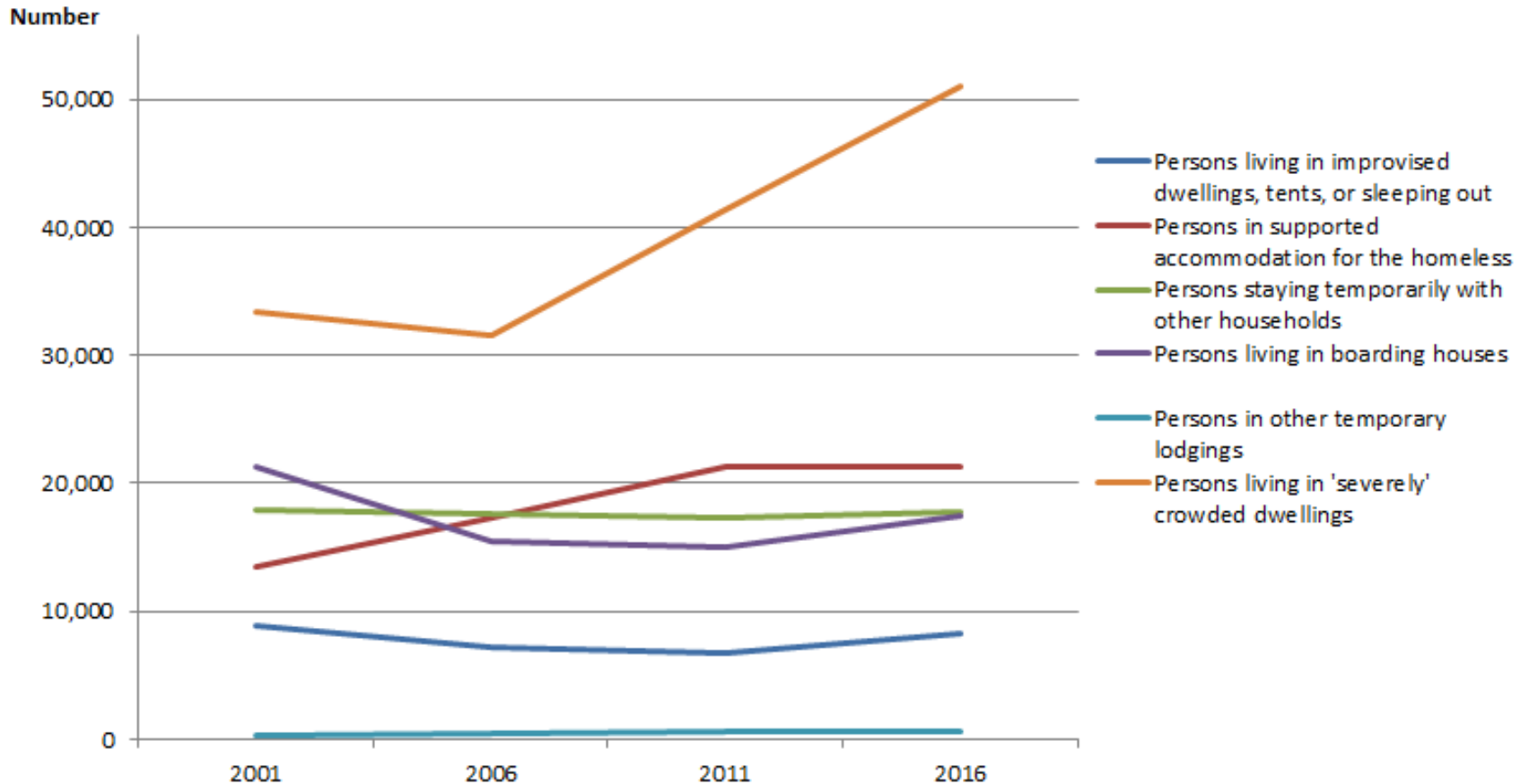
Need four or more extra bedrooms according to the Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS).

CNOS assesses the bedroom requirements of a household by specifying that:

- there should be no more than two persons per bedroom;*
- children less than 5 years of age of different sexes may reasonably share a bedroom;*
- children less than 18 years of age and of the same sex may reasonably share a bedroom;*
- single household members 18 and over should have a separate bedroom, as should parents or couples; and*
- a lone person household may reasonably occupy a bed sitter.*

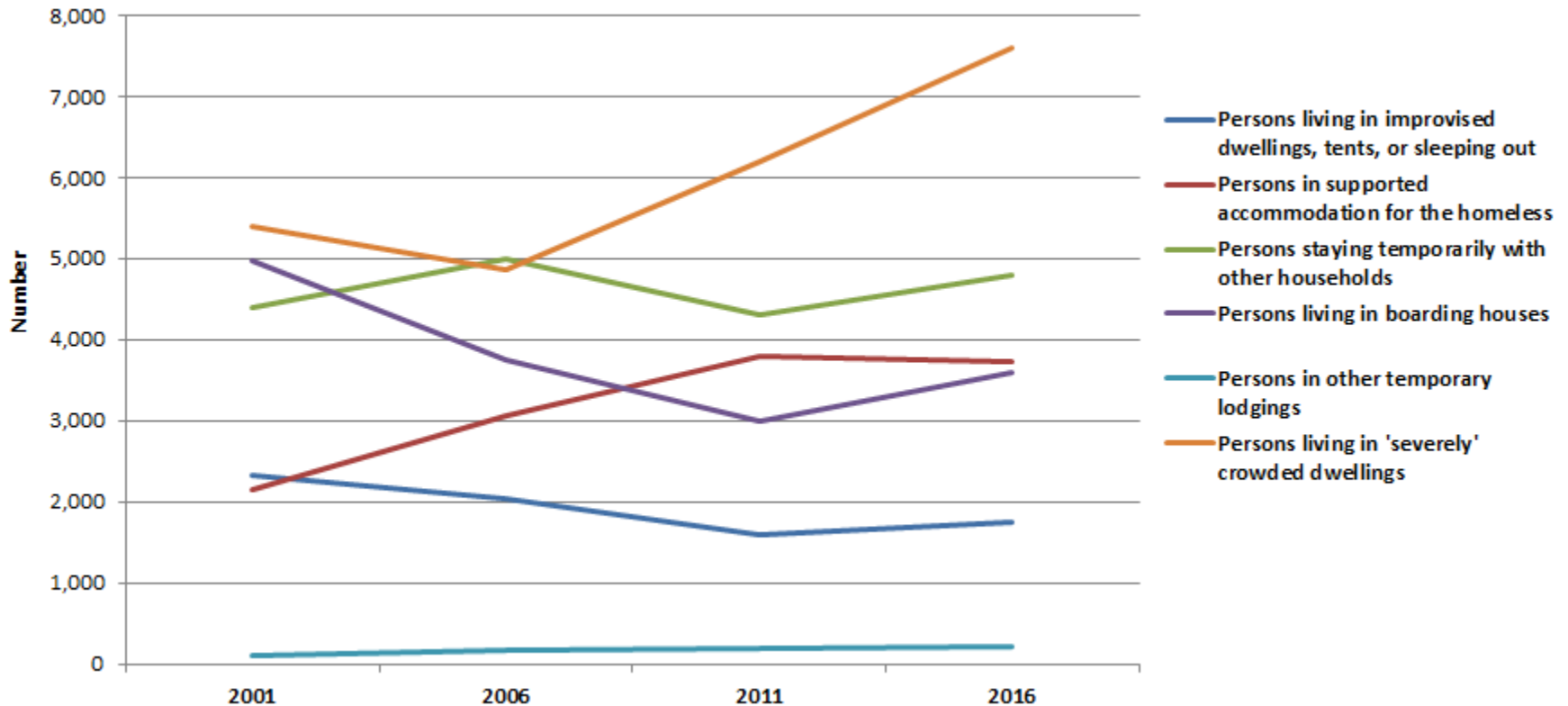
2016 Census results

Homeless persons – Australia (116,427 persons)



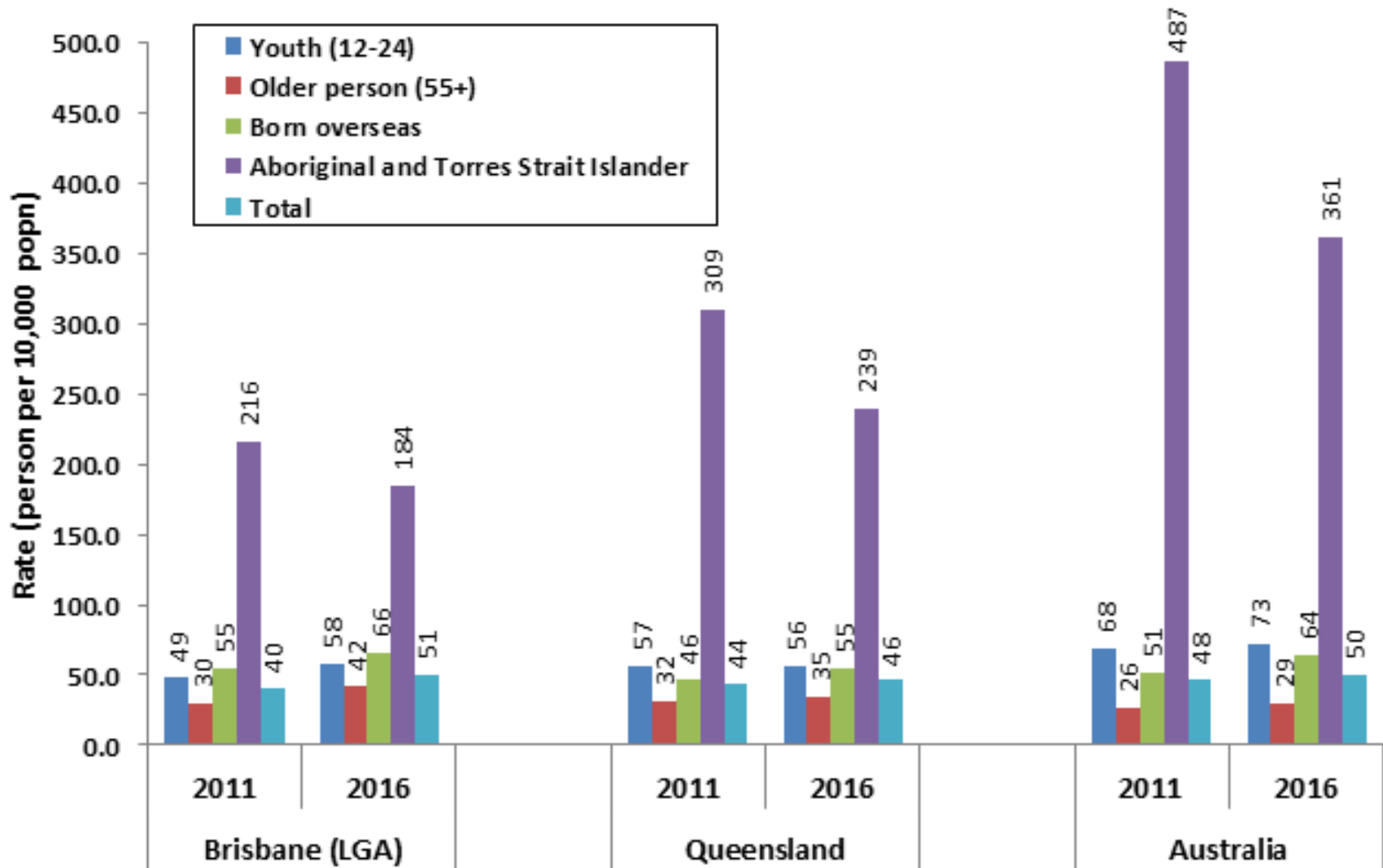
2016 Census results

Homeless persons – Queensland (19,039 persons)



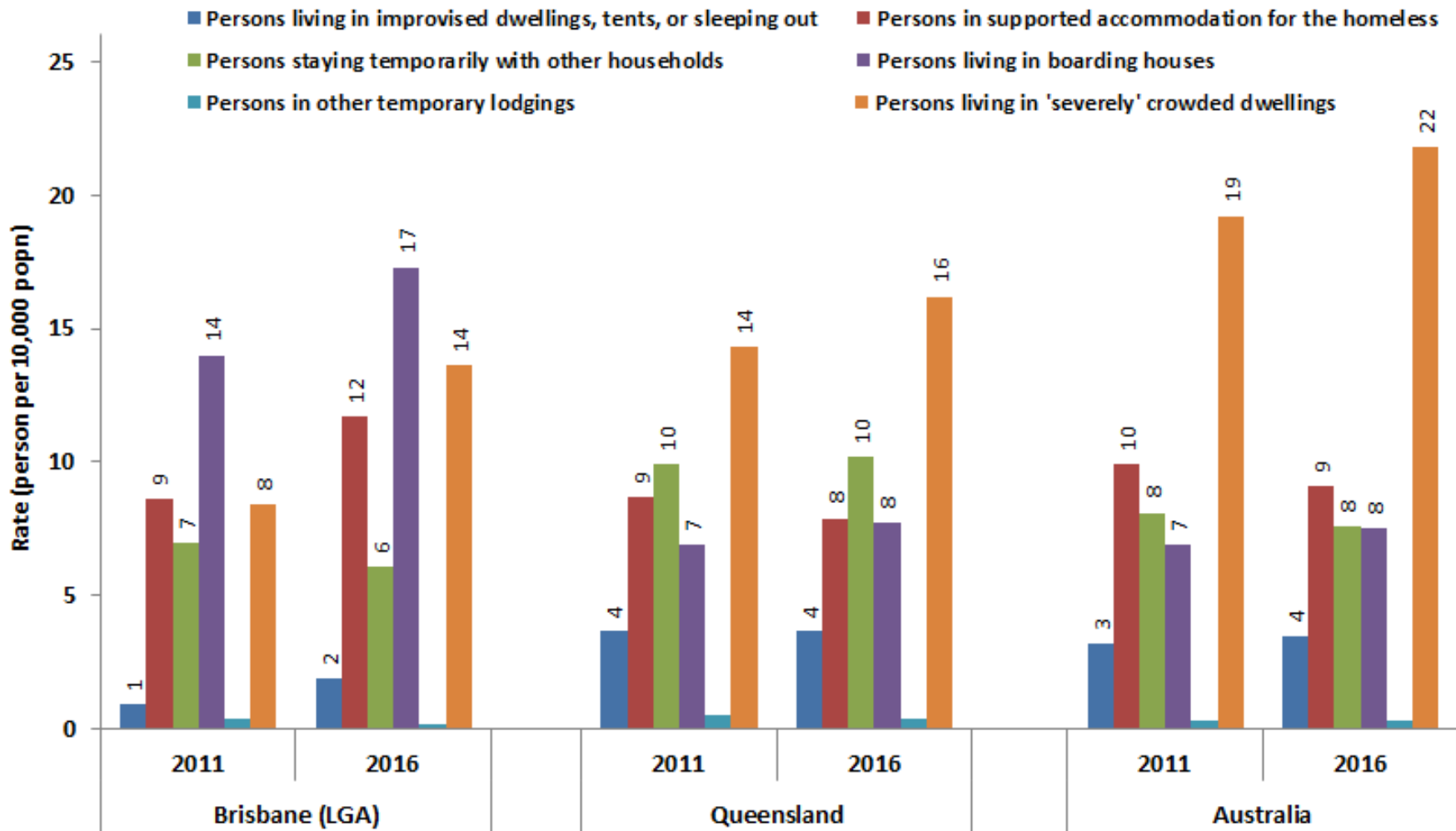
2016 Census results

Homeless rate by population group



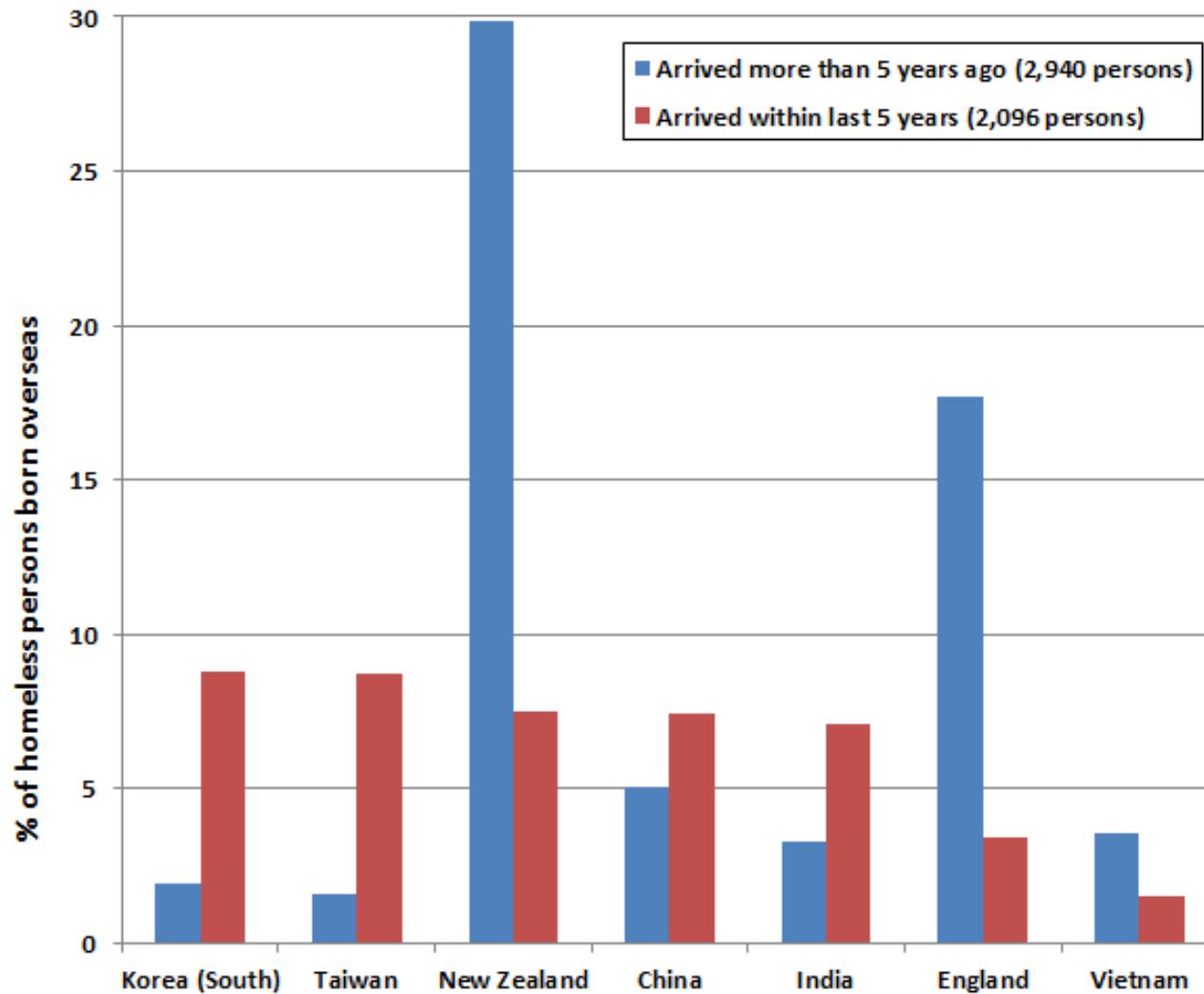
2016 Census results

Homeless rate by population group



2016 Census results

Migrant homelessness - Queensland



2016 Census results

Females aged 55 years and above

Females, aged 55+ (ratio)	2011	2016
New South Wales	33	34
Victoria	33	38
Queensland	35	36
South Australia	33	33
Western Australia	39	36
Tasmania	38	39
Northern Territory	51	51
Australian Capital Territory	38	37
Total	36	37

General Social Survey, Australia, 2014 (ABS Cat No. 4159.0)

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Australia, 2014 (ABS Cat No. 4714.0)

Survey of Disability, Aging and Carers, Australia, 2012 (ABS Cat No. 4430.0)

Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2016 (ABS Cat No. 4906.0)

Mental Health and Experiences of Homelessness, Australia, 2014 (ABS Cat No. 4329.0.00.005)

Activities

Microdata products:

- TableBuilder Pro for Homelessness, 2016 – release late June?
- TableBuilder Pro for Homelessness, 2011 - TBC

Longer-term: Data linked products

- Census 2011 and 2016 linked with SSRI, MPBS, PIT project
- Feasibility of homelessness identification

2021 Census Consultations re homelessness content and strategies

Question Time

