

Accompanying research for homelessness reporting 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

There is still too little accurate information about homelessness in Germany. We know very little about the situation of people living on the streets or in parks. Many people also find temporary accommodation with friends or relatives, and nobody realises that they are homeless. We also still know too little about how people become homeless. We would like to understand this so that the support system can be improved.

That is why we are conducting a survey of homeless people. The Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building commissioned the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) and RegioKontext GmbH to carry out this project.

Participation is voluntary and anonymous. Information on how we protect your personal data can be found on the back page. In the survey, we ask questions about your current living situation and your path to homelessness. Some questions may be distressing. If you feel uncomfortable, please seek support.

The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete. If you would like to participate, please complete the questionnaire. Please return it to the office that gave you this letter as soon as you have completed it, but no later than Saturday, 7 February. Please use this envelope for this purpose.

As a thank you for your participation, you will receive a Rossmann voucher worth 10 euros when you hand in your questionnaire. Please note that you can only take part in the survey once.

Thank you for participating!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Julia Burgold (Project Management)

Data protection declaration

The Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik gGmbH (Difu), its subcontractors and network partners process your data exclusively for the purposes of scientific research as part of the research project 'Empirical study on the subject matter pursuant to Section 8 (2) and (3) of the Homelessness Reporting Act'.

The research results are published in the usual scientific form. No one can tell from the results which person provided the information. And, of course, nobody will find out whether you took part in the survey or not. We will delete your data at the earliest possible date. The deletion takes place at the latest when it is necessary according to the principles of good scientific practice.

In this study, data collection is already anonymous. As a result, we can no longer trace who submitted which questionnaire. This data protection declaration is only designed for the event that you inadvertently leave information on the questionnaire that allows conclusions to be drawn about your identity.

1. Responsible for the processing of your data:

German Institute of Urban Affairs gGmbH (Difu)
Zimmerstr. 13-15
10969 Berlin
www.difu.de

Email: wobe@difu.de

Subcontractor
RegioKontext GmbH
Kantstr. 92
10627 Berlin

Email: wb@regiokontext.de

Difu is responsible for taking samples and contacting the organisations selected. RegioKontext handles the quantitative processing of the collected data. For this purpose, an order processing contract was concluded with RegioKontext in accordance with Art. 28 (3) GDPR.

2. Purpose of the study

We are interviewing you as part of a study to accompany research on homelessness reporting. In this process, homeless people who are living covertly and on the streets are to be counted, and the living conditions of this group are to be uncovered.

3. Voluntary nature of participation

Your participation is based on your voluntary consent. You will not suffer any disadvantages if you do not participate.

4. Legal basis for data processing

In the event that personal data is inadvertently listed in the questionnaire, the legal basis for data processing is Art. 6 a) GDPR (consent).

5. Contact details for questions and requests regarding data protection

You can contact the Difu data protection officer directly with your concerns:

Magnus Krusenotto
Telephone: +49 30 39001-157
Email: datenschutz@difu.de