

Appendix four – Key homelessness data collections

Data source	Collected	Locations	Type	Data items identifying homelessness
ABS Census and Homelessness Enumeration Strategy	5 yearly since 1911	National: all jurisdictions and all areas, including remote, in Australia	Point-in-time count	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out. • People in supported accommodation for the homeless. • People staying temporarily with other households. • People in other temporary lodgings. • People living in severely crowded dwellings.
NSW State-wide Street Count	Annually since 2020	State-wide: 79 local government areas across NSW including 264 towns and suburbs, and 135 other sites where there was evidence of street homelessness.	Point-in-time count	<p>Headcount of all people who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carrying substantial belongings and who appear to have no accommodation • sleeping, laying or sitting on the footpath, street, parks, shop/business fronts, parking lots, road or railway underpasses • inhabiting a tent or a makeshift structure • obviously sleeping in cars, or • indicating to those undertaking the count that they are homeless.
Specialist Homelessness Services National Minimum Data Set	Submitted monthly by providers to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). AIHW publishes an annual report.	National: all jurisdictions and all areas where a specialist homelessness service operates (including by phone)	Trends data on cohort characteristics, risk factors, service need and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People presenting at a specialist homelessness service. • People receiving a service from a specialist homelessness service. • Instances where a person received no immediate services from a specialist homelessness service.
The Department's Link2Home 24/7 information and referral service data	At point of client contact (calls/emails)	State-wide	Real-time	People seeking assistance with information, assessments and/or referrals to homelessness support and accommodation services across New South Wales.

Data source	Collected	Locations	Type	Data items identifying homelessness
Available research	Ad hoc	Various	Various. Often trends data on cohort characteristics, risk factors, service need and use	Various

Source: Audit Office analysis 2021.