

Leaving no one behind – Dealing with hard to count and vulnerable population groups in the census

Registers may provide higher-quality data on the homeless

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ROAD-MAP FOR REGISTER-BASED CENSUS IN ESTONIA

Preparatory work 2009–2020

2021–2022
census
activities

I STEP 2009–2015 TEST IN 2014

1. Redesigning administrative data for census purposes
2. Data acquisition test from registers (contracts, description of the data set, checks on data quality and the acquisition procedure)
3. Formation of census characteristics, programming of the necessary rules
4. Registers` data quality assessment

II STEP 2016–2017 I PILOT IN 2016

1. Development of register-based census methodology
2. Setting up structures and procedures according to the needs of harmonized population statistics
3. Development of a software system for the implementation of big data and its estimation methods
4. Data quality assessment after the 1st pilot

III STEP 2018–2020 II PILOT IN 2019

1. Improvement of register-based census methodology
2. Specification, design and development of software and standards to support statistical production
3. Improvement of data quality by register holders
4. Data assessment after 2nd pilot in 2019

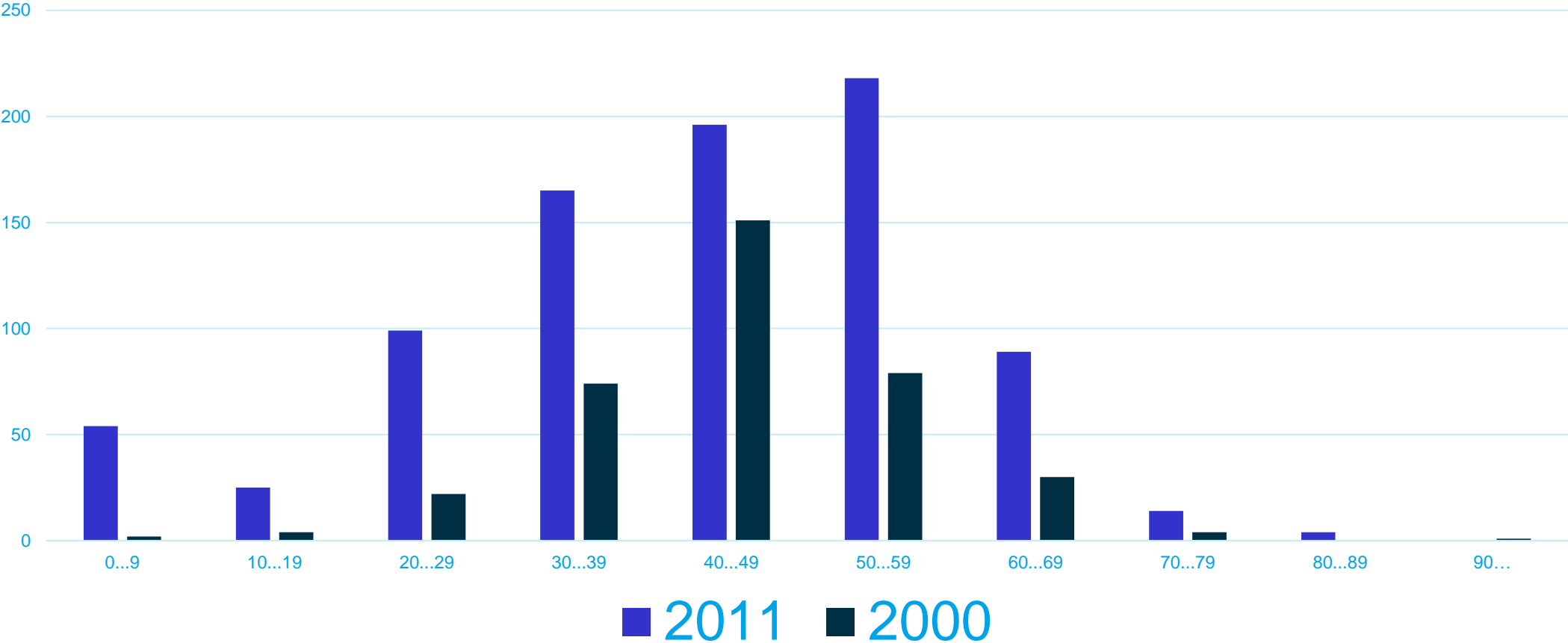
Definition

- The homeless can be persons who live in the streets and do not housing that could be classified as a dwelling (primary homelessness) or persons moving frequently between temporary places of accommodation (secondary homelessness).

Background information

- The cold winter in 2011 and the cold early spring in 2000; the homeless may have found a shelter or moved around, and the enumerators did not go looking for them.
- An interesting episode comes to mind where in 2011 some homeless people in Tartu gave an interview to the Estonian Public Broadcasting complaining that the census takers did not want to enumerate them, because they did not want to look for them but he did not want to self-enumerate during e-census.

Figure 1: Number of homeless persons by age group, 2000 and 2011 census data



Homeless people in Tallinn near Shelter

Photo from Postimees 23.12.2007



Estimates with other data sources

| Year | Number |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2000 Census | 369 |
| 2002 other source | 5000 |
| 2009-2013 other sources | 2150- 2755 |
| 2011 Census | 864 |
| 2019 rehearsal | 1102 |

Explanatory notes

- The people who use the Shelter service have done it permanently or repeatedly.
- More attention has been turned to preventive work in Estonia.
- In order to alleviate the problem of homelessness, more services, approaches and various solutions offered to target groups were developed.
- Many Shelter service users have had a non-formal support Network.
- Homelessness is in decrease but not according to census data

Conclusions

- Homelessness is visible and the phenomenon requires a very good measuring instrument.
- A traditional census may not be the best enumeration method to catch the homeless.
- The census experience of Estonia's independence period says that the best results can be achieved by combining data sources.
- When comparing the data, it is necessary to cooperate with other institutions in order to have survey data on homelessness.
- Comparability of data is good if the survey is carried out close to the moment of census.
- The terminology as regards the homeless still requires clarifying and specifying.

