



Y-SÄÄTIÖ

**Measuring homelessness in  
Finland  
- thoughts for development**

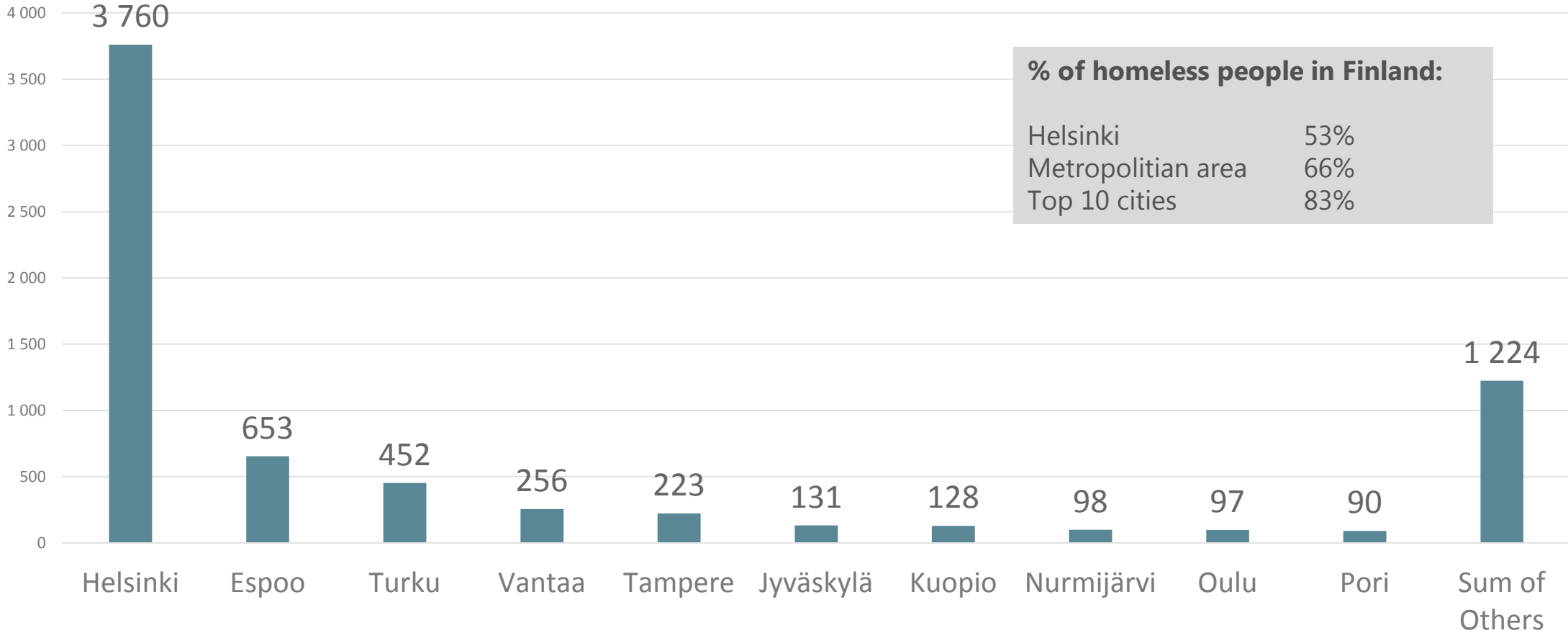
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# Current situation - measuring homelessness (in 2017)

- The annual Homelessness report of ARA, the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (in cooperation with Y- Foundation)
- The data is based on ARA's housing market survey sent to every municipality in the Mainland Finland.
- The cut-off point 15<sup>th</sup> of November
- The response rate 94 %. 278/295 municipalities of Mainland Finland responded.
- Total number and number of long-term homeless, number of homeless women, young people, families, immigrant and immigrant families.
- Categories following the ETHOS Light (outside, in stairways or overnight shelters; in dormitories or boarding houses; in welfare home-type housing service units, rehabilitative units, hospitals or other institutions and temporarily with acquaintances or relatives due to lack of own home)
- Developments in homelessness were addressed by making comparisons with figures from 2016.

# Current situation in 2017

Homeless People in Municipalities of Finland 2017



# Main challenges

- **NO UNIFIED WAY TO COLLECT THE DATA:** data collection methods vary between municipalities and within a municipality -> direct comparison to 2016 a major challenge
- **NUMEROUS DATA SOURCES:**  
data on rental apartment applicants  
social service customer data  
service provider customer data  
population register and  
other registers based on personal ID codes  
-> **how to combine data sources and remove doubles**
- **KELA:** The duty to manage the payment of the basic amount of social assistance was transferred from municipalities to in early 2017. This caused difficulties for municipalities in collecting data on homelessness as in some localities, the operator which possesses data on homelessness is Kela.

# Needs for development 1/2

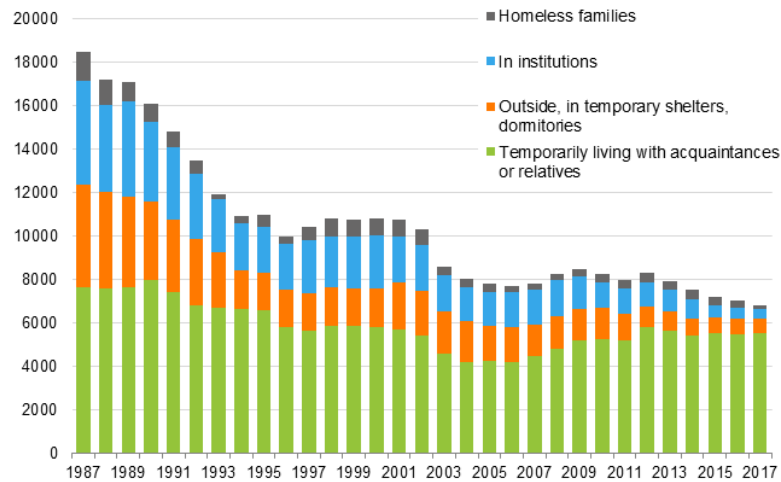
- A more systematic and accurate data collection
- Description of the process (started)
- Decrease the amount of work
- Information which is useful on combatting homelessness
- Information which helps to evaluate which actions work/are needed
- Gives us information on change but we also need info on what factors are behind the change
- Increase reliability: all inclusive?

# Needs for development 2/2

- Current data does not allow crosstabulation
- Other stats related to housing (e.g. KEELA; Population register, other stats on construction, unemployment..)
- Monitoring of the work in prevention (e.g. evictions, other risk factors, reasons for homelessness and why housing fails)
- Pathways to housing and use of services
- "Grey area" – people living with friends and family
- One cut-off point or constant data collection?

# Dilemmas

- Report: numbers quoted as the absolute truth
- Timeline since 1987



- Comparison to previous years



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Thank you!