

**Befragende Stelle/Einrichtung:**

# **Survey of the living situations of homeless and unhoused people in Cologne**

**The city of Cologne wants to improve the living situation of its unhoused and homeless citizens.** Please answer the following questions, if you do not have a rental agreement and the city of Cologne provided you with temporary housing in an emergency shelter, a “Sozialhaus” oder hotel to avoid homelessness. If you don't have an apartment with rental agreement but receive housing and help through another public institution, we also welcome your answers. Thank you.

**Let's begin with a few questions about your person.**

## **1. Do you live alone, or with other people?**

**Check all that apply.**

- I live alone.
- I live with a partner.
- I live with a partner and a child / children under the age of 18.
- I am a single parent and live with a child / children under the age of 18.
- I live with other family members (grandparents, siblings, aunt, uncle).
- I live with a group of homeless people.
- I live in the household of another person / family.
- Other. Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- I prefer not to answer.

## 2. If you live with children, how old are they?

\_\_\_\_\_ years    \_\_\_\_\_ years    \_\_\_\_\_ years    \_\_\_\_\_ years  
\_\_\_\_\_ years    \_\_\_\_\_ years    \_\_\_\_\_ years    \_\_\_\_\_ years

Please answer  
separately for  
each child.

I prefer not to answer.

## 3. And how old are you?

\_\_\_\_\_ years

I prefer not to answer.

## 4. And what is your gender?

Female

Male

Nonbinary / other

I prefer not to answer.

## 5. What country were you born in?

In Germany

In \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify your  
country of birth here.

I prefer not to answer.

## 6. What is your nationality?

German

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify your  
nationality here.

I am stateless.

I prefer not to answer.

## 7. What is your educational background?

### I went to school in Germany, and ...

Check all that apply.

- did not earn a degree.
- have a Sonderschulabschluss/ Förderschulabschluss (degree from a special needs school).
- have a Hauptschulabschluss (lower secondary school degree).
- have the Mittlere Reife (secondary school degree).
- have Abitur (secondary school degree, general qualification for university entrance).
- started but did not finish occupational training.
- finished occupational training / earned a trade degree.
- started college / university but did not earn a degree.
- earned a college / university degree.

### I did not go to school in Germany, and ...

Check all that apply.

- went to school in another country for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- I started occupational training / university in another country but did not earn a degree.
- I completed occupational training / a university degree in another country.
- My foreign degree(s) is (are) recognized in Germany.
- My foreign degree(s) is (are) not recognized in Germany.
- I can communicate well / very well in German.
- My German is good enough to get by.
- I only speak a little / no German.

### I prefer not to answer.

## 8. What income do you have?

Check all that apply.

I do not have any income.

I have income in form of ...

Benefits from the Jobcenter (SGB II)

Bürgergeld, Hartz IV, Tagessätze

Benefits from the social welfare office, "Sozialamt"

Sozialhilfe,  
Grundsicherung im  
Alter

Unemployment benefits from the unemployment agency, "Arbeitsagentur"

Pension

e.g. old age pension, orphan's pension, disability pension

Money for students, university students, or apprentices

e.g. BAB, BAföG

Social benefits for parents and children

e.g. Kindergeld, Elterngeld, Unterhaltsvorschuss vom Jugendamt

Alimony and / or child support payments

Paid work

e.g. taxed income, Minijob, 520-Euro-Job, self-employment

Undeclared work

Begging, panhandling, collecting bottles, etc.

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

I live off of the income of another household member.

I prefer not to answer.

## 9. Do you have debts?

Check all that apply.

No.

Yes, I only get negative Schufa statements.

German credit rating institution

Yes, I have debts with an energy provider, or owe back rent.

Yes, I'm in debt to my health insurance.

Yes, I have other debts.

I prefer not to answer.

**The pages that follow address your living situation, homelessness, and search for housing in Cologne.**

## **10. Since when do you live in Cologne?**

Since the year \_\_\_\_\_

## **11. Since when do you live in your current accommodation?**

Since \_\_\_\_\_

## **12. While being homeless in Cologne, have you found shelter or housing elsewhere before staying at your present place?**

- No.
- Yes, in a group shelter.
- Yes, in a hotel.
- Yes, in an apartment.
- Yes, in a housing project.
- Yes, through another institution – please specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, at another place – please specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I prefer not to answer.

### 13. We would like to know what led to your homelessness.

Check all that apply.

- I had my own apartment with rental agreement in Germany, but lost it.
- I became homeless after aging out of the youth welfare system.
- I moved out of my parents'/family's house and did not have an apartment.
- I am a refugee and have never had an apartment in Germany.
- I'm from another country (but not a refugee) and have never had an apartment in Germany.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I prefer not to answer.

### 14. How long have you been homeless in Germany?

- Less than 3 months
- 3 months to 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- Over 5 years
- I prefer not to answer.

You only have to answer the questions on the following page, if you have ever lost an apartment in Germany before. If you haven't, skip forward to question 18 (page 8).

## 15. Why did you lose your last apartment?

Check all  
that apply.

- I owed back rent.
- Due to incarceration.
- For other reasons:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I prefer not to answer.

Please fell  
free to give  
all the  
reasons for  
losing your  
apartment.

## 16. Was the apartment you lost in Cologne?

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer.

## 17. If the apartment you lost was in Cologne, did you try to get help before losing it?

- No, I did not try to get help in Cologne.
- Yes, I ...
  - asked the Jobcenter for help.
  - asked a public office for help: Amt für Wohnungswesen, ResoDienste, Fachstelle Wohnen
  - Went to a different outreach organization for help:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I prefer not to answer.

Check all  
that apply.

## 18. Are you searching for an apartment?

Check all  
that apply.

Yes, I'm looking for listings, and / or I'm on a waitlist.

Yes, and I'm getting assistance from:

---

Yes, but not actively at the moment.

No, because \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer not to answer.

## 19. When was the last time you viewed an apartment for rent in Germany?

This year

Second half of 2022

Before

Never

I prefer not to answer.

## 20. Do you have a “Wohnberechtigungsschein”?

Subsidized  
housing  
permit

Yes

No

I prefer not to answer.

## 21. Do you need help or assistance in your search for housing?

**In this next section we will be asking about your experiences with services here in Cologne and about other assistance you might need.**

## **22. Do you regularly go to social counseling services?**

**Yes, I get counseling / advice from a local organization / service like Rochus, Café Auszeit, Frauenfachberatung OASE, Vringstreff, Wendepunkt » or migrant / refugee services.**

### **If you don't use these services, why?**

**I don't know where to go.**

**I know where to go, but ...**

I'm scared.

I don't know how to get there.

Getting there takes too long.

I don't have a ticket for public transport.

The business hours don't work for me.

It's not accessible, no elevator, too many stairs, other obstacles.

The employees don't speak my language.

I have been turned away.

I don't feel welcome there.

I'm LGBTQI\* and have been mistreated there.

I'm foreign and have been mistreated there.

Lesbian, gay, bi, trans\*,  
intersexual or queer.

The counseling offers don't help me.

I don't need counseling.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer not to answer.

## 23. Do you regularly take up health care services for homeless people?

Yes, I get medical care from a local service here in Cologne like a mobile clinic (Looks e.V., Annohaus, Café Victoria, B.O.J.E), or through addiction services or a safe consumption site.

If you do not get medical care through a local service for homeless people, why?

When I'm sick, I go to the doctor or hospital.

I don't know where to go.

I know where to go, but ...

Check all that apply.

I'm scared.

I don't know how to get there.

Getting there takes too long.

I don't have a ticket for public transport.

The business hours don't work for me.

It's not accessible, no elevator, too many stairs, other obstacles.

The employees don't speak my language.

I have been turned away.

I don't feel welcome there.

I'm LGBTQI\* and have been mistreated there.

Lesbian, gay, bi, trans\*, intersexual or queer.

I'm foreign and have been mistreated there.

The counseling offers don't help me.

I don't need counseling.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer not to answer.

## 24. How is your general health?

<input type="radio"/> Very good/ good	<input type="radio"/> Satisfactory
<input type="radio"/> Not that good/ bad	<input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer.

## 25. Do you have any illnesses or serious physical impairments?

If so, are you receiving treatment?

Yes      No

<input type="radio"/> Yes, I have ...	Check all that apply.	
<input type="radio"/> Diabetes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Tuberculosis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> another chronic lung condition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Hepatitis C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> HIV / Aids	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> open wounds/ sores	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> a mental illness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> an alcohol addiction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> an addiction to illegal drugs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> an addiction to prescription medication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> a gambling addiction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> another illness: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> another illness: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> I have physical impairments and need accessibility devices.	e.g. wheelchair, walker, hearing aid	
<input type="radio"/> No, I have no illnesses or impairments.		
<input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer.		

## 26. Do you regularly make use of other social services for homeless people?

Yes, I make use of local social services like soup kitchens, pantries, and the Kleiderkammer, and/ or frequent places like Café Auszeit, GULLIVER, or Diakoniehaus Salierring.

### If you don't make use of these services, why?

I don't know where to go.

I know where to go, but ...

When I'm sick, I go to the doctor or hospital.

I don't know where to go.

I know where to go, but ...

I'm scared.

I don't know how to get there.

Getting there takes too long.

I don't have a ticket for public transport.

The business hours don't work for me.

It's not accessible, no elevator, too many stairs, other obstacles.

The employees don't speak my language.

I have been turned away.

I don't feel welcome there.

I'm LGBTQI\* and have been mistreated there.

Lesbian, gay, bi, trans\*,  
intersexual or queer.

I'm foreign and have been mistreated there.

I prefer not to answer.

## 27. Have you ever experienced discrimination or violence in Cologne?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal, physical, sexual assault, exclusion, isolation

No

I prefer not to answer.

## 28. If you answered yes to the last question, were you targeted because of your gender or sexual orientation?

Yes  No

I prefer not to answer.

## If yes, what can the city do to protect you better?

## 29. Are you trans?

Yes  No

You identify with a gender different from the one that was assigned to you at birth.

I prefer not to answer.

## 30. Are you ...

heterosexual?

homosexual (lesbian or gay) or bisexual?

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

e.g. Asexual

I prefer not to answer.

**31. Which negative and / or positive experiences have you had with the “Ordnungsamt” (public order office) police, security services at the train station or airport, or private security services?**

**32. What can the city of Cologne do to improve your life?**

Immediately/ short term:

Over the course of a year:

I prefer not to answer.

**If you have children, or are originally not from Germany, we have a few more questions for you. If not, you are done! Thank you for your help!**

## If you live with children...

### 33. Do you receive benefits for education and participation, “Bildung und Teilhabe” (BuT) for your children?

No

Yes, ...

Check all that apply.

for school excursions, and class trips.

for lunch.

15 € for participation in the social and cultural life of the community (Sports club, music lessons, ...).

for tutoring.

transportation assistance for students, school supply budget

I don't know.

I prefer not to answer.

### 34. Is one of your children member in a club?

Yes

No

I prefer not to answer.

### 35. Does one of your children go to a community / youth center?

Yes

No

I prefer not to answer.

**36. Do your children have regular contact with children of similar age outside of school or daycare?**

Yes       No

I prefer not to answer.

**37. Do you have a pediatrician?**

Yes       No

I prefer not to answer.

**38. Do you go to medical check-ups with your children?**

Yes       No

My children are beyond this age.

I prefer not to answer.

Your children are entitled to 11 medical check-ups before they turn 18.

**39. If your children go to school, do they have a quiet place to do homework where you're staying?**

Yes       No

I prefer not to answer.

## If you are not originally from Germany...

### 42. How long have you been in Germany?

- Less than 3 months.
- Between 3 months and 1 year.
- Between 1 and 5 years.
- Longer than 5 years.
- I prefer not to answer.

### 43. What is your immigration status?

- I'm a EU citizen, and ...**
  - have permanent residency.
  - work here.
  - am looking for work here.
- I'm not from the EU, and have...**
  - permanent residency in the EU (**unbefristete Niederlassungserlaubnis**).
  - temporary residence permit (**Aufenthaltserlaubnis**) for 3 years.
  - temporary residence permit (**Aufenthaltserlaubnis**) for 1 year.
  - I have been allowed to stay in Germany short term, my status is unclear (Aufenthaltsgestattung, Duldung)
- I have no valid paper work, and no legal residency in Germany.**
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_
- I prefer not to answer.

e.g. refugee status

e.g. subsidiary protection