□ **The Definition of the Homeless**

○ Article 2 of the Act on Support for Welfare and Self-Reliance of the Homeless, etc. defines the homeless as follows:

- ① Persons who have not had permanent residence for a substantial period of time; ② Persons who have used facilities for the homeless or have lived in facilities for the homeless for a substantial period of time; ③ Persons who have lived in a place of low habitability for a substantial period of time.

⇒ Must be 18 years of age or older and meets at least one of the aforementioned criteria.

□ **Collected Data on the Homeless**

**Status of the Homeless Nationwide (As of December 2014)**

○ Annual statistics on the homeless

(Unit: No. of persons)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **2005** | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2010** | **2013** | **2014** |
| **Total** | **15,785** | **15,173** | **14,266** | **14,288** | **13,930** | **13,152** | **13,145** | **12,391** | **12,656** | **12,347** |
| Self-Support | 3,763 | 3,563 | 3,363 | 3,479 | 3,404 | 3,117 | 3,282 | 2,741 | 2,095 | 1,949 |
| Temporary Protection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 844 | 899 |
| Street | 959 | 1,293 | 1,181 | 1,317 | 1,260 | 1,077 | 1,121 | 1,081 | 1,197 | 1,138 |
| Rehabilitation·Long-Term Care | 11,063 | 10,317 | 9,722 | 9,492 | 9,266 | 8,958 | 8,742 | 8,569 | 8,520 | 8,361 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Single-Cell Resident** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **6,119** | **6,394** | **6,232** | **5,991** | **5,891** | **5,992** | **6,147** |

○ Status of the homeless by city and province

(Unit: No. of persons)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Total** | **Seoul** | **Busan** | **Daegu** | **Incheon** | **Gwangju** | **Daejeon** | **Ulsan** | **Sejong** | **Gyeonggi** | **Gangwon** | **Chungbuk** | **Chungnam** | **Jeonbuk** | **Jeonnam** | **Gyeongbuk** | **Gyeongnam** | **Jeju** |
| **Total** | **12,347** | **4,248** | **884** | **1,251** | **809** | **167** | **359** | **53** | **112** | **1,181** | **341** | **802** | **78** | **229** | **764** | **391** | **510** | **168** |
| **Self-Support** | 1,949 | 1,116 | 161 | 132 | 38 | 16 | 112 | 30 | - | 216 | 50 | 17 | 25 | 36 | - | - | - | - |
| **Temporary Protection** | 899 | 636 | 38 | 22 | 11 | - | 20 | 7 | - | 93 | 4 | 22 | 25 | 9 | 1 | - | - | 11 |
| **Street** | 1,138 | 308 | 124 | 124 | 141 | 6 | 38 | 16 | - | 294 | 50 | 6 | 28 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| **Rehabilitation**·**Long-Term Care** | 8,361 | 2,188 | 561 | 973 | 619 | 145 | 189 | - | 112 | 578 | 237 | 757 | - | 184 | 763 | 391 | 509 | 155 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Single-Cell Resident** | 6,147 | 3,475 | 887 | 893 | 477 | - | 415 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

○ Status of Homeless Facilities

(Unit: No. of facilities)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Total** | **Seoul** | **Busan** | **Daegu** | **Incheon** | **Gwangju** | **Daejeon** | **Ulsan** | **Sejong** | **Gyeonggi** | **Gangwon** | **Chungbuk** | **Chungnam** | **Jeonbuk** | **Jeonnam** | **Gyeongbuk** | **Gyeongnam** | **Jeju** |
| **Total** | **150** | **52** | **14** | **10** | **8** | **2** | **8** | **1** | **1** | **18** | **8** | **4** | **1** | **5** | **7** | **4** | **4** | **3** |
| Homeless Support Center  (Formerly known as counseling & protection center) | **10** | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Temporary Protection Facilities | **8** | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Facilities for the Self-Supporting Homeless  (Formerly known as homeless shelter) | **64** | 27 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | 10 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Rehabilitation·Long-Term Care Facilities for the Homeless  (Formerly known as nomadic homeless facilities) | **58** | 14 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Single-Cell Resident Counseling Center | **10** | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

○ Pursuant to Article 9 of the Act on Support For Welfare and Self-Reliance of the Homeless, etc., a nationwide survey on the homeless was conducted in 2011.

- In addition, municipalities of big cities with a large homeless population conduct area-specific surveys on the status and needs of the homeless.

□ **Population groups most affected by homelessness and documentation of their experiences**

○ Personal stories of the homeless are shared through the homeless case management program and expert discussions.

- Homeless facilities develop and advance new programs based on the outcome.

□ **Primary systemic and structural causes of homelessness**

○ Primary causes of homelessness fall into either social or personal categories. However, many studies show that most have become homeless due to the combination of social and personal factors.

- (Personal factors): disadvantaged upbringing and family backgrounds; low educational attainment; lack of job skills; addiction to alcohol, gambling and games; chronic illness; mental illness; physical disability; domestic violence; family break-down.

- (Social factors): low-skilled, blue-collar jobs; low-wage jobs; unstable marriage or single life due to poverty; unemployment; business failures; shortage of affordable small-sized housing.

□ **Discrimination and stigmatization of the homeless**

○ In terms of laws and policies, individuals are not subjected to discrimination solely because of their homeless status.

- However, there have been reports that homeless persons were ostracized by their co-workers or quit their jobs shortly after being employed due to the negative social perception of homelessness.

□ **View on homelessness by the Court and the National Human Rights Commission**

○ Homelessness itself is not viewed as human rights violation. However, it is recognized as a factor which inhibits individuals from living decent lives as it leads to the destruction of their characters and the severance of social networks and support.

- The Korean government provides comprehensive support for the homeless, including housing assistance, institutional protection, rehabilitation and medical assistance, and job support to help them escape homelessness quickly.

○ The National Human Rights Commission is required to provide at least 4 hours of human rights education every year for those working at homeless facilities in order to prevent human rights violation against the homeless.

- (Content of education): ① Human rights protection measures for the homeless ② Cases of human rights violation against the homeless, and measures for relief and prevention of homelessness ③ Human rights awareness education for those working at homeless facilities ④ Prevention of human rights violation against the homeless

□ **Legal and administrative procedures available to challenge actions or inactions on the grounds that they lead to, or fail to address, homelessness**

○ Policy on homelessness supports the social re-integration of the homeless through the following process:

Emergency accommodation/temporary protection facilities→ facilities for self-supporting homeless persons→ escape homelessness, or;

Emergency accommodation/temporary protection facilities→ facilities for self-supporting homeless persons→rehabilitation facilities→escape homelessness.

○ Homeless facilities provide their residents with opportunities to support themselves by offering health and medical services, rehabilitation and self-support programs, and jobs.

**□ Strategies or legislation at local and national levels to reduce or eliminate homelessness**

○ (Purpose): Support social re-integration and improve welfare for the homeless by protecting their right to lead decent lives and building a foundation for rehabilitation and independence.

○ (Goals): ① Create a seamless support system for prevention, rehabilitation and independence ② Provide support specific to the causes and types of homelessness ③ Create a community-based care system through an integrated approach encompassing housing, health care and welfare ④ Scientific and evidence-based performance management.

○ (Welfare Services): The Korean government provides comprehensive and complex social welfare services for the homeless, including assistance for emergency situations, housing, medical care, food and employment.

**Types and Functions of Homeless Facilities**

Article 10 of the Act on Support For Welfare and Self-Reliance of The Homeless, etc.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Main Function | Others |
| Facilities for Self-Supporting Homeless Persons | Provide welfare services such as professional career counseling and training to help homeless persons prepare for independent living |  |
| Rehabilitation Facilities for Homeless Persons | Provide medical care and rehabilitation services for homeless persons who lack the ability to lead independent lives due to physical and mental disabilities | Government-subsidized |
| Long-Term Care Facilities for Homeless Persons | Provide long-term care services for homeless persons who cannot quickly return to their homes or communities due to their health problems. | Government-subsidized |
| Temporary Protection Facilities for Homeless Persons | Provide temporary protection and integrated welfare services |  |
| Homeless Support Center | Provides housing, medical care, career counseling, integrated welfare services, emergency services, management of welfare service use history, psychological counseling and other services specified by the Ordinance of the Ministry of Health and Welfare |  |
| Food Service Facilities for Homeless Persons | Defined as facilities for providing meals to homeless persons under Article 11 |  |
| Medical Facilities for Homeless Persons | Defined as medical facilities for homeless persons under Article 12 |  |

⇒ In accordance with Article 7 and 9 of the Act on Support for Welfare and Self-Reliance of the Homeless, etc. the Ministry of Health and Welfare shall formulate and implement a comprehensive plan to ensure the independent living of the homeless, and shall conduct a regular fact-finding survey to identify the needs and emotional states of homeless persons as well as the current status of assistance to such persons from the public and private sectors.