

# Housing, Poverty and Health Risks in Switzerland:

Examination of the housing situation of households affected by material poverty or living on or slightly above the poverty line

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# Initial situation

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- «Housing» as a thematic priority of the NAP: collaboration with BSV und BWO
- How adequate is the housing situation of households living on or under the poverty line?
- Adequate housing as a basic part of the constitutional rights
- How do we define adequate housing and how do we operationalize the definition?
- Differentiated presentation of the housing situation of vulnerable groups and according to regions and socioeconomic factors
- SILC Data: Comparison of the surveys of 2007 and 2012
- 20 expert interviews with professionals working at local social services and specialized agencies

# Measurement model

Dimensions	Indicators	Operationalization
Costs	Accommodation costs compared with income	30% of gross income
Size	Living space Number of rooms per person	BWO-standard regarding square meters OECD-standard regarding number of rooms
Quality	Equipment of dwellings Building defects Emissions affecting the dwellings	Minimal equipment: Kitchen/sanitation Darkness/coldness/Humidity Exposure to noise or dust
Location	Way to school Social infrastructure Public transportation Local recreation Day care Vandalism	Level of difficulty to access school Access to food stores / to medical care Access to public transportation Playgrounds Access to Day care Crime/vandalism in living environment
Security	<i>Housing Status</i> <i>Competences regarding housing abilities</i> <i>Depts / pursuits</i>	<i>No operationalization possible</i>

# Most important results of the survey

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- Households living under the poverty line are significantly more often in inadequate dwellings than all other households
- High accommodation costs are the main cause of this inadequacy
- The security of the housing situation is critical for poor households
- The social groups elderly pensioners, single parents and migrants are particularly affected by housing inadequacy
- Urban areas are more affected than rural areas
- Between 2007 and 2012 the situation has been stable but there are indications of a deterioration

# Quantitative results

2012	Costs	Size	Quality	Location	Housing inadequacy in total	Proportion of households
<b>Total</b>	15.5%	6.2%	4.2%	9.6%	<b>20.8%</b>	100%
<b>Poor</b>	<b>82.0%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	12.4%	<b>83.5%</b>	10.0%
<b>Not poor</b>	8.4%	5.6%	3.8%	9.3%	<b>15.5%</b>	90.0%
<b>Precarious</b>	48.9%	8.0%	<b>7.0%</b>	11.5%	<b>57.1%</b>	6.4%
<b>Not poor and not precarious</b>	5.3%	5.5%	3.6%	9.1%	<b>12.9%</b>	83.7%

## All Outcomes: Households living under the poverty line

Adequacy in..	Outcomes						Total
<b>4 Dimensions</b>	ABCD						
	14.3%						14.34%
<b>3 Dimensions</b>	aBCD	AbCD	ABcD	ABCd			
	57.73%	2.20%	0.50%	2.14%			62.58%
<b>2 Dimensions</b>	abCD	AbCd	AbcD	aBcD	aBCd	ABcd	
	6.77%	0.15%	0.20%	3.55%	8.59%	0.35%	19.60%
<b>1 Dimensions</b>	Abcd	aBcd	abCd	abcD			
	0.00%	0.37%	1.69%	1.42%			3.47%
<b>0 Dimensions</b>	Abcd						
	0.00%						0.00%
<b>Total</b>							100%

## Results regarding Health Risks

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- Relatively small number of households living in dwelling with low quality
- Low income households are more likely to be exposed to darkness, coldness and humidity
- Psychological health risks for elderly people who loose their dwellings because of total renovations (expert interviews)
- Health risks for elderly people living alone (expert interviews)
- Health risks for families living in a overcrowded accommodation?
- Housing security as a main issue for households with debts or in social assistance
- Other studies demonstrate the relation between accommodation inadequacy and health risks: H eritier et al. (2016) / Klatte et al (2017)

## Sociopolitical impulses/discussions

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- Lack of affordable housing for beneficiaries of social assistance: increase the supply of affordable housing or adjusting the rent-guidelines?
- Securing a long-term tenancy: more specialized agencies?
- Structural discrimination of households living under the poverty line: the impact of sociopolitical measures has limitations