Solidarity Night : A street count in Paris
Lessons learned

Vanessa Benoit
Deputy Director, CASVP
(social services agency of the City of Paris)

OECD Workshop on Homelessness and Affordable Housing
Boulogne Billancourt, 27 November 2019
A little bit of context: homelessness in Paris

- Paris: 2.1 M inhabitants (metropolis 6.7 M)

- 21,000 shelter beds and approximately
  3,000 additional beds in the winter

- **Homelessness is on the rise for the last 20 years,**
  in all demographics; street homelessness very visible;
  but up until 2018 no reliable city-wide data

- Homeless services = national state’s jurisdiction, but
  moral and political responsibility of the City of Paris

- City has built coalition of partners around a plan to
  reduce street homelessness (2015)
01 Counting
The 1st French Street Count: la *Nuit de la Solidarité* in Paris

![Image](image_url)

**Our objectives**
- Snapshot of street homelessness
- Shared reference point for all
- Better knowledge of homeless persons
- Awareness / consciousness raising

**Our methodology**
- City wide, street by street incl. the subway, train stations, hospitals, parking lots, etc.
- A headcount + a survey
- Target demographic: the unsheltered homeless = E1 category of the ETHOS typology
- Stakeholders: a steering committee, a scientific committee, numerous NGOs and 1500+ volunteers

1st year: February 2018  
2nd year: February 2019  
3rd year: upcoming  
(January 30th, 2020)
Methodology

The Scientific Committee

• Who sits on it?
  • Research institutions working on homelessness
  • Sociologists, demographers, cartographers, political scientists

• What does it do?
  • Critical analysis of methodology used and recommendations for improvement
  • Oversees and approves production of streetcount results and final report

Our dissemination strategy

• First estimates at D+30
• Annual report with all the data, maps, and scientific articles in October + an overview

• Fact sheets
• A recap video: the results in 3 minutes
02 Findings
1. There were 3,641 people sleeping rough in Paris on the night of February 7th, 2019

In 2018, we counted 3,035 people

But we extended our perimeter this year: the number of roofless individuals is roughly similar for the same perimeter (3,258 people for 2019, that is +223 people ≈ +6%)

Overall, we find that the number of roofless people is statistically stable
5. There are more women sleeping rough than expected and most homeless people never call the 115

14% are women (12% in 2018)
63% never call 115 (vs 64% in 2018) [the SamuSocial emergency line]

46% lack sufficient resources
14% have resources from a job
35% have a case manager (vs 27% in 2018)
6. Some profiles are over-represented in certain districts of Paris

Using the deviation from the mean methodology.
Reading: in this district, the profile is overrepresented, although other profiles can also be found.

- **Young people (under 25), often in groups, don’t know where to spend the night, have no financial resources.**
- **No specific profile is over-represented.**
- **The older homeless people, who have been sleeping rough for a longer period of time (1 to 5 y.). Seldom call the 115.**
- **The homeless people who are most in contact with a case manager and the social services. Aged 25-54. Call the 115 and sometimes sleep in shelters.**

Source: Nuit de la Solidarité, Mairie de Paris (février 2019). Traitements Apur
Hors décompte dans les stations de métro et dans les zones spécifiques
03 Perspectives
3. Now what? The initiatives launched after the 2018 and 2019 counts

• 3 000 additional shelter beds, with City of Paris bringing land, and national State funding

• 7 night drop in centers, half of which cater to women and families

• Additional luggage and locker service for persons experiencing street homelessness

• Access to rights and benefits: extension of the current municipal « adress and mail » service to triple its capacity

• The opening of the Solidarity Factory
3. Now what? The initiatives launched after the 2018 and 2019 counts

The Solidarity Factory will:

- Educate on the reality of homelessness, to combat stereotypes and preconceived notions
- Promote projects that align with municipal priorities
- Provide training on homelessness and the skills that are useful when serving this population
- Help volunteers connect with opportunities or test their own ideas

It will develop 5 types of programs:

- Information and training
- Connecting volunteers to opportunities
- Testing ideas and supporting / incubating projects
- Coordinating city-wide service delivery to the homeless population
- Arts and creation
The New French Street Counts: definitions and objectives

• The first Parisian street count gave momentum to other cities to organize their own count, with or without the help of the city of Paris: cities like Metz (2018), Grenoble, Rennes, Metz, Toulouse and Montpellier (2019).

• This leads to numerous obstacles when trying to compare local surveys:
  • E1 category (ETHOS) in Paris
  • But Toulouse, Rennes, Grenoble and Montpellier also included squats, emergency shelters (Grenoble, Rennes): a housing exclusion continuum approach

• The methodology varies from one French city to the other but in the beginning, there were always the same questions: who should we count, where and how?
Thank you!

All data in our 2018 report:

Next count on January 30th, 2020

Additional info on
https://www.paris.fr/nuitdelasolidarite (FR)

Vanessa Benoit
vanessa.benoit@paris.fr

2019 report to be published soon