Homelessness at what cost? The socio-economic impact of rough sleeping on the public and private sector

Andrea Filip Tortella

Laidlaw Foundation

Introduction

This research uncovers the socio-economic costs of homelessness, focusing on its impact on the public and private sectors. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of these multi-dimensional costs.

Research Problem

The study seeks to identify and quantify the hidden and explicit socio-economic costs of homelessness. It aims to understand how these costs manifest in different sectors, such as healthcare, law enforcement, and local businesses, thereby affecting the overall well-being of communities.

Methodology

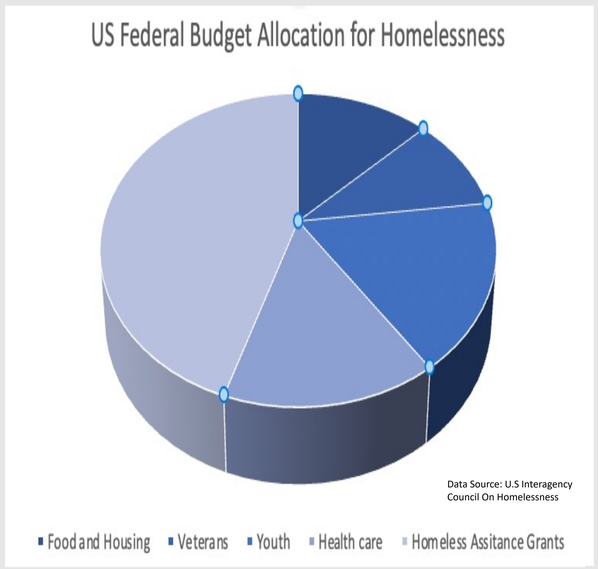
The study employs a mixed-method approach, including interviews with stakeholders, first-hand experience of homelessness, and a comparative analysis of London, New York, and Paris. Data was collected through surveys, interviews, and public records.

Findings

The research reveals that homelessness not only incurs direct costs like healthcare and law enforcement expenditures but also imposes hidden costs such as decreased business revenue and community well-being, highlighting the systemic inefficiencies and human costs of current policies.

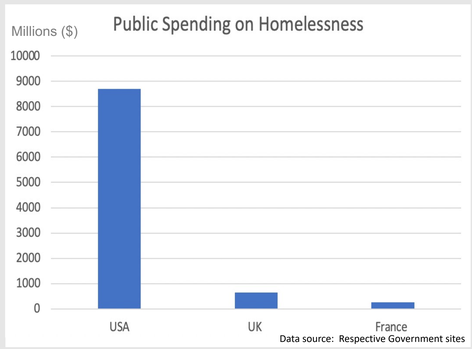
Conclusion

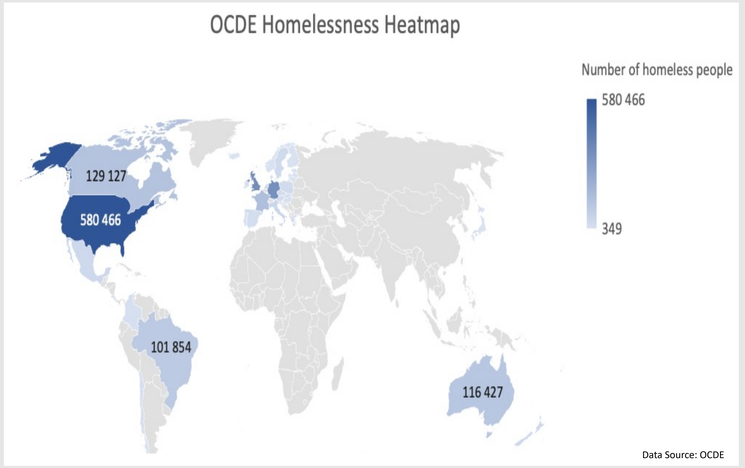
The study reveals significant socio-economic costs of homelessness and recommends policy changes and better public service coordination. Reintegrating homeless individuals into the labor market could notably boost GDP.



Research Video

SCAN ME





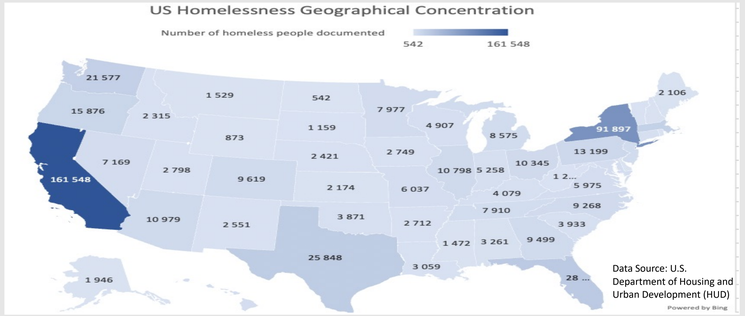
Stakeholder Perspectives

Healthcare providers report being ill-equipped to address the complex needs of homeless individuals, leading to resource inefficiency. Law enforcement officers express frustration over the cyclical nature of homelessness-related arrests. Business owners are concerned about the long-term sustainability of their enterprises if homelessness remains unaddressed.

Personal Experience

Spending 24 hours as a homeless individual revealed systemic barriers, such as lack of coordination among public services. The experience highlighted the human cost of policy failures, including the humiliation and difficulty of finding a safe place to sleep.

- Fragmented Services exposed the lack of coordination
- Emotional taxing coupled with physical discomfort



Relevant Statistics

Average Lifetime
Homeless female: 47
Homeless male 42

Recurrent deaths
A homeless person dies every two weeks in Canada

Share of Population who have ever been homeless
UK: 7,7% Italy: 4%
US: 6,2% Germany 2,4%

Homeless Youth
100,000 young people experience homelessness each year in the UK

Interviews Word Cloud

Public Sector Explicit Costs

- Law Enforcement
- Healthcare Expenditures
- Anti-Homeless Architecture
- Social Welfare Programs

Public Sector Implicit Costs

- Decreased Park Usage
- Resource Diversion
- Social Costs

Private Sector Explicit Costs

- Insurance Premiums
- Security Costs
- Property Devaluation

Private Sector Implicit Costs

- Consumer Sentiment
- Employee Stress
- Brand Image

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