Leave No One Behind: Disaggregating Homelessness in Support of SDG 11

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Typology and Measurement

EGM Data Disaggregation
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Why a Common Understanding of Homelessness?

➡ **Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

  ◆ **11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.**

➡ Disaggegation is essential for meaningful dialogue: not just amongst researchers, but also between policy makers and practitioners

➡ Without a common 'language' and reference point to frame exchanges across different countries and world regions, we risk 'talking past each' about different sorts of phenomena

➡ Homelessness is distinct from slums and not likely to be impacted by slum improvement; yet is not subject of broad advocacy and policy focus

The Conceptual Model

➡ Our core concept focuses on 'severe housing deprivation':

   "*Lacking access to minimally adequate housing*"

➡ Three 'domains of home' within which to evaluate housing adequacy:

1. The security domain: security of tenure, exclusive occupation and affordability

2. The physical domain: sufficient <u>quality</u> of accommodation (durability, amenities, protection from weather, etc.) and <u>quantity</u> of accommodation (not severely overcrowded)

3. The social domain: ability to enjoy social relations, privacy, and safety

The Proposed Typology of Global Homelessness

➡ Covers three broad categories of people who may be considered homeless:

1. People without accommodation

2. People living in temporary or crisis accommodation

3. People living in severely inadequate and/or insecure accommodation

Proposed Typology of Global Homelessness

(IGH focus marked in green)

	Category		Subcategory
1	People without accommodation	1 (a)	People sleeping in the streets or in other open spaces (such as parks, railway embankments, under bridges, on river banks, in forests, etc).
		1 (b)	People sleeping in public roofed spaces or buildings not intended for human habitation (such as bus and railway stations, taxi ranks, derelict buildings, public buildings, etc.)
		1 (c)	People sleeping in their cars, rickshaws, open fishing boats and other forms of transport
		1 (d)	'Pavement dwellers' - individuals or households who live on the street in a regular spot, usually with some form of makeshift cover.

Proposed Typology of Global Homelessness

(IGH focus marked in green)

	Category		Subcategory
2	People living in temporary or crisis accommodation	2 (a)	People staying in night shelters (where occupants have to renegotiate their accommodation nightly)
		2 (b)	People living in homeless hostels and other types of temporary accommodation for homeless people (where occupants have a designated bed or room)
		2 (c)	Women and children living in refuges for those fleeing domestic violence
		2 (d)	People living in camps provided for 'internally displaced people' i.e. those who have fled their homes as a result of armed conflict, natural or human-made disasters, human rights violations, development projects, etc. but have not crossed international borders
		2 (e)	People living in reception centres / temporary accommodation for asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants

Proposed Typology of Global Homelessness

(IGH focus marked in green)

	Category		Subcategory
3	People living in severely inadequate and insecure accommodation	3 (a)	People sharing with friends and relatives on a temporary basis
		3 (b)	People living under threat of violence
		3 (c)	People living in cheap hotels, bed and breakfasts and similar
		3 (d)	People squatting in conventional housing
		3 (e)	People living in conventional housing that is unfit for human habitation
		3 (f)	People living in trailers, caravans and tents
		3 (g)	People living in extremely overcrowded conditions
		3 (h)	People living in non-conventional buildings and temporary structures, including those living in slums/informal settlements

Summary of Approach

➡ The distinction between poor housing v homelessness rests on the severity of deprivation in the three key 'domains of home'

➡ But is also embedded in varying economic, cultural and institutional contexts

➡ We therefore do not think it helpful (or possible) to try to impose a single definition of homelessness, applied uniformly across the globe

➡ What is more important (and feasible) is to develop a Typology of Global Homelessness as a 'reference frame' – an aid to transparency - that national and local definitions can be set in relation to

➡ *But* a clear and consistent definition, that has global resonance and application, is needed to guide IGH's work….

The IGH Proposed Definition

➡️ Proposal: IGH should focus an Category 1 and 2 (a-c) of the proposed Typology of Global Homelessness, i.e. people without any accommodation and those living in temporary or emergency accommodation specifically provided for homeless people

➡️ Three main reasons

- ◆ Higher level of commonality concerning "literal homelessness" - street homelessness and shelters of various kinds - across the globe

- ◆ Street homelessness is particularly neglected; international and local strategies to tackle 'homelessness' often focussed on more numerous and better organised groups (shack or slum dwellers)

- ◆ Many other organisations and networks focus on slum dwellers, refugees and internally displaced persons

➡️ SDG-oriented homelessness activities should fill an existing gap

Three Common Enumeration Methods

1) **Registry Based Estimates**

2) **Point In Time (PIT) Counts**

3) **Retrospective Reports from Household Surveys**

Registry Based Estimates:

- Advantages:

  - Unduplicated, longitudinal counts

  - Any time period can be measured

  - Captures service use dynamics

  - Useful for typologies

  Examples: US HMIS, Denmark, Netherlands, Canada

Registry Based Estimates:

- Disadvantages:

  - Shelter-based **do not track unsheltered** periods or persons

  - Incomplete bed coverage

 - Requires long-term commitment of resources and training

The Point In Time (PIT) Counts (Rossi, 1987):

➡️ Enumerate people in shelters – relatively straighforward

➡️ **Estimate unsheltered through visual count**

➡️ Example: "HOPE Count" in NYC and S. Korea Street Surveys

PIT Count:

➡ NYC divides the city into 2 kinds of areas based on the expectation of finding people:

- High Probability: 1+ People (2+ in Manhattan)

- Low Probability: 0 People (0-1 in Manhattan)

- Cities usually sample low probability areas, and survey all high probability areas; some designate "medium" probability also

High Probability
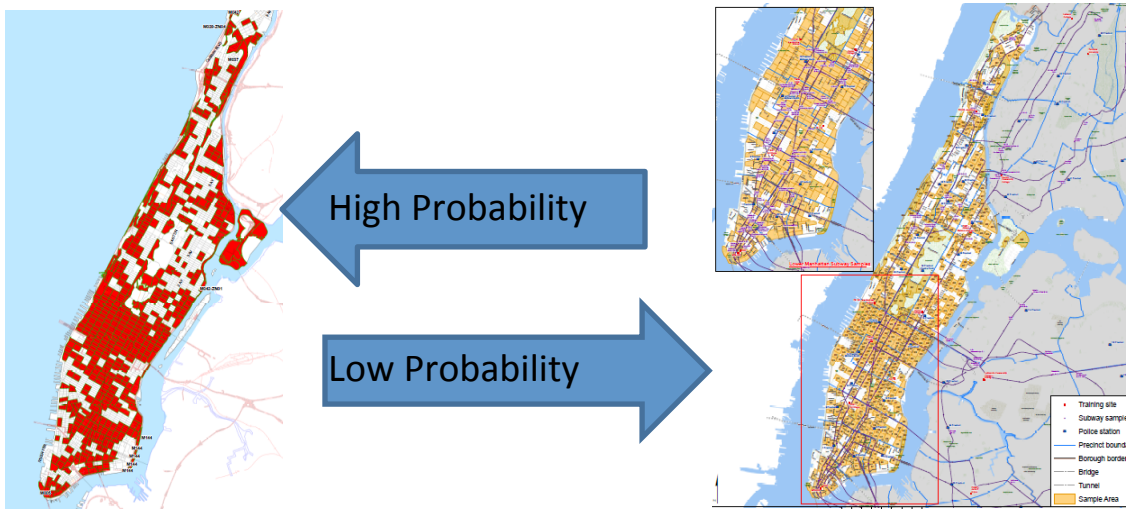
Low Probability

FINAL SAMPLE:
- 1,549 Total Areas
- 1,103 High Probability
- 445 Low Probability

Retrospective Reports in Household Surveys

➡ Toro's work in US and Europe

➡ Recent UK-based surveys

➡ FEANTSA and European Observatory efforts with EuroStat

➡ US American Housing Survey (just recent movers)

➡ *To be covered in "measurement" breakout session*

Two Less Common Methods:

1) Service based methodology (Burt, 1988) – also a corrective for PIT counts

2) Hotspot counts

3) "Capture and Recapture" – Chile

Some ways forward:

➡ Unlikely to have a global count any time soon – need for training and dissemination of best practices, especially PIT and Household Surveys

➡ National Statistical Agencies not likely to lead

➡ Trends may be discernible in PIT enumerations focused on "hot spot areas" (train stations, parks, roadsides)

➡ Need to grown enumeration efforts, alongside other knowledge development and policy and practice strategies