

Social and economic integration of homeless people in France *Representations, differential treatment and unequal access to rights*

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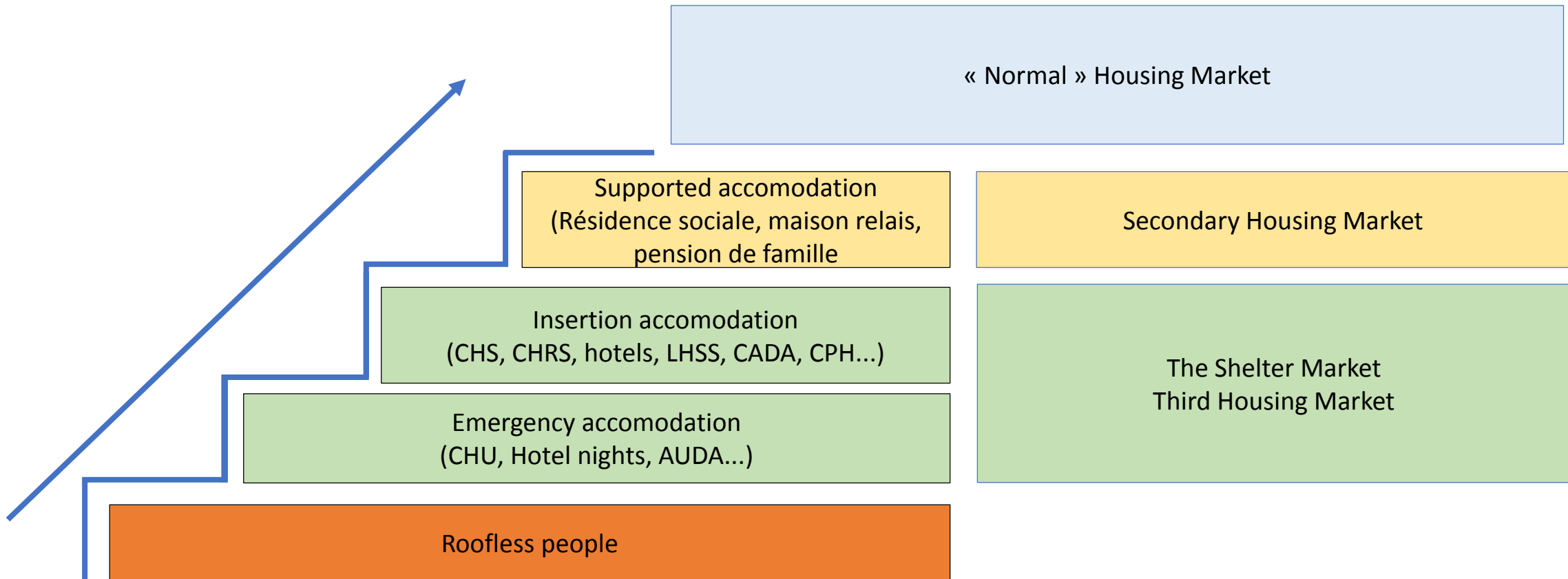


Social and economic integraton of homeless people in France

1. The French institutional assistance and care system for homeless people : objectives and organisation
2. A gender analysis of the difference of treatment
3. Paradoxes and limits of the system to integrate homeless men and women

1. The French institutional assistance and care system for homeless people : objectives and organisation

- A system organized around one objective : the economic and social re-integration of homeless people
- A segmented, hierachical and competitive system (Soulié, 1997; Brousse 2006; Gardella, 2004)
- Shelter and housing solutions which can be compared with a staircase of transition to climb



1.The French institutional assistance and care system for homeless people : objectives and organisation

A selection based on the « re-inserability » of homeless people

- Differences between shelters and very social housing (physical, objectives, ressources and capacities to support homeless people and lead them to ordinary housing)
- Expectations and representations of « re-inserability »

Which come to :

- The Matthew effect
- An inequal treatment and inequal access to rights

2. A gender analysis of the difference of treatment

- *Accessing to shelter* : women as – potential – mothers are privileged
 - A processus of selection wich valorised women vulnerability
 - Social representations of women re-inserability
 - Accommodation conditions more favorable for women

Table 1. Situation of homeless people in relation to accommodation according to sex (%)

	Male	Female	Total
Homeless in shelter	53	35	46
- <i>With obligation to live the room</i>	23	4	16
- <i>Without obligation to live the room</i>	30	31	30
Homeless in hotel	7	20	12
Homeless in housing	26	44	33
Roofless	14	n<20	9
Total	100	100	100

N=3 727

P(khi²)<0,0001

Source : INSEE, Enquête auprès des personnes fréquentant les services d'hébergement et de distribution de repas, 2012

Champ : personnes sans domicile francophones de 18 ans ou plus, agglomérations de plus de 20 000 habitants, France métropolitaine

- Shelter : 35% of women in shelters (53% of men) – 89% of homeless women in shelter can stay in their rooms (56% of men)
- Hotel : 20% of homeless women (7% of men)
- Housing: 44% of homeless women (26% of men)
- Street : “only” 43% of homeless women have ever lived on the streets during their lifetime (71% of men)

2. A gender analysis of the difference of treatment

- *Accessing to shelter* : women as – potential – mothers are privileged
- Accommodation conditions more favorable for women

Tableau 2. Housing conditions of homeless people in housing and hotels according to sex (en %)

In hotel	Male	Female	In housing	Male	Female
Have access to hot running water inside the room	100	100	Have access to hot running water in the accommodation	100	100
Have access to toilet inside the room	56	63	Have access to hot running water inside the accommodation	93	96
Have a shower or bath inside the room	56	70	Have access to toilet inside the accommodation	95	98
Have a kitchen inside the room	n<20	21	Have a shower or bath inside the accommodation	79	86

Source : INSEE, Enquête auprès des personnes fréquentant les services d'hébergement et de distribution de repas, 2012

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Lecture : 56% des hommes qui vivent à l'hôtel ont accès à des WC à l'intérieur de la chambre ; c'est le cas de 63% des femmes qui vivent à l'hôtel.

- Hotel is less comfortable than accommodation
- Women have more than men access to certain amenities such as toilets, shower or bathtub, kitchen **even at the hotel**

2. A gender analysis of the difference of treatment

- *Accessing to shelter* : women as – potential – mothers are privileged
- Accommodation conditions more favorable for mothers

Table 3. Situation of homeless people in relation to accommodation according to sex and the presence of children (%)

	Female		Male		Total
	With children	Without children	With children	Without children	
Homeless in shelter	19	53	9	58	47
Homeless in hotel	29	8	29	5	12
Homeless in housing	51	37	57	22	32
Roofless	n<20	n<20	n<20	15	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100

N=3741

P(khi²)<0,001

Source : INSEE, Enquête auprès des personnes fréquentant les services d'hébergement et de distribution de repas, 2012

Champ : personnes sans domicile francophones de 18 ans ou plus, agglomérations de plus de 20 000 habitants, France métropolitaine

- When accompanied by children : in housing : 51% of homeless women and 57% of homeless men
- 52% of homeless women live with children (9% of men)
- People without children : in shelter

2. A gender analysis of the difference of treatment

- *Accessing to shelter* : women as – potential – mothers are privileged
 - Sex : a discriminant variable anything else equal

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- Women living without children are more accommodated in housing provided by associations than men : 37% vs 22%

2. A gender analysis of the difference of treatment

- *Social accompaniment into shelters* : a paradoxal injunction for homeless women
 - a unique objective : economic and social « re-integration » / access to an ordinary housing
 - the difficult balance between family and professional spheres for homeless women
- *Accessing to ordinary housing* :
 - an evaluation of housing capacities with valorised domestic competences
 - a very limited affordable offer / an injunction of social mixity
 - women/single-parent family perceived through their vulnerability and as a potential cause of social disorder

3. Paradoxes and limits of the system to integrate homeless men and women

- *The « non-conditionality »: a undermined princip by*
 - the insufficient and inadequate supply
 - A selection based on the evaluation of « re-inserability »
- *Housing right and the Housing first approach : also undermined right and policy*
 - the insufficient and inadequate supply
 - the processus of selection based on the evaluation of « housing » capacities
- *Inequal treatments*
- *Injunctions which make homeless people responsable of their non integration / housing exclusion*