The New French Street Counts:
Figures, Lessons and Perspectives

Marion Giovanangeli & Maxime Gennaoui

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CENTRE D'ACTION SOCIALE VILLE DE PARIS

01
Figures

Paris' 2019 count

02
Lessons

What we learned, what we launched

03
Perspectives

Objectives and proposals for comparable figures in France and Europe

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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)

The 1st French Street Count: la *Nuit de la Solidarité* in Paris

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

1st year: February 2018
2nd year: February 2019

3rd year: upcoming
(January 30th, 2020)

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

Methodology

The teams

- 353 zones, 1 central and 20 local HQs
- Each team is composed of at least 1 professional and 4 to 5 volunteers
- Trainings is provided ahead of time for professionals, and on the spot for volunteers

The survey

- 3 different types of questionnaires designed by the scientific committee and the stakeholders
- Questions on demographics, places of sleep, use of homeless services, health, needs, etc.
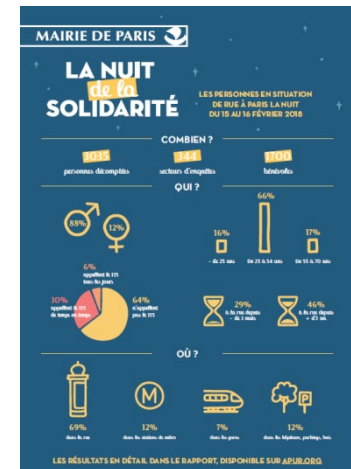- In French + in English

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](#)
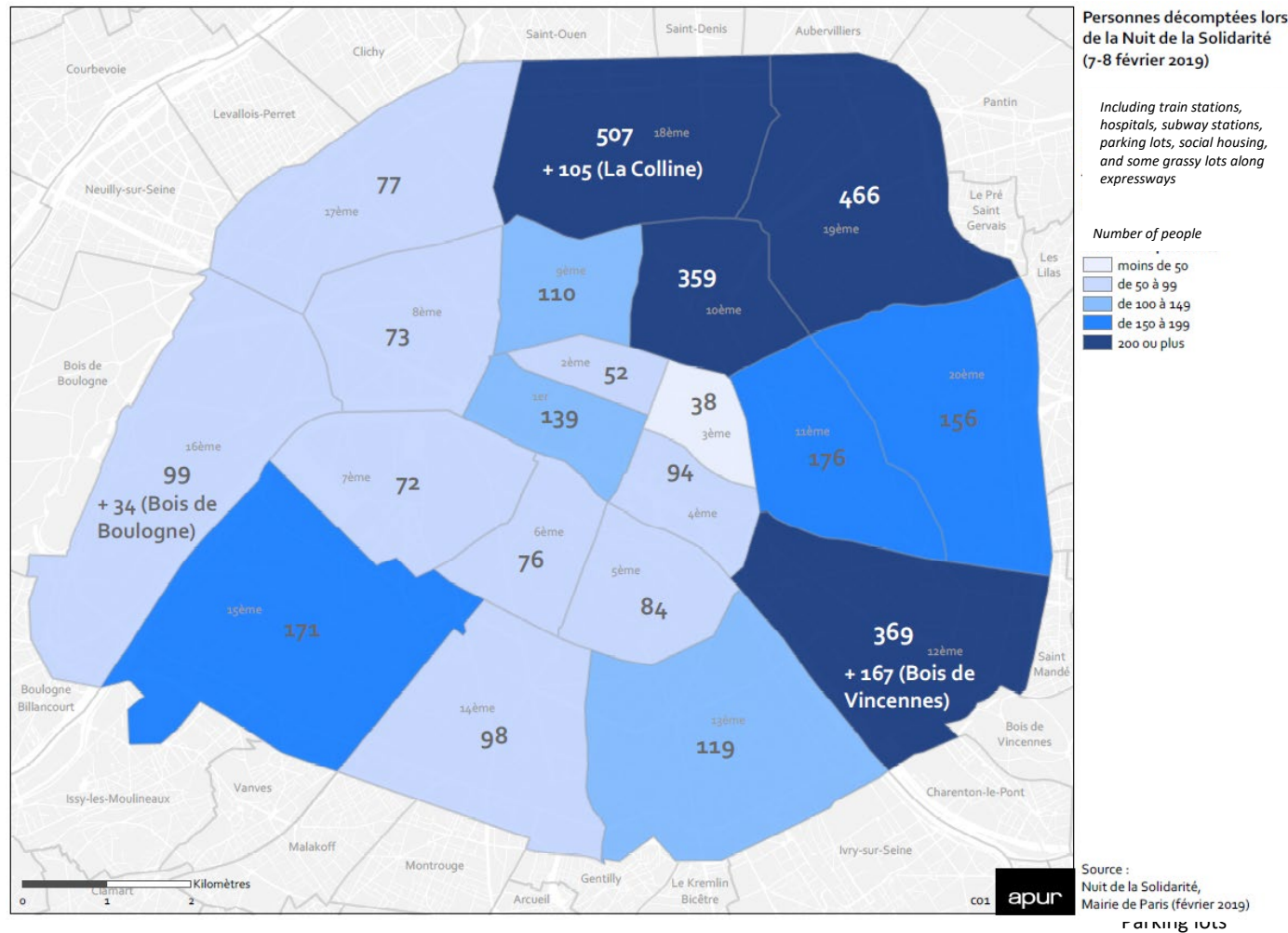- [A recap video](#): the results in 3 minutes

01 Figures

1. There were 3,641 people sleeping rough in Paris on the night of February 7th, 2019

Personnes décomptées lors de la Nuit de la Solidarité (7-8 février 2019)

Including train stations, hospitals, subway stations, parking lots, social housing, and some grassy lots along expressways

Number of people
- moins de 50
- de 50 à 99
- de 100 à 149
- de 150 à 199
- 200 ou plus

Source : Nuit de la Solidarité, Mairie de Paris (février 2019)
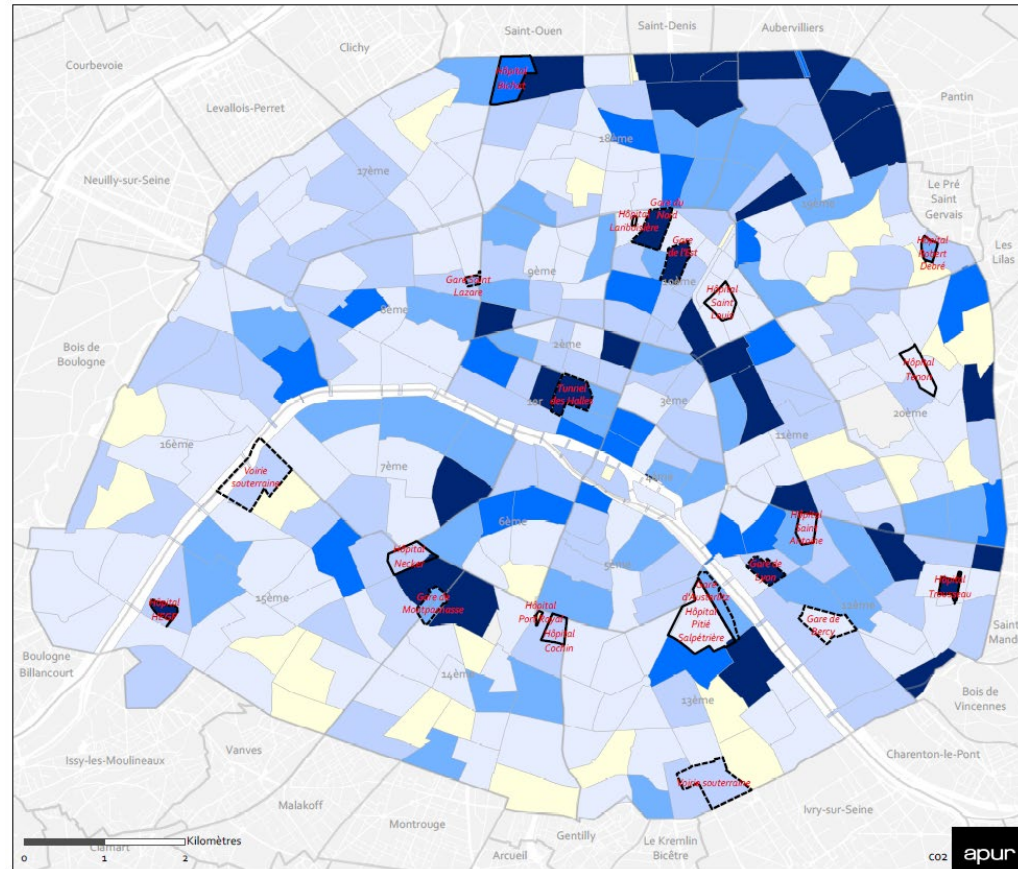
In 2018, we counted 3,035 people

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

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2. Homelessness is widespread in Paris

Overground

and underground (subway stations and parking lots)

People sleeping rough in Paris (February 7th/8th, 2019)

incl. train stations, hospitals, subway stations, parking lots, social housing, and some grassy lots along expressways
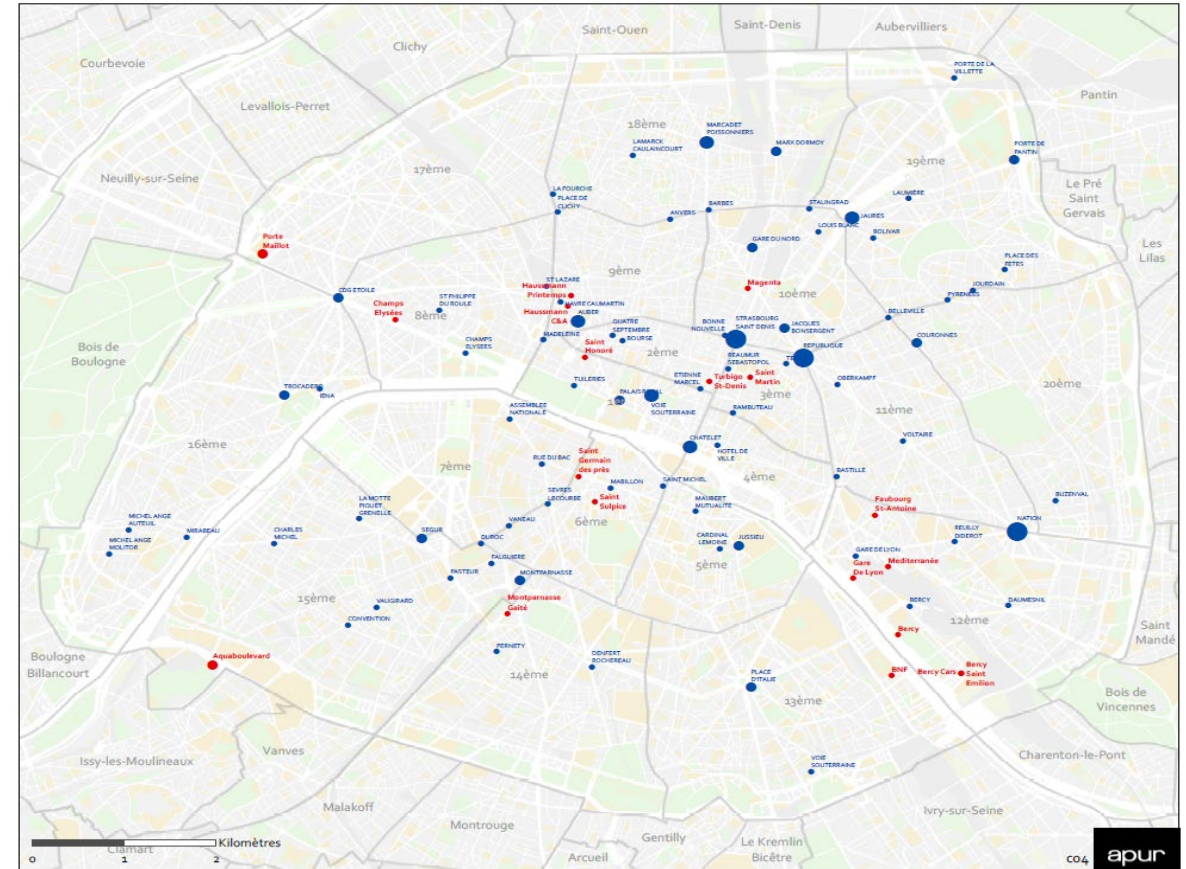
Nombre de personnes
- aucune
- moins de 5
- de 5 à 9
- de 10 à 14
- de 15 à 19
- 20 ou plus

Zones spécifiques
- hôpital
- gare

Emplacement
- Parking lots
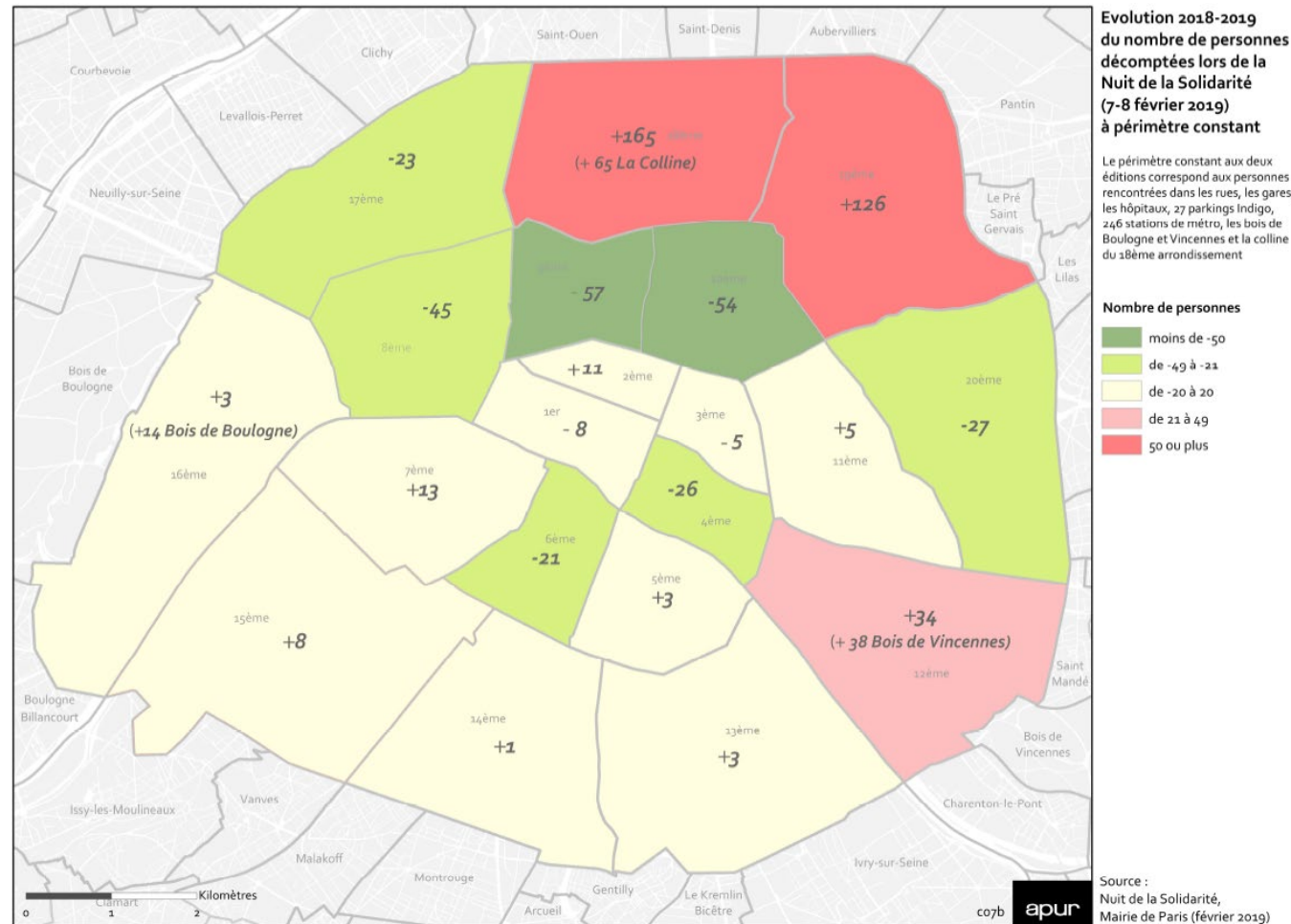- Subway stations

Nombre de personnes
- moins de 5
- de 5 à 10
- de 10 à 20
- 20 personnes ou plus

3. Territorial shifts can be observed

Evolution 2018-2019
du nombre de personnes
décomptées lors de la
Nuit de la Solidarité
(7-8 février 2019)
à périmètre constant

Le périmètre constant aux deux
éditions correspond aux personnes
rencontrées dans les rues, les gares,
les hôpitaux, 27 parkings Indigo,
246 stations de métro, les bois de
Boulogne et Vincennes et la colline
du 18ème arrondissement

Nombre de personnes
- moins de -50
- de -49 à -21
- de -20 à 20
- de 21 à 49
- 50 ou plus

Source :
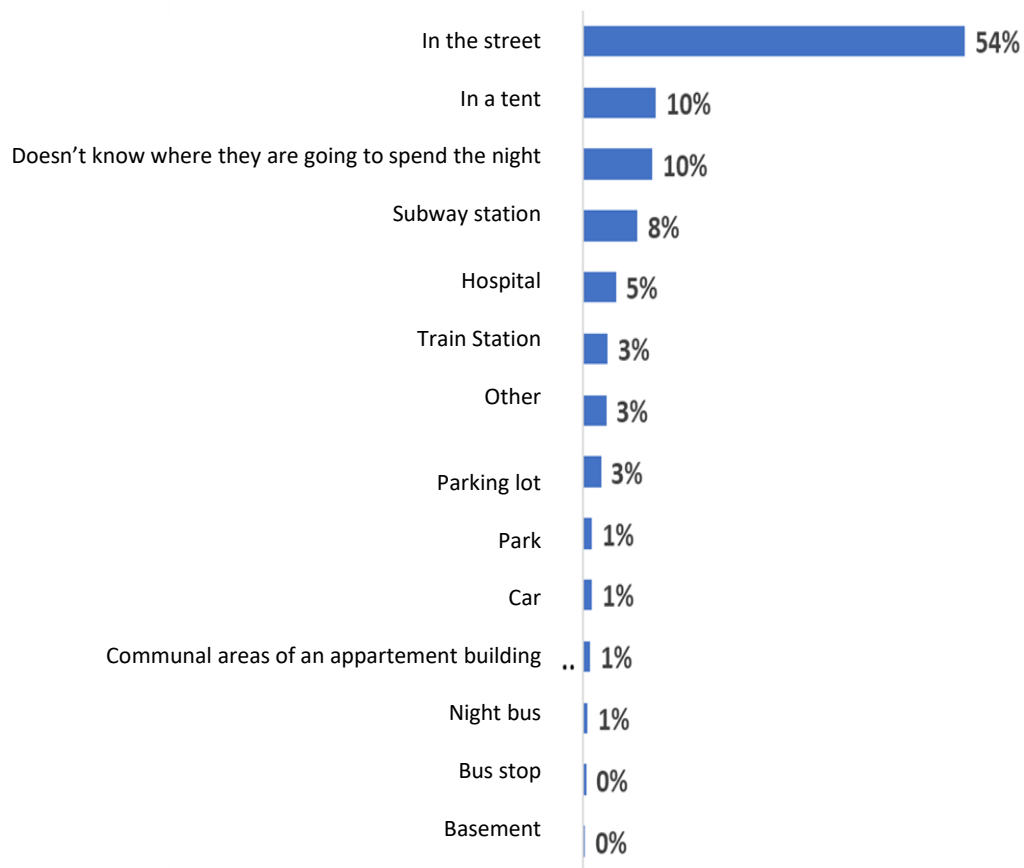Nuit de la Solidarité,
Mairie de Paris (février 2019)

Increase in street homelessness in the North East districts of Paris

While some adjacent areas decrease

4. Most people sleep in the street, a subway/train station or in a hospital

Sleeping places of homeless people

In the street	54%
In a tent	10%
Doesn't know where they are going to spend the night	10%
Subway station	8%
Hospital	5%
Train Station	3%
Other	3%
Parking lot	3%
Park	1%
Car	1%
Communal areas of an appartement building	1%
Night bus	1%
Bus stop	0%
Basement	0%

More than one out of two homeless reported that they would spend the night in the street

79% of respondents said this is the place where they sleep most often

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5. There are more women sleeping rough than expected and most homeless people never call the 115
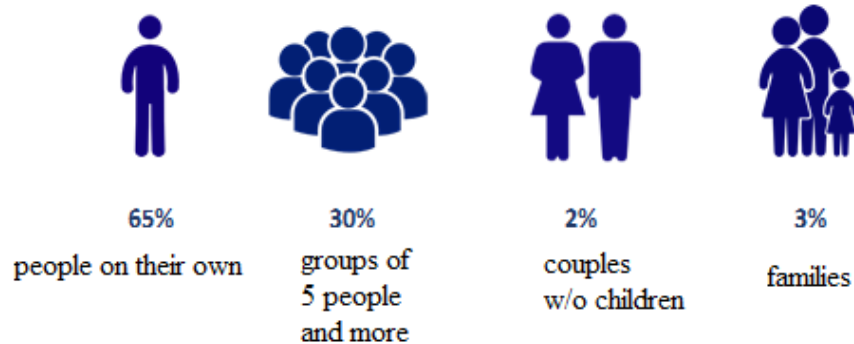
14% are women *(12% in 2018)*

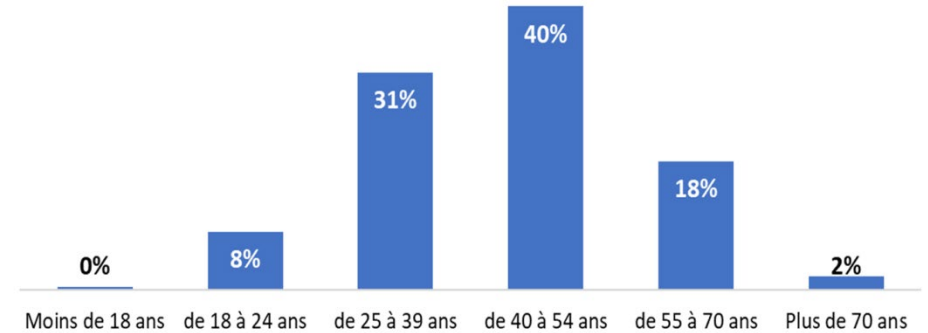**63% never call 115** *(vs 64% in 2018)*

[the SamuSocial emergency line]

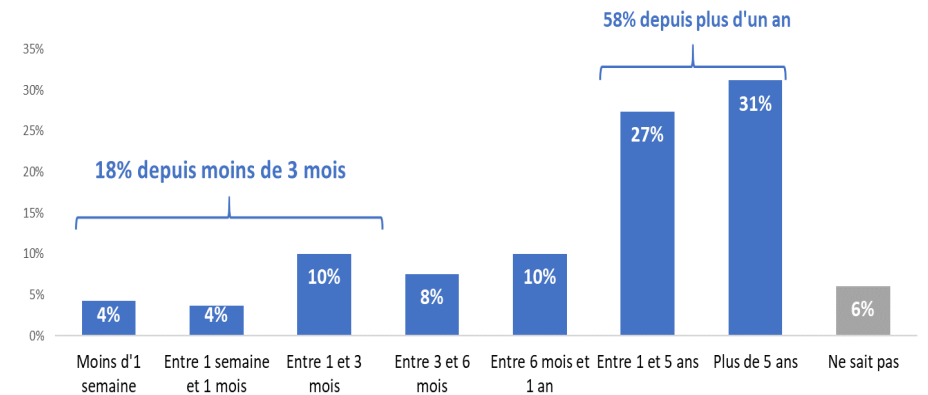**46%** lack sufficient resources

14% have ressources from a job

35% have a case manager *(vs 27% in 2018)*

65% people on their own

30% groups of 5 people and more

2% couples w/o children

3% families

Age of respondents

Moins de 18 ans: 0%
de 18 à 24 ans: 8%
de 25 à 39 ans: 31%
de 40 à 54 ans: 40%
de 55 à 70 ans: 18%
Plus de 70 ans: 2%

Homeless since…

58% depuis plus d'un an

18% depuis moins de 3 mois

Moins d'1 semaine: 4%
Entre 1 semaine et 1 mois: 4%
Entre 1 et 3 mois: 10%
Entre 3 et 6 mois: 8%
Entre 6 mois et 1 an: 10%
Entre 1 et 5 ans: 27%
Plus de 5 ans: 31%
Ne sait pas: 6%

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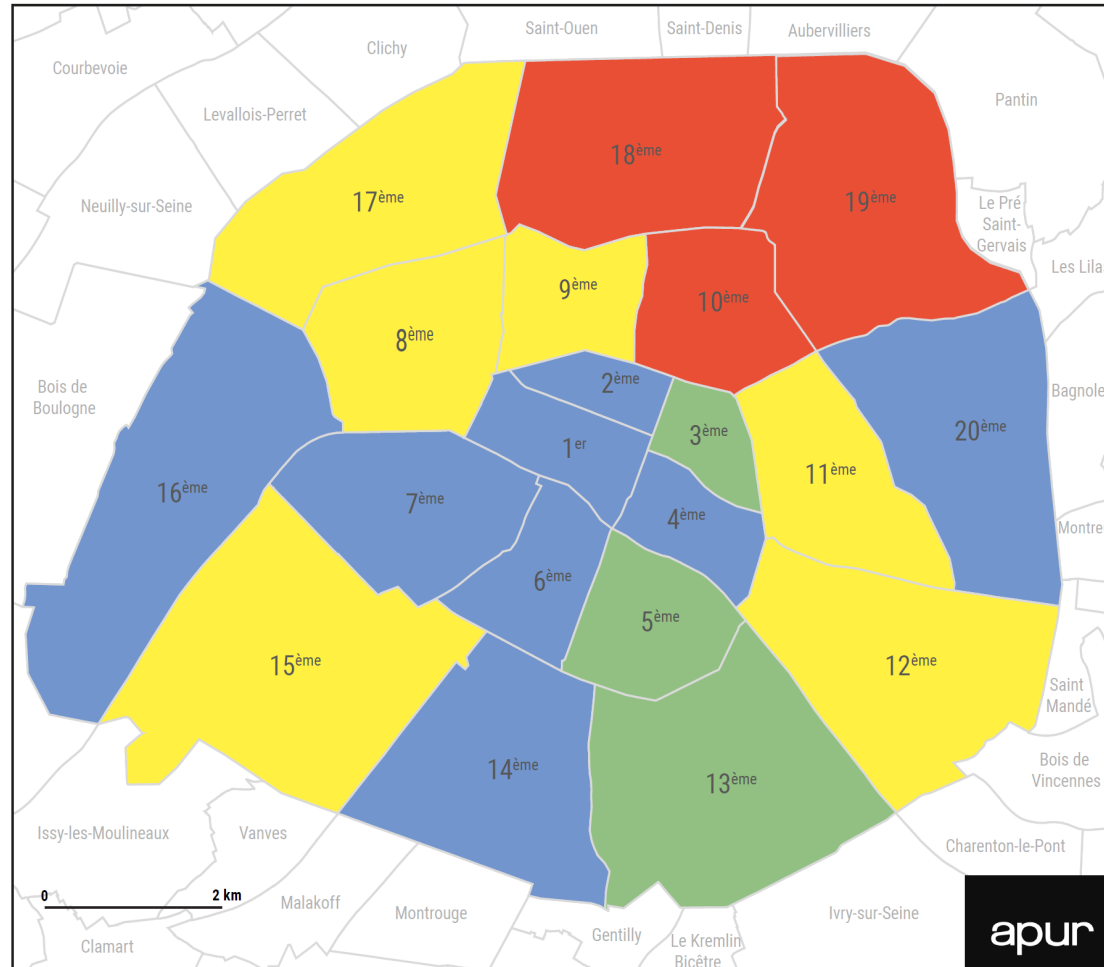
6. Some profiles are over-represented in certain districts of Paris

**OVER-REPRESENTED PROFILES
IN EACH DISTRICT**

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

In conclusion, the 2019 edition confirms and consolidates a lot of the findings of 2018

- The overall number of people sleeping rough is, unfortunately, statistically stable

- The majority of our profiles (men/women, alone/couples/families) and statistics (% who calls 115, % sleeping in the street, etc.) are confirmed, while remaining very different from the national figures of 2001/2012

- Some new findings remain unaccounted-for:
    o   more people in groups (30% v. 23% in 2018)
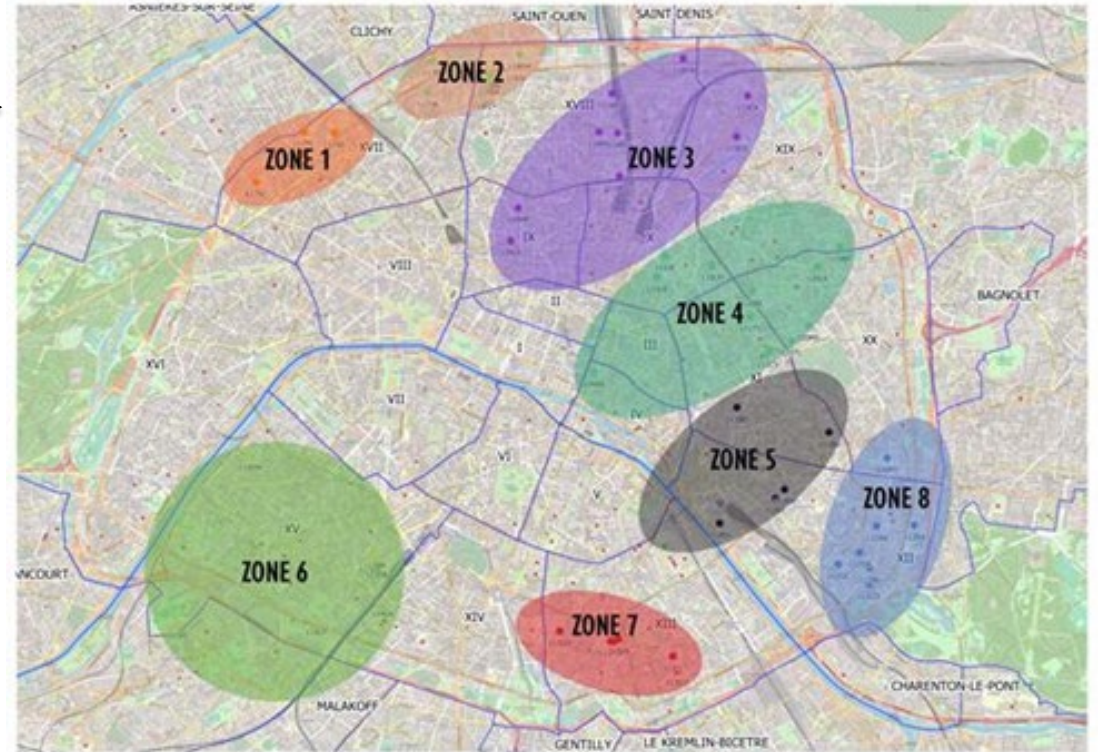   o   less young people in the streets (8% v. 16% in 2018)

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02 Lessons

1. There's a balance to be found between extending the perimeter and guaranteeing that the results will be understandable by the general public

- *Many areas weren't covered the 1st time: in 2019, we extended the perimeter to some parks, parking, social housing, and grassy lots along expressways.*

- *We met 500+ people in these areas: the more we look, the more people we find*

- *BUT: by doing so, overall figures lose their comparability over time (evolutions can only be measured all else being equal), which makes it more difficult for us, and the press, to accurately communicate on it*

+ should we count beyond the E1 category (ETHOS)?

2. The survey is extremly useful (perhaps even more than the count), both in terms of research and policy proposal

- *Repetition is key: the relative similarity in terms of figures hints at the strength and reliability of the method used . It also allows us to make revisions (all the questionnaires were modified and enhanced in 2019).*

- *Truly gives a better, more accurate knowledge of the homeless population, and one that can sometimes even be unforeseen: e.g. the number of people calling the 115, needs of the homeles, etc.*

- *Which allows us to make informed policy proposals*

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

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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*

03   Perspectives

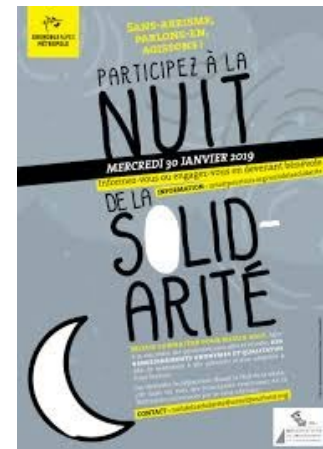# 1. The New French Street Counts: definitions and objectives

- *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?*

1. The New French Street Counts: definitions and objectives
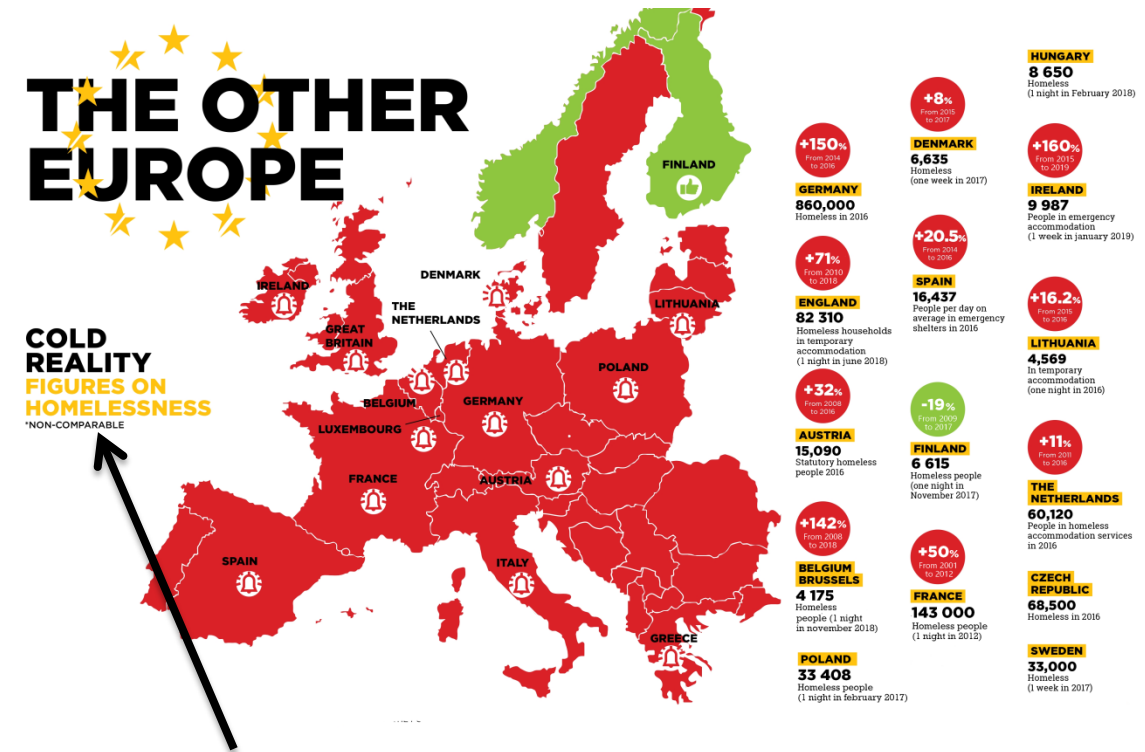
- *The results are also non-comparable because of the differences in terms of questions, timetables and interviewers*

- *Eventually, is comparability the aim of such counts?*
    - *Not necessarily: the counts in themselves can be an objective*
    - *But we still need to move toward a shared reference point/definition*

- *For the municipality of Paris, this renewed interest would be the perfect opportunity to consider organizing a joint count next year simultaneously with other French cities, or even at the European level.*

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2. Are we (finally) heading towards reliable, comparable European figures on homelessness?

- *Local figures are more accurate and more numerous, thanks to the development of the street count methodology…*

- *… BUT we still need figures at the European level to fully incorporate migration patterns, limit threshold effects, and finally get a comparable, comprehensive overview of homelessness in Europe*

"non exhaustive and non comparable" (since 2015)
source: FEANTSA, Overview of Housing Exclusion

2. Are we (finally) heading towards reliable, comparable European figures on homelessness?

How to get there?

Alison Smith:

1) Comparable typologies
2) Similar methodologies

Can We Compare Homelessness Across
the Atlantic? A Comparative Study
of Methods for Measuring Homelessness
in North America and Europe[1]

Alison Smith

University of Montreal, Canada

⇒ *Need for more similar methodologies,*
all the while keeping the subsidiarity principle :
there is no one-size-fits-all solution, as street counts need to stem
from the grass roots to mobilize communities.

⇒ *We need to share our results more, and to hold more workshops*
on the methodology of street counts

Training School for city counts in Europe
Brussels, September 2018

2. Are we (finally) heading towards reliable, comparable European figures on homelessness?

⇒ *This will allow us to come closer to the European agenda on bringing homeless to a functional zero by 2030*

Thank you!

All data in our 2018 report:
https://www.apur.org/fr/nos-travaux/situation-rue-paris-nuit-15-16-fevrier-2018 (FR)

2019 report to be published in October

Next count on January 30th, 2020

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

Marion Giovanangeli
marion.giovanangeli@paris.fr

Maxime Gennaoui
maxime.gennaoui@gmail.com