

# CORONA AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

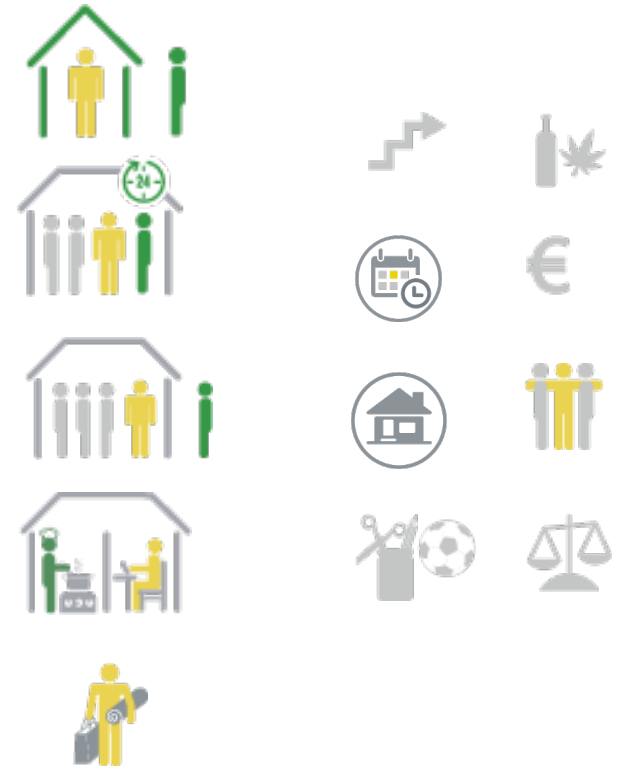
The influence of the corona crisis on welfare policies



opvang, woonbegeleiding en dagactiviteiten

**European Research Conference on Homelessness**  
24th September 2021

# Introduction





Does the corona crisis influence the way of thinking about self-sufficiency in welfare policy in the longer term?

# Methods

- Inductive research
- Data sources:
  - Research project Free University of Amsterdam 'Kwetsbaar in Amsterdam'
  - Interviews on management and policy level
  - Policy documents
  - Research and advisory reports
- Focused analysis

# This presentation

- Dutch welfare policy and homelessness
- The coronavirus and related measures
- Effect and post corona ambitions
- Conclusion: influence of the crisis
  - Process, challenges and opportunities
  - Actual change?

# Dutch welfare policies

- 2015: WMO
- Shift in responsibilities (Duyvendak & Tonkens, 2018)
- Aim for the active citizen through self sufficiency (Newman & Tonkens, 2011)
  - As accessibility tool
  - As goal in trajectories
- Private issues vs. Public issues (Dewey, 1927)

# Homelessness and welfare provisions

- Welfare provisions
    - Accessibility with self sufficiency matrix and local connection
  - Increase in people experiencing homelessness
  - Increase of waiting lists
- Discussion on the use of self sufficiency



# Impact of corona measures





# Changes in welfare policies

- Day activity centers closed
- Maintaining 1.5 meter distance
- Increase in shelter beds
  - Access for everybody experiencing homelessness
- Public issue vs. private issue
  - Measures and opening/closing of shelters
  - Vaccination program



# Effect of temporary policy change

- Limited infections with homeless population
- Temporary shelter had positive effect on users
  - Increasing of worries about finances
  - Change in provided support
- Change caused discussion: 'why wasn't this possible before?'

# Post corona policy ambitions

Focus on:

- Early signaling and intervention
- Prevention through other domains
- Decrease new influx or relapse
- Increase housing options

# Motivation

- Report by the Council of Public Health & Society (2020)
  - Recovery starts with a house
  - Long term political dedication
  - Use the right to housing
    - Halting self sufficiency criterium
    - Prevent homelessness

# Influence of crisis

- Influence on process and creation of new challenges
  - Opening of new opportunities
- Not corona crisis but early discussion is source for long term plans



# Influence on crisis

- Does it really influence policy?
  - Care problem or housing problem
  - Public vs. private issue
- Different terminology, same meaning?



# Questions?

# Discussion

How did the virus related measures influence policies in other countries?

What was the motivation for this change?

And did it last?

