

Integrating a street count and extended service based homelessness count

FEANTSA Conference 12th September 2024

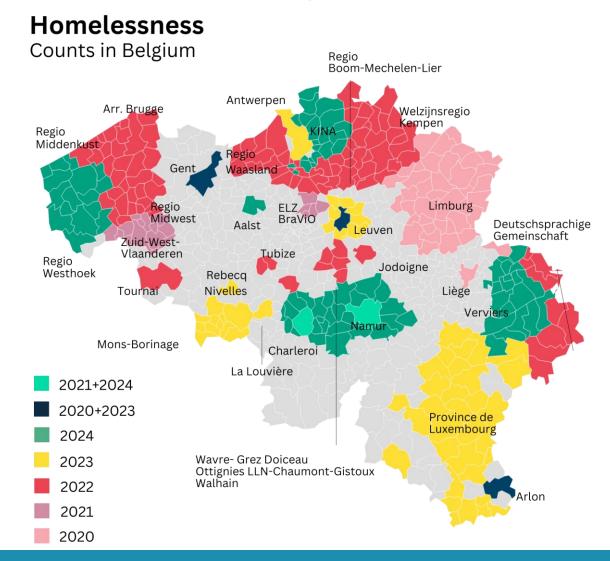
Evelien Demaerschalk, Nana Mertens prof. dr. Koen Hermans

Extended service-based homelessness counts in Belgium

Point-in-time count

October 2020-2024

→ extent + profile characteristics





	LOCAL ORGANISATION	EXAMPLES	
Services for PEH		Night shelters Emergency shelters Women shelter Temporary housing solutions Outreach services Mobile health teams,	
Public soci	al services	Public welfare centers General welfare centers Social work from health insurance Community health centers,	
Institution	S	General hospital, mental health hospital Youth care organisation Prison and justice related facilities Facility for people with disabilities Reception centers for asylum seekers Addiction/rehabilitation centers	
Railway and police		Local/regional police Railway Public transport	
Low threshold services		 Drop-in centers Social restaurants Community initiatives Volunteer programs providing food/basic amenities 	
Housing agencies		Social housing companies	

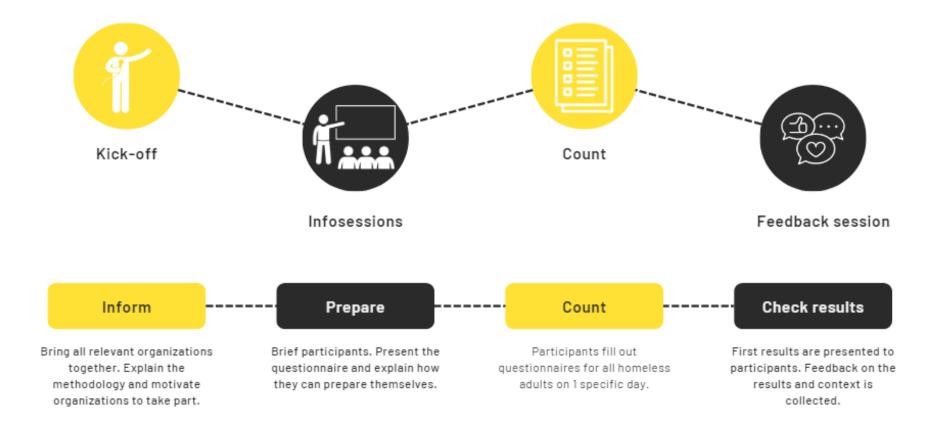


Double counts?

- Anonmyous client identifier
 - First letter first name
 - First letter surname
 - Last letter surname
- Use official and full name
- Gender + age + ...
- Variable deleted after removing duplicates



TIMELINE



1st homelessness count in Antwerp

- Largest Flemish city
- 544.759 inhabitants





1st homelessness count in Antwerp

- Sleeping rough: risk of Administrative fine (GAS-pv)
- 388 fines in 2021



Can we combine street count with extended servicebased count?

Preparation by working group with street workers

- 63 professionals
- 25 zones
- Teams of 2-4 professionals per zone
- Briefing 21h
- Count 23-24h

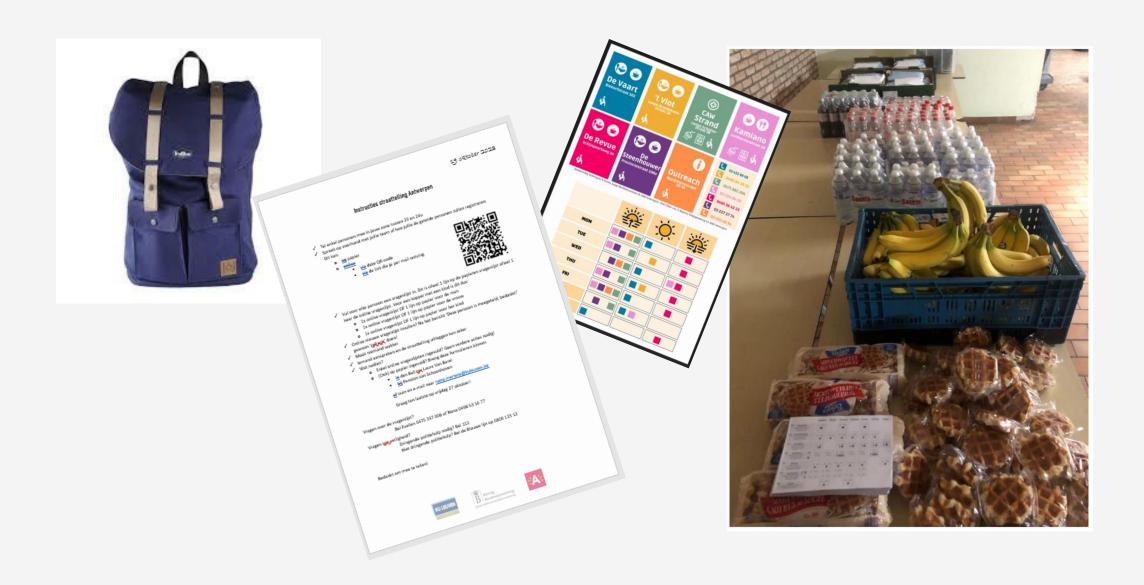


Onderzoekster Evelien Demaerschalk (midden) bestudeert samen met vrijwilligers het kaartje van de zone waar ze zo meteen zullen tellen.

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- Rather warm night
- Busy in city center
- Event for students





Numbers of people sleeping rough

Total: 119 persons counted

+ 0 minor children

• In 3 zones 0 persons counted

• In 15 zones 1-5 persons counted

• In 5 zones 6-10 persons counted

• In 1 zone 11-20 persons counted

• In 1 zone 20+ persons counted



Situation



70,6%

awake

84



26,9%

sleeping

32



2,5%

woken up

3



66,4%

talked to the person

79

Profile

76,5%

18,5%

X/? 5,0%



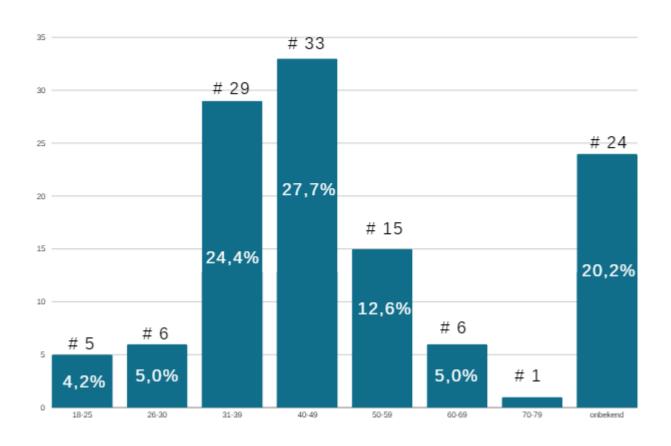
Marc en Bas doen grondig hun werk.

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Profile

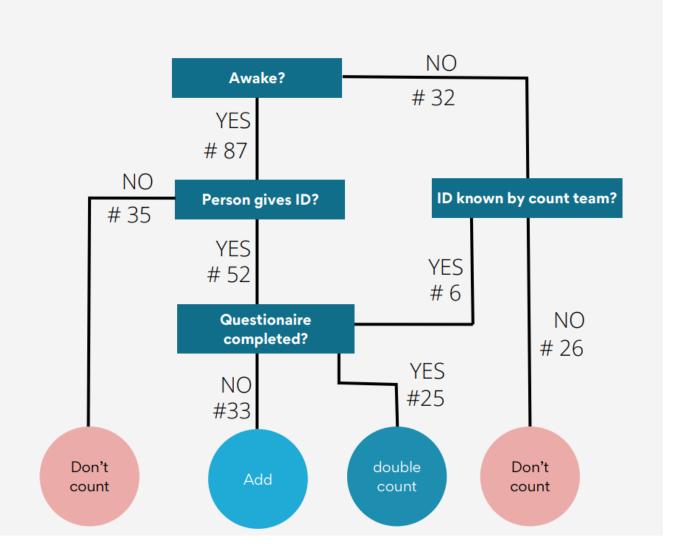
Age



Feedback session

- Professionals expected to count more people
 - Effects of warm night?
 - Missing people in entrance halls of buildings?
 - People sleeping outside city center?
 - Timing of street count?
 - •
- Street count as a positive experience
- Being able to prepare

Can we combine street count with extended service-based count?





Can we combine street count with extended service-based count?

- 21,0% of people counted = double count
- 27,7% of people counted could be added to the extended service based count

Adding to extended service-based count

	#	%
ETHOS Light 1 in Extended service-based count	193	85,4%
Street count	33	14,6%
TOTAL ETHOS LIGHT 1	226	100,0%

Results

- Both methodologies can
 - Coexist
 - Complement each other
- Proportion of street sleepers are known to services
- A group of people had not yet been in contact with services participating in the extended service-based count

Questions and feedback

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