

1 Article

2 Prevalence of Mental Disorders and Addictions 3 among Homeless People in the Greater Paris Area, 4 France

5 Anne Laporte ^{1,2,*}, Stéphanie Vandentorren ^{1,2,3}, Marc-Antoine Détrez ¹, Caroline Douay ¹, Yann Le
6 Strat ², Erwan le Méner ¹, Pierre Chauvin ³ and the Samenta research group ⁴

7 ¹ Observatoire du Samusocial de Paris, 75012 Paris, France

8 ² Santé publique France, French National Public Health Agency, 94410 Saint-Maurice, France

9 ³ INSERM, Sorbonne Universités, UPMC Univ Paris 06, Institut Pierre Louis d'épidémiologie et de Santé
10 Publique (IPLESP UMRS 1136), Department of Social Epidemiology, 75012 Paris, France

11 ⁴ The Samenta research group: François Beck, Christine Chan-Chee, Jean-Marie Firdion, Marie-Jeanne Guedj,
12 Marie Jauffret-Roustide, Stéphane Legleye, Valérie Le Masson, Alain Mercuel, Sylvie Zucca.

13 * Correspondence: Anne.LAPORTE@santepubliquefrance.fr

14 **Abstract:** The Samenta study was conducted in 2009 in the Greater Paris area to estimate the
15 prevalence of psychiatric disorders in homeless people. A cross-sectional survey was performed
16 with a three-stage random sample of homeless people (n=859), including users of day services,
17 emergency shelters, hot meal distribution, long-term rehabilitation centres and social hotels.
18 Information was collected by a lay interviewer, using the *Mini International Neuropsychiatric*
19 *Interview*, and completed by a psychologist through an open clinical interview. In the end, a
20 psychiatrist assessed the psychiatric diagnosis according to the ICD10. One third of homeless
21 people in the Paris area had at least one severe psychiatric disorder (SPD): psychotic disorders
22 (13%), anxiety disorders (12%) or severe mood disorders (7%). One in five was alcohol dependent
23 and 18% were drug users. Homeless women had significantly higher prevalence of anxiety
24 disorders and depression compared to men, who were more likely to suffer from psychotic
25 disorders. Homeless people of French origin were at higher risk of SPD, as well as people who
26 experienced various adverse life events before the age of 18 (running away, sexual violence,
27 parental disputes, and/or addictions) and those who experienced homelessness for the first time
28 before the age of 26. The prevalence rates of main psychiatric disorders within the homeless
29 population of our study are consistent with those reported in other Western cities. Our results
30 advocate for an improvement in detection, housing and care of psychiatric homeless.

31 **Keywords:** homeless; mental health; epidemiology; psychotic disorders; anxiety; mood disorders;
32 alcohol
33

34 1. Introduction

35 The homelessness phenomenon is more important than ever in Western Europe and North
36 America in this period of economic constraints on welfare budgets and increased social inequalities.
37 Homelessness is the result of complex interactions among structural factors such as decreased
38 availability of low-cost housing, unemployment, lack of social welfare policies, or immigration, and
39 individual factors of social vulnerability such as physical and mental illness, addiction, loneliness,
40 loss of social support, or some accumulation of other adverse life events [1,2,3]. Surveys showed that
41 homelessness cannot be considered as a distinct social category, but as the extremity of a social
42 gradient which shares a social proximity with other people living in conditions of poverty and
43 economic insecurity [1]. Nevertheless, stigmatized and excluded groups are more likely to become
44 homeless, in particular those with minority racial or ethnic status or those with previous experience
45 of mental illness [4,5,6]; these groups are currently overrepresented among homeless people in

46 Europe and the US [2,7,8,9,10]. The relationship between homelessness and mental illness has
47 already been discussed. More often, mental illness occurs before the onset of homelessness, and
48 more rarely during homelessness [11]. These observations raise the question between the social
49 causation or social selection hypotheses to explain this relation [12]. The social causation hypothesis,
50 arguing that a less favourable socio-economic position leads to an increase risk of psychopathology
51 [13], is well-demonstrated in the general population for depression and anxiety disorders, whereas
52 the social selection hypothesis, arguing deterioration in mental health leads to less favourable social
53 and economic conditions [14], is retained by many authors for psychotic disorders. Given these
54 observations and some empirical results of research in homelessness, the observed temporal
55 relationships between mental illness and the onset of homelessness are more in favour of the social
56 selection hypothesis [2]; for mentally ill people already at the bottom of the social gradient
57 previously mentioned, any social exclusion of income, wealth, or housing, or any adverse life event
58 (such as a divorce, a separation or an imprisonment) may lead them to homelessness.

59 Factors found associated with homelessness by one's social environment and/or adverse life
60 events [15] are also risk factors for severe psychiatric disorders. A growing body of evidence
61 suggests that adverse early circumstances, discrimination, experiences of social defeat,
62 powerlessness, and lack of social support could be an important risk of severe psychiatric disorders
63 [16]. More specifically, family relationships, as well as disrupted attachment relations, separation
64 from parents in early life, adverse relationships with parents or parental communication deviance,
65 have been reported in association with serious psychopathological disorders [17]. Sexual abuse has
66 been specifically investigated, and a history of sexual abuse has been linked with psychosis [18].

67 Statistical research on homelessness started in France in the 1990s, addressing methodological
68 issues and providing insights into the living conditions and trajectories of the homeless people [1]. In
69 1996, a study conducted in Paris city shelters showed a high prevalence of severe psychiatric
70 disorders and addictions [8]. Thirteen years later, the current study has been conducted in a larger,
71 more representative sample, including the whole Greater Paris area, and a greater variety of types of
72 structures and services dedicated to homeless people. It originated from the observation of an
73 increasing number of people living on the streets in the Greater Paris area who refused any kind of
74 aid, which was then interpreted by social workers and local authorities as a consequence of their
75 mental and behavioural disorders. Our main objectives were to estimate the prevalence of severe
76 psychiatric disorders and addictions among the homeless population in the Greater Paris area, to
77 compare their prevalence between men and women, and to explore some biographic factors
78 associated with severe psychiatric disorders.

79 **2. Materials and Methods**

80 *2.1. Population and sampling*

81 The study's population includes French-speaking adults who had slept at least once in a place
82 not intended for human habitation (street, squat, train station, etc.) or who had been taken in by an
83 organization providing free or low-cost housing services within the five days preceding the survey,
84 as well as those encountered in day-centres and those frequenting hot meal distribution points in the
85 Greater Paris area in 2009.

86 First, we constituted an exhaustive sampling frame of all the homeless aid services in the
87 Parisian region using different sources provided by public and private bodies. This frame contained
88 797 different housing services (short-stay centres, long-stay centres, hotels, and parent-child centres),
89 day-centres and 20 hot meal distribution points.

90 Then, we employed a three-stage random sampling following the Time Location Sampling
91 method [15]. In the first stage, we carried out a randomized, unequal probabilities sampling in each
92 of 15 strata that took into account the type of service, a binary geographic variable (Paris
93 inner-city/suburbs) and, when warranted, the sex of the people sheltered. The probability that
94 services would be included was proportional to the capacities of each service. Parisian services,
95 those services dedicated to women, and those dedicated to people less than 25 years of age were

96 overrepresented to improve the strength of the analyses. In the second stage, we randomly selected
97 half-days from the operating hours of each selected service. In the third stage, for every selected
98 half-day, a researcher selected homeless individuals by simple random sampling.

99 The number of subjects needed to estimate a prevalence of severe psychiatric disorders or
100 addictions of 30% [8,10], was estimated at 800 for an expected precision of 3%. With a response rate
101 of 71%, 859 people were interviewed between February and April 2009, and of those, 840 with
102 complete data were retained in the analysis.

103 2.2. Data Collection

104 A pair of specifically trained investigators (a professional lay interviewer and a clinical
105 psychologist) interviewed each person for an average time of one hour. First, a detailed
106 questionnaire about personal and family history, past and present social situation, housing and
107 living conditions, and health and use of healthcare services at the time of the survey was
108 administered.

109 A section on addictions (alcohol, drugs, medications abuse) used the Alcohol Use Disorders
110 Identification Test (AUDIT) [19] and the Assessment and Screening of Assistance Needs (ASAN)-
111 Drugs questionnaire [20], followed by questions on intake methods in the absence of housing.

112 Psychiatric disorders were investigated through a structured clinical interview (MINI plus v 5.0
113 [21]) integrated into the questionnaire, which generated DSM IV diagnoses. The design of the study,
114 tested on 45 people during a preliminary survey, took into account the risk of under- or
115 over-diagnosis with this type of tool in the absence of a clinician [22,23,24]. Therefore, once the lay
116 interviewer had completed the questionnaire, the psychologist who had observed the
117 subject/interviewer interaction conducted an open clinical interview to support an eventual
118 diagnosis. Finally, all the questionnaires and clinical reports had been systematically reviewed by a
119 psychiatrist, out of the subject's presence, in order to get a final "diagnosis" based on the 10th
120 International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) [25]. In order to make a differential diagnosis of
121 dementia or neurological damage for people 50 and older, the Mini Mental Status Examination [26]
122 was also integrated into the questionnaire.

123 This study has been approved by 2 ethics committees (the Comité pour la protection des
124 personnes of the Necker University Hospital in Paris, and the national Comité consultatif sur le
125 traitement de l'information en matière de recherche) and by the Commission Nationale de
126 l'Informatique et des Libertés, in charge of the citizens' data protection.

127 2.3. Statistical analysis

128 For each person surveyed, we calculated a sampling weight using the inverse of the product of
129 the inclusion probabilities calculated at each stage of the sampling design. This weight was modified
130 to take into account the heterogeneous use of services by means of the Generalized Weight Share
131 Method [27]. All the statistical analyses and the estimates presented here took into account the
132 complex sampling design, using Stata 10® (StataCorp, Texas, USA).

133 In our analysis, severe psychiatric disorders included non-mood psychotic disorders (ICD-10:
134 F20-29), severe mood disorders (ICD-10: F30-39 except F32.0 and F32.1, mild or moderate mood
135 disorders), and anxiety disorders (ICD-10: F40-48).

136 To analyse the factors associated with severe psychiatric disorders, we compared the people
137 who presented these disorders to those who did not (excluding people presenting a personality
138 disorder: F60-F69) to some characteristics associated with psychiatric disorders found in the
139 literature: demographics (age, sex, family status, country of birth), adverse life events in childhood
140 and adolescence (running away, sexual violence), and variables associated with homelessness: level
141 of education, social origin (parents' employment at 12 years), parents' difficulties (fights and/or
142 addictions), as well as age, housing conditions and problematic use of alcohol and/or marijuana
143 before the first experience of homelessness. These factors were identified using an age and sex
144 adjusted multivariate Poisson model with robust variance, which was more suited to the
145 cross-sectional design of the survey than logistic regression [28].

146 3. Results

147 3.1. Prevalence of psychiatric disorders and addictions

148 The estimated size of the French-speaking adult population using housing services or
149 frequenting day-centres or hot meal distribution points for an average week during the study period
150 was 21,176 people (95%CI: 17,582-24,770). We estimated the proportion of homeless people with at
151 least one severe psychiatric disorder at 31.5% (Table 1). These disorders consisted of psychotic
152 disorders (13.2%, mostly schizophrenia: 8.4%), anxiety disorders (12.3%, including post-traumatic
153 syndromes: 4.2%) and severe mood disorders (6.7%, including depression: 4.5%). Non-severe mood
154 disorders (mainly mild to moderate depressions) were found in 15.8% of people. With regard to
155 addictions, more than a quarter of the population presented a regular consumption of
156 psychoactive substances (28.6%). Alcohol dependence was found in 21.0% of people and a daily or
157 almost daily consumption of marijuana in 16.1%.

158 Almost half of the homeless people with psychotic disorders presented an addiction to at least
159 one psychoactive substance (49.3%); they were alcohol dependent in 30.1% of cases and regular
160 users of marijuana in 30.9%. Accordingly, when compared to people not suffering from psychotic
161 disorders, their risk of having at least one addiction was significantly higher (OR=2.9; $p<0.05$). On the
162 contrary, people with severe mood disorders and those with anxiety disorders had lower risks of
163 addiction than people not suffering from these disorders (respectively OR=0.5; $p<0.05$ and OR=0.3;
164 $p<0.05$). The global prevalence estimates masked significant disparities according to gender and
165 origin while 52.1% of the population were female (of which, 77.2% were born abroad) and 47.9%
166 were male (of which 62.1% were born in France, $p<0.05$).

167 3.2. Prevalence of psychiatric disorders by gender

168 Comparatively with homeless men (Table 1), homeless women had significantly higher
169 prevalence of anxiety disorders (21.0%, i.e. more than double the prevalence in men) and depression
170 (6.2%). Conversely, homeless men had higher prevalence of delusional disorders (5.0%, i.e. more
171 than 5 times greater than female prevalence) and addictions. Prevalence of addictions in men
172 generally exceeded that in women by about three times, whether considering a global prevalence
173 (37.5% versus 11.9%, $p<0.0001$) or specifically alcohol dependence (24.8% versus 4.1%, $p<0.0001$), the
174 regular consumption of illegal drug(s) and/or the misuse of prescription drug(s) (22.6% versus 8.0%,
175 $p<0.01$), and the regular consumption of marijuana (21.4% versus 6.1%, $p<0.0001$).

176 3.2. Biographic factors associated with severe psychiatric disorders

177 The analysis of factors associated with severe psychiatric disorders (SPD) among the homeless
178 population in the Ile-de-France (Table 2) shows that homeless people of French origin, people who
179 experienced some adverse life events before the age of 18 (running away, sexual violence, parents
180 fights and/or addictions) and those who experienced homelessness for the first time before the age of
181 26 were at a higher risk of SPD. Compared to people who lived with their parents when they first
182 experienced homelessness, those who had lost their own home were twice as likely to have SPD.
183 Neither the level of education nor the parental employment status was associated with SPD. A
184 problematic use of alcohol and/or marijuana before homelessness was significantly more often
185 reported by homeless with SPD (40.8%) than by homeless without SPD (19.9%). This association was
186 no more significant in the final model ($p=0.127$) but it was solely due to the introduction of the
187 country of birth (being or not born in France) with a PR reduced by less than 20% (from 1.58 to 1.28).
188 Indeed, it remained significant in a final model that did not take into account the country of birth
189 (PR=1.35, 95%CI=(1.03-1.77), $p=0.028$).

190

Table 1. Prevalence of psychiatric disorders and addictions in the entire homeless population and by gender, Greater Paris (France), 2009.

	Total N=840 % (95%CI)	Males n=402 % (95%CI)	Females n=438 % (95%CI)	p
Severe psychiatric disorder	31.5 (25.4-38.3)	29.1 (21.4 – 38.4)	35.8 (25.9 – 47.2)	0.33
Psychotic disorders	13.2 (8.6-19.8)	15.4 (9.3 – 24.6)	9.1 (4.6 – 17.2)	0.19
<i>including schizophrenia</i>	8.4 (4.9-13.9)	8.7 (4.4-16.4)	7.7 (3.6-15.8)	0.10
<i>delusional disorders</i>	3.5 (1.8-6.6)	5.0 (2.6-9.6)	0.6 (0.2-2.0)	<0.01
Anxiety disorders	12.3 (8.7-17.0)	7.5 (4.0 – 13.7)	21.0 (13.5 – 31.2)	<0.01
<i>including post-traumatic stress disorder</i>	4.2 (2.1-7.9)	3.6 (1.2-10.4)	5.1 (2.7-9.6)	0.27
Severe mood disorders	6.7 (3.8-12.2)	6.6 (2.7 – 14.8)	6.9 (3.8 – 12.1)	0.92
<i>including depression</i>	4.5 (2.8-7.01)	3.6 (2.0-6.2)	6.2 (3.2-11.7)	<0.05
Non severe mood disorders	15.8 (8.9-26.3)	12.8 (5.2-28.3)	21.3 (15.4-28.7)	0.20
Addictions	28.6 (21.7-36.6)	37.5 (29.3-46.5)	11.9 (6.5-20.9)	<0.05
Alcohol dependence	21.0 (15.8-27.4)	24.8 (17.5 – 33.8)	4.1 (2.1 – 7.9)	<0.0001
Regular consumption of at least an illegal drug*	17.5 (12.6-23.9)	22.6 (16.1-30.8)	8.0 (3.7-16.4)	<0.01
<i>including marijuana</i>	16.1 (11.4-22.3)	21.4 (15.1 – 29.6)	6.1 (2.5 – 14.1)	<0.0001

191

Table 2. Factors associated with severe psychiatric disorders (SPD) among the homeless people, Greater Paris (France), 2009.

	% in SPD (n=259)	% in non SPD (n=303)	Initial model		Final model	
			PR (95%CI)	p	PR (95%CI)	p
Age	-	-	1.00 (0.98-1.01)	0.83	1.01 (0.99-1.02)	0.26
Gender = female (versus male)	39.7	40.2	0.98 (0.68-1.43)	0.95	1.13 (0.86-1.48)	0.39
Family status = in couple (versus single)	11.6	21.3	0.67 (0.36 – 1.25)	0.21		
Born in France	54.8	22.6	1.91 (1.41-2.58)	<0.001	1.51 (1.10-2.08)	0.01
History of running away before the age of 18	25.1	6.4	1.78 (1.41-2.27)	<0.001	1.34 (1.35-2.29)	<0.0001
Victim of sexual violence before the age of 18	15.9	0.9	2.04 (1.69-2.46)	<0.001	1.76 (1.35-2.29)	<0.0001
Level of education						
primary	11.2	12.3	Ref.	0.53		
secondary	68.6	71.2	0.94 (0.70-1.26)			
tertiary	20.3	16.5	1.12 (0.84-1.54)			
Parents' employment at 12 years						
both parents employed	2.1	2.9	Ref.	0.10		
one of the two parents employed	53.4	64.6	0.80 (0.57-1.12)			
both parents unemployed	44.5	32.5	0.84 (0.29-2.39)			
Parents fights and/or addictions	37.6	11.9	1.86 (1.40-2.47)	<0.0001	1.69 (1.32-2.17)	<0.0001
Age at the first experience of homelessness over 26 years	55.6	75.0	0.66 (0.50–0.88)	0.005	0.69 (0.51-0.95)	0.05
Housing condition before the first instance of homelessness						
parents' home	24.1	25.8	Ref.	0.02		0.03
own home	49.2	31.2	1.44 (0.98–2.09)		1.98 (1.28-3.06)	
precarious housing	15.2	29.2	0.63 (0.39-1.01)		1.21 (0.87-1.68)	
other family members' home	6.7	9.0	0.84 (0.58-1.25)		1.70 (1.11-1.62)	
foster family, institution, young people's home	4.6	1.1	1.64 (1.22–2.22)		1.27 (0.85-1.89)	
Problematic use of alcohol or marijuana before homelessness	40.8	19.9	1.58 (1.18–2.11)	0.002		

193 **4. Discussion**

194 The observed prevalence of psychiatric disorders and addictions in our survey reveals the great
195 differences between men and women in the homeless population, as well as the importance of their
196 origin and of some biographical factors.

197 The main limitations of our study are due to some choices that must have been made for
198 organization and financial purposes. First, only French speaking homeless people were included in
199 our study, which constitutes a strong limitation, especially among homeless women (the majority of
200 them being immigrants). Another paper in this special issue (see Martin-Fernandez et al.) is based on
201 a survey performed a few years later in the same Greater Paris area, specifically dedicated to
202 homeless families but not to mental health, and had the resources needed to do interviews in 17
203 languages. In this survey, non-French speaking families (a majority of them being single women
204 with children) accounted for 56% of the total sample [29]. The exclusion of non-French speaking
205 people in the present study has led to underrepresentation of these homeless women in our analysis.
206 Therefore, the prevalence of anxiety and mood disorders may have been underestimated (see
207 below). Concerning non-French speaking, single, homeless men, no source of data exists in the
208 Greater Paris area for their population size, nor their mental health status, with the exception of
209 parcel and scattered data on some groups of marginalized immigrants (e.g. the homeless Eastern
210 European drug users followed in support centres for drug addicts). . Second, some specific housing
211 shelters have not been included in this survey such as some shelters for victims of domestic violence
212 or for single mothers, but these exclusions are common in usual French national surveys on
213 homelessness. On the contrary, the inclusion of hot meal distribution points has allowed us to
214 capture a population who might have not used housing services for the homeless (e.g. people
215 sleeping in squats, in their cars, etc.). Indeed, many previous [1,8] or following [30] studies in the
216 Greater Paris area have shown that almost all the homeless people who do not use housing services,
217 but live in the streets or in the public space, frequent hot meal distribution points (at least once in the
218 week before the interview). In other words, the inclusion of hot meal distribution points allowed us
219 to capture the quasi-entire homeless population who does not use housing services.

220 The comparison of the prevalence of psychiatric disorders between the homeless and the
221 French general population [31] indicated psychotic disorders at a rate of 10 times higher, mild mood
222 disorders four times higher, and addictions three to five times higher than in the general population.
223 These results are comparable with other French studies on homelessness, especially that of Kovess et
224 al [8] which found psychotic disorders in 16% of participants, and that of Fazel [10], which found
225 psychotic disorders in 12.7%.

226 The nature of the psychiatric disorder differs according to people's gender. Anxiety disorders
227 and depression were most frequent in women, as it is generally observed in the general population,
228 particularly in France [31]. Conversely, addictions were more frequent in men, as it is observed in
229 the general population in France with similar sex ratios for alcohol dependence and the regular
230 consumption of marijuana [32]. Women were predominantly found in "social hotels" and a majority
231 of them were immigrant single mothers (which led to the realization of a specific survey, some years
232 later as mentioned above). The population living in hotels reflects the rise of homeless families in the
233 Ile-de-France that we have observed over the last several years [33]. The preponderance of anxiety
234 and depressive disorders that we found within the study population is the same as those found in an
235 American study [34], where psychotic disorders were also rare, while depressive syndromes were
236 predominant (2.5 times more depressive syndromes than in the general population). However, it is
237 worth noting that this prevalence differs only slightly from other poor, but housed, families with the
238 same profiles [35-37]. Also, people who live with their families, but have no home, more often turn
239 to addictions than those with family and home, but less often than people without home and family
240 [35]. The disorders observed among homeless people in families are closer to those found among
241 immigrants in the general population, for which we find a preponderance of depressive disorders
242 and anxiety disorders (including post-traumatic stress disorders) in the literature [38,39]. The
243 psychopathology of immigrants is generally attributed to an original aetiology, traumatic migration
244 conditions, or unstable living conditions in the host country.

245 In our study, the mentally ill homeless did not seem different from other homeless in terms of
246 level of education or parental social situation (unlike other results found in the literature [11,40,41]),
247 but this population had been homeless at a younger age. Since we did not know participants'
248 mental health status previous to homelessness, we cannot exclude that psychotic young adults
249 might have lost or been thrown out of their homes due to early behavioural problems. However, our
250 results argue, with others [44-46], for the fastest possible access to homes and/or for a better care of
251 their mental disorders of the youngest homeless populations before their mental state are
252 deteriorated.

253 Sullivan showed that mentally ill homeless appear to have more in common with other
254 homeless than with the mentally ill-housed population [11]. However, in our study, the mentally ill
255 were distinct in terms of severe life events in childhood. Not only have these events been more often
256 observed in homeless than in the general population [1,47,48], but they can also be interpreted
257 within homeless populations as supplementary biographic disadvantages or risk factors of severe
258 psychiatric disorders [11,42,43]. Thus, mentally ill homeless suffer a tripe disadvantage: poverty,
259 childhood adverse events and mental illness.

260 5. Conclusions

261 To conclude, those results advocate for an improvement in detection, housing and care of
262 psychiatric homeless, not only for the most visible part of the population but also for homeless
263 families. They also advocate for addressing more pervasive causes of homelessness; that is to say
264 changes are required in some policies that directly or indirectly affect health, stability and well-being
265 of the poor households (in terms of income distribution, housing, employment, education, etc.) for
266 the effective prevention of homelessness starting at child development in healthy and stable
267 environments as to then become well-functioning adults. Since the general picture on homelessness
268 keeps changing in the Greater Paris area – and has actually worsened in the recent time with an
269 endless rise of the number of homeless women, a constant, increasing diversity of homeless peoples'
270 origin, and the recent observation of homeless, unaccompanied, foreign minors in the context of the
271 refugees crisis in Europe – such a representative, random sample-based survey deserves to be
272 replicated soon (almost 10 years after), with a special attention to minors and non-French speaking
273 people.

274

275 **Acknowledgments:** The Samenta study has been funded by the following national and regional institutions:
276 *Direction générale de la santé, Haut-Commissaire aux solidarités actives contre la pauvreté et à la jeunesse, Observatoire*
277 *nationale de la pauvreté et de l'exclusion sociale, Institut de veille sanitaire, Institut national de prévention et d'éducation*
278 *pour la santé, région Ile-de-France, Préfecture de Paris, Mairie de Paris.* The authors thank Lauren Dalecky for the
279 English editing and revision of the manuscript.

280 **Author Contributions:** A.L. conceived and directed the SAMENTA survey; A.L., E.L.M. and P.C. created the
281 questionnaire; Y.L.S. designed the sampling method; A.L., S.V., M.A.D. and C.D. performed the analysis; A.L.,
282 M.A.D., C.D. and E.L.M. supervised the data collection; the Samenta research group gave its expertise at all the
283 steps of the project; A.L., S.V. and P.C. wrote the manuscript.

284 **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest. The founding sponsors had no role in the
285 design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, and in
286 the decision to publish the results.

287 References

- 288 1. Firdion J-M, Marpsat M. A research program on homelessness in France. *J. Social Issues* 2007, 63, 567-588.
289 doi: 10.1111/j.1540-4560.2007.00524.x.
- 290 2. Philippot P, Lecocq C, Sempoux F, Nachtergaele H, Galand B. Psychological research on homelessness in
291 Western Europe: a review from 1970 to 2001. *J. Social issues* 2007, 63, 483-504. doi:
292 10.1111/j.1540-4560.2007.00520.x

- 293 3. Shinn M. Homelessness, poverty and social exclusion in the United States and Europe. *Eur. J.*
294 *Homelessness* **2010**, *4*, 19-44.
295 <http://www.feantsaresearch.org/download/article-1-23498373030877943020.pdf>
- 296 4. Caton CLM, Shrout PE, Eagle PF, Opler LA, Felix A, Dominguez B. Risk factors for homelessness among
297 schizophrenic men: a case-control study. *Am. J. Public Health* **1994**, *84*, 265-270. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.84.2.265
- 298 5. Babington PE, Angermeyer M, Azorin JM, Brugha T, Kilian R, Johnson S et al. The European
299 Schizophrenia Cohort (EuroSC) - A naturalistic prognostic and economic study. *Soc. Psychiatry Psychiatr.*
300 *Epidemiol.* **2005**, *40*, 707-717. doi: 10.1007/s00127-005-0955-5
- 301 6. Folsom DP, Hawthorne W, Lindamer L, Gilmer T, Bailey A, Golshan S et al. Prevalence and risk factors for
302 homelessness and utilization of mental health services among 10,340 patients with serious mental illness
303 in a large public mental health system. *Am. J. Psychiatry* **2005**, *162*, 370-376. doi: 10.1176/appi.ajp.162.2.370
- 304 7. Koegel P, Burman A, Farr RK. The prevalence of specific psychiatric disorders among homeless
305 individuals in the inner city of Los Angeles. *Arch. Gen. Psychiatry* **1988**, *45*, 1085-1092.
306 doi:10.1001/archpsyc.1988.01800360033005
- 307 8. Kovess V, Mangin LC. The prevalence of psychiatric disorders and use of care by homeless people in
308 Paris. *Soc. Psychiatry Psychiatr. Epidemiol.* **1999**, *34*, 580-7. doi: 10.1007/s001270050178
- 309 9. Fichter MM, Quadflieg N. Prevalence of mental illness in homeless men in Munich, Germany: results from
310 a representative sample. *Acta Psychiatr. Scand.* **2001**, *103*, 94-104. doi: 10.1034/j.1600-0447.2001.00217.x
- 311 10. Fazel S, Khosla V, Doll H, and Geddes J. The prevalence of mental disorders among the homeless in
312 Western countries: systematic review and meta-regression analysis. *PLoS Med.* **2008**, *5*, 1670-1680. doi:
313 [10.1371/journal.pmed.0050225](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0050225)
- 314 11. Sullivan G, Burnam A, Koegel P, and Hollenberg J. Quality of life of homeless persons with mental illness:
315 results from the course-of-homelessness study. *Psychiatric Services* **2000**, *51*, 1135-41. doi:
316 10.1176/appi.ps.51.9.1135
- 317 12. Dohrenwend BP, Levav I, Shrout PE, Schwartz S, Naveh G, Link BG et al. Socioeconomic status and
318 psychiatric disorders: the causation-selection issue. *Science* **1992**, *255*, 946-952. doi: 10.1126/science.1546291
- 319 13. Lorant V, Deliège D, Eaton W, Robert A, Philippot P, Ansseau M. Socioeconomic inequalities in
320 depression: A meta-analysis. *Am. J. Epidemiol.* **2003**, *2*, 98-112. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwf182
- 321 14. Kessler RC, Foster CL, Saunders WB, Stang PE. Social consequences of psychiatric disorders. *Am. J.*
322 *Psychiatry* **1995**, *152*, 1026-1032. doi: 10.1176/ajp.152.7.1026
- 323 15. Marpsat M, Firdion J-M. The homeless in Paris: a representative sample survey of users of services for the
324 homeless. In: Avramov D, ed. *Coping with homelessness: issues to be tackled and best practices in Europe*.
325 Brussels: Ashgate Publishing, **1998**, 221-251.
- 326 16. Bentall RP, Fernyhough C. Social predictors of psychotic experiences: specificity and psychological
327 mechanisms. *Schizophr. Bull.* **2008**, *34*, 1012-20. doi: 10.1093/schbul/sbn103
- 328 17. McKenzie K. How do social factors cause psychotic illnesses? *Can. J. Psychiatry* **2013**, *58*, 41-3. doi:
329 10.1177/070674371305800109
- 330 18. Bebbington PE, Bhugra D, Brugha T, Singleton N, Farrell M, Jenkins R, Lewis G, Meltzer H. Psychosis,
331 victimisation and childhood disadvantage: evidence from the second British National Survey of
332 Psychiatric Morbidity. *Br. J. Psychiatry* **2004**, *185*, 220-6. doi: 10.1192/bjp.185.3.220
- 333 19. Allen JP, Litten RZ, Fertig JB, Babor T. A review of research on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification
334 Test (AUDIT). *Alcoholism Clinical and Experimental Research* **1997**, *21*, 613-619. doi:
335 0.1111/j.1530-0277.1997.tb03811.x
- 336 20. Tremblay J, Rouillard R, Sirois M. ASAN-Drugs, Assessment and screening of assistance needs, version
337 1.7. Québec, **2000**.
338 https://oraprdnt.uqtr.quebec.ca/pls/public/docs/GSC4242/F1978951363_DEBA_D_Eng_2008.pdf
- 339 21. Sheehan DV, Lecubrier Y, Sheehan KH. The Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI): the
340 development and validation of a structured diagnostic psychiatric interview for DSM-IV and CIM-10. *J.*
341 *Clin. Psychiatry* **1998**, *59*, s20, 22-33.
342 <http://www.psychiatrist.com/jcp/article/Pages/1998/v59s20/v59s2005.aspx>
- 343 22. North CS, Pollio DE, Thompson SJ, Ricci DA, Smith EM, et Spitznagel EL. A Comparison of Clinical and
344 Structured Interview Diagnoses in a Homeless Mental Health Clinic. *Community Mental Health J.* **1997**,
345 *33*, 531-543. doi: 0.1023/A:1025052720325

- 346 23. Narrow WE, Rae DS, Robins LN, et Regier DA. Revised prevalence estimates of mental disorders in the
347 United States. Using a clinical significance criterion to reconcile 2 surveys' estimates. *Arch. Gen.*
348 *Psychiatry* **2002**, 59, 115-123. doi:10.1001/archpsyc.59.2.115
- 349 24. Falissard B, Loze JY et Gasquet I. Prevalence of mental disorders in French prisons for men. *BMC*
350 *Psychiatry* **2006**, 6, 33. doi: 10.1186/1471-244X-6-33
- 351 25. World Health Organization. The ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders. Clinical
352 descriptions and diagnostic guidelines. Geneva, **1992**.
353 http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/37958/8/9241544228_eng.pdf
- 354 26. Folstein MF, Folstein SE, McHugh PR. Mini-mental state: a practical method for grading the cognitive
355 state of patients for the clinician. *J. Psychiatr. Res.* **1975**, 12, 189-198. doi:
356 doi.org/10.1016/0022-3956(75)90026-6
- 357 27. Ardilly P, Le Blanc D. Sampling and weighting a survey of homeless persons: a French example. *Survey*
358 *Methodology* **2001**, 27, 109-18. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/12-001-x/2001001/article/5859-eng.pdf>
- 359 28. Zou G. A modified Poisson regression approach to prospective studies with binary data. *Am. J.*
360 *Epidemiol.* **2004**, 159, 702-6. doi: [10.1093/aje/kwh090](https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwh090)
- 361 29. Vandentorren S, Le Méner E, Oppenheim N, Arnaud A, Jangal C, Caum C, Vuillermoz C,
362 Martin-Fernandez J, Lioret S, Roze M, Le Strat Y, Guyavarch E. Characteristics and health of homeless
363 families: the ENFAMS survey in the Paris region, France 2013. *Eur. J. Public Health* **2016**, 26, 71-6.30. doi :
364 [10.1093/eurpub/ckv187](https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckv187)
- 365 30. Arnaud A, Chosidow O, Détrez MA, Bitar D, Huber F, Foulet F, Le Strat Y, Vandentorren S. Prevalence of
366 scabies and pediculosis corporis among homeless people in the Paris region: results from two randomized
367 cross-sectional surveys (HYPTEAC study). *Br. J. Dermatol.* **2016**, 174, 104-12. doi: 10.1111/bjd.14226
- 368 31. Bellami V, Roelandt JL, Caria A. Troubles mentaux et représentations de la santé mentale: premiers
369 résultats de l'enquête Santé Mentale en population générale. Etudes et résultats (DREES), octobre **2004**,
370 n°347. <http://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/er347.pdf>
- 371 32. Beck F, Richard JB, Guignard R, Le Nézet O, Spilka S. Le niveau d'usage des drogues en France en 2014.
372 Tendances, mars **2015**, n°99. <https://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/eftxfbv3.pdf>
- 373 33. Le Méner E, Oppenheim N. The temporary accommodation of Homeless families in Ile-de-France:
374 between social emergency and immigration management. *Eur. J. Homelessness* **2012**, 6, 83-103.
375 <http://www.feantsaresearch.org/download/article-4-31158086039476347447.pdf>
- 376 34. Bassuk EL, Buckner JC, Perloff JN, Bassuk SS. Prevalence of mental health and substance use disorders
377 among homeless and low-income housed mothers. *Am. J. Psychiatry* **1998**, 155, 1561-1564. doi:
378 10.1176/ajp.155.11.1561
- 379 35. Bassuk EL, Buckner JC, Weinreb LF, Browne A, Bassuk SS, Dawson R, Perloff JN. Homelessness in
380 female-headed families: Childhood and adult risk and protective factors. *Am. J. Public Health* **1997**, 87,
381 241-248. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.87.2.241
- 382 36. Fischer P, Breakey W. The epidemiology of alcohol, drug, and mental disorders among homeless persons.
383 *Am. Psychologist* **1991**, 46, 1115-1128. doi: [10.1037/0003-066X.46.11.1115](https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.46.11.1115)
- 384 37. Smith E, North CS, Spitznagel E. Psychiatric comorbidity among homeless women: an epidemiologic
385 study. *J. Clin. Psychiatry* **1993**, 54, 82-87. doi: [10.1037/0003-066X.46.11.1115](https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.46.11.1115)
- 386 38. Fazel M, Wheeler J, Danesh J. Prevalence of serious mental disorder in 7000 refugees resettled in western
387 countries: a systematic review. *Lancet* **2005**, 365, 1309-14. doi: [10.1016/S0140-6736\(05\)61027-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(05)61027-6)
- 388 40. Lindert J, Ehrenstein OS, Priebe S, Mielck A, Brähler E. Depression and anxiety in labor migrants and
389 refugees-A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Soc. Sci. Med.* **2009**, 69, 246-57. doi:
390 [0.1016/j.socscimed.2009.04.032](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.04.032)
- 391 41. Cohen CI, Thompson KS. Homeless mentally ill or mentally ill homeless? *Am. J. Psychiatry* **1992**, 149,
392 816-823. doi: [10.1176/ajp.149.6.816](https://doi.org/10.1176/ajp.149.6.816)
- 393 42. North CS, Smith EM, Pollio DE. Are the mentally ill homeless a distinct homeless subgroup? *Ann. Clin.*
394 *Psychiatry* **1996**, 8, 117-128.
- 395 43. Susser ES, Lin SP, Conover SA, Struening EL. Childhood antecedents of homelessness in psychiatric
396 patients. *Am. J. Psychiatry* **1991**, 148, 1026-1030. doi: [10.1176/ajp.148.8.1026](https://doi.org/10.1176/ajp.148.8.1026)
- 397 44. Caton CLM, Shrout PE, Eagle PF, Opler LA, Felix A, Dominguez B. Risk factors for homelessness among
398 schizophrenic men: a case-control study. *Am. J. Public Health* **1994**, 84, 265-270. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.84.2.265

- 399 45. Whitbeck LB. Mental health and emerging adulthood among homeless people. New York, Psychology
400 Press, 2009.
- 401 46. Fazel S, Geddes JR, Kushel M. The health of homeless people in high-income countries: descriptive
402 epidemiology, health consequences, and clinical and policy recommendations. *Lancet* 2014, 384, 1529-40.
403 doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61132-6
- 404 47. Medlow S, Klineberg E, Steinbeck K. The health diagnoses of homeless adolescents: a systematic review of
405 the literature. *J. Adolesc.* 2014, 37, 531-42. doi: [10.1016/j.adolescence.2014.04.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2014.04.003)
- 406 48. Koegel P, Melamid E, Burman A. Childhood risk factors for homeless adults. *Am. J. Public Health* 1995, 85,
407 1642-49. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.85.12.1642
- 408 49. Herman DB, Susser ES, Struening EL, Link BL. Adverse childhood experiences: Are they risk factors for
409 adult homelessness? *Am. J. Public Health* 1997, 87, 249-255. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.87.2.249