

# Defining homelessness

- Absolute - the condition of people without physical shelter who sleep outdoors, in vehicles, abandoned buildings or other places not intended for human habitation
- Relative - the condition of those who have a physical shelter, but one that does not meet basic standards of health and safety; these include protection from the elements, access to safe water and sanitation, security of tenure, personal safety and affordability (Hwang, 2001)
- Apparent, hidden, potential (Hradecký & Hradecká, 1996)
- Alienation for the rest of the society (Ravenhill, 2016)
- Broad consensus that the term 'homelessness' covers more living situations than being without a roof over one's head

# Home



- *“having a decent dwelling (or space) adequate to meet the needs of the person and his/her family (physical domain); being able to maintain privacy and enjoy social relations (social domain) and having exclusive possession, security of occupation and legal title (legal domain)”* (Edgar, 2009, p. 15)
- Three domains of home (Edgar, 2009)
  - Physical
  - Legal
  - Social
- Homelessness is absence of home
  - Absence of two and more domains – homelessness
  - Absence of 1 domain – housing exclusion

Figure 2.13 The Domains of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion

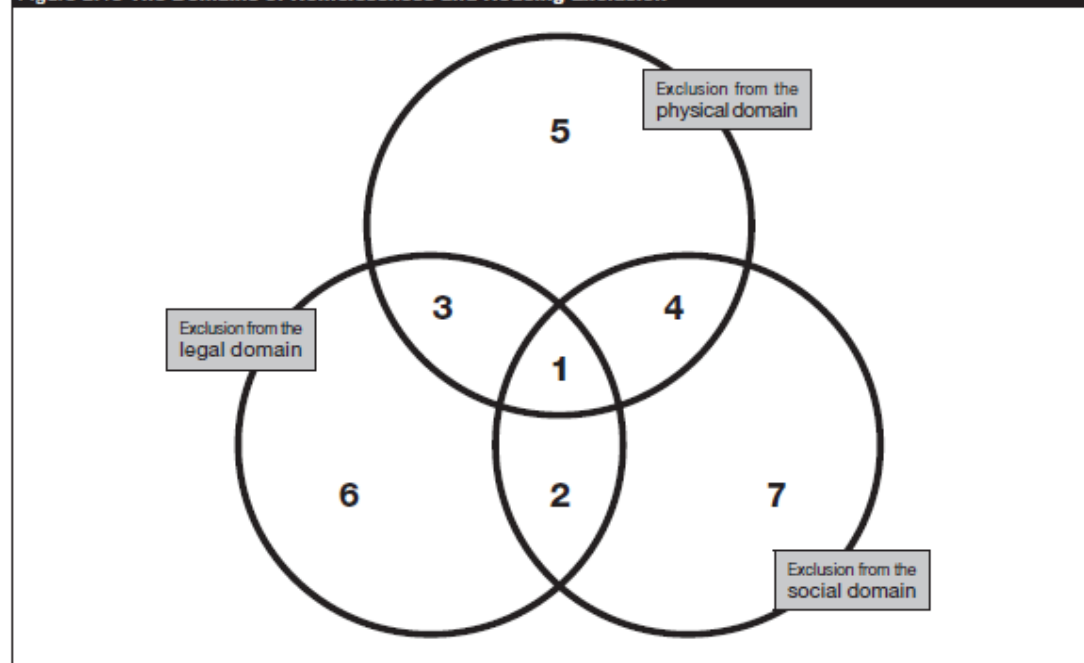


Table 2.1 Seven theoretical domains of homelessness

Conceptual Category	Operational Category	Physical Domain	Legal Domain	Social Domain
<i>Homelessness</i>	1 <b>Rooflessness</b>	No dwelling (roof)	No legal title to a space for exclusive possession	No private and safe personal space for social relations
	2 <b>Houselessness</b>	Has a place to live, fit for habitation	No legal title to a space for exclusive possession	No private and safe personal space for social relations
<i>Housing exclusion</i>	3 <b>Insecure and Inadequate housing</b>	Has a place to live (not secure and unfit for habitation)	No security of tenure	Has space for social relations
	4 <b>Inadequate housing and social isolation within a legally occupied dwelling</b>	Inadequate dwelling (unfit for habitation)	Has legal title and/or security of tenure	No private and safe personal space for social relations
	5 <b>Inadequate housing (secure tenure)</b>	Inadequate dwelling (dwelling unfit for habitation)	Has legal title and/or security of tenure	Has space for social relations
	6 <b>Insecure housing (adequate housing)</b>	Has a place to live	No security of tenure	Has space for social relations
	7 <b>Social isolation within a secure and adequate context</b>	Has a place to live	Has legal title and/or security of tenure	No private and safe personal space for social relations

# ETHOS – The European Typology on Homelessness and Housing Exclusion

- Roofless
  - Living rough
  - Emergency accommodation
- Houseless
  - Accommodation for homeless
  - Women's shelters
  - Accommodation for immigrants
  - People due to be released from institutions
- Insecure housing
  - Insecure accommodation
  - Under threat of eviction
  - Under threat of violence
- Inadequate housing
  - Temporary or non-conventional structures
  - Unfit housing
  - Extreme overcrowding



















# Causes of homelessness

- Structural
  - Economic processes that affect income or employment stability
  - Citizenship and lack of access to social protection
  - Housing market (affordability, social housing)
- Institutional
  - Shortage of services
  - Lack of coordination between existing services
  - Allocation mechanisms
- Relationship
  - Family status – e.g. single parents more vulnerable
  - Relationship situation – abusive partners, step-parents
  - Relationship breakdown – death, divorce, separation
- Personal
  - Disability, long-term illness
  - Low education attainment
  - Addiction - drugs, alcohol, gambling (bitcoin?)
  - Age and gender
  - Immigration situation – refugee status / recent arrival



# Transitions and trajectories



- Transition – a single life change or event
  - Married to single
  - Employed – unemployed
  - Healthy – injured
- Trajectory – long-term process, set of transitions
  - Education
  - Career
  - Mental illnesses



# Some numbers (2019)

- 23 825 in total
- 2 595 children
- 11 608 – sleeping rough or at night shelters
- Due to be released from:
  - Prisons – 1500
  - Hospitals – 2 668
- Prague – 3 056
- Brno – 1 762
- 700 000 – Europe estimation (FEANTSA, 2020) – 70 % increase in 10 years
- COVID?
- Reality?

# More numbers

- In Ireland 1 in 3 homeless people in temporary accommodation was a child
- In England 90% of single parent families applying for public support for homeless people were women
- In Finland 25% of homeless families are immigrants
- In Austria homeless people had a mortality risk 4 times higher than the rest of the population
- In London the coronavirus mortality rate of homeless people living in emergency accommodation has been 25 times higher than that of the general adult population
- In France 495 homeless people died in the streets in 2019





# Why understanding homelessness matter?

- The public perception
  - Based on the roofless
    - Just the tip of the iceberg
    - Most controversial, problematic
- Financing
- Prevention
- Social exclusion
- More societal groups in one bag
  - Young, elderly, physical/mental health, addictions, immigrants, criminals
- Fear

**Who are homeless people?**





# 1st assignment

- Essay (750 words) covering:
  - Your perception and understanding of homelessness
  - Identify potential stereotypes/prejudice you may have
  - Reflect it using ETH
  - Suggest ways how to overcome stereotypical/prejudicial understanding of homeless people