



The value is more important than the price.  
The costs of Flemish homeless care.

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# About costs: studies and debates

- ‘The million dollar Murray’
- Not the cheapest solution.
- Not to discourage more expensive forms of care.



# Purpose

- Compare costs.
- Show cost of prevention in relation to cure.
- Effectiveness is more important than efficiency.



# Why calculate?

- Informative value.
- Increase cost consciousness.
- Preparation and evaluation of policies.



# What should be measured? and how ?

- Little or no guidelines.
- Organisation of services. Ex.: volunteers or not?
- Owning a building or not?
- Just a bed or broader service?
- Used methods in care.



# Cost or gains?

- Calculating gains is tricky.
- Gain of getting somebody from the street?
- What is the gain of improved quality of life?



## Used method: trajectory cost method

- Can calculate the cost for an individual homeless person.
- Can calculate the cost at service level.
- Can calculate cost of homeless sector.
- What data needed? time, caseload, staff cost, housing and food, incomes, housing support,...
- Not overhead cost.



## Some examples ( in €)

	day	trajectory
Night shelter	50	-
Hostel for men	68	3931
Hostel for women	82	3684
Supported housing	14	6519
Prevention of evictions	11	2029
Housing first	17-21	?





# Cost of health, prison per day

- General hospital: 438
- Psychiatric, drug centre: 293
- Prison: 130



# Conclusion: costs increases and decreases

- Housing people entail costs.
- Housing people avoids costs.
- Prevention avoids costs.
- Society gets little in return for leaving people on the streets or in hostels.



# Ressources

- Demaerschalk, E, Lescrauwaet D., The costs of Flemish homeless care, European Homeless Journal, 2015
- Valsamis, D., Analyse d'efficience des pratiques housing-first dans le cadre de housing first Belgium, Idea Consult, 2016



Thank you



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