



*Homelessness in a  
Global Landscape*

**IGH** Institute  
of Global  
Homelessness

*June 1-2, 2015 ★ ★ ★ ★ Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.*

*Shared Solutions*

*Housing First : Lessons from France*

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# Shared Solutions

## Housing First : Lessons from France

1. Background and French context
2. Evolution of the HF
3. Research results
4. Lessons learned
5. Conclusion

# Background in France

- 3,5 million people live without a decent house
- 141 500 roofless people
- Between 2001 and 2012 the number of homeless people has increased by 44% (INSEE, 2001)
- 30% of the homeless people suffer from severe mental illness (SAMENTA, 2010)
- Life expectancy 30 to 35 years shorter less that the GEN.POP (Auquier, 2006)

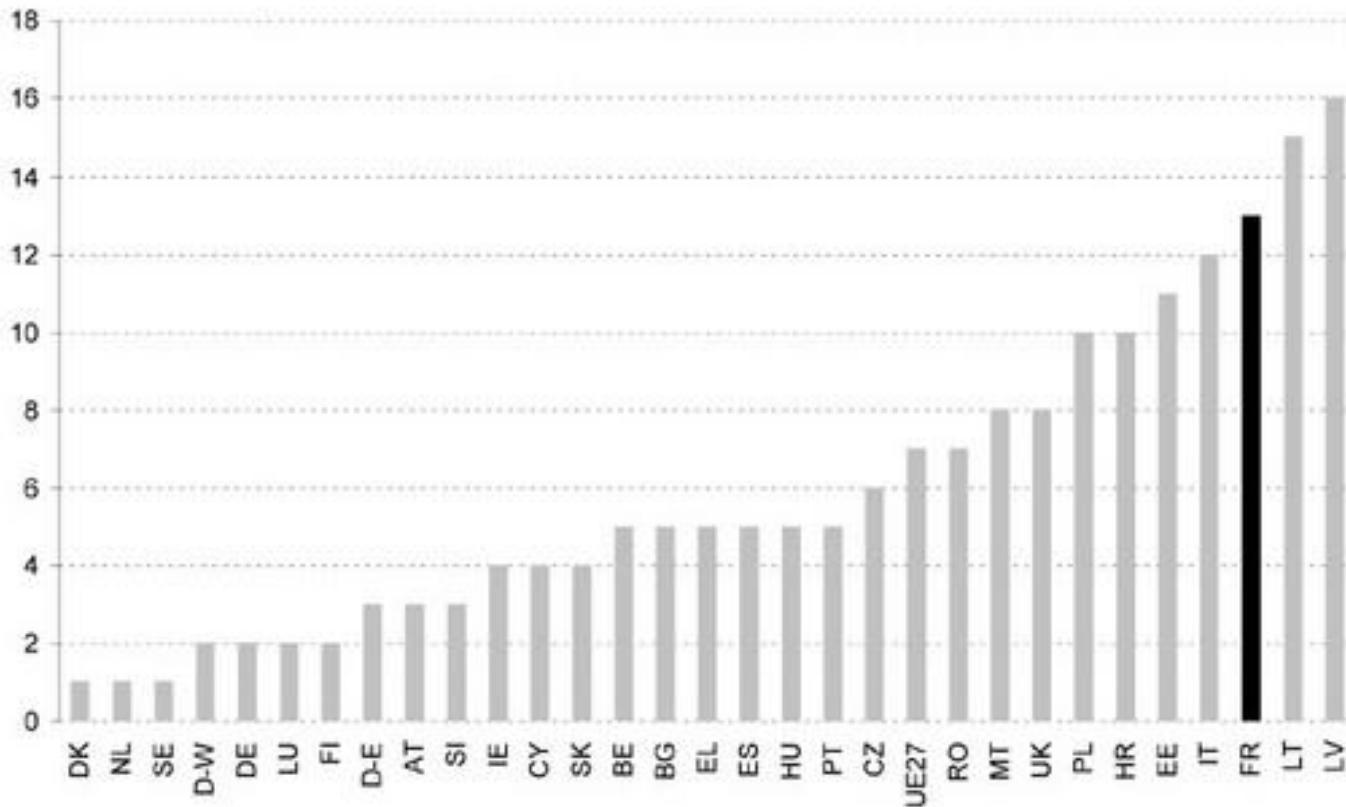
# French context

- Healthcare and social policies
  - Strong welfare system
  - A well established culture of hospitalizations and “doctors’ power” and absence of a public health culture
  - Recovery movement doesn’t exist in France
  - Universal financial assistance for housing

**Social policies focused in prevention and medical policies focused in treatment**



**ENFANTS  
DE  
DON  
QUICHOTTE** (ACTE I)  
UN FILM DE RONAN DÉNÈCE AUGUSTIN LEGRAND & JEAN-BAPTISTE LEGRAND



Graph from ***Eurobarometer 2007:***

“Part of the population fearing of being an homeless one day”

# Evolution | Key steps

High-Impact  
Social  
Movements

- Don  
Guichotte

2006

**DALO** : The law  
on Enforceable  
Right to  
Housing

2007

Immediate Political  
reaction and decision  
of implementation HF

2009

Media reaction

**Marabout** : a  
therapeutic  
squat in  
Marseille  
visited by the  
Minister of  
Health

2007

A national  
report on  
“health of  
homeless  
population”  
recommending  
HF

2009

## Research Steps

Summer  
2010

Protocol  
writing and  
funding  
searching

Negotiation  
with  
stakeholder  
s site by site

Ethics  
Commitee

Recruitmen  
t and  
training of  
teams

Summer  
2011

Beginning  
of  
inclusions

Beginning  
of  
interventio  
n

Montée en  
charge

## Intervention Steps

# French HF program

- Four metropolitan cities : Paris, Marseille, Toulouse and Lille
- Budget : Ministry of health: 2,5 M€  
Ministry of housing : 3 M€
- 382 apartments - 11.5% in the public sector

# French research protocol

- Two methods : **Quantitative** and Qualitative
- The randomized controlled trial
  - Population : Homeless with severe mental illness” to “homeless with scz or bipolar disorders”
  - HF (fidelity scale) VS Treatment as usual
  - Primary evaluation criterion : days of hospitalization
  - Secondary outcomes and measures: QoL, recovery measures

Research  
Interviewers with CRF  
*24 months follow up*

*Follow up*

August  
2011

*Inclusion*

March  
2014

March  
2015

March  
2016

**MARSEILLE**

1<sup>st</sup> inclusion August

**200<sup>th</sup>** inclusion

1 Year complete

2 Years complete

**LILLE**

1<sup>st</sup> inclusion September

**185<sup>th</sup>** inclusion

1 Year complete

2 Years complete

**TOULOUSE**

1<sup>st</sup> inclusion November

**200<sup>th</sup>** inclusion

1 Year complete

2 Years complete

**PARIS**

1<sup>st</sup> inclusion August 2012

**120<sup>th</sup>** inclusion

1 Year complete

2 Years complete

A  
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**MARSEILLE**

1<sup>st</sup> inclusion August

**100<sup>th</sup>** inclusion

**LILLE**

1<sup>st</sup> inclusion September

**93<sup>th</sup>** inclusion

**TOULOUSE**

1<sup>st</sup> inclusion November

**100<sup>th</sup>** inclusion

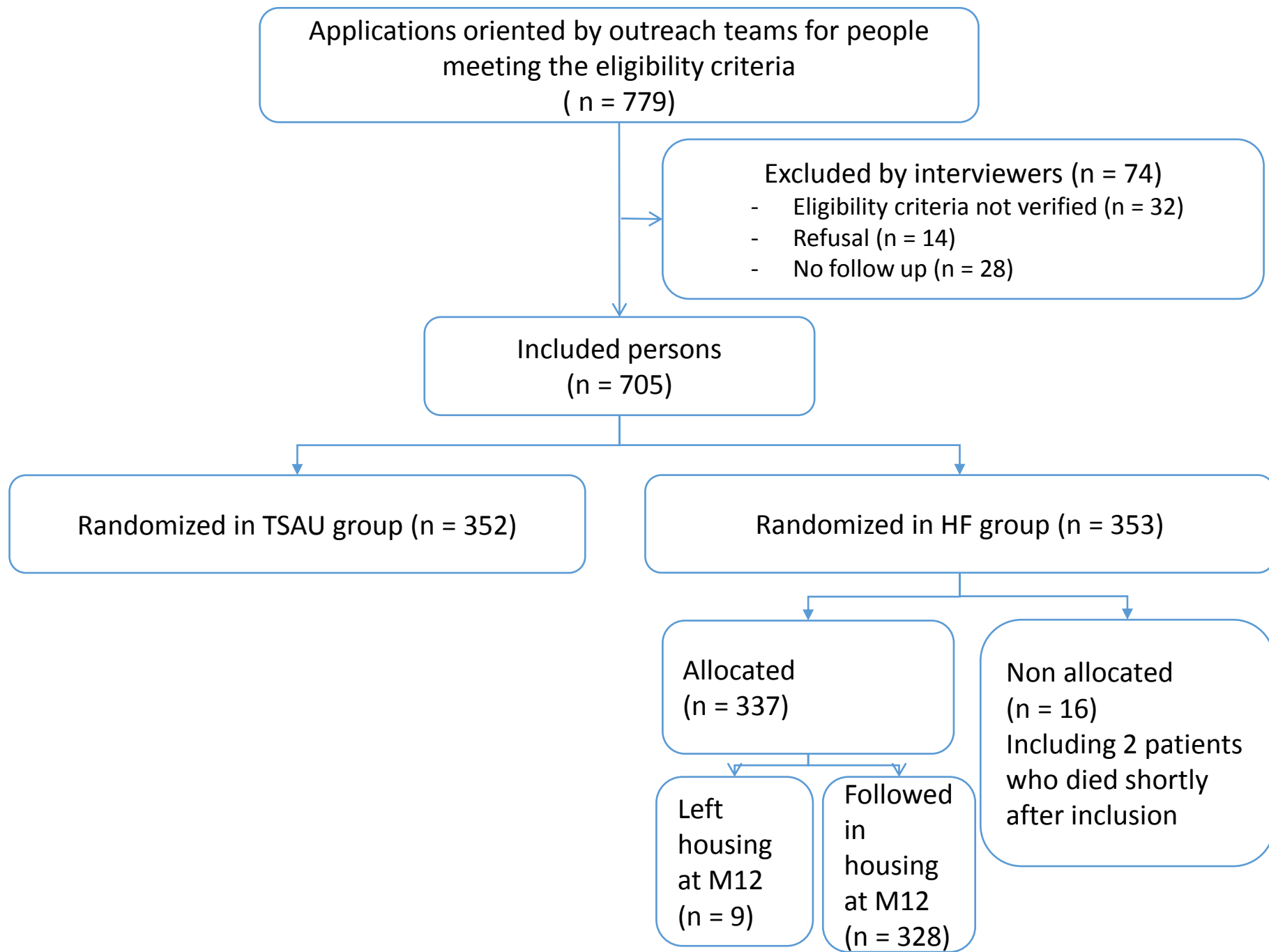
**PARIS**

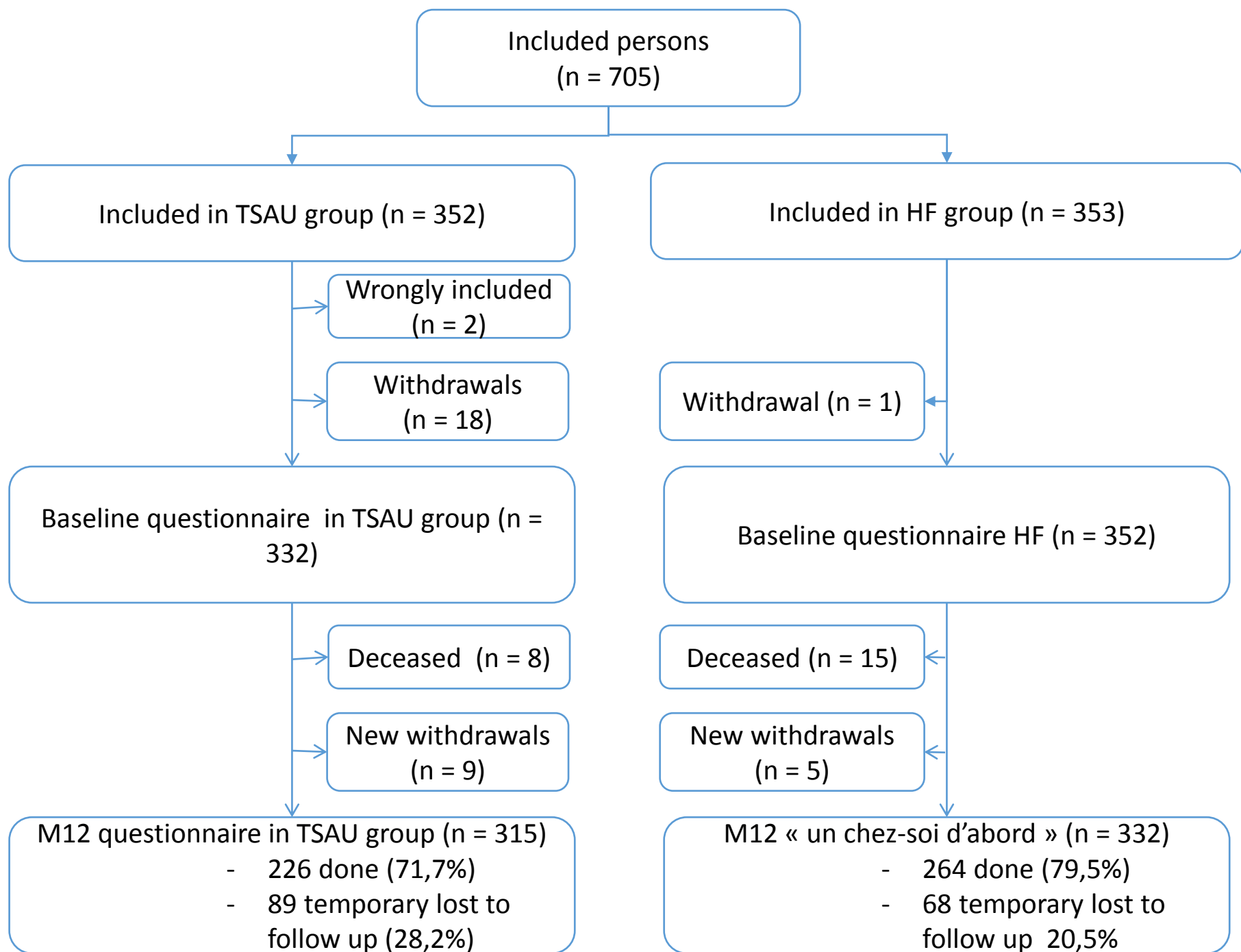
1<sup>st</sup> inclusion 2012

**60<sup>th</sup>** inclusion

?

Intervention  
HF program for HF arm  
*No duration*



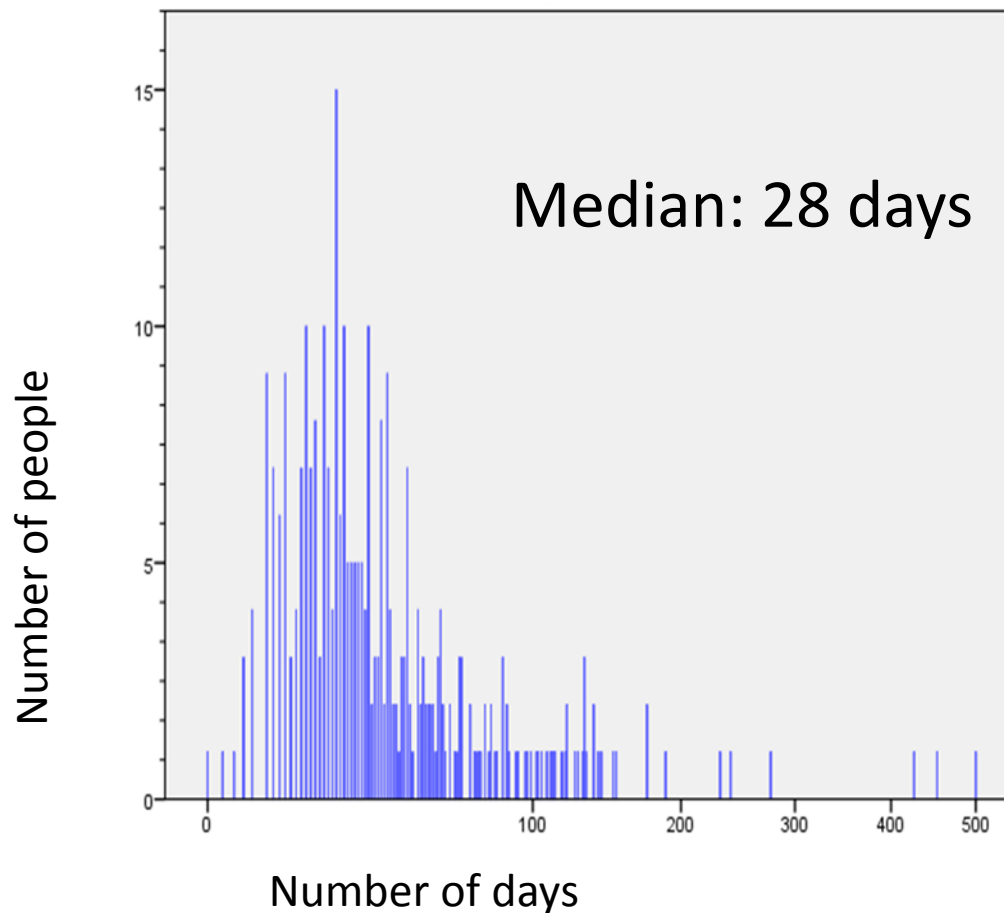


# Characteristics of study participants

|  | All sites        | Lille      | Marseille | Paris      | Toulouse   |
|--|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| <b>Characteristics of the study participants</b>             |                  |            |           |            |            |
| Sex: male  | <b>82,80%</b>    | 86,50%     | 80,90%    | 78,20%     | 84%        |
| Age, in years  | <b>38,8 ± 10</b> | 38,9 ± 9,7 | 40,1 ± 10 | 42,1 ± 9,8 | 35,3 ± 9,4 |
| Nationality: French  | <b>85,80%</b>    | 89,30%     | 85%       | 79,80%     | 87%        |
| Education: bachelor's degree and more                        | <b>27,50%</b>    | 18,70%     | 26,20%    | 31,80%     | 30,20%     |
| Marital status: single                                       | <b>77,80%</b>    | 78,30%     | 70,50%    | 81,40%     | 83,20%     |
| Had children   | <b>37,40%</b>    | 37,70%     | 44%       | 26,50%     | 37,50%     |
| Voluntarily committed military                               | <b>7,10%</b>     | 3,30%      | 14%       | 0,90%      | 7,10%      |
| Incarceration 2 years before the inclusion                   | <b>22,90%</b>    | 24,70%     | 22,60%    | 12,90%     | 27,40%     |
| <b>Disease</b>   |                  |            |           |            |            |
| Diagnostic: schizophrenia                                    | <b>69,30%</b>    | 84,90%     | 70,40%    | 67,20%     | 55%        |
| Severity: ICG  | <b>4,6 ± 1,3</b> | 4,6 ± 1,3  | 4,8 ± 1,2 | 4,6 ± 1,2  | 4,4 ± 1,4  |
| Dual diagnosis / abuse or dependance                         | <b>78,90%</b>    | 75,30%     | 73,30%    | 85,50%     | 83,80%     |
| <b>Homelessness history</b>                                  |                  |            |           |            |            |
| "Absolute homelessness" at inclusion                         | <b>66%</b>       | 67%        | 70,40%    | 54,60%     | 67,70%     |
| Total time of being without a home, entire life, in years    | <b>8,5 ± 7,8</b> | 8 ± 7,6    | 9,3 ± 8,2 | 10,2 ± 8,2 | 7,2 ± 7,1  |
| Total time in streets or public space, entire life, in years | <b>4,3 ± 5,7</b> | 3,3 ± 4,5  | 4,7 ± 5,8 | 7 ± 7,4    | 3,9 ± 5    |

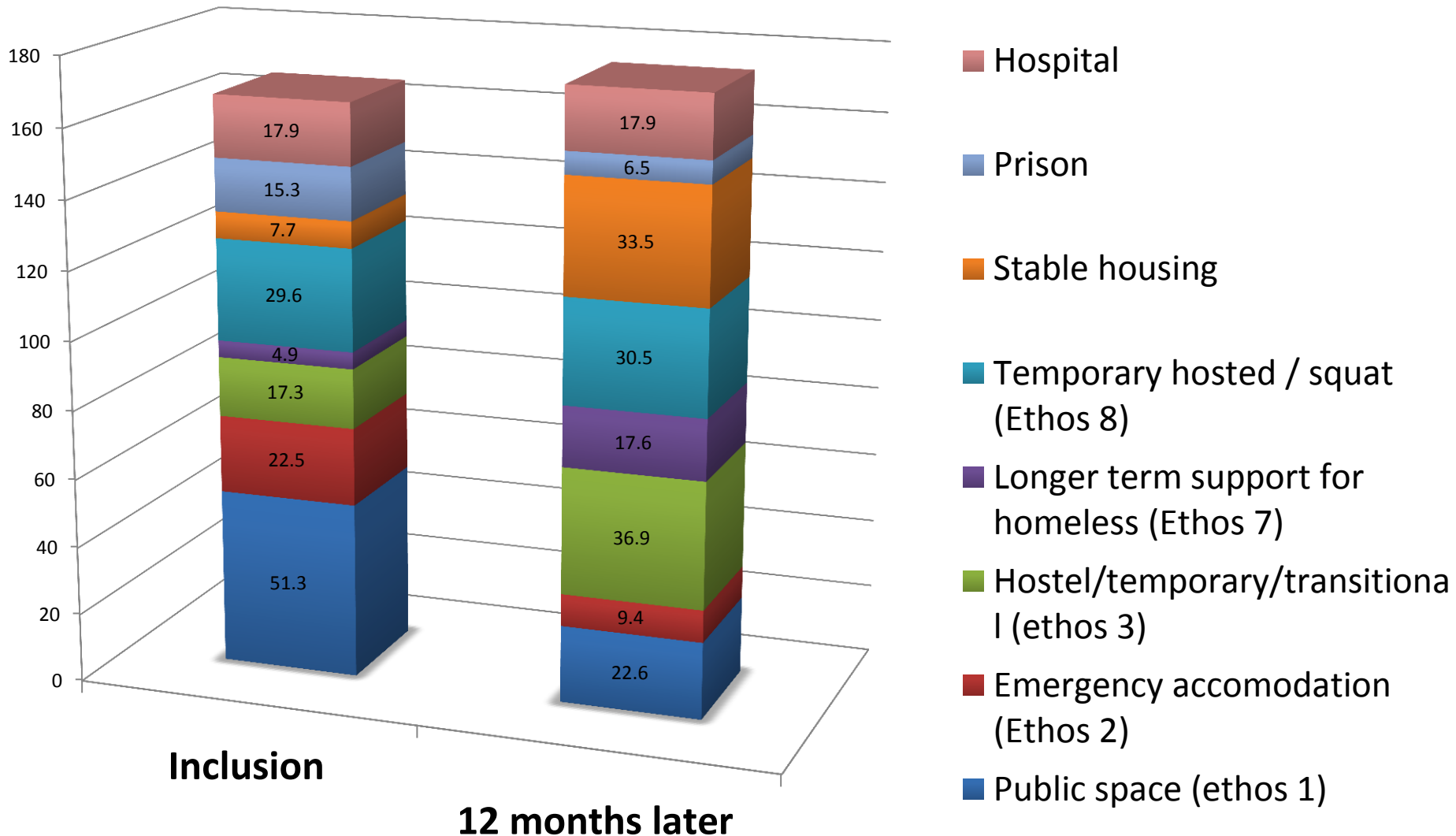
# Time between inclusion and housing

## Study participants in HF group - France



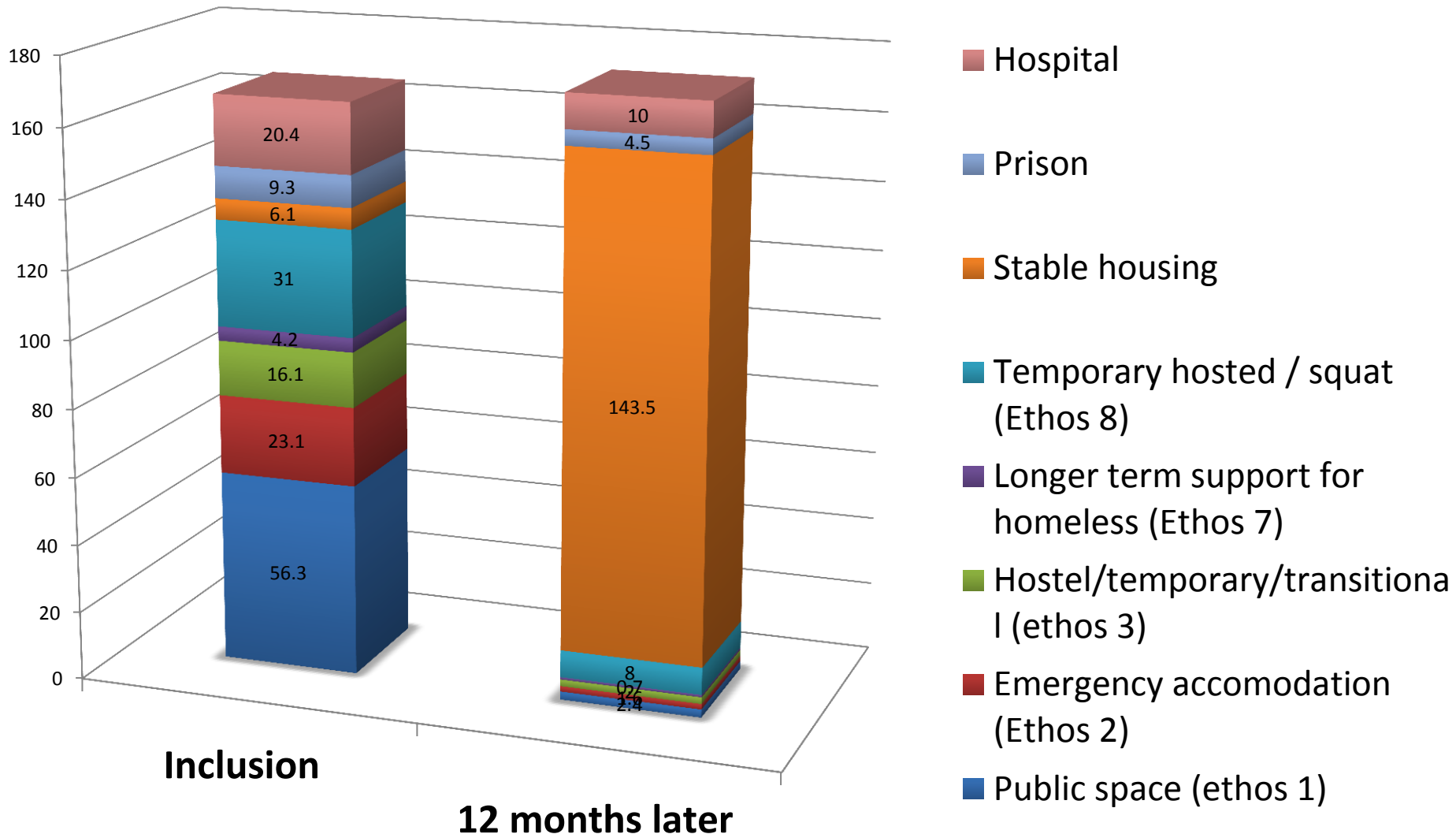
# Retrospective residential calendar – TSAU group

*Repartition of the conditions of spending nights during the last 180 nights*



# Retrospective residential calendar – HF group

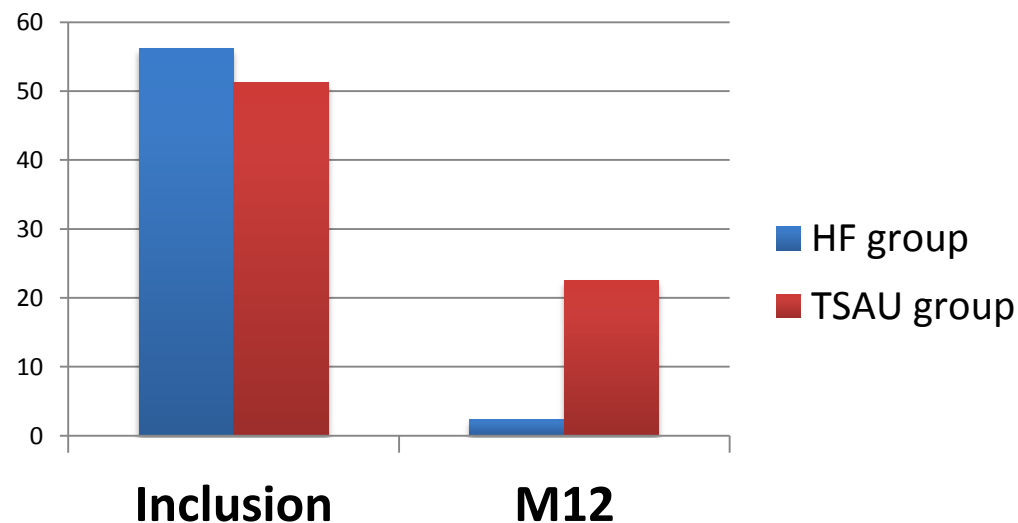
*Repartition of the conditions of spending nights during the last 180 nights*



# Retrospective residential calendar: Nights spent in street or public space

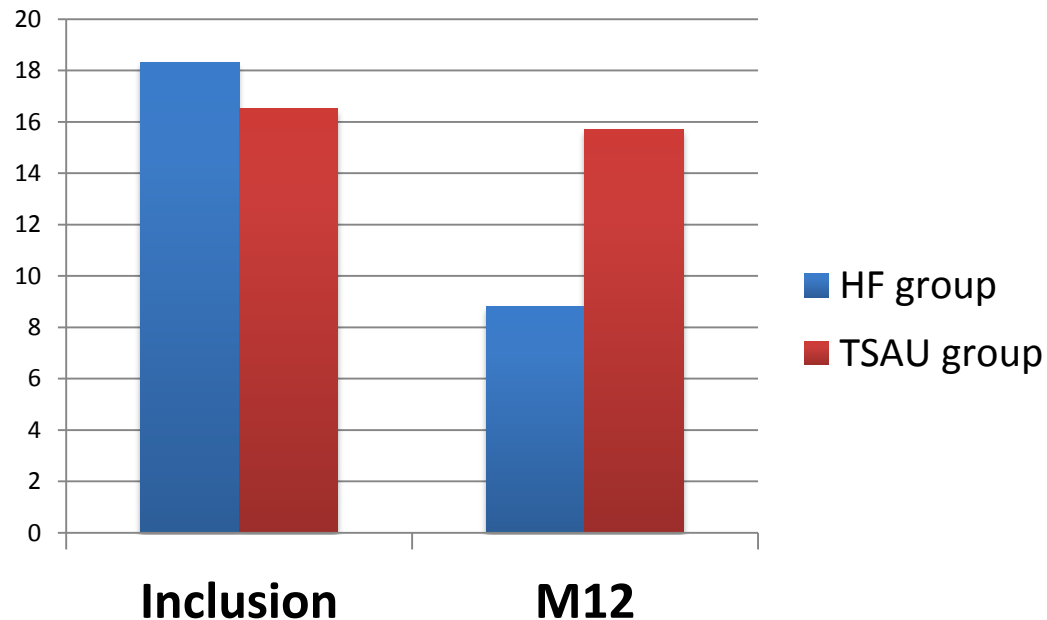


| Number of nights<br>in street<br>The last 6 months | Group                              | Inclusion   | 12 months later |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>All sites</i>                                   | Housing first                      | 56,2 ± 69,2 | 2,4 ± 14,4      |
|  | Treatment and services<br>as usual | 51,3 ± 67,7 | 22,6 ± 49,2     |
| <i>p value</i>                                     |                                    | 0,357       | 0,000***        |



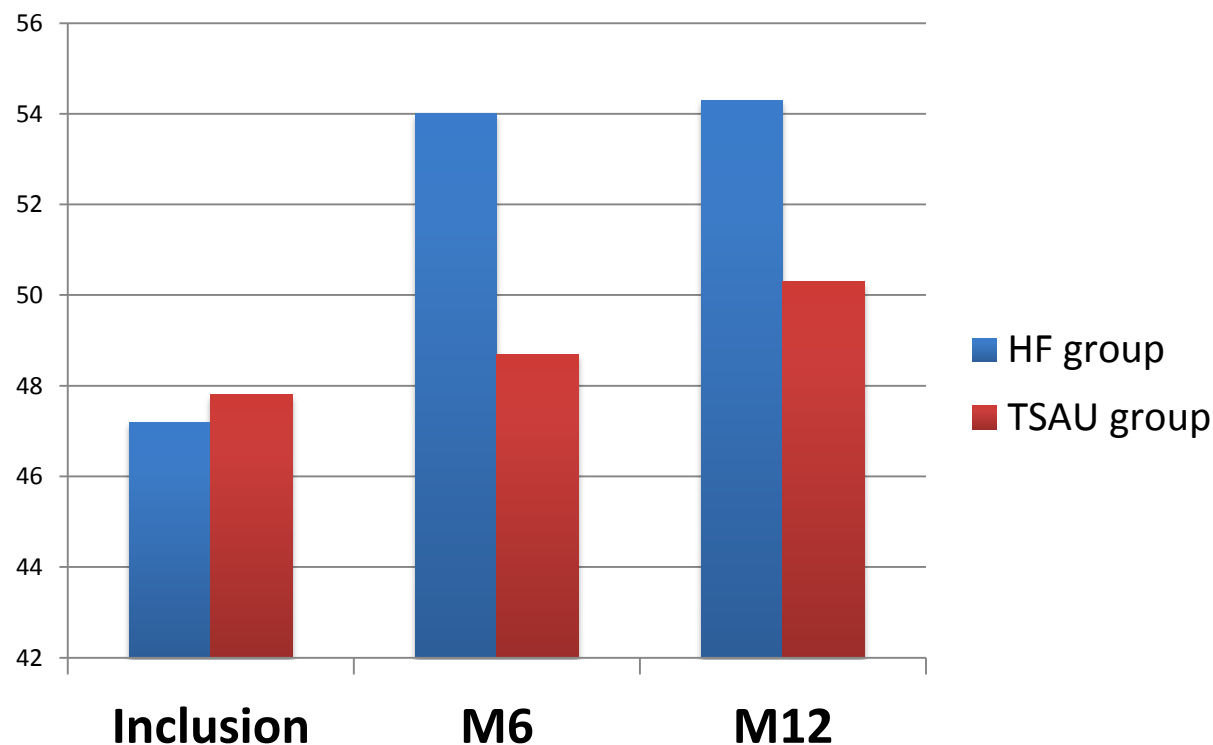
# Retrospective residential calendar: Nights spent in hospital

| Number of nights<br>in hospital<br>The last 6 months | Group                              | Inclusion   | 12 months later |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>All sites</i>                                     | Housing first                      | 18,3 ± 35,8 | 8,8 ± 15,7      |
|  | Treatment and services<br>as usual | 16,5 ± 31,9 | 15,7 ± 36,3     |
| <i>p value</i>                                       |                                    | 0,489       | 0,015*          |



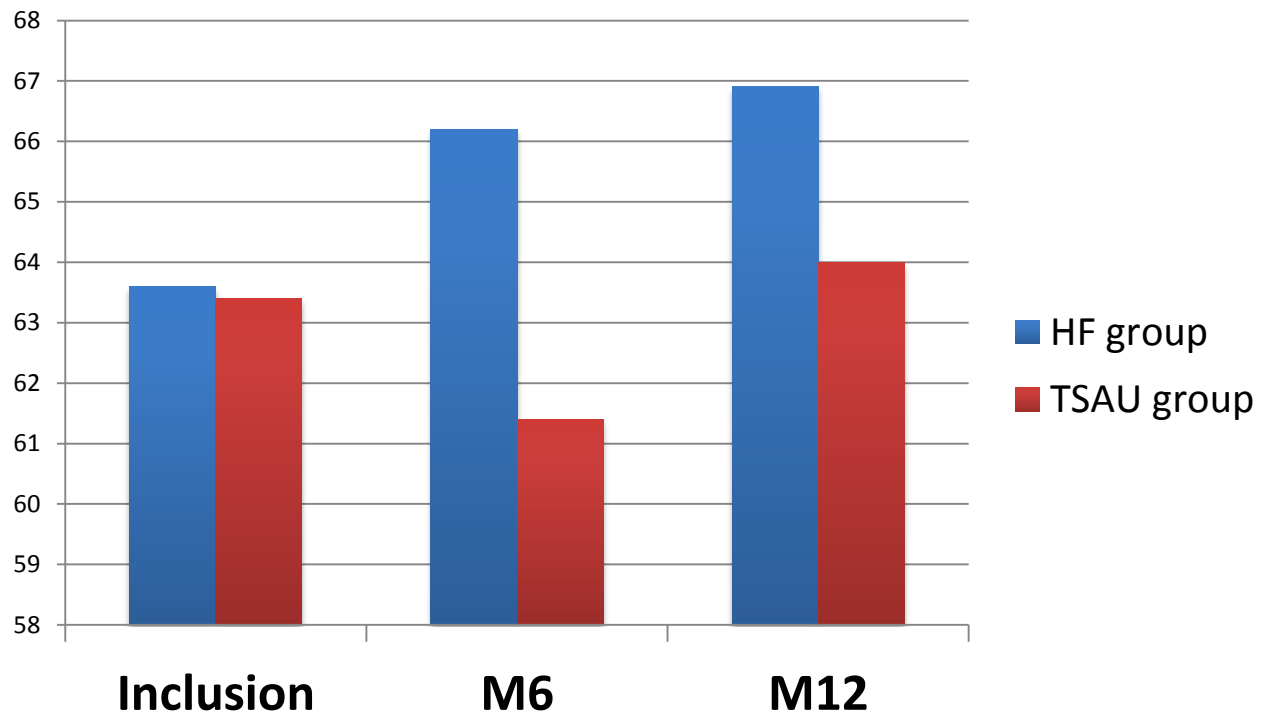
# Index SQoL –Quality of Life at M0, M6 and M12

| SQOL             | Group                                  | Inclusion   | 6 months after | 12 months after |
|------------------|--|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>All sites</i> | <b>Housing first</b>                   | 47,2 ± 17,3 | 54 ± 16,7      | 54,3 ± 16,8     |
|                  | <b>Treatment and services as usual</b> | 47,8 ± 17,7 | 48,7 ± 19,4    | 50,3 ± 21,4     |
| <i>p value</i>   |  | 0,665       | 0,005*         | 0,003*          |



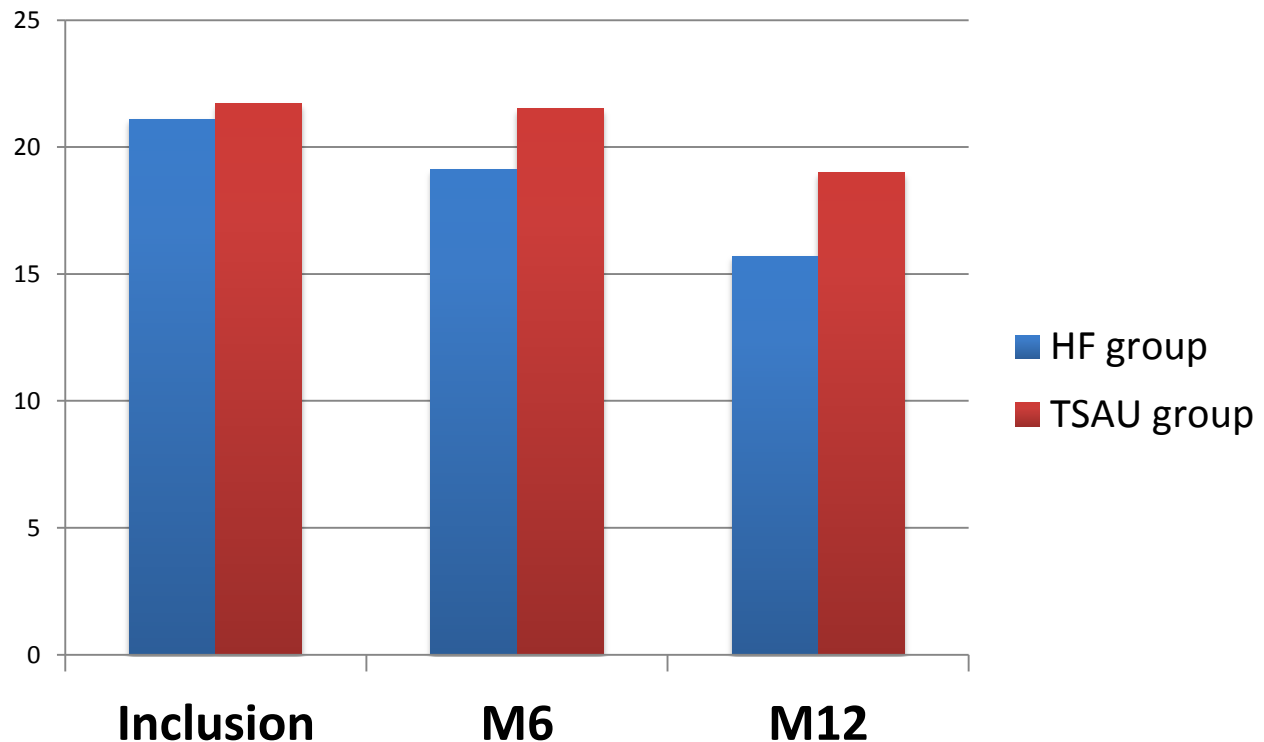
# RAS – Recovery scores at M0, M6 and M12

| Index RAS      | Bras                            | Inclusion   | M6          | M12         |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tous sites     | Housing first                   | 63,6 ± 15,2 | 66,2 ± 14,7 | 66,9 ± 15,4 |
|                | Treatment and services as usual | 63,4 ± 16,3 | 61,4 ± 18,7 | 64,0 ± 18,5 |
| <i>p value</i> |                                 | 0,941       | 0,003*      | 0,006       |



# MCSI – Self -perceived symptoms at M0, M6 and M12

| MCSI           | Bras                            | Inclusion   | M6          | M12         |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tous sites     | Housing first                   | 21,1 ± 11,4 | 19,1 ± 14,1 | 15,7 ± 10,6 |
|                | Treatment and services as usual | 21,7 ± 11,6 | 21,5 ± 14,7 | 19,0 ± 12,7 |
| <i>p value</i> |                                 | 0,522       | 0,094       | 0,003*      |



# Science and politics | strange bedfellows

- Science allowed a post ideological approach for the policy makers
- Political changes causing risks for the program  
Risks counter-played by the research
- The timing of the “research” is not the timing of the “politics”  
(risks and opportunities)
- Discussions on scaling up after preliminary results

# Lessons learned

- A rigorous **evaluation** and a randomized trial is a key to success
- **Hospitalization costs** were used as the Trojan horse.
- Researchers with a **first – hand experience** of the field and specific selection of interviewers
- The HF program helped the launching and spreading of the **Recovery Movement** in France
- **Resistance to the innovation** from the “classical professionals”
- **Resistance to the research and evaluation** from the “field workers”
- **Widespread critics for the methodological choice** of the randomized trial and the quantitative “cost - benefit” approach

# Conclusion

- Research is the “protection wall” of the program
- A solution for a sub-group of the homeless population accumulating huge medical costs

A red oval with a thin blue border and a slight drop shadow, containing white text.

328 from 337  
still in housing  
after 12 months

# References

1. European Typology on Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS), FEANTSA 2005
2. Insee, Dossier les sans-domicile en 2012 une grande diversité de situations, 2014
3. Fondation Abbe Pierre, (2015). Rapport sur « L'État du mal-logement en France », 20e. France
4. Laporte A. et Chauvin P. (2010). *SAMENTA: Rapport sur la santé mentale et les addictions chez les personnes sans-logement personnel d'île de France*. Paris.
5. Tinland A., et. al. (2013). "Evaluation of the Housing First program in patients with severe mental disorders in France: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial". *Trials* 2013, 14:309





**Thank you!**

**Fondation  
de  
France**

