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# Conceptualization and measurement of homelessness in Argentina

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# Historical and political classification

- **Linyeras, crotos:** hobos, tramp (flexible labor market)  
since decade 1920 - present: madness and vagrancy
- **Deambulantes:** itinerant people (for their mobility)  
since decade 1980 - charity organizations
- **Sin techo:** roofless): defined solely with reference to the absence of shelter in the technical sense = restrictive definition  
since 1997 - governmental organizations
- **Sin hogar, habitantes de la calle:** homeless people, Pavement dwellers  
since 2000 – academia

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- **Situación de calle (street situation):** homelessness  
since 2002 - government program



**Social Organizations (2003):** "appropriation" focus on temporary experience

Law 3706/CABA/11 – 2009

National Bill 2510/14

operational  
category

# Conceptual and operational definition

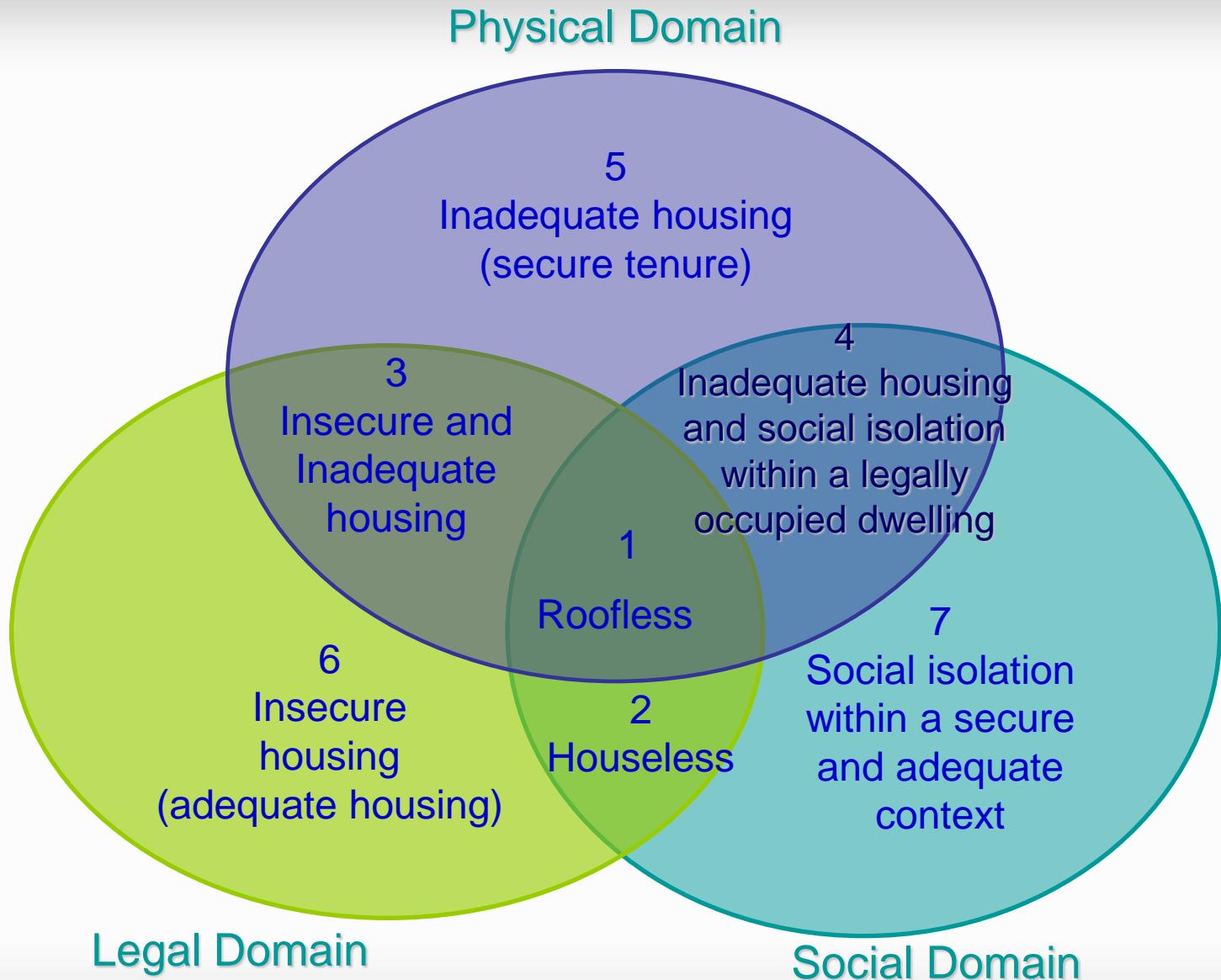
- McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (USA)
- United Nations: International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987)
- Decree 7.053/2009 (Brazil): Movimento da População de Rua (Movement of Homeless People)
- European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS) European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) and European Observatory on Homelessness (EOH)



**Situación de calle  
(Homelessness)**

**Riesgo a la situación de calle  
(Risk of homelessness)**

# Domains of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion



Category		Subcategory	
1	People without accommodation	a	Streets or in other open spaces
		b	Public roofed spaces or buildings not intended for human habitation
		c	Their cars, rickshaws, open fishing boats and other forms of transport
		d	'Pavement dwellers' - individuals or households who live on the street in a regular spot, usually with some form of makeshift cover.
2	People living in temporary or crisis accommodation	a	Night shelters (have to renegotiate their accommodation nightly)
		b	Homeless hostels and other types of temporary accommodation for homeless people (have a designated bed or room)
		c	Women and children living in refuges for those fleeing domestic violence
		d	Camps provided for 'internally displaced people' but have not crossed international borders
		e	Reception centres/temporary accommodation for asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants
3	People living in Severely inadequate and insecure accommodation	a	Sharing with friends and relatives on a temporary basis
		b	Under threat of violence
		c	Cheap hotels, bed and breakfasts and similar
		d	People squatting in conventional housing
		e	Conventional housing that is unfit for human habitation
		f	Trailers, caravans and tents
		g	Extremely overcrowded conditions
		h	Non-conventional buildings and temporary structures, including those living in slums /informal settlements

# Situación de calle efectiva (literal homelessness)

1	People without accommodation (ETHOS: 1)	a	Streets or in other open spaces
		b	Public roofed spaces or buildings not intended for human habitation
		c	Their cars, rickshaws, open fishing boats and other forms of transport
		d	'Pavement dwellers' - individuals or households who live on the street in a regular spot, usually with some form of makeshift cover.
2	People living in temporary or crisis accommodation (ETHOS: 2-7)	a	Night shelters (have to renegotiate their accommodation nightly)
		b	Homeless hostels and other types of temporary accommodation for homeless people (have a designated bed or room)

## Riesgo a la situación de calle (Risk of homelessness)

3	People living in Severely inadequate and insecure accommodation (ETHOS: 8-13)	e	Reception centres/temporary accommodation for asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants
		c	Cheap hotels, bed and breakfasts and similar <u>(only with subsidy for housing purposes: <i>subsidio habitacional</i>)</u>
		d	People squatting in conventional housing
		e	Conventional housing that is unfit for human habitation
		g	Extremely overcrowded conditions
		h	Non-conventional buildings and temporary structures: - Including informal settlements ( <i>asentamientos</i> ) - <u>Excluding slum dwellers (<i>villas de emergencia</i>)</u>

# Counting Homeless People

Government of the City of Buenos Aires  
(no national official data collected)

**Point-in-time count** (provides a snapshot)

- Night-time (around midnight until 4:00 A.M)
- Different geographical areas and places (sidewalks, Hospitals, bus terminals and railways, squares and parks, under bridges and highways)



- Only homeless persons who are “highly visible”  
(exclude soup kitchens, night shelters, persons or families or living in motels/hotels, bed and breakfasts, etc).



**under-enumeration**  
(homeless person in inaccessible locations)

# Annual survey of homeless people

Law 3706/CABA/11 & National Bill 2510/14



Disaggregated information

(to enable a diagnosis and set specific policies for different subgroups)



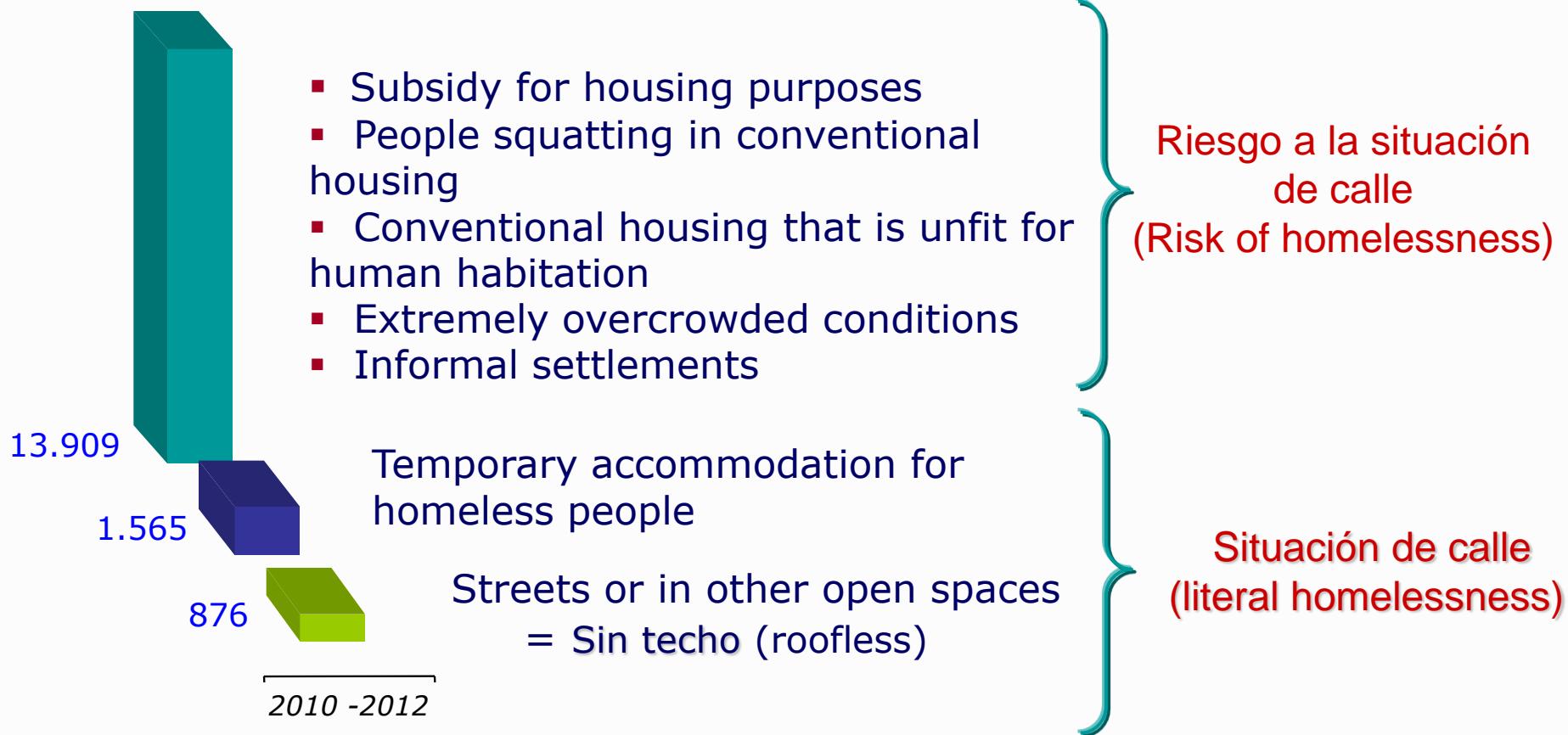
Situación de calle efectiva (literal homelessness)

Riesgo a la situación de calle (Risk of homelessness)



not propose methods for estimating homelessness

# Conceptualization and measurement



# Conclusion

## Broad and inclusive category

- **Situación de calle efectiva** (literal homelessness): people sleeping in the streets or other open spaces and people living in temporary accommodation for homeless people.
- **Riesgo a la situación de calle** (Risk of homelessness): make the issue visible and work in homelessness prevention.



Expand the responsibilities of the State  
(Government)