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MENTAL HEALTH IN PARIS: THE HOMELESS ISSUE

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The Paris population covered, in 2007 2.181.000 inhabitants. This covers the city itself. When adding the surrounding towns, the total figure reaches 6.507.000, more than half the total Ile de France region.

A recent study (LAPORTE, 2010) gives an estimate of 21.000 persons being homeless in the Paris megapole. A third of these individuals suffer from severe mental illness, with a prevalence of 13, 2% for psychotic disorders, 6,7% for affective disorders, 12,2% for anxiety and 21% for personality disorders.

Psychoactive substances are to of concern for 29% of the homeless population.

The author will present data from a two consecutive studies carried out in the Paris megapole concerning the homeless population. (KOVESS, 2001 ; LAPORTE, 2010).

The mental health care system for the Paris area is sectorized. The five hospitals covering Paris had to adapt to the homeless issue, implementing methods of access to care and continuity of care for this population. A system of referral of homeless individuals with mental illness to the mental health teams covering Paris is described.