

# Understanding the Spatial Dimension of Women's Homelessness

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# Abstract

This study aims to help practitioners and researchers trained in various disciplines understand and address the needs of homeless women in Los Angeles county by developing a spatial accessibility index of different resources to improve their lives. The literature review helps identify the resources that can help homeless women. Publicly available data such as LAHSA's annual point-in-time count of the homeless and other local service providers is used in conjunction with the resources identified in the literature to build and accessibility index.

# Introduction

- While all types of homelessness deserves lasting solutions, ending homelessness for women may result in significant reductions in sexual assaults on them, coupling for security, sex work, and unplanned pregnancies resulting from the aforementioned and related occurrences.
- Helping homeless women can help break down vicious cycles of extreme economic, social, and psychological instability so that they themselves and their successors may experience better outcomes.

# Conceptual Foundation

- According to Tipple and Speak, there is no single definition of homelessness that can be applied globally.
- There are different types of resources available for homeless people in different geographic locations, often provided by government and nonprofit entities.
- There is research suggesting that the type of resources that can help the homeless depend upon various characteristics of the person experiencing homelessness.
- Recent research on the development of spatial accessibility indices suggests that they should be built incorporating spatial intelligence about the location for which they are being built just as much as the problem domain.

# Methodology

## Data Collection

- ◇ Google Scholar
- ◇ “GIS, homeless\* wom\*n”
- ◇ “Spatial Analysis, homeless\* wom\*n”

## Analysis

- ◇ Spatial Accessibility index
- ◇ Domain specific variables
- ◇ Incorporating location of study

# Expected Results

- ◆ This study is expected to yield a new accessibility index that can help practitioners and researchers better understand the geographic distribution of homeless women and of the resources available to assist and support them.

# Conclusion and Discussion

- ◆ The findings from this study will have implications for practitioners and researchers engaged in efforts to help improve outcomes for homeless women.

# Limitations of this Study

- ◆ It is possible that the literature review in this study might have missed some resources that could help homeless women.
- ◆ It is also possible that the search terms used to conduct the literature review might not include terms that would further enhance this study.
- ◆ The spatial accessibility index will be as good as the accuracy of the inputs.



# Implications for Future Research

- ◆ They will also have implications for subsequent research endeavors entailing the computation of an organizational effectiveness score of sites of non-profit organizations which seek to serve and support the homeless for a given location of analysis.

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Questions?