

Houselessness in San Francisco, CA During COVID-19

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Introduction

SF Homelessness before COVID-19

- About 10,000 homeless people as of 2019 (6th in US)¹

How COVID-19 exacerbated issues

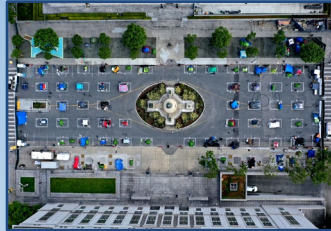
- Homeless tents increased by 285% since the start of the outbreak²
 - Thousands of homeless people living in close proximity without sanitary supplies
- COVID outbreak at homeless shelters (MSC South shelter)

Relation to Sustainable societies

- Unequal burden placed on the homeless population
- Urban resilience

Projects launched to combat homelessness during COVID-19

- Project Roomkey
- COVID-19 Alternative Shelter Program
 - Safe Sleep program



Safe sleep site ([CBS San Francisco](#))



Container housing ([NewsBreak](#))

Findings & Proposed Solutions

Sanitary Supply Distribution

- Provide masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- Cost: Around \$666,000 for a month's supply for 10,000 individuals

Expansion of Safe Sleep Sites

- Relatively effective, cost-efficient, fast to implement but small coverage
 - Currently holds 10% of all homeless population²
- Limitations: increase in budget and limited capacity

Container Housing Project

- Houses made of shipping containers
- Quick construction and rather affordable
 - Creates outlets for sustainable living
- Requires new construction in SF
 - Potential environmental hazards

Improving Vaccination Coverage

- Establishing mobile clinics
- One dose vaccine

Addressing Social Equity

- Incorporating SPARC initiatives.
- Volunteers and computerized system will reduce inequity in distribution.

| Costs | Benefits |
|--|---|
| Sanitary supplies | Reduced number of COVID-19 cases |
| Expansion of safe sleep sites | Equity in resource distribution |
| Training for community workers | Reducing the number of homeless people on the streets |
| Financial costs (tax increases) | Increasing the population of vaccinated individuals |
| May require new construction (container housing) | Increased revenue for San Francisco |
| | Decreased tension between housed and unhoused residents |
| | Increased well being, happiness, and safety |

Discussion/Conclusions

Cost/Benefit Analysis

- Costs: Financial costs (tax increases)
- Benefits: Decreased COVID rates and equity

Funding

- Federal stimulus
- State surplus
- Increased local tax on businesses

Conclusion

- These solutions should reduce the spread of the virus and decrease the levels of homelessness throughout the city of San Francisco

Literature Cited

¹Sabatini, J. (2021, January 05). SF to Cancel 2021 unsheltered homeless count due to covid-19 surge. Retrieved March 12, 2021, from <https://www.sfoxaminer.com/news/sf-to-cancel-2021-unsheltered-homeless-count-due-to-covid-19-surge/>

²Ho, V. (2020, May 19). 'A true EMERGENCY': Covid-19 pushes homeless crisis in San Francisco's Tenderloin to the brink. Retrieved March 10, 2021, from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/19/a-true-emergency-covid-19-pushes-homeless-crisis-in-san-francisco-tenderloin-to-the-brink>

³Daly, C. (2021, February 26). How will San Francisco vaccinate its homeless population? Retrieved April 15, 2021, from <https://missionlocal.org/2021/02/unhoused-residents-wary-of-vaccines-and-experts-say-early-outreach-important/>



Tenderloin District, area with the highest rates of houselessness in SF ([The Guardian](#))