

SIZE AND VARIATION OF SÃO PAULO CITY HOMELESS POPULATION

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The purpose of this article

- **To estimate the number of homeless people who come and leave the streets and shelters of the city of São Paulo between the point in time surveys of 2000, 2009 and 2015;**
- **Provide evidence in order to discuss the evaluation of public policies aiming to**
 - **help homeless people to leave the street**
 - **help the long term homeless.**

Data sources and methodology

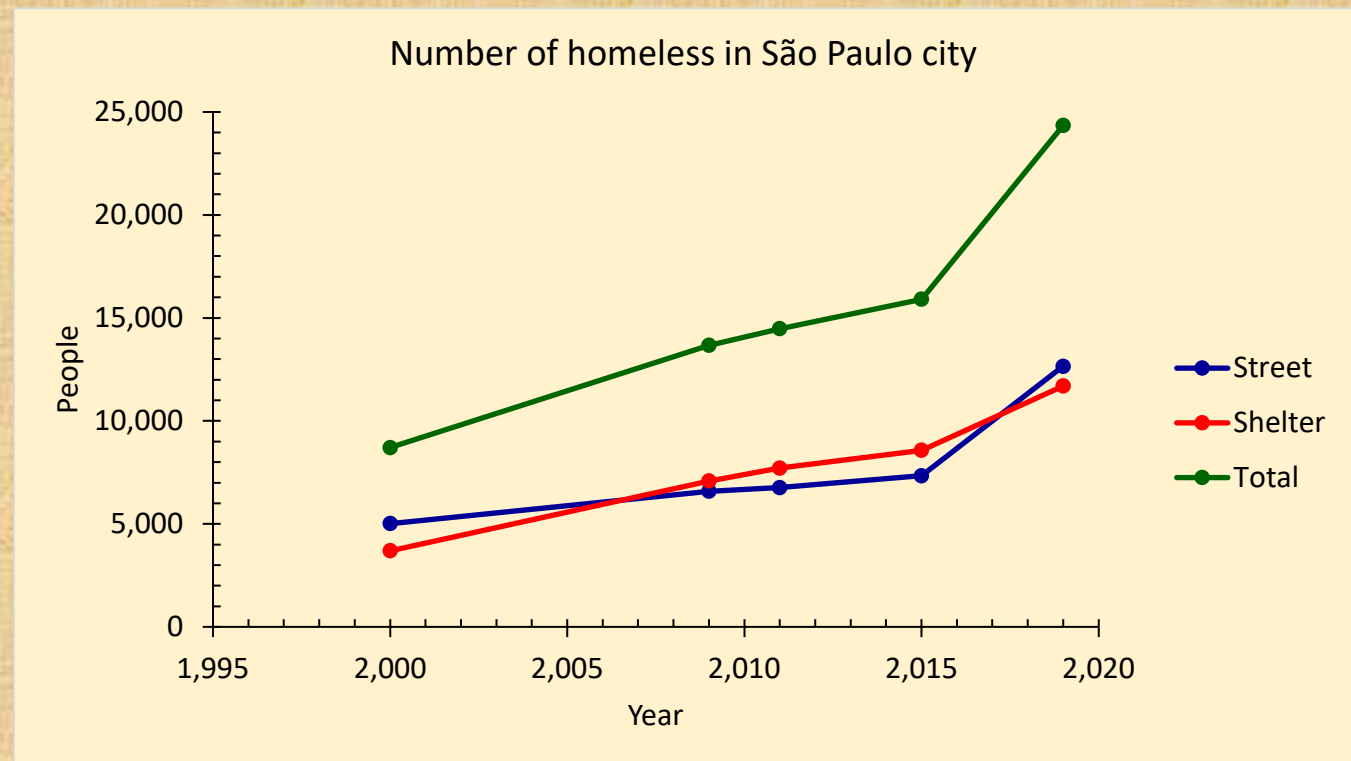
- Regular census (by law) and socioeconomic sample surveys – 2000, 2006 (for sheltered population only), 2009, 2011, 2015 and 2019.
- Operational definition of homeless:
 - People who were sleeping in the streets or shelters at the night which the survey was conducted.
- São Paulo city's homeless shelter system records: longitudinal data.

The point in time and sample surveys results

- The number of people on the streets and shelters, at the point in time;
- The number of people leaving and entering in the street and shelters between censuses surveys;
- The distribution of the variable: time living on the streets

Number of homeless in São Paulo censuses

| Year | Street | Shelter | Total |
|------|--------|---------|--------|
| 2000 | 5,013 | 3,693 | 8,706 |
| 2009 | 6,587 | 7,079 | 13,666 |
| 2011 | 6,765 | 7,713 | 14,478 |
| 2015 | 7,335 | 8,570 | 15,905 |
| 2019 | 12,651 | 11,693 | 24,344 |



Time living on the streets

How long have you not had a house to live in?

When you left this house did you go straight to the street or to a reception center/shelter?

If the answer is no:

So, where did you go?

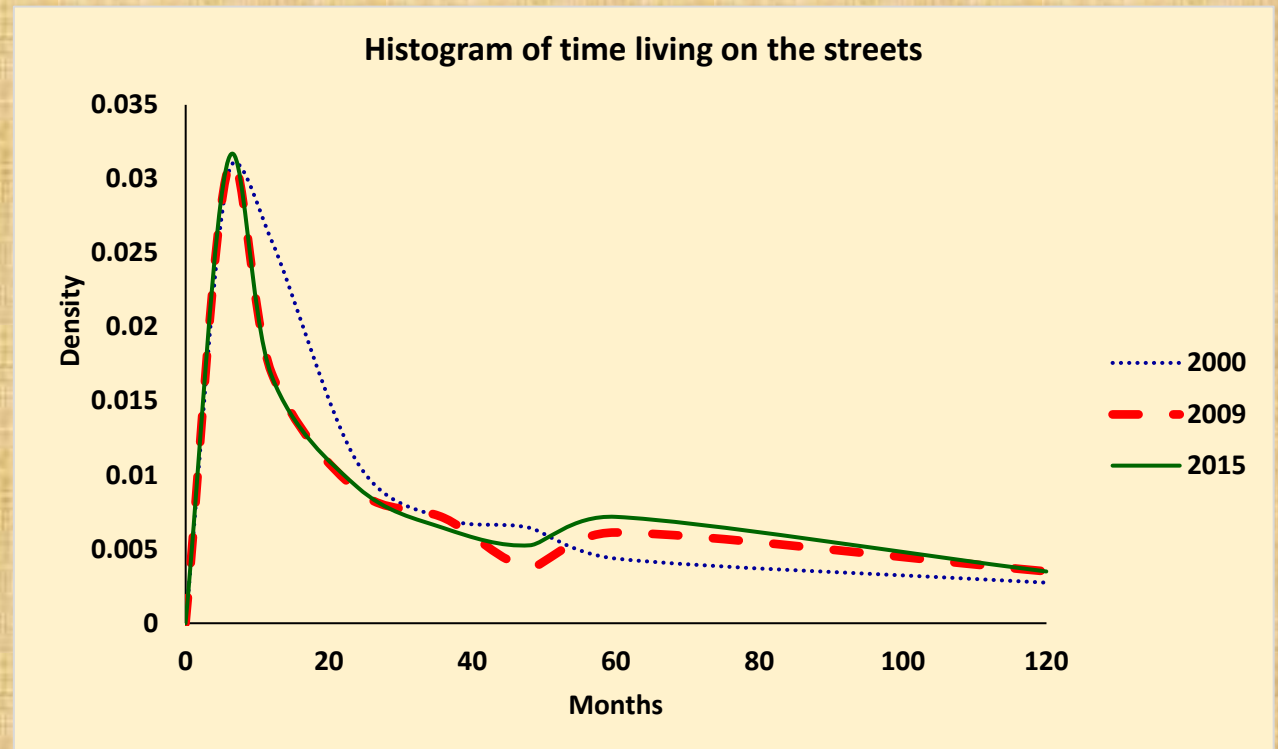
How long since you have been living on the street or reception center/shelter?

Distribution of the time living on the streets

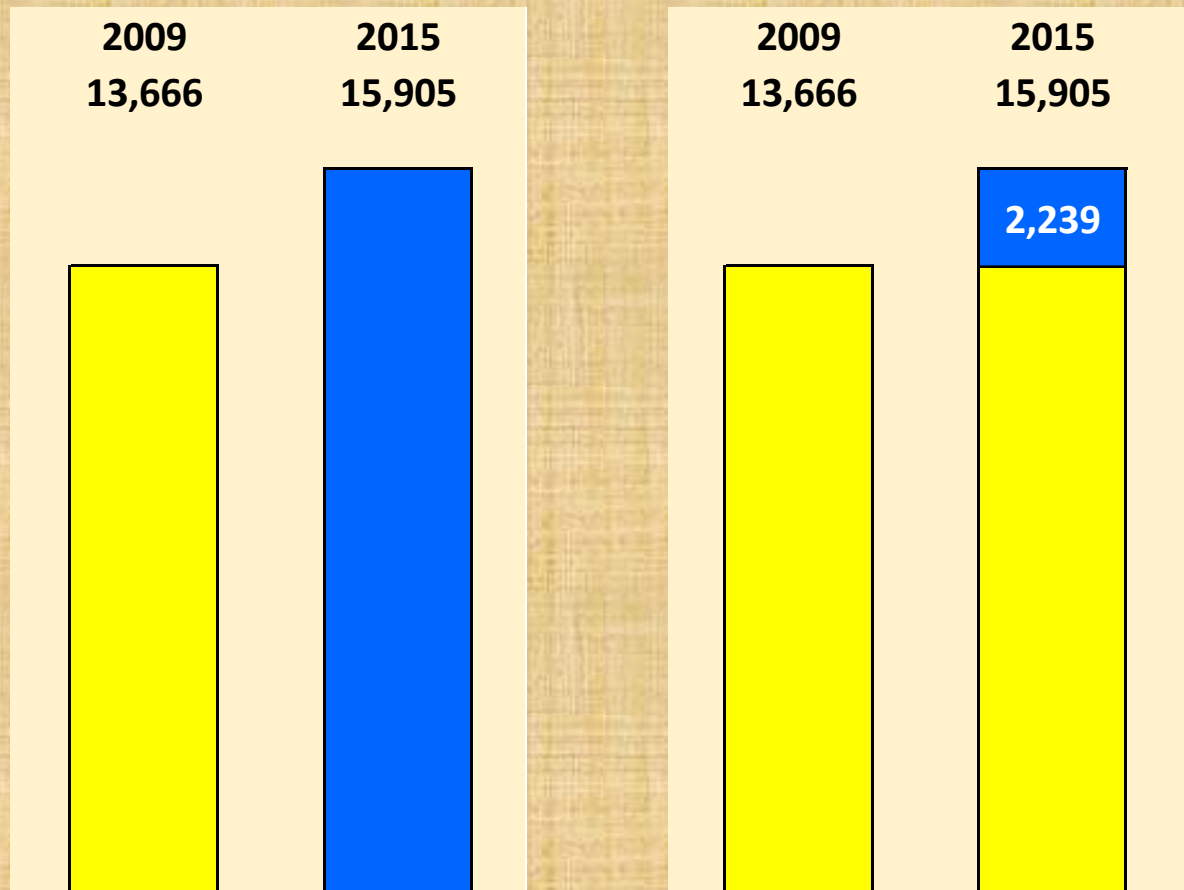
| Months | Street | | | Shelter | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2000 | 2009 | 2015 | 2000 | 2006 | 2015 |
| Up to 6 | 18.2% | 18.5% | 18.8% | 29.6% | 30.7% | 28.8% |
| 7 -- 12 | 15.5% | 10.1% | 10.0% | 15.7% | 14.2% | 11.1% |
| 13 -- 24 | 13.0% | 10.7% | 11.0% | 19.4% | 11.8% | 13.5% |
| 25 -- 36 | 8.5% | 8.5% | 7.7% | 10.2% | 10.3% | 5.6% |
| 37 -- 48 | 7.7% | 4.6% | 6.3% | 3.7% | 8.8% | 6.3% |
| 49 -- 60 | 5.3% | 7.4% | 8.6% | 2.8% | 5.7% | 6.3% |
| 61 -- 120 | 16.5% | 21.1% | 21.0% | 10.2% | 11.6% | 12.5% |
| 121 or more | 15.3% | 19.1% | 16.5% | 8.3% | 6.9% | 15.9% |
| Mean | 64.8 | 75.4 | 71.6 | 39.7 | 43.4 | 61.2 |
| Median | 36.0 | 48.0 | 48.0 | 24.0 | 19.0 | 24.0 |
| SD | 82.1 | 86.0 | 83.2 | 56.6 | 70.4 | 84.5 |

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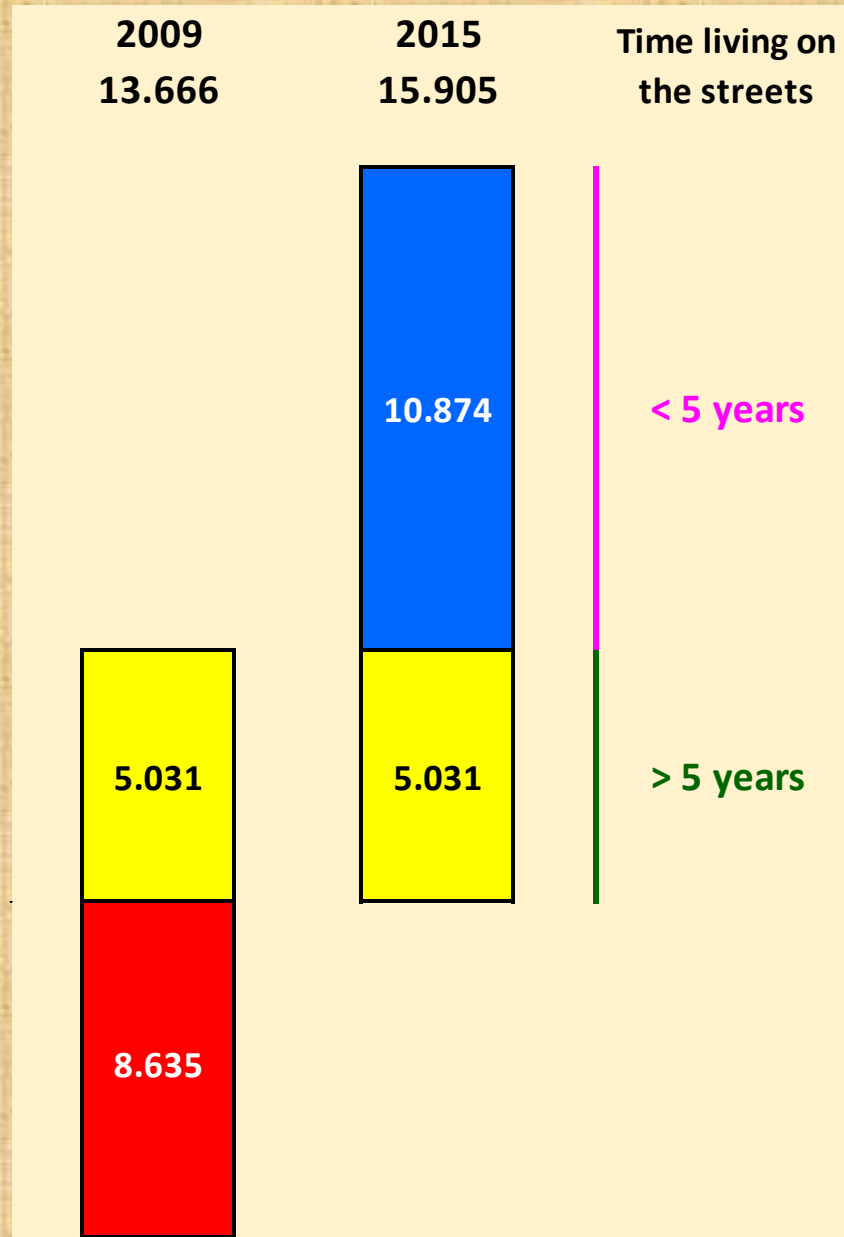
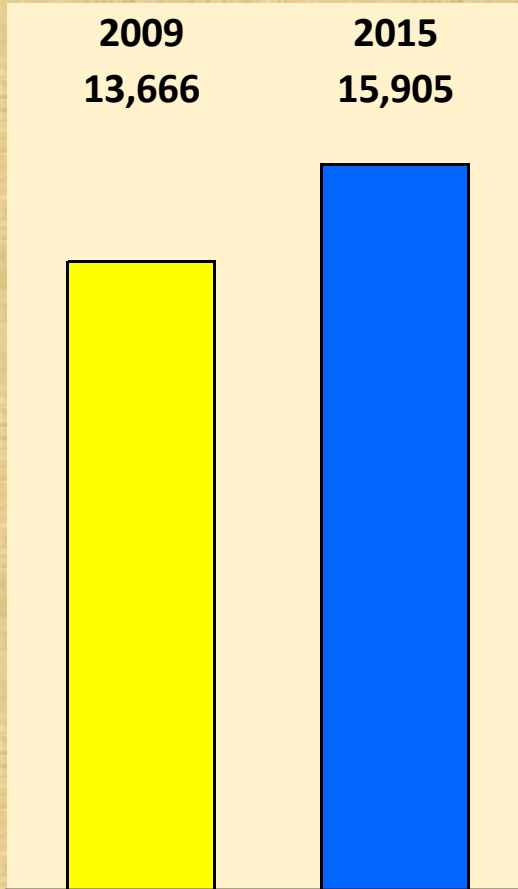
Number of homeless in São Paulo



**An increase of 2,239
people between
2009/10 and 2015.**

What does it mean?

Homeless flow in São Paulo – 2009/2015



10,874 incomers

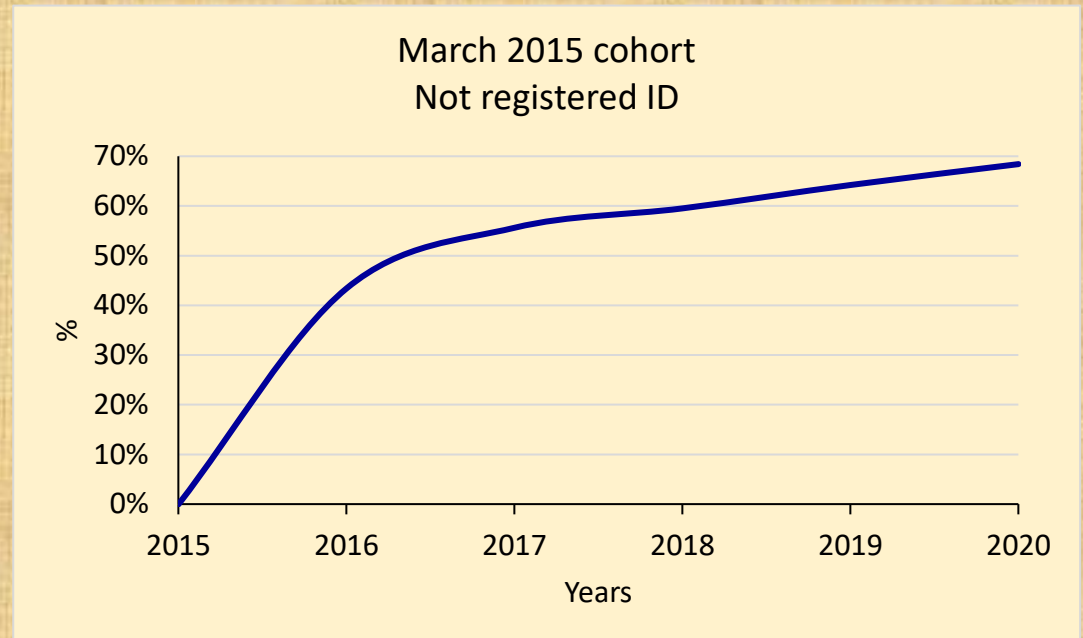
8,635 missing

The longitudinal data: the shelter system records

- From 2013 on each shelter user receive a permanent personal ID;
- The personal usage pattern in the shelter system;

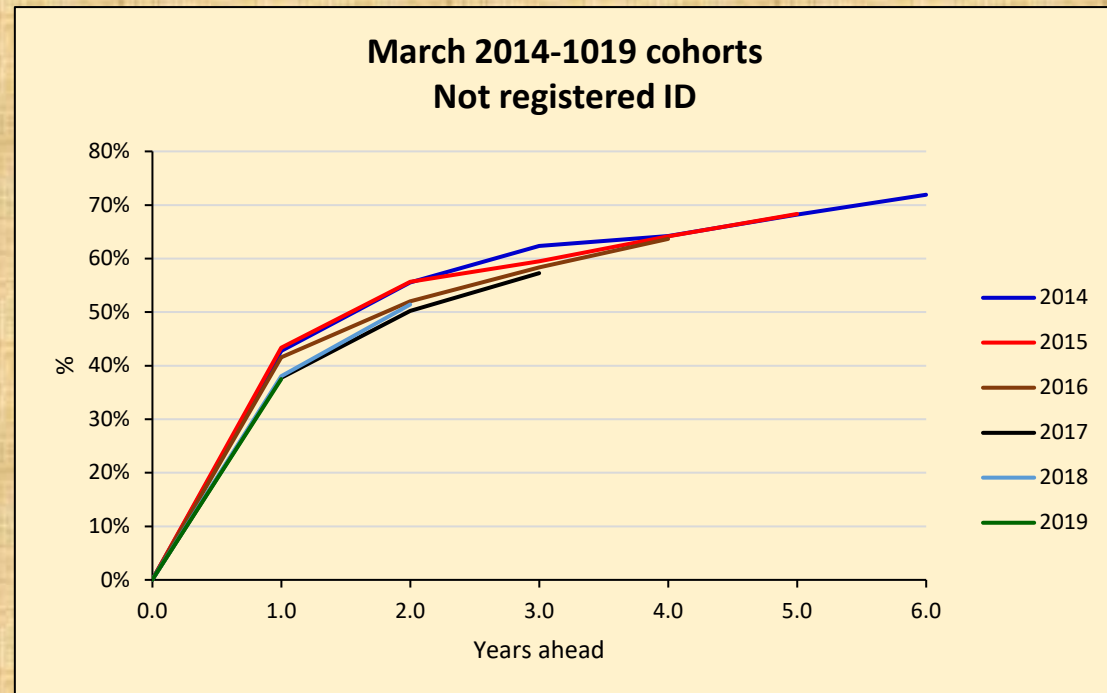
Pattern usage of shelter system – March 2015 cohort behaviour

| Year | ID registered | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | n | % |
| March 2015 cohort | 8365 | 100% |
| 2016 | 4738 | 57% |
| 2017 | 3711 | 44% |
| 2018 | 3387 | 40% |
| 2019 | 2998 | 36% |
| 2020 | 2647 | 32% |



Pattern usage of shelter system – March 2014-2019 cohorts behaviour

| Years ahead | Cohort | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| 1,0 | 43% | 43% | 42% | 38% | 38% | 37% |
| 2,0 | 56% | 56% | 52% | 50% | 51% | |
| 3,0 | 62% | 60% | 58% | 57% | | |
| 4,0 | 64% | 64% | 64% | | | |
| 5,0 | 68% | 68% | | | | |
| 6,0 | 72% | | | | | |



Discussion

- **The perception in Brazil is that the homeless condition is permanent – chronicles**
- **PIT and longitudinal data suggest the existence of a flow of people entering and leaving the system**
- **Public policy**
 - **To prevent homelessness**
 - **To accelerate the exit of the system in order to prevent from chronic condition**
 - **Differentiate policy from chronicle condition**

Thank you