

Title: On the Dynamic Association between Time on the Street and Police Interactions among Homeless People with Mental Illness

Authors: Marichelle C. Leclair, Yanick Charette, Eric A. Latimer, Ashley J. Lemieux, Anne G. Crocker

Persons with mental illness who experience homelessness are at increased risk of penalization and interactions with police services. However, there is a dearth of literature on the impact of residential instability on the incidence of police interactions. The objective of this study is to examine the dynamic association between time spent on the street and interactions as a suspect with the police services among this population over 27 months. The sample consists of 467 participants recruited for the Montreal site of the At Home/Chez Soi demonstration project testing a Housing First approach. At baseline and then every 3 months, the percentage of days spent on the street or in shelters was ascertained using the Residential Timeline Follow-Back questionnaire and police interactions as suspect for the same periods were identified from administrative data. Preliminary results from a mixed effect negative binomial regression suggest that time spent on the street is positively associated to police contacts as suspect, adjusting for age, gender, ethnicity, education, substance use disorders and intervention assignment. Results from models that adjust for time-varying propensity scores, seasonality and include lagged variables will shed light on the robustness of the findings and provide evidence for the penalization of homelessness and social profiling practices.