



An analysis of the efficiency of solutions to urban homelessness in South Africa.

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**The UCT Knowledge Co-op facilitated this collaborative project
between Khulisa (Streetscapes project) and UCT.**

See <http://www.knowledgeco-op.uct.ac.za> or

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Introduction and Context

- Bachelor of Business Science Economics (Honours)
- Topic: An analysis of the efficiency of solutions to urban homelessness in South Africa.
- Why this topic?
 - South African context
 - Economic costs
 - Ethical element
 - Unique research opportunity - Khulisa

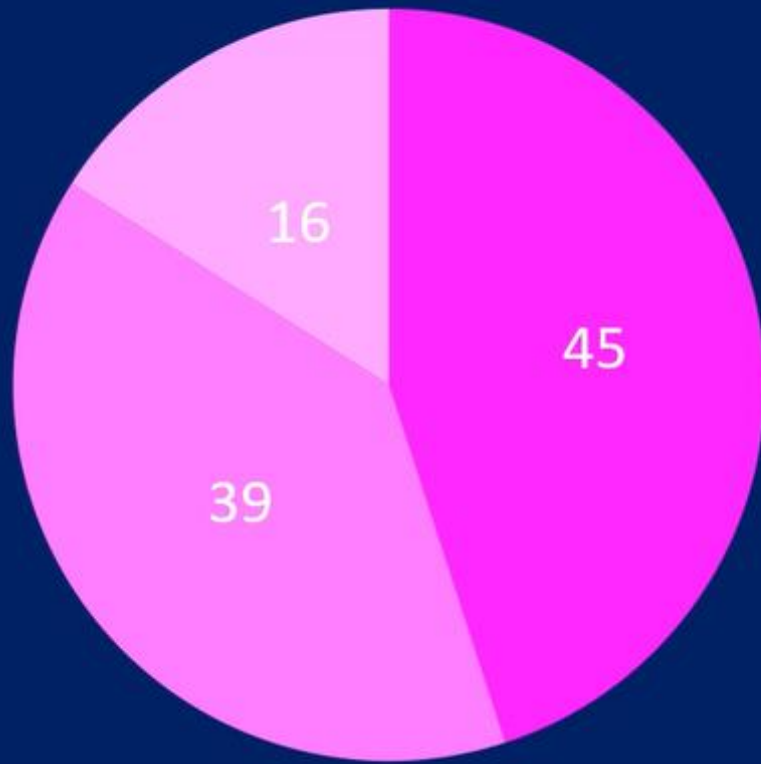
What does homelessness in SA look like?

- 100 000 to 200 000 streetpeople
- The definition of what it means to be homeless:
 - Inadequate housing – includes those who live in informal settlements
 - Rooflessness – those who physically live on the streets

Economic Costs of Homelessness

- Difficult to capture: indirect & direct
- Coalition to End Homelessness research:
 - Specific to Cape Town
 - 14 357 individuals.
 - or an average of R51 811 per person, R774 million per annum
 - 3 areas:
 - developmental costs: supportive services (food, shelter, social support)
 - reactive/punitive costs: consequences of homelessness, cleaning up urban areas and criminal justice system
 - humanitarian costs: donations

Cost of Homelessness (%)



■ Punitive ■ Humanitarian ■ Developmental

Every year, we spend about R744 million addressing homelessness, in Cape Town:

Punitive costs = R335.3 million

Humanitarian = R286.6 million

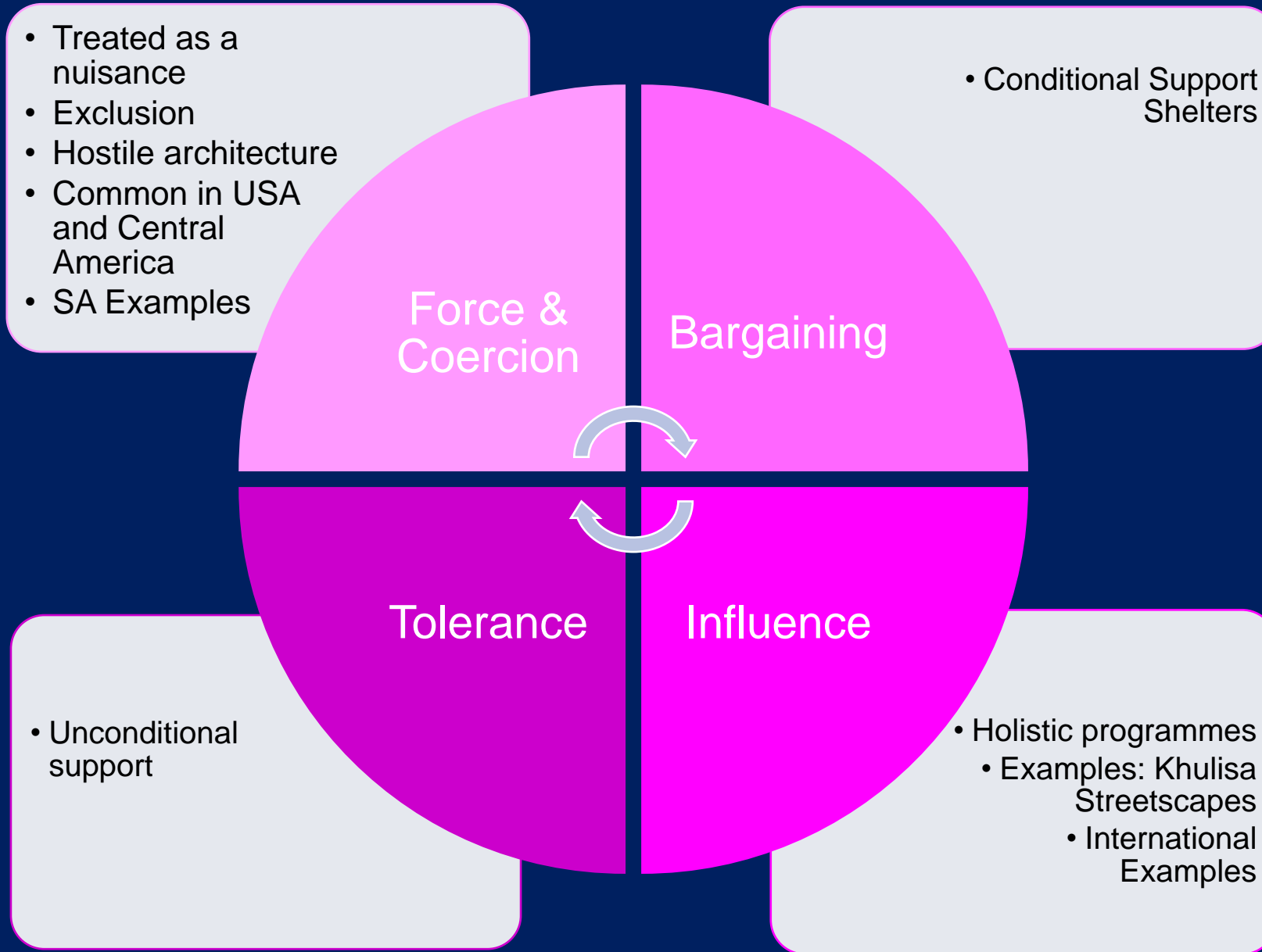
Developmental = R121.9 million

Causes for Homelessness in SA

Important to establish because the root cause → solutions

- Debate: housing or other issue?
- If it was a housing issue – what is the solution
- If it was a housing issue (land, expensive, materials)
 - Why not informal housing?
- Is it a choice to become a street person?
- Available land far from opportunity
 - Transport
 - Employment
- Family dynamic differences
 - Born on the streets
 - Is a home = house?
 - Substance abuse

Solutions



Conclusion

- What is the best solution?
 - Complexity of different causes
- Harsh measures 'force' the issue to be stopped
- Harsh issues are not sustainable – too reactive
 - True reintegration

- Greatest challenge = data