

Urban Policy and Mobility Justice for People Experiencing Homelessness in Accessing Essential Services: A Systematic Review and Bibliometric Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze research trends and formulate policy strategies for homeless mobility in accessing basic services sustainably in public spaces. Existing systematic reviews are generally partial, focusing only on clinical health aspects or housing availability issues. However, there are very few comprehensive studies examining the mobility of the homeless in accessing basic services in public spaces. This study used a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method with data from Scopus filtered through the PRISMA protocol, resulting in 25 relevant articles being selected. Bibliometric analysis was conducted using VOSviewer and RStudio (Bibliometrix), followed by thematic analysis for policy synthesis. The results indicate a steady annual growth rate of 8.01% from 2016 to 2025, in international collaboration remains low (8%), reflecting a localized research focus. The results show fluctuations in scientific production with a significant peak in 2022, but reveal a knowledge gap (research gap) where the integration of public space and mobility remains a minor (niche) theme compared to health issues. The policy strategies are divided thematically into social, environmental, educational, and economic aspects. This study recommends more concrete practical implications, including the provision of inclusive public transportation, elimination of exclusionary architecture, and simplification of bureaucracy for accessing basic services. In conclusion, city policy must shift from mere order-based management to fulfilling the right to the city through cross-sector collaboration that ensures the welfare of vulnerable groups in the city.

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1. Introduction

Homelessness is a global social problem that reflects the dark side of urban development and the extreme consequences of poverty and economic deprivation. A decade ago, Polakow and Brooks (2014) noted that 1 billion people lacked adequate housing, with 100 million being homeless. This phenomenon has escalated post-COVID-19 due to surging unemployment, an affordable housing crisis, and the pressure of return migration, which has strained regional infrastructure (Yadawa, 2024). In developing countries, unmanaged population growth and urbanisation exacerbate this situation, making homelessness an integral, yet often overlooked, part of the urban population (Mwiinde & Munshifwa, 2024). To ensure conceptual precision, referring to the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS), this study focuses on the roofless category, namely, individuals who live on the streets, in public spaces, or in open areas without adequate shelter (Feantsa, 2007).

Mobility is part of a process shaped by push and pull factors that influence how individuals move across space and access financial services (Cresswell, 2006). Homeless mobility is driven by the need to access basic services as a push factor and is pulled by the availability of essential facilities in public spaces. The barriers faced by homeless individuals are multidimensional, encompassing social isolation, physical barriers, and structural violence. Social stigma and discrimination prevent them from achieving equal opportunities (Paat et al., 2021), while complex bureaucracy, such as administrative document requirements, acts as a barrier to accessing essential health and social services (Purkey & MacKenzie, 2019). In this study, essential services were defined as fundamental needs, including access to physical

and mental healthcare, shelter, food assistance, sanitation, and population administration services. However, access to these services is often disrupted by urban policies that privatise public spaces and implement anti-homeless regulations. Consequently, homeless people face significant challenges in mobility, which in this study is broadly defined as daily physical movement, access to public transportation, and forced displacement due to urban spatial planning (Thurman et al., 2025).

The issue of homeless mobility is highly relevant to achieving sustainable development goals, particularly Target 11.7, which calls for universal access to inclusive and safe public spaces for vulnerable groups (United Nations, 2015). Sustainable homeless mobility policies are a bridge to overcoming the physical and social barriers that isolate homeless people from essential services and participation in urban spaces. Limited access to basic services for homeless people due to poor environmental design indicates a failure of urban governance (Lee et al., 2025). Therefore, integrating homeless mobility strategies into urban planning agendas is crucial for creating support systems that enable homeless people to escape the cycle of poverty and realise their right to the city. While numerous studies have addressed homelessness, existing systematic reviews are generally partial, focusing solely on clinical health aspects (Kertesz, 2014) or housing availability (Hanratty, 2017). A significant knowledge gap remains, as few studies have examined how physical mobility interacts with public policy. The novelty of this research lies in its approach, which goes beyond standard bibliometric analysis and specifically maps cross-sectoral policy strategies using a public space lens. This study aims to uncover how urban design and transportation policies can be instruments of social inclusion or exacerbate exclusion.

To ensure transparency and validity, this study employed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (iPRISMA) method combined with bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer and RStudio. Based on this urgency, the study is structured around two distinct research objectives. First (RQ1), this study aims to map the development trends in studies related to homeless mobility in accessing basic services sustainably in public spaces. This objective is operationalised through bibliometric indicators, including publication growth, keyword co-occurrence networks, and influential journals/authors to provide a quantitative landscape of the field. Second (RQ2), this study seeks to formulate recommended strategies to support homeless mobility in accessing basic services that align with the principles of inclusive urban planning. This is operationalised through a qualitative thematic synthesis of the reviewed literature, resulting in a strategic framework for inclusive policy and urban design. Consequently, this study addresses the following research questions:

RQ1: What are the development trends in studies related to homeless individuals' sustainable access to basic services in public spaces?

RQ2: What are the recommended strategies to support homeless individuals in accessing basic services that align with the principles of inclusive urban planning?

2. Method

2.1. Research Design

This study applied a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) combined with bibliometric analysis to investigate research trends (RQ1) and policy frameworks (RQ2) regarding homeless mobility, strictly adhering to the PRISMA 2020 statement (Page et al., 2021). The protocol followed a four-phase flow—identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion—utilising Scopus and Web of Science while documenting specific exclusion criteria, such as non-English records, to maintain reporting integrity. A mixed-methods approach utilised VOSviewer and RStudio for quantitative mapping, complemented by a qualitative thematic analysis to synthesise policy recommendations.

This approach allows mapping the knowledge landscape, identifying policy trends, and systematically categorising the thematic scope of existing interventions (Rodilla et al., 2023). Furthermore, software tools such as VOSviewer and RStudio were used in this study to visualise and analyse the knowledge landscape related to policies on homeless mobility. VOSviewer was used to graphically map the identified keywords and co-occurrence networks, which facilitated the identification of research clusters and thematic gaps within databases such as Scopus (Umer et al., 2023).

2.2 Data Sources and Search Strategy

Data collection was conducted using the Scopus database on December 7, 2025. Scopus was selected as the sole data source because of its extensive coverage of social science and urban planning journals (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2015). The search focused on core concepts using the specific query string *TITLE-ABS-KEY (mobility AND homelessness)*. The query restriction was intentionally performed to optimise precision by focusing on core discourses at the intersection of homelessness and mobility studies. To ensure data relevance and quality, specific inclusion criteria were applied via the Scopus interface, limiting the selection to final-stage, open-access journal articles published in English from 2016 to 2025. To maintain a strict focus on social and urban policy, the search excluded subject areas related to hard sciences and medicine (such as nursing or mathematics) as well as clinical keywords like "HIV infections." Consequently, this study acknowledges a limitation regarding the potential exclusion of subscription-based literature or local studies due to the restriction of Scopus Open Access content.

The initial search of the Scopus database identified 357 documents. To ensure accuracy, the review process followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (i.e., PRISMA) protocol to ensure transparency, reproducibility, and accuracy of document selection. While the screening was primarily conducted by the first author, selection bias was minimised by strictly applying predefined inclusion/exclusion criteria. The process involved four systematic stages: (1) timeframe identification, (2) subject area screening, (3) document type eligibility, and (4) abstract relevance to the topic "Homelessness AND Mobility. Ambiguous documents were re-examined in a second pass to ensure consistency (Table 1). A detailed PRISMA flow diagram is presented in Figure 1.

2.3 Study Selection with PRISMA Flow

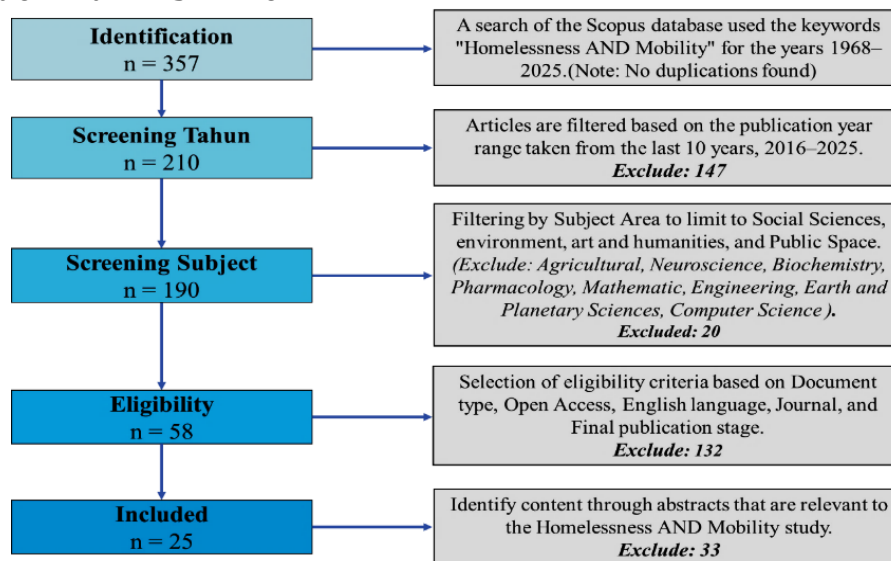


Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Diagram in Scopus Documents

Table 1. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria for Document Screening in the Systematic Review

Criterion	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria	Rationale
Timeline	2016 – 2025	Pre-2016	To capture the latest trends and policy developments over the last decade.
Document Type	Original Journal Articles	Conference Papers, Reviews, Books, Editorials	To ensure the review focuses on peer-reviewed empirical evidence and original data.
Language	English	Non-English	This was done to facilitate international comparisons and analyses.
Subject Area	Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities,	Medicine, Nursing, Mathematics,	To maintain focus on the sociological and spatial dimensions of

Criterion	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria	Rationale
Access Type	Psychology, Environmental Science	Agriculture, Engineering, Hard Sciences	homelessness, avoiding clinical/technical studies.
	Open Access (All)	Paywalled / Subscription-only	To ensure full-text availability for qualitative extraction, this may exclude some subscription-based journals.
Content Relevance	Discusses "Roofless" category and spatial mobility to services	Discusses "Houseless /Inadequate housing" only, or non-spatial mobility	This aligns with the operational definition of survival strategies in public spaces.

The literature selection process was conducted systematically following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (i.e., PRISMA) protocol, as illustrated in [Figure 1](#). The selection process comprised four stages. The first stage began with an identification in the Scopus database using the keywords "homelessness AND mobility," which yielded 357 initial documents without duplication. The documents were then filtered based on the publication time span of the last decade (2016–2025), which excluded 147 older articles and left 210 documents for further analysis. Furthermore, the second stage focused on filtering the subject area to limit the scope of the study to the social sciences, environment, art and humanities, and urban public spaces, where 20 documents from scientific disciplines (such as agricultural, neuroscience, biochemistry, pharmacology, mathematics, engineering, Earth and planetary sciences, and computer science) were excluded to avoid study bias, leaving 190 documents. In the third stage, an eligibility test was conducted by selecting eligibility criteria based on document type, open access, language (English), journal, publication stage (final), and 58 articles were obtained. Finally, the fourth stage implemented content identification through abstracts relevant to homelessness and mobility, and 25 final articles were obtained that met all the requirements for analysis in this study.

While PRISMA systematically filters the literature for topical relevance, it does not assess internal validity; therefore, a critical quality appraisal is indispensable to prevent the synthesis of flawed data. To ensure this methodological rigor, the final 25 articles were evaluated using the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) ([Rodr et al., 2023](#)). The MMAT was explicitly chosen because it permits the concurrent appraisal of the diverse qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods designs found in this field against five specific criteria. The appraisal confirmed that all selected articles possessed high to moderate methodological quality, providing a robust foundation for the subsequent thematic synthesis. A detailed MMAT assessment table for all evaluated articles is provided in the Appendix (Table 2. MMAT Assessment of Articles).

2.4 Data Analysis and Visualization

Metadata from the 25 selected articles were exported in RIS format and processed using VOSviewer (v.1.6.19). The analysis employed the 'full counting' method to visualise the co-occurrence network, focusing specifically on 'author keywords' to accurately reflect the core concepts defined by researchers. We did not merge synonymous keywords to distinguish and analyse the frequency and contextual usage of each unique term as it appeared in the original texts or metadata. Given the specific niche and limited sample size (n=25), the keyword occurrence threshold was set to 1. This low threshold was deliberately chosen to ensure that emerging concepts from individual studies were not overlooked. However, to maintain structural integrity and avoid fragmentation, the minimum cluster size was set to 15. This stricter setting filters out noise, ensuring that the resulting four clusters represent established, stable macro-themes in the intellectual structure of homeless mobility studies rather than transient topics.

In addition to bibliometric mapping, RStudio (bibliometrix package) was used to analyse annual scientific production, and a qualitative thematic analysis was conducted to synthesise policy strategies using an inductive bottom-up approach. The unit of analysis encompassed sentence segments, study findings, and policy implications of the study. The coding process was primarily executed by the lead author, who possesses expertise in urban planning and social equity, and was organised into three

iterative stages: (1) open coding to identify initial barriers and enablers; (2) axial coding to group these factors into broader categories; and (3) selective coding to formulate final inclusive planning strategies. To ensure trustworthiness and credibility, a 'peer debriefing' protocol was employed (Lincoln & Guba, 1985), in which codes and emerging themes were critically reviewed by co-authors during consensus meetings to challenge subjective interpretations.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Results

Before addressing the bibliometric and thematic findings, it is crucial to establish the reliability of the dataset. Following the PRISMA selection process, the methodological quality of all 25 included articles was rigorously evaluated using the MMAT framework. The appraisal results demonstrated a high level of methodological rigor across the selected literature, with all 25 articles (100%) rated as high quality (meeting at least four out of five design-specific criteria; Appendix Table 1). Because the MMAT appraisal confirmed the strong empirical foundation of these articles, ranging from highly valid qualitative lived experiences to robust quantitative geospatial data, the resulting bibliometric trends and thematic syntheses presented in the following subsections are grounded in highly credible, evidence-weighted conclusions rather than mere descriptive mapping.

3.1.1 Keyword Co-occurrence and Research Clusters

A keyword co-occurrence network analysis using VOSviewer maps the relationships between key topics in homeless mobility literature. The visualisation (Figure 2) shows dense interconnectivity, with the primary node, "homelessness," having the largest size, indicating its central role in the discourse. To address RQ1, these clusters are interpreted not merely as groups of words but as evolving research trends that define how mobility and service access are conceptualised in the current literature. This mapping serves as a structural foundation for understanding how physical movement intersects with social equity and exclusion in modern urban planning. Based on the clustering algorithm, four key analytical trends were identified:

The first cluster highlights a body of urban infrastructure and social rights. Keywords such as public transport networks, transit, and walking linked with child welfare and migrants represent a trend in which mobility is viewed as a prerequisite for urban citizenship. This cluster indicates that the trend is shifting from viewing transport as a technical issue to a fundamental social right for accessing services. Consequently, current research increasingly examines how integrated transit systems can mitigate the chronic social isolation experienced by homeless families and elderly individuals. The second cluster reflects research that emphasises hostile environments and spatial resilience. Keywords like exclusionary architecture, hostile, and street furniture contrasted with resilience and resistance represent a trend in spatial politics. This shows that "mobility" for the homeless is often a struggle against an urban environment designed to exclude them, representing a trend of "hostile mobility." The analysis suggests that the resilience of the homeless population is a reactive strategy against defensive urbanism, necessitating a paradigm shift toward more supportive public space designs.

The third cluster centres on discussions of displacement and forced movement. The presence of expulsion, forced movement, and displacement indicates a trend in which mobility is often involuntary. This represents the "dark side" of mobility, in which the homeless move not to access services, but because of political or structural pressures. This trend emphasises that without stable arrival infrastructures, mobility becomes a perpetual cycle of displacement that further detaches individuals from established service networks. Meanwhile, the fourth cluster captures an emerging line of infrastructure politics and basic human rights. Keywords such as hygiene (WASH), public restrooms, and water security linked to the criminalisation of poverty highlight a trend in essential service access. This indicates that the inability to access basic "stationary" services (such as toilets) is now being studied as a mobility barrier and a human rights violation. By reframing sanitation as a spatial justice issue, the literature highlights that mobility is rendered ineffective if the urban destination lacks the basic amenities required for human dignity. The synthesis of these clusters demonstrates that research trends have transitioned from simple social observations to a complex analysis of forced vs. autonomous mobility. The connectivity between clusters suggests that "accessing essential services" is no longer just

about the availability of facilities, but about the legal and physical freedom to move towards them without facing criminalisation or architectural barriers.

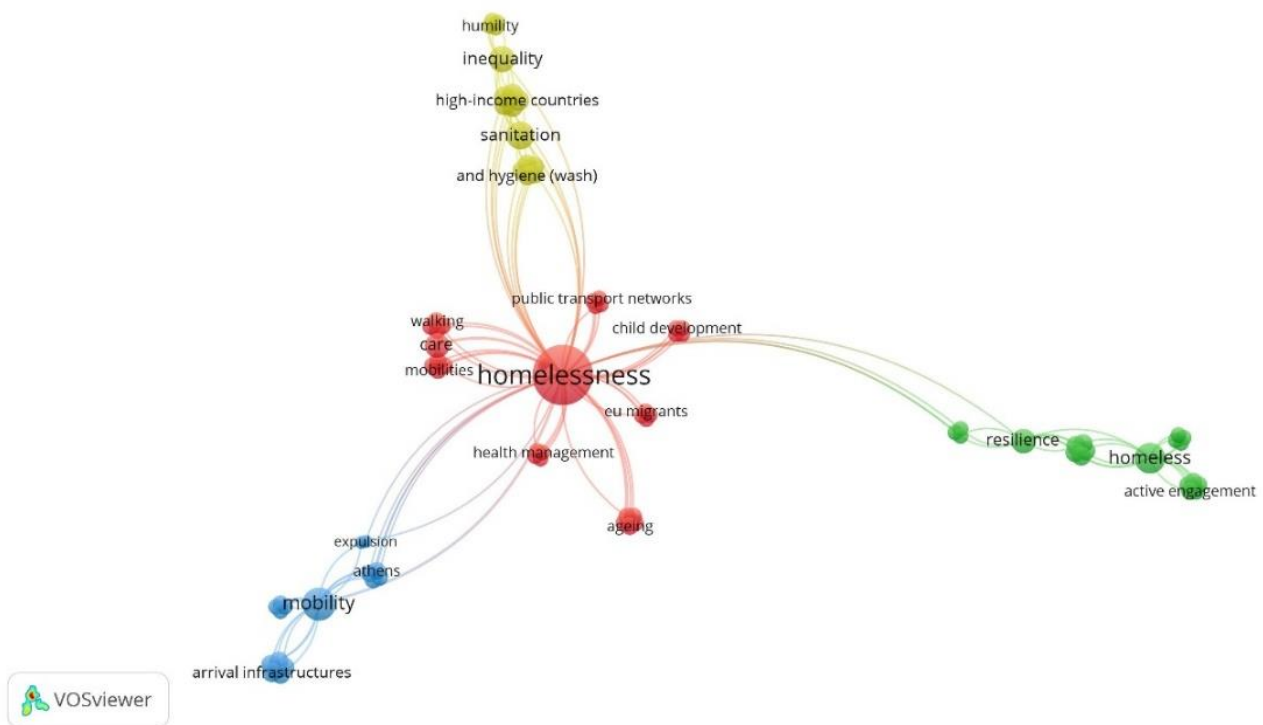


Figure 2. Visualizing Research Trends and Connections using keywords “Homelessness and Mobility”

3.1.2 Temporal Evolution of Research Themes

Temporal network analysis (Figure 3) reveals the evolution of research topics over the years. Lighter nodes (yellow-green) indicate emerging topics or trends in the 2020–2024 period. 1) Early period (before 2021): Research focused more on examining homelessness and stigma (Gofman), walking, pedestrians, care, inclusion health, frailty, and politics. 2) Current period (2022–2024): A significant shift toward specific themes, such as the relationship between homelessness and mobility, sanitation, resilience, water, and public restrooms, has emerged. The emergence of these new topics indicates a shift in research trends from merely describing problems to exploring adaptive and inclusive solutions to address them.

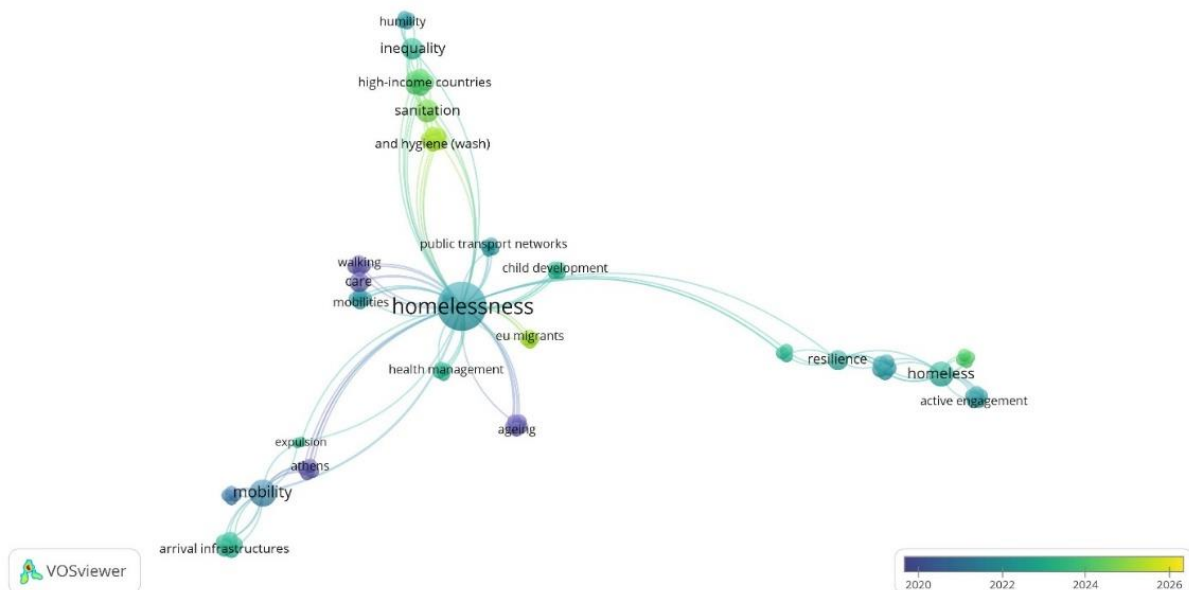


Figure 3. Temporal Network Analysis of Research Trends on Homelessness “Homelessness and Mobility”

3.1.3 Bibliometric Indicators

Based on the main information analysis from RStudio (Figure 4), this research dataset includes 25 documents published between 2016 and 2025, with an annual growth rate of 8.01%, indicating a steady increase in research interest (Appendix 1). The authorship characteristics involve 87 authors, dominated by collaborative articles, with only six single-authored documents, although international collaboration was recorded as low (8%), indicating that the research focus still tends to be local or national. In terms of impact, these documents have an average age of 3.2 years and an average citation of 9.16 times per document, indicating that this topic has a high level of relevance, despite being a relatively new field of study.



Figure 4. Main information.

The analysis of Annual Scientific Production (Figure 5) shows productivity fluctuations that began with a phase of low and stagnant output throughout the 2016–2020 period, before experiencing a significant surge to peak production in 2022, likely triggered by the post-COVID-19 pandemic response or the global housing crisis. Although the quantity trend declined after 2022, the data indicate a shift in research orientation from mere quantity to more specific topic depth, as reflected in the emergence of new keyword variations described in the Temporal Evolution of Research Themes sub-section.

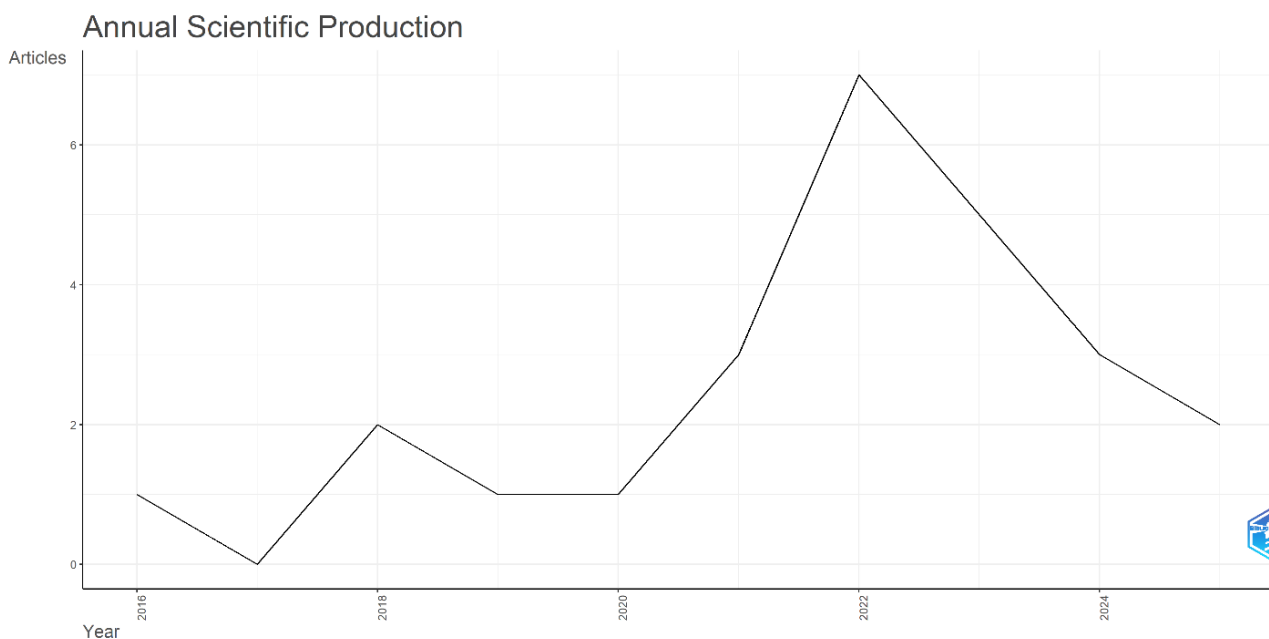


Figure 5. Annual scientific production.

3.1.4 Thematic Map and Research Gaps

The thematic map (Figure 6) plots the conceptual structure of the research into four quadrants based on their density and centrality, with homelessness, urban, care, experiencing, and people occupying Motor Themes (top right) with high relevance and development, making them key drivers of current research. Conversely, mobility, setting, and housing are identified as fundamental Basic Themes (bottom right) that have not been explored in depth, whereas sanitation, resilience, movement, rest, and repair are in the Niche Themes quadrant (top left), indicating that the integration of these aspects in the homeless literature remains specific, isolated, or slow-developing compared to other themes. This distribution pattern, along with the Emerging/Declining Themes category (bottom left), strongly confirms the existence of a research gap, in which studies on homeless mobility related to public space are still limited as a niche theme and have not yet transformed into the mainstream, as dominated by health or social studies.

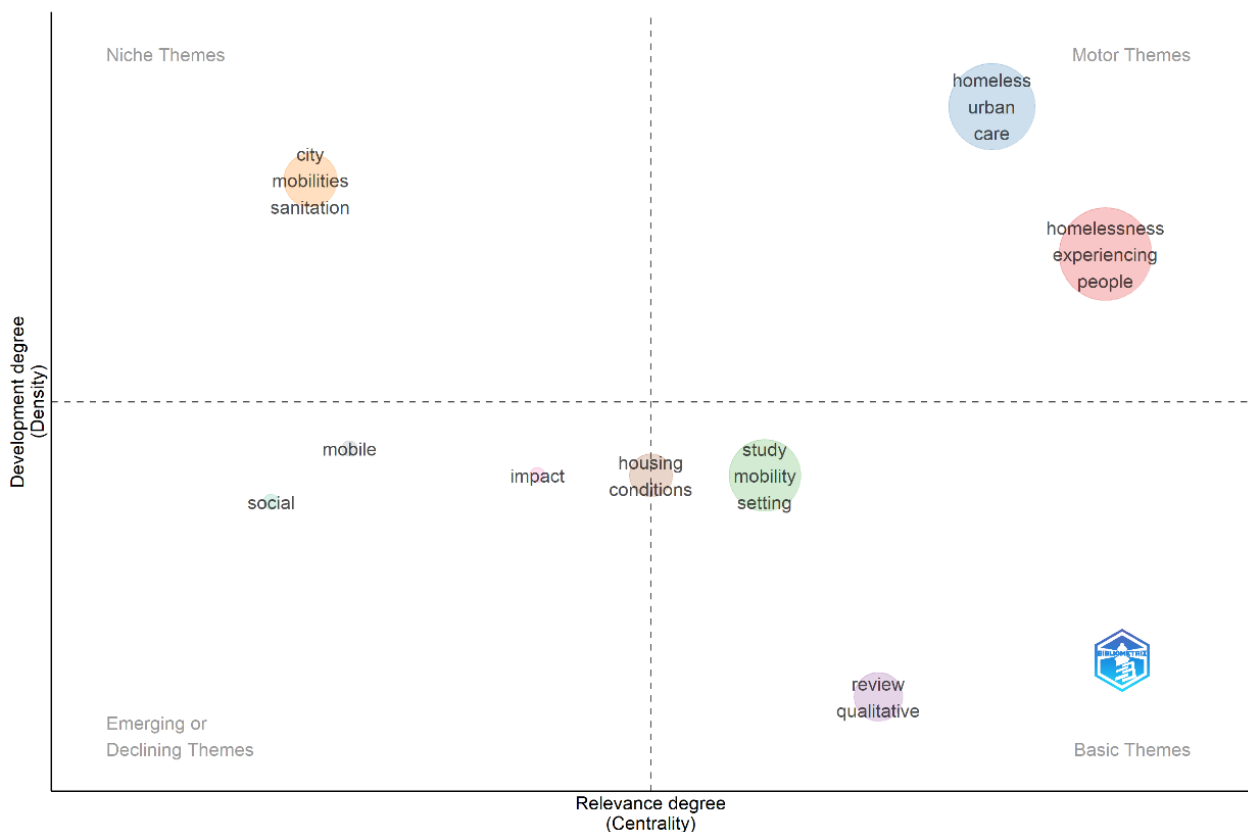


Figure 6. Thematic map.

3.1.5 Geographic and Authorship Patterns

The Three-Field Plot (Figure 7) illustrates the flow between countries, authors, and thematic titles, providing a global perspective on research trends as part of RQ1. A dominant trend is observed among authors from developed nations, such as the USA, UK, Ireland, and Australia, who primarily focus on systemic and structural themes, such as "urban," "mobility," and "housing." Conversely, emerging contributions from the Global South, particularly Brazil and Malaysia, show a distinct trend toward "experiencing," "functioning," and "people," reflecting a focus on the lived realities and personal capacities of the homeless within their local contexts.

However, these geographic patterns must be interpreted with caution. Although this distribution suggests a Western-centric dominance in the discourse on homeless mobility, these findings are calibrated by the study's methodological scope, which utilised a single-database search from Scopus and an open access (OA)-only filter. Consequently, this pattern may reflect the higher prevalence of OA publishing mandates in certain regions rather than the absolute volume of global research output. Despite these limitations, the data confirm that research priorities are significantly shaped by regional urban challenges, ranging from structural housing policy in the Global North to individual experience and functioning in the Global South.

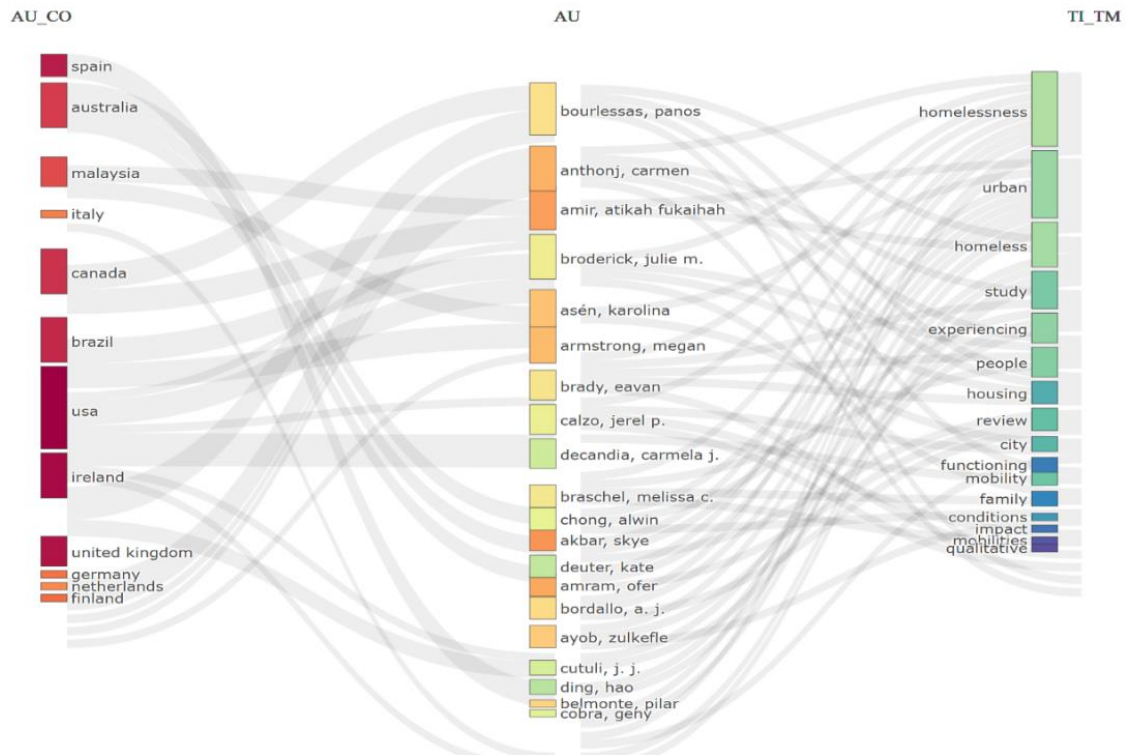


Figure 7: Three-field plot of the relationship between country, author, and title

3.2 Discussion

3.2.1 The Four Dimensions of Inclusive Mobility Strategies

This section synthesises the findings to provide comprehensive answers to the research questions addressed in this study. Regarding RQ1, the bibliometric analysis reveals that research on homeless mobility is undergoing a significant transition from a fragmented, service-centric focus toward a multidimensional, spatial justice approach. The identification of four distinct clusters indicates a trend in which mobility is increasingly recognised as a fundamental social right, shifting academic discourse from crisis management to the politics of public space and infrastructure.

Regarding RQ2, this study proposes a strategic framework for inclusive urban planning that shifts from hostile architecture toward supportive and resilient environments. The recommended strategies suggest that sustainable mobility can only be achieved by addressing the "multiple deprivations" identified in the literature through a multi-layered intervention approach. To operationalise these strategies, the findings are categorised into four critical dimensions: social, environmental, economic, and educational, which are elaborated as follows:

3.2.2 Social Aspects: Toward an Inclusive, Mobile Care Approach

Social homelessness policy strategies emphasise mobile, flexible, and human rights-centered transformations, although their application varies significantly across different geographic contexts. In the Global North, Fogelman (2025) introduced the concept of "urban citizenship infrastructure," in which service providers in Western urban centres act as bridges to facilitate access to care and legal rights for homeless migrants. This aligns with the "right to the city" approach advocated by Marcu (2022) in the European context, through that concept emphasising the social solidarity of the Housing First model supported by government agencies. Furthermore, the reviews by Asén et al. (2022) and the framework by Smith and Hall (2016) call for a revolution in urban social work, shifting from an administrative role to a mobile, rights-based advocacy approach responsive to superdiversity and directly reaching hidden homeless populations.

Effective social approaches also include responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable and homeless groups. Murran and Brady (2023) emphasise the importance of holistic programs, including parenting and trauma therapy, for children experiencing housing instability. Rogans-Watson et al. (2020)

recommend tailoring services through comprehensive geriatric assessments and age-friendly accommodations for homeless older adults experiencing "premature aging. Conversely, in the Global South, strategies often focus on decentralised and community-based support to overcome limited formal infrastructure. For instance, [Peiter et al. \(2019\)](#) proposed the establishment of "therapeutic territoriality" and street clinics in Brazil to support populations with substance use issues. Social inclusivity can also be fostered through physical environmental design, as demonstrated by [Amir et al.'s \(2024\)](#) study in Kuala Lumpur, where street furniture elements, such as comfortable seating and access to water, can enhance the dignity, safety, and mobility of homeless individuals in public spaces.

Concerning the integration and sustainability of services, particularly in the mental health sector, [Herrera-Imbroda et al. \(2023\)](#) uncovered a "revolving door" pattern in psychiatric hospitalization for homeless individuals. Their findings highlight the need for housing planning solutions that address mental health needs rather than simply providing general shelter. Thus, comprehensive social policies must embrace both preventive and curative approaches that are mobile, rights-centered, and integrated across sectors to effectively address the complexities of homelessness, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and those with mental health conditions.

3.2.3 Environmental Aspects: Towards Spatial Justice and Inclusive Urban Infrastructure

Environmental policies to address homelessness focus on transforming urban infrastructure to be more inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to basic needs, as demonstrated by [Welsh et al. \(2025\)](#). Effective solutions involve the development of decentralised green infrastructure, such as composting toilets and graywater systems integrated with public spaces, and the involvement of homeless communities in participatory design [14] ([Anthonj et al., 2024](#)). Furthermore, the efficiency and equity of basic service placement depend heavily on sophisticated spatial analyses. A systematic review by [Semborski et al. \(2022\)](#) advocates the use of geographic information systems (GIS) for mapping homelessness hotspots and analysing accessibility to ensure the targeted and accessible allocation of resources, such as shelters and clinics. A similar spatial approach was used by [Amram et al. \(2021\)](#) to map the impact of zoning and policy enforcement on vulnerable groups, calling for safe spatial planning policies, particularly for the homeless.

Furthermore, environmental policies must address the complex role of existing public infrastructure, particularly transit systems. While studies such as [Ding et al. \(2022\)](#) have observed that transit stations often function as de facto emergency shelters for the homeless owing to their accessibility and perceived safety, this should be distinguished from formal municipal policy. Empirical findings suggest that the homeless utilise these spaces as a survival strategy to overcome the lack of dedicated 24-h facilities. Therefore, rather than focusing on the expulsion of individuals, this study advocates for a policy shift in which terminals are reframed as integrated service hubs. In this model, transit infrastructure serves as a strategic "entry point" to connect mobile populations with formal social safety nets and permanent housing services, rather than being a permanent substitute for a shelter. [Bourlessas \(2018\)](#) strongly criticised practices such as the "politics of mobility and immobility," such as sidewalk watering and hostile architectural designs, that drive the homeless away. The solution lies in the creation of inclusive zones in city centres, thus encouraging environmental planning that respects human dignity and reduces the tension between the city's aesthetics and the basic needs of its most vulnerable citizens.

3.2.4 Economic Aspects: From Aesthetic Economics to Workforce Inclusion

The economic strategies identified in this study emerged from a systematic thematic synthesis of the included literature, in which "economic barriers" and "structural instability" were identified as primary codes during the qualitative analysis. The reviewed studies collectively recognise that the structural root causes of housing instability poverty, lack of decent work, and unaffordable housing are not merely background factors but central drivers of forced mobility. As synthesised from [Golubić et al. \(2023\)](#), homeless mobility is frequently an involuntary reaction to systemic failures, such as rent inflation and low wages. This is particularly evident in migrant and Indigenous communities, where the lack of formal economic infrastructure at the point of arrival or the presence of structural discrimination deepens the vicious cycle of poverty and homelessness ([Nyakabawu, 2023](#); [Tually et al., 2022](#)). Therefore, solutions include direct financial assistance (such as rent subsidies or basic income), rent

regulation, and programs that integrate vocational training with housing security to create basic economic stability.

Furthermore, community investment and support are cost-efficient and sustainable strategies. [Kiernan et al. \(2021\)](#) revealed the extremely high health costs resulting from the physical dysfunction of homeless people, thus encouraging budget allocations for early rehabilitation and health-integrated housing as investments that reduce the long-term costs of the crisis. In contrast, community-based solidarity economy activities, such as mobile caring work, should be viewed as low-cost, preventative social infrastructure that creates "street social capital" and prevents more costly escalations of the crisis ([Prosser, 2022](#)). Economic policies must ultimately be inclusive and counter-discriminatory, recognising street work as a survival strategy and making adequate housing a basic prerequisite for economic mobility for marginalised groups, such as Roma communities ([Teodorescu & Molina, 2021](#)). Thus, a holistic economic approach that combines direct financial interventions, investments in health and human resources, and community economic empowerment is necessary to sustainably break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

3.2.5 Educational Aspects: Lifelong Learning and Empowerment

Educational policies addressing homelessness serve as a critical supporting factor that enables long-term mobility and improves the efficiency of accessing essential services. While education does not provide immediate physical transport, it builds the "navigational capital" required for individuals to understand, claim, and reach available service networks. As synthesised by [Cutuli et al. \(2021\)](#), addressing identification failures in schools is the first step in connecting homeless youth to stable institutional support. Earlier, [Herbers et al. \(2023\)](#) emphasised the importance of universal developmental screening using tools such as the NEST to identify the neurodevelopmental status of homeless children at an early age. This allows for occupational therapy or social skills development programs tailored to each child's individual circumstances.

However, it is important to state the limitations of this dimension: education functions as a long-term enabler rather than a direct solution to immediate mobility crises. While personalised interventions and social skills programs empower individuals to access services more effectively, they cannot substitute for the lack of physical infrastructure or immediate housing. Therefore, education is most effective when integrated into a broader strategic framework, where it acts as the cognitive and social foundation for utilising the physical mobility assets discussed in previous sections. [McPherson \(2018\)](#) demonstrated how a lack of shelter restricts access to higher education as a gateway to employment among homeless youth. This situation necessitates policies such as the creation of priority housing, full scholarships, and holistic mentoring in post-compulsory educational institutions, particularly for high-achieving homeless youth. Meanwhile, [Jacobs and Geyer \(2022\)](#) used participatory methods, such as photovoice, to build digital skills and critical awareness and designed an inclusive, experience-based lifelong education curriculum for homeless children. Thus, a comprehensive education policy should span all life stages, from early identification and ongoing support for adolescents to educational empowerment for older adults, to break the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage.

3.2.6 Limitations and Future Research

This study has several limitations. Although the MMAT assessment confirmed high internal validity among the 25 included studies, this review acknowledges potential limitations regarding external validity and selection bias. Relying solely on the Scopus database with an OA filter restricted the search coverage, yielding a small sample size that primarily maps OA-accessible scholarship. This constraint limits the stability of the bibliometric mapping, as the thematic clusters may skew toward institutions with robust OA funding. Consequently, the findings exhibit a geographic bias that predominantly reflects Global North perspectives, potentially underrepresenting relevant paywalled literature and the unique dynamics of urban informality in the Global South.

Furthermore, PRISMA screening and qualitative thematic coding were conducted by a single reviewer, which introduces potential subjectivity and screening bias. Additionally, because this study relies solely on secondary literature, the proposed policy frameworks remain conceptual. Future research should address these gaps by utilising multiple databases, incorporating non-OA literature, and

employing multi-coder validation. Finally, integrating primary empirical data is essential to rigorously test and adapt these proposed strategies across diverse global urban contexts.

4. Conclusion

This study addresses two main research questions regarding the dynamics of homeless mobility from 2016 to 2025. To answer RQ1, the bibliometric analysis highlights a research trend that peaked in 2022, indicating a shift from merely describing the phenomenon toward analysing themes of resilience, spatial justice, and participatory approaches. However, a significant knowledge gap remains, as the integration of public spaces and mobility remains an underexplored niche. To answer RQ2, the thematic synthesis formulates a strategic framework that moves beyond partial approaches to encompass holistic social, environmental, economic, and educational strategies. Crucially, these findings must be interpreted within the study's methodological boundaries; the insights are drawn from a relatively small sample size of (OA) literature, which may not capture the entirety of global non-OA or grey literature.

Based on this OA literature synthesis, initial interventions, such as adopting a housing-first model, implementing trauma-informed care, and providing subsidised transportation vouchers, represent a theoretical paradigm shift from enforcement-based management to a rights-based strategy. However, it is crucial to emphasise that these policy recommendations are derived exclusively from a synthesis of (OA) literature. Therefore, they should not be interpreted as universal normative prescriptions. Instead, they serve as a foundational framework that strictly requires local empirical validation to ensure their applicability and effectiveness across diverse urban and socioeconomic contexts. As a future priority, urban research must empirically integrate spatial mobility data and initiate co-design processes that directly involve homeless communities to ensure that policies are contextually validated and effectively adapted to local urban environments.

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Data availability. The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available open access through the journal publisher

AI Use Declaration : The authors did not use AI tools at any stage of the research process, including data collection and analysis. All research activities were conducted independently by the authors without AI assistance for language editing, structural refinement, and phrasing improvements. All research activities and writing were conducted independently by the authors, who are fully responsible for the content and any errors.

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Appendix 1

Table 2. MMAT Rating Results Of Homelessness Policy Strategies Articles

No	AUTHOR, COUNTRY	JOURNAL	OBJECTIVE	SAMPLE	METHODS & INSTRUMENTS	RESULTS	STRATEGY	MMAT RATING
1.	Fogelman et al. (2025) , Denmark	<i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> , Q1	To explore the access of homeless EU migrants to welfare infrastructure and the role of service providers in Copenhagen.	35 participants (21 homeless EU migrants and 14 NGO workers).	Qualitative (Ethnography); participant observation and semi-structured interviews.	Homeless EU migrants rely heavily on "alternative infrastructure" networks provided by NGOs due to their marginalization from the official state welfare system.	Strategy (Social): Support the role of NGOs in providing parallel welfare infrastructure to guarantee migrants' basic rights through community solidarity and non-governmental social safety nets.	HIGH: Ethnographic methods and in-depth field interviews comprehensively addressed the research questions with robust data support.
2.	Carroll et al. (2025) , USA	<i>Journal of Aging & Social Policy</i> , Q1/Q2	To examine the impact of the built environment and exclusionary policies on the health and well-being of older adults experiencing homelessness (OAEH) in San Diego.	31 homeless individuals aged 50 and older.	Qualitative; semi-structured in-depth interviews and thematic analysis (grounded theory).	Forced eviction policies and urban environments lacking basic facilities significantly damage the physical health, mental health, and social ties of homeless older adults.	Strategy (Environmental): Cease the criminalization of homelessness and provide 24-hour public sanitation facilities to restore human dignity and eliminate social marginalization in public spaces.	HIGH: Strong coherence exists between research objectives, data collection through participants' lived experiences, and highly valid interpretation of results.
3.	Cutuli et al. (2019) , USA	<i>Education and Urban Society</i> , Q1	To explore integrated data usage strategies to identify homeless students in urban school districts.	Administrative data from School Districts, Offices of Homeless Services, and family surveys.	Descriptive Quantitative; secondary data analysis, geospatial mapping (GIS), and surveys.	School systems failed to identify nearly half of homeless students, particularly those who were "doubled-up," thereby hindering their access to official educational support.	Strategy (Educational): Implement cross-agency data sharing and geospatial mapping to automatically detect homeless students so their educational rights and academic assistance are met.	HIGH: This quantitative design is highly credible as it uses representative city-wide administrative data and minimizes bias through data source triangulation.
4.	Anthonj et al. (2024) , Germany	<i>Int. Journal of Hygiene & Env. Health</i> , Q1	To define WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) insecurity	17 homeless individuals and 8 service providers.	Exploratory Qualitative; semi-structured interviews, walking	WASH insecurity for the homeless is driven more by social stigma and fear of violence than by a mere	Strategy (Educational): Public education campaigns and anti-discrimination training for public facility staff are crucial to	HIGH: The use of innovative methods like walking interviews and data triangulation

No	AUTHOR, COUNTRY	JOURNAL	OBJECTIVE	SAMPLE	METHODS & INSTRUMENTS	RESULTS	STRATEGY	MMAT RATING
			and its impacts on homeless individuals.		interviews, and FGDs.	physical absence of infrastructure.	dismantling the roots of social exclusion.	provides a rich depth of information.
5.	Amir et al. (2024) , Malaysia	<i>Planning Malaysia, Q2</i>	To understand the relationship between urban street furniture and the preferences of the homeless population in Kuala Lumpur.	20 homeless respondents in the city's "Golden Triangle" area.	Qualitative; participant observation, visual interviews, and questionnaires.	The availability of street furniture, such as seating and adequate lighting, significantly influences the transit comfort and sense of safety for the homeless in public spaces.	Strategy (Social): Replacing exclusionary architecture with public-friendly designs aims to restore social dignity and the rights of the homeless as city residents.	HIGH: The research design is transparently explained with a participatory approach that yielded valid empirical findings.
6.	Herbers et al. (2023) , USA	<i>Early Childhood Research Quarterly, Q1</i>	To identify neurodevelopmental function profiles in children aged 3-5 living in shelters.	231 homeless children and their caregivers.	Quantitative; Latent Profile Analysis and web-based NEST screening.	The risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in children increases significantly if parents have mental health issues or highly reactive parenting styles.	Strategy (Educational): Early neurodevelopmental intervention and psychoeducation for parents are preventive educational steps to ensure school readiness.	HIGH: The research methodology is robust, featuring a representative sample and well-validated screening instruments.
7.	Murran & Brady (2023) , Ireland	<i>Child & Family Social Work, Q1</i>	To review the impact of family homelessness on child development for social work practice implications.	21 relevant publications from a systematic search.	Critical Literature Review; six-stage thematic analysis synthesis (Braun & Clarke).	Homelessness damages child development through social isolation, loss of play space, and increased behavioral problems and mental health disorders.	Strategy (Social): Implement a holistic family-based approach to restore social function and child psychosocial safety nets through professional social worker assistance.	HIGH: The methodology for synthesizing data from 21 literatures was conducted transparently and systematically using rigorous thematic analysis procedures.
8.	Herrera-Imbroda et al. (2023) , Spain	<i>Frontiers in Psychology, Q1</i>	To analyze the characteristics and risks of psychiatric readmission in the homeless population over the long term (10 years).	4,700+ electronic medical records of mental health inpatients.	Quantitative (Longitudinal Cohort); survival analysis, Kaplan-Meier curves, and Cox regression.	The risk of readmission is extremely high within the first 30 days, especially for those with personality disorders, but the risk decreases long-term due to mobility and mortality.	Strategy (Social): Design time-critical post-discharge intervention programs to prevent social isolation and continuously link the homeless with community services.	HIGH: The use of a large sample with strong control of confounding variables via Cox regression ensures

No	AUTHOR, COUNTRY	JOURNAL	OBJECTIVE	SAMPLE	METHODS & INSTRUMENTS	RESULTS	STRATEGY	MMAT RATING
								very high data reliability.
9.	Marinović Golubić et al. (2023) , Croatia	<i>Sociologija i prostor</i> , Q3	To explain homeless mobility through the concept of expulsion in a socio-economic context.	45 homeless individuals (street, shelter, and abandoned buildings).	Exploratory Qualitative; in-depth interviews with respondents in various living situations.	Homeless mobility is a forced movement resulting from residential expulsion and welfare service exclusion driven by unequal macro-economic policies.	Strategy (Economy): Expulsion prevention policies based on financial protection are needed to break the cycle of poverty and forced mobility triggered by economic inability.	HIGH: The researchers successfully presented a strong relationship between participants' narrative data and the theoretical framework of expulsion in a coherent and profound manner.
10	Shingirai Nyakabawu (2023) , South Africa	<i>Anthropology Southern Africa</i> , Q2	To investigate the role of social networks (arrival infrastructures) in the mobility and homelessness risk of Zimbabwean migrants.	Zimbabwean migrants in Cape Town (Case studies of Regina, Chikore, and Tasiyana).	Exploitative Qualitative; in-depth interviews with comparative analysis.	Social arrival infrastructure serves as a crucial economic bridge for migrants, while its absence triggers total isolation and street homelessness.	Strategy (Economy): Build migrant transit hubs to provide access to labor markets and initial housing as a preventive economic investment to reduce the city's social burden.	HIGH: The comparative interview approach used is very strong in demonstrating the stark contrast between migrants who have social support and those who do not.
11	Sembroski et al. (2022) , USA	<i>Health & Place</i> , Q1	To evaluate the utilization of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in homelessness research and service delivery.	19 literatures resulting from PRISMA screening across 16 databases.	Qualitative Systematic Review; systematic search and thematic data extraction.	GIS is highly effective in mapping homeless mobility and identifying spatial mismatches between population locations and service facilities.	Strategy (Environmental): Utilize GIS mapping in service spatial planning so that physical city facilities are more geographically accessible to marginalized populations.	HIGH: The literature search strategy was very comprehensive across 16 databases with a transparent and replicable PRISMA screening process.

No	AUTHOR, COUNTRY	JOURNAL	OBJECTIVE	SAMPLE	METHODS & INSTRUMENTS	RESULTS	STRATEGY	MMAT RATING
12	Selinia Tually et al. (2022) , Australia	<i>AHURI Report, Q1/Q2</i>	To understand the causes of urban Indigenous homelessness and culturally safe service responses.	Stakeholders and service providers across 4 locations (Brisbane, Darwin, Adelaide, Port Augusta).	Qualitative; multiple case studies, in-depth interviews, and secondary data analysis.	Indigenous homelessness is triggered by colonial trauma and systemic racism, but management is hindered by a lack of cultural safety in mainstream institutions.	Strategy (Economy): Support Indigenous-led services to optimize public budgets through more effective and culturally aligned housing models.	HIGH: The multiple case study framework across four regions provides rich data comparison supported by the transparency of the researchers' mature positioning.
13	Jacobs & Geyer (2022) , South Africa	<i>Social Work, Q3/Q4</i>	To explore the resilience of homeless older adults in the City of Tshwane through visual and narrative perspectives.	11 older adult participants experiencing homelessness.	Qualitative; Photovoice activity (participatory photography) and semi-structured interviews.	The resilience of homeless older adults is strongly influenced by protective factors such as social support, spirituality, and practical independence like gardening.	Strategy (Educational): Provide practical learning spaces and community gardens as non-formal education tools to hone new skills and restore older adults' self-esteem.	HIGH: The use of the Photovoice method is highly innovative in empowering homeless older adults to tell their authentic experiences visually and narratively.
14	Silvia Marcu (2022) , Spain	<i>Ethnic and Racial Studies, Q1</i>	To highlight the vulnerability of Romanian migrants in Madrid and their agency in seeking housing solidarity.	30 homeless and mobile Romanian migrants.	Qualitative; exploratory study, ethnography, and in-depth interviews.	Romanian homeless mobility is a form of active resistance against strict surveillance and an effort to build solidarity networks for survival.	Strategy (Social): Prioritize inclusive housing assistance solidarity through Housing First programs without bureaucratic barriers to strengthen migrant integration and sense of belonging.	HIGH: Substantial data from 30 in-depth interviews and field observations produced an analysis highly aligned with the theoretical foundations of marginal agency.
15	Asén et al. (2022) , Finland	<i>Nordic Social Work Research, Q2</i>	To examine how urban social work practices respond to migration and segregation in European literature.	Systematic literature regarding urban social work in Europe	Qualitative; two-stage scoping review (concept mapping and knowledge base interrogation).	Effective urban social work demands structural advocacy and the creation of respectful dialogue spaces between vulnerable migrants and professionals.	Strategy (Social): Implement structural social work focusing on rights advocacy and intercultural dialogue to build social cohesion and eliminate community stigma.	HIGH: The transparent and tiered methodological flow successfully synthesized the crucial role of

No	AUTHOR, COUNTRY	JOURNAL	OBJECTIVE	SAMPLE	METHODS & INSTRUMENTS	RESULTS	STRATEGY	MMAT RATING
				(Scoping Review).				advocacy in addressing social inequality in urban landscapes.
16	Prosser, B.M. (2022) , UK	<i>Applied Mobilities</i> , Q1/Q2	To explore informal care practices and volunteer mobility dynamics in homelessness outreach projects.	Grassroots volunteers in Brighton & Hove.	Qualitative; participatory walking interviews.	Grassroots volunteers create crucial "spaces of care" networks to fill the gaps left by rigid formal state service systems.	Strategy (Economy): Provide operational subsidies for volunteer networks as an emergency economic safety net that distributes material resources for free to the homeless.	HIGH: The innovative walking interview methodology successfully captured the dynamics of mobility and care work authentically according to the theoretical framework.
17	Ding et al. (2022) , USA	<i>Transport Reviews</i> , Q1	To review the issues of homeless presence in public transit facilities and evaluate transport agency policy responses.	Public transportation agencies/institutions in the USA.	Literature Review and Institutional Survey using questionnaires sent to transport agencies.	Transportation facilities are increasingly becoming emergency shelters, triggering a policy shift from punitive actions toward integrated social interventions.	Strategy (Environmental): Establish physical service hubs (sanitation and medical) inside stations to re-engineer public infrastructure to be adaptive to the needs of marginalized groups.	HIGH: This study excellently synthesizes institutional survey data and literature, providing solid empirical insights into spatial phenomena.
18	Kiernan et al. (2021) , Ireland	<i>Scientific Reports (Nature)</i> , Q1	To evaluate physical function variables in the homeless population admitted to acute hospitals for service planning.	65 homeless inpatients (aged 23-80).	Quantitative; observational cross-sectional study via functional clinical testing (mobility, strength, frailty).	The homeless experience severe premature physical aging; the majority face mobility limitations and frailty regardless of their chronological age.	Strategy (Economy): Allocate funds for transitional care facilities to increase health budget efficiency by preventing expensive emergency inpatient cycles.	HIGH: The clinical measurement design is highly objective and robust, using validated instruments that minimize bias in evaluating subject physical function.

No	AUTHOR, COUNTRY	JOURNAL	OBJECTIVE	SAMPLE	METHODS & INSTRUMENTS	RESULTS	STRATEGY	MMAT RATING
19	Amram et al. (2021), Canada	<i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i> , Q1	To identify geographic patterns of workplace mobility among sex workers and its drivers over 6 years.	543 participants with a total of 2,199 observation points.	Quantitative (Longitudinal Cohort); kernel density mapping and GEE regression models.	The majority of sex workers experience high mobility triggered by structural marginalization and forced displacement from public spaces, rather than mere economic pursuit.	Strategy (Environmental): Legalize safe indoor workspaces to relocate vulnerable groups from violence-prone open streets to physically controlled infrastructure.	HIGH: Methodological strength is very high due to the use of 6-year longitudinal data and accurate, advanced spatial analysis.
20	Teodorescu & Molina (2021), Sweden & Romania	<i>Int. Journal of Housing Policy</i> , Q1/Q2	To reflect on the relationship between racialization and highly vulnerable housing conditions among the Roma ethnic group (street workers).	Roma street workers in Uppsala and origin communities in Romania.	Qualitative (Multi-sited approach); in-depth interviews and participant observation.	The Roma are caught in a vicious cycle of transnational "forced nomadism" due to systemic racism and a lack of right to adequate housing in both origin and destination countries.	Strategy (Economy): Integrate migrant workers into the formal labor market to build financial independence, enabling them to rent decent housing independently.	HIGH: The multi-sited research design is extraordinary in capturing mobility phenomena from both sides (origin and destination) empirically and theoretically.
21	Rogans-Watson et al. (2020), UK	<i>Housing, Care and Support</i> , Q2/Q3	To assess frailty and multimorbidity levels in the homeless through Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA).	33 single residents in a London hostel.	Quantitative (Cross-sectional); clinical interviews and Fried's phenotype model indicators.	The homeless experience severe premature physical aging; the average age of 55 has physical frailty levels equivalent to the general population aged 89.	Strategy (Social): Implement daily functional needs-based care in shelters to create social safety nets for those aging prematurely.	HIGH: Variable measurement is highly objective using standard validated clinical instruments, providing a strong comparative context against the general population.
22	Peiter et al. (2019), Brazil	<i>Social Science & Medicine</i> , Q1	To analyze the relationship between homeless crack users and their territories and the development of social health support networks.	10 crack users, 11 healthcare workers, and 6 FGD participants.	Qualitative; in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and participant	Crack users build crucial informal support networks with street clinic workers as a survival strategy amidst police repression and high mobility.	Strategy (Social): Strengthen "Street Clinic" networks to build community safety nets based on human relations and social solidarity.	HIGH: The extensive use of dual methods over 2 years is ideal for capturing the complex reality of hard-to-reach

No	AUTHOR, COUNTRY	JOURNAL	OBJECTIVE	SAMPLE	METHODS & INSTRUMENTS	RESULTS	STRATEGY	MMAT RATING
					observation (2014-2016).			marginalized populations.
23	Bourlessas (2018) , Greece	<i>Mobilities</i> , Q1	To highlight movement characteristics in homeless geography and the political dynamics of their subjectivity in central Athens.	Homeless individuals in central Athens (Invisible Tours project participants).	Qualitative; Urban Ethnography, participant observation, and field interviews.	The homeless in Athens experience forced mobility due to city infrastructure that forbids them from settling, but they respond with active spatial resistance.	Strategy (Environmental): Remove defensive architecture and redesign public spaces to provide safe resting areas for marginalized groups.	HIGH: Immersive ethnographic methods successfully captured the phenomena of mobility and spatial resistance in line with the "new mobilities paradigm" theory.
24	McPherson (2018) , USA	<i>Int. Journal of Learning</i> , Q3/Q4	To explore the impact of unaccompanied youth homelessness (single mothers) on post-compulsory education pursuit and job mobility.	Two single mothers with a history of youth homelessness.	Qualitative; Phenomenological Study and Life Course Narrative Analysis.	Access to post-compulsory education is a major turning point that lifts single mothers out of homelessness and enables stable job mobility.	Strategy (Educational): Design adaptive higher education support pathways (scholarships and childcare) to permanently break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.	HIGH: The life course analysis is highly appropriate for extracting rich subjective experiences, despite the small sample size.
25	Smith & Hall (2016) , UK	<i>Applied Mobilities</i> , Q1/Q2	To describe the physical mobility of social workers in supervising and caring for homeless clients in public spaces.	Street outreach social care worker teams in Cardiff.	Qualitative; Ethnography, participant observation, and walking interviews.	Social worker pedestrian mobility is a crucial component of "care work," enabling direct interaction with the homeless on the streets.	Strategy (Social): Adopt proactive mobile outreach service models to restore social capital and dignity to the homeless through physical presence in urban spaces.	HIGH: Sustained ethnographic engagement successfully produced a strong theoretical typology based on field micro-dynamics of movement.

Appendix 2

Search Strategy Pilot Test (Precision vs. Noise)

To ensure this systematic literature review focused precisely on the intersection of physical movement and unhoused populations, a pilot test was conducted in the Scopus database to evaluate the trade-off between search breadth and relevance (precision vs. noise).

1. **Broad Query (High Noise):** An initial test using broader terminology, specifically:
TITLE-ABS-KEY ("HOMELESS" AND "CITY")
yielded approximately >3,600 documents. While comprehensive, this query generated excessive "noise." The results were heavily saturated with general urban studies, broad public health statistics, and city administration policies that discussed homelessness but completely lacked the crucial dimension of *spatial mobility* or movement.
2. **Targeted Query (High Precision):** To eliminate this noise and strictly align with the research questions regarding spatial access and movement, the query was refined to:
TITLE-ABS-KEY ("MOBILITY" AND "HOMELESSNESS")
The formal data extraction conducted on December 7, 2025, yielded exactly **357 documents**. This precise combination successfully isolated the core socio-spatial discourse required for the review.
3. **Temporal Verification:** A subsequent verification search conducted on February 24, 2026, using the same targeted query returned 361 documents. This indicates a natural, minor progression of newly indexed publications (an addition of 4 articles) over the two-month period, which confirms the stability of the query and justifies the use of the 357 documents as the finalized dataset for this study's timeframe.