

AI Street-Homelessness Detection — Uruguay Repurposes Police Camera Analytics for Welfare Outreach, and Cannot Yet Measure It

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Uruguay

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Uruguay's Interior Ministry repurposed its crime-detection camera AI to flag people sleeping on Montevideo's streets, alerting Mides teams to offer shelter. Active since late 2023, officials admit they cannot measure how many homeless people the system finds or helps.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	0/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-16

[Ministerio de Desarrollo Social \(Mides\) with Ministerio del Interior / Centro de Comando Unificado](#) — accessed 2026-08-16

[Montevideo Portal](#) — system confirmed operational — accessed 2026-08-16

[Infobae](#) — original August 2023 announcement — accessed 2026-08-16

[Prensa Latina](#) — June 2025 cold-wave operation — accessed 2026-08-16

[Mides](#) — 2023 street-count census report (PDF) — accessed 2026-08-16

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