



# **Point-in-Time Count 2021 2getherWeCount!**



## **Dénombrement ponctuel 2021 Chacun de nous compte!**

Presented to:



**Cochrane District  
Social Services  
Administration Board**



**Conseil  
d'administration des  
services sociaux du  
district de Cochrane**

**Board of Directors  
Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board**

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# Acknowledgements

The 2021 Point-in-Time Count, and By-Name List report represents the culmination of the work of many dedicated community partners, service providers, frontline staff, and community volunteers who assisted the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB) to continue the dialogue, learning, and evaluation of homelessness.

The 2021 *Point-in-Time Count and By-Name List Advisory Group* would like to thank everyone who contributed their valuable time - before, during, and after- to the Point-in-Time Count taking place across the CDSSAB region. The 2021 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Registry Week was made possible by the collaboration of multiple community agencies, organizations, and individuals. The strong community engagement for the PiT Count shows there is much interest and support to make strides in achieving the goal of ending homelessness.

A special recognition to the important contributions from the Municipalities in the CDSSAB region for their participation and support in the process to inform about the Point-in-Time Count in their respective communities.

Most of all, a big thank you to all the participants who took the time to complete the survey and share their stories to help us better understand their experiences of homelessness in the CDSSAB region. *Thank you. Merci. Miigwetch.*

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Cochrane District  
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Conseil  
d'administration des  
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*“It is with continued partnerships and open-mindedness that we can work together toward long-term solutions and better options for those experiencing homelessness.”*  
- Community Service Provider

# Executive Summary

As part of the Province's efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2025 and the long-term goal to end homelessness, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing communicated to Service Managers and sector organizations its intention to not only continue with Point-in-Time Counts (PiT) which began in 2017, but also introduce By-Name Lists (BNL) across Ontario in 2021. Local homeless enumeration, said differently, the Point-in-Time method, is more than a tool used to count the number of people experiencing homelessness on a given day/night. It is a strategy used to provide insight into the nature and extent of homelessness within a community. The survey collects data about the demographics, history, and service needs of those experiencing homelessness to help guide decision-makers, planners, and service providers in directing resources to areas of greatest need.

In April 2021, an Advisory Group was established in order to provide expertise, guidance, and support regarding the planning and implementation of a successful Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and By-Name List (BNL). In addition, a Lead Coordinator was hired to lead the initiative with the support of the Advisory Group.

As part of a methodology and a region-wide communication strategy, for a twenty-four (24) hour period (00:00 to 11:59pm), on August 25<sup>th</sup>, anonymous information was gathered from individuals who consented to complete the survey for the count. In addition, for those who were *not* surveyed -who declined and/or were observed only, but who were clearly experiencing homelessness-, surveyors indicated the information on a tally sheet with a rationale (i.e., asleep outside with belongings).

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, over 90 trained volunteers, a cross-sector of service agency staff, community partners, and local citizens, participated in the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB) region's second PiT Count and survey and first ever By-Name List (BNL) implementation. This extensive effort counted 312 individuals who experienced homelessness within the 24-hour period of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, volunteers conducted approximately 242 surveys with people experiencing homelessness across the region, providing an invaluable set of personal histories, experiences, and needs. An incentive was provided to individuals who completed the survey. The 2021 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count occurred at a unique time in history: end of the third wave of the global pandemic. Although a formal pandemic response was put into place in order to conduct the count safely, it is possible that such could have influenced people's decisions to participate in the count.



## Enumeration Results 25.08.2021

Briefly stated, the 2021 PiT Count for the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB) region should be treated as an underestimate. Some individuals value their privacy and prefer not to participate in the survey while others experiencing “hidden homelessness” are difficult to reach and, therefore, would not be fully included in this count.

As per the last CDSSAB region enumeration (PiT) taking place on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 (Kauppi et al., 2019), a total of 111 people participated in the PiT Count. It is unknown if this number reflects individuals who completed survey or includes both individuals who completed the survey and those who didn't but were observed as experiencing homelessness.

During the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, PiT Count in the CDSSAB region, a total of 242 people participated in the survey (approximate increase of 120% from 2018) and a total of 312 (approximate increase of 180% from 2018) people participated in the survey and people observed as experiencing homelessness but did not participate in the survey.

The typology of homelessness of the 242 survey participants is as follows:

	<b>TOTAL</b>
Unsheltered and Unknown	39
Emergency Sheltered	81
Provisionally Accommodated	47
Other Locations*	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>242</b>

*\*includes in a vehicle, couch surfing at friends' and family members' homes/staying there as no available homes.*

*Chronic homeless is a top priority.* One of the required reporting data for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) includes chronicity of homelessness. As per the definition from Reaching Home, chronic homelessness refers to at least 6 months of homelessness over the past year or 18 months over the past 3 years (2021, [www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/homelessness/directives](http://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/homelessness/directives)). Of the 242 people who completed the survey, 149 (62%) people are experiencing chronic homelessness. In terms of location of the 149 people:

- 85 are in Timmins
- 30 are in Moosonee
- 25 are in Monteith Correctional Complex
- 7 are in Cochrane
- 2 are in Kapuskasing

Although not captured in the preceding, and based on survey results, there is a number of people approaching chronic homelessness and others who are experiencing episodic homelessness and at risk of homelessness (i.e. hidden homelessness). It would be important for future counts to consider ways to capture these populations.

*People of Indigenous ancestry are over-represented.* Similar to the 2018 enumeration, a significant finding is of the 242 people who completed the survey, 198 (82%) identify as Indigenous. Of the 198, Timmins has the highest population at 111 (56%), followed by Moosonee at 42 (21%). It is important to note that of the 198, 28 (14%) of survey participants who identified as Indigenous were incarcerated at the time. On the topic of incarceration, of the 242 survey respondent, 43 (18%) people identified incarceration (prison) as a reason for losing their housing.

*Men and the 30-39 age are the majority.* Among those who responded to the survey, women accounted for 37% of the total homeless population (89 individuals) while men represented 62% (150 individuals). Less than 1% identified as non-binary in the survey. While there is a significant gap between the genders, much research supports that women's homelessness is grossly underestimated and misunderstood. Several underlying causes explain such. For instance, and although it may be done unintentionally, concerns of institutional sexism in most service systems including homelessness, discriminate against women by affording men greater advantages and better opportunities. Other key data pertains to demographics. With regard to survey participant age, the majority experiencing homelessness are between the ages of 30-39 (46%) followed by 18 to 29 (22%).

*Overall health of people experiencing homelessness presents concern.* In terms of health issues, of the 242 people who completed the survey, 187 (77%) confirmed having a substance use issue, 130 (54%) confirmed having a mental health issue. It is important to mention that most respondents identified multiple health issues, for instance, cognitive limitations coupled with substance use.

A local By-Name List (BNL) has been established since the Spring 2020, focusing on Timmins area and not the remainder of the Cochrane District. The Living Space is the lead on this initiative. In terms of its current use, the BNL is an excel document based on the spreadsheet and BNL processes from Windsor/Essex County. It meets foundational requirements for a quality BNL as per Built for Zero guidelines. At present, the BNL is being populated into the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), the primary database for tracking the BNL.

There are 153 people registered on the local BNL. Although the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, PiT Count did not generate more registrations to the BNL, (for example, a BNL registry week took place the week leading up to the count), conversations with participants about BNL and local services transpired. Specifically, 62% of people who completed the survey, requested more information about services in their respective area. Currently, planning is taking place to develop next steps to implement a BNL that covers the CDSSAB region.



The PiT Count and BNL approaches provide concrete data and examples of the complexity of the homelessness challenge in the CDSSAB region and gives light to the myriad issues faced by those who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, or precariously housed. The data collected will be used to not only understand the characteristics of individuals that make up the homeless population but also to improve services and programs for those individuals and increase public awareness of homelessness. The information will also be used to provide key recommendations to create new space toward ending homelessness, prioritizing service needs, as well as continuing the dialogue and writing the narrative about how together- organizations, government, and community members- can end homelessness.



*“Being homeless has made me feel like I live on the outskirts of society.”  
-Individual experiencing homelessness*



# 2getherWeCount: Point-in-Time Count 2021 at a Glance

**Pit Count**

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021....

**312** individuals were experiencing homelessness in the CDSSAB region.

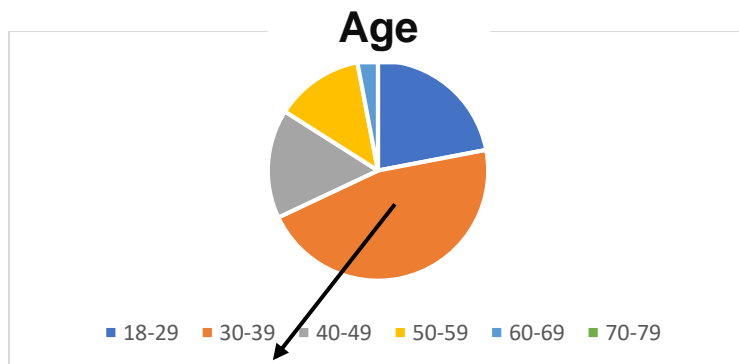
**242** people individuals participated in the homeless needs survey, representing over half of those enumerated.

**39**  
  
**Unsheltered and Unknown**

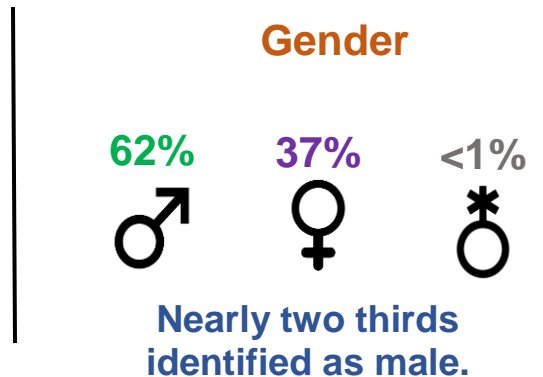
**81**  
  
**Emergency Sheltered**

**47**  
  
**Provisionally Accommodated**

**75**  
  
**Other**




The majority experiencing homelessness are between the ages of 30-39



Nearly two thirds identified as male.

**Indigenous**  
Of the 242 people who completed the survey, **82%** identify as Indigenous.

**History of Child Welfare**  
**43%**  
  
were in government care as a child or youth.





# 2getherWeCount: Point-in-Time Count 2021 at a Glance

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021....

## Long-Term Homelessness

62%



of survey respondents are experiencing chronic homelessness.

## Overall Health Challenges



77%

confirmed having a substance use issue.

54%

confirmed having a mental health issue.

80%

identified experiencing multiple health issues.

## Income Sources

79%

Government Disability/  
Social Assistance



8%

FT or PT  
or Casual  
Work

## Need for Housing and Services

- More than 85% want housing.
- Top challenges to finding housing:
  - Unaffordable rent
  - Lack of available and suitable options
- 62% of respondents requested more information about services in their area.



# Setting the Context

*Homelessness impacts all of us, whether or not we experience it ourselves.* Having a home has significant meaning – belonging, comfort, security, and stability - and is the foundation for a decent standard of living. It is a basic human necessity and right. Yet for many people, with a focus on individuals living in the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB) region, adequate and affordable housing is out of their reach. The loss of this foundation is caused by a complex interaction between structural factors (economic and societal issues), system failures (policy and services), and individual circumstances (i.e., mental health and addiction challenges). As a result, homelessness can lead to poor health, barriers to education and employment, and social isolation (Gaetz & al., 2013, [homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC2103.pdf](https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC2103.pdf)).

*Homelessness is a public health problem.* As part of the province's efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2025 and the long-term goal to end homelessness, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) communicated to Service Managers and sector organizations its intention to not only continue with Point-in-Time Counts (PiT) which began in 2017, but also introduce By-Name Lists (BNL) across Ontario in 2021. Due to the limitations in the 2018 data, MMAH paused enumeration requirements in 2020 to reassess our approach. Not only will the implementation of BNL go beyond a snapshot of anonymous data to gathering real-time information but also help individuals experiencing homelessness connect to the local housing and supports they need.

Local homeless enumeration, said differently, the Point-in-Time (PiT) method, is more than a tool used to count the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on a given day/night. The PiT approach includes core standards and a consistent methodology to guide communities in gathering essential information to help provide a national, provincial, and local lens of people experiencing different types of homelessness (2020, [www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/crd-pit-count-2020-community-report-2020-07-31.pdf](https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/crd-pit-count-2020-community-report-2020-07-31.pdf)).

PiT is a strategy used to provide insight into the nature and extent of homelessness within a community. The PiT survey collects data about the demographics, history, and service needs of those experiencing homelessness to help inform and guide decision-makers, planners, and service providers in directing resources to areas of greatest need. However, the PiT homeless data only represents people staying in key facilities and those who are approached and consent to participating in the survey. Therefore, the PiT enumeration is known to be an undercount of the homeless population in any community.

Homelessness describes a range of housing and shelter circumstances and encompasses a range of physical living situations. For the purposes of this study and data requirements, the following definitions were provided by the MMHA:

**Unsheltered** - Or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation (tents, vehicles, etc).

**Emergency Sheltered** - Individuals staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence.

**Provisionally Accommodated** – Individuals having no fixed address and staying in accommodation that is temporary or lacks security of tenure (2021, [www.ontario.ca/page/ministers-directive-enumeration-homelessness](http://www.ontario.ca/page/ministers-directive-enumeration-homelessness)).

The 2021 PiT Count in the CDSSAB region aligns with the preceding and widely-accepted definitions of homelessness. However, and building on its limitations, the PiT Count does not enumerate nor survey people who are at **risk of homelessness**. As defined in *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy*, the definition of at risk for homelessness is stated as "people who are not homeless, but current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards" (2020, [www.canada.ca/en/employmentsocialdevelopment/homelessness/directives](http://www.canada.ca/en/employmentsocialdevelopment/homelessness/directives))



While difficult to substantiate, the number of individuals who are at risk of homelessness measured as a percentage of the total population confirms that homelessness is a serious issue in the District of Cochrane. Specifically, during the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, PiT Count in the CDSSAB region, of the 242 people surveyed, a total of 75 people (31%) confirmed couch surfing with family, friends, acquaintances as they do not have a place of their own. The reasons for such include lack of available, affordable and safe housing.



It is important to mention two more definitions found in the *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (2020)*:

**Chronic Homelessness** - Currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year.

**Episodic Homelessness** - Currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year (2020, [www.canada.ca/en/employmentsocialdevelopment/homelessness/directives](http://www.canada.ca/en/employmentsocialdevelopment/homelessness/directives)).

One of the required reporting data for the MMAH includes chronicity of homelessness. Of the 242 people who completed the survey for the purposes of this study, 149 (62%) people are experiencing chronic homelessness; nearly 50% higher than results researched and noted in Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board's 2019 report entitled, *A Blueprint for Sustainability, 10 Year Housing Plan* ([www.cdssab.on.ca/images/support/HS/10 Year Housing Plan Update CDSSAB Dec 12 2019.pdf](http://www.cdssab.on.ca/images/support/HS/10%20Year%20Housing%20Plan%20Update%20CDSSAB%20Dec%2012%202019.pdf)).

*Most importantly, homelessness is a human tragedy.* High rental housing costs, low vacancy rates, lack of affordable housing, and inadequate incomes make it challenging for many individuals living in the CDSSAB region to afford housing, find housing, and meet the costs of daily living, contributing to homelessness. As noted in the 2019 report, *A Blueprint for Sustainability, 10 Year Housing Plan*, in comparison with national rates, 5 of 7 communities in the CDSSAB region have a higher rate of homelessness than 5 Canadian cities (Vancouver, Kelowna, Red Deer, Lethbridge, and Toronto). Furthermore, the report documents that the vacancy rate in the CDSSAB region is 6.4%, where 3% is a healthy rate (Ibid). And finally, only 43% of households can afford to buy a home at the average resale price in the District of Cochrane.

Furthermore, the preceding housing market and income factors are exacerbated by other systemic, economic, structural, societal, and personal contributing factors that affect many homeless and at-risk individuals in the CDSSAB region. Based on the 2021 PiT Count results, people experiencing homelessness in the CDSSAB region are diverse; more specifically, in age, gender, and ethnic backgrounds, have unique experiences and needs for services; and have mixed incomes, household arrangements and reasons for becoming homeless. This report reflects that diversity while highlighting important current trends.

Furthermore, it is noted that studies are consistent in identifying that the costs for addressing and ending homelessness and complex issues are lower than the costs for managing them through emergency and response services. It is anticipated that, in moving towards a resolution in the long term, there will be reduced demands on the system. This reduction is anticipated to include, but not be limited to reduction in calls for service for policing, and reduction in emergency room visits and hospital admittances.

“Taxpayers funded a decade of relative inaction on homelessness that cost nearly \$50 billion.”  
- Gaetz, 2012,

To understand the homelessness issues in the region, a change in how we think about the issues, how we frame and write the narrative, and how to best address them is required. We all share in the responsibility of ownership for and addressing the complex issues the communities in the CDSSAB region are currently facing. In light of this common ground, there needs to be an acknowledgement of accountability, not just within our respective communities but also in a broader sense, with all levels of government actively working together towards successful, sustainable, and better yet upstream strategies needed to move forward. Together, in partnership, we need to share in the vision and strategic planning of objectives to address and end homelessness.

# Methodology

The 2021 CDSSAB region PiT Count provided a snapshot of people experiencing homelessness on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A Registry Week, that took place in Timmins, was held from August 18<sup>th</sup> to August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Living Space. A Registry Week aims not only to share information about the PiT Count but also allows frontline staff to explain the By-Name List (BNL). A BNL is an ongoing real-time list of people experiencing homelessness in a community. A BNL can be used to connect people to a range of housing options and supports. In addition, it helps to provide a better understanding of the movement into and out of homelessness and is a necessary tool to measure progress to ending homelessness. Using the PiT Count approach, the two components required to conduct local homeless enumeration are:

1. The Count:

Counting the number of people who are experiencing homelessness - the goal is to get as complete a count as possible of people experiencing homelessness on a single day/night for the Service Manager area (refer to Appendices B and C); and,

2. The Survey:

Collecting information from people experiencing homelessness via survey. The goal is to provide information about the characteristics and circumstances of people experiencing homelessness, based on people willing and able to participate in the survey (refer to Appendix B)

For the purposes of this study, the PiT Count and the survey occurred together on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The survey tool consisted of a core set of questions to ensure that a common set of data points would be collected for each person who is surveyed. The 2021 PiT Count survey included 17 questions that were key in gathering the necessary data as per the Minister's Directive. Aside from this detailed analysis, a brief report noting only the data was submitted to the MMHA. Prior to conducting the survey, a number of screening questions were asked to determine whether participants were eligible to continue or not.



The preceding questions were asked to not only control duplication but also and most importantly, to ensure that participation was completely voluntary.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, over 90 trained volunteers, that is, a cross-sector of service agency staff, community partners, and local citizens provided time and assistance in the CDSSAB's second Point-in-Time Count and survey and first ever By-Name List (BNL) implementation.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, volunteers conducted approximately 242 surveys with people experiencing homelessness across the region, providing an invaluable set of personal histories, experiences, and needs. To thank them for their time, an honorarium was provided to individuals who completed the survey. The 2021 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count occurred at a unique time in history: end of the third wave of the global pandemic. Although a formal pandemic response was put into place in order to conduct the count safely, it is possible that such could have influenced people's decisions to participate in the count.

During the 24-hour period of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, approximately 90 trained volunteers administered surveys at 24 survey locations throughout the CDSSAB region (homeless service agencies, health facilities, correction centre, shelter facilities). In addition and in order to ensure the greatest coverage possible of the district:

- 5 mobile and outreach teams (Cochrane, Moosonee, Kapuskasing, and 2 in Timmins) targeted high priority locations to survey people experiencing homelessness found outdoors (refer to Appendix A).
- A number of service providers scheduled phone interviews to conduct the survey.
- As requested for a few days following the count, service providers identified and shared numbers of any new or current individuals accessing their services who indicated being homeless on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Volunteers were trained to treat everyone with respect, informing those surveyed that they could refuse to answer questions or stop the survey at any time. Participants' safety and comfort were top priority. Consideration was taken to minimize any risks of harm from the survey questions – the survey was voluntary, and an emergency resource information sheet was available (refer to Appendix D).

The PiT Count and BNL provided an opportunity to engage people with lived experience. For example, a few of the volunteers who have lived experience of homelessness, assisted with the training process, provided tips and strategies as well as supported other volunteers with conducting the survey.

This extensive effort counted 312 individuals who experienced homelessness within the 24-hour period of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



### *Limitations of PiT Count*

A PiT Count is only a snapshot of homelessness. In other words, it is difficult to enumerate everyone who is experiencing homelessness in the CDSSAB region within a 24 hour period. It does not give a fulsome, accurate, and overall picture of people at risk of housing loss, people who are couch surfing, and people who cycle in and out of homelessness— simply put, it is not meant to be a census. Thus, the PiT Count should be viewed as a minimum estimate of individuals experiencing homelessness in the CDSSAB region.



In addition, the PiT Count is not meant to reflect the experiences of homelessness through a year, or better yet, the complete scope of homelessness within the region.

It is **important** to point out that individuals experiencing homelessness may not always identify as homeless, may not access typical shelters or services designed for homeless populations, and most likely, will not be found at survey locations on the day of the PiT Count, thus making it challenging to reach out to, count, and survey every person experiencing homelessness in the region. Further, fluctuations in numbers might, in some part, may be due to the pandemic.

In terms of duplication, one of the screening questions include whether participants already completed a survey, but with an honorarium and multiple survey locations, there is a reasonable likelihood of having duplicate surveys. The anonymous PiT survey makes it challenging to identify duplicate surveys.

Because of the preceding limitations, data from PiT Counts and surveys cannot be used to suggest accurate trends in the types of homelessness being experienced from year to year in the CDSSAB region. However, the limitations of this method should not prevent the CDSSAB region from undertaking a PiT Count. A PiT Count will not only yield worthwhile data but also enable the CDSSAB region to measure progress in reducing homelessness and test the efficacy of current services and interventions. As noted in *Point-in-Time Count Toolkit* (2017), a PiT Count can increase a community’s capability to end homelessness by identifying the “characteristics of the local population, increasing capacity to undertake a needs assessment, enhancing system planning and program development, measuring progress toward ending homelessness, and increasing public awareness about homelessness” (2017, [hhomelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Point-in-Time\\_Count\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://hhomelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Point-in-Time_Count_Toolkit.pdf)).



# Results and Findings

At least

**312**

individuals were experiencing homelessness in the CDSSAB region on August 25, 2021

**39**  
Unsheltered



**81**  
Emergency Sheltered



**47**  
Public Systems



**75**  
Couch Surfing



**39** stayed in unsheltered locations, such as a public space, park, vehicle, or other place not intended for human habitation.

**81** in emergency shelters, and domestic violence shelters for emergency accommodation.

**47** stayed in public system settings with no home to return to, such as correctional, hospitals, and treatment centres.

At least **\*75** stayed with a friend, family member, or stranger, or at a hotel/motel, because they do not have a secure place of their own.

In total, **120** people were unsheltered and emergency sheltered.

A total of **122** were provisionally accommodated.

Another **70** were observed as experiencing homelessness.

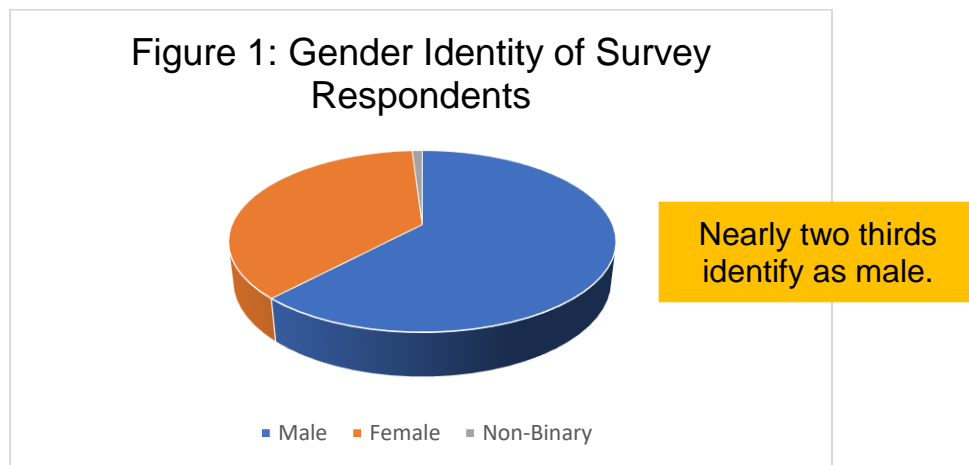
*\*The total number of individuals counted to be couch surfing in the 2021 PiT Count is a gross undercount as it solely relies on the PiT methodology. There are likely many couch surfing individuals in the CDSSAB region not accessing services who did not know about the count.*

Although the 2021 study is exclusive to a PiT Count (where in 2018, a PiT and a Period Prevalence Count were completed), the preceding confirms continued and growing concerns pertaining to homelessness in the CDSSAB region.

The following responses are taken from the 242 people who answered the Point-in-Time Count survey on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (refer to Appendix B). The number of surveys represents more than half of the population enumerated, implying the results can be considered a good representation of the broader homeless population in the CDSSAB region. The charts and graphs in this section are based on all 242 respondents, unless otherwise indicated.

### Gender

Among those who responded to the question, women accounted for 37% of the total homeless population (89 individuals) while men represented 62% (150 individuals). <1% identified as non-binary in the survey. Figure 1 presents the preceding results.



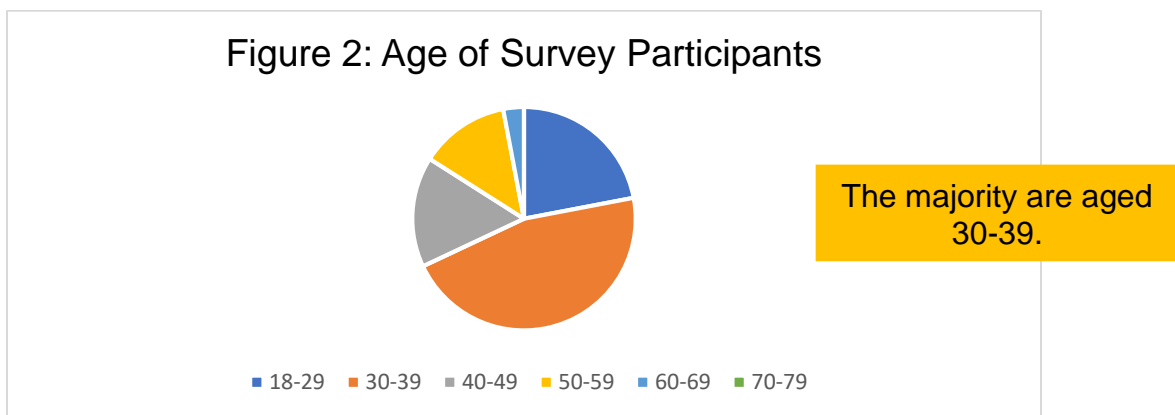
This is similar to the 2018 PiT study; both years over-represent men in experiencing homelessness in the CDSSAB region. Although the exact percentage is not identified in the 2021 PiT Count, there are notable differences in the type of sheltering location by gender. For instance, there are more women provisionally accommodated than emergency sheltered or unsheltered, whereas men's sheltering locations were relatively between the three sheltering categories: emergency sheltered, correctional complex, and unsheltered.

While there is a significant gap between the genders, much research supports that women's homelessness is grossly underestimated and several underlying causes explain such. For instance, and although it may be done unintentionally, concerns of institutional sexism in most service systems including homelessness, discriminate against women by affording men greater advantages and better opportunities. As mentioned in the report

entitled *Pan-Canadian Women's Housing & Homelessness Survey*, available research underestimates the scale of women's homelessness in Canada, because "women are more likely to experience hidden homelessness, they are less likely to appear in shelters, drop-ins, public spaces, or social services. This means that women are undercounted in data, research, and PiT Counts" (Schwan & al., 2021, [womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/EN-Pan-Canadian-Womens-Housing-Homelessness-Survey-FINAL-28-Sept-2021.pdf](https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/EN-Pan-Canadian-Womens-Housing-Homelessness-Survey-FINAL-28-Sept-2021.pdf)) .

### Age

A wide range of ages are represented in the survey population, with the youngest age 18 and the oldest age 74 (as part of the research ethics, surveys were not conducted with anyone under the age of 18). Figure 2 illustrates that the majority experiencing homelessness are between the ages of 30-39 (46%) followed by 18 to 29 (22%) and 40 to 49 (16%). A higher percentage of those between 25 and 40 were unsheltered.



### Long-Term Homelessness

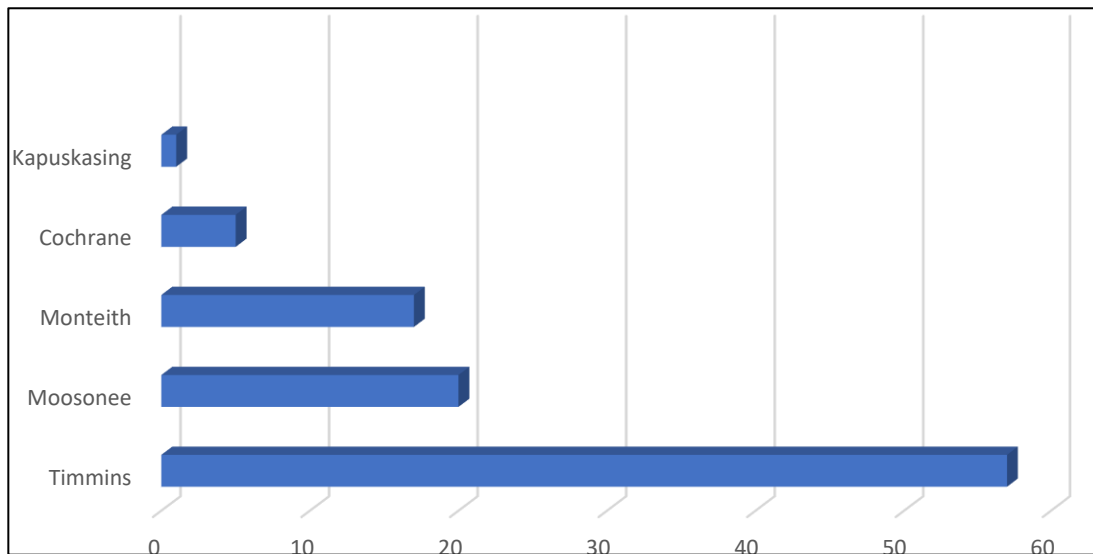
One of the required reporting data for the MMAH includes chronicity of homelessness. Of the 242 people who completed the survey, 149 (62%) people are experiencing chronic homelessness. More specifically, of the 149 people:

- 85 are in Timmins
- 30 are in Moosonee
- 25 are in Monteith Correctional Complex\*
- 7 are in Cochrane
- 2 are in Kapuskasing

\*Individuals are from the CDSSAB area.

Figure 3 presents the preceding results.

Figure 3: Chronic Homelessness by Location



Although not captured in the preceding yet based on the results of the 242 surveys completed, 89 individuals (37%) indicated they are approaching chronic homelessness, experiencing episodic homelessness and at risk of homelessness (i.e. hidden homelessness). As noted earlier, the hidden homelessness population falls under the category of "provisionally accommodated." It refers to people who do not pay rent, live temporarily with others (family and friends) and do not have the ability to secure their own housing immediately or in the near future. In the report entitled *Homelessness and Hidden Homelessness in Rural and Northern Ontario* (2017), "this target population [hidden homelessness] is considered to be 'hidden' because they usually do not access homeless supports and services even though they are improperly or inadequately housed" (Kauppi & al., 2017, [www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/file.aspx?id=ae34c456-6c9f-4c95-9888-1d9e1a81ae9a](http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/file.aspx?id=ae34c456-6c9f-4c95-9888-1d9e1a81ae9a)). For many found in this target population, they do not define themselves as homeless nor do they believe that services will meet their needs. It is a problem that is growing, but one that can be solved.

### Family composition

Of the 242 respondents, 171 (71%) were single or had no family members with them on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, while 17 (7%) were accompanied by child(ren), 10 (4%) with a partner, and 19 (8%) with a friend or family member.



71% who are homeless are alone.

## *Indigenous Identity*

Although housing on reserve is a significant crisis from coast-to-coast-to-coast, Indigenous Peoples living in urban areas experience homelessness at a disproportionate rate and make up a significant percentage of people experiencing homelessness in Canadian cities. This is no different in the CDSSAB region. Similar to the 2018 enumeration, a significant finding is of the 242 people who completed the survey, 198 (82%) identify as Indigenous, 36 (15%) as White, and 13 (5%) as racialized. Of the 198, Timmins has the highest population at 111 (56%), followed by Moosonee at 42 (21%). It is important to note that of the 198 participants who identify as Indigenous, 28 (14%) are incarcerated.

It is important to mention that of the 198 participants who identify as Indigenous, 33 (17%) state losing their housing due to discrimination. Discrimination occurs when an individual is treated differently than another based on a characteristic or an interplay of them (i.e. race, sexual orientation, religion, etc.). Discriminatory practices commonly occur with Indigenous Peoples; essentially, they are denied housing more often than other individuals. A study conducted in Winnipeg confirmed that one in three Indigenous individuals scoping out a potential listing were told it had already been rented, thus pushing them to seek housing in uninhabitable regions (2021, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/legal-justice-issues/discrimination>).

In light of the preceding, the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the homeless population continues to be researched and documented, therefore it is important to consider the colonization and cultural genocide of Indigenous Peoples that has allowed for this significant disparity.

As noted in the Homeless Hub (2021), when analyzing homelessness amongst Indigenous Peoples, it is considered as a,

Consequence resulting from Canada's history of colonization and exploitation of Indigenous land and populations. Significant abuse and cultural trauma occurred through the use of residential schools to house and educate Indigenous children. The 60's Scoop – which took Indigenous children and placed them in white foster homes within the child welfare system has led to unstable families and homes. Many of the personal issues (i.e., familial dysfunction, substance use, addictions, health issues, community violence) faced by Indigenous Peoples and that act as contributors to homelessness can be directly linked to various types of historical trauma." (2021, [homelesshub.ca/population-specific/indigenous-peoples](https://www.homelesshub.ca/population-specific/indigenous-peoples)).

When considering sustainable and innovative solutions to end homelessness in the CDSSAB region, the preceding and subsequent knowledge and understanding thereof need to be at the forefront. In the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2017), the definition of Indigenous homelessness is:

*"Aboriginal homelessness in Canada is a crisis that should be considered an epidemic."*  
- Caryl Patrick, York U

A human condition that describes First Nations, Metis and Inuit individuals, families or communities lacking stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means or ability to acquire such housing. Unlike the common colonialist definition of homelessness, Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews. These include individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, animals, cultures, languages and identities. Indigenous people experiencing these kinds of homelessness cannot culturally, spiritually, emotionally or physically reconnect with their Indigeneity or lost relationships (Thistle, 2017, [homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHIndigenousHomelessnessDefinition.pdf](http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHIndigenousHomelessnessDefinition.pdf))

Furthermore, of the 198 participants who identify as Indigenous, 5 noted residential schools. Much of the literature shows the interrelated connections between the effects of colonization and residential schools with homelessness. Having in depth knowledge and understanding of residential schools (past and current situation) and the prevalence within the CDSSAB homeless population can help inform the degree to which local housing and homeless support solutions might consider incorporating strategies to address trauma and systemic discrimination and work towards the provision of culturally safe and appropriate spaces and services.

The concept and definition of Indigenous homelessness is complex and goes beyond the basic colonialist definition of lacking access to stable, permanent, or appropriate housing. It is imperative that space is created to fully understand Indigenous homelessness; from this point, relevant and accurate policy can be developed. With the current state of affairs, where Canada is reacting to the recent discovery of unmarked graves and shifting to support Indigenous Peoples by putting pressure on all levels of government, it is the perfect time to come together and create actionable strategies that will eradicate all forms of Indigenous homelessness

### *History of Child Welfare*

Research has revealed a significant correlation between child welfare involvement, specifically foster care, and homelessness are closely linked, and that involvement in child protection services is associated with an increased risk of homelessness. The 2021 PiT Count data confirms 103 of the 242 survey respondents (43%) having a history with child welfare services. In consideration of the previous section, 73 of the 103 having a history with child welfare services identified as Indigenous.

The most obvious explanation for the apparent connection between homelessness and child welfare involvement is that the system fails to help children deal with the problems that were at the heart of their removal from their homes. Other potentially influential factors include incompatible placements and changing placements as well as poor transition planning when aging out of care.



## Overall Health Challenges

In terms of health issues, approximately 80% of survey respondents identify as having at least one health challenge. Of the 242 people who completed the survey, 187 (77%) confirmed having a substance use issue, 130 (54%) confirmed having a mental health issue, and 73 (30%) confirm having a medical condition or illness. Further concerning, nearly 70% of respondents identified multiple health issues, for instance, cognitive limitations coupled with substance use.

80% have at least one health challenge, including substance use issue (77%), mental health issue (54%), and medical condition or illness (30%).

While it might be assumed that substance use and mental health are causes of homelessness, much of the literature demonstrates that substance use and mental health are often a response to and consequence of homelessness and exacerbated by trauma and loss associated with homelessness.

Being homeless makes it difficult, and in some cases impossible, to access general health care services; even once accessed, follow-ups and after care may be challenging. Furthermore, homelessness is “associated with a high burden of illness, yet the health care system may not adequately meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness (2021, [www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/topics/health](http://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/topics/health)). That being said, it is imperative that strategies for eradicating homelessness must also tackle the health challenges that can be both a cause and a consequence of homelessness.

## Income Sources

The majority of survey respondents (95%) report having at least one source of income. The most common source of income reported is welfare/social assistance (54%), followed by disability benefits (25%). Of the 242 respondents, 20 have some form of employment (8% with casual, part-time and full-time combined) and 13 (5%) have no income source whatsoever. Informal sources of income accounted for 7% which may include bottle returns, panhandling, etc.

## Reasons for Homelessness

Survey participants were asked what caused them to lose their housing. Although all confirmed one reason (100%), many indicated multiple responses; there are multiple and potentially interrelated factors that contribute to housing loss, including a variety of structural, social, systemic, and personal factors. A lack of income for housing (which could include a loss of benefits, income, or job) was the most common answer (35%). Other reasons for housing loss include:

- Incarceration (18%)
- Conflict with spouse or partner (17%)
- Unsafe and/or unfit housing (13%)
- Conflict with landlord (11%)



- Conflict with other adult such as family members, friends, other tenants/roommates (10%)
- Abusive partner/spouse (7%)



### *Challenges to Accessing Housing*

Homelessness can be a traumatic experience caused by structural, systemic, and personal factors, and it is very rarely a choice. *Nobody chooses to be homeless.* The 2021 PiT survey reflects that nearly 95% want permanent housing. When asked about the challenges or problems in trying to find housing, the most common responses were unaffordable rent, low income, and lack of available and suitable options.

*“Due to the lack of housing, we are so overcrowded in our home- 11 people with one washroom. But since I am not officially homeless, it’s not a priority.”*

*- community resident*

### *Need for Services*

Although many do know how to access services and/or reach their worker, it was an opportunity to share with respondents what is available and begin discussions on the By-Name List (BNL).

A local By-Name List (BNL) has been established since the Spring 2020, focusing on Timmins area but not the remainder of the Cochrane District. The Living Space is the lead on this initiative. In terms of its current use, the BNL is an excel spreadsheet based on the spreadsheet and BNL processes from Windsor/Essex County. It meets all the requirements for a quality BNL as per Built for Zero guidelines. At present, the BNL is being populated into the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), the primary database for tracking the BNL. Prior to August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 153 people registered on the local BNL.

Although the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, PiT Count did not generate more registrations to the BNL, (for example, a BNL registry week took place the week leading up to the count), several conversations with participants about BNL and local services took place. Specifically, 62% of people who completed the survey, requested more information about services in their respective area. Currently, planning is taking place to develop next steps of implementing a BNL that covers the CDSSAB region.

# Recommendations

The following eight recommendations were developed based on the responses identified through this enumeration project. The goal of reducing or eliminating homelessness can be addressed by implementing new relevant and actionable measures.

1. Expand culturally competent supports and housing services for Indigenous Peoples that are developed and administered by and in partnership with Indigenous organizations including Indigenous government, while maintaining good relations and partnerships with other housing service providers in the CDSSAB region.
2. Implement and fully operationalize the By-Name List (BNL) and Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) to the entire CDSSAB region.
3. Enhance research and understanding of hidden homelessness in order to tailor systems planning, policy development, and innovative solutions to reflect the needs of this population.
4. Work with municipalities to improve and expand public awareness and education about homelessness. Organizations who provide and align with housing and homelessness services are not solely responsible to improve public education; understanding, advocacy, and partnership begin at the municipal level.
5. Collaborate with key service providers to address service gaps in both child welfare and corrections systems, particularly to those aging out of foster care as well as those who are incarcerated and preparing to discharge.
6. Work and advocate as a region, that is a collective voice that ensures everyone in the CDSSAB region has access to safe, affordable, appropriate, long-term housing.
7. Partner with organizations to discuss and investigate opportunities of implementing a regional prosperity table intended to enhance economic development, workforce and education, promotion and development of affordable housing.
8. When preparing for the next enumeration, consider lessons learned and conduct a follow up survey with agency partners to provide further insights.

# Conclusion

*Homelessness is not a simple issue.* The data collected from the 2021 PiT Count and survey in the CDSSAB region will be used as a benchmark of progress to end homelessness, modifying and creating programs and services to serve the homeless population, revisiting and updating policies regarding housing and social assistance, and uniting support from the community to collaborate and join in the efforts to reduce homelessness in the CDSSAB region. The 2021 PiT Count and survey can provide valuable information to inform service planning and delivery in the CDSSAB region and help address the unique challenges that a variety of people experiencing homelessness face.

The CDSSAB region has the opportunity to go beyond addressing homelessness and implement upstream strategies to eradicate it. Accurate and reliable data from the Point-in-Time Count and survey, and other relevant sources such as the By-Name List (BNL), can provide the information needed to action relevant and appropriate services to address the unique needs of people experiencing all forms of homelessness. Current collaborations across the region have led to amazing success stories. Local and other levels of government, service providers, and lived-experience groups in the region already have a strong commitment to improving housing stability and reducing homelessness. With the findings of the 2021 PiT Count, it is evident there is much work to do.

It is hoped that with the community partnerships and planning, creation of relevant and actionable strategies, the CDSSAB region will see an improvement in the lives of those experiencing and at risk of homelessness when the next enumeration is completed in, that is, a significant reduction in homelessness in the CDSSAB communities.

*The roads to homelessness are endless.* Individuals experiencing homelessness cannot be painted with the same brush and be lumped into a singular identifier, “the homeless”. Their situations are unique. Many factors contributing to the risk and experience of homelessness are complex, compounded, and multi-dimensional in nature and cannot be summed up with the idea that an individual is responsible for their own situation.

*One misconception about homelessness is that the people who experience it somehow deserve it, should be defined by it, and are less valuable because of it.* To truly address the systemic issues of homelessness, a community must know its own structures and identify barriers within those structures. Furthermore, there needs to be an acknowledgement of accountability, not just within our respective communities but also in a broader sense, with all levels of government actively working together towards successful, sustainable, and better yet upstream strategies needed to move forward.

Together, in partnership, we need to create space to discuss and action strategic objectives to address and end homelessness.



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# Appendix A: Point-in-Time Count Survey Locations

Community	Type of Volunteering	Organization Name	# of Staff to Assist/Volunteers
Black-River Matheson	Public and Client Drop-in	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
Cochrane	Public and Client Drop-in	Ininew Frienship Centre	4/ Sue Nelson (Lead)
	Outreach	Ininew Friendship Centre	2/ Sue Neleson (Lead)
	Public and Client Drop-in	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
Fauquier-Strickland			
Hearst	Public and Client Drop-in	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
Irqouois Falls	Public and Client Drop-in	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
	Current and New Clients	Monteith Correcitonal	4/Jennifer Pinto (Lead)
Kapusksing	Public and Client Drop-in	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
	Current and New Clients	Habitat Interlude	
Mattice-Val Coté			
Moonbeam			
Moosonee	Public and Client Drop-in	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
	Public and Client Drop-in	TNFC- Moosonee Site	8/David Wynne (Lead)
	Outreach	TNFC- Moosonee Site	3/ David Wynne (Lead)
	Public and Client Drop-in	WAHA- MH Clinic	2/Enza Ferrara (Lead)
Opasatika			



Smooth Rock Falls	Public and Client Drop-in	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
	Current and New Clients	SRF Detox Centre	2/Sharleen Pope (Lead)
Timmins	Public and Client Drop-in	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
	Outreach (Schumacher/SoPo)	PHU	2/Jennifer Bisson (Lead)
	Public and Client Drop-in	Living Space	4/ Jason and Chrisitanne (Leads)
	Outreach	Living Space	6/ Jason and Chrisitanne (Leads)
	Public and Client Drop-in	TNFC	4/ Karen Inned (Lead)
	Public and Client Drop-in	TPL/CMHA Foyer	10/Mel Verreault (Lead)
	Public and Client Drop-in	OAHS	4/Kristy Jones (Lead)
	Outreach	OAHS	3/Kristy Jones (Lead)
	Current and New Clients	Jubilee Centre	6/Tammy (Lead)
	Current and New Clients	TAWC	8/Julie Demarchi 9lead)
	Current and New Clients	CMHA	6/Paul Jalbert/Krista Green (Leads)
	Current and New Clients	Salvation Army	4/Robbie Donaldson (Lead)
	Current and New Clients	Ellevive	8/Chantal Mailloux (Lead)
	Current and New Clients	TPS	6/Tim Chalmers (Lead)
Current and New Clients	SCAS		
Current and New Clients	TADH	4/Natalie Carle (Lead)	

TWOMO

Val Rita-Harty

# Appendix B: Screening Tool and PiT Count Survey

## PiT Survey

### **Opening (for outreach volunteers):**

*Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a volunteer for the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (also known as CDSSAB).*

*We are conducting a short housing survey in the CDSSAB region. We do not ask for your name. The data collected is confidential and will be used to determine how we can improve housing options for people in the CDSSAB region. The survey is voluntary and confidential.*

*May I ask you a few questions to determine if you are eligible to participate?*

### **Opening (for service providers):**

*Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I work as (state position at your organization). The Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (also known as CDSSAB) is conducting a short housing survey in the CDSSAB region. They do not ask for your name. The data collected is confidential and will be used to determine how CDSSAB can improve housing options for people in the CDSSAB region. The survey is voluntary and confidential.*

*May I ask you a few questions to determine if you are eligible to participate?*

### **Core Screening Questions:**

Screening question A (This question is intended to reduce double-counting)  
Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification item]?

- Yes
- No

Screening question B

Where are you staying tonight?

Choice	Next Step	Next Step
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Decline to answer</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Own apartment/house</li> </ul>	End survey and thank them.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Someone else's place</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Motel/hotel (self-funded)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Hospital, mental health facility, prison, remand centre</li> </ul>	Ask follow-up question: Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If yes- End survey and thank them.</li> <li>• If declining to answer- End survey and thank them.</li> <li>• No- Continue with screening.</li> <li>• Don't know- Continue with screening.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Transitional housing</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Motel/hotel (city funded)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Public space (e.g., sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Vehicle (car, van, rv, truck)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Makeshift shelter, tent or shack</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Abandoned/vacant building</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Other unsheltered location (specify) _____</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Respondent doesn't know</li> </ul>	Continue with screening.	

Screening question C (This question confirms verbal consent).

Are you willing to participate in the survey?

- Yes
- No

If respondent is eligible to participate:

*You are eligible to participate in the survey. It will take approximately 5 minutes, though you can stop at any time. The survey is voluntary and confidential. Once you have completed the survey, and as a token of our appreciation, a \_\_\_\_\_ (honoraria) will be provided to you.*

*The results of the survey may be published, but you will not be named or identified in any way. When it is ready, the report will be posted on the CDSSAB website.*

If respondent is not eligible to participate:

*Thank you for answering these questions. We do not need any further information. Have a good day.*

**To Survey Questions**



**Survey Questions:**

Data Point	Definition	Question	Answer
<b>Overnight Location</b>	Where a person is staying or will stay on the day enumeration is conducted.	<b>Where are you staying tonight?</b> --- Refer to answer from Screening Question B and copy	Location: _____
<b>Chronicity of Homelessness</b>	The length of time that someone is homeless.	<b>In total, for <i>how much time</i> have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 months)?</b> [Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Length ____ Days   Weeks   Months</li> <li>○ Don't Know</li> <li>○ Decline to answer</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons for Homelessness/ Housing Loss</b>	Reasons that caused / contributed to a person becoming homeless / losing their housing.	<b>What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?</b> [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays. Follow up for the reason if the respondent says "eviction" or that they "chose to leave".]	<p><u>Housing and financial issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not enough income for housing (loss job, for i.e.)</li> <li>○ Unfit/unsafe housing conditions</li> <li>○ Building sold or renovated</li> <li>○ Owner moved in</li> <li>○ Landlord/tenant conflict</li> <li>○ Complaint (noise, pets for i.e.)</li> <li>○ Left the community/relocated</li> </ul> <p><u>Interpersonal and family issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conflict with spouse/partner</li> <li>○ Conflict with parent/guardian</li> <li>○ Conflict with other _____</li> <li>○ Experienced abuse by spouse/partner</li> <li>○ Experienced abuse by parent/guardian</li> <li>○ Experienced abuse by other _____</li> <li>○ Departure of family member</li> <li>○ Experienced discrimination</li> </ul>

			<p><u>Health or corrections:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Physical health issue</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Mental health issue</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Substance use issue</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Hospitalization or treatment program</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Incarceration (jail or prison)</li> </ul> <p><u>Other:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Other reason _____</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Don't know</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Decline to answer</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p>Number of years a person has lived.</p>	<p><b>How old are you OR what year were you born?</b> [If unsure, ask for best estimate]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Age _____ OR Year Born _____</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Don't know</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Decline to answer</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indigenous Identity</b></p>	<p>People that identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.</p>	<p><b>Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have North American Indigenous ancestry?</b> [If yes, please specify] (COMMUNITY NOTE: The wording of this question can be adapted to what makes sense in your community, for example by listing specific First Nations).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, First Nations</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, Inuit</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, Métis</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, Indigenous Ancestry</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Don't know</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Decline to answer</li> </ul>
<p><b>Racialized Identity</b></p>	<p>A racialized person is someone who experiences racialization, which is “the process by which societies construct races as real, different and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political and social life.”</p>	<p><b>In <i>addition</i> to your response in the question above, do you identify with any of the racialized identities listed here?</b> [Show or Read list. Select all that apply]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Arab (Syrian, Egyptian, Yemen, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Asian-East (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Asian South-East (Vietnamese, Filipino, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Asian-South or Indo-Caribbean ((India, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Trinidadian, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Asian-West (Iranian, Afghan, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Back-Canadian/America</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Black-African (Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Black-Afro-Caribbean or Afro-Latinx (Jamaican, Haitian, Afro-Brazilian, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Latin American (Mexican, Brazilian, Cuban, Chilean, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> White (European, French, Ukrainian, Euro-Latinx, i.e.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Not listed (please specify) _____</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Identify as Indigenous only</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Don't know</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Decline to answer</li> </ul>



<b>Gender Identity</b>	Each person's internal and individual experience of gender. It is their sense of being a woman, a man, both, neither, or anywhere along the gender spectrum. A person's gender identity may be the same as or different from their birth-assigned sex.	<b>What gender do you identify with?</b> [Show list]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Man</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Woman</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Two-Spirit</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Trans Woman</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Trans Man</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Non-Binary (Genderqueer)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Not listed (Please specify) _____</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Don't know</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Decline to answer</li> </ul>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Sexual orientation is a personal characteristic that forms part of who one is. It covers the range of human sexuality from lesbian, gay, two-spirit, and queer to bisexual and heterosexual.	<b>How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian?</b> [Show list]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Straight/Heterosexual</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Gay</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Lesbian</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Bisexual</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Two-Spirit</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Pansexual</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Asexual</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Questioning</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Queer</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Not listed (Please specify) _____</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Don't know</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Decline to answer</li> </ul>
<b>Family Homelessness</b>	One or more adults experiencing homelessness with one or more dependent children under 18 years of age.	<b>Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight?</b> [Indicate survey number for partners. Check all that apply]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> None</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Partner (ask if they completed survey)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Child(ren)/dependent(s) # _____</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Other (can include other family members)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Decline to answer</li> </ul>
<b>Military Service</b>	Someone who has served in the Canadian military.	<b>Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP?</b> [Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, military</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, RCMP</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Both military and RCMP</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Don't know</li> </ul>

<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p>Someone who identifies as having a health issue, which includes physical health, learning / cognitive limitations, mental health issue, substance use issue, and physical limitation.</p>	<p><b>Do you identify as having any of the following health challenges at this time:</b> [Show or read list]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decline to answer</li> <li><u>Illness or medical condition (Diabetes, HIV, arthritis, TB i.e.):</u></li> <li>○ Yes</li> <li>○ No</li> <li>○ Don't know</li> <li>○ Decline to answer</li> <li><u>Physical limitations (Mobility, dexterity, physical abilities, i.e.):</u></li> <li>○ Yes</li> <li>○ No</li> <li>○ Don't know</li> <li>○ Decline to answer</li> <li><u>Learning or cognitive limitations (Autism, ADHD, acquired brain injury i.e.):</u></li> <li>○ Yes</li> <li>○ No</li> <li>○ Don't know</li> <li>○ Decline to answer</li> <li><u>Mental health issue (Diagnosed/ undiagnosed, depression, anxiety, i.e.):</u></li> <li>○ Yes</li> <li>○ No</li> <li>○ Don't know</li> <li>○ Decline to answer</li> <li><u>Substance use issue (alcohol, tobacco, opiates, i.e.):</u></li> <li>○ Yes</li> <li>○ No</li> <li>○ Don't know</li> <li>○ Decline to answer</li> </ul>
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<b>Child Welfare (History of Foster Care)</b>	The placement of a child or youth in the home of someone who receives compensation for caring for the child but is not the child's parent.	<b>As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home?</b> [Note: This question applies specifically to child welfare programs. Include any other Provincial child welfare programs]	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Decline to answer
<b>Income Source</b>	Sources of income including various forms of assistance, benefits and employment.	<b>What are your sources of income?</b> [Reminder that this survey is anonymous. Read or show list and check all that apply]	<input type="radio"/> Full time employment <input type="radio"/> Part time employment <input type="radio"/> Casual employment (contract work) <input type="radio"/> Informal income sources (bottle returns, panhandling, i.e.) <input type="radio"/> Money from family/friends <input type="radio"/> Employment insurance <input type="radio"/> Disability benefit (ask for name of provincial disability benefit _____) <input type="radio"/> Seniors benefits (CPP, OAS, i.e.) <input type="radio"/> Welfare/Social Assistance <input type="radio"/> Veteran/VAC benefits <input type="radio"/> Child and family tax benefits <input type="radio"/> GST/HST refund <input type="radio"/> Other money from a service agency <input type="radio"/> Other source (Please specify) _____ <input type="radio"/> No income <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Decline to answer
Additional Questions and Information (not required data for Ministry Report)			
<b>Local Services-Information and Availability</b>	Asking the individual if they would like to know more about local housing and other services.	<b>Would you like to know more about housing and other helpful services in your community?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes- Provide handout with brief explanation <input type="radio"/> No- Move to next question
<b>Accessing Local Services</b>	Asking the individual what is their personal preference in regard to accessing services.	<b>What is the best way for you to access services and resources? To reach out for help?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Please specify:

**Thank you, merci, miigwetch!** If you have any questions about the study, please email us at [2getherWeCount@gmail.com](mailto:2getherWeCount@gmail.com)

- Time Survey Completed on August 25, 2021: \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_ PM \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of Person Administering Survey (please print): \_\_\_\_\_
- Location (where survey was completed- i.e. name of place or address or landmark, city): \_\_\_\_\_
- Was an honorarium (i.e. gift card, food voucher) provided to individual who shared this information for this survey?  
Please indicate (X): Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Initials of volunteer who provided the honorarium: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix C: Unsheltered Tally Sheet



## UNSHELTERED TALLY SHEET

Location (Town, City): \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** For those who are *not surveyed*, please fill in the sheet below indicating the reason. For those who DECLINE or are OBSERVED only, but who are clearly experiencing homelessness, please also indicate the reason you believe they are homeless (e.g., asleep outside with belongings).

#	Location (e.g., building, park, nearest intersection)	Reason not Surveyed				Observed Homeless	*Observed Homelessness
		Declined*	Already Responded	Screened Out	Observed *		Indicators of Homelessness
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							

# Appendix D: Service Numbers Across the CDSSAB Region

Name	Telephone
Human Services Network (when you don't know where or who to call)	Toll-free: 211 24hrs a day, 7 days a week
Emergency Services	Toll-free: 911 24hrs a day, 7 days a week
CDSSAB (Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board)	Toll-free: 1-877-259-7722
CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association)	Toll-free: 1-888-340-3003 Toll-free 24 hr Crisis Line: 1-888-665-8888
Living Space	Toll-free: 1-833-800-7233
Porcupine Health Unit	Toll-free: 1-800-461-1818
Timmins Native Friendship Centre (Timmins and Moosonee)	Toll-free: 1-844-200-2686

## Food Banks Across the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB) Region

Name of Food Bank	Address	Phone Number
South Porcupine Food Bank	32 Main St. South Porcupine	705-235-3818
Timmins Food Bank	Box 891, Timmins	705-262-7768
Banque Alimentaire Mattice	Box 24, Mattice	705-362-2859
Bethel Gospel Assembly	93 Main St. Smooth Rock Falls, ON	705-338-2964
Cochrane Food Bank	141 Railway St, Cochrane ON	705-272-4300
Iroquois Falls Food Bank	Box 59, Iroquois Falls	705-232-2133
Haileybury Food Bank Box	1651 Haileybury ON	705-672-2119
Kapuskasing Food Bank	4B Sheppard St, Kapuskasing, ON	705-335-1779

<b>Le Samaritain du Nord</b>	<b>Box 3324, Hearst, ON</b>	<b>705-362-5483</b>
<b>Matheson Food Bank</b>	<b>Box 496, Matheson, ON</b>	<b>705-273-2342</b>
<b>Moonbeam Food Bank</b>	<b>Box 313, Moonbeam ON</b>	<b>705-367-9027</b>

### **Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board Offices**

<b>City/Town</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>Cochrane</b> • Ontario Works and Children's Services	<b>149 5th Avenue</b>
<b>Cochrane</b> • Emergency Medical Services	<b>276 First Avenue</b>
<b>Hearst</b> • Ontario Works and Children's Services	<b>1425 Front Street</b>
<b>Hearst</b> • Emergency Medical Services	<b>1405 Edward Street</b>
<b>Iroquois Falls</b> • Ontario Works, Children's Services, and Housing	<b>33 Ambridge Drive</b>
<b>Iroquois Falls</b> • Emergency Medical Services	<b>c/o Anson General Hospital 58 Anson Drive</b>
<b>Kapuskasung</b> • Ontario Works, Children's Services, and Housing	<b>6 Ash Street</b>
<b>Matheson</b> • Employment Resource Centre and Emergency Medical Services	<b>385 Railway Street</b>
<b>Moosonee</b> • Ontario Works and Children's Services	<b>21 First Street</b>
<b>Smooth Rock Falls</b> • Emergency Medical Services	<b>91 Gordon Avenue</b>
<b>Timmins</b> • Administration, Ontario Works, Children's Services, Emergency Medical Services, and Housing	<b>500 Algonquin Blvd. East</b>



# Appendix E: PiT/BNL Advisory Group Terms of Reference

## *Mission*

In order to better understand the extent of homelessness in the *Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB)* region, the Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and By Names List (BNL) Project Advisory Group will provide expertise, guidance, and support regarding the planification and implementation of a successful PiT Count and BNL.

## *Goals and Objectives*

Goals	Objectives
Support and guide the PiT Count/BNL Coordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain regular communication with the PiT Count/BNL Coordinator (meetings, email).</li> <li>• Provide the PiT Count/BNL Coordinator with connections to key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Follow-up with PiT Count/BNL Coordinator (i.e., assigned tasks, information).</li> </ul>
Promote awareness about the PiT Count/BNL and its results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a communication plan to build public support for the PiT Count/BNL—and more generally—all local homelessness initiatives (community mobilization).</li> <li>• Build awareness and momentum throughout the project’s lifespan.</li> <li>• Launch of the final report.</li> </ul>
Improve the accuracy of the PiT Count/BNL by promoting partnership with key stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all local/key stakeholders are represented on the contact list.</li> <li>• Support PiT Count/BNL Coordinator in hosting virtual community meetings (other identified forms of public engagement), focus groups (and orientation) with relevant service providers, to allow the community-at-large an opportunity to voice their opinions.</li> </ul>

Identify ways to improve the PiT Count/BNL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform the development of the PiT Count/BNL methodology (see enclosed) and survey; consult relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>• Support and guide the PiT Count day as well as preparation for the PiT Count day (refer to methodology).</li> <li>• Review the post-count report prepared by PiT Count/BNL Coordinator that identifies data/assessment as well as successes, challenges and learning for subsequent counts.</li> </ul>
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*PiT Count/BNL Project Advisory Group Composition*

The PiT Count/BNL Project Advisory Group will consist of the following ten (10) members, including:

- Three (3) personnel members from the local shelter (Living Space), specifically CEO, System Developer, Data Analyst
- Two (2) personnel members from the CDSSAB region
- One (1) Indigenous community representative (OAHS, TNFC)
- One (1) City Official
- One (1) representative from the local business community (Timmins Downtown BIA)
- One (1) representative from the non-profit sector (CDSPC)
- Pit Count/BNL Coordinator (Chair)

Although the Advisory Group is not representative of all organizations that align with this project, it is important to note that the latter will be consulted and included in the project’s activities.

*Term*

The term of the Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and By Names List (BNL) Project Advisory Group will commence in late May 2021 and adjourn at the end of December 2021.

While the composition of the Project Advisory Group has been selected, should a member recommend inviting another representative to join at any point during the project’s timeframe (for i.e., due to identified service and expertise gaps), such will be brought forward at an Advisory group meeting for consideration.

*Meetings*

The PiT Count/BNL Project Advisory Group will meet, at minimum once (1) per month within the project's timeframe. Outside of this time, the PiT Count/BNL Coordinator, may call additional meetings, specifically as it relates to preparation for and the actual PiT Count day. Non-committee or Subcommittee members (for i.e. lead volunteers in CDSSAB region) may attend meetings upon notification and approval from the PiT Count/BNL Project Advisory Group.

#### *Decision-making/Quorum*

Quorum will consist of 50% of the PiT Count/BNL Project Advisory Group members.

The PiT Count/BNL Project Advisory Group decision-making framework will be one of consensus (50%+1) with quorum present. There shall be no proxy or email voting unless explicitly determine by the Project Advisory Group in advance.

#### *Minutes/Reporting*

The PiT Count/BNL Coordinator shall take minutes at the committee meetings and the minutes shall be approved at subsequent meetings.

*Prepared: May 18, 2021*

# Appendix F:

## Glossary of Definitions

**At-Risk of Homelessness**, refers to persons who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious and/or does not meet public health, or safety standards.

**By-Name List (BNL)** is an ongoing real-time list of people experiencing homelessness in a community. A BNL can be used to connect people to a range of housing options and supports.

**Chronic Homelessness** - Currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year.

**Emergency Shelter** is a facility designed to meet the immediate needs of people who are experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelters may target specific sub-populations, including women, families, youth or Indigenous persons. These shelters typically have minimal eligibility criteria, may offer shared sleeping facilities and amenities, and may expect clients to leave in the morning. They may offer food, clothing or other services.

**Emergency Sheltered** - Including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence.

**Episodic Homelessness** - Currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year

**Homelessness** is the situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.

**Ontario Disability Support Program Payments (ODSP)** offers financial assistance to people with disabilities to help recipients and their families with essential living expenses.

**Ontario Works Payments (OW)** provides help people in financial need through financial assistance, which include income support to help with the costs of basic needs, like food, clothing and shelter and offers health benefits for clients and their families

**Point-in-Time (PiT)** count is a strategy to help determine the extent of homelessness in a community at a single point in time. It provides a “snapshot” of the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness, to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness to support planning and program delivery to address the issue. Using the PiT Count, the two components required to conduct local homeless enumeration are:

**Provisionally Accommodated** - Referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks

**Unsheltered** - Or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation (tents, vehicles, etc).

# Appendix G: PiT Survey Results

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*\*Attach Excel Sheet*