



CDSB • CSDC

Cochrane District
Services Board

Conseil des services
du district de Cochrane

2025

Everyone Counts: Cochrane District 2025 Enumeration Report

Land Acknowledgement

The Cochrane District Services Board (CDSB) acknowledges that we operate on Treaty 9 (James Bay Treaty) territory - the traditional homelands of the Anishinaabe, the Omushkegowuk Cree, the Algonquin and Métis peoples.

For countless generations, this land has provided medicine, shelter and teaching. Today, it is land on which our paramedics travel, where we build affordable housing and where our child care centres and offices operate.

The CDSB provides service and care in the second largest District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) in Ontario. We recognize that more land requires more responsibility: deeper acknowledgement, stronger commitment and real accountability.

We must also acknowledge the reality of homelessness and its disproportionate impact on Indigenous peoples. This is not coincidence - it is a direct result of centuries of colonial policies, displaced communities and systemic barriers. Today, those historic harms manifest as housing insecurity, poverty and homelessness.

Our work in housing, paramedic services and social services must confront these truths. The CDSB is committed to designing programs that reduce harm, respect culture, and restore dignity, while working closely with Indigenous leaders and service providers to create solutions that reflect community priorities.

Let this acknowledgement be more than a formality. We are grateful for the trust shown by Indigenous leaders and service providers and we commit to walking this path of learning and action together as Treaty People.

Lived and Living Experience Acknowledgement

The Cochrane District Services Board (CDSB) acknowledges the invaluable contributions of people with lived and living experience (PWLLE). Their insights, resilience and courage shape our understanding of community well-being and guide the development of programs and policies that strive for equity and dignity.

We recognize that these experiences are not abstract - they are real, ongoing and deeply connected to systemic barriers and social determinants of health. We remember our community members whose lives have been lost and affirm our commitment to creating spaces where PWLLE voices are heard, respected and centered in decision-making. Their expertise is essential to creating meaningful change across the communities we serve.

This acknowledgement is not only symbolic; it is a privilege to work collaboratively with PWLLE, ensuring participation is safe, inclusive and appropriately compensated. We commit to listening, learning and acting in ways that reduce harm, foster belonging and advance justice all members of our communities.

Table of Contents

Cochrane District Services Board	05
Understanding the Enumeration Report	06
Methodology and Limitations	07
District-Wide Survey Results	09
About the Cochrane District System of Care and By-Name List	10
Progress Update: 2024 Recommendations	12
Conclusion	14
Acknowledgements	16

Our Vision

To further develop a District service environment that is responsive to community needs and which values the individuality of its residents.

Our Values

Respect

Demonstrating respect for clients, staff and community partners. We will treat each person as we would like to be treated.

Communication

Communicating effectively with clients, staff and community partners.

Growth

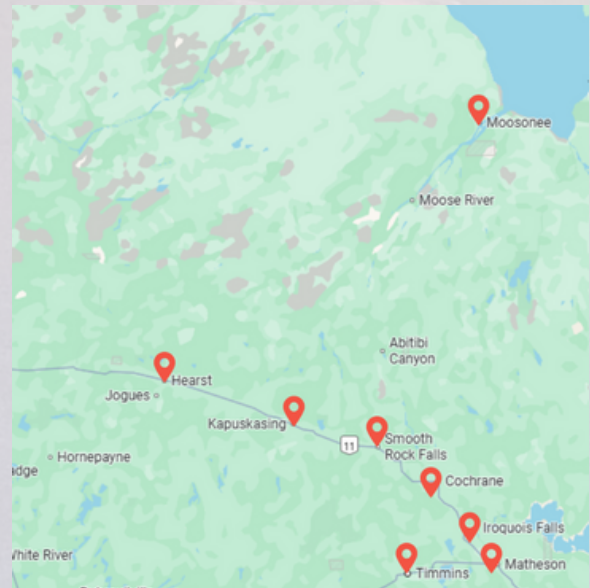
Encouraging professional development and individual and team growth.

Collaboration

Bringing together the interests of all to achieve our common purpose.

The Cochrane District Services Board (CDSB) serves a vast region in Northeastern Ontario, encompassing approximately 140,000 km² from the western boundary near Hearst to the eastern communities around Matheson, south to Iroquois Falls and north towards the James Bay Coast.

This geography includes 11 municipalities, many unincorporated areas and numerous rural and remote communities. The Cochrane District is home to nine First Nations communities and a significant Indigenous and Francophone population, each with unique cultural, economic and social contexts.



The CDSB supports a population of roughly 80,000 residents, delivering vital paramedic services, social housing, children's services and community development.

Understanding the Cochrane District 2025 Enumeration Report

The Everyone Counts: Cochrane District 2025 Enumeration Report is the fourth homelessness enumeration conducted in the Cochrane District.

A homelessness enumeration, or Point-in-Time (PiT) count, is an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within a determined area on a single night. The homelessness enumeration looks at two main areas:

1. **Sheltered Enumeration** - People who are experiencing homelessness who are in a shelter or other institution.
2. **Unsheltered Enumeration** - People who are experiencing homelessness who are not in a shelter or other institution, this includes people staying in encampments.

Staff and volunteers work together to help build a picture of a one-night, district-wide picture of sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. Unlike in previous years, the 2025 PiT Count did not include a survey to identify key demographics.

2018 Enumeration

111
People Experiencing
Homelessness

2021 Enumeration

242 People
Experiencing
Homelessness

2024 Enumeration

390 People
Experiencing
Homelessness

2025 Enumeration

306 People
Experiencing
Homelessness

Methodology and Limitations

Methodology

The 2025 Cochrane District Enumeration (PiT Count) provides a one-night enumeration of how many people were experiencing homelessness in the community being surveyed.

The PiT Count followed the methodology as outlined by the Government of Canada.

Sheltered Homelessness

Agencies operating emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters and other provincial institutions were asked to report their occupancy on the night of **October 9th, 2025**.

It's important to understand that shelter capacity can be fluid and difficult to measure accurately. Some programs, while having fixed occupancy, will house additional individuals in community-based accommodations, like hotels.

Unsheltered Homelessness

The unsheltered count was conducted through street outreach and direct engagement with individuals sleeping in public spaces. This included areas like parks, trails, ravines, encampments, forested areas, sidewalks or other makeshift shelters.

Unsheltered coverage was determined using a combination of local knowledge, service provider insights and volunteers with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE). PWLLE volunteers were provided with an honorarium for their valuable insights and support. Efforts to prepare included:



Mapping Known Locations: Areas were identified in advance where unsheltered homelessness has been identified.



Pre-Engagement with People with Lived Experience: While preparing for the PiT Count, PWLLE were instrumental in helping prioritize locations.



Service Provider Input: Agencies with direct relationships to those experiencing homelessness were engaged to support this important work.

Methodology and Limitations

Limitations

While the 2025 PiT Count provides valuable insights into homelessness within the Cochrane District, it is important to acknowledge the inherent limitations of this process. These limitations include:

Limited Snapshot of Homelessness - The PiT Count provides only a minimum estimate of homelessness. Many individuals avoid contact or are residing in inaccessible areas to staff and volunteers, leading to underreporting. A one-night count also does not reflect seasonal trends or economic shifts.

Surveying an Area Larger than Three Maritime Provinces - The Cochrane District is over 140,000 km², or larger than New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island combined. Due to this vast geographic distance, full coverage within a 24-hour period of time is not possible and some communities were not able to be thoroughly surveyed. Additionally, limited district-wide participation led to volunteers from the district covering unfamiliar communities.

Movement to Remote Areas - Unlike previous years, there is a growing tendency for individuals experiencing homelessness to move into remote areas and remain hidden, often due to increased violence or threats of violence when they are residing in an area more visible within a community. This constant movement makes it more difficult to locate and support individuals, leading to underrepresentation.

No Mandatory Reporting Requirements for Provincial Institutions - The 2025 PiT Count, like previous years, relied on partnerships with provincially-funded shelters, transitional housing programs and other institutions (like hospitals and treatment facilities). Invitations were sent out, however very few institutions within the Cochrane District provided data.

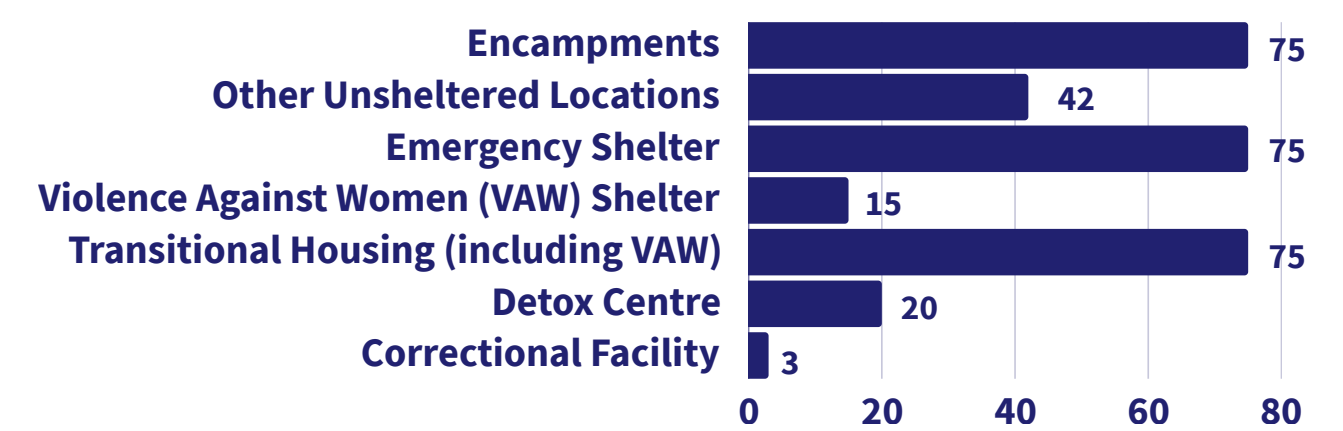
Hidden Homelessness - Many people experiencing homelessness remain “hidden” to the social service system as they’re able to find temporary accommodations while not having a permanent home. Per the Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada reporting requirements, hidden homeless numbers were not reported. A total of **16** individuals identified they were staying with someone else and those numbers are not included in the final survey results.

District-Wide Survey Results

On October 9th, 2025, the Cochrane District PiT Count identified **306** people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

Community	Total Sheltered	Total Unsheltered
Black-River Matheson	0	0
Cochrane	4	3
Hearst	0	0
Iroquois Falls	0	0
Kapuskasing	0	2
Monteith	3	0
Moosonee	10	0
Smooth Rock Falls	20	0
Timmins	152	112
DISTRICT TOTALS	189	117

WHERE PEOPLE SPENT THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 9TH, 2025



About the Cochrane District System of Care and Cochrane District By-Name List

The Cochrane District System of Care (SoC) is a regional coordinated access system, designed to help people experiencing homelessness secure and maintain housing through a streamlined, fair and transparent process. The SoC brings together multiple agencies, ensuring that people served through this program receive timely and appropriate supports for a variety of needs.

Key Features:

- **Coordinated Access** - A “no wrong door” approach where service providers share information to triage, assess and support people experiencing homelessness.
- **Guiding Principles** - Rooted in equity, the work of the SoC is rooted in principles of dignity, choice, respect, inclusivity, accountability, collaboration and stewardship.
- **Community Advisory Board (CAB)** - The CAB acts as an advisory body to the Community Entity for the Cochrane District, providing guidance on issues of homelessness in the community. The CAB also provides input on service planning, coordination and funding allocations as they relate to the Federal Reaching Home program.

In practice, the SoC acts as a central hub for referrals, care conferences and housing navigation.

Cochrane District By-Name List

The By-Name List (BNL) is a real-time, continuously updated list of people experiencing homelessness in the Cochrane District. The BNL is a cornerstone of the Coordinated Access process and serves several critical functions.

Purpose:

- Tracks people experiencing homelessness to connect them with appropriate housing and supports.
- Provides data for system performance and planning.

What It Includes:

- Client demographics, housing history, housing status and client needs.
- Information required by provincial and federal homelessness programs.

Cochrane District By-Name List

The Cochrane District By-Name List is important because it enables the SoC to prioritize housing resources, support care conferences and better understand homelessness trends and allocate resources more effectively.

Community	Total Number of People Actively Experiencing Homelessness as of October 31 st , 2025
Black-River Matheson	2
Cochrane	27
Hearst	3
Iroquois Falls	7
Kapuskasing	12
Moosonee	46
Timmins	425
Intake Pending Completion	6
Total	528



DID YOU KNOW?

Anyone can refer or be referred to the Cochrane District System of Care By-Name List.

Referral information can be found online at
www.cdssystemofcare.ca/referral/

Progress Update: *Everyone Counts* 2024 Cochrane District Enumeration *Recommendations*

The Cochrane District Services Board (CDSB) continues to advance its commitment to ending homelessness by translating recommendations from the 2024 Enumeration report into concrete action. Through collaborative partnerships, data-driven initiatives, and targeted projects, CDSB is strengthening supports for vulnerable populations and building pathways to stable housing across the District. This update highlights key progress made in alignment with the report's recommendations, demonstrating our ongoing dedication to responsive, community-focused solutions.

1

Expand Culturally Competent Supports for Indigenous Peoples and Gender-Diverse Individuals

1.1 - Encampment Response Table - Ongoing multi-agency coordination meetings that including Indigenous leadership and service providers to develop and create winter readiness and response strategies.

2

Enhance Coordinated Access, Data Collection and Use of BNL / HIFIS

2.2 - BNL Monthly Data Public Dashboard - To support transparency, the data dashboard for the Cochrane District has been published on the Cochrane District System of Care website.

3

Targeted Interventions to Prevent and Address Youth Homelessness

3.1 - Bridge to Home Youth Stream - In late 2025, the CDSB announced the development of the Bridge to Home Youth Stream Pilot. This program looks to build referral-based accommodations for youth experiencing homelessness.

4

Improve Public Awareness and Community Engagement

4.1 - Monthly BNL Data Updates - To support transparency, BNL updates are provided on a monthly basis through CDSB social media. Additionally, the data dashboard for the Cochrane District is available on the Cochrane District System of Care website.

5

Strengthen Supports for Seniors and Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

5.1 - Addressing Seniors Housing Needs in the Cochrane District - The CDSB continues to advocate and plan for multiple senior-specific housing projects, focusing on the development of deeply affordable housing options.

6

Expand Integrated Health and Housing Services and Improve Support Services for those with Criminal Records

6.2 - Supporting Justice Centre Needs Assessment - Led by the Ministry of the Attorney General, the CDSB is taking an active role in supporting a Needs Assessment for the development of a Justice Centre in the Cochrane District.

7

Promote Economic Stability and Expansion of Affordable Housing

7.1 - Nurse Practitioner Pilot - The CDSB, in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane-Timiskaming, developed the Nurse Practitioner Pilot Program in 2024/2025. This program, aimed to support Ontario Works clients better suited for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) in accessing the primary care resources needed to apply for ODSP.

7.3 - Rapid Re-Housing Initiative (RRHI) Pilot - Launched in October 2025, the RRHI focuses on early intervention for those who have experienced homelessness for three months or less. The program provides short-term rental assistance and case management.

8

Strengthen Enumeration and Data Collection Efforts

8.1 - Quality By-Name Data 4.0 Achievement - In July 2025, the CDSB achieved Quality By-Name Data, validating the quality of real-time, reliable BNL data in the Cochrane District.

Conclusion

The Everyone Counts: Cochrane District 2025 Enumeration marks the fourth comprehensive effort to enumerate homelessness across our region. On October 9, 2025, a total of **306** individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness—both sheltered and unsheltered—across the Cochrane District. This snapshot, while invaluable, represents only a portion of the ongoing challenge faced by our communities.

The By-Name List (BNL) provides a real-time, dynamic view of homelessness in Cochrane District. As of October 31st, 2025, the BNL recorded:

- **528** people actively experiencing homelessness in communities across the Cochrane District,
- **32** people successfully moved into housing across the Cochrane District in the month of October, and
- **45** people registering with the BNL for the first time in the month of October.

Cumulatively, since 2022, **2,084** individuals have experienced homelessness and registered on the BNL in the Cochrane District.

Homelessness has increased across the Cochrane District since 2021, and with that increase it has become both more entrenched and more complex. These findings highlight the persistent and dynamic nature of homelessness in the Cochrane District, as well as the importance of coordinated outreach and data-driven, evidence-based service delivery.

Key Takeaways from 2025 Findings:

- **Homelessness remains a significant and persistent challenges in the Cochrane District.**
The number of people experiencing homelessness has fluctuated over recent years. While the 2025 Enumeration noted a reduction, limitations in surveying lead to the understanding that this is significantly underreported. Reviewing the BNL data for the month of the survey period confirms this, with 528 people actively experiencing homelessness in October 2025.
- **Unsheltered homelessness, especially encampments, has grown significantly.**
Unsheltered homelessness has nearly tripled in the Cochrane District since the 2021 Enumeration - increasing from 39 in 2021 to 117 in 2025. There was 29% increase in individuals observed and surveyed in encampments from 2024 to 2025, increasing from 19 to 75. There is a growing trend of people moving into remote areas and encampments, often to avoid violence, visibility and interactions with by-law/law enforcement and other services, making enumeration and the provision of supports more difficult.
- **Hidden homelessness and remote homelessness is increasingly difficult to enumerate.**
Many people avoid contact with service providers, or reside in extremely remote areas. The gap between enumeration and BNL data suggests that hidden homelessness and episodic homelessness are significant, especially outside of Timmins.

- **The population experiencing homelessness in the Cochrane District is diverse and dynamic.** While the 2025 Enumeration did not collect detailed demographic data, previous years' surveys have identified an overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples, youth and people facing complex health challenges. Using both enumeration and BNL data we see these trends continue into 2025.

The Cochrane District has seen a significant rise in unsheltered homelessness and encampments, which can be attributed to several factors, including but not limited to:

- Economic instability and inadequate income supports.
- Limited supply of affordable, appropriate and culturally safe housing options - especially in rural and northern settings.
- Reliance on programs and services that don't receive consistent, base funding.
- Systemic inequities and barriers.
- Lack of integrated service options that address housing instability that are intertwined with mental health, substance use and/or chronic illness.
- Colonial legacies and ongoing discrimination.

What this Means for the Cochrane District

The data tells us that one-time, emergency responses cannot bend the curve. As a system, we must ensure there is a focus on upstream interventions and deepen coordination efforts across the District:

- Advocate for continued investment in developing and funding affordable, supportive housing.
- Develop and implement a Cochrane District Homelessness Strategy
- Strengthen Coordinated Access, By-Name List and HIFIS utilization.
- Build dedicated youth prevention pathways.
- Work collaborative with Indigenous leaders and service providers.
- Tighten discharge planning with provincial institutions to better support transitions to housing.
- Advocate for adequate income supports.

Enumeration is not only a moral and strategic tool—it drives visibility, accountability, and momentum for change. The CDSB is committed to actively developing a district-wide homelessness strategy that is informed by robust data, including the Point-in-Time Count, and intentionally embeds the voices of Indigenous communities, people with lived and living experience (PWLLE), service providers and Municipalities. By centering these perspectives and leveraging evidence, we mobilize collective action to create lasting solutions and ensure every community in the Cochrane District is part of the path forward.

Homelessness in the Cochrane District is solvable. The path requires sustained investment in affordable and supportive housing, Indigenous self-determination, youth prevention, justice-informed transitions, and a data-driven, coordinated System of Care. With our partners—and with the evidence in hand—we will pursue functional zero by making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Acknowledgements

The CDSB would like to thank the following organizations that were involved in the 2025 Point-in-Time Count. The collection of data required for this important work would not have been possible without their support:

- Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane-Timiskaming
- City of Timmins
- Cochrane District Detox Centre
- Cochrane District Services Board - Children's Services Department
- Cochrane District Services Board - Housing Services Department
- Cochrane District Services Board - Ontario Works
- Cochrane District Services Board - Paramedic Services
- Cochrane District Services Board - System of Care
- DIY Community Health
- Ellevive
- Good Samaritan Inn
- Ininew Friendship Centre
- Kapuskasing Friendship Centre
- Living Space
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre
- Monteith Correctional Complex
- Mushkegowuk Fire Keeper Program
- North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
- Northeastern Public Health
- Northern College
- Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Reflexion
- Timmins Academic Family Health Team
- Timmins and Area Women in Crisis
- Timmins and District Hospital
- Timmins Youth Wellness Hub

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to community volunteers across the Cochrane District, including those with lived and living experience of homelessness.



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