

Point-In Time (PIT) Count - Homelessness

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Meeting Date:	December 6, 2021
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
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Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the results of the 2021 Point-In Time Count Homelessness Enumeration conducted within the City of Greater Sudbury.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Indigenous, Youth, Mental Health, Housing, and Healthy Streets by providing data on persons experiencing homelessness in the City of Greater Sudbury. This report has no relationship to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

The Point-In Time Count is funded through Federal Reaching Home funding and there are no financial implications to the municipal levy.

Background

Under the Federal Reaching Home Funding Agreement, communities are required to participate in a Coordinated Point-In Time Count (PIT Count) as a standard enumerating method to ensure consistent comparison of homelessness across the country. A Point-In Time Count was required to be completed prior to December 31, 2021.

A PIT Count of homelessness has two primary purposes:

- It is intended to identify how many people in a community experience homelessness at one point in time. Conducted over subsequent years, PIT Counts can be used by the community to track progress in reducing homelessness.
- Through an accompanying survey, the PIT Count gives the community information on the demographics and service needs of their homeless population. This information can be used to target community resources where they are most needed.

On October 19th, 2021, the City of Greater Sudbury partnered with Indigenous and community service providers to complete a one-night Point-In Time Count. Shelter, transitional housing and outreach staff conducted surveys with people who are staying in an emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter, transitional housing, couch surfing, encampment or on the street. The City of Greater Sudbury also partnered with Health Sciences North and the Sudbury Jail to obtain a count of individuals staying in hospital or jail with no fixed address.

The N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre partnered with the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY) to hold an outdoor breakfast the morning of October 20th to complete surveys with individuals who may not have completed a survey the night before. A vaccination clinic was also made available by Public Health Sudbury & Districts at the breakfast.

In addition to participating in the survey, persons experiencing homelessness were offered information about community resources, including how to be added to the City of Greater Sudbury's By-Name List, and a \$10 gift card as an honorarium.

The Point-In Time Count was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and this may have impacted the number of surveys completed. Surveyors wore recommended Personal Protective Equipment and maintained physical distancing whenever possible. At the time of the count there was a COVID-19 outbreak declared by Public Health at Memorial Park which was the site of a large encampment of individuals experiencing homelessness. Access to persons in Memorial Park was limited.

Results

On the night of October 19th, 2021 there were 398 individuals experiencing homelessness identified through enumeration and surveys.

Of the 398 individuals,

- 165 people were staying in an encampment
- 40 people were sleeping unsheltered in public space
- 97 people were staying in shelter
- 28 people were staying in transitional housing
- 42 people were staying in systems (i.e., hospital or jail)
- 12 people were experiencing hidden homelessness (e.g., couch surfing, self-funded motel/hotel)
- 14 people were unsure where they should stay that night

Of the 398 individuals encountered during the PIT Count, 132 individuals consented to participate in the survey. High level data from the survey results included:

- 61% identified as male, 37% as female
- 76% were between the age of 25 to 59 years old
- Single adults made up 83% of the survey respondents
- 42% identified as Indigenous
- 75% had stayed in an emergency shelter within the past year
- 57% were chronically homeless (homeless for over six months in the past year)
- 33% had relocated to Sudbury within the past year and 15% within the past 60 days
- 80% stated they had a substance use issue and 66% reported a mental health issue
- 98% stated they wanted to get into permanent housing

A full analysis of the data is attached at **Appendix A**.

Previous Enumeration

Previous homelessness enumerations were conducted in Greater Sudbury in 2018, 2015, and through a series of time studies between 2000 and 2007. The current Point-In Time Count differs in methodology from previous counts due to the current count being conducted over a 24-hour period. Guidelines from the Federal and Provincial government for the current Point-In Time Count include requirements to complete the count on a single night. Surveys may also be administered over a 24-hour period or several days following the count to accommodate hours of service (i.e., food banks). The use of a Point-In Time Count method was preferable during the COVID-19 outbreak to limit interactions.

Next Steps

The results of the PIT Count will be reported to the Federal and Provincial governments and will contribute to the understanding of homeless across Ontario and Canada. The results will be reported publicly to the community with specific efforts made to communicate the findings to those who work in the housing and homelessness sector. Finally, local leadership, including the Leadership Encampment Table, will use these results in systems planning and resource allocation to address the service needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Resources Cited

Everyone Counts 2021 – Recommended Standards for Participation

[Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy - Canada.ca](#)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Service Manager Guidelines: By-Name List implementation and homeless enumeration

[Service Manager Guidelines: By-Name List implementation and homeless enumeration \(ontario.ca\)](#)

Homelessness in the City of Greater Sudbury: 2018 Enumeration.

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/live/community-housing/housing-services1/homelessness-report-cards/homelessness-count-by-laurentian-university/>

Homelessness in Greater Sudbury: 2015 Period Prevalence Count.

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/live/homelessness-initiatives/reports-and-research1/homelessness-report-2015/>