

2023 By-Name List Report and Report Card on Homelessness

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| Presented To: | Community and Emergency Services Committee |
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| Type: | Correspondence for Information Only |
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| Recommended by: | General Manager of Community Development |

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the data and outcomes from the 2023 By-Name List Data, as well as the 2023 Report Card on Homelessness.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

The report supports the Council's Strategic Plan around Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Indigenous Youth, Mental Health, Housing and Healthy Streets by providing a coordinated response for individuals who are homeless in the community. This report has no relationship to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

The Coordinated Access System for people experiencing homelessness in the City of Greater Sudbury was launched in July 2021. The implementation of this system was a requirement under both the Federal Reaching Home program and Provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Guidelines. A Coordinated Access System improves collaboration and coordination in the homelessness and housing sector, which has been identified as a key priority of the 2013 Housing and Homelessness Plan and the 2021 Homelessness Consultation.

The City of Greater Sudbury's Coordinated Access System is supported by a collaboration of community agencies that work together to support people experiencing homelessness to find and maintain housing. The participating agencies have trained staff to add names to the By-Name List, work collaboratively to support people experiencing homelessness, and meet weekly as part of a Homelessness Assessment Review Team (HART) to match people to available housing that meets their needs.

As was noted in the Roadmap to End Homelessness, a lack of supply of affordable housing and the increase in market rents within the private sector has greatly exacerbated the ability to link people to stable housing. In addition, the community has observed an increase in renoventions and a loss of affordable housing in the downtown core, an increase in acuity levels of people experiencing homelessness, and a significant decrease in the number of people housed through urgent status in community housing over the past few years. Data that measures the time to housing on the By-Name List doubled from 2022 to 2023. The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) has advised many communities to have seen increased numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness.

By-Name List

A key component of a Coordinated Access System is a By-Name List; a real-time list of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the community who are interested in housing or housing support services and have consented to having their name added to the list. The By-Name List is held securely by the City of Greater Sudbury and data sharing agreements have been completed with all partner agencies to maintain privacy and confidentiality standards.

The By-Name List collects key data points required to prioritize individuals and households on the list for available housing resources.

Data points collected include:

- Length of time experiencing homelessness
- Current sleeping arrangements
- Contributing factors to homelessness
- Acuity (level of need)
- Demographics (i.e. Indigenous status, gender, age)

The By-Name List provides valuable real-time information about the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community, the number of new inflows into homelessness, the number of people moved to housing or those who have become inactive (due to loss of contact or move out of community). It also measures the number of people who were housed and have subsequently returned to homelessness. The 2023 By-Name List Data report provides full information about the Community Level Outcomes as well as the other By-Name List measures that inform our homelessness sector.

2023 Outcomes

As the By-Name List was implemented in July 2021, the year 2022 was the first full year of data and used as a baseline to measure progress towards desired outcomes in subsequent years. The implementation of the Coordinated Access System and By-Name List is intended to support the community in meeting key outcomes including:

1. Homelessness is reduced overall and for specific populations (i.e. Indigenous)
 2. Chronic homelessness is reduced
 3. New inflows into homelessness are reduced
 4. Returns to homelessness are reduced
1. The desired outcome of “Homelessness is reduced overall and for specific populations (i.e. Indigenous)” was not met in 2023. In 2023 the number of people actively homeless in the community increased from 181 on December 31, 2022 to 237 on December 31, 2023, a 31% increase.

The number of people actively homeless who identify as Indigenous was 109 on December 31, 2023 up from 92 on December 31 2022. However, the percentage of actively homelessness individuals who identified as Indigenous reduced from 56% in 2022 to 44% in 2023, a 12% decrease.

2. The desired outcome of “Chronic homelessness is reduced” was not met. As of December 31, 2023, the number of persons on the list who are experiencing chronic homelessness was 196, which is 79% percent of the total number of actively homeless. This is in comparison to December 31, 2022, when the number of persons on the list who were experiencing chronic homelessness was 143, which was 87% percent of the total number of actively homeless. The number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness on the list has increased by 37% from 2022 to 2023.
3. The desired outcome to reduce the number of new inflows into homelessness was met. In 2023, 301 individuals were newly identified to the By-Name List through various homelessness service providers. This is a decrease of 13% from 2022 when 346 individuals were newly identified to the By-Name List.
4. The desired outcome that returns to homelessness is reduced was not met. In 2023, there were 78 returns to homelessness, which may include the same individual becoming housed, and returning to homelessness more than once during the year. In 2022, there were 37 returns to homelessness. The number of returns to the homelessness on the list has increased by 111% from 2022 to 2023.

The By-Name List Data was a key data informant for the development of the Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030 Report approved by Council on May 28, 2024.

Report Card on Homelessness

A Report Card on Homelessness for the City of Greater Sudbury has been prepared annually since 2008. The Report Card is intended to provide a quick information snapshot about the homelessness situation to all sectors of the community from business, education, health, government, social services, faith community, and members of the public, and will be made publicly available on the City of Greater Sudbury’s website.

The 2023 Report Card on Homelessness provides updates on the outcomes from the By-Name List Data Report, as well as updates on emergency shelter usage, encampments, new services and upcoming initiatives aimed at reducing homelessness within the community.

Next Steps

As was presented to Council during Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030, overall numbers rebounded significantly in 2023 and is based on a lack of affordable housing supply. The primary recommendations outlined in the report and approved by Council call for large scale investments in affordable housing. Staff are currently working on several housing-based initiatives including several affordable housing projects that are underway which will have an impact on the trends observed within the community.

Resources Cited

Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=53564>

City of Greater Sudbury Ten-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan update (2019-2023)

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=1703>