

2024 Point in Time (PiT) Count- Homelessness

Presented To:	Community and Emergency Services Committee
Meeting Date:	May 21, 2025
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
Prepared by:	Gail Spencer Children and Social Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the results from the 2024 Point in Time Count Homelessness Enumeration conducted within the City of Greater Sudbury in October 2024.

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

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

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury's 2024 Point in Time (PiT) Homelessness Count is part of a Canada-wide count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals on a single night. Under the Federal government's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy program, communities are required to conduct a Point-in-Time Count ("PiT Count") to provide a community-level measure of sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It also provides a national picture of homelessness.

The PiT Counts are comprised of two componentsⁱ:

1. A PiT Count Enumeration: an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within a determined geographical area on a single night. It also identifies the location where they spent the night: in shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered locations.

2. A Survey on Homelessness: The survey includes a set of standardized questions that are administered directly to individuals experiencing homelessness. Respondents include those in shelters, transitional housing, health and correctional systems, unsheltered locations, and hidden homeless (e.g. people who are “couch surfing”). The survey collects information on the characteristics and experiences of people experiencing homelessness to help community organizations and all orders of government better understand and serve this population across Canada.

On October 8th, 2024, the City of Greater Sudbury partnered with Indigenous and community service providers to complete a one-night PiT Count enumeration. Between October 8th, 2024, and October 15th, 2024, shelters, transitional housing and outreach staff conducted surveys with people who were 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. Two magnet events were held to connect with priority populations to complete the survey - a breakfast hosted by N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre and a pizza dinner hosted by the Sudbury Youth Wellness Hub.

A previous PiT Count, using the same methodology, was completed in Greater Sudbury in October 2021. Other homelessness counts using different methodologies were completed in 2018, 2015 and through a series of homelessness studies between 2000 and 2007. Results from these previous reports can be found on the [City's website](#).

Results

On the night of October 8th, 2024, there were 505 individuals experiencing homelessness identified through enumeration and surveys. In comparison to the previous PiT Count conducted on October 19th, 2021, this number increased from 398 to 505 individuals experiencing homelessness, or 107 individuals, an increase of 27%.

Of the 505 individuals,

- 219 people were staying in an encampment
- 121 people were sleeping unsheltered in public spaces (excluding encampments)
- 71 people were staying in an emergency shelter
- 53 people were staying in transitional housing
- 32 people were staying in systems (i.e., hospital or jail)
- 9 were staying in a domestic violence shelter

In comparison to the October 19th, 2021 PiT Count, of those enumerated, 14% were staying in emergency shelter in 2024, a decrease from the results in 2021, when 24% were staying in shelter. The most significant change was an increase in the number of individuals staying unsheltered, from 10% in 2021 to 24% in 2024.

Of the 505 individuals encountered during the PiT Count, 229 individuals consented to participate in the survey. High level data from the survey results included:

- 63% identified as male, 33% as female
- 79% are between the age of 25 to 59 years old
- 71% identify as a single adult
- 38% identified as Indigenous
- 68% had stayed in an emergency shelter within the past year
- 75% were chronically homeless (homeless for over six months in the past year)
- 72% had lived in Sudbury for more than five years, 4% had been in Sudbury for less than six months
- 73% stated they had a substance use issue
- 71% reported a mental health issue

For comparison with the previous PiT Count, in 2021, 81% of survey respondents were single adults; whereas in 2024, 71% of survey respondents were single adults. This assumes there is a higher proportion of families that are experiencing homelessness. The number of chronically homeless survey respondents has increased from 57% in 2021, to 75% in 2024, and a smaller proportion of survey respondents are making use of shelter services; 68% in 2024 as opposed to 75% in 2021. Finally, in 2024, a smaller proportion of survey respondents (73%) reported having a substance use issue than in 2021 (80%).

A comprehensive overview of survey data collected through the Point in Time Count is attached to this report in Appendix A and B; the report is available in English and French.

Key trends highlighted through the 2024 Point in Time Count are the continued overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness in Greater Sudbury, exits from provincial systems into homelessness, and the ongoing housing, mental health, and addictions crisis. This further highlights the need for strategies that support Indigenous healing and well-being, strategies to strengthen discharge planning from systems, continued investments in housing of all types across the housing continuum (transitional, supportive and affordable housing), and collaborative efforts to improve health outcomes of the unhoused population.

Limitations

As with all data sources, information collected during nationally coordinated PiT Counts has unique strengths, as well as limitations. It is important to note that a PiT Count enumeration is not intended to:

- be a measure of everyone who experiences homelessness in a community over time. By focusing on a single day, the count will omit some people who cycle in and out of homelessness, providing an estimate of how many people are homeless on a given night.
- be an enumeration, or count, of hidden homelessness (e.g., people who are “couch surfing”). Alternatively, the PiT Count enumeration is a measure of visible homelessness (e.g., sleeping in shelters, on the street, or in other locations that are financially supported through the homeless-serving sector) on the day of the count. The survey conducted through health care and corrections provides unique information on their experiences and service needs of those experiencing hidden homelessness.
- identify how long people will experience homelessness for, nor how individuals found housing or otherwise exited homelessness, and what programs or policies enabled those exitsⁱⁱ.

Next Steps

The results of the City of Greater Sudbury 2024 PiT Count will continue to inform the impact of homelessness in the community and at the national level. The Federal government requires PiT Count Enumerations annually and administration of the survey every three years. The City of Greater Sudbury will continue to gather this valuable information to inform local decisions, and to continue to build a picture of national homelessness. Locally, this data, along with data collected through sources such as the By-Name List and Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), will continue to inform data-driven decisions by the City of Greater Sudbury regarding collaborative services, systems planning and housing focused solutions as identified in the Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030.

Key strategies outlined in the Roadmap to End Homelessness that support addressing homelessness in the community, as noted in the 2024 PiT Count results, include:

- Affordable Housing (Action Item 1.1) – aligning investments through the Roadmap to End Homelessness and Housing Supply Strategy to support continued housing growth.
- Strengthen Partnerships with Provincial Systems (Action Item 1.10) – increasing partnerships with systems including health, child welfare, and corrections to prevent existing systems into homelessness.

- Supportive Housing (Action Item 3.1) – increasing investments in supportive housing to support individuals with complex needs.
- Health, Housing, and Homelessness Planning and Strategy Table (Action Item 4.1) – increasing collaboration between the health, housing, and homelessness sectors to achieve health and housing outcomes.
- Indigenous Healing and Well-being (Action Item 4.3) – strengthening partnerships with Indigenous-led organizations to support Indigenous-led solutionsⁱⁱⁱ.

An update report on the implementation of the Roadmap to End Homelessness will be provided in June 2025 to Council, highlighting progress on these initiatives.

Resources Cited

ⁱ Government of Canada: Point-in-Time Counts of Homelessness <https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/resources-ressources/point-in-time-denombrement-ponctuel-eng.html>

ⁱⁱ Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. Everyone Counts: A Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada, 4th ed. <https://homelessnesslearninghub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Guide-to-Point-in-Time-Counts-in-Canada-4th-Edition-2-1.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ [City Council Meeting - May 28, 2024 - Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030](#)