

EVERYONE COUNTS 2018
POINT –IN – TIME HOMELESSNESS COUNT
City of Sault Ste. Marie
Social Services
Final Report
July 23, 2018

Submitted by:	Point-in-Time Coordinator: Liza Chikoski
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PiT Count Enumeration (note that the enumeration must refer only to the night of the count)		
Population	Data Source	Count
Unsheltered – Surveyed	Number of unsheltered responses*	2
Unsheltered – Observed	Number observed homeless from tally	9
Emergency Shelter and VAW	Systems data/Occupancy	17
Transitional Housing	Systems data/Occupancy	0
Systems (Health and/or Corrections)	Systems data	65
Unknown (likely homeless)	Number of “Respondent doesn’t know” responses**	9
Total		102

*Refers to the number of people who responded with an **unsheltered location** to the question, “Where are you staying tonight?”

**Refers to the number of responses of “Respondent doesn’t know (likely homeless)” to “Where are you staying tonight?”

Demographics*	
Population	Percent
Male	56.3
Female	28.1
Aboriginal identity	37.5
Veterans	6.3
Chronic (6+ months/ past year)	37.5
Episodic (3+ times/ past year)	31.3
Child (0 – 14)	9.4
Youth (15 – 24)	12.5
Adult (25 – 64)	78.1
Senior (65+)	0

Surveys Completed*	
Population	Count
Unsheltered	2
Emergency Shelter and VAW	26
Transitional Housing	0
Systems (Health / Corrections)	0
Hidden Homeless	0
Total	28

*Refer to results from **all surveys**, including those done on subsequent days if you also conducted a Registry Week or Period Prevalence Count.

1. PiT Count Overview			
Date(s)	April 18 th , 2018		
Time	Unsheltered Count	Sheltered Count	
	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	
	Magnet Event(s)	Other: N/A	
	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM		
Weather			
Ice Breaker/Honoraria Provided	A combination of five and ten dollar Walmart and Tim Hortons Cards were used for all individuals who attended the Magnet Events who were sheltered or unsheltered. Individuals who also attended various agencies during this time, or who were approached on the street to complete surveys, were also provided with an honorarium.		
		Yes	No
Did you conduct a joint Registry Week Period Prevalence Count?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

How did you adapt the methodology to conduct the survey on subsequent days?

This was not applicable to our survey as we only conducted the Point-In-Time Count.

2. Key Findings

What were the key findings of your PiT Count? Did the results confirm your expectations, or were there any surprises in your findings? If you conducted a previous count, what changes did you observe?

From the data we observed the following:

The current delivery of housing and homelessness services is designed to capture those individuals in our community who may face homelessness. These services include those individuals transitioning out of hospital, the treatment and remand centre, and emergency shelters.

Key factors contributing these findings include:

- The time of the year that the PiT Count was conducted contributed to the increase in unsheltered numbers. The 2016 PiT Count was conducted in February and this one in April.
- The number of individual participating in the surveys increased. We
- On the day of the 2018 PiT Count the number of individuals in institutions was higher than from those numbers observed during the PiT Count in 2016. This increased the overall numbers. Given the economic state of our community we anticipated that we could see an increase in overall numbers.
- Those in Emergency Shelters and VAW has decreased from 2016 to 2018. The decrease in shelters numbers indicates that our housing and homelessness plan is working..
- The 2018 PiT Count reporting requirements included a category for “Unknown” or “likely homeless” which also contributed to the increase in total numbers for the 2018 count.
- Our 2018 PIT Count, included volunteers administering a pre-screening tool (VI-SPDAT) and if necessary, would result in a SPDAT being administered. This was new for our PIT Count in 2018 and allowed for followup with specific individuals currently experiencing homelessness.

3. Project Structure

	Yes	No
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Did your community have a dedicated PiT Count Coordinator?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Did your community use an Assistant Coordinators? (e.g., Volunteer Coordinator, Night of the Count Assistant, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Describe:

Did your community use sub-committees? (eg., Survey Committee, Volunteer Committee, Aboriginal Engagement Committee, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Describe:

We utilized our Housing and Homelessness Committee and staff from multiple agencies, who are also members of our Homelessness Prevention Team, to facilitate the counts at the Magnet Events, on the street, and at various agencies throughout the city.

Did your organization involve community partners?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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How many partners and what sectors did they come from? Did your organization develop new partnerships during the count?

Describe: Approximately 20 partnering agencies were involved in the PIT Count including agencies from the following sectors: Indigenous sector, Corrections , Income Security (ODSP and OW), Mental Health, Addictions, Service Sector, Local emergency and VAW shelters.		
4. Methodology: Survey Development	Yes	No
Did you use Canadian Observatory on Homelessness questions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Describe: No we did not include any of the COH questions on this count. We will review the COH questions and decide before the next Point-In-Time whether the data collected from these questions would help to better serve our homeless clients.		
Did you include the VI SPDAT or another acuity assessment tool?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe: We included the VI SPDAT and conducted five (5) assessments. The information collected from the prescreening tool has been forwarded to our outreach staff who have contacted those individuals to administer the full assessment tool (SPDAT). The score of this assessment will provide further information to the Homelessness Prevention team whether a light housing touch is required, or Intensive Housing Based Case Management services are required. Should the latter be required, then urgent homeless status will be secured for those individuals on the centralized waitlist.		
Did you add local questions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe: Yes. We included two local questions that related to 1) how many times the individual moved in Canada within that past 5 years and 2) how access to housing services in Sault Ste. Marie compared to other communities.		
What was the process used to develop your survey?		
Describe: We reviewed recommendations made from our 2016 PIT Count, consulted with the Housing and Homelessness Committee , and determined the core questions along with the additional two questions added, would satisfy our local needs.		
Please include the final version of the survey used in your community.		
5. Methodology: Sheltered Count	Yes	No
Were surveys conducted in all shelters in your community? (e.g., Emergency shelters, transitional housing , and VAW shelters)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe: Yes surveys were conducted at our men’s shelter, our shelter for women, youth and families, as well as our local VAW shelters.		
How many shelters were:	Emergency or VAW: 4	Transitional: 0
How did you define Transitional housing (e.g., is there a maximum length of stay?):		

Were surveys conducted by volunteers in the shelters?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If not, describe who conducted surveys:		
How many surveyors conducted the sheltered surveys?	10	
Other comments: Staff completed the sheltered surveys at our women, youth and family shelter, men's shelter and two of our VAW shelters.		
6. Methodology: Unsheltered Count		
How many surveyors conducted the unsheltered surveys?	45	
How did you organize your survey teams? Our survey teams were organized based on the agencies they work for, their experience with the previous PIT Count, where each individual requested to survey, their experience with our unsheltered homeless community, and their VI SPDAT training. Every team had one individual trained to conduct this assessment for those individuals willing to participate.		
How did you determine the walking routes and known locations? The walking routes and locations were determined by information from our 2016 PIT Count as well as the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services staff members who were assigned to this count.		
Other comments:		
7. Methodology: Service Count (e.g., food banks, drop-in centres)		
Did your community conduct surveys at service locations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Which service locations were included and when did you conduct the surveys? One of our Magnet events was held at our community Soup Kitchen and we also conducted surveys at our local Neighbourhood Resource Centre which is overseen by the City of Sault Ste. Marie Police Services. The surveys were conducted between the hours of 11:00 am – 2:00 pm		
Other comments: Both of these locations generated the most surveys in our Pit Count.		
8. Methodology: Magnet Events		
Did your community conduct surveys during magnet events?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please describe the events and the populations surveyed in these locations: We had three (3) Magnet Events. At St. Vincent Place, our local Men's shelter, at our community Soup Kitchen, and at our local Indian Friendship Centre. We chose these locations due to their proximity to the downtown core, their exposure to our homeless community, and the diversity of services they offered. Populations surveyed in all locations included indigenous people, veterans, seniors, adults, youth, families.		

Other comments:		
9. Methodology: Indigenous Engagement		
How did you engage the Indigenous community?: Our Housing and Homelessness Committee included staff from local indigenous agencies (Ontario Aboriginal Housing, Nimkii –Naabkawagan Family Crisis Centre and the Indian Friendship Centre). Continual engagement with our Indigenous community was made possible through our day to day communication with these agencies, by word of mouth, as well as event posters that were placed throughout the community including at the above noted agencies.		
Other comments:		
10. Methodology: Public Systems (e.g., hospitals, corrections, and/or detox facilities)		
Did you include public systems?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Which systems did you include and how were they engaged? Our local hospital, treatment and remand centre, and detox centre were all part of our 2018 PIT Count. count. Through our existing partnerships with the above noted public systems, we were able to either conduct a head count of persons currently in these facilities that are either homeless by definition or at risk of homelessness.		
How did you enumerate homelessness in these systems?: We conducted a head count only. No surveys were conducted within these systems.		
Other comments:		
11. Methodology: Hidden Homeless		
Did you survey people experiencing hidden homelessness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How did you engage this population? Not applicable to our Point in Time Count.		
What was the screening process that your community used?		
Other comments:		
12. Methodology: Data Entry and Analysis		
Please describe your data entry, cleaning and analysis:: Data will be entered into HIFIS.		

13. Methodology: Reporting Back

How will the results be reported back to the community?
 Our results will be reported back to the community via media, and website. We are currently completing all reports and will arrange media coverage shortly thereafter.

14. Volunteers: Volunteer Recruitment	Yes	No
Did your count use volunteers?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How many volunteers were used?	55	

How did you recruit volunteers? Describe:
 Through our Housing and Homelessness Committee we were able to reach out to our community partners and recruit volunteers from our local agencies that are working currently on programs to reduce homelessness in Sault Ste. Marie.

What were the roles of the volunteers? Describe:
 We had two types of volunteers. Our support teams that were working at our main doors at the magnet events. Those volunteers were asked to greet people coming in and explain why we were there from social services, explain the survey and ask individuals if they would like to participate. The support staff would then direct the individual to the survey teams. The surveys were paired, one individual asking questions and the other individual recording answers.

15. Recommendations for Future PiT Counts

Describe any recommendations you have for future PiT Counts.

Overall Project Management Recommendations (e.g., decision making, assistant coordinator roles, etc.):
 Ensure ample time for training to be allotted to a core group of volunteers, as well as the consideration of COH questions.

Methodology Recommendations: (e.g., Survey Development, Sheltered and Unsheltered Count, etc.)
 When master copies of the survey documents was requested, the “recommended survey” did not include some of the questions that appear to be “core” questions in the HIFIS software. The recommended survey should include all of the core questions and not be listed with the “customizable” survey.

Day of the Count Logistics Recommendations:
 We have customized the “unsheltered tally sheet” to be given to volunteers when completing the screening tool - to include their responses for those who screen out. It will assist in the data collection and reporting process.

UNSHeltered TALLY SHEET

Area: _____ Time: _____ to _____
 Interviewer: _____ Contact phone #: _____

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 homeless, 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					C. Where are you staying tonight?		*Observed Homelessness		
		Declined*	Already Responded	Screened Out (Response to Q)	Observed*	a. Decline to Answer	b. Own Apartment /House	c. Someone else's place	d. Motel/Hotel	e. Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	Observed Homeless

<p>Volunteer Management and Training Recommendations: A mock exercise should be done prior to next PiT Count in order to ensure all volunteers are clear about the documentation that needs to be completed. Ensure step-by-step review.</p>
<p>Media and Communications Recommendations: Please refer to link below. It may be beneficial if a news release was done by Employment and Social Development Canada in the various communities to assist in the advertising of the count. https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/everyone-counts-2018-point-in-time-counts-of-homelessness-taking-place-across-canada-676586923.html</p>
<p>HIFIS PiT Count Module Recommendations: PiT Count reports will need to be created before the next count to be able to display the data collected in a manner that reports information efficiently.</p>
<p>What resources were most useful as you implemented the count? The past PiT Count information was helpful as well as the Community Workspace on Homelessness.</p>
<p>Were there any additional resources that could have been developed to help your community implement the count? It was difficult to find due dates for the reports and data to be completed. This information should be added to the workspace for communities to access.</p>
<p>16. Other Comments</p>
<p><i>Include any other comments your community has that weren't addressed in the questions above.</i></p>
<p>Note: If your community would like to share training materials, promotional tools, or other developed materials. Please attach them to the report.</p>