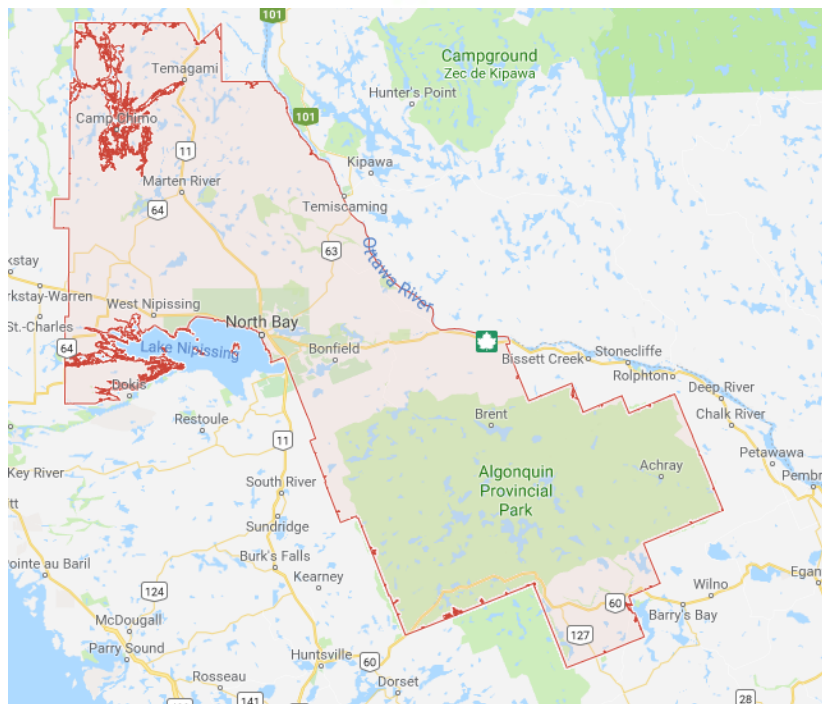




Everyone Counts

Nipissing District



A Count and Survey of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in: North Bay, Mattawa, and West Nipissing



Funded by the Government of Canada's
Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)
and the Ontario Ministry of Housing



“North Bay is a Hub, therefore there are a lot of people looking for units. There aren’t enough units. I know of one couple that have been looking for 3 months. People come to North Bay from all directions. The Services are good, there are just too few places to rent.”

– Survey Participant, 2018

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1.0 Acknowledgements

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board would like to thank community partners and individuals from across the District of Nipissing who assisted and supported the Everyone Counts- Nipissing District project. The DNSSAB would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions:

Aids Committee of North Bay and Area (ACNBA)
Alliance Centre
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Bay and Area
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Nipissing
Canadian Red Cross
Crisis Centre North Bay – 4 Elms Residence and Future’s Program
Do it All Downtown-North Bay
Horizon’s Women’s Centre
Low Income People’s Involvement of Nipissing (LIPI)
Mattawa Women’s Resource Centre
Mattawa and District Food Bank
Nipissing Mental Health and Housing Support Services (NMHHSS)
Nipissing Transition House
North Bay Food Bank
North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (NBIFC)
North Bay Police Services
North Bay Public Library
North Bay Recovery Home
North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC)
Ojibway Women’s Lodge
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
Option Emploi
St. John’s Anglican Church- Open Arms Café
The City of North Bay
The Gathering Place
The Royal Canadian Legion
The Town of Mattawa
The Warming Centre Volunteers
Volunteer Community Members
West Nipissing General Hospital
West Nipissing Literacy Alliance
West Nipissing Public Library
YES Employment

A very special thank you goes out to The Salvation Army who provided their hall to be our training centre, Headquarters for the week of enumeration and everything in between.

2.0 Background

From Monday April 30th until Thursday May 3rd, the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board oversaw a four day enumeration of homelessness in Nipissing District. This initiative was a combined Point-in Time Count and Period Prevalence Count and involved fulfilling separate Federal and Provincial guidelines for homelessness enumeration. Enumeration activities took place within the municipalities of North Bay, Mattawa, and West Nipissing. The objective of the Everyone Counts-Nipissing District initiative was to gather demographic and numerical information on the District's homeless population in order to more accurately understand the issues facing homeless individuals. The results gathered will assist the DNSSAB and local service providers in making more informed program and policy decisions with the goal of reaching our vision of creating healthy communities without poverty while reaching the Government of Ontario's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025.

The information gathered from this initiative will allow our community to:

- Identify the demographics and needs of the local population;
- Enhance system planning and program development;
- Measure progress towards ending homelessness;
- Increase public awareness about homelessness;
- Test the efficacy of programs and interventions aimed at ending homelessness.

3.0 The Findings

3.1 Definitions:

Unsheltered Homelessness

- defined as those who are sleeping in places unfit for human habitation. This includes sleeping in the following types of locations: the streets, alleys, parks, public locations, transit stations, abandoned buildings, vehicles, and other outdoor locations where people who are homeless may sleep. ¹

Sheltered Homelessness

- defined as those who are sleeping in emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, violence against women (VAW) shelters and transitional shelters. This can also include people who are receiving vouchers to stay in hotel/motel rooms when there are no shelter beds available. ²

Provisionally Accommodated

- refers to people who are 'couch-surfing' meaning they are living temporarily with others but do not have security of tenure. Provisionally housed populations can also be staying temporarily in a motel/hotel or those who are staying in a public institution (hospital, detox, detention, etc.) but who do not have permanent housing. ³

Absolute Homelessness

Also known as 'hidden homelessness'

Transitional Housing

- Defined as a type of accommodation that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing through the use of structure, supervision, and support. It is an intermediate step between emergency shelter and permanent housing that is limited in time to a stay of approximately three months to three years. Transitional housing also provides an environment where individuals can work in a supported environment to address issues that led to homelessness. Individuals will be working towards moving on to long term permanent housing. ⁴



3.2 Overall Enumeration Data

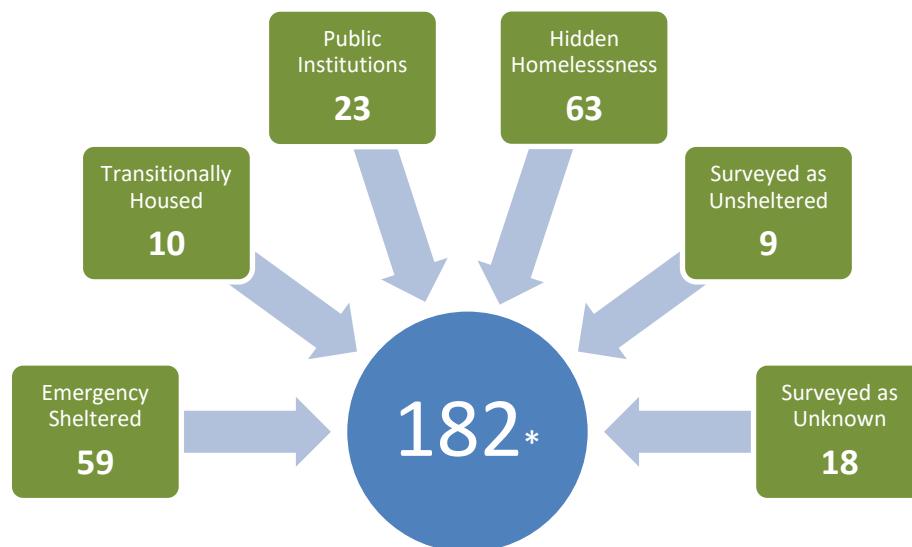
Overall Enumeration data includes a combination of individuals who were **counted** and **surveyed** as homeless across Nipissing District during the scope of the Everyone Counts project, from Monday April 30th until Thursday May 3rd.

The enumeration data provides the minimum number of people who were experiencing homelessness during the week of Everyone Counts. The total is a combination of coordinated count data and survey data to achieve the most accurate and de-duplicated total number of people experiencing homelessness.

Due to the transient and marginalization of homelessness, the data's combined total can be considered an under-representation of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Coordinated Count: Coordinated Count data was collected from emergency shelters, transitional housing providers, and public institutions on all four days of enumeration. This method allowed the Coordinators to determine the total number of people experiencing homelessness each night of the study. Coordinated count data from these organizations is de-duplicated to ensure that the same person isn't included more than once.

Survey Data: The survey data provided specific totals for the overall enumeration total, which ensured duplication from the coordinated count, was minimized. The numbers include those who indicated they were sleeping unsheltered, the hidden homeless (couch-surfing or staying in motel/hotel; and finally, individuals who stated they didn't know where they would be staying.



*An additional 14 individuals were observed as homeless through the process of volunteers tallying observed homeless individuals. This number is not officially included in the core enumeration. Observed homelessness counts cannot be de-duplicated due to the fact that multiple volunteers could be observing the same individual multiple times. Also, because the individuals are observed, the volunteer is relying on observations to deem this person as homeless and is not able to determine if the individual is in fact homeless.

3.3 The Survey

From Monday April 30th to Thursday May 3rd, Everyone Counts surveys were conducted in locations across the District within the municipalities of North Bay, Mattawa, and West Nipissing. Below is an overview of the cumulative data collected throughout the week.

770	• Number of survey interactions
385	• Number of people screened out
197	• Number of people who declined to take part
17	• Number of people who already completed the survey
157	• Number of surveys completed (including duplicates)
10	• Number of duplicate surveys, not included in final results
147	• Total Number of de-duplicated surveys

There were a total of 770 survey interactions between volunteers and members of the public during the week of Everyone Counts. 157 surveys were conducted across Nipissing District. After de-duplicating the data it was revealed that 10 of the surveys were duplicates.

A total of **613** individuals were approached by volunteers but were not surveyed. Reasons included:

- 385 people screened out as they had a place of their own to stay and were not homeless.
- 197 individuals declined to take part.
- 17 people had already completed the survey.

3.4 Survey Findings

The information below is based off of an analysis of 147 surveys conducted throughout the district.

North Bay
127 Surveys

West Nipissing
16 Surveys

Mattawa
4 Surveys

3.4.1 Sleeping Arrangements

3.4.1.1 Where are you sleeping tonight?

Individuals were asked to provide information on where they were sleeping that night, see Figure 1 below, as part of the screening process to take part in the survey. Responses of “my own place” indicated the respondent was not homeless and they were screened out.

Key Findings:

- A total of 42% of respondents or 61 individuals stated that they were staying at someone else’s place. This response includes those who are couch surfing by staying with family and friends.
- The second highest response category was those who were staying at Emergency Shelters in the District (29%).
- Of the responses, 12% of individuals (18) did not know where they were sleeping the night they were surveyed but indicated that they did not have a place of their own.
- A combined 9 individuals (6%) indicated that they were staying in an unsheltered location including public spaces (5), a vehicle (1), an abandoned building (1), or another location unfit for human habitation (2).
- The remaining 16 respondents (11%) were provisionally accommodated which included 10 individuals transitionally housed (7%), 4 individuals sleeping in public institutions (3%), and 2 individuals staying in a motel/hotel (1%).

“I have slept many nights in a storage unit. I really need help”- Survey Respondent, 2018

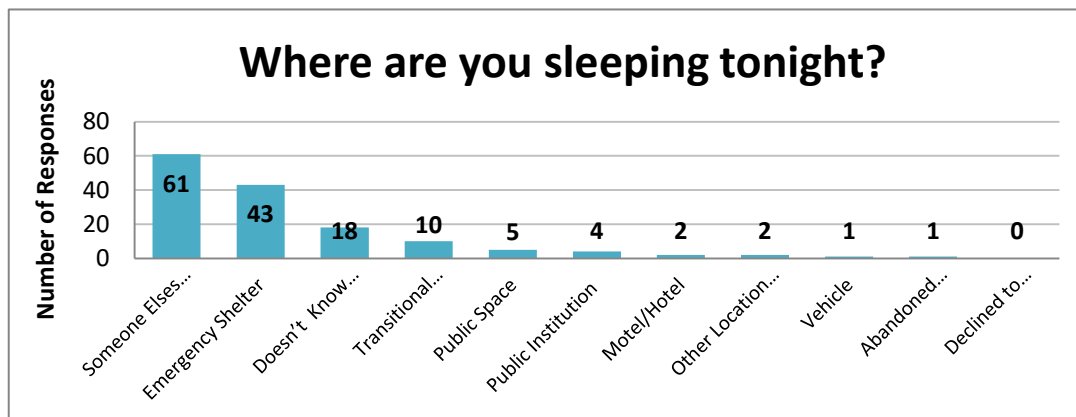


Figure 1 – Where are you sleeping tonight by response.

3.4.1.2 What Family Members are staying with you tonight?

When asked the question 'what family members are staying with you tonight?' 83% of respondents indicated that they were single individuals, see Figure 2 below. Of the responses, 17 % indicated that they had dependents or a partner/spouse who were staying with them tonight.

Of the 17% there were 15 recorded responses indicating non-surveyed dependent children were staying with the survey participant

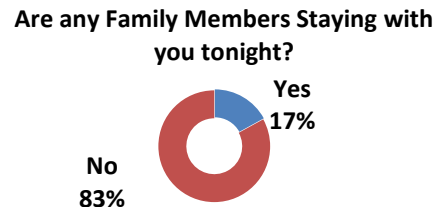


Figure 2 – Are any Family Members Staying with you tonight by percentage.

3.4.1.3 Permanent Housing

Participants were asked the question 'Do you want to get into housing?' This question was aiming to uncover whether individuals wanted to get into permanent housing such as their own apartment. A total, see Figure 3, of 126 (86%) of the participants said yes, that they would like to get into housing. There were 12 (8%) individuals who said no, 7 (5%) didn't know, and 2 (1%) participants who declined to answer this question.

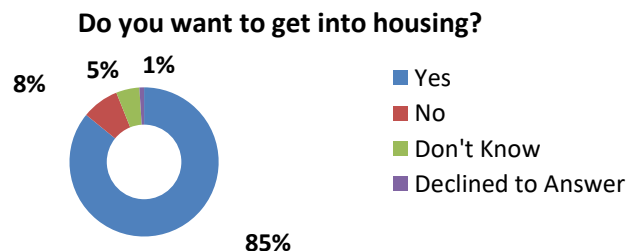


Figure 3 – Do you want to get into housing by percentage.

3.4.1.4 Emergency Shelter Stays

Participants were asked if they had stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year, see Figure 4 below. A total of 89 individuals (61%) indicated that they had stayed in a shelter, 55 (37%) had not stayed in an emergency shelter while 3 individuals (2%) stated that they didn't know if they had stayed in an emergency shelter.

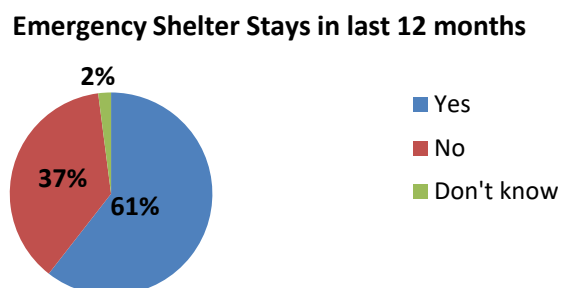


Figure 4 – Emergency Shelter Stays in the last 12 months by percentage.

3.4.1.5 Reason for not staying in an Emergency Shelter in the past year

For those who had not stayed in an Emergency Shelter, when asked why, respondents were able to choose as many responses that applied, see Figure 5 below.

Key findings:

- Of the 55 individuals who had not stayed in an emergency shelter, nearly a third (31%) of respondents had not stayed in an emergency shelter because they preferred to stay with family and friends.
- A combined 25 respondents also stated that the reasons they had not stayed at an emergency shelter was because of their mental health (9%), pets (9%), they had been turned away due to being banned (9%), and they had a fear for their safety (9%), while 5% declined to answer.
- There were 4 individuals (7%) who didn't know why they hadn't been to an emergency shelter and an additional 4 individuals (7%) who stated that they didn't want to go to a shelter.
- A total of 11 responses covered a variety answers such as: no shelters in the community (5%), lack of transportation (5%), turned away (5%), and fear of trauma for kids (4%).
- One individual (2%) had not spent time in an emergency shelter because they were temporarily residing in transitional housing, 1 respondent (2%) wanted long term shelter, another individual stated that they were in treatment (2%), and one individual (2%) did not know that there was a shelter in their community.

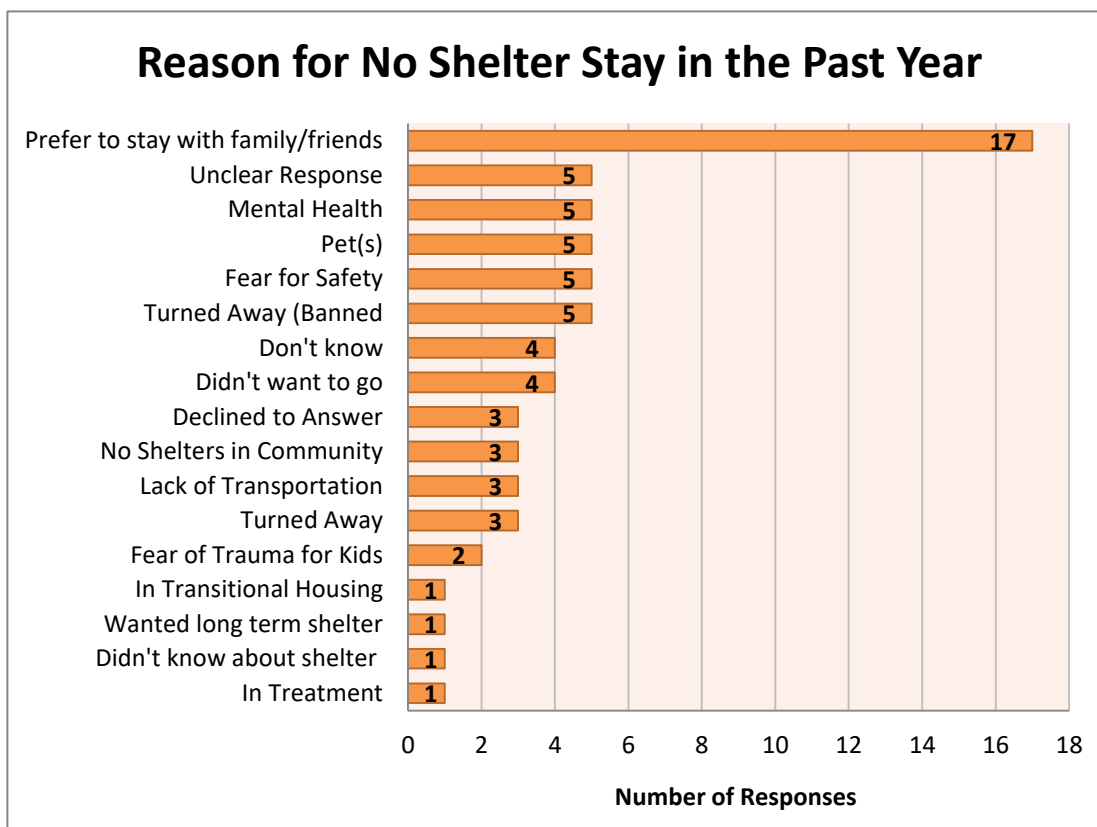


Figure 5 – Reason for No Shelter Stay in the last 12 months by response.

3.4.2 Causes of Homelessness/Barriers to Housing:

3.4.2.1 Reasons for Housing Loss

Participants were asked the question, ‘what happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?’, and provided a single response, see Figure 6 below, for their top reason based on their own unique circumstances.

Key Findings:

- The top three responses for why people lost their housing most recently were: addiction/substance abuse (21%), conflict with spouse/partner (21%), and unsafe housing conditions (17%).
- There were an additional 24 individuals (16%) who lost their housing because they weren’t able to pay their rent or mortgage
- A total of 18 respondents (12%) lost their housing most recently due to experiencing abuse from their spouse/partner.
- The remaining eleven responses included a variety of reasons listed in the table below:



Figure 6 – Reason for Housing Loss by response.

3.4.2.2 Obstacles to Housing

Participants were able to provide as many reasons as they wanted when answering the question about what was keeping them from finding their own place, see Figure 7 below.

Key Findings:

- The top three responses included: low income (57%), rent is too high (39%), and mental health issues (20%).
- A total of 29 responses (18%) indicated that their addiction was keeping them from finding a place of their own.
- Of the response, 23 individuals, approximately 16%, stated that discrimination was an obstacle to them finding housing.
- The remaining eighteen responses included a variety of reasons as seen in the corresponding chart.

"I am a full-time high school student, I find it difficult to also work and/or get enough hours to get off of OW. I feel like welfare doesn't provide enough funds to secure a safe, sober, clean and comfortable place to live."
-Survey Participant, 2018

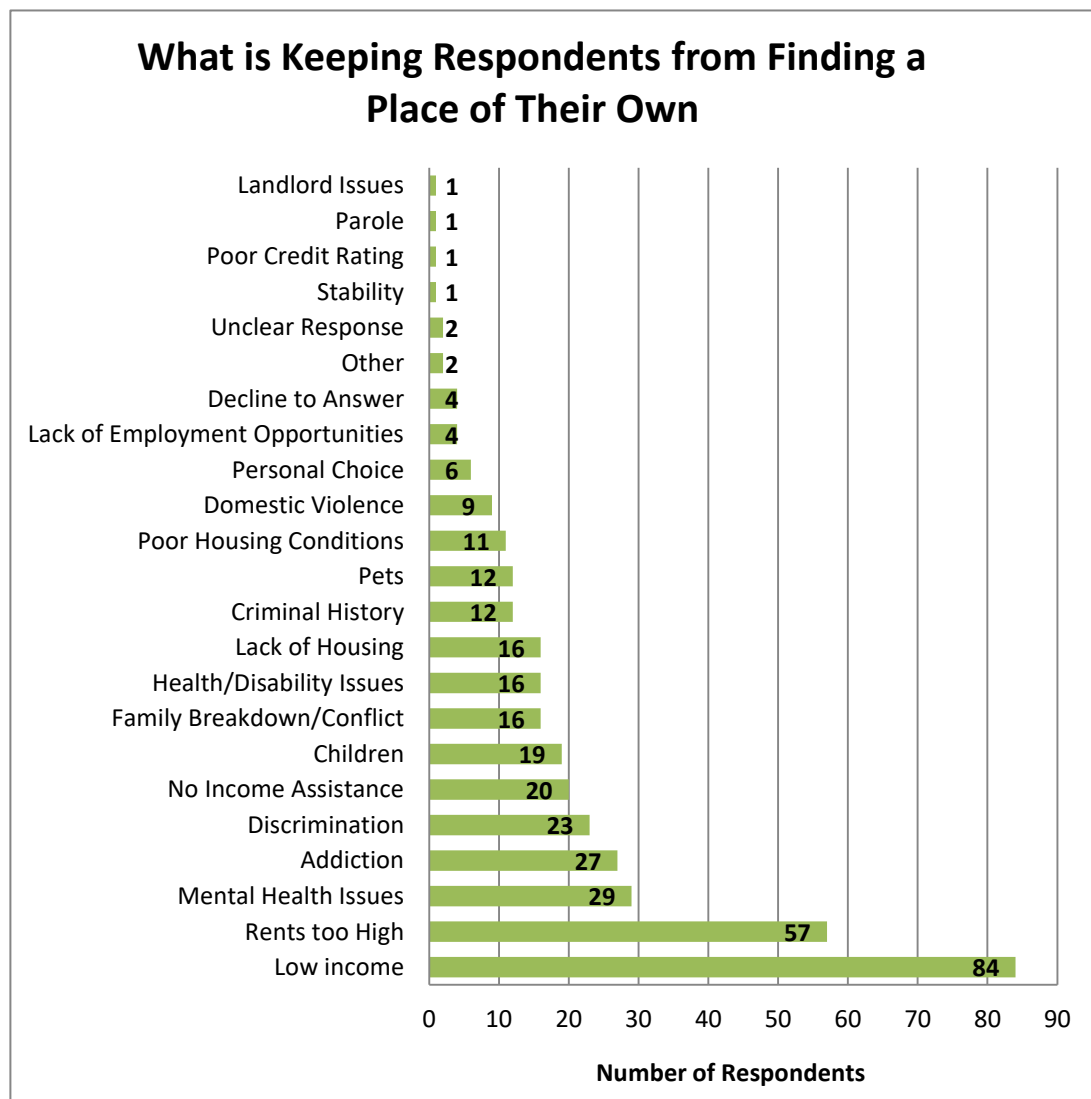


Figure 7 – What is keeping respondents from finding own place by response.

3.4.2.3 What would help you find housing?



Individuals were asked what would help them find housing and provided a variety of responses. The weight of each response is highlighted visually using the word cloud above. Respondents were able to provide more than one response.

Table 1 – Top 10 Responses

Top 10 Responses		
What would help people find housing?	Number of Responses	%
Money	63	43%
Housing options	17	12%
Support	16	11%
Affordable rent	12	8%
Employment	12	8%
Services	10	7%
Shorter waitlist	8	5%
Help	6	4%
Online resources	6	4%
Resources	6	4%

*Based on multiple responses

"I would like affordable and safe housing where I'm not forced into drug housing again due to my income."

- Survey Respondent, 2018

The **Top 10 Responses** to the question 'what would help you find housing?' can be found to the left in Table 1. There were 63 individuals (43%) who stated that money or more money would help them find housing. Of the responses, a total of 17 individuals indicated that having more housing options available would help them find housing. While, 16 individuals (11%) stated that having more support would help them find housing. An

additional 47 responses not captured in the chart included: safe housing, interaction, less discrimination, to stay sober, having a worker, accessible units, ambition, dry housing, to get clean, quit drinking, relocation, transportation to viewings, one central vacancy list, more youth programs, having an

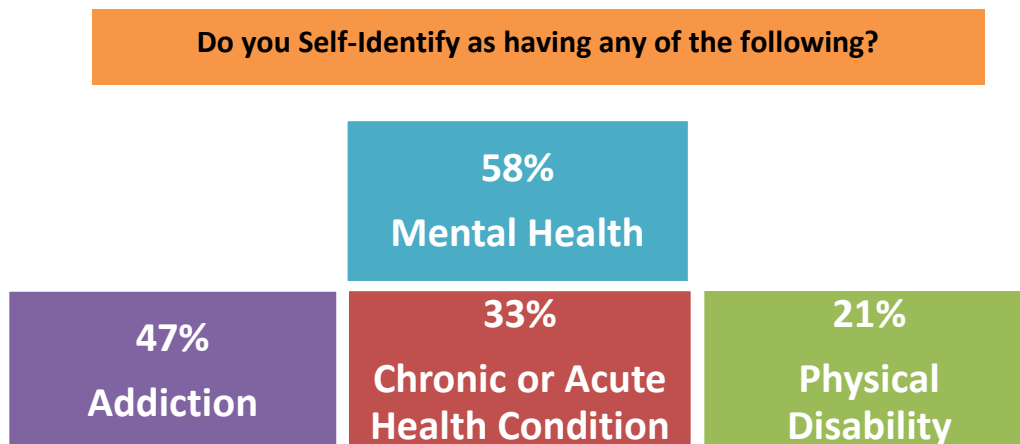
advocate, assistance, having a doctor, family support, group living, life skills, medication, priority housing, references, and help with the research involved with finding housing.

3.4.2.4 Disability

Individuals were asked if they identify as having any of the following disabilities. Each response is based off of a total of 147 survey responses and multiple responses were permitted.

Key findings:

- **Mental Health**
 - A total of 85 individuals (58%) stated that they had mental health issues.
 - There were 4 (3%) who declined to answer, 7 (5%) who did not know if they had a mental health issue, and 3 (2%) who did not provide a response. The remaining 48 individuals (33%) did not identify as having a mental health concern.
- **Addiction**
 - Nearly half of respondents, 69 individuals (47%) stated that they had an addiction.
 - There were 7 individuals (5%) declined to answer and 4 (3%) didn't know if they had an addiction, and 2 (1%) who did not provide a response. The remaining 65 individuals (44%) did not identify as having an addiction.
- **Chronic or Acute Health Condition**
 - A third of respondents (33%) or 48 individuals stated that they identified as having a chronic or acute health condition
 - 4 individuals (3%) declined to answer, 6 (4%) did not know if they had a chronic or acute health problem, 2 individuals (1%) did not provide a response, while the remaining 87 respondents (59%) did not indicate a chronic/acute health condition.
- **Physical Disability**
 - A total of 31 individuals or 21% of respondents disclosed that they had a physical disability.
 - There were 3 individuals (2%) who declined to answer, 3 (2%) who did not provide a response, 3 (2%) who did not know if they had a physical disability. The remaining 107 respondents (73%) did not identify as having a physical disability



3.4.2.5 Use of Services

Individuals were asked 'Are you currently receiving services for the following?' and were provided with a variety of response options with the opportunity to provide other answers not listed, see Figure 8 below. Individuals were able to provide multiple responses to this question based on the unique services they were accessing.

Key findings:

- A total of 60 individuals (41%) indicated that they were currently accessing mental health services such as counselling, treatment or other related services.
- Approximately, a third of individuals (34%) stated they were receiving services for addiction or substance abuse.
- There were 44 individuals (30%) who stated that they were not accessing any of the services listed and did not provide a response of other services they may have been accessing.
- A total of 31 respondents (21%) were accessing services for a serious or on-going medical condition, while 13 (9%) were accessing services for a learning disability.
- The remaining responses included those accessing services for physical disability (8%), brain injury (3%), pregnancy (1%), and other responses (2%). There were 7 individuals (5%) who declined to answer and 3 (2%) who did not provide a response.

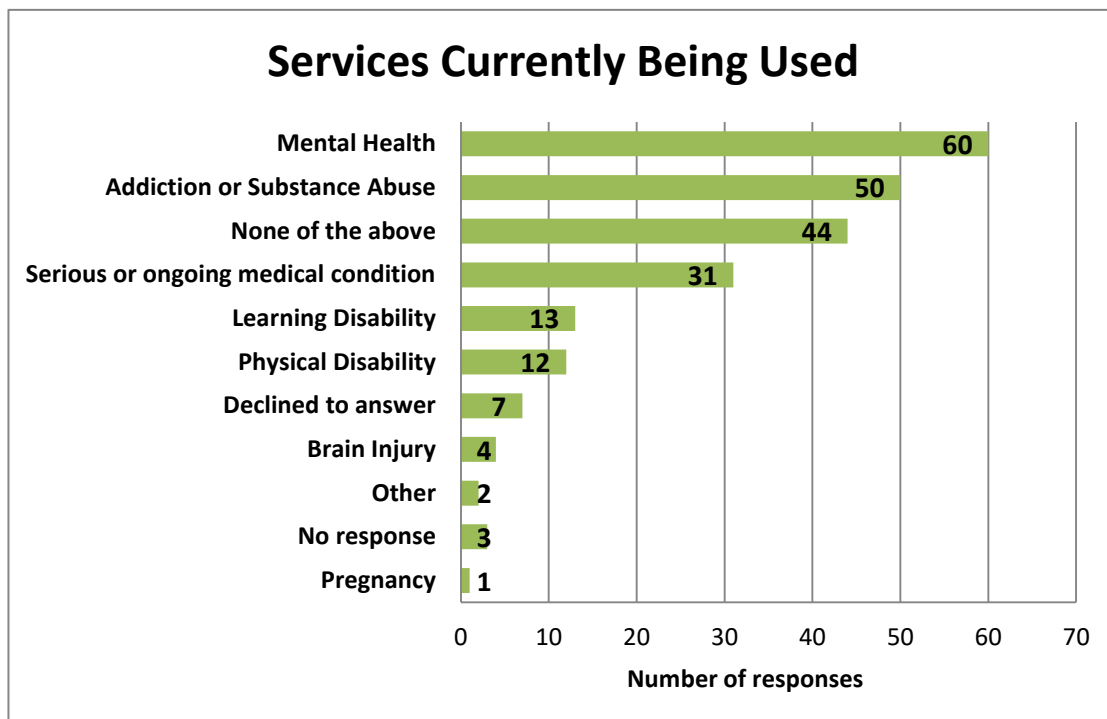


Figure 8 – Services currently being used by response.

35% of respondents received multiple services.

20% accessed both mental health and addiction or substance abuse services.

3.4.2.6 Concerns with Current Services

This question had a weak response rate with 89 individuals (60%) stating that they did not have any concerns, 34 (23%) not providing a response, and 4 individuals (3%) who declined to answer. Only 20 individuals (14%) stated that they have concerns with the services they were accessing.

The following is a collection of responses from individuals who stated that they had concerns with the services they were currently accessing:

Do you have any concerns with the services you are receiving?



"All they want to do is give you pills."

"I can't access services because they ask for an address and telephone number."

"I always have complications with booking appointments"

"The hospital is always rescheduling appointments."

"I don't have a family doctor so to get my prescriptions I have to go to emerge."

"I keep getting passed along"

"Poor hospital care when you have mental health issues."

"I keep missing appointments because of my addiction."

"There's always long wait times."

"I'm always put on a waitlist."

"I wish addictions support was more involved. Right now I'm hoping for a sponsor."

3.4.2.7 Other Types of Services

This question also had a weak response rate with 101 (69%) of respondents not providing a response when asked the question “what other types of services would you like?” see Figure 9 below for breakdown.

Key findings:

- There were 10 individuals (7%) who declined to provide a response to the question, and 11 (7%) who stated that they would not like any of the services listed and did not indicate other services they would like to access.
- There were 17 participants (12%) who indicated that they would like other services related to mental health, while 9% indicated that they would like additional support with addiction or substance abuse.
- The remaining responses included: serious or ongoing medical condition (4%) and brain injury (1%)

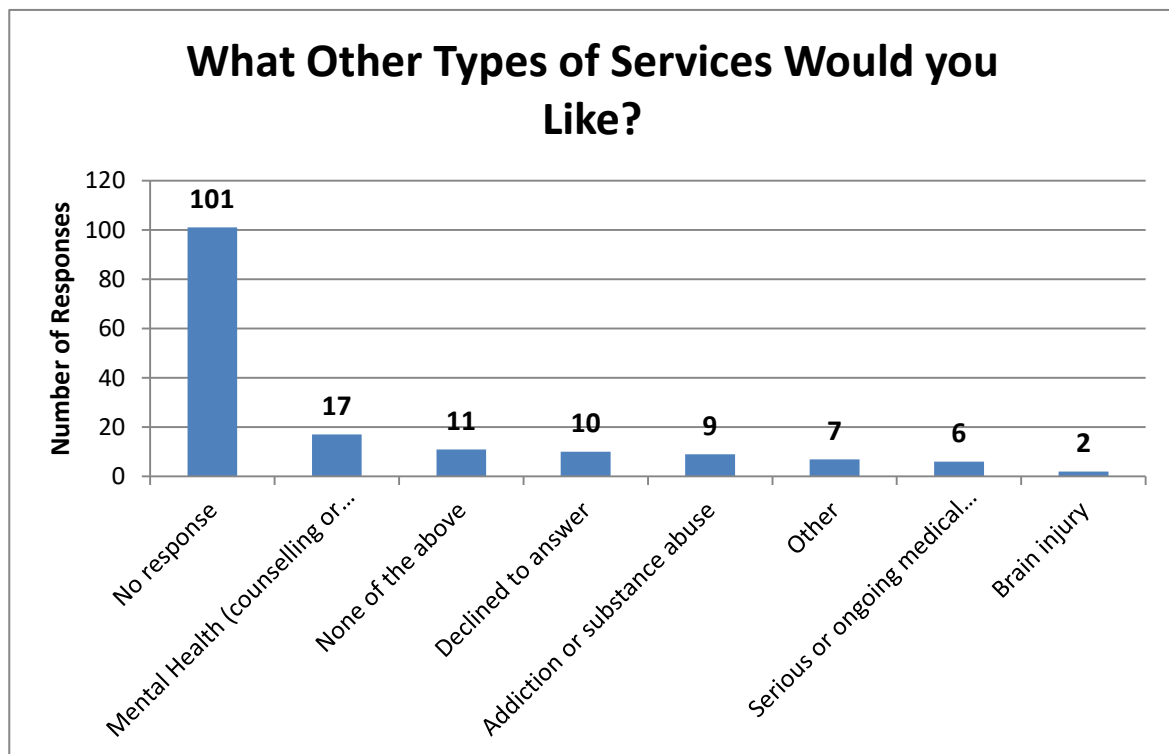


Figure 9 – What other types of service would you like by response.

3.4.3 In the Past 12 months:

3.4.3.1 Cumulative Homelessness

Individuals were asked, in total, how much time they have been homeless over the past year, see Figure 10. There were 41 individuals (28%) who indicated they had been homeless for 0-3 months, 23% for 3-6 months, and 57 (39%) had been homeless for 6 months or more in the past year. Therefore, 39% of participants were experiencing chronic homelessness. A total of 15 individuals did not respond to the question based on a variety of responses: 8 individuals didn't know how long they had been homeless, 4 declined to answer, while 3 individuals had an unclear/blank response.

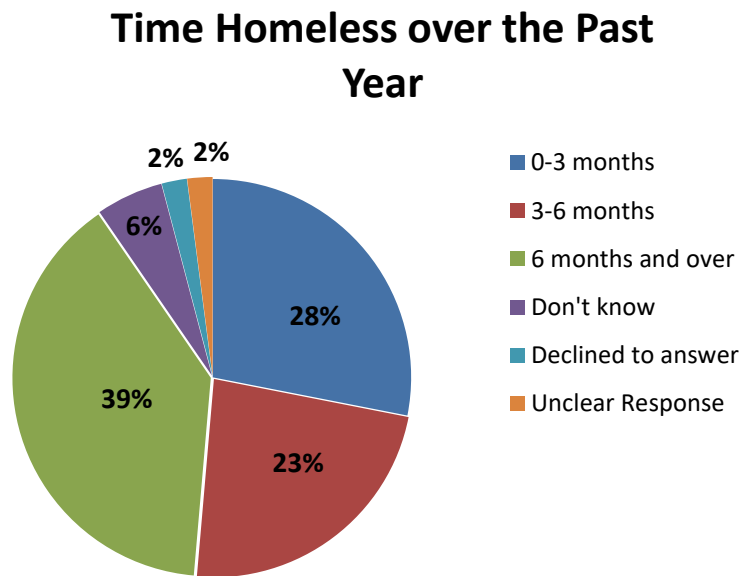
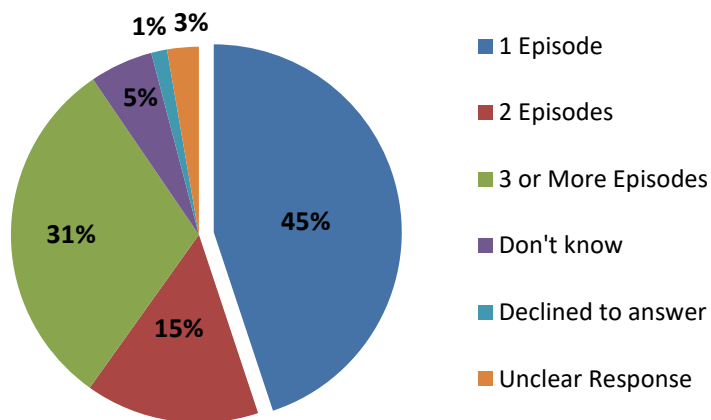


Figure 10 – Time homeless by percentage.

3.4.3.2 Episodic Homelessness

Number of Homeless Episodes in Past Year



Individuals were also asked how many different times they had experienced homelessness in the past year, see Figure 11. The results of this question reveal the level of episodic homelessness experienced in the District: 45% of individuals had experienced homelessness once over the past year, 15% had experienced 2 homeless episodes in the past year, while 31% of survey participants were episodically homeless as they had experienced 3 or more homelessness episodes.

Figure 11 – Number of Homeless Episodes in past year by percentage.

3.4.3.3 Public Systems Use in the Past 12 Months

As part of the survey, individuals were asked to provide details regarding the number of times they interacted and/or the duration of time experienced across key Public systems. Results were:



Emergency Room Visits

- 55% had visited the E.R.
- 224 Total visits to the E.R.
- One Individual had 12 visits to the E.R.
- 5 Individuals had been to the E.R. a total of 46 times



Times Hospitalized

- 29% had been hospitalized
- 90 total times hospitalized
- One Individual was hospitalized 24 times
- 3 individuals had a total of 38 hospital stays



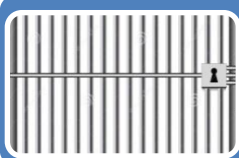
Days Hospitalized

- 43 individuals were hospitalized for a total of 1002 days
- 10 individuals had 20 days or more spent hospitalized
- One Individual was hospitalized for 365 days



Interactions with Police

- 48% of respondents had one or more interactions with police
- 71 people had a total of 448 interactions
- 5 people had 30 or more interactions with police
- One individual had 52 interactions with police



Prison and Jail Time

- 20% of people had spent 1 or more days in a prison/jail
- 29 people had a total of 3609 days incarcerated
- 5 people had spent 365 days incarcerated over the past year

Average Cost of 224 ER
Visits: ⁵

\$138,432

Average Cost of 1002 Days
Hospitalized: ⁶

\$2,821,632

Average Cost of 3609 Days
Incarcerated: ⁷

\$512,715



3.4.4 Participant Demographics:

3.4.4.1 Age

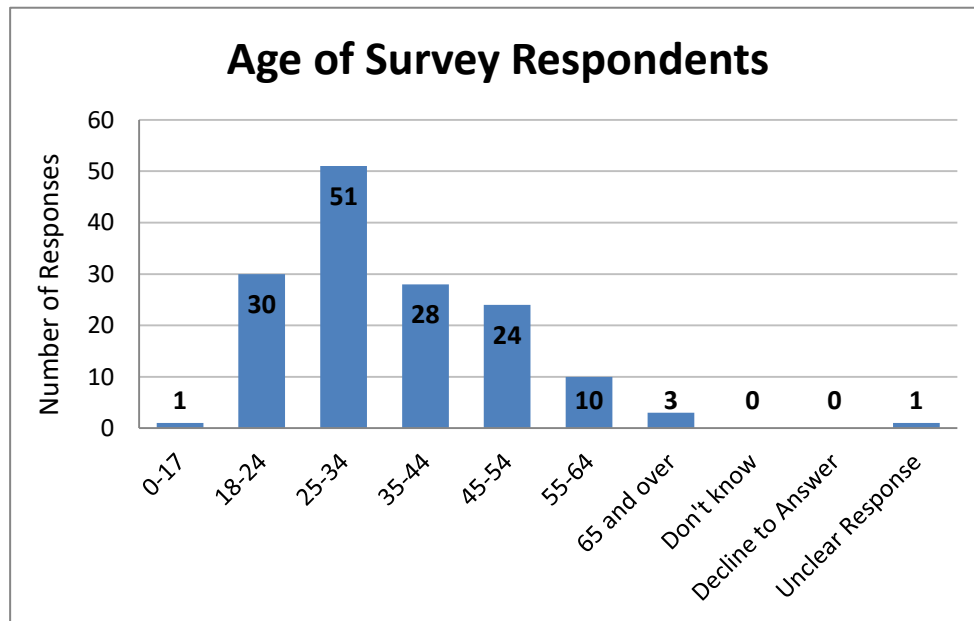


Figure 12 – Age of survey respondents by response.

As Figure 12 demonstrates, 56% (82) of respondents were between the ages of 17-34. This included 1% of respondents under the age of 18, 20% aged 18-24, and 35% falling in the age category of 24-35 years old. One individual had an unclear response and 3 individuals (2%) were over the age of 65.

3.4.4.2 Age at First Homelessness

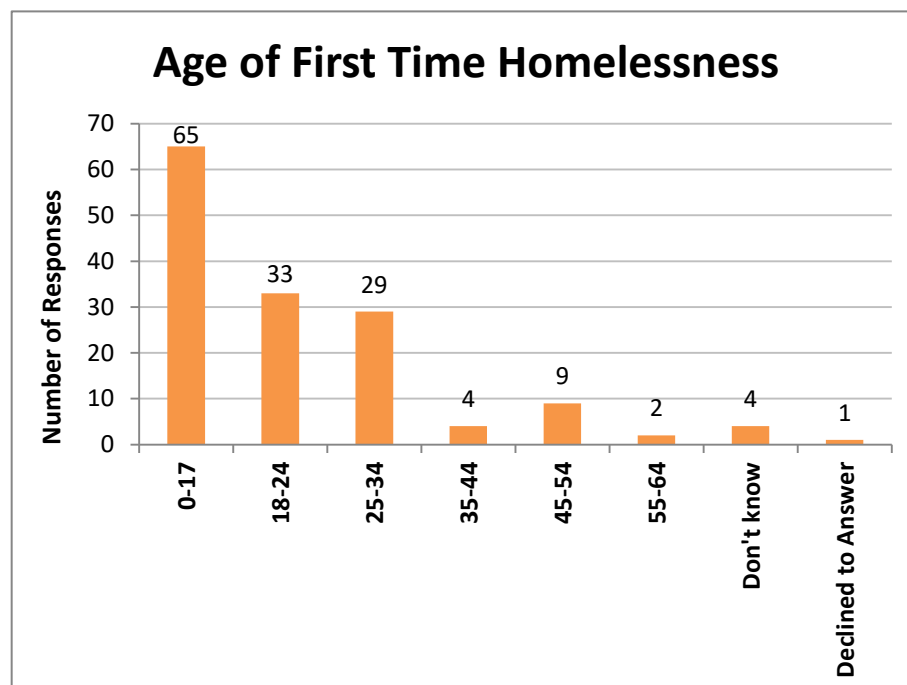


Figure 13 – Age of first time homelessness by response.

As Figure 13 demonstrates:

- 67% of respondents (98 individuals) stated that the first time they experienced homelessness was when they were under the age of 25.
- 65 individuals (44%) first experienced homelessness when they were under the age of 18.
- 23% (33 individuals) first experienced homelessness when they were 18-24.
- After 34 years old, the rate of first homelessness experience drastically drops with a combined 11% of responses.
- 4 individuals stated that they did not know how old they were the first time they were homeless and one individual declined to answer.

3.4.4.3 Immigration

Participants were asked the question 'Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, or refugee claimant?' A total of 143 individuals (97%) did not identify as being an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant. One individual did not know their response to this question, one individual declined to answer, while two individuals provided an unclear/blank response.

3.4.4.4 Indigenous Identity

- A total of 65 (44%) respondents, see Figure 14, indicated that they identified as being Indigenous or with Indigenous Ancestry.
- Approximately, 53% of participants did not identify as Indigenous
- There were 3 respondents (2%) who did not know if they identify as being Indigenous. One response was not included as the individual provided an unclear answer.

Based on the information provided by 69 responses, see Figure 15 for breakdown, 48 individuals (33%) stated they were First Nations (with or without status), 10 individuals or 7% of respondents identified as Metis, 6 (4%) of participants stated that they had Indigenous Ancestry and one individual (1%) identified as Inuit.

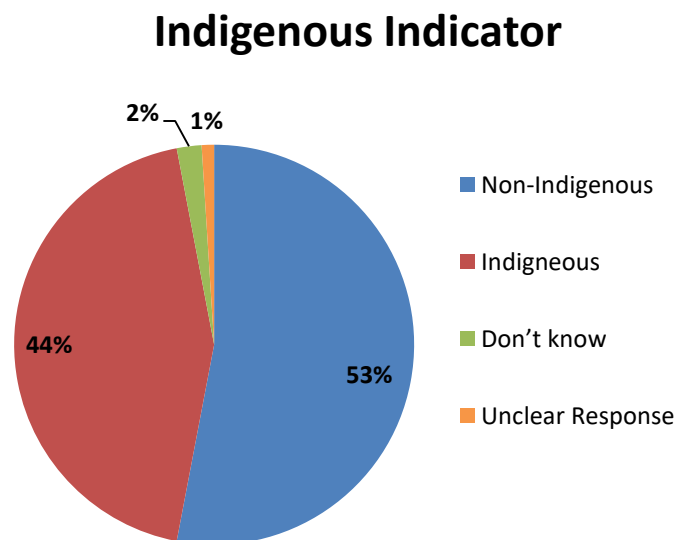


Figure 14 – Indigenous indicator by percentage.

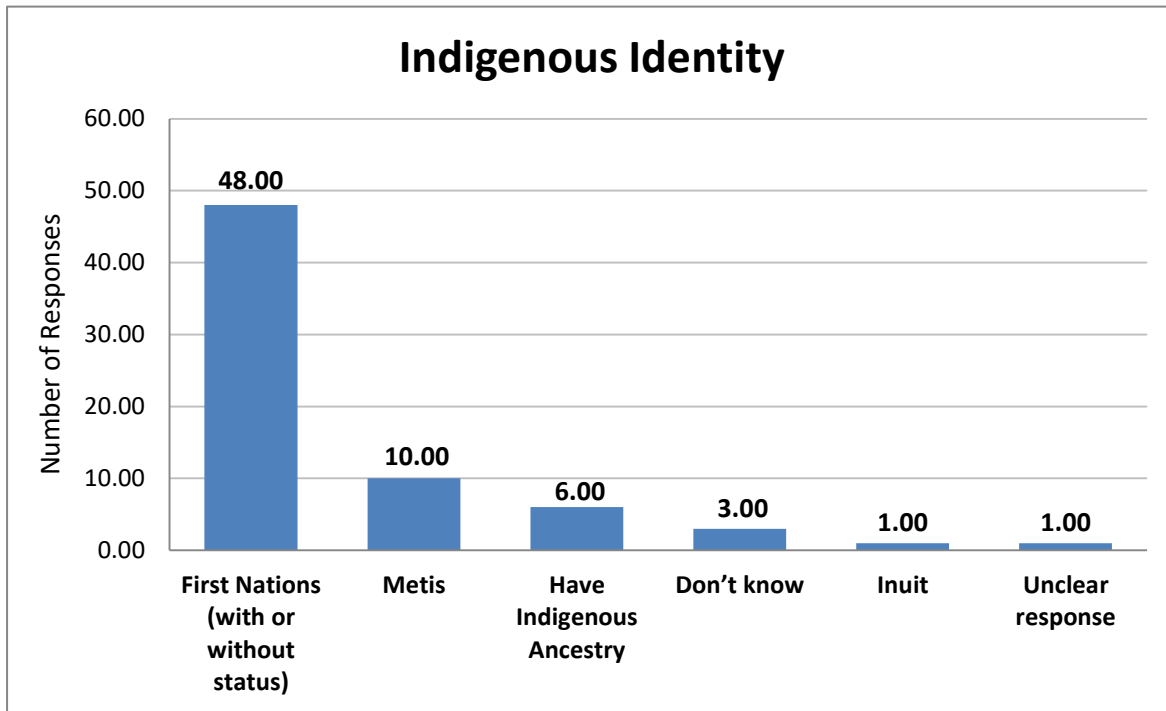


Figure 15 – Indigenous identity by response.

3.4.4.5 Indigenous Communities

Respondents were asked to name which indigenous communities they were from and following were identified:



3.4.4.6 Veteran Indicator



Of the 147 surveys administered, 5 individuals had previously served in the Canadian Military, while one respondent indicated they had served with the RCMP. Overall, 4% of the participants had served with the Military or RCMP.

3.4.4.7 Gender Identity

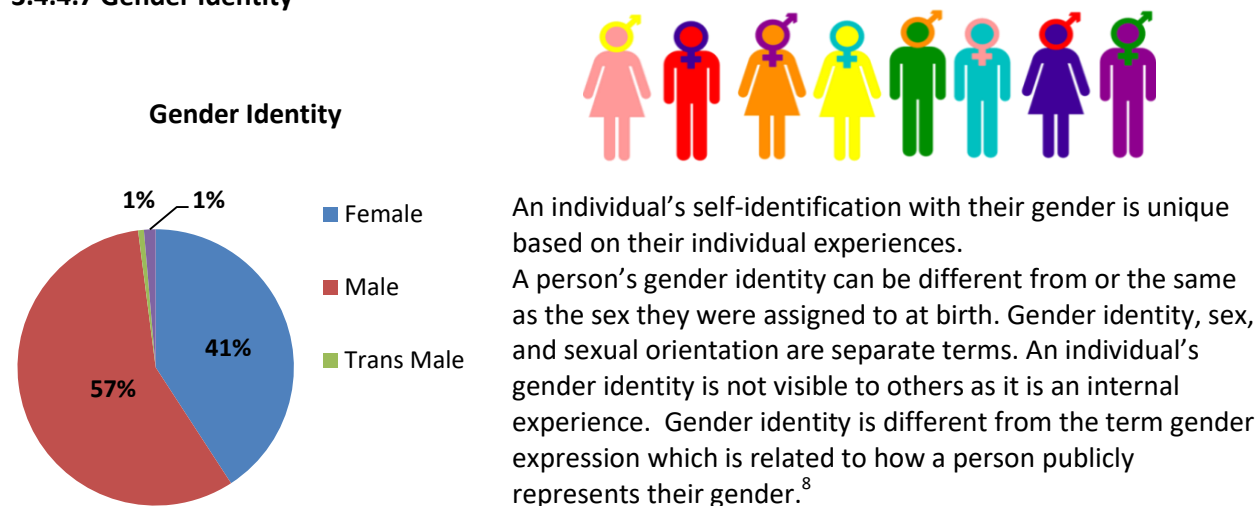
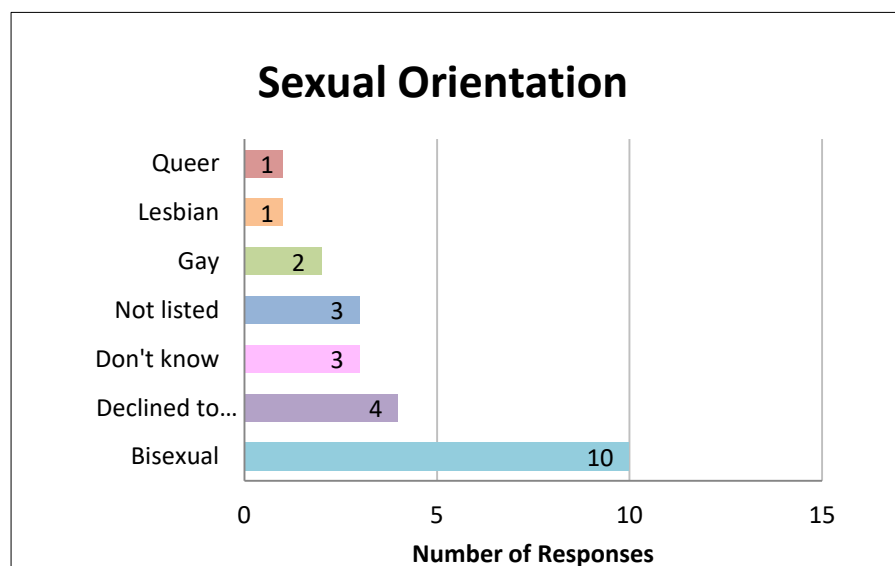


Figure 16 – Gender identity by percentage.

As Figure 16 demonstrates, 57% of respondents identified as male while 41% of participants identified as being female. In terms of gender identity, 1 individual identified as being transsexual male, while 2 individuals identified as being genderqueer, also known as gender non-conforming.

3.4.4.8 Sexual Orientation



An individual's sexual orientation is based on who they are or are not sexually attracted to. Canadian research findings show that LGBTQ2s+ individuals and couples have high occurrence of experiencing housing and employment discrimination.⁹ Out of 147 surveys, see Figure 17, 123 or approximately 84% of respondents self-identified as straight or heterosexual.

Figure 17 – Sexual Orientation by response.

The remaining 24 surveys or 16% of respondents self-identified as Gay (1%), Lesbian (1%), Bisexual (7%), and Queer (1%). An additional 2% of individuals provided responses that were not listed while 2% didn't know their response and 3% declined to answer the question.

3.4.4.9 Sources of Income

Survey respondents were asked to identify their sources of income, see Figure 18 below, and of the 147 participants, 139 provided the information (a 95% response rate).

Key Findings:

- 70% of respondents indicated that their source of income was social assistance including Ontario Works (OW) at 46% and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) at 24%.
- 20 individuals (14%) disclosed that they had no income.
- There were 11 respondents (7%) who indicated that they were experiencing homelessness and were formally employed.
- 8 individuals (5%) were taking part in informal self-employment which includes panhandling, bottle returns etc.
- Approximately, 5% of respondents (7 individuals) were receiving Child Tax Benefits and their HST/GST refund while 4% of respondents were receiving money from family and friends. There were 4 individuals (3%) who stated that they were in receipt of Employment Insurance (E.I.).
- An interesting finding was that 4 individuals (3%) indicated they were receiving a Correctional Services Canada (CSC) per-diem as they were incarcerated but living in the community under the supervision of social service agencies.
- There was one individual who was receiving a per-diem through the treatment program they were enrolled in.
- There were also 3 individuals over the age of 18 who indicated they were receiving a per diem through the Children's Aid Society (CAS).

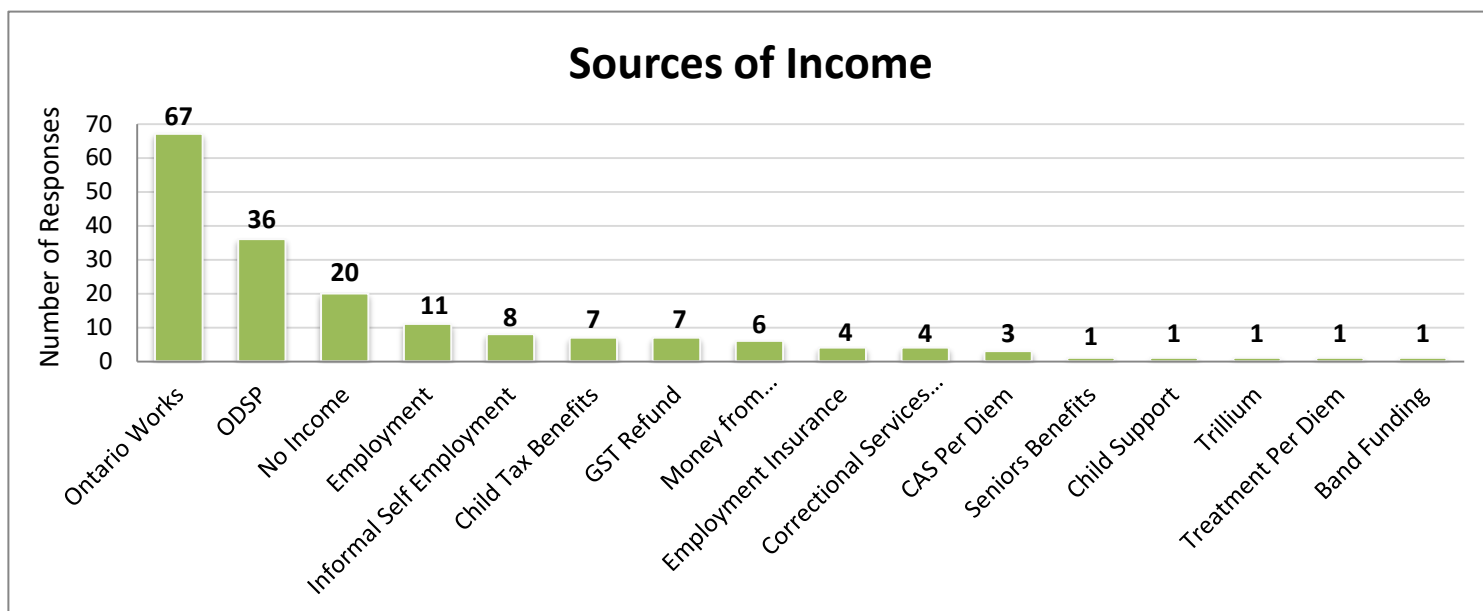


Figure 18 – Sources of income by response.

3.4.4.10 Highest Level of Education

Participants were asked the question ‘What is the highest level of education that you have completed?’ Out of 147 respondents, see Figure 19, 70 (48%) stated that they had less than a high school education. This includes 8 (6%) individuals who had a primary school education and 62 individuals who had some high school education. There were 31 individuals (21%) who had graduated high school while 18 people (12%) had some post-secondary education. A total of 26 participants (18%) responded that they were a post-secondary graduate.

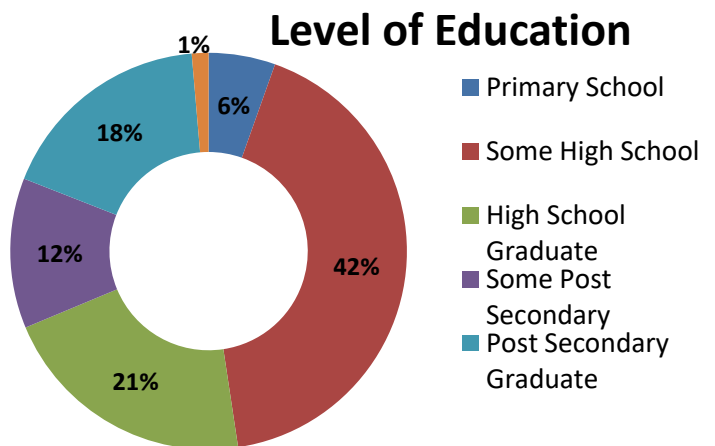


Figure 19 – Level of education by percentage.

In total, over half of respondents (51%) have the minimum of a high school diploma. There was an additional 2 individuals who declined to answer this question.

3.4.4.11 Racial Identification

Participants were asked ‘How do you racially identify?’ and were able to select as many answers as they felt applied to them. There were 141 individuals who provided a response to this question, see Figure 20 below.

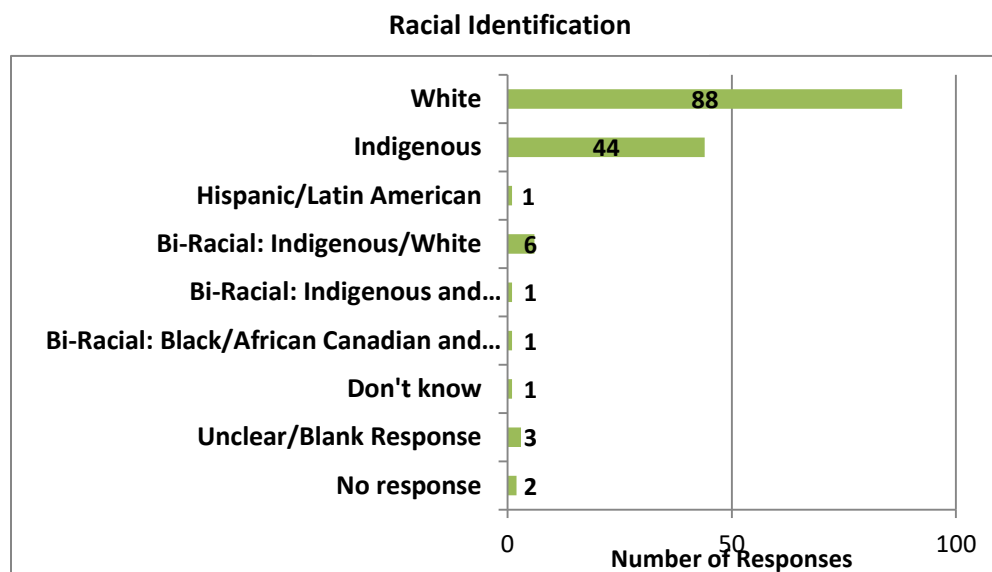


Figure 20 – Racial identity by response.

Out of the 141 respondents, see Figure 20, 62% (88 individuals) identified as being White, of European decent and 31% (44 individuals) identified as being Indigenous. There was 1 individual who stated they racially identified as Hispanic or Latin American. There were a total of 8 individuals who identified as biracial. This included 6 (4%) who identified as Indigenous and White, 1 (1%) who identified as

Black/African Canadian and White, and 1 (1%) who stated they identified as Indigenous and Hispanic/Latin American.

3.4.4.12 Language

Of the 147 responses, see Figure 21 below, to the question ‘In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?’, 119 (81%) respondents felt best able to express themselves in English, 14 (10%) individuals stated they had no preference and felt comfortable communicating in both French or English. There were 8 (5%) respondents who indicated Other as their answer and of those six felt best able to express themselves in Cree, while two individuals provided a bi-lingual response which included Spanish and Sign Language. There were 4 (3%) individuals who responded that French was their preferred language.

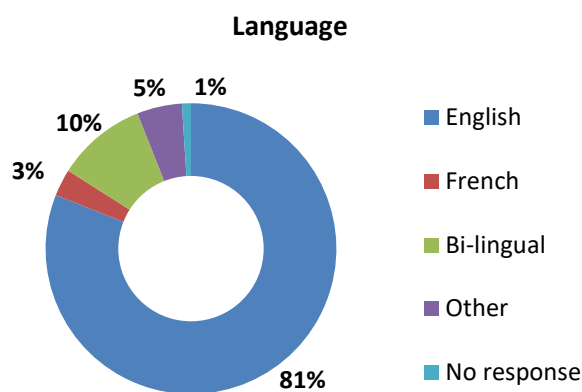


Figure 21 – Language by percentage.

3.4.4.13 Foster Care

27% of respondents (40 individuals), see Figure 22 below, stated that they have experience staying in foster care or group homes. 7 individuals (5%) declined to answer while the remaining 100 survey participants (68%) stated that they had never been in foster care or a group home.

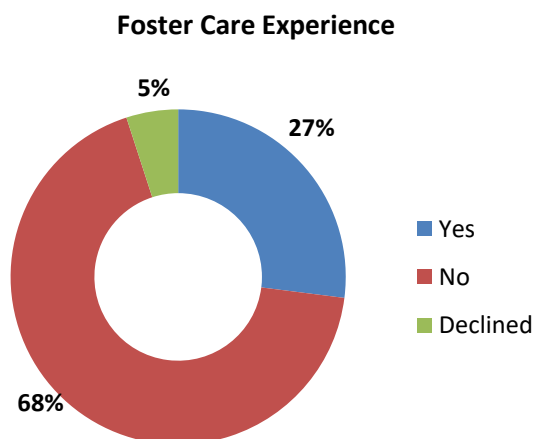


Figure 22 – Foster care experience by percentage.

3.4.5 Migration:

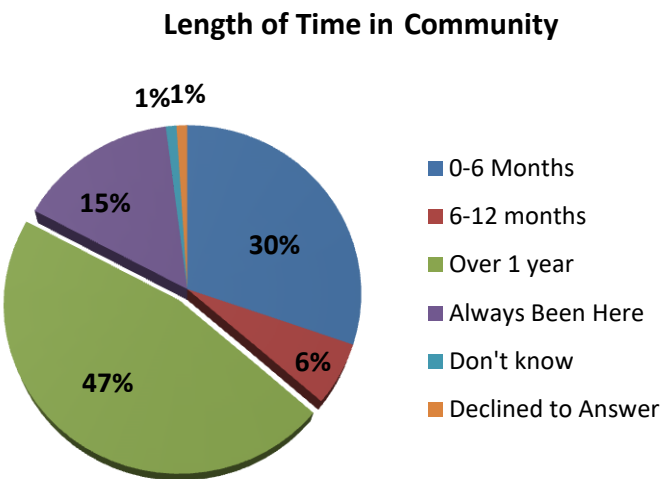


Figure 23 – Length of time in community by percentage.

3.4.5.1 How Long in Community

The following responses were captured from individuals in North Bay, Mattawa, and West Nipissing. Responses are based on how long each individual has been in the community in which they were surveyed, see Figure 23. There were 47% of individuals who had been in the community for over a year while 15% had always resided in the community where they were surveyed. A surprising 30% of individuals had resided in the community for less than 6 months, while 6% had been in the municipality for 6-12 months.

Two individuals did not know how long they had been in the community while another two people declined to answer the question.

3.4.5.2 Where did People Live before They Came to Community

There were 103 individuals who responded to the question, ‘where did you live before you came here?’ see Figure 24 for a breakdown of those responses:

Key findings:

- Fourteen people (14%) previously lived in a municipality within the District of Nipissing but had relocated to one of the three communities involved in enumeration.
- Seventy-four individuals (72%) were coming from 39 different communities within Ontario but outside of the District of Nipissing.
- There were 90 people who had previously resided in Ontario, 4 people from Quebec, 5 from British Columbia, 2 individuals from Alberta and 1 individual from Manitoba, and Nova Scotia.

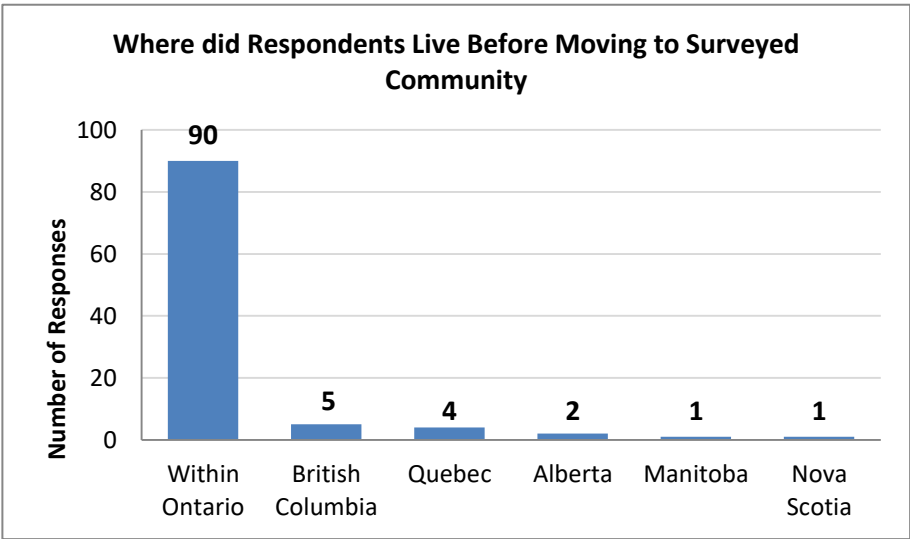


Figure 24 – Where respondents lived before moving to surveyed community by response.

3.4.5.3 Main Reason for Coming to the Community

- 120 participants (82%), see Figure 25 below, provided information on the main reason why they had come to the community they were being surveyed in. The remaining 27 participants (18%) did not provide a response to this question. 27(23%) of respondents stated that they had come to the community because their family had relocated to that municipality. 18% (22 individuals) moved to the community to visit friends and family.
- 24% (29 individuals) arrived in the community to access services and supports including emergency shelters.
- 12 (10%) respondents indicated their main reason for coming was to finding housing;
- There were 6 individuals (5%) who provided other, not-listed, reasons for arriving in the community. These reasons included: stranded because of work; they like it here; born here and returning; sent to a group home; kicked out of their previous residence; and just passing through.

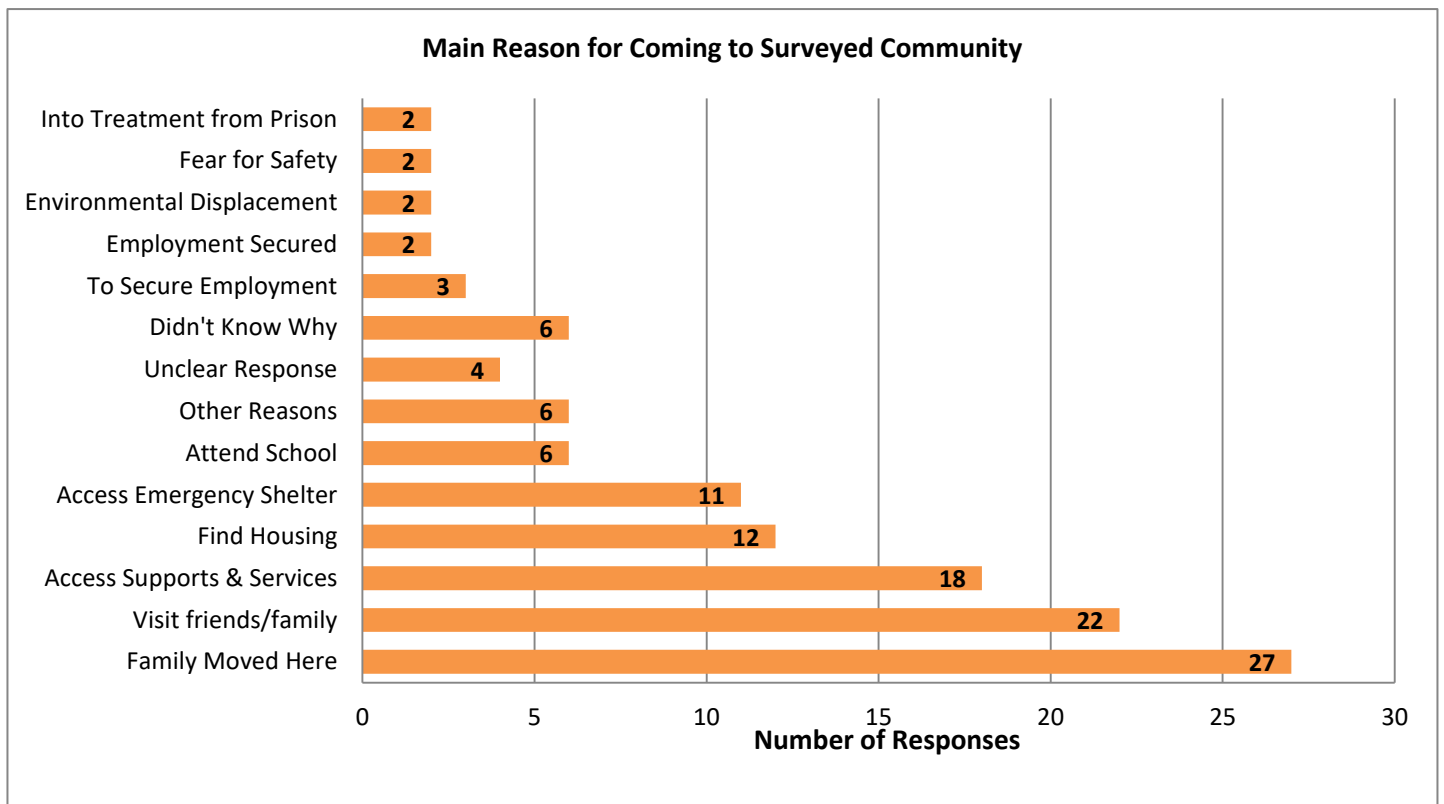


Figure 25 – Main reason for coming to surveyed community by response.

4.0 Key Areas for Discussion

Based on the findings of the “Everyone Counts – Nipissing District” enumeration, the following items have been identified as crucial areas for discussion between the DNSSAB and Community partners, in order to best serve the homeless population in the district.

Youth Homelessness:

As part of the Provincial Priority Indicator, and the evidence provided by the survey results, this issue is an important area discussion for the community. Key topics will include examining existing youth homelessness prevention services and supports and identifying areas for service enhancement, if required. Also, exploring the development a youth engagement strategy to ensure access to homelessness prevention services and supports should be addressed.

Housing Loss and Housing Barriers:

The impact of people with Mental Health & Addictions on obtaining and retaining housing will be a fundamental area for discussion. The issues faced by landlords and organizations delivering services and supports to those in need are complex and require collaboration by a cross-section of community services. Community discussion needs to focus on how the district will position itself to attract resources in order to address this issue.

Also, the issue of unsafe housing will require an open dialogue to occur between municipalities, community partners and landlords in order to explore and address concerns with the current housing options available for those with low incomes.

Housing Affordability:

Given the high response rate to low income and rents too high as barriers to finding housing, along with the majority of survey respondents being single (83%) and identifying their income source as Social Assistance (70%), it is interesting to draw some comparisons to OW/ODSP shelter allowances and the Average Market Rent (AMR) for North Bay.

Presently, OW single recipients’ maximum shelter is \$384.00/month whereas the same individual on ODSP receives \$489.00. When compared to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s (CHMC) AMR for a one bedroom apartment being \$743.00, it is apparent those who are single and live on social assistance face significant barriers with housing affordability.

Community discussion will involve the issues expressed concerning Housing Affordability, but will also focus on assessing upcoming opportunities, such as the proposed federal Housing Benefit, and how the district can ensure access to future programs/assistance which can address affordability issues, specifically for those on social assistance.

Chronic Homelessness:

How to address this issue will be a significant area of discussion. As the only priority that both the federal and provincial governments have committed to ending to ending in the next ten years, the community will need to create an action plan to address the matter. Options like the

creation of a By-Name list, implementation of a coordinated access model and a Nipissing developed Housing First policy are just some of the possible solutions which can be tabled.

Indigenous Homelessness:

Again, as one of the four targets of the Provincial Priority Indicator, addressing the high representation of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness will be a priority. Discussions on current services and supports in the community, areas of possible enhancement and future opportunities to secure resources to address the issue will be required.

Public Systems and Homelessness:

The impact of homelessness on the District's public systems will require further dialogue with health care, police and corrections partners. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of each sector in relation to the housing and homelessness agenda need to be established. Improved discharge planning and procedures will require further discussion and a clear protocol should be the targeted outcome.

5.0 Final Thoughts

The Everyone Counts Nipissing enumeration results will begin the dialogue with community partners in order to establish short, medium and long-term targets to address the key areas of discussion. These targets will be incorporated into the District's 5 Year update to its 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Plan. In addressing areas of concern, partnerships with community agencies will be imperative as no one sector or organization can tackle the challenges of homelessness in isolation.

6.0 Glossary

Absolute Homelessness: includes those living unsheltered with no permanent shelter of their own or in emergency shelters. (Source: Homelessness Questions and Answers, The Homeless Hub, Accessed at: <http://homelesshub.ca/resource/homelessness-questions-answers>)

Chronic Homelessness: refers to people, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance abuse problems), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year (Source: A Place of Call Home: Report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness, Ontario Ministry of Housing, (2015) <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=11038>)

Episodic Homelessness: individuals, often with disabling conditions, who are currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year. (Homelessness Partnering Strategy Directives 2014-2019, Government of Canada. Accessed at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/homeless/homeless-directives.html>)

Emergency Sheltered: refers to individuals and families who do not have permanent housing of their own and are accessing emergency shelter services as they search for more permanent housing situations. Emergency shelters can include short term overnight facilities and/or shelters for women and children fleeing violence. (Source: Gaetz, S. et al. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. Accessed at: <http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>)

Unsheltered: also referred to as 'sleeping rough' includes individuals who lack housing and are staying in places not fit for human habitation. This can include living in public or private spaces without consent or a legal contract such as sidewalks, parks, forests, vacant and abandoned buildings etc. Unsheltered can also include those living in vehicles, garages, tents, or other makeshift shelters. (Source: Gaetz, S. et al. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. Accessed at: <http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>)

Hidden Homelessness: refers to individuals who are living temporarily with others but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing. This is also known as 'couch-surfing' and is included within the definition of provisionally accommodated. (Source: Hidden Homelessness, Homelessness Hub, Accessed at: <http://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/hidden-homelessness>)

Point-in-Time Count (PiT): is a method used to measure sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It aims to count individuals in a community who are staying in shelters or 'sleeping rough' over a period of up to 24 hours. A PiT count provides a snapshot of homelessness in a community and includes a survey administered with homelessness individuals which provides the community with information on the characteristics of the homeless population. (Source: Background: Point-in-Time Counts, Government of Canada. Accessed at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/03/background-point-in-time-counts.html>)

Period Prevalence Count (PPC): is a method for conducting an enumeration of homelessness within a given period of time. A PPC takes place over a longer period of time, compared with other methods and typically takes place over a period of up to 7 consecutive days. It includes counting and obtaining

information about people experiencing homelessness within a community. PPC enumeration includes people who are unsheltered, emergency sheltered, and those experiencing hidden homelessness (couch-surfing, public systems, provisionally accommodated etc.) (Source: Kauppi, C. (2017) Period Prevalence Counts of People Experiencing Homelessness: A Guide for Rural and Northern Communities, Ministry of Housing.)

Provisionally Accommodated: refers to situations where people are accessing accommodation that is not permanent. Provisional accommodation can include those staying in public institutions without a permanent housing arrangement or people living temporarily with others without security of tenure which can consist of staying with family or friends (couch-surfing). Provisional accommodation can also include those staying in transitional housing arrangements and individuals who have short term and temporary rental arrangements such as staying in hotels, motels, and hostels.

(Source: Gaetz, S. et al. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. Accessed at: <http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>)

Transitional Housing: Defined as a type of accommodation that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing through the use of structure, supervision, and support. It is an intermediate step between emergency shelter and permanent housing that is limited in time to a stay of approximately three months to three years. Transitional housing also provides an environment where individuals can work in a supported environment to address issues that led to homelessness. Individuals will be working towards moving on to long term permanent housing. (Source: Housing Accommodation and Supports- Transitional Housing, Homeless Hub, Accessed at: <http://homelesshub.ca/solutions/housing-accommodation-and-supports/transitional-housing>)

7.0 End Notes

1. Source: Gaetz, S, et al. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. Accessed at:
<http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>
2. Homelessness Partnering Strategy Directives 2014-2019, Government of Canada. Accessed at:
<http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>
3. Source: Gaetz, S. et al. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. Accessed at:
<http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>
4. Source: Housing Accommodation and Supports- Transitional Housing, Homeless Hub, Accessed at:
<http://homelesshub.ca/solutions/housing-accommodation-and-supports/transitional-housing>
5. Source: Hospital Fees for Patients without Canadian Provincial or Federal Health Insurance accessed at: <https://www.qch.on.ca/uploads/Finance/Fees%20for%20Cdns%20without%20insurance.pdf>
6. Source: Hospital Fees for Patients without Canadian Provincial or Federal Health Insurance accessed at: <https://www.qch.on.ca/uploads/Finance/Fees%20for%20Cdns%20without%20insurance.pdf>
7. Gaetz, Stephen (2012), The Real Cost of Homelessness- Can we save money by doing the right thing? Toronto: Canadian Homelessness Research Network Press.
8. Source: All-Gender Washroom Initiative- Helpful Terms and Concepts, Nipissing University, accessed at: <http://www.nipissingu.ca/departments/vpa/facilities/Documents/Helpful-Terms-and-Concepts.pdf>
9. Source: Legal & Justice Issues- Discrimination, Homeless Hub, accessed at:
<http://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/legal-justice-issues/discrimination>