**Cape Breton Regional Municipality PiT Count**

**Cape Breton Community Housing Association**

**Results Report**

**April 19th, 2018**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Submitted by:** | **Eleanor Muggah** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 8 |
| Emergency Shelter and VAW | Systems data/Occupancy | 20 |
| Transitional Housing | Systems data/Occupancy | 16 |
| Systems (Health and/or Corrections) | Systems data | 50 |
| Unknown (likely homeless) | Number of “Respondent doesn’t know” responses\*\* | 2 |
| Total |  |  |

\*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\* | |  | Surveys Completed\* | |
| Population | **Percent** | **Population** | **Count** |
| Male | 42.59% | Unsheltered | 5 |
| Female | 57.41 | Emergency Shelter and VAW | 17 |
| Aboriginal identity | 25.93% | Transitional Housing | 16 |
| Veterans | 0% | Systems (Health / Corrections) | 0 |
| Chronic (6+ months/ past year) |  | Hidden Homeless | 16 |
| Episodic (3+ times/ past year) |  | Total | 54 |
| Child (0 – 14) | 0 |
| Youth (15 – 24) | 3.7% |
| Adult (25 – 64) | 90.74% |
| Senior (65+) | 5.56% |

\*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 19, 2018 | | | | | | | |
| Time | **Unsheltered Count** | | | **Sheltered Count** | | | | |
| 8 am- 9 pm | | | 7 am- 12 am | | | | |
| **Magnet Event(s)** | | | **Other:** | | | | |
| Access 808- 9 am- 7 pm  ALLY Centre- 9 am- 11 am  Community Cares- 11 am- 1 pm  New Waterford KOC- 9 am- 3 pm  Glace Bay Food Bank- 8 am- 3 pm | | | Loaves and Fishes- 10 am- 12:45 pm  Sydney Mines Food Bank- 1 pm- 3pm | | | | |
| Weather | Sunny and windy ~1 degree C | | | | | | | |
| Ice Breaker/Honoraria Provided | Package: $5 Tim’s Card, $3 worth of bus tickets, and resource phone numbers card | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | **Yes** | | **No** |
| Did you conduct a joint Registry Week  Period Prevalence Count? | | | | | |  | |  |
| How did you adapt the methodology to conduct the survey on subsequent days? | | | | | | | | |
| 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?* | | | | | | | | |
| The overall enumeration was down from the previous PiT Count. This was not altogether surprising as Housing First programs have been introduced into CBRM since the previous PiT Count. | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Project Structure | | | | | | **Yes** | | **No** |
| Did your community have a dedicated PiT Count Coordinator? | | | | | |  | |  |
| Did your community use an Assistant Coordinators? (e.g., Volunteer Coordinator, Night of the Count Assistant, etc.) | | | | | |  | |  |
| Describe:  The PiT Count Coordinator worked for approximately 30 hours a week for 6 months. This position was funded by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The Assistant Point in Time Count Coordinator came from Public Health and served in an advisory role and acted as a Team Lead on the day of the PiT Count. The Assistant Coordinator was the PiT Count Coordinator for the previous count. | | | | | | | | |
| Did your community use sub-committees? (eg., Survey Committee, Volunteer Committee, Aboriginal Engagement Committee, etc.) | | | | | |  | |  |
| Describe: | | | | | | | | |
| Did your organization involve community partners? | | | | | |  | |  |
| How many partners and what sectors did they come from? Did your organization develop new partnerships during the count?  Describe:  Lots of different organizations were involved in one way or another. Several community organizations provided volunteers for the day of the count. We collaborated substantially with Nova Scotia Health Authority and several community organizations that put on magnet events or allowed their organization to act as headquarters. | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Methodology: Survey Development | | | | | | **Yes** | | **No** |
| Did you use Canadian Observatory on Homelessness questions? | | | | | |  | |  |
| Describe:  We included questions on challenges in finding housing, whether respondents wanted to get into permanent housing, and what would help respondents to find permanent housing | | | | | | | | |
| Did you include the VI SPDAT or another acuity assessment tool? | | | | | |  | |  |
| Describe:  We used the VI-SPDAT for registry week. Several volunteers with front-line experience were trained in this. Housing First and The ALLY Centre conducted VI-SPDATs at their location throughout the registry week and are now doing them on an ongoing basis. | | | | | | | | |
| Did you add local questions? | | | | | |  | |  |
| Describe:  We included local questions on where individuals go to access healthcare, and asking individuals to describe in one or two sentences what needs to happen in CBRM to address homelessness. | | | | | | | | |
| What was the process used to develop your survey?  Describe:  Survey development was done in Affordable Housing and Homelessness Working Group meetings. Questions from the 2016 survey were analyzed and considered for the 2018 survey. Revisions were made to local questions and a new local question was added. Questions from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness were looked at in detail and 3 questions were decided on to include in the survey. The survey was again brought to committee after these questions were added to revise and finalize. | | | | | | | | |
| 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) | | | | | |  | |  |
| Describe:  The Community Homeless Shelter (Men’s Shelter), Almost Home Women’s Shelter, Transition House (VAW shelter and homeless shelter for women with children), Howard House (Halfway House), Elizabeth Fry (satellite apartments for women involved with the criminal justice system), and Transition House Second Stage.  Almost Home Transitional Housing is now defined as a permanent housing situation, so they declined to do surveys there. Talbot House also declined to conduct surveys this year, but provided an enumeration. Both of these organizations conducted surveys in the previous PiT Count. | | | | | | | | |
| How many shelters were: | | **Emergency or VAW:** | 2 | | **Transitional:** | | 3 | |
| How did you define Transitional housing (e.g., is there a maximum length of stay?): Transitional housing is defined as a short term 3 month to one year stay in a transitional housing unit, these units may be used for longer than the maximum stay due to lack of affordable housing. Other transitional housing facilities such as Elizabeth Fry and Howard House are defined as a short term stay with the intention to rebuild one’s life. Often this type of transitional housing have clients who lose their housing or have no permanent residence to return to after their stay. | | | | | | | | |
| Were surveys conducted by volunteers in the shelters? | | | | | |  | |  |
| If not, describe who conducted surveys:  Staff at shelters and transitional housing units conducted surveys. Staff were trained by the PiT Count Coordinator before the count. A volunteer from Housing First visited all shelters and transitional housing units to ensure that surveys were being administered properly. | | | | | | | | |
| How many surveyors conducted the sheltered surveys? | | | | | | 7 | | |
| Other comments: | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Methodology: Unsheltered Count | | | | | | | | |
| How many surveyors conducted the unsheltered surveys? | | | | | | ~48 | | |
| How did you organize your survey teams?  Survey teams were organized into teams of two. Individuals with VI-SPDAT training and front line experience working with people experiencing homeless were paired with individuals with less experience in the wherever possible. | | | | | | | | |
| How did you determine the walking routes and known locations?  Walking routes were determined by consulting with individuals with lived experience of homelessness and front line workers. | | | | | | | | |
| Other comments:  Individuals with lived experience were given an honorarium for helping with this. | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Methodology: Service Count (e.g., food banks, drop-in centres) | | | | | | **Yes** | | **No** |
| Did your community conduct surveys at service locations? | | | | | |  | |  |
| Which service locations were included and when did you conduct the surveys?  Glace Bay Food Bank 8 am- 3 pm, Sydney Mines Food Bank 1 pm- 3 pm, Access 808 9 am- 7 pm, ALLY Centre 9 am- 4 pm, Loaves and Fishes 10 am- 1 pm, Community Cares 8 am- 4 pm. | | | | | | | | |
| Other comments:  Glace Bay Food Bank was also the community headquarters for Glace Bay. Community Cares was the headquarters for North Sydney and Sydney Mines and also hosted a magnet event. The ALLY Centre and Access 808 both hosted magnet events on the day of the PiT. | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Methodology: Magnet Events | | | | | | **Yes** | | **No** |
| Did your community conduct surveys during magnet events? | | | | | |  | |  |
| Please describe the events and the populations surveyed in these locations:  ALLY Centre (houses a needle exchange program, the AIDs Coalition, Street Health Centre, and anonymous testing site) whose clientele includes individuals with addiction and mental health issues and other vulnerable populations hosted a breakfast from 9 am until 11 am. Access 808, a youth drop in centre hosted a magnet event with snacks and refreshments available all day. Community Cares, a youth outreach centre hosted a “Nutrition Buffet” with chilli, soups, and salads that individuals could take away with them. The New Waterford KOC hosted a free coffee event. | | | | | | | | |
| Other comments:  Glace Bay Food Bank serves hot food daily and was a survey location. | | | | | | | | |
| 9. Methodology: Indigenous Engagement | | | | | | | | |
| How did you engage the Indigenous community?:  A working group has been started to engage Indigenous communities in CBRM’s catchment area. The purpose of this working group is to assist Indigenous communities in conducting research on homelessness. | | | | | | | | |
| Other comments:  A magnet event was originally planned to take place at the Jane Paul Centre, a drop in centre for Indigenous women. However, this arrangement fell through after funding and staffing issues arose. | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Methodology: Public Systems (e.g., hospitals, corrections, and/or detox facilities) | | | | | | **Yes** | | **No** |
| Did you include public systems? | | | | | |  | |  |
| Which systems did you include and how were they engaged?  Hospital ERs and acute care inpatients, police lock up, and the correctional centre were all included in the enumeration. These facilities were generally contacted early to gage their interest. Once their interest was confirmed, they were given enumeration forms with instructions for the day of the count. Facilities were contacted the day before the count as a reminder. | | | | | | | | |
| How did you enumerate homelessness in these systems?:  These systems only provided an enumeration and basic demographic data. The Correctional Facility and Hospital Inpatients were provided with enumeration form with a criterion of who to | | | | | | | | |
| Other comments: | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Methodology: Hidden Homeless | | | | | | **Yes** | | **No** |
| Did you survey people experiencing hidden homelessness? | | | | | |  | |  |
| How did you engage this population?  We had magnet events at various service organizations, and conducted surveys at service organizations during their opening hours. | | | | | | | | |
| What was the screening process that your community used?  We used the HPS recommended screening questions for hidden homelessness. | | | | | | | | |
| Other comments: | | | | | | | | |
| 12. Methodology: Data Entry and Analysis | | | | | | | | |
| Please describe your data entry, cleaning and analysis::  The PiT Count Coordinator and Community Entity collaborated on data entry. Preliminary results were brought to the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Working Group for input. | | | | | | | | |
| 13. Methodology: Reporting Back | | | | | | | | |
| How will the results be reported back to the community?  Results of the PiT will be reported alongside results of a month long service-based count conducted by Public Health as a period-prevalence count. An infographic will be developed to report on key findings. | | | | | | | | |
| 14. Volunteers: Volunteer Recruitment | | | | | | **Yes** | | **No** |
| Did your count use volunteers? | | | | | |  | |  |
| How many volunteers were used? | | | | | | ~55 | | |
| How did you recruit volunteers? Describe:  Volunteers were recruited by word of mouth at various community organizations. Many organizations gave their employees time off to volunteer for the count. A call for volunteers was sent to multiple organizations as well as the CBU MBA and Nursing programs. | | | | | | | | |
| What were the roles of the volunteers? Describe:  Volunteers primarily conducted surveys on the streets. A few of the volunteers were trained to administer VI-SPDATs Some also stayed at headquarters or magnet event locations and assisted with administrative duties there. | | | | | | | | |
| 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.): | | | | | | | | |
| Methodology Recommendations: (e.g., Survey Development, Sheltered and Unsheltered Count, etc.) | | | | | | | | |
| Day of the Count Logistics Recommendations: | | | | | | | | |
| Volunteer Management and Training Recommendations: | | | | | | | | |
| Media and Communications Recommendations: | | | | | | | | |
| HIFIS PiT Count Module Recommendations: | | | | | | | | |
| What resources were most useful as you implemented the count? | | | | | | | | |
| Were there any additional resources that could have been developed to help your community implement the count? | | | | | | | | |
| 16. Other Comments | | | | | | | | |
| *Include any other comments your community has that weren't addressed in the questions above.* | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| Note: If your community would like to share training materials, promotional tools, or other developed materials. Please attach them to the report. | | | | | | | | |