

# Everyone Counts: 2020 Simcoe County Homeless Enumeration Report



Co-ordinated by the David Busby Street Centre

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	5
Acknowledgements .....	8
Introduction .....	9
Methodology .....	9
Overview of Combined Point-in-Time Count and Registry Week.....	9
COVID-19 Considerations .....	10
Enumeration Process .....	11
Training .....	12
Differences between 2016, 2018, and 2020.....	12
Enumeration Results.....	14
Survey Interactions.....	14
PiT Count Findings.....	15
Survey Findings.....	16
Where Participants Were Surveyed.....	16
When Participants Were Surveyed.....	17
Where Participants Stayed PiT Night .....	18
Where Participants Currently Lived .....	19
Who Stayed with Them.....	20
Children/Dependent(s).....	21
Age of Survey Participants .....	21
Age First Experienced Homelessness.....	21
Length of Time Having Experienced Homelessness in the Last Year.....	22
Health Challenges at the Time of the Survey .....	24
Gender Identity .....	25
Cause of Most Recent Housing Loss .....	27
Length Since Most Recent Housing Loss.....	28
Source of Income.....	29
Registry Week Findings .....	30
Acuity Score.....	30
Detailed VI-SPDAT Findings .....	31
Access to Basic Needs.....	31
Total Length Experienced Homelessness in the Last 3 Years .....	32
Housing Stability .....	32
Emergency Service Use in the Past Six Months .....	33

Safety .....	33
Legal Interactions and Impacts on Housing.....	34
Sleep Most Frequently.....	35
Experiences.....	35
Cause of Current Homelessness.....	36
Pregnancy.....	36
Challenges Maintaining Housing .....	36
Medication .....	37
Family VI-SPDAT Specific Questions.....	37
Local Questions.....	39
Self-Reported Racial Identity .....	39
Number of Friends' or Family Members' Places Participants Have Temporarily Stayed in the last year .....	39
Identified as Having Autism, an Intellectual Disability, or Brain Injury .....	40
Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic .....	40
Preferred Compared to Current Location to Live.....	41
Updates from Preliminary Report .....	43
Participant Follow Up .....	43
Limitations.....	44
Collecting Feedback .....	46
Lessons Learned .....	46
Conclusion and Next Steps.....	48
References.....	49
Appendices .....	50
Appendix A: Agencies Who Participated in the 2020 Homeless Enumeration.....	50
Appendix B: Map of Simcoe County Enumeration Areas .....	52
Appendix C: COVID-19 Framework .....	53
Appendix D: 2020 Enumeration COVID-19 Protocol Documents .....	54
Appendix E: Training Guide, General Information and Volunteer Oath .....	58
Appendix F: Survey Package .....	65
Appendix G: Agency Utilization Sheltered Homelessness Count Form .....	81

## List of Tables

Table 1: Core Enumeration Count .....	15
Table 2: Location of Survey Recoded by Interviewer .....	16
Table 3: Emergency Service Use in the Past Six Months.....	33
Table 4: Where Participants Sleep Most Frequently.....	35

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Housing Range .....	7
Figure 2: Simcoe County Enumeration Areas.....	9
Figure 3: Date Surveys Were Conducted .....	17
Figure 4: Time Surveys Were Conducted.....	17
Figure 5: Grouped PiT Night Location .....	18
Figure 6: Where Participants Stayed PiT Night .....	19
Figure 7: Where Participants Currently Live .....	19
Figure 8: Who Stayed with Them.....	20
Figure 9: Age of Survey Participants .....	21
Figure 10: Age First Experienced Homelessness.....	22
Figure 11: Length of Time Having Experienced Homelessness in the Last Year .....	22
Figure 12: Length of Time Living in Simcoe County .....	23
Figure 13: Indigenous Identity.....	24
Figure 14: Health Challenges at the Time of the Survey .....	25
Figure 15: Number of Health Challenges Reported by Participants .....	25
Figure 16: Gender Identity .....	26
Figure 17: Sexual Orientation .....	26
Figure 18: Grouped Cause of Most Recent Housing Loss .....	27
Figure 19: Causes of Most Recent Housing Loss.....	28
Figure 20: Length Since Most Recent Housing Loss.....	29
Figure 21: Source of Income.....	29
Figure 22: Acuity Score.....	30
Figure 23: Access to Basic Needs .....	31
Figure 24: Total Length Experiencing Homelessness in the Last 3 Years .....	32
Figure 25: Safety.....	34
Figure 26: Legal Impacts on Housing .....	34
Figure 27: If there are school-aged children: Do your children attend school more often than not each week?.....	38
Figure 28: If there are children 12 and younger as well as 13 and over: In your household, do the older kids spend two or more hours on a typical day helping their younger siblings with things like getting ready for school, homework, dinner, bathing them or anything like that? .....	38
Figure 29: Self-Reported Racial Identity .....	39
Figure 30: Number of Friends' or Family Members' Places Participants Have Temporarily Stayed with in the Last Year .....	40
Figure 31: Identified as Having Autism, an Intellectual Disability, or Brain Injury .....	40
Figure 32: COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Participants.....	41
Figure 33: Preferred Compared to Current Location to Live.....	41

## Executive Summary

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a total of 563 individuals were counted as experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County. This represents a rate of 10.5 people for every 10,000. Individuals were identified through homeless enumeration survey participation, agency occupancy, and observation tally counts. This number represents the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

While the enumeration represents the number of people experiencing homelessness on a given night, other sources of data are available and used to plan for programs and services. For example, Simcoe County Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) data shows, over the course of a year (2020) approximately 1,736 individuals accessed homeless services (HIFIS, 2020).<sup>1</sup> The actual number of people experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County is potentially much higher, given the following reasons: that many people who are unhoused temporarily stay with friends or relatives and do not come into contact with emergency shelters; some people stay in the shelter but do not give permission for their information to be in HIFIS; and, HIFIS does not include information for all shelter, transitional housing, or outreach programs within Simcoe County.

The enumeration data presented in this report represents information collected from:

- Outreach teams
- Shelters
- Institutional settings
- Community sites
- Transitional housing programs
- Supportive housing programs for youth

### Benefits of Conducting the 2020 Enumeration During the Pandemic:

- **Access to people experiencing homelessness:** A greater number of people experiencing homelessness were staying in emergency shelters and/or using the temporary motel shelter system implemented in Simcoe County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- **Data:** Results will provide an understanding of the unique and unprecedented situations of homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- **Momentum:** Priority to support people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- **Compliance:** with Federal and provincial requirements to conduct an enumeration every 2 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Homeless services included: COVID Response (temporary motel shelter), Emergency Shelter, Motel Voucher, Non-Designated, Out of the Cold, Respite Beds, and Transitional Housing.

The following service providers use HIFIS: Alliston Out of the Cold, Community Connection / 211, Couchiching Jubilee House, David Busby Street Centre, Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe Muskoka, Home Horizon Georgian Triangle, Lighthouse - Orillia Christian Centre, LOFT Community Services, North Simcoe Victim Crisis Services, Redwood Park Communities, Rosewood - Huronia Transition Homes, Salvation Army - Barrie Bayside Mission, Salvation Army - Collingwood, Samaritan House, Shelter Now, South Simcoe Community Information Centre (CONTACT), The Guesthouse Shelter, and Youth Haven. Not all individuals who access services from the above service providers give permission for their information to be added into HIFIS.

## Limitations

Known limitations to the PiT count method include underrepresentation of people experiencing hidden homelessness, temporary homelessness, and those experiencing homelessness in rural areas. To combat these known limitations, the 2020 Enumeration included participation from 37 agencies across five enumeration areas within Simcoe County which provide services to varying groups along the homeless spectrum from those living rough, in emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, rent-g geared-to-income, affordable rent programs, and those at risk of losing housing. These agencies include outreach, emergency shelters, out of the cold programs, motel voucher programs, violence against women (VAW) shelters, transitional housing, community programs, County of Simcoe, Ontario Works, and Empower Simcoe Regional Housing Support Services. Figure 1 displays the fluid housing range used as housing is often not linear. For a full list see Appendix A on page 50.

Simcoe County-wide coordination of local outreach teams and input from local Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH) chapters was used to ensure a fulsome sweep of Simcoe County was conducted to capture as many people experiencing homelessness as possible. Other limitations to survey participation included weather (first snow fall of the season, usual hot spots were not hot), response fatigue (people did not want to participate as they had participated in previous enumerations and felt nothing had changed), and the COVID-19 pandemic possibly making participants less willing to engage with surveyors due to provincial safety guidelines.

Another significant limitation of the 2020 Homeless Enumeration is that, for safety reasons due to the pandemic, no volunteer surveyors were recruited, which limited the outreach efforts within the community. It is acknowledged that without the reach of community volunteers and surveyors around community services such as libraries, community centers, parks, streets, and retailers, the 2020 enumeration is likely an undercount compared to the 2018 enumeration.

**Comparisons between the three enumeration results (2016, 2018, and 2020) should be made with caution as several changes to the methodology and definitions have been made. Changes between 2018 and 2020 include the time of year the enumeration was conducted, weather, changes due to COVID-19 restrictions, and response fatigue. Detailed differences between the 2016, 2018 and 2020 enumeration are listed in the methodology section on page 12.**



Figure 1: Housing Range

## Acknowledgements

The 2020 Homeless Enumeration would not be possible without the many supporters and partners who contributed time, effort, and resources to this project. A total of 37 agencies who provide a range of programs and services helped make the 2020 Homeless Enumeration possible. See Appendix A on page 50 for a full list of agencies. Most of all, we would like to thank the 377 people experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County who participated in the enumeration survey– the information shared informs planning and work to end homelessness across Simcoe County, Ontario, and Canada.

### **Regional Enumeration Advisory Committee (REAC) Organizations:**

CONTACT Community Services, County of Simcoe, David Busby Street Centre, Elizabeth Fry Society, Empower Simcoe, Gilbert Centre, Orillia Light House, Shelter Now, and Youth Haven.

### **Regional Planning Team Leads:**

- **Barrie:** Sara Peddle and Meaghan Chambers
- **North Simcoe:** Sonia Ladouceur
- **Orillia and Area:** Linda Goodall
- **South Georgian Bay:** Laurie Straughan
- **South Simcoe:** Jennifer Fleury and Nicole Savini

### **Partners:**

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH), County of Simcoe, Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH)

### **Funders and support:**

The 2020 Homeless Enumeration was funded through Reaching Home, the Government of Canada's Homelessness Strategy. The 2020 Homeless Enumeration data was analyzed by Victoria Chapman, Research Analyst, County of Simcoe, and the final report was co-authored by Victoria Chapman, Research Analyst, and Irena Pozgaj-Jones, Program Supervisor, County of Simcoe.



## Introduction

Since 2016, the Simcoe County community has conducted a Homeless Enumeration every two years. The information collected helps connect people to the appropriate programs and services in the community, informs policy and program development, and raises awareness about homelessness in Simcoe County.

Similar to 2018, the 2020 Homeless Enumeration included a Point-in-Time Count (PiT Count) and Registry Week. While the 2018 enumeration findings were intended to set the baseline for which future homeless enumerations, using the same methodologies, were to be compared, many changes had to be made to the 2020 enumeration due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Comparisons between the three enumeration results should be made with caution as several changes to the methodology and definitions have been made.**

## Methodology

### Overview of Combined Point-in-Time Count and Registry Week

The 2020 Homeless Enumeration was conducted November 17<sup>th</sup> to November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 and used a combined Registry Week/Point-in-Time (PiT) Count methodology. The Enumeration provided a snapshot of homelessness in the rural communities, townships, towns, and cities of the five enumeration regions of Simcoe County (see Figure 2).

The regions are:

- Barrie (red on map),
- North Simcoe (brown on map),
- Orillia and Area (yellow on map),
- South Georgian Bay (dark green on map), and
- South Simcoe (light blue on map).

See Appendix B: Map of Simcoe County Enumeration Areas (page 52) for a larger version of this map.

Registry Weeks are multi-day enumerations that survey people staying on the streets, in shelters, in other unsheltered locations, and/or in sheltered places not fit for human habitation (e.g., sheds, makeshift shelters and tents), and in temporary housing (e.g., transitional housing or institutional care). Registry Weeks rely on

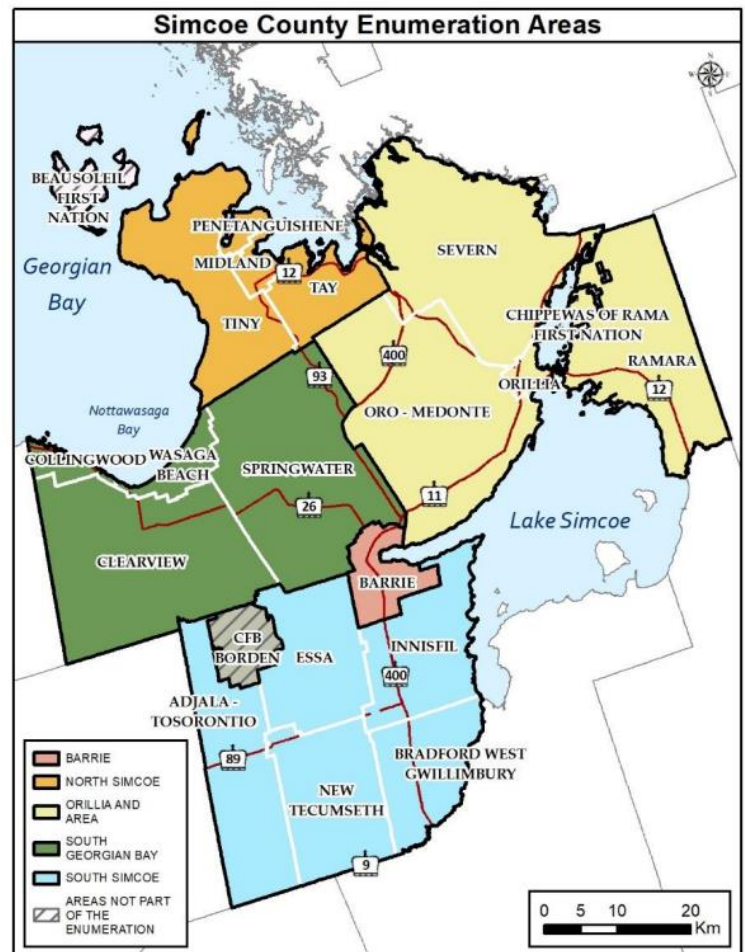


Figure 2: Simcoe County Enumeration Areas

coordinated outreach processes that engage people who are experiencing homelessness and collect their personal information through the administration of a brief assessment.

PiT Counts survey people who are experiencing homelessness who are staying in the locations listed above, however, are conducted over a specified 24-hour period of time. PiT Counts also collect aggregated data including, the number and basic socio-demographics of people staying in shelters, transitional housing, overflow shelters (e.g., out-of-the-cold programs), and motel voucher programs.

PiT Count night is required to be the first day of a combined PiT/Registry Week enumeration – as such, the PiT Count in Simcoe County was Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Regardless which day the surveys were conducted, all survey participants were asked where they stayed on the PiT reference night, Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Only people who were experiencing homelessness on November 17<sup>th</sup> were counted as experiencing homelessness during the enumeration. PiT Counts are designed to provide a snapshot of basic demographics, reasons for homelessness, service use, and the number of unsheltered and emergency sheltered people experiencing homelessness, on one day of the year in a particular community.

Combined PiT Count and Registry Weeks provide valuable information about who is experiencing homelessness in our communities and what factors contribute to experiences of homelessness. Both PiT Counts and Registry Weeks are acknowledged to be undercounts as surveyors are not able to reach all people experiencing hidden homelessness (e.g., those who are “couch surfers” who stay temporarily with friends, family, acquaintances, or strangers).

## COVID-19 Considerations

Between November 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 and November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Simcoe County was in the Yellow - Protect level of the *Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework* (Province of Ontario, 2020). On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the last day of the Enumeration, Simcoe County was moved into the Orange - Restrict level (Province of Ontario, 2020). See Appendix C on page 53 for a detailed explanation of the restrictions and virus activity for each level in the framework.

General public health measures and advice from the *COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework* for all zones included:

General advice:

- Staying home as much as possible and only leaving for essential purposes such as work, school, food, health care, assisting vulnerable individuals, or physical activity
- Avoiding social gatherings
- Limiting close contacts to your household (people you live with)
  - Individuals who live alone, including seniors, may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation
- Working from home if possible, and allowing employees to work from home if possible
- Avoiding travel except for essential reasons

Public health advice:

- Staying home if you have symptoms, even if they are mild
- Washing your hands thoroughly and regularly

- Covering your cough
- Downloading the COVID alert mobile app
- Getting tested if you have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if you've been advised of exposure by your local public health unit or through the COVID Alert mobile app
- Maintaining at least two metres of physical distancing from those outside your household
- Wearing a face covering or mask:
  - Any time you are with someone who is not in your household
  - If physical distancing cannot be maintained
  - If wearing one is required
- You must wear a face covering or mask and maintain physical distancing during permitted organized public events or social gatherings with individuals outside of your household
- Following provincial and local restrictions on public and private gatherings

Two COVID-19 protocol documents were created for the enumeration and reviewed for approval by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. These protocol documents were used to ensure the Enumeration Survey Processes being communicated to surveyors met COVID-19 safety requirement and were incorporated into the online training videos surveyors were required to watch. Please see Appendix D on page 54 for more information on the COVID-19 protocol documents.

No community volunteers were recruited to help with the 2020 Homeless Enumeration and no magnet events were held to promote participation from hard to reach populations due to adjustments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The time frame of the enumeration was extended from 3 days to 7 days to help combat these adjustments and increase participation.

## Enumeration Process

Thirty-seven agencies participated in the 2020 enumeration through participation on planning groups, spreading the word, conducting surveys, and/or providing agency utilization data.

**Data Collection:** 2020 Homeless Enumeration surveys and counts were conducted by staff and outreach workers from social service providers, health care providers, outreach workers, and corrections agencies. There were no physical headquarter locations for surveyors to come together due to adjustments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Supplies were delivered to participating agencies and communication was conducted over the phone and e-mail. Paper surveys and an online survey link was available to surveyors.

### Surveys and counts were conducted through:

- Indoor Shelter Surveys and agency utilization data at participating emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing programs in Simcoe County.
- Street Surveys by outreach teams to reach people living in public/outdoor places that are not suitable for human habitation.
- Observational Counts and Surveys of those in local public locations (i.e., libraries and recreational centres) and non-profit service providers (i.e., drop-in centres, food banks, and meal programs). This was limited due to COVID-19.

- Data from Agencies/Government including those residing in institutions (i.e., hospitals, holding cells, detox clinics) who do not have a permanent address.

Surveys were available to be conducted in French by calling a dedicated telephone number for enumeration.

### **Participant Follow Up:**

Participant follow up was worked into the enumeration process by adding the local question ‘Are you currently working with an agency to find housing? [e.g. Emergency Shelter, CONTACT, Empower Simcoe, Transitional Housing, Outreach Worker]’. If a participant responded *no, don’t know* or *decline to answer*, their contact information was collected. An excel spreadsheet was developed which included relevant participant demographic information, contact information provided by participants, and follow up columns to be completed by staff. Excel spreadsheets were broken down into different sheets for the five enumeration areas and listed participants experiencing chronic and not chronic homelessness in order of highest to lowest acuity score. The spreadsheets were password protected and sent to the appropriate Enumeration Area Lead after the enumeration to coordinate follow up with participants.

### **Training**

Due to COVID-19 considerations, training was provided using online training videos. A total of nine training videos ranging in length from 1 to 15 minutes were made available on the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH) website on Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Three videos were mandatory, which covered an *Introduction to the 2020 Enumeration, Key Points to Remember* and *Important Tips*. Three videos covered the paper survey and three videos covered the online survey tool, so volunteers only needed to review the survey videos which related to the type of survey they were planning on using.

Enumeration volunteers were required to review the appropriate training videos and accompanying FAQ and COVID- Safety protocol documents and sign a volunteer oath before they started conducting surveys on Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. See Appendix E on page 58 for the Training Guide, General Information and Volunteer Oath.

### **Differences between 2016, 2018, and 2020**

The first Simcoe County enumeration was a Registry Week conducted over a three-day period in January 2016. The findings of this enumeration were reported in *Working to End Homelessness: Simcoe County 20,000 Homes Campaign Registry Week*. Because the methodology used in 2018 (a combined PiT Count/Registry Week) was different than that used in 2016, comparison of results should be conducted with caution. The main methodological differences between the 2016 and the 2018 enumerations are presented below:

1. The addition of the Point-in-Time Count and Survey methodology including the use of tally sheets to record observed homelessness;
2. The addition of bed utilization data for April 24 provided by homeless services provider agencies that provide overnight accommodations; and
3. The increased community and stakeholder participation in the 2018 enumeration including:
  - A 78% increase in the number of enumeration volunteers from 2016 to 2018; and

- The addition of enumeration planning teams in each of the five Simcoe County enumeration regions that resulted in the ability to access and survey more people.

In addition:

- Separate analyses of people who were precariously housed were conducted in 2018 while they were included in the main findings report in 2016.
- The use of assessment tools that were more targeted to the population surveyed in 2018 and resulted in more accurate assessments of housing support needs for youth and families.
- The time of year the enumeration was conducted changed from late January in 2016 to late April in 2018. While enumerations conducted in winter often find more people in sheltered locations and find fewer unsheltered people than those conducted in more moderate times of the year, information is not available to compare where participants in 2016 and 2018 stayed on a particular night.

For these reasons, the 2016 and 2018 enumeration findings are not comparable.

While the 2018 enumeration findings were intended to set the baseline to which future homeless enumerations (using the same methodologies) were to be compared, many changes had to be made to the 2020 enumeration due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main methodological differences between the 2018 and the 2020 enumerations are presented below:

1. **Time Frame:** a shift in time frame from April to November affects the locations people experiencing homelessness are found and services they seek.
2. **Survey Tool:** Some changes were made to the PiT questions and options used in 2020 compared to 2018. Updated versions of the Single Adult, Youth, and Family VI-SPDATs were also used in 2020. Possible variation in how similar questions are interpreted by the participant and distribution of answers vary based on options available. Indicators may not be available or comparable between the 2018 and 2020 data.
3. **Surveyors and Survey Locations:** Without the reach of community volunteers and surveyor presences around community services such as libraries, community centers, parks, streets, and retailers, the 2020 enumeration is likely an undercount compared to the 2018 enumeration
4. **Data Collection Tool:** In 2018, only paper surveys were used, while in 2020 paper and an online survey tool was available. Different input errors could have occurred between those using the paper survey and those using the online survey (measurement bias).
5. **Survey Method:** More surveys were conducted over the phone in 2020 which may have an impact on interviewer bias. Participants may be more or less willing to share detailed and honest responses over the phone

## Enumeration Results

This report will focus on the population experiencing homelessness as a whole. Subsequent reports will be released that explore the following population groups of interest:

- Enumeration area
- Age group (youth, adults, seniors)
- Participants with children/dependent(s)
- Gender identity
- Indigenous identity
- Chronically homeless
- Acuity score
- History of foster care
- Where participants stayed pit night
- Participants who identified as 2S-LGBTQ+.

## Survey Interactions

From November 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, surveyors conducted a total of 506 interactions. 397 surveys were conducted, and 109 observations were counted on tally sheets. See Appendix F on page 65 for the survey package including the introductory script and screening, tally sheet, consent form, and single adult questionnaire. The family and youth questionnaires were identical to the single adult questionnaire, except they used a family or youth VI-SPDAT instead of the single adult VI-SPDAT. A copy of the family and youth questionnaires used are available on the [www.simcoe.ca/enumeration](http://www.simcoe.ca/enumeration) website.

Of the 397 surveys, 7 were blank, 3 were missing or withdrew consent, 1 lived outside of Simcoe County and did not wish to receive services in Simcoe County, and 9 were duplicates, leaving 377 surveys for analysis.

Of the 109 observations counted on tally sheets, 29 were identified as experiencing homelessness and contributed to the Core Point in Time Count of people experiencing homelessness on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Administrative data was also collected from all participating agencies to capture the number of individuals who stayed in an Emergency Shelter, Violence Against Women (VAW) Shelter, Out of the Cold program, Motel Voucher program, or Transitional Housing on PiT night. See Appendix G on page 81 for the Agency Utilization Sheltered Homelessness Count Form used to collect the administrative data. The Pit Count uses the administrative data provided by agencies, tally sheet data, survey data, and children/dependents identified by survey participants to compile the total number of people who experienced homelessness on PiT Night.

## PiT Count Findings

In total, 563 individuals were found to be experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This represents a rate of 10.5 people per 10,000. Individuals were identified through survey participation, agency occupancy, and observation tally counts.

As identified in Table 1, 47% of individuals experiencing homelessness were staying in an emergency shelter, 39% were provisionally accommodated, and 14% were staying in an unsheltered location.

It is important to note that the proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness staying in an emergency shelter may be overrepresented in the 2020 homeless enumeration findings, while the proportion of individuals staying in unsheltered locations may be underrepresented, because of the survey methodological changes noted above due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 1: Core Enumeration Count

Core Enumeration Count			
Location	Source	Count	Percentage
<b>Unsheltered Location</b>			
Unsheltered and Unknown Location– Surveyed	Survey	49	9%
Unsheltered – Observed	Tally	29	5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Emergency Sheltered</b>			
Emergency Shelter	Agency	226	40%
Violence Against Women Emergency Shelter	Agency	34	6%
Winter Overflow and Motel Voucher	Agency	7	1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>267</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Provisionally Accommodated</b>			
Transitional Housing	Agency	103	18%
Hidden Homeless (“couch surfing” stayed with family/friends/acquaintances)	Survey	79	14%
Motel/Hotel (paid by participant or participants’ friends/family)	Survey	28	5%
Institutions (Health and/or Corrections)	Survey	8	1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>218</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>563</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Survey Findings

**Data Notes:** Of the 563 individuals identified as experiencing homelessness on November 17th, 2020, 377 individuals shared their demographic information and experience of homelessness through survey participation.

Please note all survey questions were optional and, in most cases, offered a ‘don’t know’ and/or ‘decline to answer’ option. The noted N value for each figure represents the number of survey participants who answered each question. Those who answered, ‘don’t know’, ‘decline to answer’, or who left the question blank were excluded from the denominator, unless they made up more than 5% of responses. Also, percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding or multiple response questions.

Some surveys were missing the first page of the survey which included information completed by the interviewer including the interviewer’s name, agency and/or contact #, survey date, survey time, survey location, and whether the survey was conducted over the phone or in French. Interviewer name and survey date was able to be collected from the survey package envelop and/or consent form.

### Where Participants Were Surveyed

Table 2 displayed the location surveys took place (recorded by the interviewer) included: in shelters or out of the cold programs (n=199 or 53%); transitional housing (n=30 or 8%); in and around commercial buildings (n=28 or 7%); over the phone (n=24 or 6%); outdoor locations (n=22 or 6%); within support programs (n=17 or 5%); unspecified locations in Simcoe County towns and cities (n=11 or 3%); corrections/hospitals/treatment centers (n=7 or 2%); motels (n=7 or 2%); and, Violence Against Women shelters (n=7 or 2%). The location was blank or another location on 7% or 25 surveys.

Table 2: Location of Survey Recoded by Interviewer

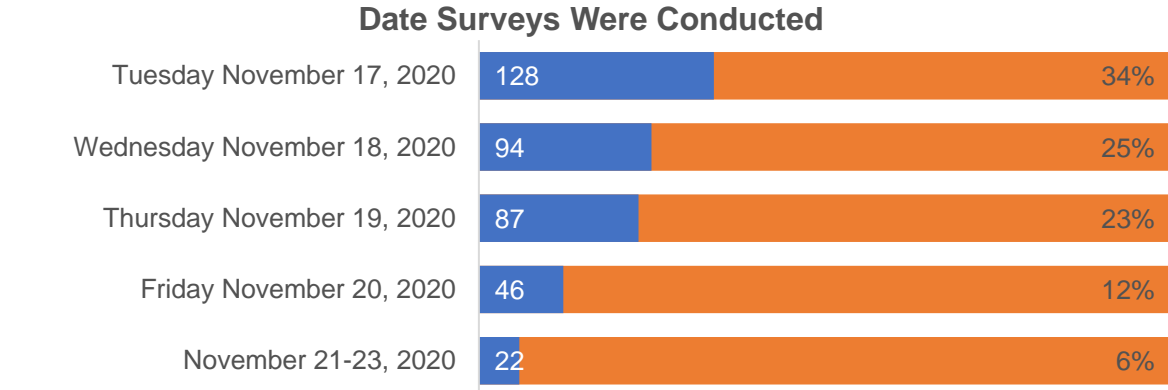
Location of Survey Recorded by Interviewer		
	#	%
Shelters and Out of the Cold programs (including temporary motel locations)	199	53%
Transitional Housing	30	8%
In and around commercial buildings including coffee shops and fast food restaurants	28	7%
Phone	24	6%
Outdoor location	22	6%
Program and Methadone	17	5%
Unspecified locations in Simcoe County towns and cities	11	3%
Corrections/hospitals/treatment centers	7	2%
Motel	7	2%
Violence Against Women (VAW)	7	2%
Blank or Other	25	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100%</b>



Sixty-two surveys were identified by the surveyor as completed over the phone representing 16% of surveys, although 24% were blank or missing this question. Less than 5 surveys were identified by the surveyor as completed in French although 25% were blank or missing this question.

**When Participants Were Surveyed**

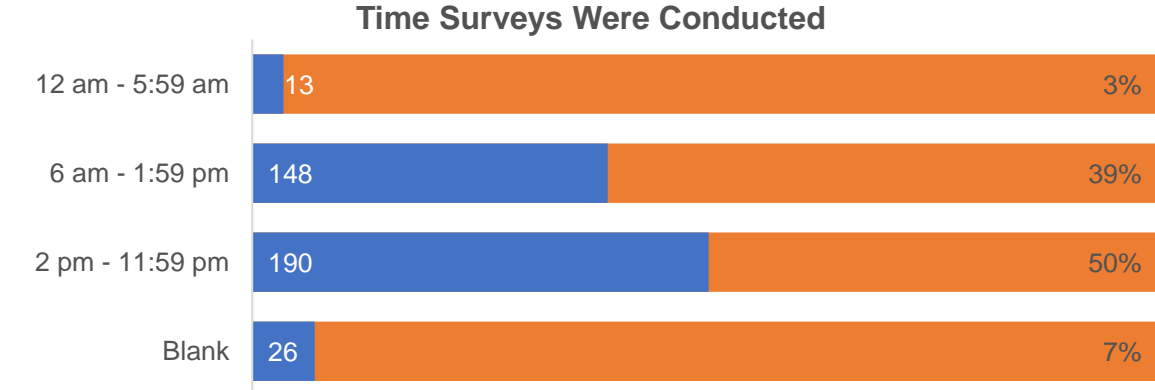
Figure 3 shows the greatest percentage of participants (34%) were surveyed on Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the first day of the enumeration and PiT night. The majority were surveyed within the first three days of the enumeration.



N=377

Figure 3: Date Surveys Were Conducted

Figure 4 shows the majority of surveys (50%) were conducted between 2:00 pm and 11:59 pm followed by between 6:00 am and 1:59 pm (39%).



N=377

Figure 4: Time Surveys Were Conducted

## Where Participants Stayed PiT Night

As seen in Figure 5, the majority of participants (53% or 198) were sheltered, 35% or 131 were provisionally accommodated, and 13% or 48 stayed unsheltered or at an unknown location.

### Grouped PiT Night Location

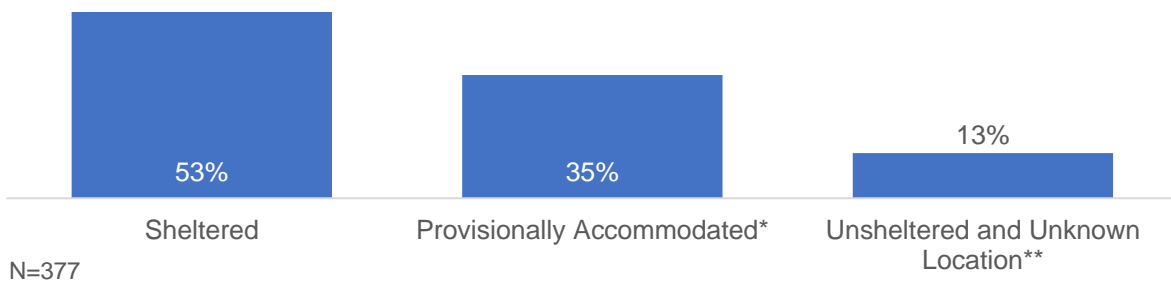


Figure 5: Grouped PiT Night Location

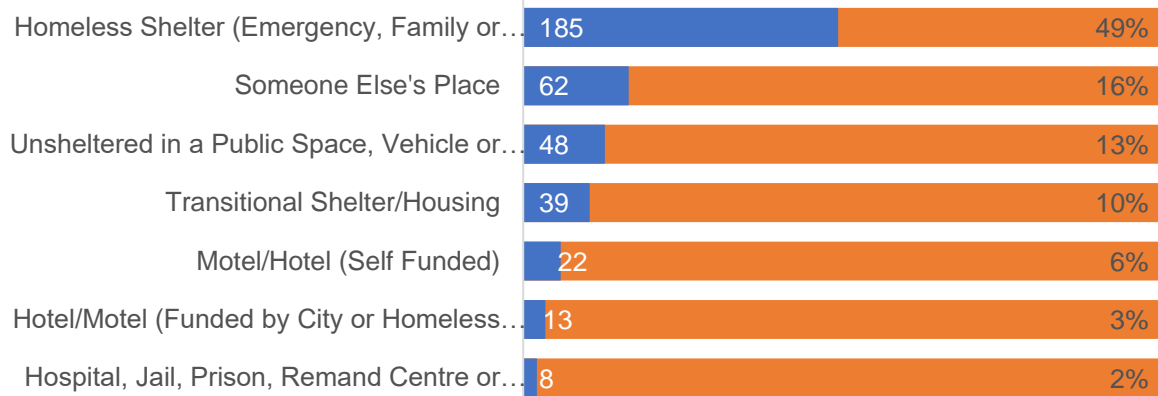
#### Definitions explained:

**\*Provisionally Accommodated:** Someone else's place, motel/hotels (self funded), transitional housing, hospitals, treatment centres, jail, prison, or remand centres.

**\*\*Unsheltered and Unknown Locations:** Vehicles and public spaces such as the street, park, bus shelter, forest, encampment, abandoned building, and those who did not know where they were going to stay.

In further detail, the majority of participants stayed at an emergency shelter (49%), followed by someone else's place (16%), unsheltered in a public space, vehicle or unsure (13%), and transitional shelter/housing (10%). Six percent stayed in a motel/hotel (self funded), 3% stayed in a hotel/motel (funded by City or Homeless Program), and 2% stayed in a Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre, or Treatment Centre (Figure 6).

### Where Participants Stayed PiT Night



N=377

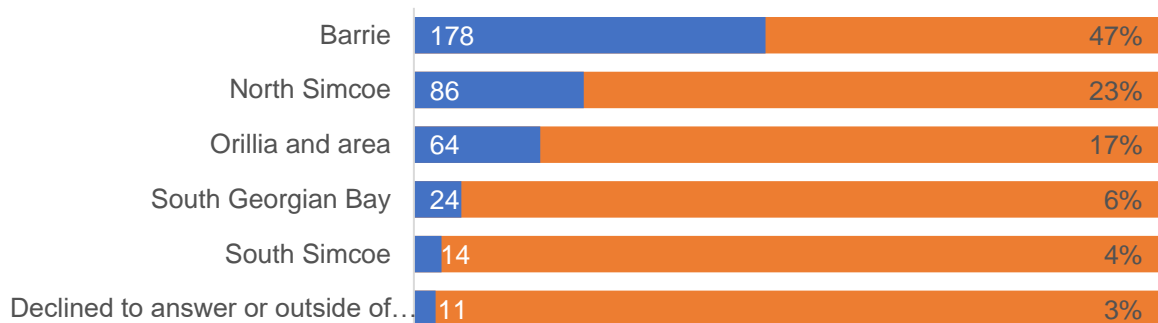
Figure 6: Where Participants Stayed PiT Night

### Where Participants Currently Lived

The greatest percent of participants reported they currently lived in Barrie (47%), followed by North Simcoe (23%), and Orillia and area (17%) (Figure 7).

Based on the 2016 Census, 30% of the total population in Simcoe County resided in Barrie, 10% resided in North Simcoe, 16% resided in Orillia and area, 16% resided in South Georgian Bay, and 29% resided in South Simcoe (Statistics Canada, 2016). This shows a greater percentage of the population experiencing homelessness on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 resided in Barrie and North Simcoe, and a smaller percentage resided in South Georgian Bay and South Simcoe, as compared to the total population in Simcoe County. The distribution of the population experiencing homelessness on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 could be impacted by the survey methodology, including challenges reaching those living in more rural areas, as well as service providers being more concentrated in urban areas with access to resources such as public transit.

### Where Participants Currently Live



N=377

Figure 7: Where Participants Currently Live

## Who Stayed with Them

When participants were asked 'Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight?' 82% or 306 participants were single or had no family members staying with them that night, 11% or 40 participants were single with children/dependent(s), 5% or 20 participants were couples and 1% or 5 participants were couples with children/dependent(s) (Figure 8). Of the participants who were single with children/dependent(s), 73% were female.

Census Family Households are defined as a married couple and the children, if any, of either and/or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either and/or both partners; or a lone-parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling and that child or those children.

Based on the 2016 Census (Statistics Canada, 2017):

- 26% of the general population in Simcoe County were non-census-family households (one person living alone or a group of two or more persons who live together but do not constitute a census family),
- 9% were one lone-parent census family households (without other persons in the household),
- 28% were one couple census family households without children (without other persons in the household),
- 29% were one couple census family households with children (without other persons in the household), and
- 8% were other census family households (including one-census-family households with additional persons and multiple-census-family households).

This comparison shows over three times the population experiencing homelessness on November 17th, 2020 in Simcoe County were single compared to non-census-family households in the total population in Simcoe County, and a slightly greater percentage were lone-parent households compared to one lone-parent census family households in the total population.

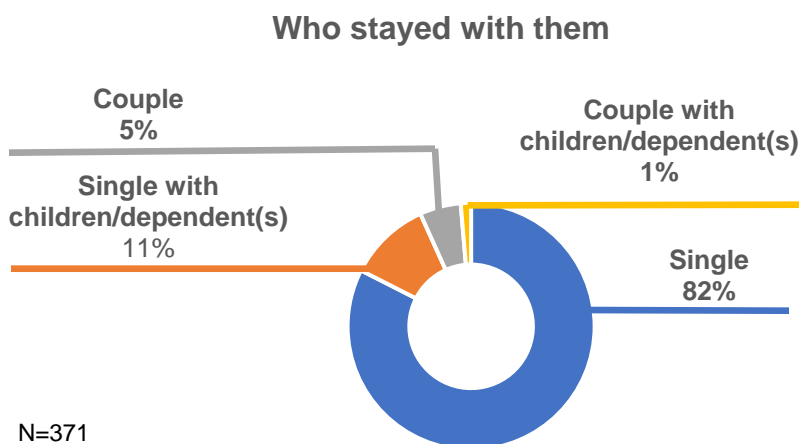


Figure 8: Who Stayed with Them

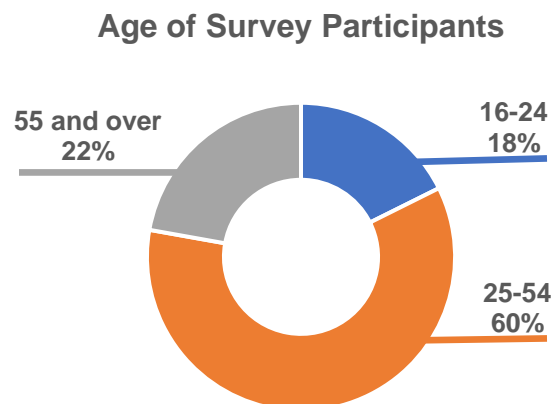
### Children/Dependent(s)

Of the participants surveyed, 12% or 45 were accompanied by a total of 72 child(ren)/dependent(s). Three quarters (75%) of the child(ren)/dependent(s) identified by participants were between 0-15 years of age, 11% were between 16-30 years of age, and 14% left the age blank. Half of the child(ren)/dependent(s) identified were male and the other half were female. The majority of children/dependent(s) (61%) were provisionally accommodated PiT night and 39% stayed in an emergency shelter.

### Age of Survey Participants

Figure 9 displayed the breakdown of participants by age. The majority of participants (60% or 225) were 25-54 years of age, 22% or 83 participants were 55 and older, and 18% or 66 participants were 16-24 years of age. For the purpose of this report those age 16-24 were considered youth, 25-54 adults, and 55+ seniors. The median age of participants was 39.

Based on the 2016 Census, of the population aged fifteen years and over residing in Simcoe County, 15% were 15-24 years of age, 47% were 25-54, and 39% were 55+ (Statistics Canada, 2016). This shows a greater percentage of the population experiencing homelessness on Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Simcoe County were 25-54 and 16-24, as compared to the total population fifteen years and older living in Simcoe County.



N=374

Figure 9: Age of Survey Participants

### Age First Experienced Homelessness

As displayed in Figure 10, the greatest percent (41% or 152) of participants reported having first experienced homelessness when they were 25-54 years of age, followed by 16-24 (29% or 108), 15 and under (17% or 63), and 55 and older (12% or 44). The median age participants first experienced homelessness was 26.

### Age First Experienced Homelessness

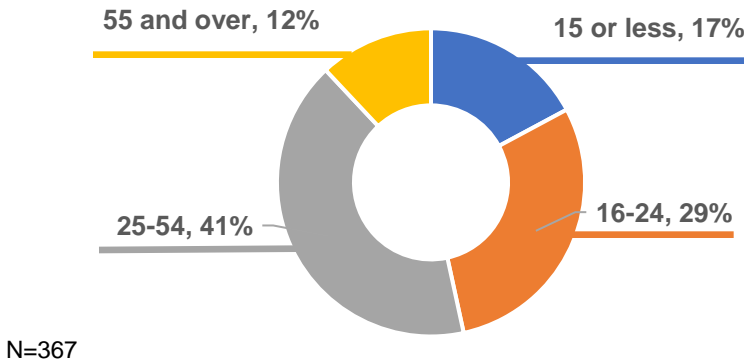


Figure 10: Age First Experienced Homelessness

### Length of Time Having Experienced Homelessness in the Last Year

When asked 'In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 months)?' 36% or 131 participants reported for the whole year, 25% or 90 participants reported 6 months to less than 12 months, 16% or 57 participants reported 3 months to less than 6 months, and 23% or 83 participants reported 0 to less than 3 months (Figure 11).

### Length of Time Having Experienced Homelessness in the Last Year

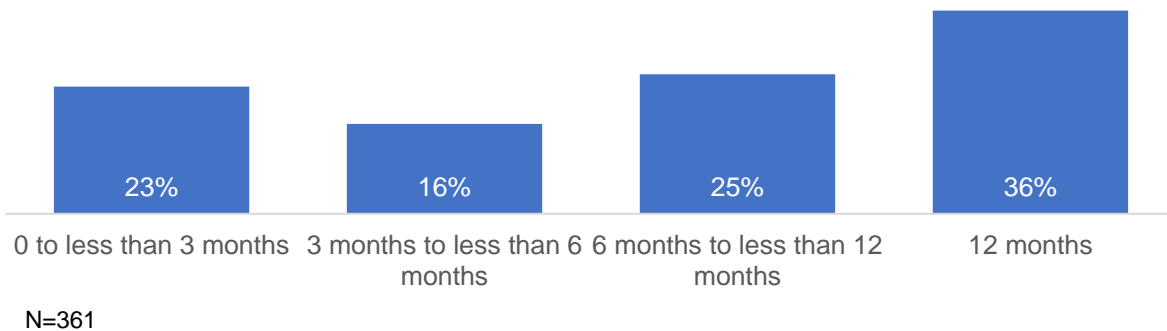


Figure 11: Length of Time Having Experienced Homelessness in the Last Year



**64% or 230** participants met the federal definition of **chronic homelessness**

Using length of time having experienced homelessness in the last year, as well as information given on the VI-SPDAT, 64% or 230 individuals met the federal definition of chronic homelessness, meaning they experienced homelessness at least 6 of the last 12 months and/or at least two episodes of homelessness totaling at least one and a half of the last three years.



**67% or 251** participants reported having **stayed in an emergency shelter** in the past year



**3% or 13** participants reported having **came to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant**. This number is much smaller than the 15% of the total population aged fifteen years and over residing in Simcoe County who were immigrants based on the 2016 Census (Statistics Canada, 2021).

Of those who identified as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant, 62% reported having been in Canada 26 years or more.

**45% of 165** participants reported having **always been in Simcoe County**



When asked how long they have been in Simcoe County, 45% or 165 participants reported having always been in Simcoe County and 55% reported a specific length of time. Over one in ten (13% or 48) participants reported having been in Simcoe County one year or less, 11% or 39 participants reported more than 1 year to 5 years, and 31% or 112 participants reported more than 5 years (Figure 12).

The areas participants lived before they came to Simcoe County varied from other municipalities across Ontario, outside of Ontario, and outside of Canada. The top areas participants lived before coming to Simcoe County were: Toronto (35 participants); outside of Ontario and Canada (26 participants); York Region (15 participants); Muskoka and Haliburton (12 participants); and, Middlesex/Oxford/Waterloo/Chatham-Kent/Lambton (12 participants). Twenty participants who reported a location in Simcoe County were recategorized to having always been here.

### Length of Time Living in Simcoe County



N=364

Figure 12: Length of Time Living in Simcoe County



**31% or 112** participants self identified as **Indigenous**. This number is significantly greater than the 4% of the total population aged fifteen years and over residing in Simcoe County identified as Aboriginal based on the 2016 Census (Statistics Canada, 2021).

Figure 13 shows 13% percent or 49 participants identified as First Nation, 11% or 40 participants identified as Métis, and data on those who identified as Inuit or Indigenous Ancestry was suppressed to maintain anonymity.

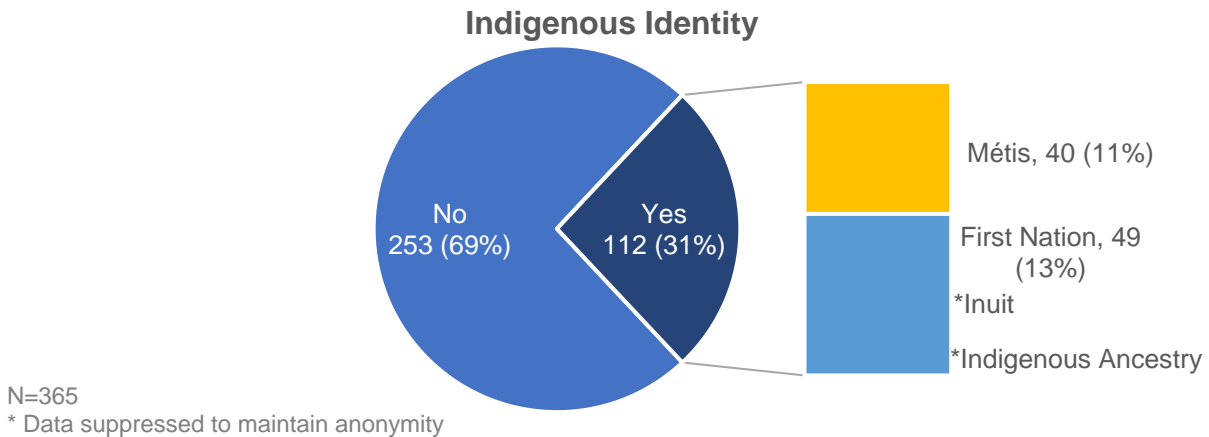


Figure 13: Indigenous Identity



**3% or 11** participants reported having served in the **Canadian Military and/or RCMP**



**22% or 83** participants reported having been in **foster care or a youth group home** as a child or youth

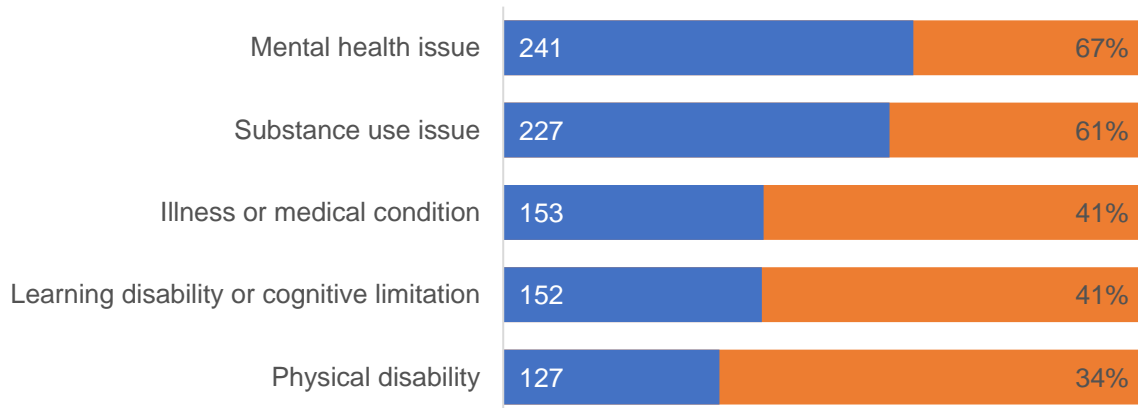
### Health Challenges at the Time of the Survey

When asked about health challenges at the time of the survey, 67% of participants reported a mental health issue, 61% reported a substance use issue, 41% reported an illness or medical condition, 41% reported a learning disability or cognitive limitation, and 34% reported a physical disability (Figure 14).

Based on the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability, 27% of the population aged fifteen years and over residing in Simcoe County had a disability, including seeing, hearing, mobility, flexibility, dexterity, pain-related, learning, memory, developmental, mental health-related, or an unknown disability (Statistics Canada, 2017). This shows that a much greater percentage of the population experiencing homelessness on Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Simcoe County have disabilities compared to the total population aged fifteen years and over residing in Simcoe County.



### Health Challenges at the Time of the Survey



N-values vary by health challenge based on the number of participants who chose to leave the question blank, declined to answer or responded don't know

Figure 14: Health Challenges at the Time of the Survey

Figure 15 displays the number of health challenges reported by participants. Only 11% or 41 participants did not report any health challenges, 23% or 85 reported one, 34% or 126 reported two, 21% or 79 reported three, and 12% or 45 reported four health challenges.

### Number of Health Challenges Reported by Participants

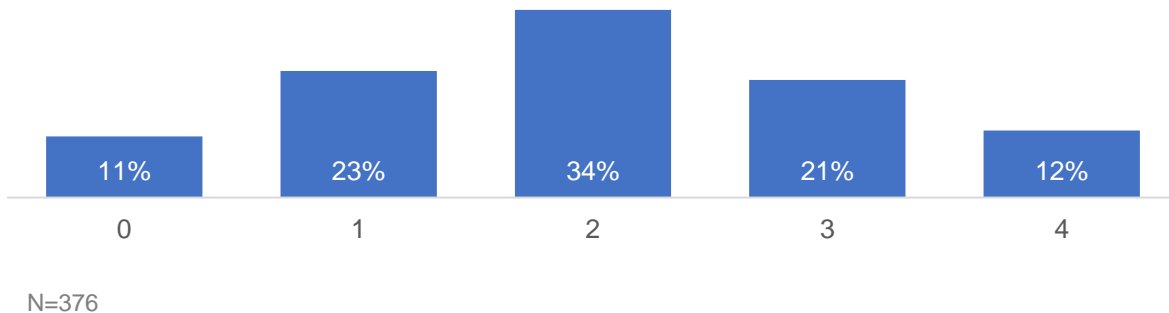
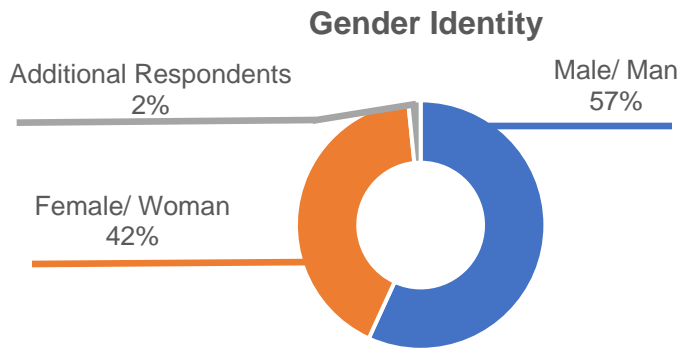


Figure 15: Number of Health Challenges Reported by Participants

### Gender Identity

The majority (57% or 212) of participants identified as male/man, 42% or 155 identified as female/woman, and 2% or 6 participants selected additional responses (Figure 16). Additional respondents include those who selected trans female, two spirited, or don't know. These responses were reported as a group to maintain participant anonymity.

Based on the 2016 Census, 49% of the total population aged fifteen years and over residing in Simcoe County were male and 51% were female (Statistics Canada, 2016). Compared to the 2016 Census, a higher percentage of the population experiencing homelessness on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Simcoe County were male.



N=373

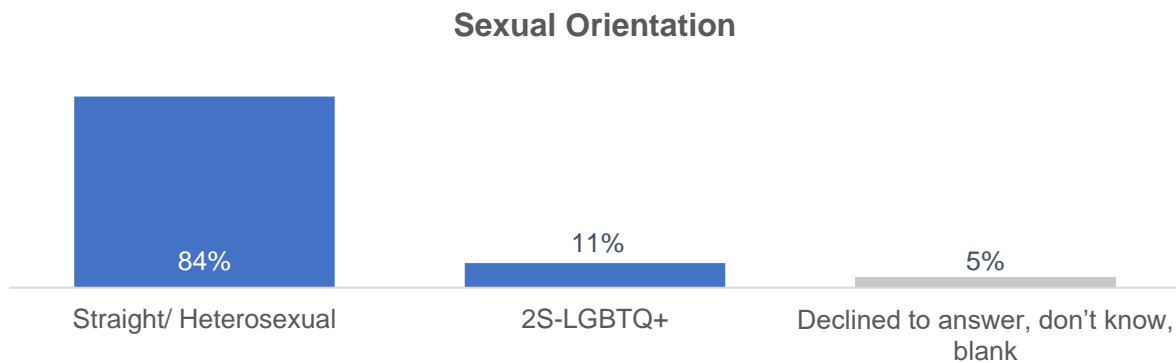
Additional respondents include those who selected trans female, two spirited or don't know to maintain participant anonymity

Figure 16: Gender Identity



**11% or 41** participants identified as **2S-LGBTQ+**

Figure 17 displays the breakdown of participants by sexual orientation. The majority of participants (84% or 318) identified as straight/heterosexual, 11% or 41 identified as bisexual, lesbian, asexual, pansexual, two-spirited, questioning or gay, and 5% or 18 participants declined to answer, selected don't know, or left the question blank.



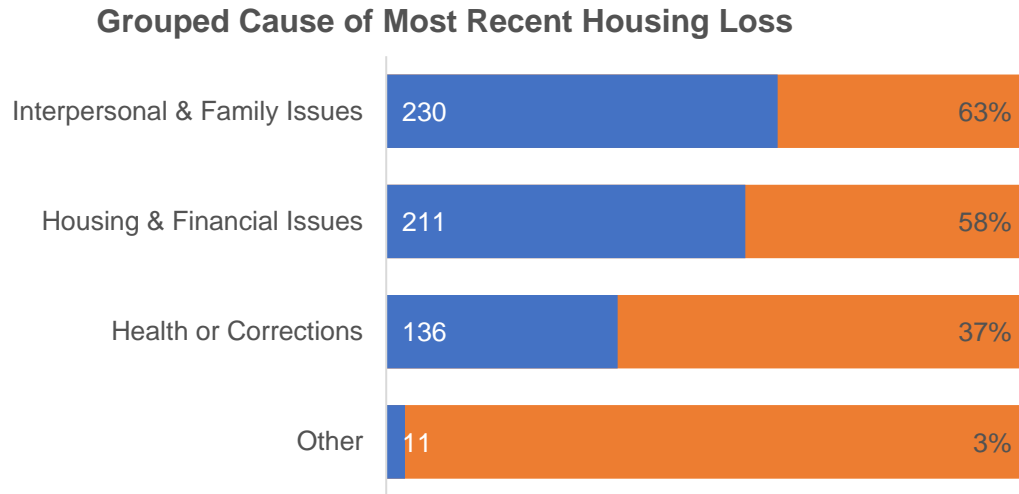
N=377

2S-LGBTQ+ represents participants who identified as bisexual, lesbian, asexual, pansexual, two-spirited, questioning or gay

Figure 17: Sexual Orientation

### Cause of Most Recent Housing Loss

The majority of participants (63%) reported *Interpersonal & Family Issues* as a cause of their most recent housing loss, followed by *Housing & Financial Issues* (58%), *Health or Corrections* (37%), and 3% reported *other* responses that were not recoded into an existing category (Figure 18).



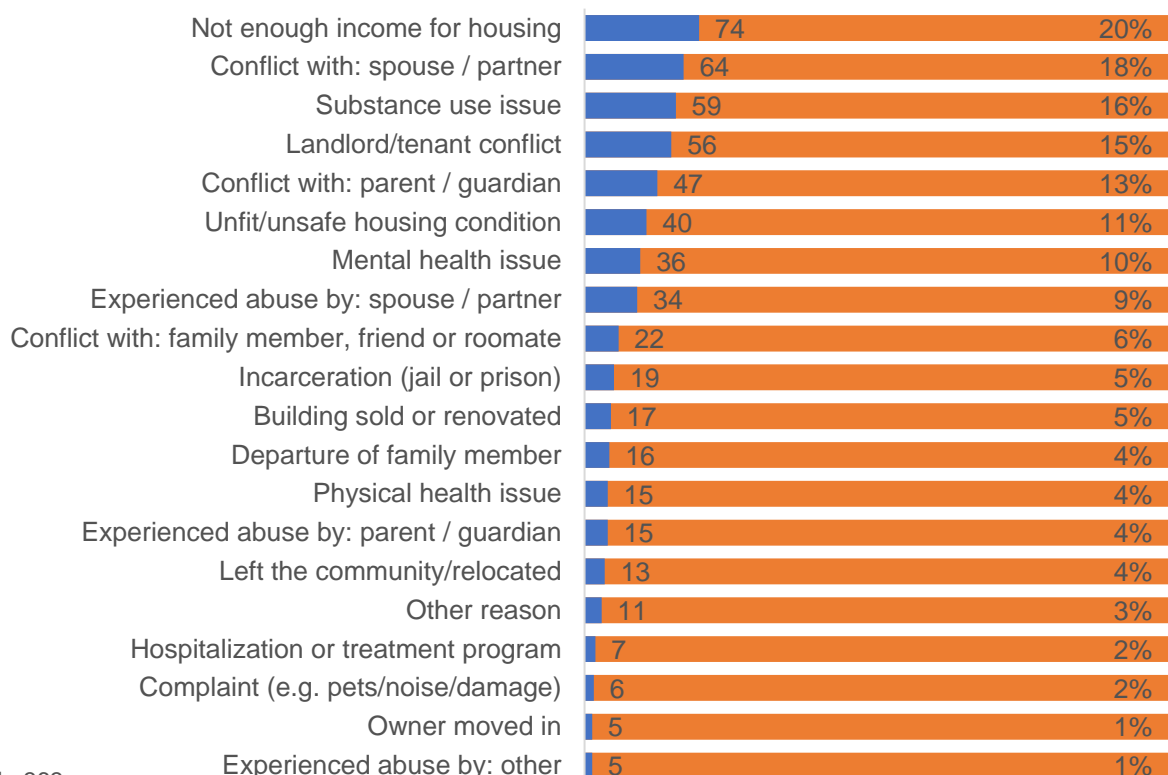
N= 363

Note: This question collected multiple responses so the percents do not add up to 100%

Figure 18: Grouped Cause of Most Recent Housing Loss

When looking at the specific causes mentioned by participants, the top five responses were: not enough income for housing (20%); conflict with spouse/partner (18%); substance use issue (16%); landlord/tenant conflict (15%); and, conflict with parent/guardian (13%) (Figure19).

## Causes of Most Recent Housing Loss



N= 363

Note: This question collected multiple responses so the percents do not add up to 100%

Less than 5 participants answered: experienced abuse by: family member and experienced discrimination

Figure 19: Causes of Most Recent Housing Loss



In a following question, **10% or 39** participants reported their **most recent housing loss was related to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Two significant differences were identified between participants who reported their most recent housing loss was related to the COVID-19 pandemic compared to those who did not. Participants who reported their most recent housing loss was related to the COVID-19 pandemic were more likely to identify as male/men (74% vs 56%) and/or have used an emergency shelter in the past year (85% vs 65%).

### Length Since Most Recent Housing Loss

When asked how long ago participants lost their housing most recently, the greatest group (33% or 120) reported a length of one year or more, followed by those who reported a length of less than 3 months (28% or 102), 17% or 61 participants reported a length of 3 months to less than 6 months, 19% or 69 participants reported a length of 6 months to less than 12 months, and 5% or 17 participants reported they don't know (Figure 20).

## Length Since Most Recent Housing Loss

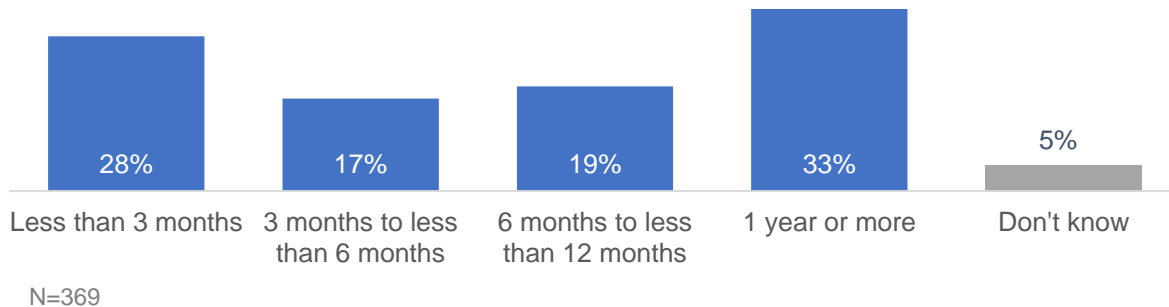
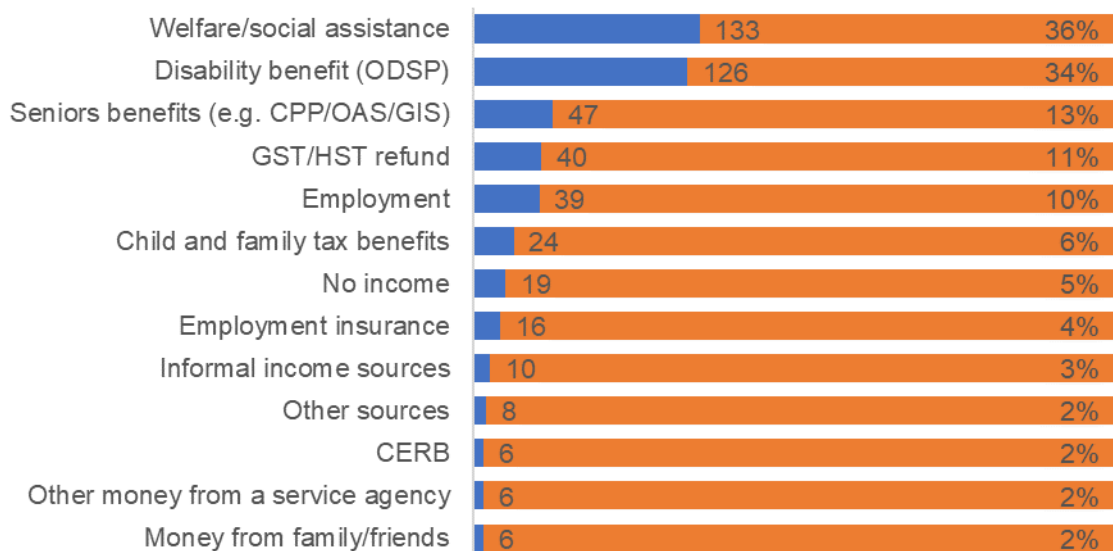


Figure 20: Length Since Most Recent Housing Loss

## Source of Income

The majority of participants (95% or 354) indicated they were receiving some form of income. Figure 21 shows the sources of income reported by participants included welfare/social assistance (36%); disability benefit (34%); seniors benefits (13%); GHT/HST refund (11%); and, and employment (10%).

## Sources of Income



N= 373

Note: This question collected multiple responses so the percents do not add up to 100%

The majority of other responses were recoded into an existing category.

Figure 21: Source of Income

## Registry Week Findings

In addition to the PiT Count survey, the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) was used as part of the Registry Week to assess vulnerability and prioritize participants for services.

Of the 377 participants who completed a survey, 343 completed a VI-SPDAT.

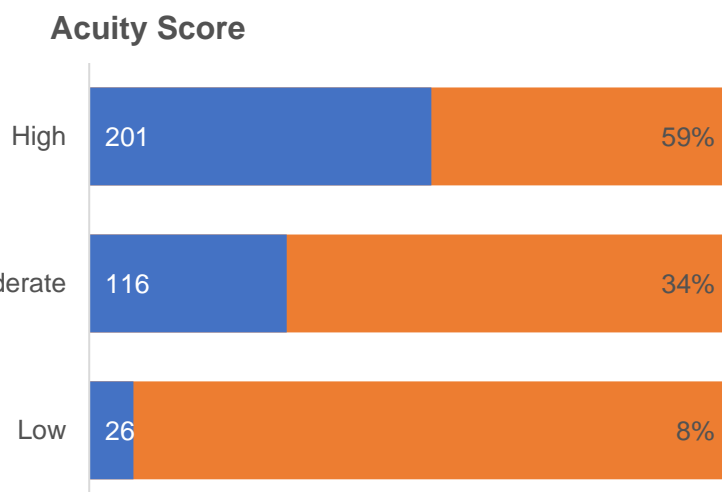
- 67% (230) completed an Adult VI-SPDAT
- 17% (60) completed a Family VI-SPDAT
- 15% (53) completed a Youth VI-SPDAT

Based on the screening questions and demographic information provided some participants completed the wrong type of VI-SPDAT, although the information collected in the VI-SPDAT is still very valuable in understanding service need.

### Acuity Score

The term acuity is used to describe the complexity of the situation that an individual is facing, which is likely to influence their housing stability. For the purpose of this report, acuity score is calculated based on participants' answers to VI-SPDAT questions. The VI-SPDAT also provides a recommendation of housing intervention based on the acuity score. A higher acuity score indicates a greater need for affordable and stable housing support.

Figure 22 displays participants acuity score and the accompanying text includes the corresponding recommendation of housing intervention described in the VI-SPDAT. The majority of participants (59%) had a high acuity score which suggests they may require high intensity supports lasting for a longer duration of time and perhaps even permanently. Approximately one third (34%) had a moderate acuity suggesting they may require moderate and often time-limited supports and 8% had a low acuity suggesting they may require the least intensive service supports.



N= 343

Note: Acuity score is calculated based on participants answers to VI-SPDAT questions

Figure 22: Acuity Score

## Detailed VI-SPDAT Findings



13% or 47 participants reported having a **pet**, 11% left the question blank.

### Access to Basic Needs

Figure 23 shows participants access to basic needs. While the majority of participants reported having access to basic needs such as getting water to stay hydrated (87%), getting food (83%), and access to a bathroom when needed (81%), almost half (45%) reported not having access to at least one of the basic needs listed. This means that while the majority of respondents can access many of the basic needs they require, they still are not able to access all their basic needs. (Note that this was a multiple response question, so percentages do not add up to 100%.)

Almost half (45% or 154) of participants reported not having access to at least one of the listed basic needs.



This number was highest in participants who completed a Single Adult VI-SPDAT (51%) and lower in those who completed a Family (40%) or Youth (25%) VI-SPDAT.

### Access to Basic Needs



N-values vary based on responses to individual questions

Figure 23: Access to Basic Needs



**31% or 103** participants experienced **three or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years.**

### Total Length Experienced Homelessness in the Last 3 Years

Of participants who reported having experienced at least two episodes of homelessness in the last three years, the majority (52%) had experienced homelessness for a year or less in the last three years (Figure 24). Nine percent or 14 participants had experienced homelessness for less than 3 months, 8% or 12 participants had experienced homelessness 3 months to less than 6 months, 26% or 40 participants had experienced homelessness 6 months to less than 12 months, 9% or 14 participants had experienced homelessness for 12 months, 34% or 53 participants had experienced homelessness more than 1 year to less than 3 years, and 14% or 22 participants had experienced homelessness for the whole three years.

### Total Length Experienced Homelessness in the Last 3 Years

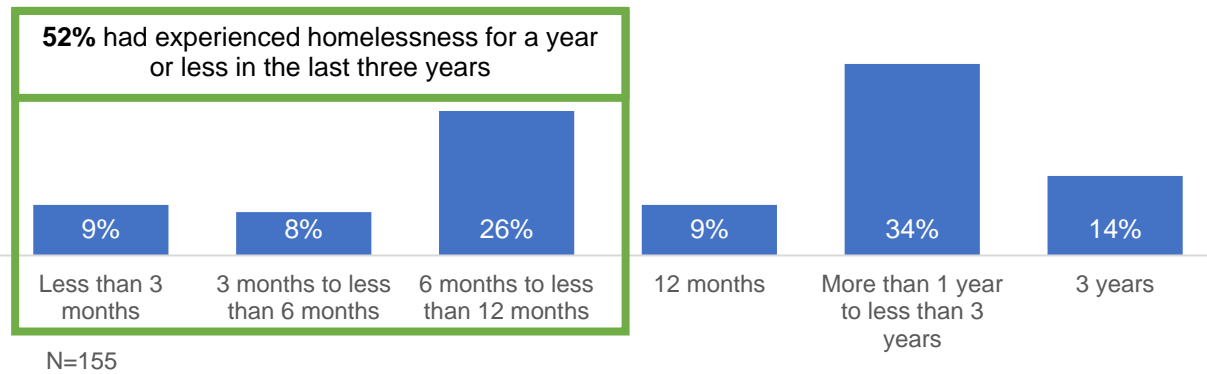


Figure 24: Total Length Experiencing Homelessness in the Last 3 Years

### Housing Stability



**66% or 225** participants have lived in a home they owned or an apartment in their name.



**43% or 122** Single Adult and Family VI-SPDAT participants reported they have been evicted in the past.



**77% or 41** Youth VI-SPDAT participants reported they and/or their family spent a lot of time without stable housing.



**40% or 20** Youth VI-SPDAT participants reported they were in and out of home placement such as foster care or a group home as a minor.



**83% or 270** participants reported most of their family and friends have stable housing



## Emergency Service Use in the Past Six Months

One in five (20%) or 67 participants did not use any emergency services within the past six months.

The remaining 276 participants reported using a total of 3,354 emergency services in the past 6 months, representing an average of 12.2 services per participant in the past 6 months.

Table 3 shows the largest percent of participants had gone to the emergency room/department (60%), followed by talked to police because they witnessed a crime, were the victim of a crime, were the alleged perpetrator of a crime, or because they were asked to move along because of loitering, sleeping in a public place, or anything like that (50%). While fewer participants reported having used a crisis service or hotline or stayed one or more nights in jail, a holding cell or prison, those who did showed a higher average use of those services in the past six months.

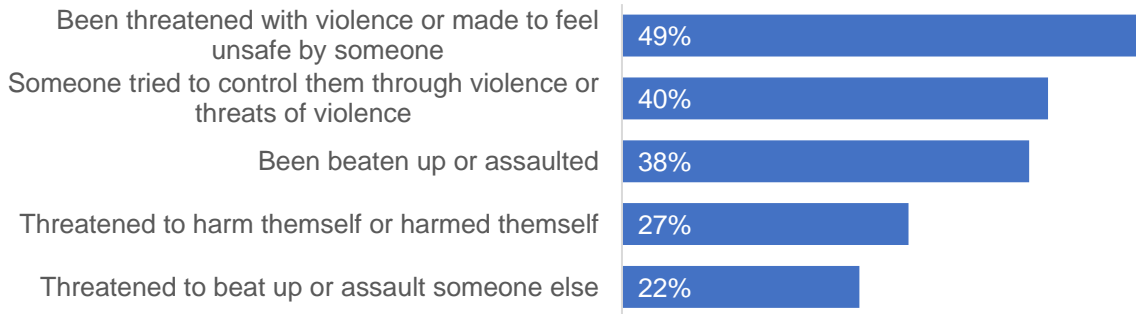
*Table 3: Emergency Service Use in the Past Six Months*

	# (%) of survey participants who accessed a service		Total # of services used by survey participants	Average # of services uses by participants who accessed the service
Gone to the emergency room/department	207	60%	785	3.8
Talked to police due to involvement in a crime or told to move on	173	50%	835	4.8
Taken an ambulance	123	36%	280	2.3
Been hospitalized as an inpatient	99	29%	209	2.1
Used a crisis service or hotline	87	25%	677	7.8
Stayed one or more nights in jail, a holding cell or prison	60	17%	568	9.5
<b>Total Service Use</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>12.2</b>

## Safety

When asked about interactions since they have experienced homelessness, 49% or 167 participants reported having been threatened with violence or made to feel unsafe by someone else, 40% or 134 participants reported someone tried to control them through violence or threats of violence, 38% or 130 participants reported having been beaten up or assaulted, 27% or 92 participants reported having threatened to harm themselves or harmed themselves, and 22% or 76 participants reported having threatened to beat up or assault someone else (Figure 25).

## Safety



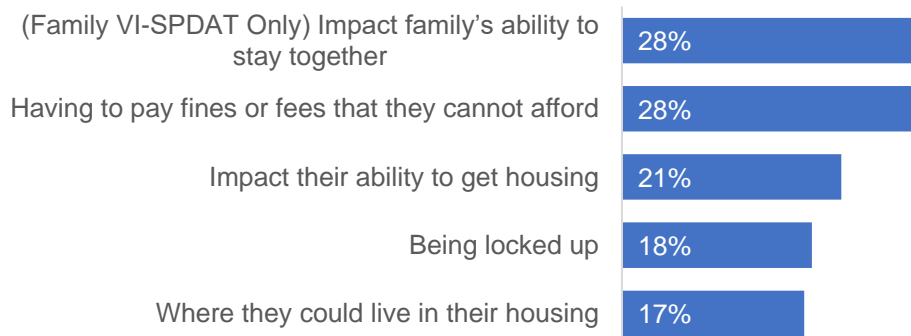
N-values vary by interaction based on the number of participants who chose to leave the question blank, declined to answer or responded don't know

Figure 25: Safety

## Legal Interactions and Impacts on Housing

Figure 26 shows over one quarter of participants who completed a Family VI-SPDAT (28% or 17 participants) reported they had legal issues that impacted their family's ability to stay together. Over one quarter of all participants (28% or 96 participants) reported having to pay fines or fees that they cannot afford, 21% or 70 participants reported having legal issues that impact their ability to get housing, 18% or 61 participants reported being locked up, and 17% or 58 participants reported having legal issues that impact where they could live in their housing.

### Legal Impacts on Housing



N-values vary by legal impacts based on the number of participants who chose to leave the question blank, declined to answer or responded don't know

Figure 26: Legal Impacts on Housing



**14% or 48** participants reported having been convicted of a crime that would make it difficult to access or maintain housing



**13% or 7** participants who completed a Youth VI-SPDAT reported having spent time in Youth Corrections or Detention prior to age 18



**28% or 95** participants reported having someone trick, manipulate, exploit, or force them to do things they do not want to do

## Sleep Most Frequently

As Table 4 shows, when asked where they sleep most frequently, the largest percent of participants answered a shelter, (43%), 21% reported an unsheltered location, 17% reported couch surfing, 11% reported Transitional housing, 6% reported hotel/motel or institutions, and 2% reported a house or apartment.

Table 4: Where Participants Sleep Most Frequently

<b>Location</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>percent</b>
<i>Shelter</i>	144	43%
<i>Unsheltered</i>	69	21%
<i>Couch surfing</i>	58	17%
<i>Transitional housing</i>	37	11%
<i>Hotel/Motel or Institutions</i>	20	6%
<i>Housed</i>	8	2%

## Experiences



**49% or 165** participants reported having someone that thinks they owe them money



**24% or 81** participants reported having done things that may be considered to be risky or harmful like run drugs, share a needle, exchange sex for money, drugs, protection, or a temporary place to stay, or anything like that



**8% or 27** participants reported gambling with money they cannot afford to lose or have debts associated with gambling



**42% or 142** participants reported having planned activities, other than for survival, at least four days per week that make them feel happy and fulfilled



**13% or 45** participants reported having a collection of belongings that gets in the way with their ability to access services or housing

## Cause of Current Homelessness

The following percent of participants who completed a Single Adult or Family VI-SPDAT reported their current homelessness was caused by:

- A relationship that broke down (52% or 147 participants)
- An unhealthy or abusive relationship (42% or 119 participants)
- Because family or friends caused them to lose their housing (35% or 98 participants)

The following percent of participants who completed a Youth VI-SPDAT reported their current homelessness was caused by:

- Going on the run from a family home, group home, or foster home (19% or 10 participants)
- Violence at the home between family members (64% or 32 participants)
- A difference in religious beliefs between your parents/guardian/caregiver (data suppressed to maintain participant anonymity)
- A conflict about gender identity or sexual orientation (data suppressed to maintain participant anonymity)

## Pregnancy



**4% or 6** participants who completed a Adult or Youth VI-SPDAT and identified as female/woman were currently pregnant.

The number and percent of participants who completed a Family VI-SPDAT and identified a member of their family being pregnant was suppressed to maintain anonymity.

Fourteen percent or 7 participants who completed a Youth VI-SPDAT reported they were pregnant or got someone else pregnant as a minor.

## Challenges Maintaining Housing



**19% or 63** participants reported having a physical health issue that might require assistance in order to access or keep housing

One quarter of participants (25% or 83 participants) identified as having issues with their mental health or cognitive issues including a brain injury that might require assistance in order to access or keep housing.

The following percent of participants reported using alcohol or drugs in a way that it:

- Impacts their life in a negative way most days (30% or 99 participants)
- Makes it hard to access housing (21% or 70 participants)
- Would require assistance to maintain housing (19% or 62 participants)



**34% or 18** participants who completed a Youth VI-SPDAT reported having tried marijuana at or under the age of 12 years old

## Medication

The following percent of participants reported there are medication that:

- A doctor said they should take but they are not taking (26% or 86 participants)
- They sell instead of take (4% or 13 participants)
- They use in a way other than how it is prescribed (10% or 35 participants)
- They find impossible to take, forget to take, or choose not to take (26% or 85 participants)
- (Youth Only) They can't get because they don't feel safe (data suppressed to maintain participant anonymity)



**54% or 181** participants reported their homelessness has been caused by recent or past trauma or abuse

## Family VI-SPDAT Specific Questions

Of the 60 participants who completed a Family VI-SPDAT, 7 identified a second head of household, a total of 42 children under the age of 18 currently with them were identified, and 41 children under the age of 18 who are not currently with them but they have reason to believe they will be joining them when they get housed were identified. Participants provided the date of birth for 56 children. Children ranged from 0-24 years of age with the majority 12 or less.



**12% or 7** participants reported there are children that have been removed from the family by a child protection service in the last six months



**25% or 15** participants reported having family legal issues like child custody, protection issues, divorce, or anything like that being resolved in court or needing to be resolved in court that would impact their housing or who may live within their housing



**34% or 20** participants reported in the last six months, they have had children separated from them to live with another family member or friend



**27% or 16** participants reported having a child experience abuse or trauma in the last six months

Figure 27 shows, when asked 'If there are school-aged children: Do your children attend school more often than not each week?' 48% or 29 participants reported yes, 37% or 22 participants reported no, and 15% or 9 participants refused to answer.

**If there are school-aged children: Do your children attend school more often than not each week?**

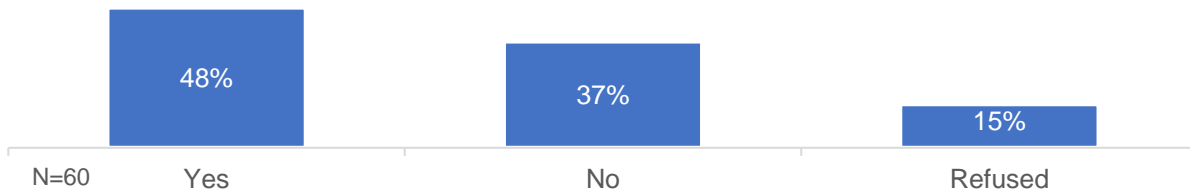


Figure 27: If there are school-aged children: Do your children attend school more often than not each week?



**28% or 17** participants reported in the last six months, the adults in the family changed because of a new relationship, a separation, incarceration, or military deployment.



**22% or 13** participants reported they anticipate other adults or children coming to live with their family in the first six months after they get housed



**59% or 35** participants reported having a support network for when they need help with their children or other things that come up

When asked 'If there are children 12 and younger as well as 13 and over: In your household, do the older kids spend two or more hours on a typical day helping their younger siblings with things like getting ready for school, homework, dinner, bathing them, or anything like that', 13% or 8 participants reported yes, 53% or 32 participants reported no, and 33% or 20 participants refused to answer (Figure 28).

**If there are children 12 and younger as well as 13 and over: In your household, do the older kids spend two or more hours on a typical day helping their younger siblings with things like getting ready for school, homework, dinner, bathing them, or anything like that?**



Figure 28: If there are children 12 and younger as well as 13 and over: In your household, do the older kids spend two or more hours on a typical day helping their younger siblings with things like getting ready for school, homework, dinner, bathing them or anything like that?

## Local Questions

Every community conducting enumeration has the opportunity to add customized local questions to the standardized questionnaire. The local questions for the Simcoe County Community Homeless Enumeration were developed by the Regional Enumeration Advisory Committee (REAC).

### Self-Reported Racial Identity

Figure 29 displays participants' self-reported racial identity. The majority of participants identified as White (78%). This was followed by Aboriginal or Indigenous (15%), Bi-racial (5%), meaning individuals who identified with more than one race, and 2% identified as Black or African Canadian, Hispanic or Latin American, Filipino, or Arab (grouped to maintain participant anonymity). Due to the inconsistency between the percentage of participants who identify as Indigenous and the percentage of participants who select Aboriginal or Indigenous when asked about racial identity, this question has been reordered on a newer version of the PiT survey to come after the question about Indigenous identity to remove any impact related to measurement bias.

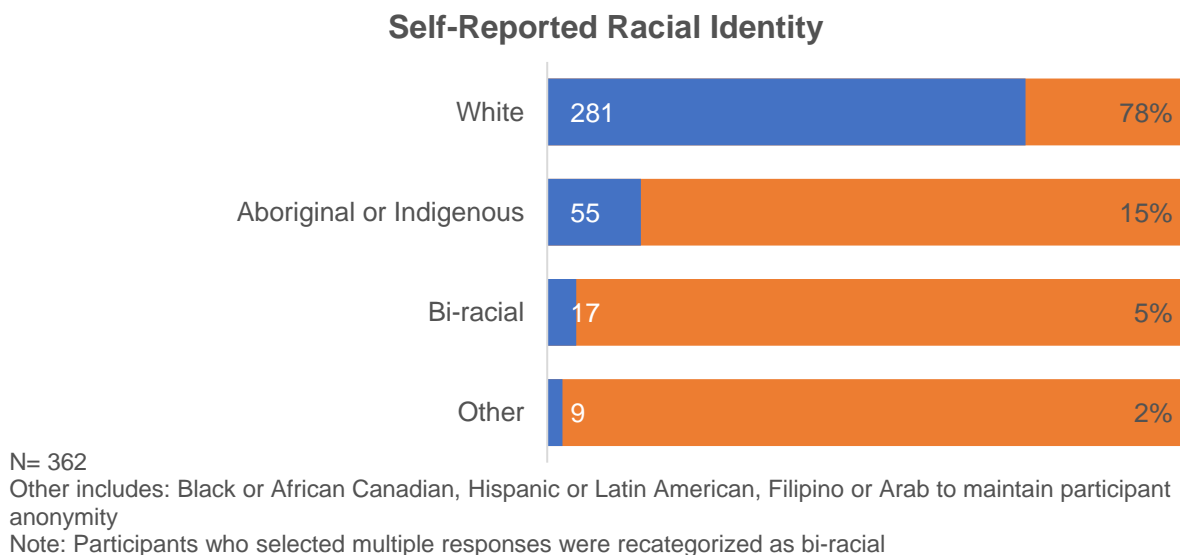
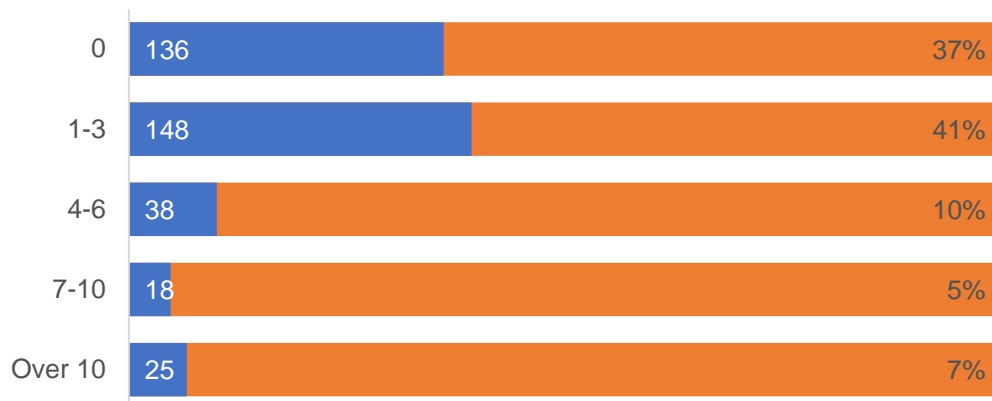


Figure 29: Self-Reported Racial Identity

### Number of Friends' or Family Members' Places Participants Have Temporarily Stayed in the last year

As Figure 30 shows, 37% of participants reported having not stayed temporarily with any friends or family members in the last year because they didn't have a place of their own, 41% reported having stayed with 1-3 friends or family members, 10% reported having stayed with 4-6 friends or family members, 5% reported having stayed with 7-10 friends or family members, and 7% reported having stayed with over 10 friends or family members in the last year because they didn't have a place of their own.

### Number of Friends' or Family Members' Places Participants Have Temporarily Stayed with in the Last Year



N= 365

Figure 30: Number of Friends' or Family Members' Places Participants Have Temporarily Stayed with in the Last Year

### Identified as Having Autism, an Intellectual Disability, or Brain Injury

Almost one quarter (23%) of participants identified as having an intellectual disability, 14% identified as having a brain injury, and 5% identified as having autism (Figure 31).

### Identified as Having Autism, an Intellectual Disability, or Brain Injury



N-values vary based on responses to individual questions

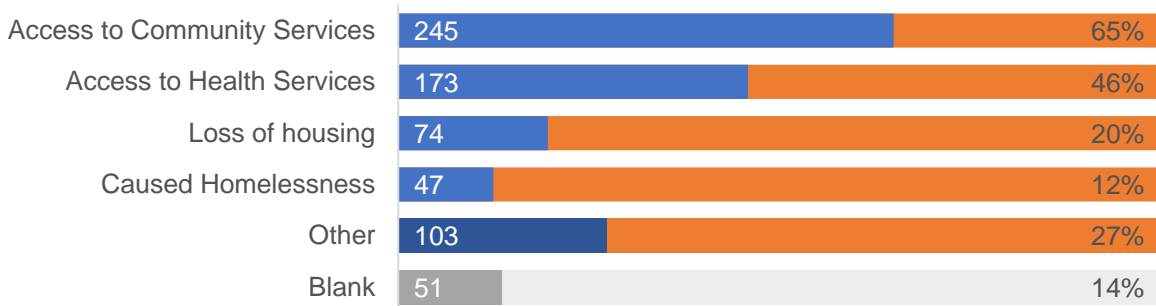
Figure 31: Identified as Having Autism, an Intellectual Disability, or Brain Injury

### Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

When asked how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted them, 65% of participants selected access to community services, 46% selected access to health services, 20% selected loss of housing, 12% selected caused homelessness, 27% reported other responses, and 14% left the question blank (Figure 32). Other responses provided by participants included: emotional (6% of participants), finding housing (5% of participants), employment (5% of participants), no impact (5% of participants), specific services (3% of participants), and financially (2% of participants).



## COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Participants



N= 377

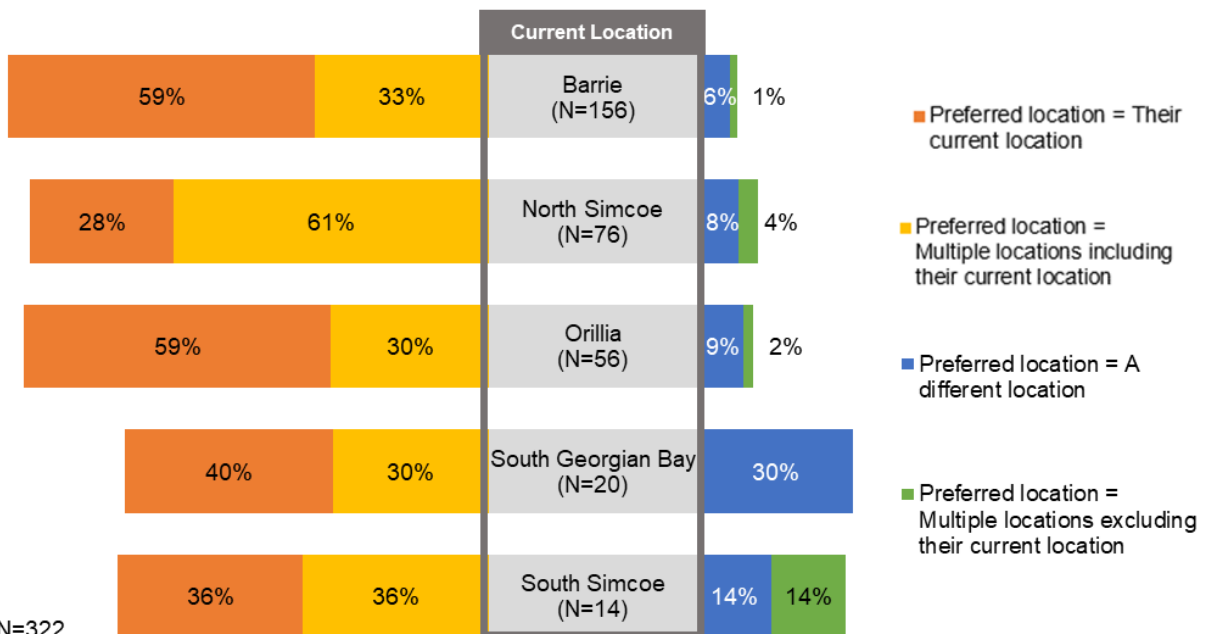
Note: This question collected multiple responses so the percents do not add up to 100%

Figure 32: COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Participants

## Preferred Compared to Current Location to Live

Figure 33 below shows the enumeration area participants currently live in (grey) and the horizontal bars represent participants' preferred locations to live.

### Preferred Compared to Current Location to Live



N=322

Responses excluded from this analysis include respondents who left either question blank, listed multiple locations as their current location or reported another place outside of Simcoe County as their current location or only preferred location.

Figure 33: Preferred Compared to Current Location to Live

**Current Location: Barrie**

Fifty-nine percent of participants who lived in Barrie on Point-in-Time Count night would like to find permanent housing in their current location of Barrie, 33% indicated they would prefer to find permanent housing in multiple locations including Barrie, 6% said they would like to live in a different community, and 1% indicated they would prefer to live in multiple locations excluding Barrie.

**Current Location: North Simcoe**

Sixty-one percent of participants who were living in North Simcoe on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 indicated they would prefer to find permanent housing in multiple locations including North Simcoe, 28% of participants would like to find permanent housing in their current location of North Simcoe, 8% said they would like to live in a different community, and 4% indicated they would prefer to live in multiple locations excluding North Simcoe.

**Current Location: Orillia**

Fifty-nine percent of participants who lived in Orillia on Point-in-Time Count night would like to find permanent housing in their current location in Orillia, 30% indicated they would prefer to find permanent housing in multiple locations including Orillia, 9% would like to live in a different community, and 2% indicated they would prefer to live in multiple locations excluding Orillia.

**Current Location: South Georgian Bay**

Forty percent of participants who lived in South Georgian Bay on Point-in-Time Count night said they would like to find permanent housing in their current location in South Georgian Bay, 30% indicated they would prefer to find permanent housing in multiple locations including South Georgian Bay, and 30% would like to live in a different community.

**Current Location: South Simcoe**

Thirty-six percent of participants who lived in South Simcoe on Point-in-Time Count night said they would like to find permanent housing in their current location in South Simcoe, 36% indicated they would prefer to find permanent housing in multiple locations including South Simcoe, 14% would like to live in a different community, and 14% indicated they would prefer to live in multiple locations excluding South Simcoe.

While some people experiencing homelessness indicated that they would like to live away from their current community (represented in dark blue and green), often because it was an unhealthy environment or included negative influences, some indicated they wanted to continue to live in their current community (represented in yellow and orange) often because they may have supports they were engaged with in the community. Twenty eight participants reported they would prefer to live in a location outside of Simcoe County, 16 left their preferred location blank, and 11 declined to answer their current location or reported a location outside of Simcoe County and were not included in Figure 33.



**79% or 287** participants reported currently working with an agency to find housing

Contact information from 90 participants who were not currently working with an agency to find housing, left the question blank, declined to answer, or reported they didn't know was collected. This information was used to by the five enumeration area leads to follow up with participants and connect them with services.

## Updates from Preliminary Report

The following indicates updates on the data analysis that were released in the Preliminary Report:

- The number of participating agencies corrected from 38 to 37
- Couples with children/dependents corrected from 11% to 1%
- The percentage of participants who lived in Barrie was corrected from 49% to 47% and another place outside of Simcoe County or decline to answer was corrected from 1% to 3%
- The percentage of additional respondents under gender identity was corrected from 1% to 2%

## Participant Follow Up

For the 2020 enumeration, a strong effort was made to conduct timely and effective follow up with survey participants who were not currently working with an agency to find housing. An excel spreadsheet was developed which included relevant participant demographic information, contact information provided by participants, and follow up columns to be completed by staff. Excel spreadsheets were broken down into different sheets for the five enumeration areas and listed participants experiencing chronic and not chronic homelessness in order of highest to lowest acuity score. The spreadsheets were password protected and sent to the appropriate Enumeration Area Lead on December 21, 2020 to coordinate participant follow up.

By February 18th, 2021, 52 out of 90 participants had received follow up. Phone, e-mail, outreach, and talking to shelter staff were the successful approaches. Follow up included connection to shelters, providing basic needs including bus tickets, referral to services and being added to the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and/or the By Name List (BNL) if consent was given. Some participants did not require support or declined support. Some participants who could not be reached for follow-up were identified as already being in HIFIS.

## Limitations

### **Access to People Experiencing Homelessness**

One strength to conducting the enumeration during the fall was that more people experiencing homelessness were in shelter, specifically in temporary motel emergency shelters due to the COVID 19 pandemic. A limitation was that there were no community volunteers and many services were closed to in-person services. This likely resulted in fewer people being approached outside of libraries, community centers, and other in-person services. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic could have made participants less willing to engage with surveyors due to provincial safety guidelines. Surveyors mentioned some participants declined due to response fatigue and not wanting to participate as they had participated in previous enumerations and felt nothing had changed.

Some participants could have been missed because it was mentioned that many youth who couch surf screened out from participating in the survey. It was also mentioned that some participants may have been missed due to the increase in phone services and lack of in-person services being provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Weather**

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was the first large snow fall of the season and outreach staff reported that the usual hot spots were “not as hot” (i.e., not as many people were frequenting them) on PiT night.

### **Institutions**

While efforts were made to collect administrative data and conduct surveys in institutions such as hospitals and correctional facilities, limited surveys were conducted as internal processes required more time to go through the approval processes to share information. However, positive partnerships have been formed, and with adequate timing, a greater number of surveys will likely be completed in institutional settings.

### **Enumeration and Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts in System Planning**

While the enumeration provides important information in communities, it is one of several sources of data used to inform homeless services system planning in Simcoe County. Additional data sources include funded program and project reporting to the County of Simcoe, Emergency Shelter System data, and ad hoc and quarterly reports provided by homeless services providers. The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) 4, the local homeless electronic management information system, augments these data sources, providing insights into the needs of people experiencing homelessness, how they move through the system of care, and how programs are faring against community objectives to end homelessness. To do homeless services system planning well, the Simcoe County homeless services system also relies on input provided by people with lived experience, service providers, and researchers. This homeless enumeration report is a complementary source of information in these efforts.

## **Representativeness of the Survey Sample**

Similar to the 2016 Registry Week and 2018 Homeless Enumeration, due to the voluntary nature of the 2020 Homeless Enumeration participation and the convenience sampling procedure used by survey volunteer teams, the data gathered reflects self-reporting from people experiencing homelessness who were approached and consented to be surveyed. These experiences are not necessarily representative of the entire population experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County. The individuals surveyed underrepresent the portion of the population experiencing homelessness who may imminently be released from provincial institutions directly to homelessness, those in rural areas of the Simcoe County, and those experiencing hidden homelessness. This should be taken into consideration when generalizing information about the population in Simcoe County experiencing homelessness based on the findings from the 2020 Homeless Enumeration.

## **Failure of Survey Participants to Disclose Sensitive Information and Interviewer Bias**

It is very likely that the diverse gender identities and sexual orientation of survey participants were underreported as survey participants may not have felt comfortable sharing that information with the interviewer. This failure to disclose often occurs with sensitive questions and/or when surveyors have not built the required trust of participants.

The risk of interviewer bias is due to the interview style of the survey and the sensitivity of the questions. The interviewer could have unintentionally influenced the responses provided by the participant. Examples of interviewer bias included the survey interviewer listing examples of responses to help explain a question (which the survey participant then chooses as their response), summarizing a question or a response instead of reading the question, and transcribing the response options verbatim. Recognizing interviewer bias is often a risk in social research, the enumeration training and survey prompts included instructions to surveyors which were designed to mitigate this risk.

## **Challenges Related to the Use of Paper Surveys**

Some surveys were missing the first page of the survey which included information completed by the interviewer including the interviewer's name, agency and/or contact #, survey date, survey time, survey location, and whether the survey was conducted over the phone or in French. Interviewer name and survey date were able to be collected from the survey package envelope and/or consent form.

Some participants completed the wrong type of VI-SPDAT based on the screening questions. Answers to the screening questions were adjusted when entered into the online survey tool to ensure the VI-SPDAT data collected was captured in the online tool.

## **Challenges interpreting questions**

When asked how long they have been in Simcoe County, twenty participants reported a location in Simcoe County and were recategorized to having always been here.

## Collecting Feedback

A post enumeration feedback survey was shared with all agencies who participated in the 2020 Enumeration and shared with surveyors to collect feedback to help improve planning and service delivery for future homeless enumerations. The survey was 9 questions, two multiple response, two matrix questions, and five open ended questions.

Feedback and lessons learned were also collected and discussed through meeting discussions with REAC.

## Lessons Learned

### **1. Develop and seek approval of a communications plan**

The development and approval of a communications plan prior to the enumeration would be beneficial to ensure information and results are shared within an agreed upon timeline and method. The *Point-in-Time Count Toolkit*, *Everyone Counts: A Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada*, and other available documents can be used as references for developing the communications plan. The communications plan could also develop a timeline for engagement and take into consideration giving more time to inform agencies and staff on the enumeration process, advertising to engage participation, and getting enumeration resources to agencies.

A strong communications plan would also align enumeration planning and results with other local and relevant initiatives.

### **2. Tasks that required more time**

Efforts were made to engage hospitals and correctional facilities in the Enumeration through survey and/or sharing of administrative data. It was discovered that correctional facilities require at least 6 months to go through the approval process to be involved in the enumeration. A designated coordinator to engage target groups such as hospitals, corrections, youth, and VAW's could be useful to ensure consideration is given to including these groups.

### **3. Increase effort and communication on how the enumeration has been used to make positive impact on people experiencing homelessness**

As this is the third homeless enumeration in Simcoe County and the contribution of participating agencies and participants surveyed is significant, strong efforts to communicate how the enumeration has been used to make positive impact on people experiencing homelessness should be used to help maintain participation and community support for future enumerations. A "why be involved" and systems planning document to highlight direction for better outcomes for people experiencing homelessness could be beneficial. More strongly connecting enumeration to other system-level initiatives, such as the By Name List (BNL), Coordinated Access, and HIFIS would strengthen the information collected, and the positive outcomes. Enumeration is not just a survey exercise – it's a community-drive process, with the intended outcomes of identifying people experiencing homelessness and connecting them to housing opportunities.

#### **4. Process Changes**

2020 was a unique year for process changes given the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers or head quarters were not used, an online survey was used in addition to paper surveys, verbal consent was used, and training was conducted using online videos.

In addition, there was no dedicated Coordinator/Project Manager support. While the initial planning for enumeration prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic did include a Coordinator, the rescheduled enumeration in November did not include this resource. It was identified that having a dedicated resource to support the logistical and project management planning is a critical component of enumeration.

#### **5. Continue offering the online survey tool as well as the paper survey option**

Feedback on the online survey tool was very positive; surveyors found it easy to use. The need to continue offering paper surveys was also discussed as certain groups and situations benefit from the flexibility of having both a paper and online option available.

#### **6. Offering a variety of training options**

Offering a variety of training options based on different enumeration volunteer needs is important. While the online training was useful for some, in person sessions where people can ask questions would also be beneficial. Varying level of content would also be beneficial as community volunteers may need more information than those who work in the field and are comfortable and familiar with the population of people experiencing homelessness and the VI-SPDAT tool.

#### **7. Simplify the consent process**

One of the modifications for conducting enumeration during the COVID-19 pandemic was introducing verbal survey consent. This modification was well-received, and will be continued for future enumerations. Feedback also indicated that the consent form is lengthy, so future edits will include decreasing the length.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

Although many required modifications were implemented for the 2020 Homeless Enumeration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the planning and participation of the staff surveyors and survey participants resulted in an effective enumeration. Information collected through the surveys has helped connect people to local programs and services, and will help inform the development of local programs, services, and policies to further support addressing homelessness in Simcoe County.

Planning for enumeration is an ongoing consideration, and it's important to connect enumeration to other local and timely initiatives, such as Built for Zero Canada (BFZ-C), Coordinated Access, and the By Name List (BNL). Systems like the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) are integral in supporting these local efforts, by supporting the coordination of access to information and service delivery.

Next steps for enumeration include:

1. Sharing and discussing information learned from enumeration with community and stakeholders;
2. Using enumeration data for planning and developing local programs, services, and policies;
3. Collaborating with other key partners, including corrections and hospitals;
4. Connecting enumeration to other local initiatives, such as Built for Zero Canada, Coordinated Access, and the By Name List, and continuing to leverage system tools such as HIFIS.



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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Agencies Who Participated in the 2020 Homeless Enumeration

A total of 37 agencies who provide a range of programs and services to the population experiencing homelessness helped make the 2020 Homeless Enumeration possible.

#### Barrie

Agency Name	Region	Program/Service
<b>Barrie Bayside Mission - Salvation Army</b>	Barrie	Emergency Shelter, Transitional Units, Specialized Beds, Motel Voucher, Family Shelter Units
<b>Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe Muskoka</b>	Barrie	Emergency Shelter, VAW Shelter
<b>Youth Haven</b>	Barrie	Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing
<b>CMHA Crisis Beds - Barrie</b>	Barrie	Emergency Shelter - mental health crisis beds
<b>David Busby Emergency Group Lodging</b>	Barrie	Emergency Group Lodging, Transitional
<b>Redwood Park Communities</b>	Barrie	Transitional Housing
<b>Samaritan House</b>	Barrie	Transitional Housing
<b>Barrie Native Friendship Centre</b>	Barrie	Community Program
<b>John Howard</b>	Barrie	Community Program
<b>Women and Children's Shelter - Barrie</b>	Barrie	VAW Shelter
<b>Gilbert Centre</b>	Barrie	Community Program

#### South Georgian Bay

Agency Name	Region	Program/Service
<b>My Friend's House</b>	Collingwood	VAW Shelter
<b>Home Horizon, Barbara Weider House</b>	Collingwood	Transitional Housing
<b>Collingwood Out of the Cold</b>	Collingwood	Winter Only Overflow Shelter
<b>Community Connection / 211</b>	Collingwood	Motel Voucher / Emergency Shelter COVID Response

#### North Simcoe

Agency Name	Region	Program/Service
<b>Shelter Now</b>	North Simcoe	Transitional Housing
<b>Salvation Army Midland</b>	North Simcoe	Outreach
<b>Guesthouse</b>	North Simcoe	Emergency Shelter, Motel Voucher
<b>Huronian Transition Homes - Rosewood</b>	North Simcoe	Emergency Shelter/VAW Shelter
<b>Wendat Community Programs</b>	North Simcoe	Community Program
<b>Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre</b>	North Simcoe	Community Program

## Orillia and Area

Agency Name	Region	Program/Service
Lighthouse	Orillia	Emergency Shelter, Motel Voucher
North Simcoe Victim Services	Orillia	Motel Voucher
BRAWC	Orillia	Transitional Housing
Couchiching Jubilee	Orillia	Transitional Housing
Salvation Army Orillia	Orillia	Outreach
Green Haven Women's Shelter	Orillia	VAW Shelter

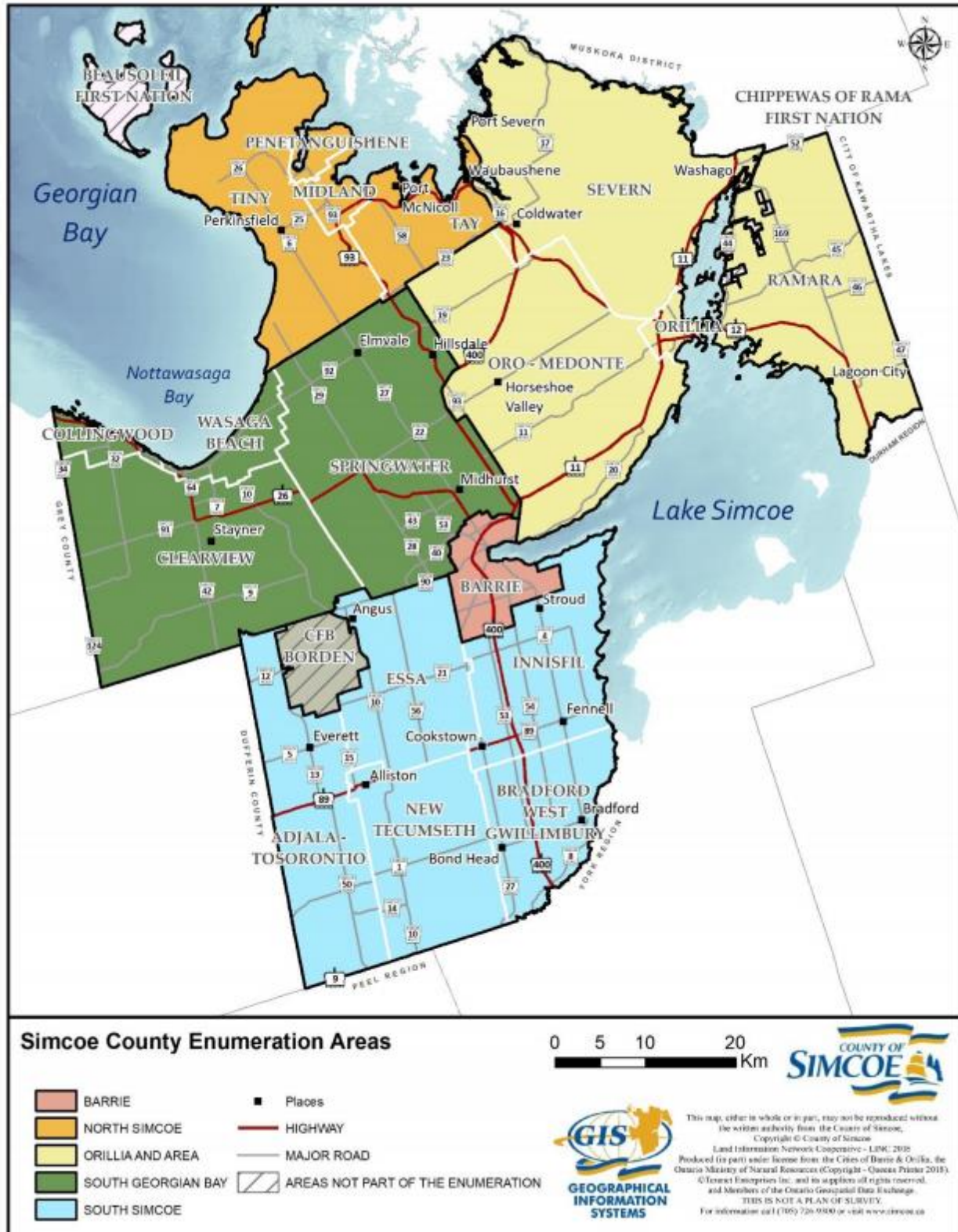
## South Simcoe

Agency Name	Region	Program/Service
Alliston Out of the Cold	South Simcoe	Winter Only Overflow Shelter
CONTACT Community Services	South Simcoe	Motel Voucher
Krasman Centre	South Simcoe	Community Program
Bradford Immigrant & Community Services	South Simcoe	Community Program
My Sister's Place	South Simcoe	VAW Shelter, Transitional (Second Stage) Housing
LOFT Community Services	South Simcoe	Transitional Housing
South Simcoe Police	South Simcoe	In contact with outreach workers and shared enumeration phone number with people experiencing homelessness
Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)	South Simcoe	In contact with outreach workers and shared enumeration phone number with people experiencing homelessness

## Simcoe County Wide

Agency Name	Region	Program/Service
Empower Simcoe	Simcoe County-Wide	Community Program
County of Simcoe- Ontario Works	Simcoe County-Wide	Community Program

## Appendix B: Map of Simcoe County Enumeration Areas



## Appendix C: COVID-19 Framework

Between November 7th, 2020 – November 22nd, 2020 Simcoe County was in the Yellow – Protect level of the Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework (Province of Ontario, 2020). Regional health measures for Yellow- Protect consisted of enhanced targeted enforcement, fines and enhanced education to limit further transmission. Events and gathering were limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors for private functions, and 50 indoors and 100 outdoors for public functions. Food and drink establishments were required to seat groups 2 metres apart or with a barrier, contact tracing and masks required. There was a limit of 6 people per table, must close from 12 am to 5 am, liquor served only from 9 am to 11 pm with no liquor consumption between 12 am and 9 am. Sports and recreation facilities capacity reduced to 10 indoors/room or 25 outdoors, 50 spectators indoors or 100 outdoors, face coverings, reservations and contact tracing required and no physical contact for team sports. Meeting and event spaces had a capacity of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors with a limit of 6 people per room and safety plan required. Virus indicators and thresholds for Yellow – Protect included a weekly incidence rate of 10-24.9 per 100,000, testing percent positivity of 0.5-1.2%, Rt of approximately 1, repeated outbreaks in multiple sectors/settings or increasing number of large outbreaks, level of community transmission/non-epi linked cases stable or increasing, hospital and ICU capacity adequate and public health case and contact follow up within 24 hours adequate (Province of Ontario, 2020).

On November 23rd, 2020, the last day of the Enumeration, Simcoe County was moved into the Orange- Restrict level (Province of Ontario, 2020). Regional health measures for Orange- Restrict consisted of enhanced measures, restrictions and enforcement, avoiding any closures. Similar to Yellow events and gatherings were limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors for private functions, and 50 indoors and 100 outdoors for public functions. Similar to Yellow food and drink establishments were required to seat groups 2 metres apart or with a barrier, contact tracing and masks required. In addition to Yellow there was a limit of 50 people with only 4 people per table, must close from 10 pm to 5 am, liquor served only from 9 am to 9 pm with no liquor consumption between 10 pm and 9 am. Similar to Yellow sports and recreation facilities capacity reduced to 10 indoors/room or 25 outdoors, face coverings, reservations and contact tracing required and no physical contact for team sports with the addition of no spectators and maximum 90 minutes in the facility. Meeting and event spaces had a capacity of 50 people indoors with a maximum of 4 people per room and closed from 10 pm to 5 am and safety plan required. Virus indicators and thresholds for Orange – Restrict included a weekly incidence of 25-39.9 per 100,000, testing percent positivity of 1.3-2.4%, Rt 1 to 1.1, repeated outbreaks in multiple sectors/settings, increasing number of large outbreaks, level of community transmission/non-epi linked cases stable or increasing, hospital and ICU capacity adequate or occupancy increasing, case and contact follow-up within 24 hours adequate or at risk of becoming overwhelmed (Province of Ontario, 2020).

## Appendix D: 2020 Enumeration COVID-19 Protocol Documents

### 2020 Enumeration COVID-19 Safety Protocol: In person meeting

#### Screening for COVID-19

- Set up a table for hand sanitizer, masks, small garbage can beside table and the COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire.
- Fill out the questionnaire to prevent any use of the pen by a client. Client will be required to use the hand sanitizer when entering the office.
- Any other staff/personnel that enters the office will also be required to complete the COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire EACH time they enter the office.

#### Controlling the risk of transmission in your workplace

- Post all required signage (as per the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit) on the front door of the office.
- Masks are required (until you are seated in the common space sitting at a proper social distance). Ensure that there will be more hand sanitizer in the common space.
- Screening questionnaire must be completed prior to commencing. ALL questionnaires should be kept on file and are to be completed after each survey to ensure the continued safety of staff and client.

#### COVID-19 Safety Plan

- All these procedures will be discussed with the clients prior to the survey to ensure that there is no confusion and that all questions are answered clearly.
- Only 2 people should be in the office at the same time to limit social distancing issues and privacy issues.
- Limit the number of ONE 1:1 session if possible, to provide enough time to follow proper cleaning protocols.
- A cleaning schedule should be posted and signed each time a client has been in the office. There should be a thorough and proper cleaning of the office after each use.
- Maintain regular housekeeping practices, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces, equipment, and other elements, example: doorknobs, light switches, desk surfaces, counters, touch screen surfaces and keypads.



Co-ordinated by the David Busby Street Centre

- It would be ideal to have at least a 15 min between each person coming for office visits to allow for cleaning of those touch points. This break will also allow the interviewer time to get ready as well.
- Surveys should take place in a room that will accommodate required social distancing.
- No outside food or drink should be permitted into the office.

#### Ensuring COVID-19 Safety Protocols

- Proper Signage posted on entrance to office
- Only 2 people in the office at a time to ensure safe social distancing
- Masks to be worn when social distancing is not possible
- No outside food or drink

#### Screening for COVID-19

- Every visit requires a COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire

#### Controlling the risk of transmission

- Hand sanitizer when you enter office
- Ensuring that everyone is consistent with a COVID-19 Safety Plan
- There will be no sharing of materials during visits. Any required materials will be prepared in advance and provided to client upon arrival.
- Once a meeting has begun it will remain in designated room.
- A schedule will be kept of when people have entered the office to ensure that all safety protocols have been followed. This should include a cleaning schedule.

#### Cleaning

- Thorough cleaning of entire office upon arrival.
- Thorough cleaning after every scheduled visit.
- Thorough cleaning after every staff visit.
- Staff to wears gloves **always** when cleaning and dispose of in garbage.
- Any garbage is to be removed the same day.



Co-ordinated by the David Busby Street Centre

## 2020 Enumeration COVID-19 Safety Protocol: Overview

The presence of COVID-19 has introduced new challenges.

This guideline was created to support enumeration staff in their work while performing enumeration duties.

### COVID-19: The Basics

COVID-19 is an infection caused by a coronavirus that can result in mild to severe respiratory illness. It spreads from person to person through respiratory droplets when someone who is infected with the virus coughs or sneezes. These droplets can spread up to two metres (six feet). It may also be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

Individuals who have been infected with the COVID-19 virus are able to transmit the virus to others early in their illness, including in the days before they develop symptoms (pre-symptomatic), and up to at least 10 days after they develop symptoms. Some infected individuals may have very mild symptoms, or no symptoms (asymptomatic), but are still able to transmit the virus to others, this means that some infected individuals will be able to infect others but may not look or even feel ill themselves. The estimated incubation period for COVID-19 is 5-6 days on average, ranging from 1 to 14 days.

Enumeration Team will be mindful of what they touch and alert to their surroundings when interacting with people.

### Always remember to...

- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve and avoid touching your face.
- Keep appropriate physical distancing and cleanliness protocols at all times.
- Sanitize hands often
- Avoid shaking hands or other physical greetings or contact
- Stop working and self-isolate or go to a health facility if you are ill



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#### When putting on gear:

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or sanitize with 70% alcohol
- Inspect the gloves and masks for tears
- Mask: with clean/sanitized hands – stretch mask over face putting bands behind ears. Pinch at nose and pull mask down over chin. Adjust accordingly.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds/sanitize with 70% alcohol.
- Gloves: pull new gloves on
- Wash/sanitize gloves after each contact

#### Pre-Survey Taking

- Minimize direct contact: Use social media, mobile phone, iPad instead
- Avoid wearing jewelry, watches or anything that would need to be cleaned afterwards
- Make sure you have face mask and sanitizer
- Place your smartphone in a new sealable, plastic bag and use it while in the bag during the survey taking if needed.

#### During Survey Taking

- Wear face mask
- Clean hands with sanitizer often
- Stand 2 meters (6 ft) away from others at all times
- Avoid shaking hands or other physical greetings or contact
- Limit duration of contact
- Leave behind contact information/leaflets

#### After Survey Taking

##### Taking off gear:

- Start with gloves
- Wash/sanitize gloves
- Pinch/grasp palm area- peel off turning inside out
- Holding the removed glove firmly in gloved fist, slide fingers of ungloved hand under the cuff and peel glove off until inside out. First glove inside the second.
- Place both gloves into closed trash can. **Note: Never reuse gloves.**
- Wash/sanitize hands
- Grasping mask by loops on ears – remove, place in closed trash can. **Note: Never reuse masks.**
- Wash/sanitize hands.

Lastly, clean/disinfect pens, iPad, clipboard, and any other items used during survey taking.



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## Appendix E: Training Guide, General Information and Volunteer Oath

### 2020 Homeless Enumeration Training Guide

The 2020 Homeless Enumeration Training includes watching the following required videos:

- Video 1: Introduction to 2020 Enumeration
- Video 2: Paper Screening, Tally & Consent
- Video 3: Paper Consent & Survey
- Video 4: Paper Survey Continued
- Video 5: Online Screening, Tally, Consent & Survey
- Video 6: Online Survey Continued
- Video 7: Online Survey Continued 2
- Video 8: Key Points to Remember
- Video 9: Important Tips

Please visit [www.scateh.com/enumeration](http://www.scateh.com/enumeration) to access the training videos

It also requires you to read through the documents listed below:

- 2020 Homeless Enumeration General Information
- 2020 Enumeration COVID-19 Protocols- Overview
- 2020 Enumeration COVID-19 Protocols-Office

Lastly you will need to read and sign the Volunteer Oath. This document serves as a confidentiality agreement and confirms you have completed the training outlined above.

In addition to the survey and tally sheet, the 2020 Agency Utilization Sheltered Homelessness Count Form will also contribute to the 2020 Homeless Enumeration. Agencies will fill out the 2020 Agency Utilization Sheltered Homelessness Count Form for each program and region served. This form collects some basic information about the agency and program as well as the total number of individuals who occupied a bed on the night of November 17, 2020.



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## **Simcoe County Homeless Enumeration**

November 17 - 23, 2020

### **General Information**

#### **Simcoe County Point-in-Time Count and Registry Week**

The Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness is partnering with the County of Simcoe to conduct the 2020 Simcoe County Point-in-Time Count (PiT Count) and Registry Week from November 17 - 23, 2020. These activities will serve the purpose of counting and understanding the situations of people who are experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County, and identifying those who wish to be included on a By Name List (BNL) for prioritized housing and outreach services. Our goal is to end homelessness in Simcoe County.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

##### **What is a Point-in-Time Count?**

The Point-in-Time Count is done during a 24-hour period to provide an estimated snapshot of the extent of homelessness in Simcoe County on a given night. It will gather information on both the number of persons/families experiencing homelessness, as well as their demographic characteristics and service needs.

The methodology of the PiT Count has been used in many communities across Canada, making it possible to compare results across the country. Surveys take place across Simcoe County during the night of Tuesday, November 17 and will be strategically scheduled during timeframes that enables accurate counts, such as evenings when people are more likely to have settled down where they are planning to spend the night (in shelters or on the street).

##### **Why is the PiT Count Important?**

The PiT Count is funded by the Government of Canada through Reaching Home, formerly known as the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The goal of this strategy is to reduce homelessness by helping to move people who are chronically or episodically homeless from the streets or homeless shelters into permanent housing. It is about catalyzing change at the local and national levels to end homelessness.

Findings from the PiT Count will demonstrate housing and service needs specific to the Simcoe County area. It will also provide information to assist organizations, funders, and all levels of government to plan for the funding and service needs of people experiencing homelessness locally.



### **What is a Registry Week?**

A Registry Week is a comprehensive check-in across Simcoe County to count and identify as many people as possible who are experiencing homelessness. A short health and housing survey will be completed with all people experiencing homelessness who are willing to participate.

### **Why are we doing both the PiT Count and the Registry Week?**

The PiT Count provides a snapshot of homelessness (unsheltered, sheltered, and in transitional programs) in a 24-hour period. Registry Week is important to conduct in addition to the PiT Count because it is a way to reach those who are provisionally housed (the hidden homeless or “couch-surfers”) who are not included in the PiT Count. Service agencies estimate that this group is the larger group of people experiencing homelessness. We need more specific information about both groups to begin solving the problem of homelessness. Collecting person-specific data is the key to ending homelessness for our most vulnerable (and often anonymous) homeless neighbours. Registry Week will allow us to know every homeless individual by name and understand their specific needs. A coordinated outreach and triage assessment process will allow us to act on the community-wide information that the two approaches provide.

Not everyone will want to participate in Registry Week. We will want to be able to count people because this helps us to measure the need for shelter and services in Simcoe County. Where individuals consent, the PiT Count and Registry Week surveys will be administered together. By conducting both surveys, we hope to be able to reach and include as many people as possible who are in need of housing.

### **What kind of information will the survey collect?**

The PiT count is a voluntary survey that asks participants questions on their age, gender identity, sexual orientation, aboriginal status, military status, immigration status, income sources, how long/how many times have they been homeless, whether they have accessed emergency shelter recently, whether they have migrated to Simcoe County recently, and what happened that caused them to lose their most recent housing option.

Participants in the Registry Week survey will be asked the same questions, along with their names and more personal information that will enable housing outreach workers to better find and match housing to meet their needs. Survey tools are designed nationally to collect information about individuals, families, and youth.



### **Who will count?**

Surveys will be conducted by staff and outreach workers from social service providers, health care providers, outreach workers, and corrections agencies.

### **Where will they count?**

Street teams will count in outdoor locations where it has been assessed, through a pre-count process, that people experiencing homelessness are likely to be. Encampments that have been previously identified will only be surveyed by experienced outreach workers to protect the integrity of their space and avoid any potential for voyeurism. Additional locations will be designated for Registry Week surveys. The methods for both surveys may include:

- **Indoor Shelter Surveys** - the sheltered surveys will include all emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing programs in Simcoe County.
- **Street Surveys** - the street surveys will reach people living in public/outdoor places that are not suitable for human habitation.
- **Service Counts** - these surveys will be in local public locations (ie, libraries and recreational centres) and non-profit service providers (ie, drop-in centres, food banks, and meal programs). (will be limited during COVID-19).
- **Data from Agencies/Government** - includes those residing in institutions (ie, hospitals, holding cells, detox clinics) who do not have a permanent address.

### **How will volunteers know what to do?**

Volunteers will be trained in safety considerations, interviewing, consistent survey administration processes, confidentiality, and obtaining consent. Training will be provided online during COVID-19.

### **Why are we conducting enumeration during a pandemic?**

The 2020 Homeless Enumeration was originally scheduled for April 21-23, however, based on public health recommendations the Homeless Enumeration was postponed. Local community discussions have encouraged moving forward with an enumeration this fall, for the following reasons:

- To develop an understanding of the unique and unprecedented situations related to homelessness that people are currently experiencing, to which local responses can be developed;
- To gain insight into the experience of homelessness among people who are typically underrepresented in enumerations because they are staying with friends/family/acquaintances (the hidden homeless);



- To protect the safety of enumerators through implementation of safe enumeration guideline and procedures consistent with local public health recommendations which will be emphasized in remotely provided enumeration training sessions.

#### **What safety measures will be in place?**

All safety precautions recommended by public health will be in place and will be expected to be followed during conducting surveys. Protocols will be reviewed during training.

If a surveyor or survey participants feels their safety is being compromised during a survey interview, they are encouraged to end the interview.

The following changes will be implemented to ensure Enumeration process is safe for staff and participants during COVID-19:

- No magnet events (i.e., no events that would bring together large groups of people);
- No volunteers will be recruited to conduct surveys. Instead, surveys will be conducted by staff at community agencies, who already have an understanding of and experience in safe delivery of services during COVID-19;
- The implementation of a online survey, in addition to having paper surveys available;
- Verbal rather than written survey consent;
- No volunteers for data entry;
- Training will be done virtually through the use of videos;
- There will be no headquarter locations in local communities.

#### **How is “homelessness” defined?**

People are considered homeless if they are:

1. **Unsheltered** - this includes people living in public or private spaces without consent or contract and people living in places not intended for permanent human habitation.
2. **Emergency Sheltered** - this includes people using emergency shelters programs, including emergency motel accommodations, and Violence Against Women shelters.
3. **Provisionally Accommodated** - this includes people who are using interim housing, such as short-term transitional housing or who are staying in temporary accommodation or whose housing lacks tenure (ie, those commonly referred to as “hidden homeless” or “couch-surfing”).



### Indigenous Homelessness Definition

Indigenous homelessness is a human condition that describes First Nation, Metis and Inuit individuals, families or communities lacking stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means or ability to acquire such housing. Unlike the common definition of homelessness, indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews. These include: individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages and identities. Importantly, Indigenous people experiencing these kinds of homelessness cannot cultural, spiritually or physically reconnect with their Indigeneity or lost relationships (Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness, 2012).

For more information, please visit:

[www.scateh.com/enumeration](http://www.scateh.com/enumeration)

or

[www.simcoe.ca/enumeration](http://www.simcoe.ca/enumeration)



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### 2020 Homeless Enumeration OATH

1. I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree that I will faithfully discharge my duties as a volunteer for the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness' 2020 Homeless Enumeration Project and will observe and comply with all policies and procedures of the Homeless Enumeration Project with respect to privacy, confidentiality and security of Homeless Enumeration data business information not in the public domain, confidential information and personal information, which I understand as any information that could reasonably be retraced to a specific individual. I will take all reasonable precautions to prevent any unauthorized collection, use, disclosure and destruction of this information while I am employed by, affiliated with or in a contractual relationship with the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness' 2020 Homeless Enumeration Project.
2. Unless legally authorized to do so, I will not use or disclose any of the information, as listed above, that comes to my knowledge or possession by reason of my role with the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness, including after I cease to be employed by, affiliated with or in a contractual relationship with the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness' 2020 Enumeration Project and for a period of five (5) years thereafter.
3. Upon termination of my engagement with the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness' 2020 Homeless Enumeration Project, or upon request at any time by the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness, all documents and other material that contain any of the information, as listed above, that I have in my possession and/or control will be promptly delivered by me to the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness 2020 Homeless Enumeration staff.
4. I will erase all of the information, as listed above, that is stored electronically in all my personal devices, including but not limited to computers, laptops, USB and other storage devices or media and mobile phones.
5. I understand and agree that a breach of this oath is just cause for termination of my employment, affiliation or contractual relationship with the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness' 2020 Homeless Enumeration Project.
6. I am aware that the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness and the County of Simcoe have policies and procedures regarding privacy, confidentiality, and security of information for its 2020 Homeless Enumeration and I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to be familiar with the requirements outlined in these policies and procedures.
7. I agree that my use of the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness' 2020 Homelessness Enumeration Project electronic or paper files, email, other electronic applications, computers, cellular phones or other electronic devices may be monitored by the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness or its designate at any time to ensure appropriate usage, confidentiality and security.
8. I agree to refer to the Chair of the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness or the 2020 Enumeration Project staff for the details of the Policies and Procedures and any other information required for me to understand and fulfill my obligations as set out herein.

I confirm that I have watched and read through the 2020 Enumeration training videos and documents.

I make this oath on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, as evidenced by my signature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE OF VOLUNTEER**



# 2020 Simcoe County Homeless Enumeration

## JOINT PIT/REGISTRY WEEK

### INTRODUCTORY SCRIPT & SCREENING

Last Updated: November 4th, 2020



Co-ordinated by the David Busby Street Centre

## INTRODUCTORY SCRIPT

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a volunteer for the Simcoe County housing needs survey. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness.

- This is a two-part survey. The first part collects anonymous information about your demographics and experience of homelessness and the second part is a VI-SPDAT which is not anonymous. Data is being collected and will be analyzed by the County of Simcoe and will be provided back to service providers for follow up.
- Participation in this survey is voluntary and you can choose to respond to both parts of the survey or just one. You can also choose to skip any question or to stop the survey at any time.
- The survey takes about 15-20 minutes to complete overall.
- If you do not understand a question, clarification can be provided. It is important to provide accurate information. There is no correct or preferred answer, nor information that you need to conceal.
- Results from the survey will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada and will help with research to improve services. The information will also be used to help us understand your housing needs and, the housing needs of people in our community experiencing homelessness.

## SCREENING

A. Have you answered this survey already this week?

[YES: Thank and tally]

[NO: Go to B]

B. Are you willing to participate in both parts of the survey?

YES: Go to C

JUST SECOND PART: Go to 1D

JUST FIRST PART: Go to C

NO: Thank and tally

C. Where are you staying tonight? / Where did you stay last night? / Where did you stay the night of Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020?

2pm Tuesday, November 17 to 2pm Wednesday, November 18 (PIT & Registry)	After 2pm Wednesday, November 18 (Registry Only)	Any time Thursday, November 19 to Monday November 23 (Registry Only)
Where are you staying tonight? Or Where did you stay last night? (if homeless, count for both PiT and Registry)	Where did you stay Tuesday night? (If was not homeless Tuesday night, don't include in PiT)  Then follow up asking - Where are you staying tonight? Or Where did you stay last night? (If homeless count for Registry)	Where did you stay Tuesday night? (If was not homeless Tuesday night, don't include in PiT).  Then follow up asking - Where are you staying tonight? Or Where did you stay last night? (If homeless count for Registry)

a. <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER b. <input type="checkbox"/> OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE	} [THANK & END SURVEY]
c. <input type="checkbox"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE d. <input type="checkbox"/> MOTEL/HOTEL (SELF FUNDED) e. <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL f. <input type="checkbox"/> TREATMENT CENTRE g. <input type="checkbox"/> JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE	} C1. Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want? a. Yes [THANK & END] b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) [BEGIN SURVEY] c. Don't Know [BEGIN SURVEY] d. Decline to answer [THANK & END]
h. <input type="checkbox"/> HOMELESS SHELTER (EMERGENCY, FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER) i. <input type="checkbox"/> HOTEL/MOTEL (FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM) j. <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING k. <input type="checkbox"/> UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. STREET, PARK, BUS SHELTER, FOREST ENCAMPMENT OR ABANDONED BUILDING) l. <input type="checkbox"/> VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK, BOAT) m. <input type="checkbox"/> UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION _____ (responses b-l)	} [BEGIN SURVEY]

If screened in to complete the survey: Thank you for agreeing to take part in the survey. Please note that you will receive a gift card as a thank you for your participation.

**1D: Are you currently with a family or do you anticipate reuniting with your family and/or children once housed?**

- a.  YES [Use packet with Family VI-SPDAT, have individual sign consent form in packet, copy over answers to C Questions in that packet and begin survey]
- b.  NO [proceed to 2D]

**2D: Are you 24 years old or younger?**

- a.  YES [Use packet with TAY-VI-SPDAT, have individual sign consent in packet, copy over answers to C Questions in that packet and begin survey]
- b.  NO [Use packet with Adult Individual VI-SPDAT, have individual sign consent in packet, copy over answers to C Questions in that packet and begin survey]

## TALLY SHEET

Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 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				*Observed Homelessness		Indicators of Homelessness
		Declined*	Already Responded	Screened Out (Response to C)	Observed*	Observed Homeless		
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								



Co-ordinated by the David Busby Street Centre

## CLIENT CONSENT | 2020 ENUMERATION

The Simcoe County Alliance To End Homelessness would like to collect your personal information for the following purposes:

- 1) To assess the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County
  - 2) To help develop programs and services related to homelessness and housing
  - 3) To provide you with relevant referrals for services
  - 4) To support research, advocacy, lobbying, and education about homelessness in Canada.
- Your personal information will be securely stored and only people who need to see your information will have access to it. Anyone with access to your personal information will have signed confidentiality agreements.
  - Your personal information will be shared with staff at social and homeless services agencies in Simcoe County who are working together to prioritize and place people experiencing homeless in affordable housing. You may request a listing of all agencies who have access to your information at any time.
  - Answers to some of the questions will be shared with the federal Reaching Home program, but will not include any personally identifying information, so you will not be able to be identified or traced.
  - Only information that has been combined with others will be used to share broadly what was learned through the surveys - your name and individual information will not be shared.
  - The social or homeless services agency will disclose your personal information if there is reason to believe you may hurt yourself or someone else. Otherwise, your personal information will not be shared with any other third parties or for any other purposes other than set out on this form without your prior, additional consent.
  - If you decide not to provide your consent, you will not be declined service by the agency, however for the purposes of prioritizing you for affordable housing, without your consent, the agency may not be able to represent your level of need for housing as effectively. You may decide to limit your consent by only answering the questions and providing information that you are comfortable with disclosing.
  - You can change your mind and withdraw your consent at a later date by contacting Victoria Chapman at [victoria.chapman@simcoe.ca](mailto:victoria.chapman@simcoe.ca) . We'll make reasonable efforts not to use or disclose your information in any way following the time you withdraw your consent.
  - The County of Simcoe** will destroy or de-identify your personal information within three years of the last date you were served or assisted in any way by the social or homeless services agency.

**I AGREE WITH THE ABOVE AND CONSENT TO MY PERSONAL INFORMATION BEING COLLECTED, USED, STORED, SHARED, AND DESTROYED AS DESCRIBED IN THIS CONSENT FORM.**

I acknowledge providing verbal consent indicating that I have been read all of the information above and agree.

Yes, verbal consent received      Printed name of participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant chose not to keep copy of consent form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_      Signature of witness: \_\_\_\_\_



# Simcoe County **SINGLE ADULT**

## Survey for 2020 Joint PiT/Registry Week

(Last updated November 4th, 2020)

Including Vulnerability Index -

Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

(Single Adult VI-SPDAT)

## Prescreen Triage Tool for Single Adults



Co-ordinated by the David Busby Street Centre

**SURVEY INTRODUCTION****(Surveyor to complete after Introductory Script, Screening and Consent)**

Interviewer's Name _____	Agency and/or Contact # _____
Survey Date DD/MM/YYYY ___/___/____	Survey Time ___:___ AM/PM
Survey Location _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey Completed over the phone <input type="checkbox"/> 1-800 enumeration number, or <input type="checkbox"/> other agency number	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey translated into French

C. Where are you staying tonight? / Where did you stay last night? /Where did you stay [Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020]**Surveyor – pull answer from screening) (PiT C)**

a. <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER b. <input type="checkbox"/> OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE	} [THANK & END SURVEY]
c. <input type="checkbox"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE d. <input type="checkbox"/> MOTEL/HOTEL (SELF FUNDED) e. <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL f. <input type="checkbox"/> TREATMENT CENTRE g. <input type="checkbox"/> JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE	} C1. Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want? a. Yes [THANK & END] b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) [BEGIN SURVEY] c. Don't Know [BEGIN SURVEY] d. Decline to answer [THANK & END]
h. <input type="checkbox"/> HOMELESS SHELTER (EMERGENCY, FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER) i. <input type="checkbox"/> HOTEL/MOTEL (FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM) j. <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING k. <input type="checkbox"/> UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. STREET, PARK, BUS SHELTER, FOREST) ENCAMPMENT OR ABANDONED BUILDING l. <input type="checkbox"/> VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK, BOAT) m. <input type="checkbox"/> UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION _____ (responses b-l)	} [BEGIN SURVEY]

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the survey. Again, you will receive a gift card as a thank you for your participation.

## BEGIN SURVEY

1. Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight? [Indicate survey numbers for adults. Check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Can include other family or friends)							
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER							
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate gender and age for each]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GENDER								
AGE								

2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

<input type="radio"/> AGE _____	<input type="radio"/> OR YEAR BORN _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------------	--	----------------------------------	---

➔ For this survey, "homelessness" means any time when you have been without a permanent and secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others without having your own permanent housing. (e.g. couch surfing)

3. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

<input type="radio"/> AGE _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

4. In total, for *how much time* have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 months)? [Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.]

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS   WEEKS   MONTHS	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

5. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year? For example [e.g., Youth Haven, Salvation Army Bayside Mission, Rosewood]

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	---

6. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant (i.e. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada)?

<input type="radio"/> YES, IMMIGRANT ----->	<b>If YES:</b>	<b>How long have you been in Canada?</b>
<input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE----->		<input type="radio"/> LENGTH: _____ DAYS   WEEKS   MONTHS
<input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT ----->		YEARS
<input type="radio"/> NO		OR DATE: ____/____/____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW		<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER		<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. How long have you been in Simcoe County?

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS   WEEKS   MONTHS   YEARS   ----->	<b>Where did you live before you came here?</b>
<input type="radio"/> ALWAYS BEEN HERE	<input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY: _____ PROVINCE _____
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	OR COUNTRY _____
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER



8. Do you identify as Indigenous or do you have Indigenous ancestry? This includes First Nations with or without status, Métis, and Inuit. [If yes, please specify.]

<input type="radio"/> YES, FIRST NATION	<input type="radio"/> YES, MÉTIS	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="radio"/> YES, INUIT	<input type="radio"/> YES, INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	

9. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP? [Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

<input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY	<input type="radio"/> BOTH MILITARY AND RCMP	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> YES, RCMP	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

10. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home? [Note: This question applies specifically to child welfare programs.]

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	---

11. Do you identify as having any of the following health challenges at this time:

ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION [e.g. diabetes, arthritis, TB, HIV]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
PHYSICAL DISABILITY [e.g. an issue with mobility, physical abilities, dexterity]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
LEARNING DISABILITY OR COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS [e.g. ADHD, dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, brain injury]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE [e.g. depression, PTSD, bipolar disorder]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE [e.g. tobacco, alcohol, opiates]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

12. What gender do you identify with? [Show list.]

<input type="radio"/> MALE / MAN	<input type="radio"/> TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN	<input type="radio"/> NOT LISTED: _____
<input type="radio"/> FEMALE / WOMAN	<input type="radio"/> TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="radio"/> GENDERQUEER / GENDER NON-CONFORMING	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

13. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? [Show list.]

<input type="radio"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> BISEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> ASEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> NOT LISTED: _____
<input type="radio"/> GAY	<input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="radio"/> QUESTIONING	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> LESBIAN	<input type="radio"/> PANSEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> QUEER	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. a. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays. Follow up for the reason if the respondent says "eviction" or that they "chose to leave".]

A: HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES	B: INTERPERSONAL AND FAMILY ISSUES	C: HEALTH OR CORRECTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT ENOUGH INCOME FOR HOUSING (E.G. LOSS OF BENEFIT, INCOME, OR JOB) <input type="checkbox"/> UNFIT/UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING SOLD OR RENNOVATED <input type="checkbox"/> OWNER MOVED IN <input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD/TENANT CONFLICT <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLAINT (E.G. PETS/NOISE/DAMAGE) <input type="checkbox"/> LEFT THE COMMUNITY/RELOCATED	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER <input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN <input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: OTHER (_____) <input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER <input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN <input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: OTHER (_____) <input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTURE OF FAMILY MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUE <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM <input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATION (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER		

14. b. Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

YES
  NO
  DON'T KNOW
  DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. c. How long ago did that happen (that you lost your housing most recently)? (Best estimate)

LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS
  DON'T KNOW
  DECLINE TO ANSWER

15. What are your sources of income? [Reminder that this survey is anonymous. Read list and check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT (ODSP)	<input type="checkbox"/> GST/HST REFUND
<input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL EMPLOYMENT (E.G. CONTRACT WORK)	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G. CPP/OAS/GIS)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER MONEY FROM A SERVICE AGENCY
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL INCOME SOURCES (E.G. BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS	<input type="checkbox"/> VETERAN/VAC BENEFITS	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME
		<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

**VI-SPDAT FOR SINGLE ADULTS Canadian Version 3.0** (Do not change the order or wording of these questions) (scored)

- We will now begin the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). This part of the survey only requires “Yes”, “No”, or simple one-word answers.
- You can ask for clarification if you do not understand a question and you can skip or refuse to answer any question **without penalty**.
- It is important that you answer as honest as you feel comfortable being.

**ADMINISTRATION**

First Name:	Last Name:
Date of Birth:	Pet(s)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Consent to participate: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**SECTION ONE: PRESENTING NEEDS**

1. Most days can you:
- a) Find a safe place to sleep  Y  N  R
  - b) Access a bathroom when you need it  Y  N  R
  - c) Access a shower when you need it  Y  N  R
  - d) Get food  Y  N  R
  - e) Get water or other non-alcoholic beverages to stay hydrated  Y  N  R
  - f) Get clothing or access laundry when you need it  Y  N  R
  - g) Safely store your stuff  Y  N  R  NA

**SECTION TWO: HOUSING HISTORY**

2. Over the past 12 months, what is the total length of time you have been homeless?(Complete with Q4 above) \_\_\_\_\_
3. In the last three years, how many times have you been homeless? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. IF THE ANSWER TO QUESTION 3 IS 2 OR MORE:** \_\_\_\_\_ months  
Thinking about those last three years and the different times you were homeless... if you add up all the months you were homeless, what is the total length of time you have experienced homelessness?
5. Have you ever lived in a home that you own or an apartment in your name?  Y  N  R
6. Have you ever been evicted?  Y  N  R

### SECTION THREE: VULNERABILITIES AND HOUSING SUPPORT NEEDS

7. In the last 6 months, how many times have you: # of times
- a. Gone to the emergency room/department \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Taken an ambulance \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Been hospitalized as an inpatient \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Used a crisis service or hotline for such concerns as family or intimate partner violence or suicide prevention \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Talked to police because you witnessed a crime, were the victim of a crime, were the alleged perpetrator of a crime, or because they asked you to move along because of loitering, sleeping in a public place or anything like that \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Stayed one or more nights in jail, a holding cell or prison \_\_\_\_\_
- 

8. Since you have been homeless:
- a. Have you been beaten up or assaulted  Y  N  R
  - b. Have you threatened to beat up or assault someone else  Y  N  R
  - c. Have you threatened to harm yourself or harmed yourself  Y  N  R
  - d. Has anyone threatened you with violence or made you feel unsafe  Y  N  R
  - e. Has anyone tried to control you through violence or threats of violence whether that be a stranger, friend, partner, relative or parent  Y  N  R
- 

9. Do you have any legal stuff going on right now that may result in any of the following:
- a. Being locked up  Y  N  R
  - b. Having to pay fines or fees that you cannot afford  Y  N  R
  - c. Impact your ability to get housing  Y  N  R
  - d. Impact where you could live in the community  Y  N  R
10. Have you ever been convicted of a crime that would make it difficult to access or maintain housing?  Y  N  R
-

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11. Does anyone trick, manipulate, exploit or force you to do things you do not want to do?  Y  N  R

12. Where do you sleep most frequently? (select one response)

- Shelters                       Transitional Housing                       Couch Surfing  
 Outdoors                       Car                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you ever do things that may be considered to be risky or harmful like run drugs, share a needle, exchange sex for money, drugs, protection or a temporary place to stay, or anything like that?  Y  N  R

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14. Is there anybody that thinks you owe them money like a family member, friend, past landlord, business, bookie, dealer, bank, credit card company, utility company, or anyone like that?  Y  N  R

~~15. Do you get any money from the government, a job, working under the table, day labour, an inheritance or a pension, or anything like that? (Complete with Q15 above)  Y  N  R~~

16. Do you ever gamble with money you cannot afford to lose or have debts associated with gambling?  Y  N  R

---

17. Do you have planned activities, other than activities for survival, at least four days per week that make you feel happy and fulfilled?  Y  N  R

---

18. Do you have a collection of belongings that gets in the way with your ability to access services or housing?  Y  N  R

---

19. Would you say that your current homelessness was caused by any of the following:

- a. A relationship that broke down  Y  N  R
- b. An unhealthy or abusive relationship  Y  N  R
- c. Because family or friends caused you to lose your housing  Y  N  R

20. Do most of your family and friends have stable housing?  Y  N  R

---

~~21. Are you 60 years of age or older? (Complete with Q2 above)  Y  N  R~~

22. Do you have any physical health issues that might require assistance in order to access or keep housing?  Y  N  R

23. Are you currently pregnant? (If applicable)  Y  N  R

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24. Do you have any issues with your mental health or cognitive issues including a brain injury that might require assistance in order to access or keep housing?  Y  N  R

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25. Do you use alcohol or drugs in a way that it:

- a. Impacts your life in a negative way most days  Y  N  R  NA
- b. Makes it hard to access housing  Y  N  R  NA
- c. Would require assistance to maintain housing  Y  N  R  NA
- 

26. Are there any medications that, for whatever reason:

- a. A doctor said you should be taking but you are not taking  Y  N  R  NA
- b. You sell instead of taking  Y  N  R  NA
- c. You use in a way other than how it is prescribed  Y  N  R  NA
- d. You find impossible to take, forget to take or choose not to take  Y  N  R  NA
- 

27. Has your homelessness been caused by any recent or past trauma or abuse?  Y  N  R

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## Final Questions

1. People may identify as belonging to a particular racial group. For example, some people may identify as Black or African-Canadian, other people may identify as Asian or South Asian and other people may identify as white. What racialized identity do you identify with? [Do not read categories. Select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal or Indigenous	<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino
<input type="checkbox"/> Arab	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latin American
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian (e.g., Chinese, Korean, Japanese, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> White (e.g., European-Canadian)
<input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
<input type="checkbox"/> West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African Canadian	<input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer

2. How many friends' or family members' places have you temporarily stayed at in the last year because you didn't have a place of your own?

<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> Over 10
<input type="radio"/> 1-3	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
<input type="radio"/> 4-6	<input type="radio"/> Decline to answer
<input type="radio"/> 7-10	

3. Do you identify as having any of the following:

Brain injury	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> NA	<input type="radio"/> Don't know	<input type="radio"/> Decline to answer
Intellectual disability [Read definition if asked: a person that experiences limitations in areas of life such as reasoning, learning, problem-solving as well as limitations in the ability to adapt every day social and practical skills]	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> NA	<input type="radio"/> Don't know	<input type="radio"/> Decline to answer
Autism	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> NA	<input type="radio"/> Don't know	<input type="radio"/> Decline to answer

4. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted you? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Access to community services <input type="checkbox"/> Access to health services <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of housing <input type="checkbox"/> Caused your homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____ _____
---

5. What community do you currently live in?

<input type="checkbox"/> Alliston/Beeton/Tottenham	<input type="checkbox"/> Another place in Simcoe County (specify): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Angus	<input type="checkbox"/> Another place outside of Simcoe County (specify community, province, country if not CA): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Barrie	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
<input type="checkbox"/> Bradford West Gwillimbury	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> Collingwood	<input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer
<input type="checkbox"/> Innisfil	
<input type="checkbox"/> Midland	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orillia	
<input type="checkbox"/> Penetanguishene	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wasaga Beach	

6. If appropriate housing was available, what community would you want to live in? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Alliston/Beeton/Tottenham	<input type="checkbox"/> Another place in Simcoe County (specify): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Angus	<input type="checkbox"/> Another place outside of Simcoe County (specify community, province, country if not CA): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Barrie	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
<input type="checkbox"/> Bradford West Gwillimbury	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> Collingwood	<input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer
<input type="checkbox"/> Innisfil	
<input type="checkbox"/> Midland	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orillia	
<input type="checkbox"/> Penetanguishene	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wasaga Beach	

7.a. Are you currently working with an agency to find housing? [e.g. Emergency Shelter, CONTACT, Empower Simcoe, Transitional Housing, Outreach Worker]

Yes       No       Don't know       Decline to answer

**If No, Don't Know or Decline to answer to 7a.:** 7.b. Is there a phone number and/or email where someone can safely get in touch with you?

Yes       No       Don't know       Decline to answer

7.c. Can we leave you a message?

Phone#(_____) _____ →	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> N/A
	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
Email _____ →	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> N/A
	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
		<input type="radio"/> Decline to answer

**If No, Don't know or Decline to answer to 7b.:** 7.d. On a regular day, where is it easiest to find you and what time of the day is easiest to do so?

Place _____	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Time _____:_____ OR morning/afternoon/evening/night	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
	<input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer

**Thank you very much for participating in this survey!** [Surveyor, provide honorarium]



# Appendix G: Agency Utilization Sheltered Homelessness Count Form

## 2020 Simcoe County Homeless Enumeration

### Agency Utilization Sheltered Homelessness Count Form

Please complete and return this form to Victoria Chapman at [Victoria.chapman@simcoe.ca](mailto:Victoria.chapman@simcoe.ca)  
Your questions are always welcome by email or by calling Victoria Chapman at 705-726-9300 Ext. 1142

Please fill out the form below to provide us with basic information about those who stayed in your facility or attempted to access your services on the night of **November 17, 2020**.

#### Basic Information

Agency Name: _____	Region Served: _____		
<small>Please submit one form for each agency/program/region served. Regions: South Simcoe, South Georgian Bay, North Simcoe, Barrie and Area, Orillia and Area</small>			
Address: _____			
#	Street	City	Postal Code
Designated Point of Contact – Name: _____		Phone number _____	Ext. _____
Position: _____		Email address: _____	

#### Enumeration Data

Type of Agency: <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Correctional Centre
Number of individuals with no fixed address who stayed at your facility the night of November 17, 2020: _____

Type of Agency: <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Cold Weather Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel (paid by an organization) <input type="checkbox"/> VAW Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Maximum Length of Stay in 2020 Before COVID-19 at your facility: _____
Maximum Length of Stay in 2020 During COVID-19 at your facility: _____
Total Capacity (total # of beds available at your facility): _____
Occupancy (# of individuals occupying beds at your facility on the night of November 17, 2020): _____
Turnaways (# of individuals who were turned away at your facility (because you were full or due to a service restriction) on the night of November 17, 2020): _____



Co-ordinated by the David Busby Street Centre