

Point in Time (PiT) Count Results



North Bay, Ontario
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PiT Count Overview



- Coordinated homelessness count & survey, across Canada
- ~ 30 HPS communities participating in 2016
- Conducted in North Bay, Feb. 25-26, 2016
- Funded by the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)

This is the first time the federal government has coordinated a national homelessness count which is fairly significant in terms of public policy.

And they have chosen the point-in-time methodology to do it.

Objective

- ❑ **Count and survey the number of people experiencing *sheltered* and *unsheltered* homelessness in North Bay, at a point in time.**
- ❑ Establish a baseline for homelessness (under the federal definition); cross reference with other datasets
- ❑ Provide insights into improving local homelessness policy, planning, service delivery, and advocacy
- ❑ Contribute to the national picture of homelessness

By using similar methods and survey questions in a coordinated Point in Time (PiT) count, a national picture of homelessness can emerge.

With the increased implementation of Housing First programs and of community plans to reduce or end homelessness, there is a need to create a national picture – the 2016 PiT count is a step in this direction.

This information can be used by communities to direct homelessness and housing resources to areas of greatest need, and to enhance service planning and delivery.

When conducted on a regular basis (e.g., every two years) the PiT Count can also be used to increase accuracy in estimating the homeless population, track changes over time, and measure progress in reducing it.

Homelessness Definition

1. Unsheltered homelessness

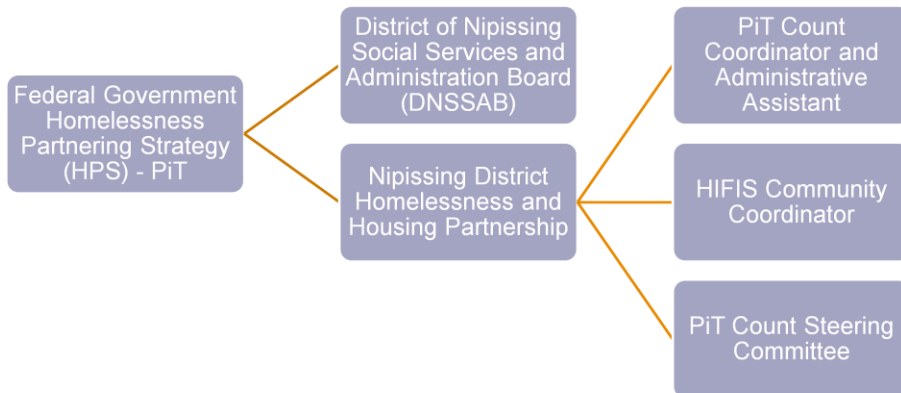
“Includes people who are sleeping in places unfit for human habitation, including the following locations: streets, alleys, parks and other public locations, transit stations, abandoned buildings, vehicles, ravines and other outdoor locations where people experiencing homelessness are known to sleep”. (HPS Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada)

Homelessness Definition

2. Sheltered homelessness

“Includes people sleeping in the following locations: emergency shelters (general and specific to men, women, youth, etc.), extreme weather shelters, Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters, and transitional housing. It may include people who receive hotel/motel vouchers in lieu of shelter beds”. (HPS Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada)

PiT Project Structure



Also, for those that may not know, DNSSAB is the 'Community Entity' under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

North Bay is one of 61 communities in Canada that receives federal homelessness funding under the 'Designated Communities funding stream' of the HPS.

The funding is put towards housing and homelessness projects which are determined by the Nipissing District Homelessness and Housing Partnership (aka, the HPS Community Advisory Board) through the community planning process.

Methodology – The Survey

- Paper survey provided by HPS – initially piloted in Winnipeg; draws upon existing practices
- 4 screening questions
- 20 questions (including six conditional questions):
 - 12 HPS 'core' questions
 - 7 COH (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness) 'additional' questions
 - 1 'community' question (NDHHP)
- Administered by 25+ volunteers and service provider staff across various locations in North Bay

This was a purposive, non-probability sample – the survey respondents were intentionally selected at known locations because of their homelessness characteristics.

This is a common method for trying to reach populations that are hidden or hard to identify.

The screening questions were the primary means for establishing whether the person is considered homeless by HPS definition.

And we adjusted the screening questions to provide additional insight into the *at risk/hidden homeless* population which we'll come back to in a bit.

The HPS core questions are mandatory and there were 12 of these.

Communities can consider additional questions to be added to the core questions. The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness has developed a set of optional questions for the PiT Count and we included 7 of these in the local survey.

We also added COH follow-up (conditional) questions to some of the HPS core questions.

Finally, we added one of our own community questions.

There were a total of 20 questions but with the conditional /follow-up questions added in, there were 28 possible questions.

Methodology – Search Locations

- 23 locations including 'sheltered', 'unsheltered' and 'service providers'
- Locations chosen based on PiT guidelines (i.e. shelters & transitional housing)
- Other locations added based on local knowledge of homelessness, NDHHP membership, etc.
- Confirmed by PiT Steering Committee and NDHHP
- Locations were GIS mapped into 10 city zones (including street outreach)



Ideally we would like to sample from the broadest range of locations to give us the highest degree of coverage.

So, the greater the number of sampling locations in the study, the greater the coverage of the homeless population, and the greater the reliability and accuracy of the count.

I don't think we should underestimate the financial and human resources required to enumerate or survey the homeless population.

Some research studies have shown that sampling from shelters, drop-in centers and soup kitchens provides approximately 90-95% of coverage of the urban homeless population.

It is difficult to estimate a margin of error from excluding locations from the PiT Count with this methodology.

More sophisticated methodologies exist (for example, stratified sampling of census blocks) but these are scientifically and logistically complex, expensive, and difficult to implement.

Probability or direct sampling is generally not feasible, or is very difficult for counting and surveying the homeless population in a city such as North Bay.

We included public places such as the hospital and corrections (jail) to give us some insight into the *at risk/hidden homeless* population in public systems – we'll come back to this in a bit.

Locations That Returned Surveys

- AIDS Committee North Bay
- Crisis Centre North Bay (Four Elms Residence)
- Centre of Friends (CMHA)
- High Support Residence, 501 Morris (CMHA)
- Low Income People Involvement (LIPI)
- Nipissing Transition House
- North Bay Food Bank
- North Bay Correctional Centre
- North Bay Recovery Home
- North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC)
- The Gathering Place
- The Warming Centre

The list represents a good mix of known-locations where the homeless or hidden homeless are likely to frequent.

Methodology – Data Analysis

- Paper survey data cleaned and entered into HIFIS PiT module by the PiT Administrative Assistant, HIFIS Community Coordinator and DNSSAB Research Analyst.
- HIFIS PiT data exported into Excel for further cleaning (e.g. local questions), organization, and initial analysis.
- Excel data then exported into SPSS for additional exploratory work and analysis.
- Mainly descriptive statistics up to this point.

HIFIS is the Homelessness Individual and Families Information System that the federal government provides for managing shelter and homelessness –related data. And the Ottawa HIFIS team designed a module specifically to accommodate the PiT data from across the country. So that's helpful in standardizing the data and providing some consistency.

When we talk about data cleaning we're talking about data integrity – making sure the data is consistent, reliable and valid.

The cleaning was a two-step process. First, we had three analysts looking at the paper surveys and the quality of the data, and entering the data into HIFIS - having three sets of eyes was helpful as some of the data was messy and required deliberation on how to treat the data.

Next, the data was exported from HIFIS into Excel for further cleaning, organizing and initial analysis. Once we were confident the data was ok, it was then exported into SPSS for additional statistical work and analysis.

Methodology – Limitations

- Counts are considered a minimum:
 - Snapshot in time
 - Seasonal factor
 - Search method: count and survey undercoverage
- Under-representation: some survey responses have relatively large amounts (15%+) of missing data
- Difficult to estimate (quantify) the margin of error for the study

And finally before we look at the results, the study did have some limitations which I want to touch down on.

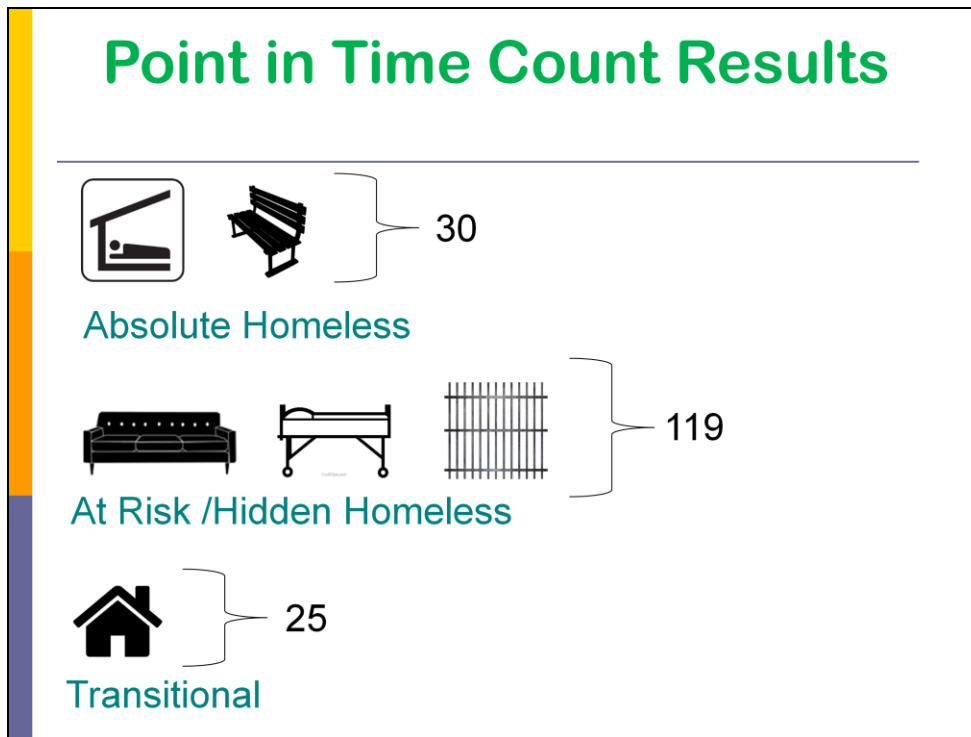
But having said the above, we do have some useful findings and results from the PiT study which we'll look at next.

We'll start with the homelessness counts and how the PiT numbers breakdown, because it's important to understand where the numbers come from and how we should interpret them.

Then we'll look at some of the data from those who completed the surveys. We'll start with a couple of the screening questions, and then look at some demographics and socioeconomics (which in this survey, is mainly income source and education).

Then we'll finish off by looking at some of the characteristics and attributes for this group.

As mentioned earlier there are 20 questions in the survey and we'll cover a little over half in this summary presentation.



The PiT Count results show that under the HPS definition of homelessness, 30 people were *absolutely homeless* in North Bay on Feb. 25 – this includes those staying in shelters and unsheltered locations not fit for human habitation.

And while the count was geographically limited to North Bay, the number of absolute homeless increases, when considering other women's shelters in the neighboring communities of Nipissing First Nation, Sturgeon Falls, and Mattawa.

There are another 119 people at *risk of being homeless* or are part of the *hidden homeless* population.

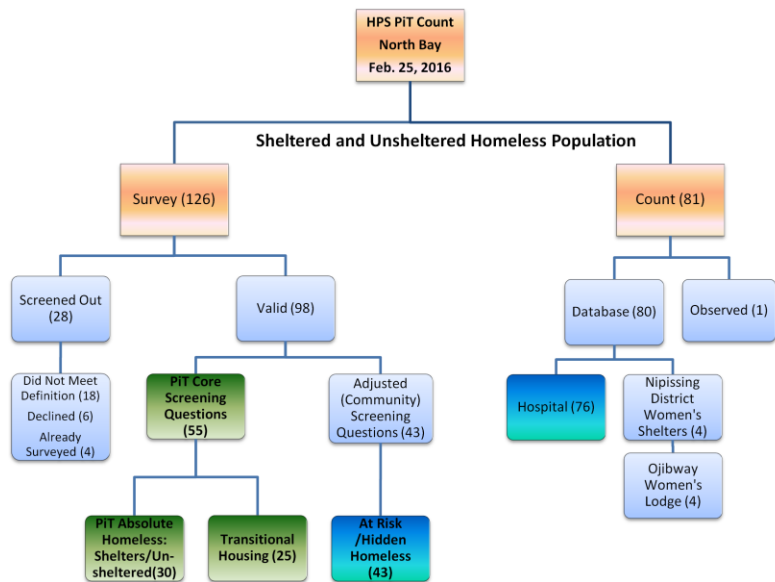
On the night of the count, many of these individuals were staying at the hospital, jail, or at someone else's place (i.e., 'couch-surfing').

And 25 indicated that they were staying in *transitional* housing. Unfortunately, because we were working with a weak definition of transitional housing – and depending on how one defines the supports and services in these transitional facilities – these individuals may or may not, be absolutely homeless under the HPS definition, or be at risk of homelessness.

But what we do know based on what they told us is, most of them are suffering from substance abuse and addictions, or serious mental illness.

And again, we can view these counts as a minimum because they were after all, taken at a moment in time, and also because of the seasonality factor and the undercoverage resulting from our methodology.

PiT Count by the Numbers



*The shelter counts from the other women's shelters in Nipissing District, were not available at the time of the PiT report.

Survey Results -Screening

Q#C. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Don't Know	2	2.0
	No	58	59.2
	Yes	38	38.8
	Total	98	100.0

This question alone, doesn't screen an individual out.

But it provides a starting point and context for the next question that follows:

Screening

Q#D. Where are you staying tonight?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Total	98	100.0
Transitional Housing	25	25.5
Emergency Shelter, Domestic Violence Shelter	22	22.4
Decline to Answer	19	19.4
Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre	15	15.3
Someone Else's Place (Friend or Family)	9	9.2
Respondent Doesn't Know [Likely Homeless]	3	3.1
Motel / Hotel	2	2.0
Abandoned / Vacant Building	1	1.0
Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack	1	1.0
Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation	1	1.0

The HPS intent of this question is a screen to include only those that are experiencing absolute homelessness – those staying in a shelter, transitional housing, or outside on the street as per the federal PiT definition.

The table is showing the distribution of responses in descending order, starting with the most common housing type.

Almost half the group were living in transitional housing or shelters. These respondents fit the HPS definition of *absolute homelessness* but as mentioned earlier – because of our weak definition of ‘transitional housing’, we are unable to say whether these 25 are or are not, absolutely homeless – so we have not included them in the count of absolute homelessness.

This next group highlighted in brown would have screened out under the narrow HPS definition of homelessness. But as I mentioned earlier, we adjusted this screening question to capture some of the *at risk/hidden homeless* population living in public systems such as the hospital or jail, or on people’s couches. So this is where the count of 43 comes from.

A relatively large number in this group didn’t answer the question, so we see weaker representation for this housing variable. And you can note that there were another 24 staying at the hospital or jail on that night in February.

And the remaining eight respondents fall back under the HPS definition of homelessness. Some of these respondents didn’t know where they were staying that night, while two reported they were staying in a motel.

There were actually three that reported absolute, unsheltered homelessness, staying in abandoned buildings, makeshift shelters, or other places unfit for human habitation.

Screening

Q#C&D.

STAYTONIGHT * PERMRES Crosstabulation

Count		PERMRES			Total
		Don't Know	No	Yes	
STAYTONIGHT	Transitional Housing	0	16	9	25
	Emergency Shelter, Domestic Violence Shelter	0	21	1	22
	Decline to Answer	0	0	19	19
	Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre	0	15	0	15
	Someone Else's Place (Friend or Family)	1	3	5	9
	Respondent Doesn't Know [Likely Homeless]	1	0	2	3
	Motel / Hotel	0	1	1	2
	Abandoned / Vacant Building	0	1	0	1
	Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack	0	1	0	1
	Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation	0	0	1	1
Total		2	58	38	98

Here we cross-reference the two screening questions to see how the respondents answered both questions.

Because it's interesting to see whether this group of homeless and hidden homeless consider their housing on that night, to be a 'permanent residence' or not.

Understandably, nearly two-thirds of the group (58) do not consider any of their housing that night to be a 'permanent residence'.

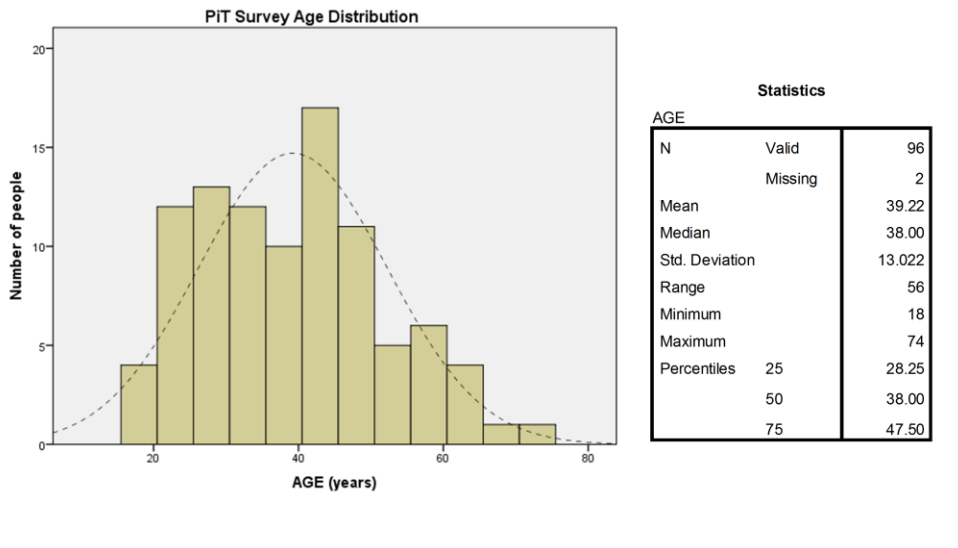
But perhaps somewhat surprising are the remainder who do consider their various housing forms to be a 'permanent residence'.

Going down the 'yes' column you can see this includes transitional housing, shelters, and motels.

It's also interesting to note that there are 19 who had answered 'yes' to having a permanent residence they could return to that night, but then declined to answer the question on where they would be staying that night.

Demographics - Age

Q2. How old are you?



Basically the age of this homeless population is normally distributed, with an average age of 39 yrs. and average variation of 13 yrs.

This is pretty close to the average age of the North Bay's general population, based on the last census (42 yrs.).

You can see looking at the statistics table to the right, that the ages range from the youngest at 18 yrs. to the oldest at 74.

As 50% of the data falls between the first and third quartiles, we can also see that half this group of homeless or at risk of homelessness are between the ages of 28 and 48.

And again, these results are only for those that completed the survey (for example, the average age of those in the hospital count was much older: 60 years).

Demographics – Age Groups

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Youth, 18-24	14	14.3
	Young Adults, 25-39	37	37.8
	Adults, 40-64	42	42.9
	Senior Citizens, 65-74	3	3.1
	Total	96	98.0
Missing	System	2	2.0
Total		98	100.0

Based on age range of survey respondents (18 -74).

This table divides the age distribution into general age groups that have been arbitrarily defined.

Looking at the first two rows, youth and young adults ages 18-39 account for a little over half (52.0%) of this group of homeless or at risk of homelessness.

And these age groups are over-represented here as they account for just 28% of North Bay's general population (2011 census) – so almost twice the number.

Seniors on the other-hand are under-represented, accounting for just 3% of this homeless/at-risk population but 17% of the city's general population.

Demographics - Gender

Q3. What gender do you identify with?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Female	48	49.0
	Male	49	50.0
	Total	97	99.0
Missing	Unclear / Blank Response	1	1.0
Total		98	100.0

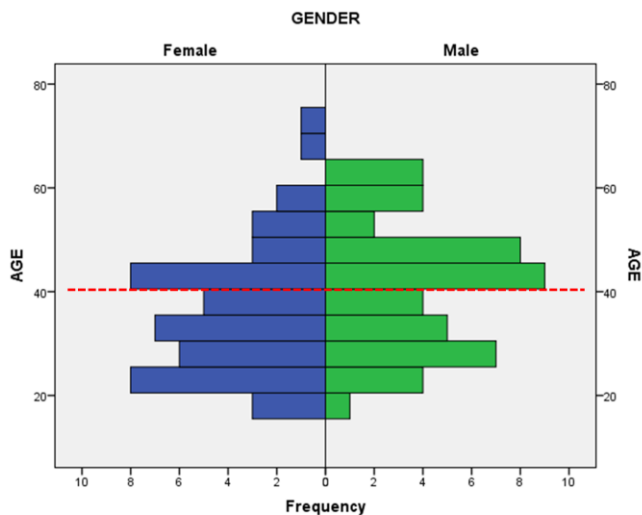
Pretty well a 50-50 split on the gender side, which, like average age, is close to what we find in the city's general population (52% female; 48% male).

Once we start looking at gender by other variables however, this distribution starts to change.

For example, when we take a look at gender and age:

Demographics – Age & Gender

Q2&3



More males
over 40

More females
under 40

Here we have a population pyramid, males are green on the right and females are blue on the left.

Recall that the age range for this group is 18-74 so the base doesn't come to the bottom – it starts at age 18.

I've added a line around the average age point and if you look below the line, you'll see more blue (to the left) than green (to the right) – so there are more females than males under the age of 40 in this group.

And the average age of females is 37.

Similarly, if you look above the line, you'll see more green (to the right) than blue (to the left) – so there are more males over the age of 40.

And that's actually the average age of males (40).

So generally we have more younger females and more older males in this homeless and at-risk of homeless population.

Other examples where the gender distribution changes, depending on the variable can be seen in the following table:

Other Examples of Change in Gender Distribution Depending on the Variable

PIT Count North Bay	Female, %	Male, %
Aboriginal	61.5	38.5
Shelters	63.5	36.5
Singles	45.0	55.0
Emergency Services (Outliers)	25.0	75.0

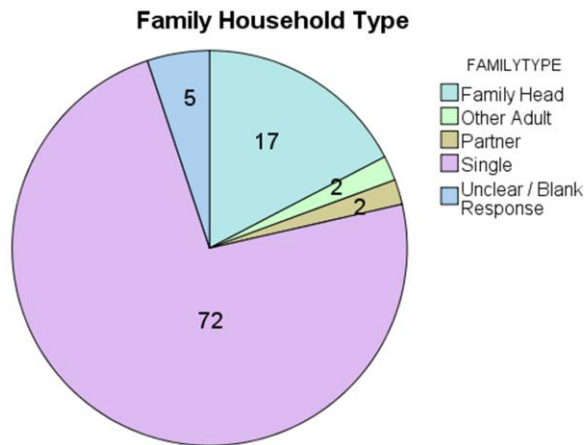
When we look at the Aboriginal or shelter populations, we see an increase in the proportion of females.

Looking at singles however, we see the opposite: proportionately more males.

And when we look at this group of the homeless or hidden homeless /at risk that use emergency services such as EMS or the hospital ,we have statistical outliers that consume most of those services – the majority of these are male.

Demographics - Family

1. What family members are with you?



We don't get a strong picture of the type of family households from the PiT survey or this question in particular.

To answer this question, respondents could reply with:

None; Other Adult; Partner; Child(ren)/ Dependent(s) or Decline to Answer

If the respondent answered 'None', HIFIS defaults to *Single*. If they answered 'Child(ren)/ Dependent(s)' HIFIS defaults to *Family Head*.

What we do see is a large number of singles represented in this sample of North Bay homeless.

And as we saw on the previous slide, 55% of these singles are males.

A further 17 % are Family Heads which means, as I just described, that the respondent was there with children or other dependents at the time of the count. And 2/3 of these family heads were females.

Although not shown on the chart, there were 11 children /dependents.. - six of these are children ages two or under; *two* are ages 11-13; and *three* are in their early-mid 20's.

And finally, a small number of the respondents were with a partner or other adult at the time of the count.

Demographics – Interest Groups

4. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry?

5. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?

7. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?

	Yes	%	No	Don't know	Decline to Answer	Unclear/ Blank	Total
Valid							
Aboriginal	26	26.3	63	7	0	2	98
Veteran	5	5.0	92	0	1	0	98
Immigrant/ Refugee	2	3.5	90	3	0	3	98

There were three groups of particular interest in the PIT Count: Aboriginals, Military or RCMP, and immigrants /refugees.

You can see the three questions that were asked in the survey for the respondents to self-identify.

Here is the table with the results:

Starting at the top of the table, 26% of this group of homeless or hidden /at risk homeless, are Aboriginal, while a further 7% aren't sure.

Unfortunately, this aligns with many other reports and studies on homelessness at various levels of geography, which show that Aboriginals are significantly over-represented in the homeless population (North Bay general Aboriginal population ~ 8.0%, 2011).

Moving through the remainder of the table, we see a relatively small number of veterans or immigrants.

Aboriginal

	Frequency	Percent
First Nations	23	88.5
Metis	2	7.7
Non-Status / Have Aboriginal Ancestry	1	3.8
Total	26	100.0

	Frequency
Valid	
Algonquin	4
Algonquin Golden Lake Bear Clan	1
Attawapiskat	1
Bear Island	1
Dokis	1
Kashechewan	1
Matachewan	2
Missanabie Cree	1
Nipissing First Nation	6
Wasauksing First Nation	1
Wkwemikong	1
Total	20

If the respondent identified as Aboriginal, they were asked a follow up question about which group of Aboriginal peoples they identify with.

You can see the majority of this group indicated they were First Nations, with a very small number indicating they were Metis.

One of the respondents indicated they had a link to Aboriginal ancestry.

The Aboriginal respondents were then asked which community they were from:

Looking at the table of responses, they come from a number of different Aboriginal communities.

Bear Island, Dokis and Nipissing First Nation are local communities here in Nipissing and Parry Sound District, and include 8 of the 20 who answered the question (40%).

Socioeconomics - Income

12. Where do you get your money from?

	Frequency	Percent
Total	116	100.0
Disability Benefit	50	43.1
Welfare / Income Assistance	32	27.6
Employment/ Self-Employment (e.g., Bottle Returns, Panhandling)	11	9.5
Employment Insurance	6	5.2
Child And Family Tax Benefits	5	4.3
Seniors Benefits (e.g., CPP/OAS/GIS)	4	3.4
No Income	3	2.6
Other	3	2.6
Money From Family / Friends	2	1.7

N= 95

The survey had two questions that provide us with a little socioeconomic information around *income* and *education* so we'll take a look at these next.

Starting with income, the table is showing the list of the respondent's income sources in descending order, starting with the most common source.

Also, the total number at the top of the table is based on responses now – not the number of people – as the respondents could provide more than one answer.

And probably not too surprising, is the reliance on disability benefits and social assistance which accounts for about 70% of the income for this group of homeless and hidden homeless/at risk.

Next on the list, the respondents reported having some sort of employment (10%), followed by EI (5.0%), child and family tax benefits (4.5%) and seniors benefits (3.5%).

And rounding off the list, a small number had other sources of income, or income from family and friends.

Socioeconomics - Education

13. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Total	98	100.0
	Secondary School	45	45.9
	Post-Secondary	27	27.6
	High School Graduate	21	21.4
	Don't Know	2	2.0
	Primary School	2	2.0
	Decline to Answer	1	1.0

Switching to education levels, “Secondary School” in the context of this survey and the PiT Count means less than a high school education.

So, just under half this group – 46% – have not finished high school.

Perhaps surprising to some, another 27% do have some form of postsecondary education, although based on the simple nature of the question, we don’t know any more than that (e.g. the type of post-secondary, etc.).

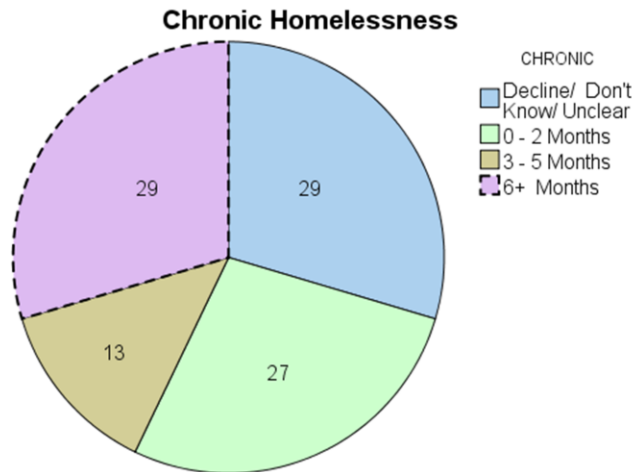
And a further 21% have completed high school.

Out of the remaining respondents, a couple of them didn’t know what level of education they had completed, and another couple indicated primary school only.

Ok, this marks the end of the demographic /socioeconomic section and next we’ll look at some of the homelessness characteristics and attributes of this group.

Homelessness - Occurrence

8. *When did you become homeless most recently?*



Question #8 is a core HPS question that measures chronic homelessness.

By HPS definition, 'chronic homelessness' refers to those that are currently homeless and have been for six months or more in the past year.

You can see that 29 of the respondents – or about the same in percentage terms – reported being chronically homeless.

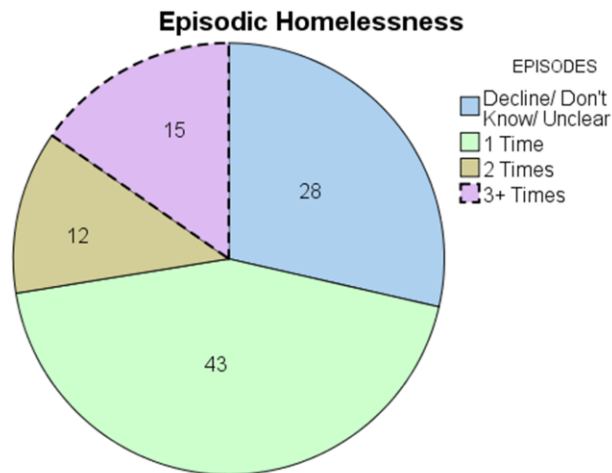
You'll also notice that for various reasons, about 30% of the data for this question is missing so representation starts to fall off – we need to be aware of that.

It's also worth noting that the chronically homeless is the target population for the Housing First approach under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

More recently, this group has also become the focus of the provincial government's affordable housing and poverty reduction strategies, **with the target of ending chronic homelessness in 10 years.**

Homelessness - Episodes

9. *Over the past year, how many different times have you experienced homelessness?*



While the last question was a measure of chronic homelessness, this one measures episodic homelessness.

Under the HPS definition, those that are 'episodically homeless' include those who are currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year.

We see that 15 in this group fall into the episodic homelessness category.

Similar to the previous question, there is also a large portion of missing data to be aware of.

Cause of Housing Loss

11. *What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?*

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Total	173	100.0
	Addiction or Substance Use	26	15.0
	Illness or Medical Condition	17	9.8
	Domestic Abuse: Spouse or Partner	16	9.2
	Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	15	8.7
	Family Conflict: Parent or Guardian	14	8.1
	Hospitalization or Treatment Program	13	7.5
	Evicted: Unable to Pay Rent	12	6.9
	Family Conflict: Spouse or Partner	12	6.9
	Job Loss	12	6.9
	Unsafe Housing Conditions	12	6.9
	Evicted: Other Reasons	9	5.2
	Domestic Abuse: Parent or Guardian	5	2.9
	Left Care (Child Protection)/(Prov. Term)	5	2.9
	Other	5	2.9

N=79

Addiction or substance abuse and illness /medical condition accounts for one-quarter of the responses.

Or to think of this in causal terms – in the eyes of the respondent – this partly explains 25% of their housing loss.

Moving down the list I'm going to jump around a bit because although I've listed the causes in descending order, it can make sense to group them as well.

So, what we have next on the list is domestic abuse and family conflict. The survey question distinguished between whether these were related to a spouse or partner, or parent or guardian, but if we add them together, it explains about another 30% of why this group of homeless have lost their housing.

Thus, addiction/substance abuse; illness or medical condition; and family conflict /domestic abuse, explains a little over half of the cause for housing loss.

Continuing on, incarceration and hospitalization account for another 17% of the housing loss. Keeping in mind the PiT sample included the hospital and jail which ordinarily wouldn't have been included in the narrower HPS definition of absolute homelessness.

Next, the all-too-familiar eviction and unsafe housing, etc. accounts for another 20% of the housing loss with this group of homeless and hidden homeless /at risk.

Use of Emergency Services

14. In the past year, how many:

Times have you been hospitalized?

Days in total have you spent hospitalized?

Times have you used EMS?

Times have you been to a hospital ER?

Approximately one-third of the respondents had not used EMS, or been hospitalized or to the ER.

Question #14 was an optional question developed by the Canadian Observatory of Homelessness.

The PiT Steering Committee decided to include this question in the survey, to get an idea of the use of emergency services (hospital and EMS) by the homeless and hidden homeless / at risk population.

You can see the sub-questions that were asked in order to gather the information.

It was interesting to find that about one-third of this group (27-37) had not used EMS or been hospitalized.

Use of Emergency Services

However, for the other two-thirds:

Times hospitalized: 101 times

Days spent hospitalized: 1,938 days

Times used EMS: 119 times

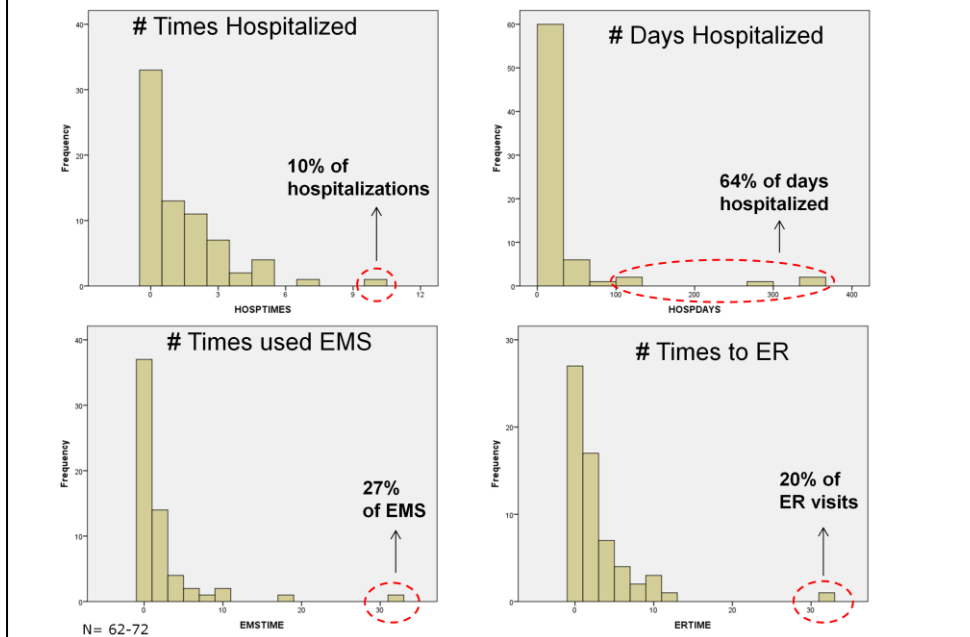
Times been to a hospital ER: 160 times

But for the remaining two-thirds, we see significant use of emergency services:

Collectively, they had been hospitalized 100 times and spent a total of about 1,900 days in the hospital.

They had used EMS 119 times and been to the ER 160 times.

- **Service usage /distributions are highly skewed**
- **The outliers use a relatively large number of the services**



The other pattern we see in the data are statistical outliers – the data distributions are skewed and the outliers use a disproportionately large number of services.

For example, in looking at the *# times* hospitalized, this person way off to the right accounts for 10% of the hospitalizations of the whole group (10/100 times).

Moving over to the *# days* hospitalized, this group of five account for two-thirds of the total days hospitalized – or 1,250 of the 1,900 days.

Moving over and down to the EMS chart shows a similar shaped distribution.

This outlier accounts for 27% of EMS, or 32 of the 119 calls. And if we include the next person over (with just under 20 times) the two of them hit 40% of the group's total EMS utilization.

And finally, looking at ER visits, I think you're getting the picture now: this person at the end of the distribution accounts for 1-in-5 of the ER visits (32 /160).

So what we see is a relatively small number of the homeless or hidden homeless in this group, using a relatively large number of the emergency services.

And this really gets us thinking more about that 'service planning' piece with emergency services and public systems such as the hospital.

Interactions with Police

14. In the past year, how many:

Times have you had interactions with the police?

Times have you been to prison/jail?

Days in total have you spent in prison/jail?

A little over one-quarter of the respondents have not had any interactions with the police, and half the respondents have not been to prison/ jail.

Question #14 also asked the respondents about their interactions with the police and the prison system, and you can see the three sub-questions that the respondents were asked.

Somewhat similar to the previous emergency services, there is a sizeable portion of this homeless and hidden homeless/at risk group that didn't have any police interactions or prison time.

One-quarter of the respondents hadn't interacted with police and half had not been to prison/jail.

Interactions with Police

However, for the remaining respondents:

Interactions with the police: 269

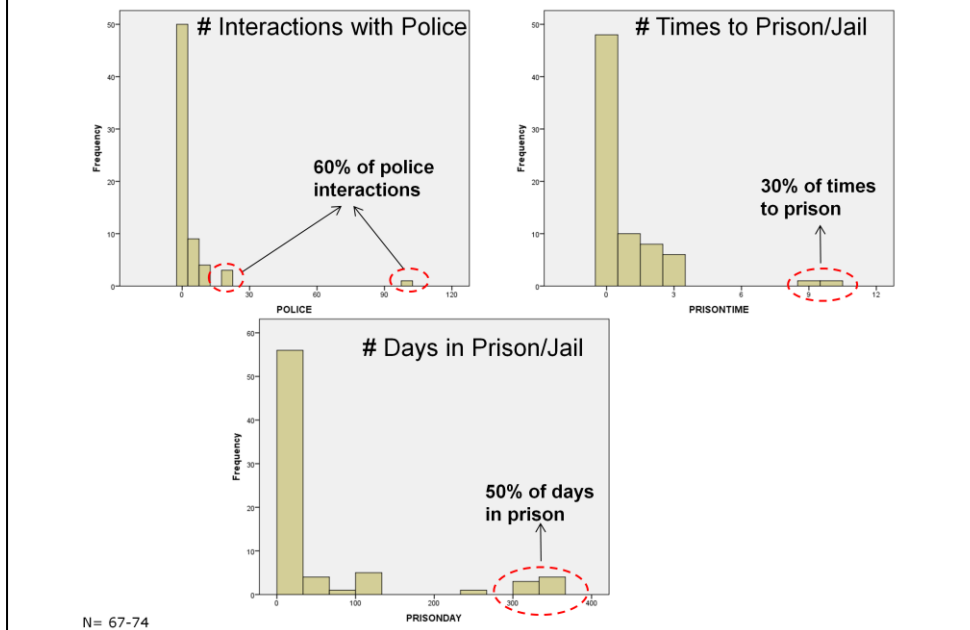
Times to prison/jail: 63

Days spent in prison/jail: 3,598

But for the remaining respondents, we see some significant police interaction and prison time:

Collectively, they had 269 interactions with the police and spent just under 3,600 days in prison – almost 10 years.

- **Similar skewed distributions – a small number of people with large amounts of police and jail time**



And similarly, we see the same skewed distributions that we saw for the hospital and EMS.

Looking at the number of police interactions for example, these four outliers had 60% of the police interactions

And it's a similar scenario for the # times to prison and the # days spent in jail.

Actually the jail time is a bit alarming with two of the respondents accounting for half the group's total days in jail (1,790).

So again, what we have is a small number of people accounting for a large number of services – in this case, police and prison time.

And as I mentioned earlier in the presentation, the majority of these outliers are males.

Need for Services

15. Do you have a need for services related to....?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Total	144	100.0
	Mental Health	46	31.9
	Addiction Or Substance Abuse	38	26.4
	Physical Disability	20	13.9
	Learning Disability	19	13.2
	Serious or Ongoing Medical Condition	16	11.1
	Brain Injury	3	2.1
	Pregnancy	2	1.4

N=77

Question #13 is another core question to get at the types of services the homeless and hidden homeless/at risk need.

Given what we've just seen in the presentation, this table doesn't come as much of a surprise – actually, it aligns with most of the previous content and responses.

There's the need for mental health and addictions or substance abuse services, right at the top, accounting for close to 60% of the responses.

Disability services, both physical and learning, follow closely behind accounting for a further 27% of the service needs.

The respondents also indicated they need services to help with persistent medical conditions, accounting for another 11% of the responses.

Barriers to Housing

19. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own?

		Frequency	Percent
DESCRIPTION	Low Income	50	19.4
	Rents Too High	36	13.9
	Addiction	24	9.3
	Mental Health Issues	22	8.5
	Poor Housing Conditions	18	7.0
	No Income Assistance	15	5.8
	Discrimination	14	5.4
	Health / Disability Issues	14	5.4
	Family Breakdown / Conflict	13	5.0
	Criminal History	10	3.9
	Domestic Violence	9	3.5
	Job Loss	7	2.7
	Children	3	1.2
	Insufficient Housing For Need	3	1.2
	Pets	3	1.2
	Other	17	6.6
Total		258	100

N= 80

Question #19 looks at the barriers to housing for this group.

The first two – low income and high rents – account for one-third of the responses.

We have found from previous housing studies and surveys conducted, that these two responses often top the list when a similar type of question is asked.

Do you recognize these next responses highlighted in yellow?

They were also the *causes of housing loss* that we looked at a few slides back.

So, what's causing this group to lose their housing is also what's preventing them from finding housing again.

Stable Housing

20. *What would help you find permanent, stable housing?*

		Frequency	Percent
DESCRIPTION	Housing	23	32.4
	Supports & services (not specified)	15	21.1
	Financial	14	19.7
	Employment	7	9.9
	Other	5	7.0
	Addictions support	2	2.8
	Mental health supports	2	2.8
	education	2	2.8
	Discharge planning	1	1.4
Total		71	100

N=47

This turned out to be a weak question, with a small number of responses (47), mainly due to missing data with unclear /blank responses.

The question was open-ended and resulted in some ambiguous responses – for example, the most common response was simply ‘housing’ which doesn’t offer us much.

Also, the respondents listed ‘supports and services’ as being important (21% of responses) but didn’t specify what these were.

Luckily, we have an indication of the high-level group of services these respondents require, from the previous question that asked them about their need for services.

It’s also interesting to note that *addictions* and *mental health supports* appear much further down the list in this question.

Services That Will Help

21B. Where do you go for services/ help?

		Frequency	Percent
DESCRIPTION	Other supports and services	32	23.7
	Shelters	23	17.0
	Mental health supports and services	20	14.8
	Addictions supports and services	15	11.1
	Other	14	10.4
	Food security	13	9.6
	Government supports and services	9	6.7
	Health supports and services	5	3.7
	Housing	4	3.0
Total		135	100

N=73

This final question was a 'community' question that was developed by the PiT Steering Committee and added to the survey.

It was intended to hear from the respondents – in their own words – where they go for services and help.

During the data analysis, the services were rolled-up into the common service categories above (some services fall into more than one category).

'Other supports and services' account for a little under one-quarter of the responses and include a number of service organizations such as, *Yes! Employment, LIPI, CAS, Amelia Rising, True Self, Salvation Army, North Bay Indian Friendship Centre, Aids Committee*, etc.

'Shelters' were the next most common (17%) service that the respondents go to for help, and include the *Crisis Centre North Bay, Nipissing Transition House*, and *The Warming Centre* (as the PiT Count was specific to North Bay, other women's shelters in the district were not mentioned).

Moving down the table, 'mental health and addictions supports /services' account for a further 25% of the responses and include organizations such as *CMHA, PEP, ACT, North Bay Recovery Home, Centre of Friends*, and the *Community Counselling Centre*.

It's interesting to see 'food security' now appear in the survey results, accounting for about 10% of the responses. These local service organizations include the *Gathering Place, Open Arms Café, food banks*, etc.

Rounding off the table (remaining 13%), 'Government supports and services' include *OW, ODSP*, and the *legal system* while 'health supports and services' includes the *Red Cross, VON, March of Dimes*, etc.

Respondents mentioned 'housing' in the context of receiving *CHPI* and *housing subsidy/supplements*.

Steps to Date (Post PiT Count)

- Presentations made to the Nipissing District Homelessness and Housing Partnership (NDHHP) and the DNSSAB Housing and EMS Committee
- Preliminary media release on the PiT counts (June)
- Final report for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)- copies will be available for the NDHHP, DNSSAB, and other stakeholders

Next Steps

- PiT data to be sent to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)
- Second media release on PiT Count findings (July)
- Community PiT report to follow