



2016

HOMELESSNESS IN CBRM: A Service Based Approach

Like other small communities, homelessness in the CBRM is hidden. To gain a better understanding of homelessness locally, service providers who work with clients at risk of homelessness participated in a research study. For four weeks in April 2016, 40 agencies from a variety of sectors completed surveys on all homeless clients they came in contact with during that time. The study was called a service-based approach to understanding homelessness.

No identifying information, such as full name or date of birth, were collected. Following the data collection, researchers met with many participating agencies to better understand the data and discuss their experience with the research process.

The research findings have been used to complement the Point in Time count, which involved volunteers speaking directly with those who were experiencing homelessness in a one day period. With all this data, we now have a more comprehensive picture of homelessness in CBRM.

304
PEOPLE

THE SERVICE BASED RESULTS TELL US

were identified as experiencing homelessness during the month in the CBRM.



Service Providers from a Variety of Sectors Participated:



Housing and Shelters



Health, Mental Health & Addiction Services



Justice



Income & Employment Services



Community Based Agencies



Post-secondary

ABSOLUTE HOMELESSNESS:

People who are staying outside or in places not fit for human habitation, or are using emergency homeless shelters.

Unsheltered

10 people were unsheltered, that is, staying in a public space, sleeping in a car or not knowing where they would sleep that night.

10



Emergency Shelters

85 people stayed in an emergency homeless shelter or a Violence Against Women shelter.

85



PROVISIONALLY ACCOMMODATED:

People temporarily accommodated by an organization, lack secure housing or staying at someone else's place i.e. couch surfing.

28



Transitional Housing

28 people were staying in transitional housing i.e. hotel, motel or boarding house.

93

Another's Home



93 people lacked secure housing and were living temporarily with others i.e. couch surfing with friends, family or strangers.



88

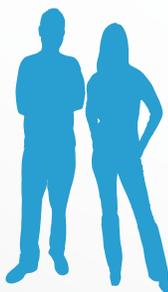
Transitional Residential Centres and Institutions

88 people were temporarily housed in an addiction treatment centre, half-way house, correctional facility or hospital.

KEY FINDINGS

88%

of clients were single adults



72%

of female clients were in emergency shelters or couch surfing



Most support services were located in **SYDNEY**

38%

of clients were under the age of

30

Barriers to finding permanent housing:

% of clients



Mental Illness



Criminal History



Family Breakdown



Addiction/ Substance Use



Poor Housing Options/ Low Income

The 2016 Homeless Count Committee is made up of representatives from Cape Breton Community Housing Association, Public Health, Cape Breton Regional Police Service, CBU, Every Woman's Centre and The Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

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