

Algoma District Services Administration Board

2021 Homelessness Enumeration Summary Report

This report was created for the Algoma District Services Administration Board with the help of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre's Acorn Information Solutions.







Contents

Executive Summary	1
Background	2
Methodology	3
2018 Homelessness Enumeration	3
2021 Homelessness Enumeration	3
COVID-19 Restrictions	4
ADSAB Service Area	4
Service Providers	6
PiT Survey	6
Results	9
2018 Summary	9
2021 Summary	9
Tally Sheets	
Survey Summary	10
Age and Gender	11
Sexual Orientation	12
Chronicity and Frequency of Homelessness	12
Shelter Use	13
Housing Loss	14
Newcomers to Canada or Local Community	15
Racial Identity, Indigenous Identity	16
Veteran Status and Foster Care	16
Health Challenges	16
Sources of Income	17
Education	
Challenges to Finding Housing	
Services of Need	
By-Name-List Registry	19
Discussion	20
Limitations	20
Conclusion	21
Acknowledgements	22
Appendix A – Survey	23
Appendix B - Registry for By-Name-List	38
Appendix C – Tally Sheets	43
Appendix D – Sample Poster	ΔΔ

Executive Summary

The 2021 Homelessness Enumeration utilized the Point-in-Time (PiT) Count method to identify the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in the Algoma District Services Administration Board (ADSAB) service area. This enumeration also involved the start of the By-Name-List (BNL), which is meant to assist the ADSAB in prioritizing and assisting homeless persons looking for housing services. This report provides the methodology used to conduct the enumeration and the BNL as well as a summary of the findings, the limitations, and overall conclusions regarding the enumeration.

It should be noted that the PiT Count method used in the 2021 enumeration is different from the enumeration conducted in 2018, where a period prevalence count method was used, therefore it is difficult to directly compare the results from the previous study. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic introduced some challenges in reaching out and engaging with community members across the service area, potentially impacting resulting numbers.

The PiT Count was carried out over the week of September 27th to October 1st, 2021. While many service providers expressed interest in assisting, ultimately there was low participation and difficulty getting responses in many communities throughout the service area. Surveys submitted came from Blind River, Bruce Mines and Elliot Lake and were completed by staff at the ADSAB, Bruce Mines Food Bank, Larry's Place and Maplegate House for Women.

In total, 23 surveys were submitted, with 1 survey screened out and 2 declined for a total of 20 completed surveys. Of those 20 surveys, 17 participants agreed to register on the BNL. While the number of responses does not provide the full picture of homelessness in the ADSAB service area, there were key findings that can be used to assist in directing program planning and the efforts to reduce and ultimately end homelessness.

Key findings from this enumeration include that most participants were between 36 to 49 years of age; most participants indicated they had experienced homeless for between 1 to 3 months (30.0%); most participants indicated facing a mental health issue (65.0%) or substance abuse issue (65.0%); and the most common challenges participants faced in finding housing related to rent being too high (75.0%) or being low income (65.0%).

The results from this enumeration, while not the true picture of homelessness, can still be used to evaluate current procedures in place to assist individuals experiencing homelessness. Further, the results can help assist in coordinating the efforts of service providers to close the gaps identified and work towards the goal of ending homelessness in the ADSAB.

Background

In accordance with section 19.1 of the <u>Housing Services Act, 2011</u> (the "Act"), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) directed Service Managers across Ontario to conduct an enumeration of people who are experiencing homelessness in their service areas. In partnership with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH), MMAH mandated service managers throughout Ontario to carry out a point-in-time (PiT) count as well as develop a By-Name List (BNL).

The enumeration was initially conducted in 2018 and proposed to continue every two years thereafter. After reviewing the 2018 enumeration, the government delayed the next iteration until 2021 to reassess the approach and provide firmer guidelines in order to get more accurate data. The 2021 iteration also introduced the development of a BNL to help track and prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness who require services related to stable housing.

The results from the enumeration will be used to assist program planning with respect to homelessness prevention. The BNL will help connect people experiencing homelessness to services and work to prioritize their needs and obtain stable housing, in addition to providing opportunities for agencies to evaluate the overlap of care. It is important to be aware that comparison to past enumerations should be made with caution as changes to the methodology have been made since 2018.

Methodology

2018 Homelessness Enumeration

In 2018, the homelessness enumeration utilized a period prevalence count method and was carried out in Elliot Lake and Wawa. The 2018 enumeration was conducted through the Algoma District Services Administration Board (ADSAB) with the help of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) in planning and organization of the enumeration. The enumeration took place from May 7th to May 13th, 2018.¹

2021 Homelessness Enumeration

The 2021 Homelessness Enumeration was organized by the ADSAB, with the help of the SSMIC, and conducted from September 27th to October 1st, 2021 using the combined Registry Week/Point-in-Time (PiT) Count methodology. The combined methodology involves a multi-day attempt to enumerate people who are experiencing homelessness, which is also used to generate the BNL. That is, the PiT Count involves counting the number of individuals who indicate they are homeless on a particular night as well as a survey to collect more information about their circumstances of homelessness. Participants are then asked about registering on the BNL, which will help identify and focus support on those who are most vulnerable to help them attain permanent housing.

For this enumeration, homelessness includes people who are:

- 1. Unsheltered;
- 2. Emergency sheltered; and
- 3. Provisionally accommodated.

Unsheltered homeless could include living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation, such as vehicles or abandoned buildings.² Emergency shelters include overnight shelters for people experiencing homelessness and Violence Against Women shelters. It also can include families or individuals who have received hotel/motel vouchers in lieu of shelter beds. People with provisional accommodation have no fixed address and are staying in accommodation that is temporary or lacks the security of tenure. Examples include staying with family or friends, couch surfing, squatting, sleeping in overcrowded spaces, tied to accommodation, homelessness upon release from institutionalization or bush camps.

The PiT Count methodology is explained in detail on page 6.

Acorn Information Solutions. (2018). *Algoma District Homelessness Enumeration Final Report*. Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. Retrieved from https://www.adsab.on.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Algoma-District-Homelessness-Enumeration-Final-Report.pdf

²Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (2021). *Service Manager Guidelines: By-Name List Implementation and Homelessness Enumeration*. Retrieved from https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-service-manager-guidelines-by-name-list-implementation-homeless-enumeration-en-2021-08-03.pdf

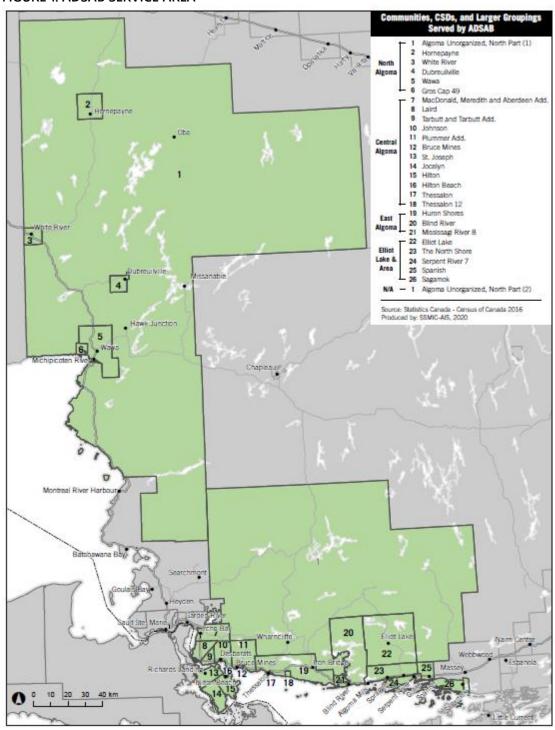
COVID-19 Restrictions

At the time of the enumeration, Ontario was in Step 3 of the Roadmap to Reopen. As such, there were still some restrictions in terms of the number of people that could safely gather for organized public events, both outdoors and indoors. Additionally, on September 22nd, 2021, proof of vaccination status was required for select indoor public settings. Given these considerations, no magnet events, were used to promote the enumeration. Participating agencies were also advised to not go outside these restrictions to enumerate and be conscious of the current protocols in place with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADSAB Service Area

Figure 1 shows the communities that fall within the ADSAB area. The ADSAB area total population, based on the 2016 Census data, is estimated to be 33,720 persons, and is generally divided into four Large Community Groupings: North Algoma, Central Algoma, East Algoma, and Elliot Lake & Area (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1: ADSAB SERVICE AREA



Service Providers

To determine which agencies should be contacted and invited to participate in the enumeration, the ADSAB provided a list of current service providers which was reviewed for services related to homelessness or housing assessment. In addition, 211 (https://211ontario.ca/) was used to determine any missed agencies throughout the ADSAB service area. A list of almost 200 service providers was compiled and included agencies that service the Algoma district. From this list, the ADSAB reviewed potential service providers and identified key organizations that either directly worked with people in the community with respect to housing services, or who had expressed initial interest in helping with the enumeration process. The ADSAB was also tasked with engaging with Indigenous organizations directly to participate in the enumeration. After review, 103 agencies were identified and were contacted about participating in the enumeration.

Given the large geographic spread of the ADSAB service area, the participation of as many service providers as possible was crucial for successful implementation of the enumeration. An invitation to participate was sent from SSMIC on behalf of the ADSAB to the providers identified at the end of August 2021. Training was provided the week of September 20, 2021. Four virtual training sessions were offered, and participating agencies could select the date and time that worked best with their schedule. Training was scheduled for 2 hours, and all participating providers were provided with a training manual that explained the enumeration process in detail and provided links to digital copies of enumeration materials (i.e., consent forms, posters, survey, etc.). In total, 50 individuals from 20 organizations attended training.

The four virtual sessions included training on the following topics:

- The purpose of the enumeration
- Confidentiality
- Consent
- Questionnaire pre-screening
- How to complete the questionnaire
- Tally sheets
- Safety

PiT Survey

The PiT Count has two components:

1. The Count

This involves counting the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. While this method does not capture everyone who experiences homelessness over time, it provides an estimated snapshot of the extent of homelessness in the ADSAB service area, on a given night.

2. The Survey

This involves collecting information from people experiencing homelessness by asking questions with regards to the circumstances surrounding their homelessness.

For the ADSAB, the 2021 enumeration took place Monday, September 27th to Friday October 1st, 2021. The PiT Count is the first night of the combined PiT/Registry Week, which was Monday, September 27th. As such, regardless of which day participants were surveyed, the PiT Count always referenced the night of Monday, September 27th. This schedule is in accordance with the Ministry guidelines which require the count and survey to be completed before December 15, 2021.

In the previous 2018 enumeration, service managers were able to use a sample of municipalities within their service area to enumerate, as long as those municipalities covered at least 30% of the population for their service area. In 2018, the enumeration was confined to Elliot Lake and Wawa. For the 2021 enumeration, services managers were expected to conduct the enumeration in all municipalities that fall within their service area.

Service managers were required to collect information on 17 data points in their surveys. Those data points included:

- Overnight location
- Chronicity of homelessness
- Age
- Reasons for homelessness/housing loss
- Indigenous Identity
- Racialized Identity
- Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- Family Homelessness
- Military Service
- Health Illness/Medical Condition
- Health Physical Limitation
- Health Learning or Cognitive Limitations
- Health Mental Health Issue
- Health Substance Use Issue
- Child Welfare Involvement
- Income Source

There were also additional questions that service managers could choose to include in their survey. An example of the Survey used for the 2021 enumeration is included in Appendix A.

Appendix B provides the By-Name List Registry used for the ADSAB. This application includes questions related to the criteria used to determine eligibility for subsidized housing assistance as well as additional questions related to a person's history of homelessness.

Appendix C is an example of the Tally Sheet. Tally sheets were used to document individuals the surveyor observed to be homeless if they could not or declined to participate in the survey. This sheet allows the surveyor to document where the individual was encountered, the reason they were not surveyed, as well as indicators of homelessness. Further, while canvasing on foot throughout communities was limited due to resources, staff participation, and COVID-19, enumeration guidelines outline that administrative data can be accessed as a source of information for services people may be accessing, that are related to housing needs. These individuals could be added to the Tally sheet to be counted as observed homeless.

Appendix D is an example of the posters that were displayed to advertise the enumeration.

Results

2018 Summary

In 2018, 44 homeless individuals were captured by the enumeration; 13 were observed homeless and 31 individuals completed the questionnaire. Direct comparison cannot be made as the 2018 enumeration utilized the Period Prevalence Count and was restricted to two communities in the ADSAB service area.³ Due to the changes made in methodology for the 2021 enumeration, comparisons with the 2018 should be made with caution and may not be appropriate.

2021 Summary

Tally Sheets

Service providers were asked to fill out Tally Sheets to count the number of homeless individuals in the community that were noted from observation. Instructions were that if a participant declined or was screened out of the survey screening process, they could be added to this sheet. Providers were to indicate the reason they were not surveyed (either they declined, already responded, or were screened out), or were observed homeless. For those who declined or were observed but clearly homeless, providers were asked to indicate their observed gender, approximate age, and the reason they believed the individual was homeless. Providers could also add individuals experiencing homelessness from administrative data who could not be contacted to complete the survey.

Tally sheets collected revealed incomplete data entry, therefore information with respect to estimated age, gender or indicators of homelessness are not available for all individuals. In total, 237 individuals were approached and 167 were screened out as they were not experiencing homelessness and 1 indicated they had already responded (Table 1). As indicated by surveyors, 50 declined to participate (or 21.1% of the total individuals approached), 5 individuals were marked as observed homeless (2.1% of the total approached) and 14 were identified through administrative data (5.9% of the total approached). In total, from those that declined, were observed, or noted from administrative data, there were 69 individuals counted as observed homeless, representing 29.1% of the total people approached.

The approximate age of observed homeless was only provided for 17 individuals. Based on this data, the average age was approximately 44.8 years. Eight individuals were observed as female, 20 were observed as male, and 41 individuals were missing information on gender. Indicators of homelessness included knowing the individual was accessing shelter services, having assisted with providing meals or clean clothes, known in the community as homeless, or observed living in vehicle or tent. Indicators of homelessness were not provided for 40 individuals.

³ Acorn Information Solutions. (2018). *Algoma District Homelessness Enumeration Final Report*. Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. Retrieved from https://www.adsab.on.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Algoma-District-Homelessness-Enumeration-Final-Report.pdf

Survey Summary

The screening process of the survey ensures participants meet the criteria of homelessness for the purposes of the survey. Participants were screened out if they responded they had already answered the survey, to avoid duplication of responses, if they were unwilling to participate in the survey, and if they had somewhere to stay the night of the PiT Count date that was permanent and/or safe. In total 23 surveys were submitted. Of those 23 surveys, 2 respondents declined to participate and 1 was screened out for a total of 20 completed surveys (or 87.0% of the total surveys submitted). Surveys were received from Blind River (3 or 13.0% of completed surveys), Bruce Mines (3 or 13.0% of completed surveys) and Elliot Lake (14 or 60.9% of completed surveys) from 4 different agencies. The breakdown of information is provided in Table 1. Due to the limited responses, a full representation of the experience of homelessness in the ADSAB area may not be shown here and results should be interpreted with caution.

TABLE 1: ENUMERATION SUMMARY, 2021

	AD	SAB
	#	%
Tally Sheet		
Total Approached	237	-
Screened Out	167	70.5%
Already Responded	1	0.4%
Observed Homeless	69	29.1%
Declined	50	21.1%
Administrative Data	14	5.9%
Observed Homeless	5	2.1%
Surveys		
Submitted	23	-
Screened Out	1	4.3%
Declined	2	8.7%
Screened In	20	87.0%
Blind River	3	-
Bruce Mines	3	-
Elliot Lake	14	-

In total, 20 individuals identified as being homeless in the ADSAB on Monday, September 27th, the PiT Count reference date. At least half of the participants responded they stayed in a homeless shelter when asked where they stayed the night of Monday, September 27th. Other responses included transition shelters, unsheltered spaces, or vehicles. The probable location when unsure was staying with family or friends (Figure 2).

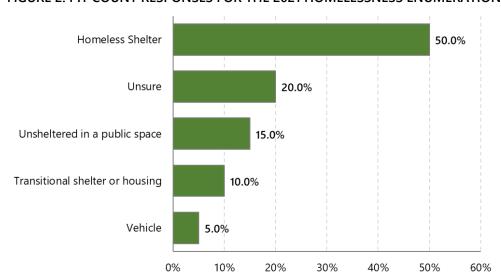


FIGURE 2: PIT COUNT RESPONSES FOR THE 2021 HOMELESSNESS ENUMERATION

None of the participants indicated having a partner staying with them, while 3 participants indicated having children under the age of 18, with the average age of dependents being 9.7 years. Participants were also asked if they were pregnant, with 18 responding no, and 2 participants indication the did not know or providing no response.

Age and Gender

The average age of participants was 38.2 years old, with most participants falling in the 36-to-49-year age group (Figure 3). At the time of the enumeration, the average age participants said they first experienced homelessness was 28.4 years, the youngest age being 14 years and the oldest age 60 years.

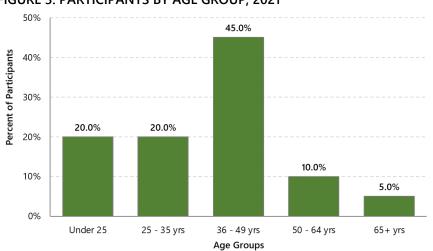
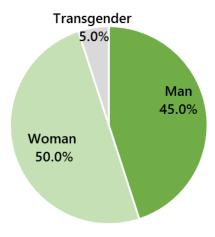


FIGURE 3: PARTICIPANTS BY AGE GROUP, 2021

50.0% of participants identified as a woman, 45.0% identified as a man and 5% identified as transgender (Figure 4).

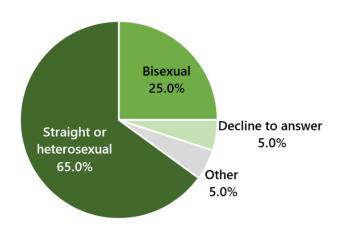
FIGURE 4: GENDER IDENTITY, 2021



Sexual Orientation

Most participants identified as straight or heterosexual (65.0%), while 25.0% identified as bisexual, and 10.0% either identified with an option not listed or declined to respond (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5: DISTRIBUTION OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, 2021



Chronicity and Frequency of Homelessness

When asked about the chronicity of homelessness, responses ranged from less than 1 month to 12 months or more (Figure 6). Most participants indicated being homeless for 1 to 3 months (30.0%)

and 20% of participants either declined to answer, did not know, or provided an incomplete response (i.e., did not indicate the length of time).

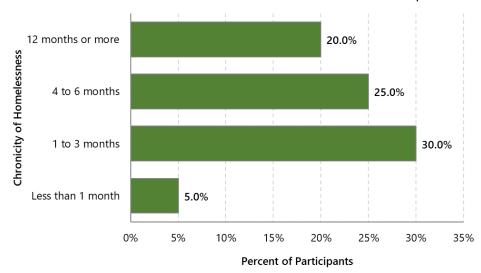


FIGURE 6: CHRONICITY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, 2021

The frequency of homelessness ranged from 1 time this year to at least 4 times over this year, with most participants indicating they have experienced homelessness at least once in the last 12 months (Figure 7). Some participants indicated they did not know the frequency (10.0%) or did not provide a response (15.0%).

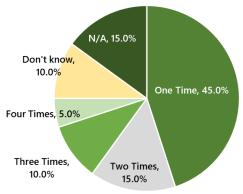


FIGURE 7: FREQUENCY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, 2021

Shelter Use

Participants were asked if they have stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year. Half of the participants indicated they have, 10% did not respond, and 40.0% said they have not. When asked for reasons why they did not stay in shelter, responses included they were turned away because shelters were full, fear for safety, crowded, bed bugs and other pests. Other responses outside the

provided options included not being comfortable staying in the shelter or around other people, drug use, or living with parents.

Housing Loss

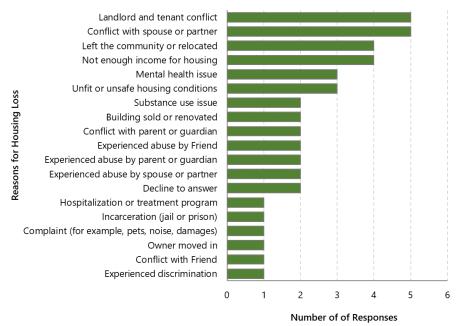
Participants were asked what caused their housing loss most recently and were able to check all options that applied. Most responses, as shown in Table 2, centered around housing and financial issues (20 responses) or interpersonal and family issues (15 responses).

TABLE 2: RESPONSES FOR HOUSING LOSS BY CATEGORIES, 2021

Category of Housing Loss	Number of Responses
Health or corrections	7
Housing and financial issues	20
Interpersonal and family issues	15
Other	2

In Figure 8, a breakdown of reasons for housing loss are provided; total number of responses will not equal total surveys completed as participants were able to select multiple options. When asked for the reasons for their most recent housing loss, most participants indicated a conflict between the landlord and tenant or conflict with a spouse or partner. Additionally, 65.0% of participants indicated that their housing loss was not related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIGURE 8: DETAILED RESPONSES FOR HOUSING LOSS, 2021



Participants were also asked how long ago they lost their housing most recently and 65.0% of participants indicated they lost their housing within the last 12 months, at the time of the enumeration.

Newcomers to Canada or Local Community

Participants were asked if they have come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, or refugee claimant and 2 participants indicated they came to Canada as an immigrant.

Participants were asked how long they have been in the community, the community being where the survey was being conducted. Participants indicated a range of time from less than 1 year to over 10 years or having always been in the community. Two participants did not provide a complete response.

Length of time in community	Number of Responses
Less than 1 year	6
1 to 5 years	4
5 to 10 years	3
Over 10 years	5
Incomplete response	2

Participants were also asked where they came from before living in the current area and responses included Birch Island, Brampton, Hamilton, Kitchener, Owen Sound, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, and Toronto.

Finally, participants were asked to indicate the main reason for coming to this community. While they were asked to select only one response, many selected multiple. Responses included to visit family or friends, family moved here, to access emergency shelters, to find housing or employment, and to access services and supports (Figure 9).

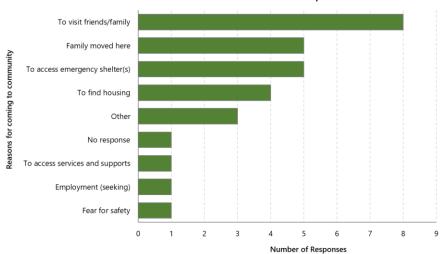


FIGURE 9: REASONS FOR COMING TO COMMUNITY, 2021

Racial Identity, Indigenous Identity

More than half of the participants identified as White (65.0%) and 30.0% identified as Indigenous (either First Nations or had Indigenous Ancestry).

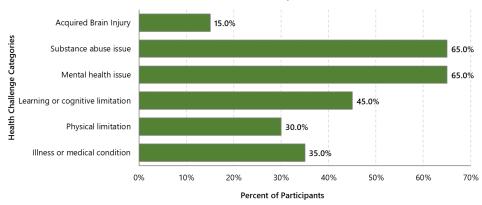
Veteran Status and Foster Care

None of the participants have served in the Canadian Military or RCMP and 20.0% of participants indicated they had been in foster care or a youth group home.

Health Challenges

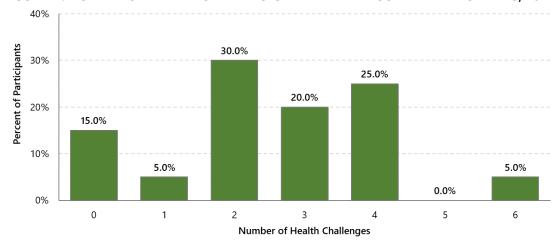
Participants were asked about current health challenges they were facing (Figure 10). Many participants identified with having either a substance abuse issue (65.0%) or a mental health issue (65.0%). Examples of medical conditions or physical limitations included heart condition, general mobility issues, or neurological health conditions. Common learning limitations included ADHD or a learning disability. With respect to mental health, most commonly participants identified having anxiety, depression, or PTSD. When asked about substance abuse issues, most commonly participants identified issues with cigarettes or tobacco and alcohol. Additionally, 15.0% of participants identified as having an acquired brain injury.

FIGURE 10: HEALTH CHALLENGES BY CATEGORY, 2021



In terms of number of health challenges, 15.0% of participants indicated no health challenges, 5.0% indicated at least 1 health challenge, 30.0% indicated 2 health challenges, 50.0% indicated as having 3 or more health challenges. (Figure 11).

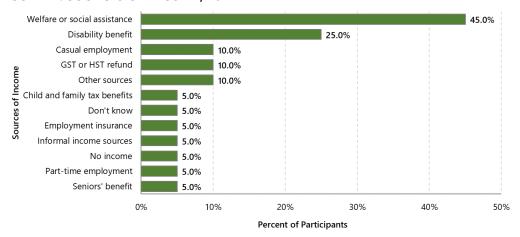
FIGURE 11: NUMBER OF HEALTH CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY SURVEY PARTICIPANTS, 2021



Sources of Income

When asked about sources of income, 45.0% of participants responded with welfare or social assistance and 25.0% responded with disability benefits as the main source of income. Other income source responses included casual or part-time employment, child and family tax benefits, employment insurance, no income, or seniors' benefits.

FIGURE 12: SOURCES OF INCOME, 2021



Education

At least 25.0% of participants indicated they completed high school or have their GED certificate, and another 35.0% indicated they have completed or have some post-secondary education (Table 3).

TABLE 3: HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION, 2021

Highest Level of Education	Percent of Response
Primary School	10.0%
Some High School	30.0%
High School Graduate/GED	25.0%
Some Post-Secondary	15.0%
Post-Secondary Graduate	20.0%
Graduate Degree	5.0%

Challenges to Finding Housing

Participants were asked to identify the challenges or problems they have faced when trying to find housing and they were able to select multiple responses. The most common challenge faced was that the rent is too high or low income, other responses included no income assistance, criminal history, not enough housing available, and discrimination (Figure 13).

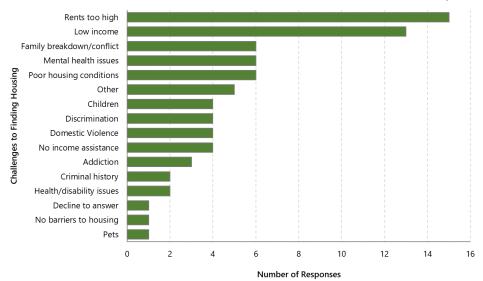


FIGURE 13: CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED WHEN TRYING TO FIND HOUSING, 2021

Services of Need

Participants were asked to identify which types of services they may need. More than half of the participants indicated needing services related to mental health (for example, counselling or treatment) or addiction or substance abuse help (Figure 14).

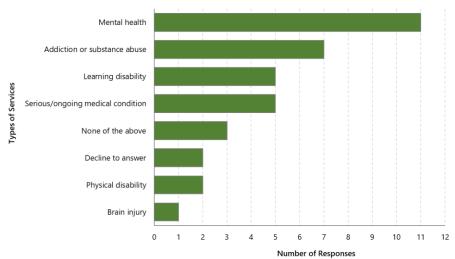


FIGURE 14: SERVICES OF NEED, 2021

By-Name-List Registry

The BNL application asked participants additional questions related to their experiences around homelessness, as well as questions regarding eligibility to the ADSAB housing services. In total, 17 individuals agreed to register on the BNL.

Discussion

Unfortunately, due to the low participation from service providers across the ADSAB area, the number of individuals enumerated does not accurately reflect the experience of homelessness for the area. It is difficult to draw conclusions with the 2021 data as the low count fails to provide meaningful data that can be used to directly impact program planning. However, the process of organizing the enumeration did provide valuable information that can and will still have an impact on providing and addressing service gaps for the area.

Information gathered that could be important for program planning include:

- At the time of the PiT Count, 50.0% of participants indicated they were staying in a homeless shelter and another 20.0% were unsure where they were staying.
- 45.0% of participants were between the age of 36 and 49 years.
- Most participants (45.0%) have experienced homelessness at least once within the last 12 months.
- 30.0% of participants identified as Indigenous (either First Nations or had Indigenous Ancestry).
- The most common reason for housing loss related to housing and financial issues.
- In identifying health challenges, 30.0% indicated having at least 2 health challenges, and 50.0% identified as having 3 or more health challenges.
- Most participants identify welfare or social assistance a source of income (45.0%).
- The top factors identified as challenges to finding housing was rents too high (75.0%) and low income (65.0%).
- More than half of participants want services related to mental health.
- 17 individuals registered on the BNL out of the 20 surveys completed.

This information can be used to help focus housing support and identify where gaps in assistance may be. In addition, this report may help start a conversation with service providers on how to better coordinate efforts across multiple organizations, to better direct the available services to individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

Limitations

Participation from service providers is critical to the successful implementation of the enumeration. Given the requirement to enumerate the entire service area, and the wide-spread geography of the Algoma area, there was a strong emphasis on the importance of provider participation throughout the service area. Service providers were contacted numerous times to engage in conversation about the enumeration and the importance of participation. While service providers expressed interest in helping, ultimately, the participation rate was very low. Further to this, some food banks are only open on certain days of the month, which limited the exposure and ability to approach people who may be using food banks and experiencing homelessness.

An unexpected roadblock was the pushback from business storefronts and not allowing ADSAB staff to approach people. The ADSAB office was made aware they would need to reach out to the head office of these establishments to request permission, and given the short amount time, the ADSAB was unable to gain this permission. This limited the reach as ADSAB staff could not canvas around local areas.

The announcement of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation also meant that most service providers were closed on Thursday, September 30th, which fell during the enumeration that had already been planned for that week. While it is not expected this had significant impacts on the enumeration, it is still of note that less providers were available to reach out to people in the community.

Many providers commented that they under-estimated the time commitment required for the enumeration and did not have the hours outside of regular job duties to help survey people. In addition, many providers are not conducting appointments in person, which also limited the reach of discussing the enumeration and inviting people or clients to participate.

Taking these limitations into account, considerations for future enumerations include:

- More advertisement in the form of radio, handouts or contact cards, or magnet events could help to reach individuals who are unsheltered or hard to locate.
- Utilizing volunteers to be on the ground in the different neighbourhoods throughout the service area, to assist with canvasing.
- Forming a working group or committee that involves various organizations through the ADSAB area, to encourage more interaction and engagement from service providers when it comes to participating in the enumeration and consolidating the data related to homeless individuals and their experiences.

Conclusion

While the 2021 enumeration did not provide the information that was expected and does not accurately reflect the picture of homelessness in the ADSAB area, it provides an opportunity to reflect and adjust the approaches currently in place. The enumeration data shows there is a struggle to find affordable housing options or shelter options, as well as more support needed for the health challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness. With this information, as well as the results from the 2018 enumeration, there is an opportunity to engage with community partners and service providers to work together to reduce homelessness in the ADSAB area.

Acknowledgements

The ADSAB enumeration plan and implementation was developed using the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing document "Service Manage Guidelines: By-Name List implementations and homeless enumeration". The Ontario government has also partnered with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and Built for Zero Canada to provide support for carrying out the enumeration and creating the BNL. This support was provided through Robyn LeBlanc, Improvement Advisor at Built for Zero Canada, whose experience and direction helped in planning and organization for the enumeration.

France Schellekens and Karen Chisholm at the ADSAB helped with logistical planning, agency reach out and organization throughout the enumeration process.

French translation was completed by Denise Racine of R & D Management Services in Elliot Lake.

Appendix A – Survey

Introductory Script

Hello, my name is _____ and I am a volunteer for the Algoma District Services Administration Board housing needs survey. We are conducting a survey to gather information that will lead to the development of policies and changes that will support people experiencing homelessness more effectively.

This is a two-part survey. You can choose to respond to both parts or just one. You may choose **not to take part in the survey** or to **stop the survey** at any time, for any reason, without penalty or negative consequences. You can also **skip any questions** that you do not wish to answer. You can also complete the questionnaire by yourself.

The first part of the survey takes 7-10 minutes, and the second part takes about 5 minutes

The survey results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across the Algoma district and help with research to improve services. Information will also be used to help us understand your housing needs and the housing needs of people in our community experiencing homelessness.

The first part of the survey is anonymous. Your name will not appear in the survey.

Algoma District Homelessness Enumeration 2021 Consent Form

I understand that:

- This is an ongoing project involving a survey team that includes service managers, community partners, and volunteers.
- Discussing or sharing my views and identifying my needs might cause some anxiety and/or fatigue.
- My participation in this project is strictly voluntary.
- I have the right to withdraw at any time and my relationship with people and agencies supporting me will not be affected if I do so.
- My identity will not be revealed at any time through the research activities or reports.
- All information I provide will be held strictly confidential.
- The information from this project will be entered into a database and used for ongoing research and education about homelessness.
- The results of the project will be provided to service providers serving homeless people and policy makers and will be posted on the Algoma District Services Administration Board website at www.adsab.on.ca
- A community meeting will be held to share the results and develop recommendations.
- Consent can only be provided if I am 16 years of age or older. Someone under the age of 16 will need
 a legal guardian to provide the consent.

If I have any questions or concerns about the project or about being a participant, I can call France Schellekens at 705-842-3370 ext. 231 or email fschel@adsab.on.ca. You will receive a copy of the written informed consent prior to your participation in the study.

CONSENT AND AUTHORIZATION PROVISIONS

I have read, or have had read to me, and understand the consent set out above. I have also received a copy of the consent form.

In addition, any consent given, also relates to your dependents. Please list any dependents below.

Name of Dependent	Date of Birth of Dependent
Homelessness Enumeration Survey I agree to participate in the Homelessness En	umeration survey.
By-Name-List Registry I consent to be added to the By-Name-List su I do not consent to be added to the By-Name	· ·
If verbal consent given, check here: ☐ Verbal Consent Obtained; surveyor to sign be	low as witness to given consent
Name of Participant (please print)	
Signature of Participant	Date
Name of Surveyor (please print)	
Signature of Surveyor	Date

Algoma District Homelessness Enumeration Questionnaire

Date					
City/Town of Survey					
Completion					
Surveyor					
Name of the Agency	,				
	1				
Unique Identifier of F	articipant				
Initials of Name:	First	Middle	Last		
Date of Birth:	Month	Year			
Gender Identity (from	Q5, # of resp	onse)			
Unique identity Numb					

SCREENING

A.	Have you answered this survey already with a person with this (identifier)?
	☐ YES [Thank and tally]

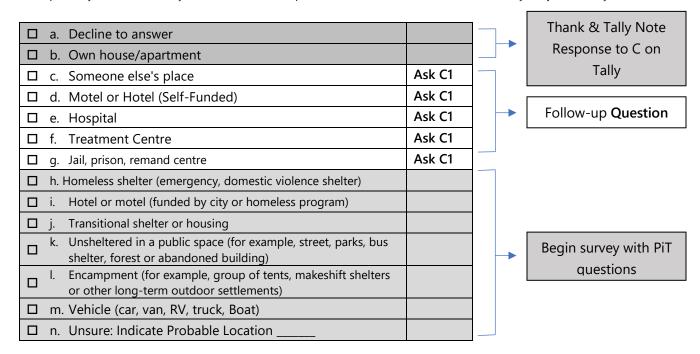
□ NO [Go to **B**]

B. Are you willing to participate in this survey?

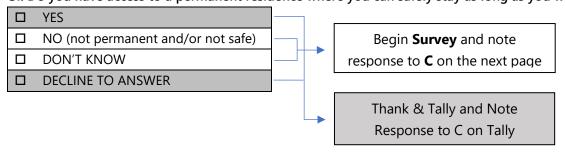
☐ YES [Go to **C**]

□ NO [Thank and tally]

PLEASE NOTE: For communities conducting a joint PiT/Registry Week where the Registry Week will span multiple days, in all subsequent days to the PiT count you will need to amend question C to reflect this. PiT Count should always be your first day.



C1: Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want?



Survey

C.	Where are you staying tonight? / Where did you stay last night? (record response from Screening Question C)											
		i. j. k. l. m.	Hotel Transi Unshe aband Encam outdo Vehicl	meless she or motel (' tional shel eltered in a loned build npment (fo or settlem e (car, van e: Indicate	funded b ter or ho public sp ding) or exampl ents) , RV, truc	y city or husing pace (for e, group k, Boat)	example, of tents, r	program) street, pa	rks, bus s			I
Beg	gin Survey	y										
1.	In what	lang	uage d	lo you fee	l best ab	le to expr	ess your	self?				
	☐ Engl☐ Fren☐ No ¡☐ Neit☐ Don☐ Decl☐	nch prefe :her (i't kn	please ow	specify): ver								
2.	family n	neml	ers or	/ members anyone e s. Check al	lse who s	stayed wi			-	-	-	-
	☐ Yes,☐ Yes,☐ Non	Othe Chile ne	er Adul	urvey # lt(s) (can ir Dependen ver	ıclude far							
				le the gen	der and a	age for ea	ach child	and/or d	ependen	t staying	with you	•
Cł	nild(ren)/D	epen	dent(s)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
[i	ndicate ge	ender	and	GENDER								
а	age for each] AGE											

3.	Are you pregnant?						
	 Yes No Don't know Decline to answer 						
4.	How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]						
	 □ Age:						
5.	What gender to you identify with? [Show list or read list.]						
6.	 Man Woman Two-spirit Trans Man Trans Woman Non-binary (genderqueer) Not listed: [insert answer] Don't know Decline to answer How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example, straight, gay, lesbian? [Show list or read						
	Straight or heterosexual Gay Lesbian Bisexual Two-spirit Pansexual Asexual Questioning Queer Not listed: [insert answer] Don't know 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).

7.	How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?
	☐ Age: ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to answer
8.	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.]
	☐ Length: Days Weeks Months ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to answer
	8a → In total, how many different times have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? (the last 12 months) [Best estimate.] □ Number of times:[includes this time] □ Don't know □ Decline to answer
9.	Have you stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year? For example, (*example of shelters available*).
	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to answer
	9a → If not, what are the main reasons? [Do not read categories; select all that apply] □ Turned away (shelters are full) □ Turned away (banned) □ Lack of transportation □ Fear for safety □ Bed bugs & other pests □ Crowded □ Other: □ Don't know □ Decline to answer

10.	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".]						
		Not enough income for housing [for example, loss of benefit, income or job]					
		Unfit or unsafe housing condition Building sold or renovated Owner moved in Landlord and tenant conflict Complaint [for example, pets, noise, damages]		HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES			
		Left the community or relocated					
		Conflict with spouse or partner	7				
		Conflict with parent or guardian Conflict with: other [insert answer] Experienced abuse by spouse or partner Experienced abuse by parent or guardian Experienced abuse by: other [insert answer]		INTERPERSO NAL AND FAMILY ISSUES			
		Departure of a family member Experienced discrimination					
	☐ Ph☐ Me☐ Su☐ Ho	Physical health issue	٦				
		Mental health issue					
		Substance use issue	HEALTH OR CORRECTION				
		Hospitalization or treatment program		CORRECTION			
		Incarceration (jail or prison)	J				
		Other reason [insert answer] Don't know					
		Decline to answer					
	_						
		10a \rightarrow Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic	?				
		□ Yes					
		□ No					
		□ Don't know					
		☐ Decline to answer					
		10b → How long ago did that happen (that you lost your housing most received)	ntly)?	[Best			
		estimate.]					
		☐ Length: Days Weeks Months					
		□ Don't know					
		☐ Decline to answer					

11.	status after coming to Canada)?
	☐ Yes, Immigrant ☐ Yes, Refugee ☐ Yes, Refugee Claimant ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to answer
	11a \rightarrow If <u>Yes</u> , how long have you been in Canada?
	 □ Length: Days Weeks Months Years □ [OR] Date: / Day/Month/Year □ Don't know □ Decline to answer
	11b → What is your Citizenship/Immigrant status? □ Canadian citizen □ Permanent Resident/Immigrant □ Refugee □ Refugee Claimant □ Temporary Foreign Worker □ International Student □ Visitor Visa □ Work Visa □ Other (Please specify): □ Don't know □ Decline to answer
12.	How long have you been in (community name)?
	 □ Length: Days Weeks Months → Go to 12a □ Always been here □ Don't know □ Decline to answer
	12a → Where did you live before you came here? □ City Province/Territory/Country: □ Decline to answer

	120 -	7 VV	mat is	the main reason you came to (community name)? [Do not read categories, select		
	one]					
]	То ассе	ess emergency shelter(s)		
]	То ассе	ess services and supports		
		J F	Family	moved here		
]	To visit	friends/family		
]	To find	housing		
				ment (seeking)		
				ment (secured)		
				nd school		
		J F	Fear fo	r safety		
				ion/shopping		
				please specify):		
			Don't k	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
] [Decline	to answer		
13.	Do y	ou i	dentify	as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have North		
	Ame	rica	n Indig	enous ancestry? [If yes, please specify]		
	□ Y	es,	First N	ations		
	□ Y	es,	Inuit			
☐ Yes, Métis						
☐ Yes, Indigenous Ancestry						
□ No						
) On'	t know			
		Decli	ine to a	answer		
	13a -	→ In	additi	on to your response to the question above, do you identify with any of the racial		
	ident	itie	s listed	below? [Show to read list. Select all that apply]		
				Arab (for example, Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)		
				Asian-East (for example, Chinese, Korean, Japanese)		
				Asian-South-East (for example, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)		
				Asian-South or Indo Caribbean (for example, Indian, Pakistani, SriLankan, Indo-		
				Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian)		
				Asian-West (for example, Iranian, Afghan)		
				Black-Canadian or American		
				Black-African (for example, Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)		
				Black-Afro-Caribbean or Afro-Latinx (for example, Jamaican, Haitian, Afro-Brazilian)		
				Latin American (for example, Brazilian, Mexican, Chilean, Cuban)		
				White (for example, European, French, Ukrainian, Euro-Latinx)		
				Not listed (please specify)		
				Identify as Indigenous only		
				Don't know		
				Decline to answer		
				Decime to unswer		

	13b			ch Indigenous community are you from?
				mmunity/Reserve Name: n't know
				cline to answer
		_	20.	
14.	Hav Air	-		ver served in the Canadian Military or RCMP? [Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or
		۷۵٥	Mi	litary
			, IVII	
		Bot	:h M	ilitary and RCMP
		No		
				now
	П	Dec	cline	to answer
15.				or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home? [Note: this questions cifically to child welfare programs.]
		Yes	į	
		Do	n't k	now
		De	cline	to answer
	15a	→ A	ppro	eximately how long after leaving foster care/group home did you become homeless?
				gth:Days Weeks Months
				n't know
			De	cline to answer
	15h	_	Do v	ou feel that Child Protection Services was helpful in transitioning you in independence
			-	g foster care/group home?
	arte		Yes	
			No	
			Do	n't know
			Dec	cline to answer
16.		-		ntify as having any of the following health challenges at this time:
	a) Illr	ness		edical condition [for example, diabetes, arthritis, TB, HIV]:
				Yes (please specify:) No
				Don't know
				Decline to Answer
	LVBI			
	D) Ph	iysic		nitation [for example, challenges with mobility, physical abilities or dexterity]: Yes (please specify:)
				No
				Don't know
				Decline to Answer

	c) Learning or cognitive limitations [for example, dyslexia, autism spectrum	disorder, or as a result of ADHD or ar
	acquired brain injury]:	
	Yes (please specify:)	
	□ No	
	☐ Don't know	
	☐ Decline to Answer	
	d) Mental health issue [for example, depression, Post-traumatic stress disor Yes (please specify:) No Don't know Decline to Answer	der (PTSD), bipolar disorder]:
	e) Substance use issue [for example, tobacco, alcohol, opiates]:	
	☐ Yes (please specify:)	
	□ No	
	☐ Don't know	
	☐ Decline to Answer	
	 16f → Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that hap injury related to an accident, violence, overdose, a stroke or brain □ Yes (please specify:) □ No □ Don't know □ Decline to answer 	•
17.	17. What are your sources of income? [Reminder that this survey is an that apply].	onymous. Read list and check all
	☐ Full-time employment	
	☐ Part-time employment	
	☐ Casual employment (for example, contract work)	
	☐ Informal income sources (for example, bottle returns, panhand)	ling)
		mig)
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	• •	o of:+)
	Disability benefit (for example, name of provincial disability ber	ient)
	☐ Seniors benefits (for example, CPP, OAS or GIS)	CO.
	☐ Welfare or social assistance (for example, name of provincial be	enefit)
	☐ Veteran or VAC Benefits	
	☐ Child and family tax benefits	
	☐ GST or HST refund	
	☐ Other money from a service agency	
	☐ Other sources: [insert answer]	
	□ No income	
	□ Don't know	
	□ Decline to answer	

18. What is the highest level of education you con	npleted?			
☐ Primary School ☐ Some High School ☐ High School Graduate/GED ☐ Some Post Secondary ☐ Post Secondary Graduate ☐ Graduate Degree ☐ No Formal Education ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to answer				
19. In the past year (12 months) have you: [Ask re			-	
Been to an Emergency Room	☐ Yes	□ No	# of times:	
Been hospitalized	□ Yes	□ No	# of times:	
→ Days you have spent hospitalized:	Days to	tal		
Interacted with police (<i>Tickets, arrests, searches</i>)	Yes	No	# of times:	
Been to prison/Jail	Yes	No	# of times:	
→ Days you have spent in Prison/Jail:	Days to	otal		
20. Do you want to get into permanent housing? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know				
☐ Decline to answer				

21.	W h	at challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing? [Select all that ply.]
		Rents too high Poor housing conditions Domestic violence Health/Disability issues Mental health issues Addiction Family breakdown/Conflict Criminal history Pets Children Discrimination Don't want housing Other (please specify): No barriers to housing
22.		n going to read a list of services that you may or may not need. Let me know which of these bly to you. Do you have a need for services related to: [Read categories, select all that apply.]
		Serious/ongoing medical condition Addiction or substance abuse Mental health (Counselling, treatment, etc.) Physical disability Learning disability Brain injury Pregnancy None of the above Decline to answer

Appendix B - Registry for By-Name-List

The second part of the survey asks some questions so we can follow-up and assist you to find housing or let you know of any housing options that become available. If you agree to participate in the survey, I will ask for your personal information for the following purposes:

- prioritizing you for and referring you to affordable housing and/or related programs/services.
- providing you with affordable housing and/or related programs/services.
- evaluating and improving affordable housing; related programs/services.

What is the By-Names List?

Information about individual and families who need or receive housing and homelessness services will be collected to create a By-Name-List. BNL will help to deliver and coordinate services across Partner Agencies or Programs and make sure that the services meet the needs of community members.

What is the purpose of this form?

By signing this form or giving verbal consent, you will give permission to have information about you and your dependents collected and shared with the Partner Agencies within Algoma's Homeless-Serving System that help provide housing support and services.

What information will be collected?

Any relevant information may be collected at intake and shared with Partner Agencies as needed with your consent. This may include your personal identifying information (such as name, date of birth, gender, contact information), as well as information about your experience with homelessness. Additional details such as your employment history, income sources, essential medical, mental health and substance use, and the services and benefits you are eligible for may also be collected and shared.

It is important for you to understand that:

- Your personal information will be securely stored and shared between Partner Agencies ONLY as needed to connect you with housing and support. All of the individuals who will have access to your personal information will have signed confidentiality agreements to assist in protecting your information.
- Providing your consent will allow agency staff to speak with you and each other about your housing needs to
 support you to find and keep stable, permanent housing. Partner Agencies will neither request from each other
 nor provide additional information that is not directly related to assessing or removing barriers to resolving your
 housing needs.
- Your information and other identifying information will NOT be shared with anyone other than a Partner Agency unless (note different rules apply in different provinces):
 - o required to do so by law,
 - o you are under 18 years old and may be at-risk for abuse or harm and/or
 - you give specific consent.

- You can identify any information that you feel is sensitive or could affect your safety and request that this information not be shared with Partner Agencies.
- At any time, you can request a list of the personal information that has been collected about you, with whom it is being shared, and what it is being used for. You can also withdraw your consent to share information at any time.
- Information that is being collected may be entered into a secure database hosted by ADSAB.
- If you decide not to provide your consent, you will not be declined service by agencies. However, to prioritize you for affordable housing, the agency may not be able to effectively represent your level of need for housing without your consent. You may decide to limit your consent by only answering the questions and providing information that you are comfortable disclosing.
- You can change your mind and withdraw your consent at a later date by letting us know at info@adsab.on.ca. We will make reasonable efforts not to use or disclose your information in any way following the time you withdraw your consent.
- To help support the continued investment into homelessness and housing programs, Partner Agencies may share non-identifying, aggregate data in community reports as well as reports to any government or other bodies. This data is anonymous. Identifying information about you will NOT be shared publicly.

If you have any questions or concerns about the project or about being a participant, you can call France Schellekens at 705-842-3370 ext. 231 or email fschel@adsab.on.ca. You will receive a copy of the written informed consent prior to your participation in the study.

I agree and consent to my personal information being collected, u	used,	stored,	shared
and destroyed as described.			

Basic Information

Person Completing Name:	E-mail:	Date of Completion:				
Client First Name:	Client Last Name:					
Preferred Name (if any):	<u> </u>					
Date of Birth (taken from survey):	Age (taken from survey):					
Gender Identity (taken from survey):						
Participant Type	□ New □ Update					
If 'update' is selected	☐ Returns from housing ☐ Returns from inactive					
In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?	 □ English □ French □ No preference □ Other (please specify): □ Decline to answer 					
Phone Number:	Email:					
Best way to follow-up with you:						
Current support connection (if any):						
Current Sleep Arrangements	☐ Shelter ☐ Hotel/Motel ☐ Streets/Outdoors ☐ Hospital ☐ Corrections ☐ Transitional Housing ☐ Family/Friends ☐ Renting Apartment/Roo ☐ Other: ☐ Decline to answer	m				
Household Type:	□ Single □ Single with dependent □ Couple □ Couple with dependent □ Number of children (0-1 client □ Other (please specify): _ □ Decline to answer					

Eligibility for Housing Assistance

1.	Is at least one person in your household 18 years of age, or older, and able to live independently?
	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to answer
2.	Is each member of your household a Canadian Citizen, a permanent resident of Canada or have Refugee Claimant Status?
	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to answer
3.	Do you, or any member of your household, owe any arrears to a previous tenancy in any housing program through the province of Ontario?
	 □ Yes □ No □ Don't know □ Decline to Answer
4.	Have you, or any member of your household, been convicted of an offence in relation to rent-geared-to-income assistance by a court of law of the Landlord and Tenant Board?
	 □ Yes □ No □ Don't know □ Decline to Answer
5.	Select the category the best represents your family income
	□ Less than \$20,000 □ \$20,000 to \$35,000 □ Over \$35,000
	story of Homelessness
6.	How long has it been since you have lived in permanent, stable housing (current length of homelessness)? [Does not need to be exact. Best estimate]
	☐ Length:days / weeks / months ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to Answer

7.	Have you experienced homelessness <u>r</u> over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 month	nore than 180 cumulative nights (for six months or more) n)?
	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to Answer	
8.	In total, how many different times have estimate.]	e you experienced homelessness in the last 18 months? [Best
	☐ Number of times:[Incl☐ Don't know☐ Decline to answer	udes this time]
9.	Where are you most likely to go in you night?	ur community if you do not have a stable place to spend the
	☐Area/City ☐ Don't know ☐ Decline to answer	
10.	. How did you learn about the services	available related to homelessness?
	□ 211 □ Faith-Based Community □ Family and Children's Services □ Hospital / Community Health Centre □ Jail / Probation □ Other Social Service □ OW / ODSP □ PiT Count □ Police / EMS □ Risk Watch □ School □ Self / Family / Friends □ Service Manager □ Shelter □ Social Housing / Private Landlord □ Street Outreach □ Not listed (please specify) □ I don't know	
	☐ Decline to answer	



Algoma District Homelessness Enumeration 2021

TALLY SHEET Area: _______to______ Surveyor: ______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 their gender, approximate age, and the reason you believe they are homeless (e.g., asleep outside with belongings).

		Reason not Surveyed				*Observed Homelessness			
#	Location (e.g., building, agency, park, nearest intersection)	Declined	Already Responded	Screened Out (Response to C)	Observed*	Observed Homeless	Approx. Age	Observed Gender	Indicators of Homelessness
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									

Appendix D – Sample Poster

English

