



Community and Service Based Homelessness Count

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community Support and Service-Based Homelessness Count?

- A method for gathering information in rural areas about the extent to which people in our communities are, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness.
- Often used in rural communities, where homelessness is usually less visible.
- Community Support organizations and Service Providers in an area are asked to report known information about individuals they interact during the month of the count.
- Community Support organizations and Service Providers are the participants in the count, not the individuals they are reporting information about.

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Empirical evidence from the Service Based Count empowers us to champion the cause of the homeless with precision and purpose

Russ Sanche, The Portal Count Participant

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Why do a Community Support and Service-Based Count?

- Information gathered from a Community Support and Service-Based Count can help our communities by providing much needed data, required for funding, for supports and services. Ongoing collection of this information will also allow for monitoring of need in the community over time to determine the need for additional resources and supports.
- The data collected is for use by the community!

How can you and your organization be involved?

- Participate in the count!
- Help identify community supports and service providers that may be interested in participating in the count;
- Sharing information about the count with other groups in the community who may be interested in participating;
- Ask questions and learn more about how you can participate;
- Share the results of the count with others.

Ethics, Privacy & Confidentiality

The research team from Acadia is committed to ensuring the Count protects the privacy of both participating organizations and the individuals they are reporting on.

Ethics Approval for this research is being worked on for the Count from:

- Acadia University
- Nova Scotia Health
- South Shore Regional Centre for Education
- Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial

What can you expect as a participant in the count?

- The count will take place for the duration of the month of November 2024. Participants are asked to complete surveys for each individual they encounter during the month of November who is, or is at risk of, experiencing homelessness.
- The Research Team will provide training for those who will be completing surveys during the count. The training sessions will be held virtually during October 2024. There will be 7 to 10, 45-minute sessions offered, to ensure everyone that is participating can attend a session.
- A survey takes about 10 minutes to complete for each person.
- Participants should determine how they will complete surveys (i.e., at the end of the month, after each encounter with an individual, at the end of each week, etc.) and plan for adequate time and/or staff resources. It is suggested that once you decide to participate, you should begin planning and sharing information about the count within your organization.

Homelessness Count Timeline

