

Community Support and Service-Based Count

Frequently Asked Questions



How does the count define homelessness?

Based on the definition from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. An individual experiencing homelessness is defined as:

- Unsheltered
- Emergency Sheltered
- Provisionally Accommodated
- At risk of Homelessness

When will the count occur?

The Community Support and Service-Based Count will occur in November 2024. Organizations can start participating at any point during that month.

What are the criteria for an individual to be included in the Count?

To submit a survey for an individual, they must meet the following criteria:

- Reside within the study area (Western Zone, all communities within and south of West Hants and Chester, NS)
- Be 16 years or older
- Be experiencing or at risk of homelessness as defined by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness: Unsheltered, Emergency Sheltered, Provisionally Accommodated or At risk of homelessness

How will an individual's identity be protected?

To protect an individual's identity, you will create a unique identifier according to the following format:

- Year of birth
- Gender identity
- The last 2 letters of the individual's last name.

Example:

Amanda Jones, born in 1992, identifies as female

Her unique identifier would be - 1992FES

The unique identifier ensures we do not overestimate the number of individuals meeting the study criteria. Duplications will be combined into one entry.

How will my identity be protected?

Your name will not be recorded on the survey. You will be asked to identify your organization's name, but this will not be used in any reporting. Your organization's name is used to help us identify duplicates and to report on which general sectors were involved (health, recreation, non-profit, etc.)

When do I complete a survey?

As a member of an organization, you may complete a survey on any individual who you have contact with during the month of November who is experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Points of contact can include in-person interactions, phone calls, print mail or text messages, email, or social media connections.

How many surveys do I complete?

As a member of an organization, you can complete one survey per individual who meets the criteria listed above.

How long does it take to complete a survey?

It's estimated the the survey could take up to 10 minutes, however that depends on how much information your organization has on the individuals experince.

When completing the survey, do I ask individuals directly about their lived experience?

No, the count is a non-intervention survey based on known or charted organizational information. Organizational members complete the survey questions based on known information about the individual. If the organization member is unaware of a response, they leave it blank.

What if I do not know an answer to a survey question?

Please leave a question blank if the information is not known to you or your organization.



**If you have further questions, please contact Mary
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