

HOMELESSNESS IN THE MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT: 2018 ENUMERATION

Report prepared for the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board

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by

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Objectives

- To obtain information about the number, socio-demographic/linguistic characteristics, histories of homelessness and prior experiences of homeless persons.
- To meet the objectives of the Province of Ontario to end homelessness in Ontario and, specifically, to end chronic homelessness by 2025.
- To help Service Managers and the Ministry of Housing to better understand the extent and nature of homelessness and to guide policy and program design.

Methodology

- The method used:
- Period prevalence count (PPC).
 - The PPC method is based on the guide, *Period Prevalence Counts of People Experiencing Homelessness: A Guide for Rural and Northern Communities* (Kauppi, 2017).
 - A service-based methodology was used to conduct a PPC for the study because it captures most of the homeless population.

Methodology (2)

- Used a structured questionnaire .
- The data collection instrument allowed for identification of duplicate cases.
- Conducted in Espanola, Little Current, Mindemoya, Noëlville; Markstay, Chapleau and Foleyet.
- the population of the areas studied was 15,692 which is 56% of 28,107, the total population of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District.

Methodology (3)

- The PPC was conducted at agencies or services from April 16th to 22nd.
- Data collection proceeded at the food bank in Markstay on April 12th, the date it was open in April.
- The data collection instrument to be used included the required questions specified by the Province of Ontario.
- Information was gathered using a structured questionnaire: background characteristics, experiences and types of homelessness.
- Participants were people living with
 - Absolute, hidden homelessness and the risk of homelessness.

Results

- Completed surveys, n=122;
- 35 dependent age children in custody of participants;
- $122 + 35 = 157$.
 - Absolutely homeless (n=24)
 - Hidden homelessness (n=57),
 - At risk of homelessness (n=76).

Number of participants in regions of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District

Region	Number of Participants	Percentage
Manitoulin Island	65	53.3
Espanola	29	23.7
Sudbury North	24	19.7
Sudbury East	4	3.3
Total	122	100

Demographic results

- Indigenous ancestry (First Nations including status or non-status, Inuit, Métis) = 52.2%
- Caucasian Anglophones = 44.7%
- Caucasian Francophones = 7.5%
- Racialized people = 4.4%

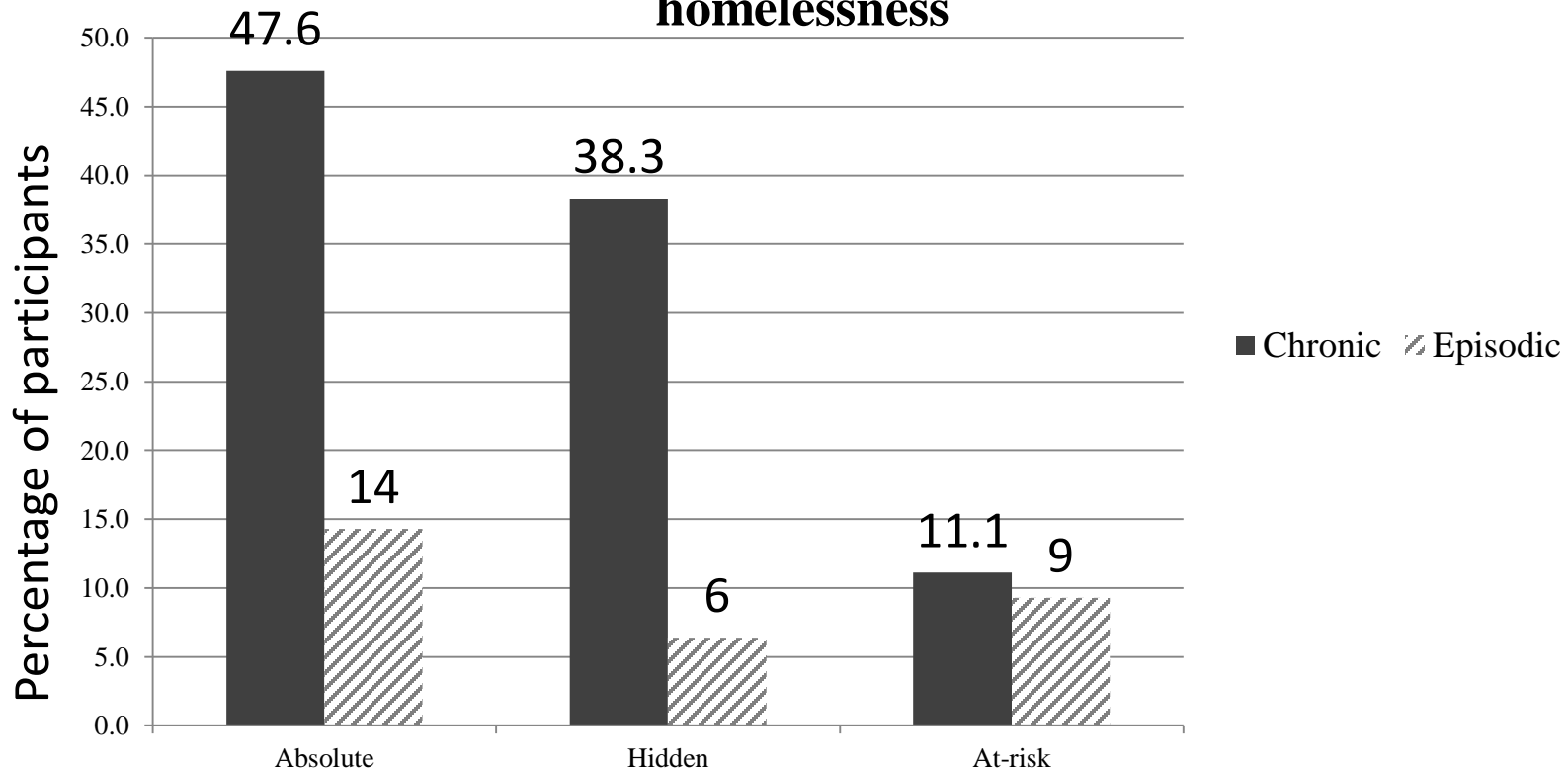
Gender and sexual orientation

- Gender of those who self-identified as W or M
 - Women, 50.9%
 - Men, 44.9%
 - In addition, LGBTQ2S, 4.2 of the total.
- Heterosexual, 96%
- LGBTQ2S, 4 %

Chronic and episodic homelessness

- Chronically homeless (6 months or more in the last year)
- Episodically homeless (3 or more episodes of homelessness in the last year)

Percentage experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness by type of homelessness



History of child welfare/foster care

- 28
- 23.1%

Military service

- 8
- 6.7

Age

- Range 16 to 89.
- Youth under 18 not connected to a family unit
 - N = 2, 1.7%
- Youth up to age 24
 - N = 16, 13.5%

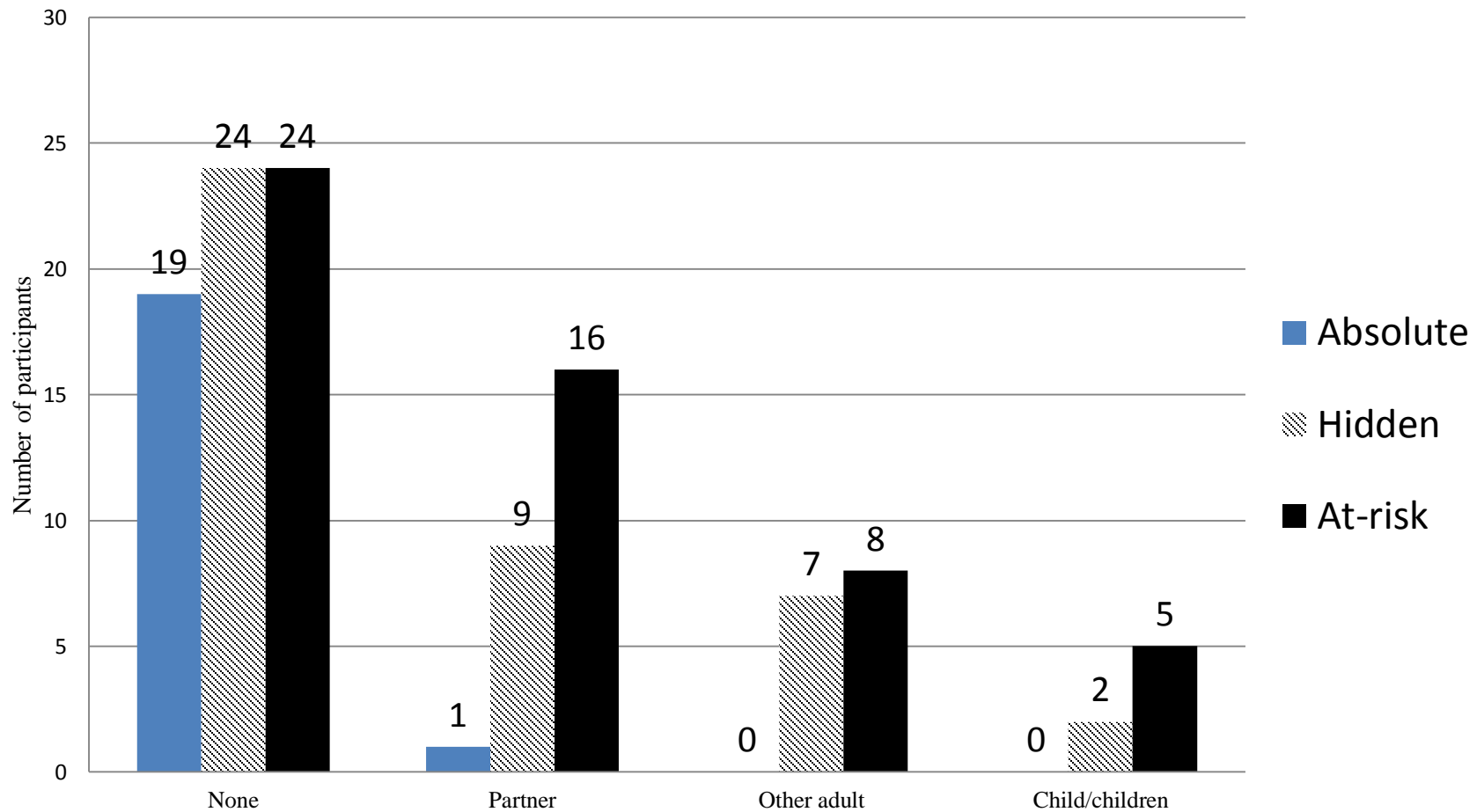
Current lodging/homelessness

	Absolute		Hidden		At risk	
	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%
Own apartment or house	4	19.0	7	14.9	53	98.1
Someone else's place	2	9.5	30	63.8	10	1.4
Motel/hotel	1	4.8	4	8.5	1	.14
Hospital, jail, prison, remand	--	--	2	4.3	1	.14
Emergency or DV shelter	9	42.9	–	–	–	–
Transitional shelter	1	4.8	2	4.3	–	–
Public space	1	4.8	–	–	–	–
Vehicle	--	--	–	–	–	–
Makeshift shelter, tent, shack	--	--	–	–	–	–
Abandoned/vacant building	1	4.8	–	–	–	–
Other unsheltered location	1	4.8	–	–	–	–
Do not know	1	4.8	2	4.3	1	1.9

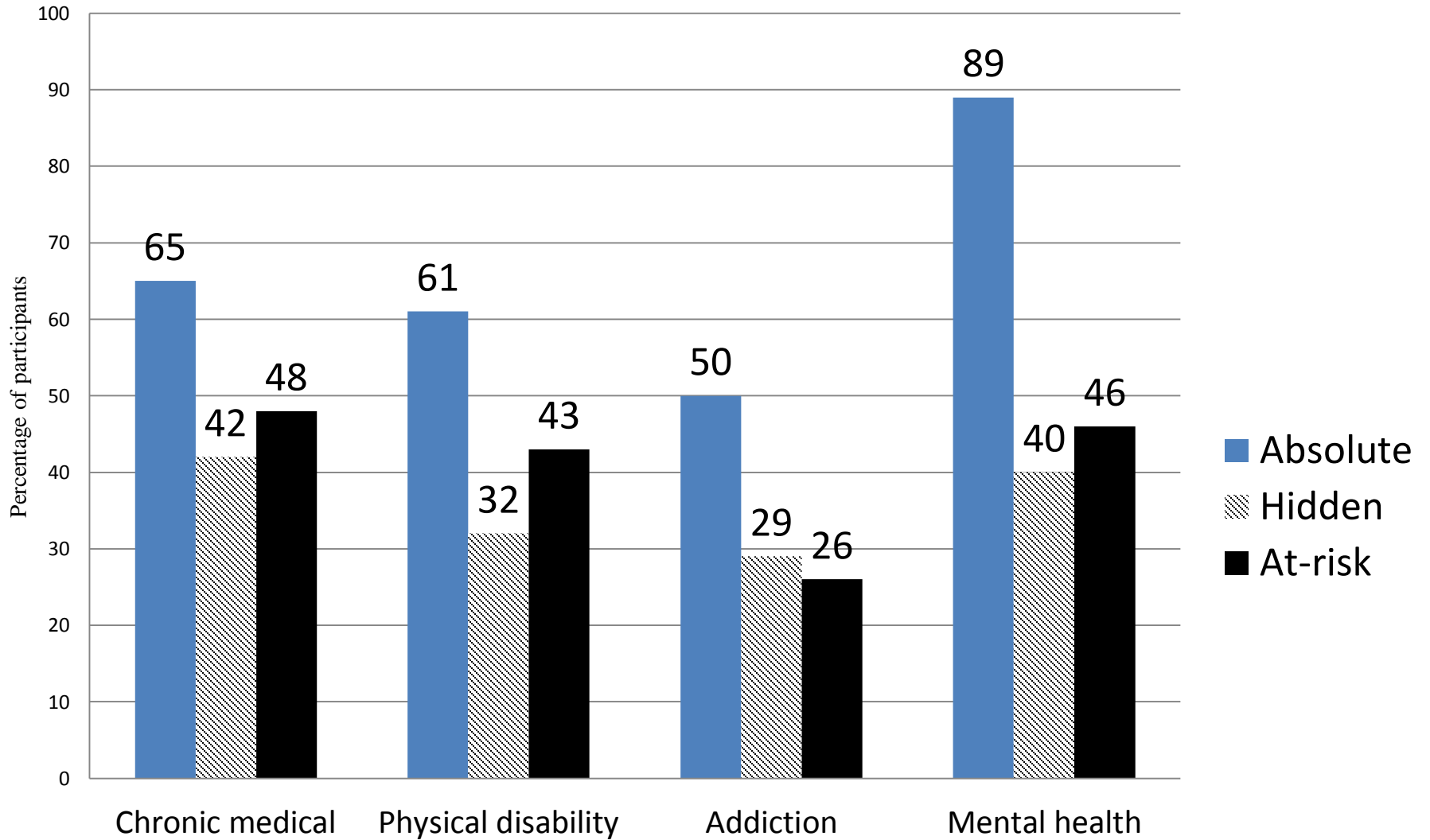
Reasons for homelessness

Reasons	Total N	Total %
Unable to pay rent or mortgage	23	24.7
Addiction/substance use	18	19.4
Illness/medical condition	11	11.8
Conflict with spouse/partner	15	16.1
Experienced abuse by spouse/partner	11	11.8
Incarcerated	9	9.7
Hospitalization or treatment program	6	6.5
Job loss	12	12.9
Conflict with parent/guardian	12	12.9
Unsafe housing conditions	15	16.1
Experienced abuse by parent/guardian	9	9.7
Don't know/other/decline	40	43.0

Number of participants indicating family homelessness by type of homelessness



Percentage of participants indicating health issues by type of homelessness



Need for services

Sources	At-risk	Hidden	Absolute	Total Number	Percent
Mental health	17	13	13	43	50.0
Physical disability	16	9	10	35	40.7
A serious medical condition	13	11	9	33	38.4
Addiction or substance use	13	13	9	35	40.7
Learning disability	12	8	5	25	29.1
Brain injury	1	2	1	4	4.7
Pregnancy	-	3	1	4	4.7

Note: Results are based on multiple responses, therefore, the number of responses may be larger than the number of participants.

Discussion

- The hidden homeless population is larger than the absolutely homeless subgroup in the Manitoulin-Sudbury District.
- Compared to individuals who are absolutely homeless, more of those living with hidden homelessness are Indigenous, young, in the LGBTQ2S population and chronically homeless.
- More individuals report health challenges, job loss, unsafe housing conditions and inability to pay rent or a mortgage.

Discussion (2)

- Gender issues are central to understanding the nature of homelessness in the Manitoulin-Sudbury District.
- Women were a majority of the participants in the enumeration study.
- When the number of children is added to the number of women, these two groups account for 60.5 percent of the sample

Indigenous people

- Indigenous people are a majority of those who are homeless in the Manitoulin-Sudbury District.
- Underscores the importance of ensuring that policies and procedures are sensitive to the cultural differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in this region.

Rate of homelessness: 1%

- Calculating the rate of homelessness as a percentage of the local population provides an indication of the extent of the problem.
- The calculation shows that 157 individuals is one percent of the population of 15,692 (the population of the areas studied).
- This is the same rate of homelessness as was found in our studies of North Bay in 2011 and Sudbury in 2015.

Twenty-two recommendations

- emergency services (4),
- basic needs (1),
- housing (4),
- trauma and counselling (1),
- domestic violence (2),
- Indigenous people (2),
- mental illness (2),
- physical illness (1),
- income supports (2),
- food security (1),
- forms of homelessness (1), and
- public education (1).

Questions?

- Thank you, merci, miigwetch

Contact us:

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