

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey



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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

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Department of Family Services
Inuliriyikkut
Ministère des services à la famille

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

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INTRODUCTION

Homelessness and severe overcrowding is a widespread issue affecting the lives of many across Nunavut. There are individuals and families within our communities who are without a safe place to sleep, who lack stability and security and who struggle from day to day just to survive. A shortage of affordable, suitable and supported housing options makes it difficult for many individuals to find stable housing, leaving them trapped in a state of homelessness. The limited number of homeless shelters and access to services designed to assist homeless Nunavummiut means that many individuals are taken in by friends or family, resulting in overcrowded homes. Others have no place to go and are forced to seek shelter in places not meant to be housing and endure the extreme climate and harsh conditions of our environment. Many others have no choice but to seek shelter in unstable and unhealthy places where they are at risk of violence, exploitation, trafficking and continued cycles of addiction.

Homelessness is a complex issue, often compounded by factors such as mental illness, addiction, family violence, or loss of employment. A coordinated system of care consisting of a range of support services is needed to assist homeless Nunavummiut as they work towards wellness and transition towards stable housing.

Regardless of how the experience of homelessness manifests itself, it is important to recognize that it is much more than simply being without housing. Homelessness affects every aspect of one's life: one's sense of self-worth, the ability to sustain personal relationships, to hold a job, and offers little room to think about or take advantage of opportunities to better one's circumstances. Without housing stability and security, meeting basic needs is a daily struggle. Without the assurance of a safe place to sleep and live, it is difficult, if not impossible, for anyone to heal from past traumas and to develop to their full potential as a productive and contributing member of their community.

Homelessness is felt by the community and territory as a whole. Many homes are overcrowded, a stressor that has resulted in an increase in violence, substance abuse, conflict, and suicide. If not for the humanity of friends, family, neighbours and communities, homelessness in Nunavut would be much more acute.

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OVERVIEW OF NUNAVUT POINT IN TIME COUNT AND NUNAVUT HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS SURVEY

In 2018, the Department of Family Services collaborated with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Employment and Social Development Canada to conduct a Nunavut Point In Time Homelessness Count and a Nunavut Hidden Homelessness survey. The goal of this research was to develop a better understanding of the needs and circumstances of Nunavummiut experiencing homelessness.

POINT IN TIME COUNT

The Point in Time Count research project contributed to the National 2018 Point in Time Count by providing data on absolute homelessness in five out of twenty five Nunavut communities. Surveys were conducted in the communities where homeless and family violence shelters are located, namely: Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. Individuals who were experiencing homelessness, staying in shelters, living in shacks or sleeping without shelter, were invited to participate. 54 individuals volunteered to complete a survey.

HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS

Within the context of Nunavut's housing crisis, the extreme weather conditions of the Arctic and without homeless shelters in each of Nunavut's communities, it was also important to recognize the scale of hidden homelessness and overcrowding in the territory. According to the 2016 Statistics Canada census, 3,545 households in Nunavut (36.5%) were in core housing need.¹ Statistics Canada describes a household in core housing need as one whose dwelling is considered unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable and where income levels are such that the residents cannot afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community.

The Department of Family Services felt strongly that it was important to complement the Point In Time Count research with two surveys focused on hidden homelessness:

- The Household questionnaire was designed to capture a snapshot of the living conditions experienced by residents living in a given dwelling. This included efforts to explore the extent of overcrowding, to understand how residents live and interact in a dwelling as a result of overcrowding, to get a sense of the extent of housing instability experienced by individuals as well as by children, levels of food insecurity and the need for and ability to access respite. The Household questionnaire was "to be completed by someone who sleeps in the house all the time and/or lives here. The person who answers this survey must be knowledgeable about the house and the people in it."
- The Couch surfer questionnaire was designed to capture a snapshot of the experiences of individuals and families who choose or need to move from place to place to find shelter. The "Couch Surfer Survey", was "to be completed by someone who slept in the house last night [prior to being surveyed], sleeps in the house sometimes and/or identifies with being a couch surfer."

¹ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/chn-biml/index-eng.cfm>

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The Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Surveys were conducted in Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Arviat, and Gjoa Haven. These communities were chosen based on the following criteria:

- The average number of Income Assistance caseloads in 2016 (minimum of 200);
- The number of cases of hidden homelessness reported in the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey in 2010 (minimum of 40 reported); and,
- Inuit population growth from 2010 to 2016 (of at least 10%).

In the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey (NHHS), a total of 328 dwellings were surveyed throughout all 4 communities, of which 77.7% were randomly selected and 22.3% were the results of individuals voluntarily approaching survey staff to complete the questionnaire. Out of the randomly selected households, 80 were surveyed in Pond Inlet, 35 in Clyde River, 86 in Arviat and 54 in Gjoa Haven. There were 22 individuals across all 4 communities that completed the couch surfer survey.

Table 1

Sampling Method by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Random	80	35	86	54
Voluntary	19	9	10	35
Total	99	44	96	89
	%			
Random	80.8	79.5	89.6	60.7
Voluntary	19.2	20.5	10.4	39.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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OVERVIEW OF NUNAVUT POINT IN TIME COUNT SURVEY RESULTS

In the Nunavut Point in Time Count, 54 individuals volunteered to complete the survey.

11% of individuals experiencing homelessness were under the age of 24, with 24% of respondents indicating they were 24 or younger when they first experienced homelessness. 54% of respondents experiencing homelessness were between the age of 25 and 54, with 44% of respondents indicating they were between the ages of 25 to 54 when they first experienced homelessness. 65% of respondents indicated they had been homeless for 180 days or more.

The leading cause of becoming homeless was identified as not being able to pay rent or mortgage payments. Illness, medical conditions, job loss, conflict with a spouse or partner, incarceration, unsafe housing conditions and moving communities were other major causes.

Based on shelter occupancy reports, in 2018-19, there were 252 unique clients who accessed one of Nunavut's three homeless shelters. In the same year, 569 people (290 women and 279 children) sought safety within one of Nunavut's five Family Violence Shelters.

OVERVIEW OF NUNAVUT HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS SURVEY RESULTS

It is important to note that the data from each of the 4 communities surveyed (Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Arviat, Gjoa Haven) are not comparable to each other. Each of the communities are unique, sample sizes were small and there are notable differences in the make-up of each sample (see methodology section).

OVERCROWDING

The extent of overcrowding in each community was examined on the basis of 4 factors: the number of people per dwelling, the number of people per bedroom, the number of areas being used for sleeping that are not bedrooms and the number of individuals sleeping in areas that are not bedrooms.

Survey results showed that 9-33% of surveyed dwellings were providing shelter to 7 or more individuals. 20-33% of surveyed dwellings reported having more than 2 people sleeping per bedroom. About half of the respondents indicated using, at some point, at least one room that is not a bedroom for sleeping, with 8-13% of dwellings using at least 2 other areas for sleeping. On the night before the survey was conducted, 6-12% of dwellings reported having only 1 individual who slept in another area with another 4-15% reporting 2 or more individuals who slept in another area. 2-7% of dwellings surveyed reported areas outside of the house being used for sleeping. Results also showed that across all four communities, about 13-30% of respondents reported that in their dwelling, a bedroom was used for a purpose other than sleeping.

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HOUSING STABILITY

Beyond an analysis of overcrowding, the Department was also interested in measuring the extent of housing instability and hidden homelessness experienced in communities. Questions 14 and 15 of the survey asked respondents to list individuals who had slept in their dwelling the night before the survey was conducted, noting their age and gender and commenting on the frequency and nature of their stay. The questions explored whether individuals slept in one place or multiple places and whether they had or did not have a home.

Individuals identified as sleeping in multiple places and/or not having a home were considered to be experiencing housing instability and hidden homelessness. Survey results showed that about 5-7.4% of individuals across all four communities were experiencing a form of hidden homelessness or instability. In three communities, the majority of individuals identified as hidden homeless were experiencing the most extreme housing instability of not having a home and sleeping in multiple places. In Arviat, experiences were spread more evenly between three circumstances: 'having no home but sleeping only at one place', 'having a home but sleeping at multiple places' and 'having no home and sleeping at multiple places'.

As a further way to measure housing instability, the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey also asked respondents if they thought each individual listed as being within their dwelling and that could be considered as hidden homeless was on the waiting list for public housing. 5-15% of individuals were reported as being thought to be on the waiting list. There were a number of respondents who indicated that they felt there was no reason to add their names to the public housing waiting list, as there was a common belief that the selection process of who should receive a unit or a house was unfair. Others felt it would be impossible to get to the top of the waitlist due to the process of selection and length of the waiting list.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Respondents across all four communities in the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey expressed a strong concern and need for more support for children and youth. About 5-11% of children and youth accounted for in the survey were reported as being housing insecure. The majority of these were younger than 16 years of age and reported simultaneously having no home and sleeping at multiple places.

RESPITE

At the 2018 Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Gathering, consensus was built around the need for Ikur'raq or respite spaces where people can go for short periods of time (a few hours to a few days) for a break from the stresses created by overcrowding and homelessness, to get away from a situation before it escalates and for support to create more safety and stability in their lives.

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The Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey explored this idea with survey respondents. About three quarters of individuals reported needing respite from their houses, with the exception of Arviat, where 61% of respondents felt they needed a break from the house. The survey also explored whether respondents were able to get respite, with about 7-22% of respondents indicating they were not able to take a break when they needed one.

Most respondents indicated a preference for going out on the land for respite.

FOOD SECURITY

In designing the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey, the Department recognized the high levels of food insecurity faced by Nunavummiut and wanted to explore whether levels of food insecurity could be linked with levels of crowding. Given the small sample sizes, it was not possible to draw definitive conclusions but given the consistency of results, an overall association between food insecurity and crowding can be made.

60-75% of respondents indicated they and their family had run out of store bought or country food at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey. 37-54% of respondents indicated they themselves had eaten less than they felt they needed at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey because there wasn't enough money for food. 34-54% of respondents indicated they themselves have been hungry but didn't eat at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey because there was not enough money for food. 42-61% of respondents recounted running out of food several times a month, with 14-25% of respondents describing this as something that happens several times a week and 2-4% describing it as a daily occurrence.

Respondents who indicated they and their family ran out of store bought or country food at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey, lived in dwellings that were 20-30% more populated in Pond Inlet and Arviat and 5-10% more populated in Clyde River and Gjoa Haven, compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.

Respondents who indicated they themselves had eaten less than they felt they needed at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey because there wasn't enough money for food, lived in dwellings that were 18-20% more populated in all communities except Gjoa Haven, where the average number of people per dwelling was almost the same compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.

Respondents who indicated they themselves have been hungry but didn't eat at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey because there was not enough money for food, lived in dwellings that were 9-13% more populated, except Gjoa Haven where the average number of people was almost equal compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.

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COUCH-SURFING

Many of Nunavut's hidden homeless are 'couch-surfers', frequently and daily seeking a place to sleep for the night. The purpose of the couch-surfer questionnaire was to get a picture of the level of instability faced by couch surfers and the level of difficulty they face in finding a place to sleep.

Only 22 couch-surfer surveys were completed across all four communities combined. It must be noted that, due to this small sample size, any conclusion drawn from these results is to be interpreted cautiously as well as considered as anecdotal, preliminary and exploratory information on the topic as experienced in Nunavut.

12 of the 22 surveyed couch-surfing individuals indicated they sleep at 2 different places and 5 reported sleeping at 3-4 different places. 4 of the respondents indicated sleeping at places that were not houses.

Half of the respondents indicated they do not have a house where they can stay as long as they want or need to do so. More than half indicated they did not know how long their situation would last, with 6 respondents believing their circumstances would be temporary and one believing their situation would be permanent. 4 respondents indicated that they had never had a home, 3 respondents indicated they had been without a home for 8-10 years and another 5 respondents had been without a home for 3-4.5 years.

12 of the respondents indicated they were on the waiting list for housing with 7 indicating that were not and 2 not knowing if they were or not. 4 indicated they had been on the waiting list for 7-9 years, 3 for 4-5 years, 3 for 1-2 years and 3 for less than a year. Others did not provide a response to this question.

Among the 17 of 22 surveyed couch-surfing individuals who declared having children, nearly 50% said their children follow them when they transit between housing units.

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METHODOLOGY IN THE NUNAVUT HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS SURVEY (NHSS)

Community Communication and Project Presentation

At the outset of the project, the Department of Family Services contacted the hamlets of Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Arviat and Gjoa Haven to present the goals and proposed approach to the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness research project. When the survey team arrived in a community, the project was announced and shared through local radio, information tables at local businesses and health centres and at community events. On the basis of community population, the survey team spent a week and a half each in Pond Inlet, Arviat and Gjoa Haven and one week in Clyde River. The survey was conducted in Pond Inlet from February 25th to March 7th, 2018; in Clyde River from March 18th to March 26th, 2018; in Arviat from April 22nd to May 1st, 2018; and in Gjoa Haven from May 23rd to June 7th, 2018. Notable community events which may have impacted the availability of community members to participate in the survey included fishing derbies in Arviat and Gjoa Haven.

Survey Team

The Department worked with each community to hire a local team that could help facilitate and frame the work of the Family Services survey team. The local surveyors were key in developing an understanding of each community and in encouraging community members to participate in the survey.

Unit of Analysis in the Household Questionnaire

The unit of analysis of the “Household” questionnaire was a private dwelling, defined by Statistics Canada and other federal agencies and departments as “a separate set of living quarters with a private entrance either from outside the building or from a common hall, lobby, [porch] or stairway inside the building. The entrance to the dwelling must be one that can be used without passing through the living quarters of some other person or group of persons.”² The focus on household is important as a dwelling or housing unit may or may not include more than one household. Depending on the cultural context and on each specific family arrangement, a household can be composed of different generations and relations.

Number of Samples and Sample Characteristics

It must be noted that the NHSS does not bear one sample, but rather 1 sample for each community for a total of 4. Each of these communities are unique, sample sizes are small, and there are notable differences in the make-up of each sample. As such, the samples are not comparable. For these reasons, it is also noted that drawing conclusions at a territory wide level should be avoided. This means that results within each community applies only to the given community itself.

Variations in the Number of Respondents per Question

As the reader will notice, the total number of respondents for every community varies from a question to another. For example, the total for Pond Inlet could be 75 for one question and 77 for another. This

² <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&Id=323163>

Note that in our sampling, we did not include collective dwellings, defined as “institutional, communal or commercial in nature”.

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variation is due to the changing number of people who provided an answer. Numbers can be driven down by any of these 4 conditions:

- Non-applicable (N/A): The question does not apply to a respondent and was skipped because of his/her answer to a previous question;
- Missing: A blank space was left on the paper questionnaire, either because the surveyor forgot to write it down, was not sure how to document an answer or because the respondent did not provide any answer;
- Refuse: Participants occasionally refused to answer certain questions;
- Don't know: Participants sometimes stated that they don't know the answer to a question.

While these 4 entries, for methodological reasons would normally not be counted, the Department occasionally chose to analyze "Don't know" answers when it seemed that they may bear certain meanings or raise probing questions.

Random Selection Method

To minimize the number of biases in our samples, dwellings were selected at random. Our method consisted in obtaining lists of housing units from housing associations and selecting each 5th unit in the list starting from the first listed.

Biases Detected in Voluntary Samples

During data collection, several individuals approached our team to voluntarily complete our survey. During the analysis stage of the survey, strong biases were noticed when comparing our voluntary samples with our random samples. For example, in our voluntary samples, most overcrowding indicators, such as the average (mean) number of individuals per dwelling, show that voluntary respondents live in more crowded dwellings than randomly-selected respondents. The proportion of respondents who reported a level of completed education (high school, trades, college or university) was also higher in the voluntary sample. For this reason, voluntary and random surveys were not analyzed together. However, the Department recognizes the value of the experiences and personal stories recounted in the voluntary sample. They helped provide context and a better understanding of the results identified through the random sample.

Type of Housing

The percentages of types of housing in our sample do not match actual community housing stock numbers. For instance, in Gjoa Haven results showed that public housing is overrepresented by 24% in our sample when compared to the actual proportion of public housing within the community's housing stock. Staff and private (owned or rental) housing were underrepresented by 55 and 51% respectively as compared to the actual proportion of staff and private housing within the community's housing stock. In contrast, in Pond Inlet, public housing was underrepresented by 16% in our sample compared to the actual proportion of public housing within the community's housing stock. Staff and

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private (owned or rental) housing were overrepresented by 60% in our Pond Inlet sample as compared to the actual proportion of staff and private housing within the community’s housing stock.

Minimum Survey Participation Requirements

All respondents were required to be 18 years or older and to have slept in the selected housing unit during the night prior to the survey. After ensuring that a respondent meets these criteria, surveyors asked for their consent for participating in the survey and noted that they would be compensated for their time with a \$25 gift card to either the Northern or the Co-op Store.

Gender

Respondents were most often female, representing between 54 and 69% of respondents.

Table 2

Representative Sample - Respondent's Gender by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	%			
Male	46.0	35.0	34.0	31.0
Female	54.0	65.0	66.0	69.0

Couch Surfer Survey – Nature of the Data

A total of 22 individuals across all 4 communities completed the couch surfer survey. This number of respondents is notably lower than that which had been expected. It is believed that this is due in part to the fact that the couch surfer survey was generally conducted only when a couch surfer was identified through the completion of a household survey, rather than specifically seeking out couch surfers to participate. Furthermore, couch surfers may not have been present at the time the survey was conducted, household survey respondents may not have been comfortable identifying someone staying in their home as a couch surfer or a couch surfer may not have been comfortable emphasizing the fact that they were presently couch surfing.

Analytically, these low numbers pose a few problems:

- Results cannot be analyzed by community;
- Results are also very difficult to analyze even when merging communities together;
- The margin of error is high and difficult to estimate.

For these reasons, the Department chose to merge all data together – however, it must be noted that any conclusion drawn from our couch surfer survey is to be interpreted cautiously as well as considered as anecdotal, preliminary and exploratory information on the topic as experienced in Nunavut.

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Margins of Error for the Household Surveys

From a community to another, error margins for our HSS samples range from 0.11 to 0.17, with an interval of confidence (IC) of 95%.

Table 3

Estimated Margin of Error, NHHS				
	Arviat	Gjoa Haven	Clyde River	Pond Inlet
IC 95%	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.11
Slovin	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.11

However, given the very small size of our samples and certain sampling issues described above that cannot be quantified, it is believed that the actual margins of error may be higher.

People per Bedroom versus National Occupancy Standard

One variable that the Department created during the analysis stage of the survey, in order to get an approximate idea of the levels of crowding, consists of the number of people per bedroom. It is a simple division of the number of individuals listed in each Dwelling by the number of bedrooms in the same place. It should not be confused with the National Occupancy Standard (NOC), which instead considers that it is acceptable that some people, such as couples and children of young age and same sex, sleep in the same bedroom and therefore would be counted as “one” unit for a bedroom.³

³ <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&Id=100731>

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NUNAVUT POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

In 2018, there were three homeless shelters in Nunavut: The Uquutaq Shelter for Men in Iqaluit, the Omingmak Shelter for Men in Cambridge Bay and Sivummut House for Women and Children in Iqaluit. There were also five family violence shelters in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk and Kugaaruk.

From April 18 to 23, 2018, staff from the Department of Family Services worked with local survey teams in the communities where there are homeless and family violence shelters to undertake a Homelessness Point In Time Count. As defined by Employment and Social Development Canada a Point in Time Count *“is a method used to measure sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It aims to count individuals in a community who are, at a given time, staying in shelters or “sleeping rough” (e.g. on the street, in parks), providing a “snapshot” of homelessness in a community”*⁴. Individuals who were experiencing homelessness, and who were staying in shelters, living in shacks or sleeping without shelter were invited to participate in a survey.

It is important to recognize the limitations of the Point In Time Count methodology, in that, it was conducted at one point in time, on a given day. Any individuals not physically present at the shelter or shack at that point in time were not included in the final count which ultimately results in an underestimate of the true numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness. Nor does this methodology count the number of individuals experiencing hidden homelessness.

Based on shelter occupancy reports, in 2018-19, there were 252 unique clients who accessed one of Nunavut’s three homeless shelters. In the same year, 569 people (290 women and 279 children) sought safety within one of Nunavut’s five Family Violence Shelters.

In the Nunavut Point in Time Count, 54 individuals volunteered to complete the survey. Of these, 13 individuals between Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay were relying on shacks for shelter. It is estimated that there are several more individuals finding shelter in shacks or other places not meant to be used as shelter. For example, a street outreach program in Iqaluit identified at least 20 individuals during the summer of 2018.

⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/03/backgrounder-point-in-time-counts.html>

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The PIT surveys identified the following statistics:

- Age:
 - 11% of individuals experiencing homelessness were 24 or younger.
 - 54% were between the age of 25 and 54.
 - 28% were 55 or older.

- First Experience with Homelessness:
 - 24% indicated they were 24 or younger when they first experienced homelessness.
 - 44% indicated they were between the ages of 25 to 54.
 - 13% were 55 or older

- 65% indicated they have been homeless 180 days or more.

- Cause of Homelessness:
 - The leading cause of becoming homeless was due to individuals not being able to pay rent or mortgage payments.
 - Illness, medical condition, job loss, conflict with a spouse or partner, incarceration, unsafe housing conditions and moving communities were other major causes.

- 37% indicated they were relying on social assistance for sources of income, 26% indicated they were employed, and 9% indicated receiving seniors' benefits.

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NUNAVUT HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS

In the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey (NHHS), a total of 328 dwellings were surveyed throughout all 4 communities, of which 77.7% were randomly selected and 22.3% were the results of individuals voluntarily approaching survey staff to complete the questionnaire. Out of the randomly selected households, 80 were surveyed in Pond Inlet, 35 in Clyde River, 86 in Arviat and 54 in Gjoa Haven.

The Household questionnaire was designed to capture a snapshot of the living conditions experienced by residents living in a given dwelling. This included efforts to explore the extent of overcrowding, to understand how residents live and interact in a dwelling as a result of overcrowding, to get a sense of the extent of housing instability experienced by individuals as well as by children, levels of food insecurity and the need for and ability to access respite. The Household questionnaire was “to be completed by someone who sleeps in the house all the time and/or lives here. The person who answers this survey must be knowledgeable about the house and the people in it.”

DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS

The most common type of dwelling in which the survey was completed was single detached units, ranging from around 50-60% of dwellings in each community. The row house-multiplex was the second most commonly surveyed type of housing unit. Semi-detached and apartments in multi-storey buildings could both be ranked third.

Table 4

Housing Type by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question:				
Which of the following best describes this house/unit?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Public Housing	48	27	79	46
Staff Housing	12	3	1	3
Private Rental	4	0	1	2
Owned	9	5	1	3
Don't know	4	0	2	0
Total	77	35	84	54
	%			
Public Housing	62.3	77.1	94.0	85.2
Staff Housing	15.6	8.6	1.2	5.6
Private Rental	5.2	0.0	1.2	3.7
Owned	11.7	14.3	1.2	5.6
Don't know	5.2	0.0	2.4	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

As outlined in table 4, the most common type of housing surveyed in the NHHS was public housing, with percentages ranging from 62.3% of our sample in Pond Inlet to 94% in Arviat. In descending order, others were owned houses (from 1.2% in Arviat to 14.3% in Clyde River), staff housing (from

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1.2% in Arviat to 15.6% in Pond Inlet) and private rental units (from 0% in Clyde River to 5.2% in Pond Inlet).

A few respondents in Pond Inlet and Arviat reported not knowing what type of housing unit they had slept in the previous night.

As outlined in table 5, 89.9% of respondents in Pond Inlet, 85.3% in Clyde River, 88.7% in Arviat and 91.7% in Gjoa Haven reported having a lease or rental agreement. As outlined in table 6, 80-88% of respondents indicated being named on the lease or rental agreement of the housing unit in which they were surveyed.

Table 5

Agreement by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question:				
Does this house/unit have a lease/rental agreement?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Yes	62	29	63	33
No	7	5	3	3
Dont know	0	0	5	0
Total	69	34	71	36
	%			
Yes	89.9	85.3	88.7	91.7
No	10.1	14.7	4.2	8.3
Dont know	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6

Respondent is on Agreement by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question:				
Are you one of the people named on the lease/rental agreement of this house?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Yes	56	29	57	30
No	12	4	11	5
Dont know	2	0	0	0
Total	70	33	68	35
	%			
Yes	80.0	87.9	83.8	85.7
No	17.1	12.1	16.2	14.3
Dont know	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The sociodemographic characteristics of the NHHS respondents were recorded as follows:

- Roughly 90% to 98% of respondents reported being Inuit;
- Most were females (about 55% to 70%) but in many cases respondents were accompanied by their partner or other peers;
- Throughout all four communities, the youngest respondent was 18 years old (in Pond Inlet) and the oldest one was 86 (in Gjoa Haven). Community averages ranged from 42 to 47 years old;
- The percentage of respondents who reported being employed at the time of the survey was around 45% in all communities except Arviat where it was 30%;
- The percentages of people who reported using income assistance were 25.3% in Pond Inlet, 40% in Clyde River, 47% in Arviat and 47.2% in Gjoa Haven. The Department's 2018 Income Assistance data indicates that 45% of Pond Inlet's population were social assistance recipients, 69% in Clyde River, 46% in Arviat and 60% in Gjoa Haven;
- Percentages of respondents by attained level of education grouped into four broad groups are concentrated mainly in the "No certificate, diploma or degree", ranging from 64.5% to 88% across communities. The percentages of respondents with at least a high school diploma ranges from 12% to 35.5% with respondents being irregularly dispersed between all three education levels.
- 60-80% of respondents indicated they were a hunter or seamstress.

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

OVERCROWDING

According to Statistics Canada, the definition of housing suitability “refers to whether a private household is living in suitable accommodations according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS); this is, whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household”.⁵ According to this standard, there is only supposed to be a maximum of two persons per bedroom. It is suitable for a couple to share a bedroom and for children under the age of 18 and of the same gender to share a bedroom. Parents or caregivers should have access to a separate bedroom from children. Individuals under 5 years old of the opposite gender can share a bedroom if doing so would reduce the number of required bedrooms.⁶

The shortage of affordable, suitable and supported housing options in Nunavut makes it difficult for many individuals and families to find stable and suitable housing. This means that one of the only options is to depend on friends or family to take them in, resulting in overcrowded homes. The impact of overcrowding is felt by communities and the territory as a whole. The stresses of overcrowding have resulted in poor mental health outcomes and increases in violence, substance abuse, conflict, suicide and the spread of disease. By not having a consistent place to sleep or to call home and to not know where and if you will be able to find a safe space to sleep negatively impacts one’s sense of self-perception, worth and independence. Overcrowding also accelerates the deterioration of communities’ housing stock.

The extent of overcrowding in each community was examined on the basis of 4 factors: the number of people per dwelling, the number of people per bedroom, the number of areas being used for sleeping that are not bedrooms and the number of individuals sleeping in areas that are not bedrooms.

The reality of Nunavut’s housing shortage and overcrowding forces households to make decisions that are indicators of coping mechanisms in the face of housing needs not being met. Stories shared by respondents highlighted that there a number of factors that are considered in the decisions on how rooms within a dwelling are used. Some families spoke about dynamics where it was necessary to allow a particular individual to occupy a bedroom alone while numerous members of the family shared another room. Across all four communities, about 13 to 30% of respondents reported that in their dwelling, a bedroom was used for a purpose other than sleeping. Reasons for this included the bedroom being used for storage, a play room, a sewing room for income and in some cases due to the physical condition of the room such as mold or heating problems.

⁵ <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&Id=100731>

⁶ <http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/Publications/Housing/Fact%20Sheets/NHNS%20Fact%20Sheets%20-%20Nunavut%20and%20Regions.pdf>

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

Table 7

Distribution of the Number of people per Dwelling by Community, Listed by Respondent, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Count of the number of individuals listed per dwelling				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
1-2	14	8	23	8
3-4	17	11	19	18
5-6	25	13	26	10
7-8	17	2	12	9
9+	3	1	4	9
Total	76	35	84	54
	%			
1-2	18.4	22.9	27.4	14.8
3-4	22.4	31.4	22.6	33.3
5-6	32.9	37.1	31.0	18.5
7-8	22.4	5.7	14.3	16.7
9+	3.9	2.9	4.8	16.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Count			
Mean	4.8	4.1	4.4	5.4
Maximum	10	9	10	13

Crowding – People per Dwelling

When thinking about crowding, the first and most simple question that comes to mind is “how many people” live or sleep in a house. Questions 14 and 15 of the Household questionnaire asked respondents to list individuals who slept in their housing unit during the night before the survey.

Table 7 shows the proportion of surveyed homes that are providing shelter to different household sizes. For example, survey results showed that 26.3% of homes in Pond Inlet were providing shelter to 7 or more individuals. 8.6% of homes in Clyde River, 19.1% in Arviat and 33.4% in Gjoa Haven.

There are three points of note that emerge from the data. In Gjoa Haven, the number of dwellings where 9 or more individuals were counted was 16.7% compared to 2.9% to 4.8% in all other communities.

Also, in Gjoa Haven, a lower number of dwellings with only 1 or 2 individuals was observed – roughly 15%, compared to 18% to 27% in other communities. These facts explain the higher average number of people per dwelling for Gjoa Haven (Mean of 5.4). Last, in Clyde River, the number of houses with 7 or more individuals was only 8.6% while in other communities, this percentage ranged roughly from 19% to 33%. Factors noted in the methodology section of this report, such as a smaller sample size, should be kept in mind when drawing conclusions from this data about Clyde River.⁷

⁷ Note: Percentages in Clyde River must be interpreted cautiously, as they may be slightly distorted by the high margin of error of the sample in this community.

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

Crowding-People per Bedroom

To build upon and deepen the understanding of the extent and impact of overcrowding beyond the number of individuals in a given dwelling, further survey questions considered how many people are living and sleeping in how much space. Using results from question 6 of the Household questionnaire (“How many bedrooms does this unit have?”), it was possible to divide the number of individuals listed in each house by the number of bedrooms reported by the respondent. Results are outlined below in table 8.

While this method does not allow for a level of analysis similar to that of the National Occupancy Standard that considers whether the age and gender combinations of individuals sharing a bedroom is acceptable or that considers individuals sleeping in rooms other than bedrooms, it does provide an indicator of homes that are clearly not overcrowded (1 individual or less per bedroom), that might be overcrowded (more than one and up to 2 persons per bedroom) and those that are clearly overcrowded (more than 2 people per bedroom).

Table 8

Number of People per Bedroom (Brackets) by Community, Listed by Respondent, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Count of the number of individuals listed per dwelling, divided by the number of bedrooms				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
]1	8	6	11	1
1	13	7	12	11
]1, 2]	32	15	33	24
]2, 3]	19	6	21	11
3[4	1	7	7
Total	76	35	84	54
	%			
]1	10.5	17.1	13.1	1.9
1	17.1	20.0	14.3	20.4
]1, 2]	42.1	42.9	39.3	44.4
]2, 3]	25.0	17.1	25.0	20.4
3[5.3	2.9	8.3	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Count			
Mean	1.8	1.5	1.9	2.1
Maximum	5.0	3.5	7.0	6.0

The minimum observed from the surveyed dwellings is a rare 0.33 people per bedroom (probably 1 person in a 3 bedroom unit) and the maximum is 7 (perhaps 7 people in a 1 bedroom unit or 14 people in a 2 bedroom unit).

Across all communities, the maximum number of people per bedroom was reported between 3.5 and 7 people per bedroom.

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

It is estimated that 22-37% of the dwellings surveyed meet housing suitability standards and/or are clearly not overcrowded. Another 39-44% of the samples had more than one person per bedroom but not more than two. These may or may not be overcrowded depending on the age and gender composition.

Lastly, 30-33% of dwellings surveyed in Pond Inlet, Arviat and Gjoa Haven and 20% in Clyde River would have more than 2 people per bedroom and could therefore be considered as being clearly overcrowded.

Similar to the previous indicator, particularities that emerged in the data from Gjoa Haven and Clyde River should be noted. In Gjoa Haven, dwellings with less than one person per bedroom were close to non-existent – around 2%, compared to 10-17% in other communities. In the data, Clyde River seems to have less overcrowding, with about 20% of respondents reporting that their housing unit had more than 2 people per bedroom, compared to 30-33% elsewhere.⁸ However, factors noted in the methodology section of this report such as a smaller sample size and time constraints in Clyde River may have influenced the extent to which a comprehensive picture of reality could be captured.

Crowding Defined as Using Areas that are not Bedrooms for Sleeping

A third tool that was used to evaluate the extent and impact of overcrowding was to enquire about areas other than bedrooms within a dwelling that might be used for sleeping. This was accomplished through two approaches. One assessed generally what rooms of a dwelling are used to accommodate individuals for sleeping regardless of frequency. The second explored specifically how many individuals slept in rooms other than a bedroom the night before the survey.

Table 9

Dwellings by Number of Other Rooms Used for Sleeping and by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question:				
Which other areas of the house are used for sleeping? (Check all that apply)				
Other Rooms for Sleeping	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
Dwellings (Survey Count)				
0	42	17	35	23
1	23	14	42	23
2	8	3	4	5
>=3	2	0	3	1
Total	75	34	84	52
%				
0	56.0	50.0	41.7	44.2
1	30.7	41.2	50.0	44.2
2	10.7	8.8	4.8	9.6
>= 3	2.7	0.0	3.6	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dwellings (Community Estimate)				
0	204	130	263	132
1	112	107	315	132
2	39	23	30	29
>=3	10	0	23	6
Total	365	260	630	299

⁸ However, as previously mentioned, numbers in Clyde River are to read cautiously because of higher margin of error of the sample in this community.

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

Number of Other Areas being used for sleeping

For the first approach, respondents were asked to identify each room within a dwelling other than bedrooms that might be used at some point (not only the night before the survey) for sleeping from a check list of options that included the living room, kitchen, dining room, laundry room, hallways, porch, bathroom, storage room, crawl or attic space and other.

As outlined in table 9, in all four communities, about 42% to 56% of survey participants reported that their dwelling used only bedrooms for sleeping.

Overall, it was observed that 44% to 58% of dwellings use at some point at least one area that is not a bedroom for sleeping. Around 31% to 50% of dwellings used one “other” area for sleeping, 5% to 11% used 2, and 0 to 4% used 3 or more.

In adding the data for the most critical cases of insufficient space where 2 or more other areas are used for sleeping, results ranged from about 8% to 13% across the communities surveyed.

In an effort to provide a full community wide estimate, the Department applied the survey results of each community to the actual total number of dwellings in that community. It was estimated, assuming that sampling methods were adequate, that the number of dwellings using at some point at least one other area for sleeping would be around 161 dwellings in Pond Inlet, 130 in Clyde River, 368 in Arviat and 167 in Gjoa Haven. Included in these numbers, the cases of more urgent need of space where dwellings would use at least two non-bedroom areas for sleeping would be estimated as 49 dwellings in Pond Inlet, 23 in Clyde River, 53 in Arviat and 35 in Gjoa Haven.

Assuming that the vast majority of the dwellings where respondents reported a usage of other rooms for sleeping was due to an effort to accommodate a larger number of people, rather than people who prefer sleeping on the couch from time to time, it can be estimated, at a full community wide level, that at least 50% of surveyed housing units were overcrowded at the time of the survey. However, it must be kept in mind that dwellings where no usage of other rooms was reported may still be crowded, because overcrowding could very well be restricted only to bedrooms in certain cases – this implies that the actual percentage of overcrowding may be higher than 50%, based on this indicator only.

Survey results to question 8 listed the other types of rooms that were used for sleeping; the most common was the living room. In second rank came both the laundry room and porch. Third came all rooms except the bathroom – hallways, kitchen, dining room, storage room, and crawl or attic.

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Table 10

Dwellings by Number of Individuals Who Sleep Not in a Bedroom and by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Number of dwellings where individuals were reported as sleeping not in a bedroom				
Individuals Sleeping in Non-Bedroom Areas	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
Dwellings (Survey Count)				
0	67	29	66	43
1	8	4	10	3
2	2	0	3	5
>=3	1	2	5	3
Total	78	35	84	54
%				
0	85.9	82.9	78.6	79.6
1	10.3	11.4	11.9	5.6
2	2.6	0.0	3.6	9.3
>=3	1.3	5.7	6.0	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dwellings (Community Estimate)				
0	314	215	495	238
1	37	30	75	17
2	9	0	23	28
>=3	5	15	38	17
Total	365	260	630	299

Number of Individuals Sleeping in Other Areas

The second approach focused on the number of individuals sleeping in other areas and specifically with regards to the night before the survey rather than generally at some point. As outlined in table 10, across all four communities, it was reported in 80% to 86% of the dwellings that no individuals slept in areas that are not bedrooms the night before the survey took place. About 6% to 12% of dwellings were reported as having only 1 individual who slept in another area, and 4 to 15% had 2 or more.

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If an estimate of a community wide picture was taken on the basis of this snapshot from one specific night, by applying the survey results to the actual total number of dwellings in each community, it is estimated that 51 dwellings in Pond Inlet, 45 in Clyde River, 136 in Arviat and 62 in Gjoa Haven would have had at least one person sleeping in a non-bedroom area on one given night. Among the dwellings with at least 2 individuals experiencing that condition would be estimated to be around 14 dwellings in Pond Inlet, 15 in Clyde River, 61 in Arviat and 45 in Gjoa Haven on one given night.

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

Table 11

Individuals Who Sleep Not in a Bedroom by Community, Listed by Respondent, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Number of individuals reported as sleeping not in a bedroom				
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Community Estimate	70	77	246	118
	%			
Individuals in Sample	4.1	7.0	8.9	8.4

Note: Community estimates are obtained by multiplying the percentage of individuals not sleeping in a bedroom with the projected populations for 2018.

Data obtained from Questions 13 to 15 of the Household survey also allowed for counting the percentage of individuals reported as sleeping in a non-bedroom area over the total number of individuals listed.

Table 11 shows that across all four communities, 4-9% of the individuals counted in the surveys were sleeping in a non-bedroom area.

When applied to total community populations, these percentages produced an estimation of the number of individuals in these communities who slept not in a bedroom. The estimated number of individuals who were in that situation would be 70 individuals in Pond Inlet, 77 in Clyde River, 246 in Arviat and 118 in Gjoa Haven.

Crowding – Areas Outside for Sleeping

Table 12

Dwellings With Areas Outside of the House Used for Sleeping by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question:				
Are there areas outside of the house where people sleep?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Dwellings (Survey)			
Yes	5	1	2	1
No	69	34	81	50
Total	74	35	83	51
	%			
Yes	6.8	2.9	2.4	2.0
No	93.2	97.1	97.6	98.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Dwellings (Community Estimate)			
Yes	25	7	15	6
No	340	253	615	293
Total	365	260	630	299

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

Question 9 of the Household questionnaire asked respondents “Are there areas outside of the house where people sleep?” Responses are outlined in table 12.

Using outside areas seemed the most prominent in Pond Inlet, with about 7% of respondents who answered “Yes”, while this percentage ranged from 2% to 3% elsewhere.

Applying these percentages to the total numbers of dwellings in a community and assuming that this data is representative, the number of housing units that could be estimated as having adjacent outside areas for sleeping in 2018 would be about 25 in Pond Inlet, 7 in Clyde River 15 in Arviat and 6 in Gjoa Haven.

This data must be interpreted cautiously because of ambiguity in the formulation of the question. By asking whether there are areas “outside of the house” where people go sleep, the Department was referring to structures that are *adjacent* to the housing unit, preferably on the same land lot, but it may have been understood otherwise by certain respondents.

HOUSING STABILITY

Beyond an analysis of overcrowding, the Department was also interested in getting a sense of housing stability as an indicator of hidden homelessness. Questions 14 and 15 of the survey focused on asking respondents to list individuals who had slept in their housing unit the night before the survey was conducted, noting their age and gender and commenting on the frequency and nature of their stay.

Two questions were developed for determining whether an individual was experiencing hidden homelessness:

1. Does this person live here? (Meaning: Does the respondent have a home base?);
2. Does this person sleep only here? (Meaning: Does the respondent transit between multiple places?)

During the analysis of our survey database, the yes/no answers to these two questions were used in order to assign individuals four housing “statuses” or conditions, which include:

1. Stability: Lives here and sleeps only here (Yes / Yes);
2. Having no home base: Has no home base but sleeps only at one place (No / Yes);
3. Has a home but sleeps at multiple places (Yes / No); or
4. No Stability/Couch-surfing: Has no home and sleeps at multiple places (No / No).

Status 2, 3 and 4 are circumstances that could be considered as hidden homelessness. While Status 1 is synonymous of complete stability in terms of accessing housing and Status 4 is its opposite, it is acknowledged that some people may feel more distress associated with having no home while others may be more impacted by having to transit from a place to another.

It is also acknowledged that the concept of “having no home” seemed to be understood as an impossibility in some surveys, as if community members wanted to express that everyone is welcome and supported and should therefore feel that they are “home”, regardless of their living conditions.

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

Also, the idea of “sleeping at multiple places” or “couch surfing” seemed to bear different meanings to different respondents, from “sleeping over” at relatives’ homes by choice to unwillingly having to move from one place to another because of constraining circumstances.

As outlined in table 13, survey results show that roughly between 5% and 7.4% of individuals across all four communities were reported as experiencing a form of hidden homelessness or instability in accessing housing (status 2, 3 or 4). In three communities, the vast majority of individuals identified as hidden homeless in the survey were experiencing the most extreme housing instability of both having no home and sleeping at multiple places (status 4).

Table 13

Individuals by Housing Status and Community, Listed by Respondent, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Questions: Does this person...				
- Sleep only here?				
- Live here?				
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
sleep only at one place	317	133	338	262
sleep only at one place base, sleep at multiple places	1	0	5	7
base, sleep at multiple places	1	2	8	2
sleep at multiple places	15	7	6	12
Total	334	142	357	283
	%			
sleep only at one place	94.9	93.7	94.7	92.6
sleep only at one place base, sleep at multiple places	0.3	0.0	1.4	2.5
base, sleep at multiple places	0.3	1.4	2.2	0.7
sleep at multiple places	4.5	4.9	1.7	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

To estimate how widespread hidden homelessness may be in all four communities surveyed, these percentages were applied to their respective 2018 populations.

In Pond Inlet, estimates indicate that there would be about 85 people considered as experiencing any form of hidden homelessness in 2018, 75 of whom would have had no home while also sleeping at multiple places. In Clyde River, an estimated 70 people would have been hidden homeless, 54 of whom would have had no home while also sleeping at multiple places. In Arviat, 146 individuals would have been hidden homeless, 46 would have had no home while also sleeping at multiple places. In Gjoa Haven, around 104 individuals would have been hidden homeless in 2018, with an estimated 59 experiencing both conditions in the same time.

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Table 14

Number of Individuals Reported by Respondent as Being on a Public Housing Waiting List by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Count of the number of individuals listed and marked as "on a housing waiting list"				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Individuals in Sample	55	8	54	38
	%			
Individuals in Sample	14.9	5.6	14.6	12.3
	Count			
Community Estimate	255	62	404	173

Note: The community estimate is obtained by multiplying the percentage of individuals within the sample who are on a waiting list for public housing with the projected population for 2018.

As a further way to measure housing stability, the survey explored whether individuals identified as experiencing hidden homelessness were thought to be on a waiting list for public housing.

As outlined in table 14, the percentages of individuals reported as being thought to be on a waiting list ranged from about 5% in Clyde River to 12-15% in other communities.⁹

There were a number of respondents who indicated that they felt there was no reason to add their names to the public housing waiting list, as there was a common belief that the selection process of who should receive a unit or a house was unfair. Others felt it would be impossible to get to the top of the waitlist due to the process of selection, the priority selection process and the length of the waiting list

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Nunavut Hidden Homelessness survey questionnaire was designed to capture a picture of the extent to which children were experiencing some form of homelessness.

In all four communities, there was a strong expression of concern and need for more supports for youth. Communities called for more recreational facilities, shelters for children and youth, a drop in centre that is available at all hours of the day and night and more intergenerational programming between children and youth and elders within the territory.

As outlined in tables 15 and 16 and on the basis of ages reported by the main survey respondent for each individual who had slept in the dwelling the night preceding the survey, results show the following estimates from the Household Survey:

- Around 5% to 11% of listed children and youth in the 4 communities were reported as experiencing some form of hidden homelessness or housing instability;
- The majority of these children were reported as having no home and sleeping at multiple places, simultaneously;

⁹ Note: The very low percentage calculated for Clyde River could be due to the high margin of error of this sample.

Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey

- The vast majority of children who were reported as experiencing any form of housing instability were younger than 16 years old;
- Children and youth falling into the second status of having no home but sleeping only at one place were found only in Gjoa Haven (3.1%) while it was close to zero in all of the three other communities (0% in Pond Inlet and Clyde River and 0.6% in Arviat).
- Children and youth falling into the third status of couch surfing while having a home was also rarely observed, between 0% in Gjoa Haven to 1.9% in Clyde River and Arviat.

Table 15

Children Under 19 Years Old by Housing Status and Community, Listed by Respondent, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Questions: Does this person...				
- Sleep only here?				
- Live here?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Have a home, sleep only at one place	126	48	151	114
Have no homebase, sleep only at one place	0	0	1	4
Have a home, sleep at multiple places	1	1	3	0
Have no home, sleep at multiple places	8	5	4	9
Total	135	54	159	127
	%			
Have a home, sleep only at one place	93.3	88.9	95.0	89.8
Have no homebase, sleep only at one place	0.0	0.0	0.6	3.1
Have a home, sleep at multiple places	0.7	1.9	1.9	0.0
Have no home, sleep at multiple places	5.9	9.3	2.5	7.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 16

Children Under 16 Years Old by Housing Status and Community, Listed by Respondent, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Questions: Does this person...				
- Sleep only here?				
- Live here?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Have a home, sleep only at one place	107	39	134	96
Have no homebase, sleep only at one place	0	0	1	4
Have a home, sleep at multiple places	1	1	3	0
Have no home, sleep at multiple places	5	5	4	7
Total	113	45	142	107
	%			
Have a home, sleep only at one place	94.7	86.7	94.4	89.7
Have no homebase, sleep only at one place	0.0	0.0	0.7	3.7
Have a home, sleep at multiple places	0.9	2.2	2.1	0.0
Have no home, sleep at multiple places	4.4	11.1	2.8	6.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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With a view of estimating how many children may be affected by a form of housing instability (no home base, sleeping at multiple places or both at the same time), percentages were applied to the actual population under 19 years old of each surveyed community. As outlined in table 17, results estimate these numbers to be around 43 in Pond Inlet, 46 in Clyde River, 65 in Arviat and 64 in Gjoa Haven.

Table 17

Estimates Based on Sample Proportions - Housing Status of Children Under 19 by Community, Listed by Respondent, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Questions: Does this person...				
- Sleep only here?				
- Live here?				
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Have a home, sleep only at one place	645	371	1170	565
No home base, sleep only at one place	0	0	7	19
Have a home base, sleep at multiple places	4	8	26	0
No home base, sleep at multiple places	39	38	33	46
Total Hidden Homeless	43	46	65	64
Population Under 19	688	417	1235	630
	%			
Have a home, sleep only at one place	93.7	89.0	94.7	89.8
No home base, sleep only at one place	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.0
Have a home base, sleep at multiple places	0.6	1.9	2.1	0.0
No home base, sleep at multiple places	5.7	9.1	2.6	7.2
Total Hidden Homeless	6.3	11.0	5.3	10.2
Population Under 19	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

RESPIRE

At the 2018 Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Gathering, consensus was built around the need for Ikur'raq or respite spaces. Respite spaces would be flexible multipurpose spaces where people can go for short periods of time (a few hours to a few days) for a break from the stresses created by overcrowding and homelessness, to get away from a situation before it escalates and for support to create more safety and stability in their lives. The goal of this model is to support and maintain healthy homes to prevent homelessness.

There are many different types of respite spaces including:

- Daytime and evening drop-in spaces;
- Overnight drop-in spaces; and,
- Land-based healing retreats for individuals and families struggling with overcrowding or homelessness.
- A quiet space to rest
- Space and resources for doing daily activities, such as preparing food, bathing, laundry, resting, using the phone and internet, and socializing;

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- Refuge for adults, youth, or children who need to get away from a difficult situation before it escalates; and,
- Holistic supports such as counselling, referrals to other services, learning support, and connection with Inuit culture.

Depending on a community’s priorities and capacity, respite spaces can be open to anyone in need or can be created for specific vulnerable groups such as women, men, elders, adults, children, youth, and families. Respite centres can operate as part of a wellness hub which allows for multiple programs supported by multiple funding sources to meet various community needs. Through the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Household survey the Department explored community members need for respite, reasons for needing respite, ability to get respite and preferences for respite.

Respite – Need

As outlined in table 18, the fraction of individuals who reported needing respite from their house was roughly three quarters, except in Arviat where only 61% of respondents answered they felt the need for a break from the house. It was noted that the concept of respite seemed to be interpreted differently by survey respondents across communities.

Table 18

Need of Respite by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question: Are there times when you or other people in the house need a break from the house?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Yes	50	24	48	39
No	20	8	31	13
Total	70	32	79	52
	%			
Yes	71.4	75.0	60.8	75.0
No	28.6	25.0	39.2	25.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 19

Reported Ability to Have Respite Among Dwelling by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question: Are people able to take a break from the house?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Yes	52	26	64	36
No	15	5	5	6
Total	67	31	69	42
	%			
Yes	77.6	83.9	92.8	85.7
No	22.4	16.1	7.2	14.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The reasons mentioned for needing respite included:

- Needing to get away from something happening in the house;
- needing a quiet place to go;
- needing support;
- because the house is too crowded or in needs repairs;
- for mourning a lost one;
- due to asthma problems.
- for going on the land;
- for having fresh air, entertainment, sports, socialization or visiting family members;

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Respite – Able

The survey also explored whether there are constraints for people to take a break, with Question 27 of the Household questionnaire asking: “During the times when people want to take a break, are they able to?” Table 19 shows that 7 to 22% of respondents indicated that they were not able to take a break.

Respite – Where

In order to determine what could be the places where people go or would prefer going for respite besides their own home, the Department developed Questions 28 and - 29 of the Household questionnaire:

- “If they are able to, where do people go for a break?”
- “Where would you like to go for a break?”

It should be noted that, unlike other data presented in the present report, the units counted here do not represent individuals, but rather the number of times each answer was provided, because each respondent could give as many answers as desired. Responses are outlined in tables 20 and 21.

Most respondents indicated visiting family and friends, getting out on the land (camping, hunting, hiking, harvesting, fishing, skidoo, dog sledding) and getting fresh air (walking, driving around or playing with kids) as options for getting a break from the house.

Respondents shared the importance of outside household relationships and the importance of being outside, partaking in activities on the land and around town. It is also of note that some individuals reported preferring to have respite in their own home.

Overall, the distribution of answers to Question 29 regarding reported preferences for a break from home does not differ much from what was seen with Question 28 on actual places people would go for respite, except a few notable exceptions.

First, the “out on the land” category, under which people mentioned going to a cabin, camping, hunting, hiking, harvesting, fishing, skidooing and dog sledding, moved to the number one choice at the top of the list, potentially raising the question of constraints, such as affordability, to engage in such activities.

Second, the category “travelling outside Nunavut or Canada” not only made its appearance in the table, but came as a third preference.

Third, the “fresh air” option dropped from a third to a fourth position but was not mentioned much more often than all other answers, which tends to indicate that this option was not as preferred as it was used.

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Table 20

Where People in Dwellings are Reported to Go for Respite from Housing Unit by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question: Where do people go for a break from the house?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Visiting family or friends	33	16	38	18
Out on the Land: Cabin, camping, hunting, hiking, harvesting, fishing, skidoo, dog sledding	19	10	18	17
Fresh Air: Walking, driving around, playing with kids	4	3	9	9
Stores	6	0	2	0
At Home: In the Bedroom, washroom or porch; Cleaning & Organizing; Watching TV	1	0	5	0
Travelling: Other Nunavut community	0	2	2	1
Others: Salon, SPA, employment training, new house, workplace, health center, school	5	0	0	0
Physical Activities: Gym, swimming pool, yoga, sports, playground, recreation, parents & tots	2	2	0	0
Social or Community Activities: Community hall, church, cadet hall, volunteering or meetings	0	2	1	0
Anywhere quiet and lonely	0	1	1	0
Restaurant or coffee shop	1	0	1	0
Specialized Activities: Sewing, repairing engines, public library	0	0	1	0
Don't know	2	1	0	0
Total Answers Provided	73	37	78	45

Table 21

Where People in Dwellings are Reported to Prefer Going for Respite from Housing Unit by Community, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question: Where respondent prefers to go for a break from the house?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Out on the Land: Cabin, camping, hunting, hiking, harvesting, fishing, skidoo, dog sledding	27	17	31	28
Visiting family or friends	8	1	21	2
Travelling: Outside of Nunavut or Canada	6	6	3	6
Fresh Air: Walking, driving around, playing with kids	3	1	6	3
Travelling: Other Nunavut community	0	1	5	2
Physical Activities: Gym, swimming pool, yoga, sports, playground, recreation, parents & tots	5	2	1	0
Anywhere quiet and lonely	2	0	1	1
At Home: In the Bedroom, washroom or porch; Cleaning & Organizing; Watching TV	0	1	3	0
Social or Community Activities: Community hall, church, cadet hall, volunteering or meetings	2	1	1	0
Stores	2	1	1	0
Restaurant or coffee shop	1	0	2	0
Others: Salon, SPA, employment training, new house, workplace, health center, school	3	0	0	0
Specialized Activities: Sewing, repairing engines, public library	2	0	0	0
Don't know	5	4	3	0
Total Answers Provided	66	35	78	42

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FOOD SECURITY

In designing the Hidden Homelessness Survey, the Department recognized the high levels of food insecurity faced by Nunavummiut and wanted to explore whether levels of food insecurity could be linked with levels of crowding. Three food security questions were asked:

1. *In the last 12 months [prior to the survey], were there times when the store-bought food or country food for you and your family ran out and there was no money to buy more?*
2. *In the last 12 months [prior to the survey], did you ever eat less than you felt you needed because there wasn't enough money for food?*
3. *In the last 12 months [prior to the survey], were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?*

Results are to be read and understood with caution, as the small sample sizes limit the ability to draw any certain conclusion between food security and levels of crowding.¹⁰ However, given the overall repetition of positive % differences throughout all the food security questions compared to crowding variables, an overall association can be drawn between food insecurity and crowding.

Table 25 demonstrates that 42-61% of respondents recounted running out of food several times a month, with 14-25% of respondents describing this as something that happens several times a week and 2-4% describing it as a daily occurrence.

As outlined in table 22, 60-75% of respondents indicated they and their family had run out of store bought or country food at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey. Respondents who indicated they and their family ran out of store bought or country food at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey, lived in dwellings that:

- were 20-30% more populated in Pond Inlet and Arviat and 5-10% more populated in Clyde River and Gjoa Haven, compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.
- had at least twice as many people sleeping in areas of a house that are not bedrooms in Pond Inlet and Arviat but 25% fewer people sleeping in areas of a house that are not bedrooms in Clyde River and Gjoa Haven, compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.
- had at least twice as many rooms other than bedrooms being used for sleeping in Pond Inlet and Clyde River compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported. In Gjoa Haven, roughly 70% more rooms that are not bedrooms were being used for sleeping, compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.

In Arviat, there was practically no difference (5%) in the average number of other areas used for sleeping between dwellings experiencing and not experiencing this form of food insecurity.

¹⁰ Statistical significance tests with 95% IC were completed to determine whether averages (means) were sufficiently different to draw conclusions. In every case, Means \pm Standard Errors overlapped.

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Table 22

Food Security - Food Ran Out and No Money to Buy More, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question:				
In the last 12 months [prior to the survey], were there times when the store-bought food or country food for you and your family ran out and there was no money to buy more?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Yes	49	24	47	34
No	27	8	32	18
Total	76	32	79	52
	%			
Yes	64.5	75.0	59.5	65.4
No	35.5	25.0	40.5	34.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 23 shows 37-54% of respondents indicated they themselves had eaten less than they felt they needed at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey because there wasn't enough money for food. Respondents who indicated they themselves had eaten less than they felt they needed at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey because there wasn't enough money for food, lived in dwellings that :

- were 18-20% more populated in all communities except Gjoa Haven, where the average number of people per dwelling was almost the same (5% less), compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.
- had at least twice as many people sleeping in areas of the house that are not bedrooms in Pond Inlet, about 70% more in Clyde River, 15% more in Arviat and 60% less in Gjoa Haven, compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.
- had at least twice as many rooms other than bedrooms being used for sleeping in all communities except in Arviat where it was roughly the same (-5%), compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.

Table 23

Food Security - Respondent Ate Less than Felt Needed Because there wasn't Enough Money for More Food, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question:				
In the last 12 months [prior to the survey], did you ever eat less than you felt you needed because there wasn't enough money for food?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Yes	37	16	26	28
No	40	18	45	24
Total	77	34	71	52
	%			
Yes	48.1	47.1	36.6	53.8
No	51.9	52.9	63.4	46.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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Table 24 highlights that 34-54% of respondents indicated they themselves have been hungry but didn't eat at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey because there was not enough money for food. Respondents who indicated they themselves have been hungry but didn't eat at some point in the 12 months prior to the survey because there was not enough money for food, lived in dwellings that:

- were 9 to 13% more populated, except in Gjoa Haven where the average number of people was almost equal (-4%), compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.
- had at least twice as many people sleeping in areas of a house that are not bedrooms in Pond Inlet and Clyde River and around 30% more in Arviat, compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported.
- Had at least twice as many rooms other than bedrooms being used for sleeping in Pond Inlet and Clyde River, compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported. However, this difference was much lower in Gjoa Haven where 20% more rooms that are not bedrooms were being used for sleeping, compared to those dwellings where no such form of food insecurity was reported. In Arviat, averages were almost equal (-5%).

Table 24

Food Security - Respondent Has Been Hungry While Not Eating Because there wasn't Enough Money for More Food, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question: In the last 12 months [prior to the survey], were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Yes	29	19	25	23
No	45	16	49	28
Total	74	35	74	51
	Percentage			
Yes	39.2	54.3	33.8	45.1
No	60.8	45.7	66.2	54.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 25

Food Security - Frequency of Running Out of Food and Having No More Money to Buy More, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey				
Question: If yes, how often did this happen? [Running out of food and having no money to buy more.]				
	Community			
	Pond Inlet	Clyde River	Arviat	Gjoa Haven
	Count			
Every day	1	1	1	0
Several times a week	7	5	11	9
Several times a month	23	13	19	22
Several times a year	10	4	4	2
Don't know	9	2	10	3
Total	50	25	45	36
	Percentage			
Every day	2.0	4.0	2.2	0.0
Several times a week	14.0	20.0	24.4	25.0
Several times a month	46.0	52.0	42.2	61.1
Several times a year	20.0	16.0	8.9	5.6
Don't know	18.0	8.0	22.2	8.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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NUNAVUT HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS COUCH-SURFER SURVEY RESULTS

As outlined in the housing stability section of this report, roughly 4-6% of the residents of Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Arviat and Gjoa Haven depend on multiple places for sleeping. Many of Nunavut's hidden homeless are "couch surfers", frequently and daily seeking a place to sleep for the night.

In addition to the household survey, a couch surfer questionnaire was conducted to capture a snapshot of the experiences of individuals and families who choose or need to move from place to place to find shelter. The "Couch Surfer Survey", was "to be completed by someone who slept in the house last night [prior to being surveyed], sleeps in the house sometimes and/or identifies with being a couch surfer."

The number of Couch Surfer questionnaires comprised in our analysis totals 22 and includes both individuals who approached the survey team wanting to complete the survey and couch surfers encountered in the course of the randomly selected household surveys. The couch surfer survey was generally conducted only when a couch surfer was identified through the completion of a household survey rather than specifically seeking out couch-surfers in the first instance.

It must be noted that, due to this small sample size, any conclusion drawn from these results is to be interpreted cautiously as well as considered as anecdotal, preliminary and exploratory information on the topic as experienced in Nunavut.

One of the objectives of the couch-surfer survey was to understand the levels of instability faced by couch surfers. The following questions were meant to help frame a couch surfer's level of difficulty in finding a place to sleep:

1. How often do couch surfers need to change place?;
2. How long do they stay in housing units that they do not consider as theirs?
3. How many places do they transit between?
4. Do they sleep in areas that are not housing units, such as shelters or shacks?
5. Do they have a house where they can, in principle, stay as long as they want?

Sociodemographic Profile

- Among the 22 individuals, the average (mean) age was 35 years old. The youngest participant was 18 years old and the oldest, 55. Most of the couch surfing participants were aged 23 to 47 years old.¹¹ 7 were 18-24 years old (32%), 4 were aged 25-34 (18%), 5 were 35-44 (23%), 4 were 45-54 (18%) and 2 were 55-64 (9%).
- All 22 respondents were Inuit;
- 6 (27%) stated that they are in a married or common law relationship while 16 (73%) said they were not;
- 13 respondents (59%) reported being recipients of social assistance

¹¹ Mean minus standard deviation to mean plus standard deviation.

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- 17 (77%) told the surveyor that they were a hunter or seamstress and the remaining five (23%) said they were not;
- 13 respondents (65%) reported possessing no school diploma. Among the remaining 7 individuals, 5 (25%) reported having completed high school and 2 (10%) said that they completed some form of postsecondary, apprenticeship or trades, college or other non-university”.

Frequency and Length of Stay

For Question 1 of the Couch Surfer questionnaire, “How often do you sleep [here / in this housing unit]?, a qualitative scale was developed to approximate the frequency of a couch surfer’s nightly stays in the house where the survey took place. This approach was taken in recognition that the instability of couch-surfing might make it difficult to remember exactly the number of nightly stays. On this scale, the provided answer “A couple times a week” referred to the most frequent stays in the selected housing unit, and “Couple times a year” meant that the interviewed person slept over the most rarely. However, the answer “Once in a while” probably bears diverse meanings, but it can generally be understood as “if needed” or as “it varies depending on circumstances”.

To this question, 5 respondents (28%), out of the 18 who provided an answer, reported sleeping in the given housing unit “once in a while”. 8 (44%) said a “couple times a week”, 2 said a “couple times a month” (11%) and 3 said a “couple times a year” (17%). (see table 26)

Table 26

Reported Frequency of Stays for Sleeping in Housing Unit Where Couch Surfing Respondent Was Surveyed, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey (Couch Surfer)			
Question:			
- How often do you sleep here [in this housing unit]?			
	Respondents		
	Count		%
Once in a while	5		27.8
Couple times a week	8		44.4
Couple times a month	2		11.1
Couple times a year	3		16.7
Total	18		100.0

Table 28 outlines responses regarding the length of stay when couch-surfing. The answer a “couple nights at a time” meant that the respondent reported sleeping in the selected house only for short durations, while the answer a “couple of months at a time” represented the longest timeframe. 7 (35%) respondents stated that they sleep in the selected house a “couple of nights at a time”, 2 (10%) answered a “couple weeks at a time” and 5 (25%) answered a “couple of months at a time”

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Table 27

Reported Duration of Stay in Housing Unit Where Couch Surfing Respondent Was Surveyed, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey (Couch Surfer)			
Question:			
- When you sleep here, for how long do you sleep here at a time?			
	Respondents		
	Count		%
Couple of nights at a time	7		35.0
Couple of weeks at a time	2		10.0
Couple of months at a time	5		25.0
Other	4		20.0
Refused	1		5.0
Don't know	1		5.0
Total	20		100.0

Couch-surfing stability

The Couch surfer questionnaire explored the extent to which couch surfers had to depend on numerous places to find a place to sleep by asking: “In total, what is the number of houses/units at which you generally sleep?”.

One respondent provided “0” as an answer. No questions were asked to the participant to help clarify the meaning of this answer, but the two most probable significations could be that the person either has generally “no place” to depend on for sleeping, or found no place besides the house where he or she was interviewed.

Apart from this, 4 people reported sleeping at only 1 place, 12 said they sleep at 2 different places and 3 reported sleeping at 3 places. The two most extreme cases were 2 individuals reporting that they generally sleep at 4 different places. (see table 29)

4 respondents (19%) reported sleeping in places that are not houses/units. Question 6 of the Couch Surfer questionnaire read “Do you have a house/unit where you can stay as long as you want or need to?”. About half of respondents (9 over 21, or 43%) indicated they had a house/unit where they could stay as long as they wanted or needed to do so. 11 (52%) said they did not.

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Table 28

Number of Housing Units Between Which Couch Surfing Respondent Sleeps, Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey (Couch Surfer)			
Question: - In total, what is the number of houses/units at which you generally sleep?			
	Respondents		
	Count		%
0	1		4.5
1	4		18.2
2	12		54.5
3	3		13.6
4	2		9.1
Total	22		100.0

Reaching Housing Stability

Question 11 of the Couch Surfer questionnaire asked, “Do you think that this [homelessness] situation for you will be [temporary or permanent]?”.

6 of the 22 respondents affirmed that they believe their homelessness situation will be temporary, 1 stated that it would remain permanent, and 14 (or 64%) said that they don’t know.

Despite not obtaining more information to clarify the meaning of replying “I don’t know” to this question, it could be supposed that respondents did not possess enough information on the public housing allocation system to determine when their situation might end. It could also imply a form of acknowledgement or lack of hope that the current public housing allocation system cannot or will not meet everyone’s needs in reasonable timelines.

12 (57%) of respondents indicated they were on the waiting list for housing. 7 (33%) replied they were not on the list and 2 said that they did not know.

Homeless Chronicity

Question 9 of the Couch Surfer questionnaire explore to what extent couch-surfers were experiencing chronic homelessness by asking “When was the last time that you had a house/unit/place where you could have stayed as long as you wanted?”

Respondents reported that they have been without home ranging from 0.6 years to 10.2 years. Among the participants who provided numbered answers, 1 reported having no home since half a year, 5 since about 3 to 4½ years, and 3 since 8 to 10 years. Four respondents stated that they "never" had a home of their own.

The survey also explored the time period individuals have been on the public housing waiting list, with answers ranging from 0 to 8.9 years. Among the 13 participants who provided numbered answers, 3 reported being on the list since less than a year, 3 since 1 to 2 years, 3 since 4 to 5 years, and 4 since 7 to 9 years.

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Children and Youth

The Department designed the couch surfer survey to capture a sense of the extent to which children and youth are couch surfing. To answer this question, surveyors on the field asked individuals completing the couch-surfer survey three questions:

- Do you have children?;
- How many [children do you have]? and;
- Do they [your children] follow you when you move between houses / units?

Close to 80% of couch surfing respondents answered they had children– 17 over 22. When asked how many children they have, 6 of the 22 couch surfers (27%) reported having 1 or 2 and 11 (50%) reported having 3 children or more. The two highest numbers of children for couch surfers were 6 and 9.

Among the 17 surveyed couch-surfing individuals who declared having children, close to 50% (8) said that their children follow them when they transit between housing units. Overall, about one third (36.4%) of the 22 interviewed couch surfers would have children following.

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CONCLUSION

In conducting the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Research, people from across Nunavut have shared their experiences with homelessness and overcrowding. We've heard many stories of hardship and suffering but also of resilience and community and family support. Every day, individuals and organizations in our communities work selflessly and tirelessly to help those without a home.

It is clear from the survey data that many of Nunavut's homes are severely overcrowded and many of Nunavut's children and youth are living in precarious circumstances. It is also clear that the value of Pijitsirniq is strong in our communities as family and friends open their homes to help those in need.

There is much work to be done. It is currently estimated that Nunavut has a housing shortfall of 3000 units. There are only three homeless shelters in Nunavut and the territory will only see its first transitional housing program in 2020. Nor can we lose sight of the negative impacts of overcrowding - poor mental health outcomes and increases in violence, substance abuse, conflict, suicide and the spread of disease.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenges of homelessness. There is, however, a rich diversity and depth of community programming, resources and ideas. We are committed to continuing the work to create a future where all Nunavummiut have access to the tools, supports and services needed to find and maintain safe, stable housing. Let us work together to create a strong, coordinated housing continuum and continuum of supports to ensure that Nunavummiut have access to a range of affordable and suitable housing options where they can thrive.

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HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

SURVEY 1:

**(TO BE COMPLETED BY SOMEONE WHO SLEEPS IN HOUSE ALL THE TIME AND/OR LIVES HERE.
THE PERSON WHO ANSWERS THIS SURVEY MUST BE KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT THE HOUSE AND THE PEOPLE IN IT)**

1. Which of the following best describes this house/unit:
 Public Housing Staff Housing Private Rental [Go to 3]
 Owned [Go to 2]
 Don't know Refused
2. Do you own this house?
 Yes No → [Go to 5]
3. Does this house/unit have a lease/rental agreement
 Yes No Don't know Refused
4. Are you one of the people named on the lease/rental agreement of this house?
 Yes No → [Go to 5]
5. What is your relationship to the person who owns this house or who is named on the lease

6. How many bedrooms does this unit have? _____
7. Other than the bedrooms, are there other rooms or areas of this house/unit that are used for sleeping?
 Yes No Don't know Refused
8. Which other areas of the house are used for sleeping (Check all that apply?)
 Living Room Hallways
 Kitchen Porch
 Dining Room Bathroom
 Laundry Room Storage area/sealift room/pantry
 Other _____
 Don't know
 Refused
9. Are there areas outside of the house where people sleep?
 Yes No Don't know Refused
10. Are there bedrooms in the house that aren't being used for sleeping
 Yes → [Go to 11] No Don't know Refused
11. Why aren't they being used for sleeping?

12. How many people slept in this house last night, other than you? _____ (NOTE: THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RESPONDENT).

I would like to know more about the people who SLEPT HERE LAST NIGHT, including yourself. We will be asking about families, couples and single adults. I will ask their gender, ages and a few more questions. Please answer as much as you can. If there was a person(s) sleeping here last night who sleeps here sometimes (i.e. is a couch survey), we want to know about that person(s) too.

First, let's talk about the FAMILIES who slept here last night.

We think of a "family" as one or two parents (OR GRANDPARENTS) with at least one dependent who is 18 years of age or younger. We will count other people who may still be part of that family but who are older than 18, elsewhere.

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13. Using this definition, how many different families slept here last night? _____

FAMILY _____ (INDICATE F1 for Family 1, F2 for family 2, F3 ... ETC. USE ADDITIONAL PAGES WHEN NECESSARY)

Name or identifier	Gender	Age	Slept where?	Sleeps only here?	Lives here?	How often does this person sleep here?	For how long at a time?	Why sleeping here?	On housing waiting list?
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Has no other place to go <input type="radio"/> Sleeps here and other places <input type="radio"/> Unable to return to place where usually sleeps. Why not? _____ <input type="radio"/> Other _____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	Repeat as above.	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused		<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused		<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused

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14. How many couples slept here last night _____ (This could be elder couples and/or couples without children)

COUPLE ____ (Indicate C1 for Couple 1, C2 for Couple 2, C3 ... ETC. USE ADDITIONAL PAGES WHEN NECESSARY)

Name or identifier	Gender	Age	Slept where?	Sleeps only here?	Lives here	How often does this person sleep here?	For how long at a time?	Why sleeping here?	On housing waiting list?
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Has no other place to go <input type="radio"/> Sleeps here and other places <input type="radio"/> Unable to return to place where usually sleeps. Why not? _____ _____ <input type="radio"/> Other _____ _____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	Repeat as above.	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused

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15. How many other single adults (19 years old or more) slept here last night _____

Name or identifier	Gender	Age	Slept where?	Sleeps only here?	Lives here	How often does this person sleep here?	For how long at a time?	Why sleeping here?	On housing waiting list?
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Has no other place to go <input type="radio"/> Sleeps here and other places <input type="radio"/> Unable to return to place where usually sleeps. Why not? _____ <input type="radio"/> Other _____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	Repeat as above.	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused		<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused
	<input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F	_____ <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Bedroom <input type="radio"/> Own bedroom <input type="radio"/> Shared <input type="radio"/> Other area <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N (Go to grey section) <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> Once in a while <input type="radio"/> Couple times a week <input type="radio"/> Couple times a month <input type="radio"/> Couple times a year <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused	<input type="radio"/> A couple of nights at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of weeks at a time <input type="radio"/> A couple of months at a time <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused		<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> NA <input type="radio"/> Don't know <input type="radio"/> Refused

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16. Are there other people who **live here (sleep here all the time)** but who were not here last night because they were away at school, out for medical travel, on the land, at work, etc.?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

17. How many others? _____

Now we want to ask a little more about people who sleep here temporarily because they have nowhere else to go or who are unable to return to the place where they usually sleep.

18. Are there other people, other than the ones listed here **AND WHO DID NOT SLEEP HERE LAST NIGHT**, who sleep here sometimes/temporarily?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

 **Go to Question 25**

19. How many others? _____

20. On average, how often would you say that this house has people temporarily sleeping here (i.e. people who either have no other place to go, or who cannot return to the place where they usually sleep)?

- Daily
 Several times a week
 Several times a month
 Several times a year
 Don't know
 Refused

21. On average, how long do people sleep here when they are couch surfing?

- A couple of nights at a time
 A couple of weeks at a time
 A couple of months at a time
 Other _____
 Don't know
 Refused

22. When couch surfers leave, why do they leave?

-
23. When couch surfers leave, do they return?

- Yes No Don't know Refused

24. For those who are couch surfing (either slept here last night or at other times), which of the following do you think is needed? (Please check all that apply)

- A house of their own. What kind?:
___ own room in communal living
___ unit for family
___ unit for singles
___ other _____

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- Supports/services. What kind?
- Counselling
 - substance abuse support
 - Laundry facilities
 - Drop-in centre
 - Recreation space
 - A place to rest
- Programming. What kind?
- Employment training
 - Land-based skills
 - Other life skills (e.g. budgeting, maintaining a house/unit, etc.)
- Other _____
- Nothing, they prefer to sleep at different houses

Now we would like to talk about the idea of taking a break from what is happening in a house, and when it might be a good time to take a break.

25. Are there times when you or other people in the house want to take a break from the house?
 Yes No Don't know Refused
26. Generally, what are the reasons that people, including yourself, want to take a break from this house? Check all that apply?
- Need to get away from something that is happening in the house
 - Need a quiet place to go
 - Need support
 - Too crowded
 - Other _____
27. During the times when people want to take a break, are they able to?
 Yes No Don't know Refused
28. If they are able to, where do people go for a break?

29. Where would you like to go for a break?

We want to ask a food questions about food and the availability of food for your family

30. In the last 12 months, were there times when the store-bought food or country food for you and your family ran out and there was no money to buy more?
 Yes No Don't know Refused
- a. If yes, how often did this happen?:
- Every day
 - Several times a week
 - Several times a month

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- Several times a year
- Unsure/don't know

31. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you needed because there wasn't enough money for food?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

32. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

Finally, can I ask you a few other questions about yourself:

33. Do you identify as:
 Inuit Non-Inuit Other _____ Don't know Refused

34. Are you currently working?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

35. Are you currently receiving income support/assistance?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

36. Are you a hunter/seamstress?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

37. What is the highest level of education that you have? _____

38. Is there anything else that you would like to share or say?

Comments/other notes:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey with us. Your individual responses will be kept confidential.

Now, I want to ask if there is anyone else in the house right now who slept here last night but who does not sleep here all the time (in other words, someone who stays here temporarily and/or couch surfs here).

Yes No Don't know Refused

I would like to speak to one of these people, if possible.

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COUCH SURFER QUESTIONNAIRE

SURVEY 2:

(TO BE COMPLETED BY SOMEONE WHO SLEPT IN THE HOUSE LAST NIGHT, SLEEPS IN THE HOUSE SOMETIMES AND/OR IDENTIFIES WITH BEING A COUCH SURFER)

1. How often do you sleep here?
 - Once in a while
 - Couple times a week
 - Couple times a month
 - Couple times a year
 - Don't know
 - Refused

2. When you sleep here, for how long do you sleep here at a time?
 - A couple of nights at a time
 - A couple of weeks at a time
 - A couple of months at a time
 - Other
 - Don't know
 - Refused

3. In total, what is the number of houses/units at which you generally sleep? _____

4. Are there other places where you sleep that are not houses/units?
 - Yes No Don't know Refused

5. Where are these places _____

6. Do you have a house/unit where you can stay as long as you want to or need to?
 - Yes No Don't know Refused

7. Is it here?
 - Yes No Don't know Refused

8. Can you tell us the reason why you sleep at different places?
 - I have no place to sleep that is permanent
 - It is my choice to do this
 - I am not able to return to the place where I usually sleep. Why not?
 - _____
 - Other _____
 - Don't know
 - Refused

9. When was the last time that you had a house/unit/place where you could have stayed as long as you wanted? _____

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10. For how long have you been moving between places like this?
- Just a couple of days
 - A couple of weeks
 - A couple of months
 - Years
 - Don't know
 - Refused
11. Do you think that this situation for you will be:
- Temporary
 - Permanent
 - Don't know
 - Refused
12. Which of the following do you think that you need? (Please check all that apply)
- A house/unit of my own. What kind?:
 - own room in communal living
 - unit for family
 - unit for singles
 - other _____
 - Supports/services. What kind?
 - Counselling
 - substance abuse support
 - Laundry facilities
 - Drop-in centre
 - Recreation space
 - A place to rest
 - Programming. What kind?
 - Employment training
 - Land-based skills
 - Other life skills (e.g. budgeting, maintaining a house/unit, etc.)
 - Other _____
 - Nothing, I prefer to couch surf
13. Are you on a waiting list for housing?
 Yes No Don't know Refused
14. Since how long? _____
15. Are you married/have a common law?
 Yes No
16. Do you have children?
 Yes No
How many? _____
17. Do they follow you when you move between houses/units?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

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Now we would like to talk about the idea of taking a break from what is happening in a house, and when it might be a good time to take a break.

18. Are there times when you or other people in the house want to take a break from the house?
 Yes No Don't know Refused

19. Generally, what are the reasons that people, including yourself, want to take a break from this house? Check all that apply?

Need to get away from something that is happening in the house

Need a quiet place to go

Need support

Too crowded

Other _____

20. During the times when people want to take a break, are they able to?

Yes No Don't know Refused

21. If they are able to, where do people go for a break?

22. Where would you like to go for a break?

We want to ask a food questions about food and the availability of food for your family

23. In the last 12 months, were there times when the store-bought food or country food for you and your family ran out and there was no money to buy more?

Yes No Don't know Refused

a. If yes, how often did this happen?:

Every day

Several times a week

Several times a month

Several times a year

Unsure/don't know

24. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you needed because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes No Don't know Refused

25. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes No Don't know Refused

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Finally, can I ask you a few other questions about yourself:

26. What is your age? _____

27. Do you identify as:

Inuit Non-Inuit Other _____

Don't know Refused

28. Are you currently working?

Yes No Don't know Refused

29. Are you currently receiving income support/assistance?

Yes No Don't know Refused

30. Are you a hunter/seamstress?

Yes No Don't know Refused

31. What is the highest level of education that you have? _____

32. Is there anything else that you would like to share or say?

Comments/other notes:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey with us. Your individual responses will be kept confidential.

Now, I want to ask if there is anyone else in the house right now who sleeps here all the time slept here and/or who lives here and is knowledgeable about the house and the people in it. Is there someone here right now?

Yes No Don't know Refused

I would like to speak to one of these people, if possible.