

Riverton Homelessness Needs Assessment Dashboards User Guide

Overview

Welcome to the Riverton Homelessness Needs Assessment Dashboards User Guide.

Here you'll find two dashboards that have been curated from data collected by Sibbald et al. for the purposes of performing a needs assessment for people experiencing homelessness in the city of Riverton. Below, we provide a brief description of the two dashboards, some guidance on their use, and some notes of caution when interpreting the data.

Dashboard 1: Riverton Emergency Department Visits

This dashboard was created with data retrieved from the Riverton General Hospital's Emergency Department obtained through the Riverton Ambulatory Care Reporting System (RACeRS).

Information Provided

- Volume of emergency department visits
- Demographic patterns
- Acuity and patient flow
- Indicators associated with homelessness or housing instability
- Repeat or high-need patterns in emergency department use

Suggested Use

This dashboard was created for two purposes. 1) Try to better enumerate the total population of people experiencing homelessness in Riverton through a case ascertainment algorithm, and 2) describe people experiencing homelessness who use the emergency department.

The dashboard may allow policy makers and researchers to better understand how people experiencing homeless in Riverton use the emergency department for the purpose of understanding what their medical needs might be.

Caution should be taken when interpreting this information as the case ascertainment algorithm is known to have high specificity but low sensitivity. In other words, the algorithm has a very high true negative (persons identified as not homeless that are truly not homeless) rate but low true positive (persons identified as homeless that *are* homeless) rate.

Dashboard 2: Riverton Homelessness Dashboard

This dashboard provides neighbourhood level information about homelessness in Riverton. Data was retrieved from the Riverton Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (RHIFIS).

Point-in-Time (PiT) counts were performed by volunteers from March 6th - August 31st, 2024. Additionally, PiT counts were only performed in the neighbourhoods that were most frequented by people experiencing homelessness.

It is important to note that RHIFIS data only pertains to shelters and community partners that opt into the system. PiT counts are also only a snapshot in time and may not accurately represent the total population of people experiencing homelessness in Riverton. However, PiT counts are considered the 'gold standard' for enumeration of this sub-population.

Information Provided

- Neighbourhood geography
- Point-in-Time (PIT) count activity
- PIT count totals by neighbourhood
- Riverton Marginalization Index (Riv-MARG)
- Shelter and system context indicators
- Service-related information relevant to a needs assessment

Suggested use

This dashboard was created to develop an understand of homelessness in Riverton.

By including the Riv-MARG, policy makers and community partners may be able to understand the socioeconomic needs of people experiencing homelessness. The information can inform how policies may be improved or newly developed to better serve people experiencing homelessness.