



# Estimating Rural Homelessness for Rural Economic Development and Community Building

**Session 5A:** 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm





# What is ARDN?

Not-for-Profit Organization

Founded in 2009 by 21 Albertan PSIs





**The ARDN uses the combined expertise of Alberta's post-secondary institutions to support rural development in Alberta and to help communities grow through research & learning.**

## WE ACT AS A PROJECT FACILITATOR BY:



- **Providing** innovative solutions
- **Supporting** new partnerships
- **Leveraging** existing resources

ARDN strives to be Alberta's **premiere rural development organization**



# OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



University of  
Lethbridge



MEDICINE HAT  
COLLEGE



PORTAGE  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY



NORTHERN LAKES  
COLLEGE

## Our Partners & Collaborators:



Funded in part by the Government of Canada's  
Homelessness Partnering Strategy



Energy  
Efficiency  
Alberta



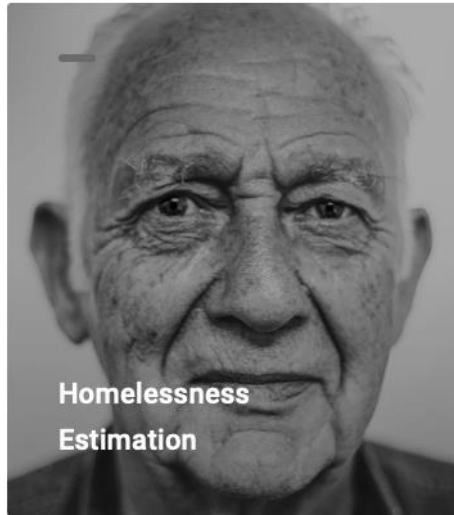
**Canadian Rural and  
Remote Housing and  
Homelessness  
Symposium**



**Sustainable Housing  
Initiative (SHI)**



**Homelessness  
Partnering Strategy**



**Homelessness  
Estimation**



**Alberta Rural  
Coalition on Housing  
& Homelessness  
(ARCH2)**



**Rural Community  
Opioid Outreach  
Program**



## CANADIAN RURAL AND REMOTE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SYMPOSIUM

**1<sup>st</sup> symposium was held in October 2018**

- 250+ attendees
- Representation from all across Canada  
*10 provinces and 3 territories*

**2<sup>nd</sup> symposium in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020**

# SUSTAINABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE



The ARDN under its Sustainable Housing initiative helps communities develop affordable housing

- Pre-development Work
- Potential Funding
- Project Management



SUSTAINABLE  
HOUSING  
INITIATIVE

- **Toolkit to develop Affordable Housing**





## HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY (HPS)



The ARDN is the rural and remote community entity for the federal governments Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)

- We focus on funding homelessness projects that fall outside the 7 cities
- Through HPS, we have funded approximately 32 projects to date for a total investment of \$4 Million
- **New funding announced**

# OPIOID OUTREACH PROGRAM

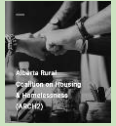


ARDN has partnered with 13 organizations to raise awareness within their local communities about how opioids are affecting rural Alberta

- These projects focus on reducing stigma, direct people to where they can access life-saving resources
- Education sessions ran from July 2018 to March 2019
- **Launching New Program, “Cannabis Awareness Program”**

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black top and a long pleated skirt, is walking away from the camera on a dirt path. A young child with blonde hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a white skirt, is walking beside her, holding her hand. They are surrounded by trees and foliage, suggesting a rural setting.

# ALBERTA RURAL COALITION ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS (ARCH<sup>2</sup>)



## MISSION

We speak with one united voice to increase information sharing, access to affordable housing and services to address rural homelessness

## VISION

An affordable home for every rural Albertan

## PRINCIPLES

- Committed to improving the lives of rural Albertans
- Dedicated to speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves
- Providing rural solutions to solve rural issues



# Step-by-Step Guide

Rural Homelessness Estimation





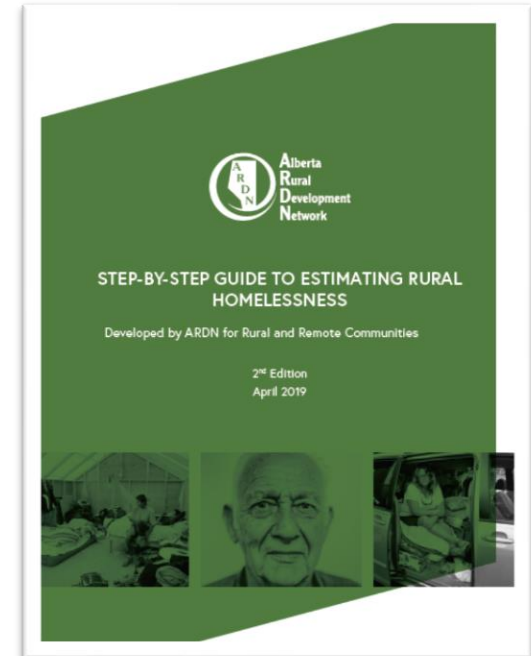
# RURAL HOMELESSNESS ESTIMATION



**1<sup>st</sup> Version Published in June 2017**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Version to be published soon**

- Extremely limited data on rural homelessness
- “Living document” of best practices developed in consultation
- Free to download for anyone, in both English and French
- Developed for Rural Canada!





## THE PROJECT

**Develop** cost-conscious, efficient, and reliable practices to estimate the number of homeless individuals in rural Canada

# INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE RURAL AND URBAN

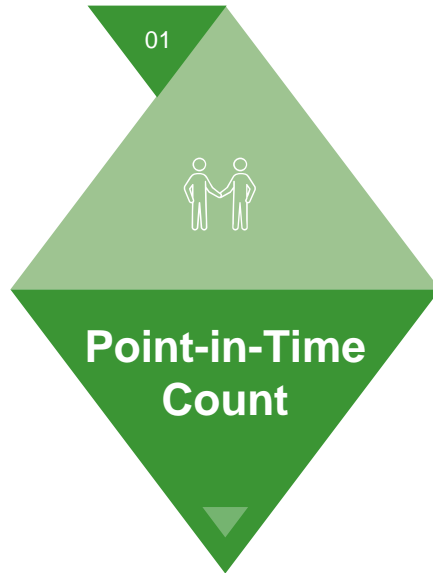


# METHODS TO ESTIMATE HOMELESSNESS



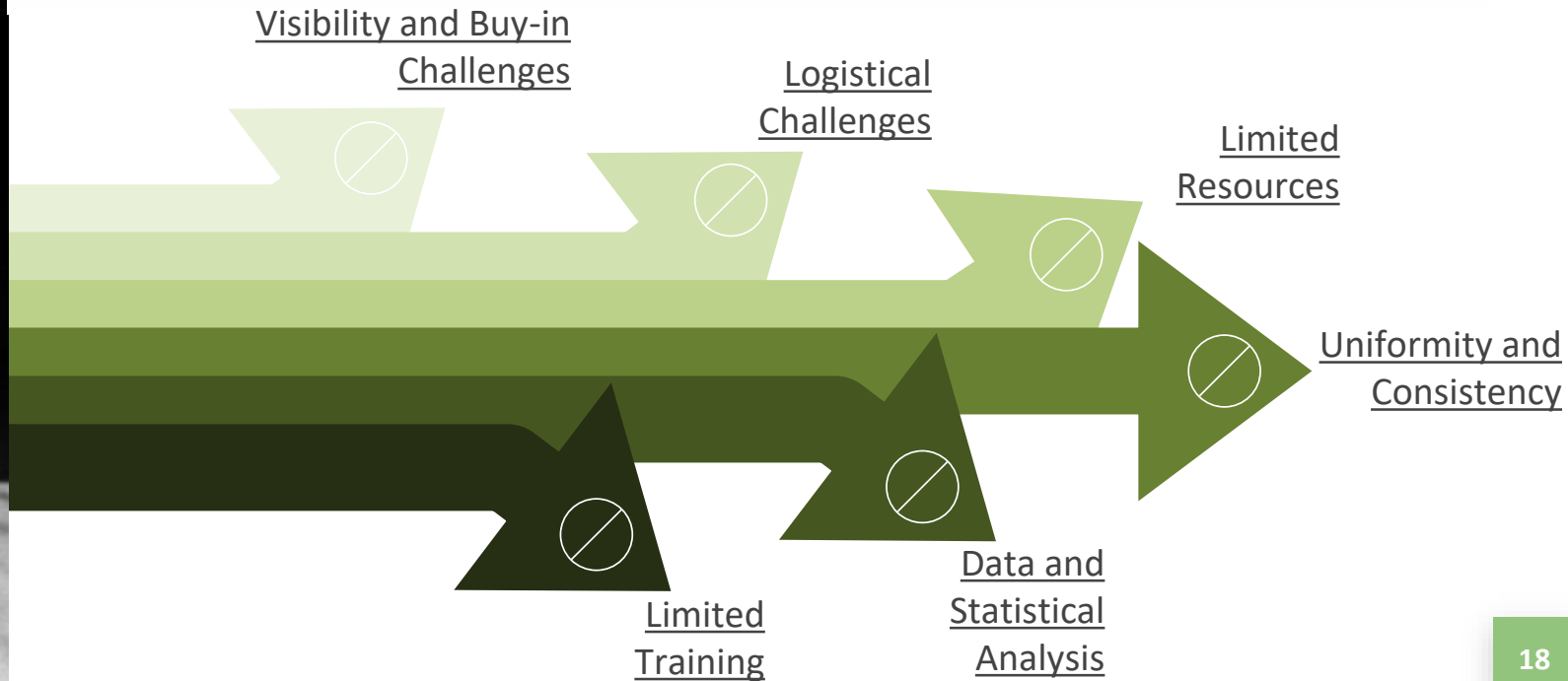


# POINT-IN-TIME (PiT) COUNT



- Count Sheltered or Unsheltered homeless in a single night
- Volunteers on the streets conduct surveys
- Surveys provide the information and characteristics of the homeless
- This helps communities develop strategies and implement resources

# LIMITATIONS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES



# POPULATION ESTIMATION



02



**Population  
Estimation**

- Homeless population estimated based on data from service agencies
- Number of people who used the service in a pre defined time frame (e.g. one month)
- Used when there are limited resources or when population is scattered over a large area

# SERVICE BASED ESTIMATIONS



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The number of homeless using service agencies for support over a period of time

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Additionally, if the community has enough resources then estimate the number of homeless in known locations as well

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Service agencies complete a survey and develop unique identifiers for each of their clients over a period of time, report the data and an analysis reveals the number



## UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS – Based on Version 2



**John Smith, Male born on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1960 – JOSM660M**

First Two Letters of the First Name: **JO**

First Two Letters of the Last Name: **SM**

Sum of the Numbers in the Birth Day: **1+5 = 06**

Last Two Numbers of the Year of Birth: **60**

'M' for Male, 'F' for Female, 'X' for Non-Binary: **M**

# ESTIMATION CONDUCTED AT A CONFERENCE

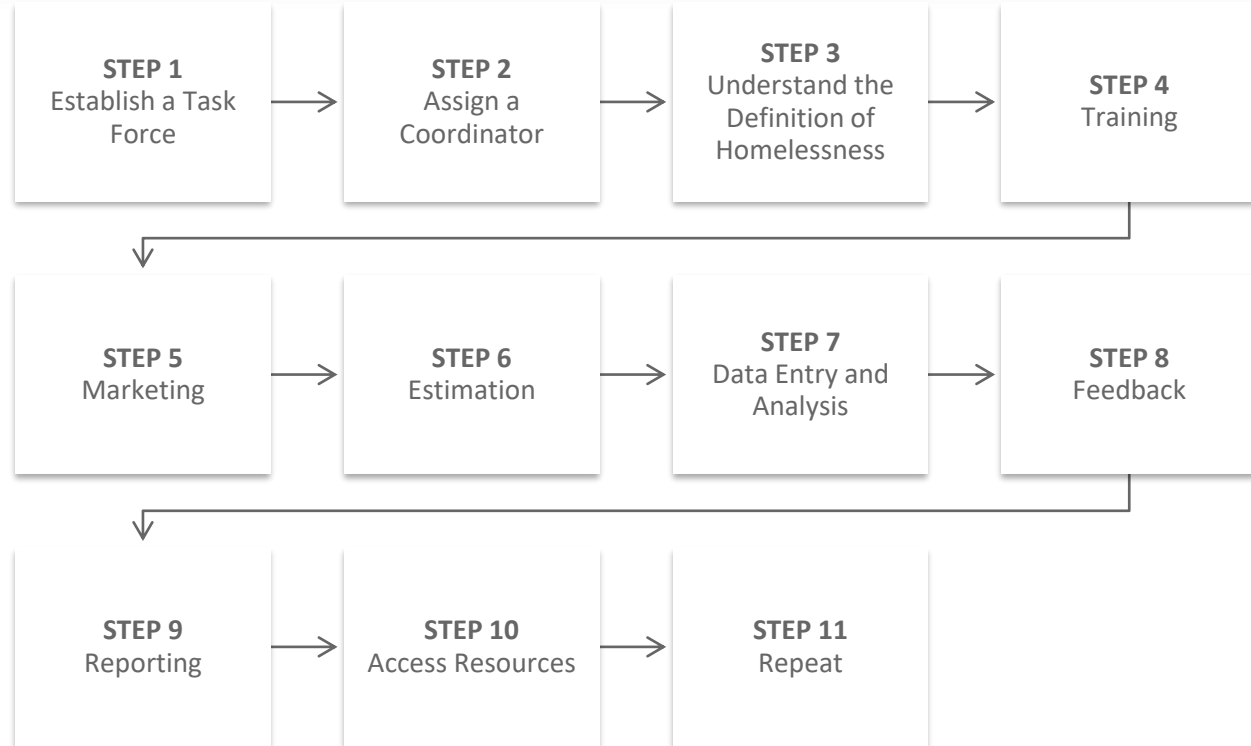
## Unique Identifiers



labu2679F  
TAKN987F  
SHSM361F  
ROBE989M  
ABHO390F  
ANCU481F  
MASH889F  
SAMA876F  
KALU451F  
LITH0976F  
SHHO688F  
MIKI883F  
ZABA283M  
dsds670x  
JIHA167M  
KIST753M

nobu2179M  
NOVA1088M  
ABGW351M  
STSTA460F  
EDPA388M  
ESTH0615F  
BEHI875M  
TEMA411F  
ESTH0615F  
SHTH0676M  
EMCO182M  
eses760x  
VISU287F  
DASH663M  
SCTR185M  
jobl100m

# 11 STEPS TO ESTIMATE HOMELESSNESS



# ESTIMATION SURVEY

## Based on Version 2



### Housing and Service Needs Estimation Survey

#### PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

- This survey was created to help our community gain a better understanding of the needs of our residents and the services required to improve and enhance community well-being.
- Your answers will help us identify the type of services that are currently being accessed and which ones are currently seeing the most use, and what needs in the community aren't being met. We will use the information gathered from this survey to take steps to increase and/or improve the services offered within our community.

#### PROCEDURE

- Time required: 6 – 10 minutes.
- This survey contains questions regarding your current/past living situations, employment, and citizenship/immigration status.
- If you feel uncomfortable at any point, you are free to skip any of the questions or stop the survey without affecting your access to services.
- Staff members are available to answer any questions regarding the survey.

#### CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

- By continuing with this survey, you consent to the collection, use, and disclosure of your personal information for the purposes described above.
- A unique identifier will be assigned to the information you provide in this survey and your full name will not be recorded in the survey.
- Physical and electronic copies of the data (where available) will be stored and protected using adequate safeguards like password-protected computers.

#### RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

- Your participation is completely voluntary.
- You can skip questions if you wish. If you skip questions, your responses to other questions will still be recorded.
- You can stop at any time without affecting your access to services. If you stop the survey at any point, none of your information will be used.

Knowing the information above, are you willing to take this survey right now?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If no, for which reasons?

- ☐ I don't have time today  
☐ I have taken the survey before  
☐ The survey is too long  
☐ The survey is too personal  
☐ The survey doesn't relate to me  
☐ Other

#### BEGIN SURVEY

Q1. Anonymous Unique Identifier  
[ex. John Smith, born on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1964]

J O

What are the first two letters of your FIRST name?

S M

What are the first two letters of your LAST name?

1 5

What is the DAY you were born?

6 4

What are the last two numbers of the YEAR you were born?

#### Q2. How do you describe your gender identity?

- ☐ Male/Man  
☐ Female/Woman  
☐ Two-Spirit  
☐ Trans Male/Trans Man  
☐ Trans Female/Trans Woman  
☐ Non-binary (including genderqueer & gender fluid)  
☐ Don't Know  
☐ Identity Not Listed: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Prefer not to answer

#### Q3. How do you describe your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Straight  
☐ Lesbian  
☐ Gay  
☐ Asexual  
☐ Bisexual  
☐ Two-spirit  
☐ Queer  
☐ Questioning  
☐ Identity not listed: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Prefer not to answer

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

##### Q4. Were you born in Canada?

- ☐ Yes (please skip to Q5.)  
☐ No (please answer Q4a; to Q4c.)

##### Q4a. If no, how long have you lived in Canada?

# \_\_\_\_\_ days / weeks / months / years

OR

- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ date of arrival (mm/dd/yyyy)  
☐ Don't know  
☐ Prefer not to answer

##### Q4b. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, or refugee claimant?

- ☐ Economic Migrant Worker  
☐ Landed Immigrant  
☐ Permanent Resident  
☐ Refugee/Claimant  
☐ Student Visa  
☐ Temporary Foreign Worker  
☐ Prefer not to answer

##### Q4c. What is your current migrant status?

- ☐ Canadian Citizen  
☐ Economic Migrant Worker  
☐ Landed Immigrant  
☐ Permanent Resident  
☐ Refugee/Claimant  
☐ Student Visa  
☐ Temporary Foreign Worker  
☐ Prefer not to answer

##### Q5. Which ethnic group do you identify with? (check one)

- ☐ African  
☐ Asian  
☐ Caucasian  
☐ Indigenous  
☐ Latin/Hispanic  
☐ Middle Eastern  
☐ Not Listed: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Prefer not to answer

##### Q6. Have you ever served in the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or any Emergency Services? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Canadian Armed Forces  
☐ Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)  
☐ Emergency Services (EMS, Police, Fire Dept.)  
☐ No  
☐ Prefer not to answer

#### HOUSING STABILITY

##### Q7. Do you consider your housing situation to be unstable or you feel you could easily lose your housing?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Not sure  
☐ Prefer not to answer



# BENEFITS OF KNOWING THE NUMBERS



Track progress in  
reducing  
homelessness

Identify places  
where resources are  
most needed

Direct public  
attention to the  
homelessness issue

Improve service  
agencies' planning  
programs

Inform local,  
provincial, and  
federal policies

Establish standards  
for performance  
measurement

Provide data for  
community and  
service agencies

Secure funding to  
help the homeless

**Secondary:**  
Collaboration  
amongst Service  
Agencies



# Step-by-Step Guide

Practical Application





## Projects in Focus

**Conklin**  
AB

**20  
Communities  
Project**  
AB

**Rocky  
Mountain  
House**  
AB

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, AB ~ Pop. 6,429



## Pilot Project: Funded by ARDN

### PiT

- 11 potential counts
  - **2 out of 11 in unstable situation**
  - 700 volunteer hours

### Estimation

- 57 surveys conducted
- **44 out of 57 in unstable situation**
  - 39.13% due to Mental or Physical Health
  - 34.78% due to Family Conflict
  - 13.04% due to addictions
  - 8.70% due to Unsafe Housing and Job Loss



## CONKLIN, AB ~ Pop. 185 to 375



### Customized Project – Preliminary Results

- 54 surveys conducted
- **92 individuals in unstable situation**
  - Inadequate housing supply
  - Unemployment (40 unemployed)
  - 35% of vulnerable residents b/w the ages of 1 & 20

Inconsistencies in National Census, RMWB and primary data



# ALBERTA RURAL HOMELESSNESS ESTIMATION PROJECT



In conjunction with Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA)

- 20 communities
  - 14 communities HPS funded
  - 5 self-funding
  - Plus Kainai First Nation
  - Online survey platform



# THE 20 COMMUNITIES

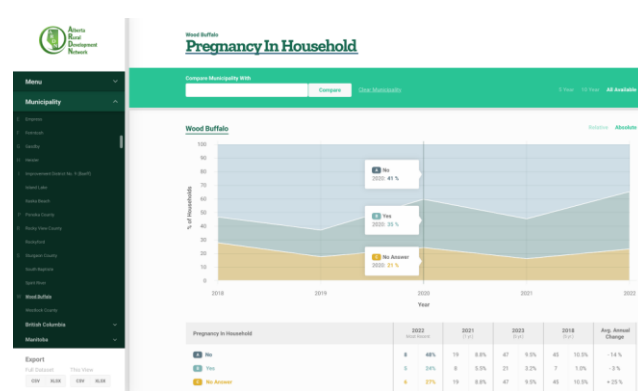
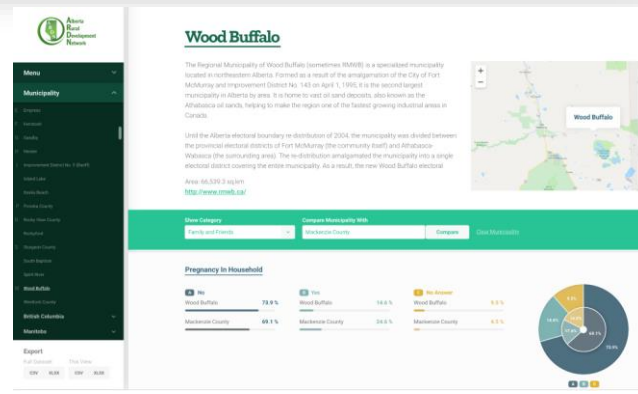
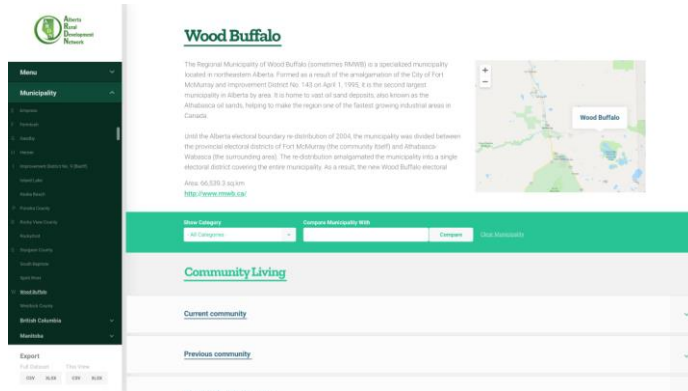
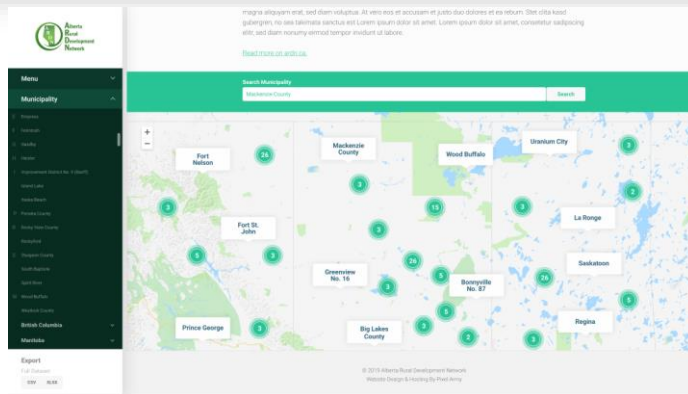


1. Athabasca
2. Camrose
3. Canmore
4. County of Grande Prairie
5. Drayton Valley
6. Drumheller
7. Fort Macleod
8. Greenview
9. Hinton
10. Jasper
11. Lac La Biche
12. Lacombe
13. Moses Lake / Kainai First Nation
14. Ponoka
15. Peace River
16. Stony Plain & Spruce Grove
17. Town of Grand Cache
18. Town of Okotoks
19. Town of Strathmore
20. Wetaskiwin

**~1,098 adults** living in an unstable situation

**~905 children** living in an unstable situation

# ESTIMATION DATABASE – Under Development



# RESOURCES

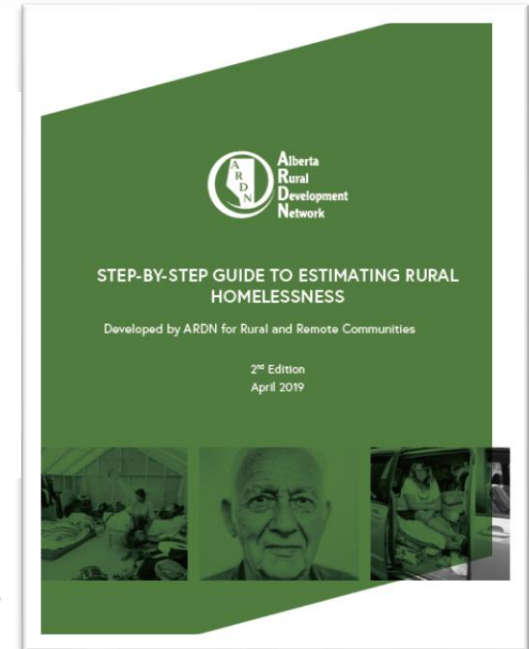
## Developed for Rural Canada!

- Download for Free from [www.ardn.ca](http://www.ardn.ca)

- English & French



- **Customized Estimation Surveys**
- **Data Analysis & Research Support**
- **Recommend Solutions**
- **Provide Overall Support**







# Step-by-Step Guide

Survey the Audience Member







# THANK YOU!

**Zain Abedin**

Manager, Community Development

ARDN & SHI

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