Homeless Population Enumeration

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Introduction

This infographic is based on Dr. Booth's ongoing research on homeless population enumeration; therefore, this is simply an insight to the research topic and summary of the research process.

Background

There is currently very limited information on homeless population including, population size, demographic, geological location, and such; these are all vital information that are required to create resources and supports that helps to meet the needs of homeless population (Forchuk, 2021). Creating support programs and services without this information could render less effective as it may not be tailored to meet the needs of the homeless population (Forchuk, 2021). To use our resources efficiently and effectively, it is important to gather as much information on the population as possible (Forchuk, 2021).

Issue

Today in Ontario, homeless population data is collected through ICES when people access health care using the Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP) (Booth, 2021). However, there are limitations to collecting data this way as information is only collected from those who access health care with OHIP and only collects information from health care records; this excludes any housing, shelter, and financial data among others (Booth, 2021). There are a handful number of literatures on various homeless enumeration approaches however, there are lack of literatures that synthesize these approaches altogether. In addition, constantly evolving definition of 'homeless' poses as a barrier to enumerate homeless population (R. Booth, personal communication, May 2021).

Research Question

How have individuals experiencing homelessness been enumerated in the research, practice, and policy settings to date?

Themes of Research Question

Conceptualization of construct homelessness

Methods of process of enumeration

Booth, R. (personal communication, May, 2021)

Method

Using the scoping review approach, relevant literatures will be reviewed to explore "the extent, range, and nature of research activity, determine the value of undertaking a full systematic review" (Levac et al., 2010).

After developing a syntax that yielded relevant literatures, we have inputted the syntax into five different databases and extracted all the search results. Selection of relevant literatures that will be included in the study are currently in process and will be selected after rounds of title and abstract review then full-text review. Selected literatures will then be synthesized to explore enumeration processes and "the conceptualization of construct of 'homelessness'" (R. Booth, personal communication, May 2021).

Acknowledgement

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References

Booth, R. (May 19, 2021). *Homelessness Case Ascertainment Algorithm* [Virtual presentation]. Homelessness Counts: Research Launch Event, London, Ontario. Forchuk, C. (May 19, 2021). *Project Overview* [virtual presentation]. Homelessness Counts: Research Launch Event, London, Ontario.

Levac, D., Colquhoun, H., & O'Brien, K. K. (2010). Scoping studies: advancing the methodology. Implementation Science: IS, 5(1), 69-69. https://doi.org/10.1186/1748-5908-5-69