



Street Outreach Programs for Individuals who are Experiencing Homelessness

More than one in ten Canadians (11.2%) have experienced either absolute (e.g., living in a shelter, sleeping rough) or hidden (e.g., couch surfing) homelessness at some point in their lives, highlighting Canada's ongoing homelessness problem. Over one half (52%) of those who use shelters in Canada are people aged 25 to 49, nearly two-thirds are male (62%), and over 30% of people who do not have a permanent home identify as Indigenous.

Street outreach programs address homelessness by providing low barrier supports (e.g., food, health and social care) to people experiencing homelessness on the street. These programs often incorporate a broad range of strategies to address immediate necessities such as food, shelter, and hygiene. They also address longer-term structural drivers of homelessness including chronic physical and mental health issues, substance use disorders, and financial instability, all of which can hinder an individual's ability to sustain employment and housing.

This systematic review aims to identify effective street outreach interventions for supporting homeless individuals by evaluating their effectiveness in Canada, identifying key characteristics of successful programs, understanding the barriers and challenges they face, and recommending actions to enhance their support capabilities. Our proposed products for knowledge dissemination include a one-page plain language summary (in both French and English), a final report, and a peer reviewed manuscript.

Linda Riches

Patient and Public Partner, SPOR Evidence Alliance

Linda is a retired visual and performing arts high school teacher. Her recent involvement with the Pharmacogenomics (PGx) for Depression project allowed a deep dive into genetics, health economic modeling, and the opportunity to become a patient researcher. She strongly believes in the value of People with Lived Experience becoming agents of change in all aspects of transforming health care. Overall, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, the visual and performing arts, mindfulness, experiencing the outdoors, travel, social justice, and improved and equitable health care. Linda will contribute her expertise and lived experience to this project.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT (cont.)



SPOR Evidence Alliance
Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research
Alliance pour des données
probantes de la SRAP
Stratégie de recherches axée sur le patient



Health Technology Assessment Unit, University of Calgary

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit is comprised of a team of dedicated health services researchers passionate about bridging the gap between science and policy. Together, they offer a unique skill set in systematic reviews, health economics, program evaluation, research design, and methodology. The unit conducts health technology assessments and reassessments for a wide variety of interventions and stakeholders, aimed at addressing a broad range of health policy questions. The innovative research program includes health technology assessments, health technology reassessments, economic evaluations, and reimbursement decision-making. Lastly, the team actively builds capacity in both evidence-producing and evidence-receiving communities through traditional graduate training and cutting-edge continuous learning opportunities.



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