

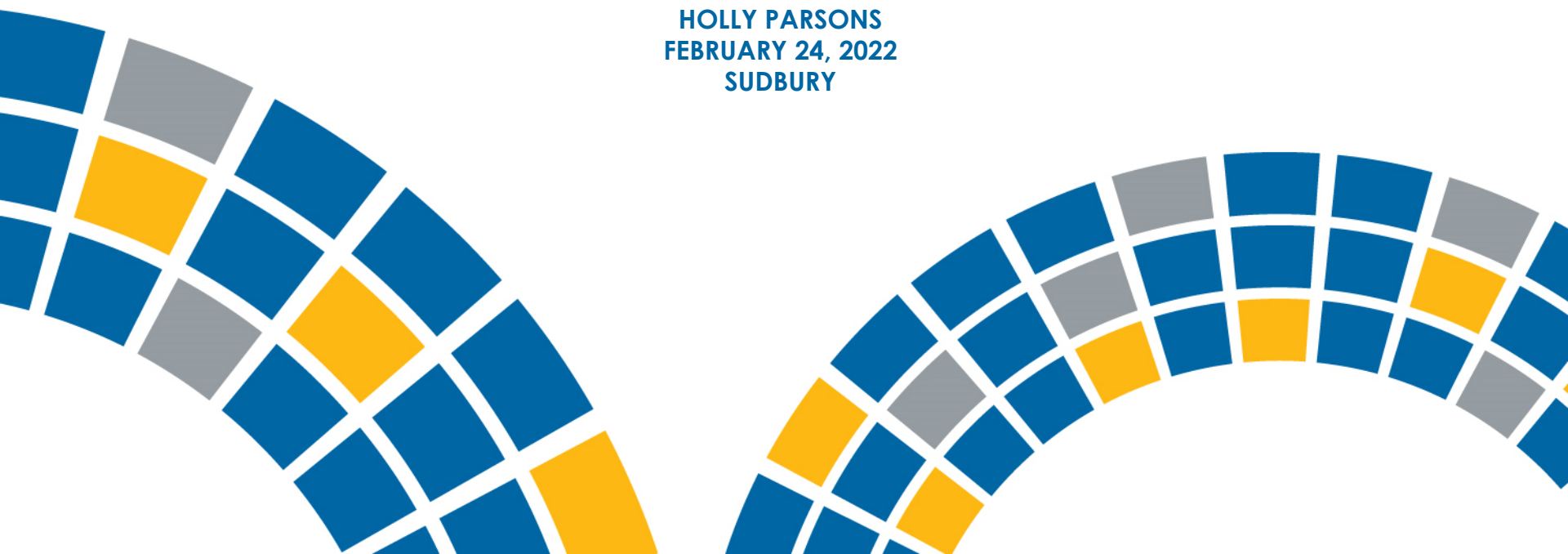
NORTHERN
POLICY INSTITUTE

INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES
DU NORD

Giwednong Aakomenjigewin Teg
b ΔC2-Δσ-Δι Ρ·∇Π.δ' ΔCη9·ΔbΓ'
Institu dPolitik di Nor

WELCOME
SOLVING THE HOMELESSNESS, ADDICTION,
AND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN THE NORTH

HOLLY PARSONS
FEBRUARY 24, 2022
SUDBURY



Land Acknowledgement

- NPI would like to acknowledge the First Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work. NPI is grateful for the opportunity to have our offices located on these lands and thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land.
- Each community is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples.
- We recognize and appreciate the historic connection that Indigenous people have to these territories. We support their efforts to sustain and grow their nations. We also recognize the contributions that they have made in shaping and strengthening local communities, the province, and Canada.

Land Acknowledgement

- **Thunder Bay** is on Robinson-Superior Treaty territory and the land is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg and Fort William First Nation.
- **Sudbury** is on the Robinson-Huron Treaty territory and the land is the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnaabeg as well as Wahnapiitae First Nation.
- **Kirkland Lake** is on the Robinson-Huron Treaty territory and the land is the traditional territory of Cree, Ojibway, and Algonquin Peoples.

...a **think tank** that conducts **independent** policy work,
to provide **evidence-based solutions** to sustain and
grow the regions of Northern Ontario.

- Independent
- Non-partisan
- Evidence based
- IN and FOR the North



- The Northern Analyst Collective (NAC), a project of Northern Policy Institute, allows members to “time share” a professional policy analyst
- By merging our collective resources we can ensure that the smallest municipality or local charity can access high-end skills at an affordable price.

Presentation Agenda

1. Introduction: why did we commission this piece?
2. Evidence of a 'crisis':
 - Homelessness Indicator
 - Addiction Indicators
 - Mental Health Indicators
3. Service Gaps and Policy Strategies



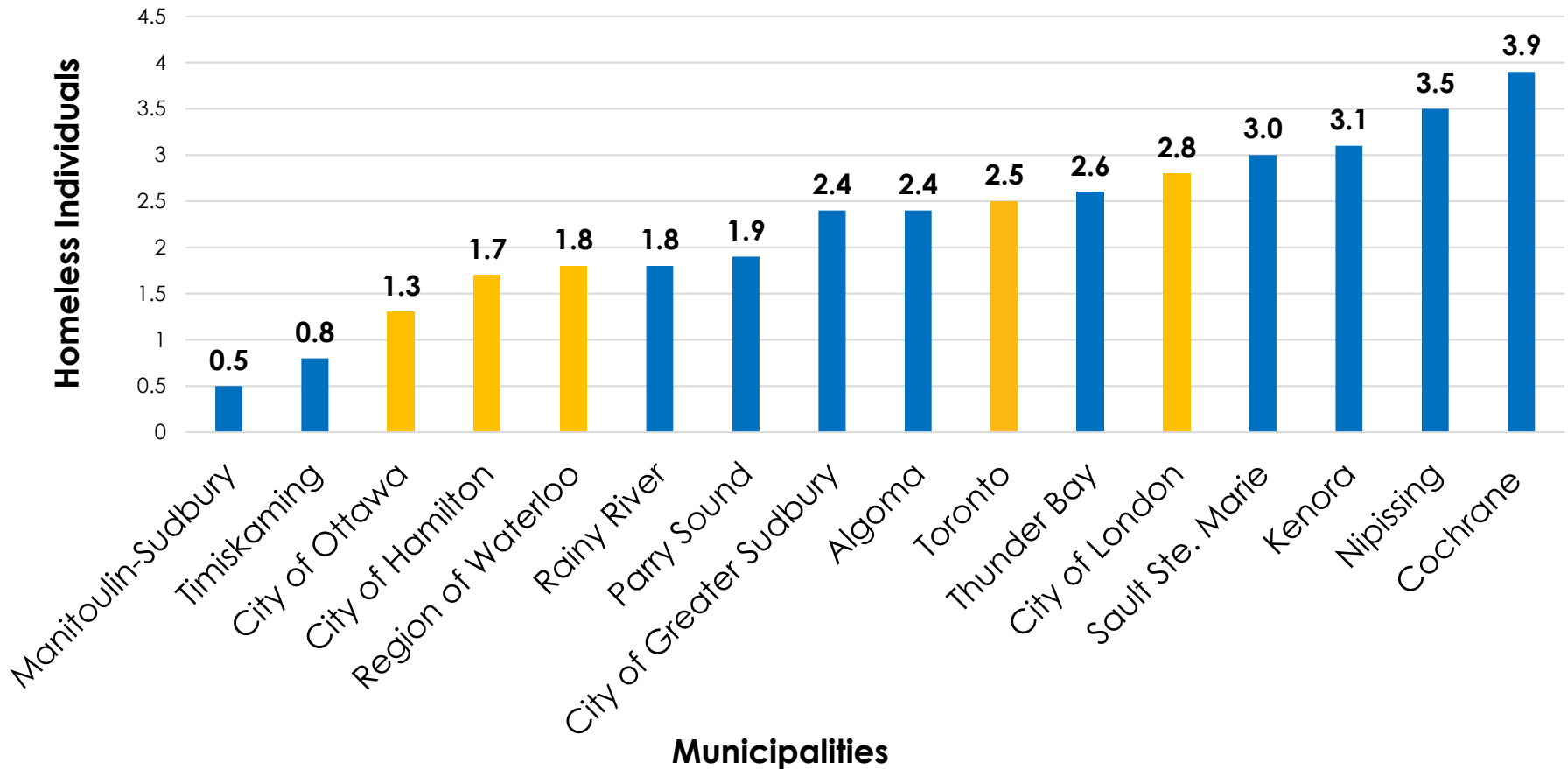
Why did we commission this piece?



Evidence of a 'Crisis'

Homelessness in Northern Ontario

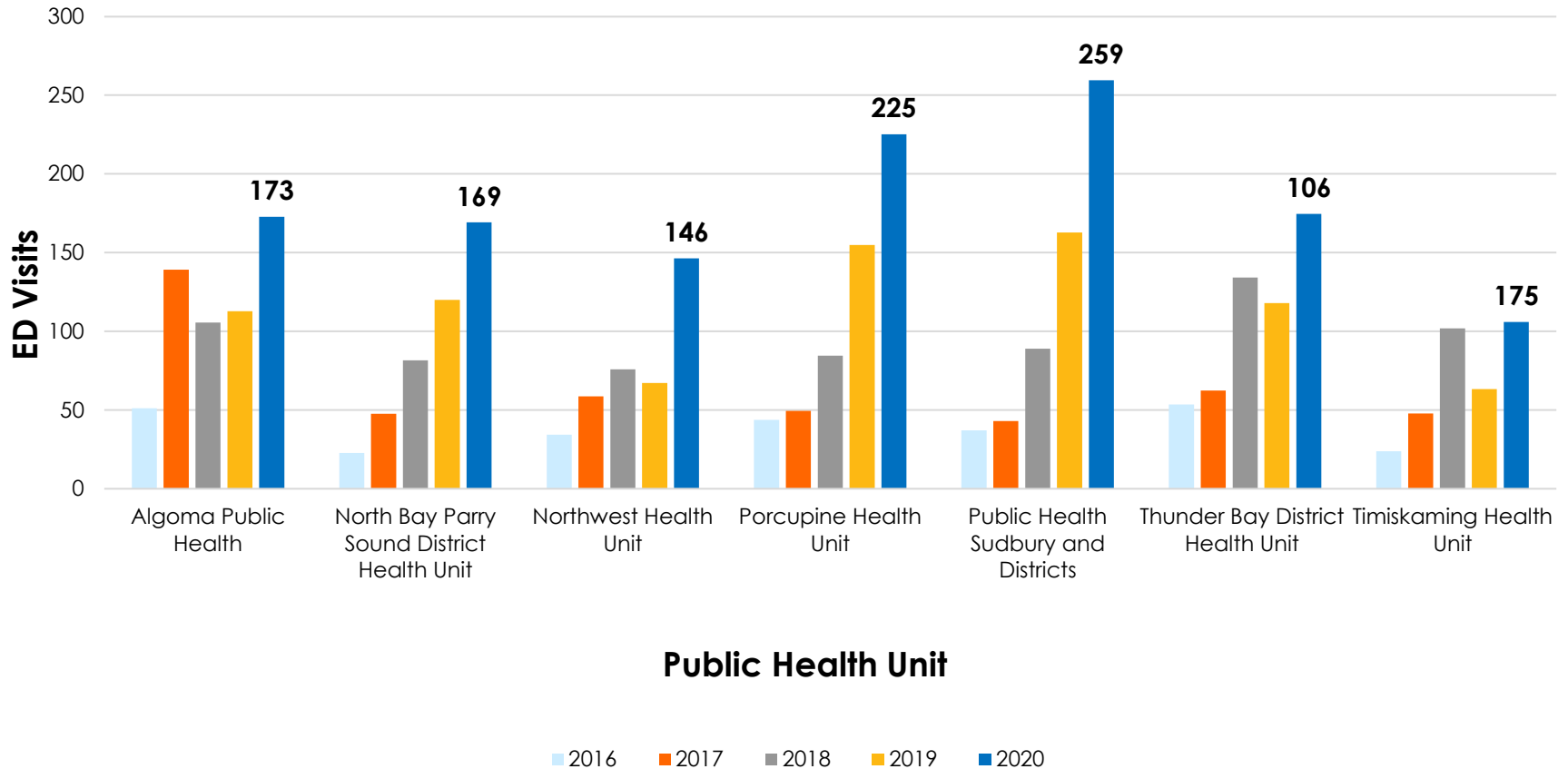
Number of Homeless Individuals During 2021 Point-in-Time Counts, Per 1,000



Source: Author's calculations from 2021 enumeration reports from DSSABs and municipalities, and Statistics Canada census district population projections.

Addiction in Northern Ontario

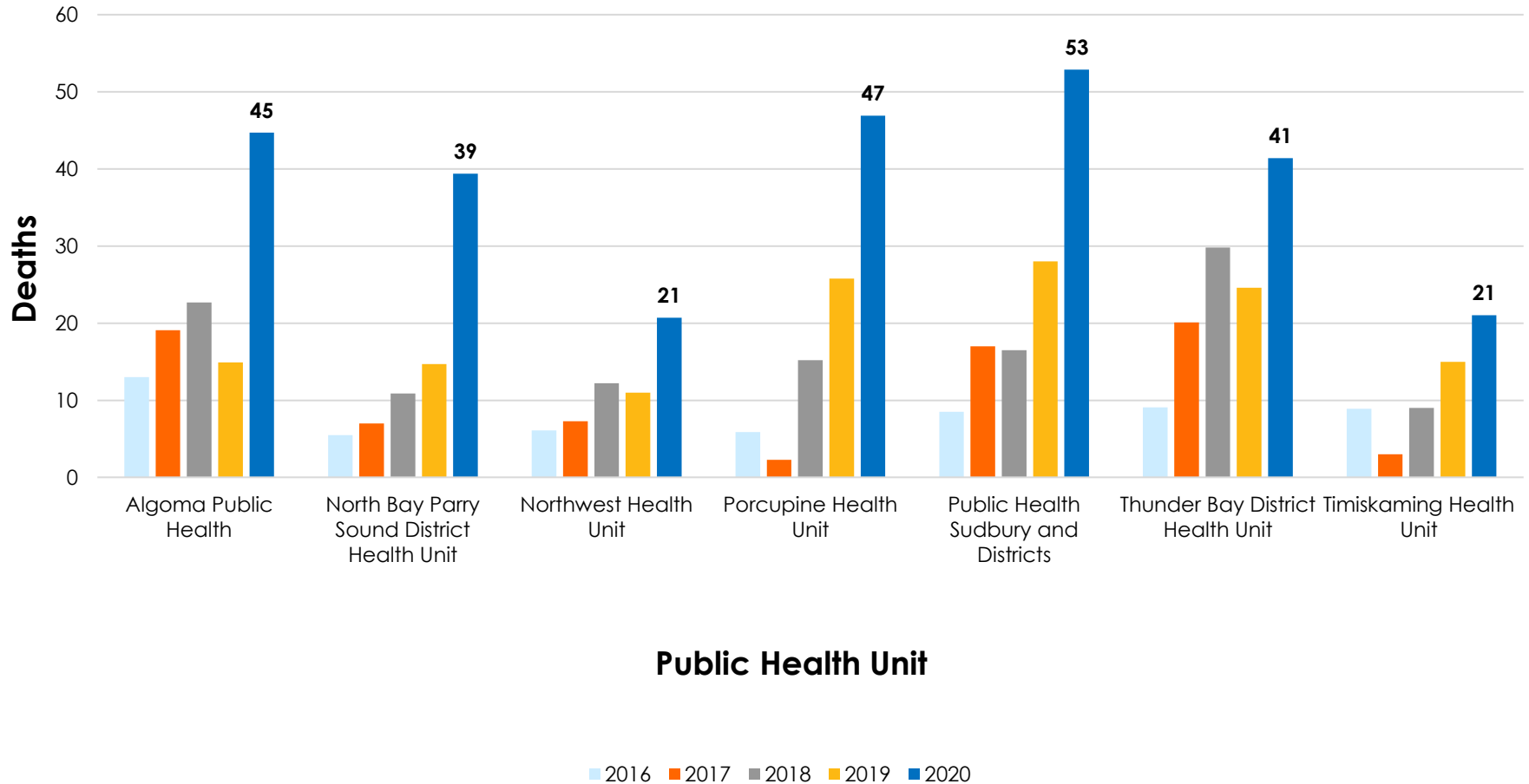
Annual Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visits by Public Health Unit, Per 100,000 People



Source: Public Health Ontario Interactive Opioid Tool, 2021.

Addiction in Northern Ontario (cont'd)

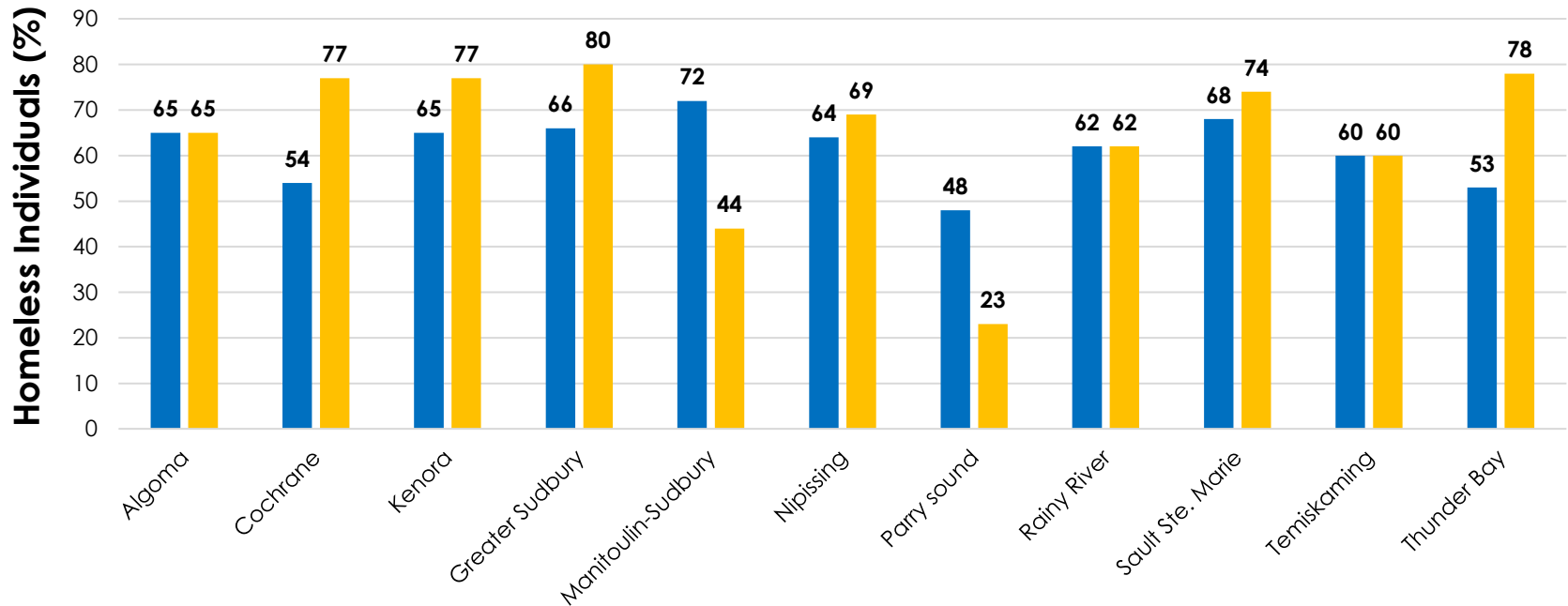
Annual Opioid-Related Deaths by Public Health Unit, Per 100,000 People



Source: Public Health Ontario Interactive Opioid Tool, 2021.

Mental Health in Northern Ontario

Percentage of Homeless Individuals That Self-identify as Having Mental Health and Addiction Issues



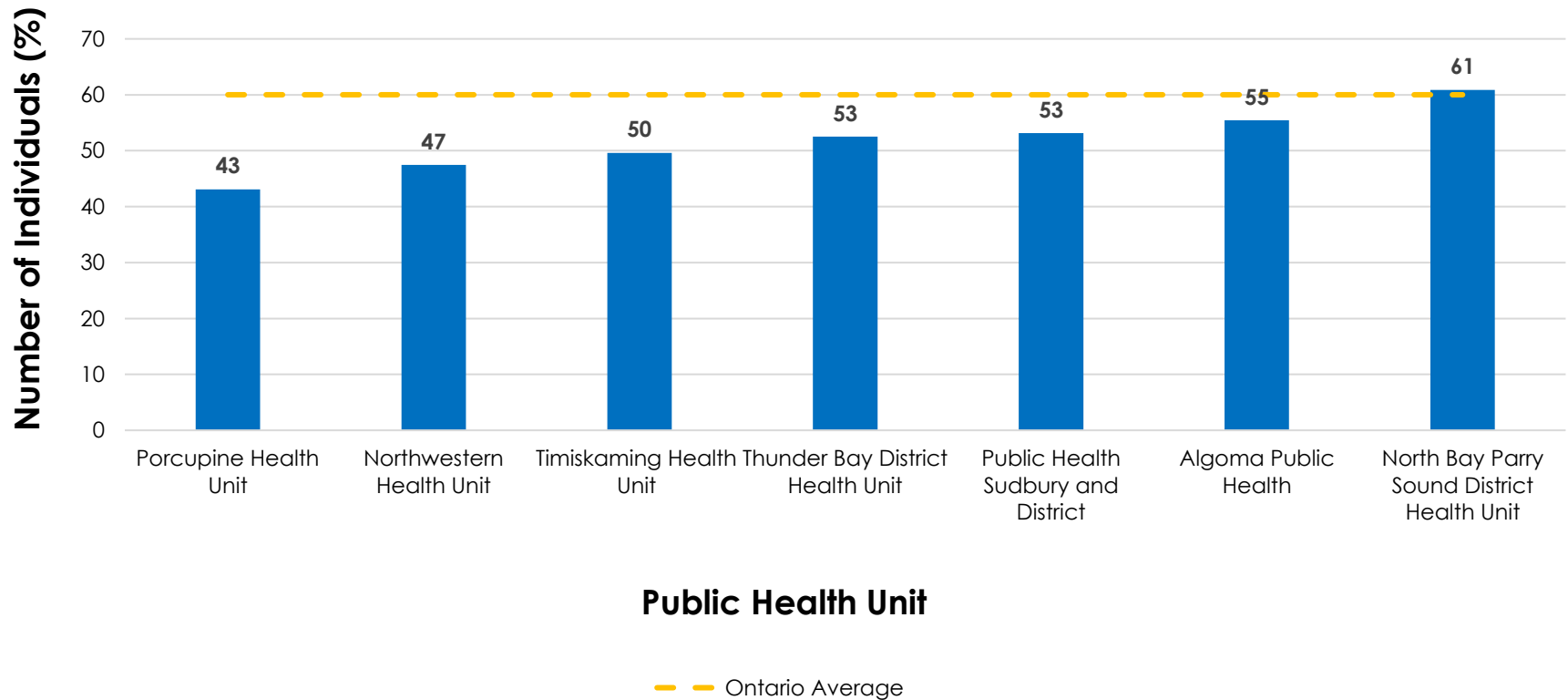
DSSABs and Service Manager

■ Mental Health ■ Addiction

Source: 2021 enumeration reports from DSSABs and City of Greater Sudbury.

Mental Health in Northern Ontario (cont'd)

Percentage of Individuals That Perceive Their Mental Health as 'Very Good or Excellent' by Public Health Unit, Per Capita



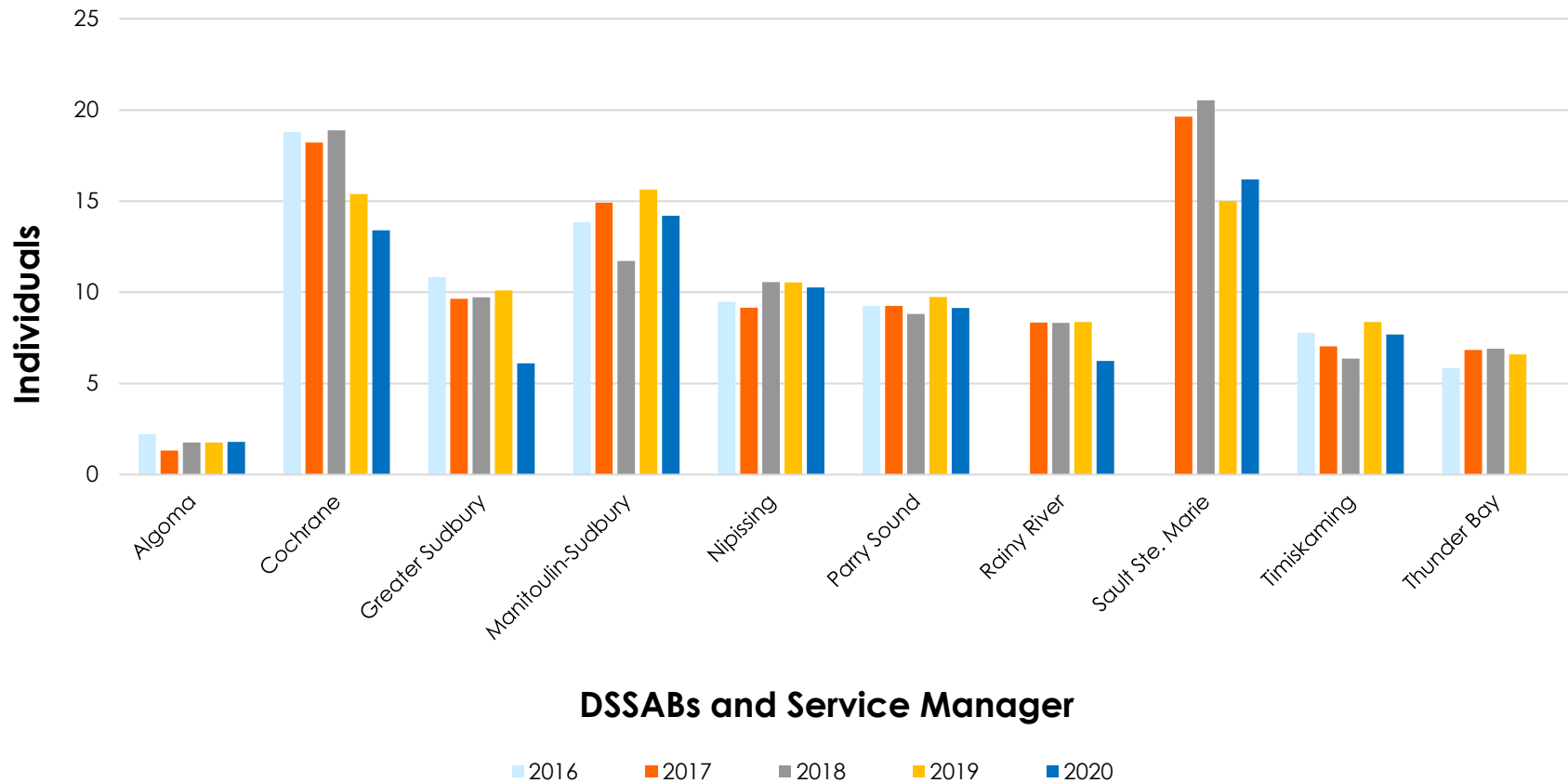
Source: Author's calculations from Statistics Canada health characteristics, two-year period estimates, and census profiles, public health units, 2016 census.



Service Gaps & Policy Strategies

1. Community Housing Waitlists

Number of Unique Individuals Waiting for Community Housing by Year and DSSAB District, Per 1,000 People



Source: Author's calculations from direct outreach to DSSABs and the City of Greater Sudbury, and Statistics Canada Census Division Population Projections for the corresponding years.

Policy Strategy: Community Housing Waitlists

Long-term funding to address backlog of capital repairs

- From provincial gov't
- 10-year funding commitment
- Support strategic planning

2. In-migration to Service Hubs

- No access to services and programs
- Applies pressure to housing stock and social services
- Limited resources in service hubs



Photo Credit: Meno Ya Win Health Centre, 2021

CASE STUDY: Sioux Lookout ('Hub of the North')

- Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre and Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter serve approx. 30,000 people
- 20 beds = 1 bed per 1,500 people
- 768 unique individuals = 5,000-person night stays

Policy Strategy: In-migration to Service Hubs

Amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990

- Define 'Northern Service Hub'
- Reserve fund

3. Medical Professionals

- 163 northern communities are “areas of high physician need”
- 325 physicians are in demand

CASE STUDY: JAHWF

- 3-year project
- Collect intelligence and data
- Strategic planning and informed decision-making
- 2 pilot programs and 1 feasibility study



Photo Credit: JAHWF, 2021



Photo Credit: JAHWF, 2021

Policy Strategy: Medical Professionals

Establish a similar taskforce in NO

- Federation of Nurses Union
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine

4. Housing First

- Rapid housing
- No preconditions
- 'Best practice'

CASE STUDY: Cross-Site At Home/Chez Soi

- 4-year, 5-city research project
- Federal gov't
- 80 per cent participants remained housed



Photo Credit: Mental Health Commission of Canada

CASE STUDY: Housing First In Canada

- Study of 8 Housing First programs
- Mental Health Commission of Canada
- Tremendous success

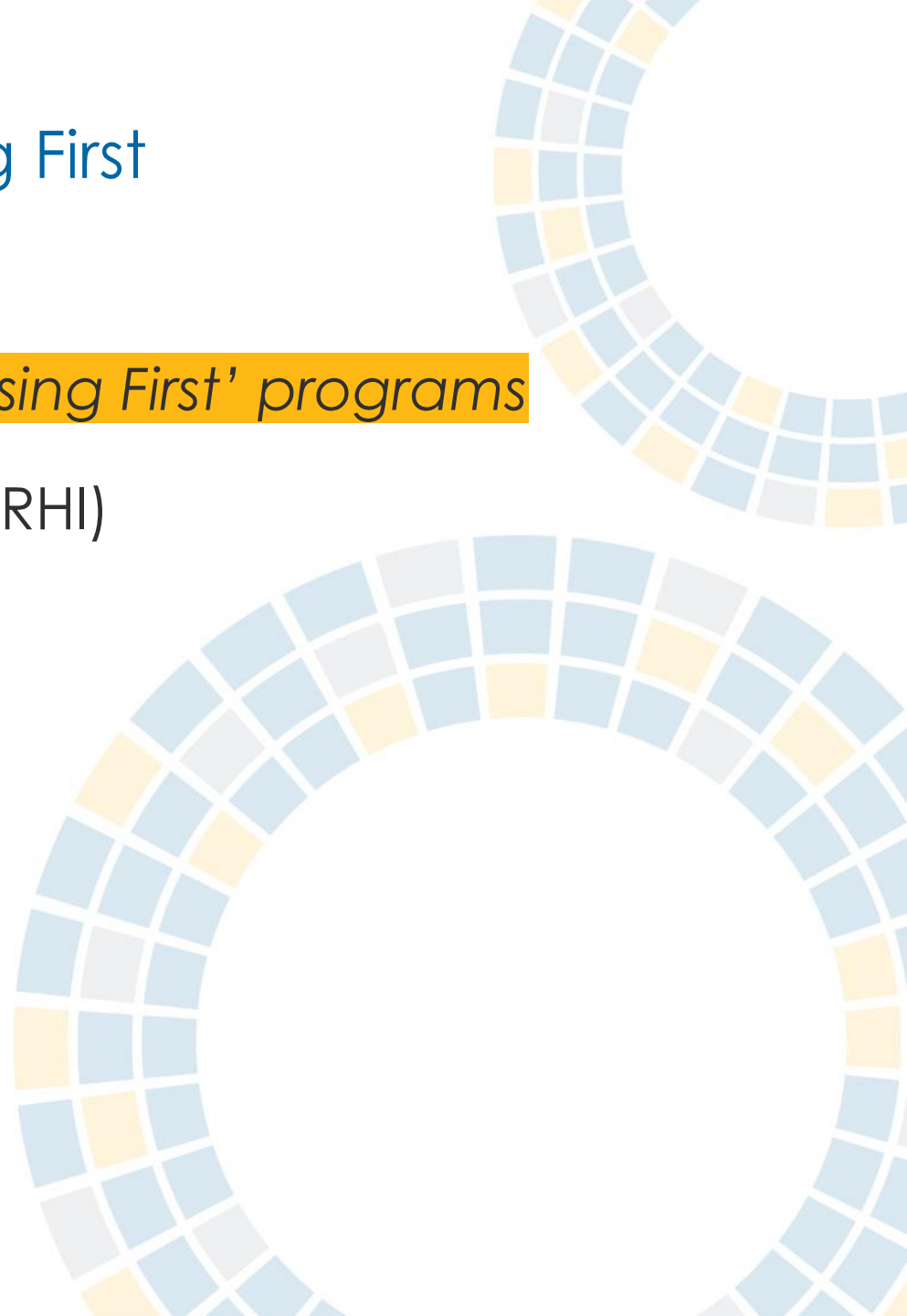


Photo Credit: Canadian Homelessness Research Network

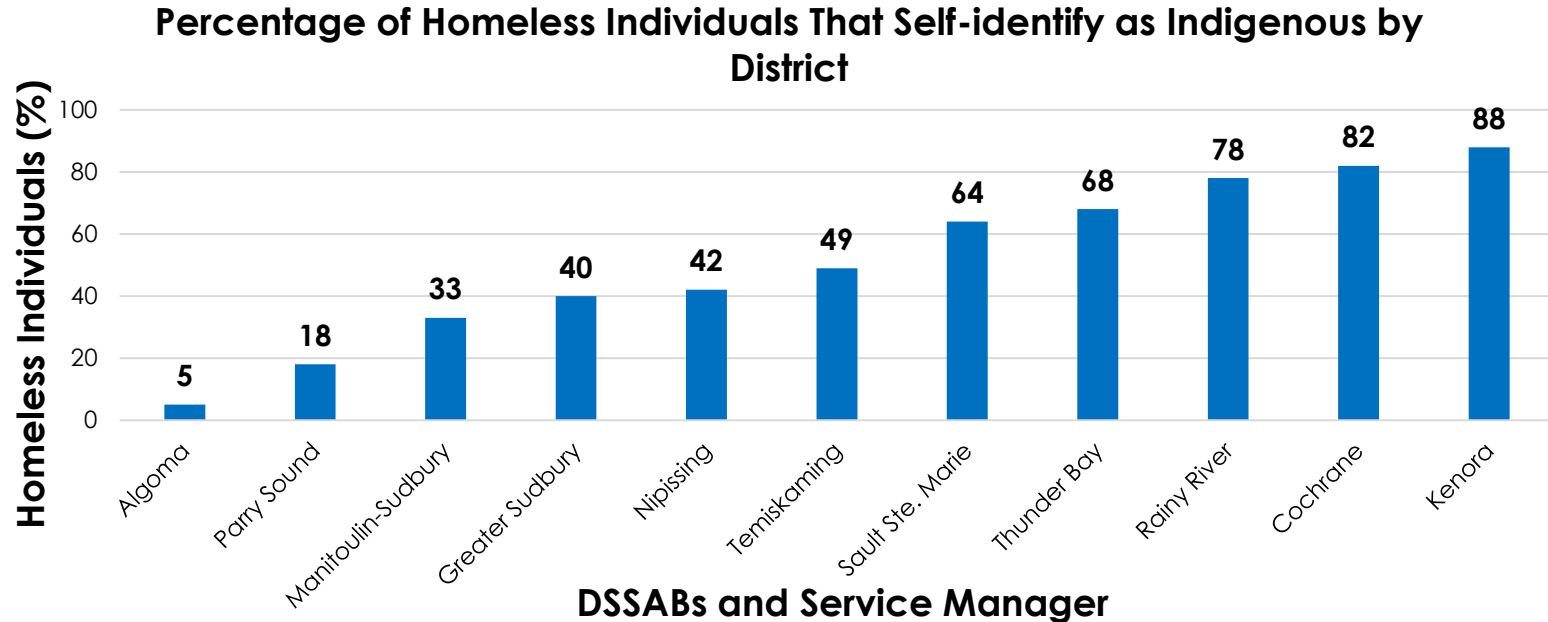
Policy Strategy: Housing First

Prioritize and support 'Housing First' programs

- Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)
- Severn First Nations
- 'Housing Now'



5. Culturally-Sensitive Community Housing



Source: 2021 enumeration reports from DSSABs and City of Greater Sudbury.

CASE STUDY: Supportive Housing Complex, Sioux Lookout

- Community-led project
- Reduced 911 to OPP by 90%
- Next: Kenora and Sault Ste. Marie



Photo Credit: SooToday, 2021

Policy Strategy: Culturally-Sensitive Community Housing

Prioritise and support culturally-sensitive community housing

- Expansion of similar facilities
- Community-led; supported by gov't

6. Northern Centre of Excellence for Addiction and Mental Health

- Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence
- Unique challenges in NO
- Support for *Northern* Centre of Excellence for Addiction and Mental Health

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

WHO

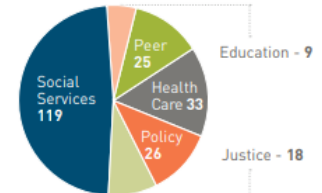
216

participants from 5 engagement areas

35% city of Thunder Bay

65% towns, rural areas and First Nations

65 participants were affiliated with Indigenous organizations and First Nations



HOW

14

Face-to-Face Engagement Sessions

12

Teleconference and Videoconference Engagement Sessions

1

Follow-Up Survey

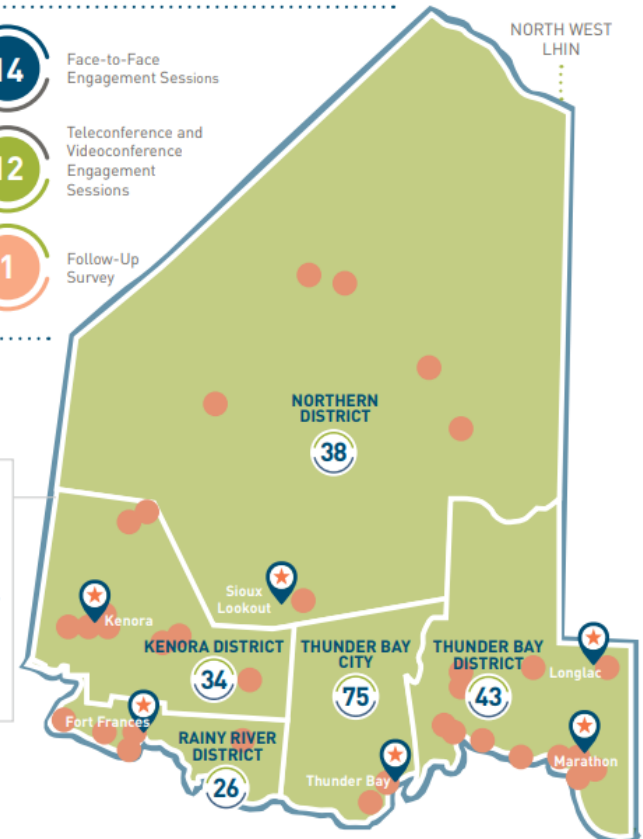
WHERE

ENGAGEMENT SESSION PARTICIPATION

Face-to-face

Teleconference or Videoconference

Number of participants per engagement area



Policy Strategy: Northern Centre of Excellence for Addiction and Mental Health

Establish a Northern Centre of Excellence for Addiction and Mental Health

- Begin consultation process
- Reassess benefits

7. Interfacility Transfers

- Increase in opioid overdoses calls
- High number of interfacility transfers
- Costly municipal expense
- Private and non-profit operators



Policy Strategy: Interfacility Transfers

Provincial government provide and fund a third-party operator

- Private or public
- No alternative = reimburse
- “A Compendium of Municipal Health Activities and Recommendations”

8. Mobile crisis intervention teams (MCIT)

- 'Revolving door' phenomenon
- MCIT model = mental health professional + police officer

CASE STUDY: COAST

- 1-year study
- Reduction in apprehensions
- Savings of \$47.43 per call

CASE STUDY: JMCRT

- Pilot Project
- Diverted 661 people from ED
- Diverted 131 from police custody



Photo Credit: CBC News, 2021

Policy Recommendation: MCIT

Establish consistent MCIT program across Northern Ontario

- *Recommendation made by OBCM*
- *“Tried and tested”*
- 4 new pilots; 1 on Manitoulin Island



ALL HANDS ON DECK

ANY QUESTIONS?



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Thank you. Marsee. Ραά.ⁿdΓN³
Merci. Miigwech.

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