

DEFINING THE DATA

VOLUME 2: Who should be added to the BNL?

Defining the Data is a regular series in Saint John's BNL Newsletter. Data definitions help us to speak the same language so we can work together towards an end to homelessness in our community

BNL SCREENING TOOL

The BNL is an important tool for advocacy and prioritization for folks who are experiencing homelessness - but that doesn't mean it's appropriate for everyone. If someone is currently housed (whether in transitional housing, a rooming house, a motel/hotel, or staying with someone else), consider the following questions before adding them to the BNL:



Does this person have their own key?



Can they stay there as long as they want?



Are they able to stay there without putting their safety at risk?



Do they consider themselves housed?



If there is a cost associated, can they afford it?

If you answered YES to more than one of these questions, the BNL is likely not the best option for your client

The following definitions classify different living/sleeping arrangements and whether they should be added to the BNL.



SLEEPING ROUGH: Staying on the street, in a tent, or another location unfit for human habitation (e.g., vehicle, park bench, or abandoned building).



EMERGENCY SHELTER: Overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for those experiencing homelessness



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SHELTER: Temporary shelter and support for women and children fleeing domestic violence



HOTEL/MOTEL/HOSTEL: Emergency provisional accommodation as an alternative to shelter.



COUCH SURFING: staying temporarily in a series of other people's homes, typically making use of improvised sleeping arrangements and/or putting oneself at risk (e.g., exchange of sex/drugs) for accommodations.

**MEETS BNL
CRITERIA**

**ATTEMPT
PREVENTION/
DIVERSION FIRST**

HOUSED IN FAMILY'S HOUSE/APARTMENT: Staying with family or friends where the situation, while not ideal, is safe, secure, and relatively stable.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: A short-term project (typically less than 24 months) designed to provide housing and supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living.

ROOMING HOUSE/SRO: A shared accommodation where there are multiple rooms in a building that are rented individually and share a bath and/or kitchen. Tenants of SROs are protected under the Residential Tenancies Act.

HALFWAY HOUSE/COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL FACILITY: Provides a bridge between the institution (prison/jail) and the community, working on a system of gradual, supervised release.

AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS: Provides a bridge between the institution (prison/jail) and the community, working on a system of gradual, supervised release.