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Critical Considerations for Development of Soup Kitchen or Community Kitchen and Housing First Program within Downtown Grand Forks

Executive Summary

The location of a soup kitchen or community kitchen downtown will likely increase the risks of individuals to encounter substances that carry infectious diseases. Property crime and commercial break and enters likely to rise if a soup kitchen or community kitchen is located downtown or near residential neighbourhoods. Housing First Shelter Programs highly likely to reduce participant alcohol and drug dependence with proper supportive programs.

Soup Kitchen/Community Kitchen Discussion

If soup kitchen or community kitchen (Kitchen) is located downtown it is highly likely individuals and children will encounter improperly discarded drug supplies that may carry infectious diseases. Infectious incurable diseases and drug use highly correlate with homelessness¹. "Drug users in settings of soup kitchens beyond the reach of traditional drug treatment and AIDS prevention programs"².

It is likely homeless will have greater access to alcohol if Kitchen is located near downtown. Heavy alcohol consumption among soup kitchen attendees range from 30 to 38%³. Multiple liquor stores and bars located within the downtown core. Money from panhandling is mainly spent on drugs and alcohol, but lower than some have suggested⁴.

Wet Shelter/Housing First Program Discussion

Reducing homelessness in Grand Forks will likely lead to a decrease in crime. Homelessness is highly correlated with more serious indictable offences⁵. Crime rates among homeless can be reduced if provided adequate housing opportunities⁶. Homeless shelters can reduce rates of breaking and entering of commercial establishments by 34% but can increase property crime rates by 56%⁸. Grand Forks crime rates have been increasing for the past 2 years (see Annex A for crime trends and patterns). Drop of 37% in crime rates in Quarter 4 of 2018 likely due to May 2018 flood. It is unknown how homelessness has affected Grand Forks current crime trends.

Within 3-5 years, residents of wet-shelters may significantly reduce their alcohol consumption⁹. HFP can reduce incarceration rates and provide better health care opportunities¹⁰.

For a wet shelter or HFP to be successful in a rural community like Grand Forks, additional interventions will be needed. Moving into HFP is the critical time for the most

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effective substance abuse intervention programming¹¹. HFP in rural communities can be effective on reducing substance dependence with additional intervention programs¹².

Large financial investment required for adequate HFP in rural communities¹³. Grand Forks still rebuilding the downtown core from the 2018 flood. Budgeting for an HFP requires consideration for program staffing, Intensive Case Management teams (ICM), and Assertive Community Treatment teams (ACT)¹⁴. It is beyond the scope of this report to recommend specific program models for participants as each participant will require a different program. Boundary Community Health Centre and BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services may provide additional insights and recommendations for effective ICM and ACT models for participants of an HFP. “BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services works with regional health authorities and key stakeholders to ensure BC adults have access to specialized mental health and substance use services they need, when they need them, regardless of where they live”¹⁵.

Additional Comments

Scientific studies have not fully explored the effects of homelessness, wet homeless shelters, or soup kitchens/community kitchen within rural areas such as Grand Forks. If Grand Forks implements a Housing First Program, then crime rates will decrease if there are additional substance abuse programs that target high risk individuals. If soup kitchen is built within Grand Forks near downtown core, then additional supports will need to be implemented to deter crime and keep the community safe. If additional supports for a Kitchen and shelter are not implemented, then additional industries, such as tourism, may see reduced business.

Source Reliability: 9

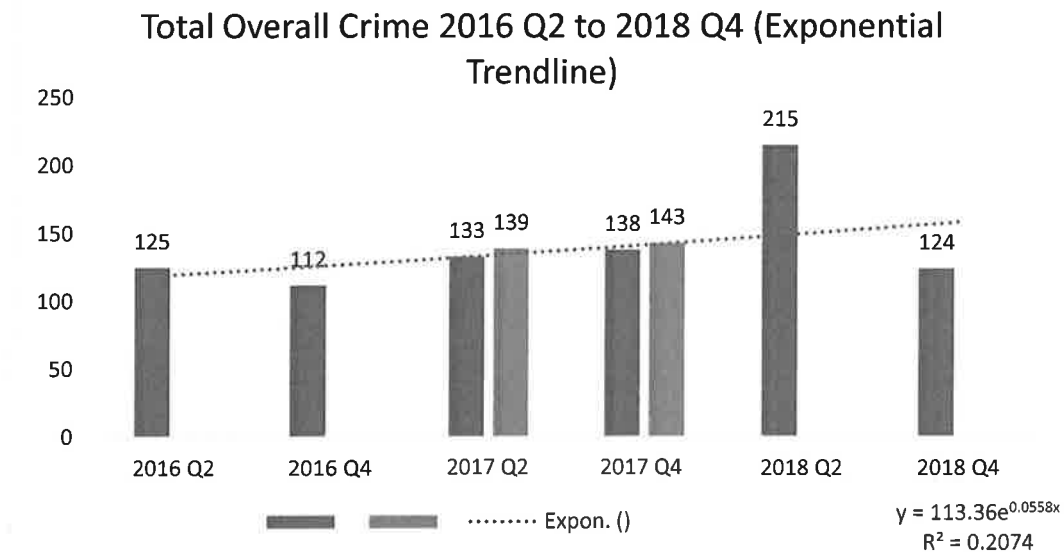
Analytic Confidence: 7

For additional questions or comments, contact the author:



Annex A

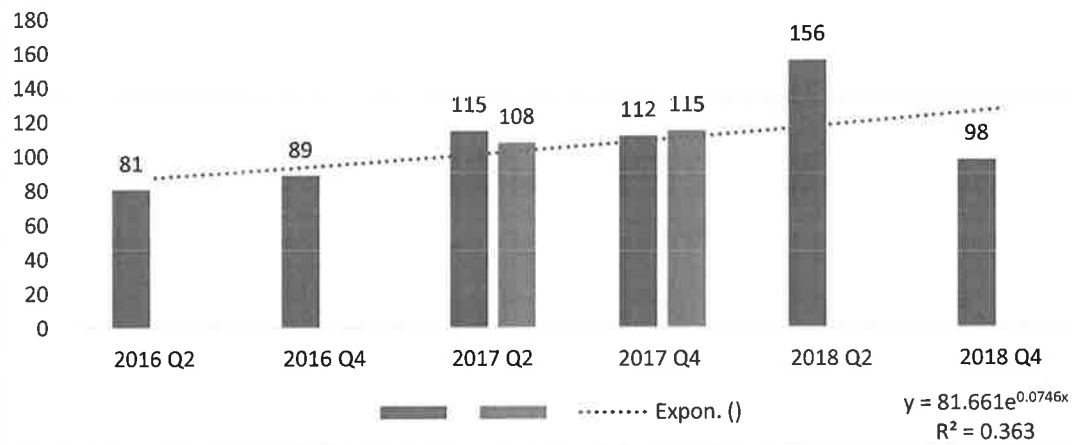
Grand Forks Crime Stats and Trends



Totals for All Criminal Code

| | | |
|---------|-----|-----|
| 2016 Q2 | 125 | |
| 2016 Q4 | 112 | |
| 2017 Q2 | 133 | 139 |
| 2017 Q4 | 138 | 143 |
| 2018 Q2 | 215 | |
| 2018 Q4 | 124 | |

Total Grand Forks Crime 2016 Q2 to 2018 Q4 (Exponential Trendline)



Totals for All Grand Forks

Crimes

| | | |
|---------|-----|-----|
| 2016 Q2 | 81 | |
| 2016 Q4 | 89 | |
| 2017 Q2 | 115 | 108 |
| 2017 Q4 | 112 | 115 |
| 2018 Q2 | 156 | |
| 2018 Q4 | 98 | |

Percentage Change Grand

Forks Total Crime

Between Q2 2016 and Q4

2018

21%

Percentage Change Grand

Forks Total Crime

Between Q2 2016 and Q2

2018

93%

Percentage Change Grand

Forks Total Crime

Between Q2 2018 and Q4

2018

-37%

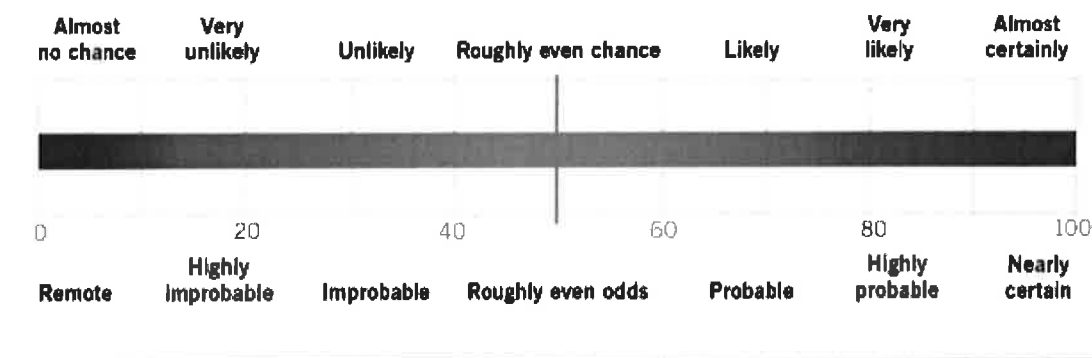
Annex B

Words of Estimative Probability

“Estimative language consists of two elements: judgements about the likelihood of developments or events occurring and levels of confidence in the sources and analytic reasoning supporting the judgements. Judgements are not intended to imply that we have proof that shows something to be a fact. Assessments are based on collected information, which is often incomplete or fragmentary, as well as logic, argumentation, and precedents.”¹⁶

“Judgements of Likelihood: The chart below approximates how judgements of likelihood correlate with percentages. Unless otherwise stated, judgements are not derived via statistical analysis. Terms such as ‘probable’ and ‘likely’ convey analytic assessments.”¹⁷

Percent



Endnotes

¹ Schilling, R. F., El-Bassel, N., & Gilbert, L. (1992). Drug Use and AIDS Risks in a Soup Kitchen Population. *Social Work*, 37(4), 353–358. Retrieved from <https://0-search-ebshost-com.orca.douglascollege.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=i3h&AN=9208176025&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

² Ibid.

³ Rash, C. J., Petry, N. M., Alessi, S. M., & Barnett, N. P. (2018). Monitoring Alcohol Use in Heavy Drinking Soup Kitchen Attendees. *Alcohol (Fayetteville, N.Y.)*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.alcohol.2018.10.001>

⁴ Bose, R., & Hwang, S. W. (2002). Income and spending patterns among panhandlers. *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association journal = journal de l'Association medicale canadienne*, 167(5), 477-9. Retrieved March 2, 2019 from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC121964/>

⁵ Burton, B., Pollio, D. E., & North, C. S. (2018). A longitudinal study of housing status and crime in a homeless population. *Annals Of Clinical Psychiatry: Official Journal Of The American Academy Of Clinical Psychiatrists*, 30(4), 280–288. Retrieved from <https://0-search-ebshost-com.orca.douglascollege.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mnh&AN=30372505&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Schmid, T. (2018, May 23). No link between homeless villages and crime rates, Guardian review suggests. *The Guardian*, Retrieved February 27, 2019 from <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/may/23/homeless-villages-crime-rate-seattle-portland>

⁸ Faraji, S.-L., Ridgeway, G., & Wu, Y. (2018). Effect of emergency winter homeless shelters on property crime. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 14(2), 129–140. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-017-9320-4>

⁹ Green, J. & Alamenciak T. (2013, March 8). Wet shelters limit options for city's alcoholics. *The Star*. Retrieved March 2, 2019 from https://www.thestar.com/life/health_wellness/news_research/2013/03/08/wet_shelters_limit_options_for_citys_alcoholics.html

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Clifasefi, S. L., Collins, S. E., Torres, N. I., Grazioli, V. S., & Mackelprang, J. L. (2016). Housing First, but What Comes Second? A Qualitative Study of Resident, Staff and Management Perspectives on Single-Site Housing First Program Enhancement. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 44(7), 845–855. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.21812>

¹² Gaetz, S. Scott, F. Gulliver, T. (2013). Housing First in Canada: Supporting Communities to End Homelessness. *Canadian Homelessness Research Network: The Homeless Hub*. Retrieved March 2, 2019 from <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/HousingFirstInCanada.pdf>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Provincial Health Services Authority. (n.d.). BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services. Retrieved March 3, 2019 from http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/bc-mental-health-substance-use-services?fbclid=IwAR2uDRMI6GGP-a3uk1mmeU2_Rw9queid0o1E5gwbI1Ef6q28YUw1wjiA1r4

¹⁶ Intelligence Community Assessment. (2017, January 6). Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections. *Office of the Director of National Intelligence*. Retrieved March 2, 2019 from <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3254237/Russia-Hack-Report.pdf>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.