EDMONTON HOARDING COALITION

As the city of Edmonton continues to expand there are growing concerns regarding hoarding behaviours and their associated societal and functional consequences. High rates of social service access are often seen in individuals with hoarding disorder and compulsive hoarding has been demonstrated to be a significant contributor to public health burden. In an effort to better understand incidents of hoarding in our community the EHC conducted a data collection project in May 2016 and again in May 2018. The projects employed an online survey to collect details about the frequency and duration of hoarding associated services being accessed by city residents. Information was also obtained about key safety and health risks that community agencies encountered in the course of service provision.

301 surveys submitted

848 hours of service time
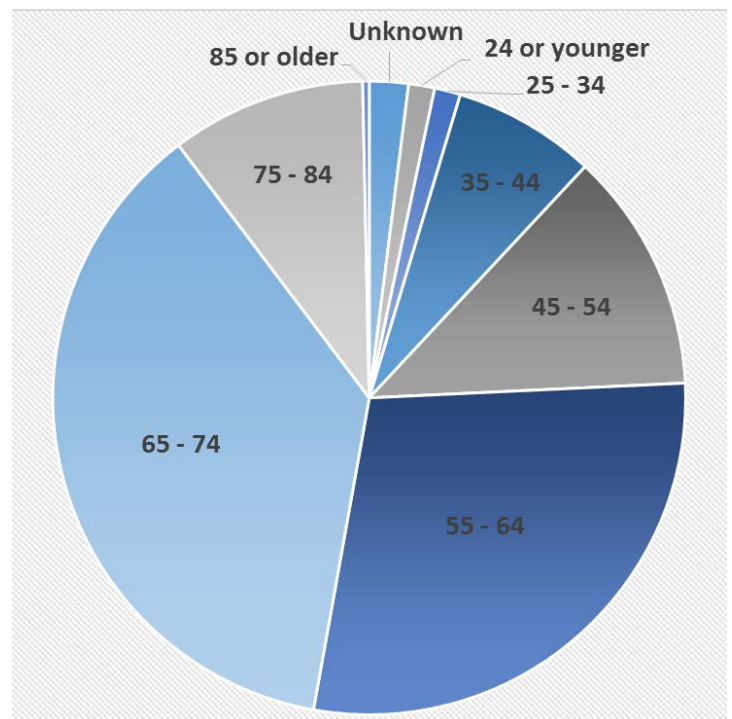
761 instances of service access

Organizational Funding		
23% Public	12% Private	65% Non-Profit

Twelve different community organizations participated, including: 211, AHS Home Care Services, Community Geriatric Psychiatry, City of Edmonton, Canadian Mental Health Association, Environmental Public Health, Greater Edmonton Foundation, Helping Hands Personal Assistants, Professional Organizers, Sage Seniors Association, Terri Bailey Counselling Services

Household Information

- 36% of residences were known to have more than one occupant
- Client known to be homeowner in 51% of cases
- Home subsidized in 45% of known cases
- Of the known cases 21% had past contract clean-up orders
- Eviction notice issued in 10% of cases
- Department of Public Health issued unfit for human habitation orders in 3 reported cases of service access
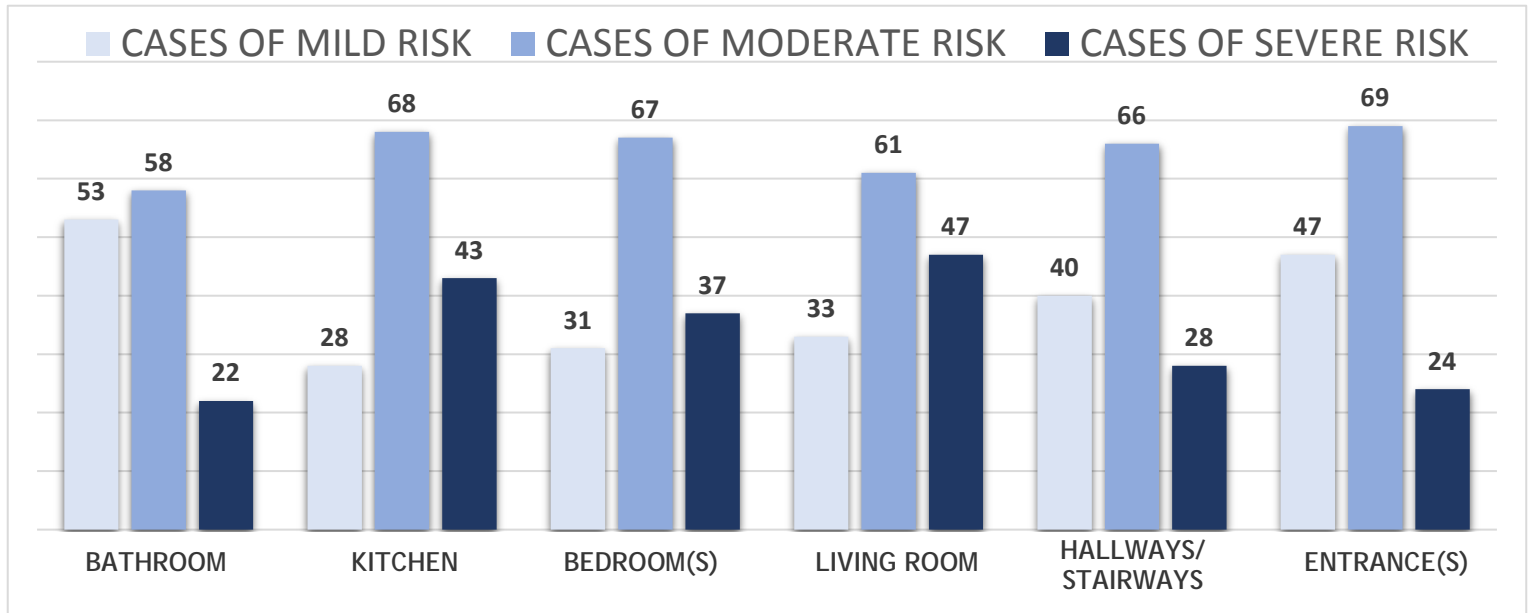
Edmonton Hoarding Coalition
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Ages of Individuals Accessing Services

Overall Risk Assessment Ratings: If conditions were known, service providers were asked to rate the severity of the hoarded environment based on descriptions of mild, moderate or severe risk.

Mild risk level	Manageable level of clutter; interferes with optimal use of room; no difficulty navigating; clutter creates temporary hazards
Moderate risk level	Clutter impedes free movement in the room; functional use of the room is impaired; clutter creates moderate hazards
Severe risk level	Severe accumulation of belongings; navigation is difficult; use of room is impossible or nearly impossible; serious hazards due to clutter

CASES OF MILD RISK   **CASES OF MODERATE RISK**   **CASES OF SEVERE RISK**

	BATHROOM	KITCHEN	BEDROOM(S)	LIVING ROOM	HALLWAYS/STAIRWAYS	ENTRANCE(S)
Cases of mild risk	53	28	31	33	40	47
Cases of moderate risk	58	68	67	61	66	69
Cases of severe risk	22	43	37	47	28	24

Most frequently reported environmental concerns:
- Unstable piles of belongings present throughout the home
- No counter space available for safe food preparation
- Flammable items on or around the stovetop
- Safe movement throughout the home inhibited by clutter
- Excessive accumulation of belongings on/around the property
- Blocked or unsafe heat vents & clutter within 3 feet of a heat source

For the 2016 data collection, an average of 2 other service providers were known to be involved, with up to 7 involved agencies being indicated in some cases. The 2018 data collection results were comparable, where on average 2 additional agencies were known to be providing services. The 2018 results differed in that the maximum number of additional service providers known to be involved was 4.

Calgary Community Hoarding Coalition

In 2017 a similar data collection project was commission by the Calgary Community Hoarding Coalition. Those results and how they compare to the 2016 Edmonton data collection are summarized below.

Data Collections – By the Numbers

2016		2018
257	Number of Surveys Returned	301
673	Instances of Reported Service Access	761
99 MINUTES	Average Encounter Length	67 MINUTES
1111 HOURS	Total Reported Service Time	848 HOURS

1111 HOURS OF SERVICES REPORTED

673 total encounters

99 minutes on average per encounter

3 encounters on average per client

May 2017
Calgary
Hoarding Service Provision

Hoarding Service Provision
Edmonton
May 2016

4 encounters on average per client

39 minutes on average per encounter

582 HOURS OF SERVICES REPORTED

904 total encounters

According to Statistics Canada the proportion of the population aged 65 and older has been increasing steadily over the past 40 years. From 1971 to 2010, the proportion of seniors in the population grew from 8% to 14%. This trend will continue to impact health care service provision and is illustrated by differences between the 2016 and 2018 data collection results.

	Individuals 55+	Individuals 65+
Age Ranges – 2018	76% of responses	47% of responses
Age Ranges – 2016	61% of responses	34% of responses

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