

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA:

Original Protocol

Design and Eligibility Criteria

A scoping review methodology was utilized based on the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) framework for scoping reviews alongside the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) for reporting findings (Peters et al., 2020). Both academic literature and grey literature were used to ensure comprehensive analysis of the literature.

Eligibility Criteria

Both database searches and grey literature were subject to the same inclusion and exclusion criteria. These were as follows:

Inclusion criteria:

- Relates to homeless individuals and COVID-19 and health or social resource access.
- Research focus includes a region within Canada (either exclusively or in comparison with another jurisdiction).
- Article is written in English.
- Articles published from January 1, 2020 onwards will be considered, with the final search taking place June 1, 2021 to account for the project timeline.

Exclusion criteria:

- Research does not relate to all three concepts of homelessness, COVID-19, and health or social resource access.
- Research focus is entirely outside of Canada.
- Article is not written in English.
- Any masters or doctoral dissertations, and theses or conference abstracts.
- Commentaries, editorials, newspaper, and magazine articles.
- Articles published before January 1, 2020 or after June 1 2021 (as June 1 was the last date of literature searches).

Information Sources and Search Strategy

A broad scope of literature was utilized. Published research articles focusing on or incorporating Canada in the research were included. Grey literature at the governmental and organizational levels, including policy documents, research papers, and federal, provincial, or municipal reports, in addition to information gathered from key organization websites were included. Sources were utilized so long as they discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced access to health or social resources for Canada's homeless population. Both positive and negative findings were included. Articles were required to be published in English from January 1, 2020 onwards to be considered, as the novel coronavirus was not known to exist within Canada prior to this date. Conference abstracts, masters or doctoral theses, and dissertations were not included as it is likely such publications would be incomplete given the recency of the pandemic, and would likely lack a substantial focus on IEH. Newspaper or magazine articles, commentaries, and editorials were excluded due to a lack of rigour.

A search strategy was iteratively developed and refined with input from a Health Sciences librarian from McMaster University. Because of the diversity of services utilized by IEH, an interdisciplinary search methodology was required. Thus, biomedical databases, social science databases, and nursing databases were searched in addition to grey literature to comprehensively gather and map all available information on the topic. OVID Medline provided a biomedical aspect; Web of Science and Sociological Abstracts were used to gain a social science perspective; and CINAHL and OVID EmCare (nursing databases) provided information to supplement biomedical and social science findings.

The search strategy for databases was developed using key terms suggested by the scope notes tool on Ovid Medline. Subject headings were (COVID-19) AND (Canada) AND (Homeless persons). These subject headings were adapted as needed for different databases; for example, CINAHL had a wider range of more specific subject headings, so (COVID-19 pandemic), (SARS-CoV-2), and (Homelessness) were also included. OVID Emcare lacked a subject heading for COVID-19, so the subject heading (Pandemic) was used instead. For all searches, the same keywords were utilized, as were Boolean operators where appropriate and where accepted by the database. The first database search was conducted May 6, 2021 and the second on May 24, 2021 (Figure 2). Date restrictions were used on the databases to find articles only published after January 1, 2020. On Sociological Abstracts, an additional restriction of 'Scholarly Journals' was applied due to the high number of news reports in the search results.

Grey literature sources included governmental documents from the provincial and municipal levels, as well as documents produced by key organizations. A mix of targeted searches and advanced Google searches were used for grey literature. Key organizations were identified as being relevant sources of information on the topic and were used for targeted searches. These were the Salvation Army, Homeless Hub, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH), Canadian Network for the Health and Housing of People Experiencing Homelessness (CNH3), and the BC Center for Disease Control (BCCDC). Initially, targeted searches were made to identify sources published by the federal government of Canada, as well as the 10 provinces and three territories to ensure comprehensive coverage of the grey literature on a national scale to capture jurisdictional differences. Specific searches for literature from major Canadian cities with the highest population densities were also initially completed, including Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, and Montreal.

However, changes were made to the grey literature search strategy, as it was found that the majority of findings did not meet the inclusion criteria. Instead, the systematic grey literature search designed by Godin et al. (2015) was amended and implemented, incorporating advanced Google searches in combination with targeted website searches. Advanced Google searches used five key terms representative of the core concepts of the study and the academic database subject headings: COVID*, homeless*, social, health*, and Canada. File type was restricted to PDF to reduce the number of results that were news articles (an exclusion criterion), and the region was set to Canada. The search was run on May 31. Citations for each result from the first five pages of results were recorded, and it was assumed that Google would produce the most relevant findings at the top of the list. The same targeted websites used in the initial grey literature search strategy were again chosen (Homeless Hub, CAEH, Salvation Army, BCCDC, and CNH3). Targeted website searches were completed on June 1, 2021 using the search bar on each website. The same five search terms were entered (except for on the Homeless Hub website, which accepted only one search term; therefore COVID* was used). One reviewer (MM) sifted through all results from these searches and recorded the full citation of relevant articles.

Selection of Evidence and Data Extraction

Search results from the database searches were uploaded to the systematic review software Covidence (CovidenceSystematic Review Software, n.d.), which identified and removed duplicates. Title and abstract screening was completed by two reviewers independently (MM and RG). Disagreement regarding the inclusion of articles was resolved via consensus over a Zoom meeting, and the involvement of a third individual was not necessary as no instances occurred in which consensus was unattainable. Two reviewers independently completed full text review, following the same protocol and inclusion and exclusion criteria. Citation chaining was completed by one reviewer (MM). All studies were exported to the reference manager Zotero.

For grey literature, the same inclusion and exclusion criteria were followed. An Excel spreadsheet was used as Covidence is not conducive for grey literature, and numeric codes were used for inclusion and reasons for exclusion. Inclusion was denoted by '2.0', and reasons for exclusion were recorded as: 1.1, does not assess access, 1.2, wrong setting, 1.3, wrong patient population, 1.4, wrong design, or 1.5, wrong language. Grey literature title and abstract screening was done by one reviewer (MM). As most grey literature lacks an abstract, instead, the title, table of contents, or executive summary were examined. If one or more of these fit the inclusion criteria, the article continued to full text screening which was completed independently by both reviewers. For all literature, if there was uncertainty if an article should be included for next stage of screening, reviewers erred on the side of caution and the article was included.

Data extraction was completed by one reviewer (MM) and cross checked by a second (RG) for all literature. Data was extracted using an Excel spreadsheet that categorized information regarding access into the 10 components of the Levesque framework in order to identify themes easily. Other categories included the articles' citation, type of article, methods used, geographic area and population of focus, useful quotes, additional information, and aspects of access not addressed by the Levesque framework. Steps 12 and 16 (critical appraisals) were not conducted, as the intent of our scoping review is to capture and map the available literature rather than critically appraise what exists, as indicated by Munn et al. (2018).

Search Strategy:

Search conducted May 24, 2021, all languages included, additional limit of publication year between 2020-current.

OVID Medline Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Ovid MEDLINE(R) Daily and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present

- 1 COVID-19/ 80260
- 2 (Covid-19 or Covid19 or covid 19).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 132717
- 3 (sars-cov-2 infect* or sars cov2 infect* or sars cov 2 infect*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 11490
- 4 (coronavirus disease 19 or coronavirus disease 2019 or coronavirus disease-19).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 26627
- 5 (2019 novel coronavirus disease* or 2019 novel coronavirus infect*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 550
- 6 (2019 ncov disease* or 2019-ncov disease*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 13
- 7 (2019-ncov infect* or 2019 ncov infect*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 195
- 8 (Covid 19 pandemic* or covid-19 pandemic* or covid19 pandemic*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 39806
- 9 (Covid-19 virus or covid 19 virus or covid19 virus).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 601
- 10 (covid 19 virus disease* or covid-19 virus disease* or covid19 virus disease*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 10
- 11 (covid 19 virus infection* or covid-19 virus infection* or covid19 virus infection*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 33
- 12 sars coronavirus 2 infection*.mp. 9
- 13 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 134342
- 14 exp Canada/ 164996

15 Canad*.mp. 182801
 16 Albert*.mp. 17944
 17 New Brunswick*.mp. 1582
 18 British Columbia*.mp. 15176
 19 Newfoundland*.mp. 2448
 20 Nova Scotia*.mp. 3847
 21 Ontari*.mp. 45011
 22 Prince Edward Island*.mp. 662
 23 Quebec*.mp. 21093
 24 Saskatchewan*.mp. 4152
 25 Manitoba*.mp. 5341
 26 Nunavut*.mp. 663
 27 Northwest Territories*.mp. 747
 28 Yukon*.mp. 755
 29 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 250863
 30 exp Homeless Persons/ 9507
 31 (Homeless people or homeless person*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 8743
 32 (Street people or street person*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 38
 33 (Homeless shelter* or shelter*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 12854
 34 Homeless*.mp. 14035
 35 Experiencing homelessness.mp. 785
 36 (Insecure* hous* or unstabl* hous* or inadequate* hous* or precarious* hous*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 1158
 37 Houseless*.mp. 9
 38 Roofless*.mp. 17
 39 unsheltered.mp. 102
 40 (Encampment* or tent cit*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] 104
 41 Shelters for homeless person*.mp. 2
 42 Living on the street*.mp. 190
 43 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 or 38 or 39 or 40 or 41 or 42 26007
 44 13 and 29 and 43 24
 45 limit 44 to yr="2020 -Current" 24

Supplemental Figure 1: OVID Medline Database Search Strategy