The Total Decedents of Shelter Residents in Toronto by Year*

The Decedents significantly increased during the pandemic

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Study of the number of decedents of shelter residents in Toronto by year. We will be able to find how the number changes on yearly basis. It comes to mind that the number of decedents spikes during the covid period.

1 Introduction

Most people don't have a clear picture of what life is like for the homeless and those living in shelters. Krajewska-Kułak et al. (2016) It is often known that the homeless population has higher incidence of sickness and early mortality.The City is dedicated to recognizing new and developing problems in the shelter system and acting quickly to address them. Toronto (2024) This paper aims to analyse the trend and level of deaths numbers in shelter in a yearly basis from 2007 to 2024.

This paper uses R R Core Team (2023) to analyse involved data. In the process of analyzing and visualizing the data set, the flowing R packages are used: tidyverse Wickham et al. (2019), janitor Firke (2021), ggplot2 R Core Team (2024), opendatatoronto Gelfand (2022) and knitr Xie (2024)

In the following Data section will exhibit the years and its corresponding total decedents in the shelters in Toronto area, and how the visulized data looks like.

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2 Data

The Toronto Shelter and Support Services Division has collected this information since 2007 and conducts an annual review of the data. (Figure 1)

```
Rows: 18 Columns: 2
-- Column specification --------------------------------------------------------
Delimiter: ","
chr (1): year
dbl (1): total_decedents

i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.
```

year	total_decedents
2007	24
2008	26
2009	16
2010	21
2011	21
2012	18
2013	16
2014	30
2015	45
2016	33
2017	35
2018	26
2019	48
2020	74
2021	132
2022	110
2023	91
2024 ytd	47

Figure 1: Data of total decedents each year

In this data, we can see that there were many decedents in the shelter each year from 2007 to 2024ytd. This means that people living in shelters are at greater risk than the general public.They may experience the threat of drug abuse, violence, illegal guns. Brown (2011) This raises a new question: Why does the government condone people living in shelters and

even provide them with drugs? Isn't this making their lives worse?

After viewing the actual data, visualizing the data can provide us with a different perspective. (Figure 2)

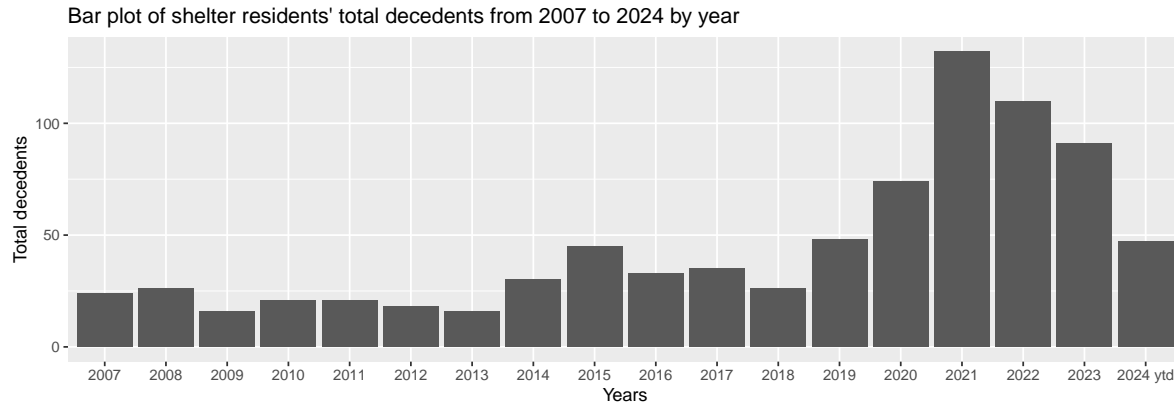Bar plot of shelter residents' total decedents from 2007 to 2024 by year

Figure 2: Barplot of Total decedents each year

The average deaths per year prior to 2020 was about 25, this number spikes during 2020 to 2023. During the pandemic. The operation of the shelter has been greatly affected during the epidemic. Toronto's medical resources are so stretched that they are unable to care for the people in the shelter. Khandor et al. (2011)

3 Conclusion

From these data, we know that people living in shelters are always living in danger, their life expectancy is shorter than most people in society. They are also the most likely to be forgotten when society is hit. Perhaps what the government needs to do is to guide such people to reintegrate into society and get back to work, rather than indulge them and think that they have fulfilled their obligations by just providing food.

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