



Simcoe County 20,000 Homes Campaign

A national movement of communities, mobilizing together to house 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable people by July 1, 2018.

Locally led by the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH) and supported by the County of Simcoe.

Simcoe County Registry Week was January 13-20, 2016

Why Did We Participate Locally?

- To connect people experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County to the appropriate services
- To track the progress of housing individuals at the local level for the national campaign goal
- To understand the big picture of need in our communities and the levels of vulnerability
- To raise awareness of issues of homelessness in our community
- To inform local policy and service delivery planning

How the Assessment Works

ACUITY

is used to describe the complexity of the situation that an individual is facing, which is likely to have an effect on their housing stability.

The VI-SPDAT assessment questionnaire provides an ACUITY score based on survey participants' responses and provides a recommendation of housing intervention based on this acuity score



35% scored with HIGH acuity

Recommending an assessment for Housing First / Permanent Supportive Housing



20% scored with LOW acuity

No housing intervention (though other types of referrals may be made)



45% scored with MODERATE acuity

Recommending an assessment for Rapid Re-Housing



51% of HIGH acuity individuals are experiencing chronic homelessness

Data Limitations

Voluntary Survey - the data is reflective of the population that was reached on January 15 and 16, 2016, not necessarily all the people experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County. Rural/urban outreach efforts and seasonality need to be considered.

Risk of interview bias - potential that the interviewer

unintentionally influenced the responses, which can commonly happen by listing examples or summarizing a person's response during data entry.

Under-reporting - of emergency service use questions. In some instances, check marks were recorded instead of actual number of uses.

Campaign Details



More than 50

Community agencies involved



More than 120

Volunteers and professional staff surveyed people experiencing homelessness or precarious housing



292

Surveys completed

Demographics



22%

Self-identified as Aboriginal or having Aboriginal ancestry



16%

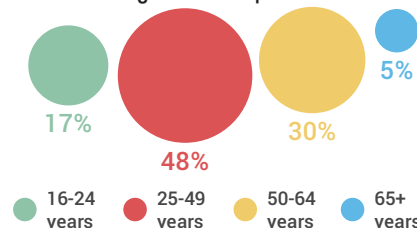
Have been in foster care



13%

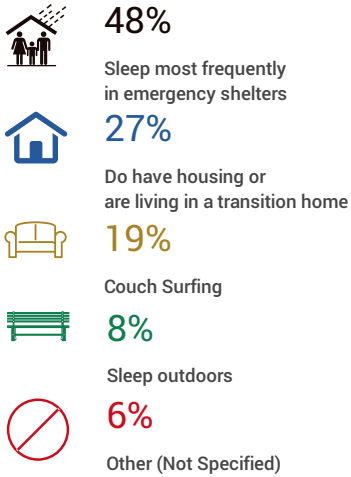
Have been in jail/prison in the past 6 months

Age of Participants





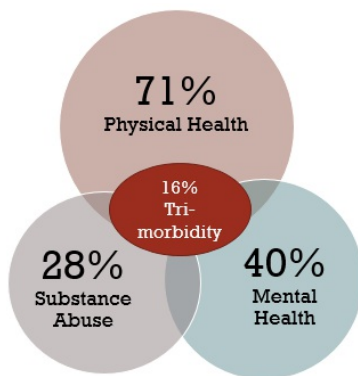
History of Housing and Homelessness



Wellness Issues

Tri-morbidity

Participants affected by all three wellness issues: Physical Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse.



46%

Of homelessness is caused by an experience of abuse or trauma

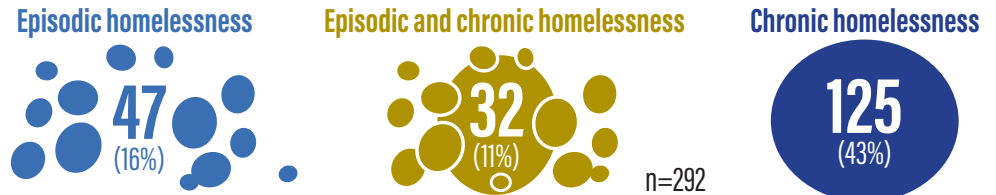
32%

Not taking / selling recommended medications

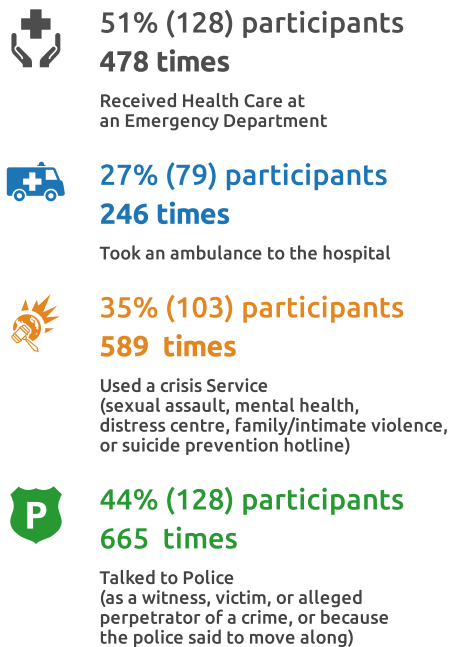
Episodic and Chronic Homelessness

Episodic homelessness refers to the number of times a person has experienced homelessness, and is defined as three or more times in the past year

Chronic homelessness refers to the length of time a person has been experiencing homelessness, and is defined by the VI-SPDAT as six months or more in the past year

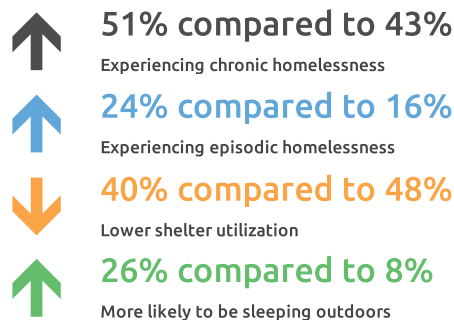


Emergency Service Use in the Last Six Months

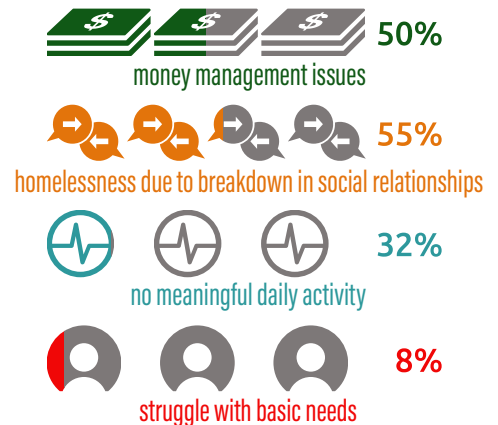


High Acuity Group

(100 of the total sample group)



Socialization and Daily Functioning



What's Next?

Program Recommendations

Support evidence-informed policy and service program design relevant for our communities

Communication

Raise awareness about homelessness throughout Simcoe County

Service Delivery

Housing Resource Centres are working with survey participants to understand their unique needs and recommend appropriate services

Building Local Capacity

Building and further enhancing local capacity for service delivery providers, i.e. local training