



## Committee Report

**HS-25-04**

**To:** Chair and Members of the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee  
**From:** Dave Purdy, Director of Housing Services  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
**Subject:** **2024 Wellington-Guelph Everyone Counts – Coordinated Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness**

---

### **Background:**

The Wellington-Guelph 2024 Everyone Counts – Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is part of a coordinated Canada-wide count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night through an anonymous survey that is completed with individuals experiencing homelessness. The survey captures demographic information, health concerns, as well as factors related to experiences of homelessness. The responses gathered through this survey provide insights into the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Communities participating in the Point-in-Time Count are required to conduct their 24-hour count within a two-month range in the fall season. The Point-in-Time Count for Wellington-Guelph took three days to complete between October 23-25, 2024 (three days in Wellington County and two days in Guelph) and provides a snapshot of those in our Wellington-Guelph community who were experiencing homelessness on the night of October 23, 2024.

The Wellington-Guelph Point-in-Time Count was led by the Housing Services division and was undertaken in collaboration with the community agencies that provide services to our homeless population. The survey was conducted by community agency staff and 53 community volunteers. The survey would not have been possible without their support in recording the survey responses.

### **Report:**

The Wellington-Guelph 2024 Everyone Counts – Point-in-Time infographic attached provides a summary of the survey results completed by individuals in the Wellington-Guelph community experiencing homelessness on the night of October 23, 2024. The survey highlights general demographic information, details of their homelessness experiences, as well as their housing and homelessness challenges. It is important to note that the survey results represent a snapshot of those that completed the survey or who were known to be staying in emergency or domestic violence shelters on October 23, 2024. Although efforts to connect with all individuals experiencing homeless are made, connecting with everyone within the Wellington-Guelph community over a 24-hour period is not possible. Therefore, it's important to emphasize that the survey does not capture the full extent of homelessness in the Wellington-Guelph service area.

The results of the Wellington-Guelph 2024 Everyone Counts – Point-in-Time report enables the continued conversations, collaborations and commitment to prevent and end homelessness. These results present an opportunity for continued learning, reflection and a chance for service providers to

better understand the experiences and needs of individuals in our community who are experiencing homelessness. By sharing this information, we can raise the public's awareness of the extent of homelessness in our community. The results of the Wellington-Guelph 2024 Everyone Counts – Point-in-Time report will be used by Wellington County as the Service System Manager to lead, promote and facilitate community conversations to inform future service planning, programme development, and to refine existing services.

#### Key Highlights from the Report:

- A minimum of 335 individuals experienced homelessness in the Wellington-Guelph at the time of the survey
- 76 % were identified as chronic homelessness (homeless for 6 months or more)
- 67% were male
- 44% were experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- 39% did not complete high school
- 17% first experienced homelessness under the age of 16 years old
- 14% identified as Indigenous

This information shows that individuals experiencing homelessness in the Wellington-Guelph in October 2024 were predominantly male, and were experiencing chronic homelessness, with many experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The report highlights that 39% did not complete high school which may indicate opportunities within the education system to develop prevention strategies. This information of the Wellington-Guelph community homeless profile, together with other data, will help our community implement future homeless prevention solutions.

Attachment: Wellington-Guelph 2024 Everyone Counts Infographic – Point-in-Time Count

#### **Strategic Action Plan:**

This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:

Tackling a Major Community Opportunity – Housing

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee recommend to County Council to receive the report, 2024 Wellington-Guelph Everyone Counts – Coordinated Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness, for information.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Purdy  
Director of Housing Services

In consultation with/approved by:

Luisa Artuso, Social Services Administrator  
Scott Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer