



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**HS-22-02**

**To:** Chair and Members of the Social Services Committee  
**From:** Mark Poste, Director of Housing  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
**Subject:** **Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts**

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### **Background:**

The Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts enumeration of homelessness is part of a coordinated Canada-wide count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night. This Point in Time Count of community members experiencing homelessness was undertaken in collaboration with the homeless serving system partners and the Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination. The enumeration survey took place over October 20-21, 2021 and provides a snap shot of those in our community who were experiencing homelessness on the night of October 20<sup>th</sup>. This enumeration process would not have been possible without the approximately 70 volunteers that assisted.

### **Report:**

The Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts enumeration surveyed 161 individuals who were experiencing homelessness. For the first time, a unique identifier was integrated into the survey which allowed staff to identify and count individuals experiencing homelessness who did not complete the survey and were known to be staying in emergency or domestic violence shelters on October 20, 2021, as well as those actively homeless on the Guelph-Wellington By-Name-List (BNL) in October. The unique identifier was used to ensure no one was counted more than once.

The results of the 161 surveys identified 24 dependent children which brings the total number experiencing homelessness captured by the survey to 185 individuals. Using the survey's unique identifier and administrative data, Housing Services staff were able to identify an additional 85 community members known to our homeless serving system that were experiencing homelessness and not captured by the survey. This brings the enumeration results of Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts to a minimum of 270 individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. While this number is much more accurate than previous years, it is important to emphasize that it represents the minimum number of individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts infographic attached provides a summary of the results for the 161 surveys completed by community members experiencing homelessness on the night of October 20, 2021. The survey looks at general demographic information, some details of their homelessness experiences, as well as their housing and homelessness challenges. Also available are one-page summaries that provide an overview of the unique homelessness experiences of Indigenous participants, County participants and Youth Participants who completed the survey.

The results of Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts are a starting point for conversations, collaborations and renewed commitment to prevent and end homelessness. These results present an

opportunity for learning and a chance for service providers to better understand the experiences and needs of individuals in our community who are experiencing homelessness. By sharing the information collected, we can raise the public's awareness of the extent of homelessness in our area. The results of Guelph Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts will be used to inform service planning; programme development; to refine existing services.

**Special Thanks to:**

Judi Winkup, Housing Planning and Policy Analyst for her work analyzing the survey data and crafting the infographic report. We would also like to thank the County's Communications department for its support with the graphic design work for the Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts Infographic. Finally, we would like to thank all of our community partners and volunteers and especially the Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination and the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC), for their support to carry out enumeration day and to share the results of this Point in Time Count. An additional thank you to SOAHAC for their collaboration on the one-page summary of results for Indigenous participants.

**Attachments:**

- Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts Infographic
- One-page summary of results for Indigenous, County and Youth participants

**Recommendation:**

That the report #HS-22-02 and the attached Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts infographic and the one-page summaries for Indigenous, County and Youth participants be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Poste

Director of Housing