

# GUELPH-WELLINGTON 2021 EVERYONE COUNTS

## INTRODUCTION

The 2021 Guelph-Wellington (G-W) enumeration of homelessness was part of a coordinated Canada-wide count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night. Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts was undertaken in collaboration with G-W homeless serving system staff and in partnership with the G-W Task Force for Poverty Elimination (GWPTF).

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 G-W By-Name-List (BNL) in October. The unique identifier was used to ensure no one was counted more than once. It is important to emphasize that we still are not capturing the full extent of homelessness in our community.

# 270

The minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in Guelph-Wellington on October 20, 2021

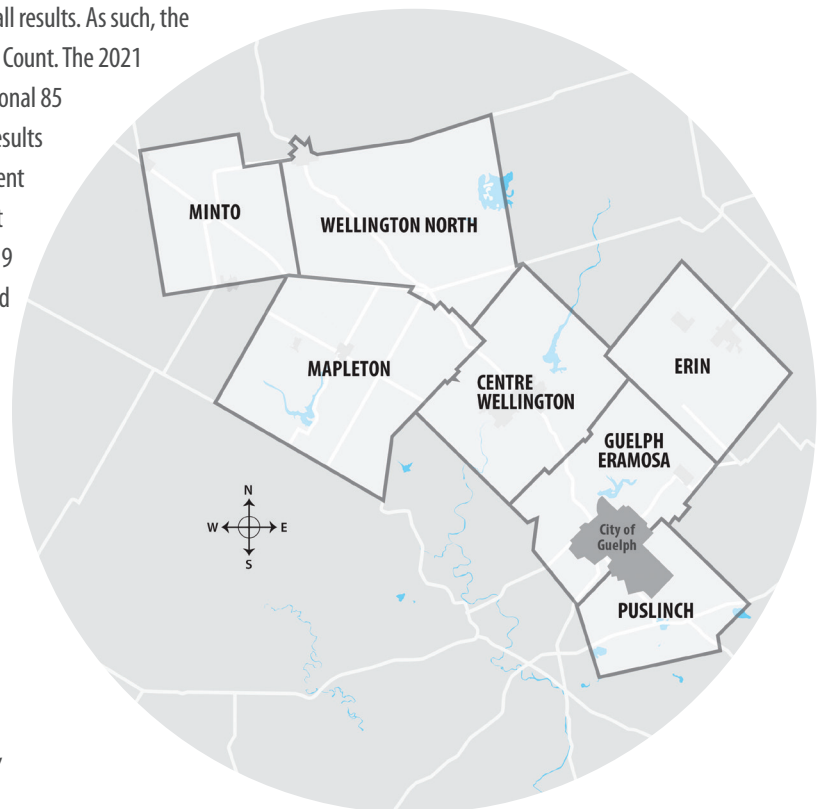
161 individuals who completed the survey + 24 dependent children + 85 individuals experiencing homelessness from administrative data.

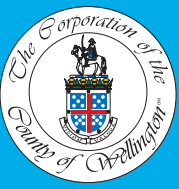
## Comparing 2021 to 2018 Results

There were a number of changes in how the 2021 enumeration was completed in Guelph-Wellington which have an influence on the number of surveys completed as well as the overall results. As such, the G-W 2021 Everyone Counts results are not directly comparable to the 2018 Count. The 2021 results include 185 individuals identified through the survey plus an additional 85 individuals identified through administrative data. By contrast, the 2018 results of 325 individuals is based on survey results (291 individuals + 34 dependent children) and did not include people staying in shelter system who had not completed a survey. Conducting the 2021 Count during the global COVID-19 pandemic also influenced how the G-W Everyone Counts survey was carried out. The 2018 Count involved over 100 staff and volunteers who were deployed in April, over 3 days in Guelph and over a week in Wellington County. In contrast, the 2021 Count took place in the fall, deployed 70 staff and volunteers over 2 days across Guelph and Wellington County, in order to minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19.

## Guelph-Wellington Service Area

The County of Wellington is the Service Manager for the Guelph-Wellington area which includes the City of Guelph and Wellington County, and is responsible for the delivery and administration of provincially mandated social and affordable housing programmes, as well as initiatives to prevent and address homelessness.





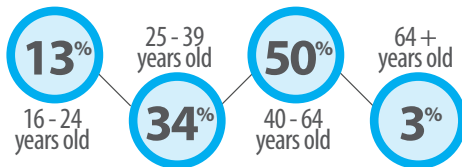
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## Survey Results

Staff working in the G-W homeless serving system completed 161 surveys with individuals experiencing homelessness across Guelph and Wellington County. The survey results represent a total of 185 individuals (161 adults + 24 dependent children) experiencing homelessness on Oct 20th 2021. The following information is based on the results of the G-W 2021 Everyone Counts survey.

### 161 individuals experiencing homelessness in G-W completed the survey

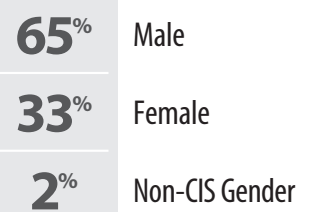
#### Age of Participants



23%

Participants  
who Identify as  
Indigenous

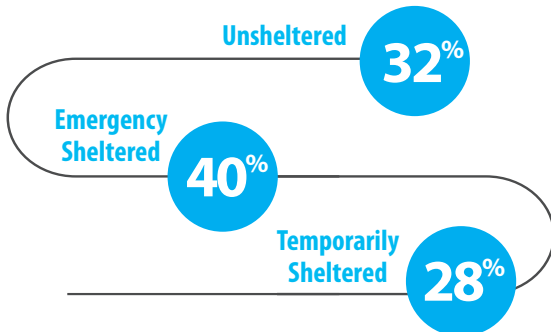
#### Gender



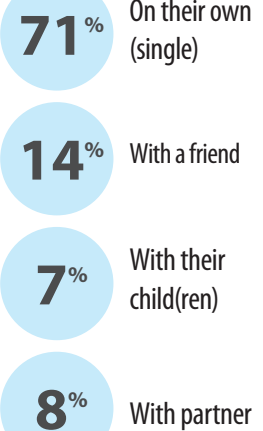
### Participants Homelessness Experiences



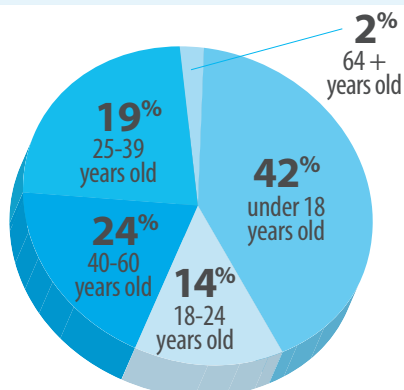
On October 20  
participants experienced  
homelessness



On October 20  
participants  
experienced  
homelessness



#### Age 1st Experienced Homelessness

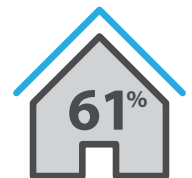


#### Chronic Homelessness



(6+ months homeless in  
the past 12 months)

#### Use of Homeless Shelter



Stayed in a homeless shelter  
in the past 12 months





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## Participant Demographics

### Health Challenges



**35%**

**Illness or Medical Condition**  
(e.g., diabetes, arthritis, TB, HIV)

**34%**

**Physical Limitation**  
(e.g., challenges with mobility, physical abilities or dexterity)

**44%**

**Learning or Cognitive Limitations**  
(e.g., dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, or as a result of ADHD, or an acquired brain injury)

**72%**

**Mental Health Issue**  
diagnosed/undiagnosed  
(e.g., depression, PTSD, bipolar disorder)

**75%**

**Substance Use Issue**  
(e.g., tobacco, alcohol, opiates)

### Education



**26%**

Completed/  
partially completed  
post-secondary

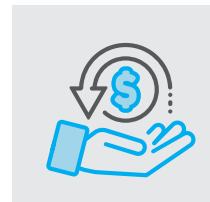
**26%**

Completed  
high school

**48%**

Did not complete  
high school

### Income Sources



**10%**  
Employment

**3%**  
Informal

**78%**  
Government  
benefits

**10%**  
No income

### Foster care



**29%**

Had experience in foster care  
and/or youth group home  
as a child or youth

**34%**

of these participants became homeless less than  
2 years after leaving foster care or youth group home

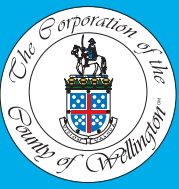
### Veterans

Served in Canadian  
Military or RCMP



**6%**





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## Housing and Homelessness Challenges

### Top 5 factors identified by participants as contributing to most recent loss of housing

Conflict with spouse/partner, parent/guardian, others

Mental Health issues, Substance use issues

Not enough income for housing

Landlord/Tenant conflict

Unfit/Unsafe Housing

### Top 5 challenges participants have experienced when trying to find housing

RENTS ARE TOO HIGH

NO HOUSING AVAILABLE

SUBSTANCE USE ISSUES

LOW INCOME

DISCRIMINATION



### Housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



14%

### More detailed results for Indigenous, County and Youth participants (click on the icons below)



Results for  
**Indigenous Participants**



Results for  
**County Participants**



Results for  
**Youth Participants**

## Next Steps

The results of Guelph-Wellington Everyone Counts are the starting point for conversations, collaborations and renewed commitment to prevent and end homelessness. These results present an opportunity for learning - 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 G-W 2021 Everyone Counts will be used to inform service planning; program development; to refine existing services.

