The following is based on responses of 19 County participants of the G-W 2021 Everyone Counts survey.

Results for COUNTY Participants

The Guelph-Wellington 2021 Everyone Counts count of homelessness was part of a coordinated Canada-wide count of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night. Guelph-Wellington community partners who support Wellington County residents worked together to reach County residents experiencing homelessness to complete the survey.

ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN A RURAL CONTEXT

There is increasing recognition that homelessness is present in rural communities across Canada and yet it remains largely hidden as the focus is often on urban homelessness. In January 2021, the National Alliance to End Rural and Remote Homelessness (NAERRH) released A Call for Strategic Investments to End Homelessness in Rural and Remote Communities across Canada with targeted recommendations to help end homelessness in the rural context.

The 2021 results stress the ongoing need for dedicated supports and services to respond to the unique and diverse needs of individuals experiencing rural homelessness in Wellington County.

Preliminary Analysis of Results for County Participants

Emergency Shelter Use: A much lower proportion of County respondents (26%) stayed in emergency shelter over the past year compared to all survey respondents (61%).

Employment as Income Source: A much greater proportion of County respondents (42%) reported employment as an income source compared to all survey respondents (10%).

The 2021 results stress the ongoing need for dedicated supports and services to respond to the unique and diverse needs of individuals experiencing rural homelessness in Wellington County.