



The 2024 Wellington-Guelph (W-G) enumeration of homelessness was part of a coordinated Canada-wide count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night.

The Wellington-Guelph Everyone Counts survey is an anonymous and voluntary survey completed with individuals experiencing homelessness. It asks about certain demographic characteristics, health concerns as well as other factors related to experiences of homelessness. The responses to these questions provide insights into the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

335* The minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in Wellington-Guelph on October 23, 2024

*The 2024 results include 227 individuals who completed the survey + 7 dependent children, and 101 individuals identified through administrative data (including 7 families with 16 dependent children) bringing the total to 335 individuals experiencing homelessness.

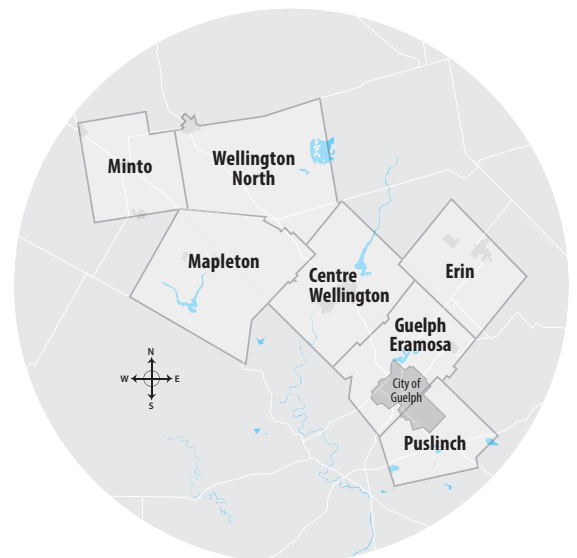
Methods

Wellington-Guelph 2024 Everyone Counts was planned and carried out with community service agencies that make up the Wellington-Guelph Housing Stability System. The 2024 count took place over two days in Guelph and over three days in Wellington County with a total of 53 staff from 15 agencies participating. Teams completed the survey of individuals experiencing homelessness at designated headquarters, community agencies, and various outdoor locations, including encampments. Royal City Mission served as the headquarters in downtown Guelph, while the Social Services offices in Fergus acted as the County's headquarters.

Once again, a unique identifier was integrated into the survey allowing 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 23, 2024. 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.

Wellington-Guelph Service Area

The County of Wellington is the Service System Manager for the Wellington-Guelph service delivery area which includes Wellington County and Guelph. The County is responsible for the delivery and administration of provincially mandated subsidized housing, government-funded affordable housing and initiatives to prevent and respond to homelessness.



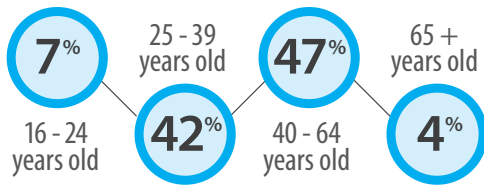


Survey Results

Staff working from the Wellington-Guelph Housing Stability System completed 227 surveys with individuals experiencing homelessness representing a total of 234 individuals (227 adults + 7 dependent children) experiencing homelessness on October 23, 2024. The following information is based on the survey results.

227 Individuals experiencing homelessness in W-G completed the survey

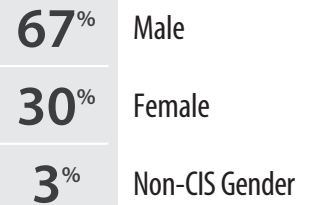
Age of Participants



14%

Participants who Identify as Indigenous

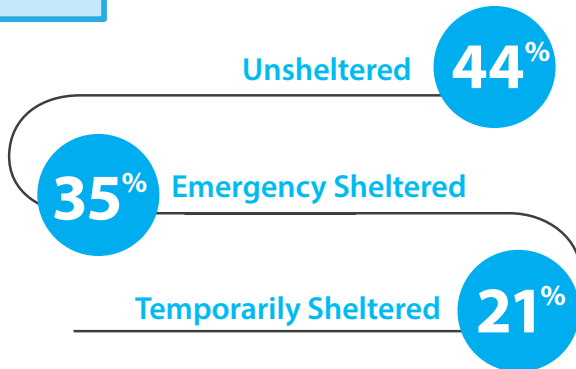
Gender



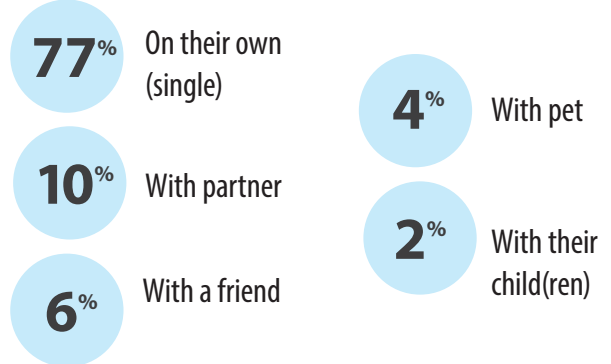
Participant Homelessness Experiences



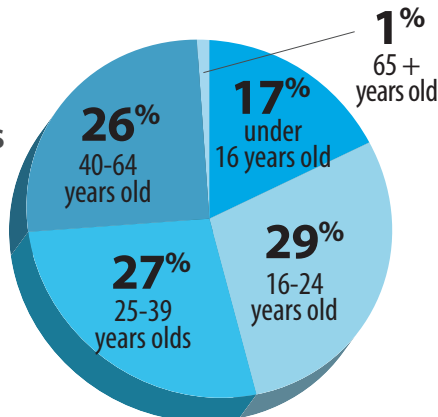
On October 23 participants experienced homelessness



On October 23 participants experienced homelessness



Age First Experienced Homelessness

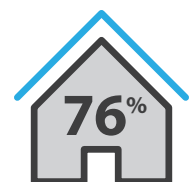


Chronic Homelessness



(6+ months homeless in the past 12 months)

Use of Homeless Shelter



Stayed in a homeless shelter in the past 12 months



Participant Demographics



Health Challenges

43% **Illness or Medical Condition**
e.g., diabetes, arthritis, TB, HIV

34% **Learning Intellectual/Developmental, or Cognitive Function**
e.g., fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) dyslexia, or dementia

33% **Physical Mobility**
e.g., spinal cord injury, arthritis, or limited movement or dexterity

71% **Mental Health Issue diagnosed/undiagnosed**
e.g., depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia)

31% **Acquired Brain Injury**
e.g., due to an accident, violence, overdose, stroke, or brain tumor

73% **Substance Use Issue**
e.g., alcohol, opiates

34% **Senses, such as seeing or hearing**
e.g., blindness or deafness

79% participants identified **two or more** health challenges

Education

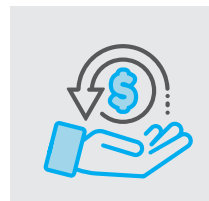


39% Did not complete high school

31% Completed high school

30% Completed/partially completed post-secondary

Income Sources



80%
Government benefits

8%
Informal

6%
Employment

6%
No income

Foster care



28%
Had experience in foster care and/or youth group home as a child or youth

Veterans



3%

Served in Canadian Military or RCMP



Housing and Homelessness Challenges

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



51% participants experienced **two or more** factors

Top 5 challenges participants have experienced when trying to find housing



72% participants experienced **two or more** challenges

Next Steps

The results of the Wellington-Guelph 2024 Everyone Counts serve as the starting point for conversations, collaborations and renewed commitment to our community's housing focused outreach, prevention and diversion work towards ending homelessness. The results of W-G 2024 Everyone Counts will be used to inform service planning; programme development and to refine existing services as well as raise awareness of the extent of homelessness in our area.

