

Homeless Enumeration in Hastings County 2018

Between April 17-23, 2018, Hastings County joined communities across Ontario in an enumeration (count) of homelessness, the first provincewide count of its kind in Canada. Enumeration was conducted in four communities: Belleville, Quinte West, Madoc Village, and Bancroft.

Homeless enumeration included three types of homelessness:

- 1) Those who are unsheltered, staying in public locations (e.g. parks, forests) or places not intended for human habitation (e.g. vehicles, abandoned buildings),
- 2) Those staying in emergency shelters including Violence Against Women shelters, and
- 3) Those who are provisionally accommodated, staying temporarily with others (e.g. “couch-surfing”) because they do not have a place of their own, and those staying in transitional housing.

Homeless enumeration provides information about the characteristics and needs of people experiencing homelessness in our communities. This information can be used to help improve how our communities respond to homelessness and to inform community, provincial, and federal actions to prevent and reduce homelessness.

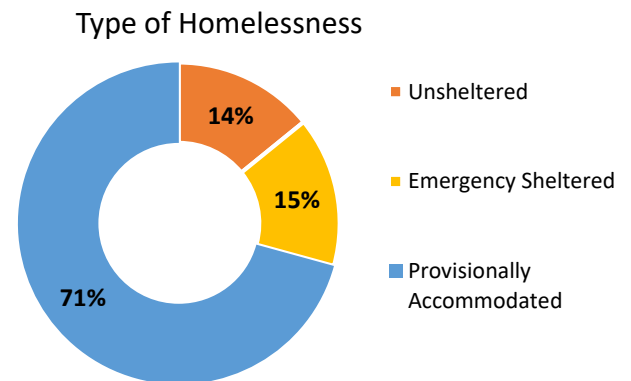
Homeless Enumeration in Hastings County was conducted by Bridge Street United Church’s Food Ministry and the Community Development Council of Quinte.

Results

During the count, trained volunteers and research staff conducted 182 surveys representing a total of 211 individuals experiencing homelessness, including 15 families. This is the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in the four enumeration communities. Most of the surveys were conducted in Belleville and Quinte West.

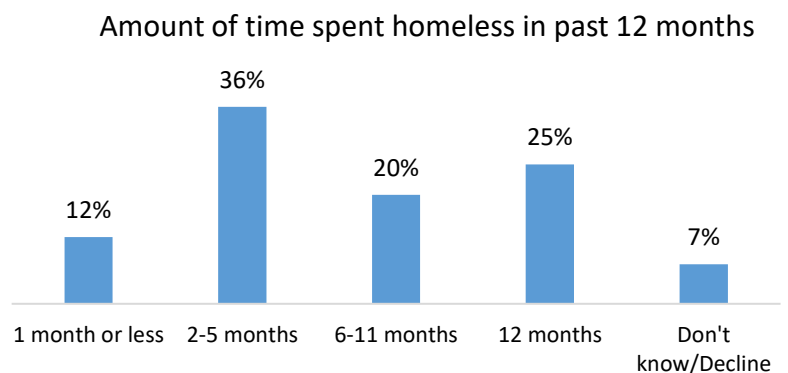
Type of Homelessness

Most people experiencing homelessness were provisionally accommodated, either staying temporarily with others, e.g. “couch-surfing” (50%), or in transitional housing (21%). Others stayed in emergency shelters and motel/hotels, or in unsheltered locations such as forest, parks, vehicles, or abandoned buildings.



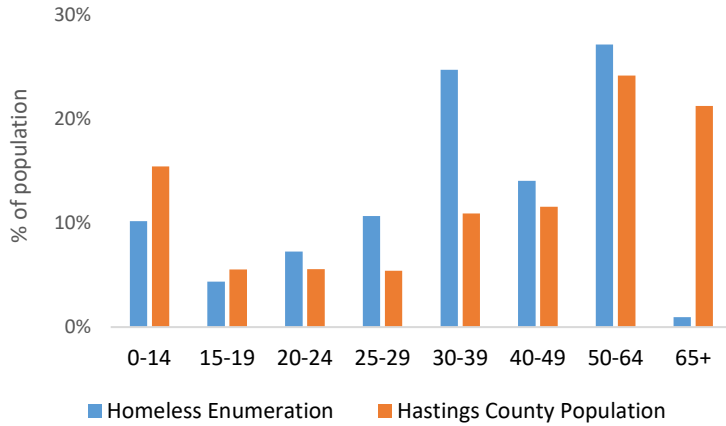
Time spent homeless

Nearly half of respondents had experienced homelessness for more than 6 months in the past year. One quarter had been homeless all year.



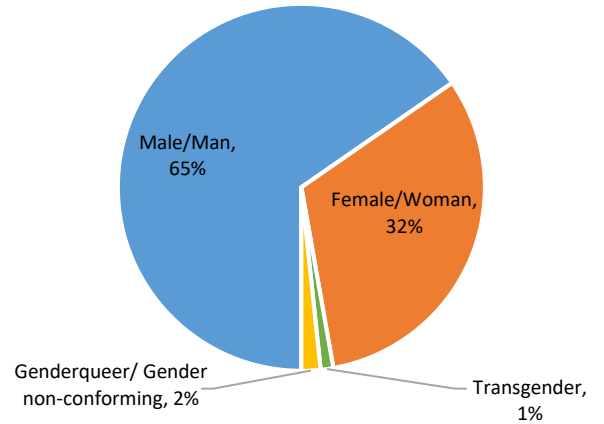
Age

Homelessness affects all ages, but not equally. Adults aged 25-39 are significantly over-represented in the homeless population compared to the general population of Hastings County.



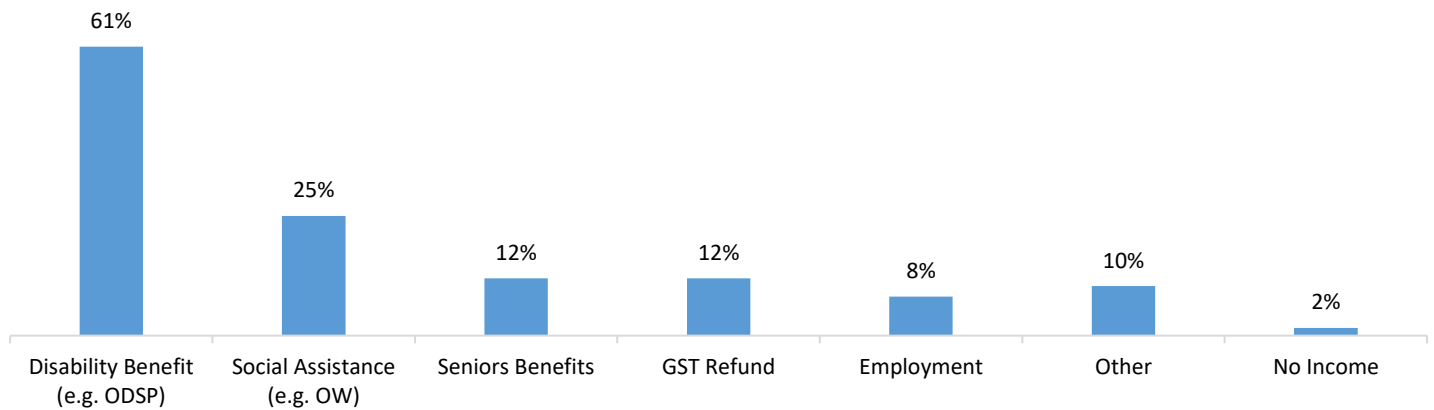
Gender Identity

There are approximately twice as many men experiencing homelessness as women. A small number of respondents identified as transgender or genderqueer/gender non-conforming.



Source of Income

86% of people experiencing homelessness reported either the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Ontario Works (OW) as their primary source of income.



Homelessness is not a choice

With few exceptions, people experiencing homelessness want to get into permanent housing.

Challenges finding housing

Affordability and availability of housing are the primary barriers that people experiencing homelessness face in finding permanent housing.

"Do you want to get into permanent housing?"

