

# Everyone Counts

**Huron County Homelessness Enumeration** | Nov 29, 2021

**Registry Week** | Nov 29 - Dec 3, 2021

**By Name List** | ongoing



**Learn more about what you can do to Be Part of the  
Solution to end homelessness in Huron.**

*[HuronCounty.ca/Housing](https://HuronCounty.ca/Housing)*



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# Land Acknowledgment

The County of Huron acknowledges that the land we stand upon today is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Neutral peoples. We recognize the First Peoples' continued stewardship of the land and water, and that this territory was subject to the Dish with One Spoon wampum, under which multiple nations agreed to care for the land and resources by the Great Lakes in peace.

We would also like to acknowledge and recognize the Upper Canada Treaties signed in regards to this land, which include Treaty #29 and Treaty #45 1/2, and our roles as treaty people, committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, gratitude, and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

# Myth Busting

**Myth:** People choose to be homeless.  
**Fact:** Often, people experience homelessness when all other options have been exhausted, and/or they are dealing with circumstances that make it difficult to maintain housing.

**Myth:** People experiencing homelessness are lazy.  
**Fact:** In order to survive, many people who experience homelessness are constantly in search for the necessities of life, such as food, shelter and a source of income.

**Myth:** All people who experience homelessness are addicts.  
**Fact:** Like the general population, only a percentage deal with addiction. People may deal with other issues including trauma and mental illness, for example.

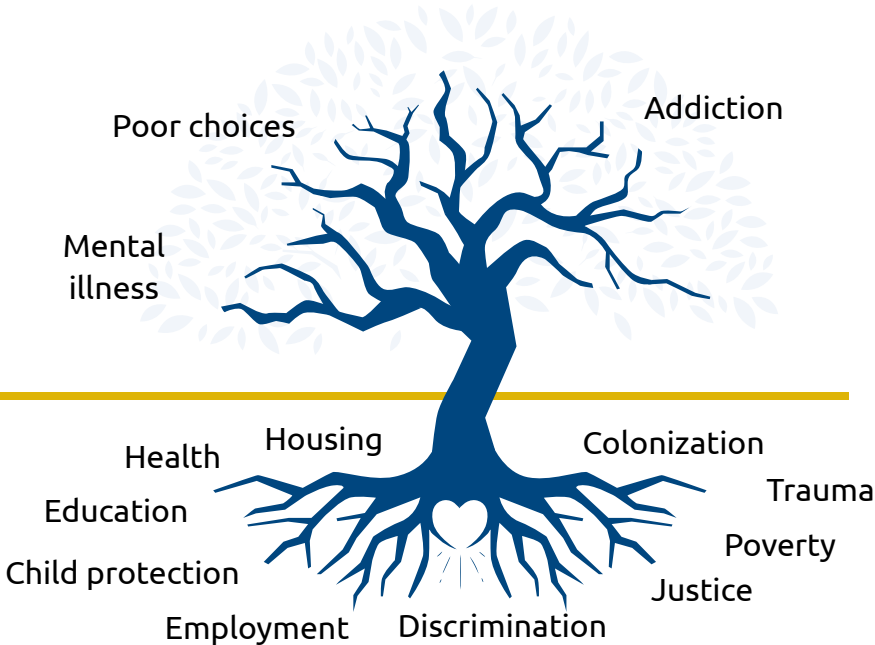
**Myth:** There are plenty of adequate services and supports to help those experiencing homelessness.  
**Fact:** Many solutions are focused on emergency services. There is a need to focus on systemic factors such as the lack of affordable housing and the criminalization of homelessness.

**Myth:** Property values will go down if we let homeless shelters into our neighbourhoods .  
**Fact:** There is no evidence to support this myth. This common mis-perception and attitude is referred to as Not in My Backyard (NIMBY) and can have detrimental effects for people who need access to services.

Myth Buster source: Built for Zero

## Public Perception

## Reality



# Background

Homelessness in Huron has been a hidden social issue for many years. While local community partners were well aware of the fact that many individuals were experiencing the crisis of homelessness, means to address and resolve homelessness was becoming increasingly challenging. Additionally, understanding the scope of homelessness in Huron was anecdotal. This was in part due to past practices that forced support agencies to send those who were homeless to other communities to access emergency shelters.

Over the years, as this complex social issue grew across the region and across Canada, access to emergency shelter beds became increasingly difficult, with rural areas limiting bed space to those locally connected. In 2013, Huron developed a Long-term Housing and Homelessness Plan and the Ontario Government created a funding stream called the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to help service area managers address the unique needs of each community.

Nine key objectives were identified in the plan, including improved data collection, that ensured confidentiality while providing up-to-date information about the prevalence of homelessness and housing needs in Huron.

Homeless enumeration is an opportunity for a service area to gain a snapshot of the scope of homelessness in the community.

The last enumeration that was conducted was a period prevalence count in 2018 that revealed 100 people in Huron who identified as without a place to call home.

The 2021 enumeration was a point in time count (mandatory), coupled with a registry week (voluntary). The registry week component enabled enumerators to conduct field assessments of those experiencing homelessness and then add those names to the by-name list, if that was the wish of individual or household.

It is important to note that the purpose of both a point in time count and a registration week is in an effort to better reach those who may remain hidden in their experience of homelessness, as a point in time count (done in the streets over one 24 hour period) presented challenges due to the rural geographic nature of Huron County. The Provincial requirement of all services area managers was to have an enumeration completed by December 15, 2021 with the data reported to the Ministry by December 31, 2021. In an effort to align with the shelter season, Heart to Home selected an enumeration date of November 29, 2021 followed by a registry week that ended on December 3, 2021.

## Enumeration 2021: Participating Partners

- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Huron Perth
- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Thames Valley Addiction & Mental Health Services
- Choices for Change
- Huron Perth Children's Aid Society
- Safe Homes for Youth
- Huron Women's Shelter and Second Stage Housing
- Huron Turning Point
- Alexandra Marine General Hospital
- Exeter Hospital
- Exeter Access Centre
- Ontario Works
- Huron County Housing Services
- Huron Out of the Cold
- Huron Perth Public Health
- Huron Perth Centre
- Huron Public Libraries
- Wingham Salvation Army
- and more.

## What is a By Name List?

A By Name List is a real time list of all people experiencing homelessness in a community. It provides real time data at two levels:

1. Person specific level data
2. System level data (inflow, outflow, active homeless)

The County of Huron maintains a By Name List so that staff and community partners have the information they need to:

- Track trends and changes in homelessness within the community.
- Develop person-specific solutions in real time.
- Improve the community's ability to provide coordinated services.
- Target limited housing resources to the most vulnerable individuals and families.
- Stretch resources further by connecting people to the most cost effective support to meet their needs.
- Create data driven solutions to end homelessness in Huron County.

## What is Enumeration?

Unlike a By Name List that maintains real time data, an Enumeration Project tracks homelessness at a particular point in time (PiT count). The County of Huron participates in an Enumeration Project every two years. The last PiT count was taken on November 29, 2021.

This point in time count (or PiT Count) enables staff and community partners to:

- Track trends and changes in homelessness with in a community, year over year.
- Contribute to the national picture of homelessness.
- Compare local data with other communities addressing homelessness in Canada.

It is important to note that PiT counts represent the **minimum number of people experiencing homelessness** in a community.

## What is Registry Week?

Built for Zero Canada and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness hold a Registry Week every two years. 2021 was the first time Huron participated. It is an effective way to make enumeration week more than merely a count.

A Registry Week is a coordinated outreach and triage assessment process for those experiencing homelessness. The week is designed to jump-start local work to end homelessness by mobilizing community partners to gather actionable person-specific data to house people. With consent of those experiencing homelessness this person-specific data is then used to create or update a By Name List.

## Definition of Homelessness

The County uses the Canadian Definition of Homelessness:

“The situation of an individual, family, or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect means and ability of acquiring it.”

The Canadian Definition of Homelessness includes people who are:

### Unsheltered

- Living outside (sidewalks, parks, forests, etc.)
- Living in places not intended for permanent human habitation (cars, garages, out buildings, shacks, tents, etc.)

### Emergency Sheltered

- Emergency overnight shelters for people who are homeless
- Shelters for individuals/families affected by family violence
- Shelters for people affected by a natural disaster (fire, flood, etc.)

### Provisionally Accommodated

- Interim housing for people who are homeless (short-term motel stay etc.)
- Temporary living with other people (couch surfing, staying with family, etc.)
- Short-term rental accommodation without security of tenancy
- People in institutional care with no guarantee of permanent housing upon release (hospital, corrections facilities, treatment facilities, etc.)
- Reception centers for recently arrived immigrants and refugees



# 2021 Enumeration Findings

112

Respondents  
experiencing  
homelessness

Data collected on  
November 29, 2021  
through  
December 3, 2021

57

Observed  
homeless

Observed homeless  
defined below in  
lines 2 and 3.

169

Total individuals  
experiencing  
homelessness

It is important to note  
that PiT counts represent  
the **minimum number  
of people experiencing  
homelessness** in  
Huron County

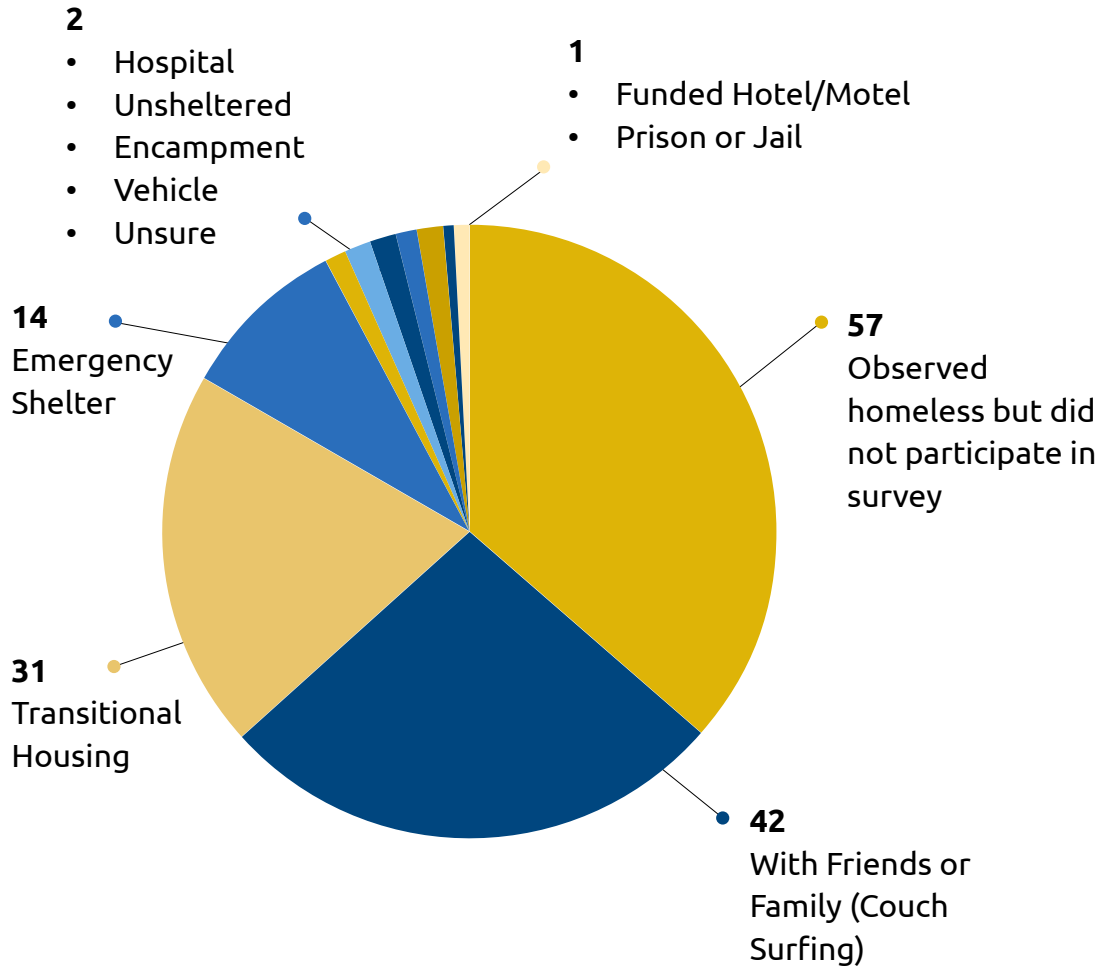
This data provides a count of the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single day/night. It may include data from a number of sources.

Counts of people experiencing homelessness may include:

1. People identified as experiencing homelessness on the enumeration survey, based on their response to the question “Where are you staying tonight?”;
2. People who are observed to be homeless on the day/night of the count but who do not participate in the survey (e.g., refusals; language barriers; sleeping in a car when surveys are conducted); and/or
3. People identified as experiencing homelessness through administrative data or data systems (e.g., shelter counts on the designated day/night or people identified through Ontario Works case management systems).

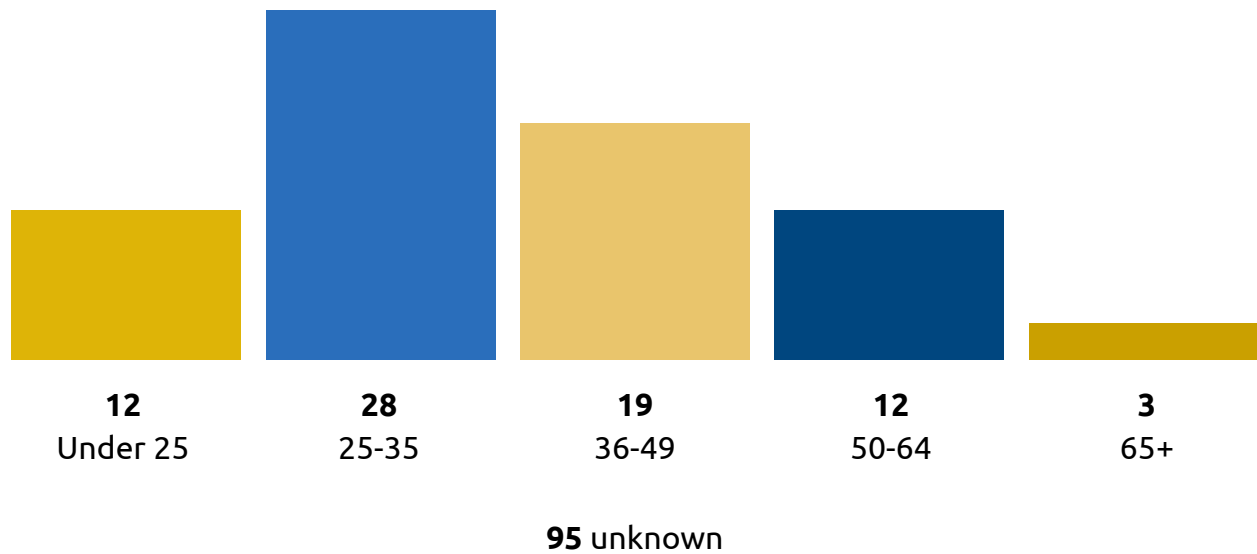
De-duplication is important if multiple sources of information are used to identify and count people experiencing homelessness.

## Where individuals experiencing homelessness are staying



Where people are staying	
Observed homeless but did not participate in survey	57
With friends or family	42
In transitional shelter/housing	31
Emergency or domestic violence shelter	14
In hospital	2
Unsheltered public space	2
Encampment (group of tents/makeshift shelter)	2
In vehicle	2
Unsure	2
Hotel/Motel (funded by homelessness program)	1
Prison or Jail	1

## Age of respondents



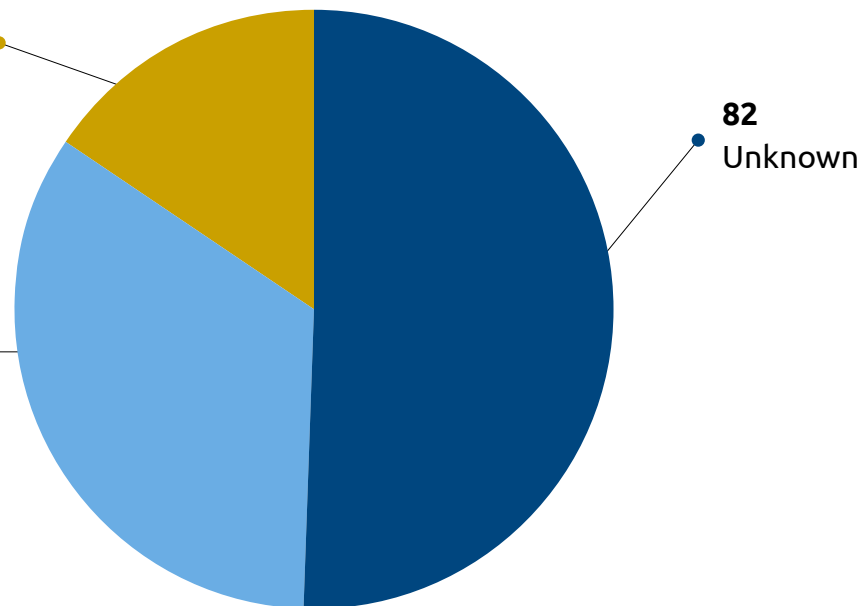
## Frequency of homelessness

**27**

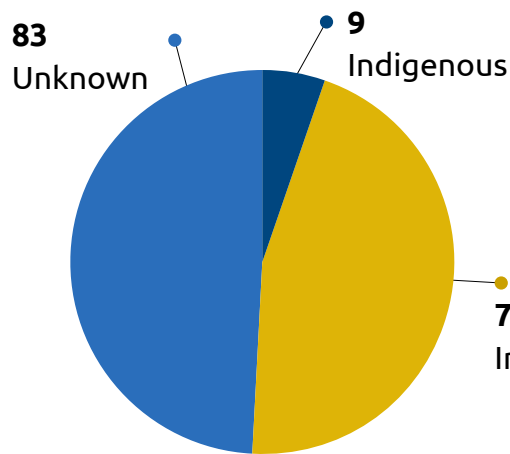
NOT experiencing chronic homelessness (homeless less than 180 or more cumulative nights in the prior year)

**60**

Experiencing chronic homelessness (homeless for 180 or more cumulative nights in the prior year)

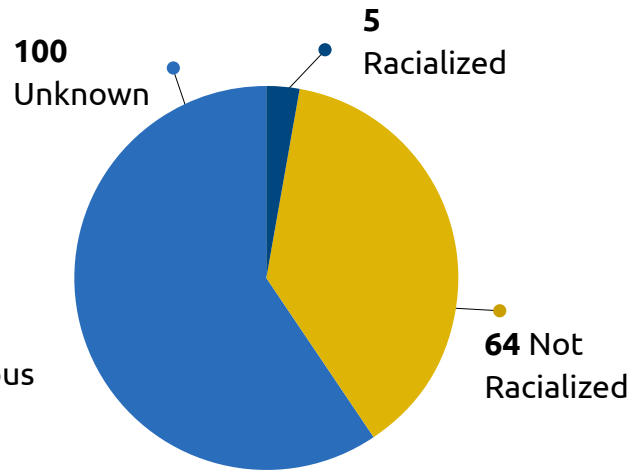


## Indigenous or racialized respondents



### Indigenous

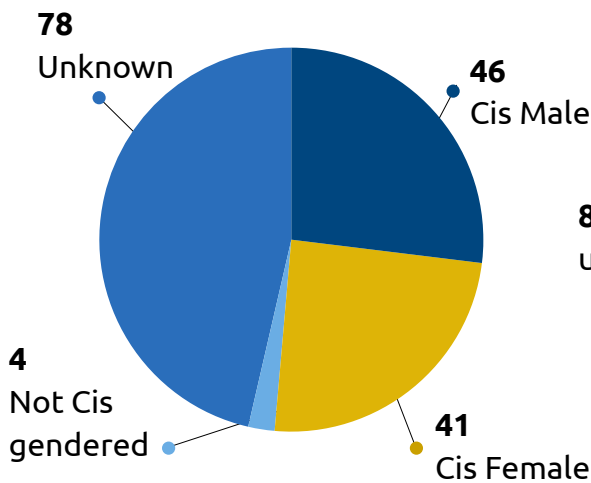
9 Identified as Indigenous  
 77 Identified as not Indigenous  
 83 Unknown



### Racialized

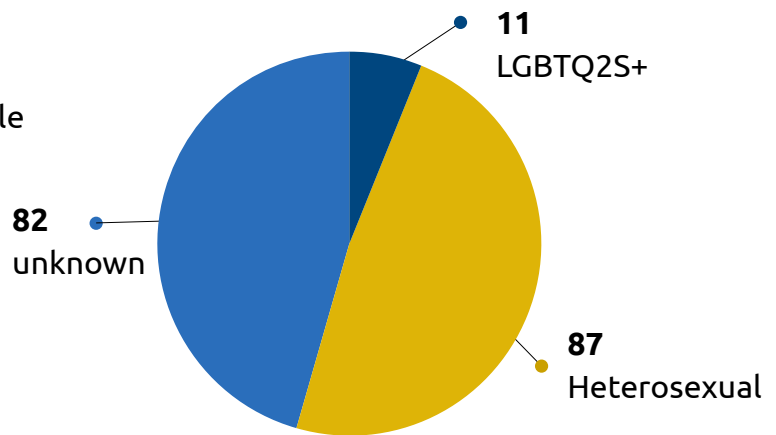
5 Identified as racialized  
 64 Identified as not racialized  
 100 Unknown

## Gender and sexual orientation of respondents



### Gender

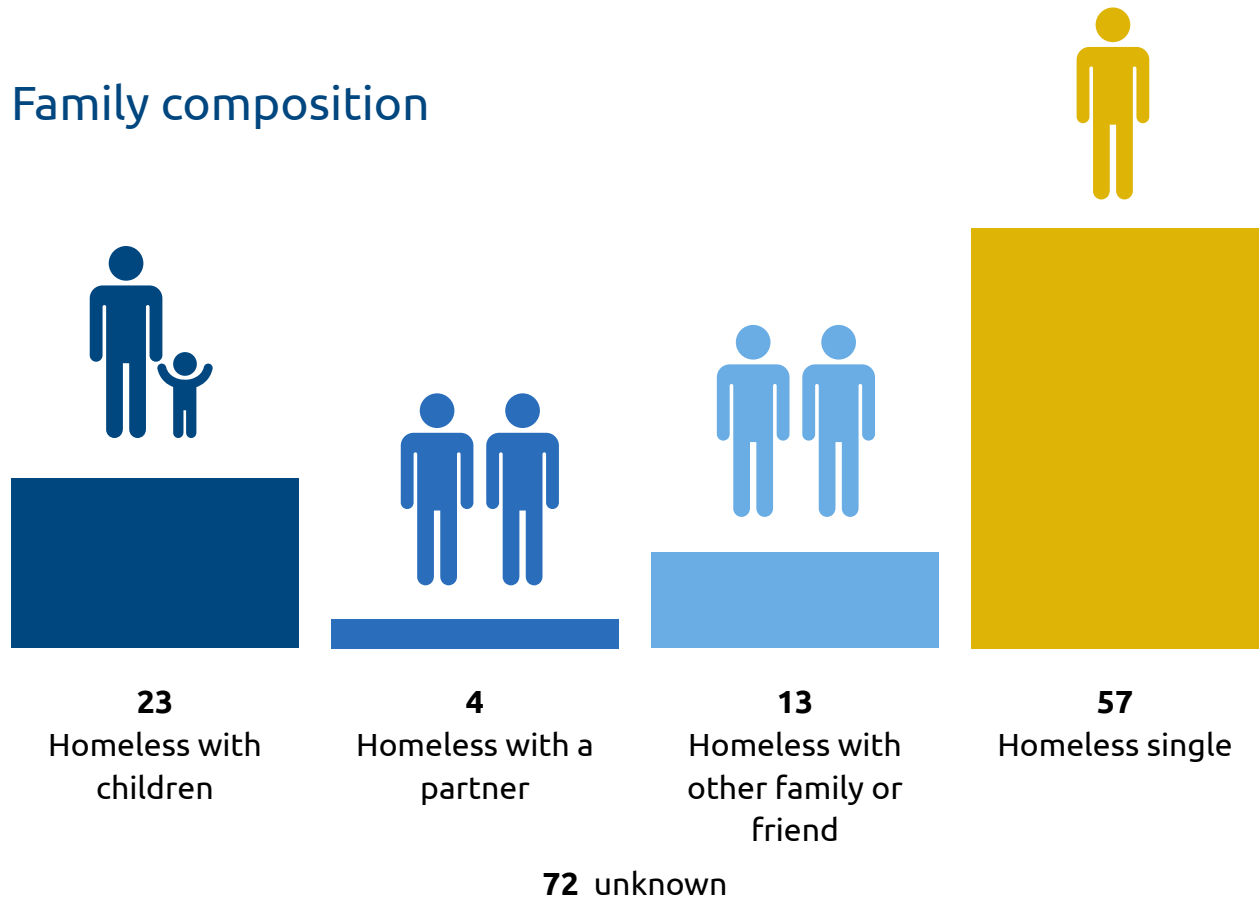
46 Identified as Cis male  
 41 Identified as Cis female  
 4 Identified as not Cis gendered  
 78 unknown



### Sexual Orientation

11 Identified as LGBTQ2S+  
 87 Identified as straight or heterosexual  
 82 unknown

## Family composition



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## Foster care



27 people reporting previously having been in foster care or youth group home  
63 people reported having no previous history with foster care or youth group homes  
79 unknown

## History and health



### **Military service**

2 people identified as having past military service  
87 people identified as not having past military service  
80 unknown



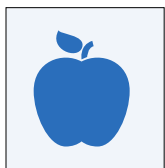
### **Illness or medical condition**

32 people identified as having an illness or medical condition  
50 people identified as not having an illness or medical condition  
87 unknown



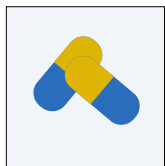
### **Physical limitations**

31 people identified as having a physical limitation  
52 people identified as not having a physical limitation  
86 unknown



### **Learning or cognitive limitation**

32 people identified as having learning or cognitive limitation  
49 people identified as not having learning or cognitive limitation  
88 unknown



### **Substance use issue**

51 people reported having a substance use issue  
34 people reported having no substance use issue  
84 unknown

## Cause of most recent homelessness

## Sources of Income

Cause of most recent homelessness		Sources of income	
Not enough income for housing	14	Full-time employment	10
Unfit/unsafe housing condition	12	Part-time employment	4
Building sold or renovated	10	Causal employment	3
Owner moved in	3	Informal source of income (bottle returns, panhandling)	1
Landlord tenant conflict	7	Receiving money from family or friends	1
Complaint (pets, noise, damage, etc)	3	Employment insurance	1
Left the community/relocated	3	Disability benefit	48
Conflict with spouse or partner	13	Seniors benefit	5
Conflict with parent or guardian	10	Welfare/social assistance	18
Conflict with other	8	Child and family tax benefits	12
Experienced abuse by partner	15	GST/HST refund	12
Experienced abuse by parent/guardian	4	Other	10
Experienced abuse by other	8	No income	1
Departure of family member	2		
Discrimination	4		
Physical health issue	4		
Mental health issue	13		
Substance abuse issue	9		
Hospitalization or treatment program	1		
Incarceration (jail or prison)	6		
Other	12		

The use of 'Unknown' throughout this document refers to people who did not participate in the survey or provided the following responses:

- Decline to answer
- Don't know
- Blank (no response)

# 2021 Successes

Over the course of the 2020/2021 winter season the Huron Heart to Home Stability Team successfully homed 16 individuals who were accessing the Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter.

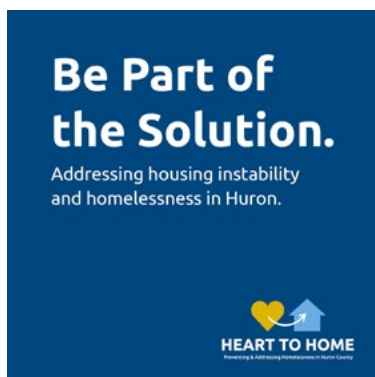


Community awareness and engagement was increased through the launch of the *Be Part of the Solution* campaign.

In the 2020/2021 shelter season, community donations, including in kind contributions, donations of essential items, and \$20,192.50 in cash donations, were made to the Out of the Cold emergency shelter. This total does not include any of the shelter funds raised by the United Way Perth Huron's Coldest Night of the Year event.

**\$20,192**  
Cash Donations

The Huron County stakeholders and community members are truly working together to address homelessness and housing instability in our community.



Learn more about the Be Part of the Solution campaign:  
[www.HuronCounty.ca/housing](http://www.HuronCounty.ca/housing)



# Next Steps

The Enumeration Project, Registry Week, and By Name List all contribute to enhancing Huron’s Coordinated Access System. Through this system many partners are able to better work together to find solutions that work for Huron County.

