



## Committee Report

**To:** Councillor Robert Buckle, Chair and  
Members of the Human Services Committee

**From:** Christine MacDonald  
Director of Human Services

**Date:** January 13, 2022

**Re:** Homelessness Enumeration Report

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### Staff Recommendation:

That the Homelessness Enumeration Report be received; and,

That Bruce County implement a local rule for housing priority to offer one (1) in every ten (10) units to individuals or families from the Bruce 'By-Name List'.

### Background:

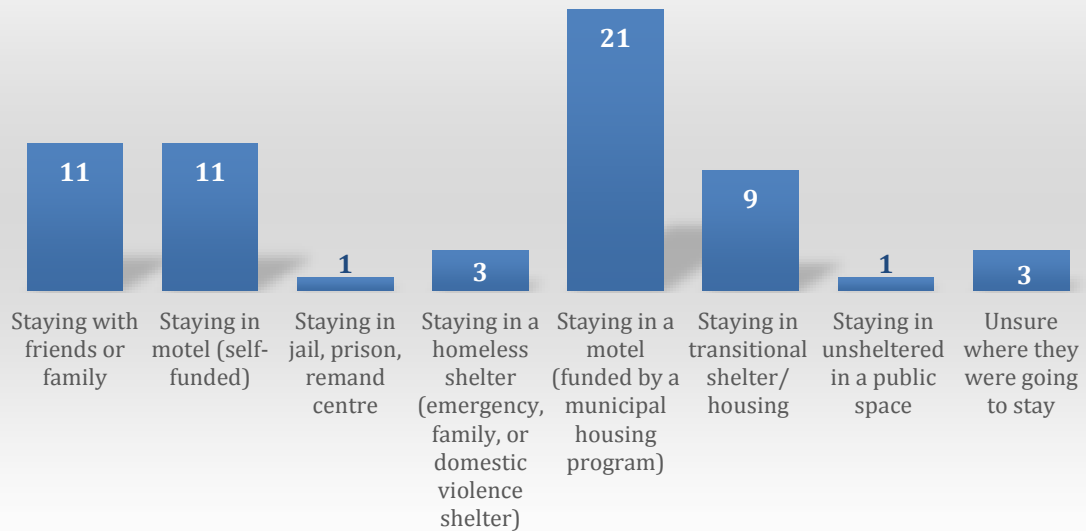
On October 18, 2021, in partnership with Grey County and community partners, staff completed a Point-in-Time count throughout the entire region. The enumeration was mandated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) in an effort to measure the extent of homelessness in each municipality, as well as to capture key demographic information on homelessness in Ontario.

The findings and analysis of the enumeration results indicate opportunities to support the By-Name list by prioritizing households experiencing homelessness.

Bruce County staff and service providers were in contact with a total of seventy-seven (77) residents who were experiencing homelessness on October 18, 2021. Sixty-four (64) people agreed to participate in the survey.

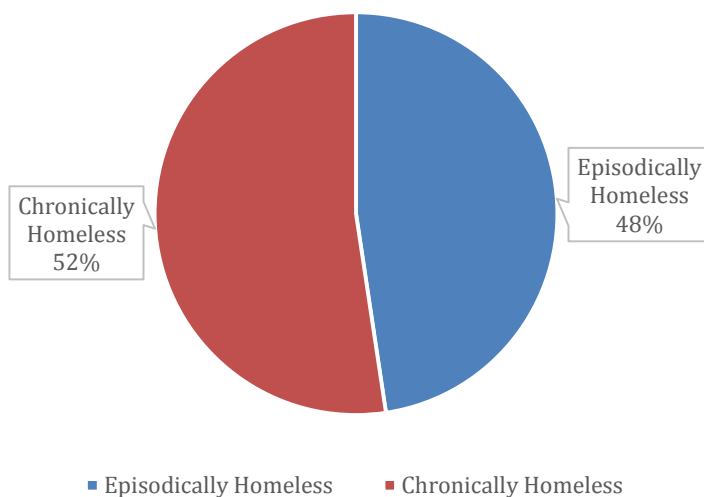
The majority of respondents reported staying at a motel funded by a municipal housing program on the night of the count. The majority of the other respondents report staying with friends and family or a self-funded motel. Bruce County with funding from the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funds short-term motel stays for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

## Where are you staying tonight?



The Ministry's goal is to end chronic homelessness through various measures including regular enumeration and implementation of a By-Name List that meets all Ministry guidelines. Based on the survey data, just over half of the respondents report being homeless for 180 or more cumulative nights in the prior year. Chronically homeless individuals are prioritized as per the Homelessness Response Steering Committee's prioritization model.

## Chronic vs. Episodical Homelessness



The Ministry is also requesting that youth are prioritized on the By-Name List. Youth are particularly vulnerable, and their experiences of homelessness can lead to substance misuse, human trafficking, and/or mental health concerns. In our survey twelve (12) of the sixty-four (64) respondents who answered the question were under the age of twenty-five (25); thirty (30) respondents were under the age of thirty-five (35).

It is important to recognize that Indigenous homelessness has a unique definition that includes individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, each other, culture, language, and identity. Indigenous people experiencing homelessness cannot culturally, emotionally, or spiritually reconnect with their Indigeneity and lost relationships. Twelve (12) people identified as Indigenous, which represents 20% of the respondents. It should be noted that the enumeration supports off reserve indigenous population and does not reflect homelessness on reserve. Due to the over representation of Indigenous persons in the homeless population, Indigeneity has been added to the Homelessness Response Steering Committee's prioritization model.

Survey respondents were open about sharing their struggles that lead to additional vulnerability and need when experiencing homelessness, they identified with the following:

- Forty-nine percent (49%) of respondents Identified as having a Medical Illness or Condition
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents Identified as having a Physical Limitation
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents Identified as having a Learning or Cognitive Limitation
- Sixty-seven percent (67%) of respondents Identified as having a Mental Health Concern
- Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondents Identified as having a Substance Misuse/Use concern

The categories identified can be attributed to vulnerability and are described as morbidities. The categories are summarized into three categories Medical/Physical Health, Mental Health and Substance Use. If an individual is identified as having concerns with all three categories it is referred to as tri-morbidity while experiencing two of the three is referred to as dual-morbidity.

An analysis of the enumeration data as well as the development and expansion of the By-Name List staff are recommending the addition of a homelessness prioritization from the Bruce County Community Housing Registry to better serve the vulnerable population.

Currently, the only priority for housing is for victims of domestic violence or human trafficking. However, the Housing Services Act, 2011 outlines the opportunity for service managers to add a local priority.

The addition of homelessness as a local prioritization is a crucial step in moving towards the eradication of homelessness in Bruce County. To qualify for homelessness prioritization, individuals or families must be on the Bruce Grey By-Name List and must be eligible for community housing.

The following change will support the By-Name List and provide affordable housing to those in our community experiencing homelessness:

- One (1) in ten (10) offers of housing for Bruce County Community Housing Registry will be offered to a household experiencing homelessness and prioritized on the By-Name List
- Prioritized households must be prioritized on the By-Name List
- Vacancy Meeting to determine the individual's suitability would occur with the prospective Tenant(s), their supports, and Bruce County staff
- In all cases units will be offered to provincial priority categories first

#### **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

Bruce County will ensure adherence to the Housing Services Act, 2011

There are no financial, staffing, or IT considerations associated with this report.

#### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

Staff worked closely with Grey County and other members of the homelessness response table in putting forward the recommendations for changes in policy as outlined in this report.

#### **Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

Goal #3: Find creative new ways to engage the public Goal #5: Eliminate our own red tape  
Goal #9: Coordinate concerted efforts to advance our agenda

#### **Report Author:**

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#### **Departmental Approval:**

Christine MacDonald  
Director, Human Services

#### **Approved for Submission:**

Sandra Datars Bere  
Chief Administrative Officer