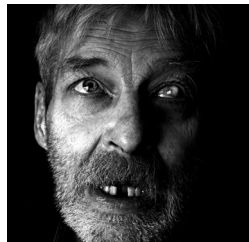


EVERYONE COUNTS



2018 SIMCOE COUNTY HOMELESS ENUMERATION KEY FINDINGS



NOVEMBER 2018



KEY FINDINGS

Data Interpretation Considerations

697 represents the total number of persons experiencing homelessness on April 24, 2018 using observation, survey and agency utilization data.

488 represents the number of unique homeless survey participants who provided consent for their information to be used.

635 represents the number of unique homeless survey participants and the number of children/dependents they identified as having stayed with them the night of the Point-in-Time Count.

Please note all survey questions were optional and in most cases offered a 'don't know' and/or 'decline to answer' option. The noted numbers (or "Ns") throughout this report vary because the number of survey participants whose answer was blank, 'don't know' and 'decline to answer' varied from question to question.

How Many:

697 people were counted as experiencing homelessness during the 2018 Simcoe County Homeless Enumeration. This enumeration, which can be thought of as a census targeted to unhoused Canadians, used a combined Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Registry Week survey. These are methods used to measure sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. They provide a count of individuals and families in a community who are staying in homeless shelters, transitional housing, transitional/short-term housing (*provisionally accommodated* in: transitional housing, motels/hotels, temporarily with others or "couch surfing", hospitals, or correctional facilities), or sleeping in unsheltered locations (e.g., vehicles, sheds, wooded areas, and parks) during a specified 24-hour period, providing a "snapshot" of homelessness in a community.

Location Type:

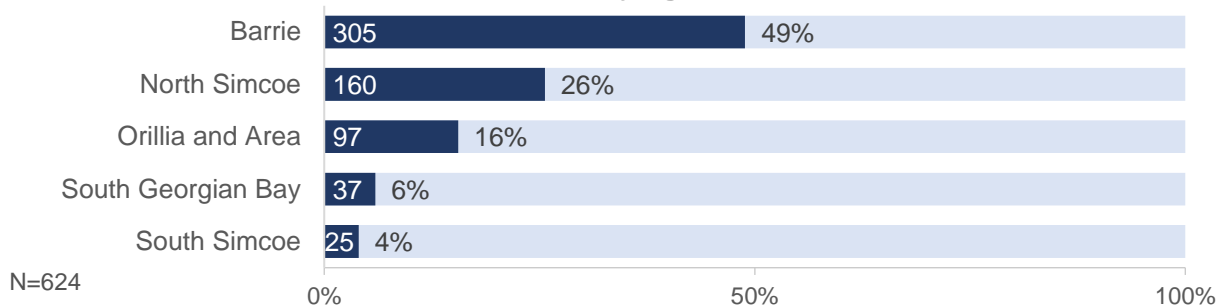
• Provisionally Accommodated	315	45%
• Emergency Sheltered	292	42%
• Unsheltered	82	12%
• Unknown Location (likely homeless)	8	1%

Cities & Towns Where Simcoe County's Homeless Population Were Staying:

• Barrie	305	49%
• Midland	138	22%
• Orillia	97	16%
• Collingwood	24	4%
• Alliston	24	4%
• Penetanguishene	17	3%
• Another place in Simcoe County	12	2%
• Wasaga Beach	9	1%



Current Region Where Participants and Their Other Household Members Were Staying



Key Characteristics:

- Simcoe County's rate of homelessness was approximately fourteen persons experiencing homelessness for every 10,000 residents.
- The majority (84 percent) of survey participants (and their household members) were living in Simcoe County's more urban centres: Barrie (242 people), Midland (103 people), and Orillia (63 people).
- Males (61 percent) were more prevalent in the surveyed homeless population than females (39 percent).
- Females were found to have more complex and challenging housing support needs than males with 65 percent of females and 51 percent of males reporting higher needs.
- Approximately eight percent of survey participants identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ).
- 260 (57 percent of) survey participants met the Canadian definition of chronic homelessness, having experienced at least 180 days of homelessness in the past year.
- Single adults were the largest group of people experiencing homelessness and were overrepresented (70 percent) compared to the percentage of single adults in the general population (eighteen percent).
- Families comprised sixteen percent of survey participant households compared to 43 percent of Simcoe County households.
- Youth (including eleven youth-led families, 76 single person youth households, and eleven youth dependents) were overrepresented among the homeless population, making up sixteen percent of people experiencing homelessness yet only eleven percent of the county's population. Single youth (aged 16 to 24) made up sixteen percent of survey participants. There were nine unaccompanied minors (aged 15 to 17).
- People who identified as Indigenous were overrepresented among the homeless population, making up 29 percent of survey participants yet comprising only four percent of the population of the county.
- One tenth of people who were experiencing homelessness and one quarter of those using emergency shelters fled spousal/partner abuse, often with children.
- Almost 400 (393) survey participants reported they had used emergency services in the last six months (e.g., hospital emergency care, one or more nights in a jail/prison, taken an ambulance to hospital, a mental health crisis or suicide prevention service). The cumulative total services used was 8,539; an average of 21.7 services per person over the six-month period.



Demographics:

Gender Identity of Participants and Other Household Members Experiencing Homelessness

	Surveyed	Dependents	Total
• Male	296 (61%)	66 (49%)	362 (58%)
• Female	191 (39%)	70 (51%)	261 (42%)

Participants and Other Household Members by Age Group

	Surveyed	Dependents	Total
• 0-15	*	*	123 (19%)
• 16-17	**	**	14 (2%)
• 18-24	79 (16%)	5 (4%)	84 (13%)
• 25-44	233 (48%)	6 (4%)	239 (38%)
• 45-64	151 (31%)	0 (0%)	151 (24%)
• 65+	16 (3%)	0 (0%)	16 (3%)

* Between 0 and 5; data were suppressed for confidentiality because the number of surveyed participants was under 5

** Between 5 and 10; data were suppressed to ensure confidentiality

Indigenous:

Surveyed
139 (29%)

Routes to Homelessness:

- Almost one third (30 percent) of survey participants reported they were newly homeless.
- Participants reported their current lack of stable housing was due to having nowhere to live after they:
 - left a hospital or correctional facility (28 percent),
 - aged out of/left foster care (four percent), and
 - left their First Nations Reserve or a First Nations Reserve (two percent).
- About one quarter (24 percent) of survey participants indicated they had experienced living in foster care settings at some time in their past. Thirty percent of participants who had experienced living in foster care settings indicated their first experience of homelessness was before they exited foster care.

Top Four Reasons for Homelessness:

1. Addiction/ substance use (21 percent)
2. Inability to pay rent/mortgage (twenty percent)
3. Conflict with spouse/partner (sixteen percent)
4. Unsafe housing conditions (fifteen percent)

For the full report please visit <https://www.simcoe.ca/> and search “Enumeration” and choose the link titled “2018 County Wide Enumeration Report and Appendices”

