

Deaths of Homeless People in Toronto Progress Update

Board of Health

October 30, 2017

Background

- Homelessness remains a significant issue in Toronto, affecting some of the city's most vulnerable residents and contributing to health inequities
- April 1, 2016: Council directs TPH to collect all relevant data on the deaths of homeless individuals within and outside the City's homeless shelter system
- This activity is within TPH's mandate of monitoring and assessing the health status of the population
- January 1, 2017: Data collection begins

How it works

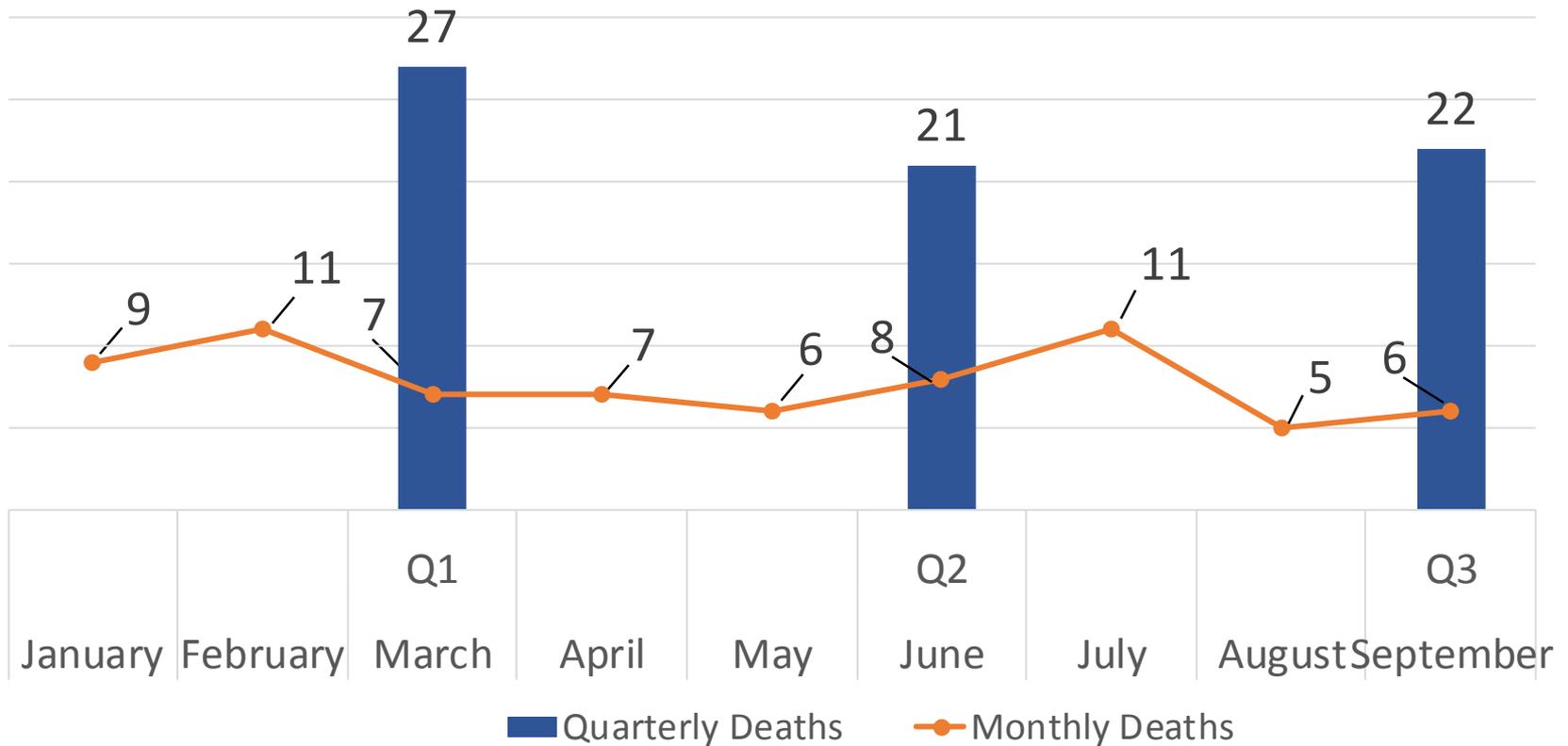
- 200+ health and social service agencies reporting deaths to TPH through secure online data collection tool
- TPH reviews each report
- Reports also sent to Regional Coroner for review of cases they investigate
 - Data updated as required for age, gender, date, cause

Data Collected

- Demographics (age, gender, Indigenous status)
- Date, location, cause of death
- Indoors or outdoors
- Health challenges of the deceased
- History of homelessness
- Sentinel contact

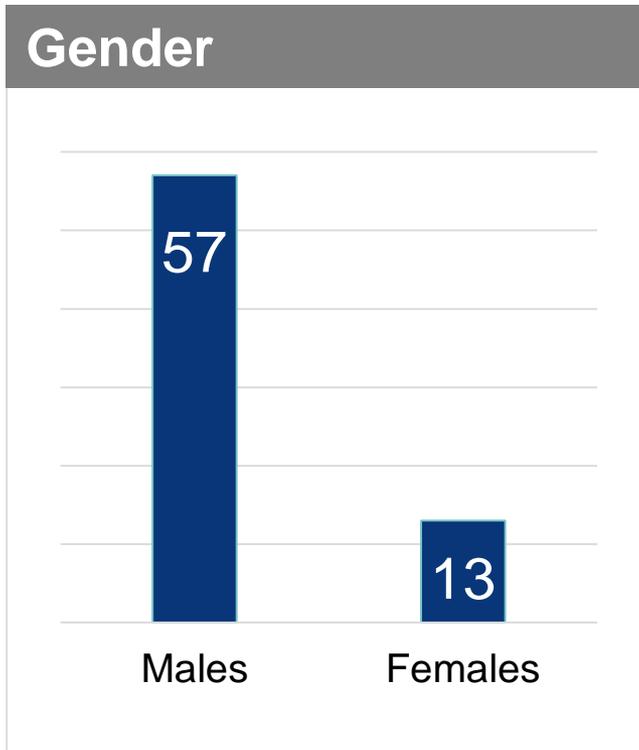
Results to date

Deaths of Homeless People, January to September 2017, Toronto

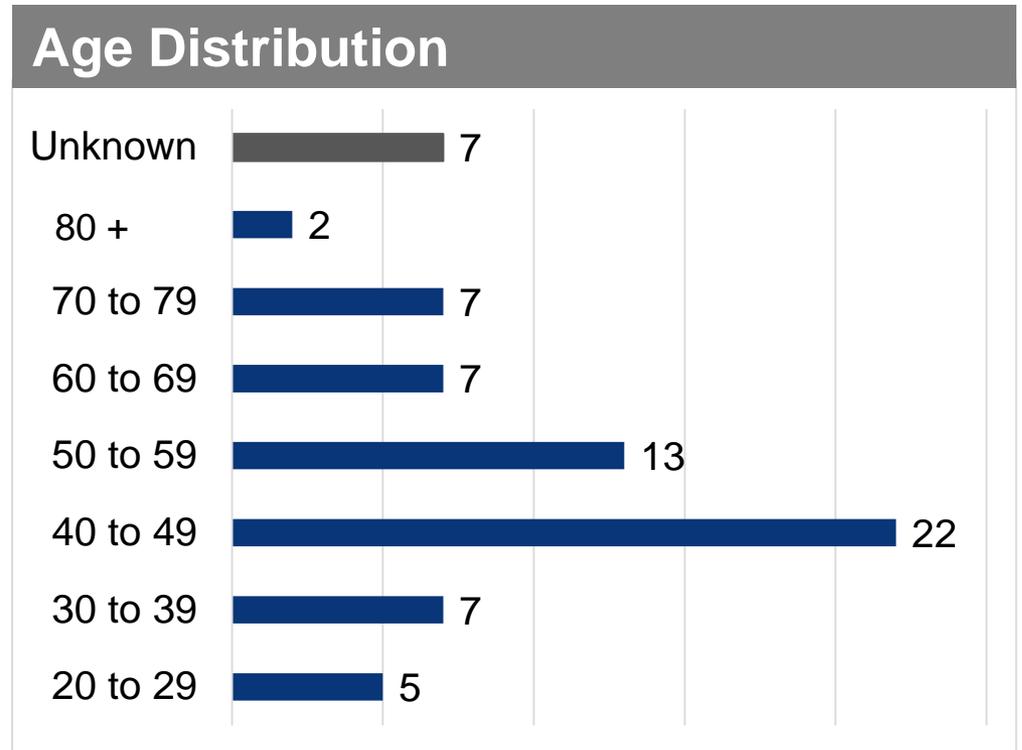


Total of 70 deaths to date

*Preliminary results – subject to change

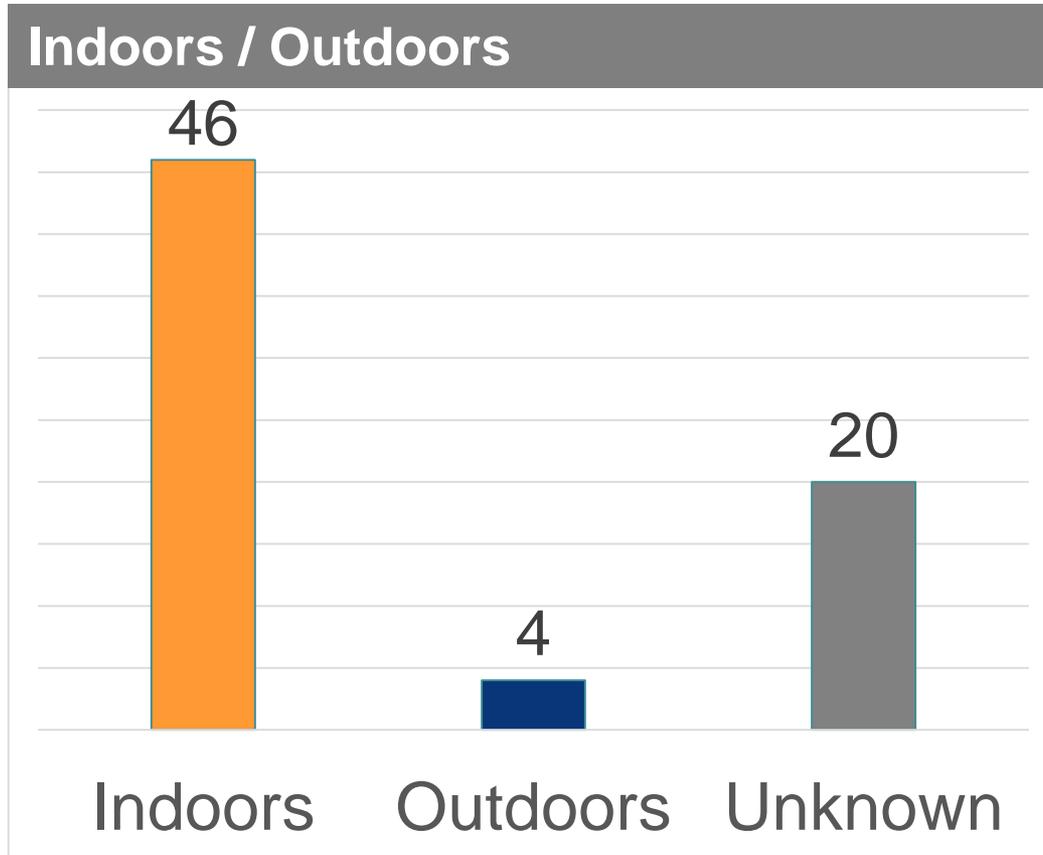


81% male



Median age: 48 years

Location



Data limitations

- Data limitations exist for this initiative and are important to understand:
 - Not all health and social service agencies reporting
 - Indigenous status is largely reported as unknown
 - Official cause of death limited to Coroner's cases

How the information will be used

- Provides a more complete picture of the scope of a complex issue in Toronto.
- One piece of information that can inform health and social service partners.
- Further data for city-wide efforts that serve this vulnerable population.

- Initiative is still in the early stages
- Continue to collect, validate, monitor and report data
- Work to increase stakeholders reporting

To report the death of a homeless person, contact TPH:

- 416-392-7450 or seu@toronto.ca
- If the death is newly discovered, call 911 first

For more information:

- www.toronto.ca/health