



Update on the COVID-19 Response and Overdose Prevention in the Shelter System

Presentation to the Board of Health

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
June 14, 2021

Protecting People Experiencing Homelessness from COVID-19



- The City has taken significant action to protect people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19 in the shelter system
- Three-tier Strategy
 - Prevention
 - Mitigation
 - Recovery
- We continue to work closely and collaboratively with partners from the homelessness service sector, the health sector and other levels of government

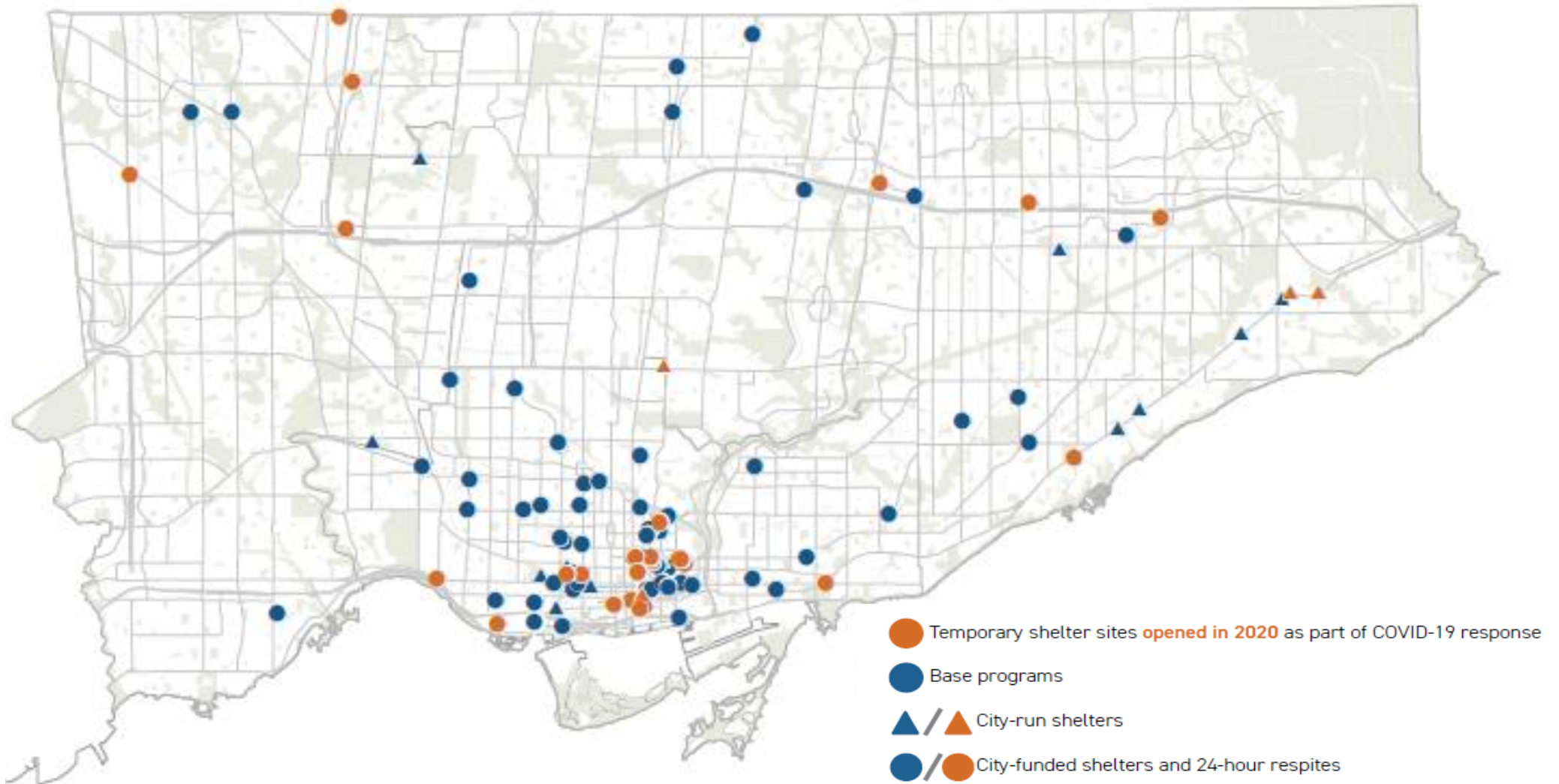


Active outbreaks in shelters





Opening temporary shelter sites to ensure physical distancing in the shelter system



Response Measures

- Ensure physical distancing by issuing Shelter Directive related to bed spacing, and encouraging physical distancing in all areas of the shelter, including washrooms, dining and common areas
- Transporting more than 1,900 people with symptoms to provincial assessment sites for testing
- Working with Ontario Health Toronto Region and hospital partners to deliver on-site testing as recommended by Toronto Public Health
- Operating an isolation and recovery program with wrap-around health and harm reduction supports for more than 3,600 people who await test results or test positive to recover
- Proactive symptom screening at all points of entry into the shelter system and active daily screening and monitoring of all clients and staff for COVID-19 symptoms
- Piloting rapid testing screening for new admissions



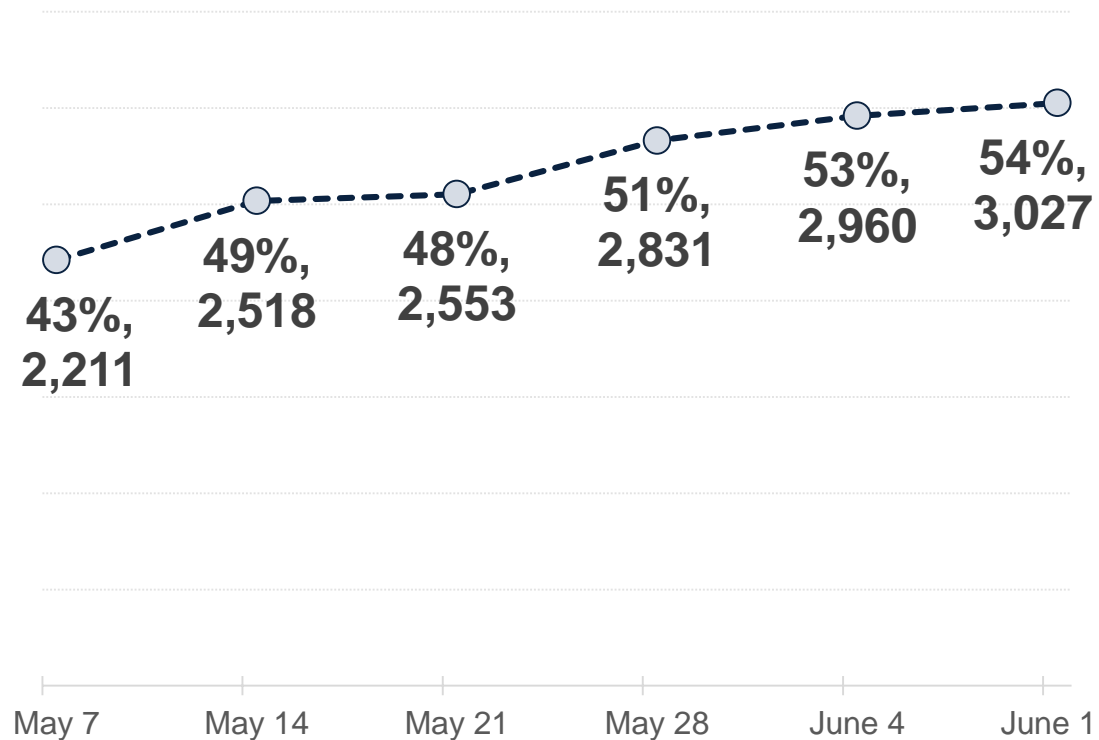


Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) in Shelters

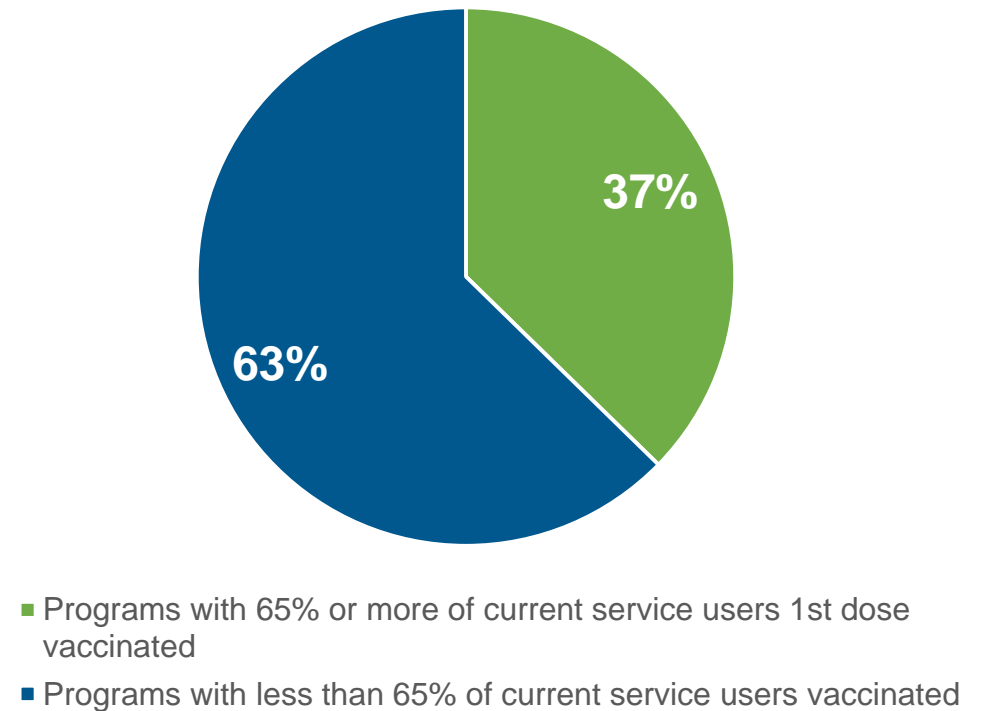
- Ensuring the mandatory use of masks for staff throughout shifts and issuing a directive for mandatory masks or face coverings for clients in all common areas
- Continuing distribution of an average of approximately 100,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) weekly
- Providing funding to non-profit shelter providers for direct purchase of PPE and to support implementation of enhanced IPAC measures
- Providing guidance and funding for improvements to ventilation and indoor air quality
- IPAC leads at each shelter are coordinating IPAC work and focusing on continuous improvement
- Conducting ongoing quality assurance site visits to confirm compliance with IPAC measures and providing direction and education for remediation where required

Vaccination of Service Users in the Shelter System

Number and proportion of current service users with 1st dose vaccine

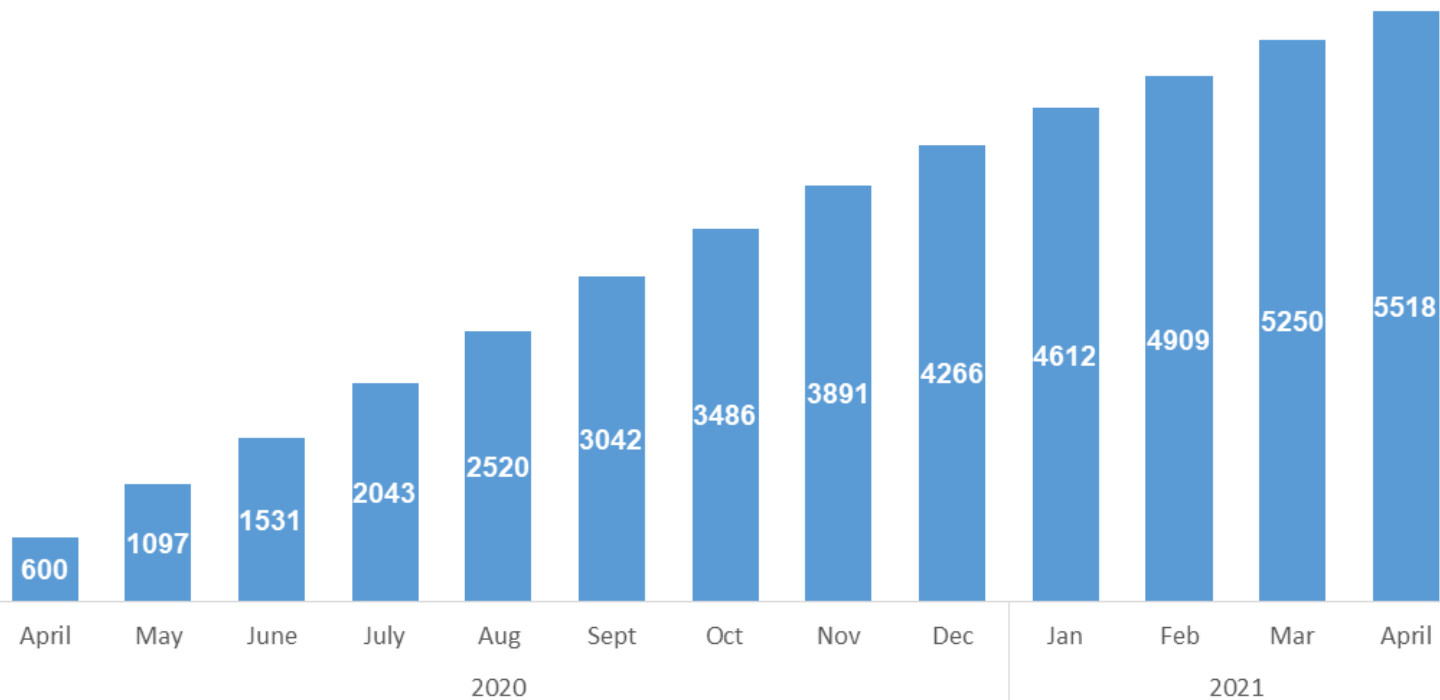


Programs reporting > 65% vaccination



Helping People Access Housing

Number of people housed from shelter – cumulative total



Overdose Prevention

- SSHA worked closely with TPH and community partners to take action to address opioid-related deaths in Toronto's shelter system.
- The Integrated Prevention and Harm Reduction Initiative, or iPHARE, was established to address this request and help to advance the Toronto Overdose Action Plan.
- iPHARE establishes Supervised Consumption Sites at several locations, and includes investments over \$7 million for harm reduction and mental health case management supports at shelter and hotel locations with the highest needs.
- Shelter Hotel Overdose Prevention Project (SHOPP) is a Peer witnessing program funded and deployed in **four** shelter – hotel programs
- SSHA in collaboration with TPH, has issued an updated directive for City operated and funded shelters and 24-hour respite sites, including the COVID-19 hotel programs. The directive provides updated requirements for overdose prevention and response strategies along with a toolkit of resources to support service providers.

