Key Highlights
SNA 2021 Key Highlights

1. The profile of those experiencing homelessness has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic

2. Homelessness affects people from different backgrounds but specific groups are overrepresented in Toronto

3. Gaps in other service systems are key contributors to homelessness

4. The key solutions to homelessness are increasing income and access to affordable and supportive housing
1. The profile of those experiencing homelessness has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic
Snapshot of Homelessness in Toronto on April 21, 2021

7,347 people estimated to be experiencing homelessness:

2,742 people in base shelter and overnight services
  (i.e. emergency/transitional shelters, 24-hour respite sites, 24-hour drop-ins)

2,978 people in COVID-19 response, recovery/isolation sites

90 people in temporary refugee response shelters

795 people in provincial institutions
  (i.e. Violence Against Women shelters, health and treatment and correctional facilities)

742 people estimated to be staying outdoors (including encampments)
Overall decrease primarily due to fewer refugee families as a result of border restrictions

Source: Shelter Management Information System, Average Nightly Shelter Occupancy by Month, Jan 2018 to April 2021
13% of respondents were refugees, and just 3% were refugee families

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Number of people provided shelter in non-refugee programs has increased as a result of the City’s COVID-19 response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Temporary refugee response shelter</th>
<th>COVID-19 response/recovery/isolation sites</th>
<th>Base shelter and overnight services: emergency/transitional shelters, 24-hour respites/24-hour drop-ins</th>
<th>Provincial institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3649</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3990</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>3628</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3628</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>2618</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4536</td>
<td>1028</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>5720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2978</td>
<td>2742</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>5720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fewer people experiencing homelessness were in other provincial systems

People experience homelessness in all areas of Toronto

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Percentage of Adjusted Total Estimated Homelessness, Indoor Homelessness, and Outdoor Estimated Homelessness by Community Council District
Outdoor homelessness has increased.

People experiencing homelessness move between indoor and outdoor locations

- 61% stayed in overnight sheltered services only
- 37% slept in both overnight sheltered services and outdoors
- 2% reported staying outdoors/encampments only

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
2. Homelessness affects people from different backgrounds but specific groups are overrepresented in Toronto.
Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented (15%)

• 23% of outdoor respondents identified as Indigenous
• Indigenous people represent between 1 and 2.5% of the Toronto population

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Racialized individuals are overrepresented (almost 60%)

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
The largest group of racialized individuals identify as Black (31%)
Non-binary, transgender, and Two-Spirit people overrepresented (3.1%)

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
More than one-quarter (26%) of youth experiencing homelessness identify as 2SLGBTQ+

- Compared to 12% of all respondents who identified as 2SLGBTQ+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City-administered shelters (total)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single adults</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2SLGBTQ+ refers to Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, + refers to sexual and gender diverse identities not represented in the acronym

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Youth (16-24) represent 11%
Seniors (60 and older) represent 15%
of people staying in City-administered sites

Average age = \textbf{41} years

Source: Shelter Management Information System, Age of Clients, April 21, 2021
3. Gaps in other service systems are key contributors to homelessness
76% of respondents identified having one or more type of the following health challenges:

- Mental health issue: 50%
- Substance use issue: 42%
- Illness or medical condition: 32%
- Physical limitation: 26%
- Learning or cognitive limitations: 20%

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
More than a quarter of respondents reported having three or more health challenges.

- 3 or more health challenges: 28%
- 2 or more health challenges: 51%
- Only 1 health challenge: 24%

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Respondents who are chronically homeless are more likely to report multiple health challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Challenges</th>
<th>Homeless &lt;6 Months</th>
<th>Homeless 6+ Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 or more health challenges</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more health challenges</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only 1 health challenge</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
People experiencing homelessness report accessing the health care system in the past 12 months

- Been to an emergency room: 31%
- Used an ambulance (as a patient): 25%
- Been hospitalized: 22%
- Been to prison/jail/detention centre: 9%
- Been to a substance use treatment facility: 6%
- Used a supervised consumption service: 6%

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
33% of respondents who are not currently in treatment for a substance use issue are interested in accessing treatment.

- **Outdoors**: 23%
- **City-administered shelters (total)**: 34%
- **Single adults**: 36%
- **Families**: 41%
- **Youth**: 17%

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
18% of respondents have been in foster care, kin care or a group home

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Almost one-third of respondents reported their first homeless experience as children/youth

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
5% of respondents identified as veterans

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
86% of respondents have lived in Toronto for more than one year

- Always been here: 44%
- More than 10 years: 19%
- 6 - 10 years: 6%
- 1 - 5 years: 17%
- 6 - 11 months: 4%
- < 6 months: 6%

10% of respondents have lived in Toronto for less than one year

Note: 4% of people declined to answer, responded “don’t know” or said they don’t live in Toronto therefore percentages do not total 100%

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Youth and families staying in shelters are more likely to have lived in Toronto for less than one year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Been in Toronto 1 or more years</th>
<th>Been in Toronto &lt; 1 year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single adults</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Most people who reported moving to Toronto within the past one year became homeless after they arrived.

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
4.5% moved here recently from another municipality in Ontario

Breakdown of the 10% of respondents who have lived in Toronto for less than one year:

- **Ontario community (total):**
  - Mississauga: 7%
  - Brampton: 3%
  - Oshawa: 3%
  - Ottawa: 2%

- **Canadian province (total):**
  - Quebec: 12%
  - British Columbia: 8%
  - Alberta: 4%
  - Manitoba: 2%

- **Country (total):**
  - Ethiopia: 6%
  - United States of America: 4%
  - Nigeria: 2%
  - Mexico: 2%

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Toronto has the highest average number of emergency shelter beds per capita

Average nightly emergency shelter beds per 100,000 population, 2019

Source: 2019 MBNCanada Performance Measurement Report
4. The key solutions to homelessness are increasing income and access to affordable and supportive housing
More than three-quarters of respondents reported being chronically homeless (i.e. six or more months), in the past one year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entire 12 months</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 11 months</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 8 months</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 5 months</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 3 months</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 1 month</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just 18% reported experiencing homelessness for less than 6 months.

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Almost one-quarter of respondents reported being homeless for more than 5 years

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Not enough income for housing was the most frequently reported reason for housing loss

- Not enough income for housing: 19%
- Landlord/tenant conflict: 8%
- Unfit/unsafe housing condition: 8%
- Substance use issue: 7%
- Conflict with spouse/partner: 7%
- Mental health issue: 6%
- Conflict with other: 6%
- Conflict with parent/guardian: 5%
- Left the community/relocated: 5%
- Other reasons: 4%
- Physical health issue: 4%
- Incarceration (jail or prison): 3%
- Experienced abuse by spouse/partner: 3%
- Building sold or renovated: 3%
- Experienced abuse by other: 2%
- Departure of family member: 2%
- Experienced abuse by parent/guardian: 2%
- Hospitalization or treatment program: 2%
- Experienced discrimination: 2%
- Immigration issues/recently arrived in Canada: 2%
- Complaint (e.g., pets/noise/damage): 1%

15% of respondents said that these reasons were related to the COVID-19 pandemic (when asked a follow-up question)

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Most important services to help find housing are related to increasing housing affordability and income

- More affordable housing: 34%
- Subsidized housing or a housing allowance: 20%
- Money/more money from OW/ODSP: 12%
- Help finding an affordable place: 10%
- Help finding employment or training: 4%
- Help with settlement or immigration issues: 2%
- Help to keep housing once you have it: 2%
- Help with housing applications: 2%
- Mental health supports: 2%
- Supportive housing: 2%

Source: 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Results
Street Needs Assessment 2021 Overview

• Toronto’s fifth SNA was held in April, 2021:
  • Indoor Survey Week: April 19 to 23, 2021
  • Indoor and Outdoor Count: April 21, 2021
  • Outdoor Survey: April 27, 2021

• The SNA is a needs assessment survey and point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Toronto

• Provides a better understanding of trends and the needs and experiences of different groups and is a direct input into Shelter, Support and Housing Administration’s Service Plan

• We heard from 2,629 people experiencing homelessness staying:
  • Outdoors and in encampments
  • City-administered sites (i.e., base emergency shelter and overnight services and transitional shelters, COVID-19 response sites and recovery/isolation sites)
  • Provincially-administered Violence Against Women shelters

• Thank you to the people who spoke with us and to City staff and community partners who led the 2021 SNA!
Street Needs Assessment 2021 Results Report

Read the Street Needs Assessment 2021 Results Report here:
www.toronto.ca/housingresearch