

# 2021 Point in time count findings



Region of Waterloo  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

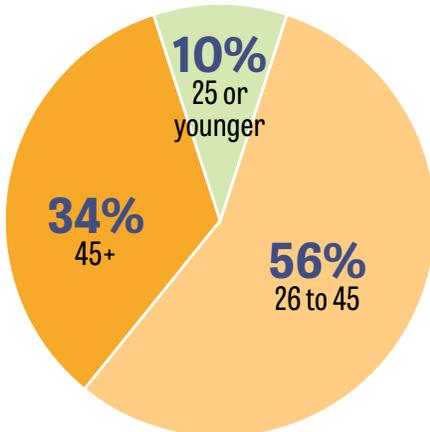
**1085** people experiencing any type of homelessness were counted on **September 21, 2021.**

- 412** people living rough (living in encampments, on the street, or staying in their vehicle);
- 335** people experiencing hidden homelessness;
- 191** people in emergency shelter;
- 84** people in transitional housing;
- 63** people in institutions (Hospital, Police custody, Women's Crisis Services).

**609** people included in the **point in time count** filled out a survey. A summary of their responses is outlined below.

## WHO

### Age of survey respondents



### Racial identity

15%



Identified themselves as members of a racialized community

17%



Identified themselves as First Nations / Indigenous / Metis

### Gender identity



Trans, two-spirit, non-binary (10%)



Women (30%)



Men (67%)

## WHERE/HOW LONG

### Where people are experiencing homelessness\*



205

Living rough  
Encampment, unsheltered in public place, vehicle



183

Emergency shelter  
Including hotel/motel funded by homeless program



43

Transitional shelter



105

Hidden homelessness



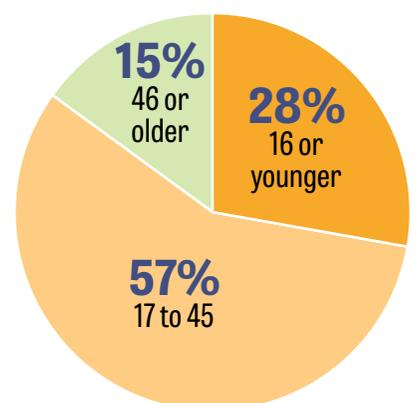
69

Other  
Unsafe or no permanent place to stay

### How long people have been experiencing homelessness in the last year



### Age when people first experienced homelessness



\* The number of people experiencing homelessness in these locations differs from the numbers reported at the top of the page as this section reports on where survey respondents are experiencing homelessness - not everyone experiencing homelessness filled out a survey.

# EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS

## Top five reasons people said caused their experience of homelessness

-  Not enough income for housing **(33%)**
-  Landlord / tenant conflict **(24%)**
-  Substance use issues **(15%)**
-  Conflict with spouse / partner **(14%)**
-  Unfit / unsafe housing conditions **(13%)**

## Health challenges reported by survey respondents

- 72%** Substance use
- 67%** Illness / medical condition
- 40%** Physical limitation
- 38%** Learning or cognitive limitation

## Top ten services that would be helpful

-  Finding affordable housing **(87%)**
-  Housing search support (including support worker) **(69%)**
-  Bus Pass **(68%)**
-  Outreach workers **(59%)**
-  Internet access **(56%)**
-  Washrooms, showers **(54%)**
-  Help writing housing applications **(50%)**
-  Low barrier housing **(46%)**
-  Personal Counselling **(45%)**
-  Accessing income support programs (e.g. OW, EI) **(43%)**



## Challenges to finding safe permanent housing

- Low income **(78%)**
- Rent too high **(73%)**
- Discrimination **(34%)**
- Poor housing conditions **(26%)**
- Mental health issues **(25%)**
- Criminal history **(24%)**
- Family breakdown / conflict **(15%)**
- Physical health issues, accessibility **(14%)**

To learn more about housing and homelessness services in Waterloo Region, please visit:  
<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/housing-and-shelter.aspx>