

2021 Point in time count findings



Region of Waterloo
COMMUNITY SERVICES

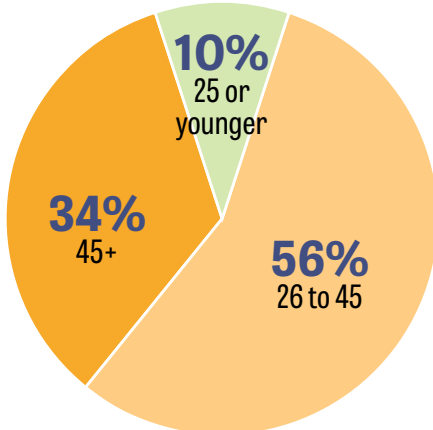
1085 people experiencing any type of homelessness were counted on **September 21, 2021.**

- 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** fill 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

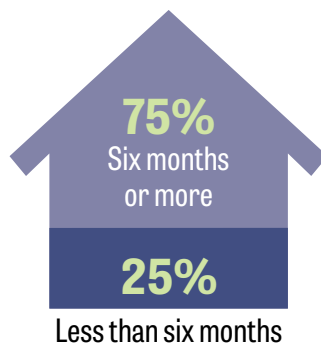


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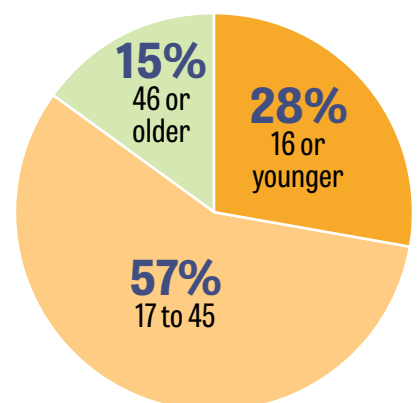
Other

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>