2024 Point in time count findings

Region of Waterloo
COMMUNITY SERVICES

2371 people experiencing any type of homelessness were counted on October 22, 2024.

- **1009** people living rough (living in encampments, on the street, or staying in their vehicle)
- **446** people staying in an emergency shelter
- **353** people experiencing hidden homelessness (staying with friends or family, or temporary accommodations)
- **221** people staying in transitional housing
- **153** people staying in a motel funded by the Region
- **100** people in institutions (hospital, police custody)
- **89** people staying in unknown or undisclosed locations

1790 people included in the **point in time count** filled out a survey. A summary of the responses they shared is outlined below.

WHERE/HOW LONG

Where people are experiencing homelessness*

41% Living rough

25% Emergency shelter
Including hotel/motel funded by homeless program

20% Hidden homelessness

8% Transitional housing

6% Other
Motels, Institutions and Unknown

78% of people surveyed said they experienced chronic homelessness

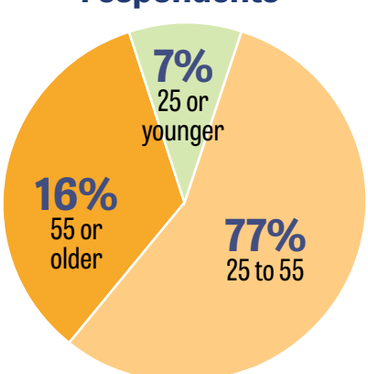
Racial identity

26%
Identified themselves as members of a racialized community

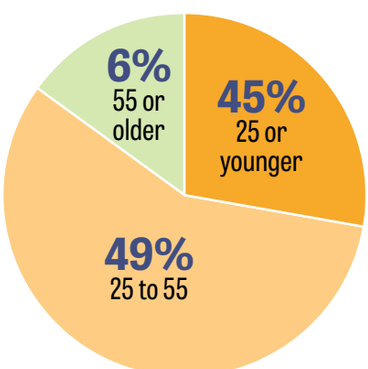
17%
Identified themselves as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis

WHO

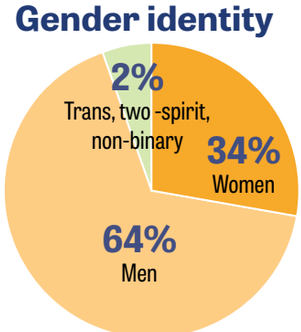
Age of survey respondents



Age when people first experienced homelessness



Gender identity



* 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. Not everyone who participated in the survey answered every question. The percentages above are based on total responses for each question.

EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS

Top 5 reasons
people said caused their experience of homelessness

Not enough income for housing **(44%)**

Conflict with spouse / partner **(18%)**

Landlord / tenant conflict **(13%)**

Unfit / unsafe housing conditions **(12%)**

Substance use issues **(11%)**

Health challenges reported by survey respondents

72%	70%	44%	29%	28%
Substance use	Mental health	Illness / medical condition	Physical limitation	Acquired brain injury

Top 10 services
that would be helpful

- Finding affordable housing **(76%)**
- Housing search support **(54%)**
- Bus pass **(53%)**
- Finding a job **(49%)**
- Accessing income support (e.g. OW, EI) **(45%)**
- Internet access **(42%)**
- Getting ID **(41%)**
- Outreach workers **(41%)**
- Secure storage **(39%)**
- Washrooms, showers **(39%)**

Top 10 challenges to finding safe permanent housing

- Low income **(80%)**
- Rent too high **(78%)**
- Addiction **(33%)**
- No income assistance **(32%)**
- Poor housing conditions **(31%)**
- Mental health issues **(29%)**
- Discrimination **(27%)**
- Criminal history **(19%)**
- Family breakdown / conflict **(18%)**
- Physical health issues, accessibility **(16%)**

To learn more about Waterloo Region's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, please visit:
engagewr.ca/end-chronic-homelessness