

2021



# Service-Based Homelessness Count 2021

## Counting those experiencing homelessness in Eastern Nova Scotia



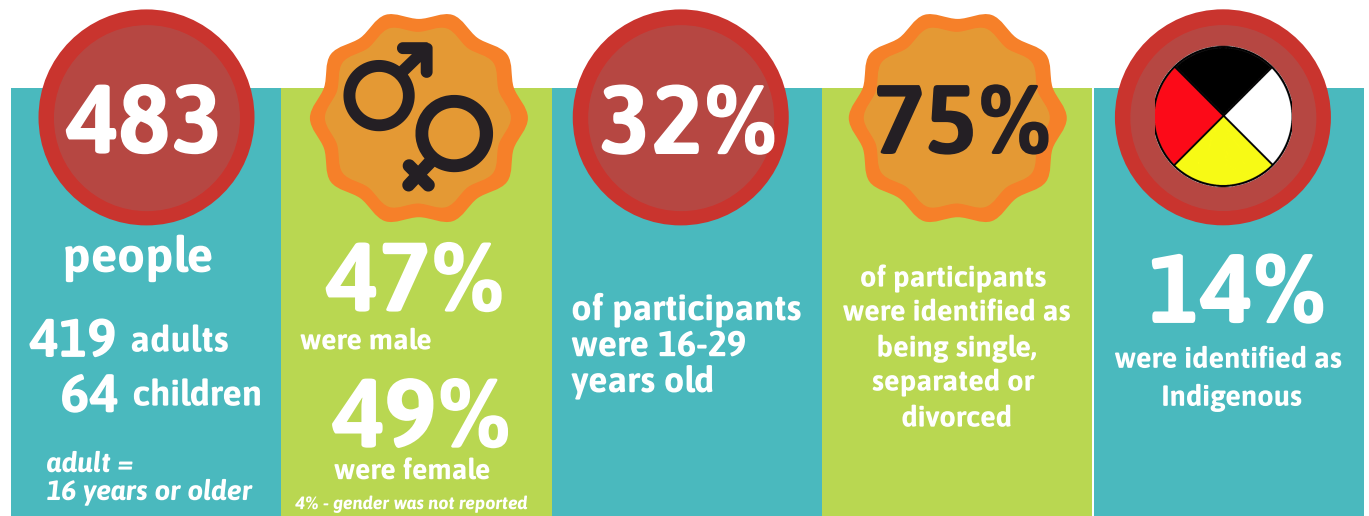
### Nova Scotia Health - Eastern Zone



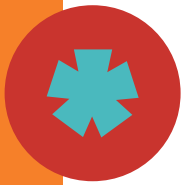
The purpose of conducting this service-based homelessness count is to better understand the scope and magnitude of homelessness across six counties in eastern Nova Scotia.



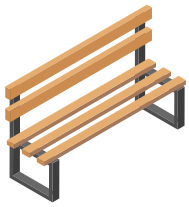
During the month of November 2021, service providers throughout the study region identified clients who were 16 years of age or older thought to be experiencing homelessness. For each client, a survey was completed with the service provider's perspective on the client's demographic background and housing situation.



\* Above percentages are based on 419 adults



# Housing Situations Identified



**11% Unsheltered**  
Staying in a public place, sleeping in a car, not knowing where they would sleep that night.



**18% Emergency Sheltered**  
Staying at a homeless shelter.



**24% At Risk of Homelessness**  
Housed but economic and/or housing situation is precarious, living conditions are not healthy, safe, or facing eviction.



**36% Provisionally Accommodated**  
Staying with family, friends, in transitional or supportive housing, or living in a boarding home or in a motel.



**11% Institutional Care**  
Staying at a correctional facility/half-way house or at a mental health/addictions/recovery facility.

## Breakdown by County

### Cape Breton County

### Antigonish County

### Guysborough, Inverness, Richmond & Victoria Counties

**33** Unsheltered

**6** Unsheltered

**6** Unsheltered

**65** Emergency Sheltered

**5** Emergency Sheltered

**6** Emergency Sheltered

**107** Provisionally Accommodated

**24** Provisionally Accommodated

**19** Provisionally Accommodated

**46** Institutional Care

**0** Institutional Care

**0** Institutional Care

**74** At Risk of Homelessness

**16** At Risk of Homelessness

**12** At Risk of Homelessness



## Barriers to Affordable, Appropriate Housing

Several key barriers to accessing and keeping appropriate, stable, and permanent housing were identified. People often experience multiple barriers.

### Top five barriers reported:



**Lack of appropriate housing availability**



**Addictions/substance use**



**Mental illness**



**Low-income earner**



**Poor housing options**

Results call for immediate action including more affordable social and community housing development, and the preservation of all existing social housing stock. It also requires supportive housing programs for tenants living with a mental illness or substance use disorder, and additional funding for housing support workers.

Greater financial assistance for individuals and families is also needed. Housing and supports also must be tailored to the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness to ensure they are appropriate and safe.