

For Immediate Release

December 4, 2020

Registry Week (Homelessness Survey) Results: Oxford County

OXFORD COUNTY – Thursday, December 3, 2020 a virtual community debrief event on the results of the community-wide Registry Week was held by the Oxford Housing Action Collaborative and Social Planning Council Oxford (SPCO). Registry Week (homelessness survey) included surveyors at 25 locations across the County speaking with people experiencing homelessness to learn more about their housing needs and experiences.

Over the four-day surveying period, November 23 - 26, **93** different people experiencing homelessness participated. Including dependent children, there were **103 people experiencing homelessness in Oxford County during this time**. Surveyors spoke with youth, single adults and families and surveyed people living in the following situations: unsheltered (sleeping rough, in cars, bus shelters), emergency sheltered (homelessness shelters and domestic violence shelters) and provisionally accommodated (couch surfing, staying in motels/hotels and transitional housing). We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the people who participated in the survey and also to the surveyors. We recognize that we were not able to speak to everyone and acknowledge that our findings are an underrepresentation of the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community.

The initial survey results revealed some interesting information:

- 57% of participants were between the ages of 25 to 44 years old and over half (63%) of those who participated were male.
- 42% of participants had graduated high school, 24% had completed some high school and 16% had completed college/university.
- The majority (60%) of individuals that participated in the survey have been living in Oxford County for at least 10 years, with 26% of respondents stating that they have always lived here and only 10% stating that they have lived here for under one year.
- 46% of those surveyed were provisionally accommodated (couch surfing, living in motels/hotels or transitional housing), 32% of people were unsheltered and 21% of people were most frequently staying in emergency shelters.
- In response to a question about top causes of your current homelessness, the most common response at 22% was insufficient income for housing.
- 55% of those surveyed entered homelessness within the past 9 months.

All of the findings from Registry Week will help inform local solutions to end homelessness. The Oxford Housing Action Collaborative plans to continue their efforts in an upcoming Oxford County Shelter Review and will be working with people experiencing homelessness to tell their stories through words and photographs. A final report will be published in June 2021 with the results and recommendations for moving forward. Community members are encouraged to watch the [Registry Week community debrief event on youtube](#). Further information and



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findings from Registry Week and upcoming research in Oxford County will be posted on Social Planning Council Oxford's website: spcoxford.ca/adequate-housing.

If you have any questions regarding Registry Week (homelessness survey) or the Social Planning Council Oxford, please contact Stephanie Ellens-Clark at stephanie.ellens-clark@spcoxford.ca or 226-228-0539.

The Social Planning Council Oxford illuminates the realities of poverty and marginalization to shift understanding and inspire collaborative action for positive change