Guest Speaker

Dr. Alina Turner

CEO, and Co-Founder, HelpSeeker Technologies

- Homelessness systems planning expert with a 25-year career spanning diverse social policy domains across Canada

- Expertise in devising effective strategies tailored to the specific needs of urban and rural communities

- Fellow at the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary

York Region Special Council Meeting on Homelessness

Forecasting Homelessness Needs

Dr. Alina Turner
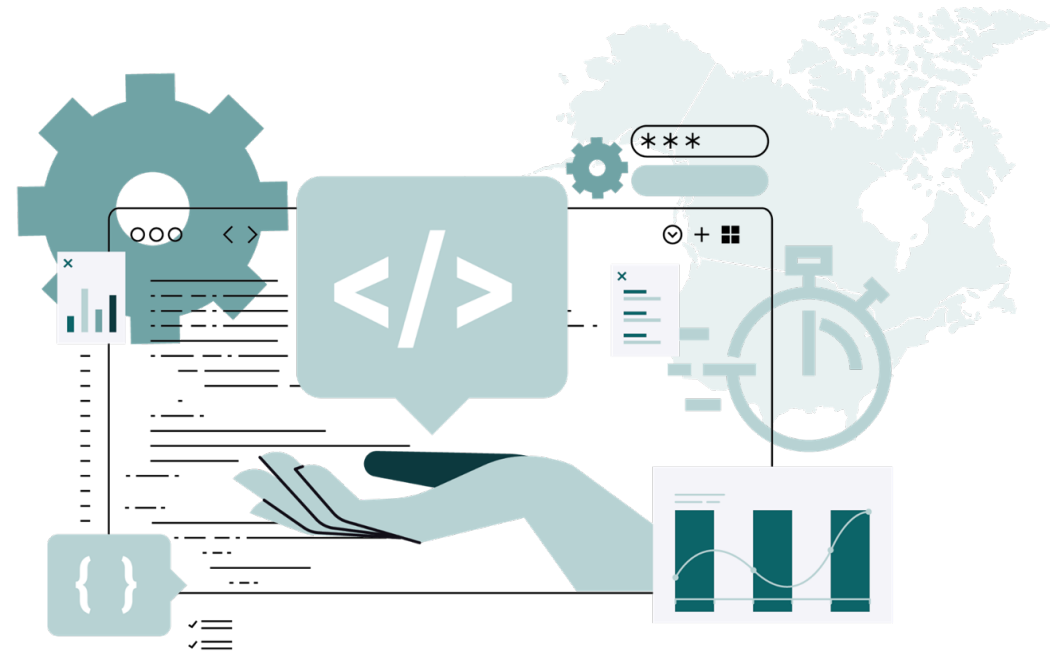
HelpSeeker | CEO

November 23, 2023

HelpSeeker.org

HelpSeeker Technologies

Your Partner in Solving Complex Social Issues
Where Data Meets Action

Homelessness

Community Safety

Guns & Gangs

Addictions

Mental Health

Food Insecurity

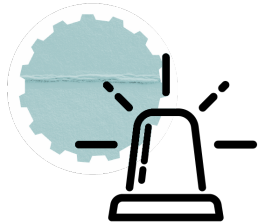Affordable Housing

Domestic Violence

Poverty Reduction

Climate Social Risks
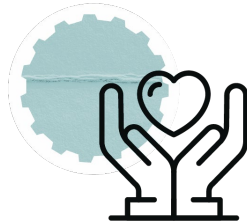
National Context

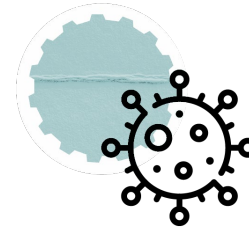Post-pandemic social safety net pressures

Housing, mental health, addictions

Small communities, big-city challenges

Complex societal trauma & institutional mistrust

COVID's social & economic effects

Shifting mandates, growing pressure

Cities across Canada are grappling with unprecedented social challenges

HelpSeeker's Role

Enhance data-led understanding of homelessness in York Region as basis for systems planning framework & future plan efforts

Third party analysis & validation

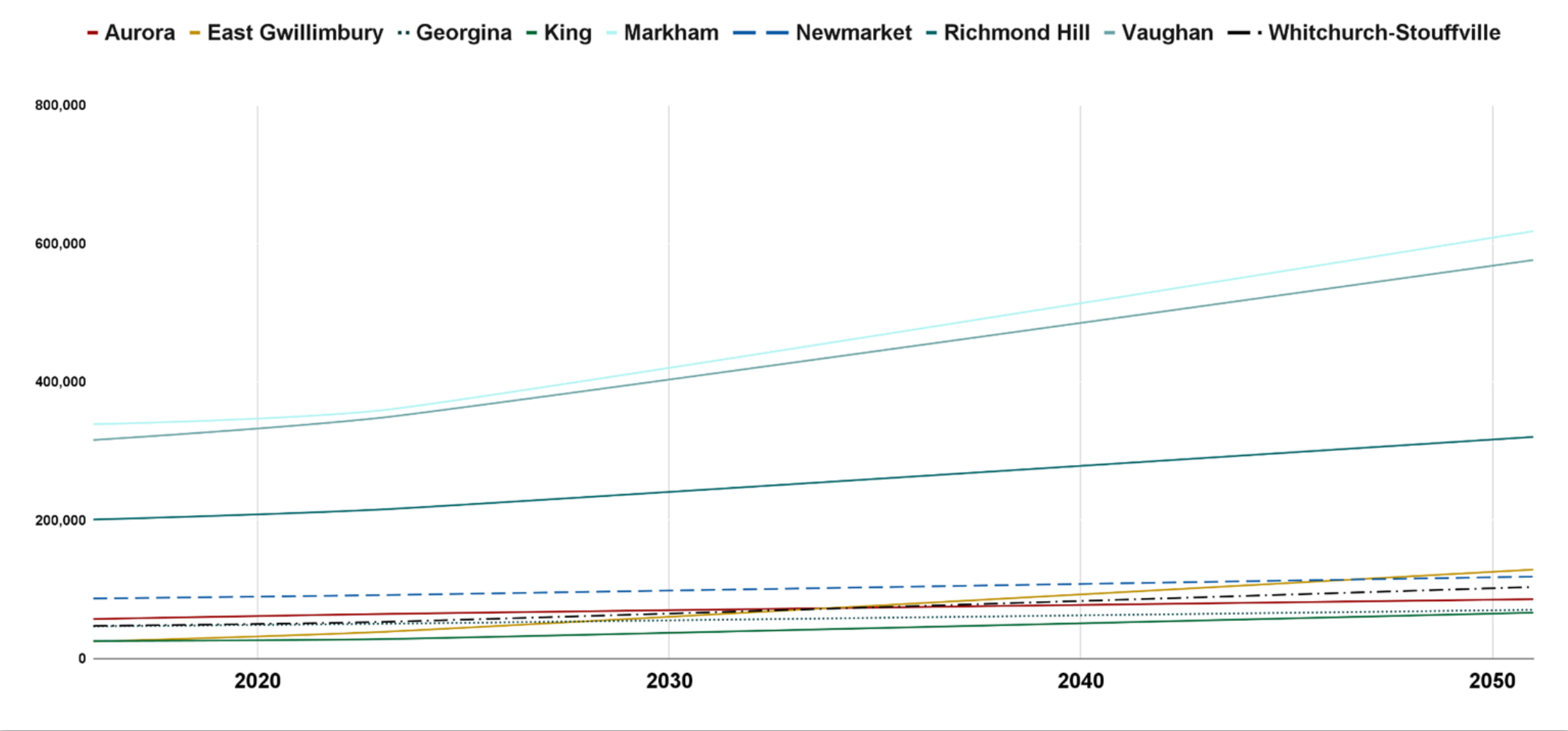Homelessness subject-matter experts working across North America with advanced data science toolkits

Full access to York Region's datasets & administration

Homelessness Programs, By-Name List, Encampments, Financials, Performance, Subsidized Housing, Rent Supports, Income Assistance, Census

York Region projected to grow to 2 million by 2050

As the population continues to grow faster than the land base, so will the demand for services, supports and housing

Legend: Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Whitchurch-Stouffville

Y-axis: 0, 200,000, 400,000, 600,000, 800,000

X-axis: 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050

2018/19 vs 2022/23 Notable Trends

2,756 vs 18,084

Days in the System for **People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness**

34 vs 106

Number of people who are living **unsheltered or outdoors** accessing homelessness services

2018/19 vs 2022/23 Notable Trends

+12yrs

Older in age as people access services

34 yrs → 46 yrs

+5%

Increase in the proportion of **women** accessing services

33% → 38%

414 → 683

12X

Indigenous overrepresentation among people accessing the homelessness service system

Indigenous people as a percent of all people entering homelessness system
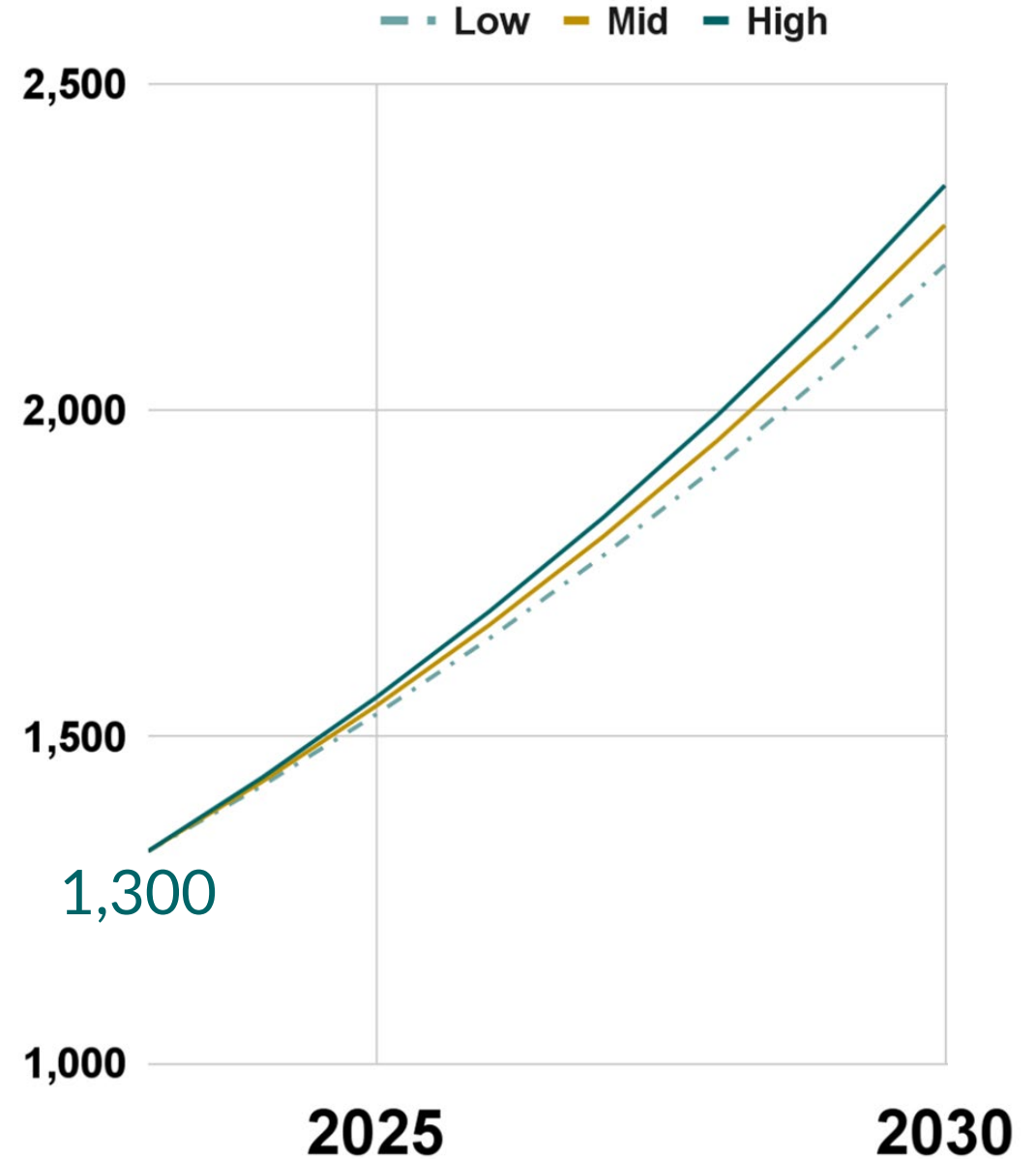
→ 6.0% (129)

Indigenous people as a percent of York Region's population

→ 0.5%

Forecasting Homelessness Trends

Based on current growth trajectory, York Region homelessness estimated to reach

2,100-2,300

in next 5 years

Key Takeaways

Growth Trajectory

Like many North American cities, York Region's population experiencing homelessness will continue to grow without interventions to manage it

2,100-2,300 experiencing homelessness by 2030

The 2,100-2,300 estimate of people experiencing absolute homelessness by 2030 is on the higher end but the increase is generally in line with those reported in Canada's largest cities

HELPSEEKER

TECHNOLOGIES

Thank You
Q&A

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO
alina@helpseeker.org

@ AlinaITurner