Update on I Count, I’m not just a number

York Region’s 2018 Homeless Count

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How Homelessness Affects Us All
York Region Successfully Conducted a Homeless Count

Purpose of I Count:
The purpose of the homeless count was to connect with as many people as possible who are experiencing homelessness to better understand the scope of homelessness in York Region.

I Count goals:
- Better understand the scope of homelessness to make the right investments in solutions
- Help connect people to the right services and supports
- Help people with the greatest needs get the supports they need
While York Region’s Strategies Are Working, Homelessness Exists

On Tuesday, April 17, 2018, I Count found 389 individuals homeless in York Region.

- 44 people were living unsheltered.
- 221 people were staying in emergency housing facilities or Violence Against Women shelters.
- 124 people were staying in temporary accommodations (provisionally accommodated).
Key Findings
from the 224 people who completed the survey

- 56% were male
- 8% identified as LGBTQ2S
- 42% were female
- 8% were refugees or refugee claimants
- 4% were immigrants
- 12% were not immigrants or refugees
- 17% were Indigenous or had Indigenous ancestry
- 35% identified as being part of a racial group other than White
- 26% were youth (aged 16-24)

Top 5 causes of homelessness in York Region:
- 25% family conflict
- 16% job loss
- 15% illness or medical condition, hospitalization or treatment program
- 14% unable to pay rent/mortgage
- 13% addiction, substance use, mental health or domestic abuse

Most common income sources:
- 40% Ontario Works
- 30% Disability benefits (Includes Ontario Disability Support Program)
- 17% Employment

Health and Mental Health:
- 48% had a mental health issue
- 37% had a medical condition
- 34% had an addiction
- 31% had a disability

*3% did not answer or did not know. Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.
About Our Survey Respondents:

44% became homeless before 24 years of age

1 in 5 individuals experiencing homelessness reported being homeless at least three times in the past year

86% of individuals surveyed had needs that required moderate to intensive levels of support to help them find and keep housing

47 dependent children (15 years and under) were part of homeless families
# Homeless Count Results
from the Greater Toronto, Hamilton
and Simcoe Area Jurisdictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Population Census 2016</th>
<th>Total Number of Homeless</th>
<th>Percentage of the Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>Point-in-Time Count</td>
<td>2,731,571</td>
<td>8,715</td>
<td>0.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simcoe County (includes Barrie and Orillia)</td>
<td>Point-in-Time and Registry</td>
<td>479,650</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Point-in-Time Count</td>
<td>536,917</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel</td>
<td>Point-in-Time and Registry</td>
<td>1,381,744</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton Region</td>
<td>Point-in-Time Count</td>
<td>548,435</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Region</td>
<td>Point-in-Time and Registry</td>
<td>1,109,909</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I Count is making a positive difference

- Built awareness of homelessness in York Region
- Strengthened community connections and developed new partnerships
- Data contributed to the provincial and national picture of homelessness
- Created York Region’s first By Name List
- Formed a Community Collaborative Table, first meeting was July 5, 2018
- Will inform the 2019 update of the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan: A place for everyone
York Region has a homelessness prevention strategy that is working

York Region’s approach to homelessness focuses on prevention, housing stability and wraparound programs and services

York Region is doing more than managing homelessness and has moved away from expensive crisis intervention to making targeted investments in prevention, diversion and housing stability

Strategic homelessness planning, homelessness prevention initiatives and strong community partnerships will help mitigate and make it possible to prevent, reduce and keep moving towards ending homelessness in York Region
I Count will be used to inform service planning and ensuring people are being connected to the right services and supports.

York Region will continue to provide leadership to make evidence-based, cost-effective investments in homelessness prevention and housing stability programs and services.

Over time and over multiple counts, I Count data will be an important indicator to demonstrate progress in preventing, reducing and ending homelessness in York Region.

Next homeless count is anticipated to take place **Spring 2020**.
Thank You

For more information

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