

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ABOUT

Local Homelessness in Leamington, Ontario

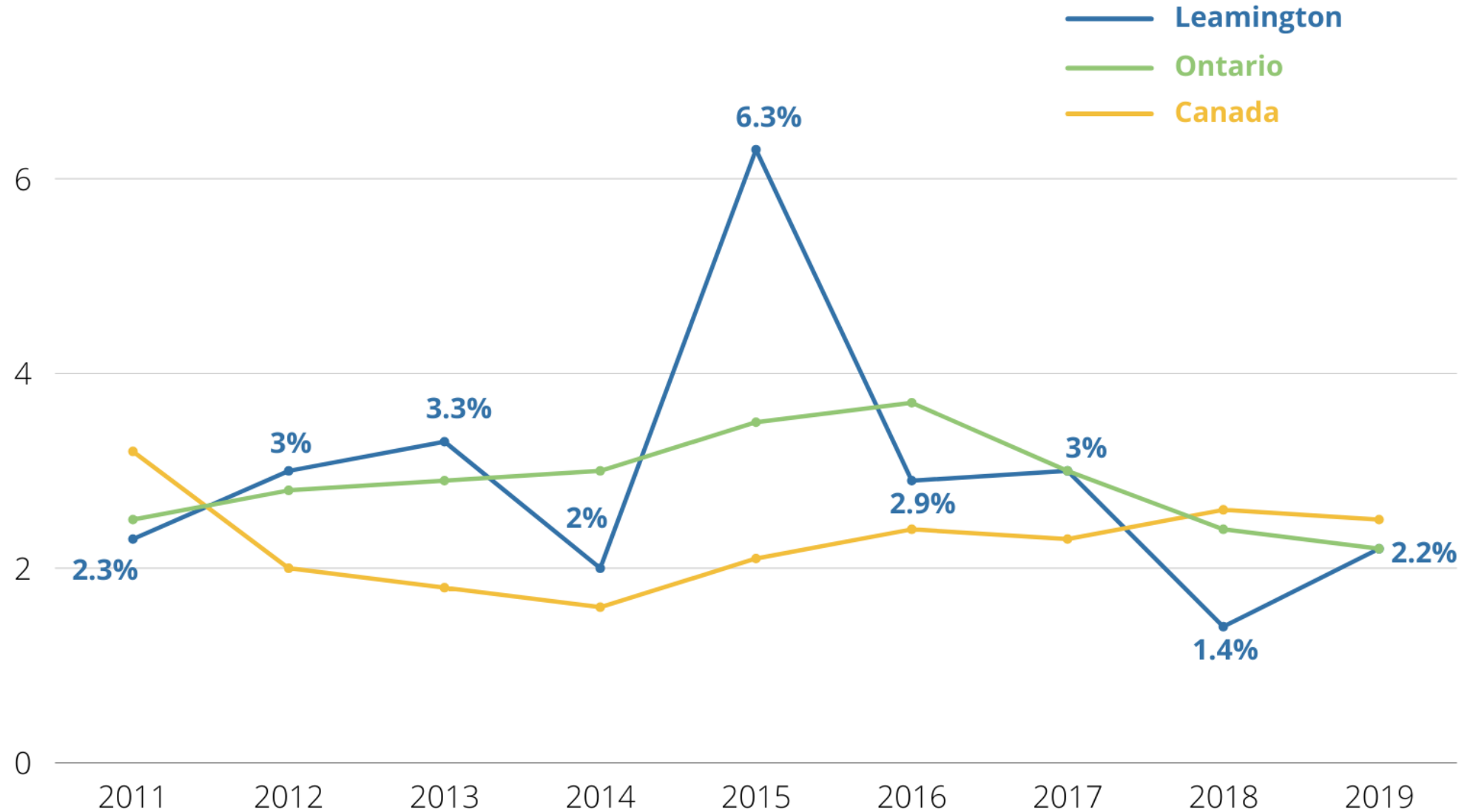
Let's Talk About...

- ❖ The local housing market & housing affordability
- ❖ The local homelessness landscape
- ❖ What causes someone to experience homelessness
- ❖ Homelessness prevention
- ❖ What you can do

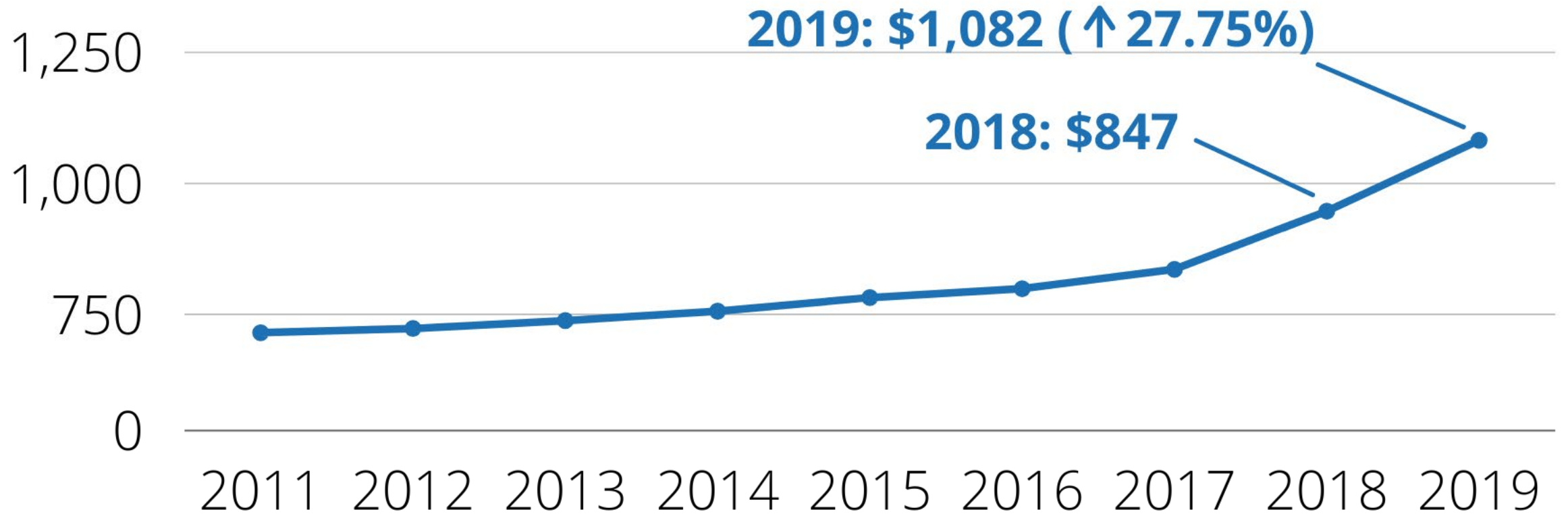
The Housing Market in Canada

- Lack of government policy
 - One of the only G7 countries without a national housing strategy
 - Reliance on private sector to create units
- Affordability
 - Housing market surge
 - Reduction in social assistance benefits

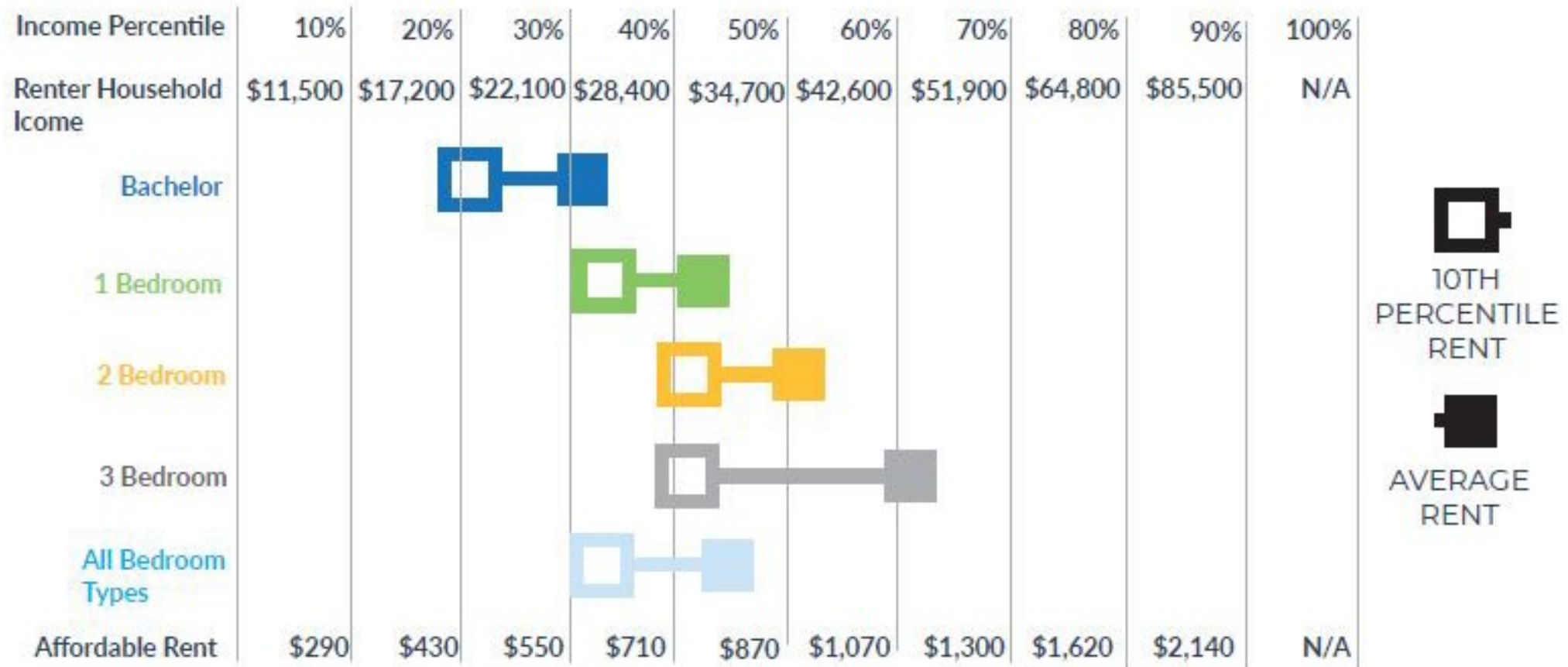
The Local Housing Market: *Vacancy Rates*



The Local Housing Market: *Average Rents in Leamington*



The Local Housing Market: *Rental Housing Affordability*



Source: MMAH, Common Local Indicators, 2018

The Local Housing Market: *Affordable Housing Supply*

To fill the current housing gap *and* account for population growth & changes, Windsor-Essex would need **12,900** additional affordable rental housing units by **2028**.



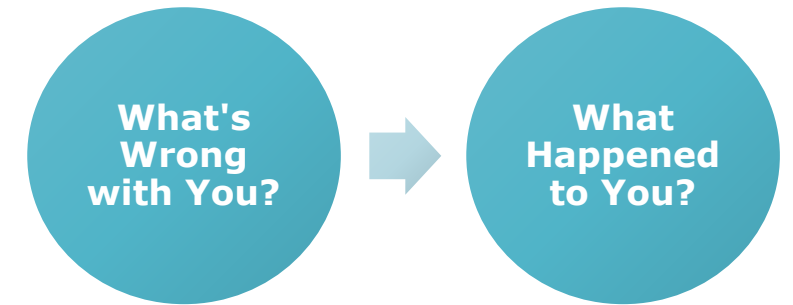
What Causes Someone to Experience Homelessness?

Trauma

Definition: “Experiences that overwhelm an individual’s capacity to cope.” Trauma early in life, including child abuse, neglect, witnessing violence and disrupted attachment, as well as later traumatic experiences such as violence, accidents, natural disaster, war, sudden unexpected loss and other life events that are out of one’s control can impact one’s ability to manage some of the most basic of tasks.

Trauma-Informed Services

- ❖ Assumes there is always context to any given behaviour
- ❖ Recognizes the life-long impact trauma can have
- ❖ Ensures choice and control reside with the person accessing the services
- ❖ Prioritizes safety, both physical and emotional
- ❖ Requires service providers to collaborate—at all levels of the agency, from reception to the board of directors—with the people they support



What Causes Someone to Experience Homelessness?

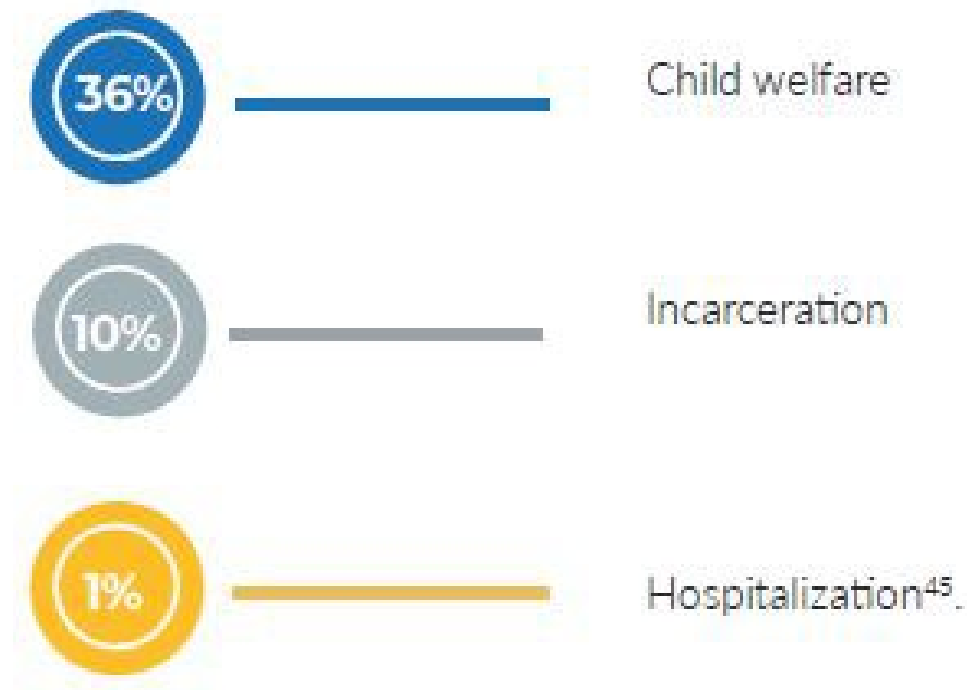
A variety of different factors can contribute to an individual's experience of homelessness. Often, people experience homelessness when all other options have been exhausted, and/or they are dealing with circumstances that make it difficult to maintain housing.

Some of the obstacles that may lead people to their experiences of homelessness include:

- ❖ Eviction
- ❖ The affordable housing crisis
- ❖ Family breakdown
- ❖ Domestic violence / abuse
- ❖ Loss of employment
- ❖ Coping with mental illnesses or addictions, which makes it difficult to maintain independent housing

What Causes Someone to Experience Homelessness?

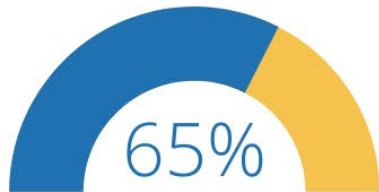
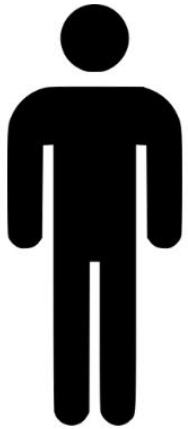
HOUSING LOSS AS A RESULT OF SYSTEMS INTERACTIONS IN WINDSOR ESSEX, 2018



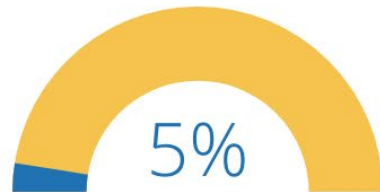
Source: Point in Time Count and Registry Week in Windsor Essex, 2018

Homelessness Among Key Population Groups in Windsor-Essex

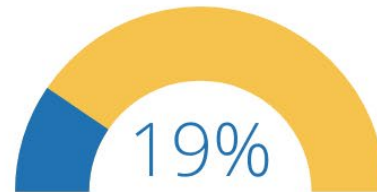
SINGLE
ADULTS



COUPLES



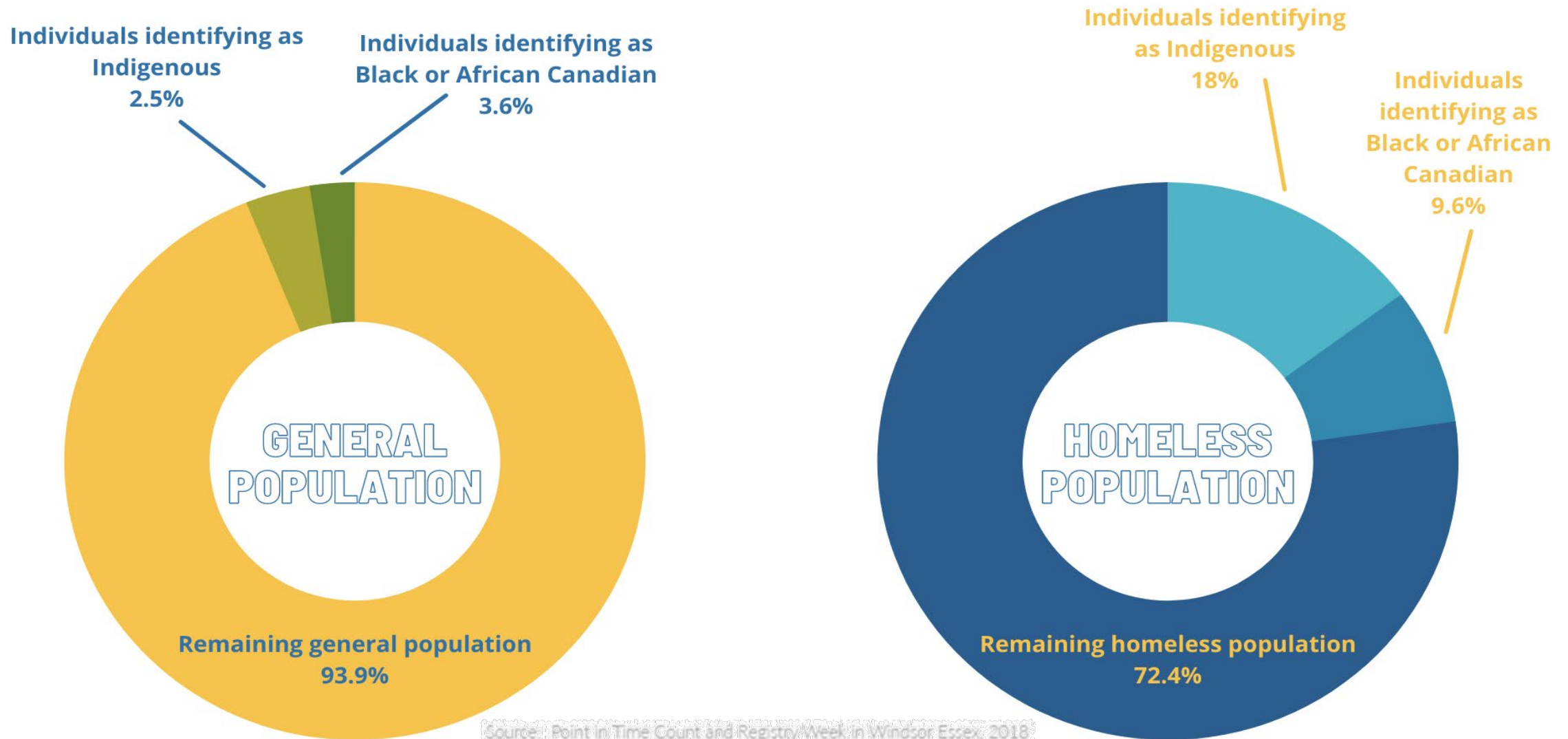
YOUTH



FAMILIES



Homelessness Among Key Population Groups in Windsor-Essex



Source: Point in Time Count and Registry Week in Windsor-Essex, 2018

Housing & Homelessness in the County

- ❖ No emergency housing options
- ❖ A lack of housing & homelessness services physically located in the county
- ❖ Inaccessibility of transportation to the City of Windsor (*to access services, shelter, etc.*)
- ❖ Inconsistent & uncoordinated outreach in the county
- ❖ A lack of communication & coordination between service providers & organizations
- ❖ Barriers to accessing shelter in the city (*transportation, support systems in the county, navigating unknown environments within the city / shelter system, etc.*)
- ❖ Need for transitional housing / affordable housing options

Hidden Homelessness

Hidden Homelessness: “[living] temporarily with others but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing”.

This includes those who are:

- ❖ “Couch-surfing” (*staying with friends, family, or even strangers*)
- ❖ Incarcerated with nowhere to go once released
- ❖ Living in cars, abandoned buildings, church properties, hotels/motels/hostels

It is estimated that for those experiencing homelessness in Canada,
80% more are living in hidden homelessness.
This number is even *higher* in rural communities like Leamington!

What does Homelessness look like?

Point-in-Time (PiT) Count: A national initiative to measure homelessness. During the two-day event, trained community volunteers were placed throughout the community to survey and count individuals, families, and youth experiencing homelessness. The volunteers surveyed people experiencing homelessness in shelters, on the streets, and at other community service agencies that support individuals experiencing homelessness. A few important findings from the 2018 PiT Count were:

- ❖ On any given night, 208 people experience homelessness in the Windsor-Essex area
- ❖ 74% of respondents had experienced homelessness for the first time between the ages of 13-18
- ❖ 13% of those that had experienced 6+ months of homelessness in the past year also experienced 3 or more separate episodes of homelessness, demonstrating a cycling of housing to homelessness scenarios
- ❖ 64 single adults were identified as experiencing chronic homelessness, which is continuous homelessness for six months or more.

What about Leamington?

Primarily hidden
homelessness

+

A lack of
homelessness
services

➔ Absence of strong, reliable data

Why Is Ending Homelessness So Important: Cost

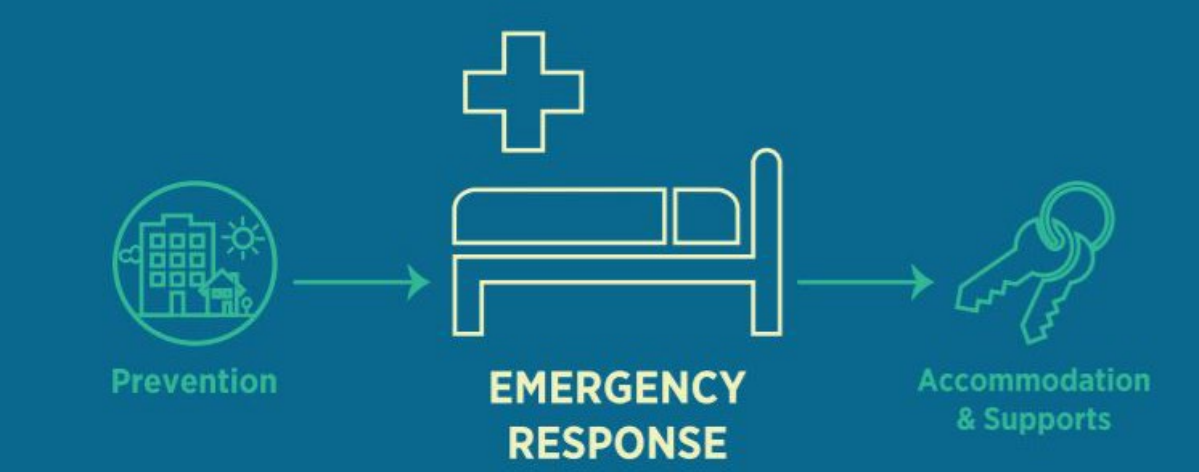
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST OF HOUSING SOMEONE WHILE HOMELESS



Types of Homelessness	Experiences of Homelessness	Resource Usage
Transitional	88% - 94%	10%
Episodic	3% - 11%	30%
Chronic	2% - 4%	60%

Homelessness Prevention

Can we move from this...

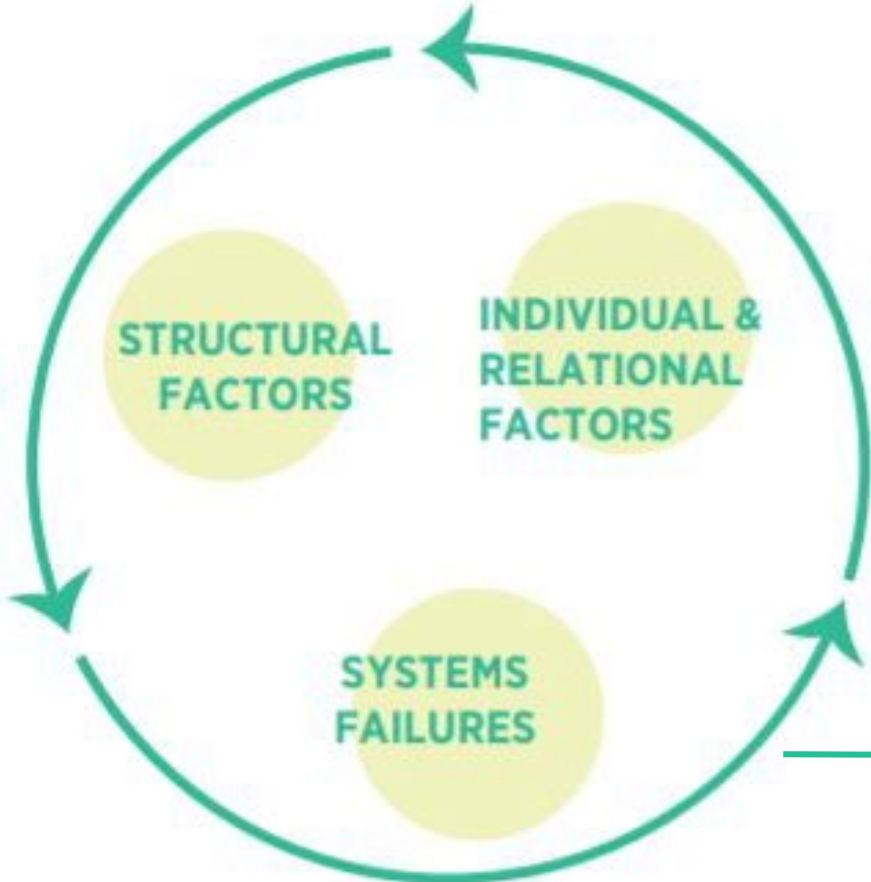


To this?

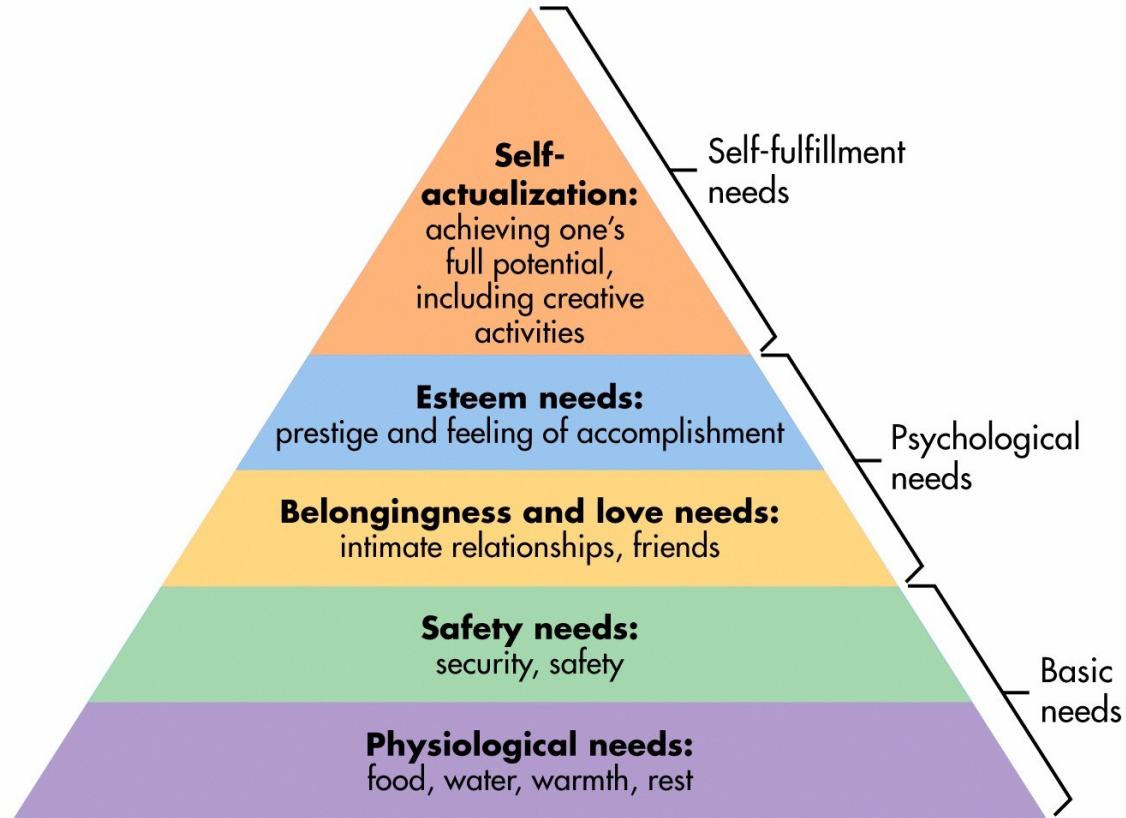


Homelessness Prevention

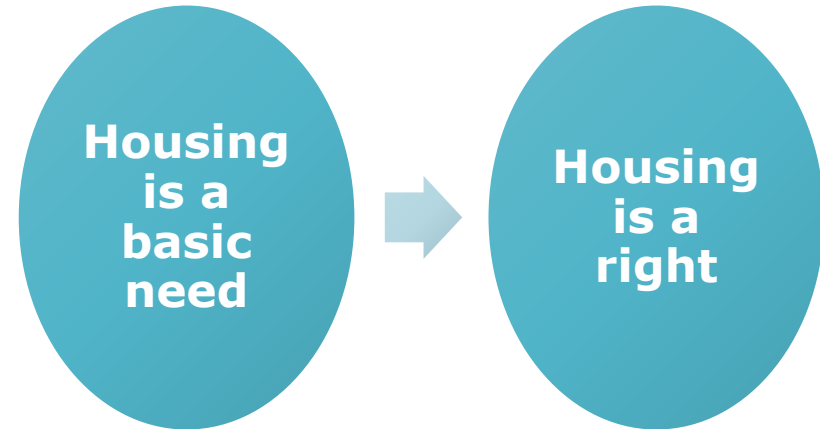
Causes of Homelessness



Why Talk about Homelessness?



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



A Beginner's Guide to Breaking Down Stereotypes About Homelessness

- ❖ Recognize that having a safe place to live is a basic human right
- ❖ Understand the root causes of homelessness
- ❖ Do not define someone by their living situation
- ❖ Recognizing housing as a right
- ❖ Shortage of affordable housing
- ❖ Housing as a commodity



Calls to Action: A Few Things You Can Do

- ❖ Follow along with the Leamington Homelessness Awareness Campaign on the South Essex Community Council's social media pages.
https://fb.watch/5J2jeq_He4/
- ❖ Donate food/clothing items/camping supplies to organizations working with those who are experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ Advocate to local representatives at all levels of government for homelessness prevention initiatives, affordable & supportive housing



Have More Questions?

Reach out to Alissa Enns, Project Leader for the Leamington Homelessness Project, at aenns@secc.on.ca.

We'd love your feedback!

Please take a moment to fill out the following survey and let us know what you thought of the presentation:

<https://forms.gle/j3CvEmn6mecRfsXX6>