

What's New With the Leamington Homelessness Project?

We'll be discussing...

- ❖ Preliminary findings from the Leamington Homelessness Committee's surveying initiative in June
- ❖ Opportunities for data collection replication
- ❖ New housing & homelessness referral system for the County

Housing & Homelessness Survey

(Conducted June 14-18, 2021)

Who participated?

- ❖ Individuals living in Leamington who are experiencing homelessness, precarious housing conditions, or housing insecurity.

Where were people interviewed?

- ❖ SECC
- ❖ The Bridge
- ❖ Probation & Parole Office
- ❖ Salvation Army
- ❖ Erie St. Clair Clinic RAAM Addiction Treatment Centre
- ❖ Leamington United Church Community Meal: Monday, June 14
- ❖ St. John's Anglican Church Community Meal: Wednesday, June 16
- ❖ During local outreach with FSWE's outreach worker & WECHC's Hep C Team

Preliminary Findings

Out of 72 respondents:

- ❖ 41 (or 57%) were housed -- & of those, 73% are worried about losing their housing
- ❖ 31 respondents (or 43%) were not housed
- ❖ 17 of whom were experiencing absolute homelessness, 14 experiencing hidden homelessness

Of the homeless population:

- ❖ The majority have been homeless for more than 18 months
- ❖ About half have been homeless more than once

And 56% of all respondents have accessed help, which ranges from finding housing, to help accessing food, and legal support.

Homelessness Per Capita

Leamington

11.2 in every 10,000 people
experiencing homelessness.

Windsor

8.9 in every 10,000 people
experiencing homelessness.

Surveying Initiative Assessment

What worked?

- ❖ Bringing surveys to organizations people are already interacting with
- ❖ Physical promotion of the surveying around town – more effective than online
- ❖ Keeping the survey short, simple & open-ended

What didn't work?

- ❖ Irregular service & appointment-based service at local organizations due to COVID-19
- ❖ Barriers to connecting with those who are not utilizing local services (i.e. hidden homeless)

Community Replication of Data Collection

What might we have done differently?

- ❖ Strategic surveying in local “hot spots”
- ❖ Coordinated effort to try and connect with couch-surfers prior to survey week

How might data collection be replicated in other communities?

- ❖ Determine what you want to know about your survey group, formulate survey questions with community consultation
- ❖ Connect with local organizations to determine where individuals with lived experience are utilizing services → Strategically pinpoint locations
- ❖ Coordinate a survey team – If using community volunteers, ensure proper training is received
- ❖ Strategize how to connect with people & get the word out → physical & online promotion, outreach, etc.

County Housing Connections

A guide to accessing help for those experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Essex County

What is County Housing Connections?

- ❖ A collaborative connecting housing supports & services for Leamington and Essex County residents through SECC, Family Services Windsor-Essex, Housing Information Services, and The Bridge



What does County Housing Connections Do?

Support those
experiencing precarious
housing including
evictions

Help to find housing

Registers people on the
By Names Prioritized List
(BNPL)

Homelessness Outreach
to find and connect with
those experiencing
homelessness

Ongoing support for
those willing take part in
an intensive housing
program once housed

Who Do You Call?

Monday-Friday
8:30am-4:30pm

519-326-8629

After Hours, Weekends, and Holidays

1-888-933-1831

select option 6

What's Next?

- ❖ Continuing Community Education
- ❖ Formulating recommendations based on survey findings
- ❖ Producing the project's final report



Have More Questions?

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