

HALIFAX

State of homelessness in HRM

Women's Advisory Committee: April 6, 2023

2023-04-05

Introductions

Max Chauvin

Director of Housing and Homelessness, HRM

Gayle Collicutt

Housing Support Coordinator

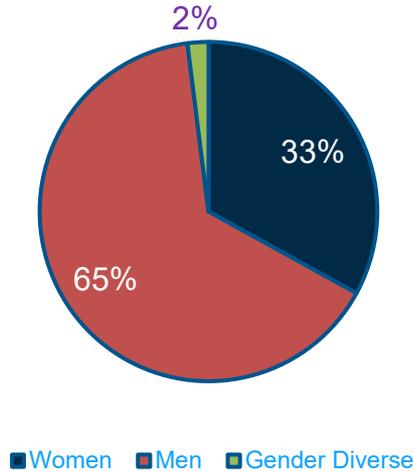
Elizabeth Fry Society, Mainland Nova Scotia



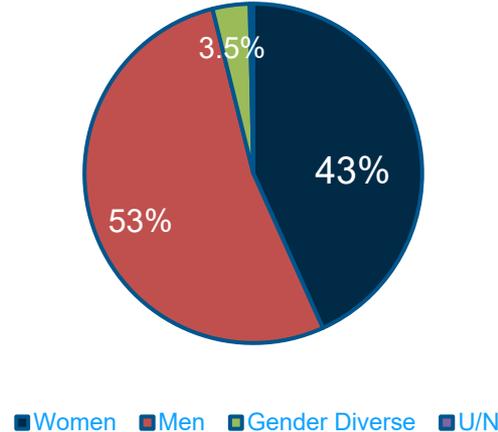
What's
Changed?

Overview of homelessness in HRM

Spring 2022 Point In Time Count: 586



By-Name List March 2023: 874



378: Women

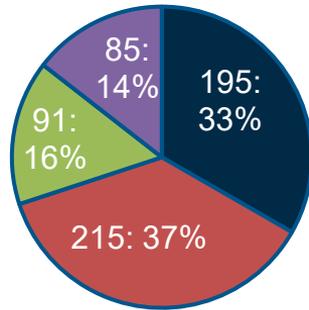
462: Men

31: Gender Diverse

3: Unknown

Overview cont.

Where people without safe, stable, long term housing are staying (based on PIT)



■ Hotels ■ Shelters ■ Tents ■ Correctional

Over-representation

- 22% Indigenous (4%)
- 15% Black (3.8%)
- 15% 2SLGBTQ+
- 27% Former children and youth in care

Persons with a disability (self identified)

- 63% Mental health challenges
- 59% Substance abuse
- 37% Physically disabled
- 36% Learning or cognitive delays
- 22% After birth brain injury

Vision

That every resident of the Halifax Regional Municipality has a safe, supportive, and sustainable home and that all homes are purposely constructed for long-term human habitation, built to safety codes and standards, and in a suitable location based on access to transportation and amenities and municipal planning strategies.

Housing continuum



Values

1. Human right
2. Participation:
3. Administration of the law
4. Person centred
5. Housing first
6. Relationships
7. Transparency
8. Cooperation
9. Civilian led response
10. Trauma-informed

Municipal roles in addressing homelessness

1. Supporting residents sheltering outside
2. Supporting precariously housed persons and families to stay housed
3. Supporting public education efforts
4. Facilitating the construction and maintenance of affordable and deeply affordable housing

Special considerations for women and gender diverse individuals

- Intimate partner and family violence
- Increased risk of criminalization
- Pregnant and forced to live outside
- Additional health concerns
- Fear of Child Protection Services
- Higher risk of sexual assault
- Higher risk of transphobia in all settings including with some service providers



Recommended approaches

- Dedicated shelter space and supportive housing for women, run by women (own facility)
- Dedicated and separate shelter, hotel, & housing space for transgender and gender diverse individuals
- Safe drop in opportunities for transgender and gender diverse individuals
- Consultation with transgender and gender diverse individuals about their needs, wants, and preferences
- A tiny homes project – not everyone can live in a communal setting
- Increase support for people facing and experiencing intimate partner violence
- **QUESTION:** Should HRM take housing back from the Province



Moving forward

- Housing and Homelessness staff will work with public safety and social policy staff, incorporating previous work and developing specific action plans. We will also work together to prepare the report that will respond to WACH's motion regarding an intersectional, gender lens on HRM's housing and homelessness efforts.
- Working with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Commitment to networking and learning about best and promising practices
- Participation in discussions and projects with service providers and the province about housing and support provision
- Individual supports to agencies working with specific clients
- Street Navigators providing as needed supports

Questions for consideration

Considering the homelessness and affordable housing crisis, along with the specific needs of women and gender diverse individuals, does the committee have any recommendations on how the municipality should approach its work?

