

November 7, 2024

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Seniors' Safety Strategy

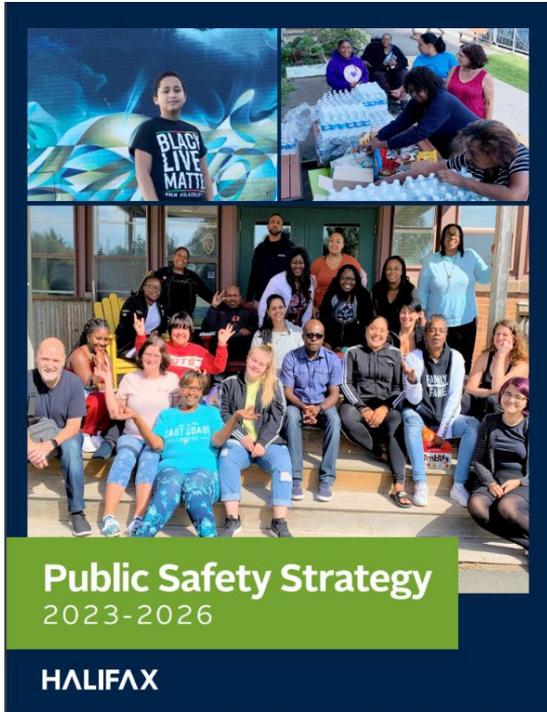
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OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Scope/framing
- Research findings
- Community engagement
- HRM integration
- Next steps
- Discussion/Q&A

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Public Safety Strategy 2023-26



The Public Safety Strategy 2023-2026 provides a vision and mandate for the Halifax Regional Municipality and its business units to advance holistic, upstream approaches to public safety and ensure public safety is a responsibility shared across the municipality for the greatest impact.

Background

- Seniors Safety Grant – Department of Seniors and Long-term Care
- Public Safety focus
 - Holistic, upstream, equity-based approach, including GBA+
- Strategic approach – upstream and including maximum integration with HRM plans and strategies
- Working within HRM mandate
- Community-based approach

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Partnership: Canadian Centre for Safer Communities

- Jurisdictional scan
- Research
- Community engagements

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Older people in Halifax – a statistical snapshot

General:

- Significant growth in senior population
- 76,150 people over 65 in HRM (Statistics Canada, 2021)
- 16.8% of all age demographics identifies as racialized; 3.8% as Indigenous
- Less likely than younger people to agree that people in their community would help them if they were in need (Engage NS, 2019)

Older people in Halifax – a statistical snapshot

Wellbeing:

- In 2024, 55+ reported highest levels of life satisfaction and trust among all age groups
- In 2022, 75.1% 65+ in reported “somewhat strong” or “very strong” sense of belonging
- In 2022, 90.3% reported being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their lives

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Strategy development - steps

Research:

- Academic Literature
- Stakeholder discussions
- Environmental scan
- Jurisdictional scan



Community engagement:

- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Organizational review



Recommended approach

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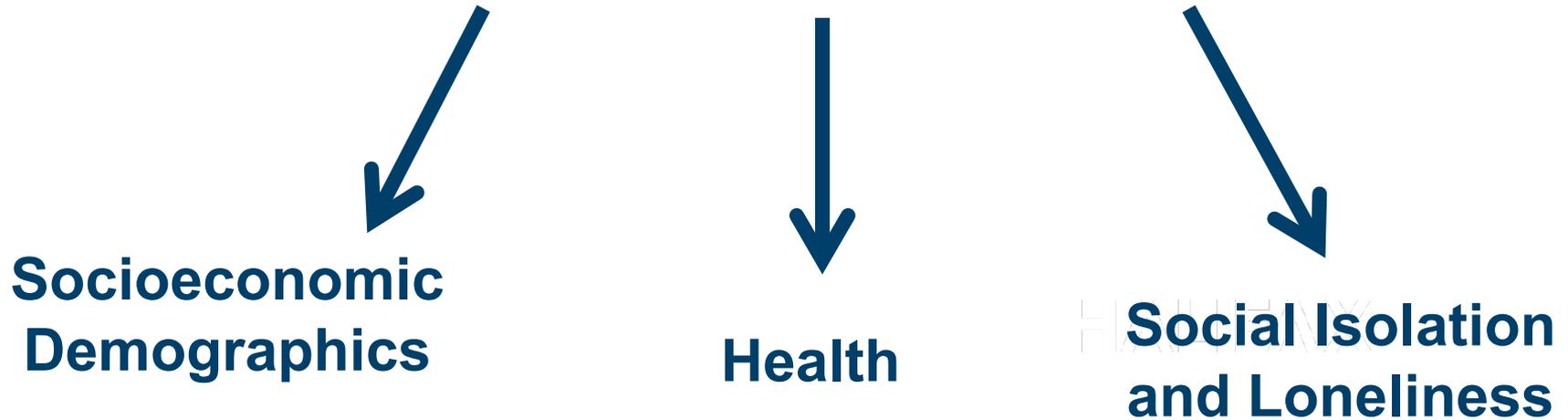
Top and growing documented safety challenges for seniors in HRM

1. Criminal and Non-Criminal Elder Abuse and Senior Victimization
2. Seniors' Falls
3. ... Fraud?

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Root factors and risk causes of seniors' safety issues

Intersecting Risk Factors



Sociodemographic factors

- **Age**
- **Gender**
- **2SLGBTQIA+**
- **Income**
- **Race**
- **Education**

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Health factors

- **Physical health**
- **Mental health**
- **Cognitive health**

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Social isolation and loneliness

- 2022, Canada: 25% of women 65+ report feeling lonely; 20% of men
- 12.5% of older adults considered socially isolated; 19-24% of Indigenous seniors socially isolated

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Social isolation and loneliness

- Seniors who report social isolation or loneliness are 4.3x more likely to experience violence compared to those with strong social ties
- Social isolation seniors vulnerable to abuse because it can go unnoticed
- Across all literature, social isolation and loneliness is a strong risk factor in seniors experiencing falls
- 51% of seniors with **unmet travel needs** report feeling isolated, compared to 22% with met travel needs

Other features of seniors' safety in HRM

- Rural/urban experiences
- Diversity of experiences, cultures, and perspectives

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Community engagement

Goals:

- Develop a deeper understanding of how seniors and the organizations that provide them services feel about safety in the HRM
- Provide local context to the research/scan
- And ensure the needs and priorities of seniors, including those facing barriers due to marginalization or intersecting identities, are addressed in any emerging strategy.

Community engagement

Three engagement methods were used:

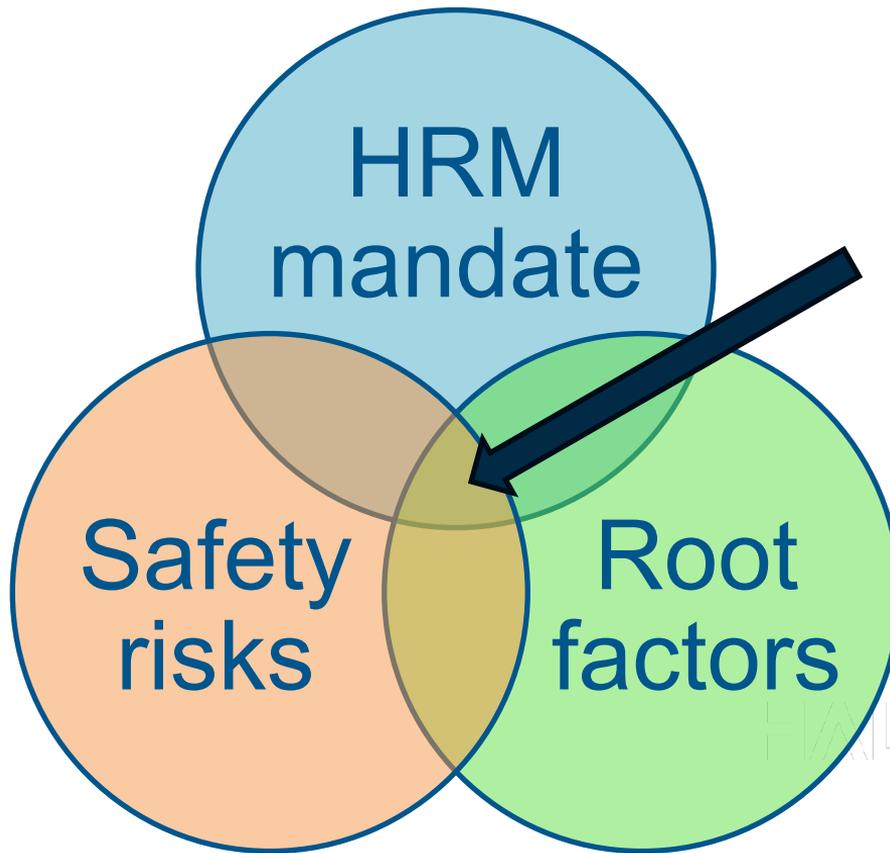
- Eight in-person community engagement sessions with seniors
 - Focus: geographic diversity, gender, African Nova Scotian community, Mi'kmaw perspective, immigrant/newcomer experience, 2SLGBTQIA+ community
- One survey for seniors
- One survey for service providers who work with or support seniors

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HRM services that can impact older people

- Planning and Development
- Parks and Recreation
- Halifax Public Libraries
- Emergency Management
- Emergency Services (police, fire)
- Halifax Transit
- JustFood strategy
- Community Safety
- Accessibility strategy
- Road safety
- Etc.

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Strategic approach to addressing Seniors' Safety

QUESTIONS

1. What exists within the HRM that contributes to feelings of safety and well-being? Could be programs, services, or networks of individuals (friends, family) that positively impact your life.
2. What concerns you most when thinking about safety and well-being living in the HRM? What do you think seniors experience that negatively impact their safety and well-being?
3. How could the HRM improve feelings of safety and well-being among seniors? Are there programs, services, and/or other offerings that could help improve concerns?