

Emergency Housing use in York Region, 2014

The Regional Municipality of York partners with the Federal Government along with other municipalities across Canada to collect emergency housing data through the **Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)**.

This information helps to address resident needs and focus current and future resources. This data also contributes to a profile of homelessness in Canada.

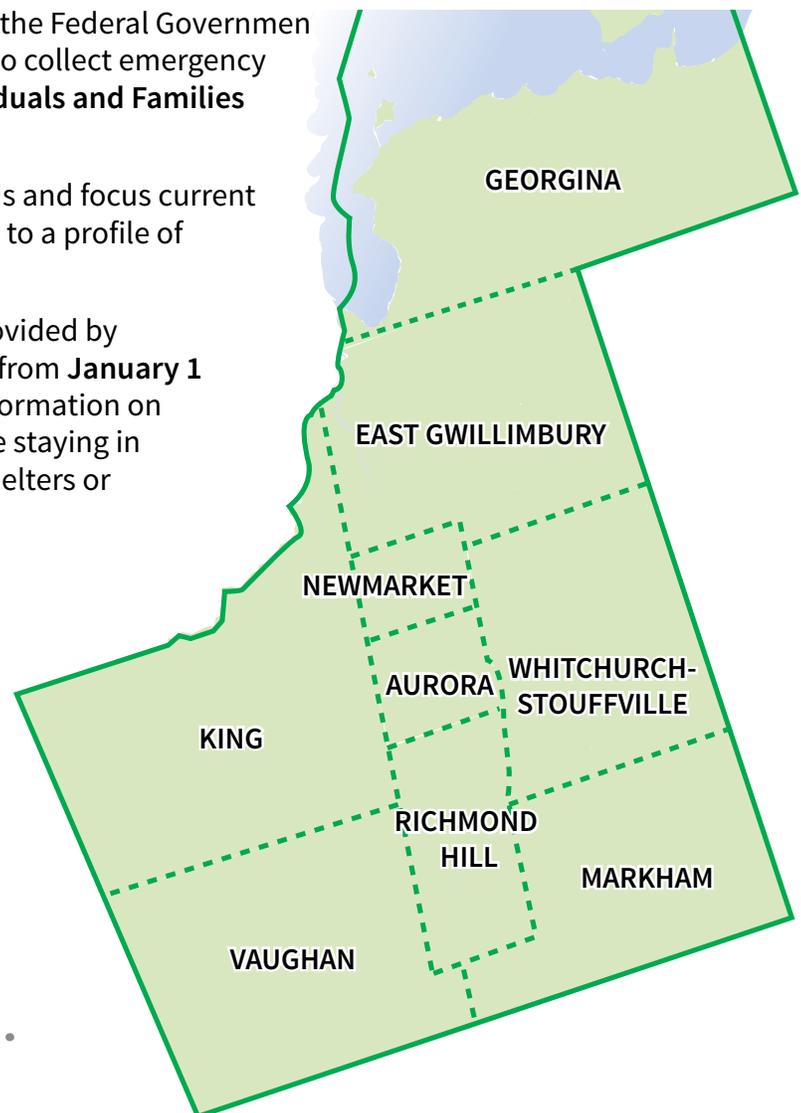
Data summarized in this fact sheet has been provided by York Region's four emergency housing facilities from **January 1 to December 31, 2014**, and does not include information on other people who are homeless, including those staying in "Violence Against Women" shelters, seasonal shelters or "couch surfing."

York Region Emergency Housing

1. **Sutton Youth Shelter**
20898 Dalton Road, Sutton
2. **Leeder Place Family Shelter**
3. **Porter Place Men's Shelter**
(two facilities on one site)
18838 Highway 11, East Gwillimbury
4. **York Region Youth Shelter**
835 Gorham Street, Newmarket

Opening 2015/16

5. **Belinda's Place**
16580 Yonge Street, Newmarket
6. **Richmond Hill Housing and Community Hub**
10415 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill



Community and Health Services

Social Services

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Emergency housing beds

In 2014, there were **115** emergency beds available in York Region. York Region has high occupancy rates that fluctuate over the year.

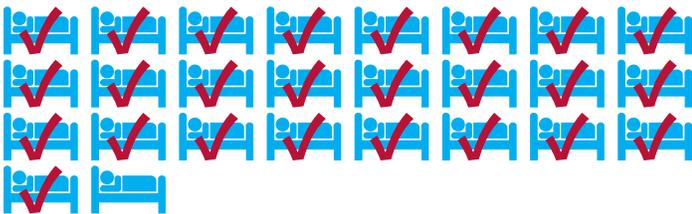
29 beds for single men

(Occupancy rate at 97%) ✓ = Occupied bed



26 beds for youth

(Occupancy rate at 97%) ✓ = Occupied bed



60 beds for families



(Occupancy rate of 80% for rooms) ✓ = Occupied room

Opening 2015/16, Belinda's Place and the Richmond Hill Housing and Community Hub will provide an additional:

 **28** emergency beds for **women**

 **14** emergency beds for **youth**

Who uses emergency housing?

1,011



The number of **unique individuals** who used York Region's emergency housing in 2014

72%*

Male 

28%

Female 

Less than 1%

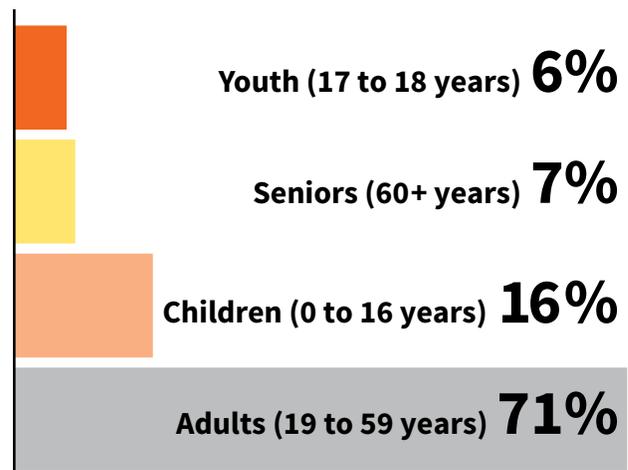
Transgender 

*Two of York Region's four existing emergency housing sites serve **males** only

7% of emergency housing clients self-identified as **Aboriginal**

1% of emergency housing clients were **Veterans**

22% of clients were under 18 years of age



Top reasons why clients use emergency housing

Loss of Housing/
Housing instability:

75%



Family/relationship breakdown:

13%



Discharge from correctional/jail:

3%

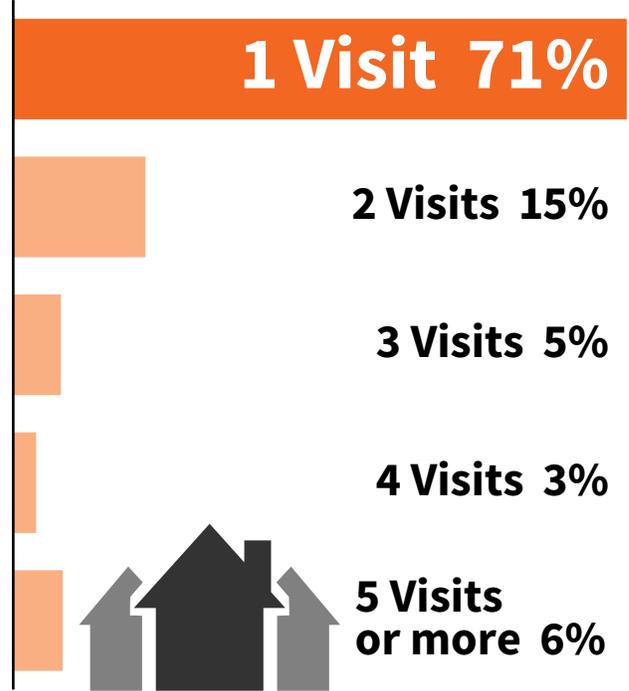


Referral from another
emergency housing site:

3%



Number of visits per client



Most clients visited emergency housing only once in 2014

Homelessness is often the result of a combination of reasons rather than a single cause, including:

Job loss



Financial crisis

Mental health struggles



Substance use

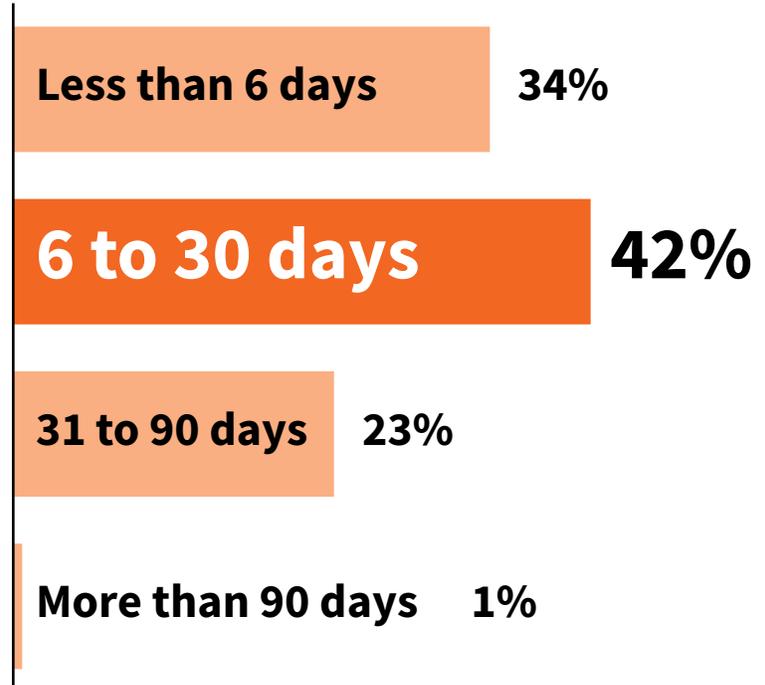
Transient lifestyle



York Region is committed to getting and keeping residents housed

Most users accessed emergency housing only once and stayed an average of 19 days after admission

Number of days per client stay



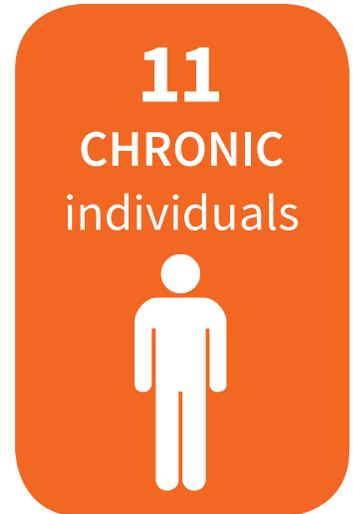
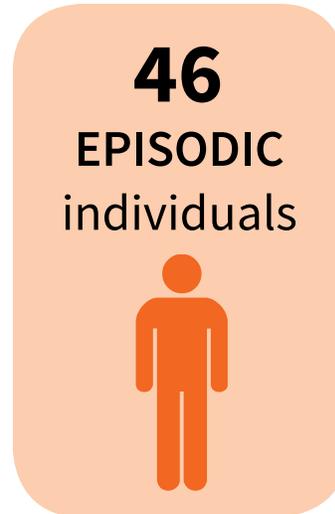
York Region has 57[†] known chronic and episodic homeless individuals

While homelessness in York Region is a temporary issue for most, it can be a longer-term problem for some. A number of people cycle in and out of homelessness and/or stay homeless for lengthy periods of time.

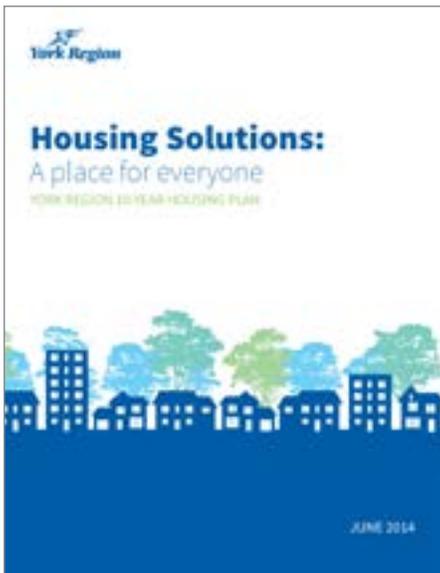
A person is **episodically homeless** if they are currently homeless and have had **three or more episodes**‡ of homelessness in the past year.

A person is **chronically homeless** if they are currently homeless and have cumulatively spent **180 nights** in a shelter within the last year.

‡ *Episode: a person exits and returns to emergency housing after a period of at least 30 days.*



† *These numbers reflect use of emergency housing within York Region only and may be higher for individuals who have used emergency housing in other regions.*



How York Region uses this data

York Region's strategy is focused on preventing homelessness in the first place and reducing existing homelessness. With this data, York Region now has even more capacity to set directions for service priorities and measure programs based on client needs and service effectiveness. This information helps to deliver on a key action outlined in York Region's 10-Year Housing Plan (*Housing Solutions: A place for everyone*) to strengthen homelessness prevention and housing stability, including:

- Developing a seamless way of delivering services to residents.
- Helping low- and moderate-income and at-risk households find and keep appropriate housing through programs and services that have a stronger focus on homelessness prevention.

For more information on HIFIS or York Region's homelessness services and how we can help you, visit york.ca, email CHS-info@york.ca, or contact **Access York at 1-888-256-1112**

Data taken from the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) from January 1 to December 31, 2014. This has been made possible through collaboration with Blue Door Shelters and The Salvation Army.

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