

Homelessness to Housing Stability

2012 Data Summary Report

In previous years, the Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG) released an annual two-page report card summarizing homelessness and rental housing data for Waterloo Region. While this 2012 Data Summary Report replaces the report card, it does not provide “grades” but covers similar topics such as emergency shelter use, income, rental housing affordability and availability, and supportive housing availability.

For more information on housing stability:

All Roads Lead to Home: A Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy for Waterloo Region and other background reports are available on the Region of Waterloo Social Services website: socialservices.regionofwaterloo.ca

Homelessness & Housing Umbrella Group: www.hhug.ca

Homeless Hub: www.homelesshub.ca



Region of Waterloo

Regional housing stability indicators: 2008-2012

The Homelessness to Housing Stability 2012 Data Summary Report captures key indicators around homelessness and housing in Waterloo Region, to demonstrate the possible economic and structural barriers to housing stability for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of housing loss in our community. This report compares 2008 (the year the recession began in Canada) and 2012 (the most recent full year of data and a point when the effects of the recession are beginning to be evident in homelessness and housing trends). Trends in local data over this period illustrate the realities of the current economic climate and how it has affected housing and homelessness in Waterloo Region.

What are the essential elements for achieving housing stability?

The chart below assesses some of the factors that may influence the ability of people living in Waterloo Region to find or retain housing, including vacancy rates and income levels. This assessment is underscored by the understanding that in order to maintain housing stability over the long term, people must have three key resources:

- **Adequate housing** provides security of tenure and is desirable, affordable, safe, adequately maintained, accessible and a suitable size.
- **Adequate income** provides enough financial resources to meet and sustain minimum standards for housing (rent or mortgage expenses and utilities) and other basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, child care, transportation, personal hygiene, health/medical expenses, recreation, communication and education).
- **Adequate support** (informal and/or formal) provides enough personal support for living as independently and connecting with others as desired.

This report highlights some barriers to adequate housing, income and support in Waterloo Region, in the context of a community experiencing the negative effects of a national recession.

Should you have any questions about this report or to request the document in alternative formats (e.g., large text), please contact: Regional Municipality of Waterloo Social Services
99 Regina Street South, 5th Floor, Waterloo, ON N2J 4G6
Tel.: (519) 883-2117 Fax: (519) 883-2234 TTY: (519) 575-4608

Homelessness and Housing Data Summary: 2008 and 2012

	2008	2012	% change
Emergency Shelter Use			
Number of emergency shelter bed nights	63,277	91,697	+45%
Number of people served by emergency shelters	2,784	3,447	+24%
Number of people utilizing shelter by group:			
• Youth (ages 12-24)	738	912	+24%
• Families	65	214	+229%
• Children in Families	105	420	+300%
• Older Adults (65+)	30	45	+50%
• Women (16+ years)	596	795	+33%
• Men (16+ years)	1423	1614	+13%
• Transgender (16+ years)	0	11	-
Percentage of emergency shelter residents returning:			
• Returning within the same year	27%	20%	-25%
• Returning in more than one calendar year over the past five years	27%	30%	+11%
Income (Affordability)			
Minimum wage	\$8.75	\$10.25	+17%
Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Works (OW)	\$349	\$376	+7%
Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	\$445	\$479	+8%
Rental Housing Cost			
Average Market Rent			
• Bachelor	\$561	\$644	+15%
• One bedroom	\$712	\$773	+9%
• Two bedrooms	\$845	\$908	+7%
• Three or more bedrooms	\$978	\$1,053	+8%
Average Wage Needed to Afford Rental Housing			
• Bachelor	\$10.78	\$12.38	+15%
• One bedroom	\$13.69	\$14.87	+9%
• Two bedrooms	\$16.25	\$17.46	+7%
• Three or more bedrooms	\$18.81	\$20.25	+7%
Rental Housing Availability			
Households on Community Housing Waiting List	3,100	3,162	+2%
Average wait time for Community Housing			
• Seniors	1-2.5 yrs	1-2 yrs	-
• Non-seniors (bachelor or 1 bedroom)	4-6 yrs	4-6 yrs	-
• Small family (2 bedrooms)	2+ yrs	2+ yrs	-
• Small family (3 bedrooms)	0.5-2 yrs	2+ yrs	-
• Large family (4-5 bedrooms)	3-5 yrs	3-4 yrs	-
Number of Community Housing rental units (completed)	10,034	10,320	+3%
Vacancy rate – private market rent units	1.8%	2.6%	+44%
Number of private market rent units	31,205	31,226	0%
Supportive Housing			
Number of housing spaces with support	1,473	1,552	+5%
Households waiting for long-term support	1,176	1,361	+16%
• Non-specific (general)	518	758	+46%
• Specific	658	603	-8%