

This Data Summary is provided by Region of Waterloo Housing Services to help inform the community of current trends in housing and homelessness in Waterloo Region. It covers topics such as emergency shelter use, income, rental housing affordability and availability, and supportive housing. The full report can be found in the Council report CSD-HOU-15-012 on the Region of Waterloo's website.

For more information on housing stability:

All Roads Lead to Home: Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy for Waterloo Region and other background reports are available on the Region of Waterloo Community Services website:

communityservices.regionofwaterloo.ca

Homelessness & Housing Umbrella Group:
www.hhug.ca

Homeless Hub:
www.homelesshub.ca

Housing stability indicators: 2012 - 2014/15

The Housing Stability Data Summary captures key indicators related to homelessness and housing in Waterloo Region over the last three years. It highlights possible economic and structural barriers – like income and vacancy rates – that may negatively impact people's ability to find and retain housing in the community. The report includes data related to the three key resources for housing stability:

- **Housing:** Housing must provide security of tenure and be desirable, affordable, safe, adequately maintained, accessible, and a suitable size. The more “at home” someone feels both in their community and in their housing, the more likely it is the person will stay housed and avoid re-entering the cycle of homelessness.
- **Income:** People must have enough income to sustain minimum standards for rent, utilities, food, health, clothing, education, transportation, and recreation.
- **Support:** People must have the opportunity to access additional support, as needed, to help them live as independently as desired and to connect to others in meaningful ways.

Housing stability is further amplified by having a sense of belonging – both to a shared space (called community inclusion) and to a personal space (“home”). Locally, these are considered the five essential elements for ending homelessness because they support people to retain their housing over the long term.

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 Community Services
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Housing Stability Data Summary: 2012-2014/15 & Percentage Change 2013/14 to 2014/15

	2012	2013-2014	2014-2015	% Change 2013/14 - 2014/15
Emergency Shelter Use				
Number of bed nights	91,697	91,421	74,447	-19%
Number of people served by emergency shelters	3,447	3,522	3,219	-9%
Number of people utilizing shelter by group:				
• Youth (ages 16-24)	801	848	868	+2%
• Adults (ages 25-64)	1,621	1,618	1,694	+5%
• Older Adults (ages 65+)	46	53	53	0%
• Families	214	187	112	-40%
• Children in Families	420	331	201	-39%
• Men	1,861	1,936	1,938	+0.1%
• Women	1,074	977	947	-3%
• Other gender identity	8	9	13	+44%
Residents returning within the same year	21%	23%	25%	+2%
Average length of stay for singles	25 days	28 days	25 days	-3 days
Income (Affordability)				
Minimum wage	\$10.25	\$10.25	\$11.00	+7%
Monthly shelter allowance, single person: Ontario Works (OW)	\$376	\$376	\$376	0%
Monthly shelter allowance, single person: Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	\$479	\$479	\$479	0%
Rental Housing Cost				
Average Market Rent				
• Bachelor	\$644	\$660	\$667	+1%
• One bedroom	\$773	\$810	\$815	+1%
• Two bedrooms	\$908	\$952	\$975	+2%
• Three or more bedrooms	\$1,053	\$1,127	\$1,106	-2%
Average Wage Needed to Afford Rental Housing				
• Bachelor	\$12.38	\$12.69	\$12.83	+1%
• One bedroom	\$14.87	\$15.58	\$15.67	+1%
• Two bedrooms	\$17.46	\$18.31	\$18.75	+2%
• Three or more bedrooms	\$20.25	\$21.67	\$21.27	-2%
Rental Housing Availability				
Households on Community Housing Waiting List	3,162	3,287	2,962	-10%
Number of Community Housing rental units (completed)	10,320	10,346	10,381	+0.3%
Vacancy rate (private market rent units)	2.6%	2.9%	2.3%	-0.6%
Number of private market rent units	31,226	31,547	31,680	+0.4%
Average Wait Times for Community Housing				
• Seniors	1-2 yrs	2+ yrs	2+ yrs	-
• Non-seniors (bachelor or 1 bedroom)	4-6 yrs	6+ yrs	6+ yrs	-
• Small family (2 bedrooms)	2+ yrs	3+ yrs	3+ yrs	-
• Small family (3 bedrooms)	2+ yrs	3+ yrs	3+ yrs	-
• Large family (4-5 bedrooms)	3-4 yrs	3+ yrs	3+ yrs	-
Supportive Housing				
	2012	2013	2014/15	% change
Number of housing spaces with support	1,552	1,539	1,675	+9%
Households waiting for long-term support- non-specific	758	690	643	-7%
Households waiting for long-term support - specific	603	647	760	+17%