



# STRATÉGIE DES PARTENARIATS DE LUTTE CONTRE L'ITINÉRANCE

# HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY

## 2014 Community Progress Indicators Report – Halifax

### Data Sources

Statistics Canada

Canada Mortgage and  
Housing Corporation  
(CMHC)

Homeless Individuals and  
Families Information  
System (HIFIS)

Homelessness Electronic  
Reporting Information  
Network (HERIN)

### Participating Halifax Shelters

Metro Turning Point  
Centre

The Salvation Army  
Halifax Booth Centre –  
Centre of Hope

Adsum House Emergency  
Shelter

Barry House

Phoenix Youth Shelter

Bryony House

Community Progress Indicator (CPI) Reports allow communities to better assess the progress of their collective efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness. Using a set of standard indicators, CPI Reports document the impact of these efforts over time. These indicators are based on information gathered by communities through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), the Homelessness Electronic Reporting and Information Network (HERIN), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Statistics Canada (National Household Survey and Labour Force Survey).

### Community Portrait

Indicators in this section provide contextual data on the economic and housing situation in the community. This portrait helps to assess the overall risk of homelessness for families and individuals living in the community.

Indicators	2011	2012	2013	Change
Rental vacancy rates	2.4%	3.0%	3.2%	↑
Average rent cost				
- 2-bedroom	\$925	\$954	\$976	↑
- 1-bedroom	\$753	\$773	\$785	↑
- Bachelor	\$670	\$690	\$703	↑
Local unemployment rate	6.1%	6.6%	6.5%	↔
	<b>2006</b>		<b>2011</b>	
Median Household Income After Tax (Regional Municipality)	\$45,908		\$53,399	↑
Prevalence of low income in 2010 based on after-tax low-income measure	-		15.1%	
Percentage of households in core housing need	13.6%		13.0%	
Percentage of households in severe housing need	5.8%		-	

<i>Households in Core Housing Need</i>	<b>2011</b>
Approximate number of households	20,000
Percentage of households	13.0%
Average shelter cost per month	\$798

### ***Demonstrating Results***

The indicators in this section show achievements by the community in preventing and reducing homelessness. Data is specific to HPS-funded projects only, based on outcomes reported by project sponsors through the ESDC Homeless Electronic Reporting Information Network (HERIN).

<i>Indicators</i>	<b>2011-2014</b>
Number of people placed in supportive housing	106
Number of people placed in permanent housing	613
Number of people that secured part-time or full-time employment	55
Number of people that started a part-time or full-time education program	64
Number of people that started/completed a job training program	156

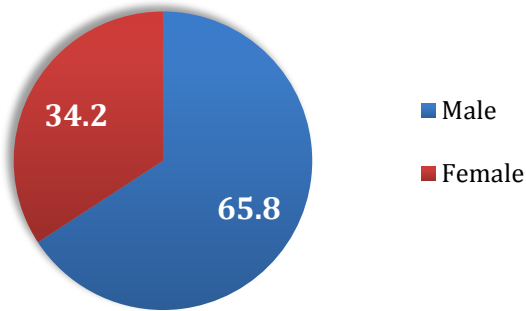
### ***Emergency Shelter Use in Halifax***

Emergency Shelter use is the best available indicator for measuring a community's homeless population. Emergency shelters represent a crisis point in the housing spectrum for individuals. Typically, emergency shelter users have exhausted all other resources and are in acute need of shelter. In other words, they are absolutely homeless. As emergency shelters are often the first point of contact for those experiencing homelessness, they serve as an indicator of change in homelessness, with the caveat that the capacity of the shelter system limits the number of individuals that can access the system.

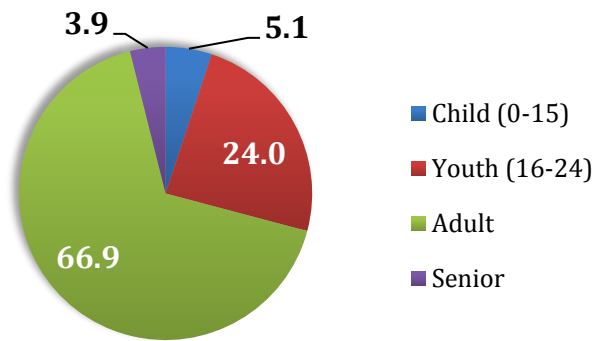
<i>Indicators</i>	<b>2014</b>
Number of unique individuals who accessed emergency shelters in 2014	1,497
- Percentage of unique individuals who accessed shelter as part of a family	12.0%
Chronic shelter users (spent 180 or more nights in shelter)	66 (4.4%)
Episodic shelter users (three or more homeless episodes)	67 (6.2%)

In 2014, 1,497 unique individuals accessed a homeless shelter in Halifax. Of these, 12% used a family shelter. Approximately 84.0% of shelter users had only one stay during the year. There were 66 chronic shelter users and 67 episodic shelter users. A chronic shelter user has stayed at shelters for 180 or more nights in the past year. An episodic shelter user has had three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year. A homeless episode is considered to be a single stay or a cluster of shelter stays separated by less than 30 days. A new homeless episode begins when a user returns to a shelter after 30 or more days have elapsed since their last shelter stay.

**Percentage of Shelter Users by Gender (2014)**



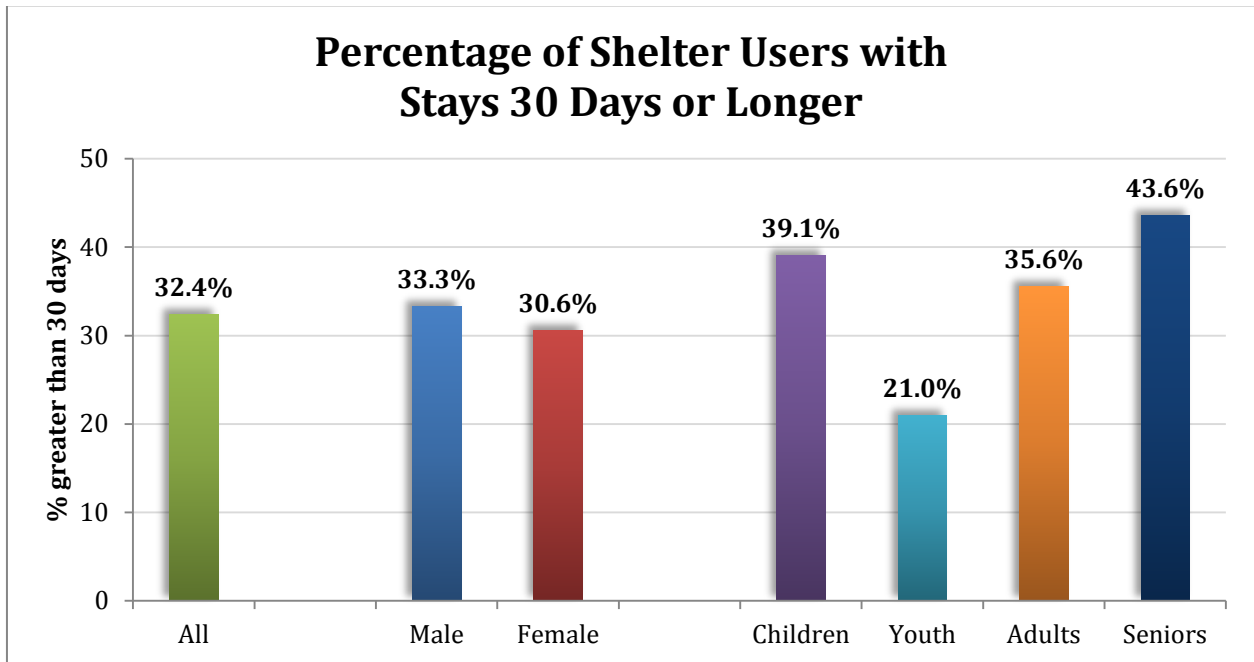
**Percentage of Shelter Users by Age Group**



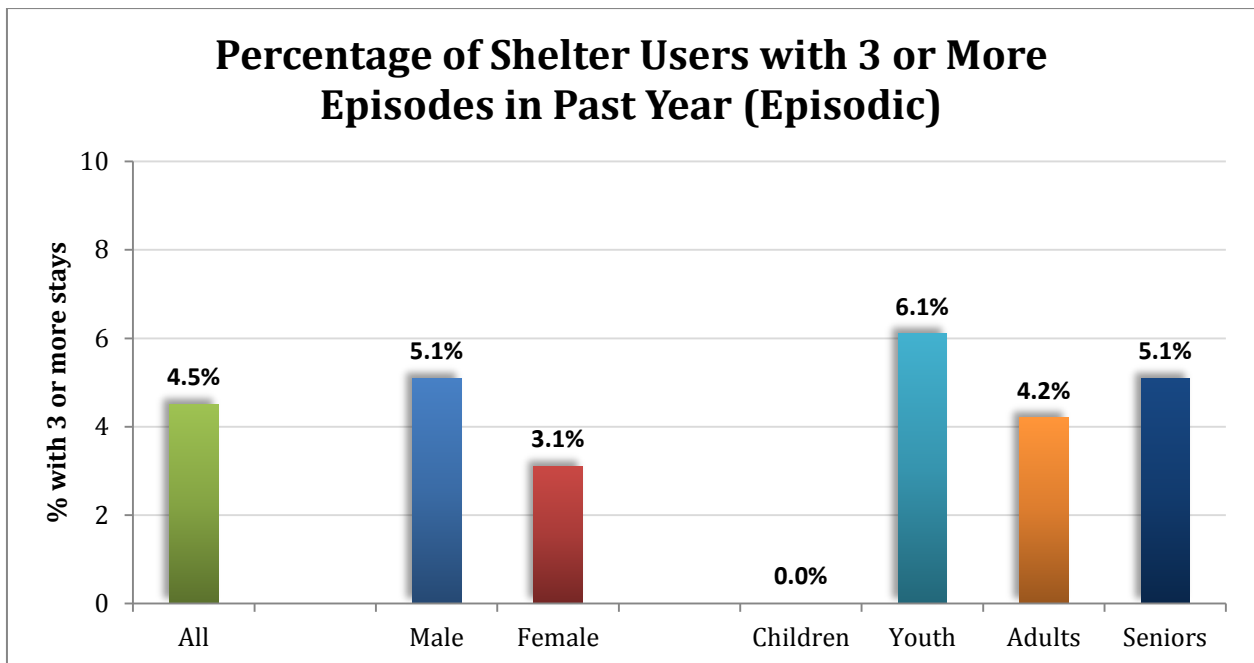
Males accounted for 65.8% of shelter users and females accounted for 34.2%. In terms of age, 5.1% were children, 24.0% were youth, 66.9% were adults and 3.9% were seniors. The following table shows a crosstabulation of shelter users by age and gender. The proportion of females decreased for each successive age group, with males greatly outnumbering females among seniors.

<i>2014</i>	<b>Children (15 &amp; under)</b>	<b>Youth (16-24)</b>	<b>Adults (25-64)</b>	<b>Senior (65 &amp; over)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Male</b>					
- Count	40	214	673	49	976
- Percent within age group	51.9%	61.1%	67.4%	83.1%	65.8%
- Percent within gender	4.1%	21.9%	69.0%	5.0%	100.0%
<b>Female</b>					
- Count	37	136	325	10	508
- Percent within age group	48.1%	38.9%	32.6%	16.9%	34.2%
- Percent within gender	7.3%	26.8%	64.0%	2.0%	100.0%
<b>Total</b>					
- Count	77	350	998	59	1,484 <sup>1</sup>
- Percent within age group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
- Percent within gender	5.2%	23.6%	67.3%	4.0%	100.0%

<sup>1</sup> Some cases have been excluded due to missing age or gender information.



Of all shelter users, 32.4% had a stay lasting 30 days or longer. Youth were the least likely to have long stays. In the past year, 4.5% of clients had three or more episodes of shelter use. Males were slightly more likely to be classified as episodic shelter users than females.



## Community Progress 2009-2012

The number of unique individuals accessing a homeless shelter has decreased to 1,497 in 2014 from a high of 1,716 in 2012. The proportion of male shelter users marginally increased across the six-year period. The percentage of shelter users under 25 has decreased since 2012. The percentage of seniors has increased slowly and steadily throughout the study period.

<i>Demographics</i>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Trend
Total unique shelter users	1,603	1,638	1,620	1,716	1,678	1,497	Decrease
- Families	15.4%	17.7%	12.6%	13.8%	11.7%	12.0%	Stable
Gender							
- Male	59.4%	60.5%	62.6%	65.2%	62.3%	65.8%	Increase
- Female	40.4%	39.1%	36.7%	34.3%	36.9%	34.2%	Decrease
Age Group							
- Children	6.2%	9.4%	6.4%	7.2%	6.3%	5.1%	Decrease
- Youth	27.0%	24.6%	25.9%	26.9%	24.7%	24.0%	Decrease
- Adults	64.9%	64.3%	65.7%	63.2%	66.2%	66.9%	Increase
- Seniors	1.9%	1.7%	2.0%	2.7%	2.9%	3.9%	Increase

The number of chronic shelter users has dropped substantially in 2014. There were around 100 chronic shelter users each year from 2009 to 2013, but only 66 in 2014. The number of episodic shelter users has hovered around 70 individuals for most of the study period, but jumped to 91 in 2013 before returning to 67 in 2014. Along with the strong decrease in chronic shelter users, the number of bednights used has dropped in 2014.

<i>Indicators</i>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Trend
Chronic users	95 (5.9%)	109 (6.7%)	115 (6.7%)	107 (6.2%)	101 (6.0%)	66 (4.4%)	Decrease
Episodic users	71 (4.4%)	68 (4.2%)	69 (4.3%)	75 (4.4%)	91 (5.8%)	67 (4.5%)	Variable
Bednights Used	63,691	68,826	69,082	69,406	68,446	60,253	Decrease

The proportion of short stays has increased steadily over the six-year study period. The proportion of long stays was fairly stable until 2013, dropping below 20% in 2014.

