



GUELPH-WELLINGTON **20,000 HOMES** PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL 2017

ABOUT THE 20K CAMPAIGN

Organized by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH), the 20,000 Homes Campaign is “a national movement of communities working together to permanently house 20,000 of Canada’s most vulnerable homeless people by July 1, 2018.” In 2016, the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination and the County of Wellington made a strategic decision to co-lead a local movement to support the 20,000 Homes national campaign.

To keep the movement honest, accurate and continuously improving, the campaign will provide timely and public reporting on our progress.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: NOVEMBER 2016 – APRIL 2017

1

BY NAME LIST

The Guelph-Wellington By-Name List (BNL) was originally created using data collected during Registry Week in April 2016. In February 2017, Guelph-Wellington 20K Homes introduced a system to add to and update the BNL, giving our community a real time, up-to-date list of people experiencing homelessness.

A BNL helps facilitate efficient decisions around how best to refer individuals experiencing homelessness to housing resources. A BNL can also be used to plan estimations of future rates of homelessness, including inflow and outflow and other performance management targets.

2

COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM

A Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a shared and standardized method for connecting people experiencing homelessness to the resources available.

Working with 8 different Door Agencies, families and individuals are assessed using a common assessment tool (VI-SPDAT). They are then added to the BNL, which informs referrals to appropriate housing services and supports. The Guelph-Wellington CES was launched in February 2016.

3

NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

A local submission was provided to the Federal government to inform the development of the National Housing Strategy.

HOUSING ON THE HILL

Guelph-Wellington joined housing advocates from across the country to lobby Members of Parliament in Ottawa.

FUNCTIONAL ZERO CONSULTATIONS

Individuals experiencing homelessness in Guelph-Wellington were engaged to inform research focused on defining an “end to homelessness.”



SNAPSHOT: GUELPH-WELLINGTON BY-NAME LIST

295



individuals were found to be experiencing homelessness in Guelph-Wellington from April 25th - April 28th, 2016 (Registry Week)

Individuals identified during Registry Week were put on the Guelph-Wellington By-Name List if they completed the VI-SPDAT (some chose to remain anonymous or were observed and not directly surveyed and therefore, were not added to the BNL). From April 2016 to April 2017, our community has been moving people **off** the list if they are no longer actively homeless. As a result, we've seen a dip in the number of individuals on our BNL in the past year. In February 2017, we started **adding** people to the BNL, as well as moving them off. It's expected the number of people on the BNL will increase over the coming months as we refine our Coordinated Entry System and ability to better track those on the list.

The number of individuals that are actively homeless or temporarily housed that are on the Guelph-Wellington By-Name List:

207
APRIL 2016

141
OCTOBER 2016

131
APRIL 2017



CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

% of individuals on BNL that are chronically homeless (homeless for 6 months + in past year)

EPISODIC HOMELESSNESS

% of individuals on BNL that are episodically homeless (3 + episodes in past year)

HIGH ACUITY

% of individuals that scored high on the VI-SPDAT, signaling high vulnerability & acuity

APRIL 2016

62%

29%

57%

OCTOBER 2016

58%

28%

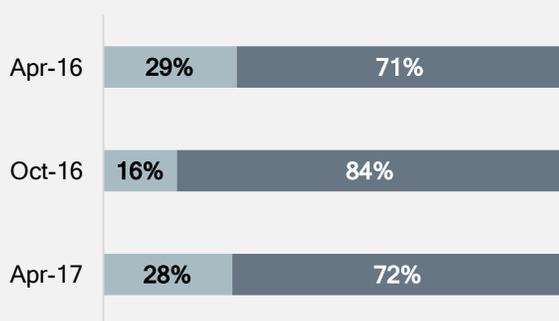
49%

APRIL 2017

60%

32%

56%



YOUTH

(16 - 24 years)

ADULTS

(25 + years)

FAMILIES

of families w/ dependents (0-18 years) on the BNL

April 2016	14
October 2016	4
April 2017	11

DEPENDENT CHILDREN

of dependent children (0-18) on the BNL

April 2016	14
October 2016	7
April 2017	14



April 2016

October 2016

April 2017

76%

73%

73%

PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUE

52%

46%

44%

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE

44%

35%

47%

SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE

25%

23%

25%

TRI-MORBID (PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SUBSTANCE USE ISSUES)



PROGRESS: HOMELESSNESS & HIGH ACUITY

Since Registry Week in April 2016, our community has been tracking **individuals on the By-Name List that scored high on the VI-SPDAT**. This information helps us track our progress toward an end to homelessness. Families on the By-Name List are not included in this section of the progress report, but will be in the future.

The number of individuals on the Guelph-Wellington By-Name List that scored high on the VI-SPDAT:

APR-16: 111

OCT-16: 64

MAR-17: 61

Why the big decrease from April 2016 to October 2016?

From April 2016 to February 2017, individuals were NOT being added to the By-Name List (BNL) - they were only being taken OFF if they were permanently housed or became inactive (lost contact, moved away, moved into systems). This means we were tracking "OUTFLOW." The decrease should not be interpreted solely as a decrease in homelessness, since we were not adding people to the BNL during this time (i.e. tracking "INFLOW"). In February 2017, the Coordinated Entry System started, which has allowed us to begin tracking inflow *and* outflow. It is expected that the number of people on the BNL that scored high on the VI-SPDAT will increase in the coming months as we refine our Coordinated Entry System.

INFLOW & OUTFLOW FOR INDIVIDUALS ON THE BY-NAME LIST THAT SCORED HIGH

	INFLOW			ACTIVELY HOMELESS	OUTFLOW	
	Newly identified	Returned from housing	Returned from inactive		Permanently Housed	Moved to inactive
Apr-16 - Oct-16	115	0	0	64	38	13
Nov-16-Jan-17	0	2	1	55	7	7
Feb-17	12	3	2	66	11	2
Mar-17	7	1	3	61	6	10

From April 2016 to March 2017



62 PERMANENT HOUSING PLACEMENTS



6 RETURNED TO HOMELESSNESS



1 RE-HOUSED

(includes adults and youth on the BNL that scored high)



Photo courtesy of Kevin Konnyu

The following story, told by Velcho Petrov, shares one experience of homelessness in our community. Petrov's story highlights how a Housing First approach and ongoing supports have helped him find and maintain a permanent place to call home.

“When I came to Canada I had hopes and dreams to find a niche in my profession, veterinary medicine, but the world crisis of 2008 left me with no job opportunities on the market. My physical health with insulin dependent diabetes and constant stress led to the surfacing of mental illness, Bipolar Disorder. I tried to reach for help, but either help wasn't available or I was misdiagnosed. With all the aforementioned factors, it made me think about my worthlessness and finally I attempted suicide.

We all know the saying home sweet home. It's a place where you can go and recover after experiencing discrimination, high levels of stress, unemployment, or simply not having a bus ticket in your pocket on a cold, rainy day. I was watching people having meals in restaurants enjoying their time together. I didn't have the money or friends to do that anymore. I was just somebody without a home who lost his marriage, employment, and went bankrupt. I was not able to be a part of the community. I saw driveways at holiday time full of cars with families visiting to share dinner together. Homelessness was marginalizing. I felt like my human dignity was stripped away.

I couldn't find housing. No one would take me if I didn't have employment, good credit history, references or a previous positive landlord recommendation. I didn't fit the requirements for having a roof over my head, but then my Drop In workers at the time connected me with Housing First. The day I became a part of Housing First was the day I knew God heard my prayers and gave me a second chance to start living again. Yes, living again as a member of society to make the difference and pay my rent. Housing First doesn't just help with rent, sometimes it's just that someone is there for you to answer questions and help solve problems.

Some people move on from the Housing First program, but I need it. I experience stress, anxiety, and suicidal ideations. There were times when the idea of suicide was more comforting to me than being on the street again. When contemplating suicide, death seems to be the hug you need to make things better, but that's what Housing First workers are for you instead. The hug that can help you find safety. They are the liaison between me and all my needs that are beyond my reach. The vicious circle of homelessness cannot be broken without supports like my Housing First caseworker. With their support, I feel stable and at home.”



Supported by the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination and the County of Wellington.



www.GW20khomes.ca



www.facebook.com/GW20khomes



info@gwpoverty.ca



[@gwpoverty](https://twitter.com/gwpoverty)

