



During the month of June 2024, service providers throughout Nova Scotia Health's Eastern Zone identified clients experiencing homelessness. For each client a survey was completed with the service provider's perspective on the client's demographic background and housing situation.



72%

increase in the number of people 16+ living with some form of homelessness since 2021. The largest increases are among those at risk, and those who are unsheltered.



ages 16+ experienced some form of homelessness



children



total

reported to be under either the full-time or part-time care of those experiencing homelessness

HOUSING SITUATIONS IDENTIFIED



78 (11%)

unsheltered

Living rough in places like an encampment or a vehicle, or sleeping outside



240 (33%)

provisionally accommodated

Staying with family, friends, in transitional or supportive housing, or living in a boarding home or in a motel



220 (31%)

at risk of homelessness

Client is not currently homeless, but their current economic and/or personal situation is precarious, their housing is crowded or does not meet public health and safety standards, or they are facing eviction



115 (16%)

emergency sheltered

Staying in a homeless shelter or a shelter for women escaping intimate partner violence



66 (9%)

institutional care

Staying at a correctional facility/half-way house or at a mental health/addictions/recovery facility

BREAKDOWN BY COUNTY

CAPE BRETON COUNTY

58 unsheltered

105 emergency sheltered

185 provisionally accommodated

61 institutional care

148 at risk of homelessness

557 TOTAL

ANTIGONISH & GUYSBOUROUGH

10 unsheltered

5 emergency sheltered

29 provisionally accommodated

0 institutional care

31 at risk of homelessness

75 TOTAL

INVERNESS, RICHMOND & VICTORIA

10 unsheltered

5 emergency sheltered

26 provisionally accommodated

5 institutional care

41 at risk of homelessness

87 TOTAL

For those 16+



37% had children in their care



48% male

1% other

50% female

1% not reported/missing



83% single/separated/divorced



12% Indigenous



40% experiencing chronic homelessness *



36% living with addictions



35% living with mental illness

age groups

16-18 **3%**

19-24 **8%**

25-29 **13%**

30-39 **32%**

40-49 **21%**

50-59 **13%**

60-69 **6%**

70+ **4%**



* chronic homelessness is defined as unsheltered and/or temporarily housed for a total of six months over the past year or have recurrent experiences of homelessness for a total of 18 months over the past three years. (Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Directives)

BARRIERS TO APPROPRIATE, STABLE AND PERMANENT HOUSING

Rents are too high

Substance Use

Mental Illness

Low Income

Family Breakdown

Lack of Housing in Good Repair

URGENT ACTIONS

Significantly and urgently scale investments in deeply affordable, non-market housing in eastern NS (public, co-operative and non-profit).

Develop provincial legislation recognizing housing as a human right.

Focus on supportive, non-market housing to assist those who use substances or with mental illness.

Increase income assistance rates, improve the design of rent supplements so they result in affordable housing for tenants (eg., remove the average market rent cap and include utility costs in the calculation).

Create more housing support worker positions so they are accessible across eastern Nova Scotia and there are no wait lists. Ensure these positions are adequately resourced.

Develop a plan on homelessness prevention.

Commit to eradicating homelessness.