






OTTAWA URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS



1



Ottawa Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Strategy OAC Continuum



2






Context

Every two years, the federal government working with municipalities conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) count to capture the experiences of those who are unhoused. Typically lasting one or two days, the 2024 PIT count in Ottawa spanned four days

The Ottawa Indigenous community of service providers, including staff from Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Minwaashin Lodge, Wabano, Odawa, and the OAC, came together to help Indigenous community members share their stories. In recognition of Indigenous sovereignty over data, the City of Ottawa shared the Indigenous-specific data with Indigenous organizations. While we present this data as numbers and percentages, it only reflects a single moment in an Indigenous person's life. We honour the responsibility of sharing these stories as part of a larger narrative.

The OAC recognizes that self-identification is self-determination and is to be respected.

3

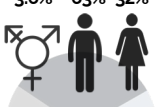



DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

*Note: The actual number of Indigenous people increased since the 2021 PIT Count, but their percentage of the total survey decreased because of the rise of newcomers experiencing hardship and lack of housing.

Gender

3.6% 63% 32%



Age


Average: TBD
Youngest: 16
Oldest: 85

Age First Homeless

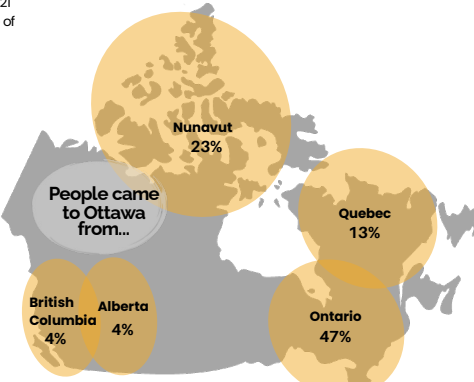
Average: 26
Youngest: 2
Oldest: 66

In 2024, 480 people (20%) people experiencing homelessness identified as Indigenous.

In 2021, 428 people (32%) identified as Indigenous.



People came to Ottawa from...



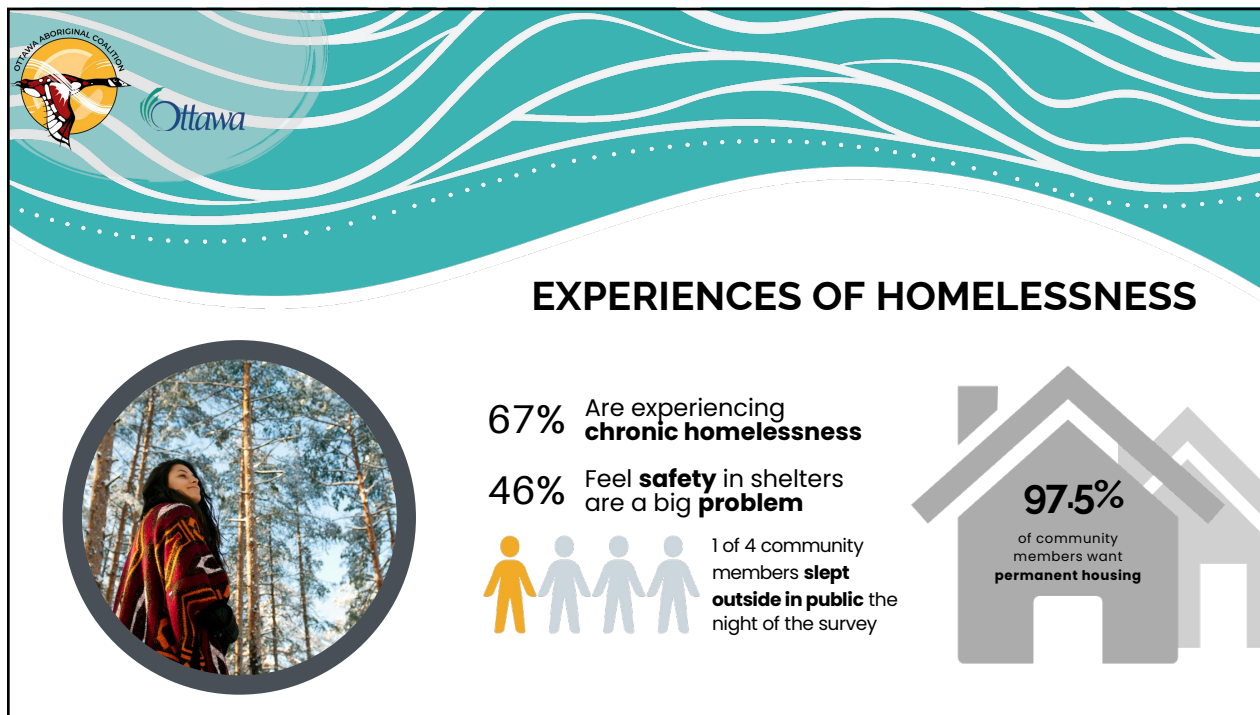
- Nunavut 23%
- Quebec 13%
- Ontario 47%
- British Columbia 4%
- Alberta 4%

8% Served in Military or RCMP

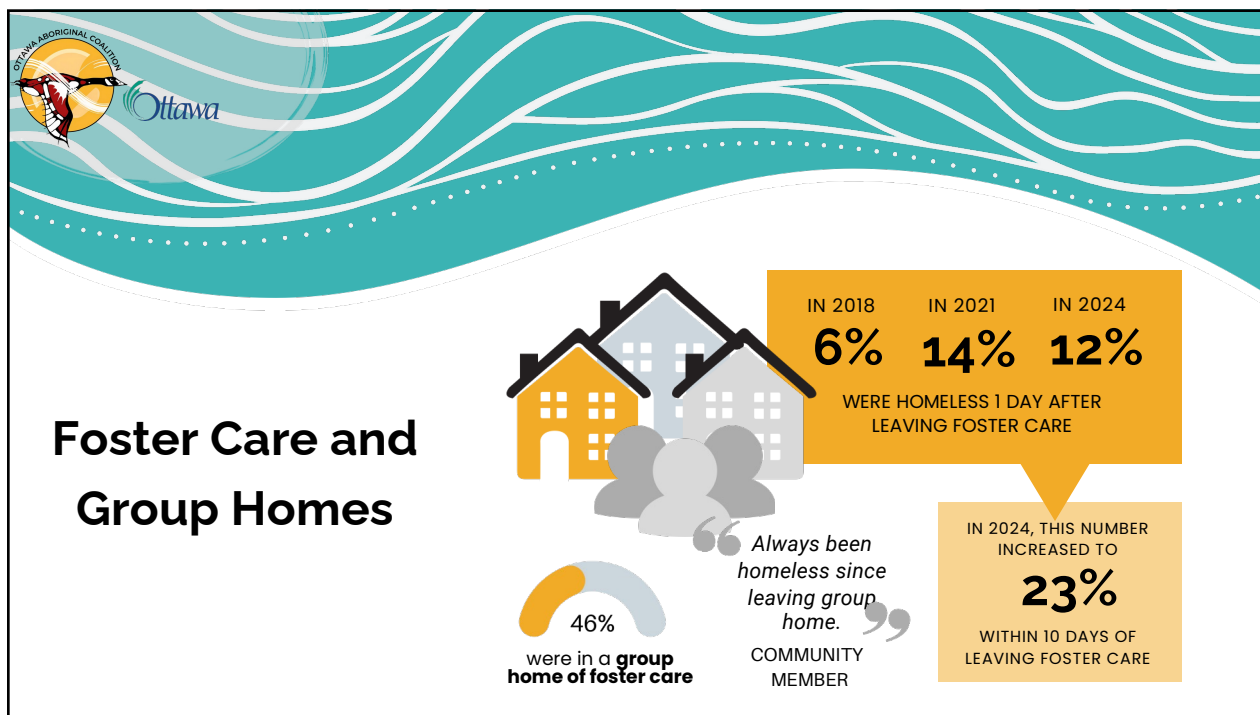
14% 2SLGBTQIA+

81% Heterosexual

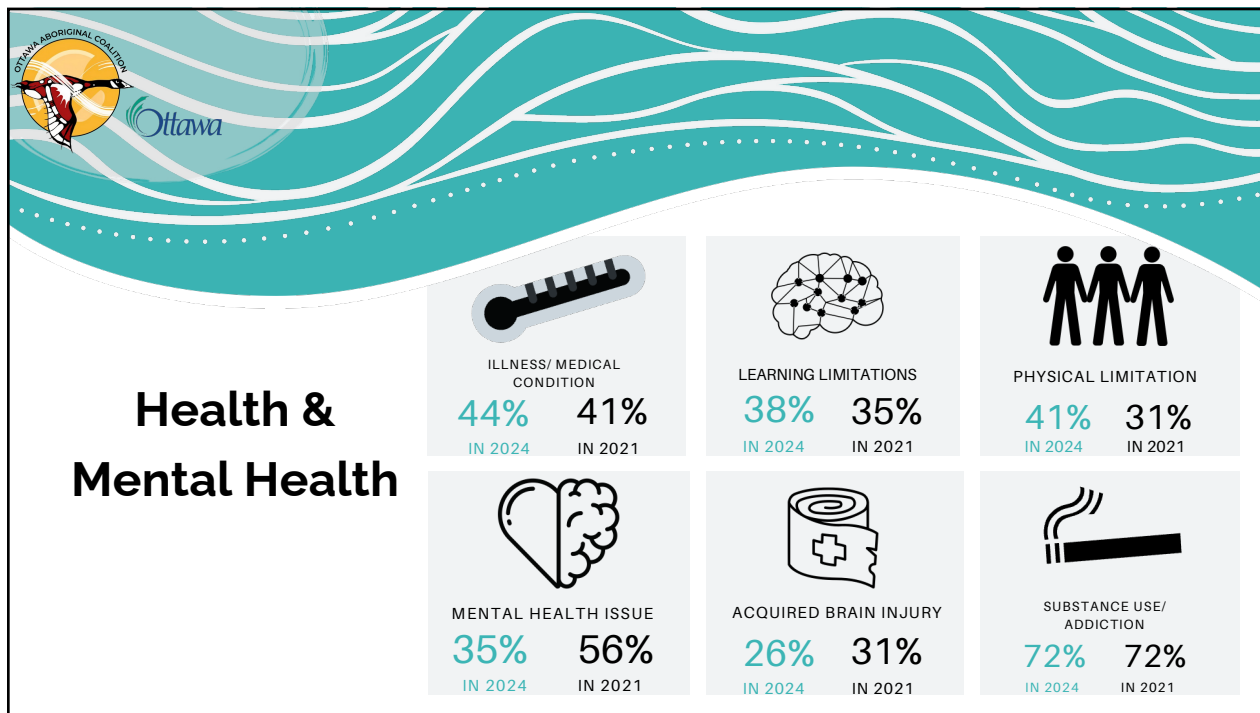
4



5





6




7



8

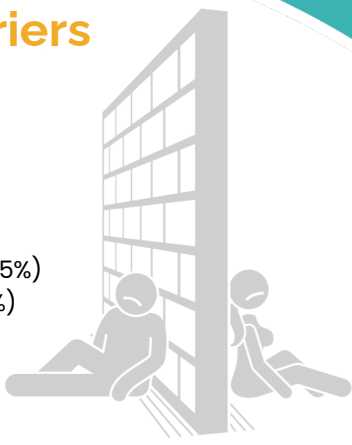



Lost Housing and Barriers





Barriers to Finding Housing









- **Low Income (60%)**
- **High Rent (58%)**
- Substance Use (34%)
- Mental Health (30%)
- Poor Housing Conditions (27.5%)
- No Income Assistance (26.5%)
- No Support (24%)
- Health/Disability (18%)
- Discrimination (18%)



9

Needed Supports and Services

 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING 56%	 FINANCIAL SUPPORTS 53%	 FOOD SECURITY 53%	 SUBSTANCE USE/ ADDICTION 49%
 MENTAL HEALTH 48%	 ACCESS TO FACILITIES 34%	 DISABILITY SUPPORTS 34%	 CULTURAL SUPPORTS 32.5%

10



Ottawa

Relationships



“ Brought friends who were not suppose to be there, **trying to help friends.** ”

COMMUNITY MEMBER'S RESPONSE
AS TO WHY THEY LOST THEIR HOUSING

“ Substance use **not wanting to expose kids to contact high** ”

COMMUNITY MEMBER'S RESPONSE
AS TO WHY THEY LOST THEIR HOUSING

11



Ottawa

Thank you. Miigwech.

12

