



HOMELESSNESS Partnering Strategy

2015 Community Progress Indicators Report: ST. JOHN'S

Community Progress Indicator (CPI) Reports allow communities to assess the progress of their collective efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness over time using a set of standard indicators. These indicators are based on information gathered by communities through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), and supported by data drawn from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Statistics Canada (National Household Survey and Labour Force Survey).

Community Portrait



The economic and housing statistics below help identify the risk of homelessness for individuals and families in the community.

Participating St. John's Shelters:

Choices for Youth
Shelter

Iris Kirby House

Naomi Centre

Shanawdithit
Shelter

The Wiseman
Centre

Tommy Sexton
Centre

	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change
Rental vacancy rates	2.8%	3.2%	4.6%	4.7%	↑
Average rent: Bachelor	\$610	\$648	\$635	\$690	↑
Average rent: 1-bedroom	\$718	\$744	\$770	\$798	↑
Average rent: 2-bedroom	\$813	\$877	\$888	\$923	↑
Local unemployment rate	7.4%	6.3%	6%	6.5%	↑

	2006	2011	Change
Median household income after tax	\$40,922	\$52,259	↑
After-tax low-income measure: % of households	-	17.2%	-
Core housing need: Approximate number of households	9,255	9,055	↓
Core housing need: % of households	13.5%	11.9%	↓
Core housing need: Average shelter cost per month	-	\$777	-
Severe housing need: % of households	5.4%	4.9%	↓

A household is said to be in **CORE HOUSING NEED** if its housing does not meet one or more of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards, and it would have to spend 30% (**SEVERE HOUSING NEED**: 50%) or more of its before-tax income to access acceptable local housing. Acceptable housing is adequate in condition, suitable in size, and affordable. **Adequate** housing does not require any major repairs, according to residents. **Suitable** housing has enough bedrooms for the size and makeup of resident households, according to National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements. **Affordable** housing costs less than 30% of before-tax household income.

Emergency Shelter Use in St. John's in 2015

Emergency shelter use is the best available indicator for measuring a community's homeless population. Typically, individuals who use an emergency shelter have exhausted all other resources and are in acute need of shelter, meaning they are absolutely homeless. Most individuals who experience homelessness have used an emergency shelter at some point in their lives. The limitations of measuring homelessness using shelter data are that it does not count people who never use the system and cannot take into consideration homelessness experienced outside of shelters.

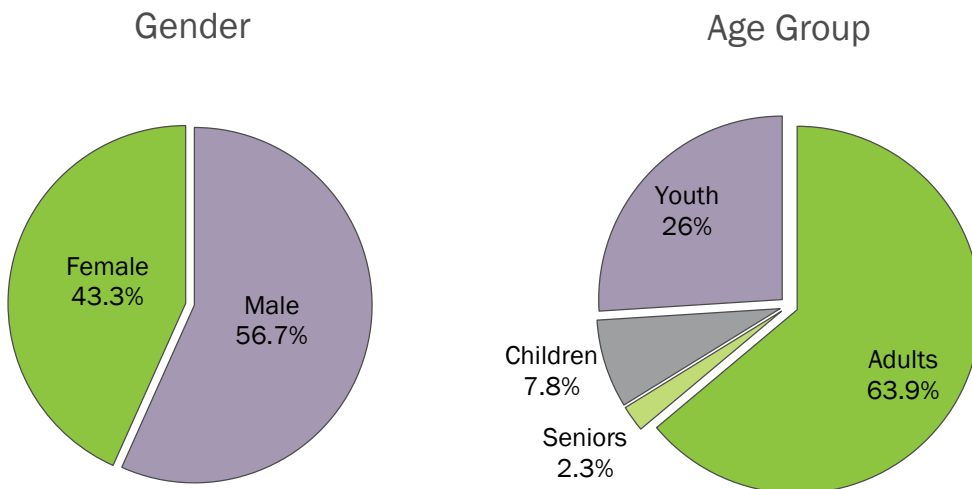
Indicators	2015
Number of unique shelter users	695
Percentage of individuals who accessed shelter as part of a family	16.1%
Number of chronic shelter users	4
Number of episodic shelter users	19

In 2015, 695 unique individuals accessed a homeless shelter in St. John's. Of these unique individuals, 16% accessed shelter as part of a family. Over the course of the year, there were four chronic and 19 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.

Of the total number of unique shelter users in 2015, males accounted for 56.7% and females for 43.3%. In terms of age, 7.8% were children, 26% youth, 63.9% adults and 2.3% seniors.



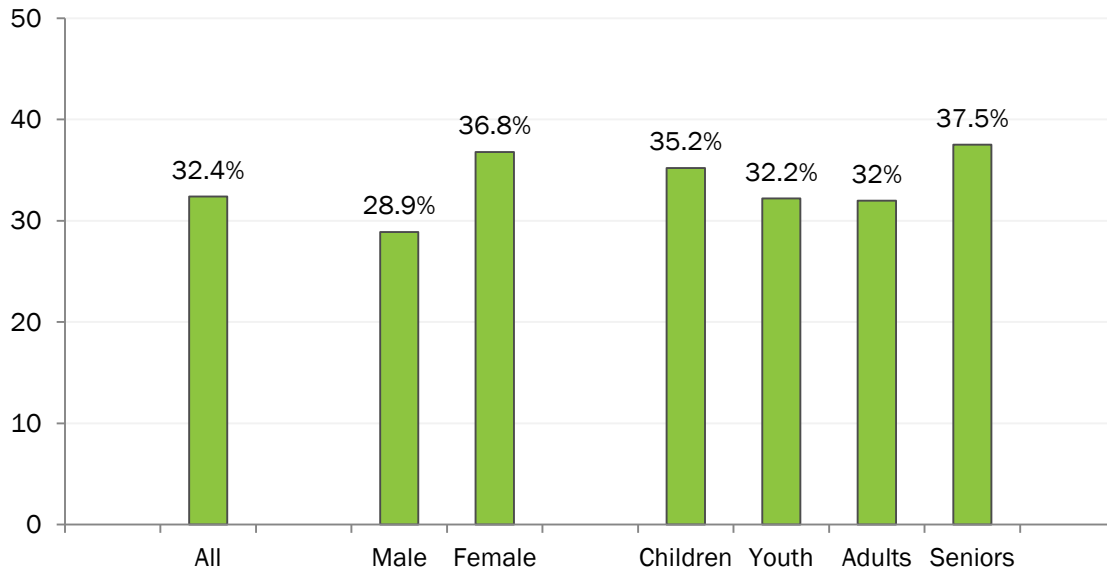
The following table shows a crosstabulation by age and gender. As is the case in most communities, adult males make up the largest group of shelter users. The proportion of males and females in each age category does not show large differences, except among seniors where there were no female shelter users.

	Children (15 & younger)	Youth (16-24)	Adults (25-64)	Seniors (65 & older)	Total
Male					
Count	28	103	245	16	392
Percent within age group	51.9%	57.2%	55.3%	100%	56.6%
Percent within males	7.1%	26.3%	62.5%	4.1%	100%
Female					
Count	26	77	198	0	301
Percent within age group	48.1%	42.8%	44.7%	0%	43.4%
Percent within females	8.6%	25.6%	65.8%	0%	100%
Total					
Count	54	180	443	16	693 ¹
Percent within age group	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent within shelter users	7.8%	26%	63.9%	2.3%	100%

¹ Some cases have been excluded due to missing age or gender information.

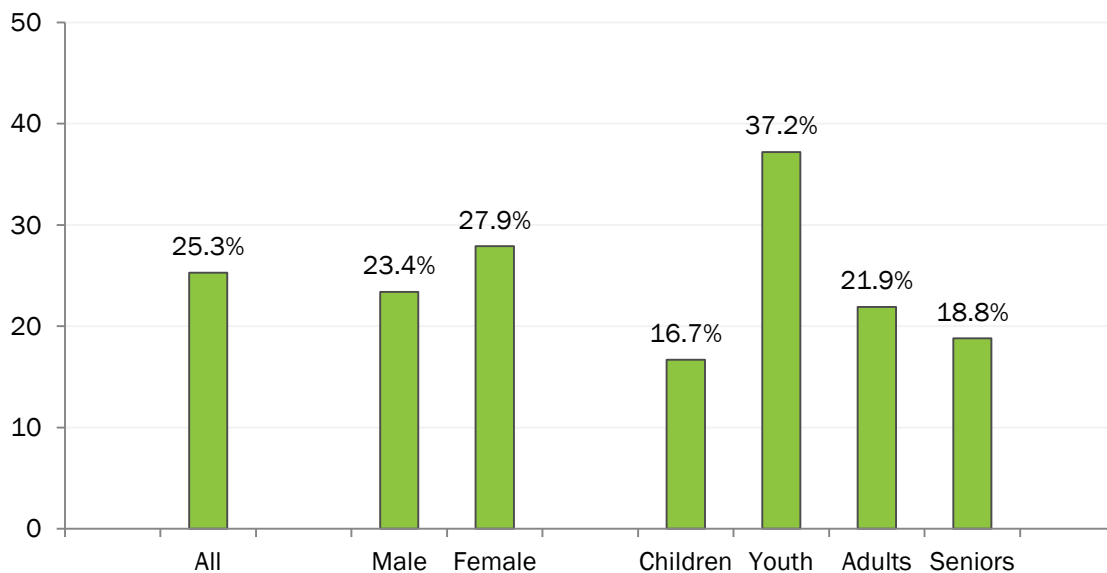
The following charts examine the characteristics of shelter stays by unique individuals in 2015. Stays that exceed 30 days are considered to be long stays. Of all shelter users, 32.4% had a long stay during the year. The rate among females (36.8%) was higher than among males (28.9%). The rate across age groups was similar, with seniors being slightly more likely (37.5%) to have a long stay.

Shelter Users with a Stay of 30 Days or Longer



While the majority of shelter users in 2015 had only one stay during the year, one quarter had multiple stays. The rate was highest among youth (37.2%) compared to any other age group.

Shelter Users with More Than One Stay



Community Progress 2010-2015

Indicators in this section are presented over a period of time. By examining data from year to year, it is possible to assess any trends in shelter usage. The table below details the demographics of shelter users. The total number of unique individuals has fluctuated over the years, while the percentage of families accessing shelter has increased. The gender and age composition has been variable over the study period. After declining to a low of 4.2% in 2014, the percentage of children accessing shelter has since increased to 7.8% in 2015.

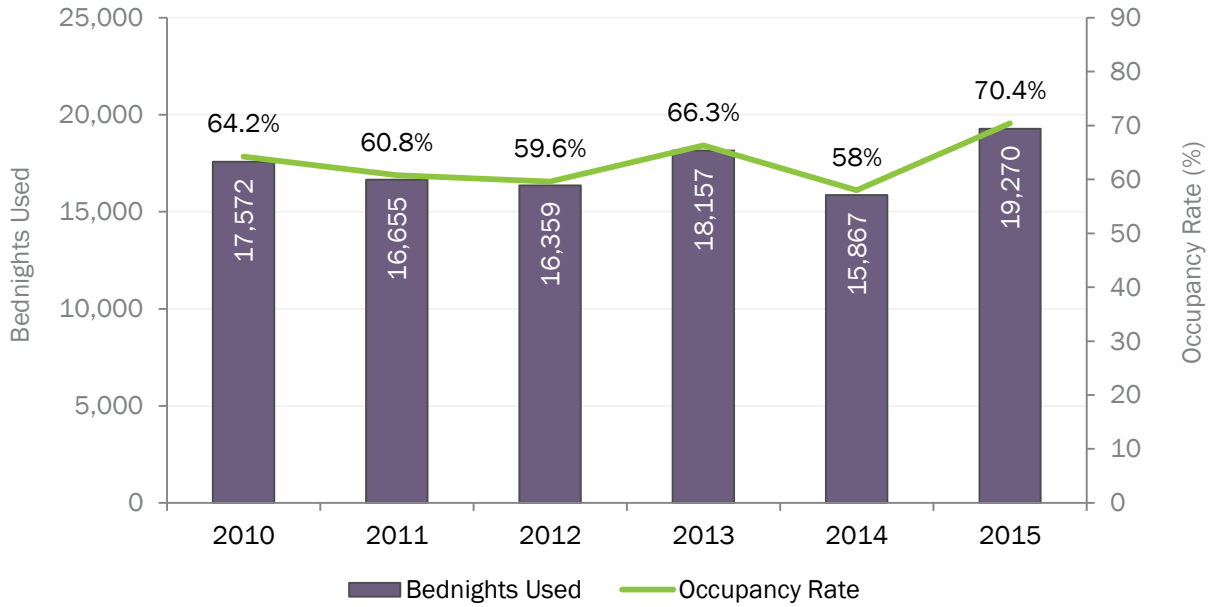
	Shelter Users		Gender		Age Group			
	# of individuals	% of families	Male (%)	Female (%)	Children (%)	Youth (%)	Adults (%)	Seniors (%)
2010 ²	692	-	62.7	37.3	11.9	28.6	57.9	1
2011	830	12.5	59.4	40.6	12.5	27.3	59	1.2
2012	769	13.7	61.5	38.5	9.2	30.1	59.4	1.3
2013	761	9.2	56.3	43.7	9.1	25.4	64.2	1.3
2014	603	7.3	63.2	36.8	4.2	27.9	66.8	1.2
2015	695	16.1	56.7	43.3	7.8	26	63.9	2.3

The table below examines the number of chronic and episodic shelter users. Chronic shelter users made up less than one percent of the total shelter users, while episodic shelter users comprised 2.7% in 2015.

	Chronic		Episodic	
	#	%	#	%
2010	4	<1	22	3.2
2011	1	<1	23	2.8
2012	7	1	25	3.3
2013	8	1.1	24	3.2
2014	2	<1	11	1.8
2015	4	<1	19	2.7

² Family statistics are not available before 2011; therefore the family rates are not presented for 2010.

Bednights Used and Occupancy Rate



The number of bednights used and occupancy rates has fluctuated over the years, with a sizeable increase from 2014 to 2015. The percentage of long stays increased to around 25% in 2014 and 2015.

Percentage of Short, Medium and Long Stays by Year

