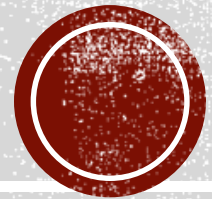


# 20,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN IN SIMCOE COUNTY

Barrie City Council, March 6, 2017



**Sara Peddle**

Executive Director, David Busby Centre  
Chair, Simcoe County Alliance To End Homelessness

**Irena Pozgaj-Jones**

Program Supervisor, County of Simcoe



# ABOUT THE 20,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN

## Nationally

- National campaign led by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
- A national movement of communities, mobilizing together to house 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable people by July 1, 2018
- Locally led by the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH)

## Locally

### Supports:

- Systems planning model
- Partnerships
- Recommendations from the *10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy*:
  - Advocacy
  - Local enumeration count
  - Housing delivery activities
- Public awareness and involvement

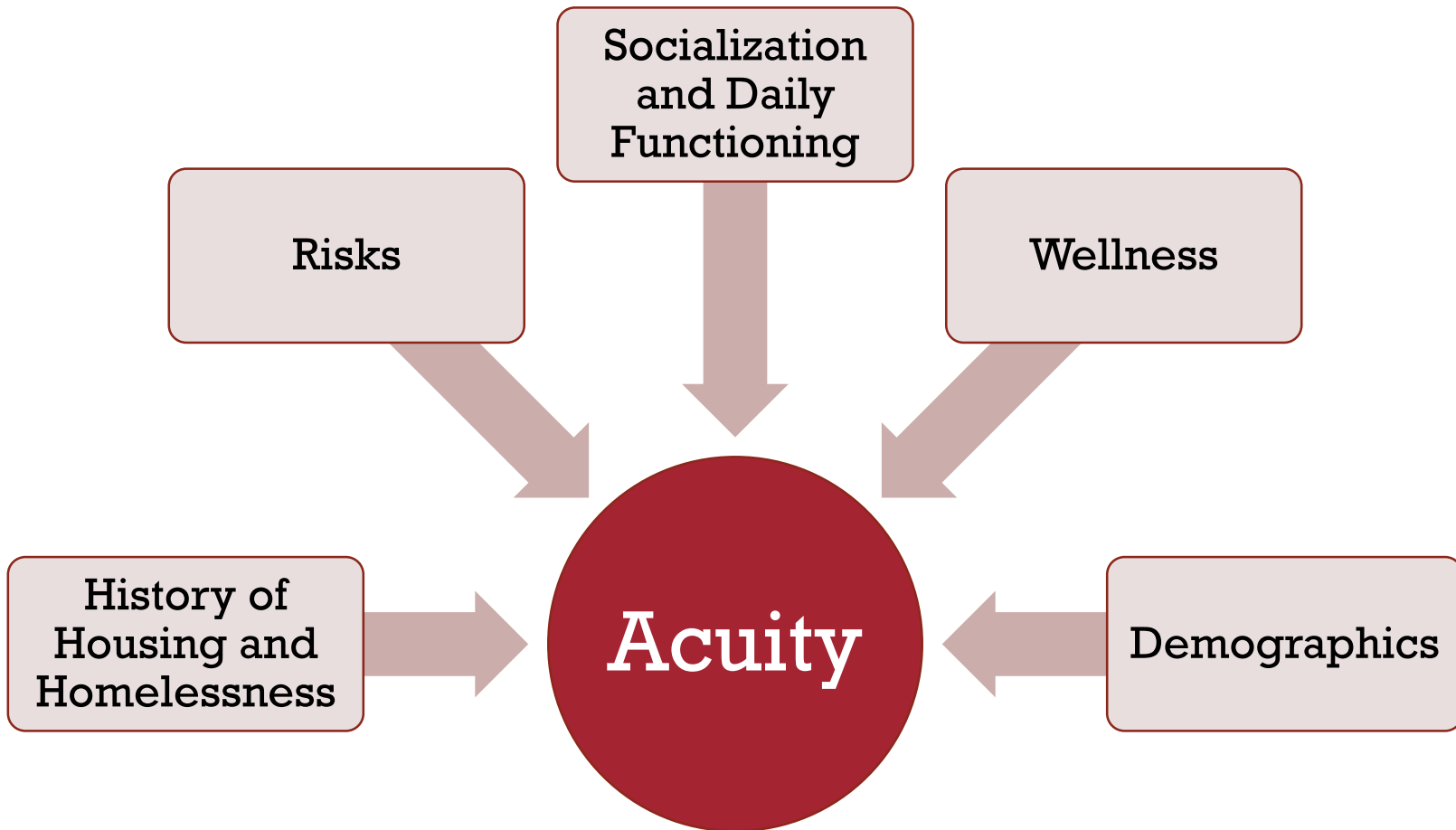
# SIMCOE COUNTY REGISTRY WEEK

- More than 120 volunteers and professional staff across Simcoe County surveyed people experiencing homelessness on January 15 and 16, 2016
- Data entry and central headquarters were located in Barrie
- Local headquarters and survey teams in 5 areas across Simcoe County and a toll-free number to connect with rural areas
- Surveys were conducted at YMCAs across the region, in shelters and drop-in centres, at food banks, and in 'hot spots' identified in each community
- Participants received a \$10 Tim Horton's gift card to thank them for their time
- Information collected is personal and sensitive; specific data protocols were established for responsible data stewardship

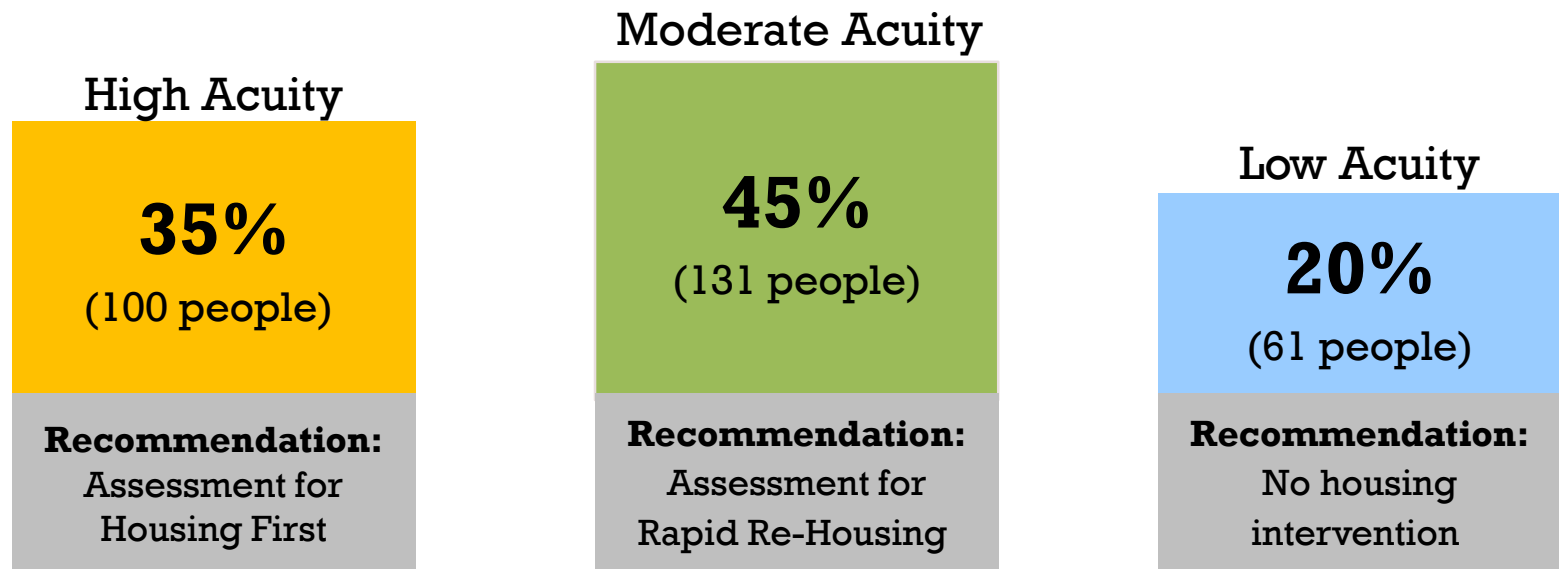
# DATA COLLECTED

- Data Collection Tool: VI-SPDAT  
*Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool*
- Two reasons for collecting data:
  - ▶ Case management
  - ▶ Aggregate data reporting
- Survey participants:  
People experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness
- Voluntary survey:  
Not necessarily reflective of the overall issue of homelessness throughout Simcoe County
- 292 completed surveys

The VI-SPDAT measures a person's **ACUITY** by identifying domains with higher complexity:



# ACUITY OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS



(though other types of referrals may be made)

# EPISODIC & CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

## Episodic homelessness:

- **Number of times** a person has experienced homelessness
- 3 or more times in the past year

47  
(16%)

32  
(11%)

## Chronic homelessness:

- **Length of time** a person has been experiencing homelessness
- 6 months or more in the past year

125  
(43%)

# KEY FINDINGS

**Total sample group  
(292 people)**

**High Acuity  
(100 people)**

16% foster care

22% aboriginal ancestry

48% emergency shelters

8% sleep outdoors

43% chronic homelessness

16% episodic homelessness

↑ chronic homelessness (51%)

↑ episodic homelessness (24%)

↓ lower shelter utilization (40%)

↑ sleeping outdoors (26%)



# WELLNESS

**71%**  
Physical Health

**16%**  
Tri-  
morbidity

**28%**  
Substance  
Abuse

**40%**  
Mental  
Health

**128** participants visited  
emergency department  
**478** times

**79** participants took  
ambulance to hospital  
**246** times

**103** participants  
used a crisis service  
**589** times

# WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Diverse Communities  
across Simcoe County

- Solutions need to be locally-informed

Methodologies developed  
during inaugural  
Registry Week

- Will be helpful for future similar initiatives

Service Providers  
and Volunteers

- Engaged and eager to provide support

Almost half of survey  
participants are facing  
MODERATE acuity

- Recommended housing intervention = Rapid Re-Housing

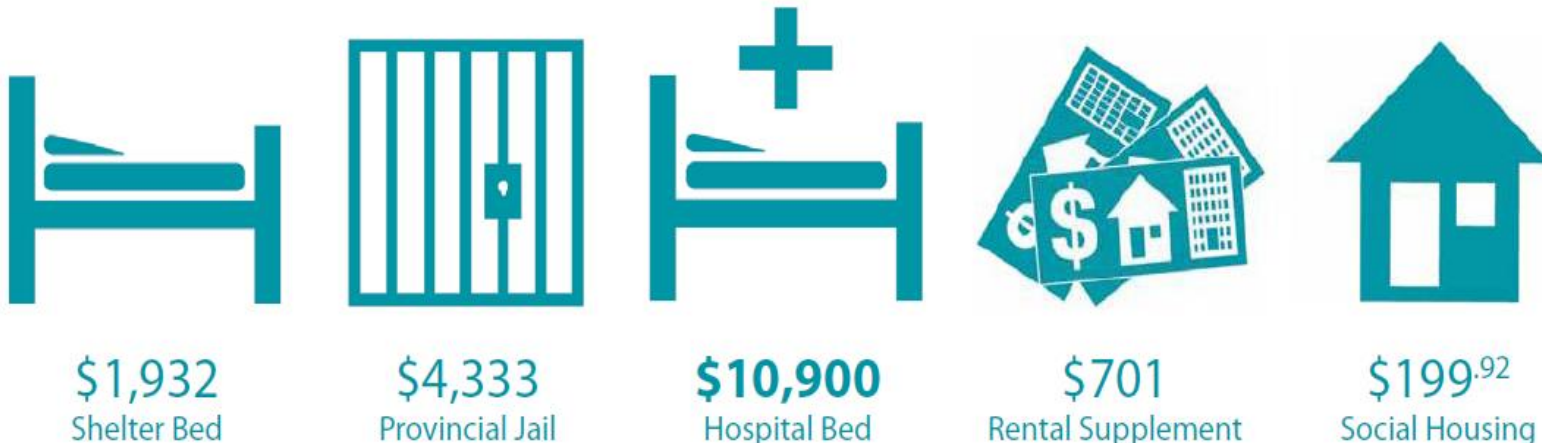
100 participants  
are facing HIGH acuity

- Recommended housing intervention = Housing First

# KEY MESSAGES

- Information from Registry Week has provided a better understanding of homelessness across Simcoe County
- Housing First helps the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness (high acuity and/or chronic homelessness) by providing housing, then additional supports and services
- More cost-effective to provide permanent safe housing

Average Monthly Cost of housing someone while homeless:



# WHAT'S NEXT?

## OUR ACTION PLAN FROM THE CAMPAIGN:

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- **Program Recommendations**
  - Support evidence-informed policy and service program design that is relevant for our communities
- **Communication**
  - Raise awareness about homelessness throughout Simcoe County
- **Service Delivery**
  - Housing Resource Centres are working with survey participants to understand their unique needs and recommend appropriate services
- **Building Local Capacity**
  - Building and further enhancing local capacity for service delivery providers, i.e. local training

**TAKE ACTION TOGETHER!!!!**