

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS REPORT SUMMARY

Medicine Hat
2019-2021

COORDINATED ACCESS AND HOMELESSNESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS) SELF-ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

The table below provides a summary of the work the community has done so far to implement Reaching Home's minimum requirements for Coordinated Access and an HMIS.

How many of the Reaching Home minimum requirements has the community:

Met	Started	Not yet started
14	0	4

SUMMARY COMMENT

Are there particular efforts and/or issues that you would like to highlight for this reporting period related to your community's work to achieve the Reaching Home minimum requirements? In particular, please describe your community's efforts to set-up or improve the Coordinated Access governance structure, including processes to ensure that policies and protocols, as approved by the governance group(s), are being implemented across the system as intended to achieve desired results.

Under Alberta's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, introduced in 2008, the province's seven largest cities all began working with Housing First principles. Part of this work was undertaking a systems planning response, including the large-scale coordination of prioritizing entry into the system of care. Over the past 10 years, we have continued to make improvements to our Coordinated Access System (CAS). A brief history of the evolution of Medicine Hat's CAS:

In 2009, Medicine Hat embarked on its own 10-year plan and began implementing a HMIS in 2009 followed by a coordinated access system in 2010, which was the first CAS in the province.

Housing Link (CAS) was introduced in 2010 (initially called Housing Assessment and Triage, then Centralized Housing Assessment and Triage, then Central Intake, and finally Housing Link).

In 2011, the CE along with the Shelter developed a by-name shelter list (still called the Housing Report), whereby the names of individuals experiencing homelessness and the context of their homelessness was shared between the services. This assisted with knowing people's names and need, not just simply numbers on a piece of paper. To this day, the Housing Report gets shared nightly.

Diversion was first introduced with CAS in 2013, and provided direct assistance for those on the list who did not require or need long-term case management services. Although not formalized until 2016, this service was able to house more individuals than all other services combined.

2014 marked the launch of Medicine Hat's Refocused Plan to End Homelessness, followed with the focus and shift to taking a more systems planning and coordination approach.

Transition & Discharge Planning from public institutions was formalized with the CAS in 2016, thereby preventing discharge into homelessness whenever possible. This came with tremendous learnings about other systems and the importance of prevention.

In 2016-2017 there was a downsizing of Housing First Programs in community from two to one, and the onboarding of the permanent supportive housing program in addition of 16 units of PSH in 2017. An additional 16 PSH units would be added in 2019.

2018 brought the opioid crisis to new heights, not only in Alberta, but across the country. There was a significant shift in those served by the homeless serving system, most notably an increase in those who reported substance use issues and mental health. With the crisis, we also saw an influx of people that had never had to engage with the system.

2019 -2020 were the years of focus and planning for change with Built for Zero - Canada. To that end, Medicine Hat was able to announce the achievement of Functional Zero - Chronic Homelessness in 2021.

2020 was a historical year, with the global pandemic. Our CAS allowed us to systematically serve and support those experiencing homelessness and those at imminent risk with ease from a technical and information management standpoint.

Since the city embarked on its Plan in 2009, more than 1,323 people who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless have gotten a place to live, including 328 children through Housing First Programs. A greater number have been housed through Diversion and Rapid Resolution. At the same time, shelter use has been reduced overall by 64%.

COMMUNITY-LEVEL DATA for 2019-2020

What is the date range for available data from the List for this fiscal report?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • First date in reporting period: | April 1, 2019 |
| • Last date in reporting period: | March 31, 2020 |

Complete the Population Groups table below using the date range indicated for this fiscal report.

Number of unique individuals (or households where not available) in each Priority Population Group who:						
Priority Population Groups	Were homeless (Measures Cumulative Homelessness)	Were new to homelessness (Measures Inflow)	Returned to homelessness from housing (one or more times) (Measures Inflow)	Returned to homelessness from transitional status (one or more times) (Measures Inflow)	Returned to homelessness from unknown status (one or more times) (Measures Inflow)	State changed from inactive to active (one or more times) (Measures Inflow)
Overall homeless	660	405	102	not available	not available	not available
Chronically homeless	95	17	16	not available	not available	14
Indigenous peoples	included in 660	68	not available	not available	not available	not available
Priority Population Groups			Moved from homelessness to housing (one or more times) (Measures Outflow)	Status changed from homelessness to transitional (one or more times) (Measures Outflow)	Status changed from homelessness to unknown (one or more times) (Measures Outflow)	State changed from active to inactive (one or more times) (Measures Outflow)
Overall homeless			225	not available	not available	not available
Chronically homeless			26	not available	not available	15
Indigenous peoples			27	not available	not available	not available

Complete the Prior Living Situations table below for all individuals (or households where not available) that were homeless for the date range indicated for this fiscal report.

	Public Institutions	Transitional Housing	Permanent Housing	Unknown	Total
New to homelessness	26	0	312	67	405
Returned to homelessness	not available	not available	not available	not available	0
Total	26	0	312	67	405

COMMUNITY-LEVEL DATA for 2020-2021

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Overall homeless	565	277	20	not available	not available	not available
Chronically homeless	49	23	2	not available	not available	3
Indigenous peoples	included in 565	46	not available	not available	not available	not available
Priority Population Groups			Moved from homelessness to housing (one or more times) (Measures Outflow)	Status changed from homelessness to transitional (one or more times) (Measures Outflow)	Status changed from homelessness to unknown (one or more times) (Measures Outflow)	State changed from active to inactive (one or more times) (Measures Outflow)
Overall homeless			161	not available	not available	not available
Chronically homeless			21	not available	not available	12
Indigenous peoples			19	not available	not available	not available

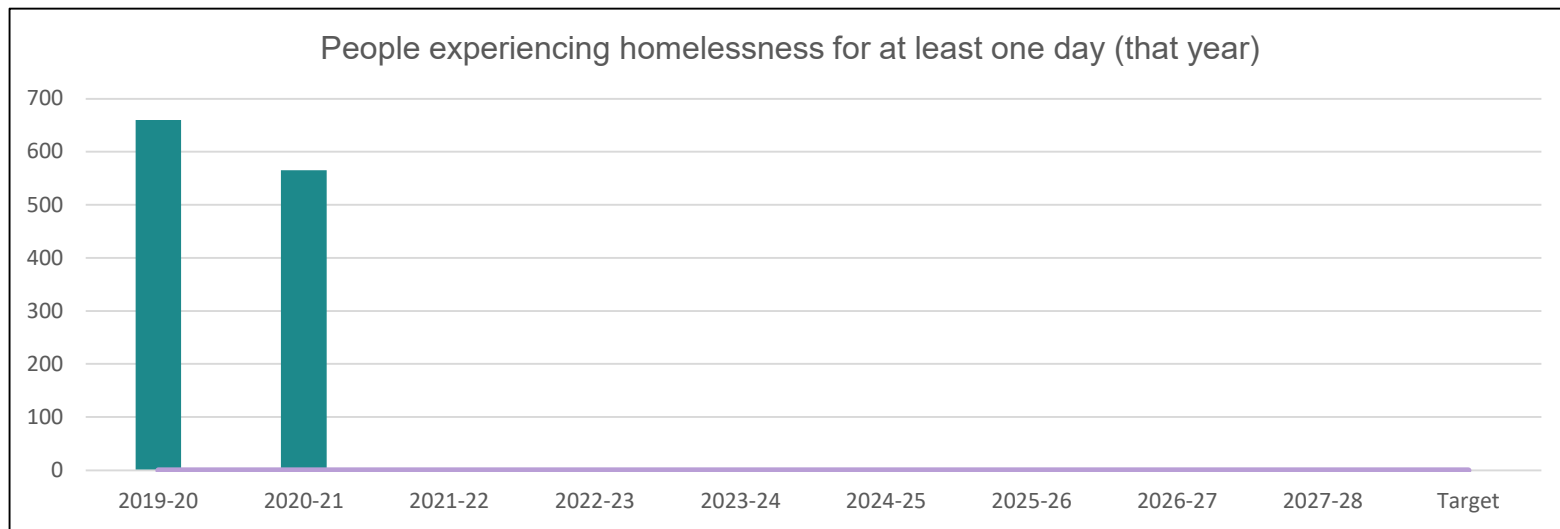
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	Public Institutions	Transitional Housing	Permanent Housing	Unknown	Total
New to homelessness	13	0	226	38	277
Returned to homelessness	not available	not available	not available	not available	0
Total	13	0	226	38	277

COMMUNITY-LEVEL RESULTS OUTCOMES - CORE OUTCOMES

Outcome # 1: Fewer people experience homelessness overall (homelessness is reduced overall)

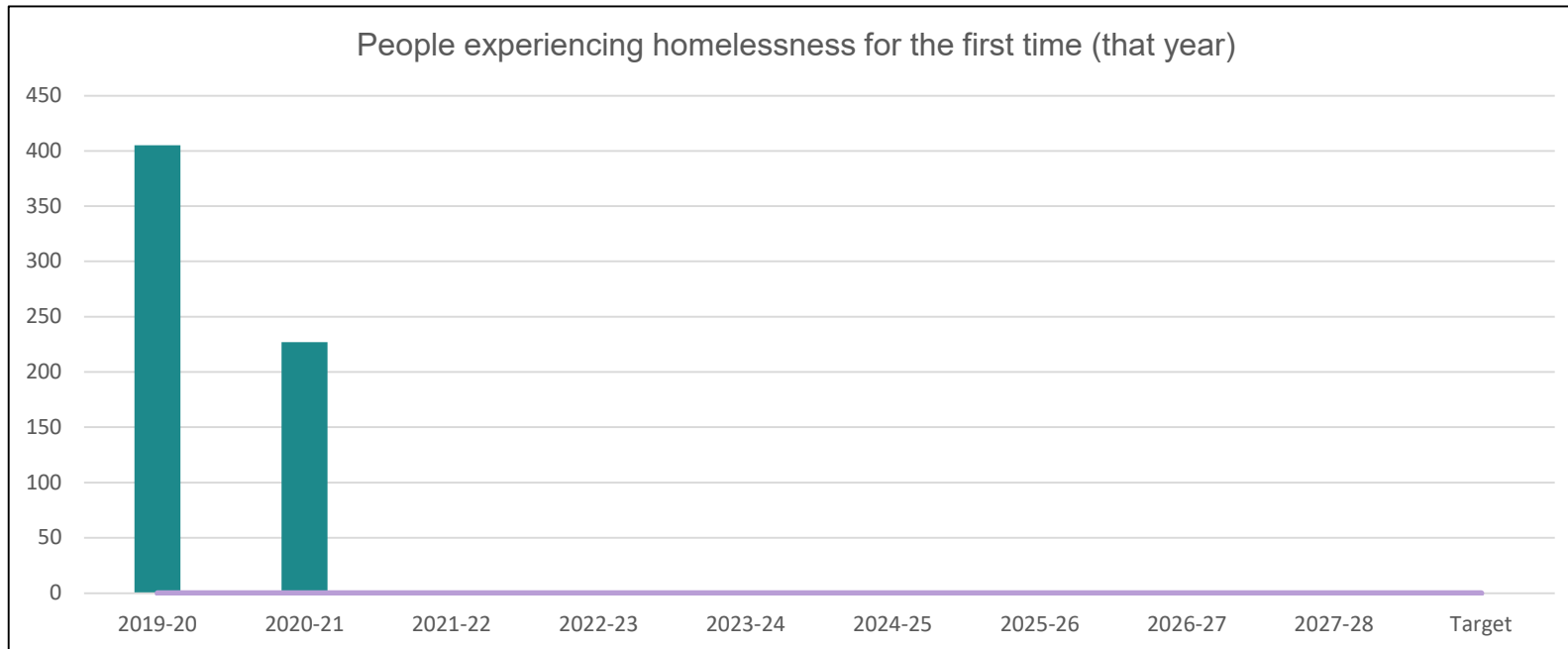
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
People experiencing homelessness for at least one day (that year)	660	565	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0



Please insert comment here

Outcome #2: Fewer people experience homelessness for the first time (new inflows into homelessness are reduced)

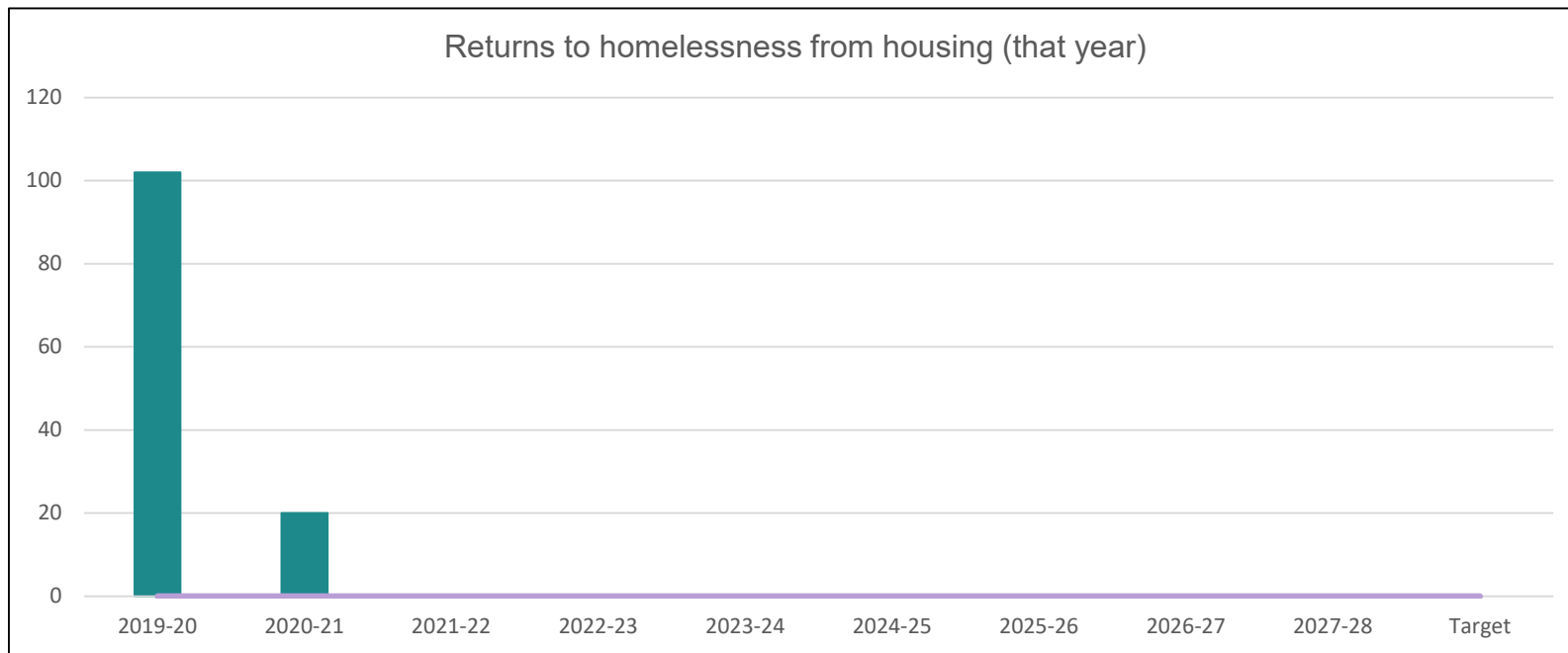
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
People experiencing homelessness for the first time (that year)	405	227	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0



Please insert comment here

Outcome #3: Fewer people return to homelessness from housing (returns to homelessness are reduced)

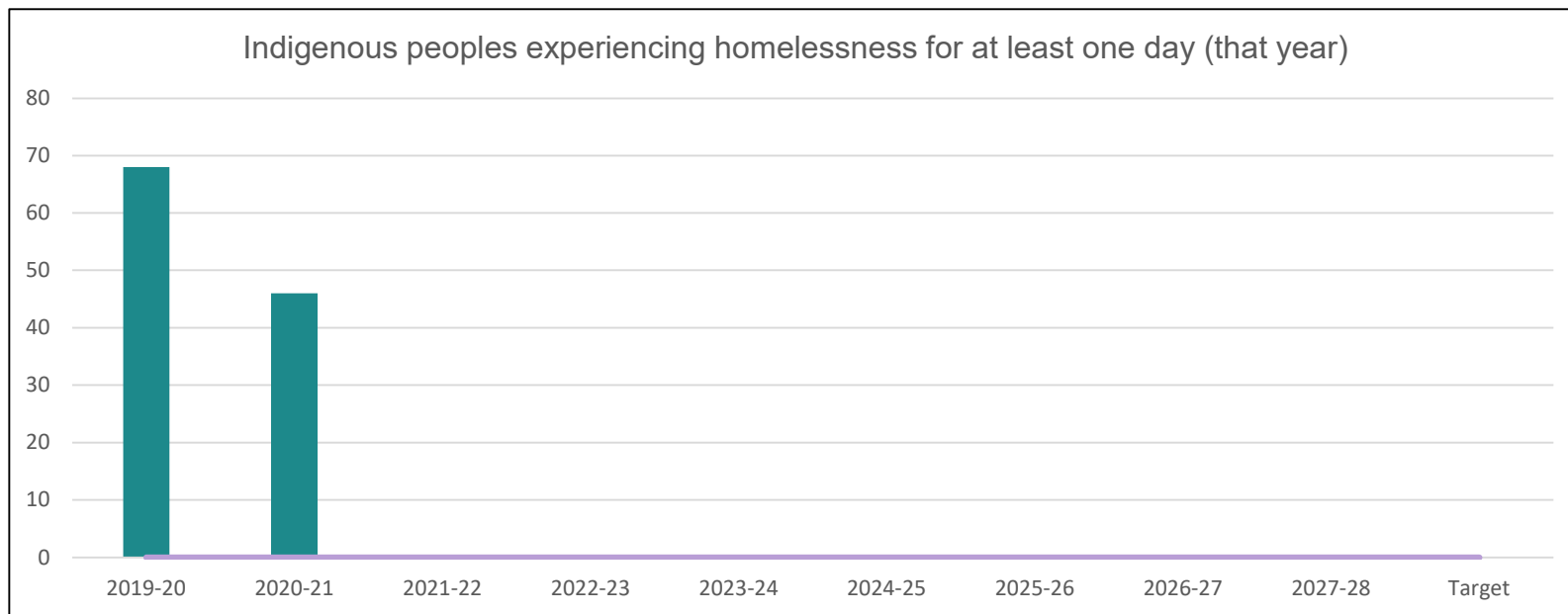
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
Returns to homelessness from housing (that year)	102	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0



Please insert comment here

Outcome #4: Fewer Indigenous peoples experience homelessness (Indigenous homelessness is reduced)

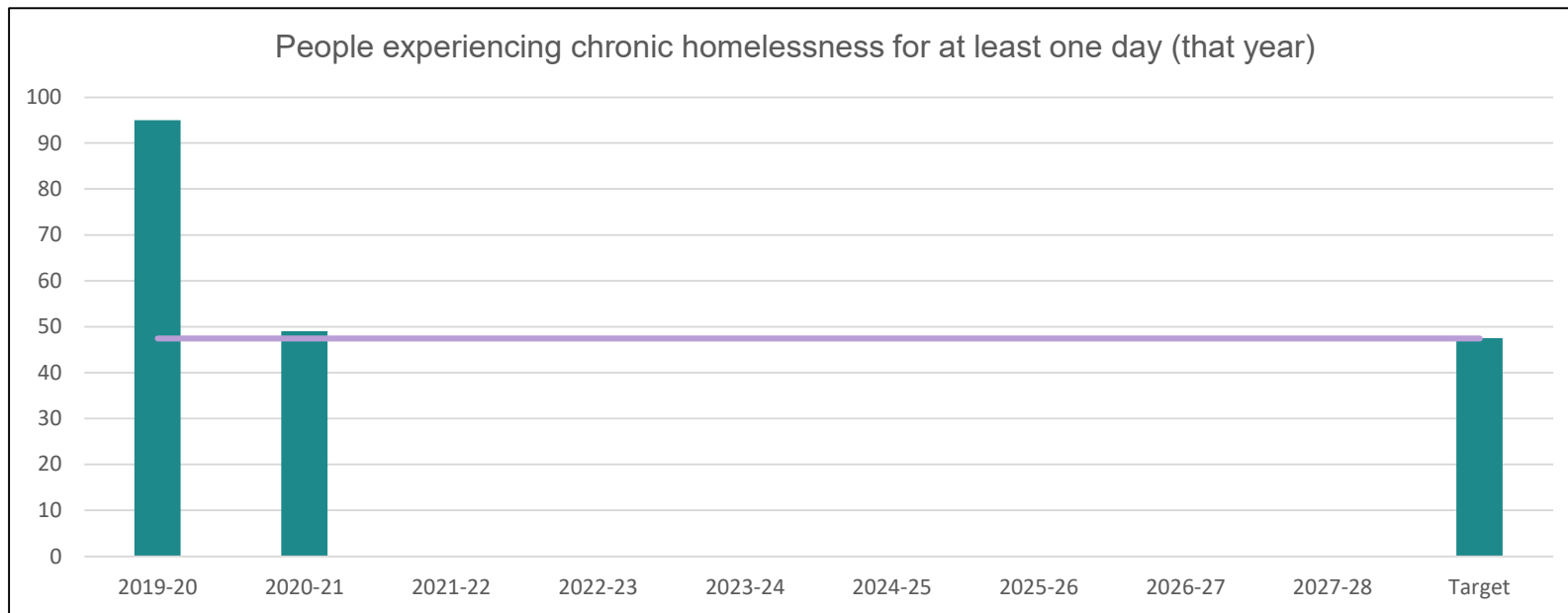
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness for at least one day (that year)	68	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0



*Note this only includes new to homelessness.

Outcome #5: Fewer people experience chronic homelessness (chronic homelessness is reduced)

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
People experiencing chronic homelessness for at least one day (that year)	95	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47.5



Please insert comment here