

# Snapshot 2021

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021

Perth County

VAW = Violence Against Women  
DV = Domestic Violence, SV = Sexual Violence  
PAR = Partner Assault Response

Perth County population = 81,565

(2021 Census, Statistics Canada)



## POLICING & JUSTICE



- 940 Police DV Calls (SPS, OPP, VS)
- 168 Police DV Charges (SPS, OPP)
- 83 Police reported SV (SPS, OPP)
- 41 PAR Completions (FSPH)
- 3 Victim Services reported Human Trafficking

## CRISIS & HELPLINE



- 2286 Women's Shelter Crisis/Helpline Calls (OP, EMC)
- 3000 Youth Shelter Crisis Support (SL)
- 353 Mental Health VAW Related Calls (FSPH, CO)
- 283 Victim Services Crisis Calls

## CHILDREN & YOUTH



- 81% Families using Supervised Access Program (SAP) services due to DV
- 293 Child protection cases with exposure to DV
- 914 CAS Investigations opened
- 100 Children in CAS care
- 150 Youth supported by Shelterlink
- 156 Children who received counselling at EMC

## SAFETY & SUPPORTS



- 135 Women and children in shelter
- 234 Women and children using second stage
- 600 Reports of DV/SV to VAW services (EMC, VS)
- 825 Sexual Assault Treatment Program visits
- 11317 SATP Crisis Program Visits
- 227 VAW/DV Counselling (EMC, FSPH)
- 1071 Accessed substance abuse counselling services (CFC)
- 110 Accessed counselling services for family member substance abuse (CFC)

## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



- EMC stats:
- 62 Waitlist for second stage housing
  - 301 Women accessing homeless/precariously housed supports
- City of Stratford stats:
- 70 Women-led households were experiencing homelessness as of December 31, 2021
  - 91% Women led households experiencing homelessness identified as a DV survivor (Percentage based on 53 of the 70 households. Data unavailable for the remaining 17)
  - 25 Applicants on the centralized waiting list for RGI housing with special priority status to flee abuse

## SERVICE GAPS & BARRIERS



- Lack of shelter space
  - 258 women had to be turned away from emergency shelter - a 116% increase from the previous year.
  - There were on average 46 families on the waitlist for second stage, which went up to 62 in Dec 2021.
- A sexual assault centre does not exist in Perth County, which would support existing services.
- Victims of sexual assault must leave Perth County to obtain a rape kit.
- A safe injection site does not exist in Perth County, which would support existing services.
- Lack of cross-county support and system navigation.
- Service disruption of agencies pulled focus from VAW to pandemic issues.
- Overall increase in referrals, but there wasn't an increase of service capacity due to limited funding.
- Many people, especially vulnerable populations, continue to struggle with finding housing that they can afford and that meets their needs.

## ADVANCEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Development of a local Domestic Violence Training Video, led by the Survivor Advisory Group, to inform front-line services, and provide public awareness of the effects of intimate partner violence and how individuals can approach and address survivors of violence in their work and lives.
  - Agencies were able to shift to support clients virtually throughout the pandemic and continue to offer online options for support.
  - While virtual support can have risks, it has lessened some of the barriers to getting services in a rural community.
  - OP collaborates with local homelessness services and motels to keep women sheltered in their home communities where they are closer to natural supports and eligible for social services.
  - Local municipalities and community organizations acknowledged the lack of affordable housing and actively looked at ways to create a broad range of housing options that meets the needs of all residents.
  - 56 women-led households experiencing homelessness found permanent housing.
  - 13 households with Special Provincial Priority (SPP) status moved into Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) housing.
- (By-Name-List, City of Stratford Social Services)  
(Centralized Waiting List for RGI Assistance, City of Stratford Social Services)

## STOP VAW MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

**\*= Stop VAW Member**    **\* = Contributed to this 2021 snapshot**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ** Choices for Change (CFC)                           | ** Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)                    |
| ** City of Stratford Social Services Department       | ** Optimism Place (OP)                                |
| * ConnexOntario (CO)                                  | * Probation & Parole (PP)                             |
| * Crown Attorney's Office                             | ** Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC)                |
| ** The Emily Murphy Centre (EMC)                      | ** Sexual Abuse Treatment Program (SATP)              |
| ** Family Services Perth-Huron (FSPH)                 | ** Stratford/Perth Shelterlink (SL)                   |
| * Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board          | ** Stratford Police Service (SPS)                     |
| ** Huron Perth Children's Aid Society (CAS)           | ** Supervised Access Visitation and Exchange HP (SAP) |
| * Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA)              | * United Way Perth-Huron                              |
| * Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH)                    | ** Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth (VS)              |
| * Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services | * Victim Witness Assistance Program Stratford (VWAP)  |