

Snapshot 2022

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

Perth County



Perth County population = 81,565

(2021 Census, Statistics Canada)

POLICING & JUSTICE



- 564 Police DV calls (SPS)
- 1064 Police reported DV/IPV (SPS, OPP, VS)
- 218 Police DV Charges (OPP, SPS)
- 40 Dual Charges (OPP, SPS)
- 220 Reports of SV (OPP, VS, SPS)
- 120 Police SV Charges (OPP, VS)
- 75 Number of average DV clients supervised monthly by Probation & Parole
- 37 Partner Assault Response Program Starts (JHS) (Apr-Dec)

CRISIS & HELPLINE



- 2077 Women's Shelter Crisis/Helpline Calls (OP)
- 326 Mental Health VAW Related Calls (FSPH)
- 258 Youth Shelter Crisis Support (SL)
- 311 Victim Services Crisis Calls

CHILDREN & YOUTH



- 78% Families using Supervised Access Program (SAP) services due to DV
- 293 Child protection cases with exposure to DV
- 270 CAS Investigations opened with exposure to DV
- 243 Ongoing CAS cases open as of Dec 31, 2022
- 17 Homeless youth stayed at the Shelterlink Shelter
- 158 Children who received counselling (OP)

SAFETY & SUPPORTS



- 100 Women and children in emergency VAW shelter
- 234 Women and children using second stage housing
- 466 Reports of DV/SV to second stage services
- 962 Women who received VAW/DV Counselling (OP, SATP, EM, FSPH, CFC)
- 1071 Accessed substance abuse counselling services (CFC)
- 110 Accessed counselling services for family member substance abuse (CFC)

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



- 62 Waitlist for second stage housing
- 841 Women experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of homelessness due to DV accessing supports (EMC, OP, CFC)

City of Stratford stats:

- 50 Women-led households were experiencing homelessness as of December 31, 2022
- 93% Women led households experiencing homelessness identified as a DV survivor
- 22 Applicants on the centralized waiting list for RGI housing with special priority status to flee abuse

VAW = Violence Against Women
GBV = Gender Based Violence
DV = Domestic Violence, SV = Sexual Violence

SERVICE GAPS & BARRIERS



- Due to lack of shelter space, 335 women were unable to stay in emergency shelter. Women are still supported to find alternative emergency shelter including referrals to another County.
- 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 consumption site does not exist in Perth County, which would support existing services.
- There has been an increase in acuity and complexity of cases across the board.
- Funding is static and does not increase with increased client demand. There are waitlists to service due to insufficient funding.
- Many people, especially vulnerable populations, continue to struggle with finding housing that they can afford and that meets their needs.

ADVANCEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- OP broke ground on an addition to their existing shelter that will add an additional 15 emergency shelter beds for women and children in Perth County.
- StopVAW members started working with GBV agencies in Perth and Huron to pilot a collaborative approach to Sexual Violence Services that builds on promising practices developed by Sexual Assault Centres to be adapted and delivered by multiple providers across a rural region.
- 85% of VAW shelter clients are given information for referrals to other related supports.
- Sexual Assault Treatment Program expanded to support men who have experienced sexual violence.
- 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.
- Development and release of a Perth County Domestic Violence Training Video, led by the Survivor Advisory Group, to inform local 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.
- While virtual support can have risks, in many cases it has reduced barriers to services in a rural community, and provided additional options for access, including access to testify remotely in supportive spaces.
- 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.
- 8 individuals with Special Provincial Priority (SPP) status moved into Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) housing.

STOP VAW MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

**** = Stop VAW Member** *** = Contributed to this 2022 snapshot**

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|---|---|
| ** Choices for Change (CFC) (Amalgamated with CMHA in 2023) | ** 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 |
| ** John Howard Society of London and District (JHS) | ** Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth (VS) |
| * Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services | * Victim Witness Assistance Program Stratford (VWAP) |