

# #HHChat July 8th, 2014

For this tweet chat we were joined by Dr. Alina Turner who spoke of her latest research findings from the Housing First in Rural Canada report. The study examined rural homelessness dynamics in 22 communities spanning Canada's provinces and territories.

---



Homeless Hub

@homelesshub

Welcome everyone to today's tweet chat! Let us know if you're joining us and make sure to use [#HHChat](#) for today's conversation.

2 MONTHS AGO



Homeless Hub

@homelesshub

We are joined by Dr. [@AlinaITurner](#), a research and strategy consultant supporting social change in the human services. [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



Homeless Hub

@homelesshub

Dr. Jeannette Waagemakers Schiff (JWS) & [@AlinAlinaITurnere](#) just completed a study on [#HousHousingFirst](#) rural Canada.

[#HFRuHFRuralChHHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



Tanya GulliverGarcia

@TanyaMGulliver

Dr [@AlinaITurner](#) can you tell us a little bit about yourself? [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@TanyaMGulliver](#) I'm research & strategy consultant supporting social change in the human services #HHChHHChat

2 MONTHS AGO

A bit of clarification about what rural homelessness means.



**Miranda Gray**  
@mirgray2

Q. Will someone describe rural homelessness at start or did I miss "homework" prereading? #hhchat

2 MONTHS AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

According to the report being released tomorrow rural #homelessness is ppl living outside towns that are under 25000 @mirgray2 #HHChat

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@mirgray2](#) #hhchat includes sleeping rough, shelter, also hidden homeless in small comm - under 25K pop

2 MONTHS AGO

We delved straight in by asking why rural homelessness is an important research area:



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

Q1: Why does rural homelessness need to be looked at distinctly from urban homelessness? [@AlinaITurner](#) #HHChat

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinalTurner

[@homelesshub](#) [#hhchat](#) A1: each community has distinct dynamics/resources  
- can't make sweeping assumptions; approaches need to b tailored

2 MONTHS AGO

We received some great questions from our participants on the findings of the study:



**Olga O**  
@Olgatronics

[#hhchat](#) Q: which communities in Canada are most affected by homelessness?

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinalTurner

[@Olgatronics](#) [#hhchat](#) out of the 20 across Canada we studied, all reported  
some level of [#homelessness](#); but close asoc w/ econ boom

2 MONTHS AGO



**Miranda Gray**  
@mirgray2

Is rural homelessness generally seasonal? Families or individuals? [#hhchat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinalTurner

[@mirgray2](#) [#hhchat](#) seasonal dynamics are a factor: more sleeping rough in  
warmer weather but - year-round phenomenon

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinalTurner

[@mirgray2](#) [#hhchat](#) impacts many low income families - likely to be couch surfing; there are chronic homeless individuals reported 2

2 MONTHS AGO



**Miranda Gray**  
@mirgray2

Do we have stats on deaths due to rural homelessness? [#hhchat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinalTurner

[@mirgray2](#) [#hhchat](#) unfortunately no; in fact, most communities had no formalized homeless counts to track trends

2 MONTHS AGO



**Miranda Gray**  
@mirgray2

Did you find those living in their car choosing rural settings or migrating out? [#hhchat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinalTurner

[@mirgray2](#) [#hhchat](#) migration within rural regions seeking hsg, emp, services is common - not just into big cities

2 MONTHS AGO



**Miranda Gray**

@mirgray2

[#hhchat](#) Did any of the communities you studied have workers dedicated to rural homelessness?

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**

@AlinaTurner

[@mirgray2](#) [#hhchat](#) rural staff do double-duty: often, not enuf resources to dedicate to homelessness; but some innovative programs happening

2 MONTHS AGO



**Miranda Gray**

@mirgray2

[#hhchat](#) could you describe one of the innovative approaches you mentioned?

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**

@AlinaTurner

[@homelesshub](#) [@mirgray2](#) BC community repurposed outreach worker as landlord liaison & secured donations for rent supp

2 MONTHS AGO



**Cheryl Wituik**

@CWChapter2

[.@homelesshub](#) [@AlinaITurner](#) Did study use gender-specific lens? domestic violence/trauma, mental health, safety, hidden homelessness [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@CWChapter2](#) [@homelesshub](#) [#hhchat](#) domestic violence emerged as key driver for women and youth

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@mirgray2](#) [#hhchat](#) migration within rural regions seeking hsg, emp, services is common - not just into big cities

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@CWChapter2](#) [@homelesshub](#) [#hhchat](#) mental health/addictions emerged as driver of hsg instability for small sub-pop of rural homeless

2 MONTHS AGO

Dr. Alina Turner and Dr. Jeannette Waegemakers Schiff's study found that Aboriginal Peoples were overrepresented in the rural homeless population:



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

Q2: Can you share with us some key findings from the [#HFRural](#) report, that you will be releasing tomorrow? [@AlinaTurner](#) [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@homelesshub](#) [#HRrural](#) [#hhchat](#) A2: Overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in rural homeless population

2 MONTHS AGO



**FACLC**  
@FACLC

Not counting reserves? RT [@AlinaTurner](#) Overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in rural homeless population

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@FACLC](#) exactly: but proximity of Aboriginal communities increased migration & overrep. in rural homeless pop #HHChHHChat

2 MONTHS AGO

Alina and Jeannette's research found that rural communities have different challenges when it comes to implementing Housing First:



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

Since rural communities don't always have the service infrastructure. Are [#housingfirst](#) supports still possible? #HHchat [@AlinaTurner](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@TanyaMGulliver](#) [@HousingFirst](#) innovative adaptation happening in rural Canada - but have diff challenges #HHChat

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[:@TanyaMGulliver](#) [#hhchat](#) A1: It's not abt whether Hsf 1st can work in rural Canada: but how

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

@TanyaMGulliver #HHchat to overcome lack of hsg, clinical staff - some rural comm implement regionalized approach to #housingfirst

2 MONTHS AGO



**Cheryl Wituik**  
@CWChapter2

Exactly....@AlinaITurner @TanyaMGulliver #HousingFirst is key in rural and urban setting. Important though to customize for success #HHChat

2 MONTHS AGO

Unique considerations need to be made for rural communities:



**Cheryl Wituik**  
@CWChapter2

Educating/engaging community stakeholders (ie landlords) key to beginning to explore #housingfirst possibilities? @AlinaITurner #HHChat

2 MONTHS AGO



**Miranda Gray**  
@mirgray2

@CWChapter2 I wonder if there is even much rental stock in smaller communities. #hhchat

2 MONTHS AGO



**Cheryl Wituik**  
@CWChapter2

@mirgray2 @AlinaITurner Every community is different, but starting with what you have, addressing attitudes/beliefs/stereotypes.. #HHChat

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@CWChapter2](#) [@mirgray2](#) [#hhchat](#) rural communities can absolutely lead the way in ending homelessness

2 MONTHS AGO



**Cheryl Wituik**  
@CWChapter2

[@mirgray2](#) [@AlinaTurner](#) ...is the start of greater dialogue, more people on board, idea generation and development. [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@CWChapter2](#) [@mirgray2](#) That's exactly what Alberta is doing via [@ARDNdeeann](#) [@ACCFRCR](#) [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@mirgray2](#) [@CWChapter2](#) In some communities, no formal rental stock exists to begin with; fluctuations in economy tough 2 absorb [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Matt Thomson**  
@MThomsonConsult

[@AlinaTurner](#) [@CWChapter2](#) [@mirgray2](#) resources are often stretched thin in rural communities-what's cost effective as an approach?

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@MThomsonConsult](#) [@CWChapter2](#) [@mirgray2](#) [#hhchat](#) innovative repurposing of existing services & working across a region to leverage [#hhchhchat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@MThomsonConsult](#) [@CWChapter2](#) [@mirgray2](#) deliver [#housingfirst](#) using outreach across diff comm - Vermont ACT is example in US [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO

Sean French wondered whether the small town feel of rural communities might help to implement the Housing First method:



**Sean French**  
@SeanFrench1

[@AlinaITurner](#) [@TanyaMGulliver](#) A1: thinking that rural housing availability and smaller town feel might help w Hsg 1st?

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@SeanFrench1](#) [@TanyaMGulliver](#) to an extent: ltd. # of landlords, can b harder to get buy-in; small town may 'deny' issue

2 MONTHS AGO

What about on-reserve homelessness in rural regions?



**Elliott Young**  
@youngell7

[@homelesshub](#) [@AlinaTurner](#) Does rural homelessness include on-reserve?  
There are many multi family homes and hidden homeless people.

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@youngell7](#) [@homelesshub](#) it includes on and off reserve; migration is  
common to seek services/opps in nearby rural comm [#hhchat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Elliott Young**  
@youngell7

[@AlinaITurner](#) [@homelesshub](#) What was one of the major  
obstacles/issues/factors that contributed to homelessness on reserves?  
[#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@youngell7](#) [@homelesshub](#) jurisdictional juggling: need leadership across the  
board [#hhchat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO

Alina Turner also addressed a question on data collection and best practices:



**ATEH Ottawa**  
@ATEH\_OTT

[@AlinaITurner](#) [@homelesshub](#) Telling the rural homelessness story can be  
tough; any best practices re data collection to point to? [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@ATEH\\_OTT](#) [@homelesshub](#) ultimately, need national standards on homeless counts across communities - US and EU have this in place [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

[.@ATEH\\_OTT](#) Using an information management system like HIFIS is also a key component of data collection. [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO

National standards on homeless counts need to be established. Migration is another consideration worth mentioning:



**PAN CBR**  
@PAN\_CBR

[@AlinaITurner](#) [@homelesshub](#) Finding in BC rural/urban migration is a big issue, populations move around a lot. Did you find the same? [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

[@PAN\\_CBR](#) [@homelesshub](#) absolutely: also that migration is back/forth & not ltd into big city; also into regional rural hubs Hhhchat

2 MONTHS AGO

Overall, it was a successful chat and we touched on some really important topics.



**Stephen Gaetz**  
@SteveGaetz

Fantastic TweetChat on rural homelessness with [@AlinaITurner](#), Superstar!!!!  
For the deets, follow the hashtag [#HHChat](#)

2 MONTHS AGO



**Alina Turner**  
@AlinaTurner

@TanyaMGulliver @homelesshub thanks for grt tweetchat & questions! Look forward to webinar 2morrow #HHChHHChat

2 MONTHS AGO



**Cheryl Wituik**  
@CWChapter2

Thanks for hosting @AlinaITurner @homelesshub I'm looking forward to webinar tomorrow to examine study in more detail. #HHChat #homelessness

2 MONTHS AGO



**Miranda Gray**  
@mirgray2

#HHChat Thank you to @homelesshub for arranging for @alinalturner to talk to us. Thanks to all asking such great Qs.

2 MONTHS AGO



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

Hear more from @AlinaITurner at tomorrow's free webinar at 1PM (ET). Register: [bit.ly/1ihoOo3](https://bit.ly/1ihoOo3) #HHChat

2 MONTHS AGO

You can also view the recording from the webinar that followed this Tweet Chat below:

Housing First in Rural Canada: Rural Homelessness & Housing First Feasibility Across 22 Canadian Communities

[THE HOMELESS HUB](#) · 2 MONTHS AGO

The full Housing First in Rural Canada report by Jeannette Waegemakers Schiff and Alina Turner can be downloaded below:

## **Housing First in Rural Canada: Rural Homelessness & Housing First Feasibility Across 22 Canadian Communities**

Housing First in Rural Canada: Rural Homelessness & Housing First Feasibility Across 22 Canadian Communities This study examined rural homelessness dynamics in 22 communities spanning Canada's provinces and territories. The main aim of the research was to develop a preliminary understanding of the scope of rural homelessness from a comparative lens and identify whether and how Housing First as an approach and program type can be implemented in a rural context.



Our next chat will be in August. All of the details can be found at [homelesshub.ca/HHChat](https://homelesshub.ca/HHChat)

## **Homeless Hub's Monthly Tweet Chat #HHChat**

What is a tweet chat? A tweet chat is a scheduled conversation on Twitter that is linked by a specific hashtag. A hashtag is a combination of words/numbers that follow the '#' symbol and are used to link information together. It allows for conversations to be easily tracked.

