COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS REPORT SUMMARY

(COMMUNITY NAME: York Region)

2021-2022

Collaboration between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Partners	
Specific to the implementation of Coordinated Access and an HMIS, has there been collaboration between the Designated Community (DC) Community Entity (CE) and local Indigenous organizations?	Yes
Describe how this collaboration was done and how it affected the implementation of Coordinated Access and/or the HMIS. How will it be strengthened in the future?	

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, United Way Greater Toronto began consultations with Indigenous led organizations including Na-Me-Res, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services, Anishnawbe Health Toronto and Native Canadian Centre.The York Region Homelessness Community Advisory Board approved funding to hire a consultant to work with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation to better understand their unique challenges in relation to homelessness and identify relevant culturally appropriate services. Unfortunately this work was put on hold due to the demands of implemeting a range of COVID-19 response programs.

In 2022-23 United Way Greater Toronto will continue to strengthen its collaboration with Indigenous organizations by engaging a consultant to assist in the development of a York Region Homelessness Framework for Indigenous Peoples. United Way Greater Toronto will also partner with the United Way Indigenous Council.

Specific to the implementation of Coordinated Access and an HMIS, has there been collaboration between the DC CE and the Indigenous Homelessness (IH) CE and/or Community Advisory Board (CAB), where applicable?	Not applicable

With respect to the completion of the Community Homelessness Report (CHR), was there collaboration between local Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and, where applicable, the IH CE and/or CAB?	No

Describe the efforts that were taken to collaborate and specific plans to ensure it occurs during next year's CHR process.

The completion of the CHR for 2021-22 was done in collaboration with the Regional Municipality of York — Service System Manager for York Region and coordinator for HIFIS — and organizations that provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness in York Region. United Way Greater Toronto consulted with members of the Homelessness Services Partnership Committee (HSPC), comprised of nine community-based agencies working directly with people impacted by homelessness. Consultations with the HSPC are planned for November 2022 to seek input on outcome targets for 2022-2023.

Due to the ongoing demands of delivering a collaborative pandemic response, United Way Greater Toronto was unable to engage Indigenous community organizations during the preparation of this report. As we engage Indigenous organizations for the York Region Homelessness Framework for Indigenous Peoples, we will seek input from local Indigenous community organizations on the 2022-23 CHR report

Does your community have a separate IH CAB?	No

Coordinated Access and Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) Self-Assessment
Summary Tables
The table below provides a summary of the work your community has done so far to meet the Reaching Home minimum requirements for Coordinated Access and an HMIS.

	Met	Started	Not Yet Started
Number of minimum requirements	5	6	7

The table below shows the percentage of minimum requirements completed for each core Coordinated Access component.

Governance	HMIS	Access Points to Service	Triage and Assessment	Coordinated Access Resource Inventory	Vacancy Matching and Referral
33%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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 include an update about your community's efforts to set-up, sustain and/or improve the Coordinated Access system and use of an HMIS.
During the COVID-19 pandemic, United Way Greater Toronto, The Regional Municipality of York and many community partners had to adapt programs to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among clients and staff. The continued operation of temporary COVID-19 programs, including isolation shelters, required the attention of the housing stability and homelessness sector, which impacted the implementation of a Coordinated Access system in York Region. The development of the Coordinated Access governance structure and relevant policies and protocols is under development in partnership with The Regional Municipality of York, the York Region Homelessness Community Board, and homelessness serving organizations throughout the region. Work is underway to expand access to HIFIS among additional organizations in York Region that work with people experiencing homelessness. For 2022-23, United Way Greater Toronto will engage a consultant to lead the work to continue building a robust, sustainable Coordinated Access system that incorporates the Reaching Home minimum requirements and addresses the core components that are not yet started. The Community Collaborative Table (CCT) — comprised of organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness in York Region — reconvened in July 2022. Using the Region's HMIS (Homlessness Individual and Family Information System - HIFIS), the CCT prioritizes and provides housing referrals for individuals on the By-Name List.

Outcomes-Based Approach Self-Assessment
Where does data for the List come from?	☐ Excel ☑ HIFIS ☐ Other HMIS ☐ Other data source(s) ☐ Not applicable – Do not have a List yet

Optional question: How does data from the List compare to other community-level data sources that are considered reliable? This is an optional follow-up question for communities that have completed the "CHR Community-Level Data Comparisons".

Community did not complete this optional question.

Summary Table

The table below provides a summary of the work your community has done so far to transition to an outcomes-based approach under Reaching Home.

Step 1: Has a List	Step 2: Has a real-time List	Step 3: Has a comprehensive List	Step 4:	
			Can report annual outcome data (mandatory)	Can report monthly outcome data (optional)
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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 transition to an outcomes-based approach under Reaching Home?

The By-Name List is kept up-to-date using HIFIS and by adding manual By-Name List referrals. The Regional Municipality of York has a By-Name List policy that includes procedures for maintenance of the By-Name List (e.g. inactivity policy).
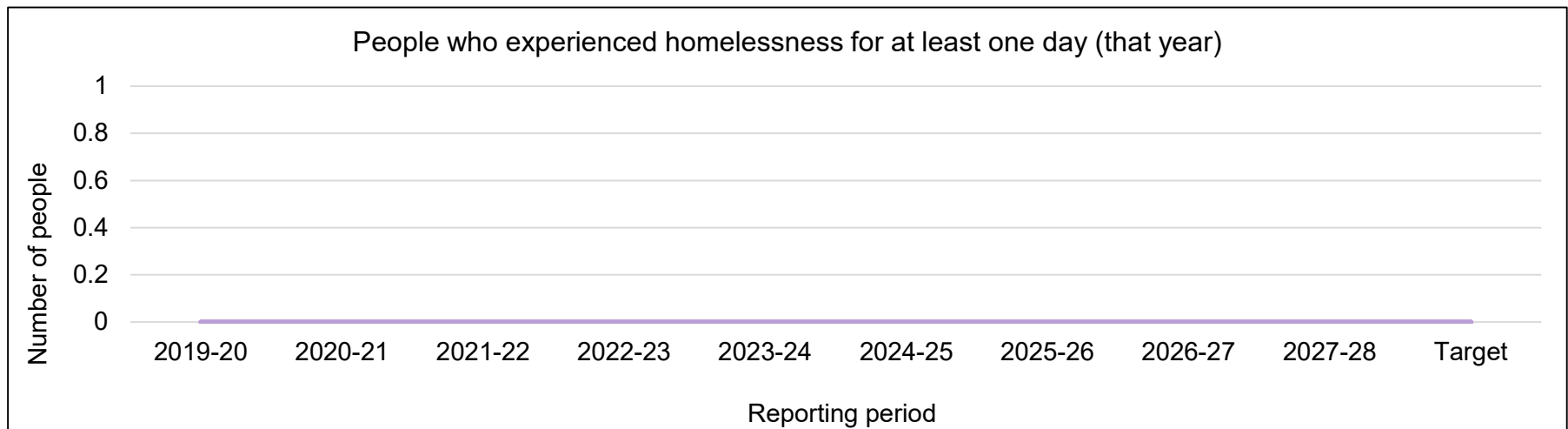
In 2021-22, By-Name List data was used to better understand the demographics and needs of individuals accessing York Region's housing stability and homelessness system. For example, By-Name List data demonstrated a reduction of youth accessing the emergency housing system during COVID-19. It was noted that some youth were hesitant to access the temporary COVID-19 Transitional Shelter to self-isolate before entering emergency housing for a variety of reasons. In response, Reaching Home funding was used to create isolation units at the Richmond Hill Hub (360Kids) and Sutton Youth Services (Salvation Army) to provide youth specific services and ensure that this population is being appropriately served.

The Regional Municipality of York will continue to maintain and improve the By-Name List in 2022-23. This includes working with service providers to ensure HIFIS data is consistently up-to-date and providing ongoing training to service providers who contribute to the By-Name List.

Community-Level Core Outcomes – Annual Data Reporting

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

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
People who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that year)	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

People who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that year)

Number of people (y-axis): 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1

Reporting period (x-axis): 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, Target
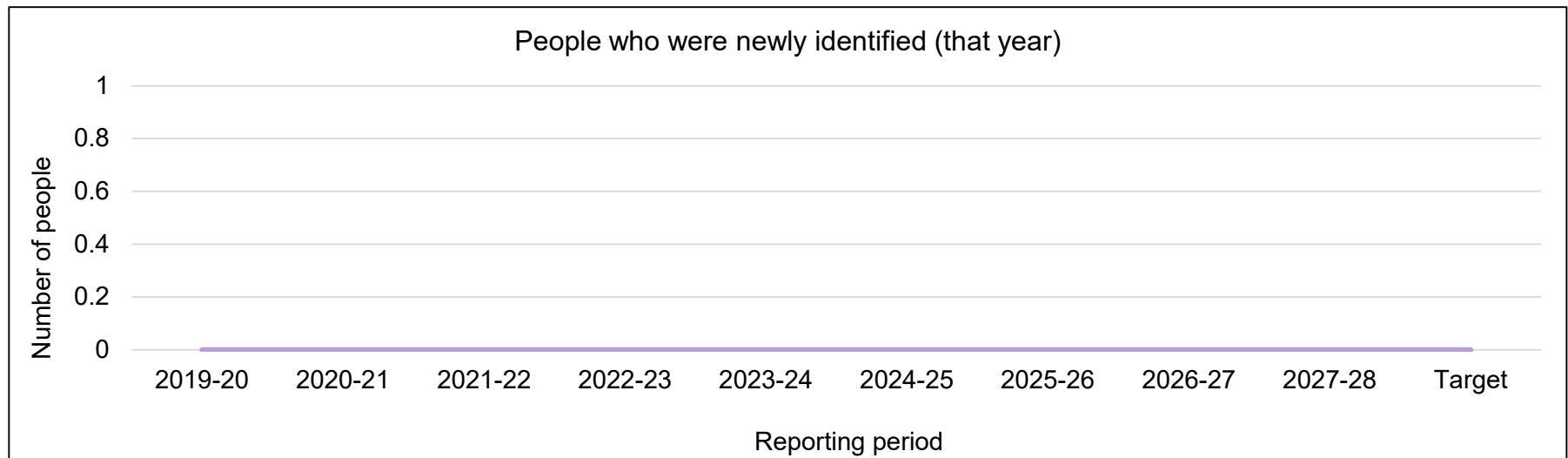
Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #1? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?

We are able to report annual data; however, there was a delay in the release of the HIFIS CHR report where we could pull the annual numbers. Thus, we prepared the monthly report for submission. Going forward it will be challenging to report the annual numbers based on the HIFIS CHR report as it does not include individuals living in transitional housing as homeless. In York Region we count those individuals as experiencing homelessness given the temporary accommodation.

Outcome #2: Fewer people were newly identified (new inflows to homelessness are reduced)

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	**Target**
People who were newly identified (that year)	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

People who were newly identified (that year)

Number of people (y-axis): 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1

Reporting period (x-axis): 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, Target
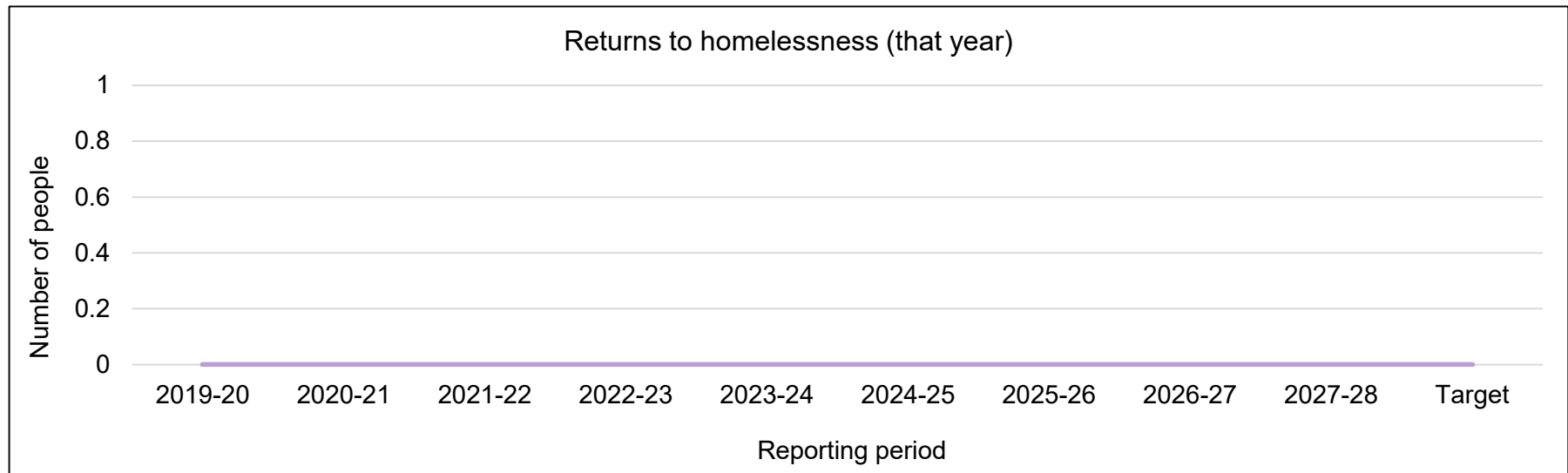
Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #1? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?

We are able to report annual data; however, there was a delay in the release of the HIFIS CHR report where we could pull the annual numbers. Thus, we prepared the monthly report for submission. Going forward it will be challenging to report the annual numbers based on the HIFIS CHR report as it does not include individuals living in transitional housing as homeless. In York Region we count those individuals as experiencing homelessness given the temporary accommodation.

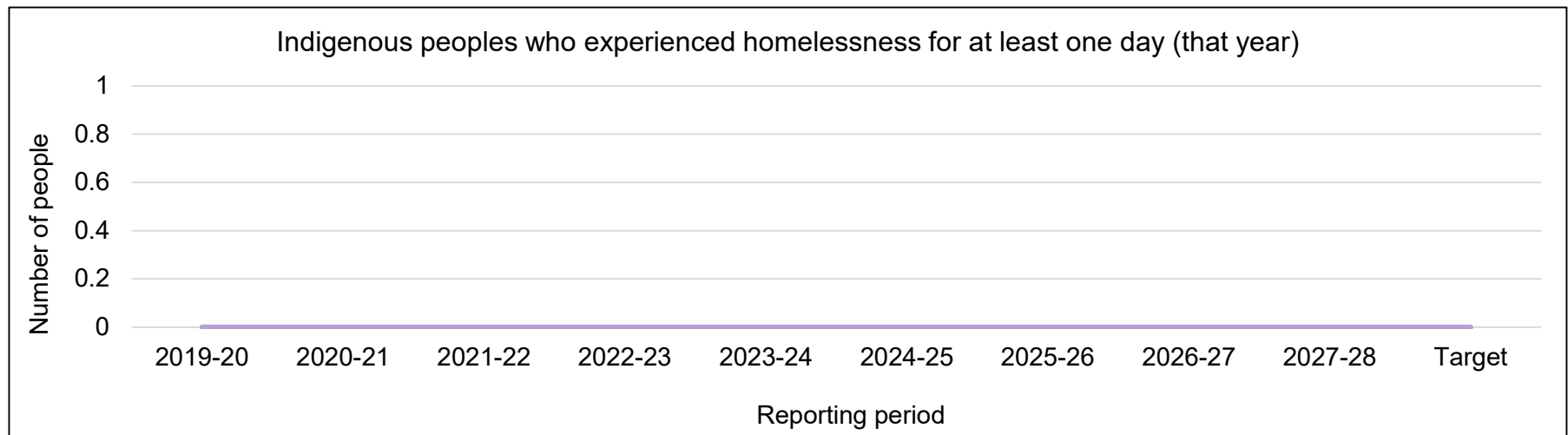| Outcome #3: Fewer people return to homelessness (returns to homelessness are reduced)										
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	**Target**
Returns to homelessness (that year)	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

Returns to homelessness (that year)

Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #3? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?

We are able to report annual data; however, there was a delay in the release of the HIFIS CHR report where we could pull the annual numbers. Thus, we prepared the monthly report for submission. Going forward it will be challenging to report the annual numbers based on the HIFIS CHR report as it does not include individuals living in transitional housing as homeless. In York Region we count those individuals as experiencing homelessness given the temporary accommodation.

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 who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that year)	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

Indigenous peoples who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that year)
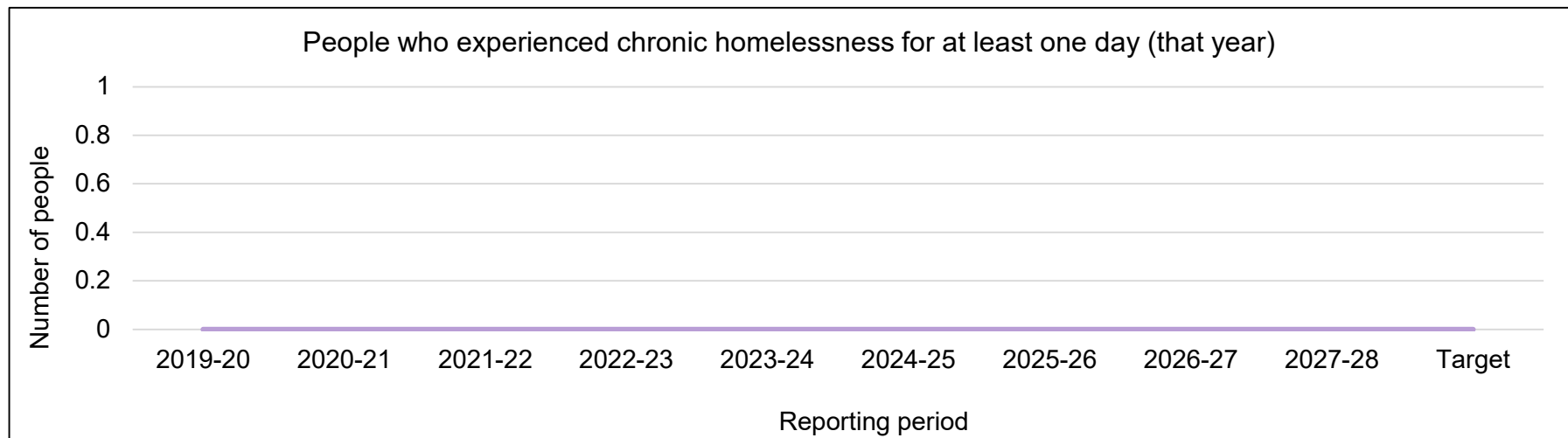

Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #4? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?

We are able to report annual data; however, there was a delay in the release of the HIFIS CHR report where we could pull the annual numbers. Thus, we prepared the monthly report for submission. Going forward it will be challenging to report the annual numbers based on the HIFIS CHR report as it does not include individuals living in transitional housing as homeless. In York Region we count those individuals as experiencing homelessness given the temporary accommodation.

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 who experienced chronic homelessness for at least one day (that year)	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

People who experienced chronic homelessness for at least one day (that year)

Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #5? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?
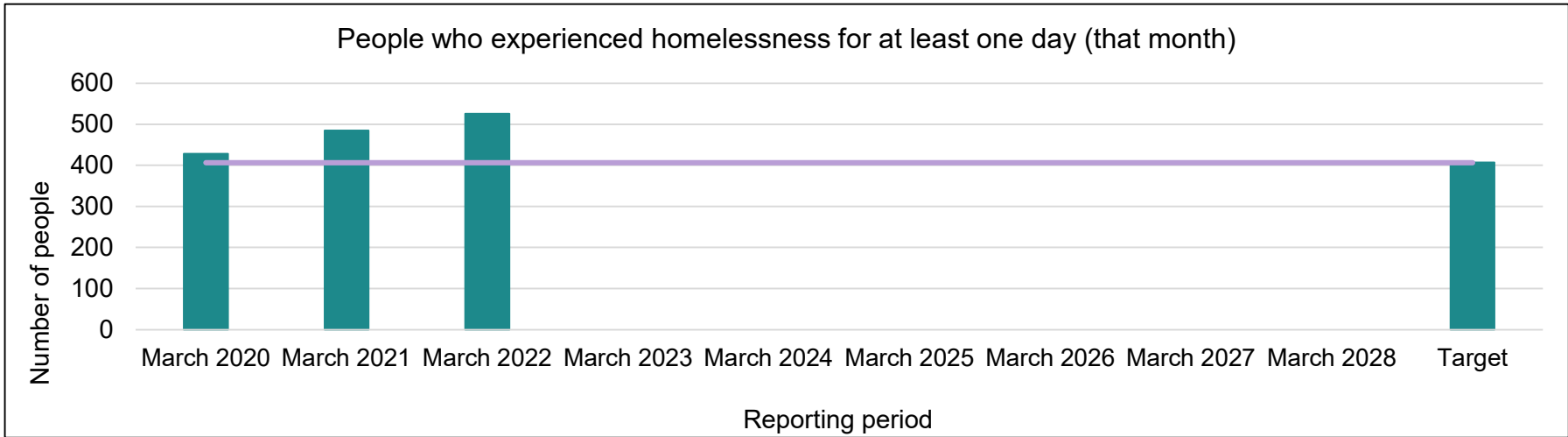
We are able to report annual data; however, there was a delay in the release of the HIFIS CHR report where we could pull the annual numbers. Thus, we prepared the monthly report for submission. Going forward it will be challenging to report the annual numbers based on the HIFIS CHR report as it does not include individuals living in transitional housing as homeless. In York Region we count those individuals as experiencing homelessness given the temporary accommodation.

Community-Level Core Outcomes – Monthly Data Reporting

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

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
People who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that month)	428	485	526	-	-	-	-	-	-	407

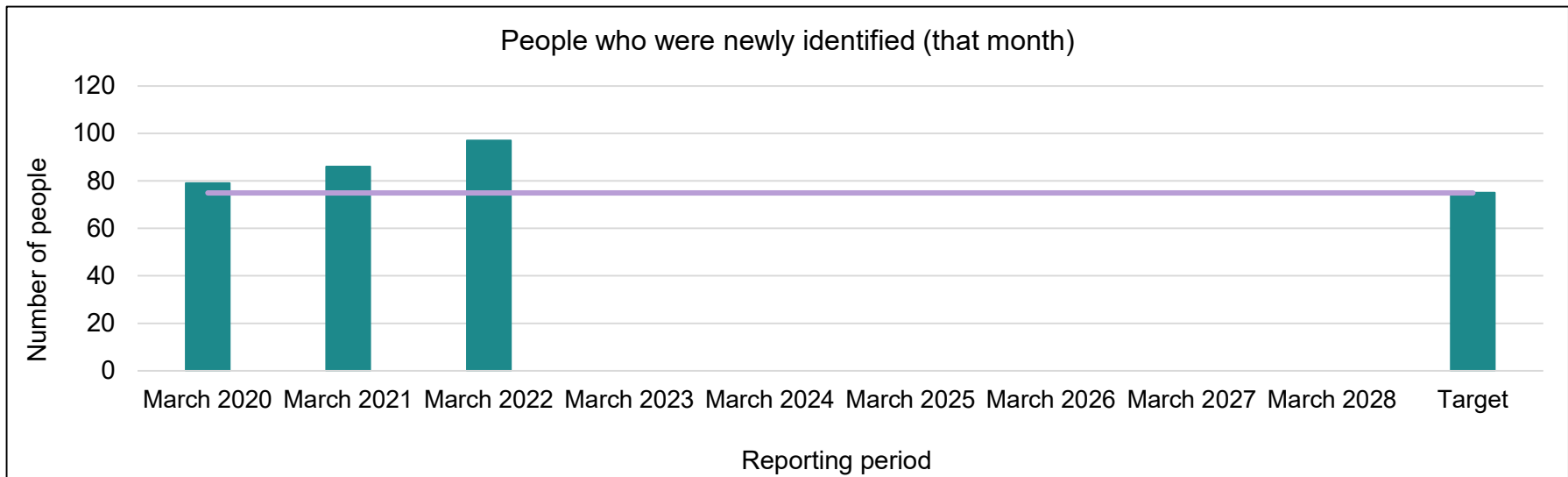People who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that month)

Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #1? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?

The number of people experiencing homelessness in March 2022 increased by 8% compared to March 2021. An increase of 13% was observed in March 2021 compared to March 2020. The increase could be a result of economic hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and extremely limited affordable housing options. Available HIFIS data indicates increased demand for emergency and transitional housing, increased length of stay, and increased duration of homelessness between 2020 and 2021. These trends continued into early 2022.

A 5% reduction in the number of persons experiencing homelessness in a one-month period by 2028 is proposed.

Outcome #2: Fewer people were newly identified (new inflows to homelessness are reduced)

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
People who were newly identified (that month)	79	86	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	75

People who were newly identified (that month)

Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #2? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?
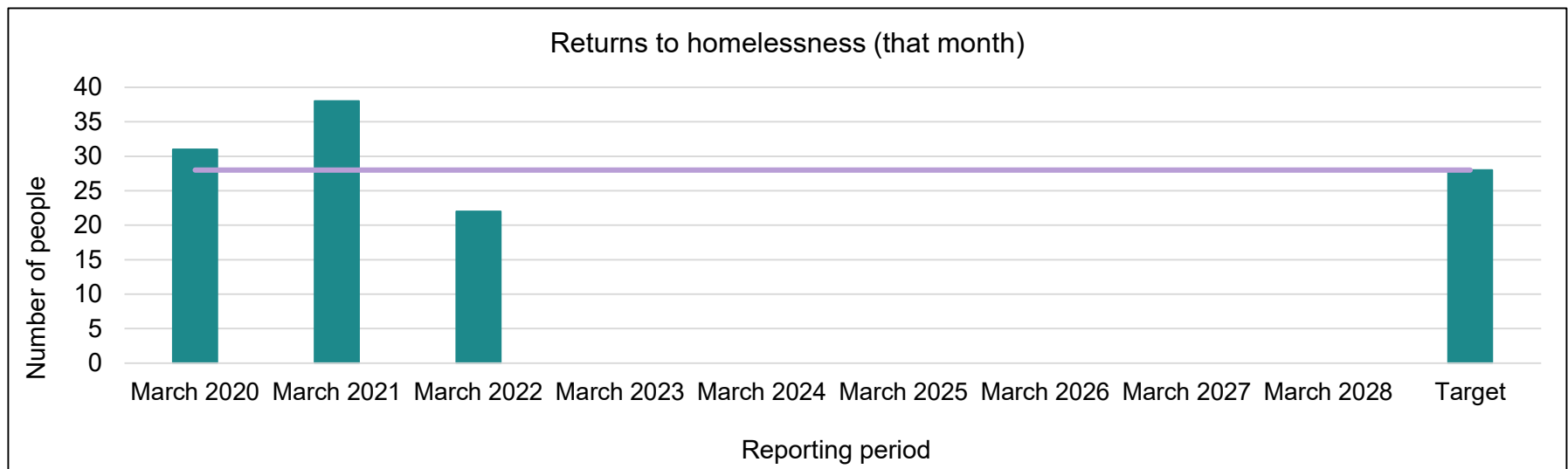
The number of people who were newly identified in March 2022 increased by 13% compared to March 2021. An increase of 9% was observed in March 2021 compared to March 2020. These findings are consistent with increased demand for emergency and transitional housing, increased length of stay and increased duration of homelessness observed between 2020 and 2021. The data demonstrated that these trends continued into early 2022.

A 5% reduction in the number of new persons experiencing homelessness in a one-month period by 2028 is proposed.

Data notes:

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

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
Returns to homelessness (that month)	31	38	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	28

Returns to homelessness (that month)

Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #3? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?

The number of people who returned to homelessness in March 2022 decreased by 42% compared to March 2021. An increase of 23% was observed in March 2021 compared to March 2020. This metric may have been impacted by the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and provincial evictions moratorium along with longer lengths of stay for clients in emergency housing.
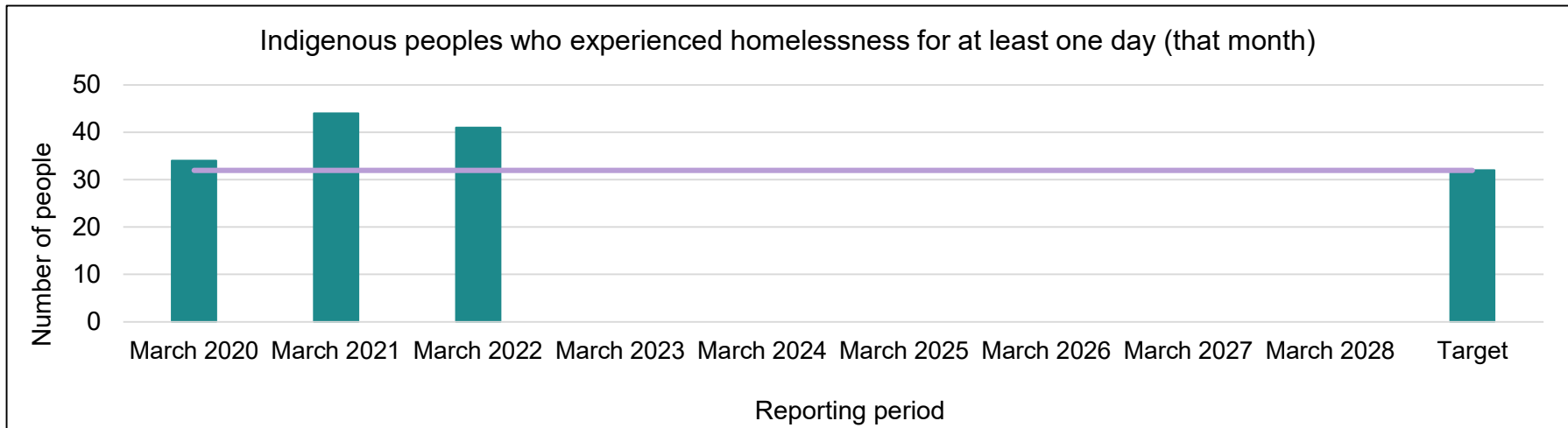
A 10% reduction in the number of persons returning to homelessness in a one-month period by 2028 is proposed.

Data notes:
• This metric was revised from the previous CHR report and was newly computed for all three periods based on CHR report

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

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
Indigenous peoples who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that month)	34	44	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	32

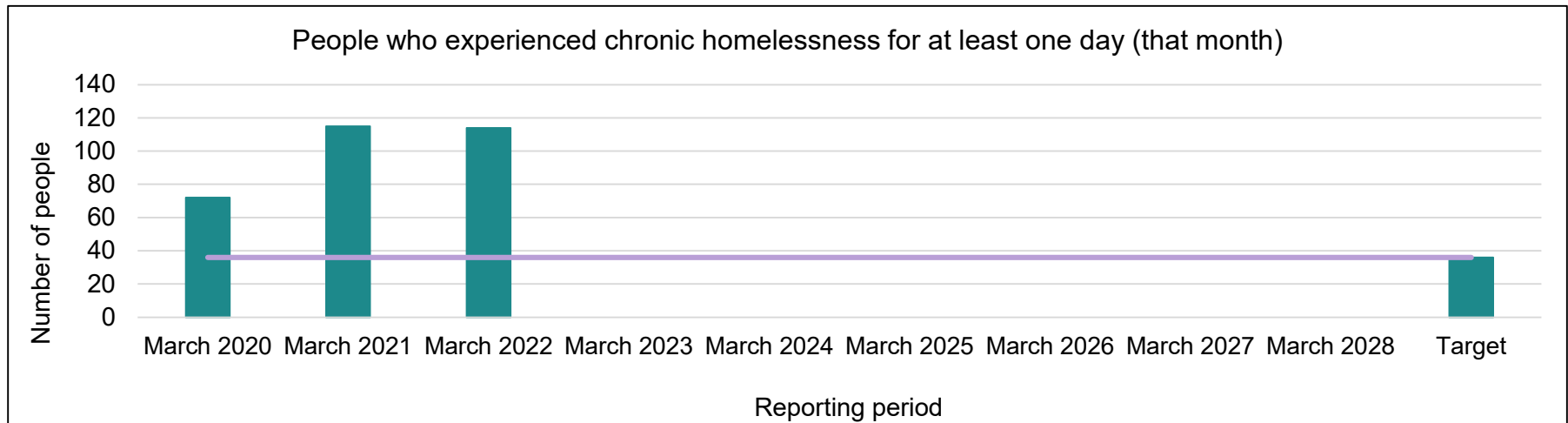Indigenous peoples who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that month)

Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #4? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?

Based on available data, the number of Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness in March 2022 was comparable to March 2021, with only a 7% decrease observed. An increase of 29% was observed in March 2021 compared to March 2020. Factors contributing to chronic homelessness may include financial hardships exacerbated by the economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic and limited affordable housing options. These and other systemic barriers may have contributed to the disproportionate number of Indigenous persons impacted.

A 5% reduction in the number of indigenous persons experiencing homelessness in a one-month period by 2028 is proposed.

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

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
People who experienced chronic homelessness for at least one day (that month)	72	115	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	36

People who experienced chronic homelessness for at least one day (that month)

Have you changed any data as submitted in a previous CHR for Outcome #5? If yes, in the comment below please describe what was changed and why?

Based on available HIFIS data, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness in March 2022 was comparable to March 2021. An increase of 60% was observed in March 2021 compared to March 2020. This could be a result of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the opening of the temporary Transitional Shelter in May 2020 which contributed to the increase of available emergency housing beds in York Region. Factors contributing to chronic homelessness may include financial hardships exacerbated by the economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic and limited affordable housing options.

A 50% reduction in the number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness in a one-month period by 2028 is proposed.