

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS REPORT SUMMARY

York Region

2022-2023

The Community Homelessness Report (CHR) is an annual Reaching Home reporting deliverable that supports communities to prevent and reduce homelessness using a more coordinated, systems-based and data-driven response. The CHR was designed to support local discussions and decision making, using all of the information about homelessness currently available at the community level. Communities are encouraged to use their CHR data to develop clear plans of action that help them to reach their homelessness reduction targets and to leverage the collective efforts of service providers working across the community, regardless of how they are funded.

This is a summary of the CHR for the 2022-23 reporting cycle. It shows the community's self-assessment of Reaching Home implementation, which includes the following key components:

- meaningful collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners (see Section 1);
- community-level governance, coordinated service delivery (Coordinated Access) and use of a Homelessness Management Information System or HMIS (see Section 2); and,
- an outcomes-based approach (tracking community-level outcomes and progress against targets using a Unique identifier or By-Name List, referred to as a List; see Section 3).

If the community was able to report on outcomes and targets, this CHR Summary also includes results for each of the five core outcomes of Reaching Home (see Section 4).

Section 1. Community Context – Collaboration between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Partners

Does your community, as a Designated Community (DC), also receive Reaching Home Indigenous Homelessness (IH) funding?

No – only DC funding is available

Specific to Coordinated Access and the HMIS, has there been ongoing, meaningful collaboration between the DC or Territorial Homelessness (TH) CE and local Indigenous organizations over the reporting period?

Yes

Describe this collaboration in more detail.

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 to identify relevant culturally appropriate services. Unfortunately, this work was put on hold due to the demands of implementing a range of COVID-19 response programs.

In 2022-23, as part of efforts to develop and implement a Coordinated Access System plan for York Region, Indigenous peoples with lived experience and Indigenous organizations were engaged. During engagement sessions, participants provided feedback on access points in the community, triage and assessment tools, matching and referral processes, prioritization processes, and the governance model.

In 2023-24, 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. This will include engagement with United Way's Indigenous Partnership Council.

<p>With respect to the completion of the Community Homelessness Report (CHR), was there ongoing, meaningful collaboration between local Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and, where applicable, the IH CE and/or IH CAB?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>What is the plan to ensure meaningful collaboration occurs during next year's CHR process?</p>	
<p>For the second year, United Way Greater Toronto staff worked closely with the Regional Municipality of York (Service Manager and HIFIS administrator for York Region) and organizations that provide services for people experiencing homelessness to complete the CHR. This will continue in 2023-24. In addition, it is anticipated that the Coordinated Access System tables and the YRHCB Lived Experience Table will provide input into the CHR. Finally, the Indigenous framework, to be developed in 2023-24, will inform how the Community Entity and York Region Homelessness Community Board engages with Indigenous communities.</p>	
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Section 2. 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	12	1

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?

United Way Greater Toronto released a Request for Proposal in 2022 to secure a consultant to support the development of a Coordinated Access System Plan. The consultant (Vink Consulting Inc.), in partnership with United Way Greater Toronto and York Region, has engaged with community partners, residents and stakeholders through consultations and focus groups. Specifically, the consultant met with Regional Municipality of York staff members, the Community Collaborative Table, HIFIS working group, Homelessness Service Providers Committee, and VAW service providers. During these engagement sessions, participants provided feedback about access points in the community, triage and assessment tools, matching and referral processes, prioritization processes, and the governance model.

People with lived experience of homelessness, including Indigenous peoples in the community, were also invited to participate in engagement sessions. Through these sessions, individuals were able to provide valuable input about their experiences in the homeless-serving system, specifically with intake processes, access points, and general support to appropriately meet their needs in the community.

Section 3. Outcomes-Based Approach Self-Assessment

Summary Tables - Minimum Requirement

The tables below provide 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
Yes	Yes	Yes

Step 4: Can report monthly outcomes and set targets using data from the List (reporting in Section 4 is mandatory for 2023-24 CHR's, if not earlier)

List was in place as of January 1, 2023 (or earlier)	Can generate monthly data	Has set targets	Has an outcomes-based approach in place
Yes	Outcome 1: Yes	Outcome 1: Yes	Yes
	Outcome 2: Yes	Outcome 2: Yes	
	Outcome 3: Yes	Outcome 3: Yes	
	Outcome 4: Yes	Outcome 4: Yes	
	Outcome 5: Yes	Outcome 5: Yes	

Step 4: Can report annual outcomes and set targets using data from the List (reporting in Section 4 is mandatory once annual data can be generated)

List was in place as of April 1, 2022 (or earlier)	Can generate annual data	Has set targets	Has an outcomes-based approach in place
Yes	Outcome 1: Yes	Outcome 1: Yes	Yes
	Outcome 2: Yes	Outcome 2: Yes	
	Outcome 3: Yes	Outcome 3: Yes	
	Outcome 4: Yes	Outcome 4: Yes	
	Outcome 5: Yes	Outcome 5: 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 2022-23, The Regional Municipality of York added three new service providers to HIFIS --- York Region Outreach Services, Blue Door's Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold and Cornerstone to Recovery --- which is contributing to the development of a more comprehensive By-Name List.

The Regional Municipality of York will continue to maintain and improve the By-Name List in 2023-24. 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.

More information about the Unique Identifier List

Step 1. Have a List

Where does data for the List come from?

- HIFIS
- Excel
- Other HMIS
- Other data source(s)
- Not applicable – Do not have a List yet

Please describe the other data source(s):

Occasionally, individuals are brought forward and discussed at the Region's Community Collaborative Table who are not in HIFIS or have not provided their consent for HIFIS.

Please describe how the List is created using HIFIS:

The By-Name List is created using a custom report in HIFIS which includes: First Name, Last Name, Age, Gender, Veteran status, Indigenous status, Current stay (shelter/transitional/unsheltered/unknown), Chronic Homeless Days, and VI-SPDAT Scores.

In the future, will data from the community's HMIS (either HIFIS or an existing, equivalent system) be used to get data for the List?

Yes

Step 1. Have a List (cont.)

For the List, does the community have...

A written policy/protocol that describes how interaction with the homeless-serving system is documented	Yes
A written policy/protocol that describes how housing history is documented	Yes

Chronic homelessness

x	Federal definition
	Local definition

From the List, can the community get data for...

Newly identified on the List	Yes
Activity and inactivity	Yes
Housing history	Yes

From the List, can the community get demographic data for...

Age	Yes	Indigenous identity	Yes
Household type	Yes	Veteran status	Yes
Gender identity	Yes		

Step 2. Have a real-time List

How often is information about people experiencing homelessness updated on the List?	As soon as new information is available
Is people's interaction with the homeless-serving system (activity and inactivity) updated regularly on the List?	Yes
Is housing history updated regularly on the List?	Yes
Is there a process in place for keeping chronic homelessness status on the List up-to-date?	Yes

Step 3. Have a comprehensive List

Does the community have a document that identifies and describes all of the service providers that help people experiencing homelessness with their housing challenges?

Under development

Optional question: How does data from the List compare to other community-level data sources that are considered accurate or valid? This is an optional follow-up question for communities that have completed the “*Understanding Community-Level Data*” worksheet.

Community did not complete this optional question.

Step 4. Track outcomes and progress against targets using data from the List

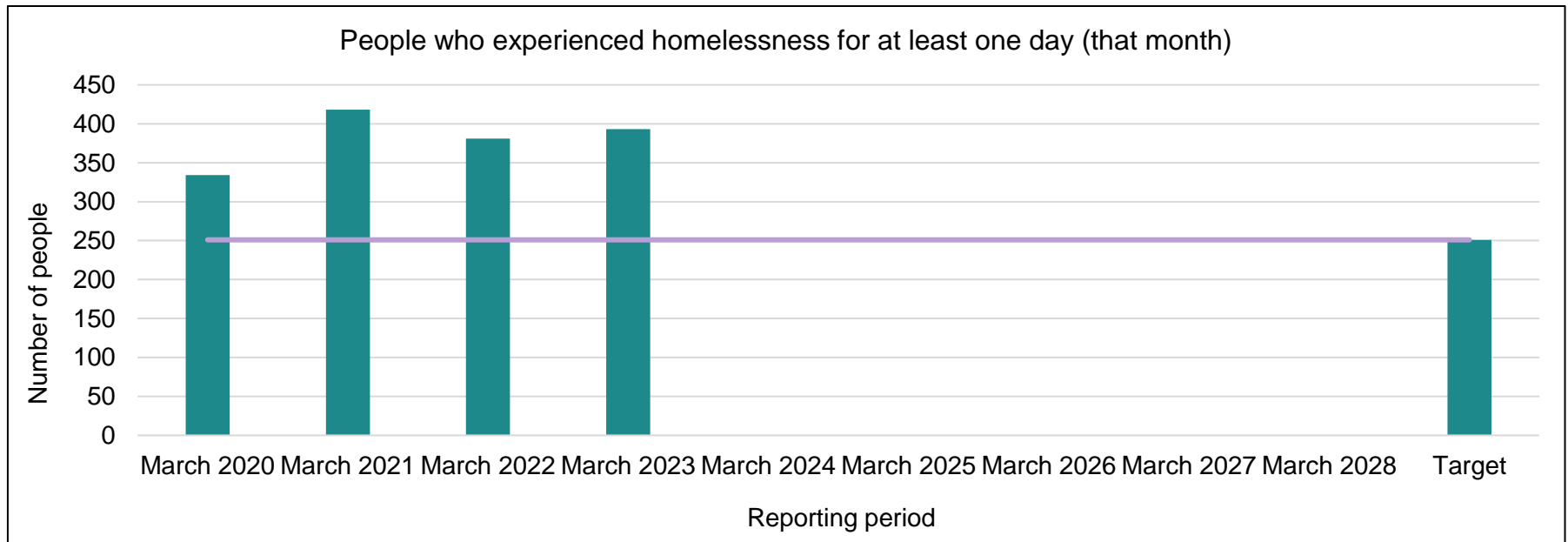
Does the List meet the benchmark of a “Quality By-Name List” confirmed by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness?

Yes

Section 4. Community-Level Outcomes and Targets – Monthly

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)	334	418	381	393						251



Context for Outcome #1 (monthly):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

Based on the HIFIS CHR report, the number of people experiencing homelessness in March 2023 was comparable to March 2022, with a slight increase of 3% observed. The number of people experiencing homelessness may be due to continued economic hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and extremely limited affordable housing options. Available HIFIS data indicates a sustained demand for emergency and transitional housing, increased length of stay, and increasing durations of homelessness.

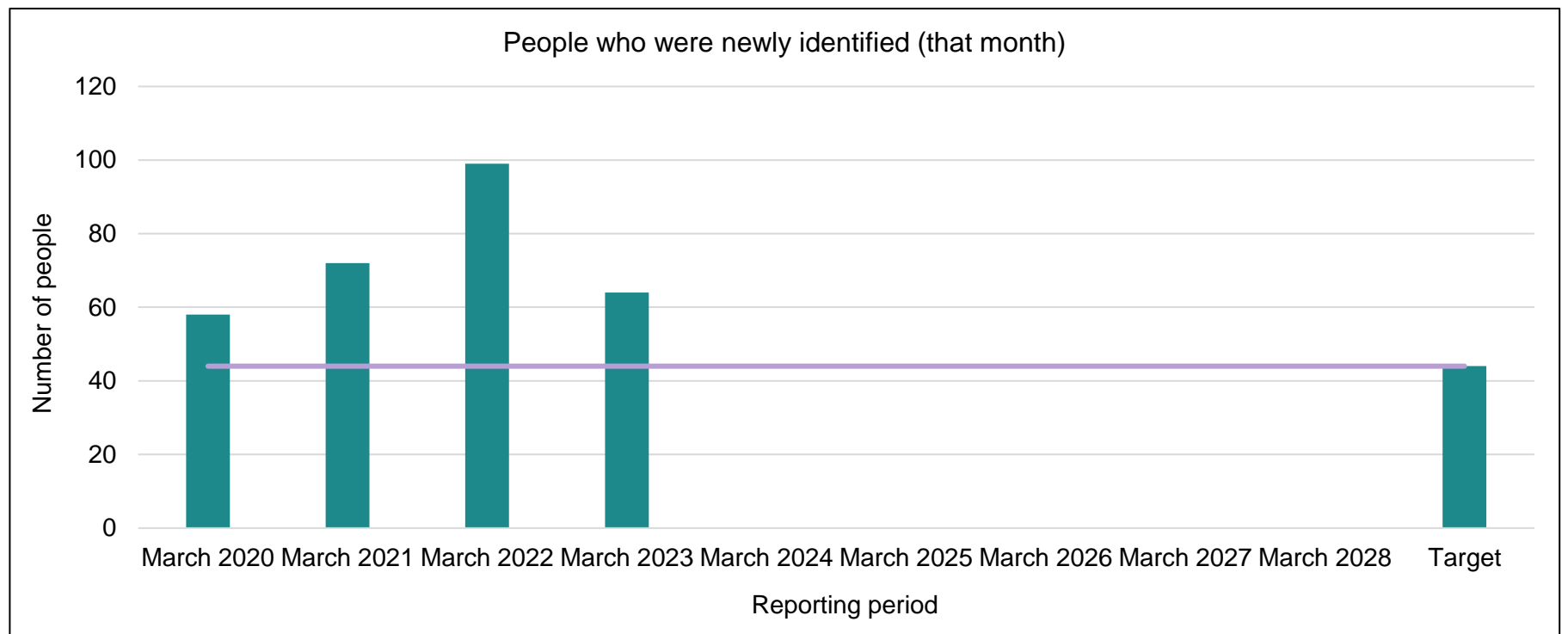
Previously reported data and the target for this outcome has changed from previous CHRs because York is now using the CHR HIFIS Report to generate results and the data and targets were updated to be in alignment with Infrastructure Canada guidelines (i.e. excluding transitional housing).

Was the HIFIS "**Community Homelessness Report**" used to generate data for this outcome?

Yes

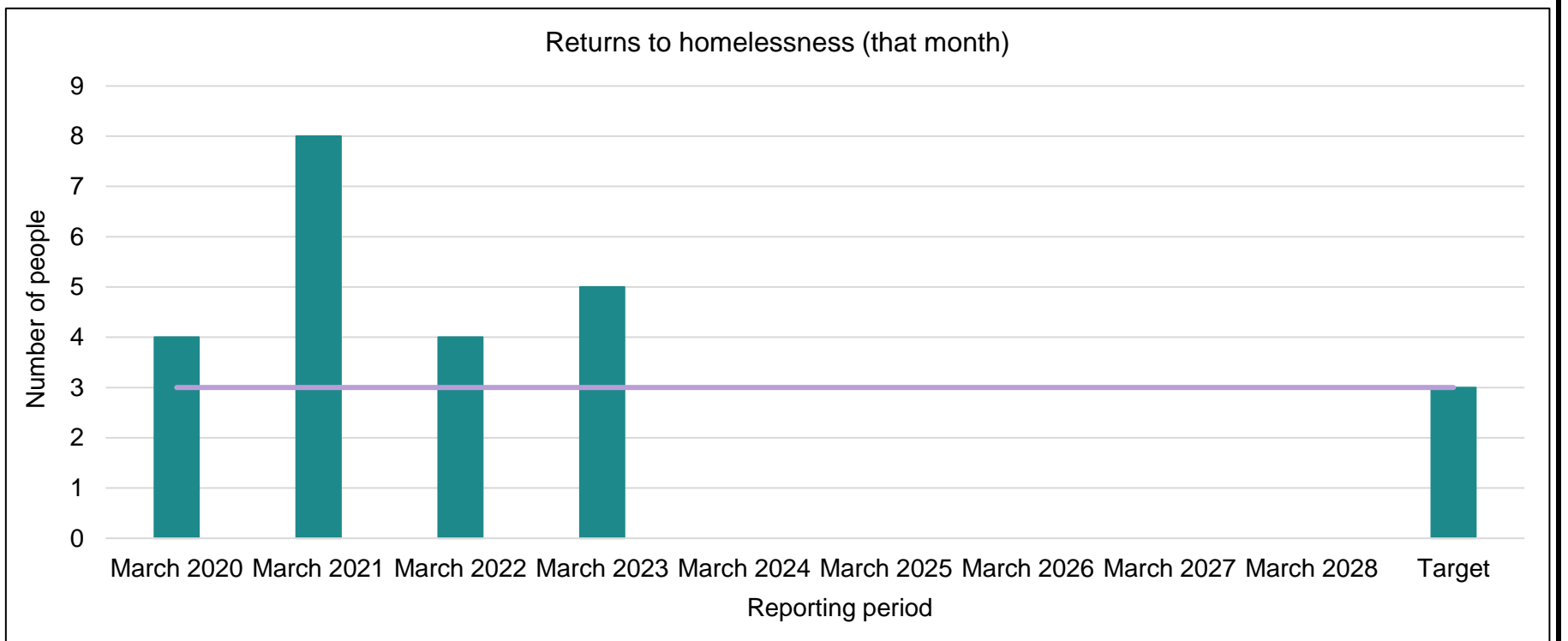
Outcome #2: Fewer people were newly identified (new inflows to homelessness are reduced)

	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)	58	72	99	64						44



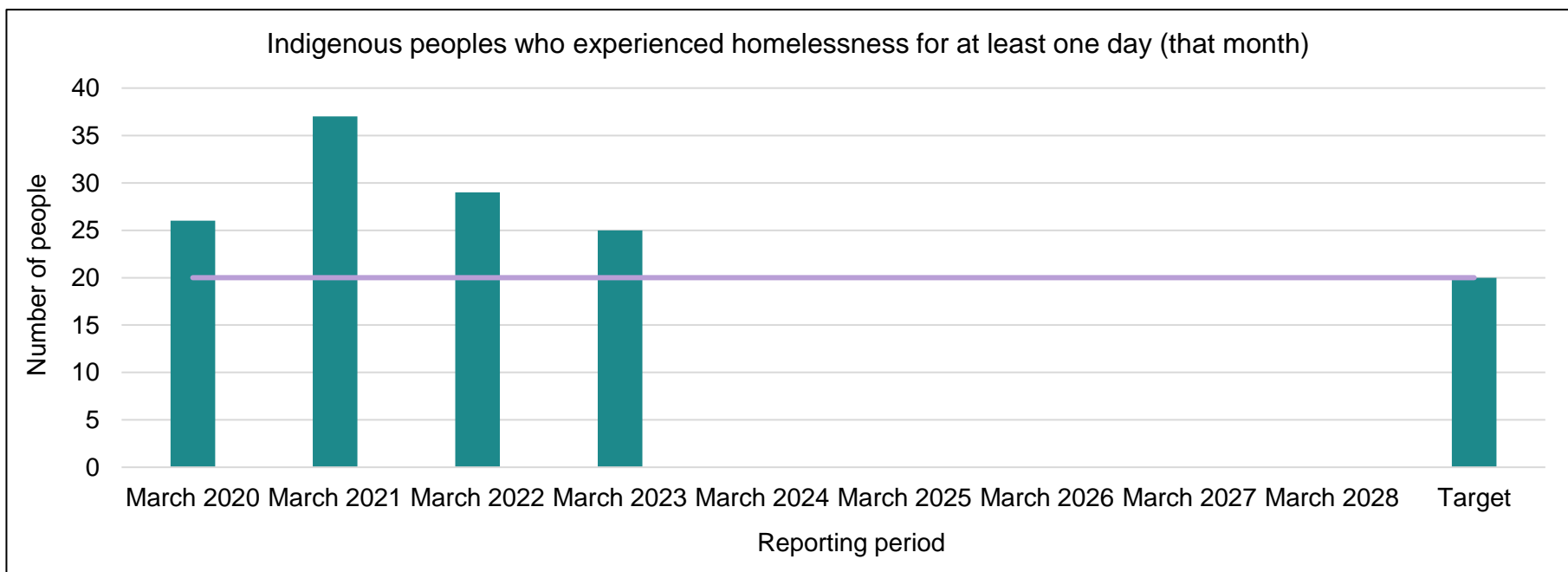
Outcome #3: Fewer people return to homelessness (returns to homelessness are reduced)

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
Returns to homelessness (that month)	4	8	4	5						3



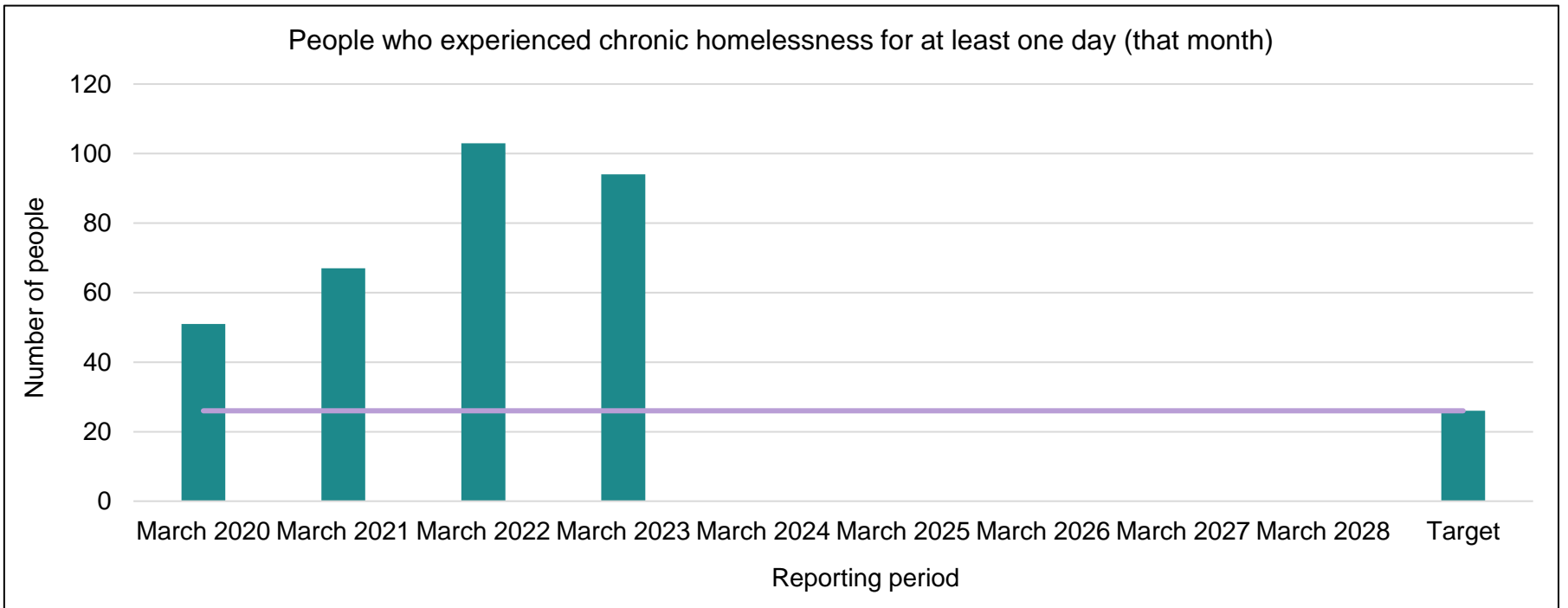
Outcome #4: Fewer Indigenous peoples experience homelessness (Indigenous homelessness is reduced)

	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)	26	37	29	25						20



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)	51	67	103	94						26



Context for Outcome #5 (monthly):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

Based on available HIFIS data, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness in March 2023 was comparable to March 2022 with a 9% decrease observed. Factors contributing to chronic homelessness may include financial hardships exacerbated by the economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic and limited affordable housing options.

Previously reported data and the target for this metric have been updated in alignment with Infrastructure Canada guidelines (i.e. excluding transitional housing).

Was the HIFIS **“Community Homelessness Report”** used to generate data for this outcome?

No

Was the federal standard for calculating this outcome used (see Annex A)?

Yes

How was this outcome calculated?

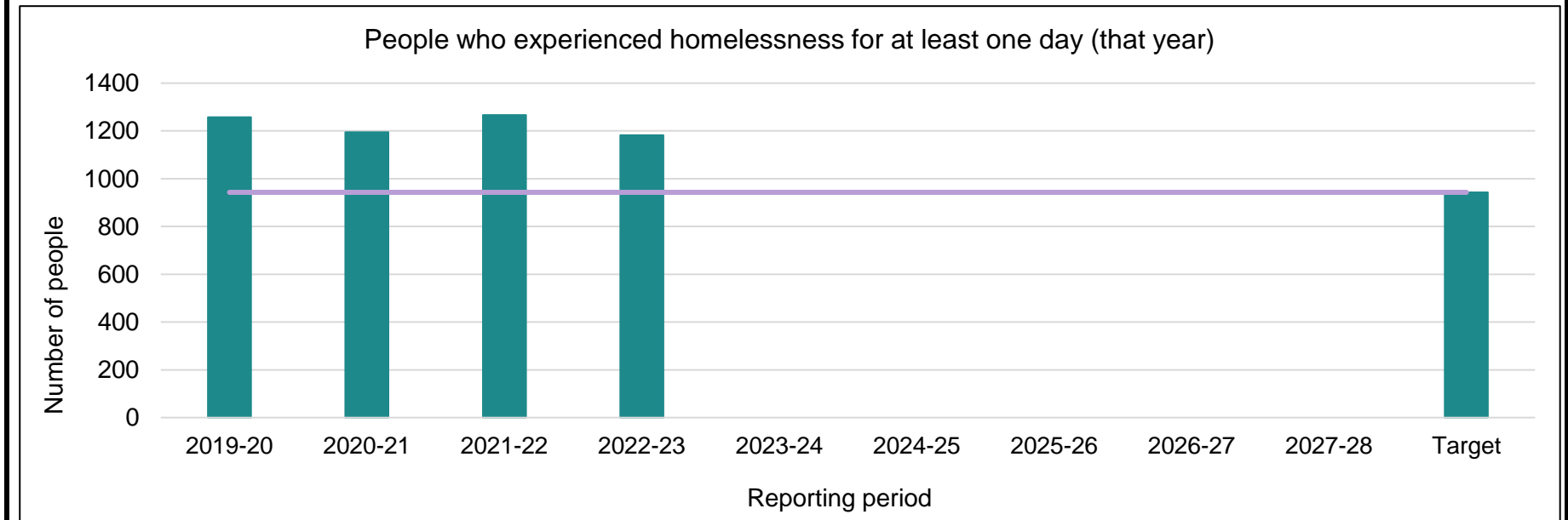
Note: Previously reported data and the target for this metric have been updated in alignment with Infrastructure Canada guidelines (i.e., excluding transitional housing)

- This metric was computed based on data available in HIFIS as of April 2023
- This metric reflects the Reaching Home definition of chronic homelessness (i.e., homeless for a cumulative duration of at least 6 months over the past year or at least 18 months over the past 3 years) at any time during the calendar month
- This metric must be interpreted with caution as it reflects a one-month period only and is not reflective of the entire fiscal year
- This metric includes clients in Regionally-funded emergency housing and unsheltered locations
- This metric excludes clients that provided anonymous consent, clients staying in violence against women shelters, transitional housing, provincial institutions (e.g., hospitals) and clients experiencing hidden homelessness

Section 4. Community-Level Outcomes and Targets – Annual

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)	1257	1195	1267	1182						943



Context for Outcome #1 (annual):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

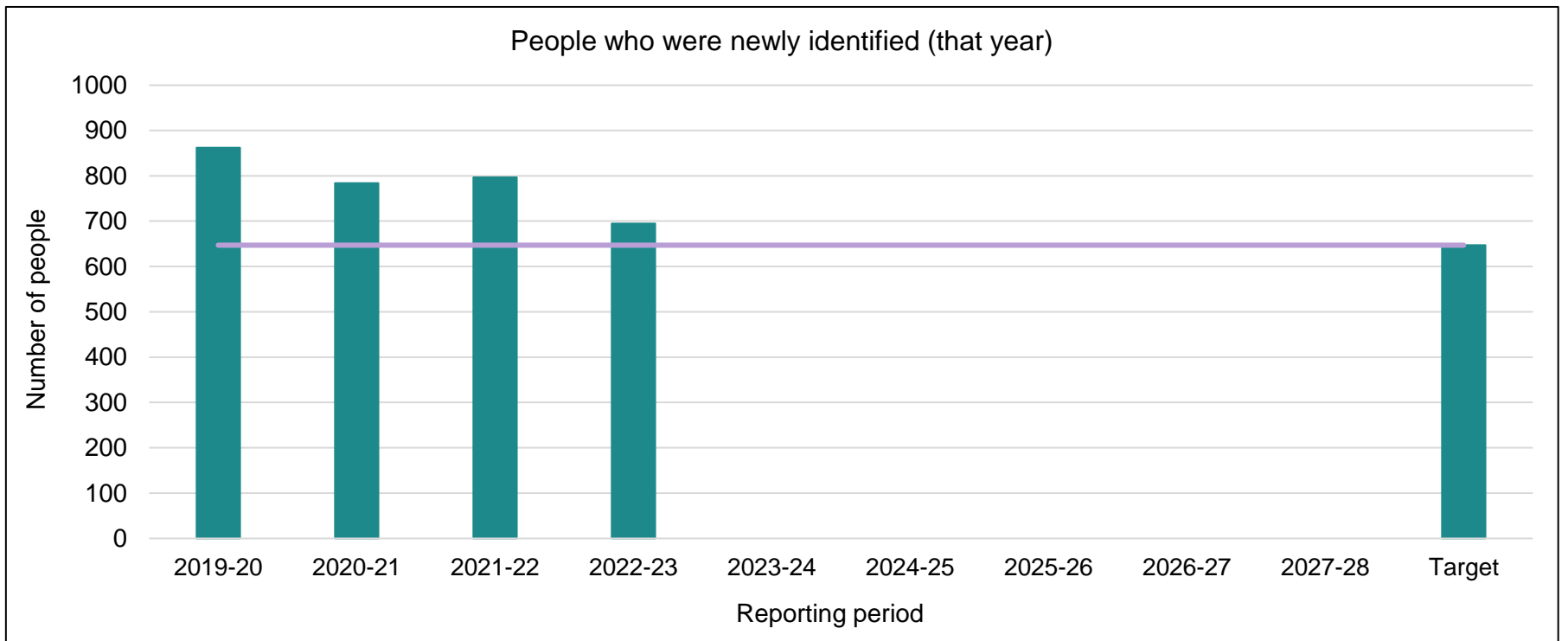
Based on the HIFIS CHR report, the number of people experiencing homelessness between the 2019/20 and the 2022/23 fiscal years has remained stable, with a decrease of 7% observed between 2021/22 and 2022/23. The number of people experiencing homelessness may be due to continued economic hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and extremely limited affordable housing options. Available HIFIS data indicates a sustained demand for emergency and transitional housing, increased length of stay, and increasing durations of homelessness.

Was the HIFIS ***“Community Homelessness Report”*** used to generate data for this outcome?

Yes

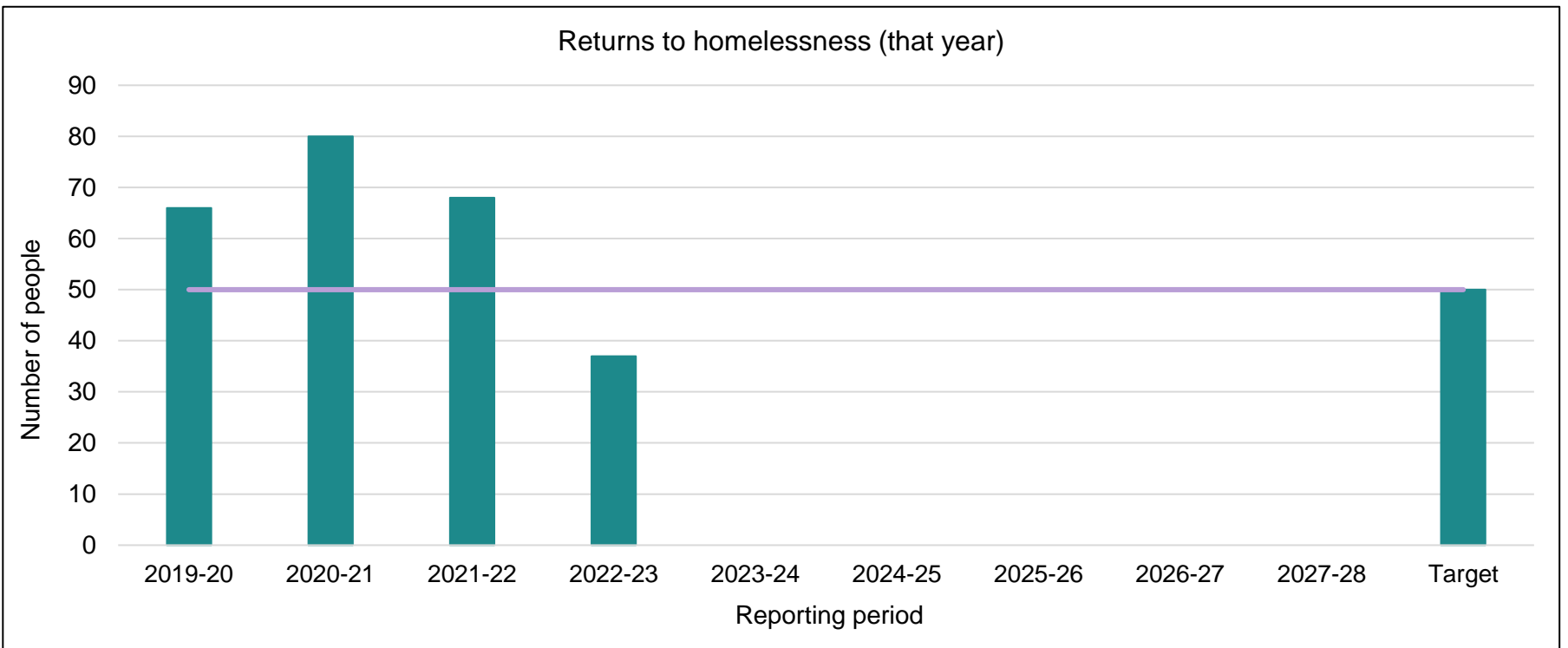
Outcome #2: Fewer people were newly identified (new inflows to homelessness are reduced)

	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)	862	784	797	695						647



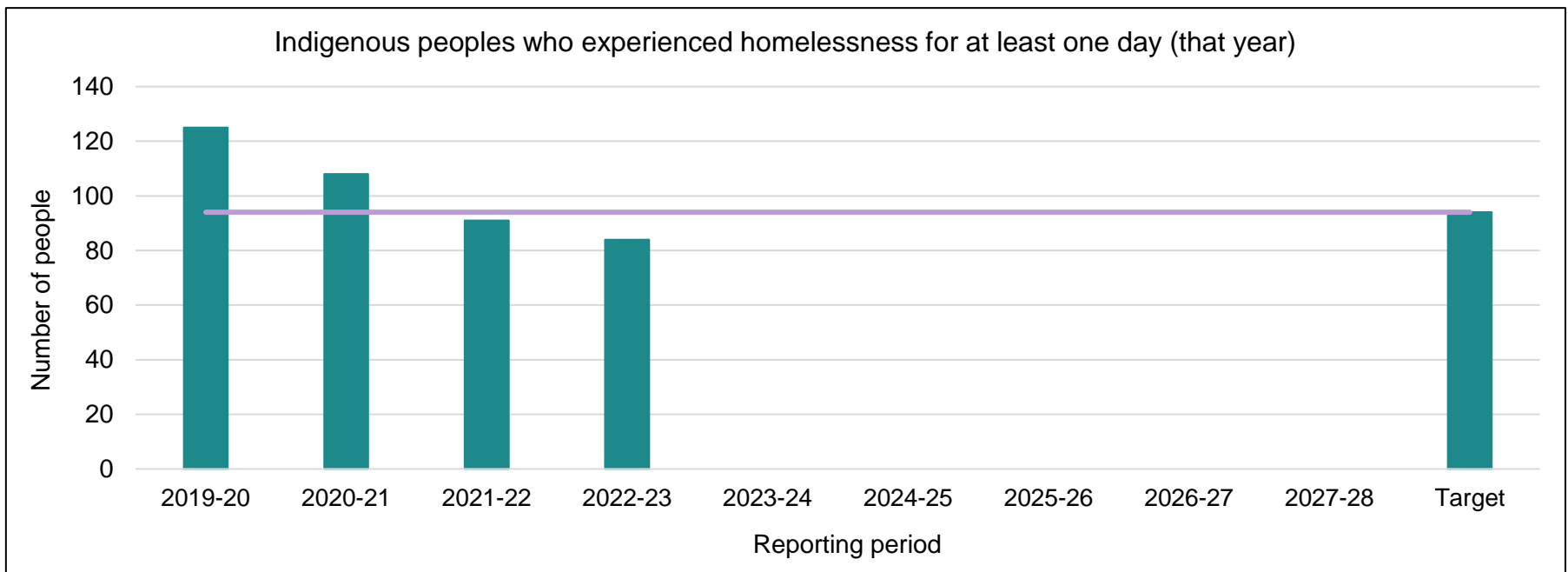
Outcome #3: Fewer people return to homelessness (returns to homelessness are reduced)

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
Returns to homelessness (that year)	66	80	68	37						50



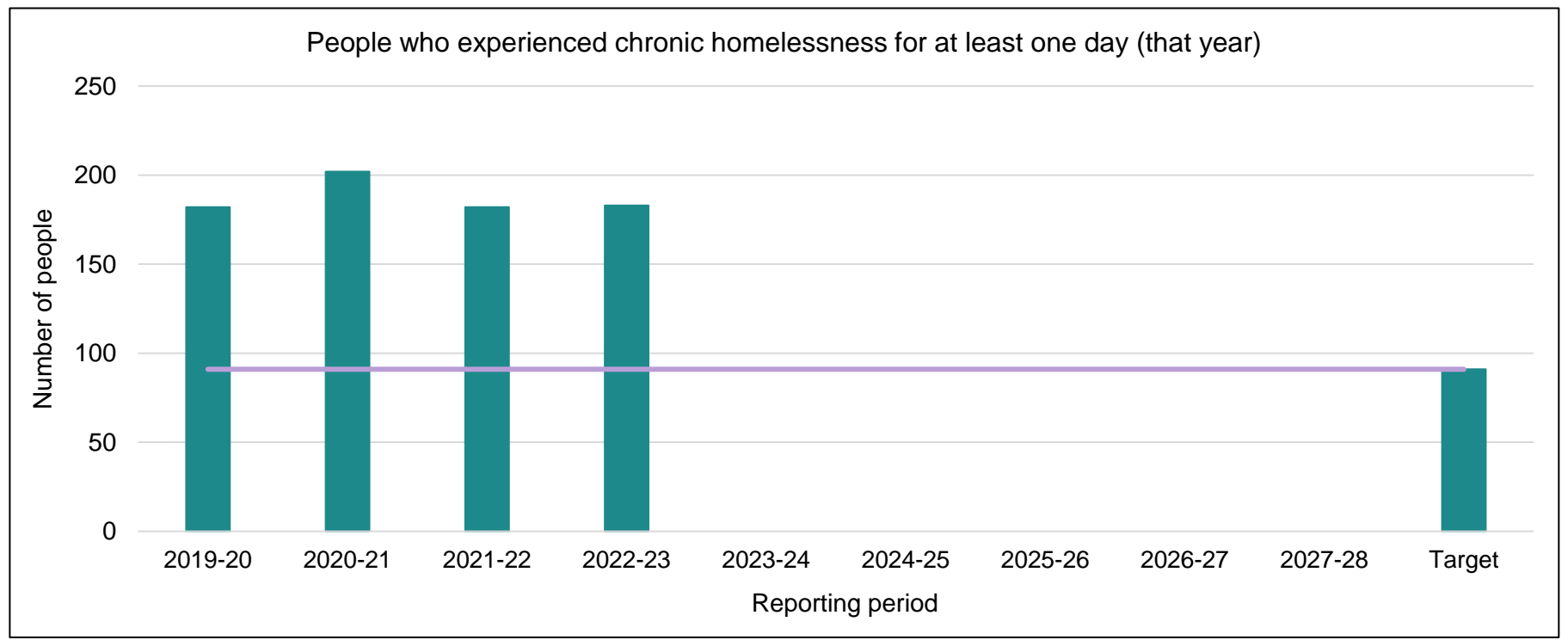
Outcome #4: Fewer Indigenous peoples experience homelessness (Indigenous homelessness is reduced)

	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)	125	108	91	84						94



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)	182	202	182	183						91



Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

Based on available HIFIS data, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness has been relatively stable between the 2019/20 and the 2022/23 fiscal years, with a 1% decrease observed between 2021/22 and 2022/23. Factors contributing to chronic homelessness may include financial hardships exacerbated by the economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic and limited affordable housing options across York Region.

Was the HIFIS “**Community Homelessness Report**” used to generate data for this outcome?

No

Was the federal standard for calculating this outcome used (see Annex A)?

Yes

How was this outcome calculated?

- This metric was computed based on data available in HIFIS as of April 2023
- This metric reflects the Reaching Home definition of chronic homelessness (i.e., homeless for a cumulative duration of at least 6 months over the past year or at least 18 months over the past 3 years) at any time during the calendar month
- This metric includes clients in Regionally-funded emergency housing and unsheltered locations
- This metric excludes clients that provided anonymous consent, clients staying in violence against women shelters, transitional housing, provincial institutions (e.g., hospitals) and clients experiencing hidden homelessness