

#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](#)

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Homeless Hub

@homelesshub

Dr. Jeannette Waegemakers Schiff (JWS) & [@AlinaITurner](#) just completed a study on [#HousingFirst](#) rural Canada. [#HFRuHFRuralChHHChat](#)

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Tanya GulliverGarcia

@TanyaMGulliver

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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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](#)

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Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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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](#)

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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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?

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Miranda Gray
@mirgray2

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Miranda Gray
@mirgray2

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Miranda Gray
@mirgray2

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Miranda Gray
@mirgray2

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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Miranda Gray
@mirgray2

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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Cheryl Wituik
@CWChapter2

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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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](#)

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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FACLC
@FACLC

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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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](#) [@AlinaITurner](#)

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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Cheryl Wituik
@CWChapter2

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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Matt Thomson
@MThomsonConsult

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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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?

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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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.

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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Elliott Young
@youngell7

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

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Alina Turner
@AlinaTurner

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

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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](#)

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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Tanya GulliverGarcia
@TanyaMGulliver

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

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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](#)

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Alina Turner
@AlinaITurner

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

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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
@AlinaITurner

@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

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Miranda Gray
@mirgray2

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

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Homeless Hub
@homelesshub

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

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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

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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

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.

