

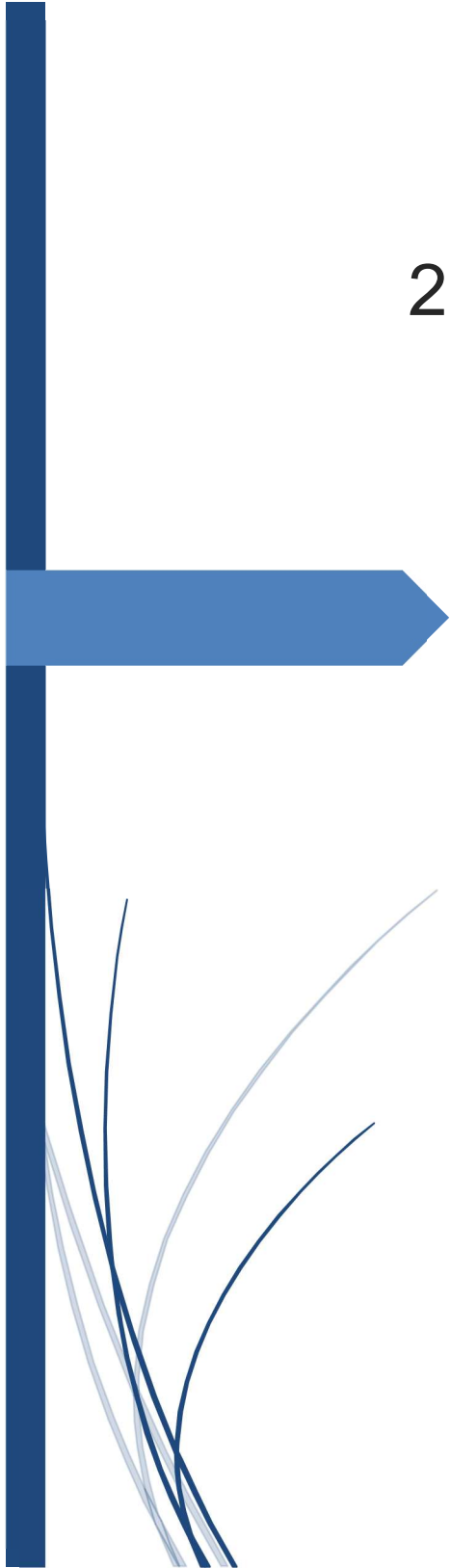
# John Howard

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

## 2025 Point in Time Count Report

Prepared by the  
John Howard Society  
of Prince Edward Island

March 2026



## **Introduction**

In October of 2025, the John Howard Society of PEI led a Point in Time (PiT) Count locally on Prince Edward Island on behalf of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). This is part of a nationally coordinated count across the country to better measure and understand homelessness in Canada.

The last time the PiT Count was conducted in PEI was in October of 2024. However, this year's PiT Count was enumeration only, which means an anonymous count of individuals experiencing homelessness during a 24-hour period. By reducing the PiT Count period from about 10 days to one, it reduces the number of individuals identified and captured during the count, which can cause a drop in the total number compared to 2024. It also reduces the extent of the outreach coverage, which can have a similar impact.

The John Howard Society of PEI is funded to oversee and carry out the PiT count for Designated Communities as per the Government of Canada Reaching Home Program, which includes two locations - Charlottetown and Summerside. These are historically the only two locations where individuals were enumerated or surveyed. However, in 2024, for the first time ever, the John Howard Society of PEI partnered with many different organizations and entities across all regions and various sectors to enumerate and survey the entire island. This marked the beginning of a Province-wide view on homelessness, recognizing that the problem is no longer restricted to only urban areas, but rather exists everywhere. In 2025, we continued to build on our understanding by once again counting individuals across the entire island.

## **Timing**

Our 24-hour enumeration period occurred from Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 8pm until Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 8pm.

## **Local Survey Questions**

While there were no requirements or funding to conduct a survey as part of the 2025 PiT Count, the John Howard Society of PEI and its partners decided to conduct a mini survey with three questions designed to target local homelessness. This was seen as an opportunity to gain more information about the experiences, needs and desires of Islanders experiencing homelessness.

As with any initiative or survey, there's an inherent understanding that it is not possible to locate and survey one hundred percent of the individuals in the community, particularly given the nature of the population participating in the Point in Time Count. However, the methodology used and the data obtained from the PiT Count are Federally approved and considered to be best practice by the Government of Canada. Furthermore, every surveyor was a staff member who is an existing service provider in the client services field and participated in standardized training prior to the PiT Count. This ensured the highest level of competency while maximizing consistency.

## **Participant Information**

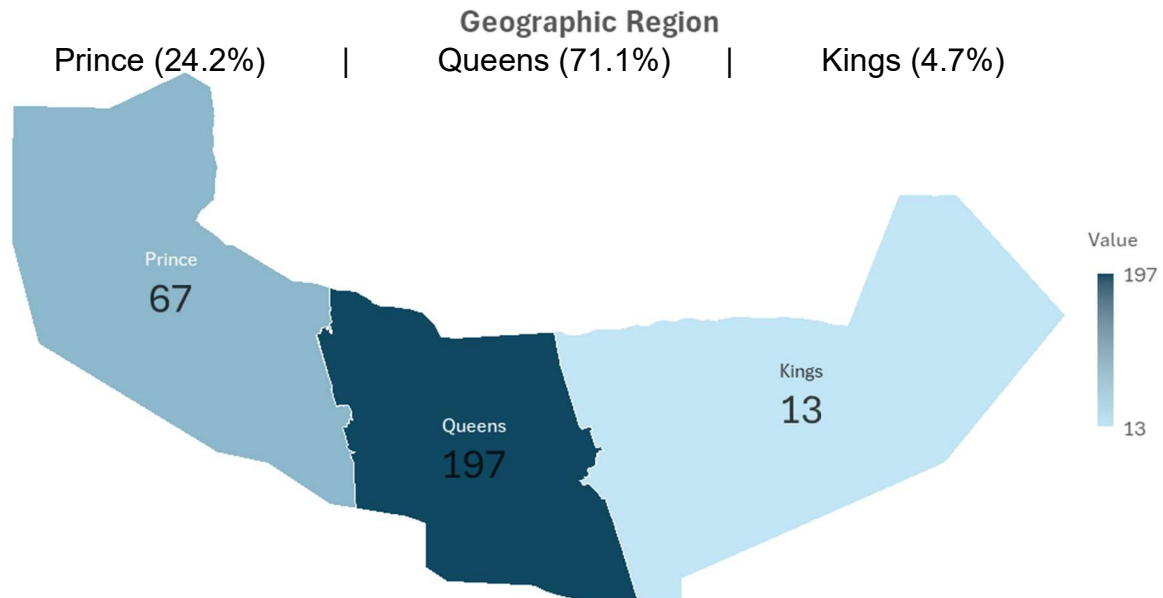
### Number of Participants

There were 130 individuals who completed the mini survey, which forms the survey group. There were another 147 individuals experiencing homelessness who did not or could not complete a survey, for whom we do not have any survey data. Therefore, the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness was 277. That marks a decrease of 41 people from 2024.

While some of this can be attributed to the reduced survey period and outreach coverage, it's also possible that some of the investments in housing and housing resources have helped to address the homelessness problem in PEI. There are several housing programs or housing buildings that opened between October of 2024 and October of 2025 such as the Life House 24-unit supportive housing site in Summerside and the Provincially owned and operated 11-unit supportive housing site in Montague. There has also been improved access to shelter with the opening of the Summerside Emergency Shelter, which can lead to better coordination of care for individuals.

## Location - Geographic Region

As part of the survey and enumeration process, individuals identified staying in one of the three primary counties - Queens, Prince, or Kings. The breakdown by location is as follows:



This represents a drop in all three regions with the most significant change occurring in Queens County. The decrease by region was 30 for Queens, five for Prince and six for Kings. The distribution of 71.3% for Queens, 22.7% for Prince and 6.0% for Kings remained similar to last year.

## Type of Homelessness

As part of the survey and enumeration process, individuals were asked to identify the type of homelessness they experienced the night prior from 11 different options, which are grouped into five categories, including shelter, unsheltered, hidden homelessness, systems, and transitional housing. This is generally accepted as the most common way to group the types of homelessness an individual may report during the PiT Count.

The breakdown of the type of homelessness is as follows:

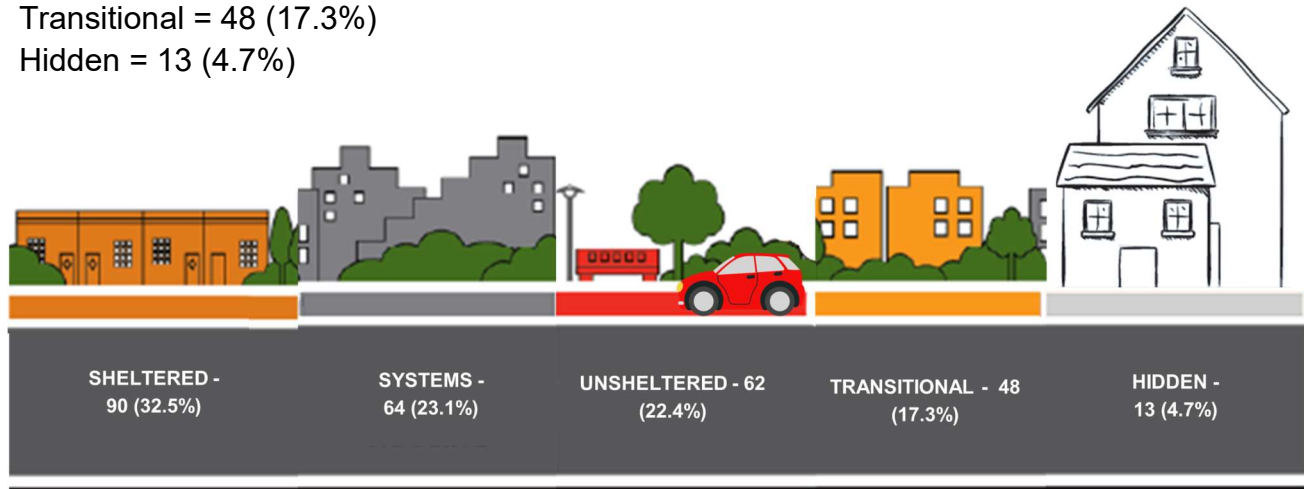
Sheltered = 90 (32.5%)

Systems = 64 (23.1%)

Unsheltered = 62 (22.4%)

Transitional = 48 (17.3%)

Hidden = 13 (4.7%)



In 2024, there were 106 individuals in shelter representing 33.3% of total homelessness, which dropped by 16 in 2025 to 32.5%. Similarly, the number of unsheltered individuals dropped from 83 representing 26.1% of the total homelessness to 22.4%. While the raw total decreasing is likely because of the drop in number of overall participants, the decrease in their representation means more individuals were experiencing other types of homelessness.

While couch surfing's representation increased from 4.1% to 4.7% in 2025, the raw total was still 13, so there wasn't much change there.

The two noticeable increases were in transitional housing and systems. Systems saw a drop of five in the raw total but an increase in representation from 21.7% to 23.1%. There are two possible explanations for this. One is that these environments were easier to collect data from because they typically have 24/7 staff that can identify individuals experiencing homelessness and conduct surveys. The second is there is a greater percentage of homeless individuals in systems, which includes corrections, mental health, substance and hospital facilities. It could also be a combination of the two. This will remain a focal point in our community.

Transitional housing was the only category that saw an increase in the raw total (by one) and the representation (14.8% to 17.3%). This is a very positive sign because this is one of the areas of investment in our community and while included in the PiT Count, is viewed as housed in PEI's housing continuum. This demonstrates the need and demand for further investments in transitional and supportive housing environments, where individuals have access to case management and staff support. It also reinforces one of the themes from last year's survey data, which was that most of the individuals experiencing homelessness identified housing support as a critical component for them to be successful.

## **Conclusions**

The 2025 Point in Time Count was another great opportunity to gather information about individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. It's also critical that we use this information to make improvements and investments to provide pathways to housing for those who are homeless while offering interventions for those who are at risk to reduce our inflow.

Here are five key takeaways from the report:

1. Homelessness remains an issue in PEI
2. While building more housing will help, investing in transitional or supportive housing may have a greater impact
3. Most individuals need case management services to be successful, even if those services are lower in intensity and frequency
4. Systems homelessness is becoming increasingly prevalent demonstrating a need for additional support with discharge planning and collaboration between community organizations and facilities
5. Substance use services may be the highest priority, aside from housing, for those experiencing homelessness in PEI, with a focus on access and availability

For questions about this report, please contact the John Howard Society of PEI at 902-566-5425 or by email at [johnhowardsociety@jhspei.ca](mailto:johnhowardsociety@jhspei.ca).