



CORNERSTONE LANDING

Rural Youth Homelessness

In Lanark County, Ontario

Cornerstone Landing Youth Services is a registered
non-profit charitable organization located in
Lanark County, Ontario,
between Ottawa and Kingston.

Registration #: 1795050

Presentation by Terrilee Kelford - Vice Chair

2011 Population 65,670
(7788 youth age 15-24)

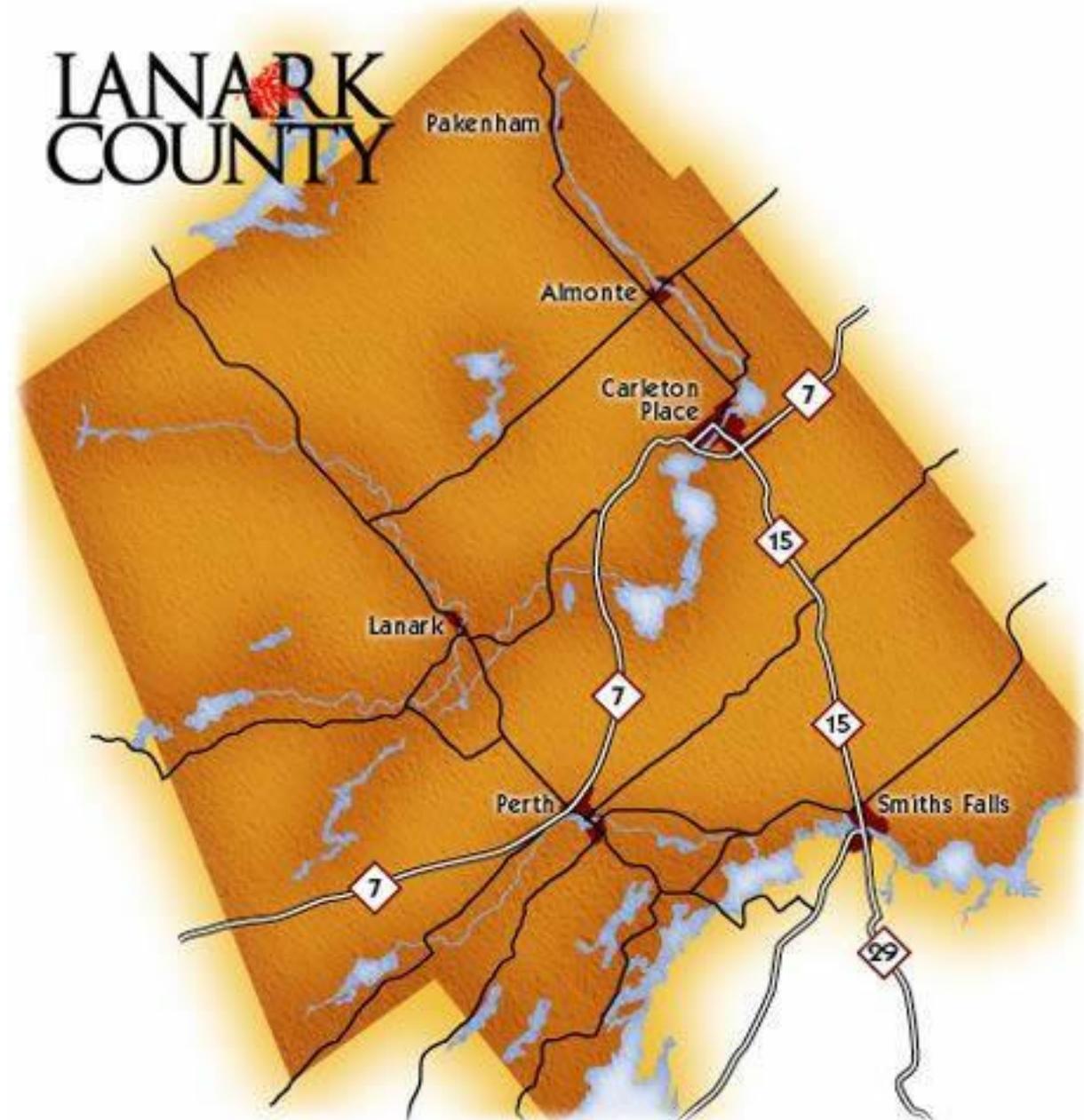
2006 Average Household Income
= \$69,572.00
National average =
\$81,329.00

2012
Ontario Works Recipients (1124)
ODSP Recipients (2393)
TOTAL = 3517

2011 Social Housing Stock = 884
Units

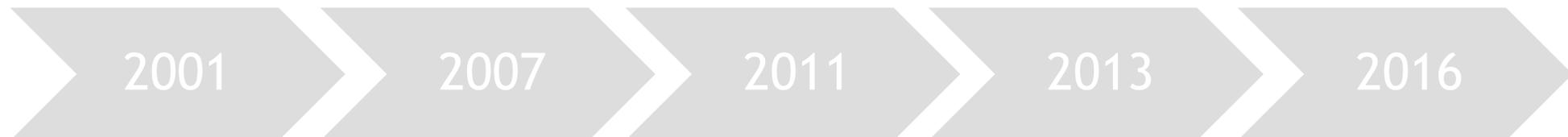
2012 - 28 Individuals or families
were put up in a hotel due to
homelessness.

Info collected from The County of Lanark's 10 year Plan
to End Homelessness



History of Organizations addressing Youth Homelessness

- 2001 Transitions Action Coalition established with Community Services Members
- 2004 Completed a survey of high school students on homelessness
- 2007 Cornerstone Landing Emergency Residence established
- 2010 Transitions Action Coalition incorporated as non-profit charity/dissolved 2 years later
- 2011 Cornerstone Landing Emergency Residence refocused on youth and became
Cornerstone Landing Youth Services
- 2013 Completed a survey of 392 high school students
- 2013 Lanark County 10 year plan to end homelessness released and established Lanark
County Housing Coalition
- 2014 Homelessness Conference in Perth - 180 people - Dr. Stephen Gaetz key note speaker
- 2015 20K Homes Registration week for Lanark County
- 2015 Youth CI Community Coalition established - Collective Impact Grant
- 2016 A Way Home Launch with Melanie Redman and Dr. Stephen Gaetz as guest speakers





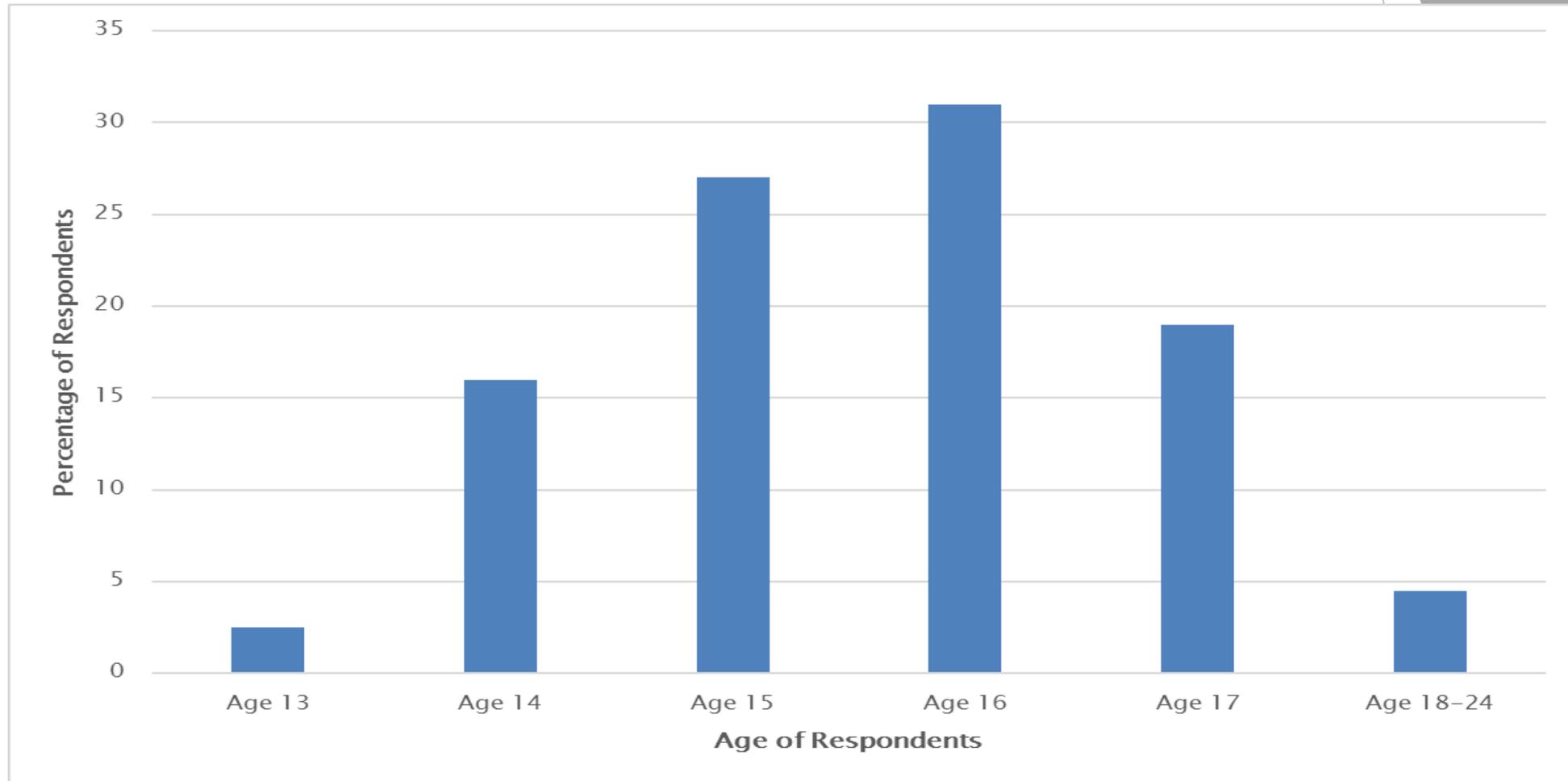
What does homelessness look like in Lanark County:

In 2013 Cornerstone Landing completed an informal survey of 392 high school students in Perth

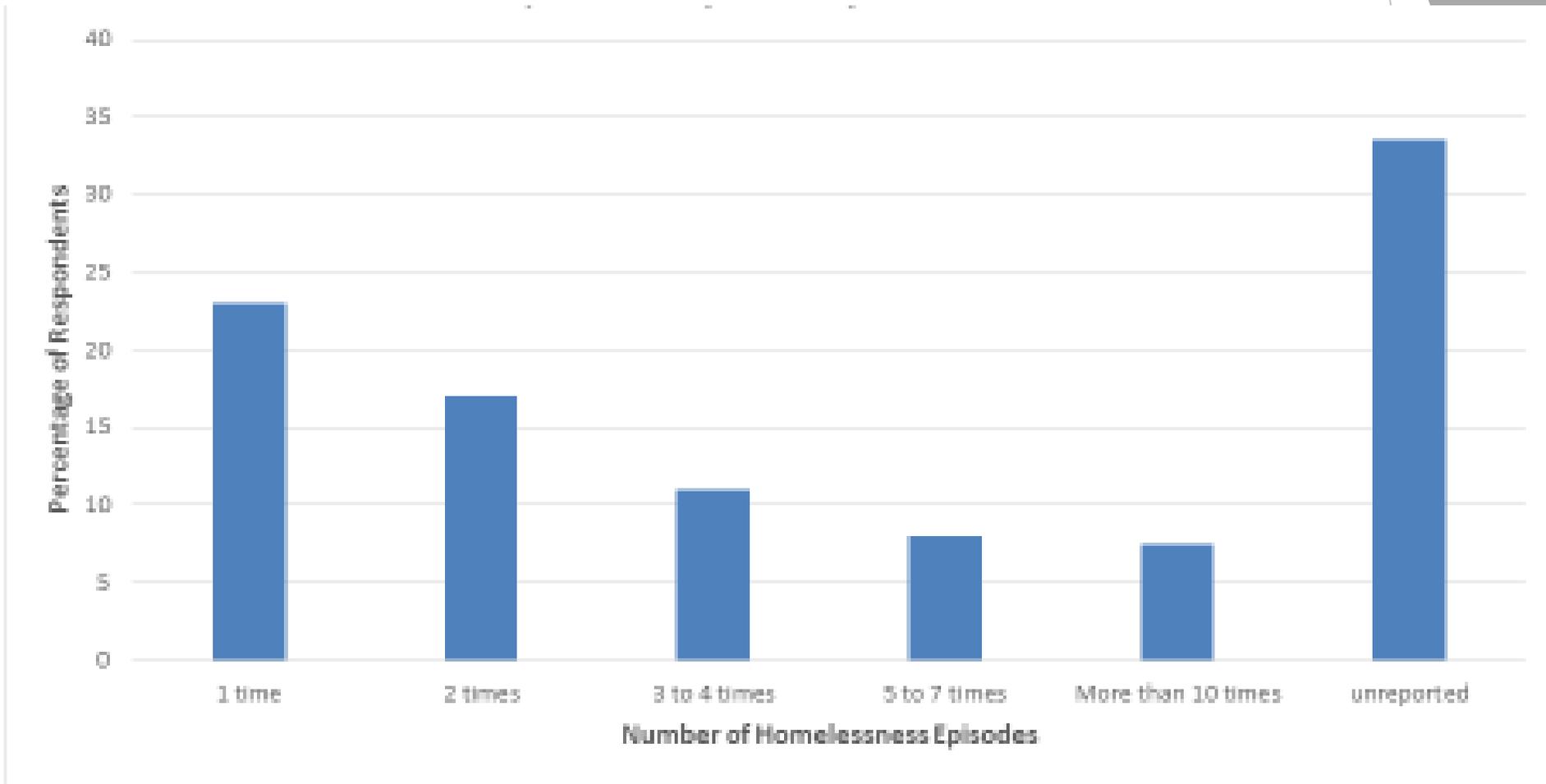
Update of a survey completed by the Transitions Action Coalition almost 10 years earlier.

Very similar results were found!

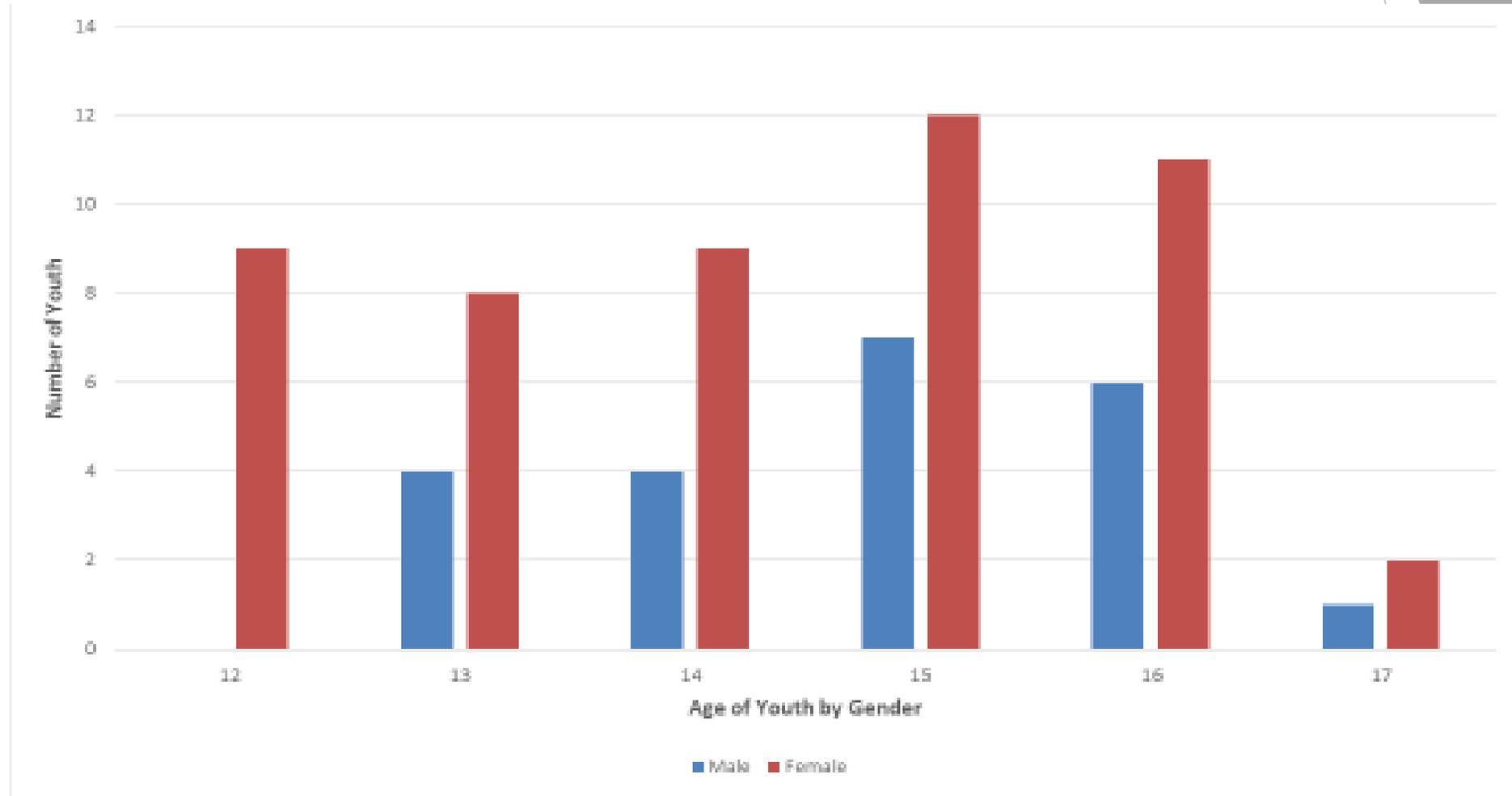
Results - Age of Respondents at time of survey:



Results - Number of Homeless Episodes during past 2 years



Results - Age of Respondents at First Episode of Homelessness



Why did they leave home?

31% said they left home because their family “did not get them”.

19% were kicked out

13% left because the parents/relatives were violent

10% had problems with their boyfriend/girlfriend

7% left because of money issues

7% left because of school issues

6% left because of their drug use

5% left because of their parents drug or alcohol use

2% left because of sexual abuse

Results - Where did they go?

42% said they “couch surfed”

5% said they stayed in the park

2.5% said they squatted in an empty space

35% answered other:

- Went to a friend’s house (8)

- Went to a grandparent’s house (6)

- Went to a relative’s house (4)

- Boyfriend (2)

- Left Perth (2)

- Tim Hortons, Foster Home and Cottage (1)

Focus after the survey:

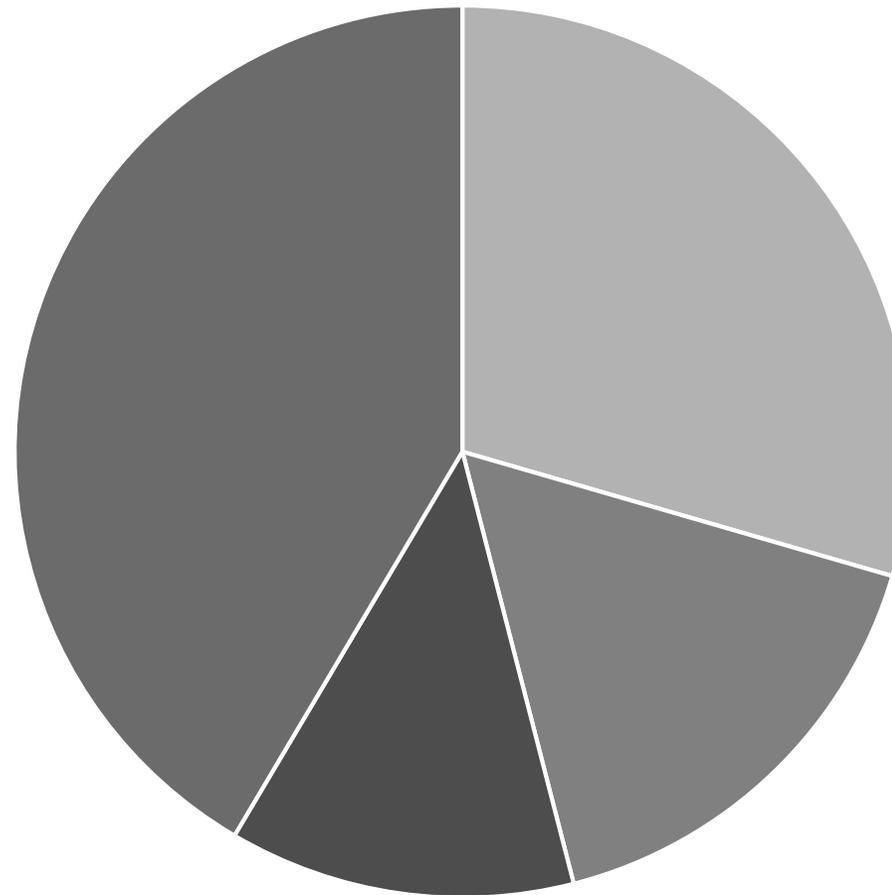
1. Prevention
2. Support Youth to Graduate High School
3. Build Community Partnerships
4. Create Rural Specific Programs - No Shelters

In 2013, we connected with local schools to identify youth at risk of dropping out of school or becoming homeless to catch them before they became chronically homeless.

Since 2013:
48 Youth age 16-20
have received
financial support of
up to \$200.00 per
month

14 Graduated
7 Still in school
6 Dropped Out
20 Left the Program
(found jobs, returned
to family, left County
etc.)

Education



■ Graduated ■ In School ■ Dropped Out ■ Left Program

Housing First Case Management for Youth:

January 1, 2016: Housing First Case Worker hired in partnership with 5 agencies (YAK Youth Centre, Smiths Falls and District Youth Centre, HIV and Aids Regional Services, Lanark Highlands Youth Centre, Lanark County Community Justice Program and Cornerstone)

CHPI Funding through County of Lanark

**LANARK
COUNTY**



June 1, 2016: 2nd Housing First Case Worker hired by Cornerstone Landing
HPS Funding through United Way Greater Simcoe County



Canada

Housing First Case Management Program

January 1, 2016 - September 30th, 2016

71 Referrals from across the County of Lanark

39 Active Files of which 80% were Couch Surfing or Homeless when referred

19 Female / 20 Male

Housing Status upon Intake:

31 Couch Surfing (8 Homeless in car, tent, garage)

3 with Biological Parents + 1 with a Legal Guardian

4 Apartment on their Own



Housing Status by September 30th, 2016

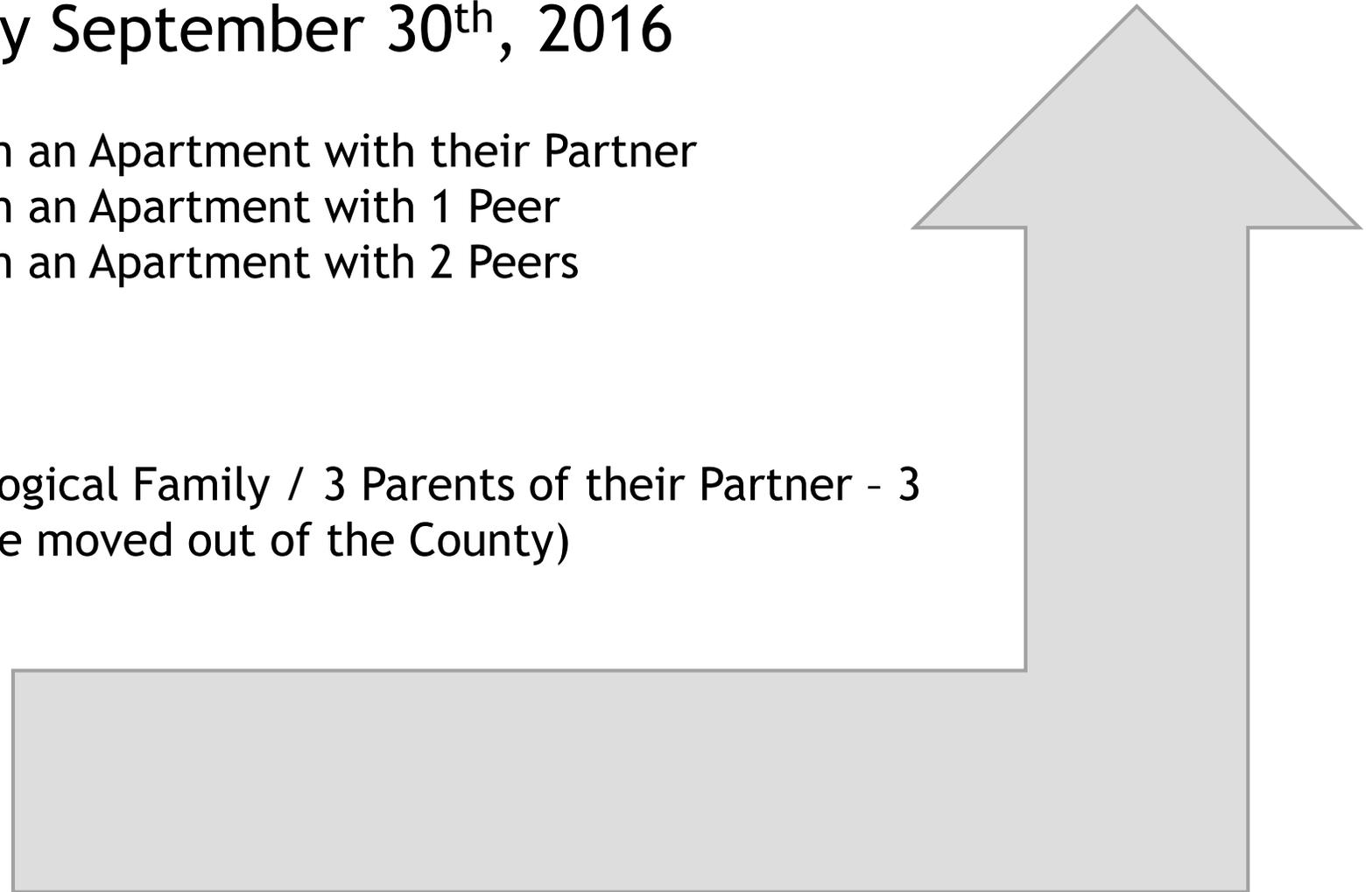
16 In Apartments: 8 in an Apartment with their Partner
4 in an Apartment with 1 Peer
4 in an Apartment with 2 Peers

5 Room Rentals

15 with Family (12 Biological Family / 3 Parents of their Partner - 3 of these moved out of the County)

2 Couch Surfing

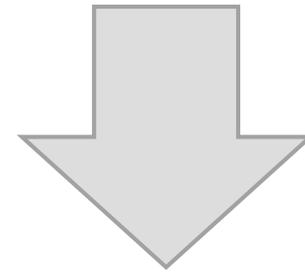
1 Unknown



Housing First for Youth Works!



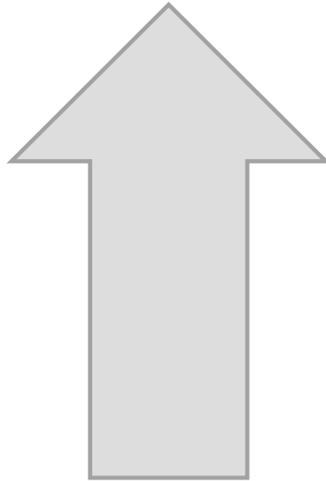
From 31 Couch surfing and Homeless Youth



To 3 (1 Unknown)

90% of Couch Surfing or Homeless youth Housed in 9 month period.

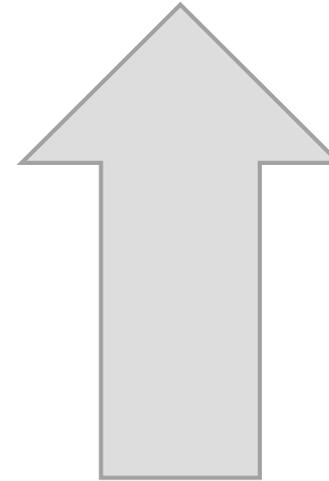
To 16/39



31%

From 4/39 in
Apartments on
their Own

To 15/39
(3 Parents of
Partner)



28%

From 4/39 with
Biological Parents
or Legal Guardians

Further Data Collected on First 25 Youth Intakes

Level of Education (Age 16-24):

- 4 No High School Credits
- 10 Working on Grade 9 and 10
- 8 Working on Grade 11 and 12
- 3 Graduated

Contact with Child Welfare Agency:

- 9 Had been In Care
- 7 Had some involvement with Child Welfare Agency but never 'in care'.
- 9 Had no involvement



What are we learning?

Housing First Works for Youth - Using Scattered Site Housing, Rapid Re-Housing and Rent Supplements!

We can prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness without using or creating shelters!

Room rentals are our least successful form of housing - Youth who cannot return to family are best served in independent permanent housing!

Our #s around gender have been pretty consistently equal Male to Female for 3 years now!

Learning cont'd:

Migration is not what we thought!

1. Young people are not necessarily migrating rural to urban (1 of 5);
2. Young people are coming back to the County (2 of 5); and
3. Young people are leaving the County to go to **PEOPLE** they know (4 of 5) **NOT** to seek **SERVICES!**

Next Steps:

- Transitional Housing Program in 2 Communities in the County
- Host Homes Program Pilot
- Volunteer Street Outreach Program in Smiths Falls
- Small Homes Model Committee
- Increase Community Awareness and Increase Community Partnerships!!



CAEH - 20K Homes Campaign

October 2015 - County of Lanark hosted Registration Week

39 people were surveyed (6 refused)
19 were youth

Successes: All but 6 now housed!

Next Step: County moving towards By Name Lists (BNLs)

Community Wide Strategic Plan to Prevent, Reduce and End Youth Homelessness



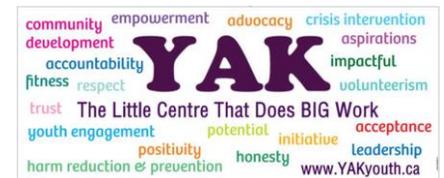
Some of our Community Partners and Funders



THE J.W. McCONNELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION DE LA
FAMILLE J.W. McCONNELL



Links and Sources of Information:

County of Lanark - 10 Year Plan <http://www.lanarkcounty.ca/Asset5762.aspx>

United Way of Lanark County - Collective Impact Information and Documentation
<http://lanarkunitedway.com/youth-services/youth-collective-impact/>

Cornerstone Landing Youth Services

www.cornerstonelanding.com

Christine Campbell - Chair

Terrilee Kelford - Vice Chair

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