

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS REPORT SUMMARY

Sault Ste. Marie

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?	Yes – DC and IH funding streams co-exist
Specific to Coordinated Access and the HMIS, has there been ongoing, meaningful collaboration between the DC CE and the IH CE and/or IH CAB over the reporting period?	Yes
Describe this collaboration in more detail.	
<p>Indigenous service providers continue to be a crucial part of the Coordinated Access system. The objective of Coordinated Access Committee meetings is to help communities ensure equity of access to appropriate resources, prioritize people in need of assistance and connect people to appropriate services in a more streamlined way.</p> <p>Voiced apprehension from local indigenous service providers (OAH/IFC-IH CE) include OCAP principles potentially not being integrated into data sharing agreements. This creates a large amount of reserve for the implementation of an Indigenous Coordinated Access Point.</p> <p>Through these Indigenous partnerships it is acknowledged that plans for improvement will continue to take place via meetings and meaningful discussions. Currently tentative plans are being made to overview the data sharing agreements between the DSSMSSAB and Reaching Home (HIFIS) with Indigenous Service Providers to allow full transparency and for suggested OCAP principles to be included.</p> <p>The DC/IH are in agreement that further collaboration and resources are required within the homelessness system to move from discussions to opportunities. Both the DSSMSSAB and local indigenous providers are committed to further the response for the betterment of the community.</p>	
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.

Although no agreements are in place there are continued meaningful discussions regarding the importance of collaboration and inclusivity. This fiscal main themes will be HIFIS and the Indigenous Coordinated Access Point.

Larger continued conversations at a senior level will continue to take place between the DSSMSSAB, Indigenous partners and the local DC/IH. The need for further funding, collaboration, and resources will continue to be an area of focus for the community.

The DSSMSSAB and local Indigenous service providers will continue to have discussions to forge an initial path of inclusivity for all, keeping in mind Federal and Provincial priorities.

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?

Yes

Describe this collaboration in more detail.

On May 9, 2023 an initial CHR discussion took place with Indigenous Service Providers (Ontario Aboriginal Housing and The Indigenous Friendship Center DC/IH).

Indigenous perspectives were provided for all sections of the CHR with the premise that in order for meaningful collaboration, resources have to be allocated to creating a truly inclusive system - this can't happen without staff resources to have the capacity to meet and develop. This will allow the system infrastructure to be built to then provide support to people experiencing homelessness.

An extension request was received from the local IH CE in order for the local IH CAB to have an opportunity to review the CHR. The DSSMSSAB connected with Reaching Home and this extension request was granted until June 30, 2023.

CAB presentation May 16, 2023 – quorum was not achieved therefore rescheduled for June 8th.

On June 8th the draft copy of the CHR was provided to the local IH CE for overview at the ICAB meeting being held on June 12th.

On June 26th – a request for an update regarding ICAB input and approval was sent to the IH CE by the DSSMSSAB. No response has been received as of June 29th.

Does your community have a separate IH CAB?

Yes

Was the CHR also approved by the IH CAB?

No

Please explain how engagement will happen with the IH CAB during next year's CHR process in more detail.

Indigenous agencies (IFC/OAH/NOG), as well as the Board Chair of the ICAB sit as part of the mainstream CAB, CA committee and the Homelessness Prevention Team. The DSSMSSAB welcomes discussions being shared with the ICAB on a regular basis as the Board Chair sees fit.

The DSSMSSAB has intentions to have the CHR discussions and invites for collaboration initiated prior to May next year, in order to have enough time for all to be engaged and involved in the overall process.

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	15	3	0

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
100%	100%	33%	50%	100%	100%

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?

The DSSMSSAB continues to move towards a functional Coordinated Access system. HIFIS remains an integral piece of the Housing and Homelessness system, with more time and attention given to training and monitoring this fiscal, but the overall acknowledgement that more staff resources are required.

Data collection continues to be an important area of focus in order to have a true picture of homelessness in the community. The DSSMSSAB acknowledges the need for further Indigenous collaboration for data collection inclusivity, as well as staff resources.

Access points have been identified within the community, and through discussions and past meetings an Indigenous Access Point is still in development. This is a key area of focus moving forward for the homelessness system.

Common Assessment tools used within Sault Ste. Marie include the SPDAT and the Indigenous Assessment tool, Wiidookadaadiwin Ozhi, created by Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services. These tools are used alongside Federal and Provincial priorities to triage supports and services within the Coordinated Access system.

For those who are triaged to the Urgent Homeless Program vacancy matching and referral discussions occur at the Homelessness Prevention Team meetings weekly.

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 <u>monthly</u> outcomes and set targets using data from the List (reporting in Section 4 is mandatory for 2023-24 CHR, 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 <u>annual</u> 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?

Staff resources continue to be a concern for maintaining and updating the By Name List. These resources are imperative to ensure the community has the most accurate data captured. This also ensures community connection for everyone who is experiencing homelessness.

Without the data provided by an Indigenous Access Point there is acknowledgement that the community is lacking a significant amount of culturally appropriate homelessness data. Therefore the numbers being presented may not represent the community as a whole.

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):

Information placed on the community By Name List is acquired from the By Name List application form. This form provides all demographic data required to be on the list with consent. Community Outreach data is also collected and provided, again, all specific demographics are only provide when a consent is obtained.

Please describe how the List is created using HIFIS:

At this time, HIFIS provides a unique identifier, housing history, and client demographics.

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

Chronic homelessness

x

Federal definition

A written policy/protocol that describes how housing history is documented	Yes
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	Local definition
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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?	Other (please define)
If other, how often is information updated?	
The information on the By Name List is updated bi weekly as staff resources allow.	
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?	Yes
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 " <i>Understanding Community-Level Data</i> " worksheet.	

Without the Indigenous access point developed, the local Indigenous Friendship Center reports a large number of the Indigenous population not accessing mainstream services, therefore not documented using mainstream data collection methods. All parties understand the importance of inclusive data to ensure a true reflection of the homeless population is shared. These meaningful discussions will continue to take place this fiscal.

When the By Name List data is compared with HIFIS, it is never point on, but definitely shows where data may be skewed on the HIFIS end due to end use error. This has prompted the DSSMSSAB to further train and monitor within the shelter system to be sure all users enter the appropriate data. It also skews data, when individuals are discharged from shelter without knowing where they went, leaving them as “unknown” in Hifis versus “homeless” in Hifis.

Also of note, the HIFIS CHR overall homeless numbers did not equal the amount of unique individuals captured on both shelters “Bed Lists” reports, which resulted in a decreased amount of people who were homeless this fiscal. The By Name List and HIFIS were both used in order to attain the truest number.

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

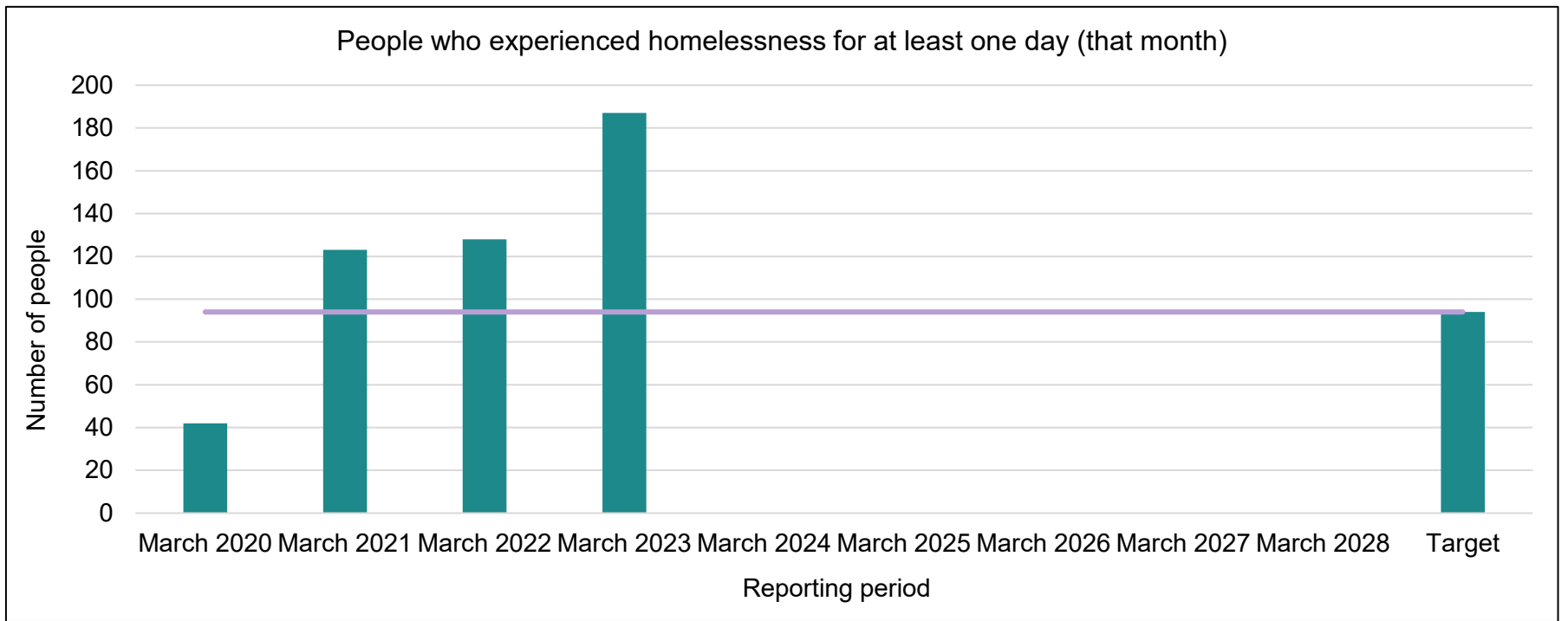
Section 4. Community-Level Outcomes and Targets – Monthly

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level outcomes for the reporting period.

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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #1 for the reporting period.

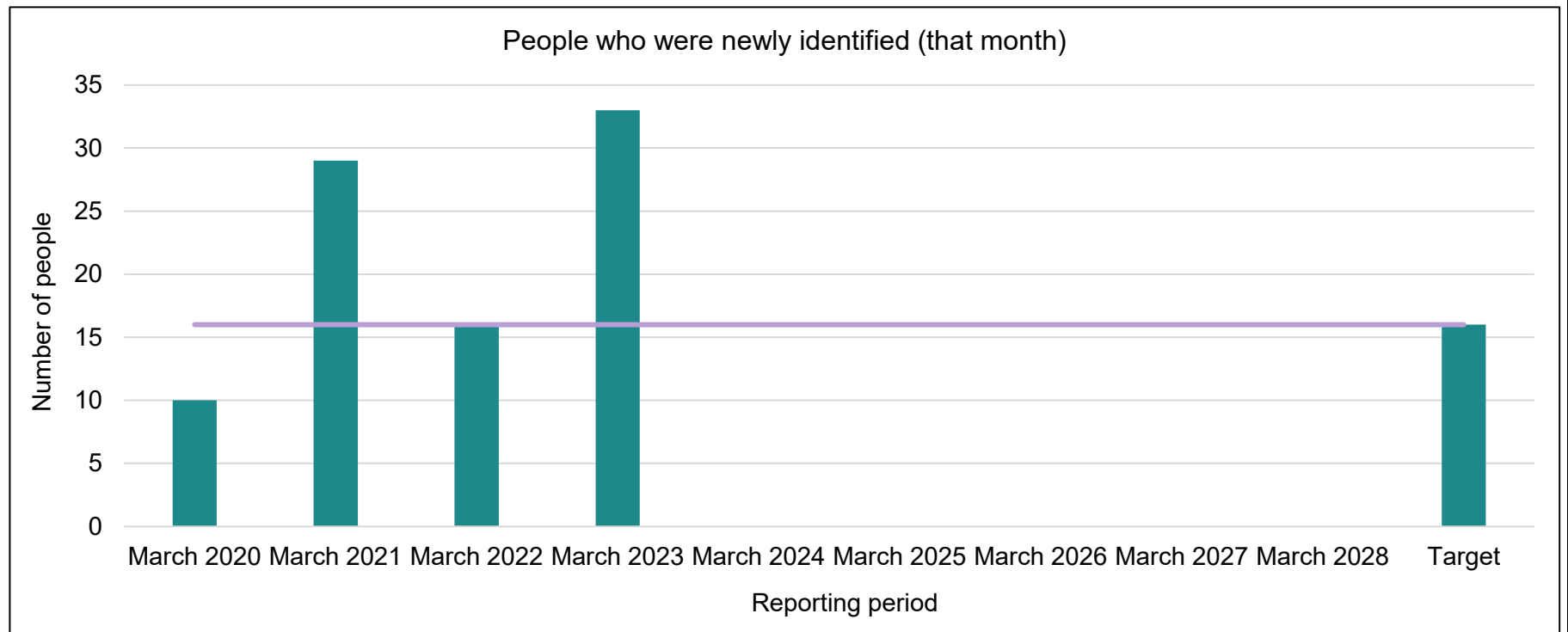
	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
People who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that month)										



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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #2 for the reporting period.

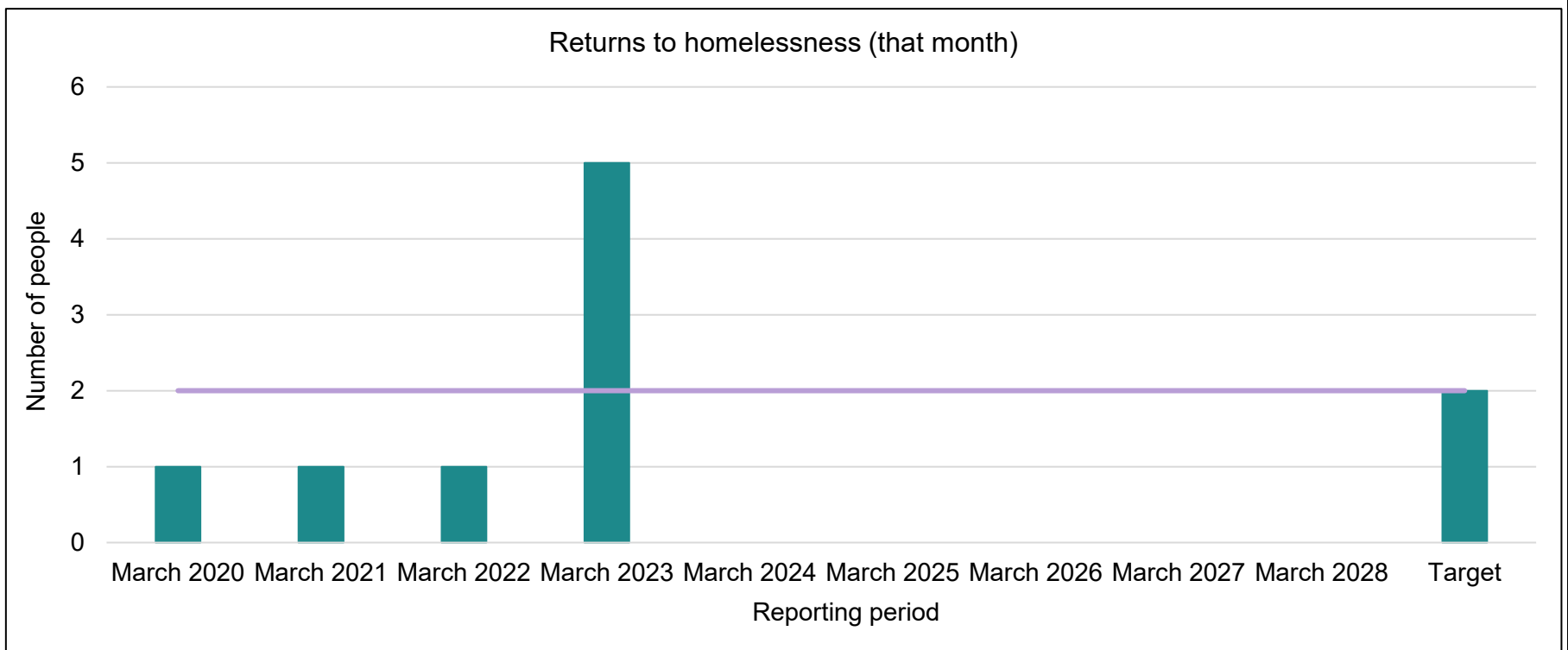
	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
People who were newly identified (that month)										



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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #3 for the reporting period.

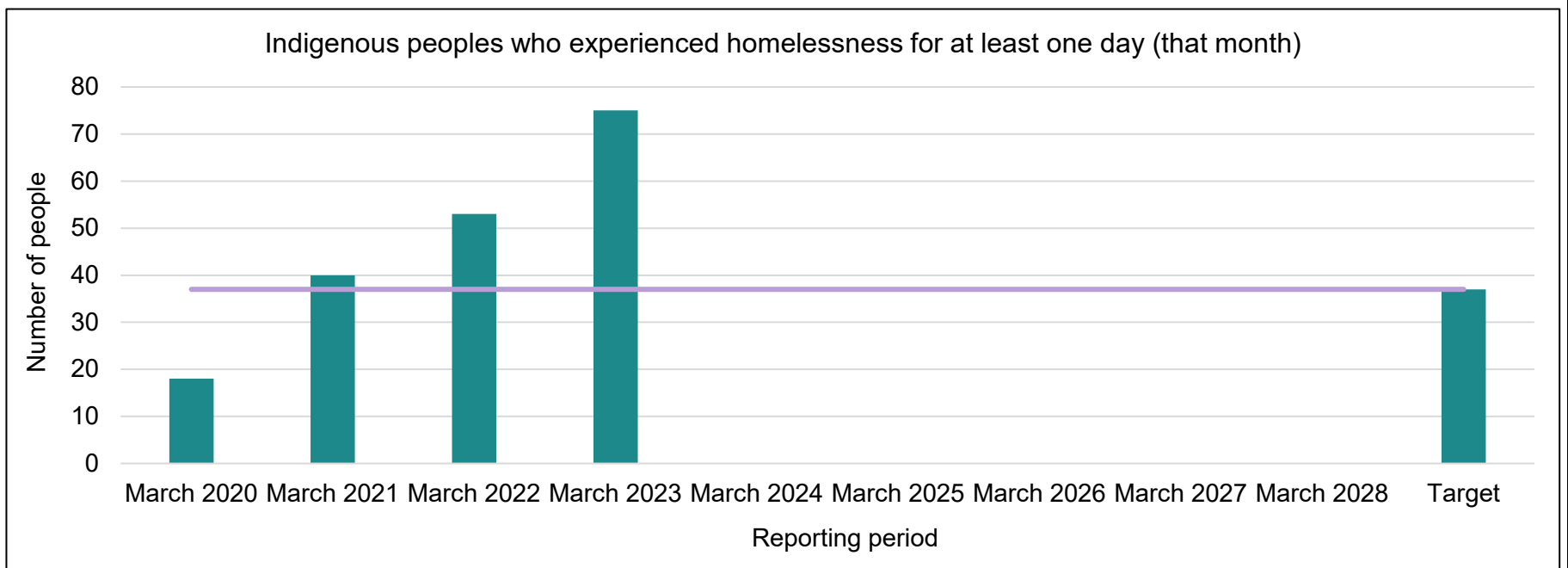
	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
Returns to homelessness (that month)										



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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #4 for the reporting period.

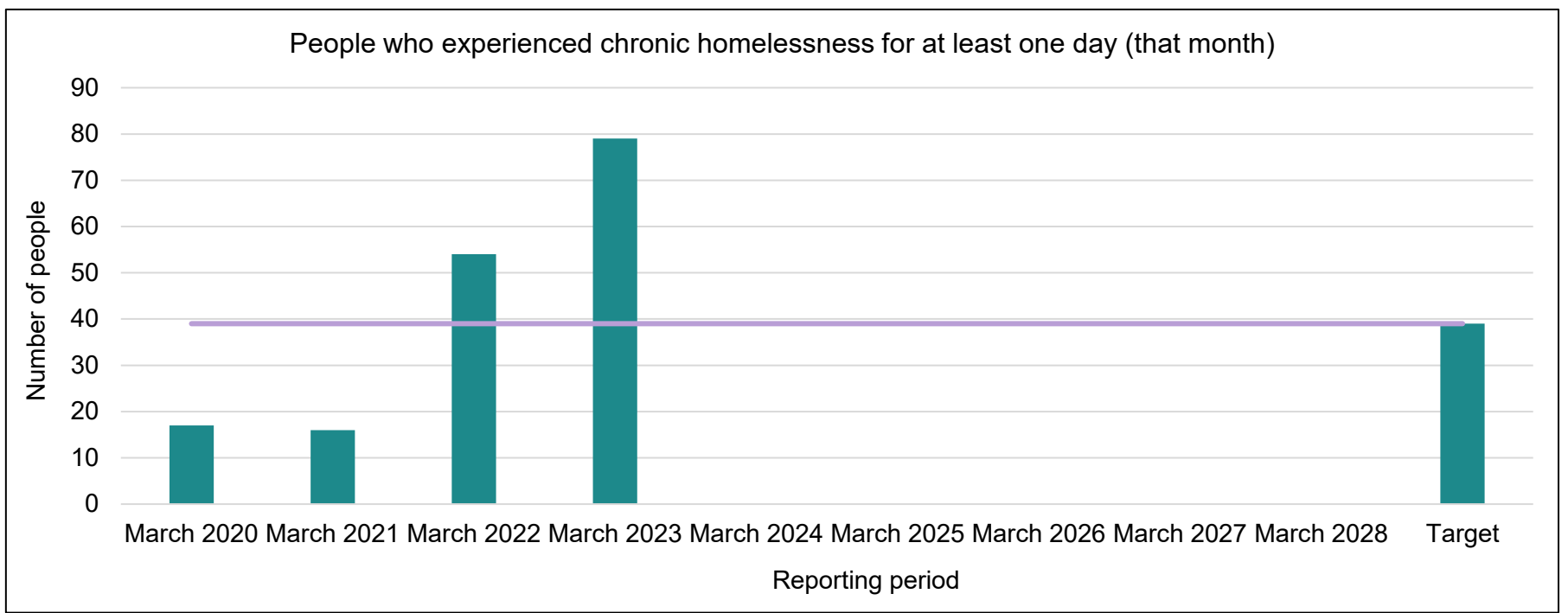
	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
Indigenous peoples who experienced homelessness for at least one day (that month)										



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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #5 for the reporting period.

	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)										



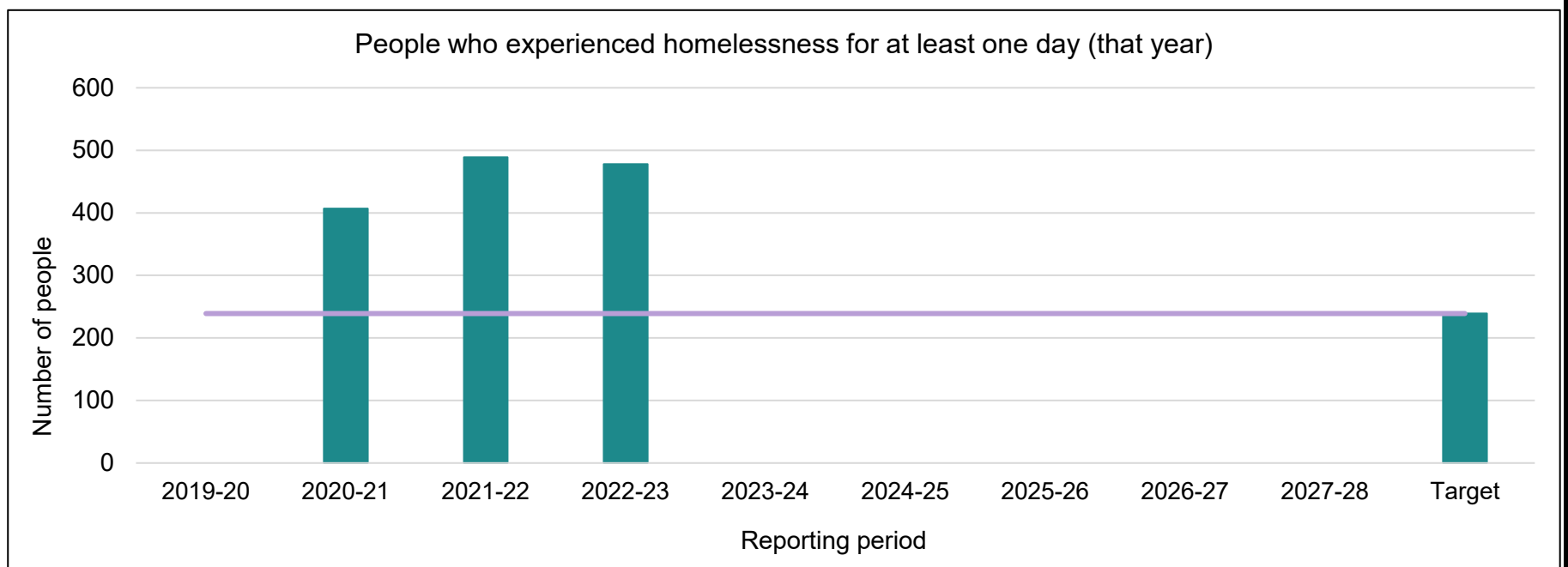
Section 4. Community-Level Outcomes and Targets – Annual

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report annual community-level outcomes for the reporting period.

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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #1 for the reporting period.

	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)										

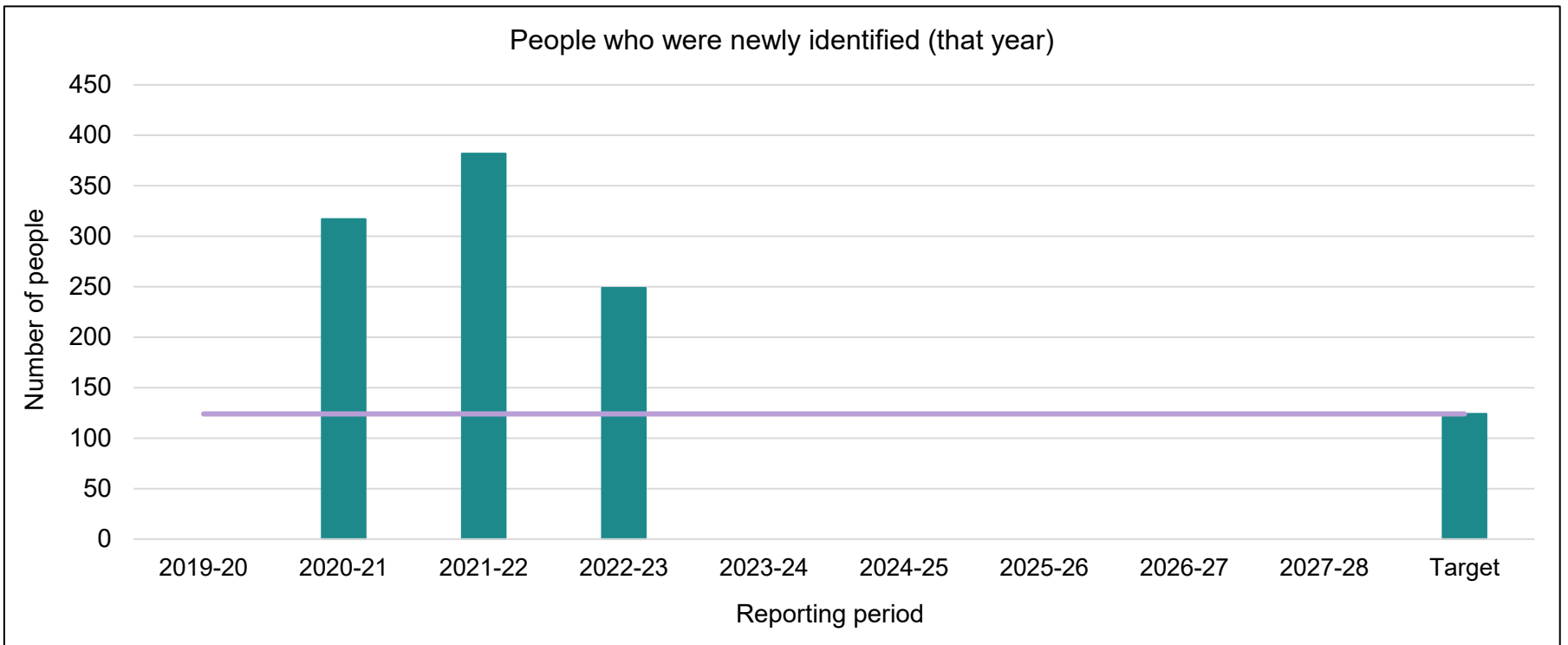


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Outcome #2: Fewer people were newly identified (new inflows to homelessness are reduced)

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #2 for the reporting period.

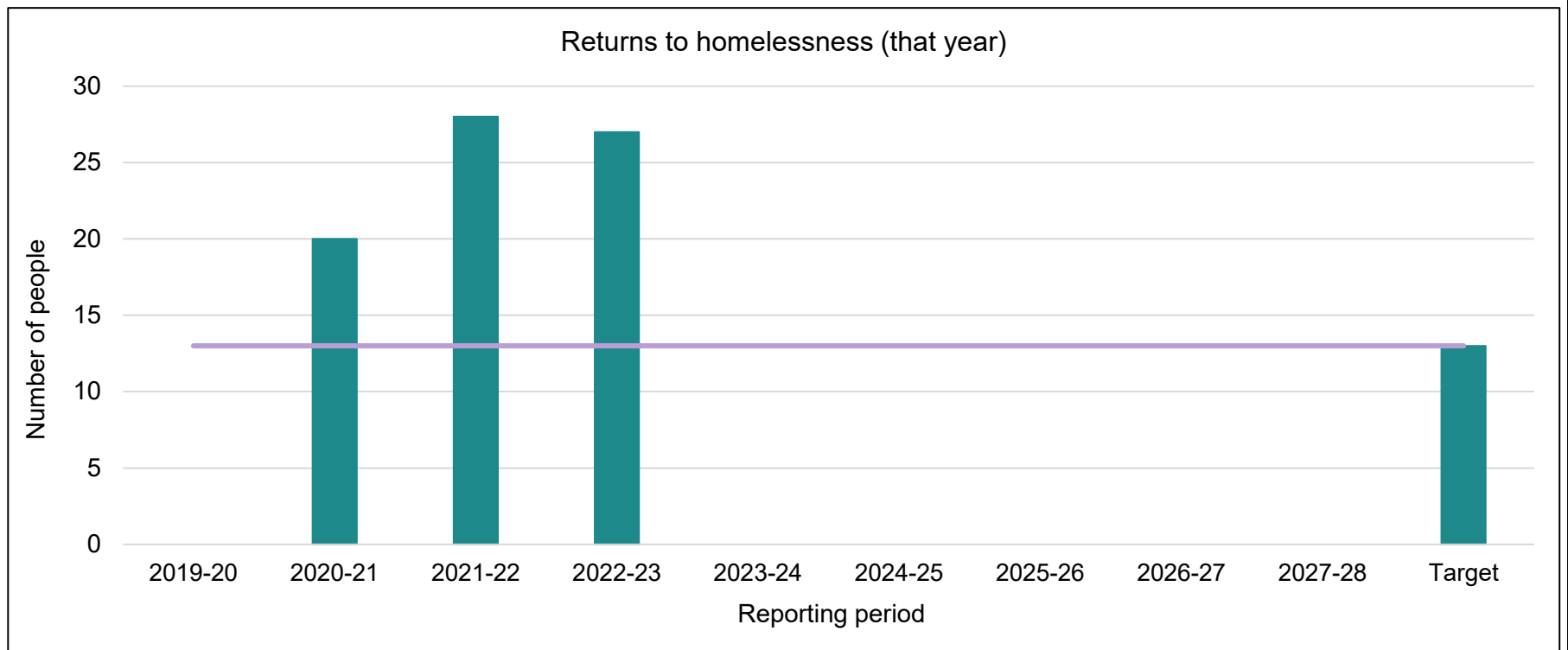
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
People who were newly identified (that year)										



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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #2 for the reporting period.

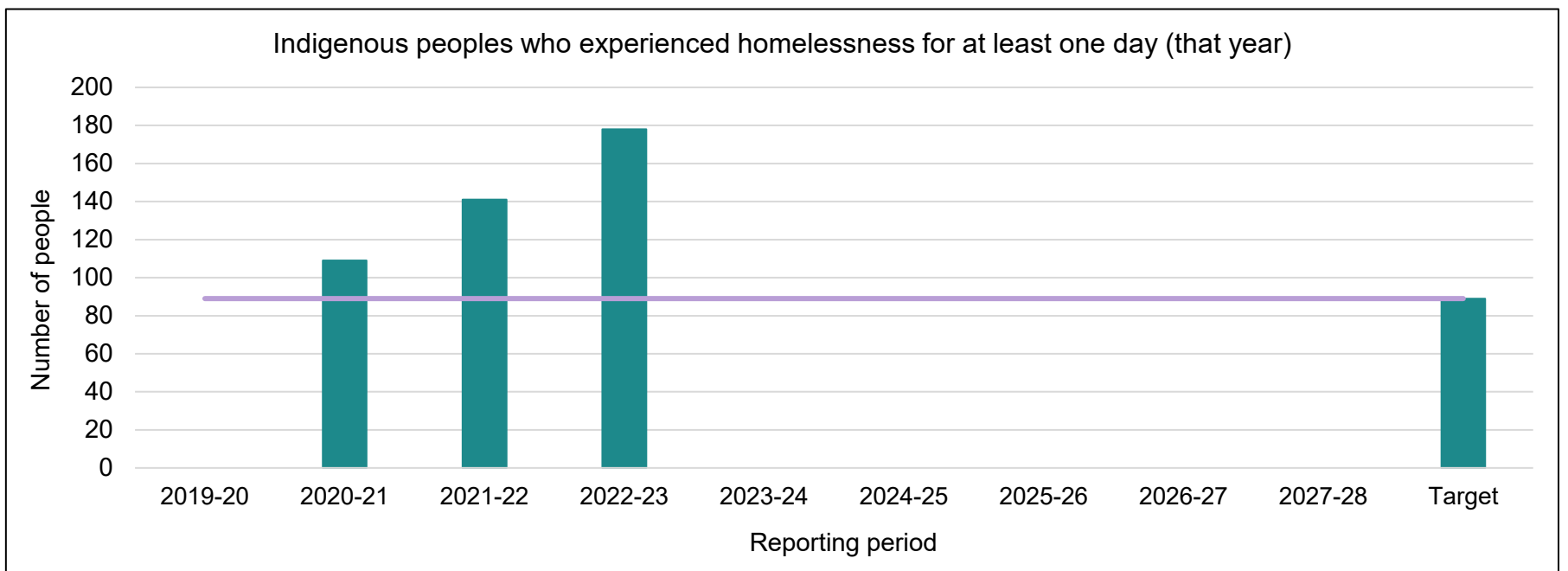
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Target
Returns to homelessness (that year)										



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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #4 for the reporting period.

	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)										



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

Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level data for Outcome #5 for the reporting period.

	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)										

