

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS REPORT SUMMARY

BRANDON, MANITOBA

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.

Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) Housing First Program, funded by Reaching Home Brandon designated community, has been actively involved in the design and implementation of Coordinated Access in Brandon. Brandon Friendship Centre (BFC), which is funded by the non-designated Indigenous Homelessness stream under Reaching Home, is part of the Brandon HIFIS coordinated access. They were part of the planning of the Coordinated Access system in Brandon. Most Indigenous Reaching Home funded agencies are not in the geographic boundaries of Brandon. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation is in the process of joining the HIFIS Brandon cluster and Brandon Coordinated Access. Recently agencies funded by Indigenous homelessness funding in towns around Brandon have joined HIFIS Brandon, but are currently on their own cluster. They will eventually be all connected together with HIFIS Brandon coordinated access and the provincial wide HIFIS database that is currently in the works. In the fall of 2022, two Brandon Coordinated Access consultations were held, the first for families experiencing

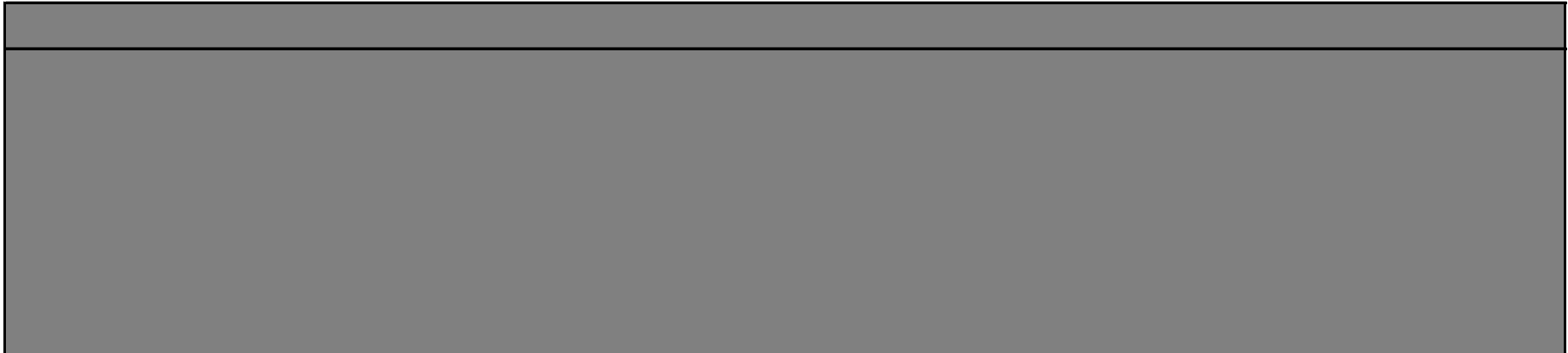
homelessness and the second for adult individuals experiencing homelessness. A number of Indigenous agencies and Indigenous people attended these sessions, including representatives from Indigenous agencies that are not currently part of Brandon Coordinated Access, such as Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services as well as HIFIS using agencies such as Manitoba Metis Federation and the Brandon Friendship Centre.

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.

The Brandon BNRC/CE is responsible for three independent streams of Reaching Home delivery. The Indigenous Stream is for all of Manitoba outside of Winnipeg and is not specific to Brandon. The Brandon Friendship Centre (BFC), an Indigenous organization and the Indigenous cultural based Ask Auntie program (BNRC) are part of the Brandon HIFIS Coordinated Access and have been involved in the governance and fall 2022 review of the Coordinated Access system in Brandon. The BFC has a sub-project recommended by the undesignated Indigenous Advisory Board and funded under Reaching Home's non-designated Indigenous Homelessness stream for the province. In addition, the Ask Auntie program is funded under the same Reaching Home stream. Both Manitoba Metis Federation and Brandon Friendship Centre data, insights, and feedback were included in Brandon's CHR. Most Indigenous Reaching Home provincial funded agencies are not in the geographic boundaries of Brandon. Recently, some agencies funded by Indigenous Homelessness in rural/remote western Manitoba have joined HIFIS Brandon, but are currently in Swan Valley, the Pas, or Portage la Prairie clusters. They will eventually be all connected together when the HIFIS databases in Manitoba merge into one database in the near future.



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	18	0	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%	100%	100%	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?

A new HIFIS assistant has provided support to agencies that are behind in HIFIS data entry due to staff or leadership turnover. She has provided assistance with entering data backlogs, creating new user accounts, and training new staff, ensuring that the HIFIS database remains current and useful. The HIFIS coordinator in Brandon has begun work on developing a new Indigenous knowledge-based assessment and action tool to replace the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) for the purpose of supporting Coordinated Access. In the fall of 2022, a community consultation was held to discuss the emerging problem of families with children experiencing homelessness. Families with children are currently not part of the Coordinated Access system in Brandon. Two new agencies, Pregnancy Support Centre and the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network Brandon, have joined Brandon HIFIS and, as a result, are contributing to the Coordinated Access system in Brandon. In addition, in 2022, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) started using the Brandon HIFIS database when housing people leaving their domestic violence shelter. This increase in diverse agency participation has helped to ensure that vulnerable people, including people who have experienced domestic violence, are pregnant, or are using substances, are not missing out on the benefits of Coordinated Access. Several people with lived experience attended our two fall 2022 Coordinated Access review consultations.

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?

Two new agencies have joined the HIFIS database in 2022. The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network - Brandon and the Pregnancy Support Centre have both been trained and are using the HIFIS database. Two large coordinated access stakeholder meetings were held in the fall of 2022. The first meeting was to discuss and address recently developing situation of homeless families with young children and babies. The second meeting was to review and make suggestions for improvement of the By Name List and Coordinated Access for adults in Brandon. Near the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year, a number of HIFIS training events were held to onboard a wave of new HIFIS users and to increase the use of new features and the consistency of data entry among long-time HIFIS users. In the fall of 2022, data from the By Name List and HIFIS database was used to compile a list of approximately a dozen of the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in Brandon. Additional supports and assessments from Prairie Mountain Health were sought for those individuals. Unfortunately, two of the individuals from that list died within months of that undertaking. Data from HIFIS was used extensively in the fall of 2022 for program planning and grant proposals for additional funding to meet our growing homelessness numbers. The HIFIS team has begun to develop a new Indigenous-knowledge based assessment and action tool that will hopefully replace the VI-SPDAT in 2023/24. The main barrier to the quality of our data is that our HIFIS using agencies are overwhelmed with the dramatically increasing number of people experiencing homelessness and the increase in clients' needs. Agencies report struggling to keep up with data entry while facing continual crisis. In 2023/24, there are plans to test the new Holding Stones assessment and action tool that will likely replace VI-SPDATs on our By Name List. Work has also started with Home Care, Personal Care Home panelling, and Community Living Disability Services (supported living for people with intellectual disabilities) to remove barriers to unhoused people accessing these services and improve coordination of referrals. This will hopefully reduce the number of extremely high needs individuals from the By Name List. In 2019, as a community, it was decided that the By Name List Crystal Report that pulls data from HIFIS would be simple. As a result, some of the data asked about in this section does not appear on the By Name List report, but is available on HIFIS for agencies who want further information.

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 how the List is created using HIFIS:

The By Name list is created using a Crystal Report that pulls the names, client numbers, date of birth, most recent VI-SPDAT score, and information about open cases. The data is sorted by VI-SPDAT on the By Name List. Agencies have identified which VI-SPDAT scores are best suited to the type of programming they offer, such as short-term interventions versus year plus long intensive supports.

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?	Yes
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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.

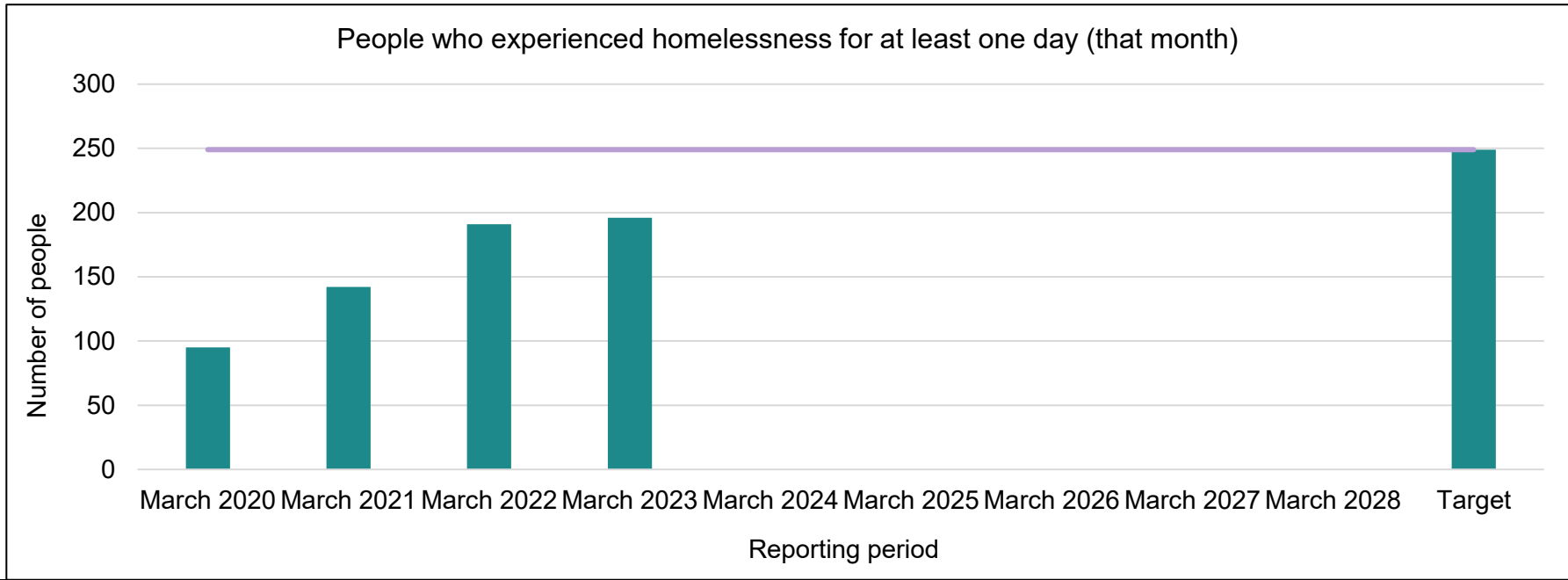
Notes about above questions: 3.17 and 3.20 The CHHA shelter used to record all stays in their maximum 28 day emergency suites prior to the start of COVID. However, they are currently not recording stays in their emergencies suites. Often people temporarily staying in those units remain on the By Name List under their previous category or have their housing history updated by another HIFIS agency. 3.21 Some people who were previously homeless remain on the By Name List while in hospital. 3.21 Prior to the start of COVID, persons in Brandon Correction Centre (BCC) were being entered onto the By Name List while still in Corrections due to a program with Manitoba Corrections and Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation. However, during COVID, funding for that program was cut and, as a result, client names are no longer being added while in BCC. Question 3.22: Our By Name List numbers are far higher than our 2021 PIT count figures. For clients staying in the YWCA Women's Shelter, their stays are not recorded into HIFIS admissions, but they are added to HIFIS if seeking housing placement with the Reaching Home funded caseworker. This means that many, but not all domestic violence shelter clients are entered into Brandon Coordinated Access and the By Name List.

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)	95	142	191	196						249



Context for Outcome #1 (monthly):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

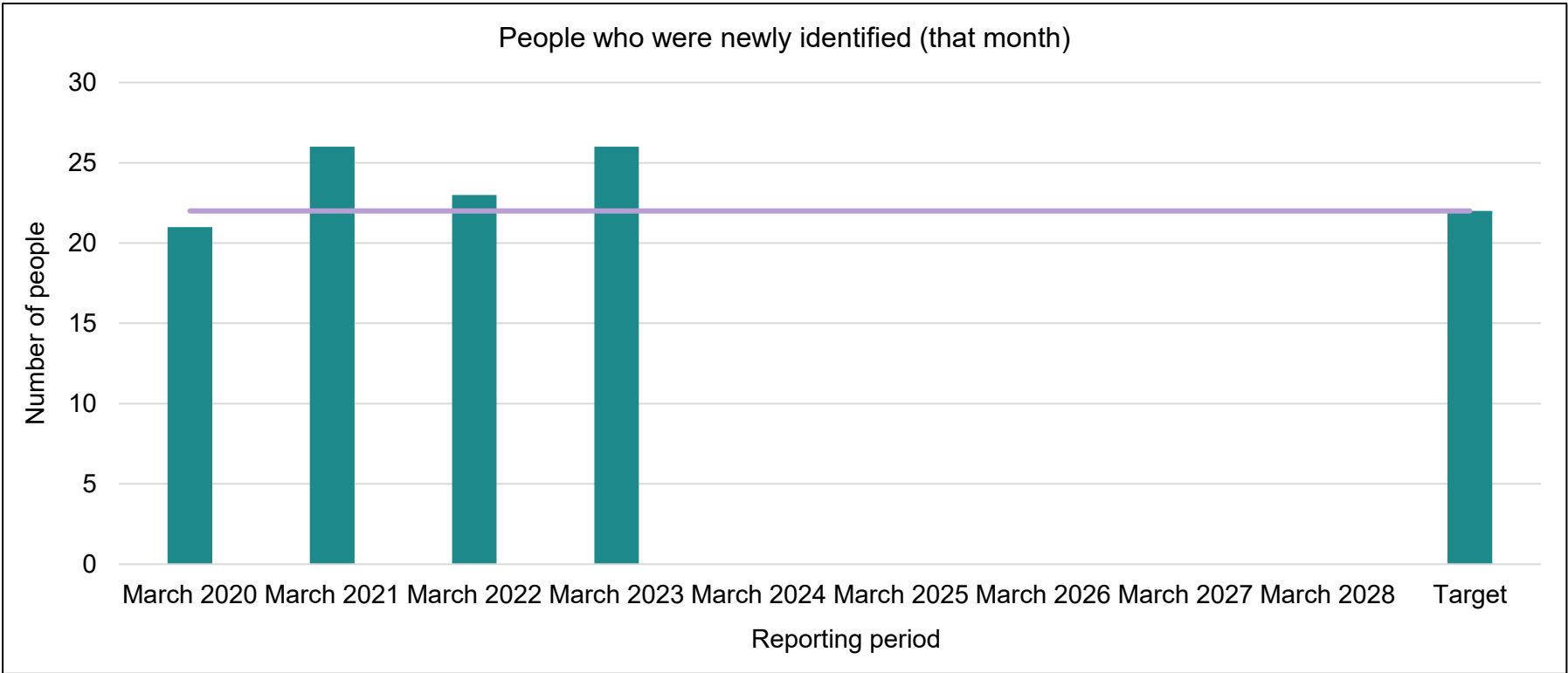
Our data has changed since last year's CHR because we have begun to use the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for data extraction. Last year, we used a different Crystal Report for data extraction that was based on a broader definition of "homeless". Unfortunately instead of having fewer people experiencing homelessness, our numbers are increasing dramatically due to people moving in from other communities and people returning to homelessness. This number is an under representation of actual homelessness in Brandon because it does not include women staying at the domestic violence shelter. It also does not include people staying at trap houses, couchsurfing, or trading sex for housing. These folks can find somewhere to sleep for 6 or 8 hours at night, but have nowhere to live the other 16 or 18 hours a day and have nowhere to keep their belongings. We also have a large number of people who are in jail or prison who are homeless and have committed crimes associated with homelessness, poverty, and lack of access to essential services. We predict this number will continue to increase. We hope to level off this curve by building a new transitional housing project for our most high needs and chronically homeless. We also aim at providing strong, effective programming to reduce returns to homelessness from housing. We are aware that there are factors that we cannot control that impact this target number, including movement into homelessness from outlying communities and entries into homelessness from other systems.

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)	21	26	23	26						22



Context for Outcome #2 (monthly):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

We used the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for the first time this year. CERB and other COVID programming and funding helped some people remain in housing. However, as COVID funding dries up, more new people are becoming homeless. The Brandon CAB acknowledges that our homelessness sector has little control over this number as regional housing shortages and people entering homelessness from other systems are beyond our control. As a result, our target is an average of previous years' stats.

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

Yes

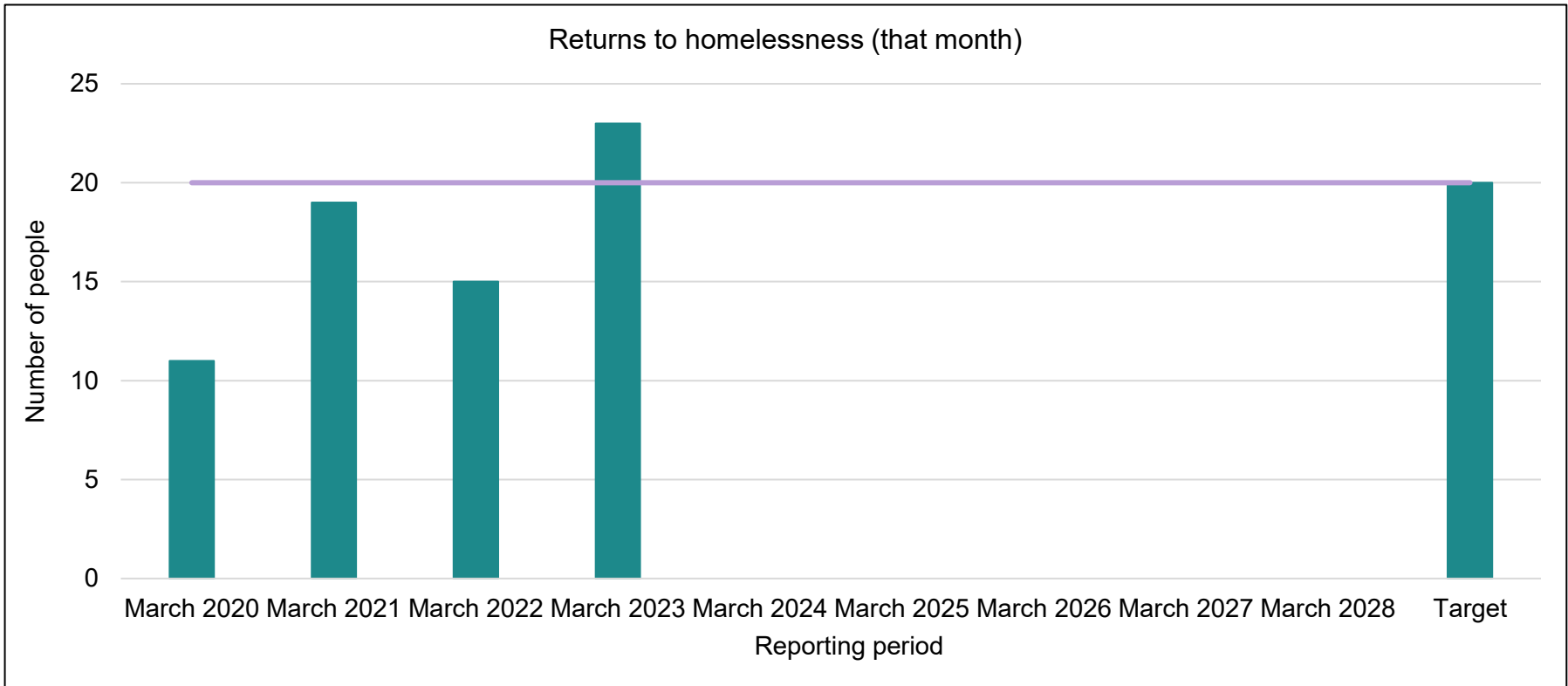
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Outcome #3: Fewer people return to homelessness (returns to homelessness are reduced)

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027	March 2028	Target
Returns to homelessness (that month)	11	19	15	23						20



Context for Outcome #3 (monthly):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

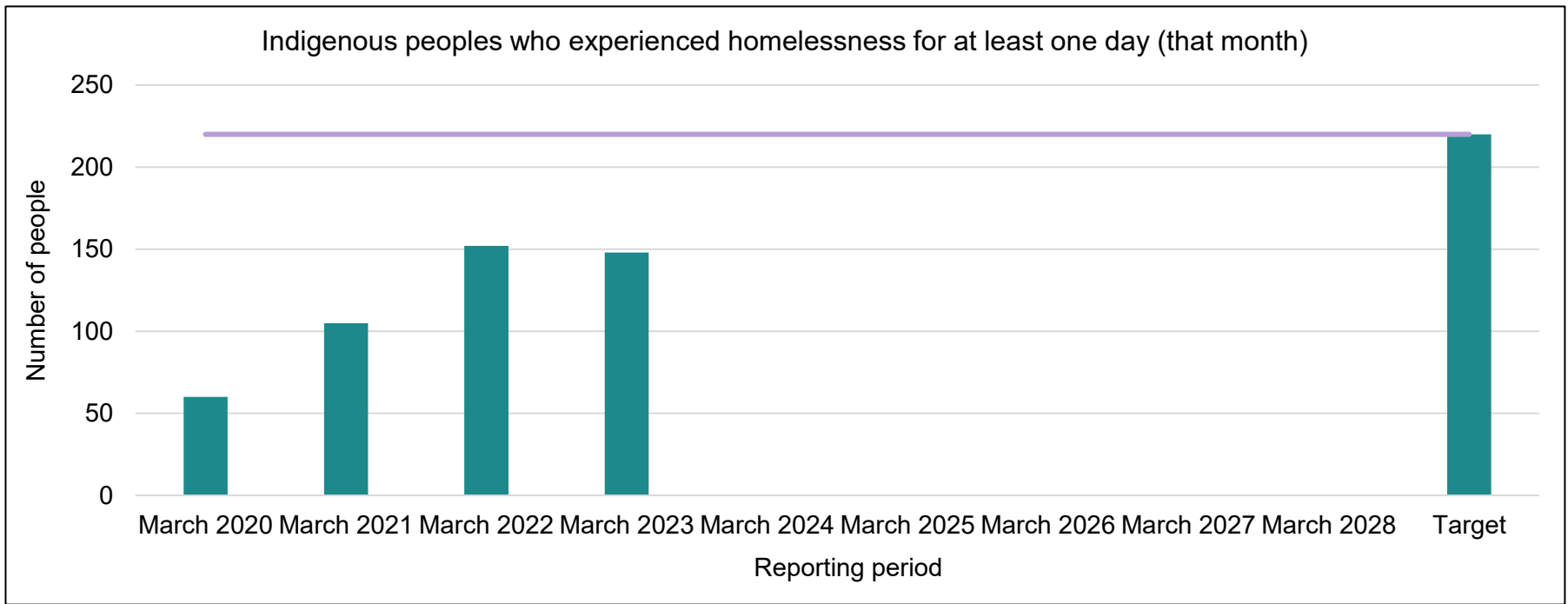
We used the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for the first time this year. These figures may be inaccurate as people frequently move between their home communities or First Nations and Brandon. If they were housed somewhere other than Brandon, they will not be counted in these figures. Once the HIFIS databases merge across the province and HIFIS is used in more northern, rural, and First Nation communities, these figures will become more reliable. Through strong, effective housing programming, our communities aim to reduce the number of people returning to homelessness over the next several years.

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

Yes

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)	60	105	152	148						220



Context for Outcome #4 (monthly):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

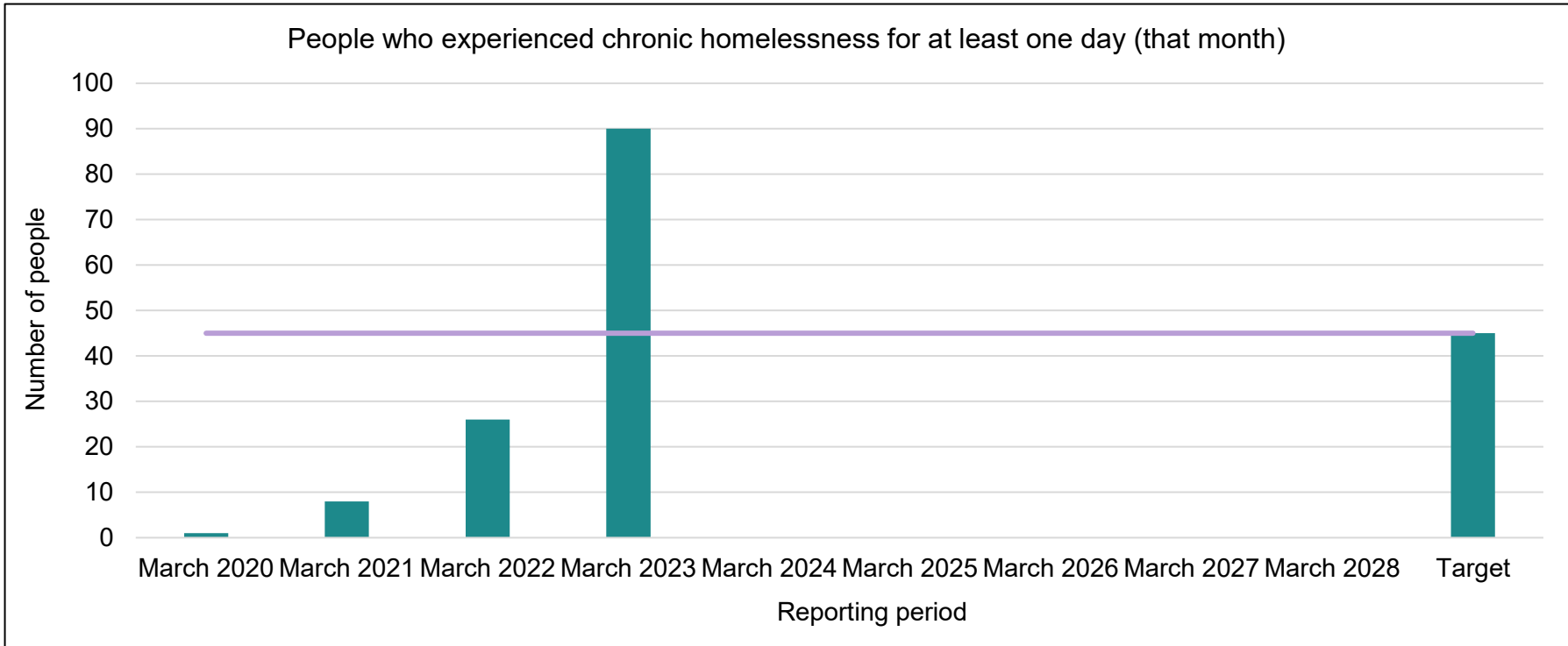
We used the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for the first time this year. These figures are slightly lower than reality as some people have chosen to not provide information about their Indigenous status but are likely Indigenous. Unfortunately, many of our Indigenous people continue to face systemic barriers, including barriers that are a result of poor quality education due to systemic underfunding of on-reserve schools for decades and a lack of proper childhood assessment of health problems, disabilities, and mental health concerns due to poorly funded schools on reserve, lack of access to services, early involvement in the justice system, inadequate child protection systems, and residential/day schools. Many systems are also failing to recognize trauma, both personal and intergenerational, that our Indigenous clients experience. Our Brandon CAB set this target based on the current number of Indigenous people plus the number of new people resulting from the trend of Indigenous people moving into Brandon from other communities in Manitoba. This figure took into consideration increasing Indigenous homelessness in nearby rural and remote communities.

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

Yes

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)	1	8	26	90						45



Context for Outcome #5 (monthly):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

We used the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for the first time this year. The number of people experiencing chronic homelessness continues to increase. These clients continue to become more vulnerable and their problems grow more complex as their time on the streets increases, making securing and maintaining housing even more challenging. We used March 2023 as a baseline as a target as this is the most accurate data that we have on hand.

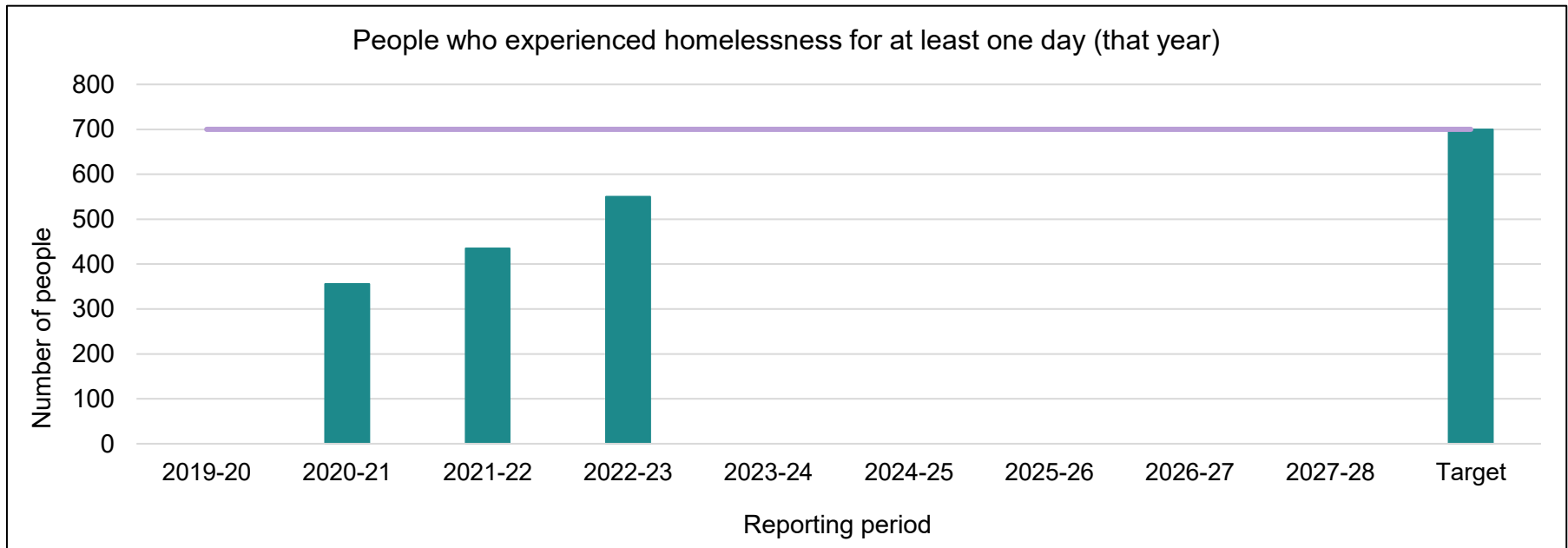
Was the HIFIS "**Community Homelessness Report**" used to generate data for this outcome?

Yes

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)		356	435	550						700



Context for Outcome #1 (annual):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

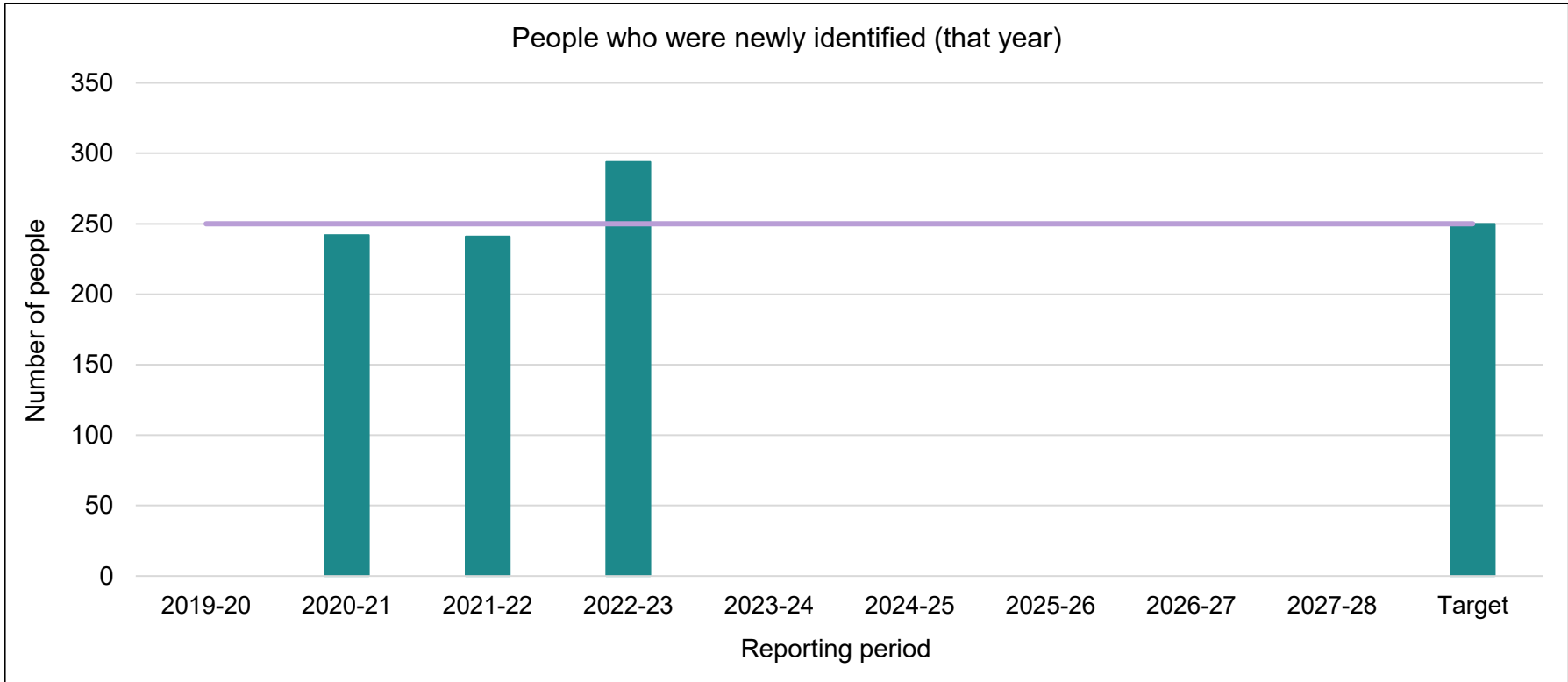
Our data has changed since last year's CHR because we have begun to use the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for data extraction. Last year, we used a different Crystal Report for data extraction that was based on a broader definition of "homeless". Unfortunately instead of having fewer people experiencing homelessness, our numbers are increasing dramatically due to people moving in from other communities and people returning to homelessness. This number is an under representation of actual homelessness in Brandon because it does not include women staying at the domestic violence shelter. It also does not include people staying at trap houses, couchsurfing, or trading sex for housing. These folks can find somewhere to sleep for 6 or 8 hours at night, but have nowhere to live the other 16 or 18 hours a day and have nowhere to keep their belongings. We also have a large number of people who are in jail or prison who are homeless and have committed crimes associated with homelessness, poverty, and lack of access to essential services. We predict this number will continue to increase. We hope to level off this curve by building a new transitional housing project for our most high needs and chronically homeless. We also aim at providing strong, effective programming to reduce returns to homelessness from housing. We are aware that there are factors that we cannot control that impact this target number, including movement into homelessness from outlying communities and entries into homelessness from other systems.

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)		242	241	294						250



Context for Outcome #2 (annual):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

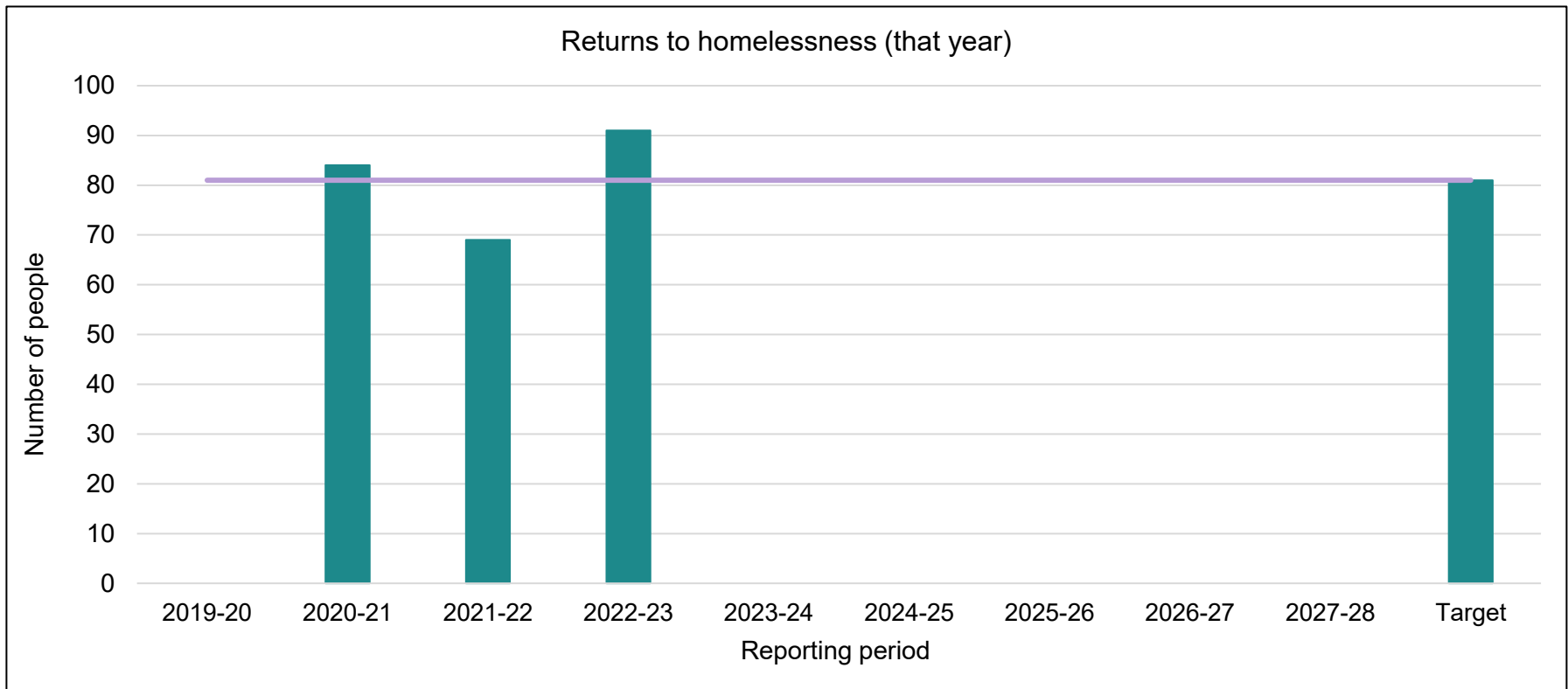
We used the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for the first time this year. CERB and other COVID programming and funding helped some people remain in housing. However, as COVID funding dries up, more new people are becoming homeless. The Brandon CAB acknowledges that our homelessness sector has little control over this number as regional housing shortages and people entering homelessness from other systems are beyond our control. As a result, our target is an average of previous years' stats.

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

Yes

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)		84	69	91						81



Context for Outcome #3 (annual):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

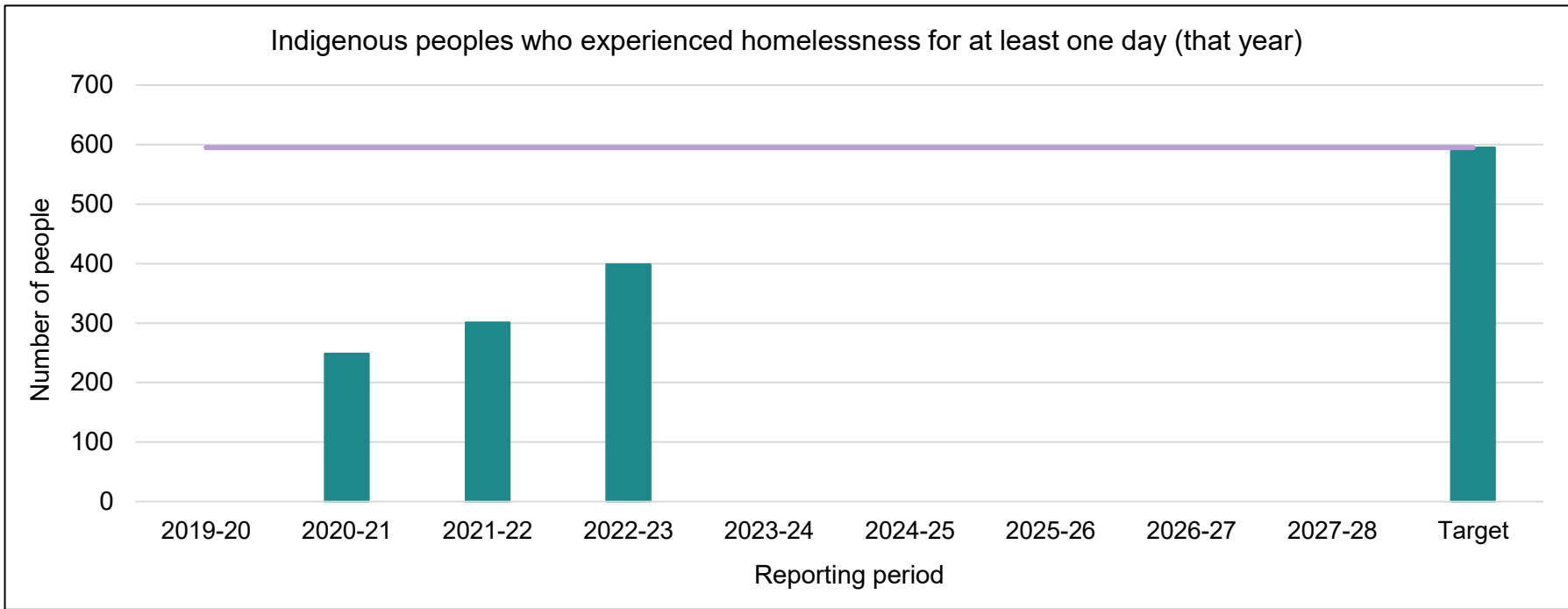
We used the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for the first time this year. These figures may be inaccurate as people frequently move between their home communities or First Nations and Brandon. If they were housed somewhere other than Brandon, they will not be counted in these figures. Once the HIFIS databases merge across the province and HIFIS is used in more northern, rural, and First Nation communities, these figures will become more reliable. Brandon CAB acknowledges that this is the statistic that we have the most control over. Through strong housing loss prevention work, Housing First, and other housing support programs, we aim to reduce this number before 2027.

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

Yes

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)		249	301	399						595



Context for Outcome #4 (annual):

Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

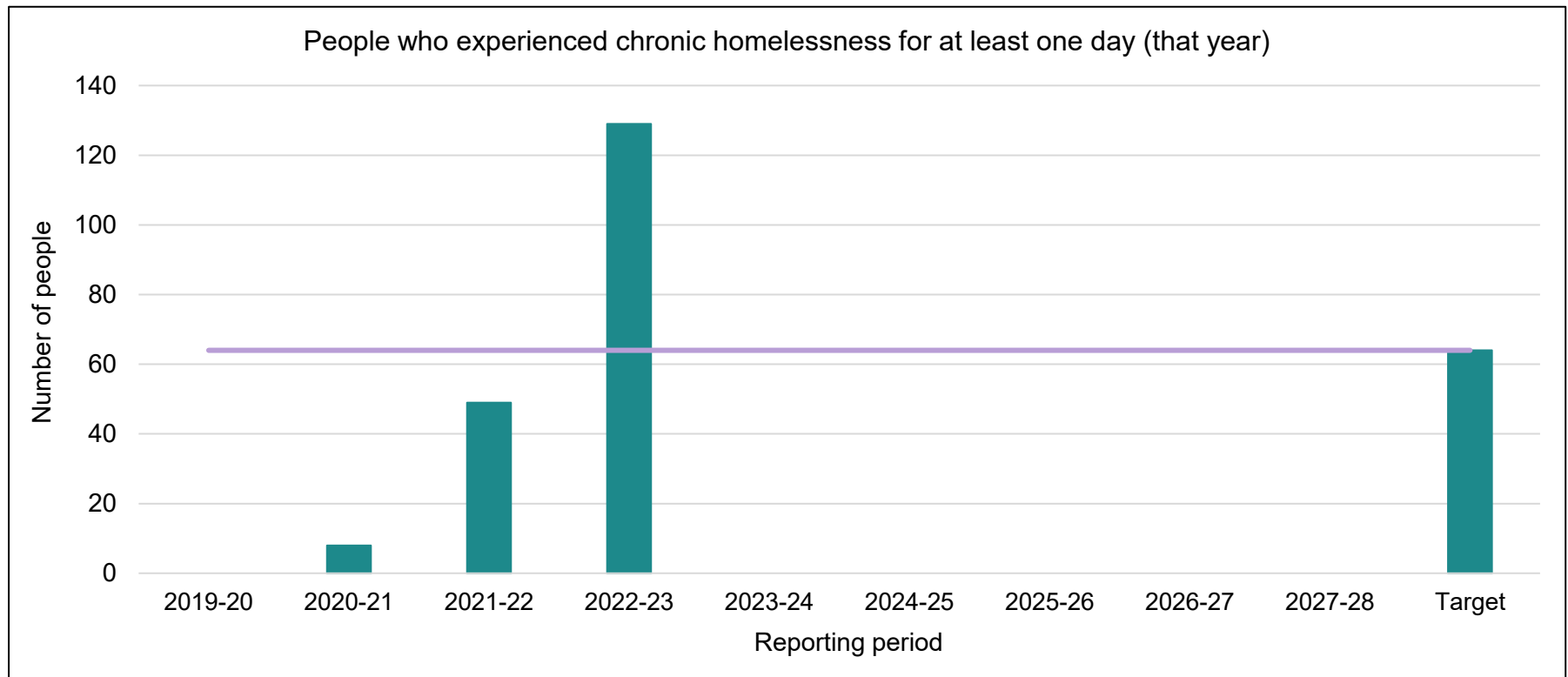
We used the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for the first time this year. These figures are slightly lower than reality as some people have chosen to not provide information about their Indigenous status but are likely Indigenous. Unfortunately, many of our Indigenous people continue to face systemic barriers, including barriers that are a result of poor quality education due to systemic underfunding of on-reserve schools for decades and a lack of proper childhood assessment of health problems, disabilities, and mental health concerns due to poorly funded schools on reserve, lack of access to services, early involvement in the justice system, inadequate child protection systems, and residential/day schools. Many systems are also failing to recognize trauma, both personal and intergenerational, that our Indigenous clients experience. Our Brandon CAB set this target based on the current number of Indigenous people plus the number of new people resulting from the trend of Indigenous people moving into Brandon from other communities in Manitoba. This figure took into consideration increasing Indigenous homelessness in nearby rural and remote communities.

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

Yes

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)		8	49	129						64



Please provide context about your results, as applicable.

We used the CHR HIFIS Crystal Report for the first time this year. The number of people experiencing chronic homelessness continues to increase. These clients continue to become more vulnerable and their problems grow more complex as their time on the streets increases, making securing and maintaining housing even more challenging. We currently have limited programming and housing options for the most chronically homeless. During the next two years, we expect this number to continue to increase, however, once the 16th north transitional housing project for high needs individuals is complete, we hope that this curve will flatten. We have used 2022/23 as a baseline for this target as this is the most accurate data that we have on hand.

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

Yes

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]