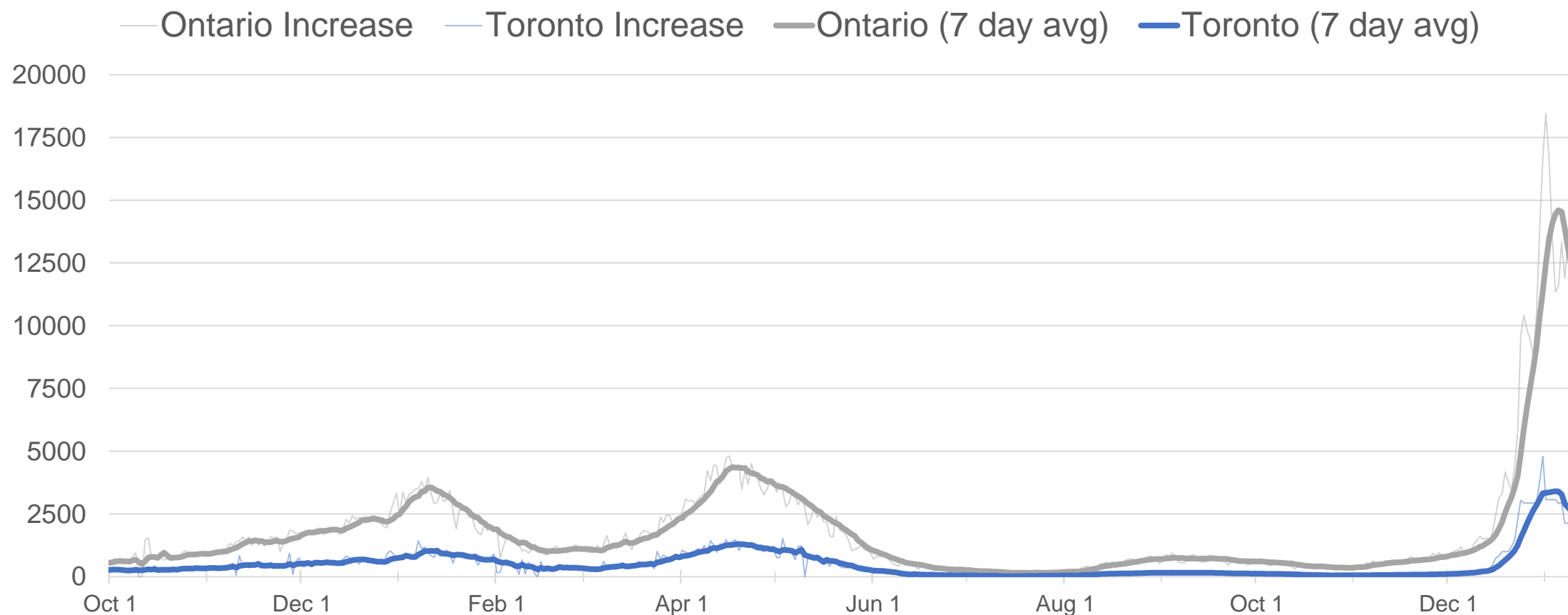


SSHA Updates: COVID-19 Response for People Experiencing Homelessness

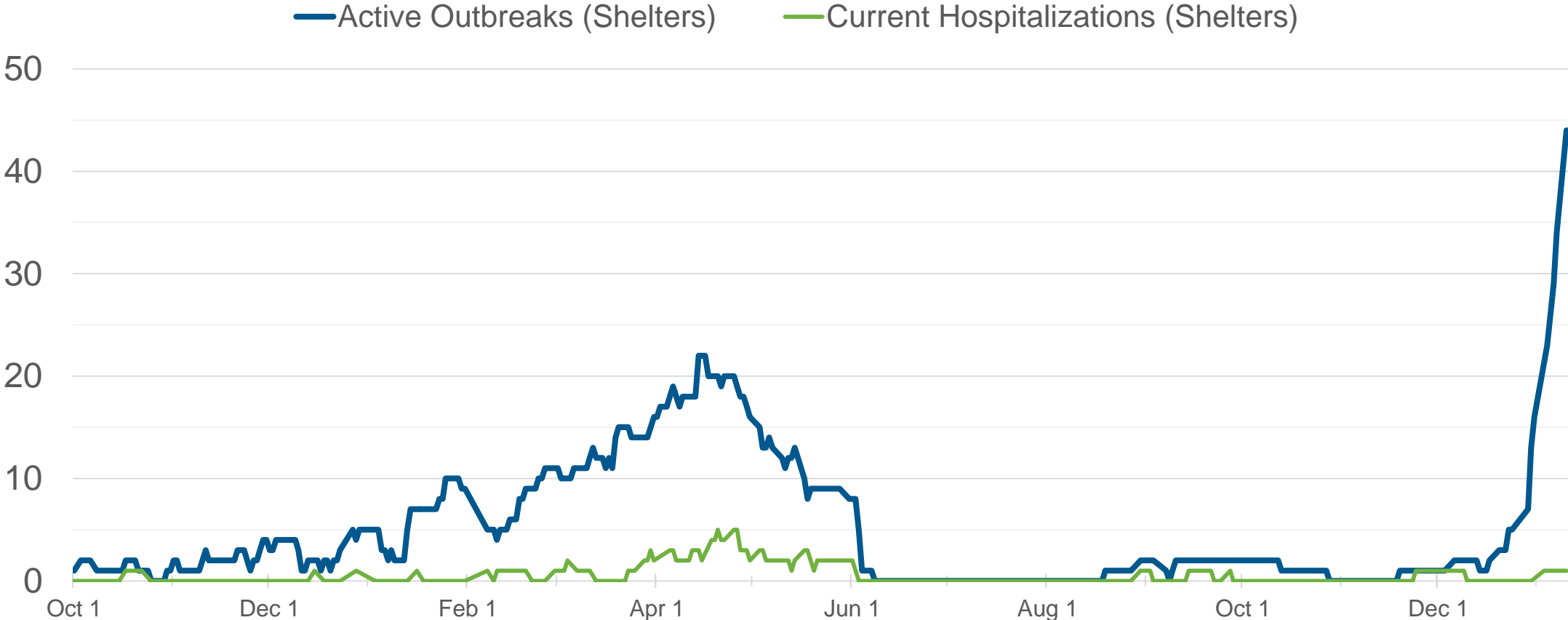
January 12, 2022



Daily new cases, Toronto & Ontario



Active outbreaks (shelters) & active hospitalizations (shelter cases)

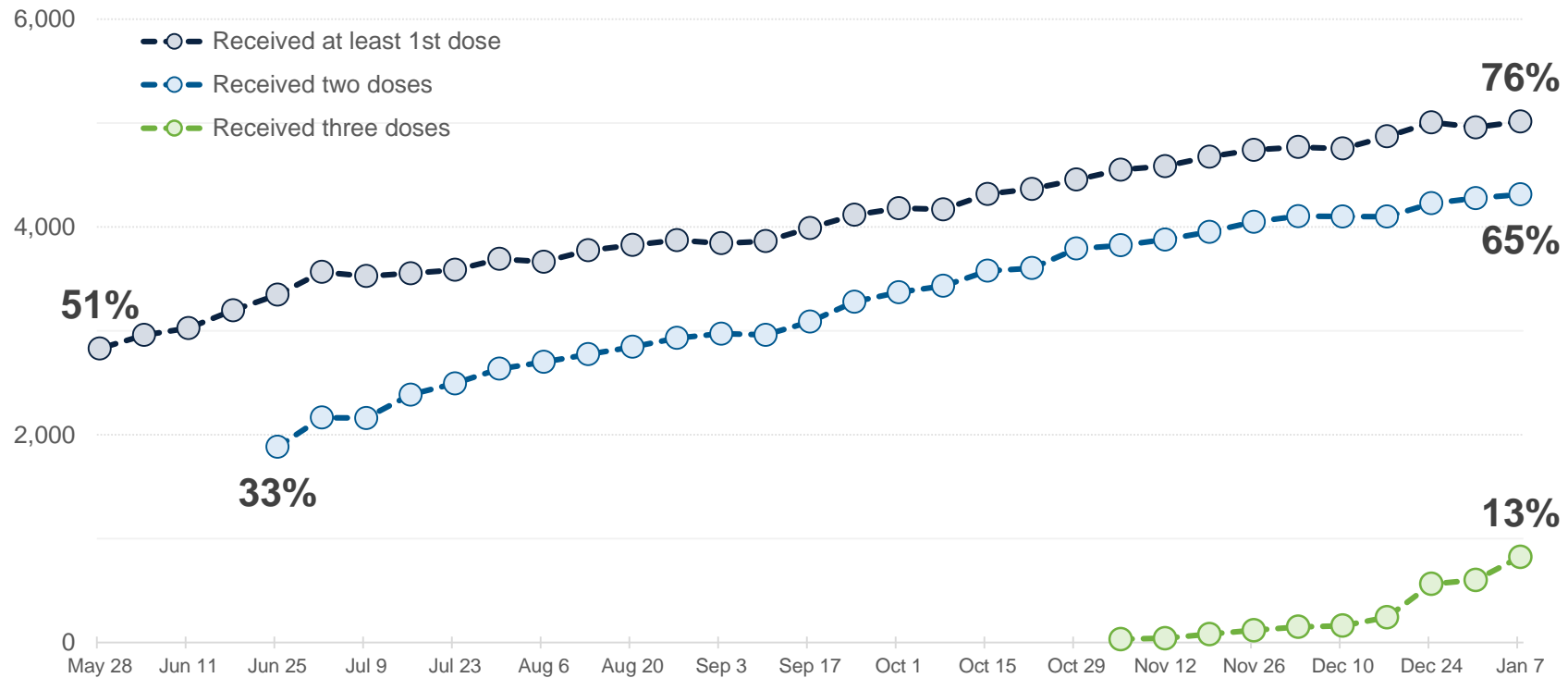


Active shelter cases (outbreak-related)

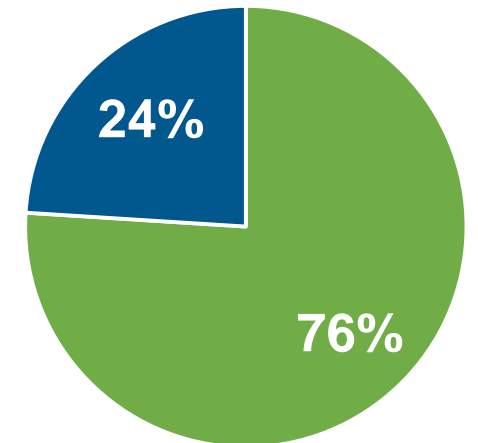


Vaccination rates of service users in shelter & overnight service programs

Number and proportion of current eligible service users vaccinated against COVID-19



Programs reporting > 65% 1st dose vaccination



- Programs with 65% or more of current service users 1st dose vaccinated
- Programs with less than 65% of current service users vaccinated

Mask Directive and N95 Respirator Supplies

- SSHA has updated [Directive 2020-02 Universal Masking and Required PPE](#):
 - Includes the requirement for all clients and visitors to use a medical mask
 - Includes the use of N95 respirator masks for staff
- SSHA is distributing N95 respirator masks to all POS and DOS service providers for staff use. If a site has not received a delivery by Monday January 10, please email SSHA.Homeless@toronto.ca
- Medical masks will continue to be provided for staff and client use

Update on Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) in Shelters

- Practice Health Check is continuing to assess all sites and re-assessing shelters visited earlier this year to follow-up on IPAC recommendations.
- On-site training and education has been ongoing.
 - As of December 30, they have trained 1873 front line shelter staff (in 73 different sites).
- SSHA Quality Assurance Team have been conducting ongoing quality assurance compliance checks.
 - Quality Assurance Team sites assessed 52 shelters to date, with 258 visits

Rapid Antigen Testing

- SSHA continues to encourage all shelters and hotel programs to [register](#) with the [Provincial Rapid Antigen Screening Program](#) to provide Rapid Antigen Screening for new client admissions at each of their programs
- Rapid Antigen Tests are also being distributed to all shelter providers for staff use
 - For additional measure as part of daily screening prior to starting a shift
 - To support implementation of work to home self-isolation where required

COVID-19 Isolation and Isolation Program Update

- Updated memo shared on January 5, 2022, which superseded the communications sent on December 24, 2021
- Updated changes to the criteria for transfer to the COVID Isolation and Recovery Site that has intensive clinical, harm reduction and peer supports

Memo

To:

From: COVID-19 Isolation & COVID+ Site Project Partners: Inner City Health Associates, University Health Network, Parkdale Queen West CHC, The Neighbourhood Group, City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health.

Date: January 5, 2021

Re: Update regarding the COVID Isolation and Recovery Site for Homeless and Shelter clients

The City of Toronto Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA), Toronto Public Health (TPH) and its partners remain committed to promoting and enhancing best practices in Infection Prevention and Control as the Omicron variant increases demands across all sectors including healthcare, the shelter system and homelessness services.

In the context of widespread Omicron transmission in the general community, the City of Toronto SSHA has implemented a range of critical measures to support clients and staff in the homelessness sector. Toronto Public Health has provided detailed guidance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to the homelessness sector on the creation of effective isolation plans within congregate shelter settings to ensure shelter residents needing support have a place to safely isolate. In addition, a COVID Isolation and Recovery site has operated with health and social care services for those requiring additional supports during their isolation period.

Following guidance from the Chief Medical Officer of Health on December 30 persons living in underhoused and homeless settings are to continue to be prioritized for COVID-19 testing both when symptomatic and in the context of outbreaks. The following are updated changes to the criteria for transfer to the COVID Isolation and Recovery Site that has intensive clinical, harm reduction and peer supports:

- *Individuals who test positive from a congregate shelter (non-hotel) may be referred to the Isolation and Recovery Site and will continue to be prioritized for admission for isolation. Consideration will be given to the support needs of individual clients and the remaining duration of isolation at the time of referral. In the context of confirmed outbreaks, cohorted groups may be directed to isolate in-situ or be referred to the Isolation and Recovery Site after assessment with supporting public health, shelter, clinical and harm reduction teams.*
- *Individuals who are symptomatic close contacts from a congregate shelter (non-hotel) may be referred to the Isolation and Recovery Site and will continue to be considered for admission after assessment by SSHA, harm reduction and clinical teams for potential admission. In the context of confirmed outbreaks, cohorted groups may be directed to isolate in-situ or be referred to the Isolation and Recovery Site after assessment with supporting public health, shelter, clinical and harm reduction teams.*
- *Individuals who test positive or are close contacts for COVID-19 from physical distancing hotel programs (i.e. hotel shelters) or other programs with single occupancy rooms will remain at their existing program for in-situ isolation following guidance provided by Toronto Public Health. Individuals with complex clinical, physical or harm reduction needs may be referred for admission to the Isolation and Recovery Site after assessment with supporting public health, shelter, clinical and harm reduction teams.*
- *Individuals who test positive or are symptomatic contacts of COVID-19 who are living or sleeping outdoors (i.e. do not have an existing admission to a shelter program) will be prioritized for admission to the Isolation and Recovery Site.*
- *All individuals who are identified by TPH as being asymptomatic close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 should isolate in-situ at their existing shelter site.*

Isolation In-Situ and COVID Isolation and Recovery Program Eligibility Requirements

Table 1: Isolation Response Plans by Setting and COVID-19 Status

Congregate setting	Test positive	Prioritized for referral to the Isolation and Recovery Site. In context of outbreak, will require in-situ plans in most cases; individuals may be referred after assessment based on complex support needs as part of in-situ planning.
	Symptomatic close contact	May be referred after assessment, limited space reserved for individuals with complex support needs.
	Asymptomatic close contact	Isolate in-situ
Hotel/Single Room Occupancy Setting	Test positive	Isolate in-situ in most cases.
	Symptomatic close contact	Isolate in-situ; individuals may be referred after assessment based on complex support needs.
	Asymptomatic close contact	Isolate in-situ
Living or Sleeping Outdoors (encampment)	Test positive	Prioritized for referral to the Isolation and Recovery Site
	Symptomatic Close Contact	Prioritized for referral to the Isolation and Recovery site
	Asymptomatic Close Contact	Referral to a shelter through Central Intake

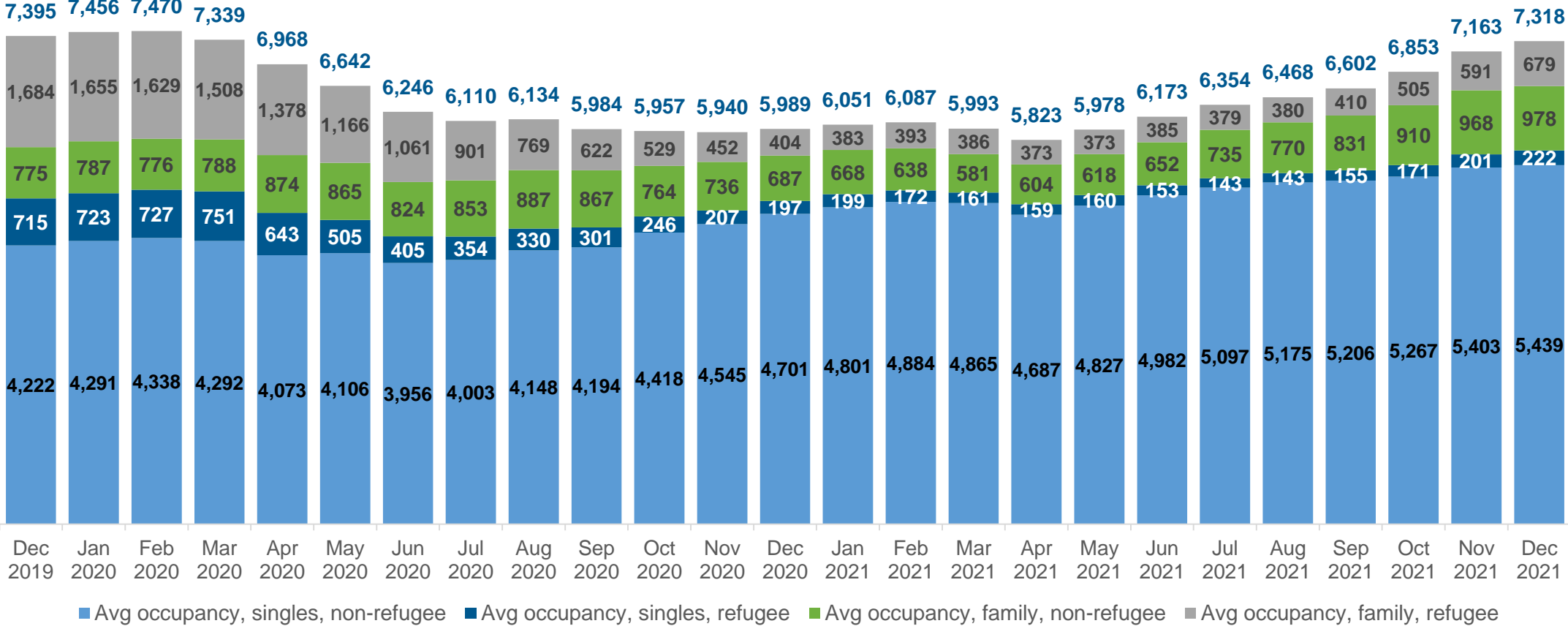
Harm Reduction & Overdose Prevention

Work Update

MOVID – Mobile harm reduction supports

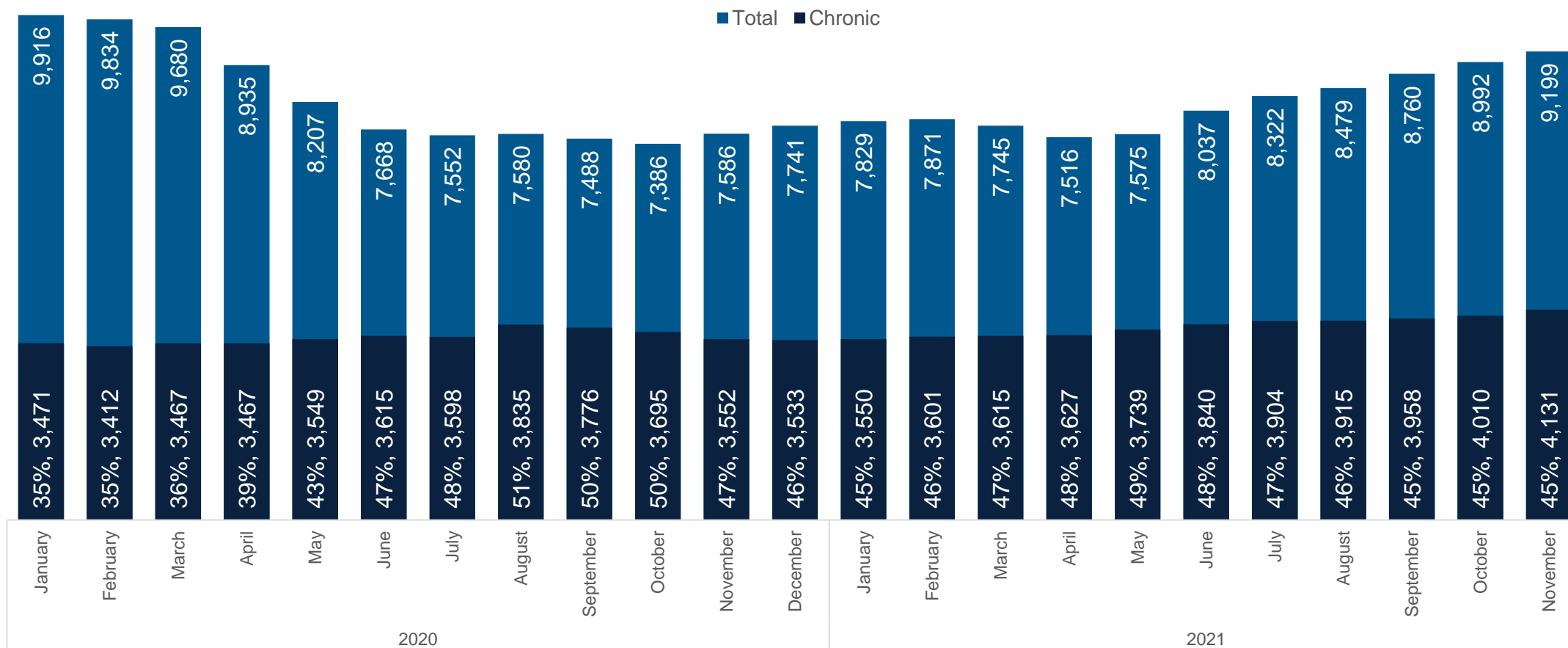
- Available to provide onsite harm reduction supports during outbreaks to people who test positive for COVID and use drugs
- Individual harm reduction assessments are completed with each client to determine the supports needed
- Supports may include: access to cigarettes, managed alcohol program and referrals to safer supply
- Due to the number of current outbreaks and limited staffing resources, we will be prioritizing need before staff are deployed to any location
- We encourage service providers to examine what harm reduction services can be offered onsite by your staff teams
- The MOVID Team and the SSHA-Harm Reduction Coordinator will be available for consultation
- Please contact Greg Rosebrugh (PQWCHC) 647-388-8013 grosebrugh@pqwchc.ca; Florencia Leston (TNG) 416-803-5214 Florencia.Leston@tngcs.org or Karen Tizzard (SSHA) 647-454-2614 Karen.Tizzard@toronto.ca

Average nightly occupancy by month



Retrieved from SMIS
Data current as of January 10, 2022

Number of people experiencing chronic homelessness



Questions?

