

Welcome to the second edition of the Home Takeover Newsletter, a resource created to keep Advisory members and organizations updated and involved in our ongoing efforts to address the community issue of home takeover.

The newsletter is intended to share:

- Project updates
- Research insights
- Networking opportunities
- Outcomes and impacts
- Upcoming events
- Calls for participation
- Community highlights
- Resources

DATA COLLECTION WORKGROUP

This year, indicators were incorporated into data collection sources and co-ordinated approaches were implemented to address home takeover.

Outcomes include:

- The Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic had two cases of home takeovers from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. There were four cases in July 2024.
- One case involving a home takeover situation was reviewed at the Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (S.T.A.R) in May 2024. The Community Safety & Wellbeing Co-ordinator is advocating to add home takeover to the Risk Tracking Database, so referrals related to home takeover can be tracked, as well as provide provincial numbers through situation tables.
- Home Takeover has been added to the 211 notes section for calls related to the Grey County Short-Term Shelter Program.
- Criteria in the By-Names List Referral Package has been expanded to include home takeover, as well as related questions and vulnerability.

INCOME: THE LIVING WAGE

Income and resources play a vital role in ensuring a safe and secure home. As one of the key contributing factors to the issue of home takeover, income remains a growing concern.

The living wage in Grey-Bruce has increased by 1.3% for 2024 to \$23.05 per hour. This represents what a worker needs to earn, per hour, at 40 hours per week, to make ends meet where they live. By working together, we can advocate for income solutions and public policies that enable people to live with dignity and in conditions that influence a healthy life.

To read more, visit: <https://povertytaskforce.com>



COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- An article titled, “Home should be a place of safety and comfort,” was submitted to the Hanover Age Friendly Committee and published in the Hanover Post weekly newspaper (Oct 2024).
- A Home Takeover presentation was delivered in-person to the Grey Bruce Fire Prevention Officers Association on September 18, 2024, with approximately 30 attendees.

ELDER ABUSE RESPONSE SYSTEM LAUNCHED THIS FALL IN GREY-BRUCE

The Grey Bruce Elder Abuse Prevention Network (GBEAPN) has launched a new process for addressing elder abuse in Grey and Bruce Counties. Residents can call 211 to request presentations, information, and referrals to services to address elder abuse. This new response system will make it easier for seniors and their friends and family to access support for older adults experiencing elder abuse through home takeover situations.



The Community Connection agency in Collingwood provides 211 services for Grey and Bruce Counties. The 211 navigators at Community Connection have received training to use the new elder abuse response pathway. The training session was recorded and shared with other 211 call centres in Ontario. Grey-Bruce residents will be directed to appropriate local resources about elder abuse regardless of the 211 call centre that answers their call due to Community Connection sharing the local training and pathway with other provincial 211 call centres.

211 navigators will collect data about the calls they receive from Grey-Bruce residents about elder abuse and the referrals made in response to those calls. This new response system will be evaluated to determine if it is meeting the needs of seniors in Grey-Bruce. Questions or comments about this new elder abuse response system can be directed to Angela Yenssen, Chair, GBEAPN and Staff Lawyer, Grey-Bruce Community Legal Clinic at angela.yenssen@gbclc.clcj.ca or 519-370-2200, ext. 33.

RENT SAFE OWEN SOUND COLLABORATIVE

The 2021/2022 Tenant-Landlord Survey highlighted both positive results, as well as concerns about the quality of housing. While home takeover wasn't directly identified, landlords reported factors that could increase vulnerability of a home takeover including conflicts or stressful situations with tenants, and illicit activities requiring police intervention.

The collaborative is using the survey findings to support community dialogue, identify solutions to improve housing conditions for tenants, and support landlords in maintaining safe and healthy rental units. To read the full report, Landlord & Tenant Survey Findings in the City of Owen Sound (Nov 2024) visit: <https://povertytaskforce.com/publications/>

Winter is Here

As temperatures continue to drop, people experiencing homelessness will require increased support and resources. Winter hours for Safe 'N Sound in Owen Sound is Mon-Sun 24 hours until March 2025.

The Short-Term Shelter Program (STSP) in Grey County helps those who are experiencing homelessness. Individuals or families who enroll in the program will connect with a coordinator to assess needs. The STSP is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 211.

In Bruce County, YMCA Housing Services is available to assist people in need of emergency shelter. An Outreach Worker will assist in connecting individuals to a safe place to stay for the night and help create an action plan to find and maintain long-term sustainable housing. Call 519-371-9222 to make an appointment, or 211 for after-hours support.

Resources on Home Takeover can be found at:
www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca (Your Environment/HealthyHousing)

If you have any feedback, questions, or something you would like to share in the newsletter, please contact Lisa Alguire at l.alguire@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca