

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS REPORT SUMMARY

Sydney, Cape Breton

2021-2022

Collaboration between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Partners

Specific to the implementation of Coordinated Access and an HMIS, has there been collaboration between the Designated Community (DC) Community Entity (CE) and local Indigenous organizations?

Yes

Describe how this collaboration was done and how it affected the implementation of Coordinated Access and/or the HMIS. How will it be strengthened in the future?

The design and implementation of Coordinated Access and a Homelessness Management Information System in our community has involved collaboration between many local Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations. The Coordinated Access working group that was formed 2 years ago continues to meet regularly to move the implementation process forward. The working group provides all organizations (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous) involved with Coordinated Access an opportunity to provide feedback and input into the implementation process. Our community recognizes the benefits of having open dialogue and where all voices are heard. The CA working group and CA Governance Committee both have representatives from the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NSNS) on their committees. Aside from working group and governance committee the CE coordinator has begun making connections with new Indigenous service providers through the funding process. Until this year the CE coordinator was unable to fund projects on reservation which made building relationships and engagement very difficult. This year the CBRM CE is funding its first project on Eskasoni First Nation, the Eskasoni Band Council was approved to use Reaching Home funding to open the first foodbank in their community. The ability to fund projects with Reaching Home funding on reserve has improved collaboration between Indigenous organizations, the Community Entity and the designated community of Sydney, Cape Breton.

Specific to the implementation of Coordinated Access and an HMIS, has there been collaboration between the DC CE and the Indigenous Homelessness (IH) CE and/or Community Advisory Board (CAB), where applicable?

Not applicable



With respect to the completion of the Community Homelessness Report (CHR), was there collaboration between local Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and, where applicable, the IH CE and/or CAB?	Yes
Describe when this collaboration occurred and what parts of the CHR were informed by these efforts.	
<p>The completion of the Community Homelessness Report continued to be impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic. Although not as impactful as the previous 2 years many people are still uneasy about large community led group meetings. Aside from meeting virtually, many of the groups felt comfortable meeting in smaller settings (usually specific to their organization) as opposed to large group settings. By meeting with local organizations individually we were able to collaborate with many of the local Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and individuals. This resulted in very direct conversations about the issues and challenges their organization is experiencing while trying to prevent and reduce homelessness. Not surprisingly, the rising cost of living and lack of available, affordable rental units were the most common issues raised by almost every person / organization. The CA working group and CA Governance Committee both have representatives from the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NSNS) on their committees. Our community has been and will continue to work at building meaningful relationships and collaboration with both local Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations/individuals that will help to address the issues identified during the completion of the Community Homelessness Report.</p>	

Does your community have a separate IH CAB?	No

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	16	2	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%	67%	67%

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? In particular, please include an update about your community's efforts to set-up, sustain and/or improve the Coordinated Access system and use of an HMIS.

The Designated Community of Sydney Cape Breton has been working hard to achieve the Reaching Home minimum requirements. Aside from all the delays experienced during the pandemic, we also had technical issues that were out of our control. Sydney is part of the Nova Scotia Provincial HIFIS network administered by AHANS (Affordable Housing Association of NS) out of Halifax. Near the March 31, 2022 implementation deadline AHANS discovered that the current database could not handle the volume of information contained in the HIFIS archives. The issue was recently resolved with assistance from the national HIFIS team at NHQ but resulted in a delay that we are just now starting to recover from. We have seen several new organizations become HIFIS users as a result of the implementation of coordinated access, improving the community level data we will have access to. Maintaining an available unit's resource inventory and providing vacancy matching are challenging in a community with next to no vacancy. We plan to do a "soft" launch of our By Names List later this year with only limited data being shared at the start. Even though they have agreed to participate and can see the benefits of coordinated access some local service providers continue to have concerns about their clients privacy and felt more comfortable with a "soft" launch with limited sharing to start. After seeing the benefits first hand and becoming more comfortable with sharing basic information about clients we believe the quantity and quality of the data shared between organizations will increase and improve, allowing our community to fully transition to coordinated access and an outcomes based approach to reporting.

Outcomes-Based Approach Self-Assessment

Where does data for the List come from?

- Excel
- HIFIS
- Other HMIS
- Other data source(s)
- Not applicable – Do not have a List yet

In the future, will data from the community’s HMIS (either HIFIS or an existing, equivalent system) be used to get data for the List?

Yes

Optional question: How does data from the List compare to other community-level data sources that are considered reliable? This is an optional follow-up question for communities that have completed the “CHR Community-Level Data Comparisons”.

Community did not complete this optional question.

Summary Table

The table below provides 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	Step 4:	
			Can report annual outcome data (mandatory)	Can report monthly outcome data (optional)
Not yet	Not yet	Not yet	Not yet	Not yet

Summary Comment

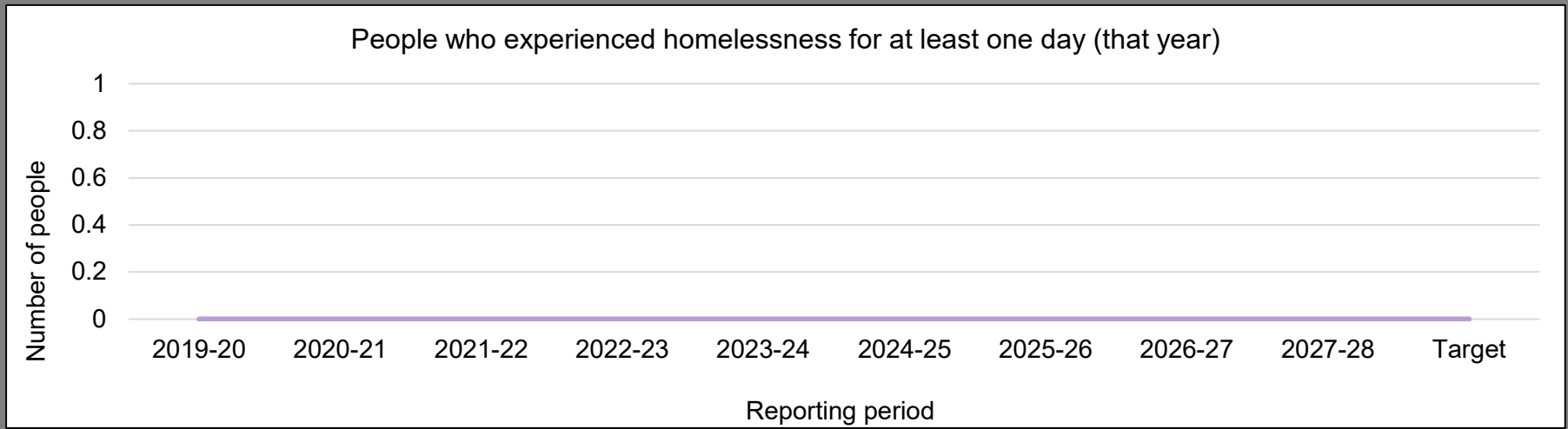
Are there particular efforts and/or issues that you would like to highlight for this reporting period related to your community's work to transition to an outcomes-based approach under Reaching Home?

The COVID 19 pandemic definitely had a negative impact on the implementation of coordinated access in our community. With emergency lockdowns, group gathering limits and our communities focus shifted from implementation to caring for the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness during a global pandemic. On top of all the delays experienced during the pandemic, we also had technical issues that were out of our control. Our community is part of the Nova Scotia Provincial HIFIS network administered by AHANS (Affordable Housing Association of NS) out of Halifax. Near the March 31, 2022 implementation deadline AHANS discovered that the current database could not handle the volume of information contained in the HIFIS archives. The issue was recently resolved with assistance from the national HIFIS team at NHQ but resulted in a delay that we are just now starting to recover from. We plan to do a "soft" launch of our By Names List later this year with only limited data being shared at the start. Even though they have agreed to participate and can see the benefits of coordinated access some local service providers continue to have concerns about their clients privacy and felt more comfortable with a "soft" launch with limited sharing to start. After seeing the benefits first hand and becoming more comfortable with sharing basic information about clients we believe the quantity and quality of the data shared between organizations will increase and improve, allowing our community to fully transition to coordinated access and an outcomes based approach to reporting. Our community now hopes to have our BNL and CAS system fully implemented on or before March 31, 2023.

Community-Level Core Outcomes – Annual Data Reporting

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.

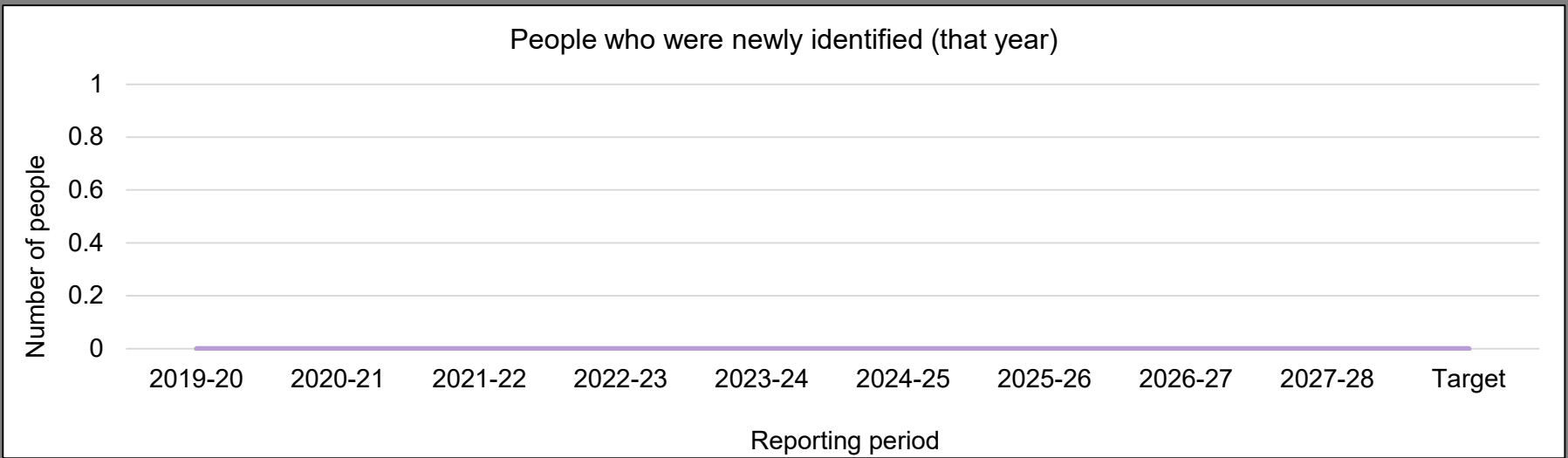




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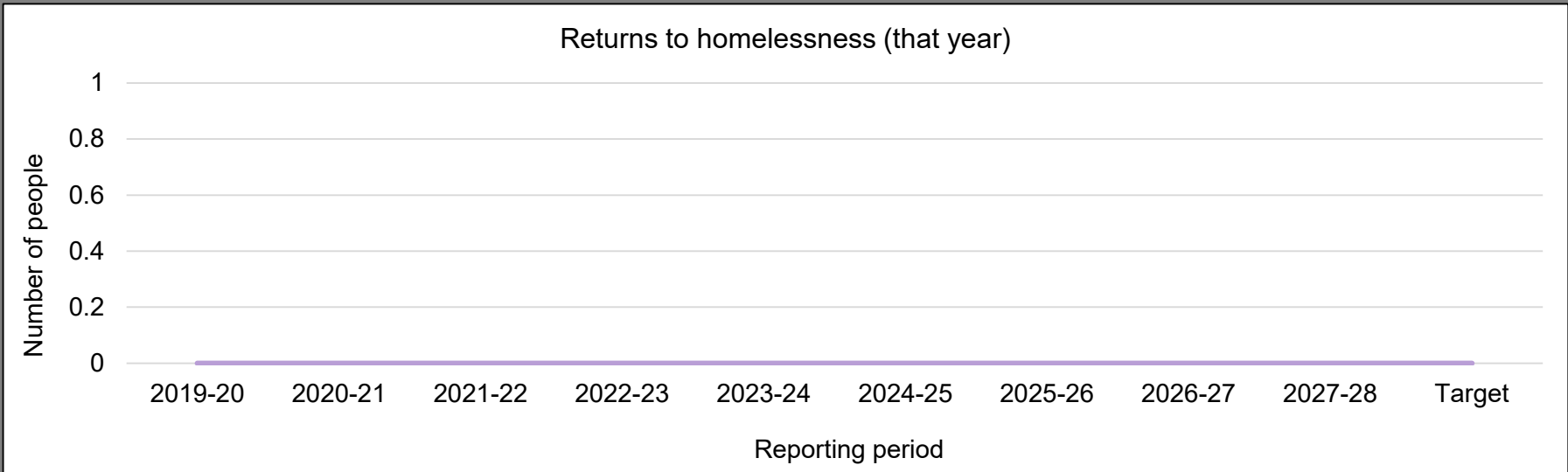
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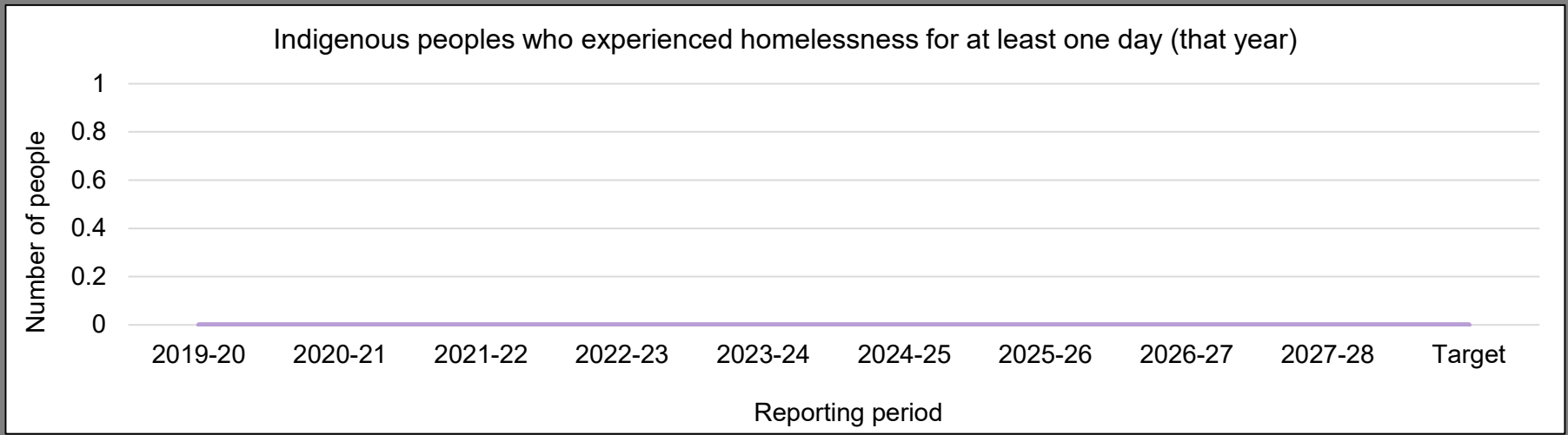
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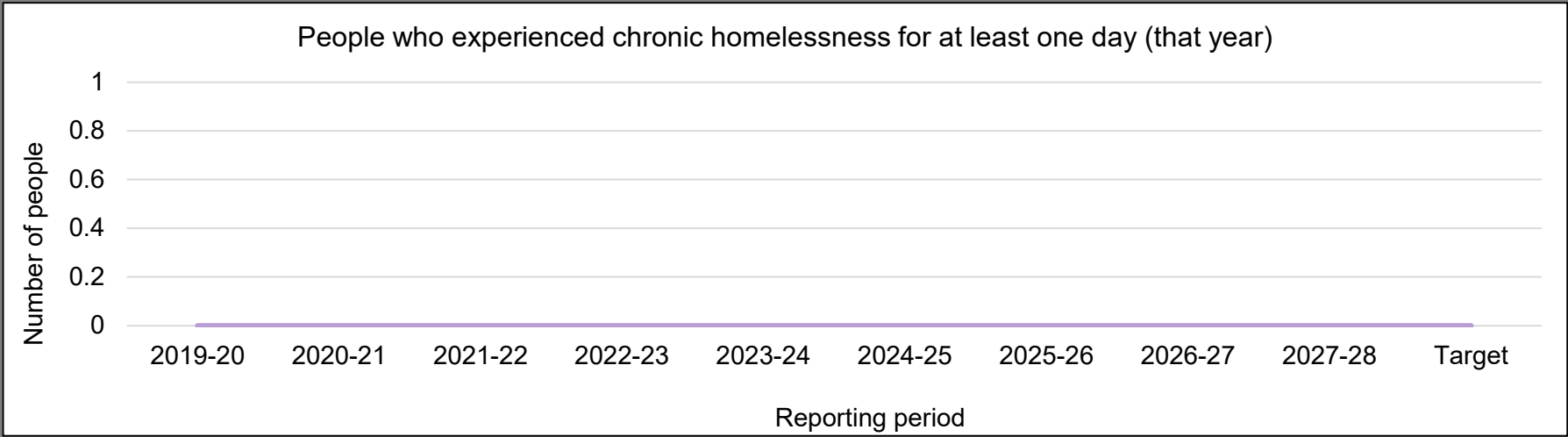
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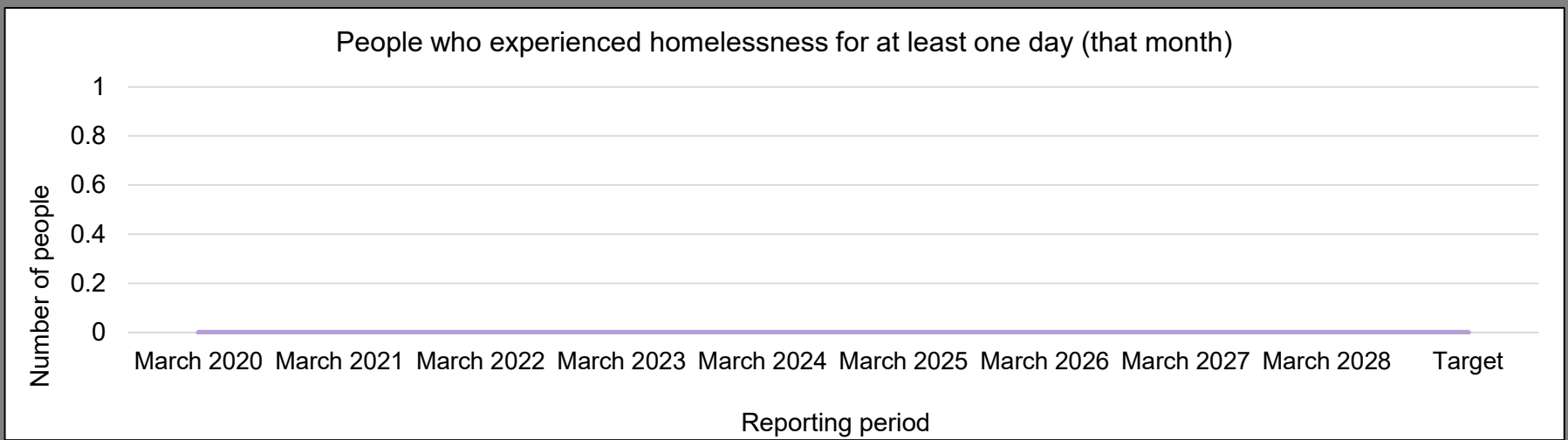
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Community-Level Core Outcomes – Monthly Data Reporting

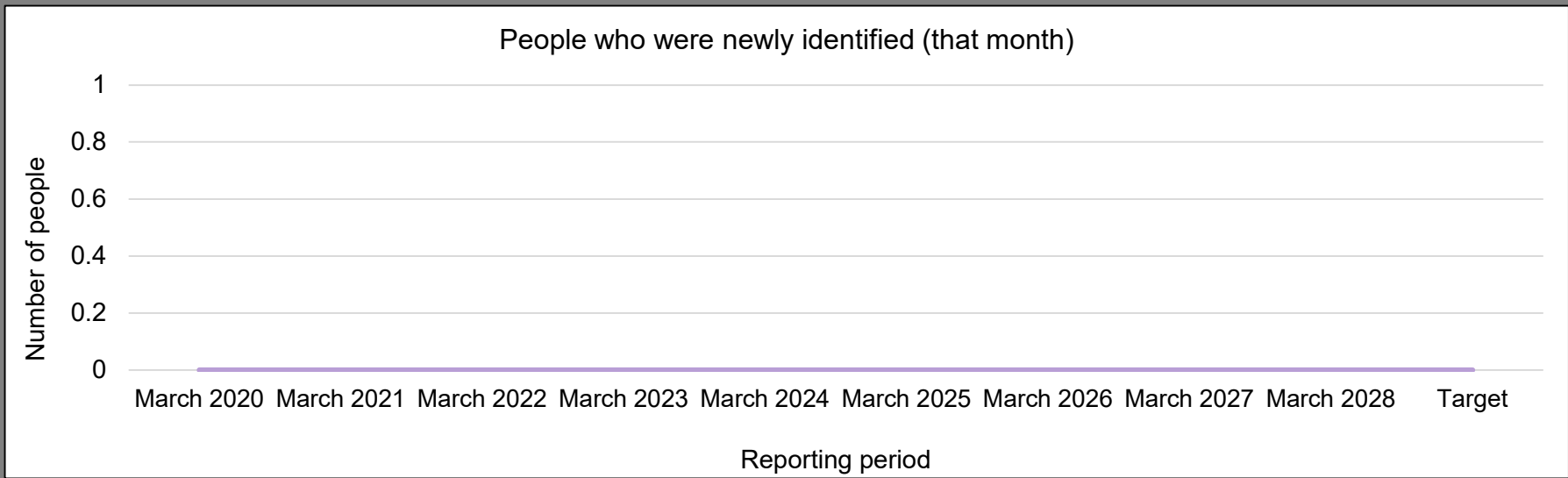
Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level outcomes for the reporting period.



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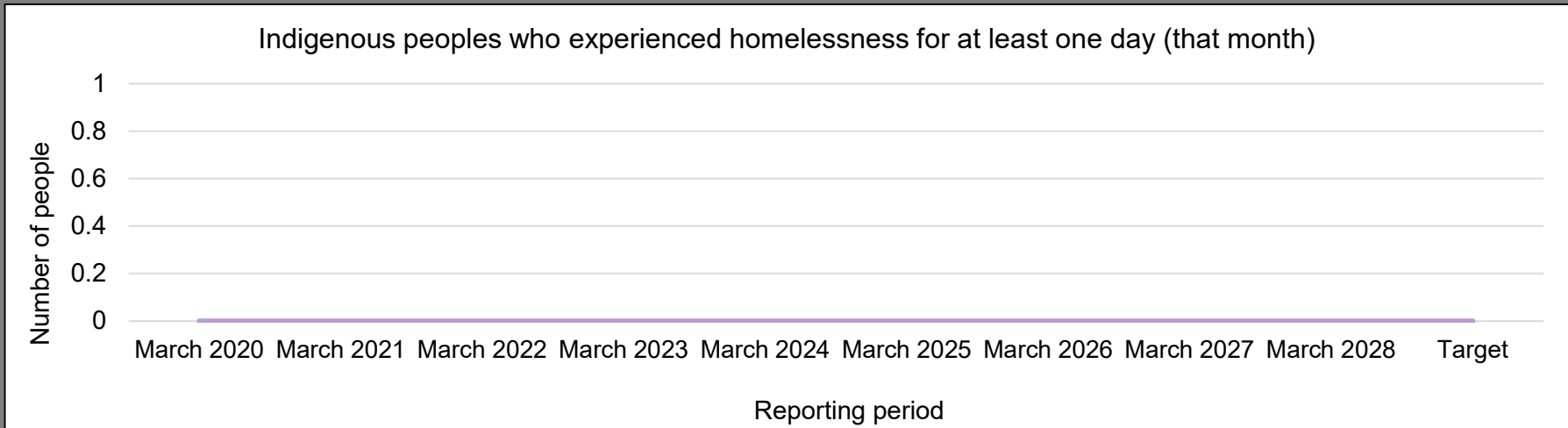
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