

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS REPORT SUMMARY

(Sydney, Cape Breton)

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.	
<p>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 3 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 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 the working group and governance committee the CE coordinator has had success engaging with Indigenous service providers through the funding process. Until last year the CE coordinator was unable to fund projects on reservation which made building relationships and engagement very difficult. Last year the CBRM CE funded 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.</p> <p>The Community Entity will continue to explore possible avenues of collaboration between the CAB, CE and Indigenous partners in the coming year. As more Indigenous organizations become involved with Coordinated Access and HIFIS our homelessness data will more accurately reflect our local situation and we will be better prepared help address the specific issues faced by the communities Indigenous homeless population.</p>	

<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Describe this collaboration in more detail.</p>	
<p>The Coordinated Access working group and CA Governance Committee both have Indigenous representation on their committees. The CA working group continues to provide a direct method of communication for all organizations involved with CA. The working group continues to meet regularly (mostly virtually) and provide opportunities for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations to have input into how the CAS is implemented and maintained.</p> <p>Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the CE started meeting with local organizations individually as opposed to large group settings in order to collect information to complete the Community Homelessness Report (CHR). This proved to be a great way to collaborate with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations because it resulted in very direct conversations about the issues and challenges their organization is experiencing while trying to prevent and reduce homelessness in CBRM. This method was utilized again this year by the CE, holding many individual meetings with organizations as opposed to large group settings. In large settings not everyone speaks up and voices their organizations concerns but in a smaller setting each group felt more comfortable having an open discussion and speaking to the issues.</p> <p>Once again, the rising cost of living and lack of available, affordable rental units were the most common issues raised by each person / organization. Our local foodbanks have seen a dramatic increase in the number of new clients. The increase of usage combined with a reduction in both food donations and monetary donations makes it hard to keep up with the need. Inflation has driven food prices higher than they have ever been. This means that the monetary donations foodbanks do receive do not purchase as many perishable items as they used to. This is resulting in local foodbanks reducing the size of each food order per person just to be able to keep up with demand. Many foodbanks indicated that people who used to donate to their foodbank have now become clients. 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 CHR.</p>	

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	17	1	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%	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?

The designated community of Sydney Cape Breton has been working hard to achieve the Reaching Home minimum requirements. 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.

Some organizations sitting at the Governance table expressed concerns with regards to our communities intake and consent forms which had to be addressed before we could launch our Coordinated Access System (CAS) causing unexpected delays. The concerns were discussed and addressed resulting in updated forms. With CAS being such a new method of addressing homelessness the committee felt it was better to take our time and try our best to get it right the first time as opposed to having to go back and try again. With a mix of experienced and new HIFIS users involved and some organizations already hesitant about sharing data we did not want to risk losing their confidence and jeopardizing the whole program.

We now plan to do a "soft" launch of our By Names List this spring/summer 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. It is our belief that after seeing the benefits first hand and becoming more comfortable with sharing basic information about clients 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.

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
Not yet	Not yet	Not yet

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
No	Outcome 1: No	Outcome 1: No	No
	Outcome 2: No	Outcome 2: No	
	Outcome 3: No	Outcome 3: No	
	Outcome 4: No	Outcome 4: No	
	Outcome 5: No	Outcome 5: No	

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
No	Outcome 1: No	Outcome 1: No	No
	Outcome 2: No	Outcome 2: No	
	Outcome 3: No	Outcome 3: No	
	Outcome 4: No	Outcome 4: No	
	Outcome 5: No	Outcome 5: No	

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?

Our community is working hard to have a complete and comprehensive by names list as soon as possible. We are aware of the January 1st 2024 deadline to have an active list allowing for several months of data collection to help generate a baseline for transitioning to an outcomes based approach by March 31, 2024.

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

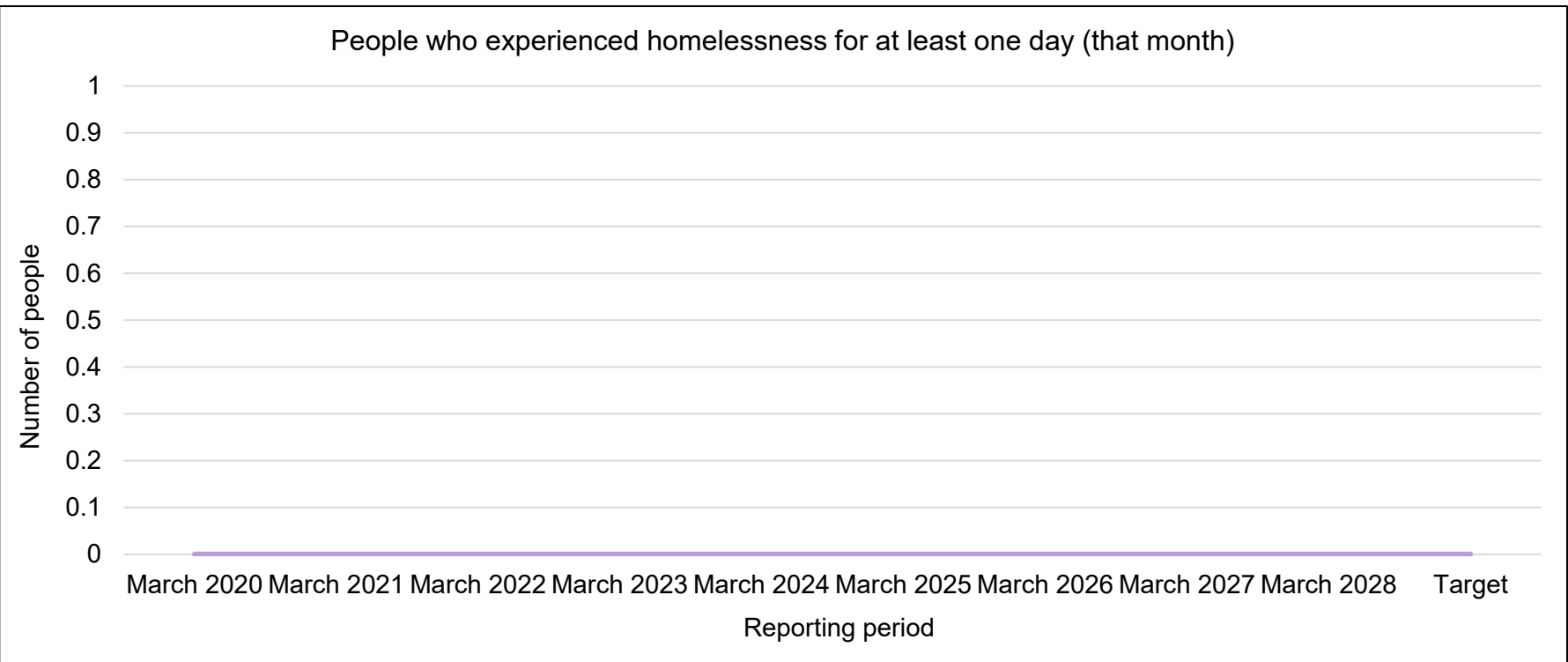
Section 4. Community-Level Outcomes and Targets – Monthly

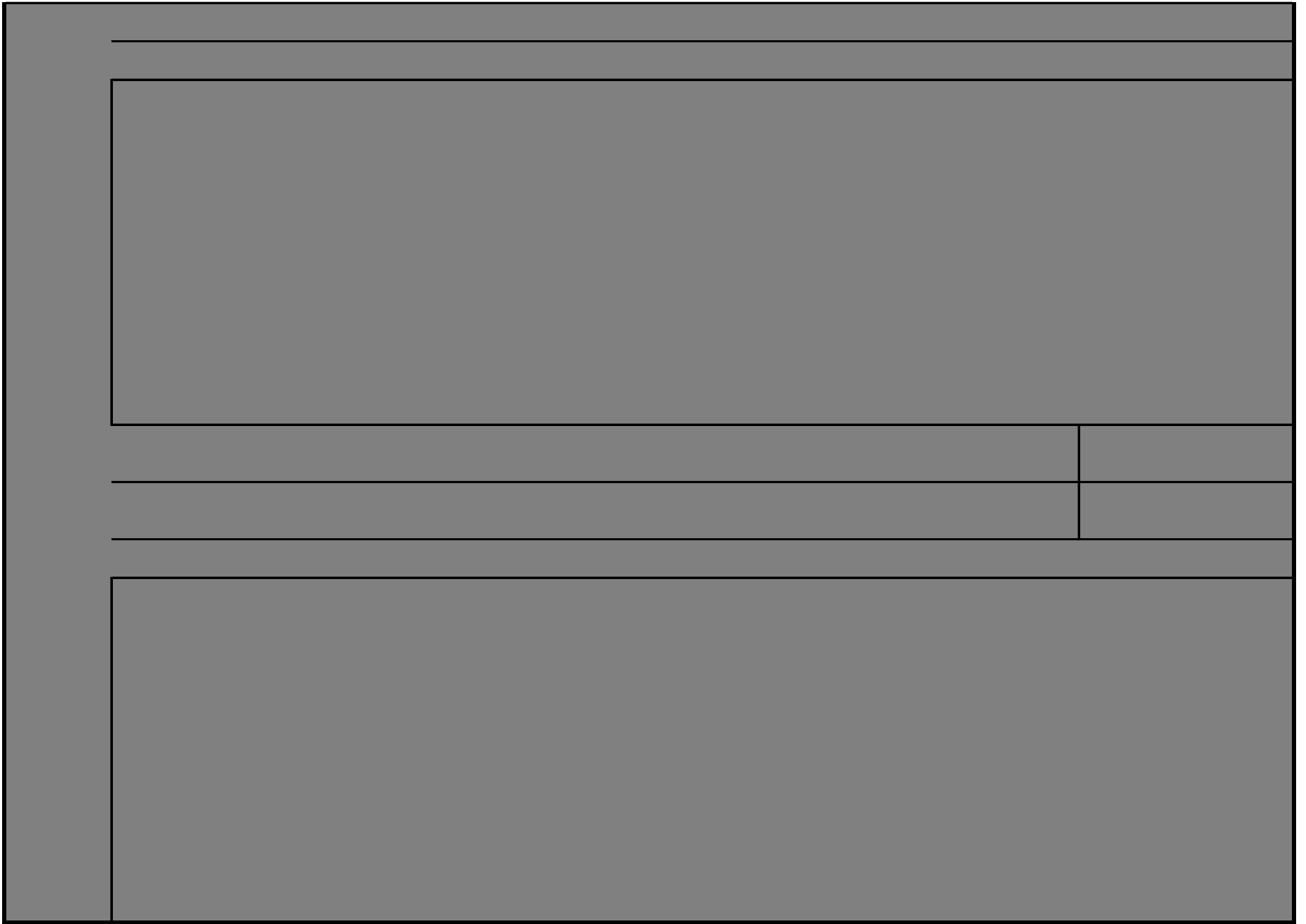
Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report monthly community-level outcomes for the reporting period.

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)										

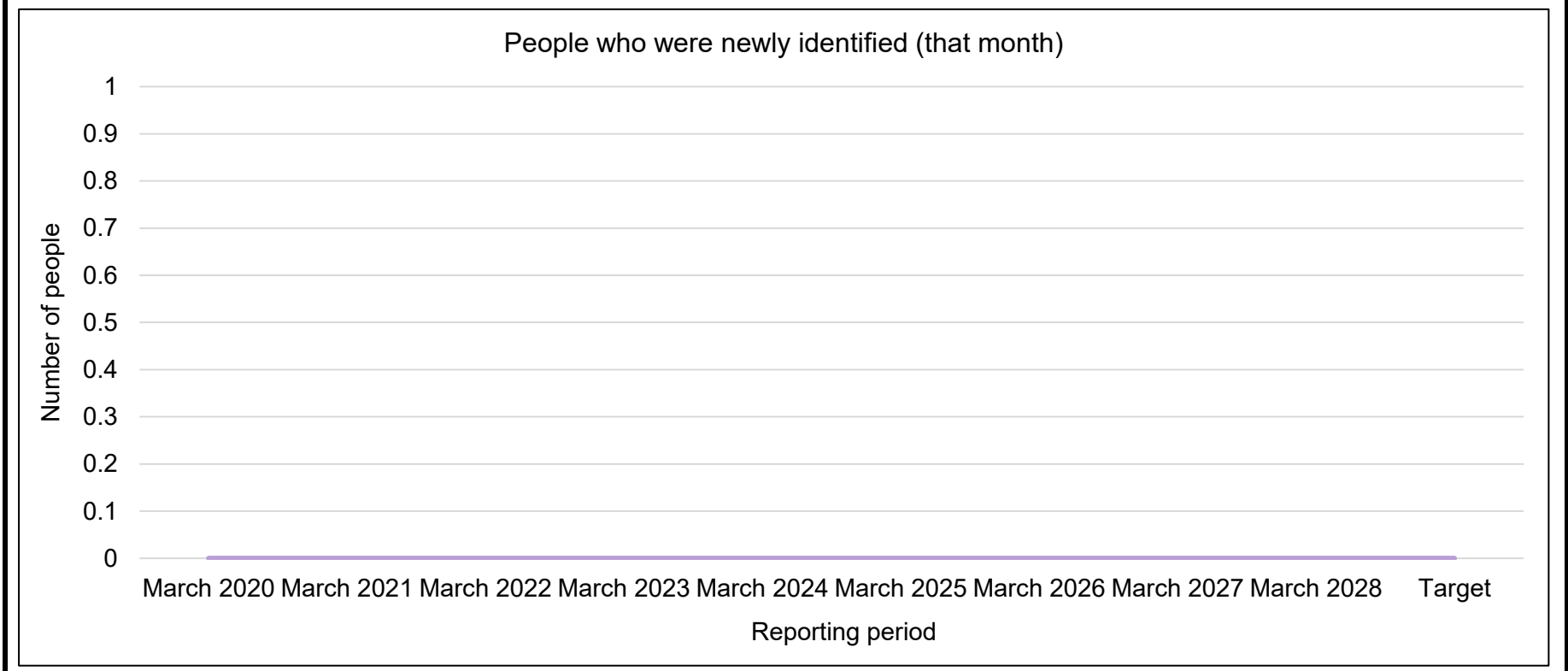


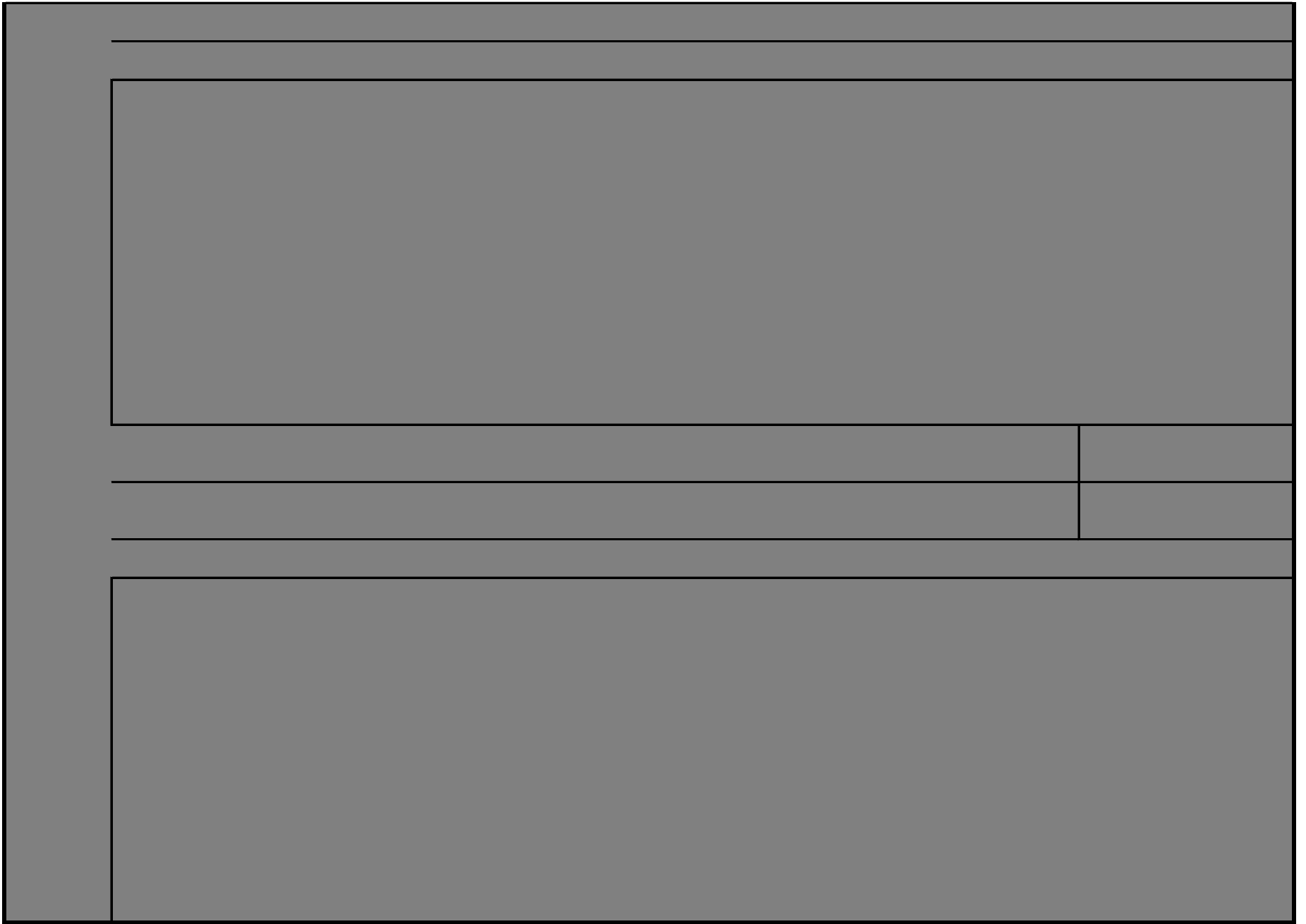


Outcome #2: Fewer people were newly identified (new inflows to homelessness are reduced)

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)										

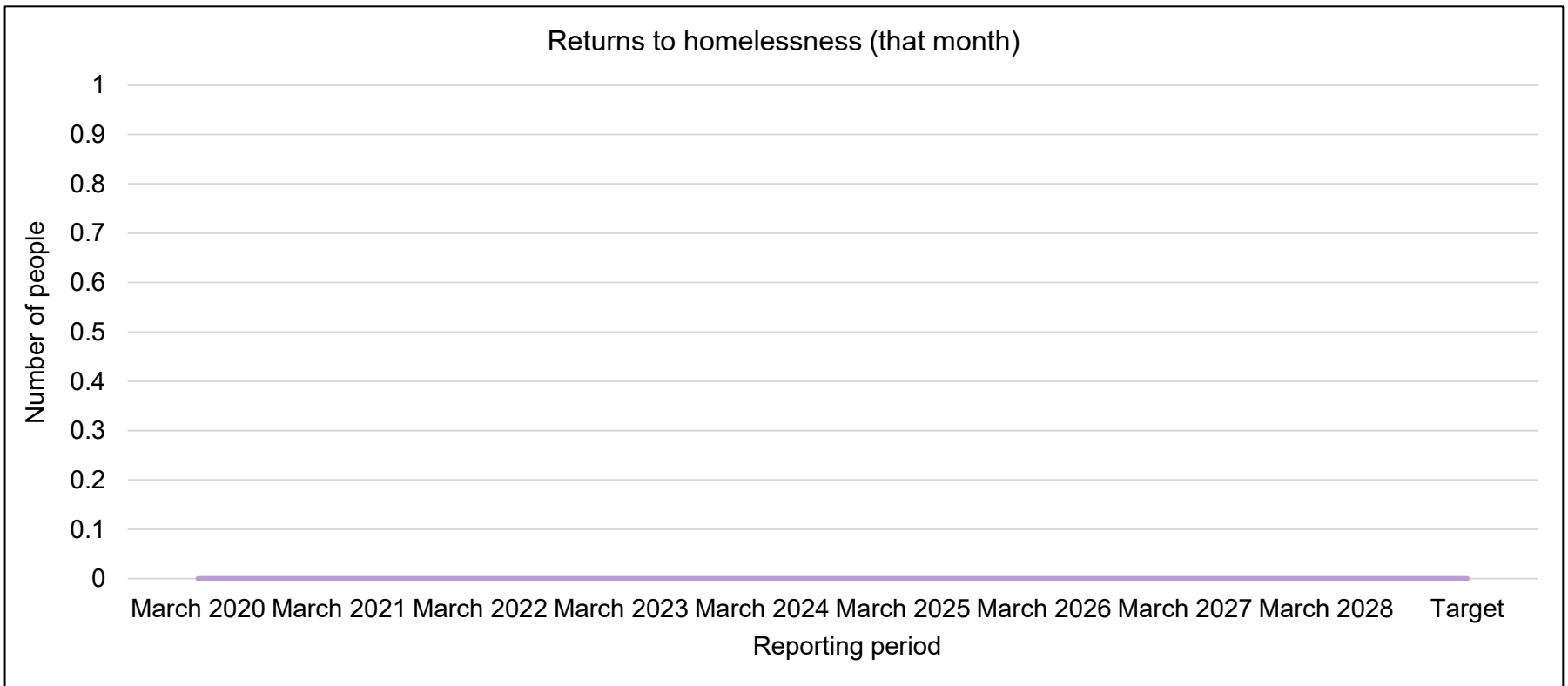


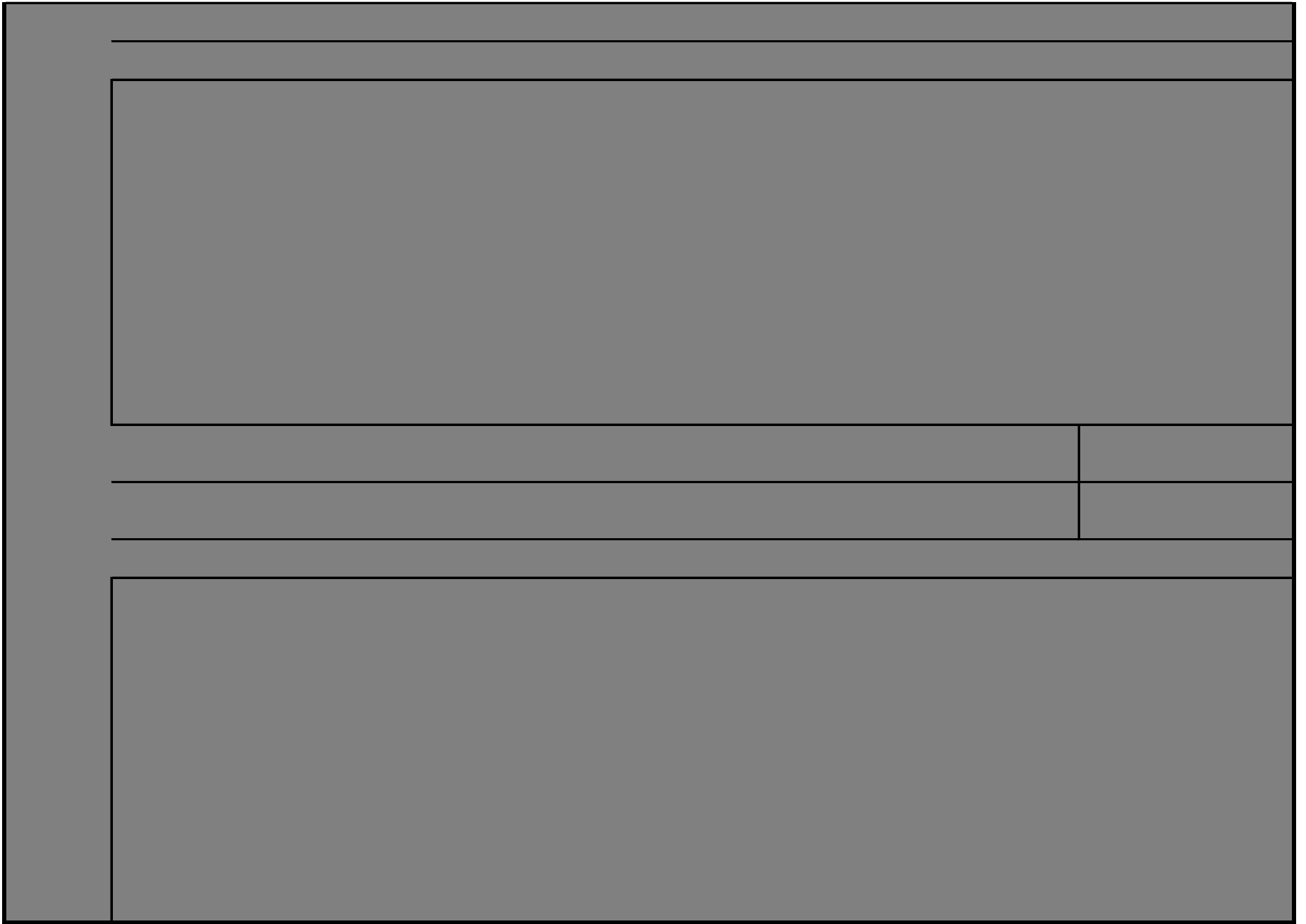


Outcome #3: Fewer people return to homelessness (returns to homelessness are reduced)

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)										

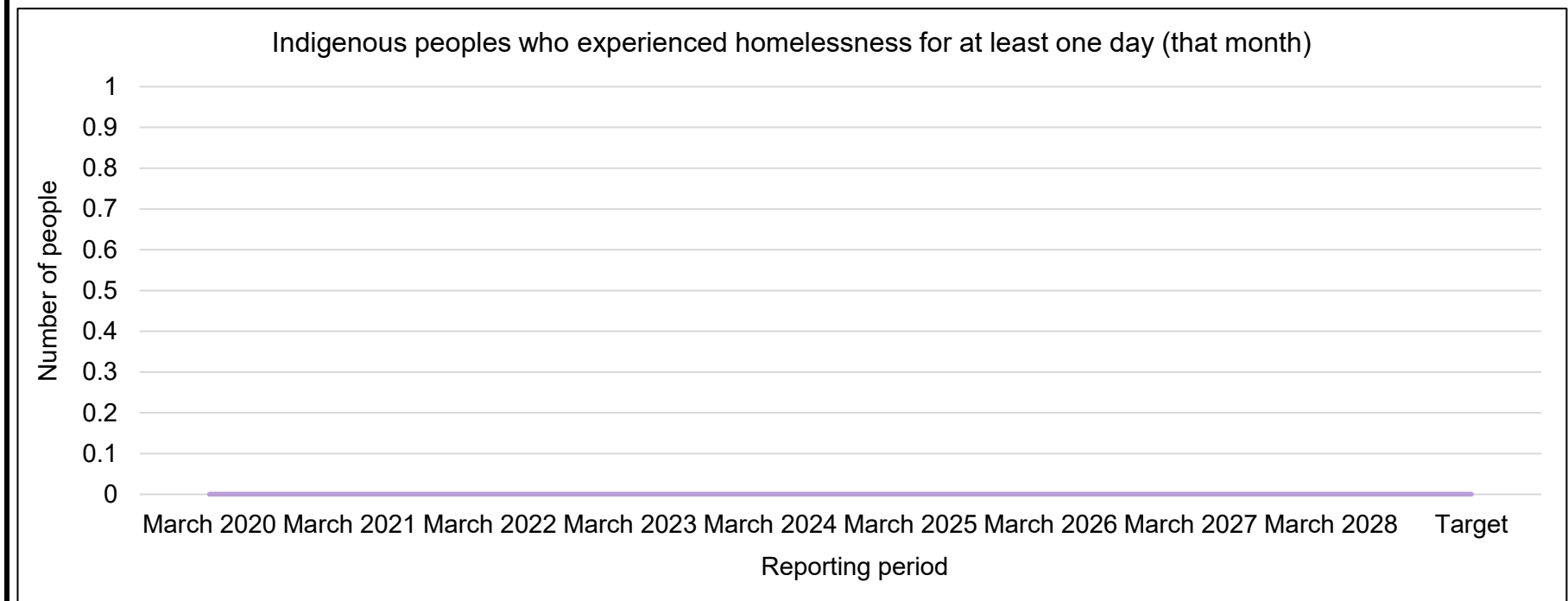


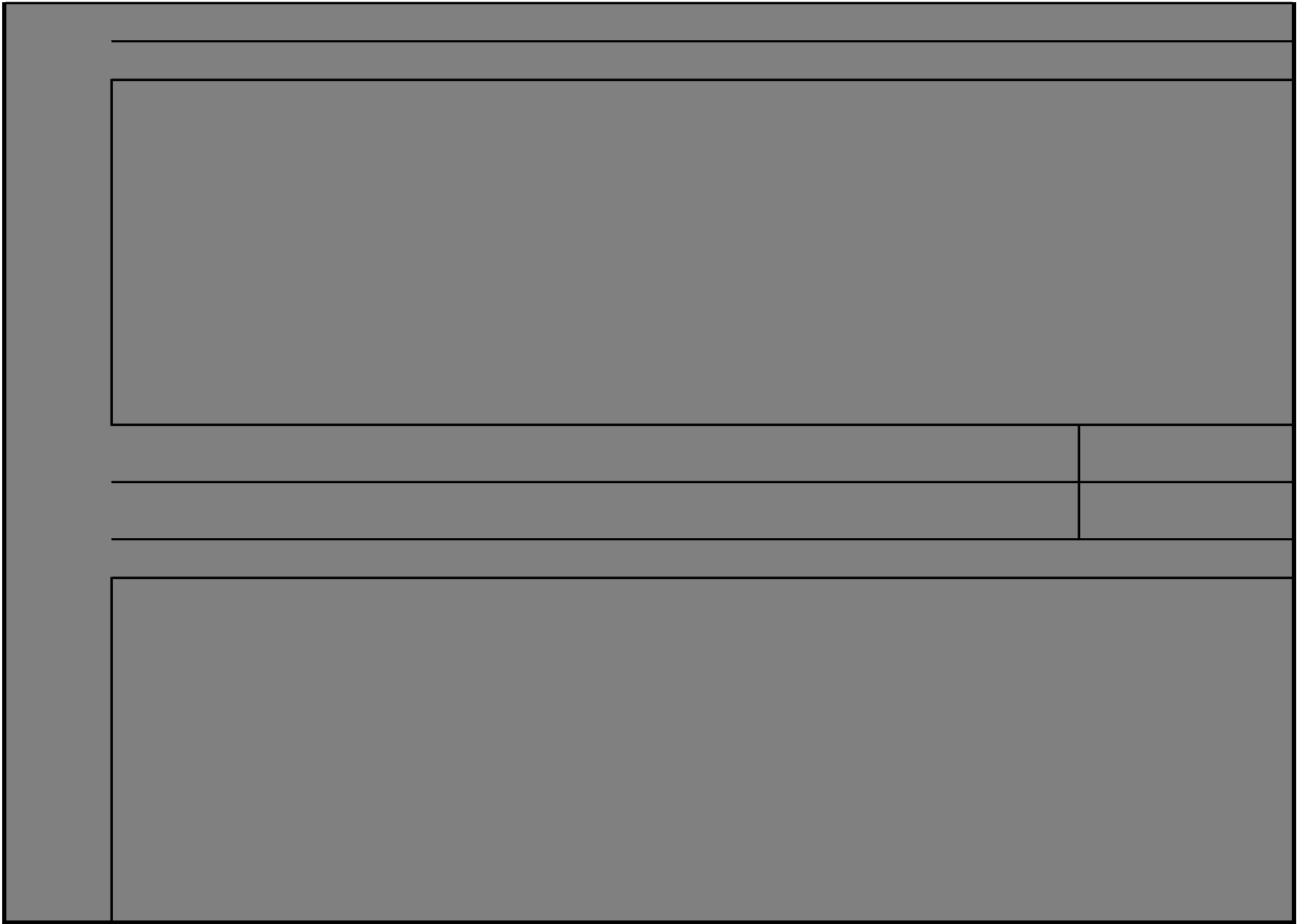


Outcome #4: Fewer Indigenous peoples experience homelessness (Indigenous homelessness is reduced)

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)										

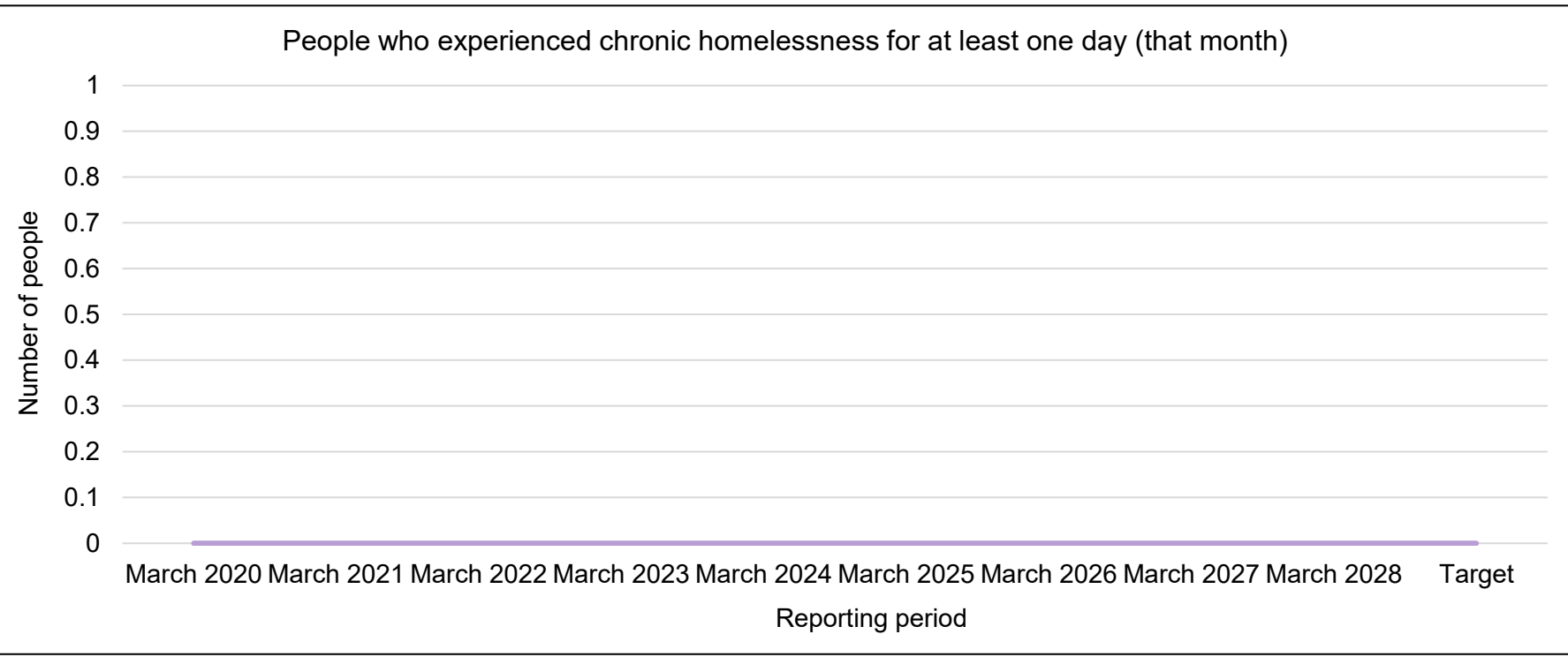


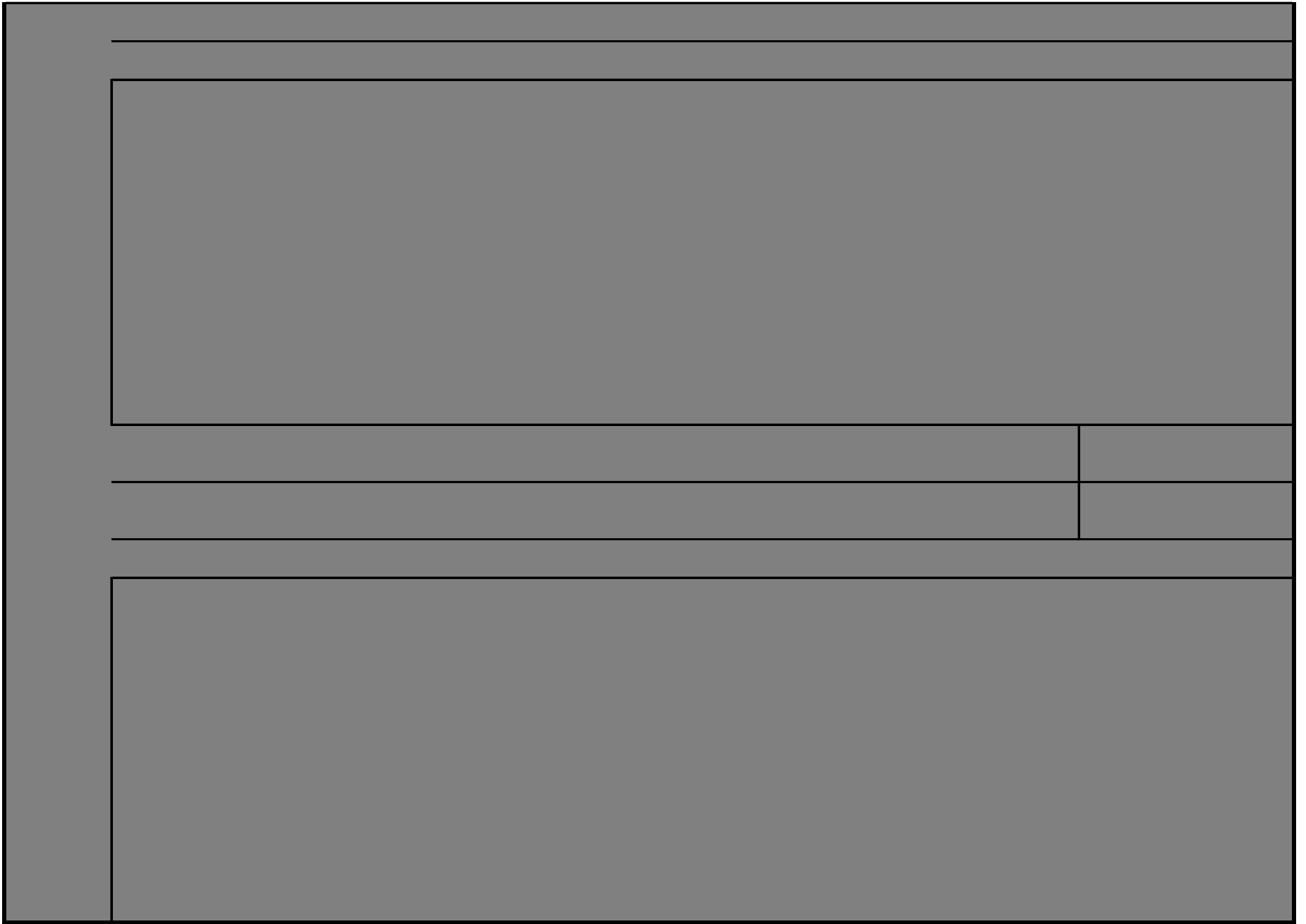


Outcome #5: Fewer people experience chronic homelessness (chronic homelessness is reduced)

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)										





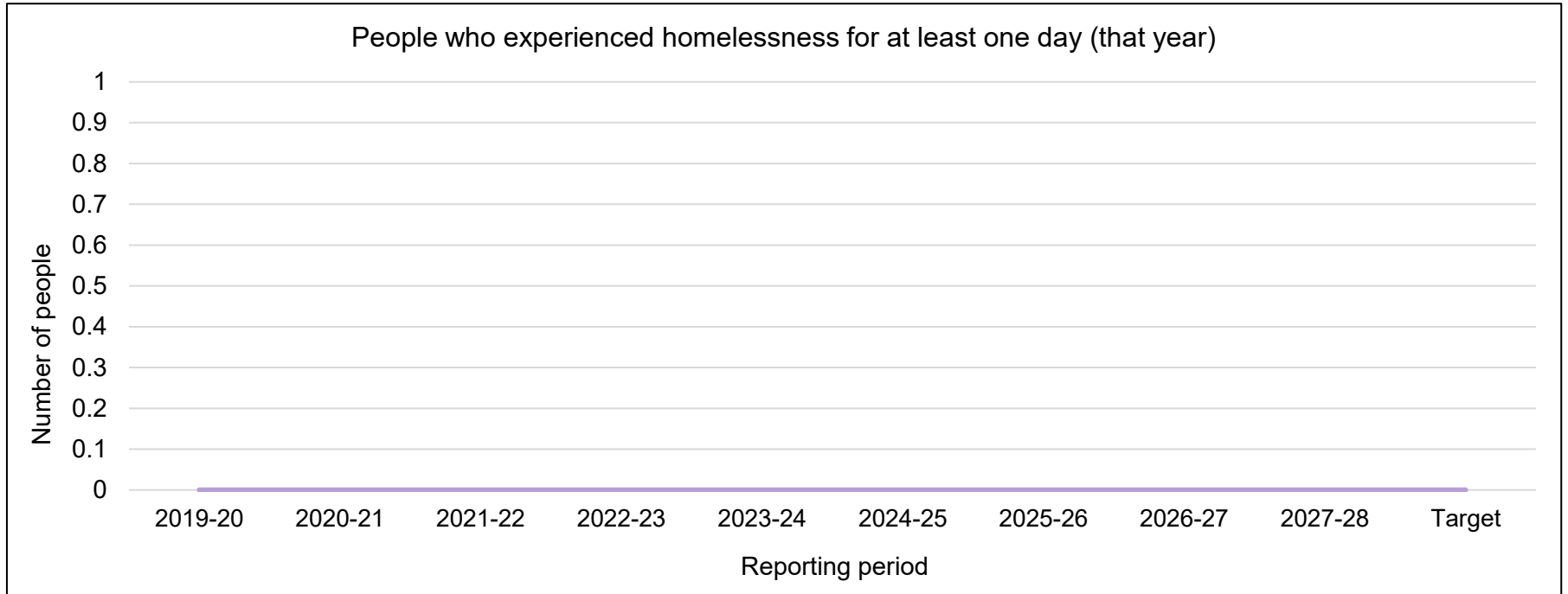
Section 4. Community-Level Outcomes and Targets – Annual

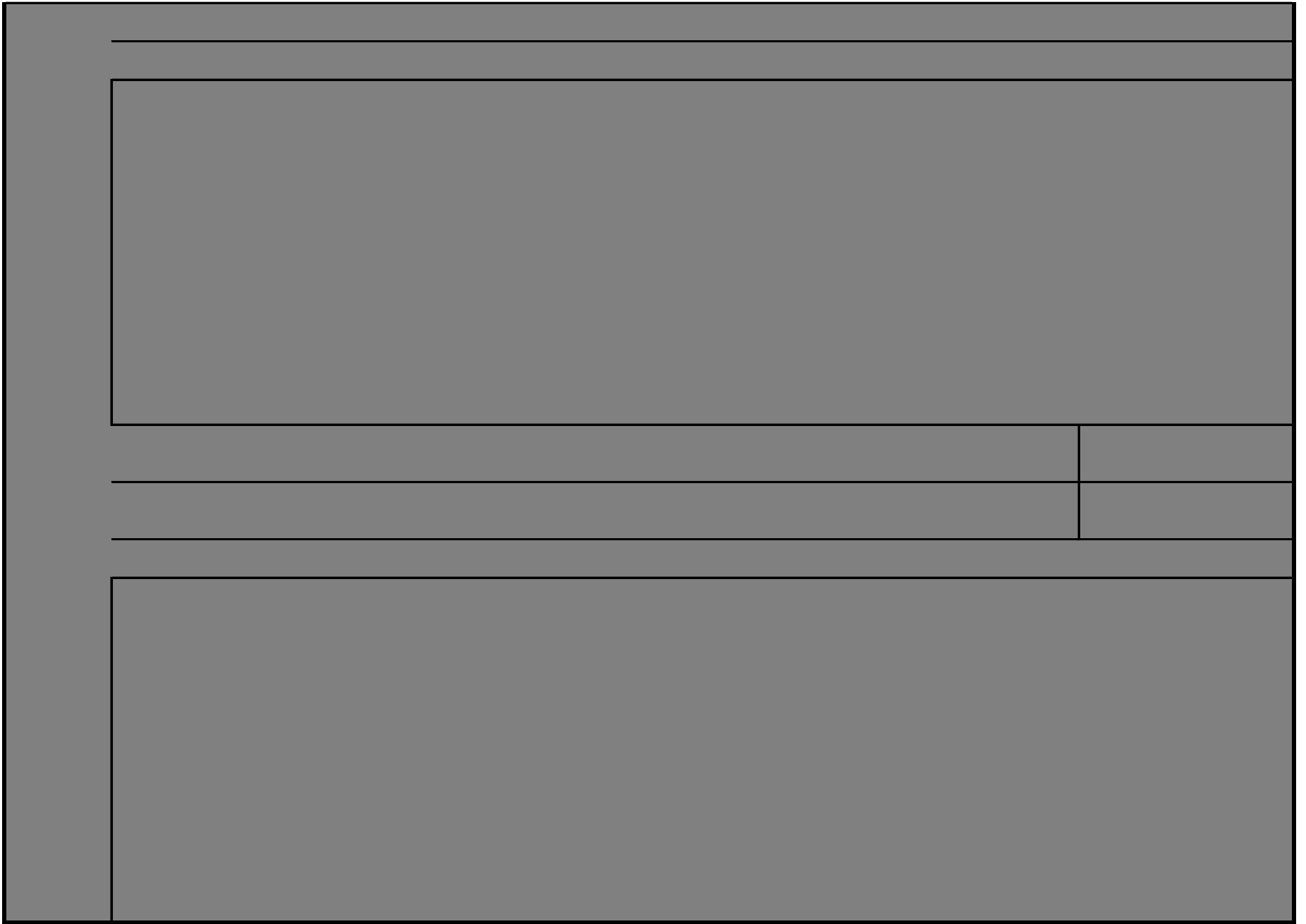
Based on the information provided in the Community Homelessness Report, the community does not have to report annual community-level outcomes for the reporting period.

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)										

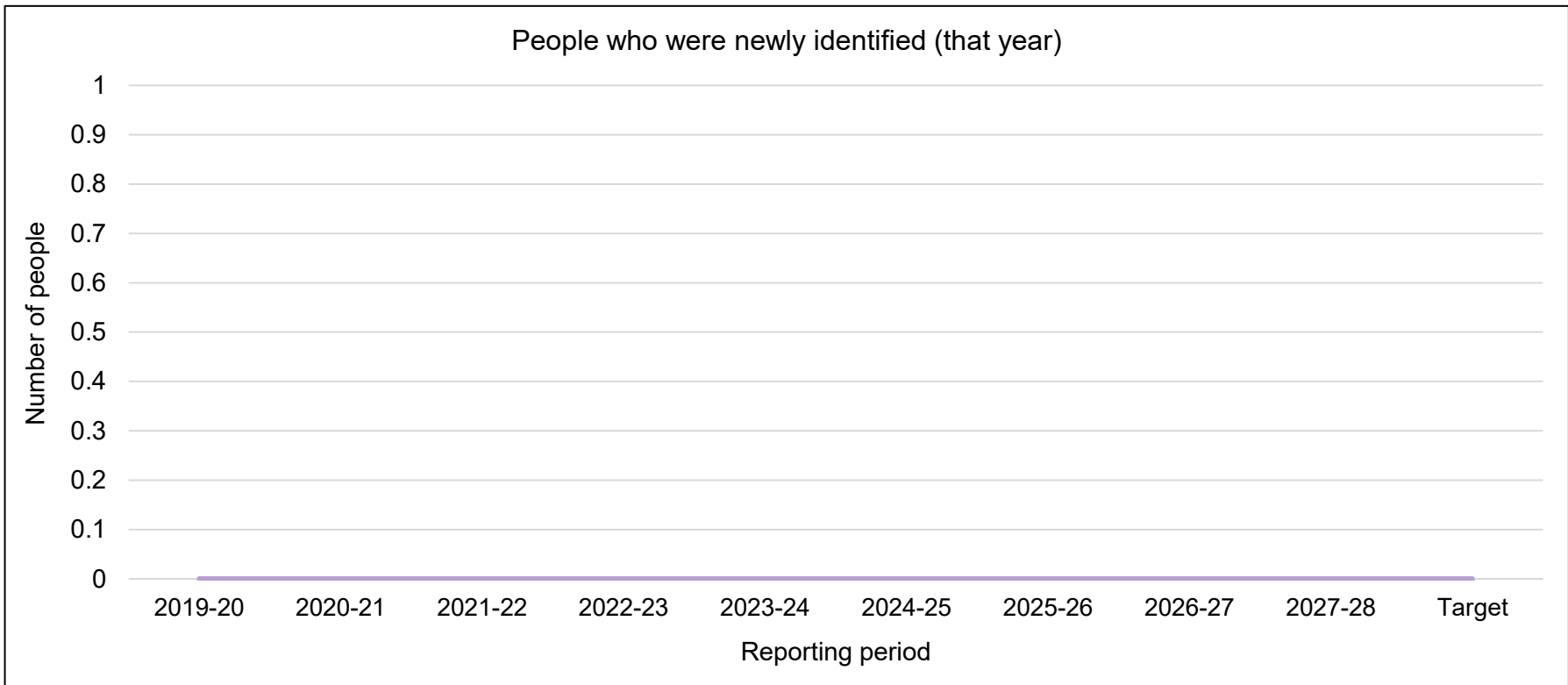


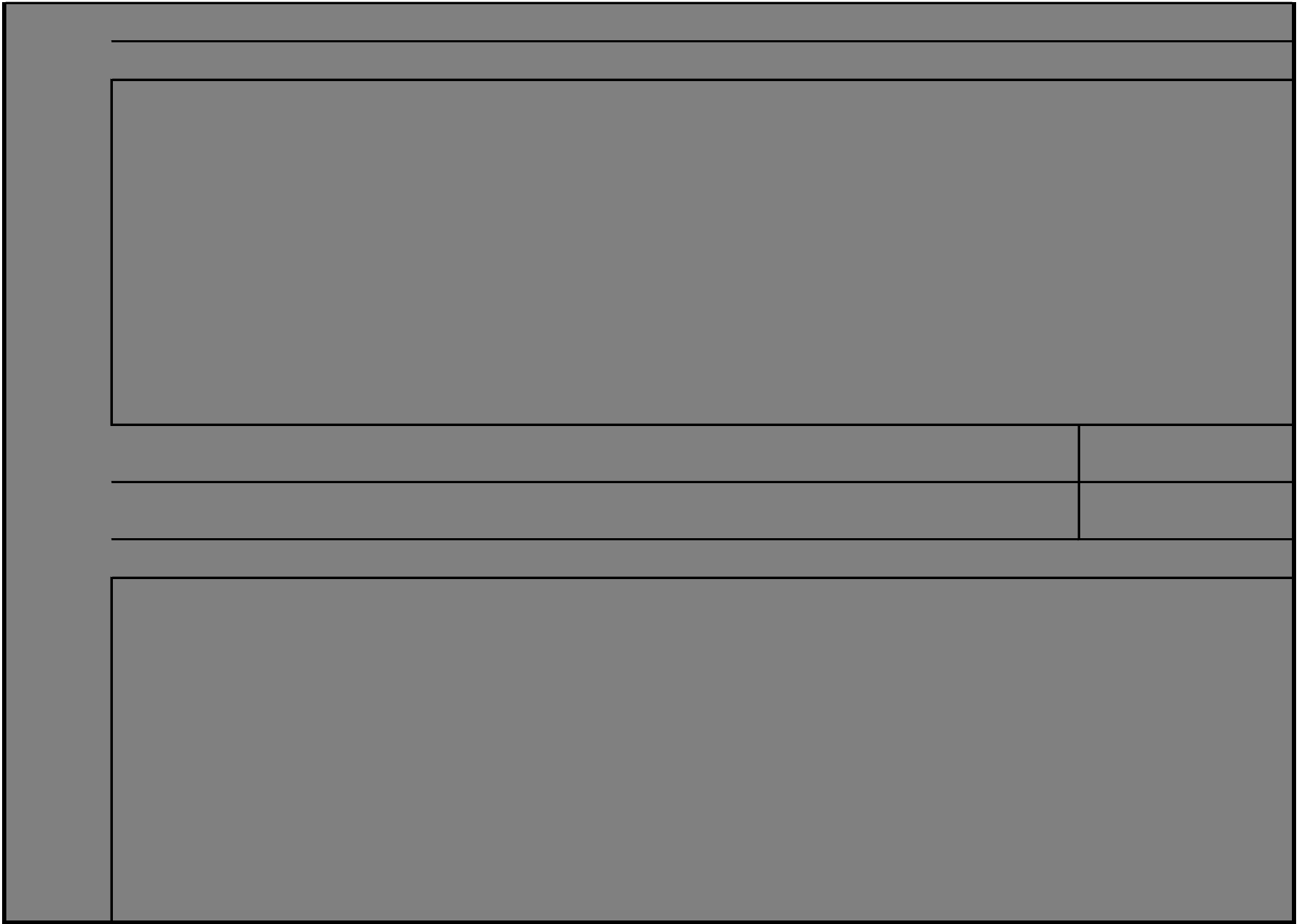


Outcome #2: Fewer people were newly identified (new inflows to homelessness are reduced)

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)										

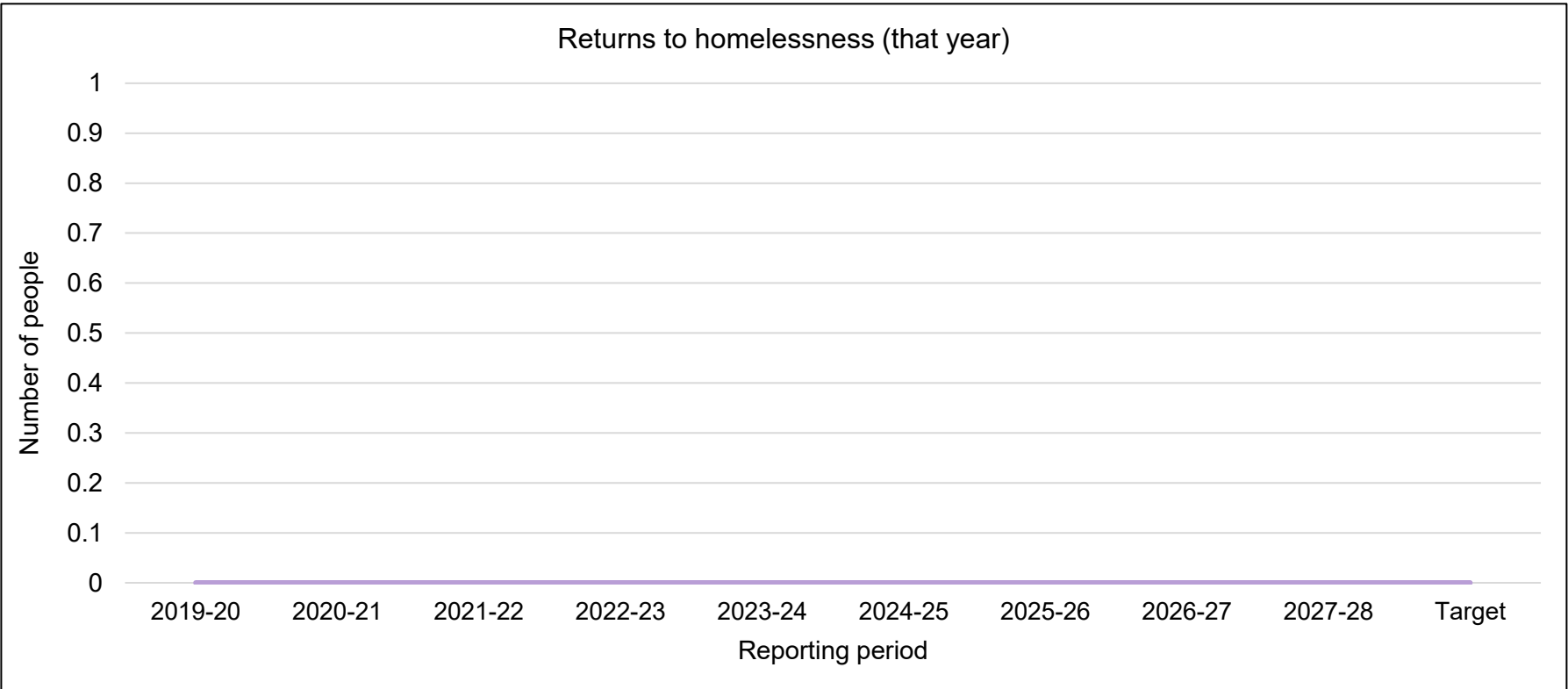


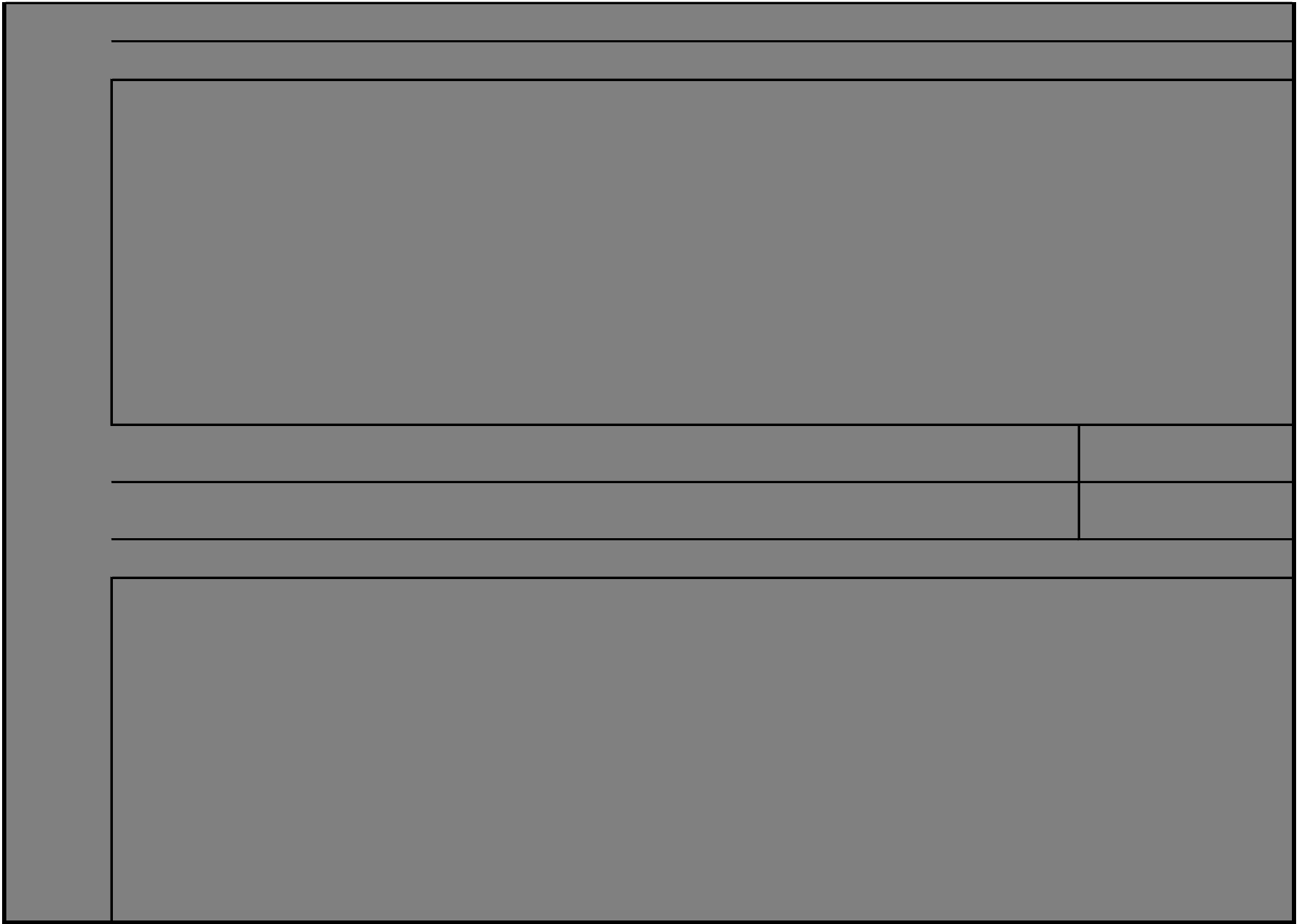


Outcome #3: Fewer people return to homelessness (returns to homelessness are reduced)

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)										

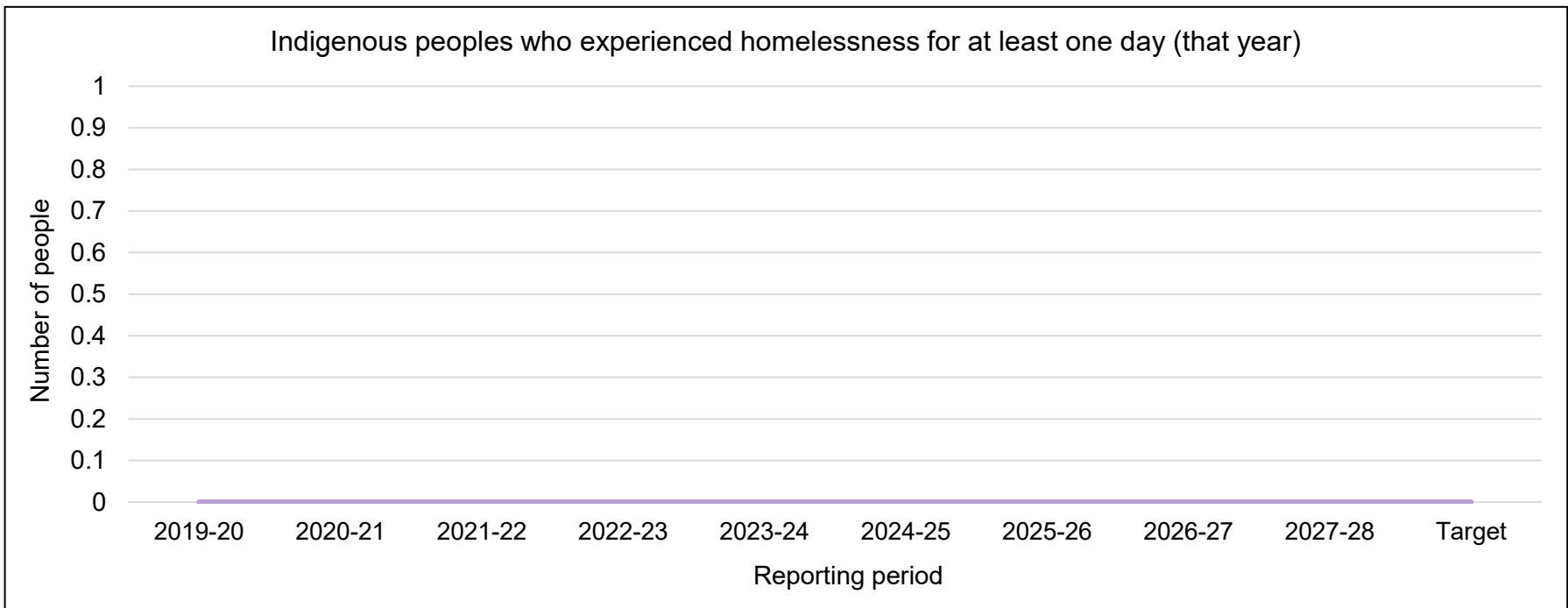


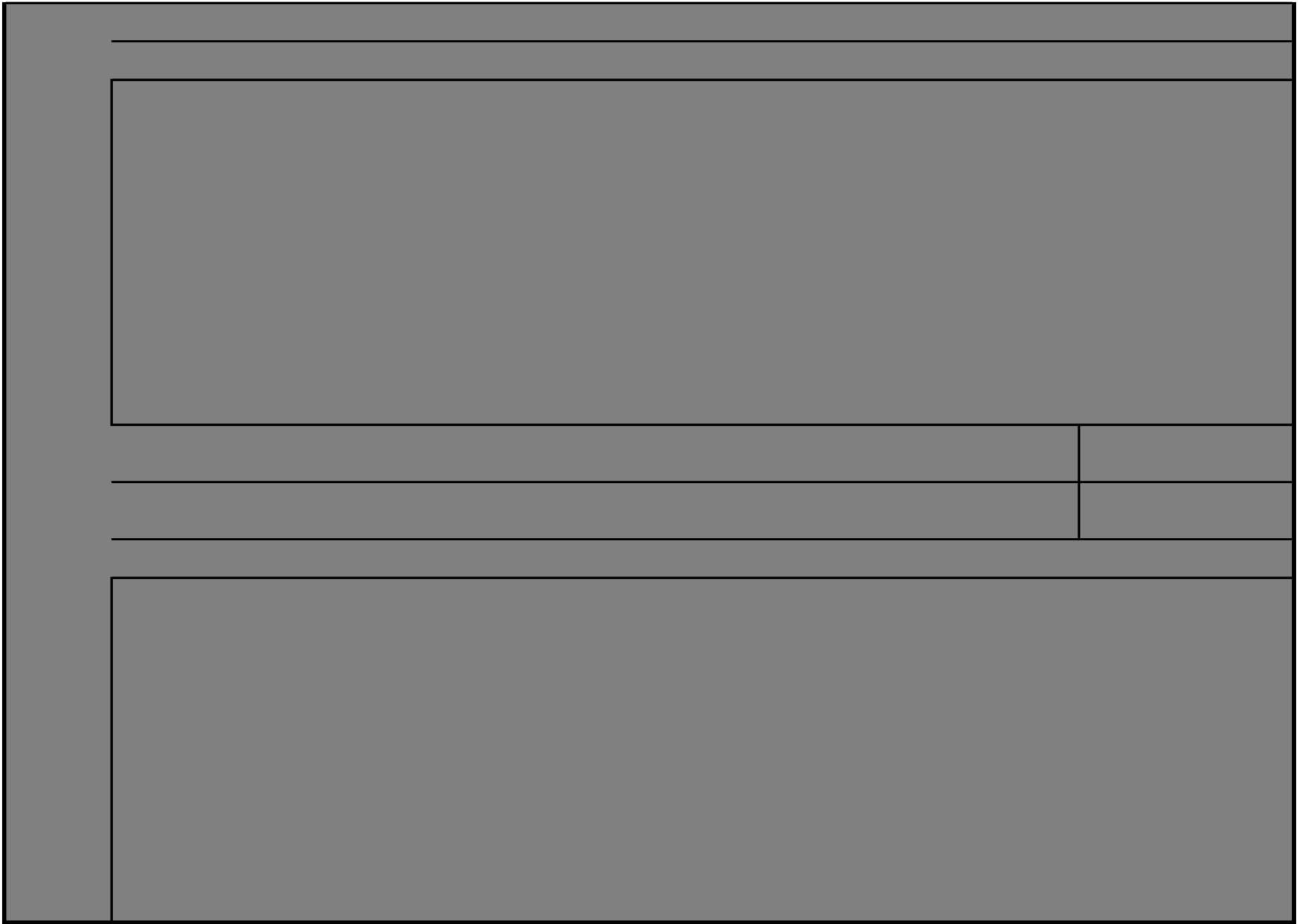


Outcome #4: Fewer Indigenous peoples experience homelessness (Indigenous homelessness is reduced)

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)										

