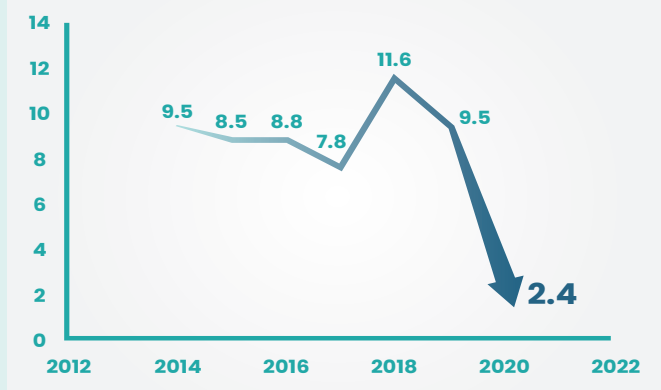


# PICTOU COUNTY HOUSING CRISIS

Safe, adequate, and affordable housing is a basic human right.  
Access to housing is not equitable.



## APARTMENT RENTAL VACANCY RATE (%)



## FOR MANY PEOPLE...



**Housing is not affordable**



**Housing is not adequate**



**Housing is not safe**

## Who is most affected?

Low-income and poverty are significant predictors of housing insecurity and homelessness.

More than 1 in 4 children in Pictou County lives in poverty.



Adults in Pictou County living in poverty.

**18%**

## Accessible housing is an issue

1 in 3 Nova Scotians lives with disability.



People with disabilities living in unaffordable housing.

**40%**

## NOT-FOR-PROFIT HOUSING AVAILABILITY

### Public Housing

- 800+ units for families & seniors (58 yrs+)
- Wait-list 3 to 4 years

### Co-op Housing

- 4 with 48 units, approx. half subsidized
- No vacancies
- No new co-ops built since 1991

# HOUSING INSECURITY

## Who is most affected?

### Non-elderly Singles

- Do not qualify for public housing
- Funding in Canada-NS Targeted Housing Benefit is not enough

### Men

- Overrepresented in homeless shelters
- Risks: addiction, mental illness, disability

### Women

- Homeless shelters not safe
- Hidden homelessness (couch surfing, living 'rough' outside)
- Lower income and poverty

### Children

- 28% of renter households with at least one child in core housing need (housing is unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable)
- Lack of housing that is suitable for families
- Impact on mental/physical health, education, social

### Youth

- No stable income or support network
- Risks: addictions, human trafficking, relationship and family breakdown
- Couch surfing is common

### LGBTQ2+

- 25-40% of homeless youth in Canada
- Risks: family conflict, violence & abuse at home
- Increases risk of harassment, abuse, stigma, mental illness & suicide

### Indigenous People

- 19.5% unemployment rate. (12.5% non-indigenous.)
- 21.1% in low-income. (18.8% non-indigenous.)
- 13% core housing need. (10.7% non-indigenous.)

### African Nova Scotians

- 32% live below the poverty line, compared to 16% of the general population.

### Newcomers

- Newcomers face unique challenges to acquiring housing (language barriers, discrimination).

### Seniors

- Majority are homeowners
- Many want to age in place
- Can't afford home repairs and adaptations
- Grants for home repairs are not enough

## THE HOUSING CRISIS IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



## HOUSING MODELS

### Innovation and partnerships are key

Community Housing

Companion Housing

CO-OP Housing

Public Housing

For more detail and information on data sources see the full report here: <https://bit.ly/3D551Pa>

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