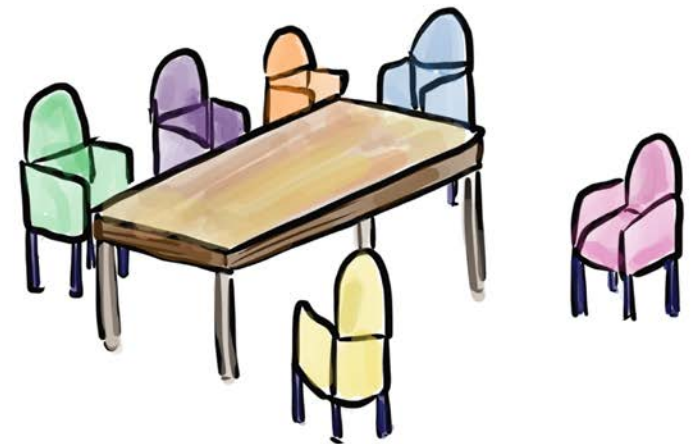


Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 22, 2021

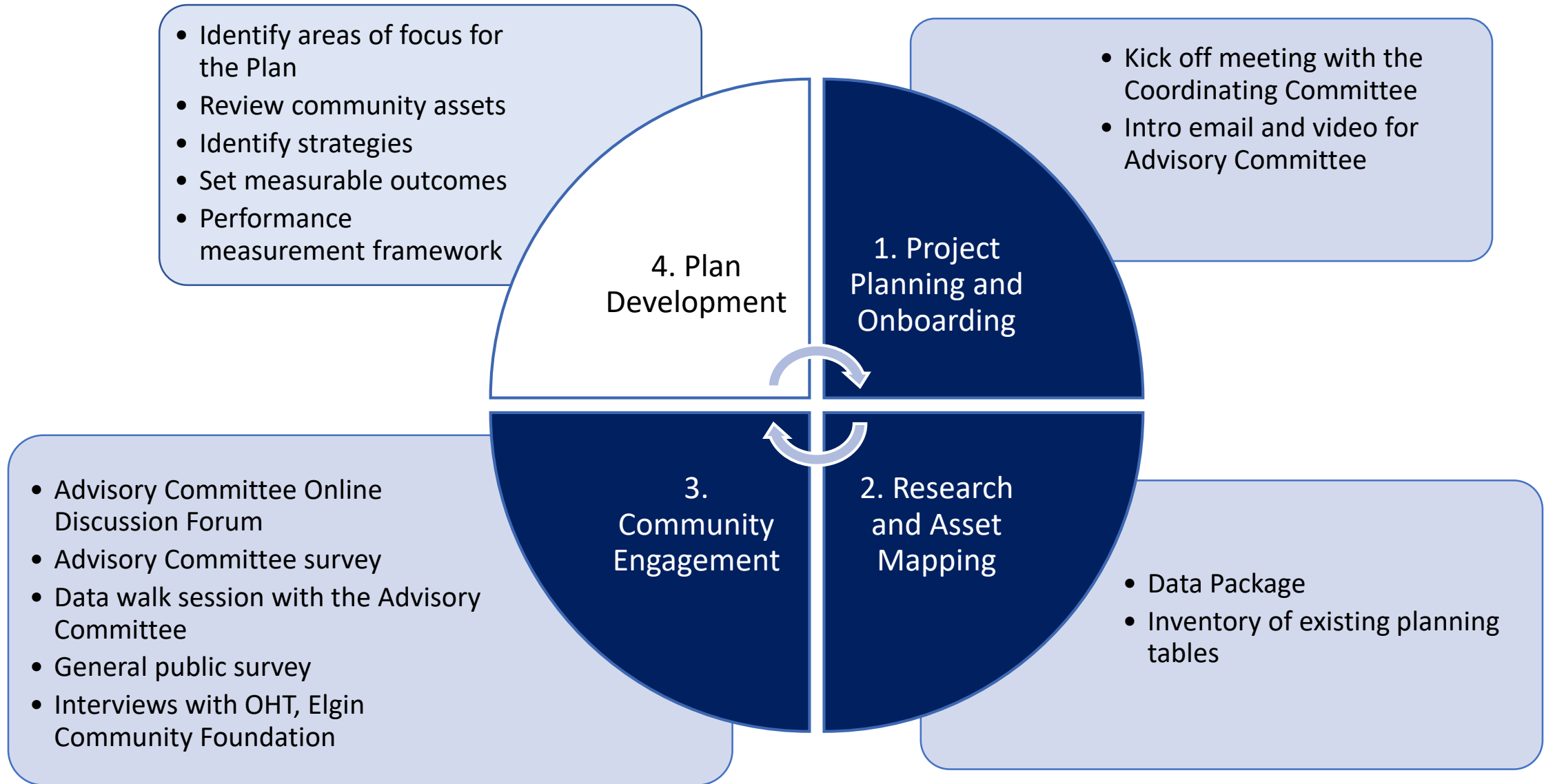
# Agenda

- Welcome
- Updates
  - Deadline for Submission
  - Process
- Phase 3 Activities:
  - Results of the General Public Survey
  - Small Group Reflection
  - Identification of Strategic Partners
- Wrap Up and Next Steps



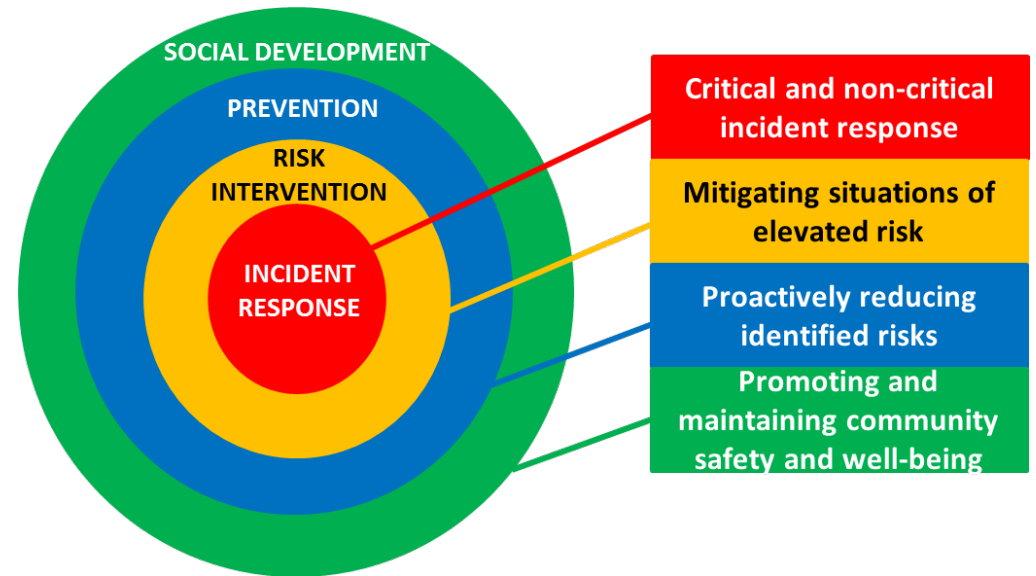
# Deadline for Submission

- *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020* amended the *Police Services Act* to allow the Solicitor General to prescribe a new deadline for the completion and adoption of CSWB plans post January 1, 2021
- New deadline for municipalities to prepare and adopt a CSWB plan is now **July 1, 2021** (memo dated December 24, 2020)



# Aylmer-Elgin- St. Thomas CSWB Plan

- Three year plan
- Focus on short- and long-term initiatives
- Focus on risk and protective factors



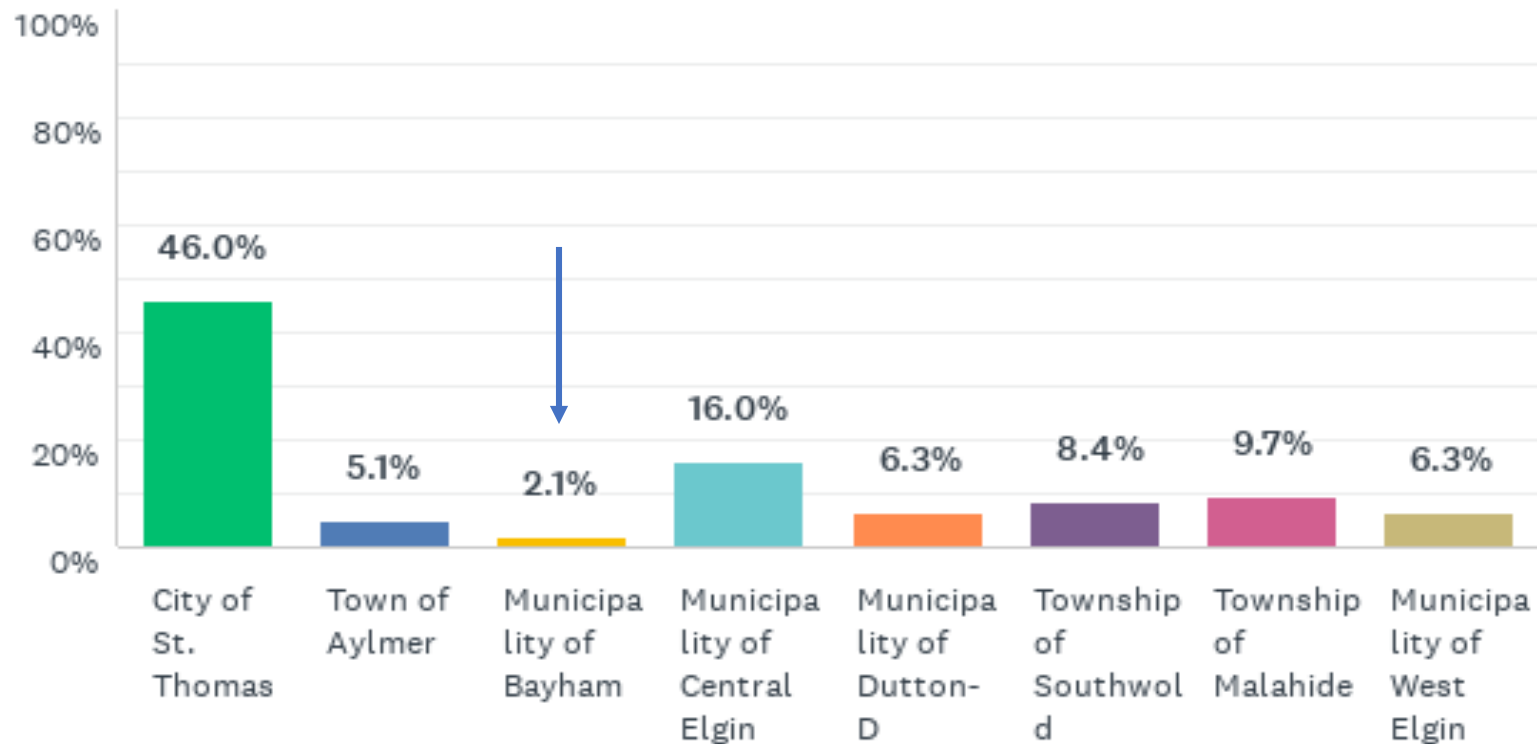
# General Public Survey

1. Review overall responses
2. Review responses in top rated areas
3. Small group discussion:
  - What are you noticing? What surprises you about the general public responses?
  - Based on the priorities in the general public survey and the community partner survey, what do you think should be the specific areas of focus in the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan?
  - Who are the strategic partners who should be involved in designing strategies in each of the areas of focus?

# General Public Survey

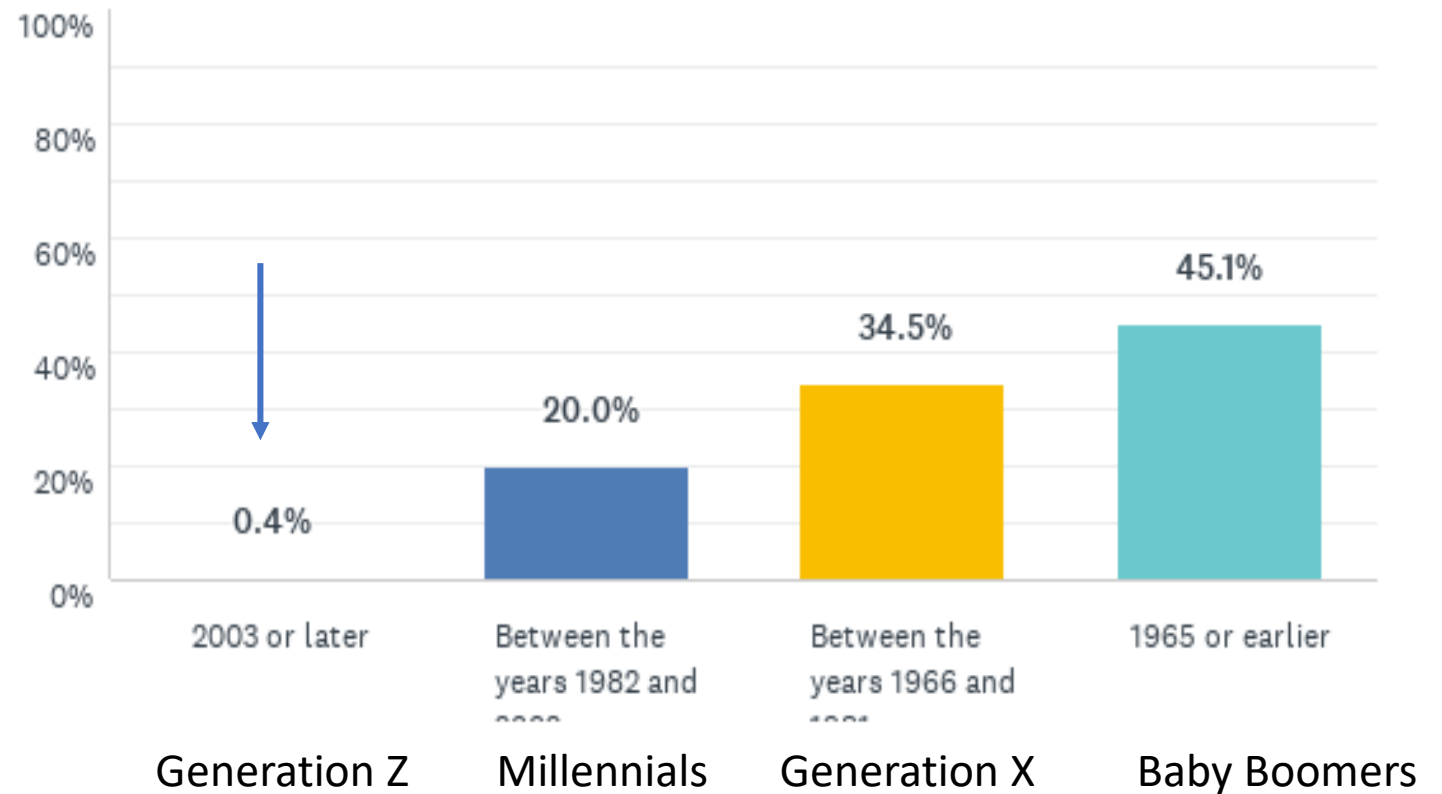
Open July 27 to December 4, 2020

429 responses, 4.72 confidence interval



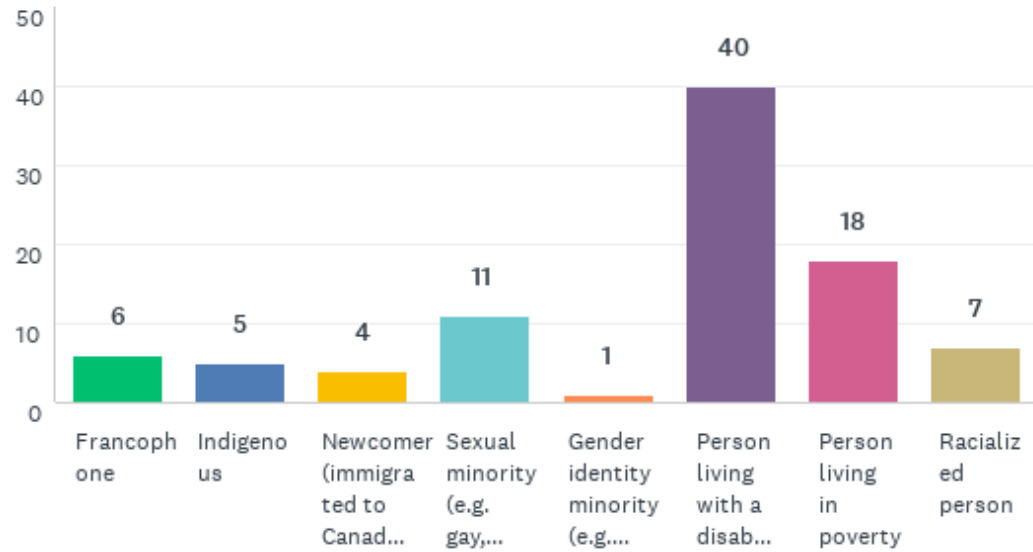
# Demographic Profile of Respondents

78.5% Female  
20.3% Male  
0.8% Other

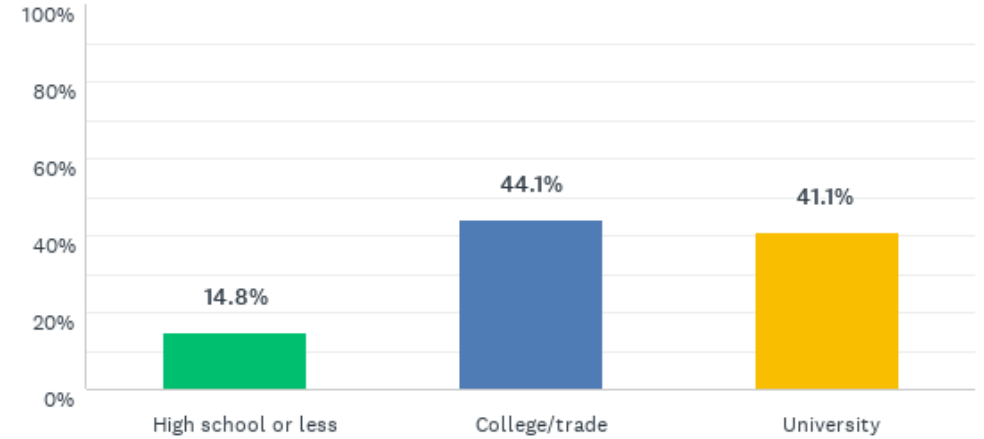




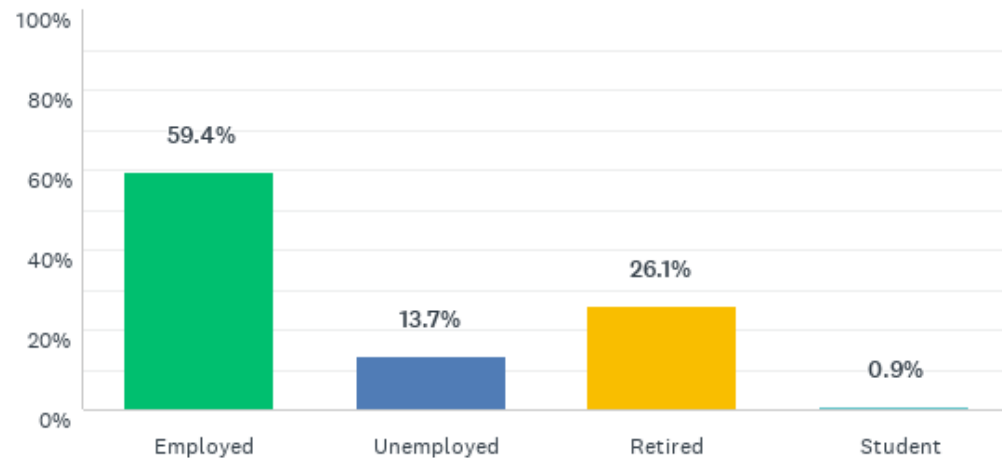
## Sub-Populations



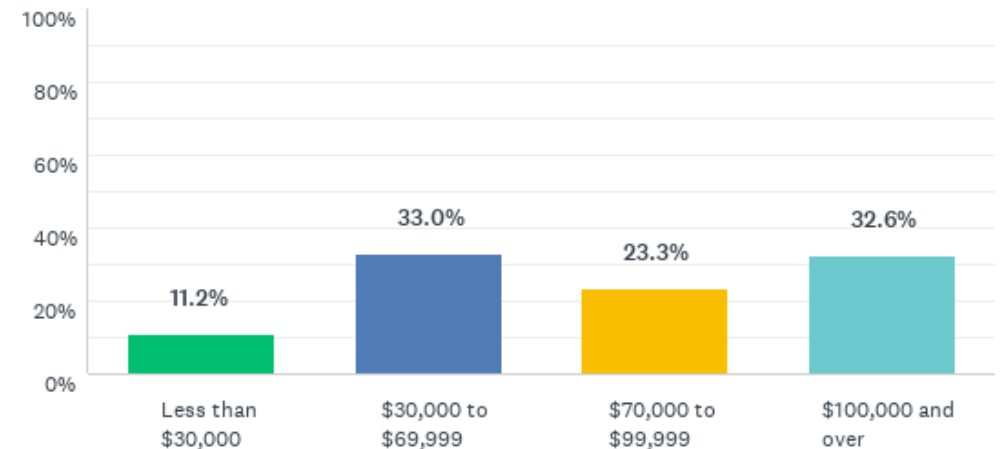
## Education



## Employment



## Annual Household Income

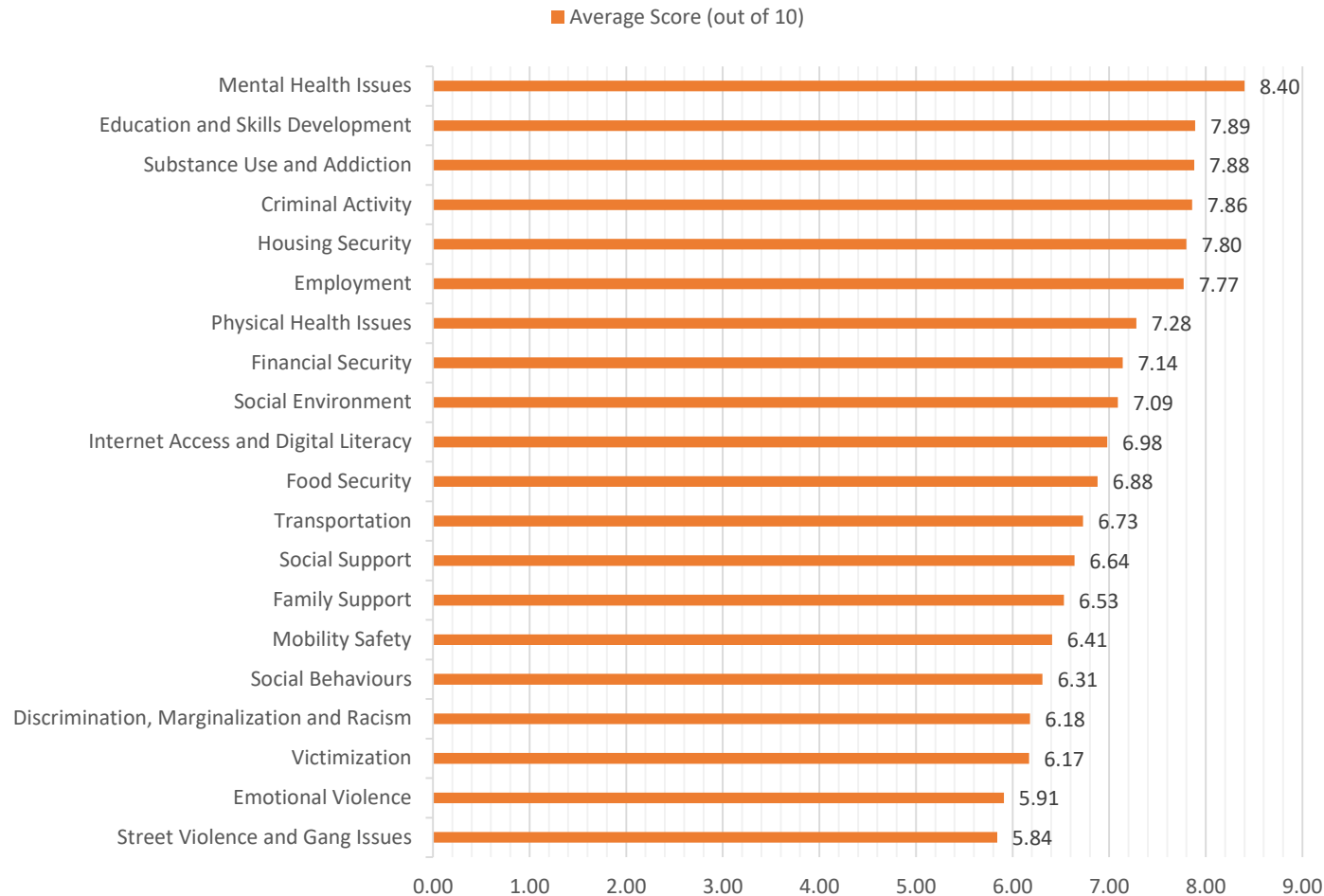


# Elements of Community Safety and Well-Being

- Criminal Activity
- Discrimination, Marginalization and Racism
- Education and Skills Development
- Employment
- Emotional Violence
- Family Support
- Financial Security
- Housing Security
- Internet Access and Digital Literacy
- Mental Health Issues
- Mobility Safety
- Physical Health Issues
- Social Behaviours
- Social Environment
- Social Support
- Street Violence and Gang Issues
- Substance Use and Addiction
- Transportation
- Victimization

# Priorities for the Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas CSWB Plan

Overall Priority Rating of CSWB Elements



## Top Elements

1. Mental health issues
2. Education and skills development
3. Substance use and addiction
4. Criminal activity
5. Housing security
6. Employment

# Top CSWB Elements by Municipality

CSWB Elements	Municipality								Total # of Municipalities
	County	St. T	A	CE	DD	M	S	We	
Mental health issues	x	x	x	x		x	x		5
Education and skills development	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Substance use and addiction	x	x	x	x			x		4
Criminal activity	x	x		x		x	x	x	5
Housing security	x	x	x					x	3
Employment	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Internet access and digital literacy					x	x		x	3
Physical health issues					x	x			2
Financial security								x	1
Social environment								x	1
Food security								x	1
Discrimination, marginalization and racism					x				1

# General Public vs. Community Partner Top CSWB Elements

## General Public Top Picks

1. Mental Health Issues
2. Education And Skills Development
3. Substance Use And Addiction
4. Criminal Activity
5. Housing Security
6. Employment



## Community Partner Top Picks

1. Housing Security
2. Mental Health Issues
3. Substance Use and Addiction
4. Poverty and Income Security
5. Regional Economy
6. Primary Care/Physical Health

# Mental Health Issues

8.40

- Top overall average rating
- Identified in the top CSWB elements list in five out of seven municipalities (St.T, A, CE, M, S)

## **Why mental health issues should be a priority in the CSWB Plan:**

- A key foundational piece in community safety and well being
- COVID-19 has exacerbated this element
- Far reaching impact of mental health, making linkages between mental health and homelessness, poverty, addiction, crime, employment, and domestic violence
- A stigma associated with mental health
- The closing of the Psychiatric Hospital in St. Thomas has had an impact on mental health in the region
- Access to education about mental health, and the need for more professionals and resources to support individuals with mental health issues (especially in rural areas), and using the police as a primary/first response to supporting individuals with mental health issues were named as challenges

## **Potential areas of focus/need that were identified:**

- The mental health of children and youth and resources to support them, including a focus on prevention
- Resources to support the LGBTQ+ community
- The visible number of individuals with mental health issues in St. Thomas (especially the downtown core, Talbot Street), and the perceived threat to resident's safety
- Housing options for individuals with mental health issues
- Available and affordable mental health supports/resources/services
- Mental health supports/resources/services in the western part of Elgin County and in rural areas and small towns
- The provision of wraparound care for individuals with mental health issues

# Education and Skills Development

7.89

- #2 overall average rating
- Identified in the top CSWB elements in six out of seven municipalities (St.T, A, CE, DD, M, S)

## **Why education and skills development should be a priority in the CSWB Plan:**

- No major themes for a potential focus
- Highlighted the importance of education as a cornerstone in society, with strong links to employment, economic well-being, health, social skills, and decreased crime
- Education should support all abilities, be culturally sensitive, support diversity and anti-discrimination
- Importance of life skills training, skills training for jobs, and lifelong learning were also mentioned
- Lack of school resources in West Elgin



# Substance Use and Addiction

7.88

- #3 overall average rating
- Identified in the top CSWB elements in four out of seven municipalities (St.T, CE, A, S)

## **Why substance use and addiction should be a priority in the CSWB Plan:**

- Increasing, very prevalent in St. Thomas, specifically in the core of the city
- Concerns with discarded needles and a growing overdose/opioid crisis
- Linkages were made between addictions and other community safety and well-being elements, such as mental health, housing and homelessness, and crime
- Stigma attached to addictions and that public education should be a focus
- Lack of services, supports and resources in this area, especially in small communities
- Some ideas for more services included a safe injection/consumption site, treatment programs, and a rehab centre

# Criminal Activity

7.88

- #4 overall average rating
- Identified in the top CSWB elements in five out of seven municipalities (St.T, CE, S, M, WE)

## **Why criminal activity should be a priority in the CSWB Plan:**

- People want to feel safe where they live
- St. Thomas was named more frequently as a community with more criminal activity
- Not a lot of serious crime in Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas, but that they are experiencing and hearing about break-ins, petty theft, property theft, drug use and drug trafficking, animal cruelty, and human trafficking
- Many felt that criminal activity is the symptom of something else and that the root cause of this type of activity lies in mental health issues, addictions, poverty, food security, unemployment, housing/homelessness, social inclusion/a sense of belonging and/or education

# Housing Security

7.80

- #5 overall average rating
- Identified in the top CSWB elements in three out of seven municipalities (St.T, A, WE)

## **Why housing security should be a priority in the CSWB Plan:**

- Housing is a foundational component to addressing other CSWB elements
- A lack of affordable housing
- An homelessness issue (especially in St. Thomas)
- Unsafe housing
- A low vacancy rate/a lack of availability of rental housing
- A lack of rental property in rural Elgin
- Too much focus on building condos/houses that are expensive to purchase
- Youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities as populations with more vulnerability in the area of housing security
- The need for a range of diverse housing options, including an increased supply of affordable rental housing, and a focus on Housing First as an approach to homelessness

# Employment

7.77

- #6 overall average rating
- Identified in the top CSWB elements in six out of seven municipalities (St.T, DD,CE, A, S, M)

## **Why employment should be a priority in the CSWB Plan:**

- Employment is a key underlying factor in quality of life and overall wellness and is linked to other CSWB elements
- Some people are working multiple jobs to make ends meet, paying a living wage is important
- COVID-19 has had an impact locally with businesses closing and the resulting job losses in the community

## **Main issues:**

- Precarious work (contract, part-time, low paying jobs, etc.)
- Transportation (the ability to get to jobs from outlying towns)
- A skills match gap between available jobs and skills of individuals looking for work (need for skills training and education for available jobs)
- Individuals are commuting to work in other municipalities as they can't find a job in Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas that matches their skills/profession
- The need for fair wages (living wage, guaranteed basic income)

# Other Potential Elements

- Internet access and digital literacy, which was identified in the top list in three out of seven municipalities (Dutton Dunwich, Malahide, West Elgin)
- Physical health issues (for Dutton Dunwich and Malahide)

# General Public vs. Community Partner Top CSWB Elements

## General Public Top Picks

1. Mental Health Issues
2. Education And Skills Development
3. Substance Use And Addiction
4. Criminal Activity
5. Housing Security
6. Employment

## Community Partner Top Picks

1. Housing Security
2. Mental Health Issues
3. Substance Use and Addiction
4. Poverty and Income Security
5. Regional Economy
6. Primary Care/Physical Health

# Small Group Discussion

1. What are you noticing? What surprises you about the general public responses?
2. Based on the priorities in the general public survey and the community partner survey, what do you think should be the specific areas of focus in the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan? (Note: this is a three year plan)
3. Who are the strategic partners who should be involved in designing strategies in each of the areas of focus (i.e. agencies, planning tables, etc.)?



# Phase 4: Plan Development

## Data, Local Research and Local Asset Mapping

What does the data and local research tell us about our communities and our risk and protective factors?

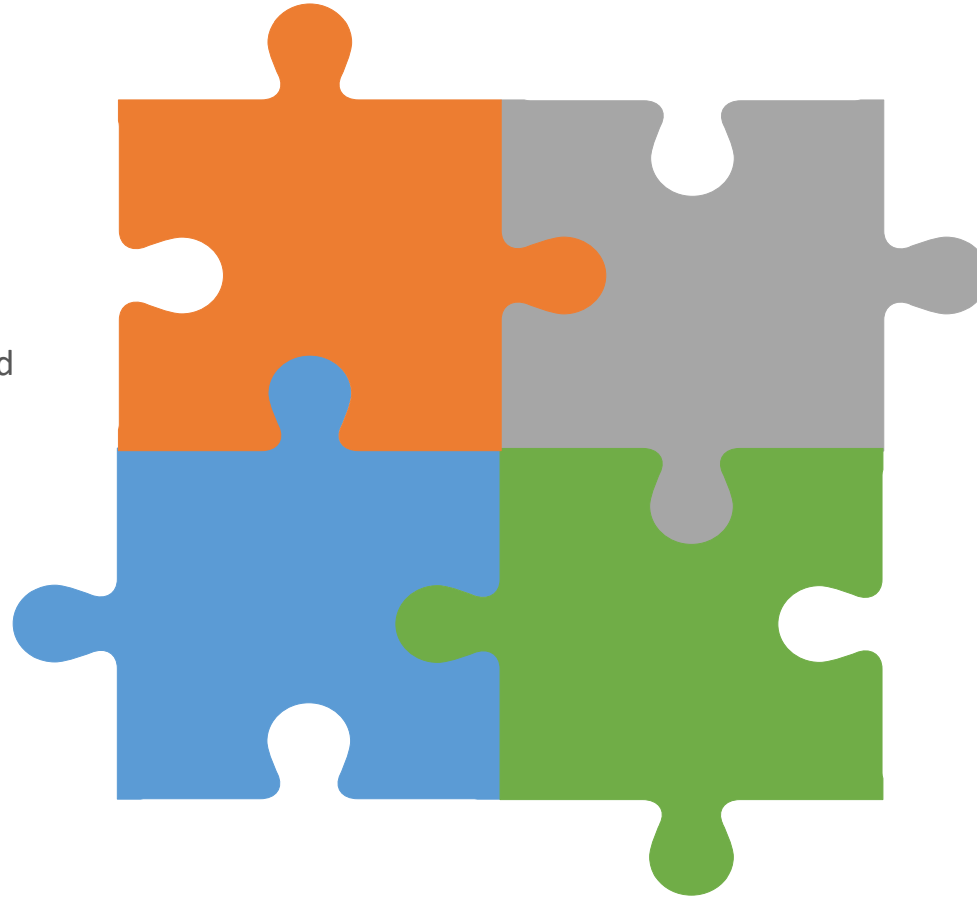
What priorities have been identified and what strategies/initiatives are currently underway?

## Community Partners

What are the top issues/challenges and/or risks in our communities?

What strategies/initiatives are currently underway?

What else should we be doing?



## Advisory Committee

What are the top issues/challenges and/or risks in our communities?

What strategies/initiatives are currently underway?

What else should we be doing?

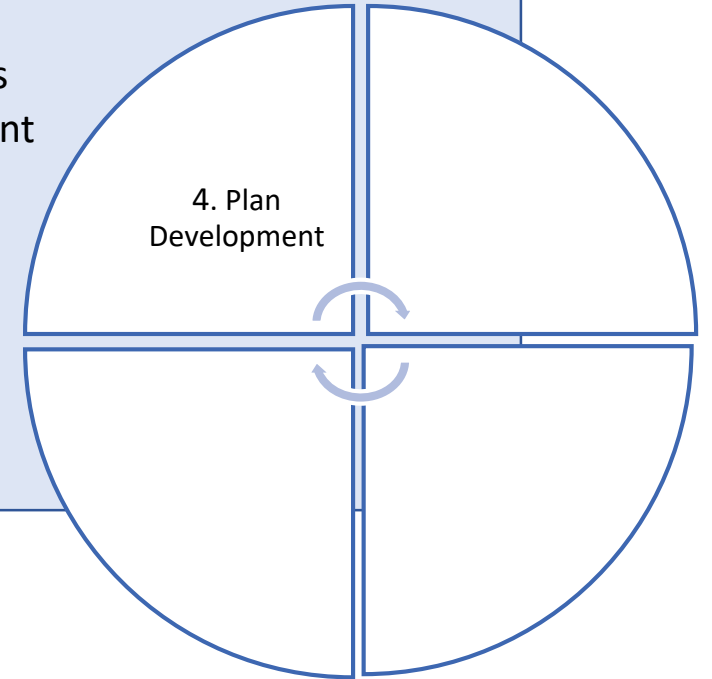
## General Public

What are the public's perceptions of community safety and well-being?

What are their top priorities?



- Identify areas of focus for the Plan
- Review community assets
- Identify strategies
- Set measurable outcomes
- Performance measurement framework



## Wrap Up and Next Steps