

# What Home Looks Like

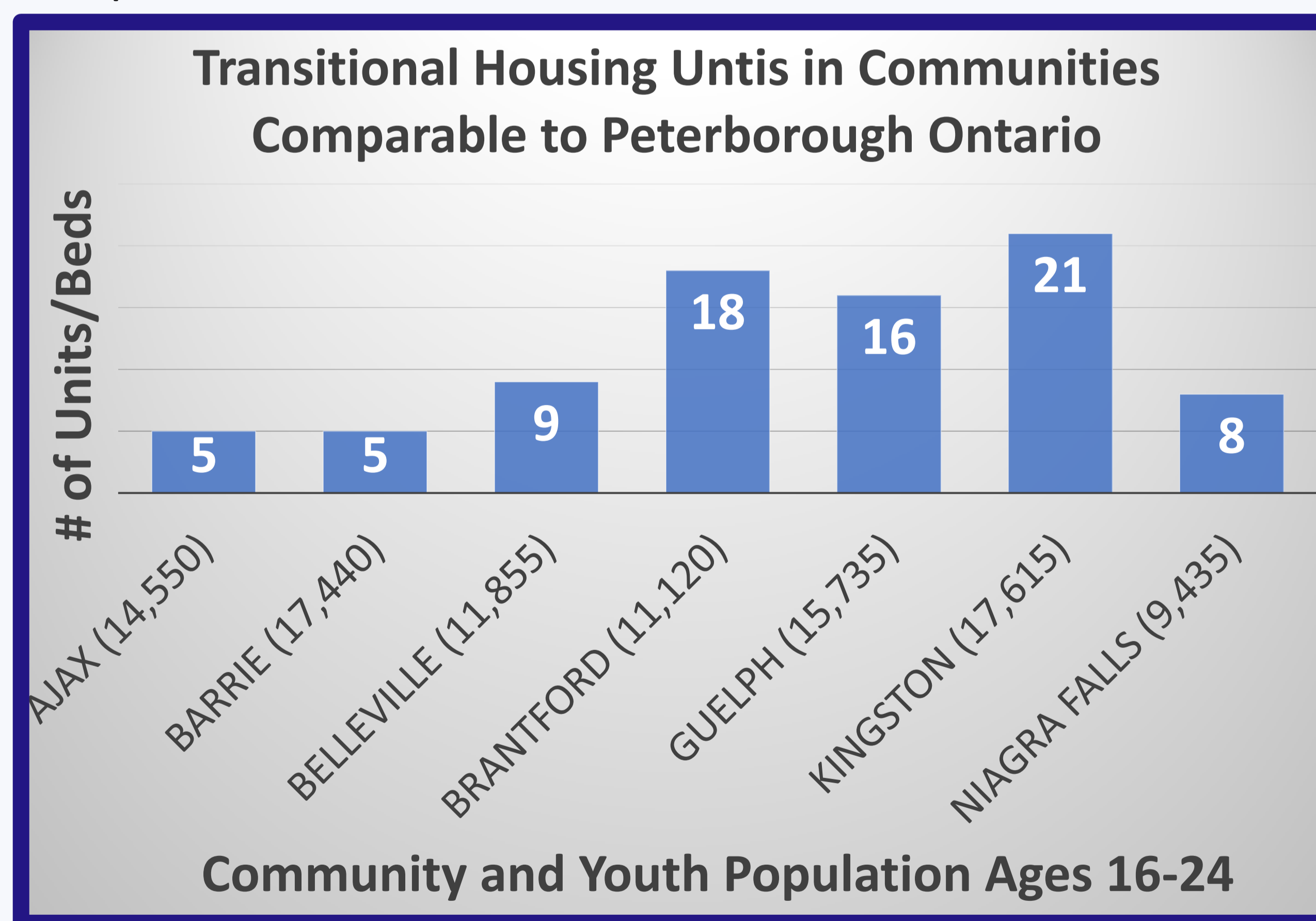
## Exploration of Transitional Housing in Ontario

### Background and Purpose

The YES Shelter for Youth and Families is a local non-profit organization that works to reduce and prevent homelessness in Peterborough. Currently, YES is working to develop new youth transitional housing to meet the needs of the young people in the community. The purpose of this research project is to explore what current successful youth transitional housing models exist, how they came to be, and what are the practices governing them that led to their successful implementation.

### Methods

The research was completed in **two phases**, beginning with an **environmental scan** to establish communities comparable to Peterborough Ontario. Below is a snapshot of the environmental scan.



The second phase was **in-depth interviews** with three organizations identified through the environmental scan to further explore the implementation of their transitional living facility. Four other identified organizations were contacted by the host organization's housing panel using the established interview questions.

*"They're still working on some of those life skills but they get a chance...they know they've got that support they're not totally on their own we're still here for whatever they need."* – Jacky's Place.



The YES Shelter for Youth and Families main building and emergency shelter

*"We frankly worry...because if we can't intervene on a serious long-term level then the chances of them never being able to get out of the system [of poverty] are increased as well."* – Youth Haven Barrie

### Key Findings

There are **four different types of transitional housing**.



The most common model being used currently is **standalone congregate living**, and this likely due to budgetary and funding constraints.

A **one year timeline** for transitional living programs is not long enough for every youth to successfully transition out of homelessness.

Positive successful **community integration** of transitional living facilities is still a challenge, the reaction to these facilities is a result of larger structural and institutional forms of oppression such as sexism, ageism, classism and racism (referred to as NIMBY). It is beyond the scope of a non-profit community organization to confront these systems of power directly, there needs to be broader societal action against these systems of power to create acceptance.

### Further Research

Suggested future research is to look at the role language plays in the successful implementation of transitional housing from a policy and community based perspective.