



# HIFIS

A Statistical Depiction of Shelters and Services for Women Experiencing Violence and Abuse in Nova Scotia



The Transition House Association of Nova Scotia

# THANS -Identified Need for Data

- 2002 NS Budget
- Family Violence Redesign Process
- Sustainability
- Programs and Services
- Gaps
- Current Practices
- Lack of Resources

# HIFIS

- The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System
- HIFIS Initiative part of Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS,) HRSDC
- 1999 – 2008: Growth from limited effectiveness to a valuable tool for organizations providing shelter and services for women experiencing violence and abuse

# 4 Key Components HIFIS Initiative

- **Community Technical Support**
- **Partnership Development**
- **Analysis and Research**
- **Communication and Information Sharing**

# Community Technical Support

- HIFIS Software
- Help Desk
- Training

# Partnership Development

- Digital Inclusion Partnership for Homelessness
  - Microsoft Canada
  - Computers For Schools
  - Telecom Pioneers
  - McAfee
- Partnership Development
  - HIFIS Community Coordinators
  - Salvation Army & CAFB

# Analysis and Research

- Data Sharing Protocols
- Data Dictionary
- Data Exports
- National Shelter List
- Homelessness Knowledge Development Research Projects
- Homelessness Report Cards

# Communication/Information Sharing

- HIFIS Web Site
- [www.hifis.ca](http://www.hifis.ca)
- HIFIS Forum
- Statistical Analysis – The Yellowknife Report
- Community Homelessness Report Cards

# HIFIS in Nova Scotia

- 90 % of Shelter beds are tracked using HIFIS
- 100% of VAW beds are tracked using HIFIS
- THANS holds NS Community Coordinator Contract
- Transition Houses collect over 100 fields of data using HIFIS

# THANS Data Collection

- Client Name, Gender, Date of Birth
- Book-in Date, Book-out Date, Reason for Service, Reason for Discharge
- Contributing Factors
- Goods and Services
- Outreach Statistics
- Conflict Statistics

# VAW Report Card

- Overview of Current Programs and Services
- Baseline HIFIS Statistics
- Department of Justice Statistics
  - Emergency Protection Orders
  - High Risk Cases
  - Family Violence Tracking Project
- Future Directions

# THANS – HIFIS Initiatives

- Reports to Funders
- Local, Regional and Provincial Reporting
- Statistical Reporting from organizations supporting VAW shelters
- Case Management
- Questionnaires
- Research

# HIFIS Report Samples

- Client Profile, Individual
- Goods and Services, Individual
- HPS Data Collection Tools
- Shelter Report
- Admissions
- Turnaway Summary
- Returning Clients (recidivism)
- Reasons for Service
- Reasons for Discharge
- Referrals

# Conclusion

- HIFIS provides accurate and cohesive province-wide data that allows THANS to identify and provide effective programs and services, and maintain sustainability.
- HIFIS reflects our comprehensive services and plays an advocacy role with our funders
- HIFIS can and should play a significant role in the NS Coordinated Domestic Violence Strategy