



## **‘Home Takeover’ resources, response tools available**

A Home Takeover Advisory Committee – formed in November 2021 to address “home takeovers” in Grey-Bruce – has developed resources to help raise awareness of the issue and to assist community partners, including service providers, in responding to home takeover situations.

‘Home takeover’ is a term used to describe a situation in which the rightful occupant(s) of a home is forced to accommodate unwanted guests in their house, apartment or unit. The situation becomes a home takeover when the target’s home has been “taken over” by the perpetrator, who refuses to leave. The target feels physically, financially, or emotionally unsafe in their own home.

The perpetrator could be an acquaintance, relative, or family friend. The target may, initially, allow the perpetrator to stay over to fulfill unmet social, economic, or personal needs. A lack of temporary housing as well as mental health and addiction issues have been identified as key factors contributing to home takeovers. Targets of a home takeover tend to have vulnerabilities, such as a drug dependency, disabilities, or mental health issues or were recently/formerly homeless, are immigrants, or low-income women with children. Seniors may also be targeted and are especially vulnerable to victimization through financial exploitation.

The Home Takeover Advisory Committee, which includes Grey Bruce Public Health and various community partners, has developed a [10-Question Checklist](#) to increase public knowledge and awareness of the issue.

In addition, a [Response Framework for Organizations and Service Providers \(2022\)](#), and [Response Pathway \(2022\)](#) are intended to build community partner capacity to prevent, identify, respond to, and support recovery from home takeover through enhanced inter-sectoral collaboration.

Visit [Home Takeover \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca) to learn more.