

# Huron Housing and Homelessness Monthly Share-Out

September 2024

Huron's Housing and Homelessness Serving System is a group of agencies and programs that coordinate to provide housing and support to people experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.

At least **135** people were experiencing homelessness in Huron County in September.

In August 2024: 131 People  
In July 2024: 129 People

Of those, **120** people had been chronically homeless for six months or more in the last year.

In September, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness was equal to those in August.

**Inflow:** People entering homelessness.

**Outflow:** People exiting homelessness.



## Population Specific Data

**8**

Youth (16-25) experiencing homelessness.

**21**

Families experiencing homelessness.

**24**

People with Indigenous identity experiencing homelessness.

## Monthly Myth Buster



**Myth: Experiencing Homelessness Means You Live On The Streets.**

When people think of someone experiencing homelessness, they generally imagine someone sleeping outside or staying in a shelter, though this view of homelessness doesn't capture the entire experience. Homelessness affects a range of people, many of whom experience hidden homelessness, which can include couch surfing (living with friends or family until you can get back on your feet), living in a motel, or living in a car. According to the Government of Canada, 15% of people who now make housing decisions in their households have experienced hidden homelessness.

## Indigenous Homelessness

Indigenous homelessness is a human condition that describes First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals, families, or communities lacking stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means, or ability to acquire such housing. Unlike the common colonialist definition of homelessness, Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews. These include individuals, families, and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages, and identities. Importantly, Indigenous people experiencing these kinds of homelessness cannot culturally, spiritually, emotionally, or physically reconnect with their Indigeneity or lost relationships.

(Source-[Atlohsa Family Healing Services](#))

### By The Numbers (2020-2022 National Point-in-Time Count - [Click Here](#))

- 5% of Canadians identify as Indigenous in our last Census
- 31% of respondents experiencing homelessness in Canada identified as Indigenous, an additional 3% identifying Indigenous heritage
- The percentage of those who identified as Indigenous was higher among those who were staying in unsheltered locations (41%), and those who were experiencing hidden homelessness (45%) in comparison to other locations.
- Respondents identifying as Indigenous were more likely to identify as women (40%) compared to non-Indigenous respondents (31%), and a higher portion of Indigenous respondents reported experiencing chronic homelessness (75%) compared to non-Indigenous respondents (68%)
- Approximately 65% of those identifying as Indigenous were adults, which exceeded the percentage observed among non-Indigenous participants at 55%.

NATIONAL DAY FOR  
TRUTH AND  
RECONCILIATION

#OrangeShirtDay

September 30, 2024



## Shifts from Homelessness to Housing

In September, 2 people moved from homelessness into housing.



100% of them had experienced chronic homelessness.

## Bridge Housing and Stability Program

The County of Huron is proud to announce the launch of the Bridge Housing and Stability Program which will begin in November 2024. This Program is a collaborative effort with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron Perth Addiction and Mental Health Services (CMHA-HP), to prevent and address homelessness in Huron County.

### Huron County Bridge Housing Quick Facts:

- The Bridge Housing Program will provide a safe environment for individuals to obtain much needed rest, food, and connection to appropriate services.
- 14 Bridge Housing beds will be made available (6 beds provided by CMHA-HP and 8 beds provided by the County of Huron).
- Participants in the Program will have a maximum stay of three months to work with CMHA-HP stability staff on goal setting and housing acquisition.
- The Program will provide a home environment where staff can support clients with activities of daily living.
- Huron's Housing Stability Team will continue to support both Bridge Housing and provide individual case management of those experiencing homelessness, with up to 100 case management spaces each year.

**When everyone has a safe and affordable place to call home, our whole community benefits.**

**Be Part of the Solution.**

Say YES to supportive and affordable housing in your neighbourhood!

