

Huron Housing and Homelessness Monthly Share-Out

December 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.

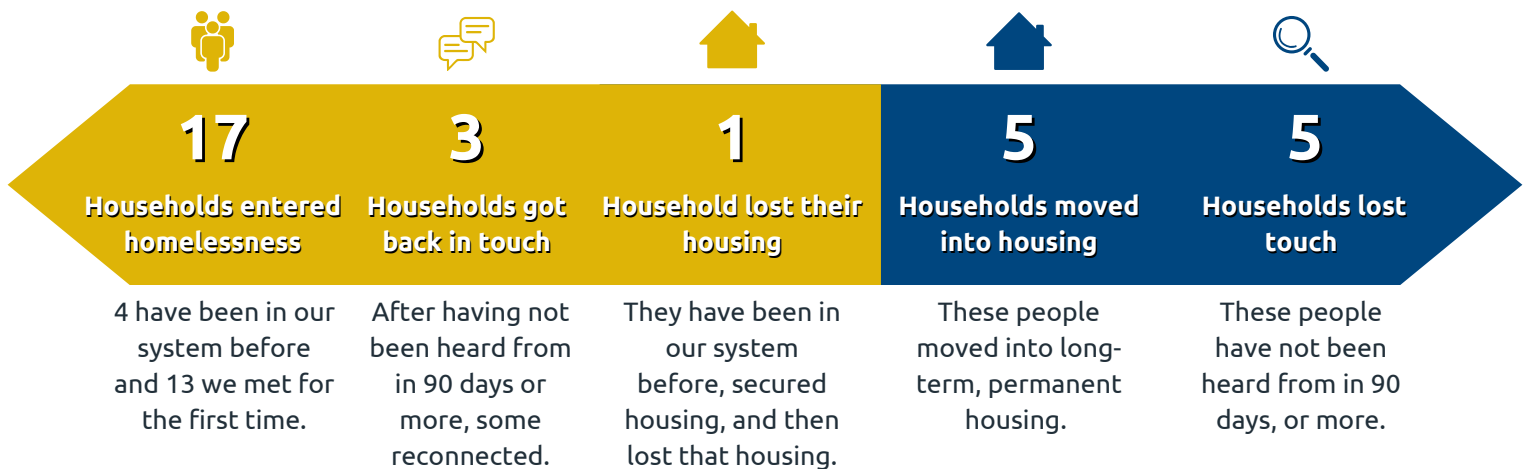
At least **147** households were experiencing homelessness in Huron County this month.

Of those, **130** households had been chronically homeless for six months or more in the last year.

201 people, including children, are represented by the households experiencing homelessness.

Inflow: People entering homelessness.

Outflow: People exiting homelessness.



Population Specific Data

15
Youth (16-25) experiencing homelessness.

27
Families experiencing homelessness.

28
People with Indigenous identity experiencing homelessness.

**Numbers In This Report Only Represent Households That Are Active and Consenting To Being On The Huron County By-Name List*

Monthly Myth Buster



Myth: There are plenty of adequate services and supports to help those experiencing homelessness.

Many of the solutions and supports for homelessness have focused on emergency services, such as shelters and food banks. For individuals who are trying to escape a cycle of poverty and homelessness, emergency services alone are not adequate. There is a need to focus on the larger systemic factors, including the lack of affordable housing, supportive housing, and the criminalization of homelessness that prevent people from obtaining permanent and suitable shelter.



Housing as a Social Determinant of Health

Homelessness is associated with enormous health inequalities, including shorter life expectancy, higher morbidity and greater usage of acute hospital services. Viewed through the lens of social determinants, homelessness is a key driver of poor health, but homelessness itself results from accumulated adverse social and economic conditions. Indeed, in people who are homeless, the social determinants of homelessness and health inequities are often intertwined, and long term homelessness further exacerbates poor health.

Treating homelessness as a combined health and social issue is critical to improving the abysmal health outcomes of people experiencing homelessness. In addition, the enormous economic costs of hospital care for people who are homeless can be reduced when housing and other social determinants are taken into account. - Source

Disparities in Healthcare Costs of People Experiencing Homelessness in Toronto - Sept 24, 2024

This study compared Mean(95% CI) overall Healthcare costs for those identified as homeless, housed, and housed with low income over 1 year:

- People Experiencing Homelessness - **\$12,209**
- Housed Individuals - **\$1,769**
- Low-Income Housed Individuals - **\$1,912**

Participants in this study experiencing homelessness had significantly higher rates of many comorbidities, including asthma, chronic lung disease, chronic heart disease, history of stroke, chronic kidney disease, chronic neurological disorders, liver disease, etc.

- Source

The Increased Prevalence of Health Related Issues for Those Experiencing Homelessness

- **29%** more likely to have Hepatitis C
- **20x** more likely to have Epilepsy
- **5x** more likely to have Heart Disease
- **4x** more likely to have Cancer
- **3.5x** more likely to have Asthma
- **3x** more likely to have Arthritis or Rheumatism
- **50%** have had a Traumatic Brain Injury (Approximately **2%** of the Canadian population has had a Traumatic Brain Injury by comparison).
- Prevalence of Dementia is **17.7%** higher than those considered housed, and **6.1%** higher than those considered housed with low-income.
- In 2017, **20%** Canadians reported having a disability. **13%** of those who reported also reported that they have experienced Hidden Homelessness.

- Sources [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)

Primary Care Access & Those Experiencing Homelessness

Using Narrative Interviews with 53 people experiencing homelessness or housing vulnerability in a small Ontario town showed that:

- **28%** had a primary care provider locally
- **40%** had a provider in another town
- **32%** had no access to a primary care provider at all

This research also indicated that participants frequently sought out care in emergency departments because they were unable to access the primary care they needed in the community. - Source

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!

