

Huron Housing and Homelessness Monthly Share-Out

February 2025

Previous Month's Share-Outs

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.

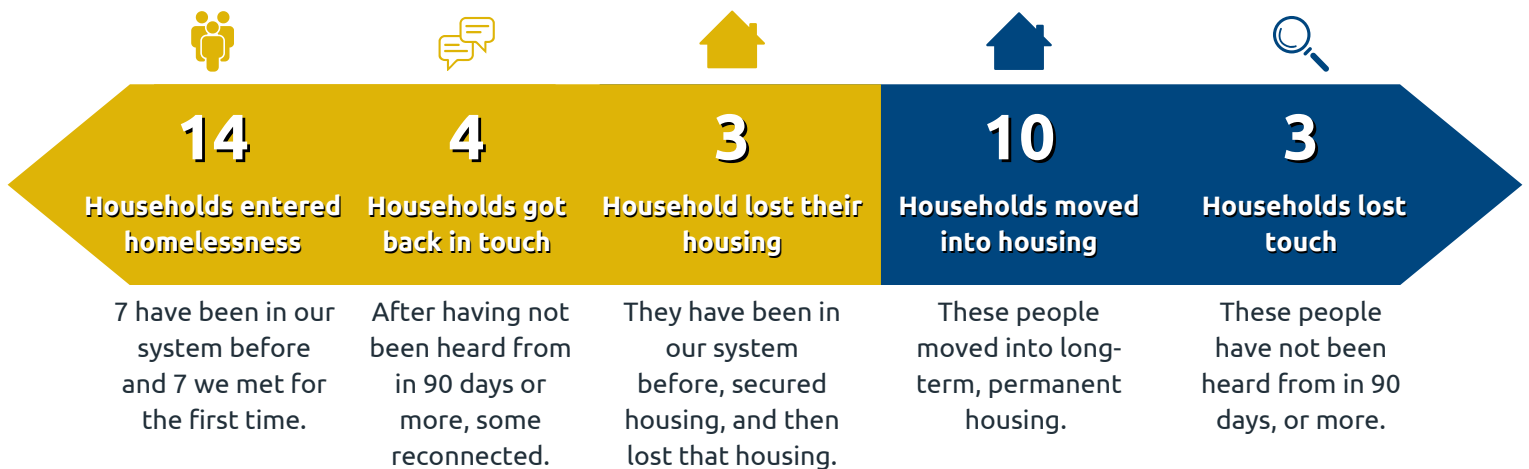
At least **143** households were experiencing homelessness in Huron County this month.

Of those, **129** households had been chronically homeless for six months or more in the last year.

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

Inflow: People entering homelessness.

Outflow: People exiting homelessness.



Population Specific Data

10
Youth (16-25) experiencing homelessness.

24
Families experiencing homelessness.

29
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: People Experiencing Homelessness Are More Likely To Be Criminals.

People without permanent homes are more likely to experience physical violence and sexual assault than to be the ones committing a crime. While the homeless population does have more interactions with the criminal justice system, it is usually because the activities related to their daily survival have been criminalized, resulting in being more likely to be fined or to be arrested for minor offences like loitering, trespassing, or shoplifting for food. The situation is worse for youth (13-24) experiencing homelessness, who tend to become involved in criminal activity out of necessity, or to cope with the harsh reality of homelessness.

Researchers found that youth commit theft or sell drugs to obtain food, clothes, and shelter or to support an addiction they developed on the streets.

- Source - Appendix 1, 2



HOMELESSNESS



The Cycle of Homelessness As It Relates To Incarceration And Hospitalization

Why Is There A Cyclical Relationship Between Homelessness & Hospitalization?

- Many point to the inadequate service integration between healthcare and social service sectors.
 - When patients are discharged from the hospital, they may still need follow-up care, such as wound care, or help with accessing non-medical services that are essential to their well-being. Hospital workers were challenged to set up patients with the services they might need because these were lacking in the community, or due to their lack of address, resulting in readmissions to hospital.
 - A lack of communication between hospitals and housing agencies was attributable, at least in part, to privacy concerns around the sharing of confidential information, again impacting follow-up.
 - Hospitals experience the burdens of being, “under so much utilization, wait times and flow pressures; their focus is narrow and the goal is time and resource efficiency.” This causes issues for discharge planning when barriers to accessing shelters often include the availability of beds/additional resources in the community.
- Interesting Research Continues. Click [Here](#) To Read More About the Evaluation of a Best Practice Program to Prevent Discharge from Hospital into Homelessness (Based Out of London, ON)

- Source 1, 2

How Do People Get Stuck In The Cycle Of Homelessness & Incarceration?

- **22%** of people are living with homelessness at the time of their incarceration.
- In Ontario, about **70%** of prisoners in provincial prisons are on “remand.”
- **50%** of people remanded to custody will be incarcerated for 12 days or more. Though they have not been convicted of a crime, they will still experience the negative effects the same way as those convicted, often leading to a loss of housing, a job, leaving them with nowhere to go.
- **1/3** of all people leaving correctional facilities are released with No Fixed Address
- While incarceration causes homelessness, people living with homelessness are also incarcerated at higher rates due to increased interactions with the law, especially relating to “survival” crimes engaged in to secure basic needs, as well as crimes many find difficult to avoid, like loitering and solicitation.
 - In many cases, the intent of many law enforcement officials who elect incarceration is to hopefully ensure that people living with homelessness have their basic food, shelter, and healthcare needs met.
 - Incarceration carries its own risks, and the lack of post-release supports means many will return to homelessness upon release, now with a criminal record that can cause issues with their ability to attain housing, regardless of the severity of their crime.
- Numbers suggest the problem of homelessness among justice-involved people has grown worse in Ontario over time. In 2007, approximately **1 in 16** people were homeless at the time of incarceration. In 2021, this number had increased to approximately **1 in 6** people.

- Source 1, 2

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!



HURON
COUNTY