

# Huron Housing and Homelessness Monthly Share-Out

May 2026

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.

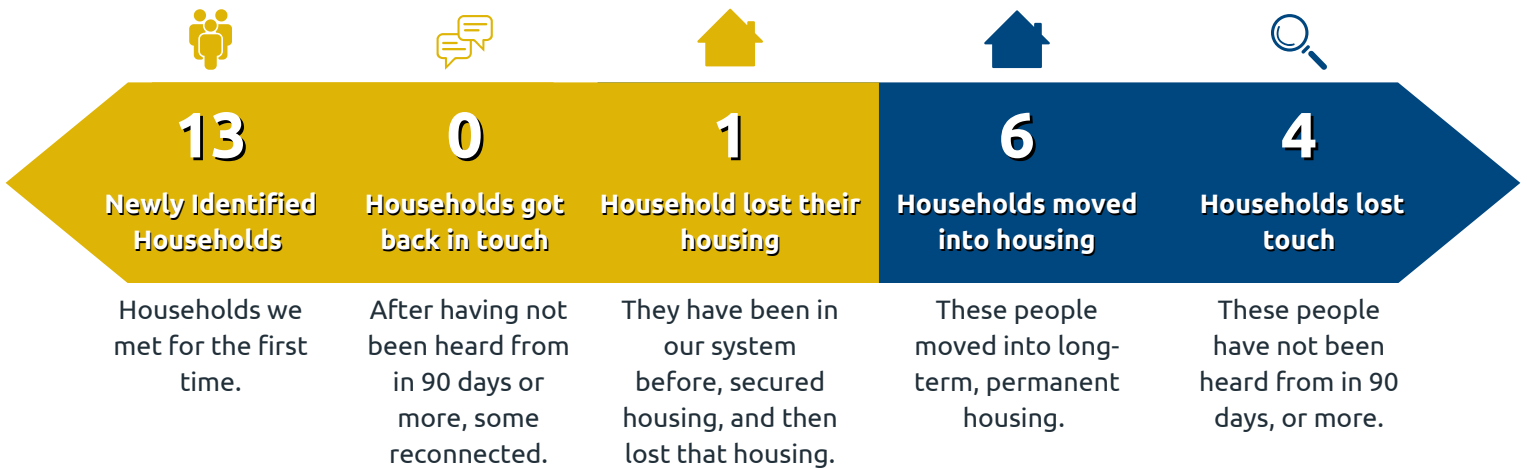
At least **155** households were experiencing homelessness in Huron County this month.

Of those, **140** households had been chronically homeless for six months or more in the last year.

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

**Inflow:** People entering homelessness.

**Outflow:** People exiting homelessness.



## Population Specific Data



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

For the next several months, Huron's Housing and Homelessness Monthly Share-Out's will take a deeper dive into the topics outlined in the *Municipalities Under Pressure One Year Later: An Update on the Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis* report.



Review the [Full Report](#)

# “A shelter is not the same as a home.”



We would like to begin by stating that there is not a desire for the complete elimination of emergency shelter spaces, as homelessness is a crisis that requires interventions that reduce immediate harm. There will also continue to be the need for emergency shelter spaces for populations requiring a higher level of safety, including women and children escaping intimate partner violence and homeless youth, for example.

## Defining Emergency Shelter:

“Short-term accommodations designed to **provide immediate, temporary refuge** for people experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelters often offer basic services, such as meals, hygiene facilities, and referrals to other housing and support programs, but are **not intended as long-term solutions to homelessness.**”



-Source



## ‘HARD TRUTHS’ ABOUT EMERGENCY SHELTER SYSTEMS

- “Ontario’s homelessness system has had 34% shelter growth, yet chronic homelessness has grown by 138%. This increase in chronic homelessness show that **more people are becoming trapped in the homelessness system**, unable to transition out of emergency shelters into stable housing.”
- “[The bottom line is that across Ontario] nearly \$1 billion annually is spent on emergency shelters, a necessary system component that **neither prevents inflow into homelessness nor facilitates long-term outflow.**”
- “[The data] highlights **a homelessness-serving system heavily reliant on emergency shelters**, which account for 65.2% of total expenditures. In contrast, transitional and supportive housing, which are critical for providing pathways out of homelessness, received only 6.0% and 11.6% of spending, respectively.”
- “This pattern [of spending] demonstrates that pressure is building at the intensive end of the system, driving more investment in response to crisis and long-term high support, rather than reducing the flow of people **before they reach that level of need.**”
- “In a well-functioning system, emergency shelters serve as **a temporary crisis intervention**, particularly in areas where no other options are available. They are **not a long-term solution [to ending homelessness].**”

-Source 1, 2

**“Ontario’s homelessness-serving system is at a crossroads, challenged by increasing demand, a surge in chronic homelessness, and an urgent need to balance immediate crisis response with long-term solutions.”** -Source

**This report**, published by *United Housing*, further examines the social and financial costs of non-permanent shelter systems, highlighting the urgent need to refocus efforts on permanent and supportive housing as the foundation for lasting solutions to homelessness.



# What Are We Seeing Currently?

"The end of significant government investment in community and social housing, and deregulation of the rental market, have created an affordability crisis affecting a large percentage of the population. While mental health, substance use, and poverty are often cited as the main challenges, research points to housing market conditions as the primary driver of homelessness." [-Source](#)

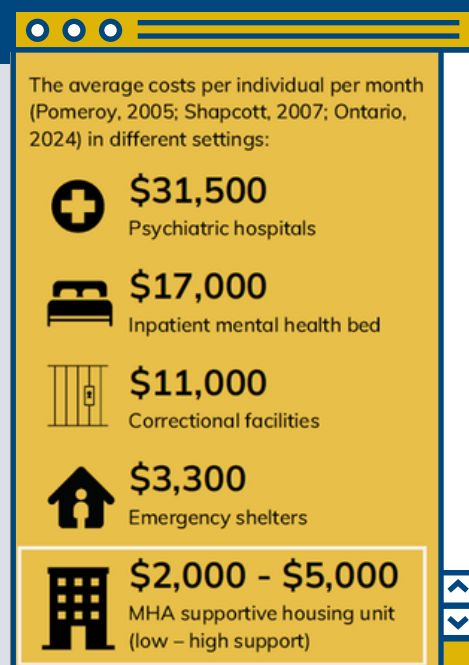
"In response to public pressure, municipalities have increased their investment in temporary solutions...while such systems offer immediate relief, there is little evidence suggesting they are effective in helping individuals transition to stable housing." [-Source](#)

## What Does it Cost?

"As more people remain unhoused for longer periods, the cost of supporting each person increases. Longer shelter stays, repeated use of emergency and institutional services, and higher support needs raise per-person costs overtime. As a result, increased funding can be absorbed by supporting fewer people for longer, rather than reducing homelessness overall." [-Source](#)

"The only long-term solution to homelessness is affordable housing and wrap-around supports for those who need them. Not only is this a more compassionate approach, it is also more effective, costs significantly less, and has significant return on investment through reduction of costly emergency and healthcare services." [-Source](#)

"Every \$10 invested in supportive housing can generate up to \$21.72 in cost savings, particularly for individuals with high service needs, realized through reduced hospitalizations, decreased use of emergency shelters, and lower justice system costs."



[-Source](#)

## What Can Housing and Homelessness Serving Systems Do Differently?

"**Prevention** is one of the most cost-effective and ethically sound strategies to achieve [an end to chronic homelessness]. By stabilizing households before they reach a crisis point, prevention reduces the financial and human costs of homelessness while strengthening the overall system." [-Source](#)

"Adverse outcomes, including homelessness, frequently occur at predictable transition points, such as hospital discharge, justice involvement, loss of income, housing instability, or ageing out of care. Homelessness rarely comes first. Aligning programs and **early coordination** at these points prevents people from falling into gaps between systems and improves outcomes overtime." [-Source](#)

"Growth in spending for [supportive housing] recognizes its importance within homelessness response and the growing number of people experiencing homelessness who have complex needs around mental health, substance use, and physical health. Many of these needs emerge or intensify over time, shaped by prolonged experiences of homelessness and limited access to timely housing, healthcare, and treatment **earlier in people's pathways** into homelessness." [-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!**

