

Huron Housing and Homelessness Monthly Share-Out

June 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.

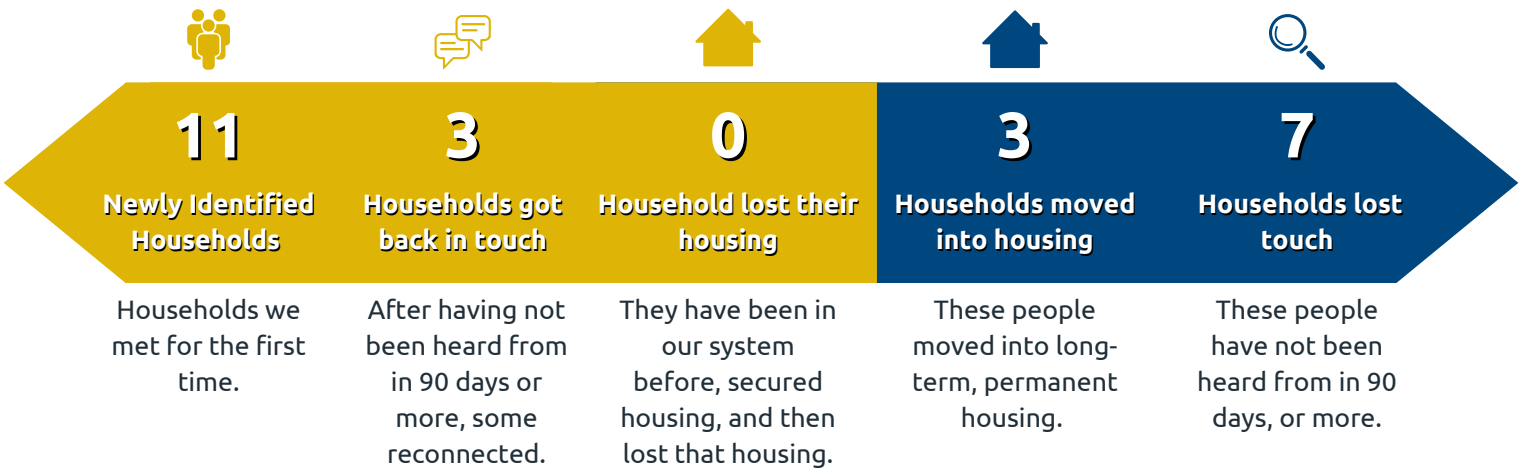
At least **159** households were experiencing homelessness in Huron County this month.

Of those, **141** households had been chronically homeless for six months or more in the last year.

199 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](#)



Encampments and Unsheltered Homelessness



What are encampments and why do they exist?

An encampment is a **temporary outdoor settlement**, which often includes tents or makeshift shelters, set up on public or private property that serves as a form of accommodation for individuals and/or groups of individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

Encampments are not a new phenomenon in Canada, but **have significantly increased in the last five years**, and particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic. Encampments are now being reported across the country—in **both large and small municipalities**, as well as in rural areas.

Encampments are **often the only option that meets people's needs for safety, security, and dignity**, and can offer a sense of community to others facing similar struggles.

People reside in encampments for many reasons, including **barriers to accessing shelters**, such as restrictive policies, safety concerns, or the **lack of accommodations** for families or pets. For some, these barriers are compounded by **discrimination or systemic inequities**, including those based on race, indigeneity, gender, sexuality, or other identities. Others face challenges stemming from substance use, mental health issues, or prior bans from shelters.

Encampments are **not a safe or sustainable alternative to housing**. For people living in encampments, every day can be a matter of life and death.

-Source 1, 2

“Encampments and unsheltered homelessness are among Ontario’s most pressing and visible challenges, requiring fast, decisive, and coordinated action.” -Source



On February 13, 2024, the Federal Housing Advocate recommended that the federal government urgently establish a National Encampments Response Plan to address 7 Calls to Action:

- Act immediately to save lives
- End forced evictions of encampments
- Work with all governments and provide support to municipalities
- Respect the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Respect and uphold human rights
- Offer people permanent housing options as rapidly as possible
- Address the root causes of encampments

-Source



'HARD TRUTHS' ABOUT ENCAMPMENTS ACROSS ONTARIO

- In 2025, Service Managers reported approximately **2000 encampment sites across Ontario**.
- Encampments across Ontario are **predominantly small and dispersed**, with typical sites involving between 2 and 10 people. Large, centralized encampments are much less common.
- Enforcement activities primarily affect the location and visibility of encampments rather than resolving the issue. While this approach **may make homelessness less visible, it does not resolve the needs of people who are living unsheltered**: encampments are not a reaction to a temporary crisis but an ongoing response to the growth in homelessness that chronically exceeds the system's capacity to respond.
- Neo-vagrancy bylaws raise serious human rights concerns because they can make it illegal for people to simply exist in public spaces or carry out basic survival activities such as resting, sleeping, cooking, or asking for money. Their enforcement is uneven, **disproportionately targeting individuals experiencing homelessness who already face discrimination and stereotypes**. More work needs to be done to approach encampments as a human rights issue, rather than a bylaw enforcement issue.
- Municipalities in Ontario are on the front lines of responding to encampments but face considerable challenges. **Social service funding decisions rest largely with provincial and federal governments, leaving municipalities with constrained resources and authority**. The shifting legal landscape, shaped by multiple court rulings on encampments in Ontario since 2023, has further complicated local responses.

-Source 1, 2, 3

 **20 known** encampment locations across Huron County.

 **33 individuals known** to be living unsheltered in Huron County.

Encampments throughout Huron County are supported by the **Community Paramedic Homelessness Outreach Team**, in partnership with Huron County Paramedics, CMHA-HP, and the County of Huron's Housing and Homelessness Services division. This team not only addresses immediate medical needs, but also helps to connect individuals with community support that can stabilize underlying social challenges, reduce repeat emergency room visits, and improve mental health outcomes.

The numbers reported above are estimated to be an under-report.

A location of 1 structure and/or 1 occupant is still considered an encampment.

People experiencing unsheltered homelessness are transient and move locations frequently. Observation and support of encampment locations are completed weekly on a rotating basis throughout the County.

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!

