

HOMELESSNESS *in* CANADA

BY THE NUMBERS

AS MANY AS **1.3 MILLION**

Canadians have experienced homelessness or extremely insecure housing at some point during the past five years.

AT LEAST

200,000

CANADIANS EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS IN A YEAR

HOMELESSNESS

for the VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IS **SHORT TERM** & ONLY HAPPENS ONCE!

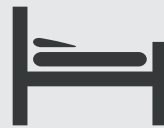
As many as

50,000 MAY BE 'HIDDEN HOMELESS' ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT

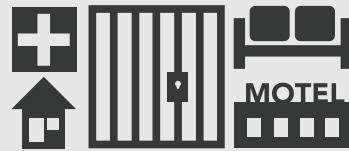
30,000 PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS ON A GIVEN NIGHT



2,880
UNSHELTERED



14,400
STAYING IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS



4,464
TEMPORARY INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMODATION



7,350
STAYING IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SHELTERS

WARNING SIGNS

A larger segment of the Canadian population struggling with poverty, high housing cost and poor nutrition may indicate homelessness risk:

BETWEEN 1980 AND 2005 THE AVERAGE EARNINGS AMONG THE LEAST WEALTHY CANADIANS FELL BY 20%

380,600 LIVE IN SEVERE HOUSING NEED

10%
OF HOUSEHOLDS LIVE BELOW THE LOW INCOME CUT-OFF (LICO).



10%
OF FAMILIES DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO MEET EVEN THE MOST BASIC NEEDS



8.2%
OF HOUSEHOLDS ARE EXPERIENCING MODERATE OR SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY

HOMELESSNESS COSTS THE CANADIAN ECONOMY **\$7 BILLION** ANNUALLY

THIS INCLUDES NOT ONLY THE COST OF EMERGENCY SHELTERS, BUT SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH CARE AND CORRECTIONS.

WHO is HOMELESS IN CANADA?



47.5%
SINGLE ADULT
MALES

OTHER KEY SUB-POPULATIONS:

- YOUTH MAKE UP ABOUT 20% OF THE HOMELESSNESS POPULATION
- FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT PEOPLES ARE OVERREPRESENTED
- VIOLENCE AND POVERTY ARE THE MAIN CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

People who are chronically homeless (long term) or episodically homeless (moving in and out of homelessness), form a smaller percentage of the overall homeless population, but at the same time **use more than half the emergency shelter space in Canada** and are most often the **highest users of public systems**.

CHRONIC HOMELESS: 4,000 - 8,000
EPISODIC HOMELESS: 6,000 - 22,000
TRANSITIONALLY HOMELESS: 176,000 - 188,000

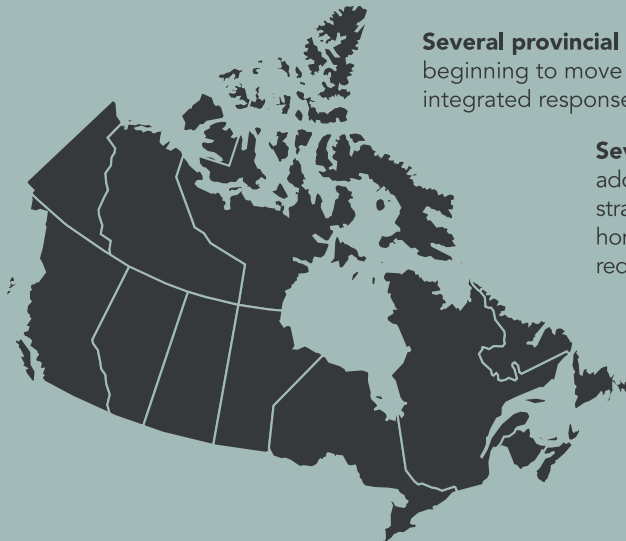
50 DAYS

THE MEDIAN
LENGTH OF STAY IN
EMERGENCY SHELTER

MOST PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS FOR LESS THAN A MONTH (29% STAY ONLY ONE NIGHT), & MANAGE TO LEAVE HOMELESSNESS ON THEIR OWN, USUALLY WITH LITTLE SUPPORT.

PROGRESS POINTING TO A SOLUTION

Success of the At Home/Chez Soi pilot of Housing First programs in 5 Canadian cities



Several provincial governments are beginning to move towards strategic & integrated responses to homelessness.

Several Canadian cities, through adopting Housing First as part of their strategic community plans to end homelessness, have seen considerable reductions in their homeless populations.

Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) renewed for 5 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. COMMUNITIES SHOULD DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT CLEAR PLANS TO END HOMELESSNESS, SUPPORTED BY ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.
2. ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT MUST WORK TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
3. COMMUNITIES — AND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT — SHOULD EMBRACE HOUSING FIRST.
4. ELIMINATING CHRONIC & EPISODIC HOMELESSNESS SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED.
5. ENDING ABORIGINAL HOMELESSNESS SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED AS BOTH A DISTINCT CATEGORY OF ACTION & PART OF THE OVERALL STRATEGY TO END HOMELESSNESS.
6. INTRODUCE MORE COMPREHENSIVE DATA COLLECTION, PERFORMANCE MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH.
 - 6.1 THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SHOULD INSTITUTE A NATIONAL POINT IN TIME COUNT OF HOMELESSNESS.
 - 6.2 FUNDERS SHOULD SUPPORT COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE PROGRAM EVALUATIONS.
 - 6.3 THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SHOULD MANDATE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMELESSNESS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.