THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA 2013

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 ACCOMMODATION

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%

380,000 LIVE IN SEVERE HOUSEHOLDS HOUSING NEED

HOMELESSNESS COSTS THE CANADIAN ECONOMY
$7 BILLION ANNUALLY

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

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT: WWW.HOMELESSHUB.CA/SOHC2013
**WHO is HOMELESS IN CANADA?**

47.5% SINGLE ADULT MALES

**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: 179,000 - 188,000

**OTHER KEY SUB-POPULATIONS:**

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

**THE MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY IN EMERGENCY SHELTER**

50 DAYS

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**

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.

**SUCCESS OF THE AT HOME/CHEZ SOI PILOT OF HOUSING FIRST PROGRAMS IN 5 CANADIAN CITIES**

**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.