

- **Outdoor homelessness cut in half**
 - Estimated outdoor homeless population on April 15, 2009 is 400—51% lower than the estimate of 818 on April 19, 2006
 - Estimated number of homeless people sleeping outside and in emergency shelters administered by the City of Toronto on April 15, 2009 is 4,390—1.7% fewer than in 2006.
 - Estimated number of homeless people in Toronto if you include all homeless individuals in health care and treatment facilities, incarcerated in Toronto area detention centres from a Toronto court, and in Violence Against Women shelters (administered by the province) on the night of the survey is 5,086.
- **Family shelter use driven by federal immigration policy**
 - Number of people staying in City of Toronto administered shelters on April 15, 2009: 3,649, 9.3% higher than in 2006.
 - Most of this increase is in the family (+39.2%) and youth (+16.2%) sectors. Single adult sector has seen a 1.4% decrease since 2006.
 - Use of shelters by families is largely determined by geopolitical circumstance and therefore driven by federal immigration policy, with some occupancy influenced by women and children being turned away from provincially administered VAW shelters because those shelters are full.
 - About 72% of the 39% growth in family occupancy between 2006 and 2009 is attributable to the increase in the number of refugee families, with the remainder the result of other factors, including economic.
- **Aboriginal people still overrepresented in homeless population but fewer sleeping outdoors**
 - Aboriginal people continue to be overrepresented in homeless population (15.4% compared with 16.2% in 2006), but fewer are sleeping outside. The estimated number of Aboriginal people living outdoors has fallen significantly since 2006. It is estimated at 115 in 2009, compared to 211 in 2006, a 45% reduction. 28.7% of the outdoor homeless population self-identified as Aboriginal, slightly higher than the 25.8% in 2006.
- **Panhandling down, employment up**
 - Panhandling is down as a source of income (9.7% in 2009, compared with 17.4% in 2006), while employment-related income increased to 28.8% from 23.2% in 2006.
- **More homeless people may be able to access ODSP**
 - More homeless people may be able to access the Ontario Disability Support Program, which provides more income than Ontario Works (welfare): 34.5% of those who are not now receiving ODSP reported they believe they are eligible, but nearly two-thirds have never applied.

- **Homeless people are frequent users of costly emergency services**
 - More evidence that homeless people are frequent users of emergency services—which we know are substantially more expensive to the taxpayer than housing-based responses to homelessness.
- Although more people say they are on the waiting list for subsidized housing (45.4% in 2009, versus 36.6% in 2007), the goal remains 100%.
- **Homeless people want permanent housing**
 - Once again, 9 out of 10 homeless people reported they want permanent housing
- **Other key findings**
 - 51.8% of homeless people said they needed at least one addiction, health or mental health related service in order to help them find housing (54.3% in 2006).
 - Overall average length of homelessness has decreased to 2.9 years from 3.4 in 2006, with people living outdoors being homeless the longest on average. The number of people homeless for more than 10 years has decreased to 6.7% in 2009 from 12.2% in 2006.
 - After shelters, drop ins remain the service most used by homeless people (51.6%).
 - The top five things that would help an individual find housing remain the same as in 2006:
 - Help finding an affordable place
 - More money
 - Transportation to see apartments
 - Help with housing applications
 - Help getting identification

For the complete report visit www.toronto.ca/housing