

# Health Impacts of Homelessness and Update on the Downtown CORE Pilot

Board of Health

March 30, 2026

Dr. Michelle Murti, Medical Officer of Health

# ➤ Many people are experiencing homelessness in Toronto

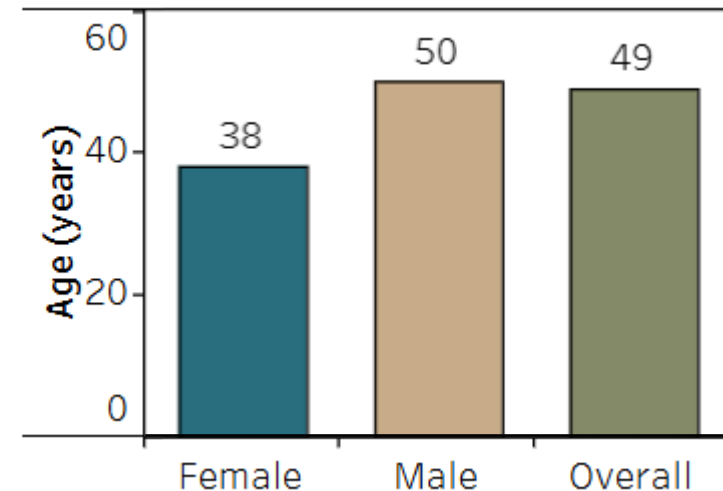


- At the end of January 2026, 11,094 people reported as experiencing homelessness
- Indigenous, racialized, Black, 2SLGBTQ+ groups overrepresented
- Homelessness and Pregnancy

# ➤ Homelessness has significant impacts on physical and mental health

- People experiencing homelessness have:
  - Increased risk of premature death
  - Higher incidence of chronic and acute health conditions
  - Negative health impacts across the lifespan
  - Higher healthcare costs

Median Age at Death of People Experiencing Homelessness in 2024, Toronto



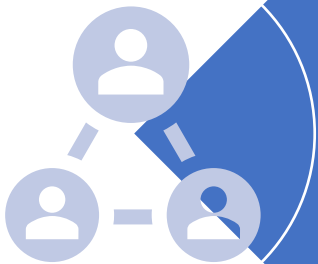
Median age at death for the Toronto general population (2022) was 78 for males, 85 for females and 82 for all. [Deaths of People Experiencing Homelessness Dashboard, City of Toronto](#)

# ➤ Toronto Public Health works to improve the health of people experiencing homelessness



## Surveillance

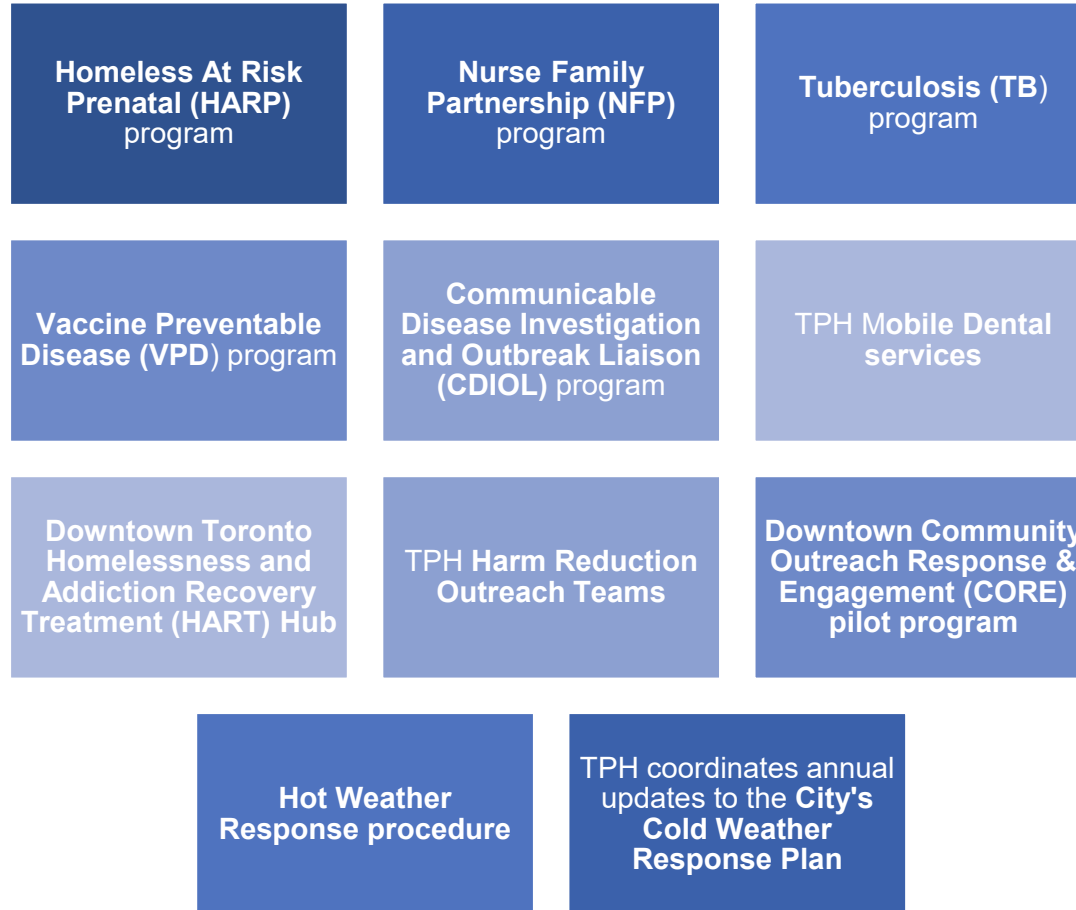
Collect and share health-related data



## Promote and protect health

Offer programs and collaborate with City partners and agencies

# ➤ Examples of Toronto Public Health Initiatives



# ➤ Downtown CORE Pilot Program

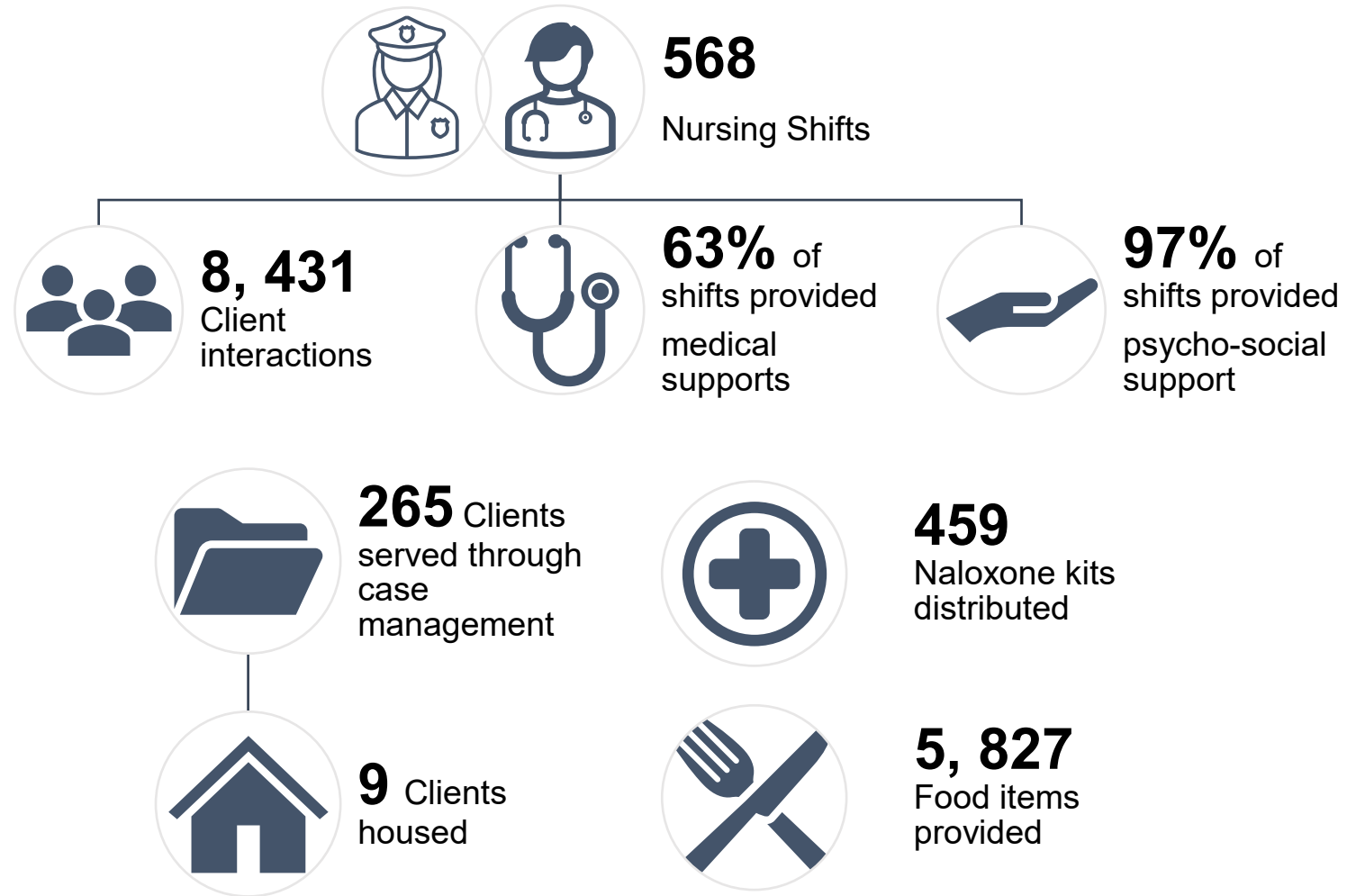
- Launched in December 2024
- Public health nurses paired with police constables
- Mobile outreach and case management in the Yonge–Dundas (Sankofa Square) area
- People experiencing homelessness, mental health, and substance use challenges connected to services





# Downtown CORE Service Metrics

(up to January 2026)



# ➤ Evaluation of the pilot found early successes

- TPH completed an evaluation of nursing activities in February 2026 to inform the pilot's next steps
- The evaluation found that:
  - Public health nurses provide proactive outreach and on-the-spot support, connecting clients to health, social, and wraparound services
  - Key benefits include addressing clients' substance use and addiction needs and supporting connections to housing and identification services
  - There are opportunities to strengthen the program

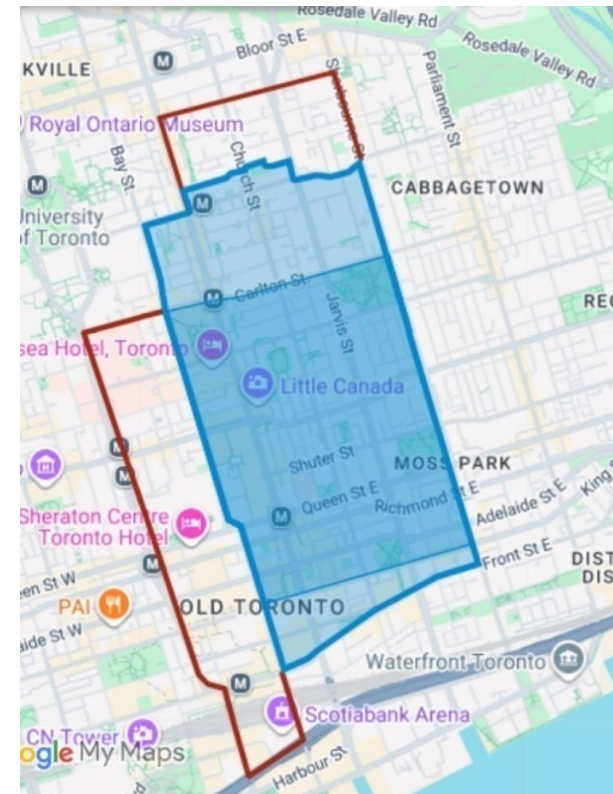
# ➤ Recommendations

- Extend Downtown CORE pilot program for an additional 18 months and continue to assess its impact
- Report back to the Board of Health with final recommendations in Q3 2027
- MOH continue to collaborate with partners to improve the health of people experiencing homelessness






# ➤ Next Steps

- TPH to review the evaluation findings from the program evaluation commissioned by the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area (BIA)
- Pending extension of the Downtown CORE pilot program:
  - Implement enhancements recommended by evaluation
  - Examine impact of recently implemented services
  - Adjust the catchment area



## Map Legend:

-  current primary service area
-  proposed adjusted primary service area
-  ad hoc engagement only