### 2024 Street Needs Assessment Key Highlights



#### **Street Needs Assessment 2024 Overview**

- Toronto's sixth Street Needs Assessment (SNA) was held in October of 2024
- The SNA is a needs assessment survey and point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Toronto
- Federal Reaching Home funding requirement



- Provides a better understanding of trends and needs of different groups, drives evidence-informed decisionmaking, and will inform Toronto Shelter and Support Services' Multi-Year Strategic Plan
- We heard from **3,682** people experiencing homelessness staying:
  - o Outdoors, including in encampments
  - City-administered sites (emergency and transitional shelters, hotel/motel shelters, 24-hour respites, 24-hour women's drop-ins, bridging and triage programs)
  - Provincially-administered Violence Against Women shelters, health and treatment facilities, and correctional facilities
- Thank you to the people who spoke with us and to the City staff and community partners who led the SNA!

#### **M** Toronto

### **Context for 2024 SNA Results**

#### October 2024 context

- 6,350 refugee claimants accommodated (as of Oct 23, 2024)
- **528**<sup>‡</sup>

encampments city-wide (as of Oct 25, 2024)

‡Refers to structures or tents, not people

- Mandated to conduct in Fall no baseline comparison
- Delays in COHB between April and October reduced flow in and out of shelter system – potentially impacting number counted
- Increase in refugee claimants in shelter system since 2021 (when borders were closed due to pandemic)

#### What has changed since then?

- **3,734** refugee claimants accommodated (as of July 3, 2025)
  - encampments city-wide (as of June 27, 2025)

**301**<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>‡</sup>Refers to structures or tents, not people

- **1,468** encampments reduced from parks (Oct 24, 2024 June 6, 2025)
- **3,355** people moved to permanent housing (Nov 2024 May 2025, inclusive)



### **SNA 2024 Key Highlights**

- 1. Homelessness is the result of failures across multiple systems, such as housing, health care, mental health, income support, and the justice system. The shelter system is the last resort when people have nowhere else to turn.
- 2. Homelessness is driven by a lack of affordable housing and unmet health needs. These unmet needs significantly impact the lives of vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
- 3. Specific groups continue to be overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness, requiring targeted investments and specialized supports.
- 4. A coordinated multi-sectoral and intergovernmental approach across different service systems continues to be needed to address homelessness.



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1. Homelessness is the result of failures across multiple systems – such as housing, health care, mental health, income support, and the justice system. The shelter system is the last resort when people have nowhere else to turn.



## There has been an overall increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness

- Homelessness has been increasing across Ontario and Canada
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario report – more than 80,000 people experiencing homelessness in Ontario
- Toronto shelters continue to be at full capacity with current demand exceeding availability each night
- Despite this, the share of total homelessness has remained mostly consistent since 2018





### The growing affordability gap is a key driver of the homelessness crisis

OW & ODSP Maximum Shelter Allowance (one person) & Average Market Rent Bachelor Unit, Toronto, 2014-2024





Source: Average Market Rent data from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; ODSP Maximum Shelter Allowance data from Income Security Advisory Centre, 2014-2024; OW Maximum Shelter Allowance data from Toronto Employment & Social Services, City of Toronto Data current as of March 31, 2025

#### The monthly average number of Ontario Works cases with no fixed address was 3 times higher in 2024 than in 2021

Average monthly OW cases, no fixed address (2021)



Average monthly OW cases, no fixed address (2024)





## Gaps in service systems are key contributors to homelessness

 Respondents with a history of foster care or youth group homes first entered homelessness an average of 11 years earlier than those without foster care/youth group home involvement.



Experience with foster care or youth group homes





2. Homelessness is driven by a lack of affordable housing and unmet health needs. These unmet needs significantly impact the lives of vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.



## The most frequently identified reason for housing loss was not enough income



Reasons for housing loss, all respondents



## Mental health issues was the most frequently reported health challenge



Reported health challenge, all respondents

Respondents could select more than one answer



#### Multiple health challenges were more prevalent amongst those experiencing chronic homelessness

• Nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents reported having one or more health challenges



Number of health challenges,

Multiple health challenges by length of homelessness over past year, all respondents



Experiencing chronic homeless (6+ months) Not experiencing chronic homelessness (<6 months)



# Three-quarters of all respondents need help accessing health care to support their health and well-being

Help accessing general health care or family doctor Support with food security, diet, or nutrition Mental health supports (e.g., counselling) Help staying in or returning to school (e.g., living near school) Cultural or community support (e.g., 2SLGBTQ+, youth, senior, etc.) Peer-led programs, helping others experiencing homelessness Family reunification or family mediation Gender-affirming support and care 10% Pregnancy and pregnancy-related support 7% Other 3%



#### Supports for health and well-being, all respondents

Respondents could select more than one answer





#### 3. Specific groups continue to be overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness, requiring targeted investments and specialized supports



## Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented, especially outdoors

 At the time of the survey, 9% of respondents identified as Indigenous – yet Indigenous people represent 3% of the Toronto population



Share of respondents who identify as Indigenous by survey setting

**Overrepresentation of Indigenous people** 



3%

9%

Share of people experiencing homelessness

Sources: Toronto Street Needs Assessment Survey Data, 2024; Our Health Counts, 2021

## Racialized people and Black people are overrepresented

 At the time of the survey, 77% of respondents identified as racialized, and 58% identified as Black





# More than one-fifth of respondents identify as 2SLGBTQ+

- The share of respondents who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ has nearly doubled since 2021
- Nearly one-third of refugee claimant respondents identified as 2SLGBTQ+



Share of respondents who identify as 2SLGBTQ+





4. A coordinated multi-sectoral and intergovernmental approach across different service systems continues to be needed to address homelessness.



# Rent-Geared-to-Income (subsidized) housing was the most frequently reported support that respondents said could have prevented their homelessness

Subsidized housing/Rent-Geared-to-Income Information/advice about renting and legal rights Support to reach educational or employment goals Time-limited rental or emergency financial assistance Health and mental health supports Life skills training Legal support and representation Landlord liaison, eviction prevention Help with personal support system Supports, supplies or treatment for substance use Other supports (e.,g., relocation support, violence prevention)



Respondents could select more than one answer



#### Respondents identified increasing housing affordability and income as the top supports to end their homelessness

Subsidized housing/Rent-Geared-to-Income Monthly housing allowances (e.g., COHB) Money from social assistance programs Employment, job training, etc. Housing search help (e.g., meet with landlords) Housing without credit or background checks Help with transportation, ID, tax returns, etc. Ongoing follow-up housing supports Landlord support/mediation services Access to 24/7 or on-site support staff Help with settlement and immigration issues Support for legal issues, criminal history, bail Services in a language other than English Other support or service (e.g., childcare/daycare)



Respondents could select more than one answer



# Exiting homelessness has become increasingly difficult without financial supports such as the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit

800 April October 700 COHB resumes COHB delays 600 500 400 300 200 100 0 Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Feb Чаг Apr May Jun Apr May Aug Sep Jul Mar Jun Oct VoV Jan Feb Jan Jul Dec 2023 2024 2025

People housed by month, key housing placement programs

Flow in and out of the City's shelter system came to a halt in April 2024 with delays in the COHB allocation

PATHS	Priority Access to Housing with Supports
RRHI	Rapid Rehousing Initiative (with TCHC)
СОНВ	Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit
CWL-DA	Centralized Wait List Disadvantaged Priority Code



### **2024 Street Needs Assessment Report**

#### STREET NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Read the 2024 Street Needs Assessment Results Report here: www.toronto.ca/StreetNeedsAssessment

