



Municipalities Under Pressure:

One Year Later

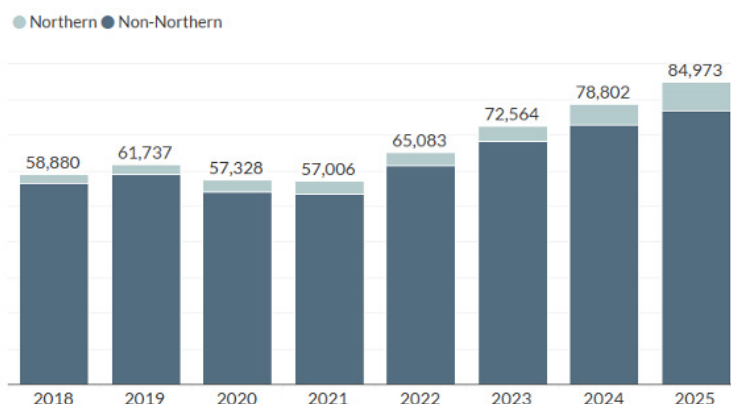
Ontario's homelessness crisis continues to worsen. Updated data from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and key partners confirms the urgent need for collective action by municipalities, the province and federal government.

One year ago, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) partnered with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) and HelpSeeker Technologies on a groundbreaking study to quantify the scope of the homelessness crisis in Ontario.

The report, [Municipalities Under Pressure One Year Later: An Update on the Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis](#) updates key data to provide a picture of homelessness a year after AMO's last groundbreaking report on homelessness in Ontario.

Even more Ontarians were homeless in 2025 than 2024

- Nearly 85,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2025, an increase of almost 8% in just one year and nearly 50% since 2021.
- People are staying homeless for longer periods of time. More than half of homeless Ontarians are chronically homeless, meaning they have been without a home for at least six months or have cycled in and out of homelessness repeatedly.



Homelessness is no longer an urban crisis, and it continues to grow fastest in rural and northern communities with less capacity to address it.

- In rural communities, homelessness grew by more than 30% last year.
- In Northern Ontario, homelessness grew by more than 37% last year, now accounting for 10% of all homelessness in Ontario despite representing only 5% of the population.

Nearly 2,000 encampments dotted the province in 2025.

- Previous data collected by AMO in 2023 estimated 1,400 encampments. Targeted investments and actions did address many of the larger, urban encampments. However, small and dispersed encampments are now reported across the province.

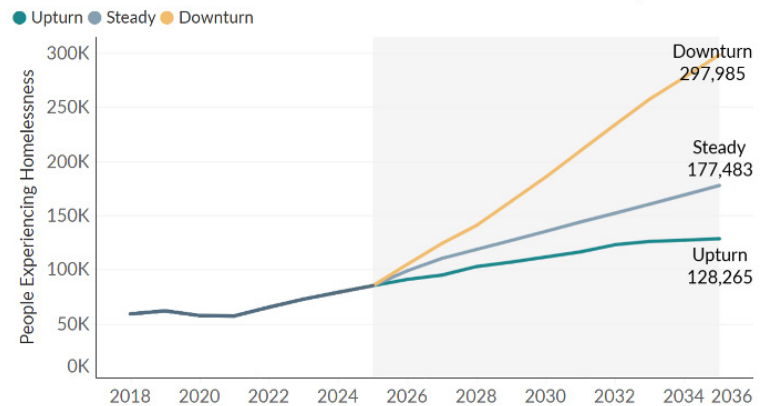
A minimum 13.2% of homeless Ontarians are Indigenous, despite accounting for only about 3% of Ontario's population. This disproportionate impact reflects the enduring effects of colonialism.

As documented in the 2025 report, we know that Indigenous homelessness remains undercounted due to persistent structural barriers. All orders of government need to work together in partnership and commit meaningful resources to advance homelessness solutions that are co-developed and led by Indigenous People, including those living in urban and rural communities.

The wait list for social housing has grown to over 300,000 households, reflecting the urgent need for more deeply affordable housing.

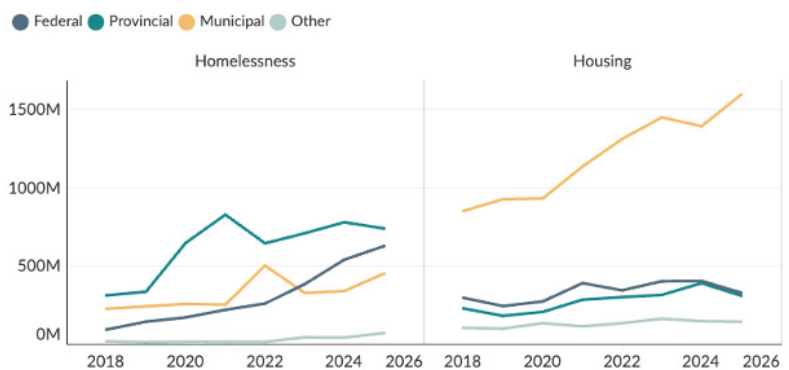
Updated projections show that homelessness will get worse without action:

- Even under a steady economic scenario, homelessness in Ontario would double over the next 10 years and could grow to almost 300,000 people in an economic downturn.
- Without urgent action, homelessness will become intractable, more complex, and more expensive to address.



Municipalities continue to bear the weight of investing in long-term, affordable housing in Ontario.

- Municipalities account for the largest and fastest-growing share of housing and homelessness funding in Ontario.
- *Note – Committed provincial investments in Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs do not flow through municipal service providers and are not captured in these charts.*



This growing scale of homelessness in Ontario is unacceptable.

As recommended in our 2025 report, to end chronic homelessness, we need a fundamentally new approach that prioritizes long-term housing solutions over temporary emergency measures and enforcement-based responses.

- To end chronic homelessness, an additional \$11 billion over 10 years would re-focus investments into capital, increase focus on prevention, and create more than 75,000 new affordable and supportive housing units.
- To tackle the immediate priority of ensuring all encampment residents are appropriately housed, we need an additional investment of \$2 billion over eight years to greatly increase the capacity of support services and supportive, transitional and community housing, and to move people into stable housing.

Additionally, AMO recommends:

Continued federal funding through the National Housing Strategy to maintain critical programs like the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.

Collaboration between all orders of Government to ensure our homelessness and housing dollars are having the biggest impact, including coordinating data and outcomes across programs, connecting services, and tracking every dollar from investment to impact.

Through collective and strategic action, we can make our communities safer and improve quality of life, making homelessness program investments go further and improve local economies.