

## Housing is a key social determinant of health.

Safe, affordable and good quality housing is imperative for good physical and mental health. Supportive housing is a significant component of recovery and wellbeing for people living with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

**Affordable and supportive housing is cost effective.**

- Affordable Housing: \$613/month
- Supportive Housing: \$2000-\$5000/per month
- Correctional Facilities: \$11,000/month
- Psychiatric bed in acute care hospital: \$17,000/month
- Inpatient bed in psychiatric hospital: \$31,000/month



The average monthly per diem for affordable and supportive housing in Ontario is **significantly less** than an inpatient psychiatric bed in an acute care hospital, an inpatient bed in a psychiatric hospital, and correctional facilities.

Despite the health and cost benefits of affordable and supportive housing, Ontario is in the midst of a **housing and homelessness crisis**.



There are over 268,000 households on affordable housing waiting lists across Ontario. The average wait time is over 5 years and, in some regions, it is over **20 years**.



Homelessness in Ontario has increased by over 50% in the past **eight years**.

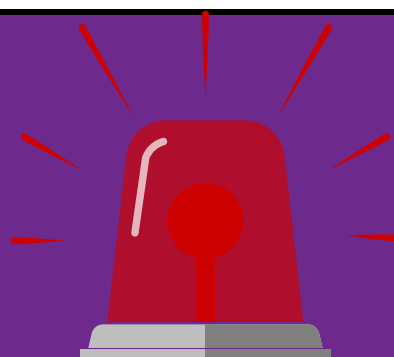


People with mental illness or substance use disorders are over-represented amongst those experiencing homelessness.



In 2024, over 80,000 Ontarians were homeless and over half experienced long-term homelessness.

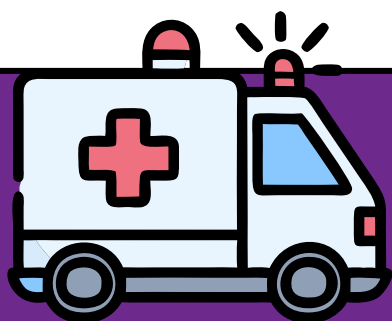
# 36,378



Of Ontarians are on waiting lists for mental health and substance use supportive housing. The average wait time is about **4 years**.

CAMH patients and others with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders are significantly impacted by the housing and homeless crisis.

Patients experiencing homelessness stay in hospital twice as long, at double the average cost, as other patients, and are more likely to be designated as **Alternative Level of Care (ALC)** – meaning that they no longer need inpatient services, but cannot be discharged because there is nowhere for them to go.



#### Top 2 Reasons for Hospitalization

People who are homeless are most frequently hospitalized due to substance use disorders.

**schizophrenia**

11%

**substance use disorders**

18%



In 2022/2023, 13.5% of CAMH inpatients – almost 550 people – were identified as homeless.

At any given time, about 1 in 5 CAMH inpatients no longer require inpatient care. Most are waiting for housing with high levels of support.

# What is needed to help CAMH patients and others with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders find housing?

## Partnerships

CAMH has several partnerships with supportive housing providers across Toronto. But the demand continues to grow.

CAMH continues to work with partners to develop housing partnerships for ALC patients and other patients with severe and complex mental illness and/or substance use disorders.



## More Housing

CAMH supports our partners' call for:

**75,050 new housing** and support spaces in Ontario over the **next 10 years** for people experiencing homelessness.

A minimum of **18,000 supportive housing units** in Toronto for people at risk of/experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable individuals.

At least **36,000 new mental health and addiction** supportive housing units across the province in the next 10 years.

Targeted **investments** and **specialized supports** for groups who are over-represented amongst those experiencing homelessness.

It's time for all of us to work together to make **housing** a healthcare

**PRIORITY!**

**camh**  
mental health is health

References  
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