



# Stronger Together: Collaborating for a Vibrant Community

A community conversation about housing,  
homelessness and addictions in Lambton  
County

March 21, 2023

# Homelessness

Homelessness describes the situation of an individual, family, or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.

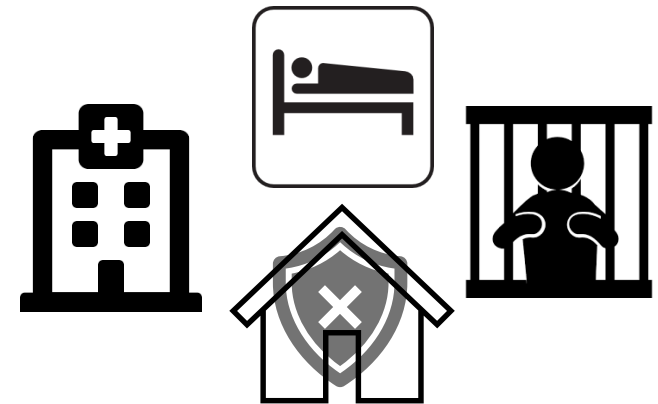
- From the [Canadian Definition of Homelessness](#)



Unsheltered



Emergency Sheltered



Provisionally Accommodated

# The devastating impacts of homelessness

## INDIVIDUAL COSTS

- **5X** more likely to have heart disease
- **4X** more likely to have cancer
- COVID
  - **20X** more likely to be hospitalized
  - **10X** more likely to be admitted to the ICU
  - **5X** more likely to die
- Highest all-cause mortality rate of any population in Canada
  - Mortality rate: **2-3X** higher than general population
  - Life expectancy: **34-47** years old

## COMMUNITY COSTS

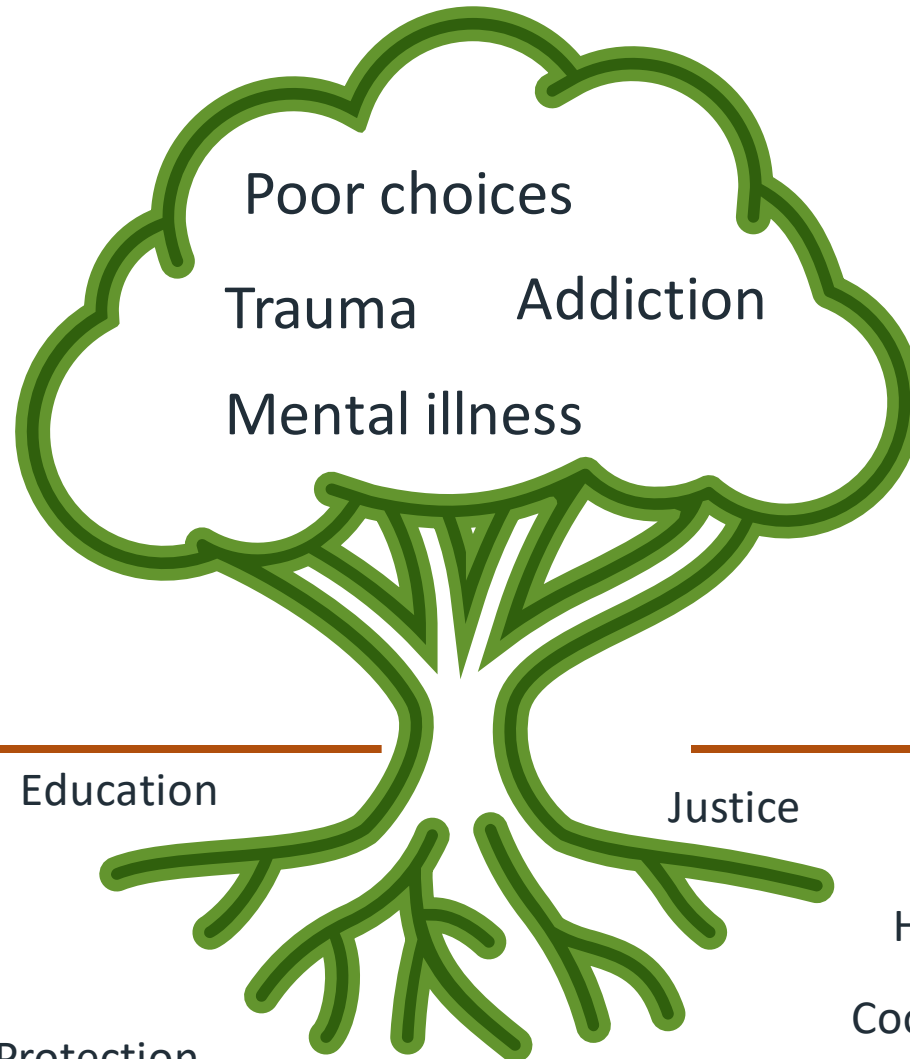
- **\$7 billion** per year cost to Canadian economy
- **\$55,000** per person per year
- Lost community potential

This is an issue of life and death. Homelessness is a death sentence happening in our own backyard.  
- Dr. Sandy Bauchman, past CMA president

# Root Causes of Homelessness

**Public Perception**

**“person problem”**



**Reality**

**“policy & systems problem”**

**What Works?**

**Solving Rather  
Than Managing  
Homelessness**



# Housing First



Philosophy



Program  
Approach



System Design  
& Operation

# Housing First: A Philosophy



- Housing (with appropriate support) is the answer to homelessness
- Everyone has the right to housing  
(see more <https://housingrights.ca/>)
- Everyone can be housed - no one is “un-houseable”

# Housing First: A Program



How Housing First supports [recovery from substance use disorders](#)

How Housing First supports people with [mental health conditions](#)

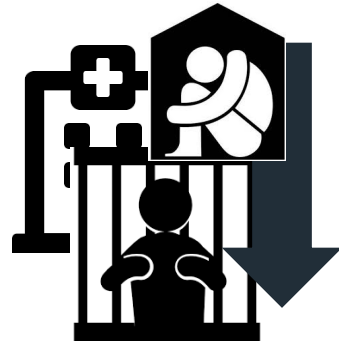
- Serving those experiencing chronic homelessness with mental health and/or other chronic health conditions
- Five core principles:
  1. Immediate access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements
  2. Client choice and self-determination
  3. Recovery orientation
  4. Individualized and client-driven supports
  5. Social and community integration



# Housing First Program Effectiveness



Vast majority  
secure and retain  
housing



Reduced  
interaction with  
hospital, jail,  
shelter



Often costs the  
same or less to  
house people than  
to leave them  
homeless



Positively impacts  
quality of life and  
community  
functioning

# Housing First: A system-wide approach



User friendly, coordinated access and data informed housing-focused system:

- Low barrier services
- Coordinated outreach and emergency services
- Real-time, comprehensive, person-specific data (By-Name List)
- Housing resources aligned to serve people from BNL with minimal barriers
- Aligned approach to developing needed housing and supports
- Alignment with other systems
- Training

## INFLOW

NEWLY IDENTIFIED
RETURNING FROM HOUSING
RETURNING FROM INACTIVE

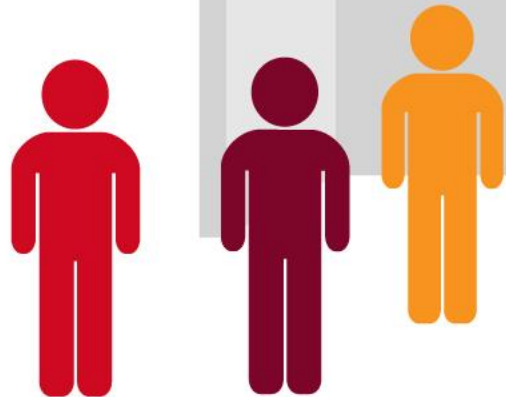
## HOMELESSNESS

ACTIVELY HOMELESS
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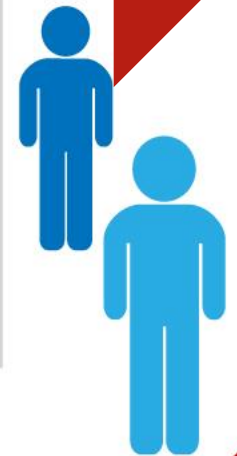
## OUTFLOW

MOVED TO HOUSING
MOVED TO INACTIVE

# Coordinated Access in Action



By-Name List





# How is your community doing with Housing First?

- [Housing First Community Self Assessment](#) (NAEH, 2022)
- [Housing First Checklist](#) (USICH, 2016) – program and system level
- [Housing First Provider Pledge](#) (NAEH, 2022) – one-page checklist pledge sheet

# Where to Make Health Connections

- **Political and provincial/regional level:**
  - Ministry of Health - Government of Ontario ministry responsible for administering the health care system - responsible to the Ontario Legislature through the minister of health
  - Ontario Health - agency created by the Government of Ontario to connect, coordinate and modernize Ontario's health care system.
  - Ontario Health Regions (6) - Ontario Health has six Health Regions to link to communities and partners - under which Ontario Health Teams (see below) are organized
- **Opportunity for local, on the ground coordination**
  - Ontario Health Teams (Sarnia-Lambton Health Team) - a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities. Under Ontario Health Teams, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors and home and community care providers) work as one coordinated team - municipalities/service managers can sit with these planning teams
  - Public Health Units (34 across the province) - Health unit staff and Boards of Health
  - Service Managers - Land Ambulance
  - Individual agency partnerships - e.g., hospitals, CMHA, physicians

# BFZ-C Website - Program Areas

<https://bfzcanada.ca/partnering-with-other-systems/>

The screenshot displays the BFZ-C website's navigation and program areas. The top navigation bar includes the logo, a search bar, and buttons for 'FRANCAIS', 'DONATE', 'CHANGE PACKAGE', and 'ONTARIO PORTAL'. The main menu features 'Getting to Zero', 'Track Our Progress', 'Resources', 'Get Involved', and 'About'. A dropdown menu under 'Resources' lists 'By-Name Lists', 'Coordinated Access', 'Veteran Homelessness', 'Program Areas', 'Registry Week Toolkit', and 'Video Library'. The 'Program Areas' section is highlighted with a blue border. The program areas are: 'Housing Help and Landlords', 'Support', 'Prevention', 'Partnering with Other Systems', 'Peers and Lived Experience', and 'Indigenous Resources'. Each area includes a brief description and a 'MORE' button.

**BUILT FOR ZERO. CANADA**

Getting to Zero Track Our Progress **Resources** Get Involved About

- By-Name Lists
- Coordinated Access
- Veteran Homelessness
- Program Areas**
- Registry Week Toolkit
- Video Library

**Housing Help and Landlords**  
Key resources and tools to support renters and to find and engage landlords.  
**MORE**

**Support**  
Resources and tools to support... using First, and... ng.  
**MORE**

**Prevention**  
Key resources and tools to support homelessness prevention.  
**MORE**

**Partnering with Other Systems**  
Key resources and tools to support partnering with other service systems.  
**MORE**

**Peers and Lived Experience**  
Key resources and tools to support peer work and meaningful PWLE engagement.  
**MORE**

**Indigenous Resources**  
Information and resources are intended to support your efforts to understand and respond to Indigenous homelessness.  
**MORE**

# PARTNERING WITH OTHER SYSTEMS

The information and resources here are intended to support your efforts to develop stronger connections between the homelessness response system and other community systems and partners.

**Keep checking back here as we will be regularly updating materials and adding further resources.**

See sections below for information and resources to connect with many different system partners. Remember, you can also always search on the [Homeless Hub](#) and the [Homelessness Learning Hub](#) for further information.

**General Partnership and Discharge Resources**



Corrections/Police/Justice



Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking



Education



Employment and Financial Empowerment



**Health**



Housing



Business



Municipalities



# CNH3

<https://cnh3.ca/>



WHO WE ARE INITIATIVES NEWS & EVENTS RESOURCES CONTACT

CANADIAN NETWORK FOR THE HEALTH AND HOUSING OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (CNH3)

## BRINGING A HEALTH-INFORMED END TO HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA

Canada's network to promote collaborative policy, practice and advocacy between the healthcare, homeless and housing sectors.



# Thank You

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[bfzcanada.ca](http://bfzcanada.ca)

#bfzcanada



@endinghomelessness



@CAEHomelessness



@CAEHomelessness



Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

