



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

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| TO: | Mayor and Members of City Council |
| DATE: | January 5, 2026 |
| SUBJECT: | 2025 Point-in-Time Enumeration (Everyone Counts) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Michelle Baird Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department |
| SIGNATURE: | <i>Michelle Baird</i> |

A Point-in-Time enumeration is an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within a determined geographical area on a single night. It also identifies the location where they spent the night: in emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter or transitional housing or in an unsheltered location. Designated Communities, under the Federal government's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, must now conduct and share the results of annual enumerations.

The City of Hamilton participated in 2025 Everyone Counts Point-in-Time enumeration of the population experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on the night of November 4, 2025.

In consultation with the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership, The City of Hamilton managed the data collection methods, enumeration processes and templates, staff training and consultation, administrative support, overall data management, and overall results summary.

On the night of November 4, 2025, 1304 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in the City of Hamilton, representing a 7% increase from the previous result in 2024 (Table 1).

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Table 1: Enumeration Results by Location Type in 2024 and 2025

| Location Type | 2024 Capacity | 2024 Count | 2025 Capacity | 2025 Count | Count Change (Percent) |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Sheltered Locations | 1021 | 936 | 1265 | 1060 | +124 (+13%) |
| Emergency Shelter | 618 | 573 | 908 | 760 | +187 (+33%) |
| Overnight Drop-in Programs | 157 | 140 | 22 | 26 | -114 (-81%) |
| Domestic Violence Shelters | 122 | 115 | 142 | 126 | +11 (+10%) |
| Transitional/ Short-term Housing | 120 | 104 | 186 | 146 | +42 (+40%) |
| Other | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | -2 (-50%) |
| Unsheltered Locations | NA | 280* | NA | 244 | -36 (-13%) |
| Outdoor Locations | NA | 280* | NA | 113 | - |
| Encampments | NA | - | NA | 131 | - |
| Total | 1021 | 1216 | 1262 | 1304 | +88 (+7%) |

Please note that the following changes occurred between 2024 and 2025 that influenced these results:

- Additional 262 temporary emergency shelter beds became operational but formal capacity of the hotel overflow program was reduced.
- Additional 10 temporary emergency shelter beds became operational within domestic violence shelter locations.
- Four (4) transitional living programs (106 beds) were newly included in the 2025 enumeration.
- Two (2) programs shifted from short-term housing programs (40 beds) to emergency shelter programs.
- Two (2) overnight drop-in programs were operating without seasonally expanded capacity at the time of enumeration.
- One (1) overnight drop-in programs ceased operations.

Conducted over subsequent years, Point-in-Time enumerations can be used by a community to track progress in reducing homelessness and identify changes in the location that individuals experiencing homelessness spend the night. Overall, the enumeration is one source of data used to gauge progress in ending homelessness, complemented by other data sources. An annual reporting plan of yearly enumeration results will be implemented using a similar format to this report.

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Point in Time descriptive surveys, with detailed demographic and experiences of homelessness information, are only administered every three years. The next survey administration will take place in 2027. Report HSC25006 Everyone Counts 2024 – Canada's National Point in Time Count: Hamilton Results included the detailed results from the most recent survey completion.

Local homeless servicing agencies and/or programs were informed of the 2025 Everyone Counts Point-in-Time enumeration, federal requirements, and planned approach through the following avenues:

- Homeless-serving Sector Check-In Table (virtual presentation) – September 19, 2025
- HIFIS Super User Group (virtual presentation) – September 24, 2025
- Men's Emergency Services Committee (email) – September 29, 2025
- Emergency Shelter Coordinating Table (virtual presentation) – October 10, 2025
- Women's Housing Planning Collaborative Combined Steering Committee + Service Coordination Committee – October 14, 2025

Additional information and resources were provided by email to directly participating programs.

For more information, please contact James O'Brien, Manager Business Operations, Housing Services Division at James.O'Brien@hamilton.ca or 905-546-2424 ext. 3728.