

On May 5 we honour **RED DRESS DAY**

Instituted in 2010 by Métis artist Jaime Black's **REDress Project**, now celebrated as a national day of remembrance and action honouring the lives of **MMIWG2S+**.



“The day galvanizes those attending rallies and ceremonies and demanding change and justice.” ———— *Amnesty International Canada, 2025*)

The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) (2019)

—RECLAIMING POWER AND PLACE—

Calls for transformative legal and social changes



Safe Housing to Prevent Gender-Based Violence

**The Commissioners call for
A NEW FRAMEWORK**

to address
“The Four Pathways that maintain colonial violence”

Grounded in understanding
“The Power and Responsibility of Relationship.”



CANADIAN HOUSING SURVEY, 2018

A portrait of renter households living in social and affordable housing

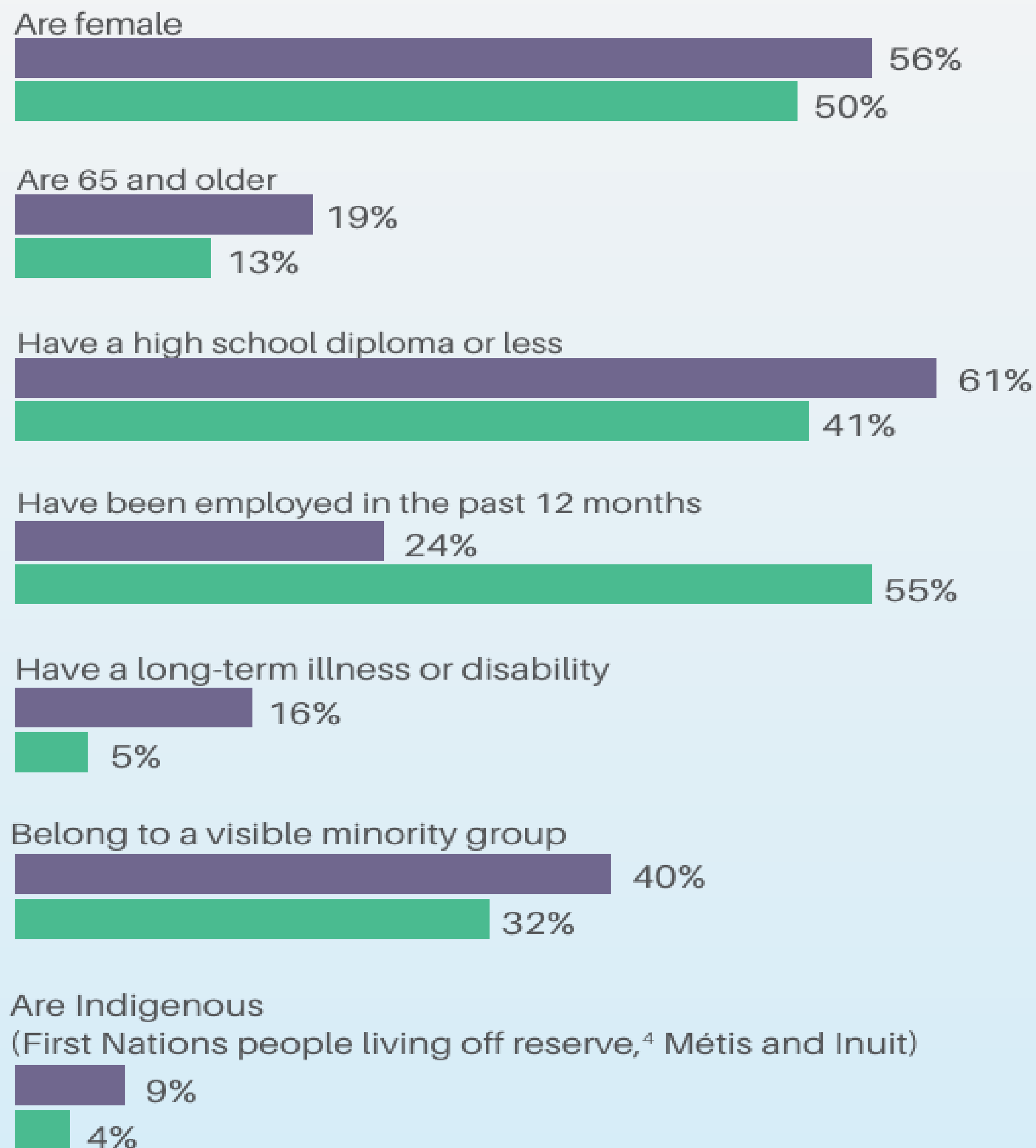
In 2018, **4%** of households (628,700 of 14.8 million) reported living in social and affordable housing.¹



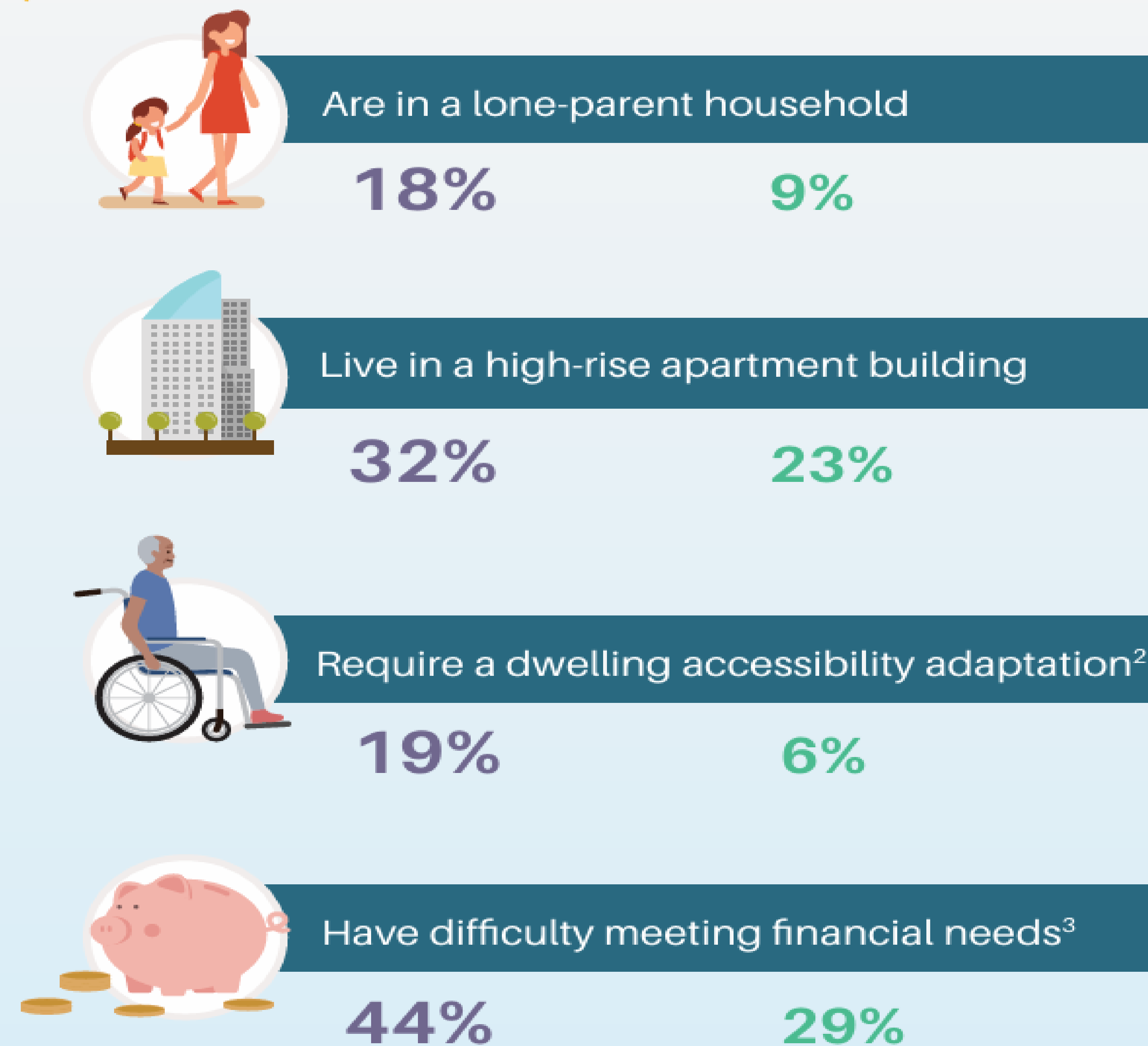
LIVING IN SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

NOT LIVING IN SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

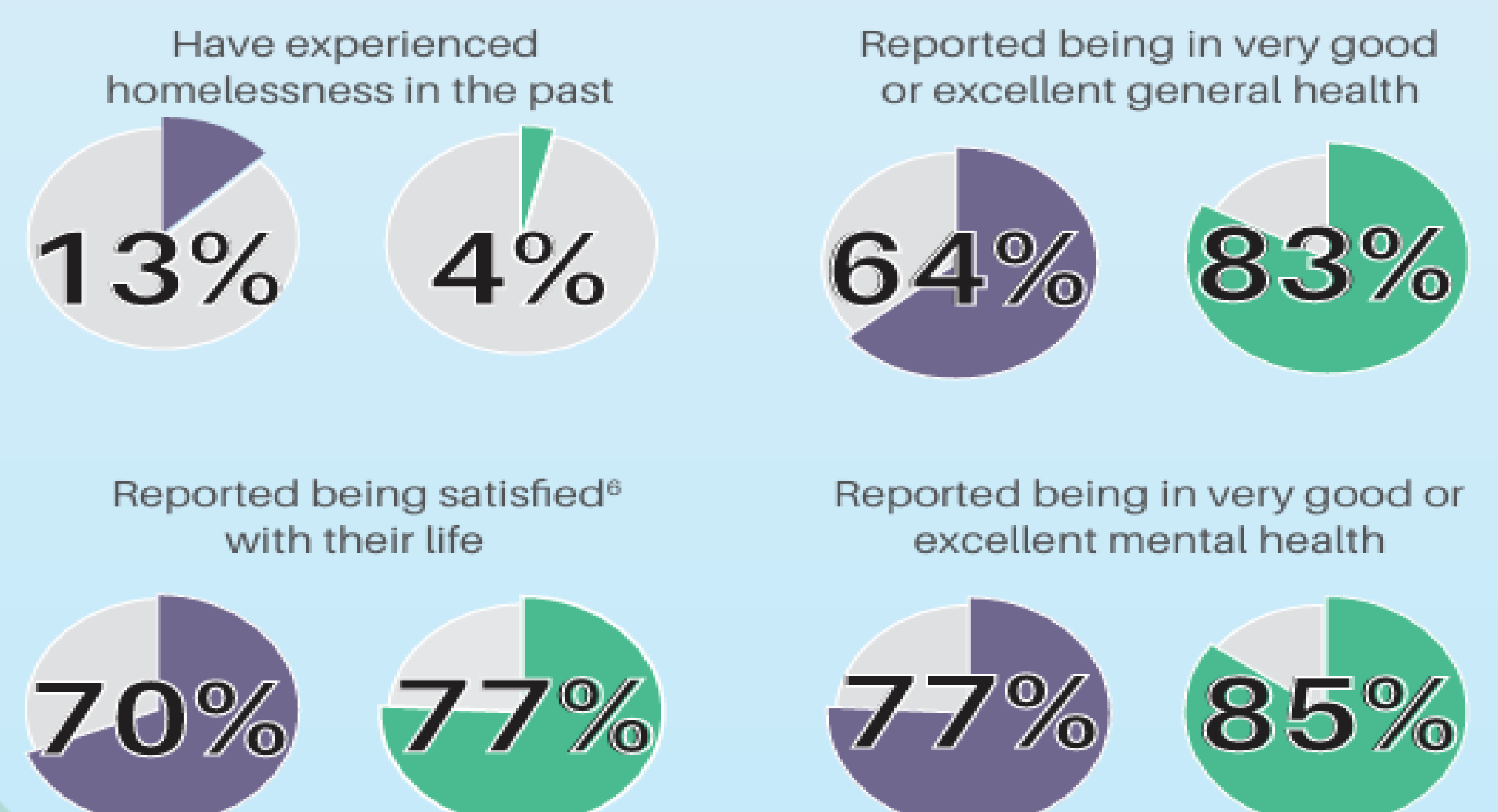
PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS LIVING IN RENTER HOUSEHOLDS WHO...



PERCENTAGE OF RENTER HOUSEHOLDS THAT...



PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS⁵ FOR THE RENTER HOUSEHOLDS WHO...



NOTES

- Social and affordable housing refers to non-market rental housing.
- Dwellings that required adaptation because a household member has a physical or mental disability, condition or illness.
- Financial needs in terms of transportation, housing, food, clothing and other necessary expenses in the past 12 months.
- The Canadian Housing Survey did not sample people living on reserve.
- "Respondent" refers to the household member responsible for housing decisions. In cases where members share responsibility for housing decisions, one person is chosen to be the respondent.
- Reported by the respondent as 6 or higher on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means "Very dissatisfied" and 10 means "Very satisfied."

Sources: Canadian Housing Survey, 2018. Data for Northwest Territories come from the 2019 NWT Community Survey.

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Inside the Numbers: Saskatoon's Homelessness Landscape

Context Summary: Saskatoon utilizes Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts as a community-level measure to track sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, identifying high-risk groups and economic barriers to housing instability.

The Population Profile

1,931 Unhoused Individuals

Total count identified in the 2025 Point-in-Time results.

10% are Children

One-tenth of the city's homeless population consists of children under age 12.

High Prevalence of Violence

Over 70% of unsheltered individuals report experiencing violence.

"Social assistance doesn't even cover rent."

A direct observation from a respondent on the primary barrier to stable housing.

Systemic Foundations

45% Housing Cost-Burdened

Nearly half of households spend over 30% of their income on rent and utilities.

Educational Background

48.7%

48.7% of the unhoused population have completed at least some high school.



Housing is a Social Determinant of Health

Health Protection

Safe, affordable, stable housing reduces respiratory illness, infections, injuries, and chronic stress.

Health Risks

Poor quality housing, overcrowding, and instability increase health disparities, healthcare use, and poor outcomes.

◆ Key Pathways ◆

💰 Affordability

- High costs limit spending on food and healthcare

🏠 Quality & Safety

- Mold, pests, lead, unsafe water

🚚 Stability

- Evictions & homelessness

📍 Neighbourhood

- Access to food, jobs & environment

Mental Health

- ▶ Depression & stress

Physical Health

- ▶ Asthma, infections & injuries

Equity

- ▶ Impact on low income & marginalized groups

Housing First & Affordability-Focused Policies Improve Health & Reduce Inequities

Investing in healthy, accessible, and affordable housing is essential to improving population health and equity.



SASKATOON 2026: THE HOUSING CRUNCH

Saskatoon faces a historic housing crisis driven by a massive population surge and record-low inventory.



**316,342
RESIDENTS AND
GROWING FAST**

Added over 33,000 people since 2021, growth rate doubled to nearly 4%.



**INVENTORY
AT 50%
HISTORIC LOW**

Active listings plummeted to just 450 units for a metro area of over 350,000 residents.



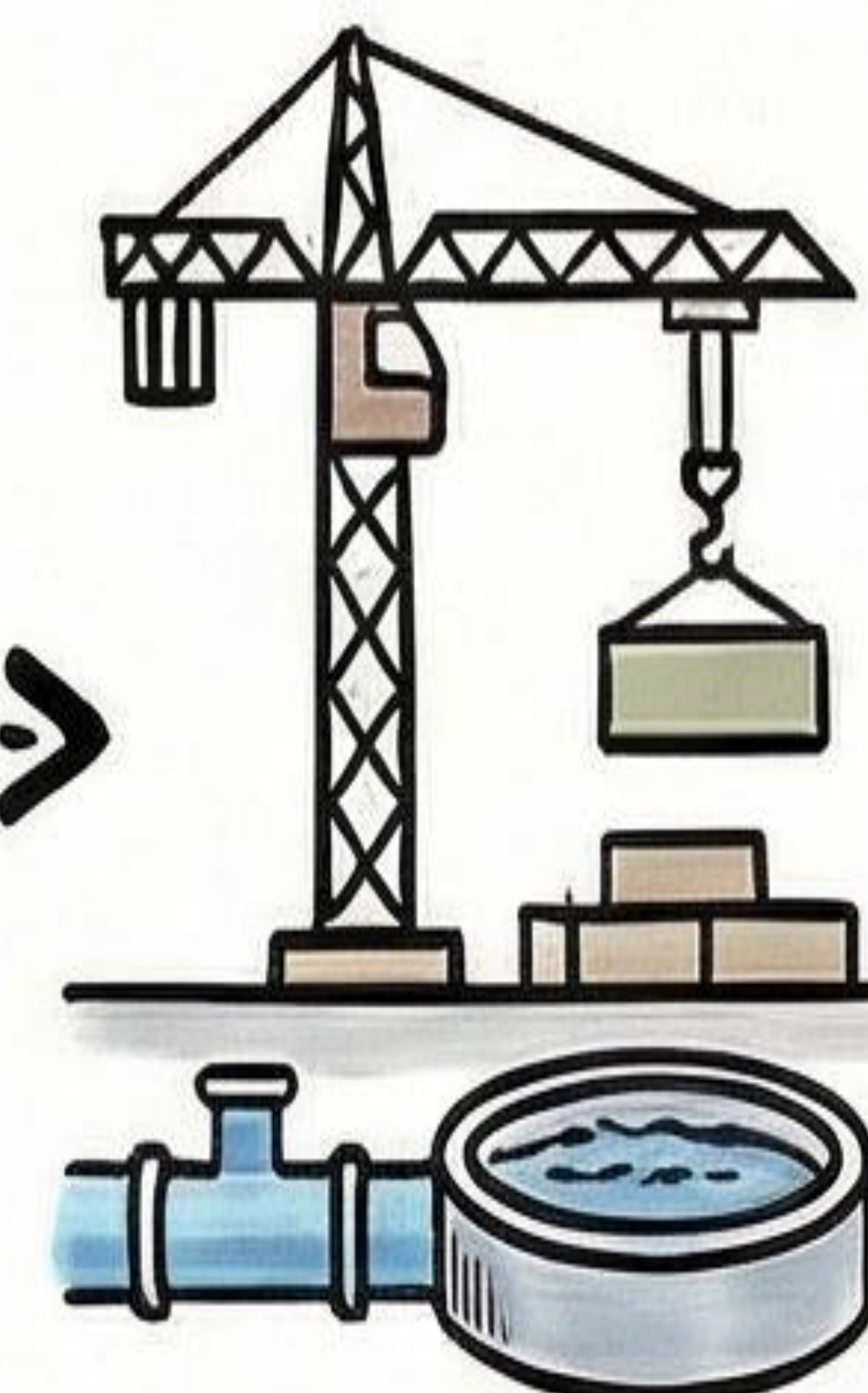
**HOMELESSNESS
SURGED 3.5X
SINCE 2022**

The 2025 count identified 1,931 individuals, with Indigenous people making up 83% of those without housing.



**\$41.3M HOUSING
ACCELERATOR
FUND LAUNCH**

Federal funding supports 13 initiatives, including "four units as-of-right" zoning to fast-track new homes.



**\$182.7M ? ? ?
INVESTED IN
GROWTH
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Massive funding for water and wastewater plants is required to enable new high-density housing developments.

More Than a Roof: How Housing Shapes Our Health and Economy

The Hidden Costs of Inadequate Housing



A Bi-Directional Cycle of Hardship
Poor health leads to housing instability, while precarious housing further degrades physical and mental well-being.

70%
of Life Spent Indoors

High indoor exposure to mold, pests, and pollutants directly triggers chronic respiratory issues like asthma.



Long-term Developmental Barriers
Overcrowding and noise in childhood lead to poor sleep, school absences, and lower adult economic mobility.

The Foundation of Healthy Housing



The WHO Standard for Wellbeing
Healthy housing must provide optimal thermal insulation, sufficient lighting, and structural safety from hazards.



Connection Beyond the Walls
Proximity to green spaces and safe transportation is essential for social connectedness and physical activity.



Design for Universal Accessibility
Improving features for seniors and those with disabilities prevents injuries and reduces healthcare utilization.

Impact Category	Key Negative Outcomes
Health	Respiratory issues, depression, anxiety, and increased healthcare use.
Social	Social isolation, overcrowding, and poor childhood/adolescent outcomes.
Economic	Employment barriers, limited mobility, and concentration of poverty.



Improved Health Outcomes
Reduced respiratory issues, depression, anxiety, and healthcare use.



Enhanced Social Wellbeing
Reduced social isolation, better childhood/adolescent outcomes, and less overcrowding.



Greater Economic Mobility
Fewer employment barriers, improved mobility, and decreased concentration of poverty.



Healthy, accessible, and affordable housing generates positive long-term outcomes for both individuals and the healthcare system.

Homelessness on the Rise in Saskatoon: 2025 Snapshot

1,931
INDIVIDUALS
COUNTED

Highest number ever recorded in a one-day count.



29%
INCREASE IN
HOMELESSNESS
SINCE 2024

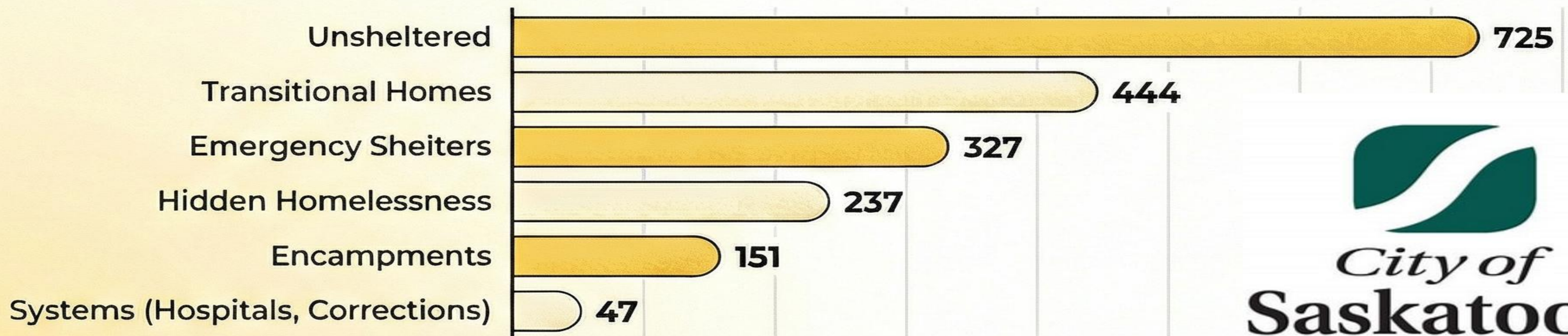
An additional 432 people without stable housing in just one year.

725
PEOPLE WERE
UNSHELTERED

Largest single group, living on streets, in parks, or in cars.



Where Individuals Were Located (2025 Count)



Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disabilities (SAID)

Feature	SAID (pre-2026)	SAID Changes (effective April 1, 2026)
Benefit structure	30+ “highly specific niche benefits”.	Consolidated into five broad benefit categories for “flexibility and timely responses.” Remains “needs based, income-tested” program of “last resort.”
Reimbursement method	Many benefits reimbursed actual costs , e.g., service animals.	Several changed to flat-rate benefits ; some actual-cost users grandfathered.
Program complexity	Described as confusing, “too complicated” for clients.	Simplified, streamlined, shorter manual for “quickest and simplest” service delivery.
Outdated benefits	Some unused or duplicated benefits still listed.	Removed or modernized; trimmed program manual.
Asset limit	\$1,500 per household member.	Increased to \$2,000 to help people qualify.
Advocacy concerns	No major structural changes.	Advocates deem changes “cruel”, “short-sighted,” “callous”; fear cuts and reduced coverage for high-need clients.

HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY IN SASKATCHEWAN FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Saskatchewan Human Rights Code

Key Housing Rights: Landlords must provide reasonable accommodation unless it causes undue hardship. Housing must be free from discrimination. Landlords cannot refuse to rent, evict, or treat someone unfairly because of disability.



Laws, Rights, and Housing Supports



Housing Rights in Saskatoon

For Tenants: Request accessibility modifications.

Be free from discrimination.

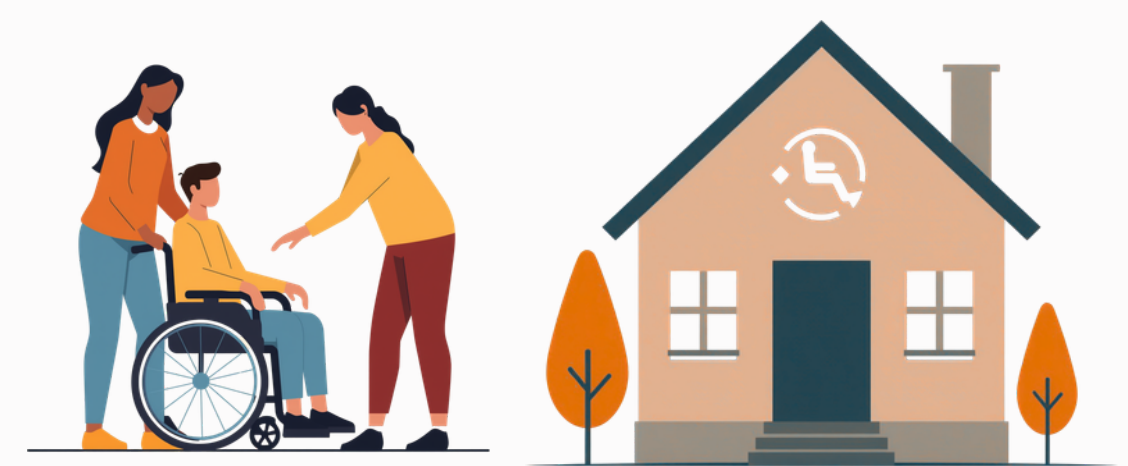
Consider monthly income support programs to help pay rent and basic living costs.

The Accessible Saskatchewan Act

In force: December 3, 2023.

Goal: Identify, remove, and prevent barriers for people with disabilities – including in housing.

These standards will guide how buildings are designed, built, and renovated, helping prevent barriers before they happen, not just after complains.



SAID Program

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability: A provincial income-support program for adults with significant and enduring disabilities to help with housing and living expenses.