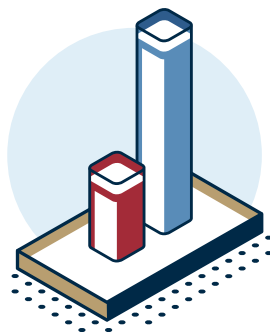
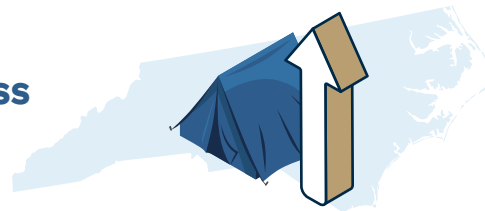


# HOMELESSNESS IN NORTH CAROLINA: A Rapidly Developing Crisis

Since 2013, North Carolina has doubled-down on a failed homelessness alleviation strategy known as Housing First—programs that prioritize long-term, taxpayer-subsidized housing over programs that help people achieve sobriety, mental wellness, and independence. At the same time, the state has eliminated two-thirds of its transitional housing capacity.

## The results have been a disaster.

In the last five years alone, the number of **unsheltered homeless** North Carolinians climbed by 3,400—a **41% increase**.



Over the last decade, North Carolina has removed **TWO-THIRDS** of its **rehabilitation-oriented transitional housing supply for homeless individuals**.

And the share of homeless individuals with **substance abuse issues** who are **living on the street** without assistance has **DOUBLED**.



## THE SOLUTION

Audit **public spending and outcomes** on homelessness services.

Create **greater public transparency** for homelessness data.

Increase **access to involuntary treatment** for those struggling with severe mental illness.

Clear and **prohibit street encampments**; hold municipalities accountable for failing to enforce the law.

Designate **shelters and campsites** that offer security, sanitation, and services.

Create **drug-free homeless service zones** to ensure that everyone has a fair chance of staying sober.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Due to the failed policies of Housing First, **North Carolina's homeless numbers are increasing rapidly**, and those who need services most are facing an artificial scarcity of resources.



## THE BOTTOM LINE:

**Housed and unhoused North Carolinians alike need outcomes-based solutions to the homelessness crisis that improve public safety and encourage human flourishing.**

SOURCE: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports>