

# WHO'S HUNGRY 2022 – HOUSING KEY FINDINGS

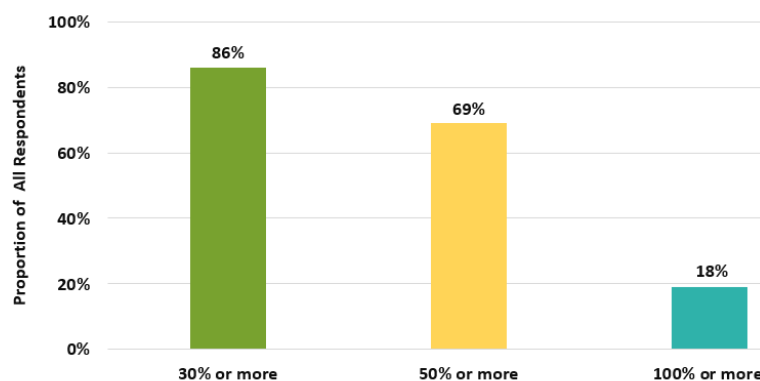
**Overall Takeaway:** Unaffordable housing is a key driver of food insecurity. With rents in Toronto up 31% over the last year,<sup>1</sup> people are being forced to rely on food banks, many for the first time.

Food banks are saving people from homelessness<sup>2</sup> as they are a core support for many low-income individuals to cover costs and remain housed.

## Specific Takeaways

**Takeaway #1:** Almost all food bank clients live in unaffordable housing and are in core housing need. Nearly three in four food bank clients are at high risk of homelessness.

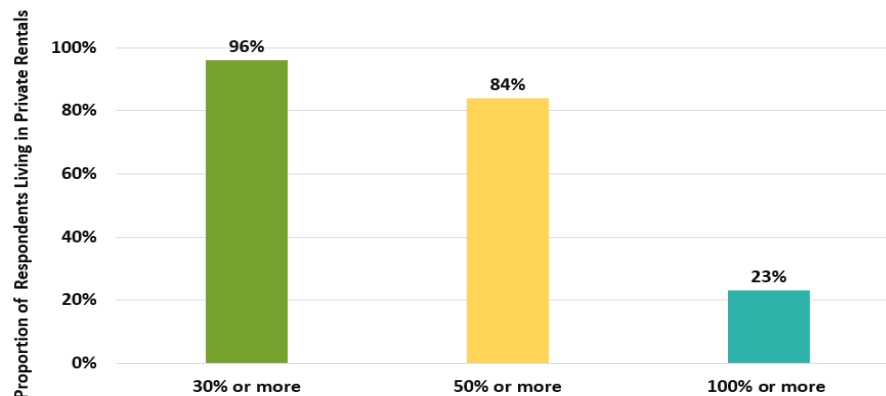
Housing Cost as a Proportion of Household Income: All Respondents



Proportion of Income Paid on Housing and Rent

**Takeaway #2:** For food bank clients living in private rentals, nearly all pay unaffordable rents, and almost one in four pay all or more of their income on rent.

Housing Cost as a Proportion of Household Income: Private Rentals



Proportion of Income Paid on Housing and Rent

<sup>1</sup> CP24 News. Toronto rent prices have now risen 31 per cent over the last year: report. 2022. Available from: <https://www.cp24.com/news/toronto-rent-prices-have-now-risen-31-per-cent-over-the-last-year-report-1.6109223>

<sup>2</sup> Global News. Food Share study reveals half of users could suffer homelessness without food bank. 2022. Available from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/9213608/mcmaster-hamilton-food-share-study-homeless-without-food-banks/>

Takeaway #3: Despite the precarious living situations of multi-tenant housing (e.g., rent a room in a house or a rooming house), it was the third most common housing type among food bank clients, after private market rentals and subsidized housing.

Respondents in Multi-Tenant Housing	
Proportion of all respondents	9%
Median monthly income	\$857
Living in deep poverty	97%
Racialized	78%
Single individuals	71%
Receiving social assistance	37%
Temporary immigrant status	29%

### System Solutions

We will never be able to achieve the Right to Food and render food banks obsolete until we address the systemic, upstream issues that perpetuate inequities in our communities. So, for people to break free from poverty, we call on our governments to incentivize the development of affordable housing in the private market, to preserve existing social housing supply, to support low-income renters, and to take legislative and regulatory steps to develop a non-profit acquisition strategy and supplementary fund with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation/National Housing Strategy (CMHC/NHS) to protect the current stock of affordable housing.

### About

In partnership, Daily Bread Food Bank and North York Harvest Food Bank have released *Who's Hungry 2022* – a report profiling hunger in Toronto and examining systems strain. With a wide-reaching network, food banks serve as an early warning sign of the effectiveness of our systems.

Based on client intake data and surveys conducted in the past year, *Who's Hungry 2022* advocates for holistic policy solutions capable of tackling systemic issues that infringe upon the Right to Food, by redesigning systems to unlock the constraints of poverty, so every person can live a life of dignity.

*To review the full report and policy recommendations, visit [dailybread.ca/whoshungry](https://dailybread.ca/whoshungry)*