

Housing Affordability

Why Is This Important?

Housing is one of the most basic prerequisites of overall health. Housing is crucial in creating a stable living environment. Having a safe and secure place to live is important to gaining employment and accessing health and social services. For those on low income, many have to choose between paying for food or rent. Inappropriate housing can not only cause illness, but also affect recovery from illness.

Examples of Action Being Taken:

Saskatoon's Plan to End Homelessness and Housing First program:

[Saskatoon United Way](#)

Affordable housing initiative:

[Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership](#)

What More Can Be Done?

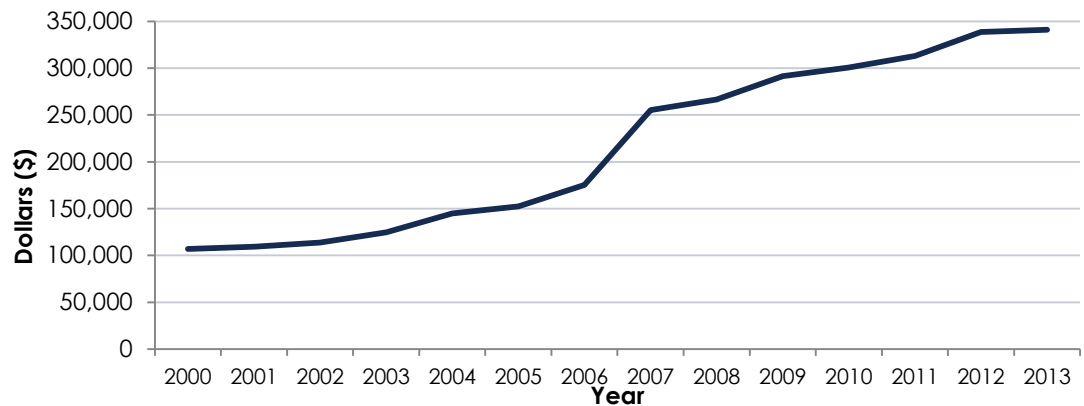
See the Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

Highlights

It is getting more expensive to live in some communities.

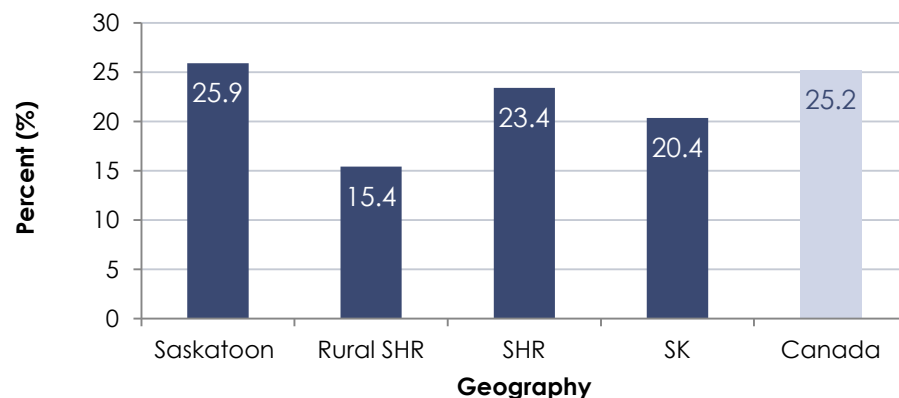
- In 2011, one in four households in Saskatoon spent 30% or more of their monthly income on shelter. On average, only 15% of rural Health Region households experienced housing affordability challenges (*Figure 1*).
- Average house prices in Saskatoon more than tripled between 2000 (\$106,954) and 2013 (\$341,065) (*Figure 2*).
- A recent public opinion [survey](#) of Saskatoon residents found that 84.3% of respondents support the creation of more affordable housing.

Figure 1: Average House Price, Saskatoon, 2000-2013



Source: [Saskatoon Region Association of Realtors](#)

Figure 2: Percent of Households Spending 30% or More Income on Shelter Costs, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatchewan and Canada, 2011



Source: [Statistics Canada-National Household Survey](#)