

# 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.

## What Is Being Done?

Saskatoon [Plan to End Homelessness](#) and [Journey Home](#) program.

Affordable housing initiative: [Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership](#)

[Quint Saskatoon](#)

## To Learn More:

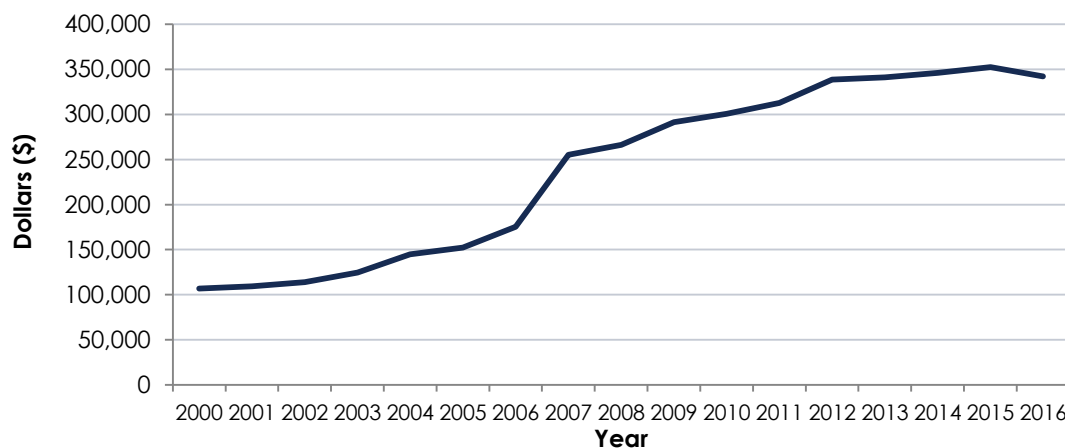
Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

## Highlights

### The increase in housing prices is slowing.

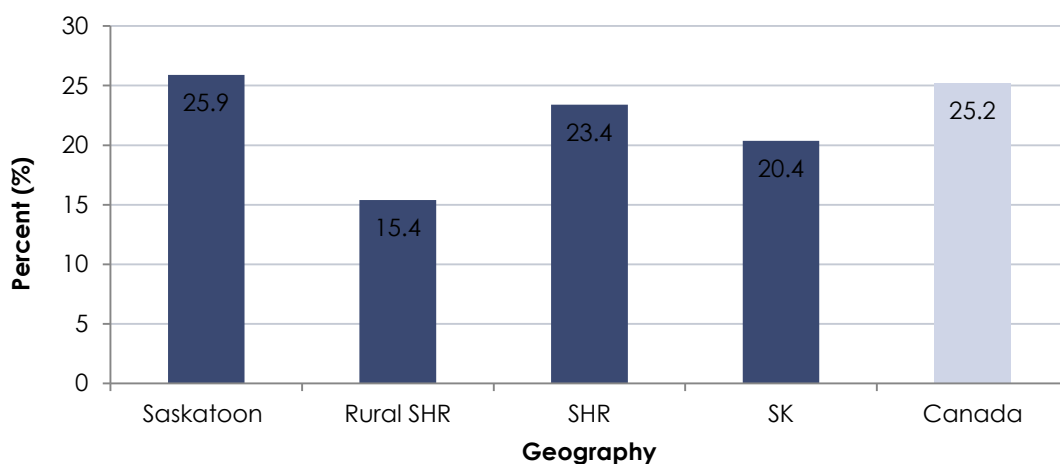
- For the first time in more than a decade, housing prices in Saskatoon have dropped. The average house price as of December 2016 was just over \$342,000 (*Figure 1*).
- In 2011, one in four households in Saskatoon spent 30% or more of its monthly income on shelter. On average, only 15% of rural Health Region households experienced housing affordability challenges (*Figure 2*).
- Those in the most disadvantaged areas of Saskatoon experienced more housing affordability issues compared to others (see [here](#) for additional data).
- A 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 to 2016**



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](#)