



**HOW MANY?**

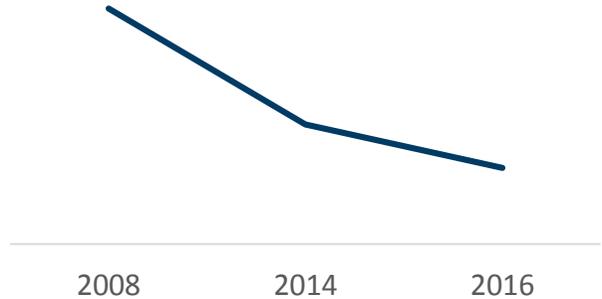
**89**

people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Lethbridge

58% of these are chronically homeless

68% decrease

in the number of people counted experiencing homelessness from 2008 to 2016



**WHERE?**



**9%**

UNSHELTERED



**69%**

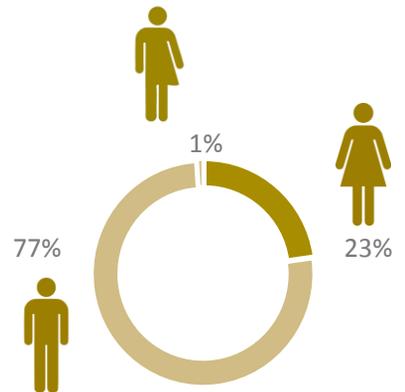
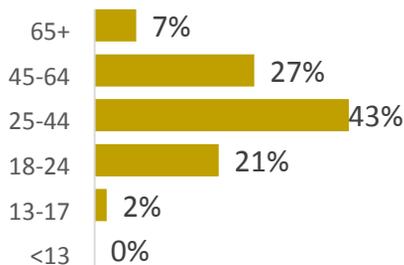
EMERGENCY SHELTERED



**22%**

PROVISIONALLY ACCOMMODATED

**WHO?**



# Overview

## Introduction

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness are the lead organizations responsible for the implementation of local Plans to End Homelessness in Calgary, Edmonton, Wood Buffalo, Grand Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. The 7 Cities coordinate local plans at a systems level and align funding resources for greater impact and progress toward ending homelessness.

On October 19, 2016, 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness conducted the second Point-In-Time Homelessness Count. This count serves two important functions: it provides a current snapshot of our overall homeless population and enables us to examine how this population changes over time. By aligning methods across Alberta's cities, we can examine trends using the same definitions. Ultimately, this helps us inform solutions to support the goal of ending homelessness in our communities.

In 2014, Alberta was the first jurisdiction to implement measures toward a more standardized methodology, leading the way in Canada. In collaboration with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and federal government partners, there is now movement toward a harmonized approach to homeless counts nationally.

## Methods

Following on the successes and learnings from 2014, the 7 Cities increased methodological alignment across the province. All 7 Cities conducted a count on the same night using the same set of core survey questions; each city also had the option to add locally relevant questions.

The cities agreed to conduct the count on the street and in facilities accommodating the homeless (emergency shelters, short term supportive housing and hotels used as emergency shelters). For the first time, provincial government ministries also provided administrative data across the province for people experiencing homelessness who were institutionalized. This information is available for correctional facilities in this report, but is not yet available for health facilities.

Moving from separate to aligned methodologies presents problems for historical comparisons. In order to maintain comparability over time – one of the major goals of a Point-in-Time count is several cities included additional data or excluded data reported provincially. As such, the numbers included in this report may not match those reported by cities locally. Examples of additional data included in some cities are: counts of the hidden homeless, an extended street count conducted the following day or use of tally sheets to count sleeping or non-responsive individuals.

# Characteristics

Characteristic*	#	%
Gender		
Male	64	77%
Female	19	23%
Transgender/Transsexual/Other	1	1%
Indigenous Group**		
First Nations	38	86%
Metis	5	11%
Inuit	1	2%
Non-status	0	0%
Immigrant or refugee	4	7%
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer	6	9%
Canadian Military or RCMP	5	8%
Dependent children	0	0%

\* The denominators used to calculate the proportions vary across the above characteristics. This is due to the sample availability for each variable from the various data sources.

\*\*The sample used for Indigenous group proportions only includes Indigenous people who specified their Indigenous group.

# Broader Trends

## Unemployment

There has been nearly a 6.9% increase in the unemployment rate from 2015 to 2016. The 6.2% unemployment rate in Lethbridge is lower than in Alberta overall (8.0%).

## Population Growth

It is important that results of the count be contextualized in the broader economic trends impacting Lethbridge. The region's population grew by 1.9% from 2014 to 2015.

## Housing Affordability

The vacancy rates increased from 5.4% in 2014 to 6.2% in 2015. The average rental costs increased marginally by 5.3% for a 1 bedroom and 17.8% for a bachelor suite, according to CMHC (2015). Over 18% of residents are experiencing housing affordability challenges.

## Indigenous people over-represented

Only about 4.2% of Lethbridge's general population self-identified as Indigenous, about 54% of those surveyed in the homeless count self-identified as Indigenous.

Socioeconomic Indicators	Most recent	Comparator Year
Unemployment [1]	6.2% (2016)	5.8% (2015)
Population growth [2]	94,804 (2015)	93,004 (2014)
Housing Affordability [3] (% of owner households spending 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs)	18.8% (2011)	-
Rental vacancy rates [4] (Private Apartment Vacancy Rates - Total)	6.2% (2015)	5.4% (2014)
Rental costs [4]	\$819 (1 bed) \$689 (Bach) (2015)	\$778 (1 bed) \$584 (Bach) (2014)
Low Income [3] (Prevalence of low income based on LIM-AT)	11.4% (2011)	-
Indigenous People [3] (% of population self-identify as Indigenous)	4.2% (2011)	-
Immigrants [3] (% of population who was foreign-born)	12.1% (2011)	-

# References

- [1] Statistics Canada. (2016). *Labour force characteristics, unadjusted, by economic region (3 month moving average)(Alberta, British Columbia)*. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/lfss05f-eng.htm>
- [2] City of Lethbridge. (2015). *Lethbridge census online: 2015 census results* Retrieved from <http://www.lethbridge.ca/City-Government/Census/Documents/2015%20Final%20Census%20Report.pdf>
- [3] Statistics Canada. (2015). *NHS Profile, Lethbridge, CA, Alberta, 2011*. Retrieved from <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CMA&Code1=810&Data=Count&SearchText=Lethbridge&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>
- [4] Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2015). *Housing market information: rental market statistics*. Retrieved from [https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/odpub/esub/64483/64483\\_2015\\_B01.pdf](https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/odpub/esub/64483/64483_2015_B01.pdf)