

Prepared by Turner Strategies For 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness

**TURNER** | STRATEGIES

JUNE 2018

This project was funded in part by the Government of  
Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy's Innovated  
Solutions to Homelessness.

**Canada**



# 7 cities on housing and homelessness

**2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count**  
*Technical Report*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>KEY FINDINGS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Alberta’s 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Point-in-Time Counts: An exploration of homelessness</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Enhancing Consistency and Validity across 7 Cities</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Definitions</b>	<b>9</b>
Canadian Definition of Homelessness	9
Transitional Housing	10
Chronic and Episodic Homelessness Definitions	11
<b>Data Sources</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Survey Data</b>	<b>12</b>
Mobile Technology Implementation	12
Enumerators	13
Online and Paper Data Collection	13
Screening Tools	13
Tally Sheet ( <b>encampment locations</b> )	14
The Survey as a “Census”	14
<b>Administrative Data</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Systems Data</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Data Entry &amp; Analysis</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Analysis Challenges</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2018 COUNT RESULTS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Homelessness Experience</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Contextualizing the Findings</b>	<b>21</b>
Changes over Time	21
Population Growth	21
Housing Affordability	22
Indigenous Peoples	22
<b>2018 KEY DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>25</b>

<b>Immigration and Migration</b>	<b>26</b>
Indigenous Migration	27
<b>What is the main reason you came to (community name)?</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Chronic Homelessness</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Service in the Canadian Forces and RCMP</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Reasons for Loss of Housing</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Income Sources</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<b>32</b>
PIT Count in System Planning	32
Survey Vs Admin Data	32
Tally Questions	32
Transitional Housing	32
Administrative Data	32
Online Survey	32
Report Release & Communication	33
Survey Improvement	33
Working Group Coordination	33
Public Systems Engagement	33
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Appendix A: Data sources and their use</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Appendix B: Survey Tools</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Appendix C - Survey Tables</b>	<b>45</b>

# Tables and Figures

Table 1: Canadian Definition of Homelessness Summary (2017) .....	9
Table 2: Transitional Housing Inclusion Questions .....	10
Table 3: Breakdown of Data Sources used for the 2018 Count by City .....	12
Table 4: Enumerators and Coverage .....	13
Table 5: Total Number of Valid Surveys by City .....	15
Table 6: Breakdown of Data Sources by Variable by Source .....	16
Table 7: Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Per 10,000 Population .....	19
Table 8: Survey, administrative, and systems data - Sheltered Status of Homeless Population .....	19
Table 9: Survey, Administrative, and Systems data - Locations that the Population Experiencing Homelessness Reported Staying the Night (2018) .....	20
Table 10: Shelter occupancy comparison with visual .....	21
Table 11: Admin Data – Gender .....	23
Table 12: Systems (Corrections) Data – Gender .....	24
Table 13: Admin Data – Age groups .....	24
Table 14: Systems (Corrections) Data – Age Groups .....	25
Table 15: Sexual Orientation .....	29
Table 16: List of Abbreviations .....	36
Table 17: Definitions .....	36
 Figure 1: Screenshot of the Web Map Interface .....	17
Figure 2: Indigenous People in the General Population vs The Count .....	22
Figure 3: Survey Data – Gender Identity (Alberta-wide) .....	23
Figure 4: Survey Data – Age Groups (Alberta-wide) .....	24
Figure 5: Survey, Admin, System Data – Indigenous Identity .....	25
Figure 6: Survey – Immigrants and Refugees as a Percent of the Valid Responses in 2018 (Alberta-wide) .....	26
Figure 7: Survey – Migrants (New To The City In The Past Year) As A Percent Of The Total Migrants Enumerated In 2018 .....	26
Figure 8: Survey - Indigenous Respondents and Migration to Communities .....	27
Figure 9: Indigenous Communities Respondents have Re-Located From .....	27
Figure 10: Survey – Reasons for Coming to Community .....	28
Figure 11: Survey – Federal Homelessness Typology .....	29
Figure 12: Reasons for Housing Loss .....	30
Figure 13: Income Sources .....	31

# KEY FINDINGS

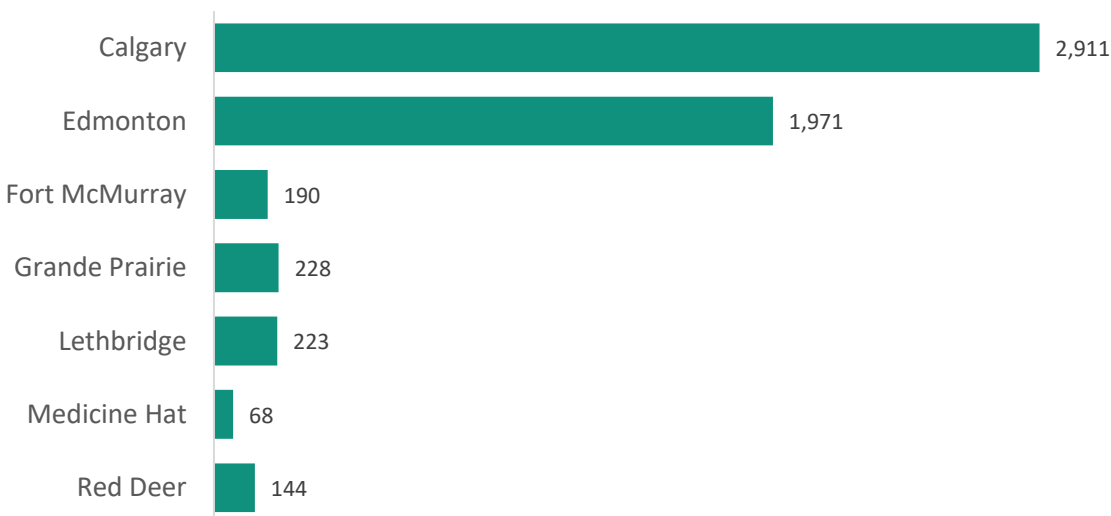
## How Many:

5,735 people were counted as experiencing homelessness during the 2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count. A Point-in-Time (PiT) Count is a method used to measure sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It aims to enumerate individuals in a community who are, at a given time, staying in homeless shelters, transitional/short-term housing (e.g. provisionally accommodated in supportive housing, hotels, hospitals, or correctional facilities), or “sleeping rough” (e.g., on the street, in parks), providing a “snapshot” of homelessness in a community.

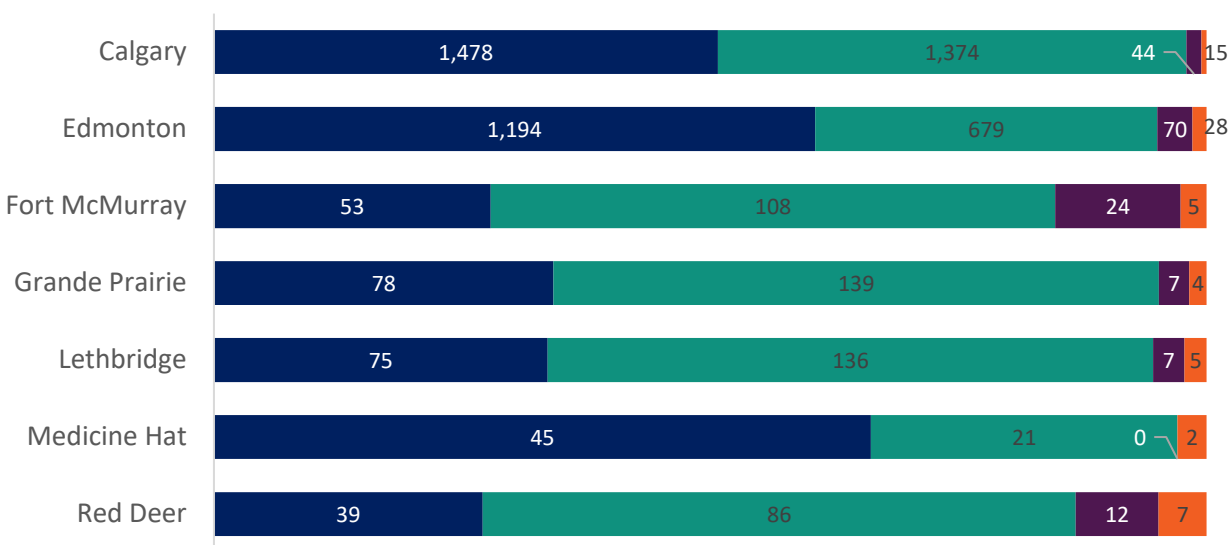
## Typology:

• Unsheltered:	164	3%
• Emergency Sheltered:	2,671	47%
• Provisionally Accommodated:	2,834	49%
• Unknown Exact Location (likely homeless):	66	1%

## Where:



## Typology by City:



■ Provisionally Accommodated ■ Emergency Sheltered ■ Unsheltered ■ Unknown exact location (likely homeless)

## Key Characteristics:

- The majority (85%) of individuals were enumerated in Alberta's major urban centres: Calgary and Edmonton. The remaining 15% were enumerated in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, and Lethbridge.
- Males were more prevalent (72%) in the homeless population than females (28%).
- People identifying as Indigenous continue to be overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness. Across Alberta, people who identify as Indigenous make up 26% of those enumerated using administrative data<sup>1</sup> from emergency shelters and transitional housing while making up only 7% of the general population. The survey data produced notably different data: 50% of respondents identified as Indigenous.
- Of those surveyed, 62% met the Homelessness Partnering Strategy definition for chronic homelessness – defined as having been homeless for at least 180 cumulative days over the past year.<sup>2</sup>
- Combining survey responses across all cities, it was found that 83 individuals in total self-reported as having served in the Canadian military and/or the RCMP – about 7% of the total surveyed.
- The most common reasons cited for loss of housing were addiction, job loss, inability to pay rent or mortgage, conflict with spouse/partner, and unsafe housing conditions.

<sup>1</sup> Administrative data was more comprehensive than survey data; 7 Cities use both datasets in the full report.

<sup>2</sup> Adjusted to HPS definition for chronic homelessness. Alberta's chronic homelessness definition differs, see page 11.

## Demographics:

Age Groups	Administrative Data <sup>3</sup>
• Under 18	11%
• 18-24	8%
• 25-44	37%
• 45-64	39%
• 65+	5%
Gender	
• Male	72%
• Female	28%
• Transgender	0.2%
Indigenous	26%

### Methods Refinement:

Compared to 2014 and 2016, the 2018 Count allows for more consistent collection across the province. There were additional transitional housing units included this year as well as provincial system data for health and correctional facilities compared to 2016.

**Homelessness in the Corrections & Health Systems.** Building regular reporting cycles to monitor homelessness in health and correctional facilities is an important consideration moving forward, so this visibility is part of ongoing intervention planning rather than an exercise done once every two years.

**Alignment of provincial to national Count Methods.** Nationally, there were methods implemented through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness that had not been adopted in previous provincial counts (i.e. conducting a tally of observed homelessness or using honoraria for Count participants). Advancements in the core questions that were also introduced nationally differed from previous counts.

**Challenges comparing to previous Counts.** For the 7 Cities, a considerable review of methods was undertaken to prepare for the 2018 Count. During this process, a methodology document outlining agreed-upon approaches to all aspects of the Count was produced to align the seven communities. As a result, all cities had to implement some measure of methodological adjustment which makes comparison to previous years problematic. For instance, most cities had to include additional transitional housing facilities that had never participated in the Count before;<sup>4</sup> this of course, increased the number of people enumerated as the ‘catchment area’ expanded.

Another major development was the inclusion of observed homelessness in encampment areas, which was reported by enumerators in parks, or hidden camping spots that would otherwise be missed by the street count. This included observational data that many cities had never reported on before.

Upon comparing 2016 and 2018 Emergency Shelter Occupancy reports, which remained consistent, data suggests overall stabilization provincially at +1% with local variations.

Each city has its own local report forthcoming along with a detailed report provincially in the summer of 2018. These reports will outline local methodology advancements from previous years as well.

---

<sup>3</sup> NOTE: Percentages calculated by removing “unknown” (nulls, do not know, and decline to answer) from both survey and administrative data totals. As data was rounded, it may not add to 100%.

<sup>4</sup> A result of working with the Government of Canada to extend transitional stays to 2 years.

# INTRODUCTION

## **Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness**

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (7 Cities) is made up of the lead organizations responsible for the implementation of local plans to end homelessness in Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer. 7 Cities coordinates local plans at a systems level and aligns funding resources for greater impact and progress toward ending homelessness.

7 Cities provides a forum for dialogue with federal and provincial representatives on housing and homelessness. 7 Cities has a long-standing history of delivering strategic planning and service delivery in their communities, along with administering and aligning funds, with accountabilities to several provincial or federal funders, including the Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

## **Point-in-Time Counts: An exploration of homelessness**

In February 2017, the Government of Canada announced Everyone Counts 2018, the second HPS Coordinated Point-in-Time Count, to be held between March and April 2018. This Count offers a snapshot of homelessness in each city. Participating communities used a common set of survey questions to improve the understanding of homelessness across Canada.

7 Cities already coordinates biennial Point-in-Time Counts in order to provide a current snapshot of the homeless population in Alberta and to enable examination of how homelessness might change over time. The increasing alignment drives better consistency of data and limited comparability that should improve over time. Ultimately, the information gained from Alberta's coordinated Point-in-Time Count helps to inform solutions to support the goal of ending homelessness in communities.

Communities in Alberta conducted the count on April 11, 2018: the third provincially-coordinated Point-in-Time Count of homelessness to date, and the first nationally-coordinated Point-in-Time Count of homelessness using the national methodology. Implementation was coordinated locally by a lead organization in each of the seven largest communities.

The information produced during the Point-in-Time Count is utilized to complement administrative data from the provincial and local Homeless Management Information Systems, information from service providers, and research and evaluation projects to form a more complete picture of homelessness in a given community. In isolation, a Point-in-Time Count is not intended to produce an exact number of people experiencing homelessness as not everyone will be found, and some of those who are approached are not willing to participate. This emphasizes the need for ongoing system data particularly from corrections and health systems to inform planning.



# METHODOLOGY

Local coordinators in each of Alberta's 7 Cities were assigned to lead local method development and implementation as well as to align with a method agreed upon provincially prior to the date of the count. This was facilitated by the Provincial PIT Coordinator, assigned to Dr. Alina Turner, and supported by Chantal Hansen (Turner Strategies). The Provincial PIT Coordinator was responsible for making final recommendations on aligned methods across the cities and liaised with the 7 Cities executive, Alberta government, and HPS, as appropriate.

Meetings were held to develop the method and data collection tools, and develop the final report from August 2017 to June 2018. Ongoing collaboration with HPS ensured compliance to the national method and input from learnings across Canada in the Alberta approach.

## Enhancing Consistency and Validity across 7 Cities

The 2018 Point-in-Time Homeless Count built off the successes of previous Counts while improving consistency in methodology. The Count for all cities was conducted over the night of April 11; with Edmonton also conducting early morning outreach on April 12, with the same survey across all cities. The 2018 Count allows for more consistent collection across the province, but has challenges comparing across time as advancements in the methodology created notable differences from the 2014 and 2016 Counts: this year, Alberta aligned with the national Point-in-Time Counts of homelessness taking place across Canada. The information collected in Alberta will contribute to a national portrait of homelessness, and support the Government of Canada's ongoing work in preventing and reducing homelessness.

Aligning with the national Everyone Counts in 2018 saw the following modifications to Alberta's method from previous years:

- Transitional housing scope was expanded: Projects with stays up to 2 years
- Tallying observed homeless individuals was introduced
- Honoraria were used in all cities
- Volunteer per area coverage was more consistent
- Exact timing of the count was aligned during the evening of April 11, with additional outreach at different times by different communities
- A shift to a springtime vs. fall count
- Several federal questions replaced provincial questions in the survey
- System data was obtained directly from the province on health and correctional facilities
- An online data collection tool was implemented province-wide

All cities conducted the Count on the night of Wednesday, April 11 within the bounds of 7:00 p.m. and midnight. In areas where it was unsafe to count at night, surveys were conducted either earlier that day or the following morning before 9:00 a.m.

Administrative data from emergency shelters, transitional housing, and detox/treatment facilities were used to report key demographics over survey responses to enhance coverage<sup>5</sup> (with the exception of Red Deer) where enumerators interviewed 80% of people in facilities. Here, interviews were conducted in all facilities, and thus encompassed the majority of people experiencing homelessness in that city.

---

<sup>5</sup> Administrative data provides a snapshot of all people in facilities, rather than a sample of surveyed people.

The provincial government ministries provided administrative data across the province for people experiencing homelessness who were in correctional and health facilities<sup>6</sup> as well as sponsored hotels that night.<sup>7</sup> Some provincial facilities may serve people from outside the municipality in which they are located. To differentiate this data from the local facility administrative data, the term ‘systems’ data will be used in this report for this government data.

While this helps give a more complete picture of homelessness in 2018, the increase in organizations reporting data presents challenges for tracking changes over time provincially and in local communities.

Although provincial alignment was a shared goal of all 7 cities members, the local-level reports released by each of the 7 Cities may use numbers that are slightly different from the provincial numbers. This is to allow each city to make comparisons with their own historic data where possible, discuss differences in implementation, and to allow for close alignment with local trends and issues that may not be present in all of the 7 Cities. As such, the numbers reported by cities locally may not match exactly those presented here. Examples of additional data included in some communities include: a) counts of hidden homelessness, and b) an extended street count conducted the following day. A table with all possible sources of data is presented in Appendix A.

## Definitions

### Canadian Definition of Homelessness

Consistent with the 2014 and 2016 process, the 2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Count included individuals and families in alignment with the Canadian Definition of Homelessness (2017). Using this established typology aids in maintaining consistent classification of individuals experiencing homelessness across various locations, and utilizing the same language to describe the population.

Table 1 describes the Canadian definition of homelessness, and locations used to determine in which category an individual and their family are included.

**TABLE 1: CANADIAN DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS SUMMARY (2017)**

	OPERATIONAL CATEGORY	LIVING SITUATION	GENERIC DEFINITION
1 UNSHELTERED	This includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelters or accommodation, except during extreme weather conditions. In most cases, people are staying in places that are not designed for or fit for human habitation.	1.1 People living in public or private spaces without consent or contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public space, such as sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, etc.</li> <li>Private space and vacant buildings (squatting)</li> </ul>
		1.2 People living in places not intended for permanent human habitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living in cars or other vehicles</li> <li>Living in garages, attics, closets, or buildings not designed for habitation</li> <li>People in makeshift shelters, shacks, or tents</li> </ul>
2 EMERGENCY SHELTERED	This refers to people who, because they cannot secure permanent housing, are accessing emergency shelter and system supports, generally provided at no cost or minimal cost to the user. Such accommodation represents an institutional response to homelessness provided by government, non-profit, faith-based organizations and/or volunteers.	2.1 Emergency overnight shelters for people who are homeless.	These facilities are designed to meet the immediate needs of people who are homeless. Such short-term emergency shelters may target specific sub-populations, including women, families, youth, or Indigenous persons for instance. These shelters typically have minimal eligibility criteria, offer shared sleeping facilities and amenities, and often expect clients to leave in the morning. They may or may not offer food, clothing, or other services. Some emergency shelters allow people to stay on an ongoing basis while others are short term and are set up to respond to special circumstances, such as extreme weather
		2.2 Shelters for individuals/families impacted by family violence.	
		2.3 Emergency shelter for people fleeing a natural disaster or destruction of accommodation due to fires, floods, etc.	

<sup>6</sup> Data provided for health facilities were simply counts with no demographic information.

<sup>7</sup> Data for hotels were simply counts with limited demographic or family unit information.

3 PROVISIONALLY ACCOMMODATED*	This describes situations in which people, who are technically homeless and without permanent shelter, access accommodation that offers no prospect of permanence. Those who are provisionally accommodated may be accessing temporary housing provided by the government or the non-profit sector, or may have independently made arrangements for short-term accommodation.	3.1 Interim Housing for people who are homeless.	Interim housing is a system-supported form of housing that is meant to bridge the gap between unsheltered homelessness or emergency accommodation and permanent housing.
		3.2 People living temporarily with others, but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing.	Often referred to as ‘couch surfers’ or the ‘hidden homeless’, this describes people who stay with friends, family, or even strangers.
		3.3 People accessing short term, temporary rental accommodations without security of tenure. <sup>^</sup>	In some cases people, who are homeless make temporary rental arrangements, such as staying in motels, hostels, rooming houses, etc.
		3.4 People in institutional care who lack permanent housing arrangements.	People who may transition into homelessness upon release from: penal institutions; medical/mental health institutions; residential treatment programs or withdrawal management centres; children’s institutions/group homes.
		3.5 Accommodation/reception centres for recently arrived immigrants and refugees.	Prior to securing their own housing, recently arrived immigrants and refugees may be temporarily housed while receiving settlement support and orientation to life in Canada.

\*Work with federal government resulted in a transitional housing definition of up to two years

<sup>^</sup>Hidden homelessness was not focused on provincially

## Transitional Housing

HPS considers all transitional facilities that provide supports and housing for up to two years as within scope of the PIT Count. 7 Cities used this definition to determine facilities within scope as these also fit the Provisionally Accommodated definition above from Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.

The 7 Cities underwent a significant process to apply to the federal definition, which expanded the scope of facilities given that the length of stay in these facilities may not be limited in practice, thereby blurring the lines between long-term and short-term housing. In such cases, where people can stay as long as they like in a supportive housing environment, it is questionable whether they should be counted as homeless. In other cases, the time frame is limited to less than two years and enforced, and thus meets the definition. This issue is further complicated by the understanding that such facilities are available outside the homeless serving system – correctional halfway houses, group homes, etc. Further direction is needed to understand which of these facilities are relevant to homelessness enumeration.

For the purposes of this Count, the 7 Cities proposed and used the following decision-matrix to refine the list of transitional facilities within scope:

**TABLE 2: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING INCLUSION QUESTIONS**

<p><b>Basic Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency, Facility Name, Number of Beds/Units</li> <li>• Target population: youth, families, singles, women, men,</li> <li>• Focus: domestic violence, treatment, detox</li> </ul> <p><b>System Role:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it identified in a local Plan to End Homelessness; Service Delivery Plan, or System Coordination Framework?</li> </ul>
--

- Does it have a role homeless-serving system? If so, how?
- Does it get provincial shelter funding? Is it included in nightly shelter stats from provincial government?
- Was it included in previous PIT counts?

**Operations:**

- Is there a forced length of stay?
- What's average/typical length of stay?
- Do majority of exits go back in homelessness?
- About what % exits go into homelessness/ housing instability?

## Chronic and Episodic Homelessness Definitions

Note that the Government of Alberta has definitions of episodic and chronic homelessness that differ from those of HPS. For the purposes of this report, the HPS national definitions for chronic and episodic homelessness were calculated:

- Chronically homeless refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance abuse problems), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year (i.e. have spent more than 180 cumulative nights in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation).
- Episodically homeless refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions, who are currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year (of note, episodes are defined as periods when a person would be in a shelter, or place not fit for human habitation, and after at least 30 days would be back in the shelter or inhabitable location).

In Alberta, the definitions for chronic and episodic homelessness differ:

- **Chronic:** Those who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. To be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. living on the streets) and/or in an emergency homeless shelter.
- **Episodic:** A person who is homeless for less than a year and has fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Thus, comparisons for chronic homelessness from previous Albertan Counts are inappropriate. Additionally, individuals who had less than three episodes of homelessness in the past year were categorized as **Transitional:** Those who experience homelessness for a short time and infrequently in their lifetime. Usually, this is a result of lack of income or housing affordability challenges. Most exit homeless with minimal or no intervention.

## Data Sources

The following information summarizes the methodological approach taken across the seven communities, including the local context that may have caused variation between cities. An overview of the data entry process and analytic methodologies applied to the data is also presented.

There were four main sources of data used for the 2018 Point-in-Time Homeless Count:

- Surveys
- Tally sheets
- Administrative data from emergency shelters, transitional housing, and detox/treatment centres

- Systems-level data such as administrative data from hospitals, correctional facilities, holding cells, or government sponsored hotels

Table 3 summarizes the various data sources used to create the total count of individuals experiencing homelessness in Alberta.

**TABLE 3: BREAKDOWN OF DATA SOURCES USED FOR THE 2018 COUNT BY CITY**

	Calgary	Edmonton	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	ALBERTA
Unsheltered Survey	41	67	14	7	4	0	3	136
Unknown (Respondent Likely Homeless) Survey	15	28	5	4	5	2	7	66
Observed Homeless: Encampment (Tally)	3	3	10	0	3	0	9	28
Emergency Shelter	1,374	679	108	139	136	21	86	2,543
Transitional Housing	903	438	33	5	23	19	6	1,427
Detox/Treatment	373	220	4	32	16	1	3	649
Police Holding Cells	8	13	4	3	1	0	0	29
Alberta Health Services	1	26	1	4	6	4	0	42
Alberta Works	0	104	0	22	1	1	0	128
Alberta Corrections	193	393	11	12	28	20	30	687
Total	2,911	1,971	190	228	223	68	144	5,735

## Survey Data

The HPS national Point-In-Time Count survey for 2018 was employed by all seven cities via an online survey application for mobile devices: Harvest Your Data. The survey included questions on demographics and the homelessness experience. As previously mentioned, this survey was the primary source of information for Red Deer. For the 2018 Count, all aspects of the survey were identical allowing for better comparison and combinations of responses, not just provincially, but also nationally. The 2018 Homeless Count Survey can be found in Appendix B.

## Mobile Technology Implementation

Harvest Your Data, an online survey development cloud-based software available as an application for mobile devices, was used for data collection. The software was chosen as it had been used successfully by Edmonton for their 2016 Count, and the fact that it has been designed to work offline and to sync data over the Internet when it is convenient for the user. The Count survey was translated into the application over the course of several weeks to test flow and question skips, and enabled all enumerators using a mobile device to use the same survey to ensure data collection consistency.

A Direct Server Upload Service (DSUS) was purchased at an additional cost for FOIP purposes, but it was decided that names would not be collected as each City has their own community HMIS, and will continue to target housing and supports via a coordinated response by agencies.

On the night of the Count, the following provisions were made locally by each city for this coordinated data collection tool:

## Base Site – Technology Requirements

- Multiple electrical outlets, power bars, and spare charging cords
- Wi-Fi
- Remote battery chargers

## Contingency Plans

- Someone was stationed at each of the city’s local implementor offices during the day count to print/make copies/deliver to base sites as needed.
- Base site coordinators can hotspot if Wi-Fi failed.
- Turner Strategies staff was available via phone during the night as “tech support” to field calls from volunteers or base sites about issues with the app or tablets.

## Enumerators

Each city covered the entire downtown area and selected additional areas where people experiencing homelessness were likely to be present. The total number of enumerators, as well as specific areas targeted for enumeration, varied by city – details are available in local reports. Some cities, like Calgary, had assistance from the police service and bylaw officers while other cities relied solely on volunteers. It is important to note that fewer enumerators may not equate to less coverage; rather, it helps to consider the types of enumerators and areas covered for each city when interpreting the overall Count and corresponding population characteristics.

**TABLE 4: ENUMERATORS AND COVERAGE**

	Calgary	Edmonton	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	Fort McMurray
Time on April 11	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.^	7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Time on April 12	-	5:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.*	-	6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	-	6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. *
Number of Enumerators	164	347	58	64	38	130	96

^Calgary conducted counts earlier in the day of April 11, the results of which are not included in this report.

\*Edmonton and Fort McMurray also conducted counts throughout the day on April 12, the results of which are not included in this report.

## Online and Paper Data Collection

Screening tools, tally sheets, and survey questions were built into the Harvest Your Data app; when paper surveys were used, responses were uploaded into the app over the following three days to ensure consistency with the electronic data collection tool.

## Screening Tools

Enumerators used a script, asking for the individual’s consent to participate and covering Core Screening Questions (see Appendix B). These Core Screening Questions determined whether or not the enumerator should begin the survey with each respondent. For those who are screened in, the enumerator starts the survey by noting the responses to the question: “Where are you staying tonight?” In unsheltered locations, those who are not screened in are recorded on the tally sheet.

## Tally Sheet (encampment locations)

HPS directions recommended that communities develop approaches to enumeration of those sleeping rough who declined to participate in the survey or were unable to (sleeping, passed out) by using Tally Sheets. The 7 Cities recognized that additional work had to be done to align across communities how to enumerate those sleeping outside who did not participate in the full survey or were sleeping during the Count.

To account for such instances of observed homelessness, specific criteria were developed by the Working Group in consultation with HPS, and approved by 7 Cities as follows:

The criteria for including someone as observed homeless should be clearly identified. For example, individuals may be considered homeless if they bedded down in an unsheltered location, and they have many belongings with them (e.g. backpacks, garbage bags, shopping cart, sleeping bag, bedrolls, etc.).

Observations should only be used as a last resort since the data they provide are less reliable than those based on self-report. In addition, asking the screening questions provides the opportunity to the respondent to be screened into the survey, receive the honorarium/token, and receive information about services. If observations are used, the proportion of one's count that is based on observations homelessness should be clearly indicated in reporting.

Of note, the 7 Cities did not specifically discuss how they were to handle tallied observed homeless who declined to participate in the survey that met the observed homelessness criteria below. HPS advised that the observed criteria still applied whether the survey was declined or not; however, no consensus could be obtained among the cities to use these records in the provincial report.

For the tally, enumerators indicated their search area/location, the time stamp, and their mobile device name if using Harvest Your Data, or paper copies of the tally sheets. If there are any discrepancies with the entries or missing data, the enumerator was contacted where possible. This tally was used when a respondent declined to answer the survey, had already answered the survey, had been screened out, or had been observed only. This tally captured where the individual was encountered, the reason they were not surveyed, and whether they were included among observed homelessness (were observed as homeless but declined or were unable to respond to the screening questions) as well as other indications of homelessness, such as having belongings with them or shopping carts.

The use of the tally sheet by enumerators was a challenge<sup>8</sup> as hundreds of records were generated on the night of April 11 as a tally of persons possibly homeless, and concern was raised around erroneous data collection. 7 Cities made the decision to include those who were observed as homeless (sleeping outside, with their belongings), and were unable to participate in the survey from encampment areas only. Due to differences in enumerator sector specific knowledge, background and expertise, 7 Cities members decided that it would be unethical to make assumptions that individuals, who declined to participate in the survey, are experiencing homelessness. Including encampments was considered appropriate as outreach workers, professional staff, and experienced volunteers enumerated these individuals, and were more likely to make a correct determination on homelessness.

In future counts, this issue will need to be revisited to enhance alignment across cities and improve training of volunteers to address these challenges. HPS clarification on the use of observed data for those who decline to answer the full survey is needed.

## The Survey as a "Census"

Across the cities, enumerators were asked to approach all people on the street, in emergency shelters or transitional housing to participate, and apply the screening questions to determine inclusion. The aim was to survey as many people as possible. If they had accompanying minor dependents with them, the survey was only administered to the

---

<sup>8</sup> Different direction was given to volunteers in different municipalities

parent. The minors were included via the creation of additional records in the Harvest Your Data database for survey analysis (refer to Table 5).

Capturing a complete picture of unsheltered homelessness is not possible during a street count; however, at this time, the survey methodology used for the 2018 Count is the best estimate available for all 7 cities until real-time By Name Lists (language may differ across HMIS software) are implemented across Alberta.<sup>9</sup> Please refer to the 20,000 Homes Campaign website for further information on By Name Lists.<sup>10</sup>

Table 5 presents the total number of valid surveys completed in each city. Valid surveys refer to surveys that met inclusion criteria in the screening questions. Valid surveys were utilized in the Count to determine specific demographics and homelessness characteristics.

**TABLE 5: TOTAL NUMBER OF VALID SURVEYS BY CITY**

City	Valid Surveys	Records Generated for Children	Total Records
Calgary	421	68	489
Edmonton	469	13	482
Red Deer	89	4	93
Grande Prairie	150	11	161
Fort McMurray	85	16	101
Lethbridge	121	8	129
Medicine Hat	6	0	6
Totals	<b>1,341</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1,461</b>

## Administrative Data

Administrative data was included in the Count for six of the seven cities.<sup>11</sup> This data refers to administrative records requested from and supplied by participating emergency shelters, short-term supportive housing, and other provisional accommodations such as treatment or detox centres not captured by Alberta Health Services' databases on April 11, 2018. Administrative data is data that is recorded upon a person's entry into these facilities – at which point the individual is asked about their gender, age, and ethnicity. This data captured all sheltered individuals reported by participating facilities – or 100% coverage.

Rather than just using the significantly smaller sample sizes exclusively from the survey, administrative data was included for the demographics in this report to provide a larger sample. The analytic strategy for including administrative data was the same as the overall Count in that precaution was taken to not duplicate individuals. For example, with the use of emergency shelter administrative data for each city, surveys in which the respondent reported staying at an emergency shelter were excluded.

It is important to note that administrative data was not matched with survey data; it replaced it entirely for analysis on gender, age, and Indigenous status. The additional administrative data from facilities adds greater strength to the sample being used to describe the larger Alberta population experiencing homelessness.

<sup>9</sup> A By-Name List is a real-time list of all people experiencing homelessness in a community.

<sup>10</sup> Online at <http://www.20khomes.ca/resources/by-name-lists/>

<sup>11</sup> Red Deer is an exception as their demographics were not available in administrative and system data, and survey data was used exclusively – the majority of individuals in the facilities were surveyed; thus, this sample is representative of Red Deer's homeless population.



## Systems Data

For the 2018 Count, systems data was included. Systems data refers to data provided by provincial government ministries:

- The Justice and Solicitor General's Offices provided data from correctional facilities for records with no fixed address for all seven cities.
- Police holding cell data for people who had no fixed address was supplied by local the Police Service for all seven cities.
- Alberta Community and Social Services provided data on the number of individuals staying in hotels/motels sponsored by Alberta Works or Assured Income for Severely Handicapped (AISH) for all seven cities on the night of April 11, 2018.
- Alberta Health Services (AHS) data under the following criteria was provided for all seven cities:
  - Visited ER between April 11th at 10:00pm to April 12th at 9:00am
  - Visited ER between March 11th at 10:00pm and April 11th at 10:00pm not yet discharged from ER by April 12th at 9:00am
  - Visited ER between March 11th at 10:00pm and April 11th at 10:00pm, admitted as an inpatient, and yet to be discharged by April 12th at 9:00am.

Systems data contained a partial segment of the facilities across the province and a record of who was staying in these facilities. Some of the information was not complete (i.e. missing demographics) or could not be broken down (i.e. number of families represented in hotel figures). 7 Cities will continue to work with provincial ministries for a more complete picture for the 2020 Point-In-Time Count.

## Data Entry & Analysis

The Harvest Your Data app became active April 10, 2018 with the purchasing of 3000 survey responses, and responses began to be collected during local day counts starting at 9:00 a.m. on April 11. By 11:00 p.m. that night, another 3000 records were purchased in response to the number of tally records being generated.

Administrative and systems data were submitted in Excel allowing for uniform cleaning and use. The majority of administrative and systems data included counts stratified by gender, age, and Indigenous status. Age categories were adjusted across the cities to create identical groupings for analysis.

For specific demographics and characteristics presented in this report, such as immigration/migration, reasons for homelessness, and sources of income, survey data were used exclusively. The survey included more in-depth questions about demographics and homelessness patterns, so it was used in place of administrative or systems data.

In order to reduce duplication, when administrative data was used for the overall Count – age, gender, and ethnicity – survey data were removed representing the same population or location. The goal was to present the most robust sample for both the Count and survey characteristics.

TABLE 6: BREAKDOWN OF DATA SOURCES BY VARIABLE BY SOURCE

	Administrative	Systems	Survey
Calgary Edmonton Grande Prairie Fort McMurray Lethbridge Medicine Hat	Occupancy, Gender, Age, Ethnicity, Dependent Children	Occupancy, Gender, Age, Ethnicity	Immigration/Migration, Chronic Homelessness, Service in Canadian Forces/RCMP, Reason(s) for Loss of Housing, Income Sources

	Occupancy	Occupancy, Gender, Age, Ethnicity	Gender, Age, Ethnicity, Dependent Children, Immigration/Migration, Chronic Homelessness, Service in Canadian Forces/RCMP, Reason(s) for Loss of Housing, Income Sources
Red Deer			

Descriptive statistics were used to describe the basic features of the data in the Count. They provide simple summaries and, together with simple graphics analysis, they present the data in a manageable form.

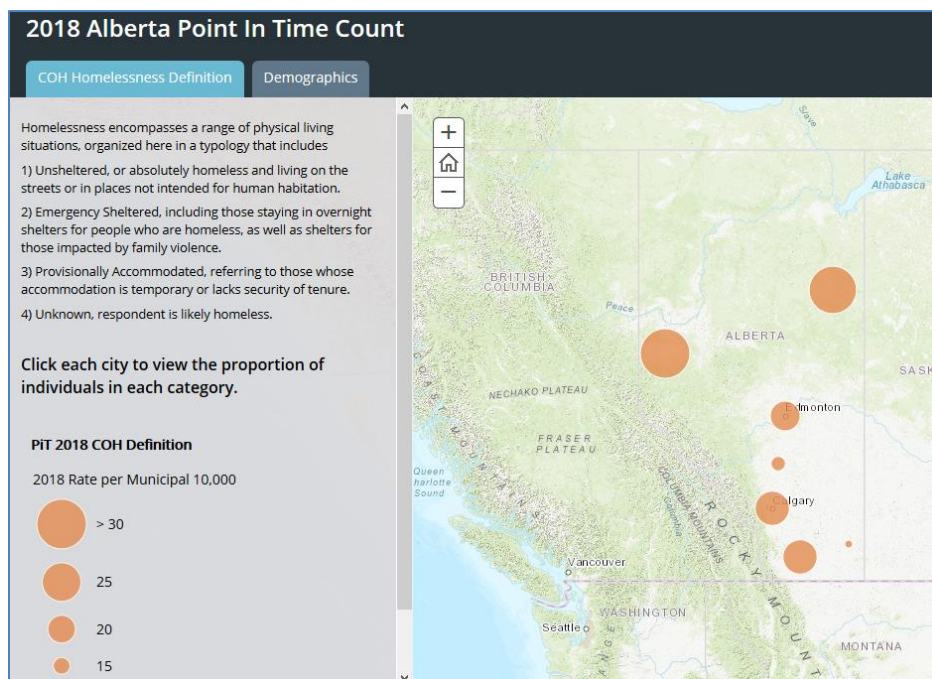
- Frequency distributions were used to summarize and compress data by grouping it into classes (answer categories) and recording how many data points fall into each class. Converting these raw numbers into percentages provides an even more useful description of the data. Percentages were calculated upon removing the null and unknown (do not know and decline to answer) responses. These responses were considered outliers in the dataset and were subsequently removed.<sup>12</sup>
- Cross tabulations were used to examine the relationship between two categorical variables. For example, using Age category as a row variable and Gender as a column variable, a two-dimensional cross tabulation is generated that shows the number of males and females in each age category. Again, converting these raw numbers into percentages provide an even more useful description of the data.

Web mapping was also implemented this year: using an online template with a base map, additional data content (i.e. web services, shapefiles, and the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet of the survey data) were combined to create an interactive map. Users can zoom in to each city to view a density map of survey upload locations and city statistics for the core questions.

Click to access:

## [2018 Alberta PIT Count Mapping Application](#)

FIGURE 1: SCREENSHOT OF THE WEB MAP INTERFACE



<sup>12</sup> There are arguments to both exclude or keep this data in analyses.

## Analysis Challenges

A number of challenges emerged during the analysis process, as summarized below.

1. A lack of clarity on observed homelessness criteria, and the use of the resulting tally data excluded records during the cleaning stage of this project. This was due to ethical issues some cities had with including observed homelessness data on individuals who declined to participate in the survey and making assumptions about people being homeless based on their outward appearance.
2. The screening for tallying and the survey looping back to observed homelessness upon a decline to answer response was challenging to implement given the logic of the survey, as well as differences in implementation.
3. Chronic homelessness definition differs from 2014 and 2016 (using the federal questions, surveyors did not ask for number of times homeless over the past three years).
4. Removal of Do Not Know, Decline to Answer (“unknown”) as valid responses was a recent decision for calculating percentages: the denominator decreased, and percentages increased.
5. AB Works/AISH Hotel – no demographic data was available for provincial analysis; thus, family numbers are not accurate.
6. Very small samples for smaller cities required data to be suppressed (e.g. Indigenous youth, immigration).
7. This year, data sources are reported separately in tables to highlight the differences with the survey, administrative and systems data sources.
8. Administrative and systems data from facilities were aggregated into cross tabulations. The provision of raw data would mean more efficient data analyses.
9. Generating children’s survey records, and their inherited parental responses, needs to be explicitly noted in the methodology.
10. The numeric field for Year of Birth and Age: the survey asked for either/or, so a minimum number of characters could not be specified, and some records only used the last two digits for year of birth, which may have been age (e.g., 55, born in 1955, or is it age 55?).
11. Self-reported ethnicity was extremely time consuming to categorize, and the result was either classed into a racial identity field, or geographic region field – both fields thus resulting in a considerable amount of missing data.
12. The use of “Other” in the homelessness experience questions: a review of all “Other” responses found that the vast majority could be categorized back into one of the stock answers provided by the corresponding question.
13. The rules for removal of duplicates for the tally and survey needed to be explicitly noted in the methodology given the implementation of mobile devices for electronic data collection.

# 2018 COUNT RESULTS

The majority of the individuals enumerated during Alberta's 2018 Point-in-Time Homeless Count came from Alberta's two major urban centres: Calgary and Edmonton. Looking at the data per capita, Calgary was at 23 per 10,000 followed by Edmonton at 21 per 10,000. Grande Prairie had the greatest number of individuals experiencing homelessness at a rate of 36 per 10,000. The most recent available population data was obtained from Alberta Municipal Affairs.<sup>13</sup>

**TABLE 7: INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PER 10,000 POPULATION**

City	2018 Survey, Facility, System Data	2017 Municipal Population	2018 Rate per Municipal 10,000
Calgary	2,911	1,246,337	23
Edmonton	1,971	932,546	21
Fort McMurray	190	66,576	29
Grande Prairie	228	63,166*	36
Lethbridge	223	98,198	23
Medicine Hat	68	63,260	11
Red Deer	144	100,418	14

\*2016

Almost half of the population counted as experiencing homelessness in Alberta were provisionally accommodated (49%), followed by those staying at an emergency shelter (47%), and unsheltered (3%). The remaining 1% of the counted homeless population did not report where they were staying on the night of the Count.

**TABLE 8: SURVEY, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND SYSTEMS DATA - SHELTERED STATUS OF HOMELESS POPULATION**

Alberta	Survey: Unsheltered and Tally	Survey: Unknown (respondent likely homeless)	Emergency Sheltered: (shelters and AISH/AB works)	Provisionally Accommodated: AH Corrections and Holding Cells Treatment Transitional Housing	Total
<b>Total</b>	164	66	2,671	2,834	5,735
<b>Percentage</b>	3%	1%	47%	49%	100%

<sup>13</sup> Alberta Government. (2018). Municipal Affairs Population List. Retrieved from: [http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/documents/2018\\_Municipal\\_Affairs\\_Population\\_List.pdf](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/documents/2018_Municipal_Affairs_Population_List.pdf)

## Homelessness Experience

For the 2018 city breakdown, in Calgary, Edmonton, and Medicine Hat, the majority of enumerated individuals were provisionally accommodated. In Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Red Deer, and Fort McMurray, the larger proportion stayed in emergency shelters. Table 9 categorizes their locations according to the Canadian definition of homelessness.

Data from the Justice and Solicitor General provided information for individuals held in a correctional facility without a fixed address (NFA). The proportion of homeless individuals located in a correctional facility was 12% for Alberta and ranged from 9% in Fort McMurray to 29% in Medicine Hat.

The local Police Service in each city provided information for individuals in holding cells without a fixed address (NFA). The proportion of homeless individuals located in cells was 0.6% for Alberta.

Data from Alberta Health Services provided information for individuals entering the ER or admitted as an inpatient without a fixed address (NFA). These individuals made up 1% of the Alberta homeless population for the Count.

2% of the homeless population were reported as staying in Alberta Works/AISH hotels that night.

**TABLE 9: SURVEY, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND SYSTEMS DATA - LOCATIONS THAT THE POPULATION EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS REPORTED STAYING THE NIGHT (2018)**

City	Survey: Unsheltered and Tally	Survey: Unknown (respondent likely homeless)	Emergency Sheltered: (shelters and AISH/AB works)	Provisionally Accommodated: AHS Corrections and Holding Cells Treatment Transitional Housing	Total
Calgary	44	15	1,374	1,478	2,911
Edmonton	70	28	783	1,090	1,971
Fort McMurray	24	5	108	53	190
Grande Prairie	7	4	161	56	228
Lethbridge	7	5	137	74	223
Medicine Hat	0	2	22	44	68
Red Deer	12	7	86	39	144
Total	164	66	2,671	2,834	5,735
Percentage	3%	1%	47%	49%	100%

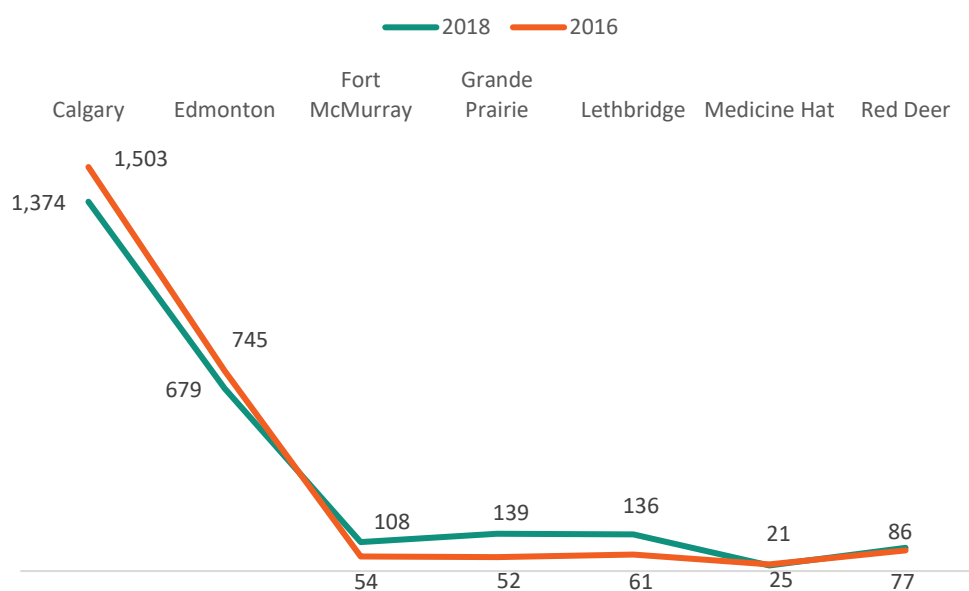
## Contextualizing the Findings

### Changes over Time

In an effort to compare 2016 and 2018 Emergency Shelter Occupancy reports, which remained consistent, data suggests overall stabilization provincially at +1% with notable local variations. Of note, there were notable changes in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie and Lethbridge of over 100% as illustrated in Table 10. Further investigation is necessary to resolve the reasons for this increase in emergency shelter use, though anecdotally these seem to be correlated with the impacts of drug usage in smaller centres; and particularly for Grande Prairie, dramatic changes in the private rental market over the past year have been a contributing factor. Again, these need further inquiry.

**TABLE 10: SHELTER OCCUPANCY COMPARISON WITH VISUAL**

Emergency Shelter Occupancy	Calgary	Edmonton	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	ALBERTA
2018	1,374	679	108	139	136	21	86	2,543
2016	1,503	745	54	52	61	25	77	2,517
# Change	-129	-66	+54	+87	+75	-4	+9	+26
% Change	-8.6%	-8.9%	+100.0%	+167.3%	+123.0%	-16.0%	+11.7%	+1.0%



### Population Growth

2017 marked the first time in two and a half years that the province of Alberta led Canada in population growth. Natural increase<sup>14</sup> made the largest contribution, while net international migration also continued to be a key driver of gains. Growth was also buoyed by net interprovincial inflows: a turnaround from two years of net losses. 2018 is expected to have a similar pattern.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Natural increase is the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths in a given period of time.

<sup>15</sup> Finance Alberta. 2018. Quarterly Population report. Retrieved from <http://www.finance.alberta.ca/>

## Housing Affordability

The vacancy rate in Alberta's urban centres was 7.5% in October 2017, down from a high of 8.1% in October 2016.<sup>16</sup> This represents the first decline after three consecutive years of increases. Economic conditions have improved compared to the previous year contributing to an increase in rental demand.<sup>17</sup>

In Calgary the vacancy rate declined from the previous year, while the vacancy rate in Edmonton remained relatively unchanged. Notably, Grande Prairie's vacancy rate fell from 19.8% to 4.9%, and Fort McMurray's vacancy rate rose to 23.6% from 17.8% - this region (Wood Buffalo) continues to recover from the wildfires in 2016. Weak labour market conditions and a decline in population have impacted rental demand in Fort McMurray.<sup>18</sup>

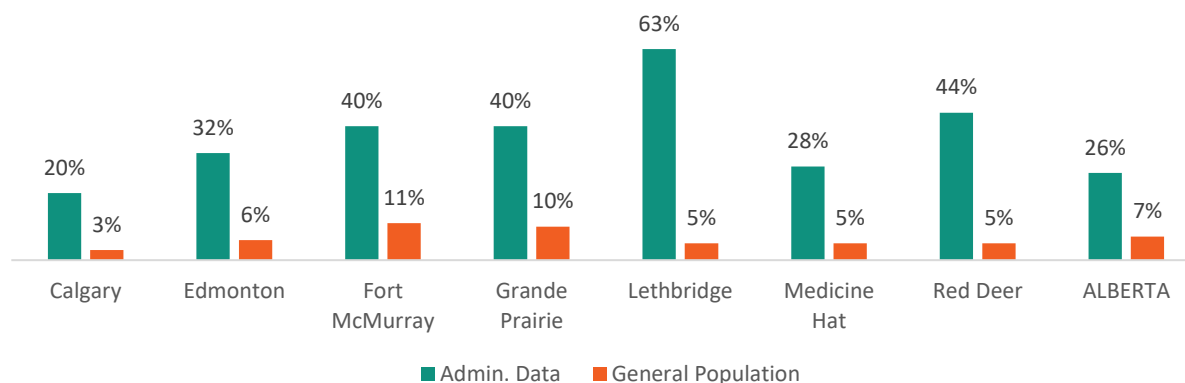
Rental rates in Alberta for a two-bedroom apartment have declined 3.1% over the past two years (1.1% in 2017, following a decrease of 5.0% in 2016). Improvements in rental demand and a decline in the number of rental incentives, have helped minimize rent reductions in 2017.<sup>19</sup> While Medicine Hat had the lowest average two-bedroom rent (\$842), rents in Fort McMurray were the highest (\$1,531). The average two-bedroom rent in Edmonton and Calgary was \$1,215 and \$1,247, respectively.<sup>20</sup>

Housing affordability is measured every five years, and the latest data available are from the 2016 Canadian Census, where 20.8% of all Albertans and 36% of renters were experiencing housing affordability challenges (paying more than 30% of their income for shelter).<sup>21</sup>

## Indigenous Peoples

In 2016, there were 258,640 Indigenous people in Alberta, making up 7% of the population. With 26% reporting Indigenous identity in the administrative data, this is a significant over-representation compared to the overall Alberta population. They were also more likely to be unsheltered compared to non-Indigenous individuals. In addition, 40% of the female administrative records were Indigenous.

FIGURE 2: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION VS THE COUNT



<sup>16</sup> CMHC. 2018. Rental Market Report. Alberta Highlights. Information Portal. Retrieved from [http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2017/schl-cmhc/NH12-199-2017-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/schl-cmhc/NH12-199-2017-eng.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 10

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 10

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 10

<sup>20</sup> CMHC. 2018. Information Portal. Retrieved from <https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmiportal#Profile/48/2/Alberta>

<sup>21</sup> Statistics Canada. 2017. Alberta [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

# 2018 KEY DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The following section presents the 2018 findings on key demographics and characteristics. Gender, Age, and Indigenous status information is displayed for the surveys, administrative data, and systems data to show differences between data sources. The remaining characteristics presented are obtained from survey data only. Records categorised as Unknown (Do Not Know and Decline to Answer) and Null values have been removed to calculate percentages.

## Gender

In Alberta, males (71.8%) were more prevalent in the administrative data than females (28.0%), and transgender individuals accounted for 0.2% of the homeless population in Alberta. Edmonton had the highest proportion of men at 73.9% in 2018 while Lethbridge had the lowest at 34.9%.

Survey and systems data follow a similar pattern: 69% and 89% respectively for males; and 30% and 12% respectively for females in Alberta. Holding cell data is insufficient for city breakdown analysis with 76% male, and 24% female province-wide. Consistent with previous years, women continue to be significantly underrepresented in the Count as compared to the general population. Transgender individuals made up less than 1% of the total Alberta homeless population. While administrative and survey data sources reported this category in 2018, systems data did not.

This year's survey included two new questions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). Data is insufficient to be reported at the city level for the additional gender categories.

FIGURE 3: SURVEY DATA – GENDER IDENTITY (ALBERTA-WIDE)

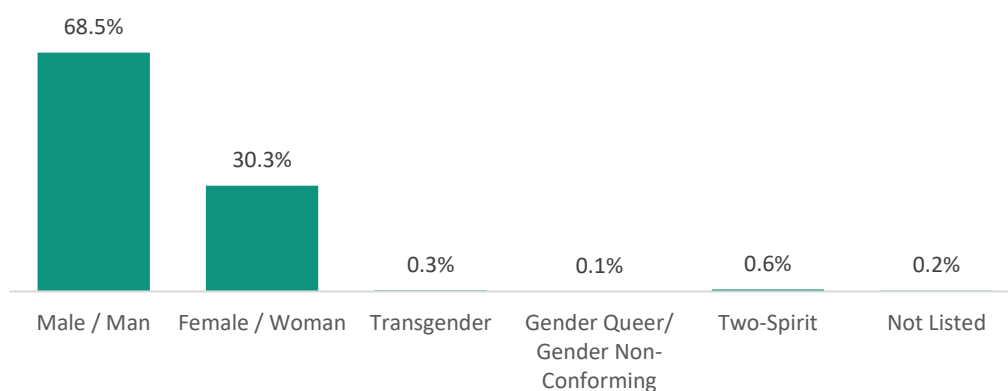


TABLE 11: ADMIN DATA – GENDER

City	% Male	% Female	% Transgender	Total with Unknown removed
Calgary	73.3%	26.5%	0.2%	2,611
Edmonton	73.9%	25.8%	0.2%	1,332
Fort McMurray	63.4%	36.6%	0.0%	145
Grande Prairie	57.4%	41.5%	1.1%	176
Lethbridge^	34.9%	65.1%	0.0%	43
Medicine Hat	45.0%	55.0%	0.0%	40
Red Deer*	69.3%	30.7%	0.0%	88
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>71.8%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>4,435</b>

\*HYD survey used as admin data



^Missing one adult shelter demographics

**TABLE 12: SYSTEMS (CORRECTIONS) DATA – GENDER**

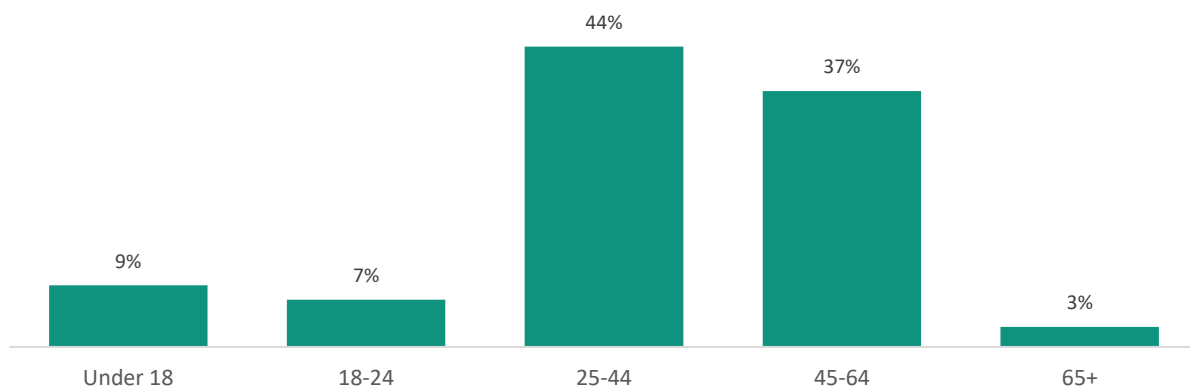
City	% Male	% Female	Total with Unknown removed
Calgary	89.6%	10.4%	193
Edmonton	87.8%	12.2%	393
Fort McMurray	90.9%	9.1%	11
Grande Prairie	100.0%	0.0%	12
Lethbridge	92.9%	7.1%	28
Medicine Hat	90.0%	10.0%	20
Red Deer	80.0%	20.0%	30
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>687</b>

## Age

According to administrative data, the largest age group experiencing homelessness was the 45-64 age group at 39%, followed by 25-44 age group at 37%. Children under 18 (independent and dependent) made up 11% of the population followed by the 18-24 age group at 8%. Seniors, age 65 years and over, made up 5% of those counted. At the individual community level, proportion sizes varied.

Survey and corrections data report the 25-44 age group as the largest group: 44% and 68% respectively. Holding cell data did not contain complete data for age groups for analysis.

**FIGURE 4: SURVEY DATA – AGE GROUPS (ALBERTA-WIDE)**



**TABLE 13: ADMIN DATA – AGE GROUPS**

City	Under 18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total with unknown removed
Calgary	11.3%	7.2%	35.1%	40.9%	5.5%	2,627
Edmonton	8.0%	9.4%	37.7%	39.4%	5.5%	1,318
Fort McMurray	18.6%	10.0%	44.3%	23.6%	3.6%	140
Grande Prairie	12.5%	11.9%	44.9%	30.7%	0.0%	176
Lethbridge^	37.2%	20.9%	25.6%	16.3%	0.0%	43
Medicine Hat	32.5%	17.5%	35.0%	12.5%	2.5%	40
Red Deer*	5.7%	11.4%	47.7%	34.1%	1.1%	88
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>36.7%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4,432</b>

^Missing one adult shelter demographics

\*HYD survey used as admin. Data

**TABLE 14: SYSTEMS (CORRECTIONS) DATA – AGE GROUPS**

City	Under 18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total with unknown removed
Calgary	2.6%	13.0%	71.5%	13.0%	0.0%	193
Edmonton	1.3%	20.1%	65.9%	12.7%	0.0%	393
Fort McMurray	0.0%	18.2%	63.6%	18.2%	0.0%	11
Grande Prairie	0.0%	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%	0.0%	12
Lethbridge	0.0%	21.4%	75.0%	3.6%	0.0%	28
Medicine Hat	0.0%	20.0%	70.0%	10.0%	0.0%	20
Red Deer	0.0%	30.0%	60.0%	10.0%	0.0%	30
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>67.7%</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>687</b>

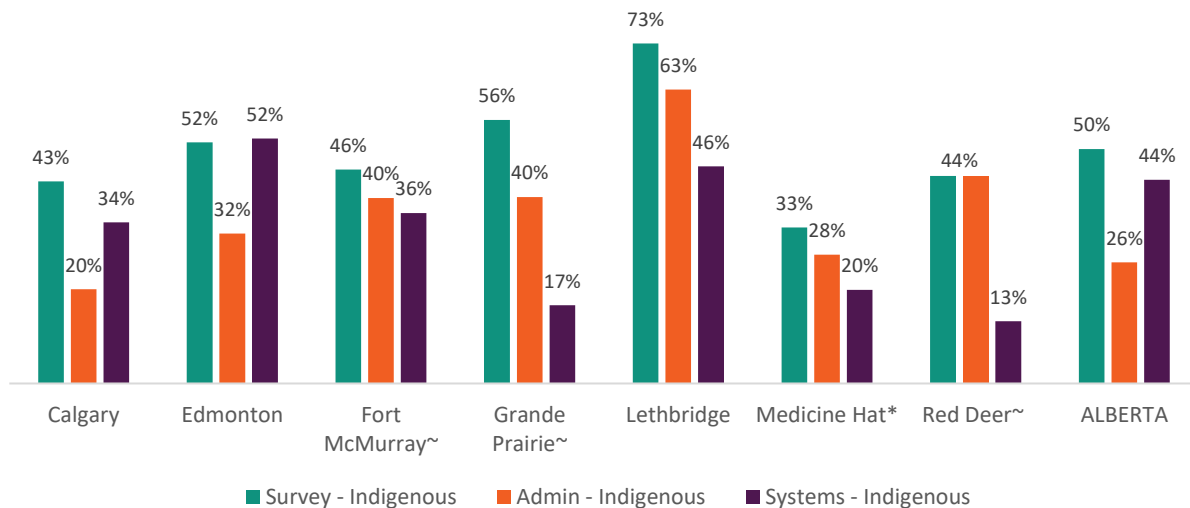
## Indigenous Peoples

People identifying as Indigenous continue to be overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness. Across Alberta, people who identify as Indigenous make up 26% in administrative data while making up only 7% of the general population.

For survey and corrections data, Indigenous people were 50% and 44% respectively. Holdings cell data showed 62% as Indigenous province-wide.

The difference in percentages for data sources is notable and should be explored further.

**FIGURE 5: SURVEY, ADMIN, SYSTEM DATA – INDIGENOUS IDENTITY**



\*Insufficient survey data; use with caution

~Insufficient systems data; use with caution

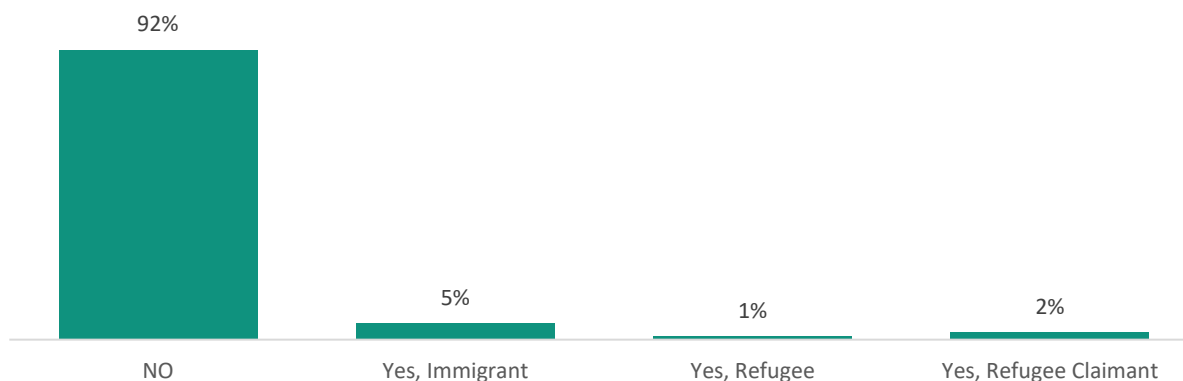
^Missing one adult shelter demographics

Of the enumerated youth under the age of 18 both independent and dependent, 40% were reported as being Indigenous with administrative data. Among the young adults ages 18-24, 33% were identified as Indigenous. Combining all youth under the age of 25, 38% self-reported as Indigenous – a notably higher share than among adults.

## Immigration and Migration

Survey responses were used to calculate the immigration and migration rates. A very small number (14) indicated that they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee in the past five years, representing just 1% of the total valid responses to this question. The percentage increases to 2% for arrivals in the past 10 years, and 9% for all arrivals regardless of year. The data is insufficient for city breakdown.

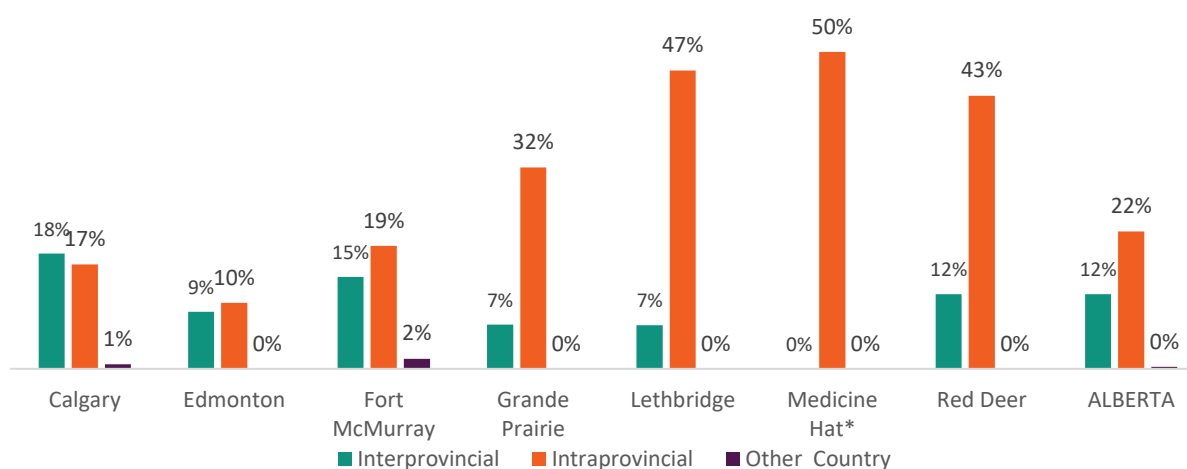
**FIGURE 6: SURVEY – IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AS A PERCENT OF THE VALID RESPONSES IN 2018 (ALBERTA-WIDE)**



Migration is defined as individuals who moved to their respective city in the past year. Migration was highest among the homeless population in Red Deer and Lethbridge where almost 55% of migrants for both cities reported arriving within the past year. The city with the lowest share of recent arrivals within their homeless population in 2018 was Edmonton at 23%.

Figure 7 shows the proportion of people arriving from other communities within Alberta (intraprovincial migration) and the proportion of people arriving from other provinces in Canada (interprovincial migration), within the past year.

**FIGURE 7: SURVEY – MIGRANTS (NEW TO THE CITY IN THE PAST YEAR) AS A PERCENT OF THE TOTAL MIGRANTS ENUMERATED IN 2018**

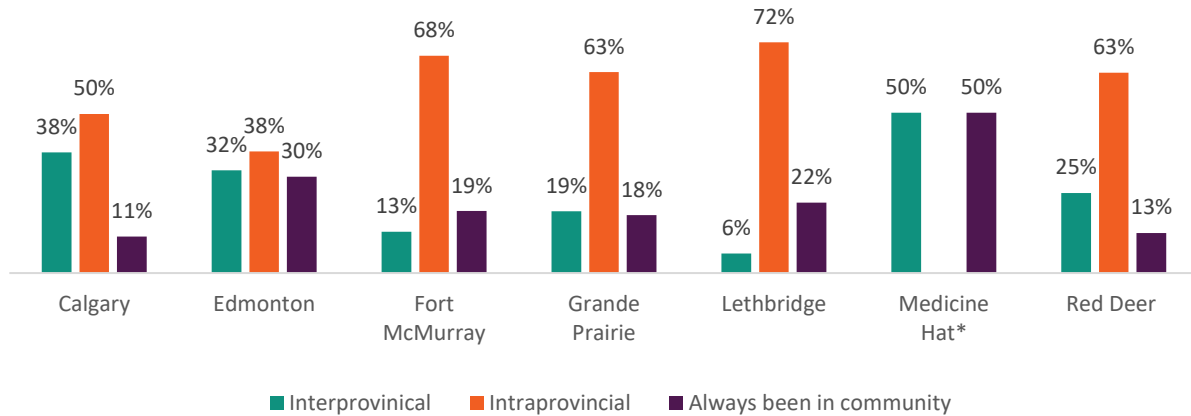


\*Insufficient survey data; use with caution

## Indigenous Migration

The majority of individuals identifying as Indigenous have moved intraprovincially: from other communities within Alberta to these larger urban centres.

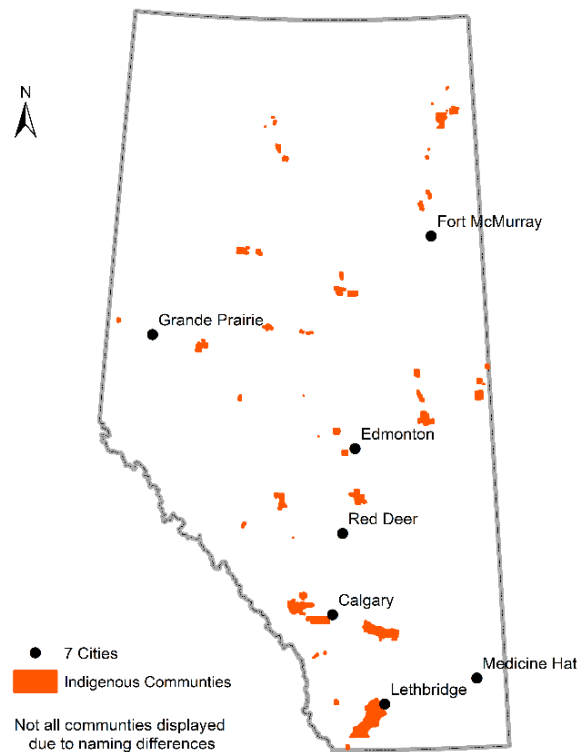
**FIGURE 8: SURVEY - INDIGENOUS RESPONDENTS AND MIGRATION TO COMMUNITIES**



\*Insufficient data; use with caution

**FIGURE 9: INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES RESPONDENTS HAVE RE-LOCATED FROM**

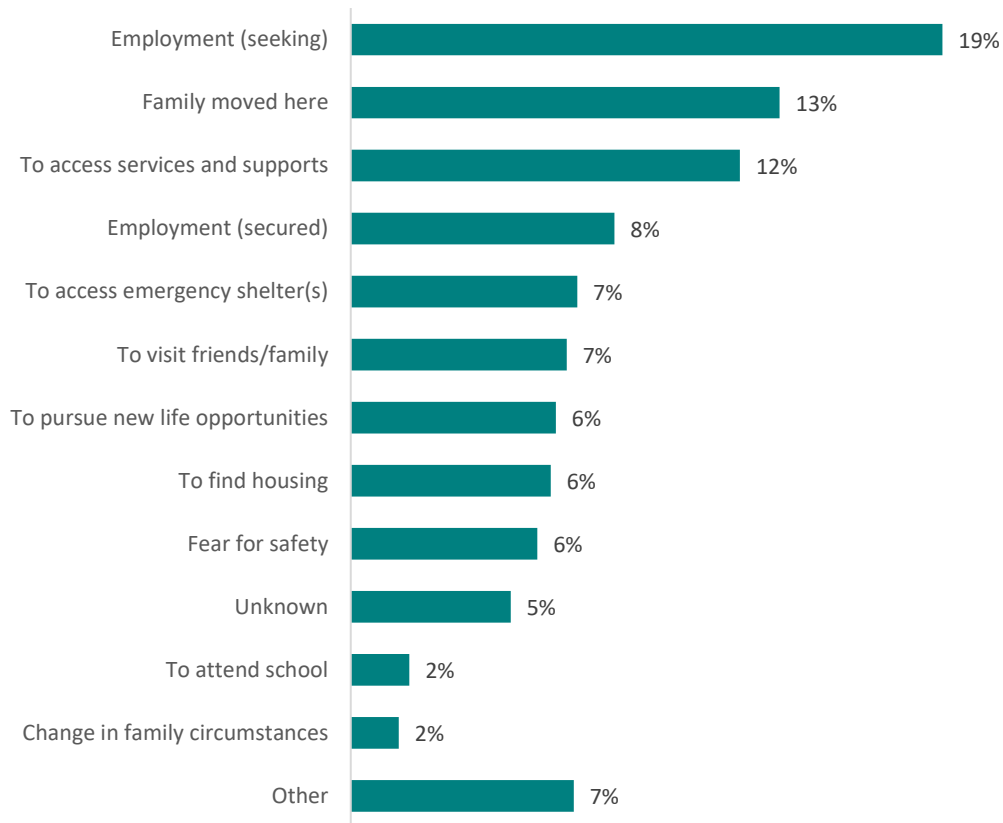
## Indigenous Respondents: Where did you live before coming to this community?



### What is the main reason you came to (community name)?

This was an optional question suggested by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness in order to capture reasons for migration into various communities. As noted in the figure below, the top three reasons concern employment and connecting with families as well as to access services and supports.

FIGURE 10: SURVEY – REASONS FOR COMING TO COMMUNITY



Differences between cities for top three reasons included:

- Calgary: To pursue new life opportunities (10%) was a more frequently stated response than to access service and supports
- Grand Prairie: Fear for safety (14%) was a more frequently stated response than employment seeking

## Sexual Orientation

This year's PIT count survey includes two new questions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). Feedback from volunteers indicated that these were challenging questions to administer. Questions were raised about whether the way the question was asked perhaps limited responses.

During the Count, 6% of individuals identified as LGBTQ2S+ throughout Alberta. The data is insufficient for city breakdown.

TABLE 15: SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Alberta	Straight/ Heterosexual	Bisexual	Gay	Lesbian	Queer	Questioning	Two- Spirited	Not Listed
Total	94%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%

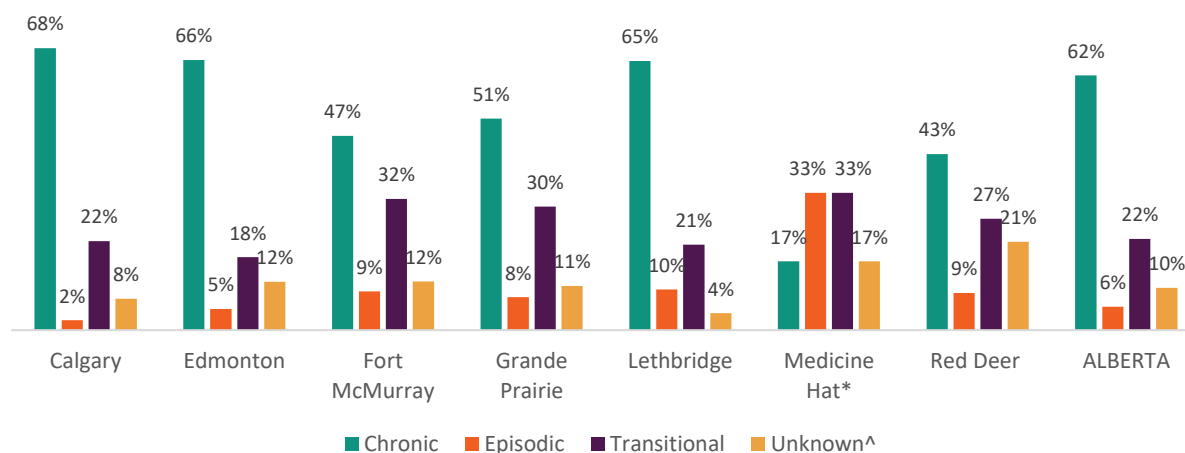
## Chronic Homelessness

Chronic homelessness was calculated using survey data responses exclusively as this information was not available in administrative data.

This year, 7 Cities used the federal definition of chronic homelessness, and with the shorter timeframe (i.e. six months vs one year) for length of time homeless, there is a greater proportion of individuals classed as experiencing chronic homelessness across all cities. For Alberta, 62% are experiencing chronic homelessness according to the federal definition.

Also, the addition of the category of transitional homelessness this year for individuals experiencing less than three episodes of homelessness this past year has altered the proportion for episodic homelessness. In previous years, people experiencing less than three episodes of homelessness were classed as episodic.

FIGURE 11: SURVEY – FEDERAL HOMELESSNESS TYPOLOGY



\*Insufficient data; use with caution

^ Don't know and declined to answer responses were retained due to 'how much time' and 'how many different times' data concerns

## Service in the Canadian Forces and RCMP

In 2018, the survey asked if an individual had served in the Canadian military or the RCMP. The number of responses by city ranged from one to 29. Due to the small number of responses, data will not be presented at the city level.

Combining survey responses across all cities, it was found that for 83 out of the 1278 valid responses (7%), individuals self-reported as having served in the Canadian military and/or the RCMP.

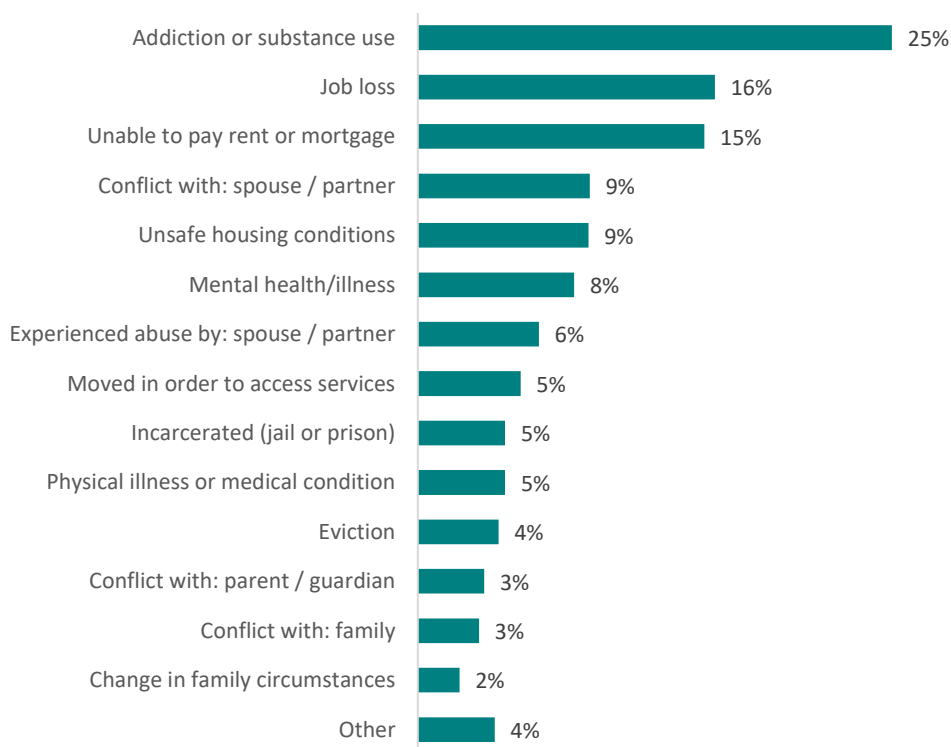
### Reasons for Loss of Housing

The 2018 survey asked individuals about the cause(s) of their most recent loss of housing. In many cases, there are multiple reasons, and thus this was a multiple-response question, and percentages will not total 100. Looking at all cities combined, the most common reasons were addiction or substance use, job loss, and unable to pay rent/mortgage.

Like 2016, this question was required by the Homeless Partnering Strategy; and 7 Cities notes the following improvements again: Firstly, no options around housing unaffordability or insufficient benefit levels were given, despite these often being cited as the largest contributors to homelessness in other studies. Secondly, the option “Addiction or Substance Use” is listed separately from “Illness or Medical Condition” despite addiction being widely recognized as a mental illness. Mental health and trauma were frequently recorded in the “Other” category by volunteers in 2016 when these likely should have been coded “Illness or Medical Condition”; and this year mental health was slotted back into responses for this question to investigate this further. Thirdly aging out of care for young people is a well-documented entry point into homelessness; it would be important to track these system transitions in the future as well.

Lastly, an individual’s reasons for entering homelessness can be quite complex and difficult to capture in a checkbox survey question administered on Count night. This would likely be better approached in a more holistic way over the course of many interactions during which trust can be built, and the layers of a person’s history can be explored in a safe way.

FIGURE 12: REASONS FOR HOUSING LOSS

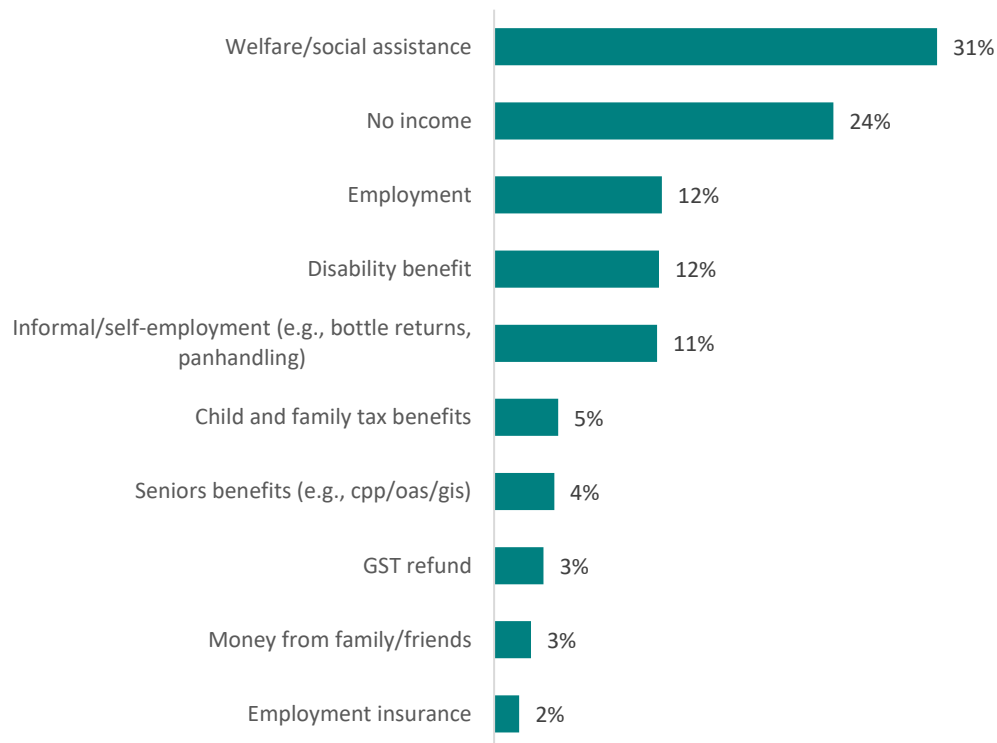


## Income Sources

The 2018 survey asked individuals about their main source or sources of income. As there can be multiple income sources for individuals, this was a multiple response question, and percentages will not total 100. Looking at Alberta as a whole, the most common sources were welfare or social assistance, formal employment, and informal employment or self-employment (such as returning bottles or panhandling).

Many individuals experiencing homelessness on that night had no income source.

FIGURE 13: INCOME SOURCES





# METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Several methodology challenges remain outstanding as result of learnings from the 2018 Count. As such, these should be reviewed and resolved during the preparations for the national and provincial 2020 Count.

## PIT Count in System Planning

There is no doubt that the PIT Count data provides important information about homelessness in our communities. However valuable, the Count is but one source of data used to inform homeless serving system planning in the seven cities. The 7 Cities used real-time information from Homeless Management Information Systems to generate insights into the needs of people experiencing homelessness, how they move through the system of care, and how programs are faring against community objectives to end homelessness. To do this system planning well, 7 Cities rely on community consultations with people with lived experience, service providers, and researchers. The PIT Count is a complementary source of information in these efforts.

## Survey Vs Admin Data

Six out of seven cities in Alberta used administrative data to replace survey responses. As this data was more comprehensive than the survey, it points to the need for additional alignment federally on administrative data collection methods. There is limited direction on this matter at this time with most focus being on survey methodology. Additional instructions could benefit consistency in Alberta as well.

## Tally Questions

The tally sheet method was unclear and, as such, hundreds of records were generated by enumerators tallying all individuals at the screening level, thus creating hundreds of duplicates: observed homelessness, no consent to participate, and declined to answer where they were staying that night. Further direction from HPS can strengthen local use of the tally method in a reliable manner. HPS should clarify any ethical issues raised on whether collecting observation data on those who decline or are unable to participate in the survey position of the Count; consistency with the Tri-Council policy on observational research should be ensured. Methods decisions made prior and post data collection should be consistent; for instance, the revision made by 7 Cities to remove some of the observational records could have been addressed prior to data collection to avoid confusion.

## Transitional Housing

Further clarification on the scope of transitional housing should be considered in consultation with HPS to ensure consistent understanding of facilities that should be included, and best methods to do so. Current direction on the two-year length of stay would potentially lead to inclusion of any Housing First programs with defined length of stay without consideration of long-term stability post exit.

## Administrative Data

The provision of raw data in the future for combining with different facilities (instead of cross tabulations) and systems data will make data analysis more efficient. It would be valuable to engage Justice and Health in providing this data at regular intervals to inform planning rather than once every two years.

## Online Survey

Translating the structure of the paper survey into an online format proved challenging given the functionality of the software and flexibility required of the survey questions. There were multiple iterations for survey design, and future enumerators will benefit from a simpler survey (If This, Then That requirements that circle back to earlier questions were unable to be performed), and improved functionality as the technology and methodology evolves.

- The survey flow needed to branch off according to the city, the time of the count (day vs. night), the screening questions (consent or already been surveyed), the tally (observed or declined to participate), or the survey (homeless or not, declined to answer where they will stay on April 11), and how each individual responded to various drill downs for various questions (staying indefinitely at someone else's place, hotel type, migration, Indigenous status, etc.).

- The HYD app did not allow for combining text and numeric questions with multi-select options (e.g. year of arrival [numeric] option needed additional “do not know”, “decline to answer” options [multi-select]), so a separate question was added to ensure respondents still had the choice available to decline to say they do not know the answer. Every question in the HPS survey must have these two options regardless of whether it is a numeric, text, multi-select, or mutually exclusive question.
- Response validation e.g. minimum four characters for year of birth instead of up to four characters.

### Report Release & Communication

It is essential to have clear communication pathways for the results report with ample time for back and forth required among the 7 Cities, municipal, federal, and provincial partners. For the 2020 Count, a point person on communications should be assigned to work with the provincial coordinator regarding key messaging, report, communication briefs, and summary documents.

Of note, the HPS requirement of three weeks’ lead-time is an additional consideration that should be accounted for in communication plans. Release timing should be adjusted pending when facilities end up submitting administrative data to local coordinators as this influences the entire analysis. If one facility is missing, the analysis cannot be done. As such, the analysis for this report had to be done under notable time pressures that should be accounted for in future Counts.

### Survey Improvement

Survey improvements proposed included better placement of the Indigenous identity questions and migration, as enumerators asked conflicting questions consecutively. It was suggested Ethnicity and Disabilities questions be added to core questions given diversity and aging trends in the population. Overall, more natural ways of asking the questions were recommended as participants were unclear what was meant by the questions in the current phrasing. For instance, when asked to self-identify ethnicity some people pointed to other people (identity); and others stated either a racial identity (Caucasian, First Nations, Black) or a geographic location (Irish, African). This text-based response for ethnicity limited the utility of the data.

### Working Group Coordination

There was agreement that the role of the Provincial Coordinator should continue, albeit with more in-person meetings among the entire team.

### Public Systems Engagement

Enhanced understanding of how public systems count homelessness is needed. It was suggested that public system reps be included in the Working Group for 2020 to enhance this link. Federal direction on system homelessness definitions and methods were needed as well.

## CONCLUSION

This coordinated 2018 Point-in-Time Count was a collaborative effort undertaken by members of Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness over the course of several months. Efforts to align Count methods across the 7 Cities have resulted in more complete, comparable information about homelessness in the province and nationally, and will continue in preparation for the next National Point-in-Time Count in 2020.

A total of 5,735 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness. Breakdowns in proportions of women, Indigenous persons, veterans, and immigrants were similar to those seen in previous years, despite the participation of more facilities this year.

Coordinating a Point-in-Time Count across several different cities is a significant undertaking requiring considerable investments of time, research, discussion, and debate from all involved. Within each community there is significant engagement around planning and execution of the Count, which is informed by past methodology and local circumstances. Conversations were also held with provincial authorities to gain access to central administrative data, and this report endeavours to make the case for more regular reporting and exchange of systems data.

In addition to collaborating on the Point-in-Time Count, 7 Cities members and the Province of Alberta work together on a regular basis to identify and address issues affecting homelessness, and Housing First program implementation and measurement. As a result of frequent conversations, a culture of learning and debate has emerged laying the groundwork for continuous progress towards ending homelessness in the seven Alberta cities.



## Acknowledgments

Thanks to the many volunteers, municipal, and service agency staff who offered their time and expertise in conducting the Point-in-Time Count.

Many thanks to the Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the Government of Canada's Homeless Partnering Strategy for their support of the drive to end homelessness in Alberta and of this effort, in particular. Thanks especially to Alberta Health Services and Alberta Justice for their work in sharing administrative data.

Thanks to the 7 Cities Data Working group who coordinated efforts across the province: Alicia Kalmanovitch, Tammy Hoffman, Forrest McGregor, Franklin Kutuadu, Adam Goodwin, Kyla Fisher, Alia Tayea, Brittany MacMillan, Caitlyn Evans, and Tinna Ezekiel. Patrycja Kujawa laid the groundwork for the cleaning and analysis of the survey database – itself a huge endeavour.

A final thanks to all those who participated in the Count – this information forms one major part of the planning and work to end homelessness in Alberta.

## Glossary

**TABLE 16: LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

Abbreviation	Organization or Term
<b>AHS</b>	Alberta Health Services
<b>AW</b>	Alberta Works
<b>AISH</b>	Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped
<b>CFS</b>	Child and Family Services
<b>NFA</b>	No Fixed Address
<b>NHS</b>	National Household Survey
<b>RCMP</b>	Royal Canadian Mounted Police

**TABLE 17: DEFINITIONS**

Term	Definition
Adult	An individual 18 years of age or older (where noted, this may include youth between the ages of 18-24).
Caregivers	Individuals indicating that their own dependent children would be staying with them on the night of the Count.
Dependent Children	Individuals less than 18 years of age who a caregiver indicated would be staying with them on the night of the Count.
Emergency Shelters	Overnight accommodation for individuals who have no permanent address.
Homeless Count	The total number of individuals approached who reported not having a permanent place to stay on the night of Count day plus the total number of individuals staying at a shelter on the previous night. Both figures also include the number of children staying with an adult caregiver on the night of the Count.
Interim Housing	Similar to Short-Term Supportive Housing, but with a goal of stays lasting less than 30 days while finding permanent housing and connected to a Housing First team.
Indigenous	A respondent was classified as “Indigenous” if they identified as First Nations, Métis, Inuit, non-status, or as having Indigenous ancestry.
Sheltered Homeless	Homeless individuals counted at a shelter or in a hotel (funded by the province) on an emergency basis on the night prior to Count day.
Short-Term Supportive Housing	Temporary housing with support to assist client movement into permanent housing.
Unsheltered Homeless	Homeless individuals counted in the Street Count (at an agency or service, on a walking route, at a bottle depot, or by outreach teams and mobile vans). Individuals enumerated in this category may be staying in motels/hotels on their own, or sleeping in a car, a tent or outside.
Veteran	An individual that has previously served with the Canadian military or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
Youth	An individual 18-24 years of age.



## Appendix A: Data sources and their use

Three tables are presented below:

- Table A1 shows all data collected;
- Table A2 shows only those fields included for the total tally in this report;

Data may have been excluded for one of three reasons:

- 1) Survey data is excluded if administrative data is available for the same population;
- 2) Some data were included locally, but not included in this report (e.g. day count, hidden homeless, broader tally sheet collection);
- 3) Discrepancies with data provided led to the exclusion of AB Works Hotel demographics from this report.

Table A1: All administrative and survey data collected

Category	Sub-Category	Data Source	Calgary	Edmonton	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	Fort McMurray
Unsheltered	Unsheltered	Survey, night	41	44	7	4	0	2	12
	Unsheltered	Survey, morning	0	23	0	0	0	1	2
	Unsheltered	Tally sheet	125	72	12	30	12	39	46
Emergency Sheltered	Shelter, all	Admin.	1,374	679	139	136	21	86	108
	Shelter, all	Survey, night	375	223	77	78	1	70	39
	Shelter, all	Survey, morning	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
	Human Services hotels	Admin.	0	104	22	1	1	0	0
	Human Services hotels	Survey, night	0	2	17	0	0	0	0
	Human Services hotels	Survey, morning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Justice and Health Systems	Prov. corrections facilities	Admin.	193	393	12	28	20	30	11
	Municipal holding cells	Admin.	8	13	3	1	0	0	4
	Municipal holding cells	Survey, night/morning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Health facilities	Admin.	1	26	4	6	4	0	1
	Hospital, jail, remand	Survey, night	1	2	5	0	0	0	6
	Hospital, jail, remand	Survey, morning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisionally Accommodated	Transitional housing	Admin.	903	438	5	23	19	32	33
	Transitional housing	Survey	42	40	2	17	0	3	28
	Detox/Treatment	Admin.	373	220	32	16	1	3	4
	Detox/Treatment	Survey	0	24	17	16	0	0	0
	Motel / hotel	Survey, night	0	2	22	0	0	0	0
	Motel / hotel	Survey, morning	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Staying at Someone Else's Place*	Survey	15	93	10	9	3	10	5
Unknown	No permanent residence	Survey, night	15	28	4	5	2	6	4
	No permanent residence	Survey, morning	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

- Indicates this source was not collected.

\* Respondent can not stay indefinitely.

Table A2: Administrative and survey data used to determine totals in this report

Category	Sub-category	Data source	Calgary	Edmonton	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	Fort McMurray
Unsheltered	Unsheltered	Survey, all	41	67	7	4	0	3	14
	Tally	Survey, all	3	3	0	3	0	9	10
Emergency Sheltered	Shelter, all	Admin.	1,374	679	139	136	21	86	108
	Shelter, survey	Survey, night	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Human Services hotels	Admin.	0	104	22	1	1	0	0
	Human Services hotels	Survey	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Justice System	Prov. corrections facilities	Admin.	193	393	12	28	20	30	11
	Municipal holding cells	Admin.	8	13	3	1	0	0	4
Health System	ER	Admin.	1	26	4	6	4	0	1
Transitional Housing & Other	Transitional housing	Admin.	903	438	5	23	19	-	33
	Transitional housing	Survey	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
	Motel / hotel	Survey, night/morning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Detox/Treatment			373	220	32	16	1	3	4
Unknown	No permanent residence	Survey, night/morning	15	28	4	5	2	7	5
Total			2,911	1,971	228	223	68	144	190

- Indicates this source was not used in calculating the total.



## Appendix B: Survey Tools

### 2018 ALBERTA PIT COUNT SURVEY

The following Screening, Tally and Survey pages are also found in the Harvest Your Data App.

#### 2018 ALBERTA PIT COUNT SURVEY - SCREENING

INFORMATION ONLY - DO NOT READ TO PARTICIPANT. OBSERVED HOMELESSNESS: For those who DECLINE or are OBSERVED only, but who are clearly homeless, please also indicate the reason you believe they are homeless. The criteria for including someone as observed homeless should be clearly identified. For example, individuals may be considered homeless if they bedded down in an unsheltered location OR they have many belongings with them (e.g., backpacks, garbage bags, shopping cart, sleeping bag, bedrolls, etc.). Please also record any clarifiers so we can avoid double counting the same people with the location you observed them at, for instance, shopping cart with red sign on the side.

SCRIPT - PLEASE READ TO PARTICIPANT Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a volunteer for the (Community Name) Point in Time survey. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes a few minutes to complete.

a) Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded to ensure confidentiality

b) You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.

**A. Have you answered this survey with a person with this (*identifier*)?**

[YES: Thank and tally - Go to Page 2]

[NO: Go to B]

**B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?**

[YES: Go to Page 3]

[NO: Thank and tally – Go to Page 2]



Thank you for agreeing to take part in the survey. Please note that you will receive (*item*) as a thank you for your participation.

## 2018 ALBERTA PIT COUNT SURVEY - TALLY SHEET

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** For those who are **not surveyed**, please fill in the sheet below indicating the reason. For those who DECLINE or are OBSERVED only, but who are clearly homeless, please also indicate the reason you believe they are homeless (e.g., asleep outside with belongings).

#	Location (e.g., building, park, nearest intersection)	Reason not Surveyed				Observed Homeless	*Observed Homelessness
		Declined *	Already Responded	Screened Out (Response to C)	Observed *		
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							

## 2018 ALBERTA PIT COUNT - SURVEY

Location/Area/Zone Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM Survey Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Where are you staying tonight? [OR] Where did you stay last night? [Surveyor: Indicate overnight location]

- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER – END SURVEY

☐ OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE – END SURVEY

☐ SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE

Can you stay there as long as you want or need to? ☐ YES ☐ NO

– END SURVEY

-If NO to staying indefinitely at SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE, where will you go? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ MOTEL/HOTEL

☐ Alberta Works

☐ AISH

☐ Red Cross

☐ Paid for by yourself or a friend/acquaintance

☐ This is a temporary HOTEL/MOTEL stay, and you have a permanent residence – END SURVEY

☐ HOSPITAL, HEALTH FACILITY

☐ JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE

☐ EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

☐ TREATMENT

☐ TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (THOSE AWAITING TREATMENT)

☐ TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (NOT THOSE AWAITING TREATMENT)

☐ PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALK, PARK, FOREST, BUS SHELTER)

☐ VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK)

☐ MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK

☐ ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING

☐ OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION

☐ RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]

### BEGIN SURVEY

#### 1. What family members are staying with you tonight [OR] stayed with you last night? [Check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---	--

CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate gender and age for each]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GENDER								
AGE								

#### 2. What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

- ☐ YEAR BORN \_\_\_\_\_
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

→ For the next questions, "homelessness" means any time when you have been without a secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others.

#### 3. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

- ☐ AGE \_\_\_\_\_
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

#### 4. In total, how much time have you been homeless over the PAST YEAR? [Best estimate, circle either days, weeks, months]

- ☐ LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

#### 5. In total, how many different times have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? [Best estimate.]

- ☐ NUMBER OF TIMES \_\_\_\_\_ [Includes this time]
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

#### 6. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year? [Give local examples of homeless shelters]

- ☐ YES
 ☐ NO
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

#### 7. How long have you been in (community name)? [circle either days, weeks, months]

- ☐ LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS -----

----->

- ☐ ALWAYS BEEN HERE  
☐ DON'T KNOW  
☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

#### Where did you live before you came here?

- ☐ COMMUNITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_  
 OR COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

#### 8. What is the main reason you came to (community name)? [Do not read categories; select one]

- ☐ TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S)
- ☐ TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
- ☐ FAMILY MOVED HERE
- ☐ TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY
- ☐ TO FIND HOUSING
- ☐ EMPLOYMENT (seeking)
- ☐ EMPLOYMENT (secured)
- ☐ TO ATTEND SCHOOL
- ☐ FEAR FOR SAFETY
- ☐ RECREATION/SHOPPING
- ☐ DON'T KNOW
- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
- ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant?**

- ☐ YES, IMMIGRANT ----->
  - ☐ YES, REFUGEE----->
  - ☐ YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT----->
  - ☐ NO
  - ☐ DON'T KNOW
  - ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
- If YES: What year did you come to Canada? (Year of arrival)**
- ☐ Year \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ DON'T KNOW
  - ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

**10. People may identify as part of an ethnic group/groups. For example, some people may identify and Black or South Asian. What ethnicity do you identify with? [Do not list categories. Note down responses]**

- \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

**11. Do you identify as Indigenous or do you have Indigenous ancestry? This includes First Nations with or without status, Métis, and Inuit. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]**

- ☐ YES ----->
  - ☐ NO
  - ☐ DON'T KNOW
  - ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
- If YES:**
- ☐ FIRST NATIONS (with status: Registered Indian According To The Indian Act)
  - ☐ FIRST NATIONS (non- status)
  - ☐ INUIT
  - ☐ MÉTIS
  - ☐ HAVE INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

**12. Which Indigenous nation or nations do you identify with?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

**13. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?**

[Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

- ☐ YES, MILITARY
- ☐ YES, RCMP
- ☐ NO
- ☐ DON'T KNOW
- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

**14. What gender do you identify with? [Show list.]**

- ☐ MALE / MAN
- ☐ FEMALE / WOMAN
- ☐ TWO-SPIRIT
- ☐ TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN
- ☐ TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN
- ☐ GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING
- ☐ NOT LISTED: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ DON'T KNOW
- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

**15. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? [Show list]**

- ☐ STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL
- ☐ GAY
- ☐ LESBIAN
- ☐ BISEXUAL
- ☐ TWO-SPIRIT
- ☐ QUESTIONING
- ☐ QUEER
- ☐ NOT LISTED: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ DON'T KNOW
- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER


**16. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply.]**

"Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ PHYSICAL ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION
- ☐ MENTAL HEALTH/ILLNESS
- ☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE
- ☐ JOB LOSS
- ☐ UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE
- ☐ UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS
- ☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN
- ☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER
- ☐ CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN
- ☐ CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER
- ☐ INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)
- ☐ HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
- ☐ WILD FIRES
- ☐ MOVED IN ORDER TO ACCESS SERVICES
- ☐ OTHER REASON: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ DON'T KNOW
- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

**17. What are your sources of income? [Read list and check all that apply]**

- ☐ EMPLOYMENT
- ☐ INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)
- ☐ EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
- ☐ WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
- ☐ DISABILITY BENEFIT
- ☐ SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)
- ☐ GST REFUND
- ☐ CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
- ☐ MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS
- ☐ OTHER SOURCE: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ NO INCOME
- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER



**Thank you for your Participation!**

## Appendix C - Survey Tables

In text graphs created from the following tables.

Survey data: Gender

City	Male / Man	Female/ Woman	Trans Female/ Trans Woman	Trans Male/ Trans Man	Gender Queer/ Gender Non- Conforming	Two-Spirited	Not Listed	Total with Unknown removed
Alberta	68.5%	30.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.6%	0.2%	1,408

Survey data: Age groups

City	Under 18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total with unknown removed
Calgary	13.2%	4.2%	39.5%	40.3%	2.7%	476
Edmonton	3.0%	6.0%	45.7%	41.2%	4.1%	464
Fort McMurray	17.7%	3.1%	42.7%	35.4%	1.0%	96
Grande Prairie	10.8%	11.4%	47.5%	29.7%	0.6%	158
Lethbridge	9.4%	14.2%	44.9%	26.8%	4.7%	127
Medicine Hat*	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6
Red Deer	5.7%	11.4%	47.7%	34.1%	1.1%	88
Alberta	9.0%	6.9%	43.8%	37.3%	2.9%	1,415

\*Insufficient data; use with caution

Survey, Admin., and Systems data: Indigenous Identity

City	# Survey - Indigenous	% Survey - Indigenous	# Admin. - Indigenous	% Admin. - Indigenous	# Corrections - Indigenous	% Corrections - Indigenous
Calgary	202	43.2%	524	20.1%	65	34.4%
Edmonton	229	51.5%	409	32.0%	202	52.3%
Fort McMurray~	43	45.7%	53	39.6%	4	36.4%
Grande Prairie~	89	56.3%	70	39.8%	2	16.7%
Lethbridge^	85	72.6%	27^	62.8%	13	46.4%
Medicine Hat*	2	33.3%	11	27.5%	4	20.0%
Red Deer~	35	44.3%	35	44.3%	4	13.3%
Total	685	50.1%	1,129	25.9%	294	43.5%

\*Insufficient survey data; use with caution

~Insufficient systems data; use with caution

^Missing one adult shelter demographics

Survey data: Immigration

Alberta	No	No %	Yes, Immigrant/ Refugee/ Refugee Claimant	Yes %	Total with Unknown removed
Total	1,051	91.3%	100	8.7%	1,151

Survey data: Migration

City	# Inter - Provincial	% Inter - Provincial	# Intra - Provincial	% Intra - Provincial	# Other Country	% Other Country	Total Migrants
Calgary	53	18.2%	48	16.5%	2	0.7%	291
Edmonton	27	9.0%	31	10.4%	0	0.0%	299
Fort McMurray	9	14.5%	12	19.4%	1	1.6%	62
Grande Prairie	9	7.0%	41	31.8%	0	0.0%	129
Lethbridge	7	6.9%	48	47.1%	0	0.0%	102
Medicine Hat*	0	0.0%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	4
Red Deer	6	11.8%	22	43.1%	0	0.0%	51
Total	111	11.8%	204	21.7%	3	0.3%	938

\*Insufficient data; use with caution