

2016 Edmonton Point in Time Homeless Count Final Report



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Summary

Edmonton's 2016 Homeless Count occurred on the night of October 19 and during the day on October 20. Approximately 300 volunteers and 40 agencies participated in the Count. Enumerators identified 1,752 individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of October 19 and through the day on October 20, compared to 2,307 in 2014. Of these, 43% were sheltered, 22% were unsheltered and 35% were provisionally accommodated. In addition, 59% of individuals were chronically homeless. Women made up a quarter of the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness, and were more likely to have spent the night at someone's place or in government-sponsored hotels.

During this year's count, 146 children were identified as being homeless, a 56% reduction from 2014. The survey portion of the count identified 108 independent youth, which is also a reduction of more than half from two years earlier. The average age of homeless individuals was 44 years, with seniors making up a smaller portion of the homeless population compared to Edmonton as whole.

Indigenous individuals made up just over half of the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness; a significant over-representation compared to the overall Edmonton population (5.3% as of 2011). They were also more likely to be unsheltered, compared to non-Indigenous individuals. In addition, over two-thirds of the female respondents were Indigenous.

The number of veterans was similar to the number observed in 2014. Enumerators identified 70 veterans experiencing homelessness, most of whom spent the night at a shelter or in public spaces. Over a third (34%) of veterans were "sleeping rough", either in public spaces, makeshift shelters or vehicles.

The average length of homelessness was 3.5 years, with the average for Indigenous respondents much higher at 4.2 years, compared to 2.8 years for non-Indigenous respondents. A very small number (37) indicated that they had come to Canada as a migrant or refugee in the past five years, representing just 3% of the total. Over two thirds of respondents (68%) said they had stayed at an emergency shelter at least once in the 12 months preceding the count.

Nearly a quarter of respondents considered addiction/substance abuse as a contributing factor to their experience of homelessness. Job loss (20%) and family conflict (19%) were also frequently cited. In terms of sources of income, welfare (39%), informal employment (20%), disability benefits (17%) and employment (13%) were the most commonly cited, while 5% report not having any source of income.

The 2016 Homeless Count comes amidst an uncertain economic climate in Edmonton. High unemployment presents challenges to many Edmontonians and much more so for those with more limited means to cope with changes in the social or economic environment. While the rental market is no longer increasing rapidly, the availability of affordable housing is still extremely limited. Despite overall improvement, there remain specific populations – particularly Indigenous peoples and veterans – that have not seen relative or absolute reductions in homelessness and may need accelerated (and possibly more targeted) efforts in order to address homelessness and the myriad of associated issues.

Contents

Summary 1

 List of Figures 4

 List of Tables 4

 List of abbreviations 5

 Definitions 5

Acknowledgements 7

 About Homeward Trust 8

Methodology 9

 Date, Time and Conditions 9

 Street Count 9

 Shelter Count 10

 Volunteer recruitment and training 11

 Data collection 11

 Methodological changes from 2014 Count 12

 Notes on analytical methods 13

Results & Analysis Part 1: Survey and Administrative Data 15

 Number of people experiencing homelessness 15

 Sheltered status of those experiencing homelessness in Edmonton 15

 Age 17

 Children and families 18

 Youth 19

 Gender 20

 Indigenous Identity 22

Results & Analysis Part 2: Survey 24

 LGBQ2 Identity 24

 Chronic homelessness 24

 Veteran status 26

 Migrant status and time in Edmonton 26

 Migrants from Fort McMurray 27

 Emergency shelter usage in the 12 months prior to the survey 27

 Reasons for most recent episode of homelessness 28

 Income sources for survey respondents 30

Conclusions and Recommendations	32
Appendix A: Data tables.....	33
Appendix B: Locations covered by Homeless Count 2016.....	37
Appendix C: Survey tools	41

List of Figures

Figure 1: Homelessness Count totals in Edmonton since 1999	15
Figure 2: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless in Edmonton (2006-2016 Homeless Counts).....	16
Figure 3: Trends in shelter capacity in Edmonton since 2009	17
Figure 4: Sheltered status in different age groups (N=1282)	18
Figure 5: Where the 108 independent youth spent the night (survey data)	20
Figure 6: Gender breakdown of homeless population in Edmonton (combined data).....	20
Figure 7: Sheltered status of respondents by Indigenous status (combined survey and admin data).....	23
Figure 8: Indigenous identity and gender.....	23
Figure 9: Proportion of cohort that are chronically homeless (N=1,076)	25
Figure 10: Breakdown of sheltered status by chronicity of homelessness (N=1,076)	25
Figure 11: Proportion of survey respondents that had stayed at an emergency shelter in the last 12 months.....	28
Figure 12: Proportion of respondents citing reason as a contributing factor to their homelessness	29
Figure 13: Proportion of respondents citing income source	30
Figure 14: Proportion of respondents citing Income source, by indigenous identity	31
Figure 15: Map of 32 walking routes covered over the course of the Homeless Count	39
Figure 17: First page of survey for night count	41
Figure 18: First page of survey for day count	42
Figure 19: Second page of survey for both days	43
Figure 20: First page of survey for shelter survey	44
Figure 21: Second page of survey for shelter survey	45

List of Tables

Table 1: Definitions for classifying sheltered status	13
Table 2: Differences in sheltered status classification between 2014 and 2016	13
Table 3: Data sources for total numbers, gender and indigenous identity	14
Table 4: Where individuals spent the night (combined data)	16
Table 5: Age categories	18
Table 6: Distribution of dependents in families (survey data)	19
Table 7: Gender differences in where respondents spent the night (combined data)	21
Table 8: Gender and Indigenous status breakdowns in different sheltered categories	23
Table 9: Breakdown of survey data collection and numbers	24
Table 10: Length of time survey respondents have been in Edmonton (N=1,188)	27
Table 11: Length of time in Edmonton by family status (N=1,167)	27

Table 12: Age groups of those experiencing homelessness in Edmonton, with and without forecasting of missing data (combined data)	33
Table 13: Breakdown of Indigenous status before and after forecasting of unknowns (combined data)	33
Table 14: Breakdown of where respondents spent the night, by Indigenous status (combined data)	33
Table 15: Indigenous identity and sheltered status with and without forecasting of missing data (combined data)	34
Table 16: Gender and indigenous identity breakdown with and without forecasting of missing data (combined data)	34
Table 17: Where did the respondent spend the night? (combined survey and administrative data totals)	34
Table 18 : Where did the respondent spend the night? (survey data only)	35
Table 19: Gender differences in where respondents spent the night (combined data)	35
Table 20: Where the surveyed veterans spent the night (N=70)	36
Table 21: Length of time in Edmonton for singles and families (survey data only)	36
Table 22: Facilities that provided administrative data for occupants on the night of October 19	37
Table 23: Location of individuals covered by survey teams	38

List of abbreviations

AW – Alberta Works

AISH – Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

LGBTQ2S+ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, or Two-Spirited

LRT – Light Rail Transit

RCMP – Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Definitions

Adult – An individual 18 years of age or older.

Base Site – Designated facility, room or space used as a gathering and coordination point for teams of volunteers.

Caregivers – Individuals indicating that their own dependent child(ren) 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.

Facilities – Includes Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing and hotels sponsored by Human Services.

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.

Independent Youth – Individuals 18-24 years of age and children less than 18 years of age who were unaccompanied by an adult caregiver when surveyed.

Indigenous – An individual who identified as First Nations, Métis, Inuit or as being Non-Status or having Aboriginal ancestry.

Provisionally Accommodated – People who are without permanent shelter, but access accommodation that offers no prospect of permanence.¹ This year, Transitional Housing was included in this category.

Sheltered Homeless – Individuals staying at a shelter, or in a hotel funded by the provincial government in lieu of a shelter, on an emergency basis on the night of the count.

Transitional Housing – Temporary housing with support to assist the client’s transition into permanent housing (includes interim and short-term supportive housing).

Unsheltered Homeless – Individuals surveyed in the Street Count who indicated they were sleeping in a public place, a car, a tent or outside¹.

Veteran – an individual that has previously served with the Canadian military or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

¹ <http://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/typology>

Acknowledgements

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About Homeward Trust

Homeward Trust is a community-based, comprehensive housing organization that provides leadership and resources towards ending homelessness in Edmonton. Our mandate is fulfilled by leading initiatives and programs, engaging community stakeholders and partners, conducting research, creating awareness, and funding housing and support projects.

Homeward Trust is one of several community-based organizations in Alberta working with the Government of Alberta to implement strategies set out in the province's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Homeward Trust embraces the Housing First philosophy and principle: that every person has the right to a safe, secure home. This practice is at the core of both the municipal and provincial 10 year plans to end homelessness, and the Housing First Support Program. In this program, the focus is on ending homelessness by providing permanent housing and follow-up support.

Between 2009 and 2016, Homeward Trust has housed and supported more than 5,900 people through the Housing First program.

To learn more visit homewardtrust.ca

Methodology

Date, Time, and Conditions

The 2016 Homeless Count was carried out from the night of October 19 to the evening of October 20. There were two major components: a street count and a shelter count, each of which is described in more detail below. No extreme or adverse weather conditions were present, with a high of 10°C for the day and a low of 0°C overnight. The breakdown of activities over the 24-hour period is as follows:

- 1. October 19, 19:00 – 22:00**
 - a. Enumerators conducted surveys along 32 pre-defined walking routes and at select single locations.
 - b. Enumerators carried out shelter surveys.
- 2. October 20, 05:00 – 09:00**
 - a. Outreach teams covered parkland areas spanning the river valley, ravines, and areas that were inaccessible the previous night.
 - b. Some enumerators started early in the morning in order to count at breakfast lines and temporary staffing agencies.
- 3. October 20, 09:00 – 19:00**
 - a. Enumerators covered walking routes, LRT platforms and stations, community agencies and single locations (e.g. bottle depots, meal lines, libraries).

A comprehensive list of locations covered can be found in Appendix B. Administrative data were provided by each participating facility over the following week.

Enumerators wore reflective vests and asked individuals if they had previously completed the survey to avoid double-counting. All consenting individuals over the age of 13 (and unaccompanied by a guardian or adult) were surveyed if they were encountered on a walking route or at a participating agency. They were free to decline or terminate their participation at any point, as well as to not answer specific questions if they so wished.

Street Count

Enumerators approached people along pre-set walking routes strategically selected a) to be consistent with previous years' method, and b) to take into account experience/suggestions from other agencies encountering homeless populations regularly. Edmonton Police Service Beat Team accompanied volunteers at LRT stations and on LRT routes and Edmonton Public Library Outreach teams administered surveys.

To minimize selection bias, enumerators were instructed to approach all individuals they encountered in their assigned locations and not to target those who “appeared” as though they may be homeless. To avoid double counting and to determine homelessness status, each individual encountered by enumerators was asked a series of qualifying questions about their housing situation. Anyone who reported having been interviewed was not surveyed. If they had not already been interviewed, they were then asked if they would consent to answering some questions about their housing situation.

After giving consent to participate, individuals were asked three screening questions: whether they had a permanent residence, if so what type, and where they were spending the night (October 19) or where they had spent the previous night (October 20). If they answered that they did have a permanent residence that was “their own place”, they were thanked and the survey was terminated. If they had a permanent residence and this was someone else’s place they were excluded from the analysis. If they responded that they did not have a permanent residence, they were asked where they had spent the night/would spend the night. Again, if the answer was at their “own place”, the interview was terminated.

This year, a coordinated parkland outreach strategy with participation from approximately 25 park rangers, street outreach team members and river operations (clean-up) employees. The survey was also administered in a series of more targeted geographical areas. The following teams were involved in this part of the Parkland Count:

- Boyle Assertive Outreach Paired with Boyle Street staff
- Hope Mission Rescue Van (accompanying volunteers on their usual rescue routes)
- Edmonton Park Rangers
- River Valley Operations paired with City of Edmonton staff

Parkland Team members convened to develop a coordinated strategy and discuss coverage areas, survey administration and safety. The specific areas were identified through the expertise of all of the teams involved, who have extensive knowledge of the river valley parkland and have built rapport and relationships with individuals sleeping rough in the parkland. The locations were covered between 5 AM and 9 AM on October 20. This timeframe was suggested by several outreach teams, who indicated from previous Homeless Count experience that individuals sleeping rough in the parkland often moved out of the river valley during the daytime hours and were difficult to find. Further, any surveys completed before 9 AM could be included in the 7 Cities homeless count, as several cities conducted early morning counts in places they could not reach the night before. Maps of areas covered are found in Appendices D and E.

Shelter Count

Edmonton’s Homeless Count included data provided by facilities that offer emergency or short-term accommodation (emergency shelters and transitional housing) and by government-funded systems (government sponsored accommodation in motels/hotels). Larger facilities provided a detailed breakdown including age group, gender and indigenous identity, while smaller facilities were only asked to provide one variable with three options (male, female, dependent child). As such, there are high numbers of unknowns in the age and indigenous identity data in the shelter and transitional housing data.

Unlike the street count, which relied on finding people and obtaining their consent to participate, the administrative data provided a comprehensive picture of everyone in facilities on the night of October 19. A list of facilities that provided administrative data can be found in Appendix B.

Most facilities that provided administrative data also conducted surveys with some or all of the people staying there². At the four largest shelters, students from the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine conducted the surveys. The shelter survey can be found in Appendix C.

Volunteer recruitment and training

Approximately 300 volunteers and 40 agencies participated in the Count. Calls for volunteers were made in person, email/telephone and via social networks (Twitter, Facebook). Prospective enumerators were not required to have prior experience in conducting surveys. Volunteer packages were provided, which outlined various points related to the survey, ethics, responsibility, and troubleshooting. The surveys used can be found in Appendix C.

Homeward Trust held two public orientation sessions as well a number of more targeted sessions (e.g. at the University of Alberta for medical school volunteers and one at Homeward Trust for Base Site Coordinators). At these sessions, individuals were briefed on the Homeless Count in general, its purpose, safety and security considerations (in collaboration with Edmonton Police Service), and interview techniques. A former client also provided valuable contextual information from her time spent without a home and navigating the system. Volunteers were then trained on the questions themselves, use of the application, data quality considerations, troubleshooting, and how to ask for support if needed. Supervised practice sessions navigating the survey (and the electronic platform) were also held during the orientations, with Homeward Trust staff available to help the volunteers.

Data collection

Edmonton used electronic data collection for the first time in the Homeless Count and was the only city in Alberta to do so. Most survey data was collected by volunteers using an app (iSurvey or DroidSurvey³) on a tablet or smart phone. The app was programmed to require enumerators to follow the survey logic and to respond to all questions (Don't Know and Decline to Answer options were always present). The survey automatically terminated if the respondent did not meet the criteria to participate.

Homeward Trust provided training on this software and the questions. Volunteers were free to use their own devices or tablets provided by Homeward Trust. A supply of tablets and paper copies of the survey were kept at each Base Site as backup. Most community agencies and outreach agencies used paper surveys as their mode of data collection, as did a few of the volunteers. These surveys were entered into the app over the next three business days by Homeward Trust staff and volunteers to ensure all data was collected in a single platform. One volunteer used the training copy of the survey instead of the final version, but this data was successfully recovered with the assistance of the app developers.

² The provincial Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General also provided information on all people who had been flagged as homeless and were held overnight in their facilities on the night of the count, regardless of the length of time they had been incarcerated. These numbers are not included in this report, as they would not be comparable to previous years, however they are available in the 7 Cities report.

³ This app allows offline data collection on iOS or Android platforms with upload when internet access is available. See www.harvestyourdata.com for more details about the product.

Administrative data from shelters, transitional housing and government systems was submitted by email.

Methodological changes from 2014 Count

In order to align with Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness, Edmonton made several changes in 2016. These were deliberately separated to create two different numbers – one that is comparable to past Edmonton counts and one that is comparable to 7 Cities methodology, which is published in the 7 Cities report (this excludes the day count and those staying at someone else's place, but includes those incarcerated who were experiencing homelessness when arrested). The largest of these changes was that Edmonton conducted a street count at night for the first time. The same routes were covered as in 2014, but an additional shift was added during the night of October 19. The total number of volunteers was modestly higher in 2016, suggesting an increase in total coverage, but a decrease in daytime coverage to accommodate the night count. Since more people were found per shift during the day than at night, this may introduce some downward bias in the street count numbers; the shelter count numbers are unaffected, though, and this is where the largest changes in numbers were recorded. The Edmonton Homeless Count was also in alignment with the Federal guidelines in terms of core questions and methodologies.⁴ A notable diversion was the timing of the Homeless Count (fall vs. spring), although the Homeless Count is foreseen to move to the spring beginning 2018, in order to align with the national Count.

Edmonton also modified its strategy for enumerating individuals on parkland. A coordinating team made up of Boyle Street Outreach and the City of Edmonton park rangers and river operations designed coverage routes to ensure all areas where they were expecting to find people were covered. Park rangers and river operations ensured that nobody would be evicted from their site on the day of the count. Surveys were conducted early in the day for two reasons: 1) Campers frequently leave early in the day to do business in the city, and 2) 7 Cities would only include surveys completed before 9 am in locations deemed unsafe to count the night before (parkland was considered unsafe to navigate). The coordinating group determined it would not be valuable to continue to count through the day, after having completed a morning sweep. Despite this effort, the vast majority of people who reported staying in tents, makeshift shelters or public spaces were surveyed in city streets, rather than on parkland, which highlights that people do not stay in one place over the course of a day and are hard to find (or less likely to participate in a survey) when in their own camps.

In 2014, anyone who answered "Yes" to the question "Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to?" was not counted as experiencing homelessness. Due to concerns that the question was being interpreted too broadly – that individuals may be identifying a shelter or a tent as a permanent residence – an additional question was added this year if the respondent said yes. This question asked what type of residence it was (see Q3 survey in Appendix C) and listed the same options as given for "Where are you staying tonight?" This showed that most people interpreted the question as intended. However, 189 individuals stated that they had a permanent residence, but then listed one that was not considered to be a valid one (e.g. hospital, vehicle, or emergency shelter⁵). Those surveyed in shelter or transitional housing would have been included in prior years, but 24 of these people said they were staying in motels/hotels or unsheltered locations and would not have been counted as experiencing homelessness in 2014.

⁴ http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/edsc-esdc/Em12-9-2017-eng.pdf

⁵ People who said that "Someone else's place" was their permanent residence were considered to have access to permanent housing.

In order to align with the Canadian Definition of Homelessness, the classifications for shelter status used this year represent a change from the 2014 Count. Transitional housing and anyone who was surveyed and reported staying in a hospital or corrections facility are now classified as provisionally accommodated, instead of sheltered (transitional housing) or unsheltered (hospital or corrections). Any figures that compare shelter status from 2014 to 2016 in this report use the 2014 definition in order to maintain comparability; any figures presenting only 2016 data use the new definition (see Tables 1 and 2). This methodological change must be kept in mind when making any comparison of this year's results with previous reports.

There were 14 individuals who did not provide a response to where they spent the night. In the preliminary report, the unsheltered number was presented as 374, which excludes these 14. Here, they are included in the unsheltered group to be consistent with the 2014 classification. The impact on final proportions is negligible.

Table 1: Definitions for classifying sheltered status

Sheltered	Unsheltered	Provisionally Accommodated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH) • Emergency or domestic violence shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, bus shelters) • Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck) • Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack • Abandoned/vacant building • Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation • Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless) • Decline to answer (no permanent residence) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone else's place • Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre • Transitional housing • Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AISH)

Table 2: Differences in sheltered status classification between 2014 and 2016

	2014 Count	2016 Count
Hospitals/Jails	Unsheltered	Provisionally Accommodated
Transitional housing	Sheltered	Provisionally Accommodated

Notes on analytical methods

To avoid double counting individuals who stayed at shelters, transitional housing, or hotels funded by AW/AISH, only administrative data from those facilities was used in determining the total number, gender and indigenous identity (see Table 3). However, all survey data was used in assessing other indicators.

Where there was a large amount of missing data, imputations were made to forecast totals. These forecasts are the best estimates included in the body of the report; all raw data is available in the appendix. The two main sources of missing data were the lack of detailed gender, Indigenous identity and age data in administrative data

from smaller providers, and the absence of surveys for a portion of the people enumerated in any facility; there is also a small amount of missing data from respondents who declined to answer particular questions.

Table 3: Data sources for total numbers, gender and indigenous identity

	Survey	Administrative Data
Someone else's place	X	
Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	X	
Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH)		X
Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AISH)	X	
Emergency or domestic violence shelter		X
Transitional Housing		X
Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, bus shelters)	X	
Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)	X	
Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack	X	
Abandoned/vacant building	X	
Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation	X	
Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	X	

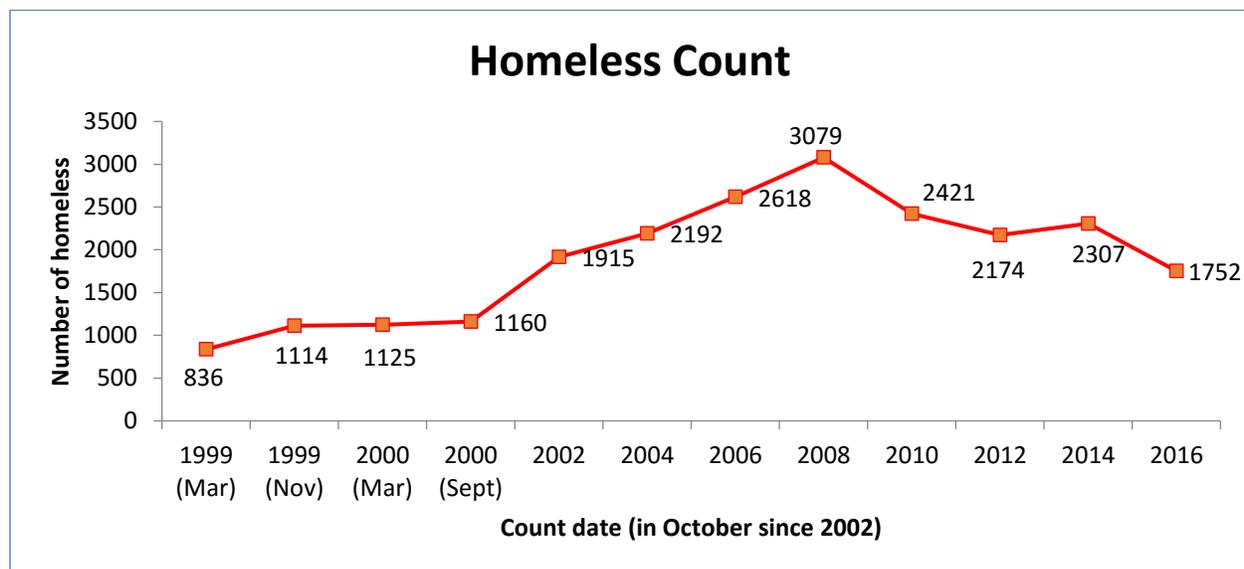
RESULTS & ANALYSIS PART 1: SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

The results reported in Part 1 use administrative data for people who stayed in facilities and survey data for everyone else. This section comprises the total count number, shelter status, gender, indigenous identity and age. Where data is missing from smaller facilities for identity and age, imputation has been conducted and, in some cases, survey data from facilities was used to guide the imputation.

Number of people experiencing homelessness

The total number of people experiencing homelessness counted in Edmonton on the night of October 19 was 1,752. A comparison over the years is presented in Figure 1; however, there have been some notable methodological changes during that time. This means 1 out of every 513 Edmontonians was experiencing homelessness, down from 1 in 410 two years earlier and 1 in 240 in 2008; the prevalence of homelessness has been cut in half since the launch of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Figure 1: Homelessness Count totals in Edmonton since 1999



Sheltered status of those experiencing homelessness in Edmonton

Using the combined shelter and survey data, out of 1,752 individuals classified as experiencing homelessness, 43% were sheltered, 22% were unsheltered and 35% were provisionally accommodated (Table 4). Figure 2 illustrates trends in individual categories of the homeless population in Edmonton over the last 10 years. Overall, there has been a steady decline in the number of unsheltered and provisionally accommodated individuals counted since 2008, while shelter numbers increased in 2013 and 2014, but have since returned to prior levels. The categories for 2016 in Figure 2 used the 2014 classification, for comparability purposes. Due to the way in which data was

collected before 2012, it is not possible to compare the sub-categories of unsheltered and provisionally accommodated in Figure 2.

Table 4: Where individuals spent the night (combined data)

Status	Where respondent spent the night	N	%
Unsheltered (n=388)	Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, etc.)	187	11%
	Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)	23	1%
	Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack	97	6%
	Abandoned/vacant building	12	1%
	Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation	11	1%
	Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	44	3%
	Declined to answer (and no permanent residence)	14	1%
Sheltered (n=745)	Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH)	55	3%
	Emergency or domestic violence shelter	690	39%
Provisionally Accommodated (619)	Someone else's place	216	12%
	Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	12	1%
	Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AISH)	16	1%
	Transitional Housing	375	21%
Total		1,752	100%

Figure 2: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless in Edmonton (2006-2016 Homeless Counts)

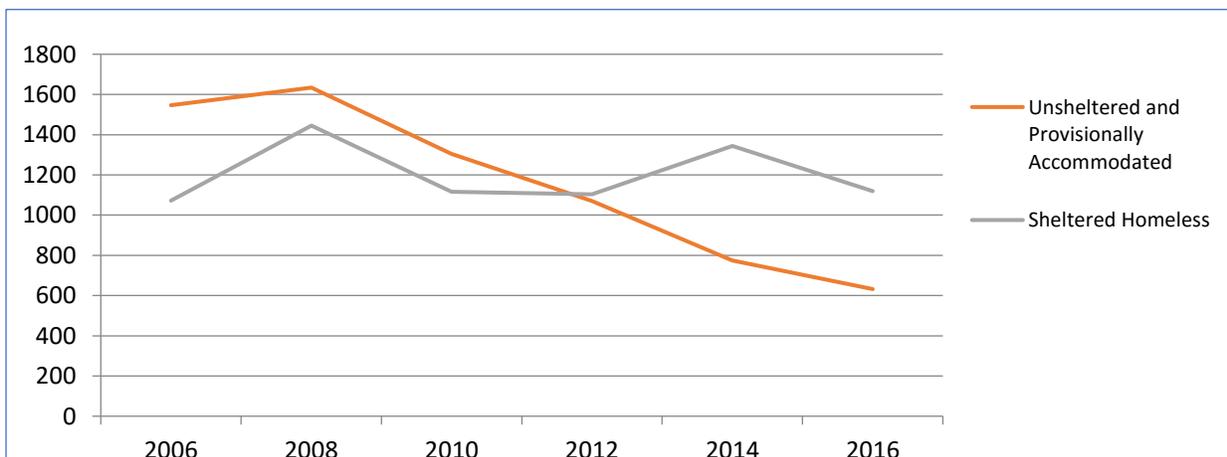
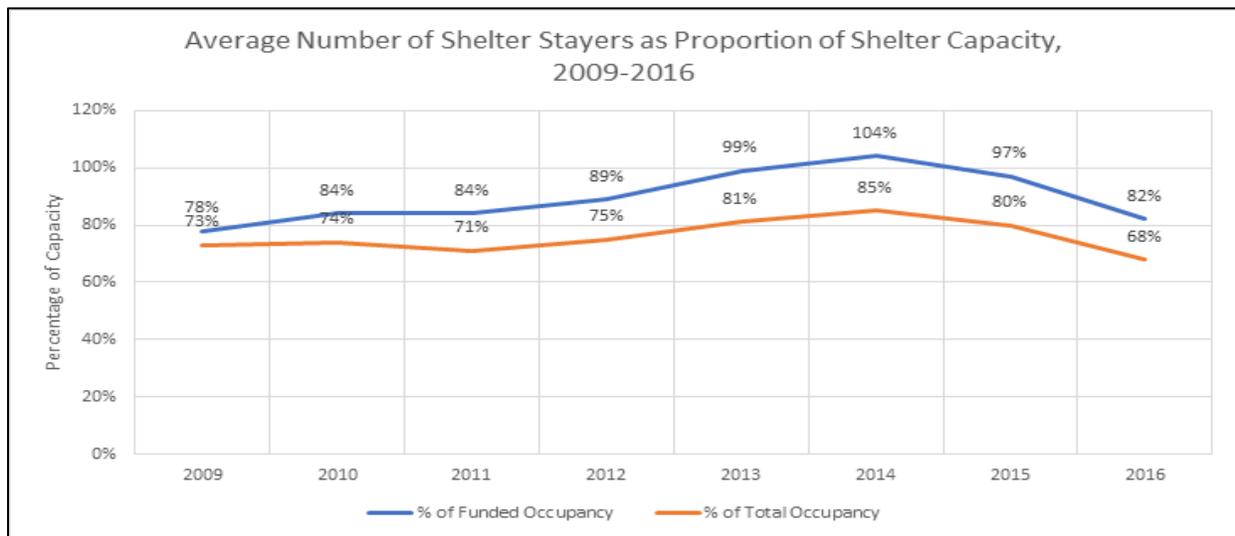


Figure 3: Trends in shelter capacity in Edmonton since 2009



Age

Table 5 illustrates the age breakdown of those identified as experiencing homelessness during the Count. A combination of survey and administrative data was used in the generation of these numbers.⁶ Adults age 25 to 64 years old were over-represented in the Homeless Count, compared to the general population, while children and seniors were under-represented. There have been large reductions in child and youth homelessness since 2014; the number of seniors (65 or over) and those in the 45-54 age group were also down significantly. In contrast, there was very little change amongst those 25-44 and 55-64 and the latter group may need supports targeted at older adults to address their challenges⁷.

The average age was 42 years old (44 years, if dependents are excluded). For female respondents, the average age was lower (38 years) compared with males (45 years).

⁶ Administrative data from smaller facilities only denoted age under 18 or over 18. There were 470 individuals in the over 18 group and these people were distributed proportionally into the adult (over 18) age groups. The numbers before and after this transformation are presented in [Appendix A](#).

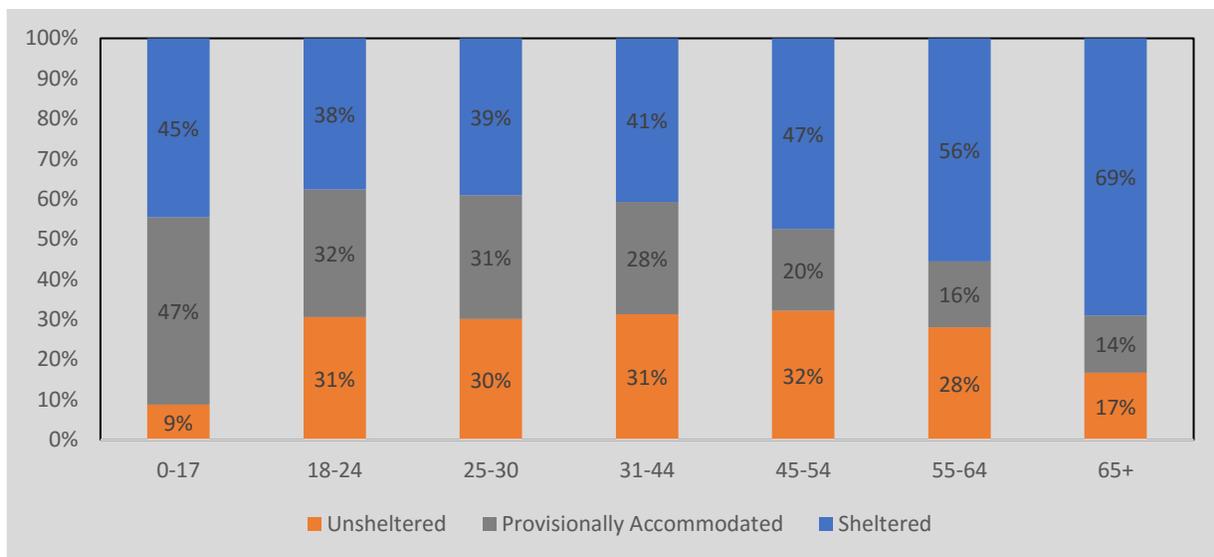
⁷ McDonald, L et al (2008); Living on the Margins: Older Homeless Adults in Toronto

Table 5: Age categories

Age Group	2016 Homeless Count	Change since 2014	% of Homeless Count	% of Edmonton Population ⁸
0-17	148	-197	8%	20%
18-24	157	-138	9%	9%
25-30	184	+18	11%	8%
31-44	498	-32	29%	23%
45-54	412	-158	24%	13%
55-64	295	-15	17%	13%
65+	58	-33	3%	14%

Where there was information on both the age and the sheltered status (in both survey and administrative data), the distribution of shelter status in different age groups was also examined (Figure 4). Seniors and children are least likely to be sleeping outside, but consistently through the adult population 30% of those experiencing homelessness were unsheltered.

Figure 4: Sheltered status in different age groups (N=1282)



Children and families

A total of 139 dependent children and 9 independent youth under the age of 18 were counted, which represents a 56% decrease from the 335 children counted in 2014. A majority of the dependent children were found staying in shelters, transitional housing, or government-sponsored hotels (Figure 4). However, a similar number were staying

⁸ City of Edmonton. “Municipal Census Results” 2016; https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/census/Summary%20Report%20of%20All%20Questions_EDMONTON_2016.pdf

at other people's houses. Respondents identified nine dependent children who were "sleeping rough" with the caregiver(s) surveyed: seven in public spaces and two in makeshift shelters/tents.

Since administrative data did not link dependents with caregiver(s), the total number of caregivers can only be estimated. Using the same method as in 2014⁹, the estimate for 2016 is a total of 80 caregivers, which is also a 56% reduction. For the 50 families who participated in the survey, we are able to examine family size and shelter status, shown below in Table 6. Among these, 60% of caregivers identified as Indigenous and 65% of the children they reported staying with them were with an Indigenous caregiver.

There are several factors that likely played a role in the notable decrease in the number of dependent children and families experiencing homelessness over the past two years: intensified effort in 2015 and 2016 to house families led to 246 families being housed through the Urgent Families Initiative; a provincial and federal increase in child tax benefits increased families' available income; and higher vacancy rates for residential units may have made units more accessible for families experiencing homelessness.

Table 6: Distribution of dependents in families (survey data)

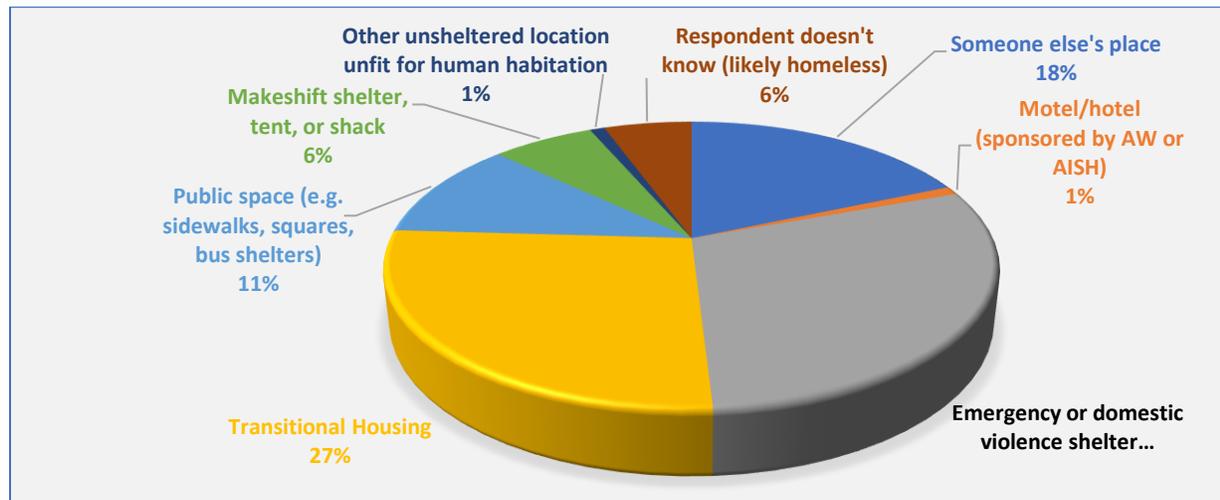
Number of children in family	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Provisionally Accommodated	Total number of families
1	1	6	17	24
2	1	4	9	14
3	2	2	5	9
4+	0	1	2	3
Total number of families	4	13	33	50

Youth

Youth numbers were also down dramatically, from an estimate of 340 in 2014 to about 170 this year. Youth were more likely to have reported spending the night at someone else's place than other age groups, but the majority stayed in shelters or transitional housing. A breakdown of where independent youth spent the night is shown in Figure 5. The number is almost half that counted by the survey in 2014.

⁹ An average of one caregiver per child in facilities, unless there are more children than caregivers

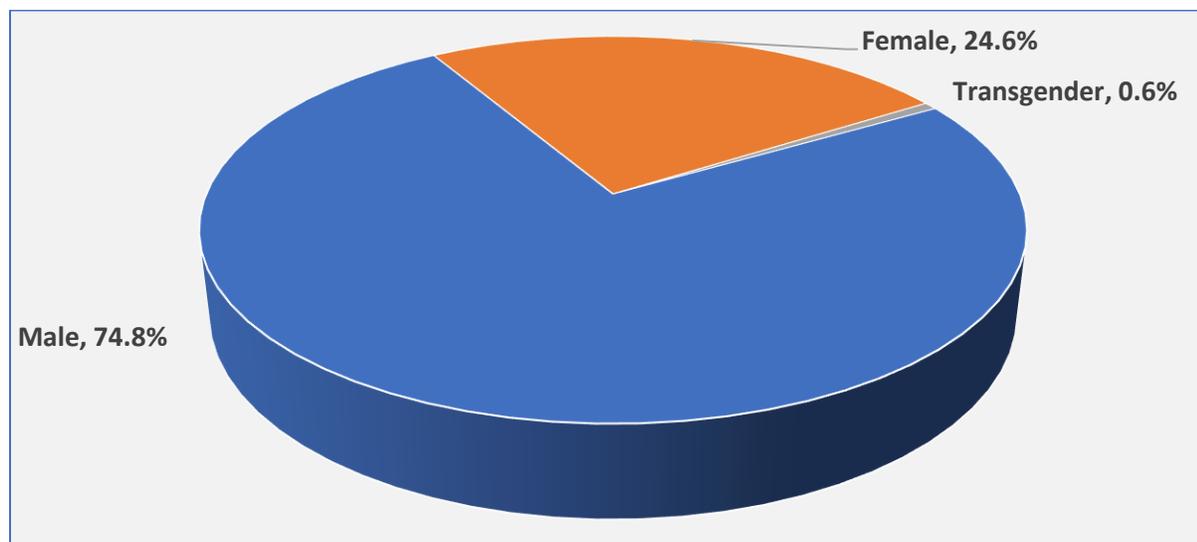
Figure 5: Where the 108 independent youth spent the night (survey data)



Gender

Females made up 25% of the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness, compared to 51% of the general population in Edmonton. Males comprised 75%, and individuals who identify as transgender or another gender identity less than 1%. However, it is important to consider that the administrative data from facilities includes only male/female gender status, and as a result transgender totals are likely to be underestimated.

Figure 6: Gender breakdown of homeless population in Edmonton (combined data)



Female respondents were more likely to have spent the night at someone's place than their male counterparts (16% vs. 9%); the same trend is seen for government-sponsored hotels (6% for females vs 2 % for males). Males were more likely to have spent the night at emergency shelters or transitional housing (Table 7).

Table 7: Gender differences in where respondents spent the night (combined data)

	Where the respondent spent the night	Male (N=1205)	Female (N=396)
Unsheltered (N=352)	Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, bus shelters)	11%	11%
	Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)	2%	1%
	Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack	5%	7%
	Abandoned/vacant building	1%	1%
	Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation	1%	1%
	Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	2%	3%
Sheltered (N=710)	Emergency or domestic violence shelter	42%	38%
	Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH)	2%	6%
Provisionally Accommodated (N=539)	Someone else's place	9%	16%
	Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	0%	1%
	Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AISH)	0%	1%
	Transitional Housing	23%	15%
Total (valid, N=1,601)		100%	100%

A high proportion of women staying at someone else's place raises concerns about the potential for exploitation (although the relationship between the respondent and the host is unknown in this survey). It is important to

recognize that having unstable housing is a risk factor for abuse, exploitation, trafficking for all genders, and women in particular.^{10 11}

Indigenous Identity

In comparison to 2014, the number of people identifying as Indigenous and experiencing homelessness decreased, but not as rapidly as among non-Indigenous Edmontonians.¹² The Indigenous category includes all individuals who identified as First Nations (status and non-status), Métis, Inuit or having Aboriginal ancestry. More than half (51%) of those experiencing homelessness identified as Indigenous; this is a significant over-representation for a group that comprised 5.3% of the population of Edmonton in 2011.¹³ A similar pattern was seen during the 2014 Count, where the proportion of Indigenous individuals in the homeless population surveyed was 46%.

Those identifying as Indigenous were more likely to be unsheltered, making up 62% of this population among those counted (Figure 7) and more likely to be female, making up 68% of the women (Figure 8). At the intersection of those traits, Indigenous women were 70 times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be unsheltered (Table 8). Given that there were fewer than 20 non-Indigenous women in this group, if the ratio among unsheltered women were the same as in the general population, there would have only been one Indigenous woman counted sleeping rough.

The patterns above indicate that there is clearly much work to be done in engaging the Indigenous population and providing appropriate services. Homelessness and patterns of homelessness among Indigenous populations in Canada has been linked to historical patterns of abuse, neglect, and discrimination, and can be seen in differences in socioeconomic status and other indicators.^{14 15 16}

¹⁰ Riley, ED et al (2007); Housing Patterns and Correlates of Homelessness Differ by Gender among Individuals Using San Francisco Free Food Programs; Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine, Vol. 84, No. 3.

¹¹ Canadian Women's Health Network (2012); <http://www.cwhn.ca/en/resources/primers/housing>

¹² Population statistics from the 2016 census are not yet available for Indigenous identity. If the Indigenous population is growing quickly in Edmonton, it could be that the rate of homelessness among Indigenous people declined as rapidly as among non-Indigenous people.

¹³ This number includes imputation of missing data and so is slightly higher than the one released in the preliminary report.

¹⁴ <http://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/indigenous-peoples>

¹⁵ Leach, Andrew (2010); The Roots of Aboriginal Homelessness in Canada; Parity, Vol. 23, No. 9, Nov 2010: 12-13,

¹⁶ Belanger, YD & Awosoga, O (2013); Homelessness, Urban Aboriginal People, and the Need for a National Enumeration; APS Vol. 2, no. 2, 2013 pp4-33

Figure 7: Sheltered status of respondents by Indigenous status (combined survey and admin data)

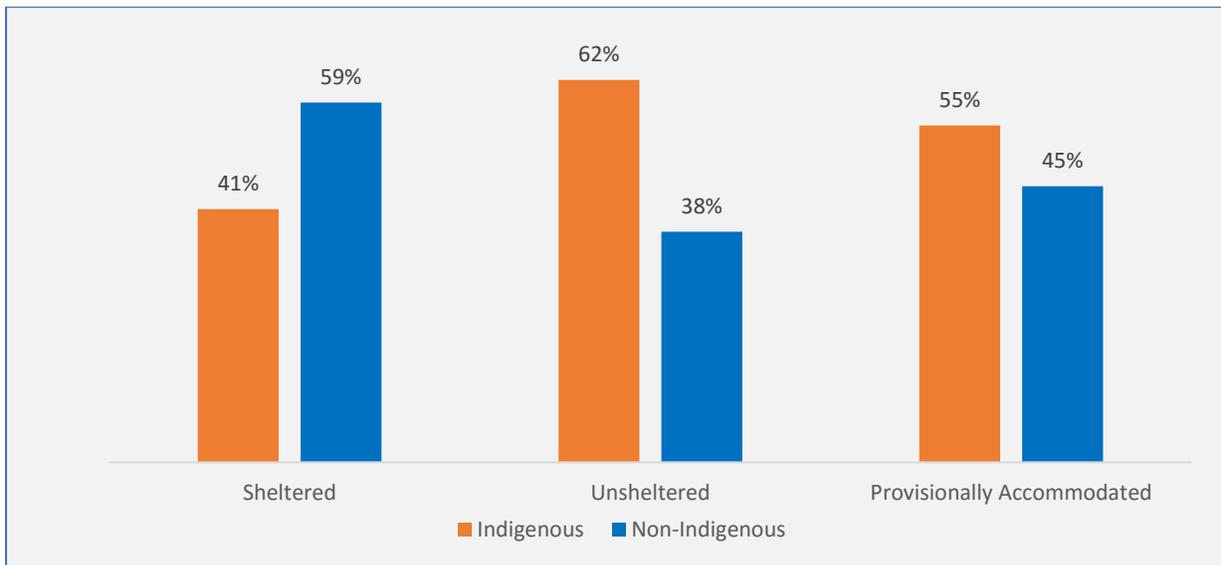


Figure 8: Indigenous identity and gender

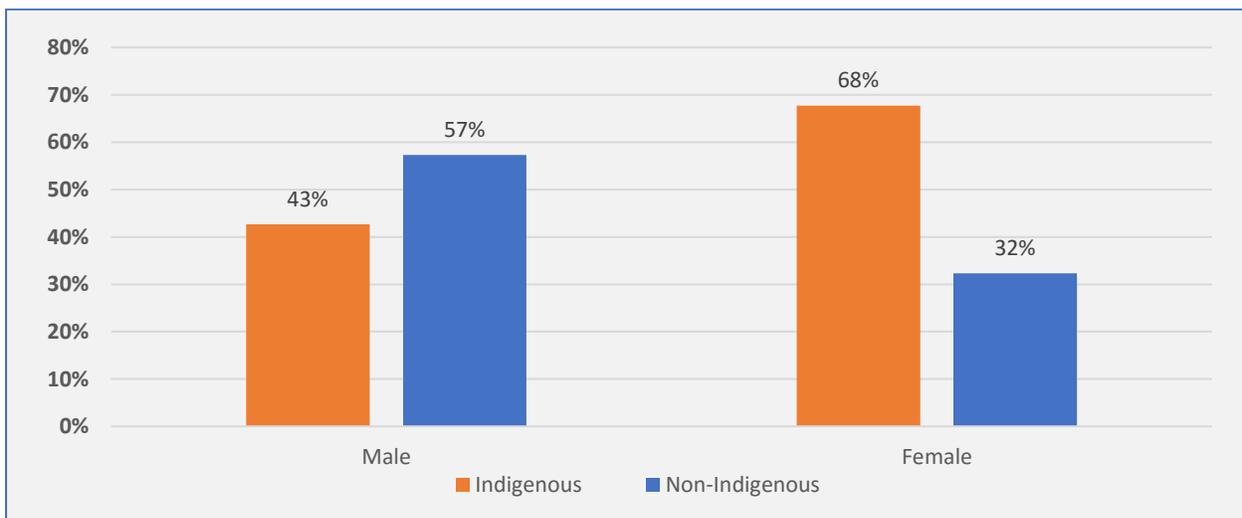


Table 8: Gender and Indigenous status breakdowns in different sheltered categories

	Male		Female	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Sheltered	35%	65%	63%	37%
Unsheltered	58%	42%	80%	20%
Provisionally Accommodated	50%	50%	58%	42%

RESULTS & ANALYSIS PART 2: SURVEY

No administrative data was provided for the following questions, so the only responses available are from those who completed the survey. A total of 4,017 individuals were approached and 1,202 consented to participate and were screened in to participate (Table 9). Surveys were completed with 67% of adults who were enumerated in shelter or in Human Services-sponsored hotels and with 46% of those in enumerated in transitional housing. All unsheltered participants who were enumerated completed at least part of the survey (table in Appendix A).

Table 9: Breakdown of survey data collection and numbers

Total individuals approached	4,017
# declined	694
# already interviewed	279
# missing all data	29
# who had NOT been surveyed AND who consented	3,015
# who had a permanent residence of their own	1,582
# who had a permanent residence, which was "someone else's place"	133
# who did not answer permanent residence or where they stayed	46
Baseline after first two screening questions	1,254
# who said stayed at their "own apartment/house"	52
Baseline for survey data	1,202

LGBQ2 Identity

A total of 86 survey respondents identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or two-spirited, corresponding to 8% of valid responses. As this is the first time this question is asked in the Homeless Count survey, it is not possible to compare to previous years. Female respondents were more likely to identify as LGBQ2 (13% vs. 5% of male respondents). Youth were also much more likely to identify as LGBQ2 (21%) and young females especially so (28%). Older generations were progressively less likely to identify as LGBQ2, with the exception of seniors 65 or over, 10% of whom identified with this group.

Chronic homelessness

Chronic homelessness refers to individuals who have been homeless for at least a year or have four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Of those where this information was provided, 59% of individuals were chronically homeless (Figure 9). This number is a correction from what was presented in the preliminary report. Figure 10 shows that chronically homeless were staying in all sorts of places, but were especially prominent among those who were unsheltered.

Figure 9: Proportion of cohort that are chronically homeless (N=1,076)

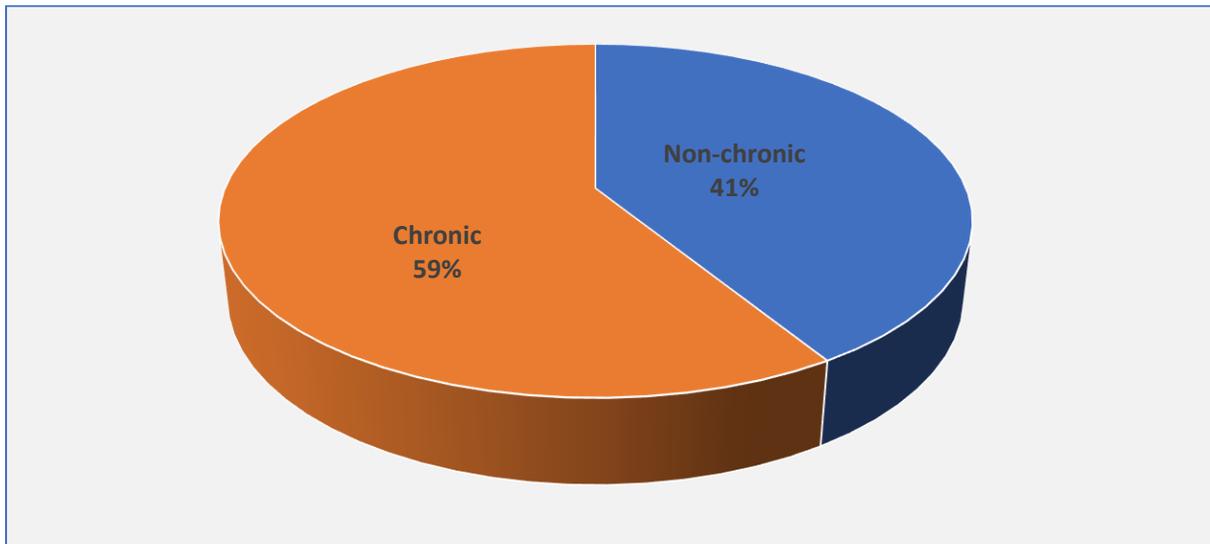


Figure 10: Breakdown of sheltered status by chronicity of homelessness (N=1,076)



As the 2014 Homeless Count did not include a question on duration of homelessness (only number of episodes), it is not possible to make a reliable comparison with this year’s figure.

The average length of time a person experienced homelessness (1,050 responses) was 3.5 years, with a median of 1 year. However, the average for Indigenous respondents was much higher at 4.2 years, compared to 2.8 years for non-Indigenous respondents. Indigenous individuals are more likely to be homeless than non-Indigenous

counterparts¹⁷ for various historical and socioeconomic reasons and often face unique barriers to housing¹⁸. Along with the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the homeless population and among the unsheltered, this indicator shows clearly that there is a long way to go to close the gap between non-Indigenous and Indigenous people.

Veteran status

A total of 70 individuals (6% of respondents) identified as having served with the Canadian military (63), the RCMP (4), or both (3). Over a third of veterans (34%) were “sleeping rough”, either in public spaces, makeshift shelters or vehicles.

The proportion of veterans was the same in the 2014 Count. This continuing trend suggests a gap in access to veteran services, a lack of knowledge of resources available or a combination thereof. Characteristics that may be more likely in veterans, and that have been identified as risk factors for homelessness, include physical disabilities, depression, and PTSD¹⁹ ²⁰. Individuals with these risk factors have unique needs, for which services may not always be accessible or even appropriate.

Migrant status and time in Edmonton

A small number of individuals (37) indicated that they were immigrants or refugees in Canada in the past five years, representing just 3% of responses to this question. Among the survey respondents, most (75%) had been in Edmonton for at least five years, but families were more likely to be new to the city within the past 6 months (Tables 10-11).

¹⁷ Patrick, Carly (2014); Aboriginal Homelessness in Canada - A Literature Review; Canadian Homelessness Research Network <http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/AboriginalLiteratureReview.pdf>

¹⁸ <http://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/indigenous-peoples>

¹⁹ Pare, JR (2011); Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Mental Health of Military Veterans; <http://www.lop.parl.gc.ca/content/lop/ResearchPublications/2011-97-e.pdf>

²⁰ Tsai, J et al (2013); Latent Homeless Risk Profiles of a National Sample of Homeless Veterans and Their Relation to Program Referral and Admission Patterns; <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2013.301322>

Table 10: Length of time survey respondents have been in Edmonton (N=1,188)

	Respondents	%
<6mo	106	9%
<1yr	145	12%
<2yrs	181	15%
<3yrs	230	19%
<5yrs	292	25%
>=5yrs	896	75%
Total	1188	100%

Table 11: Length of time in Edmonton by family status (N=1,167)

	Singles	Families
<6mo	8%	26%
<1yr	12%	30%
<2yrs	15%	30%
<3yrs	19%	34%
<5yrs	24%	38%
>=5yrs	76%	62%
Total	100%	100%

NB: Results are cumulative up to the 5-year mark

Migrants from Fort McMurray

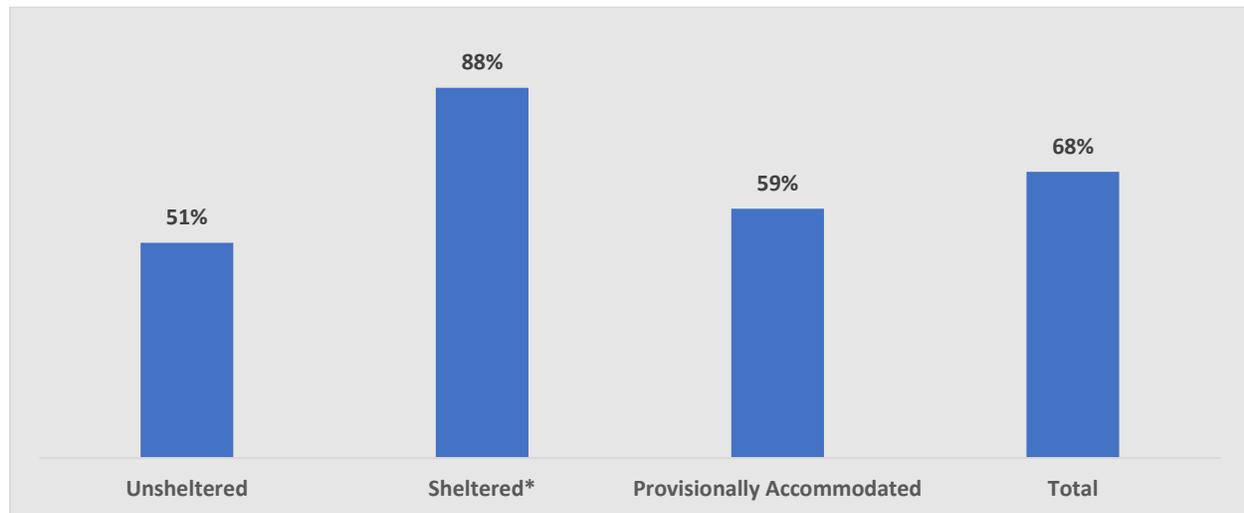
Fort McMurray was hit by destructive wildfires in May 2016, which caused significant structural, environmental, and economic damage; this resulted in the displacement of residents across the province and throughout Canada. It was possible that some of these individuals may have ended up homeless in Edmonton. Enumerators surveyed 10 individuals experiencing homelessness who came to Edmonton from Fort McMurray in the six months prior to the survey (from just before the wildfires). The other 14 individuals reported having been in Edmonton for at least one year.

Emergency shelter usage in the 12 months prior to the survey

Overall, 68% of respondents had stayed at an emergency shelter at least once in the 12 months preceding the Count (Figure 11). Just 59% of the provisionally accommodated and 51% of those unsheltered and identified having used a shelter in this time period. This suggests that services in shelter will reach the majority of people experiencing homelessness, but that a significant population must be reached through other means, including the 170 unsheltered individuals who answered “No” to this question.

Out of 1,188 individuals in the survey cohort, 1,123 provided valid answers (50 refused to answer, 11 were unsure, and no response was given for 4). All of the individuals who identified as transgender reported using an emergency shelter in the 12 months preceding the survey, compared to 65% and 68% of female and male respondents, respectively. This question was not asked in 2014, so comparisons are not possible.

Figure 11: Proportion of survey respondents that had stayed at an emergency shelter in the last 12 months



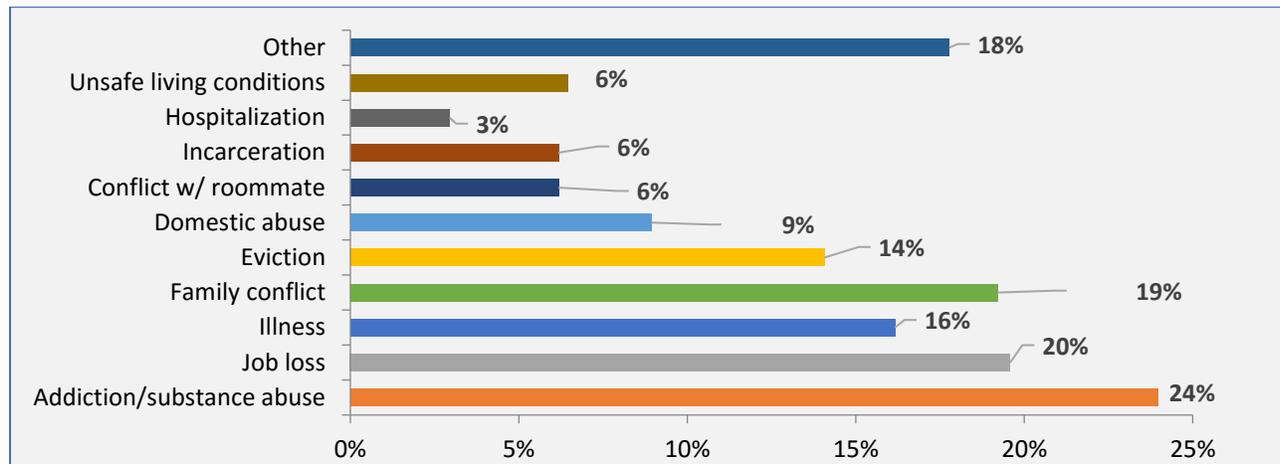
**Most of the people who answered “No” in this category were staying in domestic violence shelters, seniors shelters or other facilities that might not be considered “emergency”, however some were clearly in emergency shelters, including those explicitly named in the question.*

Reasons for most recent episode of homelessness

Respondents were asked about the reasons for their latest episode of homelessness, naming as many factors as were relevant. The results are presented in Figure 12 as the proportion of respondents who indicated a particular contributing factor. Nearly a quarter of respondents considered addiction or substance use a contributor to their experience of homelessness; job loss (20%), family conflict (19%), illness (16%) and eviction (14%) were also cited by numerous respondents.

Responses in the “other” category (18%) that were not captured by the survey responses included: death of a parent/spouse, financial problems, inability to pay for pest control, rent increase, inability to obtain lease due to credit issues, and a loss of housing due to fire (half from Fort McMurray and half elsewhere).

Figure 12: Proportion of respondents citing reason as a contributing factor to their homelessness



NB: Multiple responses were possible for this question, so totals do not add to 100%.

Results were also stratified by Indigenous identity. Non-Indigenous respondents cited job loss more frequently as a reason for their experience of homelessness (26% vs. 15%). Indigenous respondents reported eviction or family conflict as a contributor more often.

Over a quarter (28%) of Indigenous respondents indicated that addiction or substance use was a contributing factor versus a fifth (19%) of non-Indigenous respondents. Although the trend of drug use and Indigenous identity is often stereotyped, it actually highlights the probability that programmes intended to address the underlying social, economic, cultural health and other issues are not reaching the Indigenous population, and therefore not adequately addressing the symptoms of a much larger problem.²¹ Drug and substance abuse, while often touted as behavioural and (semi) voluntary phenomena, are much more often an indicator of long-standing and deeper problems in the individuals' lives. This complex web of intersecting issues includes economic disparity, inequities in access to education and employment opportunities, discrimination (conscious or otherwise) in employment and housing opportunities, differences in access to available health and social services (including due to mistrust), and many other reasons.^{22 23}

In addition, many of the issues that culminate in addictions and mental health issues span generations of the same families, and are known to be directly related to the trauma inflicted on Indigenous peoples through Canada's history. The impacts of this historical discrimination and the resulting structural violence reverberate in the

²¹ Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (2011); TARP Final Report; <http://www.tassc.ca/assets/tarp-final-report2011.pdf>

²² Saah, T (2005); The evolutionary origins and significance of drug addiction; *Harm Reduction Journal* 2005
DOI: 10.1186/1477-7517-2-8

²³ Lende, DH (2002); Evolution meets biopsychosociality: an analysis of addictive behavior; *Addiction*
DOI: 10.1046/j.1360-0443.2002.00022.x

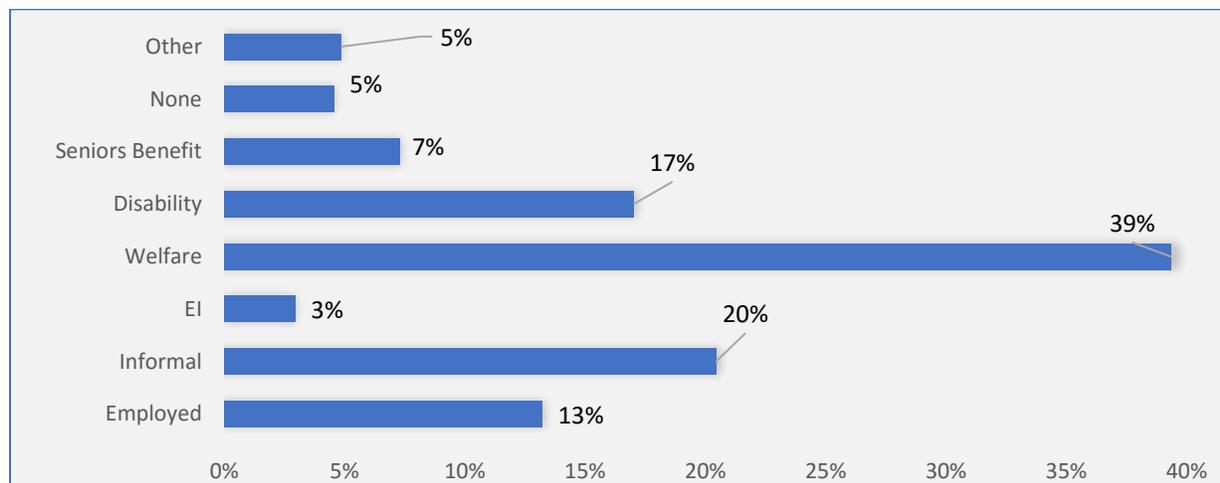
Indigenous population to this day, culminating in more fragile social, familial, and economic coping mechanisms in the context of changing circumstances.^{24 25 26}

Income sources for survey respondents

Volunteers asked individuals about their sources of income. Like the question in the previous section, respondents could give as many answers as were relevant. The results are therefore presented in a similar manner, with the number of responses not necessarily adding up to the number of individuals. A total of 1,052 respondents answered the question of income source.

Welfare, informal employment and disability benefits, and formal employment were the most commonly cited income sources overall, at 39%, 20%, 17% and 13% respectively (Figure 13). Informal employment included self employment, panhandling and bottle collecting among other activities.

Figure 13: Proportion of respondents citing income source



NB: Multiple responses were possible for this question, so totals do not add to 100%.

The results were further analyzed by Indigenous identity (Figure 20). Indigenous respondents were less likely to be employed or receive senior’s benefits than their non-Indigenous counterparts and were more likely to earn money

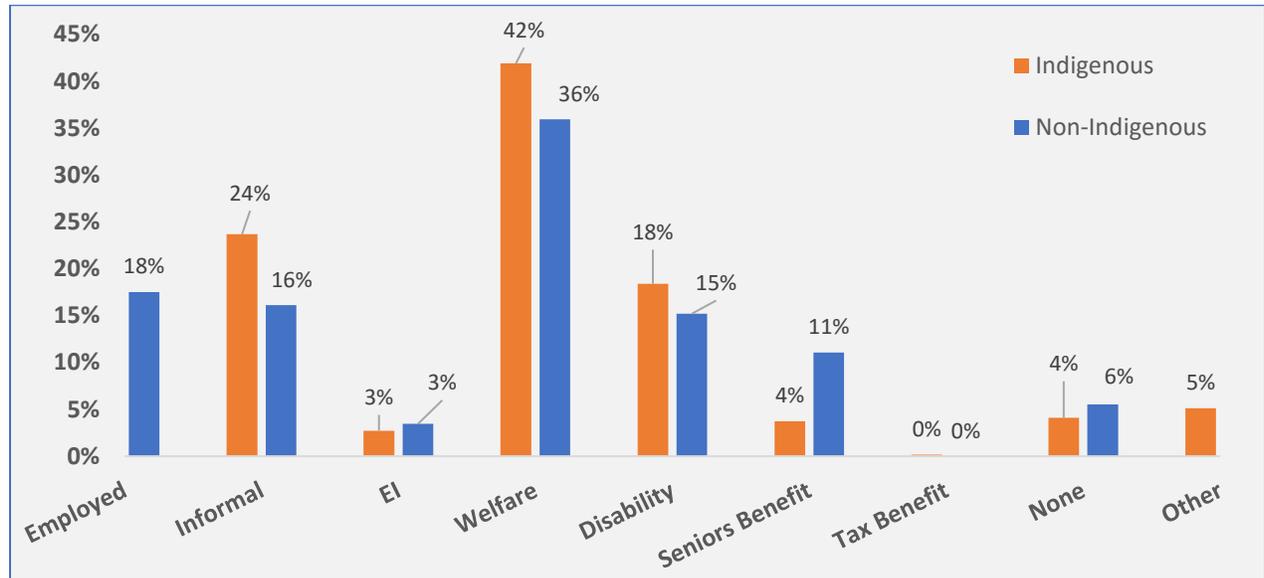
²⁴ Smye, V et al (2011); Harm reduction, methadone maintenance treatment and the root causes of health and social inequities: An intersectional lens in the Canadian context; *Harm Reduction Journal* 2011, 8:17

²⁵ Waldram, J et al (2006); *Aboriginal Health in Canada: Historical, Cultural, and Epidemiological Perspectives*; ISBN-10: 0802085792

²⁶ Ruttan, L et al (2008); “A Story I Never Heard Before”: Aboriginal Young Women, Homelessness, and Restoring Connections; *Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal and Indigenous Community Health*, 6(3) 2008 3

from informal employment and report receiving welfare or disability benefits. Again, this highlights the probable presence of different underlying structural and social factors within Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

Figure 14: Proportion of respondents citing Income source, by indigenous identity



NB: multiple responses were possible for this question.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The 2016 Homeless Count was conducted on October 19 and October 20 with the participation of volunteers and relevant agencies. Survey coverage spanned strategically predetermined walking routes, parkland areas, ravines, single locations, transportation centres, and different shelter, provisional, and interim housing providers. Other agencies provided administrative data.

A total of 1,756 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness. Breakdowns in proportions of women, Indigenous persons, veterans, and immigrants were similar to those seen in 2014. The patterns showed downward trends in the number of children and families identifying as homeless, which may speak to recent initiatives to house families in Edmonton.

The relatively unchanged numbers for Indigenous individuals and veterans suggests that efforts to engage these populations may not be reaching the intended audiences, despite an apparent increase in those targeting specific groups, such as the Indigenous homeless population. Whether this is due to acceptability, access, or even simply knowledge of these services and how to access them, the pattern suggests that these may need deeper scrutiny to understand why the numbers remain consistently elevated over the years.

From the lessons learned in the 2016 Homeless Count, there are a number of recommendations for future Counts. These include:

- Continue to conduct day counts – despite having full coverage on the streets of Edmonton between 7-10 PM, enumerators found more than 200 people experiencing homelessness the following day who had not been surveyed the prior night.
- Reconsider the amount of resources (time, people, logistics) allocated to a night count (or the utility of having a night count). Alternatively, consider modifying the design, particularly if the goal is to be able to reach those staying in parks, ravines, etc. Most people who reported staying in tents, makeshift shelters or public spaces were surveyed in city streets, rather than on parkland. While team members were equipped with flashlights and reflective vests, the early start time still resulted in some challenges with visibility.
- Review data collection tools specifically for Indigenous and veteran respondents. Consider adding further questions on knowledge about and usage of available services; this could be implemented for all respondents and stratified in the analysis.
 - If this is not adopted within the Homeless Count, then separate initiatives should be considered to understand the challenges seen over the past years in Indigenous and veteran homelessness.
- Strengthen/revise the question on immigration/migration. Currently it is understood as asking whether the person is an immigrant or a refugee. Together with the question about where the person came from if they had not been in Edmonton their entire life, this created some confusion/uncertainty in the responses. Ideally, the question would look at all respondents who moved to Edmonton, asking whether they were refugees, immigrants, or within-country migrants, as well as where they moved from.
- Consider including a sub-query in the existing question on income source, to look at specifics (full-time, part-time, casual, etc.). This would allow greater detection of any changes over time in the economic profile of the homeless populations.
- Continue the use of electronic data collection tool, as it proved to be user-friendly and efficient. However, in terms of logistics, strengthen the issuing, recording and collection of devices (or follow up on those using their own) to avoid delayed upload of data.

Appendix A: Data tables

A full set of cross-tabulation data for any two variables in the dataset is available online at homewardtrust.ca/what-weve-learned/publications. The following tables are information referenced in the report above and a summary of all imputations made to address missing data.

Table 12: Age groups of those experiencing homelessness in Edmonton, with and without forecasting of missing data (combined data)

	Actual (N=1752)		Estimate accounting for unknowns (N=1752)	
	n	% (valid)	n	%
0-17	148	12%	148	8%
18-24	85	7%	120	7%
25-30	133	10%	188	11%
31-44	361	28%	511	29%
45-54	299	23%	423	24%
55-64	214	17%	303	17%
65+	42	3%	59	3%
unknown	470		0	
Total (valid)	1282	100%	1752	100%

Table 13: Breakdown of Indigenous status before and after forecasting of unknowns (combined data)

	With unknowns	With forecasting of unknowns
non-Indigenous	52%	49%
Indigenous	48%	51%

Table 14: Breakdown of where respondents spent the night, by Indigenous status (combined data)

	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	unknown	Total
Someone else's place	132	84	0	216
Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	6	6	0	12
Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH)	15	40	0	55
Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AISH)	6	10	0	16
Emergency or domestic violence shelter	293	397	0	690
Transitional Housing	196	179	0	375
Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks)	121	66	0	187
Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)	7	16	0	23
Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack	64	33		97
Abandoned/vacant building	9	3	0	12
Other unsheltered location unfit for hum	8	3	0	11
Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	24	20	0	44
Refused to answer	0	0	14	14
Total	881	857	14	1752

Table 15: Indigenous identity and sheltered status with and without forecasting of missing data (combined data)

	Combined survey/admin with missing identity data		Combined survey admin with extrapolated identity data	
	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Indigenous	non-Indigenous
Sheltered	36%	64%	41%	59%
Unsheltered	64%	36%	62%	38%
Provisionally Accommodated	54%	46%	55%	45%

Table 16: Gender and indigenous identity breakdown with and without forecasting of missing data (combined data)

	Gender breakdown with missing data		Gender breakdown with forecast	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Indigenous	43%	68%	45%	65%
non-Indigenous	57%	32%	55%	35%

Table 17: Where did the respondent spend the night? (combined survey and administrative data totals)

	N	% (total)	% (valid)
Someone else's place	216	12.3%	12.4%
Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	12	0.7%	0.7%
Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH)	55	3.1%	3.2%
Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AISH)	16	0.9%	0.9%
Emergency or domestic violence shelter	690	39.4%	39.7%
Transitional Housing	375	21.4%	21.6%
Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, p	187	10.7%	10.8%
Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)	23	1.3%	1.3%
Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack	97	5.5%	5.6%
Abandoned/vacant building	12	0.7%	0.7%
Other unsheltered location unfit for hum	11	0.6%	0.6%
Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	44	2.5%	2.5%
Declined to answer (and no Perm Res)	14	0.8%	
Total	1752		

Table 18 : Where did the respondent spend the night? (survey data only)

	N	%
Someone else's place	186	16%
Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	9	1%
Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH)	16	1%
Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AIS)	14	1%
Emergency or domestic violence shelter	439	37%
Transitional Housing	159	13%
Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, bus shelters)	181	15%
Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)	23	2%
Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack	95	8%
Abandoned/vacant building	12	1%
Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation	10	1%
Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	44	4%
Total	1,188	100%

Table 19: Gender differences in where respondents spent the night (combined data)

	Male		Female		Transgender/ot her		Total	
	n	%	n	%	N	%	n	%
Someone else's place	113	9%	62	16%	4	36%	179	11%
Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	6	0%	3	1%	0	0%	9	1%
Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH)	30	2%	25	6%	0	0%	55	3%
Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AIS)	6	0%	5	1%	0	0%	11	1%
Emergency or domestic violence shelter	506	42%	149	38%	0	0%	655	41%
Transitional Housing	283	23%	61	15%	0	0%	344	21%
Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, bus shelters)	130	11%	42	11%	5	45%	177	11%
Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)	20	2%	3	1%	0	0%	23	1%
Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack	62	5%	29	7%	0	0%	91	6%
Abandoned/vacant building	10	1%	2	1%	0	0%	12	1%
Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation	9	1%	3	1%	0	0%	12	1%
Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	30	2%	12	3%	2	18%	44	3%
Total (valid)	1205	100%	396	100%	11	100%	1612	100%

Table 20: Where the surveyed veterans spent the night (N=70)

Where the respondent spent the night	Number of veterans
Emergency or domestic violence shelter	30
Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, bus shelters)	11
Transitional Housing	6
Makeshift shelter, tent, or shack	6
Someone else's place	5
Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)	4
Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	3
Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre	2
Motel/hotel (sponsored by AW or AISH)	2
Motel/hotel (NOT sponsored by AW or AIS)	1
Total	70

Table 21: Length of time in Edmonton for singles and families (survey data only)

	Singles	Families	Missing	Total
<6mo	92	13		105
<1yr	129	15		144
<2yrs	165	15		180
<3yrs	212	17		229
<5yrs	272	19	1	291
>=5yrs	845	31	20	876
Total	1117	50	21	1188

Appendix B: Locations covered by Homeless Count 2016

Table 22: Facilities that provided administrative data for occupants on the night of October 19

Facility
Addiction Recovery Centre
Alberta Works (hotel vouchers)
Bent Arrow Iskwew
Catholic Social Services Alpha for Men
Catholic Social Services La Salle
Catholic Social Services Safehouse
Catholic Social Services Valeda House
E4C Crossroads Downtown
E4C WEAC
Edmonton John Howard Society NOVA
Edmonton John Howard Society The Loft
George Spady Detox
George Spady Place of Dignity
George Spady Shelter
Henwood
Hope Mission Herb Jamieson
Hope Mission Intox
Hope Mission Mat
Hope Mission Women's
Hope Mission Youth
Jellinek Society
Lurana Shelter
McDougall House
Recovery Acres
Sage Seniors Safe House
Salvation Army Addictions and Residential Centre
Urban Manor
Wings of Providence
WIN House
YESS Nexus
YESS Shanoa's Place / Graham's Place

Table 23: Location of sites covered by survey teams

Individual Agencies	Transit	Parks	Bottle Depots
Bissell Centre Drop-in	<u>LRT Stations</u>	Airway	Capilano
Bissell Centre Intake	Bay/Enterprise Sq.	Capilano	City Centre
Boyle McCauley Health Centre	Belvedere	Dawson	Clareview
Boyle Street Community Centre	Central	Forest Heights	Fort Road
Christian Care Centre	Century Park	Hermitage	Millwoods
City Centre Mall	Churchill	Kinnaird	Quasar
Downtown YMCA Housing	Coliseum	Kinsmen	Strathcona
Elizabeth House/WEAC	Corona	Louise McKinney	
Father's House	Health Sciences/Jubilee	Mill Creek Ravine	
George Spady Detox	McKernan/Belgravia	Queen Elizabeth	
Hope Mission Main Building	Southgate	Queen Mary	
Hope Mission: Herb Jamieson Centre	Stadium	Rundle/Gold Bar	
Hope Mission: Mat Program	University	Victoria	
Hope Mission: Women's Shelter			
Marian Centre	<u>Transit Centres</u>		
Mustard Seed	Jasper Place		
OSYS	West Edmonton Mall		
Operation Friendship			
Prime Staffing			
Rock Lutheran Inner City Society			
Salvation Army: Addiction/Residential Centre			
Stanley Milner Library			
YESS Armoury			

Figure 15: Map of 32 walking routes covered over the course of the Homeless Count

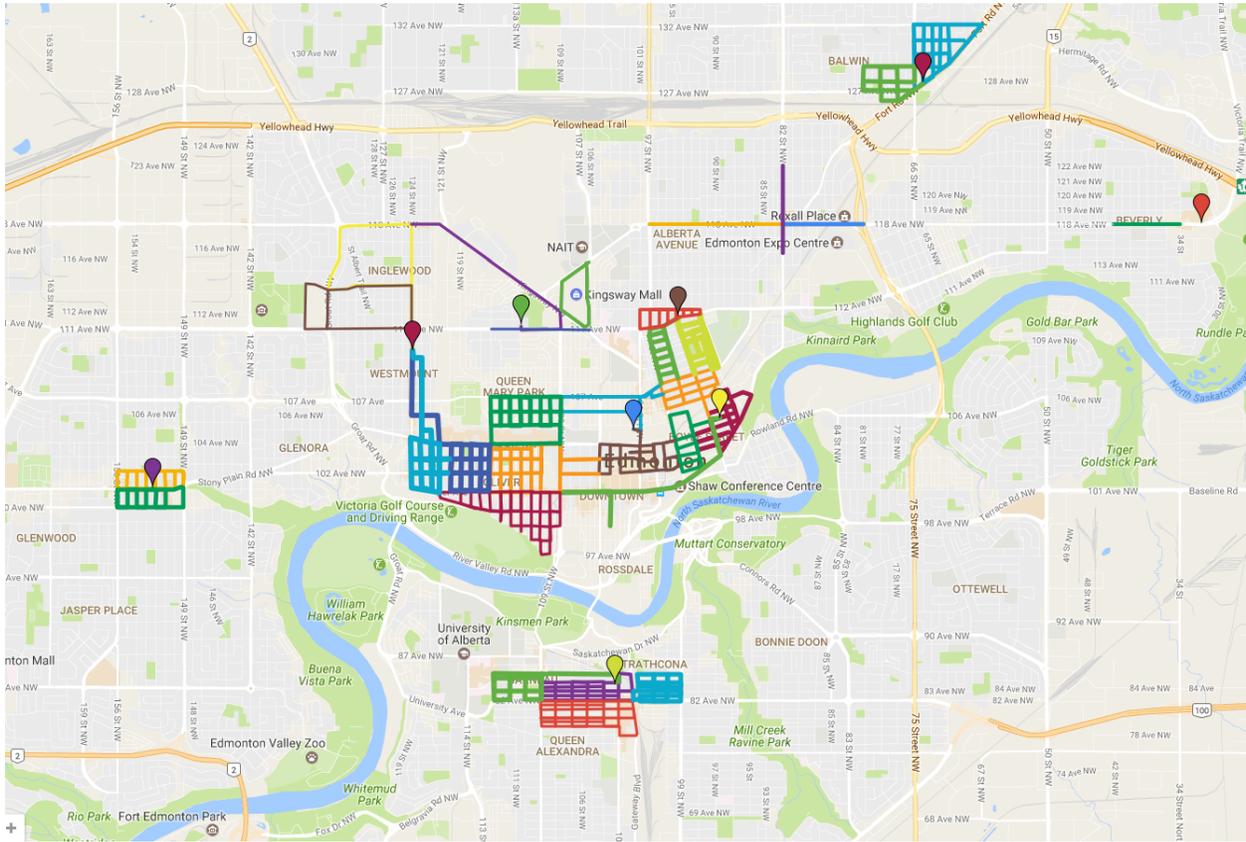
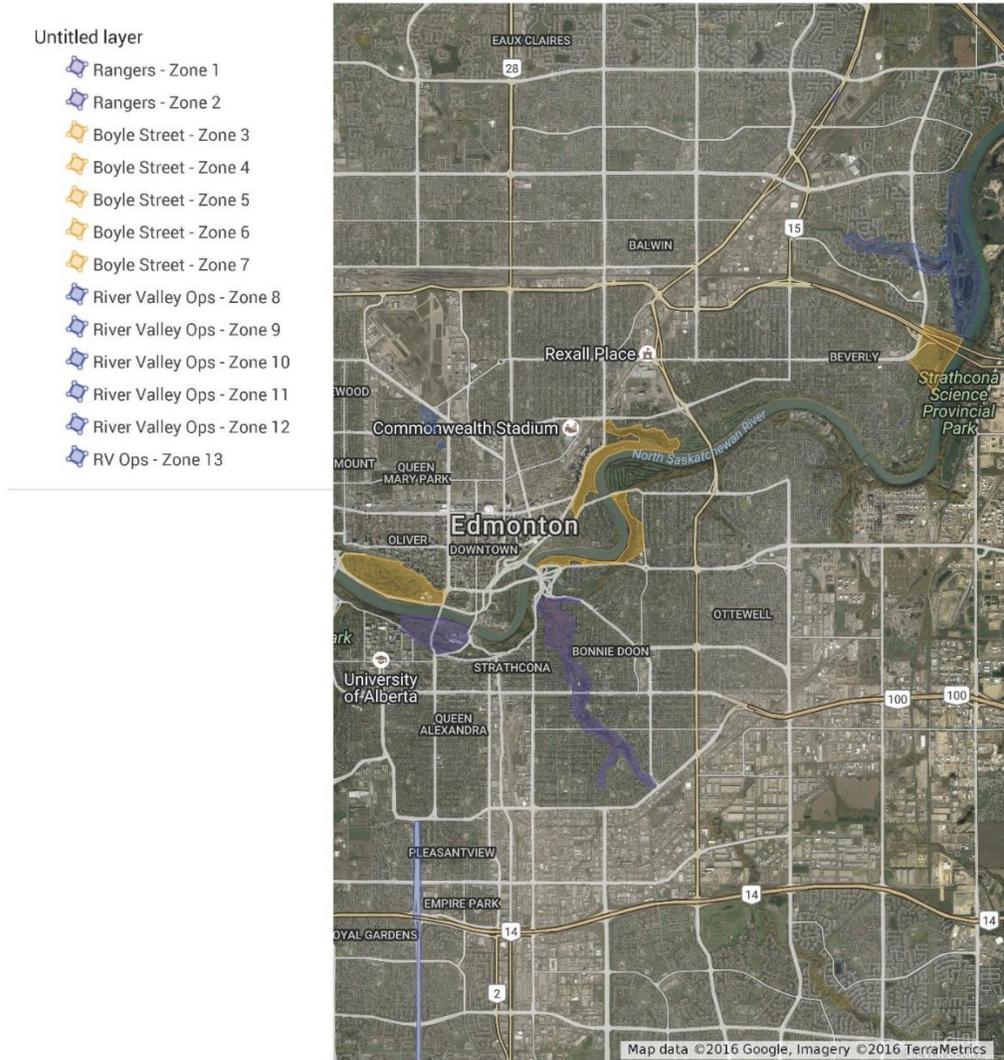


Figure 16: Map of parkland coverage during the Homeless Count

Homeless Count



Appendix C: Survey tools

Figure 16: First page of survey for night count

October 19, 2016 Homeless Count - Walking Route/Single Sites (PLEASE SHADE CIRCLES)

Hello my name is _____. I am a volunteer conducting a survey on housing. The information collected will be used to plan programs and services for people experiencing homelessness. We do not need your name and your responses will not identify you individually. You can end the survey at any time.

Have you answered this survey with a person in this vest already? YES (thank and end survey) NO

Location: Time:

SCREENING QUESTIONS

Q1. Are you willing to participate in this survey?
 Yes No (thank and end survey)

Q2. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight? Yes No Don't Know Decline To Answer

If respondent answered YES to Q2:

Q3. What type of residence is your permanent residence?
 Decline To Answer (end survey)
 Own Apartment/House (end survey)
 Hospital, Jail, Prison or Remand Centre
 Motel/Hotel Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Someone Else's Place (Friends/Family)
 Motel/Hotel Not Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 Transitional Housing
 Public Space (Sidewalks, Squares, Parks, Forests, Bus Shelter)
 Vehicle (Van, Car, RV, Truck)
 Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack
 Abandoned/Vacant Building
 Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation
 Specify: _____
 Respondent Doesn't Know

Q4. Where are you staying tonight?
 Decline To Answer (end survey)
 Own Apartment/House (end survey)
 Hospital, Jail, Prison or Remand Centre
 Motel/Hotel Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Someone Else's Place
 Motel/Hotel Not Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 Transitional Housing
 Public Space (Sidewalks, Squares, Parks, Forests, Bus Shelter)
 Vehicle (Van, Car, RV, Truck)
 Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack
 Abandoned/Vacant Building
 Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation
 Specify: _____
 Respondent Doesn't Know [likely homeless]

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1. What family members are staying with you tonight?
 Decline To Answer
 None
 Partner
 Other Adult (Specify Relationship: _____)
 Children/Dependents Under Age of 18

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gender										
Age										

Q2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born?
 Age (In Years): ____ OR Year Born: _____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q3. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes Métis, Inuit and First Nations with or without Status.
 Yes (specify below)
 First Nations
 Métis
 Inuit
 Non-Status or Have Aboriginal Ancestry
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q4. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?
 Yes
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Figure 17: First page of survey for day count

October 20, 2016 Homeless Count - Walking Route/Single Sites (PLEASE SHADE CIRCLES)

Hello my name is _____. I am a volunteer conducting a survey on housing. The information collected will be used to plan programs and services for people experiencing homelessness. We do not need your name and your responses will not identify you individually. You can end the survey at any time.

Have you answered this survey with a person in this vest already? YES (thank and end survey) NO

Location: Time:

SCREENING QUESTIONS

Q1. Are you willing to participate in this survey?
 Yes No (thank and end survey)

Q2. Did you have a permanent residence you could return to last night? Yes No Don't Know Decline To Answer

If respondent answered YES to Q2:

Q3. What type of residence is your permanent residence?
 Decline To Answer (end survey)
 Own Apartment/House (end survey)
 Hospital, Jail, Prison or Remand Centre
 Someone Else's Place (Friend/Family)
 Motel/Hotel Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Motel/Hotel Not Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 Transitional Housing
 Public Space (Sidewalks, Squares, Parks, Forests, Bus Shelter)
 Vehicle (Van, Car, RV, Truck)
 Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack
 Abandoned/Vacant Building
 Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation
 Specify: _____
 Respondent Doesn't Know

Q4. Where did you stay last night?
 Own Apartment/House (end survey)
 Decline To Answer (end survey)
 Hospital, Jail, Prison or Remand Centre
 Someone Else's Place (Friend/Family)
 Motel/Hotel Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Motel/Hotel Not Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 Transitional Housing
 Public Space (Sidewalks, Squares, Parks, Forests, Bus Shelter)
 Vehicle (Van, Car, RV, Truck)
 Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack
 Abandoned/Vacant Building
 Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation
 Specify: _____
 Respondent Doesn't Know [likely homeless]

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1. What family members stayed with you last night?
 Decline To Answer
 None
 Partner
 Other Adult (Specify Relationship: _____)
 Children/Dependents Under Age of 18

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gender										
Age										

Q2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born?
 Age (In Years): ____ OR Year Born: _____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q3. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes Métis, Inuit and First Nations with or without Status.
 Yes (specify below)
 First Nations
 Métis
 Inuit
 Non-Status or Have Aboriginal Ancestry
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q4. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?
 Yes
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Figure 18: Second page of survey for both days

SURVEY QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Q5. How long have you been in Edmonton?
 Length: _____ days / weeks / months / years (circle one)
 Always Been Here
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

If length answered:
Where did you come from before you came here?
 Community: _____
 Province (in Canada): _____
 Country (not in Canada): _____
 Decline To Answer

Q7. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list].
 Male Transgender
 Female Decline To Answer
 Don't Know Other Response: _____

Q9.1. How long have you been homeless most recently?
 Years: ____ / Months: ____ / Weeks: ____ / Days: ____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q9.2. How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?
 Number of times: ____
 Don't Know Decline To Answer

Q11. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read all the options. Select all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g. couch surfing) or shelter stays].
 Illness or Medical Condition
 Addiction or Substance Use
 Job Loss
 Evicted
 Domestic Abuse
 Family Conflict
 Conflict with Roommate
 Left Care (Child and Family Services)
 Incarcerated (Jail/Prison)
 Hospitalization or Treatment Program
 Unsafe Housing Conditions
 Other Reason: _____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q6. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian military or the RCMP?
 Yes - Military
 Yes - RCMP
 Yes - Military and RCMP
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q8. Do you identify as part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirited or Queer community?
 Yes
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q10. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter (e.g. Hope Mission) in the last 12 months?
 Yes
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q12. Where do you get your money from? [May give examples from list. Select all that apply].
 Employment
 Informal/Self-Employment (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling)
 Employment Insurance
 Welfare/Income Assistance
 Disability Benefit
 Seniors Benefit (e.g. CPP, OAS, GIS)
 Other Source: _____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Thank you for participating in this survey! [Share information about Homeless Connect]
 [If respondent indicated in Q9.1 that they have experienced homelessness for 1 year or longer or more than 4 times in the last 3 years, please share the following information].

Have you ever been screened for housing support? YES NO

If you are interested, there are locations across the city that can help you access housing supports. This card has more information, and you are welcome to contact them anytime.

Figure 19: First page of survey for shelter survey

October 19, 2016 Homeless Count - Shelter (PLEASE SHADE CIRCLES)

Hello my name is _____. I am a volunteer conducting a survey on housing. The information collected will be used to plan programs and services for people experiencing homelessness. We do not need your name and your responses will not identify you individually. You can end the survey at any time.

Have you answered this survey with a person in this vest already? YES (thank and end survey) NO

Shelter: Time:

SCREENING QUESTIONS

Q1. Are you willing to participate in this survey?
 Yes No (thank and end survey)

Q2. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight? Yes No Don't Know Decline To Answer

if respondent answered YES to Q2:

Q3. What type of residence is your permanent residence?
 Decline To Answer (end survey)
 Own Apartment/House (end survey)
 Hospital, Jail, Prison or Remand Centre
 Motel/Hotel Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Someone Else's Place (Friends/Family)
 Motel/Hotel Not Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 Transitional Housing
 Public Space (Sidewalks, Squares, Parks, Forests, Bus Shelter)
 Vehicle (Van, Car, RV, Truck)
 Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack
 Abandoned/Vacant Building
 Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation
 Specify: _____
 Respondent Doesn't Know

Q4. Where are you staying tonight?
 Decline To Answer (end survey)
 Own Apartment/House (end survey)
 Hospital, Jail, Prison or Remand Centre
 Motel/Hotel Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Someone Else's Place
 Motel/Hotel Not Sponsored by Alberta Works/AISH
 Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 Transitional Housing
 Public Space (Sidewalks, Squares, Parks, Forests, Bus Shelter)
 Vehicle (Van, Car, RV, Truck)
 Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack
 Abandoned/Vacant Building
 Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation
 Specify: _____
 Respondent Doesn't Know [likely homeless]

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1. What family members are staying with you tonight?
 Decline To Answer
 None
 Partner
 Other Adult (Specify Relationship: _____)
 Children/Dependents Under Age of 18

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gender										
Age										

Q2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born?
 Age (In Years): ____ OR Year Born: _____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q3. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes Métis, Inuit and First Nations with or without Status.
 Yes (specify below)
 First Nations
 Métis
 Inuit
 Non-Status or Have Aboriginal Ancestry
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q4. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?
 Yes
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Figure 20: Second page of survey for shelter survey

SURVEY QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Q5. How long have you been in Edmonton?
 Length: _____ days / weeks / months / years (circle one)
 Always Been Here
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

If length answered:
Where did you come from before you came here?
 Community: _____
 Province (in Canada): _____
 Country (not in Canada): _____
 Decline To Answer

Q7. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list].
 Male Transgender
 Female Decline To Answer
 Don't Know Other Response: _____

Q9.1. How long have you been homeless most recently?
 Years: ____ / Months: ____ / Weeks: ____ / Days: ____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q9.2. How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?
 Number of times: ____
 Don't Know Decline To Answer

Q11. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read all the options. Select all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g. couch surfing) or shelter stays].
 Illness or Medical Condition
 Addiction or Substance Use
 Job Loss
 Evicted
 Domestic Abuse
 Family Conflict
 Conflict with Roommate
 Left Care (Child and Family Services)
 Incarcerated (Jail/Prison)
 Hospitalization or Treatment Program
 Unsafe Housing Conditions
 Other Reason: _____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q6. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian military or the RCMP?
 Yes - Military
 Yes - RCMP
 Yes - Military and RCMP
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q8. Do you identify as part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirited or Queer community?
 Yes
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q10. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter (e.g. Hope Mission) in the last 12 months?
 Yes
 No
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Q12. Where do you get your money from? [May give examples from list. Select all that apply].
 Employment
 Informal/Self-Employment (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling)
 Employment Insurance
 Welfare/Income Assistance
 Disability Benefit
 Seniors Benefit (e.g. CPP, OAS, GIS)
 Other Source: _____
 Don't Know
 Decline To Answer

Thank you for participating in this survey! [Share information about Homeless Connect]
 [If respondent indicated in Q9.1 that they have experienced homelessness for 1 year or longer or more than 4 times in the last 3 years, please share the following information].

Have you ever been screened for housing support? YES NO

If you are interested, there are locations across the city that can help you access housing supports. This card has more information, and you are welcome to contact them anytime.