7 cities on housing and homelessness

Calgary

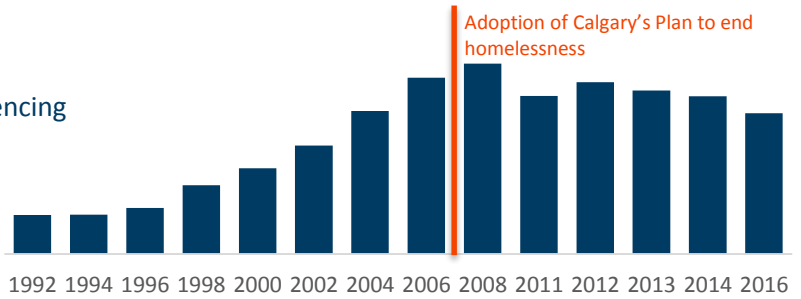## HOW MANY?

3222

people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Calgary. Calgary has seen a **decrease of approximately 11%** in homelessness since the peak in 2008

Calgary counts 1992 – 2016, adjusted for population

Adoption of Calgary's Plan to end homelessness

1992 1994 1996 1998 2000 2002 2004 2006 2008 2011 2012 2013 2014 2016

Due to changes over time in methodology, comparisons between counts should be made with caution

WHERE?
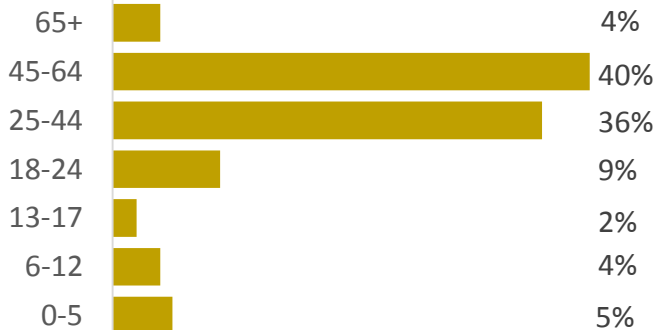
5% *
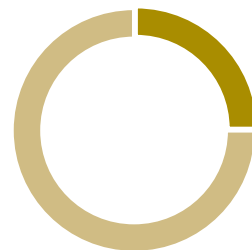UNSHELTERED

45%
EMERGENCY SHELTERED

6%
JUSTICE SYSTEM

44%
INTERIM HOUSING & OTHER

WHO?

Indigenous — 20%
Non-indigenous — 80%

65+ — 4%
45-64 — 40%
25-44 — 36%
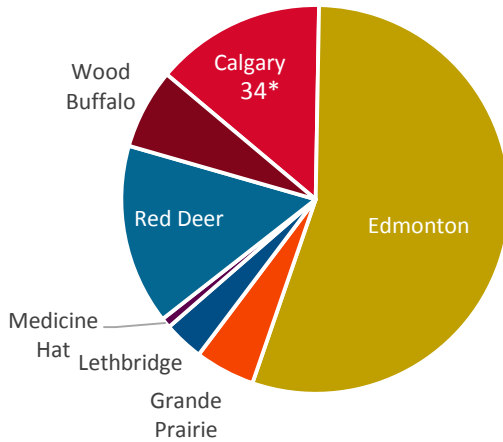18-24 — 9%
13-17 — 2%
6-12 — 4%
0-5 — 5%

75%   25%

*This figure includes 140 individuals above and beyond the 3,222 figure who were observed and included in Calgary's overall count by staff and volunteers
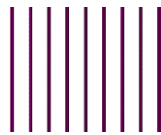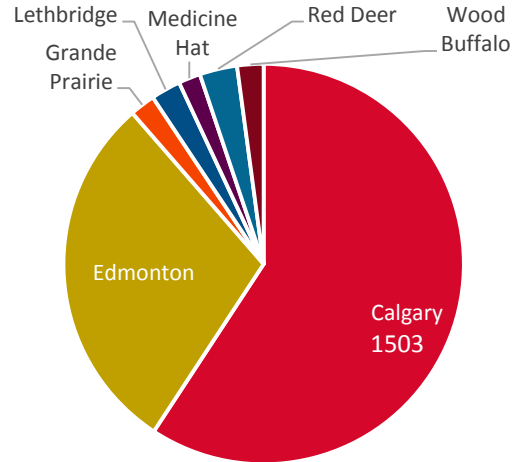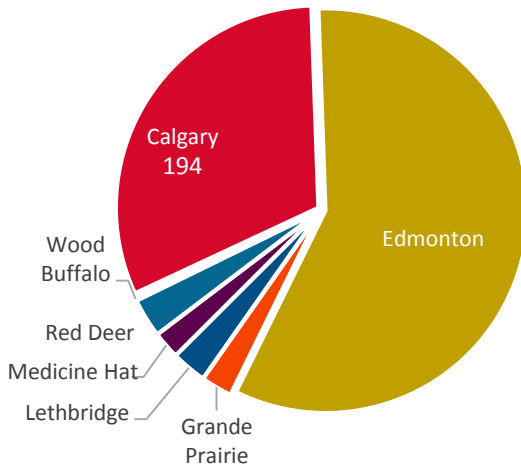
Alberta Count

UNSHELTERED

241

- Calgary 34*
- Wood Buffalo
- Red Deer
- Medicine Hat
- Lethbridge
- Grande Prairie
- Edmonton

EMERGENCY SHELTERED

2537

- Lethbridge
- Grande Prairie
- Medicine Hat
- Red Deer
- Wood Buffalo
- Edmonton
- Calgary 1503

JUSTICE SYSTEM

650

- Calgary 194
- Wood Buffalo
- Red Deer
- Medicine Hat
- Lethbridge
- Grande Prairie
- Edmonton

INTERIM HOUSING & OTHER

1945

- Wood Buffalo
- Red Deer
- Lethbridge
- Grande Prairie
- Edmonton
- Calgary 1491
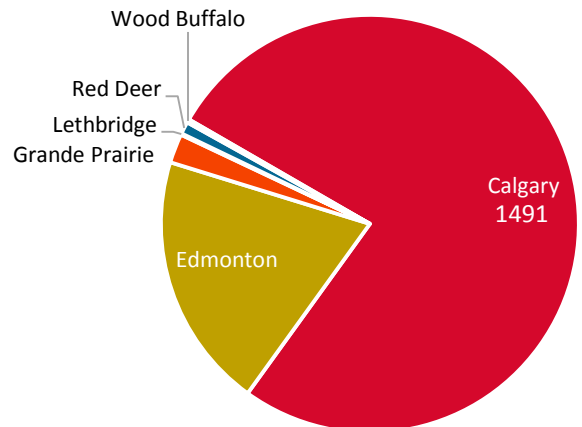
*To align with methodology across the 7 cities, this figure excludes 140 individuals who were observed and included in Calgary's overall count by staff and volunteers.

Overview

Introduction

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

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

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

Methods

In Calgary, counts were conducted by The City of Calgary every two years between 1992 and 2008. When Calgary's Plan was launched in 2008, the City deferred the future counts to the Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF), as the lead implementing agency of the Plan. The previous Count in Calgary was conducted in October 2014 when the 7 Cities conducted the first ever provincial Point-in-Time Homeless Count to be held in Canada.

There are two parts. First, people who sleep outside are counted and offered assistance. Where possible, individuals counted are asked questions to get a better understanding of their homeless experience. Second, more than 70 facilities providing housing for people experiencing homelessness share their numbers, including emergency shelters and temporary accommodations. Remand centres and police processing units also provide data on how many people experiencing homelessness were under their supervision or care on that night.

In addition to the numbers reported in this document, Calgary counts individuals encountered outside who are not able to give consent to complete the survey. This requires volunteer teams to use their discretion. We also collect data from emergency and inpatient services at Calgary facilities. These numbers will be included in a forthcoming report.

Once the data is collected, it is entered and submitted to external consultants who conduct the analysis and reporting. Individual reports are produced for each community, highlighting local dynamics, social data, and housing market information. A provincial report will also be released in early 2017.

Broader Trends

Unemployment

Unemployment in Calgary increased from 5.0% in October 2014 to 10.2% in October 2016. Calgary's unemployment rate is one of the highest of any major Canadian city.

Population Growth

It is important that results of the count be interpreted against the broader trends in the city, such as population size. The population increase has slowed considerably over the last two years, but Calgary is a city that continues to grow.

Migration

There was positive net in-migration into Calgary from 2014 to 2016. This means more people have come to Calgary than left over the past 2 years. However, the in-migration has slowed over the last year.

Housing Affordability

Calgary's rental vacancy rate increased significantly from 1.4% in 2014 to 7.0% in 2016. When taking inflation into account, the average rental costs decreased by about 5.8% for a 1 bedroom and 3.5% for a bachelor suite, according to CMHC (2016).

Indigenous peoples over-represented

Only 2.8% of Calgary's general population self-identify as Indigenous, while approximately 20% of those surveyed in the homeless count self-identified as Indigenous.

Socioeconomic Indicators	2016	2014
Unemployment [1]	10.2%	5.0%
Population growth [2]	1,235,171	1,195,194
Rental vacancy rates [3] (Private Apartment Vacancy Rates - Total)	7.0%	1.4%
Rental costs [3]	$1050 (1 bed) $858 (Bach)	$1115* (1 bed) $889* (Bach)

*2014 rents have been adjusted to 2016 dollars to reflect inflation [4]

References

[1] Statistics Canada. (2016). *Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by census metropolitan area based on 2011 Census boundaries, 3-month moving average, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted*. Retrieved from http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?id=2820135

[2] City of Calgary. (2016 and 2014). *Civic census results.* Retrieved from http://www.calgary.ca/CA/city-clerks/Pages/Election-and-information-services/Civic-Census/CensusResults.aspx

[3] Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2014 and 2016). *Housing Market Information*: *Rental Market Report.* Retrieved from schl.gc.ca/catalog/productDetail.cfm?lang=en&cat=79&itm=41&fr=1480351899556

[4] Bank of Canada. *Inflation calculator.* Retrieved from http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator