



Calgary Homeless
FOUNDATION

Point-in-Time
Count Report

Fall 2016

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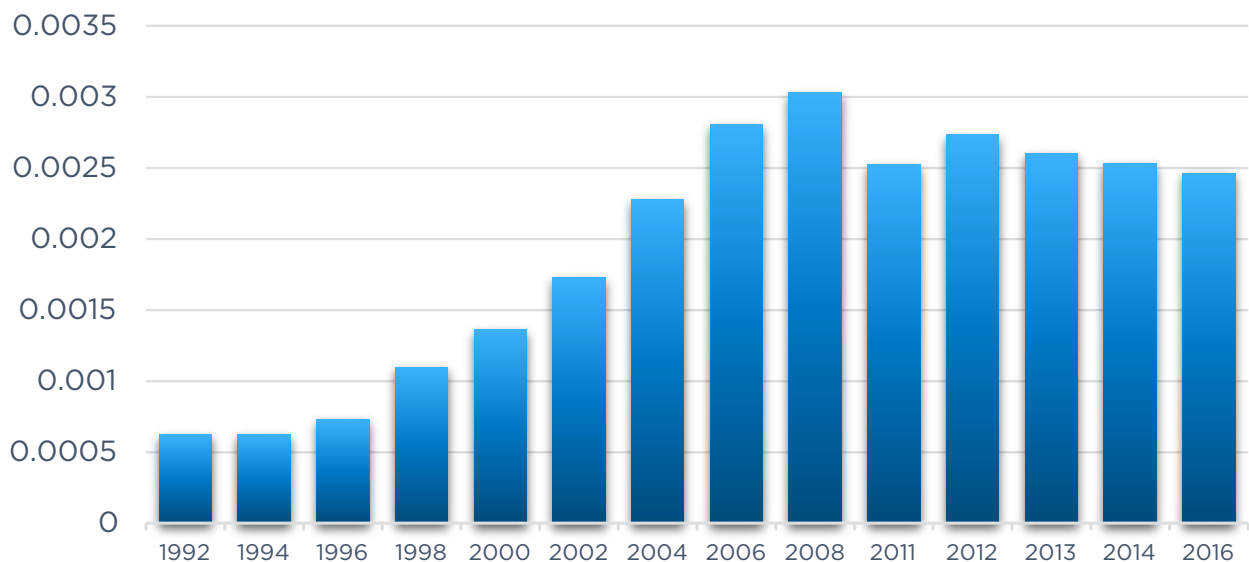
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Executive Summary

The Calgary Homeless Foundation, in conjunction with over one hundred volunteers and countless community partners, successfully conducted its biennial Point-in-Time Count on October 19, 2016. 3,430 people were counted as experiencing homelessness. This represents approximately 1 in every 406 Calgarians. As promised in the preliminary report released in November, the present report includes data that was not included in the preliminary report; this includes data collected from Alberta Health Services and from persons unable or unwilling to complete a survey, but still believed to be without a home. This data was not collected across the province and therefore was not included in the provincially-coordinated preliminary release.

Homelessness per Capita in Calgary



Calgary has seen not only a curbing of the steep rise in homelessness through the 1990s and early 2000s, but a reduction from the peak in 2008. This coincides with the creation of the Calgary Homeless Foundation and the release of Calgary's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. In 2008, 1 in every 330 Calgarians experienced homelessness on a given night. Comparing this to data from the 2016 count, we have seen a 19%¹ reduction in homelessness per capita.

Indigenous peoples continue to be overrepresented among this population, while women continue to be underrepresented.

The seniors population has grown since the 2014 count.

¹ A 26% reduction was reported in Calgary's preliminary results and the provincial PIT Count report. This reflects the difference in totals between the provincially-aligned methodology reported in those documents and Calgary's methodology reported here.

Background

For more than a decade, communities in Canada have been conducting counts of their homeless populations; these are generally referred to as Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts. The first Count in Calgary was conducted in 1992.

There are several reasons to conduct PiT Counts. First, unlike data on homeless people kept on a day-to-day basis by social workers and other front-line professionals, data gathered from PiT Counts captures information on rough sleepers (i.e. persons sleeping outside on the night of the count)—a group about whom not much data is usually collected. PiT Counts therefore offer a rare glimpse into the demographic profiles of an underserved subpopulation of persons experiencing homelessness. Second, PiT Counts typically try to uncover demographic information about recently-homeless persons now residing at large institutions, such as correctional facilities and hospitals. A third strength of PiT Counts is that they can raise public awareness about homelessness—indeed, PiT Counts tend to encourage ‘community building.’ In Calgary, groups participating in the PiT Count often feel better-connected and empowered when they join together every two years to undertake the count. Lastly, Calgary’s PiT Count attempts to gather data from all programs serving homeless persons, regardless of how or by whom they are funded, in order to create a snapshot of the whole picture. This breadth of data is not collected by a single organization at any other time.

PiT Counts also have shortcomings. For example, each community adapts PiT methodology to their own community, and that methodology often changes from year to year. According to a guide prepared by Employment and Social Development Canada: “Differences include the time of year the

count is conducted, the time of day the count happens, the people that are included as ‘homeless,’ and the questions that are asked in the survey” (ESDC, 2016). Another factor that can skew the results is the weather on the night of the count. Weather in Calgary, more so than weather in most Canadian cities, is prone to wild fluctuations, so one cannot depend on consistency from year to year even when conducted at the same time each year.

(Jadidzadeh & Kneebone, 2015)

In 2016, there was a national effort to coordinate PiT Counts across Canada.² However, Canada’s most populous cities (including Calgary) chose *not* to participate in this nationally-coordinated effort. One reason some cities chose not to participate was that the time of year chosen was not ideal for them; many communities prefer to do PiT Counts in either fall or spring because winter temperatures can prove to be too extreme. Also, some communities, having recently conducted counts of their own, did not wish to mobilize volunteers again so quickly. Cities choosing *not* to participate in the recent national effort, in addition to Calgary, included: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Ottawa and Winnipeg.

In Alberta, the *7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (7 Cities)* – a collaboration of the lead organizations in ending homelessness from Alberta’s seven major cities, including the Calgary Homeless Foundation - decided to participate in a provincially-coordinated PiT Count for the second time—once again marking the only provincially-coordinated PiT Count effort in Canada. Coordinating across the province allows for comparability across cities which are subject to similar taxation and benefit systems, cycles of economic boom and bust, and other factors.

² The report with findings from the 2016 national effort were released by ESDC in January 2017.

Methods

The Calgary PiT Count utilizes several different approaches in an attempt to most fully enumerate our city's population experiencing homelessness. Efforts were made in 2016 to align with the methodology of past Calgary counts to enable year-to-year comparisons. Efforts were also made to align, where possible, with the 7 Cities in order to increase comparability across the province. Aiming for both consistency and change, by definition, presents challenges.

The 2016 Calgary PiT Count attempted to enumerate homeless persons who, on the night of the count, spent the night in an emergency shelter, short-term supportive housing facility, outdoors, or in another public space.

In order to capture as fulsome a snapshot of Calgary's homeless population as possible, two approaches were used. One was the collection of basic demographics for those who spent the night in shelter facilities, short-term supportive housing facilities (transitional housing), and public service agencies (collectively, the 'sheltered homeless'). The other was a street count and brief survey aimed at capturing the numbers and basic demographics of homeless persons who were sleeping outdoors on downtown streets, in residential and commercial areas, in parks, on river pathways, and in more remote natural areas (the 'unsheltered homeless'). Most PiT Count efforts (including Calgary's) do not claim that their 'street counts' are statistically representative of their rough-sleeper population. In other words, if 25% of those enumerated in the 'street count' are female, the reader should not infer from this that 25% of all rough sleepers in that city are necessarily also female.

Numbers were collected from all sources within a 24-hour time period to reduce potential duplication.

It is also important to note that the Count attempted to include all individuals

experiencing homelessness in Calgary. Many of these individuals are in shelter or short-term supportive housing programs that do not receive funding through the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

For more detailed methodology, see Appendix A.

Several sources of data were utilized in the 2016 Count:

1. **Administrative data** – this data was collected from emergency shelters, short-term supportive housing programs (transitional housing), and municipal correctional facilities. Data collected includes age, gender, and ethnicity.
2. **Systems data** – this data was collected from Alberta Health Services facilities (inpatient and emergency departments of all 5 Calgary hospitals, urgent care centres, and addiction recovery centres) and provincial correctional facilities.
3. **Survey data** – surveys were used by volunteers, outreach workers, and Calgary Police and Community Standards officers to gather information from individuals encountered outside on the day and night of the count. Surveys were also administered to a sample of clients in shelters and transitional housing programs on the evening of the count.
4. **Observational tally data** – observational data was collected by volunteers and various workers (Calgary Transit, Provincial Parks, security at Stampede grounds and university and college campuses, CP Rail). Volunteers used this method when individuals were unwilling or unable to complete a survey, but were believed to be homeless. Workers used this method because of time constraints.

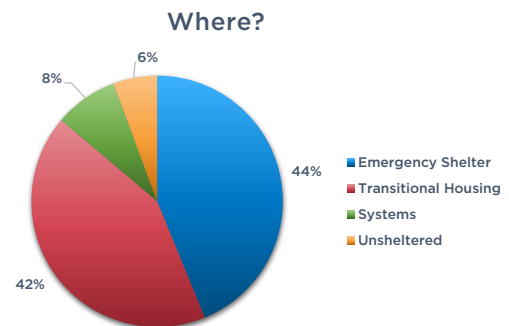
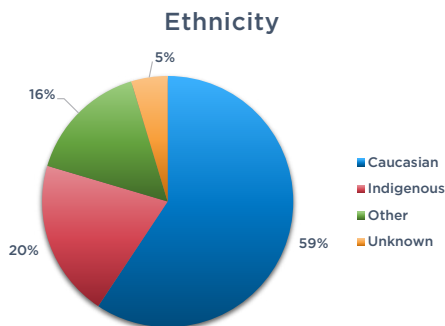
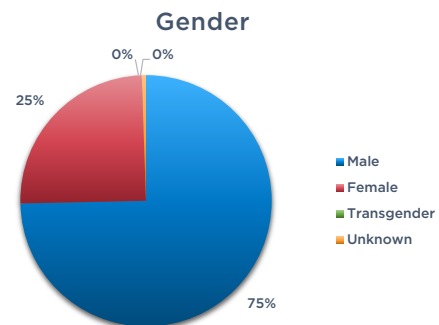
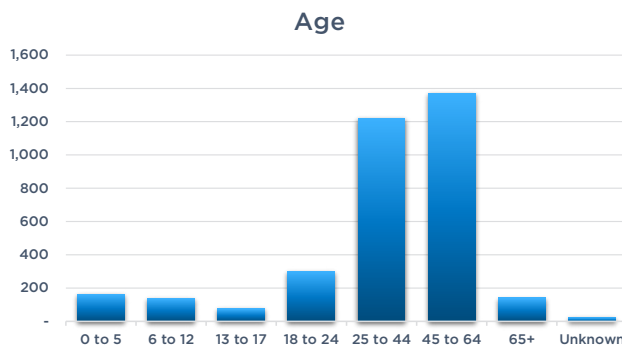
Findings

All data cited in this report includes a combination of all available data. Over 200 clients who completed surveys were also accounted for in administrative data collected by staff working in shelters or transitional housing. In these cases, administrative data for an individual is used for all available data points and supersedes the data collected on that individual via survey. Each client's

characteristics were only included once (from one data source).

Using very similar methodology to Calgary's 2014 PiT Count, 3,430 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Calgary on the night of October 19, 2016. Basic demographics of this group are found below.

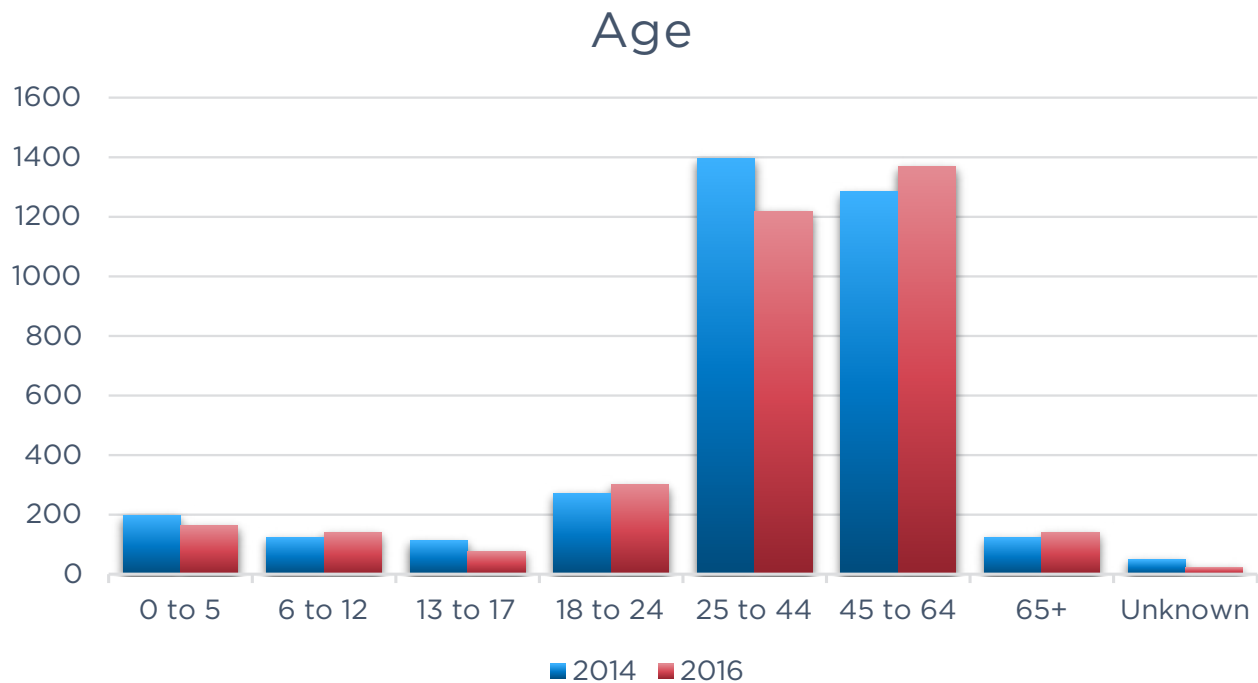
The Basics: Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Location



* Options for ethnicity available on the 2016 PiT Count data collection tool were chosen in order to preserve consistency with past Calgary counts.

2014 vs. 2016: Year-to-year comparisons

Notwithstanding methodological challenges discussed above, PiT Counts allow local officials to track changes in the homeless population over time. Below are a few comparisons of data from the two most recent counts.

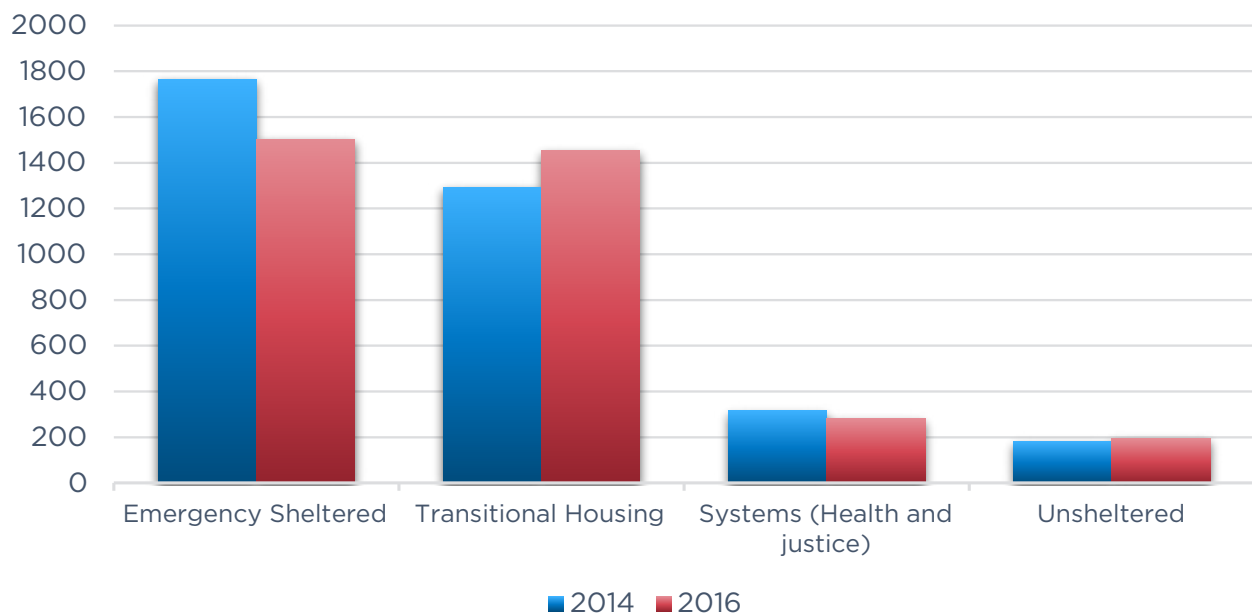


As seen in the chart above, age changes from 2014 to 2016 appear to be rather modest. The proportion of individuals aged 25-44 saw the biggest change from count-to-count, decreasing by nearly 13% between 2014 and 2016. There also appears to be a slight aging

of Calgary's homeless population, where the proportion of persons aged 45-64 saw an increase of almost 7%, and the proportion of persons aged 65 and over increased by nearly 16%.

As seen in the chart below, the proportion of clients in shelter decreased, while the proportion of those in transitional housing increased. The decrease in emergency shelter use is consistent with the overall trend of the 2016 PiT Count, which showed a modest decrease from 2014. The increase in transitional housing use is likely a result of an increase in the number of transitional housing beds provided and funded by service providers, rather than a change in demand.

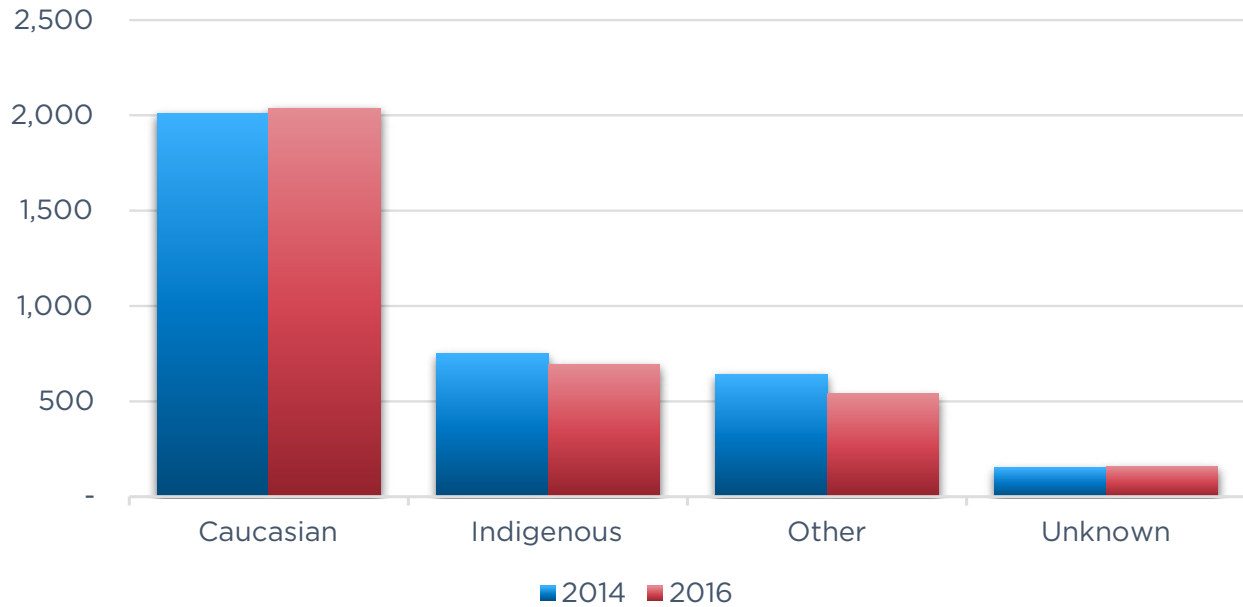
Where



In addition, the scope of the PiT Count was widened to include some immigrant-serving transitional housing that was not included in the 2014 Count. The proportion of those in transitional housing whose ethnicity was categorized as “Other”—meaning non-Caucasian and non-Indigenous—is notably high. (see p.11 for detailed chart) We do not have precise numbers, but at least some of

this can be explained by refugees who are currently housed in what is categorized as transitional housing for the homeless. Though members of this group are not what we might normally define as “homeless”, they were counted as part of the 2016 Count because they are technically in Calgary’s homeless-serving system of care.

Ethnicity

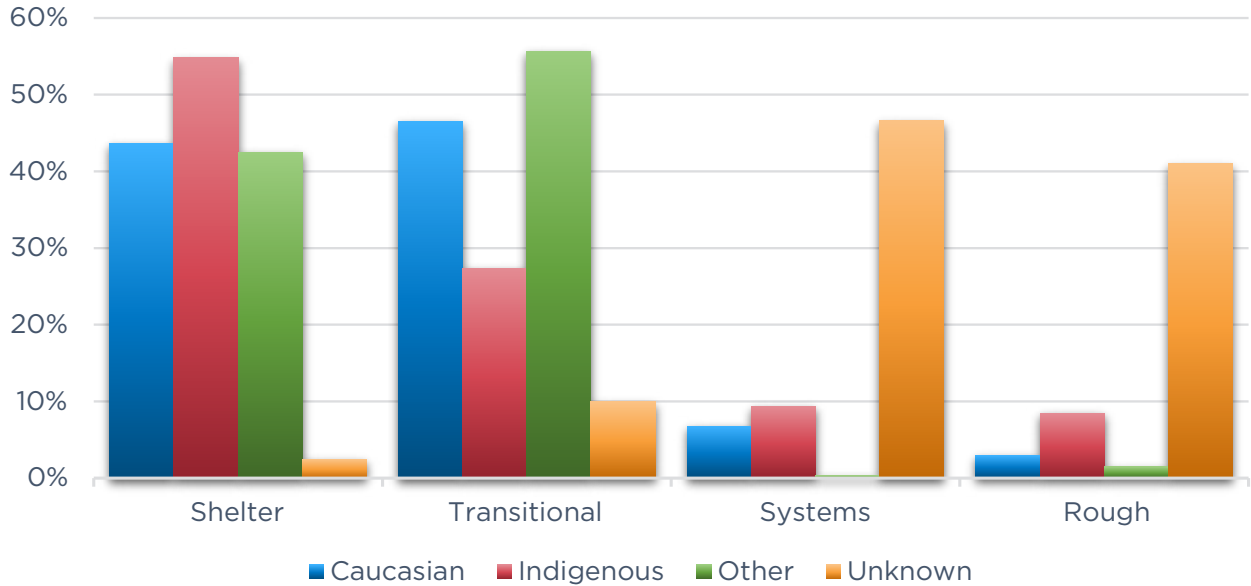


Representation of the different ethnicities remained relatively constant from count to count. The category “Other” refers to clients whose ethnicity is known, and is neither Caucasian nor Indigenous. The category “Unknown” refers to clients whose ethnicity is not known. More than a third of the 161 clients with unknown ethnicity in the 2016 Count can be attributed to data collected

from Alberta Health Services (AHS), who do not collect ethnicity information in this particular data set. An additional one-fifth of these are due to the ethnicity data collected with the survey. Only Indigenous options were given, meaning that anyone who did not identify as Indigenous fell into the “Unknown” category.

Ethnicity

Where, by ethnicity



Here we take a look at the distribution of each ethnic group according to where they spent the night (keeping in mind that ethnic groups for the 2016 PiT Count survey were selected in order to maintain consistency with the 2014 PiT Count survey). The number of individuals whose ethnicity is unknown was high in systems and the unsheltered population. This is due to data collection methods. Within "Systems", AHS does not collect data on ethnicity in their registration system, and so all 68 individuals enumerated there are categorized as "unknown" ethnicity. In "Unsheltered", the survey tool agreed upon and used across the province only

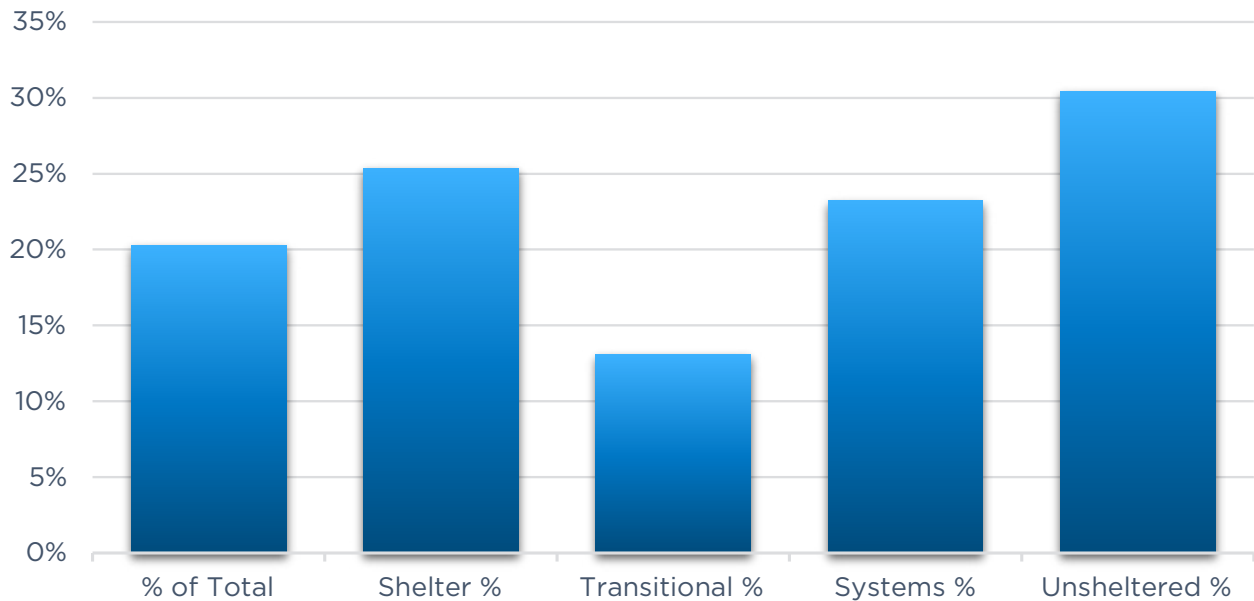
provided "Indigenous" and "non-indigenous" options for ethnicity. Therefore, every non-Indigenous person enumerated by survey only was categorized as "unknown" ethnicity. Additionally, some individuals included via observational tally were of "unknown" ethnicity. As one might imagine, volunteers and workers were careful in making assumptions.

We can also note from the chart above that Indigenous peoples are disproportionately represented in shelter (high) and transitional housing (low). We will take another look at this in the following section.

Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples continue to be very overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. While Indigenous peoples make up 3% of Calgary’s general population, they accounted for 20% of those enumerated on the night of the count (*Statistics Canada, 2016*).

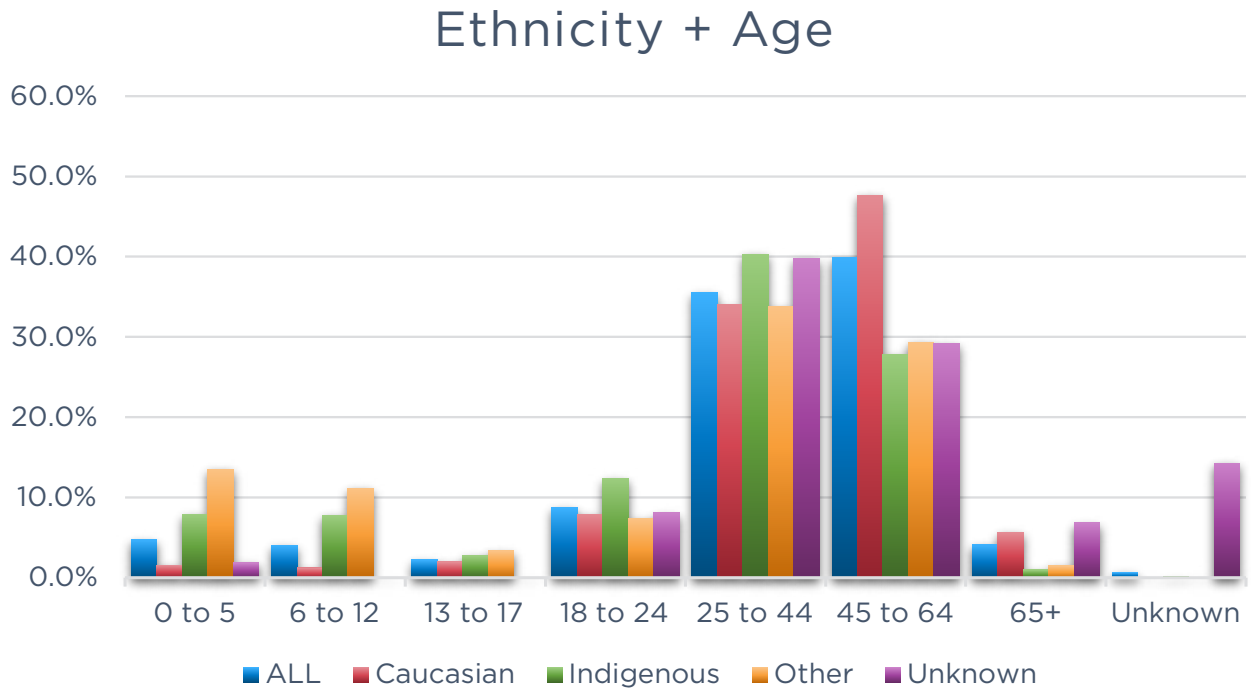
Indigenous Population - Where



Where enumerated Indigenous persons spent the night is of note. They were most overrepresented among the population spending the night unsheltered, and most underrepresented in transitional housing. It is also noteworthy that 24% of survey respondents identified as “First Nations”, “Metis” or “Non-status or have Aboriginal

ancestry” as opposed to only 20% representation in the administrative data, where the only option given was “Aboriginal”. The difference could be due to selection bias in sampling; it could also be due to the more inclusive options given in the survey than in the options provided when administrative data is gathered by service providers.

Ethnicity + Age distribution



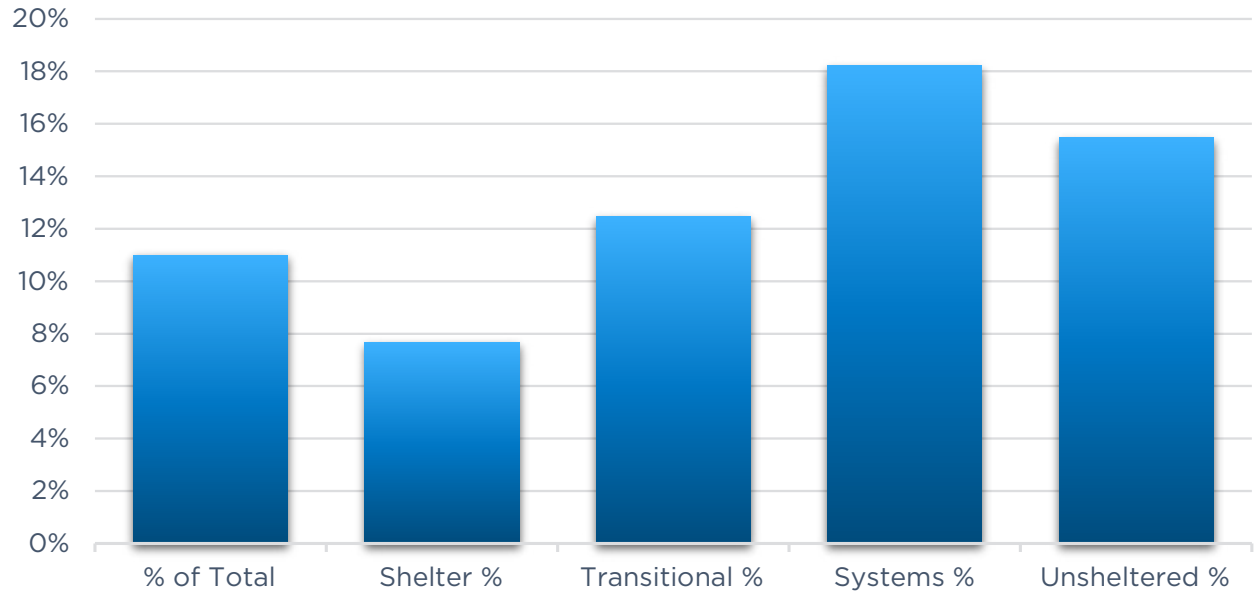
If we dig down deeper into the age makeup of each ethnic group, some interesting points emerge. This chart highlights the age makeup for each ethnic group as compared to the total homeless population. The blue bar represents the entire enumerated population. If all ethnicities were proportionally represented, the other bars would be the same size as the blue bar. However, we can see that is not the case. As compared to the

total homeless population enumerated on the night of the count,

- The Indigenous child and youth population was **over** represented (0-5, 6-12, and 18-24 categories)
- The Indigenous seniors population was **under** represented (65+ category)
- Caucasians in the 45-64 category were **over** represented

Youth

Youth Population - Where



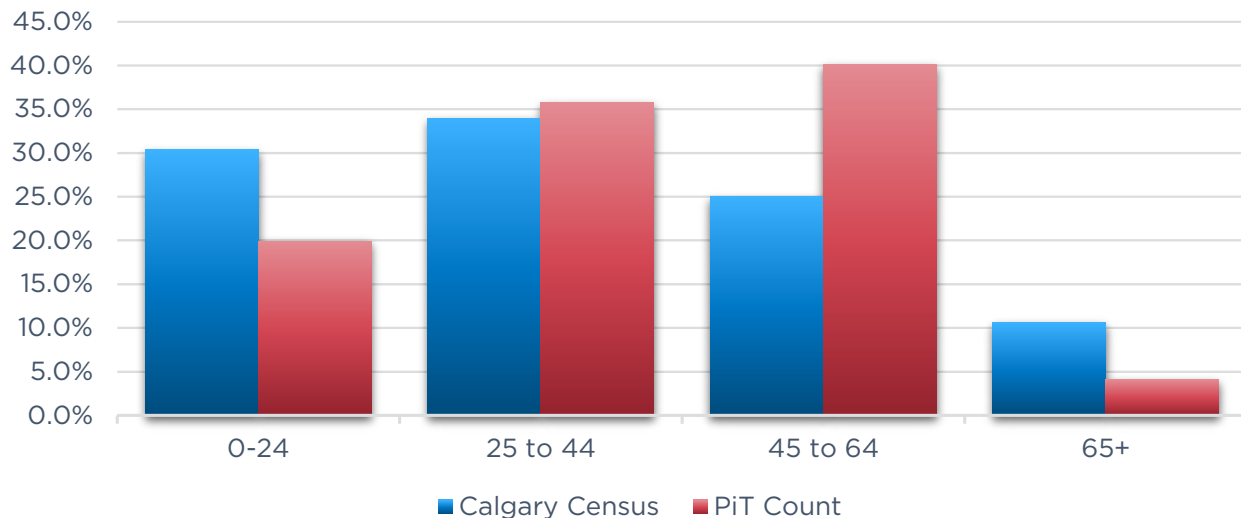
In Calgary's homeless-serving sector, youth are defined as 13 to 24 years old. Youth were overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness in systems. Youth accounted for more than 22% of the homeless population in prisons on the night of the count. However, youth accounted for nearly

28% of the total incarcerated population from Calgary on the same night.

Youth were also overrepresented among the unsheltered population. They were underrepresented in shelter.

Seniors and Children

Age distribution: Calgary population vs. Count



To add some context to the age distribution of those enumerated in the Count, this chart compares that distribution with the distribution of Calgary's population (according to results of the 2016 Calgary Civic Census). The younger age categories presented in the Civic Census differ from those in the Count, so children and youth have been aggregated so that age categories align. More detailed data can be found in Appendix D.

Compared to Calgary's total population, pre-seniors (45-64) were overrepresented in the homeless population, while seniors (65+) were underrepresented. Seniors may have been underrepresented due to seniors' benefits (CPP, OAS, GIS) aiding in keeping seniors housed (Falvo, 2016). They also may have been underrepresented due to shorter life expectancy for the homeless (Hwang et al., 2009). Individuals experiencing homelessness in the 45-64 age range often experience similar health problems as seniors (65+) in the housed population (Stergiopoulos & Herrmann 2003).

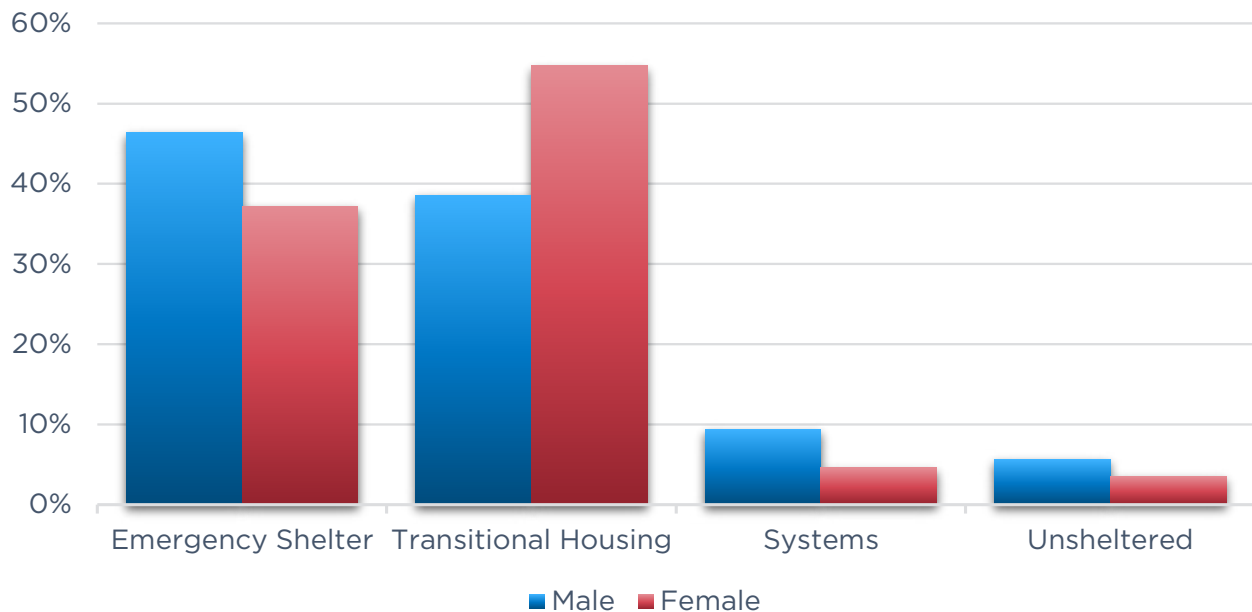
Additionally, children were underrepresented among the homeless population compared to Calgary's total population. This could be due to several factors, including the Alberta Child Benefit, Universal Child Care Benefit, the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the new Canada Child Benefit. In addition, previous research has demonstrated high correlation between the state of a family's housing and admission to foster care (Falvo, 2012, p.14) – meaning that in many cases, children are removed from a family if that family's housing is very precarious and they may be entering homelessness. Other support services provided specifically to families may prevent families from entering absolute homelessness. These include Child Protective Services, family violence support services, and the like. Lastly, this could also be correlated to the vast underrepresentation of women in the homeless population. See the following section for further explanation.

Women

Consistent with previous years, women continued to be significantly underrepresented in the count as compared to Calgary's general population. This is the case in spite of the fact that poverty affects more women than men. There are a number of factors which contribute to this. Women are more likely to be part of the hidden homeless population – tapping into stronger social networks to 'couch surf' or 'double

up.' They have greater motivation to avoid rough sleeping and shelters because of the astounding rates of physical and sexual violence faced by women experiencing homelessness. Women may choose to avoid shelter for fear of losing custody of their children. Women may also choose to stay in a problematic relationship in order to avoid the aforementioned dangers (*Berkum & Oudshoorn, 2015*).

Where, by gender

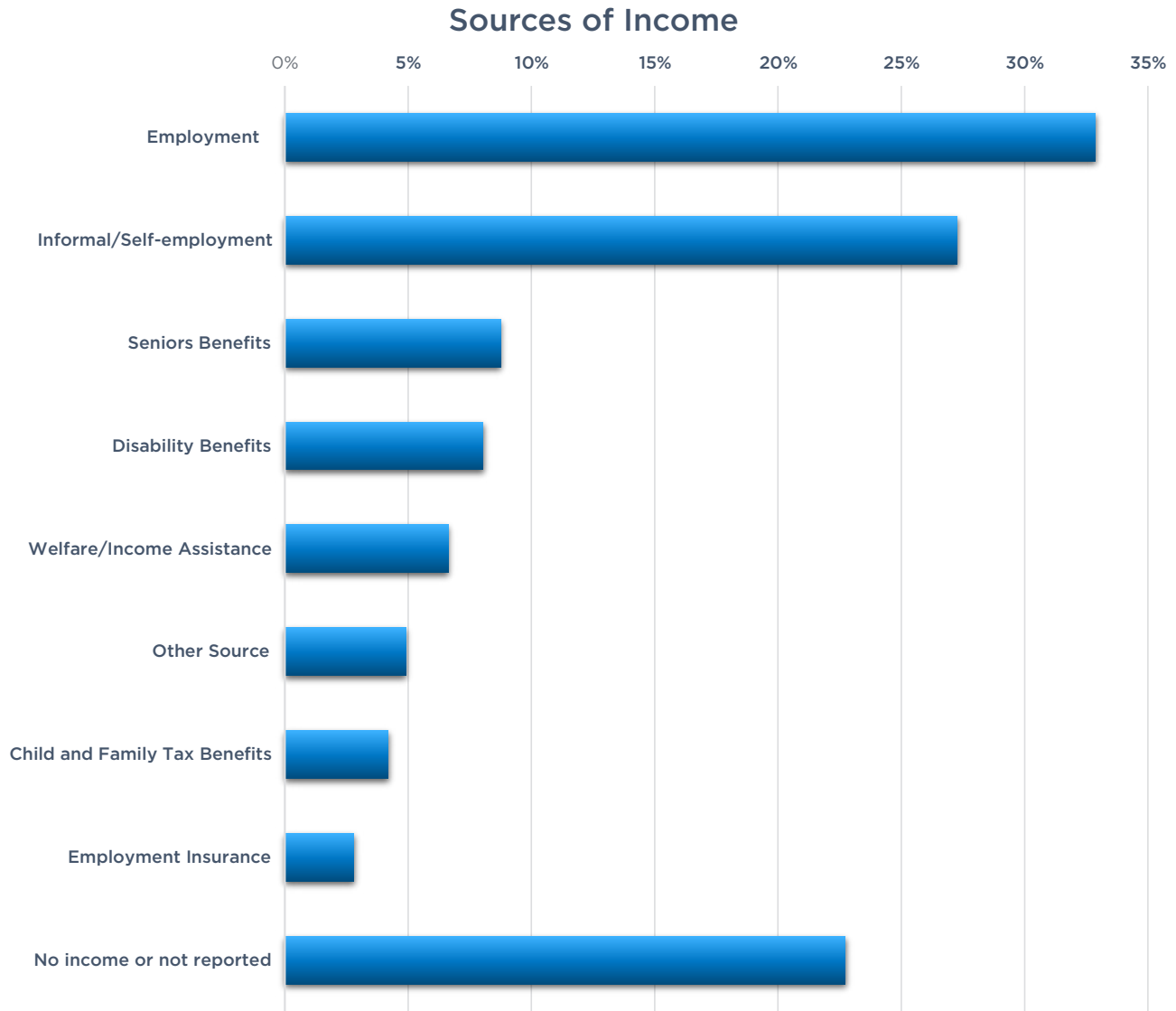


As is seen in the chart above, a greater proportion of the female homeless population was in transitional housing compared to the male population. Availability of gender specific beds in transitional housing may factor into this.

Women were proportionally underrepresented in the other three categories.

Sources of Income

One of the questions in the 2016 PiT Count survey was: “Where do you get your money from?” (see appendix C for full survey). This answer was collected from 286 of the 3450 individuals enumerated as part of the count. The following chart shows the results of that question:



It is interesting to note how few respondents indicated receiving welfare or income assistance. One would expect that number to be higher than the 7% reported. Across the province, 24% of PiT survey respondents

indicated receiving these benefits. This calls for further investigation into this issue. If less than 10% of Calgary’s homeless population is accessing social assistance, why exactly is that the case?

In-migration

Calgary saw a negative net migration from 2015 to 2016. However, since the last count in 2014, Calgary saw a positive net migration of over 18,000 in addition to growth of over 21,000 in natural increase. Total population according to the city's civic census in 2014 was 1,195,194 and total population in 2016 was 1,235,171 (*City of Calgary, 2016*). This represents an increase of just over 3%.

According to the 2016 PiT Count, approximately 31% of survey respondents arrived from outside of Calgary within the last 5 years: 8% from other parts of Alberta, 21% from elsewhere in Canada, and 1% from outside of Canada. Only 12% of survey respondents reported having always lived in Calgary.

All other things equal, negative net migration into Calgary is 'good news' for households looking to rent an apartment. Indeed, when workers leave Calgary in an economic downturn, the rental housing market 'loosens up,' and it becomes easier for low-income households to find a rental unit (*Kneebone et al., 2011*). This was likely a factor that resulted in a lower overall PiT Count number in 2016 compared with 2014.

Conclusion

The 2016 Point-in-Time Count marked the second provincially coordinated Count in Alberta. It has allowed us to once again look at the whole picture of absolute homelessness in our city. Data gathered has allowed us to observe trends in the total growth and reduction of homelessness in Calgary over time, as well as to explore demographic changes. We have witnessed another reduction in homelessness, with a 4% reduction from the 2014 Count, and a 19% per capita reduction since 2008.

The information gathered in the 2016 Count will be used to make decisions around allocation of resources, funding, and the creation of targeted programming. It will help us to better serve Calgary's homeless population. For example, we learned of a significant discrepancy between the rate of those who reported receiving welfare or income assistance in Calgary as compared to the rest of the province. This warrants further investigation.

The Calgary Homeless Foundation is committed to continuously looking for ways to improve the completeness and accuracy of the Point-in-Time Count and will implement learnings from 2016's count in future counts.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Detailed 2016 Count Methodology

The October 2016 Calgary Point-in-Time Count attempted to enumerate homeless persons who, on the night of the count, spent the night in an emergency shelter, short-term supportive housing facility, outdoors, or in another public space.

In order to capture as full a snapshot of Calgary's homeless population as possible, two methods of enumeration were exercised. One was the collection of basic demographics for those who spent the night in shelter facilities, short-term supportive housing facilities (transitional), and public service agencies (collectively, sheltered homeless), and the other was a street count and brief survey aimed at capturing the numbers and basic demographics of homeless persons who were sleeping outdoors on downtown streets, in residential and commercial areas, in parks, on river pathways, and in more remote natural areas (collectively, unsheltered homeless). Numbers were collected from all sources within a 24 hour time period to reduce potential duplication.

Prior to the 2016 Count, CHF consulted with staff from member organizations of Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness; national experts; Calgary's Homeless-Serving System of Care; Calgary Police Service; Community Standards Services(CSS); and outreach team staff. The consultation process helped solidify: the date and time of the Count; the questions that would be asked of facility-operators and rough sleepers; the mapping of 'zones' in Calgary where people experiencing homelessness were known to sleep; the classification of facilities as emergency shelter, Short Term Supportive Housing (STSH), and permanent supportive housing; and the formation of street teams. The following recommendations were

implemented after the Fall 2014 Count:

- Reduce the length of survey questionnaire for rough sleepers
- Collapse several downtown street 'zones', while increasing external zones
- Condense hours of street count from three to two, commencing at 10 pm and ending at 12 am. This new time frame also aligns with Homeward Trust Edmonton, the City of Grand Prairie, the City of Lethbridge, Medicine Hat Community Housing Society, City of Red Deer, and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (7 Cities).
- Continue utilizing Calgary Community Standards Peace Officers, Calgary Police Service Vulnerable Persons Team (PACT), and agency outreach groups to cover certain areas during the day of the count that may be difficult or dangerous to cover at night. Conduct surveys with persons found at their camps, and make note of vacant camps to revisit during the hours of the count.

After consulting with community groups, 27 emergency shelter and short term supportive housing providers were found to be operating 56 different facilities. Further, five public service agencies were found to be operating 11 different facilities which included the Calgary Remand Centre, Alberta Health Services Acute Care Facilities, Renfrew Recovery Detoxification Centre, Calgary Police Service Court Selection (Arrest and Processing), the Calgary Young Offenders Centre, and Alberta Works Income Support – Contact centre and service delivery offices.

In addition, officials at Calgary Transit, Calgary Parking Authority, Fish Creek Park Wardens, Stampede Grounds Security, Campus security for Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT Polytechnic), Mount Royal University, the University of Calgary, and Canadian Pacific Railway, all agreed to provide staff on the night of the Count in order to canvass areas under their supervision.

In total, more than 70 organizations contributed data.

Recruiting Volunteers and Team Leaders

In order to recruit skilled volunteers, staff at the Calgary Homeless Foundation compiled a list of active service and agency workers from a vast array of community groups.

The selected individuals were invited to participate in the October 2016 Count as *Team Leaders*, who would act as spokespersons for their three- to five-person team of volunteers. Team Leaders were in charge of handling engagement gifts, honorariums, and clipboards, while also leading their team to canvass their designated zone. Chosen individuals included case managers at agencies, volunteers from a multitude of community groups, individuals who work with women fleeing violence, and other personnel in the homeless sector.

This recruitment method was complemented by e-mails sent to all agencies and partners to encourage staff to participate in the PiT Count. Volunteers were also recruited from Calgary Homeless Foundation volunteer registries from previous events.

Particular attention was made to actively recruit front-line shelter staff and outreach workers as well as Calgary Police Services (CPS), Community Standards Peace Officers, and Alberta Health Services (AHS).

There was a focus to include individuals with lived experience in facilitating the count, through consultation with the Client Action Committee at the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

In Canadian cities, Indigenous peoples are eight times more likely to experience homelessness than the rest of the general population (*Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton, 2015*). Given that Indigenous Peoples are both overrepresented and underserved, Indigenous Peoples should be involved in all aspects of the Point-in-Time Count. It was beneficial to work with the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (AFC), and the Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness (ASCHH), and other Indigenous community members and groups to inform them of the project and elicit feedback and participation in the event.

More than 100 volunteers were recruited to participate in the Street Count portion (making up 19 teams and 4 transport teams).

Engaging the Public and Private Sector

Calgary's 2016 PiT Count would not have been possible without the help of more than 90 volunteers, 14 outreach workers, a dozen CHF staff members, and more than 30 officers and cadets from the Calgary Police Service (CPS).

Outreach teams, CPS, and Community Standards (formerly known as Bylaw Services) coordinated for weeks before the count to determine what areas needed to be checked for encampments. They explored known and suspected areas for encampment sites. Additionally, the CPS helicopter, HAWCS, did a flyover of numerous green spaces throughout the city a few days before the count and used the pilot's expertise and Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR) to detect new and previously unknown active sites.

Together, using all the information they'd collected, CPS, CSS, and DOAP outreach teams decided whose teams would be covering each area on the night of the count (with volunteers). For areas deemed too treacherous to cover with volunteers at night, coverage was provided and surveys were administered during the day prior and morning after the count by teams of outreach workers and CPS and Community Standards officers. In addition, the following organizations provided additional coverage:

- Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) ran two trains, one at 10:00 p.m. when the Count started, and again at 5:00 a.m. to see if there were any individuals along the track line.
- Calgary Parking Authority security personnel canvassed every downtown parking lot and parkade and tallied the number of individuals encountered who appeared to be homeless. They also recorded observed gender, age, and ethnicity.
- Calgary Transit Peace Officers surveyed C-train stations during the hours of the count for three days following the count. Stations were also checked after the C-Train had stopped running (between 2:00 am and 4:00 am). Workers tallied the number of individuals encountered who appeared to be homeless. An average of these 3 nights was taken and the total was added to the count.
- Calgary Stampede security canvassed the Stampede grounds and tallied the number of individuals encountered who appeared to be homeless. They also made note of observed gender, age, and ethnicity.
- Alberta Parks worked to cover Fish Creek Park, a provincial park within Calgary's city limits. Wardens walked through the Park several evenings prior to the Count looking for people and signs of people sleeping rough. They used this information

to ensure they covered the areas being actively used.

- Campus Security from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT Polytechnic), Mount Royal University, and the University of Calgary, were invited to participate as well. All three campuses had their security officers cover their campuses on the night of the Count, and tallied the number of individuals encountered who appeared to be homeless. They also noted observed gender, age, and ethnicity.
- City of Calgary Community Standards Peace Officers ventured out several nights prior to the Count to locate known and new rough sleepers. On the night of the Count, they used vehicles to access large inner city areas and remote parks of Calgary, while also conducting surveys with any persons encountered. Community Standards Peace Officers also conducted scans during daytime hours for the three days prior to the count, to identify camps in difficult to reach areas.
- Two days before the Count, CPS HAWCS helicopters determined if there were any active camp sites. Any camps found were communicated to Community Standards Peace Officers, who accessed them the night of the Street Count. CPS also assisted with transportation needs for individuals on the night of the Count. CPS supplied volunteers for Team Leaders, as well as two roving units in the downtown core.

Facility Count

Time Period: 12:00 pm (Wednesday, October 19) to 12:00 pm (Thursday, October 20).³

Contributors:

Facilities included emergency shelters and short term supportive housing facilities. These included homeless shelters, women's shelters, and supportive mental health and addictions facilities. Other facilities involved in the Count consisted of hospitals, Correctional Services, and emergency and social services.

Process:

On the night of **October 19, 2016**, participating facilities and service agencies completed the enumeration forms for all clients staying the night/day at their shelter or facility classified as "No Fixed Address" (NFA). The enumeration forms collected basic demographic data including gender, age, ethnicity, and number of families. All completed enumeration forms were e-mailed to the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

Street Count

Time Period: 10:00 pm (Wednesday October 19) to 12:00 am (Thursday October 20).

Contributors:

There were 100 Street Count volunteers. They included experienced outreach/agency workers, as well as law enforcement officers; including Calgary Police and Crisis Team (PACT), Downtown Outreach Addictions Program Encampment Team (DOAP), Calgary Community Standards Peace Officers, CPS Cadets, and community volunteers. Additionally, the Count included employees from Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), Calgary Parking Authority, Calgary Stampede, Alberta Parks, the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT Polytechnic), and Calgary Transit.

Process:

Team Leaders were required to attend an orientation two weeks prior to the Count. Upon completion, Team Leaders arrived at the PiT Count headquarters (which was the Municipal Atrium of Calgary's City Hall). Once signed in, Team Leaders were given an information package on a clipboard designated with their 'zone' number, and a backpack which contained:

- Copies of the consent form and a copy of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act (Prior to participation in the Street Count survey, the consent was read to every individual Copies of Street Count surveys).
- A copy of the Teams and Map of assigned 'zone' in the city.
- Emergency contact information, including: contact phone number for headquarters, CPS Transport Team, the DOAP Team, and

³ Although the Count allowed inclusion of day and night sleepers over a (24) hour period; the vast majority of facility enumeration was done between 10:00 pm on October 19, and 12:00 am on October 20. Full Count Results were asked to be completed and submitted to the Calgary Homeless Foundation by 12:00 pm (noon) on October 20 (*Best Practices & Lessons Learned in Conducting Counts of Homeless Persons in Calgary, 1992-2008, p.19*).

Non-Emergency Police Calls.

- Gifts of engagement and gratitude including candy and chocolate bars, cigarettes, warm hats, gloves, socks, hand warmers, dental kits, and hygiene kits.

At 10:00 pm on the night of the Count, teams of three to four volunteers led by one outreach/agency worker or law enforcement officer, travelled to their pre-assigned geographic zone by foot, car, or transit. Enumeration forms were used to keep track of the total number of unsheltered homeless individuals counted by each team.⁴ Each team asked homeless individuals they encountered to complete a 17-question survey to capture basic demographics of Calgary's rough sleeping population, as well as basic information about their previous living circumstances and housing needs. Participation in the survey was voluntary and interviews did not exceed 20 minutes. Consent was obtained from all participants, and engagement gifts such as cigarettes, or candy/chocolate bars were offered to increase survey participation. If people chose not to participate in the survey, teams had a tally sheet on which they collected a smaller amount of information (namely, observed demographic information, including gender, approximate age, and ethnic background). The observed method was also used if the individual was sleeping, heavily intoxicated, or believed to be severely mentally ill. Volunteers were encouraged to approach everyone, unless the individual was sleeping or if they felt it would jeopardize safety.

In addition to the gifts of engagement, all individuals encountered were offered transportation to an emergency shelter. Upon completion of the survey, honorarium gifts were given which included warm clothing, as well as both dental and hygiene kits. Once the two-hour period had elapsed, teams returned to the headquarters with their completed

surveys and observational tally sheets.

Please see Appendix C for a copy of the Street Count survey questions, as well as the observed enumeration chart.

Limitations to Point-in-Time Counts

It is critical to note that PiT Counts do not seek to capture the full picture or context of homelessness. Likewise, as mentioned in the methods section of this report, most PiT Counts (including Calgary's) do not claim that their 'street counts' are representative.

Due to the fact facility reported data is often based on agency staff observing characteristics, there is potential for error when observing each individual's demographics.

The Street Count component occurs during a two hour time period, while facility-reported data could happen at any time during the day of the count. For example, a Short Term Supportive Housing facility may conduct a count before administrative staff leave for the day. This does create potential for over-counting or duplication.

Lastly, classification of facilities as Emergency Shelter, Short Term Supportive Housing, or Permanent Supportive Housing Providers is complex and can change overtime in correlation to the individual themselves and the facility's flexibility.

⁴ A mandatory training session was provided for volunteer two hours prior to the start of the Count on the evening of October 19. The orientation outlined the Count's history and purpose, along with the enumeration and interview process. It also covered safety and emergency procedures. A separate and more detailed training session for Team Leaders was held two weeks prior to the Count.

The Weather and the Street Count

During the colder months, homeless individuals are more likely to enter homeless shelters, where it is easier to more accurately enumerate the population. In the summer months, individuals are more likely to be sleeping outdoors and in camps that are spread across the city. As a result, there is a higher probability that the count will miss individuals in warmer months (*Kelowna Point-in-Time Count, Central Okanagan Foundation, 2016*). October was chosen as a good month to conduct the most accurate “snapshot” of homelessness in Calgary. The 2016 Fall Count took place in the same week as the 2014 Fall Count. Temperatures during the 2014 Fall Count reached 3 degrees Celsius. The average temperature during the 2016 Fall Count was 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Appendix B – List of Facilities and Classifications

Emergency Shelters

- Alpha House
 - Detox
- Awo Taan
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary
 - Avenue 15
 - Safe House
- Brenda’s House
 - Children’s Cottage
- Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre
 - West Hillhurst
 - Centre 2507
- Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter
- Inn From The Cold
 - C110 Family Shelter
 - Knox Inn
 - Sundial
- The Salvation Army
 - Centre of Hope
 - WISH
- YWCA of Calgary
 - Mary Dover House
 - Sheriff King Home
- Wood’s Homes
 - EXIT Youth Shelter

Short Term Supportive Housing

- Alcove
 - Addiction Recovery for Women
- Alpha House
- Aventa
 - Aventa
 - Aventa 12th Ave
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary
 - Haven’s Way
- Brenda Strafford Centre
 - Progressive Housing
 - Second Stage

Short Term Supportive Housing

- Calgary Catholic Immigration Services
 - Beltline
- Calgary Dream Centre
- Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre
 - Riverfront
- Discovery House Society
- Fresh Start Recovery
- Highbanks Society
- Calgary John Howard Society
 - Berkana House
 - Raido House
 - Windsor House
- Kerby Centre
 - Rotary House
- McMan
 - Hope Homes for Aboriginal Youth
- Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre
- Recovery Acres Society
 - 1835 House
 - 1822 House
- The Salvation Army
 - Centre of Hope
 - WISH
 - Addictions Recovery Program
- Servants Anonymous Society
 - SAFE
- Simon House
- Sonshine Society
- Sunrise Addiction Services Society
- Victory Foundation
 - Forest Lawn Recovery Program (Eastside Victory Outreach)
 - Victory Manor Transitional Housing (Ogden)
- YWCA of Calgary
 - Mary Dover House

Systems

- **Alberta Health Services**

- o Peter Lougheed
(Emergency and Inpatient)
- o Foothills Medical Centre
(Emergency and Inpatient)
- o Rocky view General Hospital
(Emergency and Inpatient)
- o SAF (Forensic and Psychiatry Inpatient
Centre)
- o South Health Campus
(Inpatient)
- o Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre
- o Renfrew Recovery Detoxification
Centre

- **Corrections**

- o Calgary Remand Centre
- o Calgary Young Offender Centre
- o Calgary Police Service Court Services
Selection
- o Alberta Works Income Support
Contact Centre

Rough Sleepers

- Calgary Transit
- Calgary Police Service; PACT
- Calgary Peace Officers; Community
Standards, PAL
- Canadian Pacific Railway
- Calgary Parking Authority
- DOAP Team & Encampment
- SAIT Campus Security
- University of Calgary Campus Security
- Calgary Stampede Authority
- Mount Royal University Campus Security
- Fish Creek Park Warden

Appendix C – Data Collection Forms

Facility Count Enumeration Form

Please fill out the following form based on your records of people staying overnight in your facility on the night of October 19, 2016 (10:00 am on October 19 and 12:00 am on October 20). For questions 8-13, please fill out only the fields relevant to your facility. If your facility serves both families and single individuals, please record the information in the section for facilities serving families. Note that definitions are listed under Table 1.

If your program operates more than one type of bed (i.e. emergency shelter beds as well as transitional beds) in one facility, please submit one form for each type of program.

Please submit this form via email to rachel@calgaryhomeless.com no later than noon on **October 20th**. You will receive a confirmation email in response.

If you have any questions about how to complete this form, please contact: **Rachel Campbell** either by telephone (403) 718-2934 or by email at rachel@calgaryhomeless.com

If you require any other information about the Point-in-Time Count, please contact: **Madison Smith** either by telephone at (403) 718-2928 or by email at madisons@calgaryhomeless.com

We would like to thank the City of Calgary for providing enumeration forms that were used during the 2008 Point-in-Time Count and were invaluable to creating this form.

General Information:

1. Agency Name
2. Facility Name
3. Bed/Program Type (applicable if multiple program or bed types housed in one facility – i.e. emergency mats, transitional beds. In the case of multiple programs, one form should be submitted *per program/bed type*)
4. Date (MM/DD/YYYY) data was collected
5. Time (MST, AM/PM) data was collected
6. Data Source (observed by the case manager or from the software)
7. Contact information of the person who collected the data (name, phone, email)

Count Information: Facilities Serving Single Individuals

8. How many individuals who are homeless/have no fixed address were counted (includes **ALL** Age Groups)?
9. Number of families staying in your facility
10. What is your regular bed capacity for singles programs or unit capacity for family programs (total number of beds or units the organization has available)?
11. Description of unusual circumstances affecting the count

12. Additional comments about the count

Definitions: Terms of reference.

Single Individuals: For the purposes of this form, individuals are unaccompanied, single persons in your facility.

Families: For the purposes of this form, a family is any combination of a parent/guardian and dependent staying at the same facility. For example, an 18-year-old mother and her child; 2 parents and 2 children; a guardian and his/her dependent.

Other: This group represents all known ethnicities except Caucasian and Aboriginal (i.e. Asian, African, and Latino).

Unknown Ethnicity: This group represents those whose ethnicity is unknown.

Unknown Gender: This group represents those whose gender is unknown.

Unknown Age: This group represents those whose age is unknown.

Thank you for participating in the Count. Your support is essential for the success of this project.

Observed Sex	Male				Female				Total
	Caucasian	Aboriginal	Visible Minority	Unknown Population Group	Caucasian	Aboriginal	Visible Minority	Unknown Population Group	
Observed Population Group									
Preschoolers (age 5 or younger)									
School Age Children (age 6-12)									
Youth (age 13-17)									
Young Adults (age 18-24)									
Working Age Adults (age 25-44)									
Middle Aged Adults (age 45-64)									
Seniors (age 65 or older)									
Unknown Age									
Totals									

Enumeration Sheet

Street Survey

SURVEY QUESTIONS – POINT-IN-TIME COUNT, October 2016



2016 Alberta Homeless Count Survey - Calgary

Please conform to this sequence of questions.

Core Screening Questions
<p>Screening 1 Have you answered this survey with a person with this name tag tonight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES (<i>Thank and end survey</i>) <input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Screening 2 Are you willing to participate in this survey?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO (<i>Thank and end survey</i>)
<p>Screening 3 Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Screening 4 <i>[if answered YES to Screening 3]</i> What type of residence is your permanent residence?</p> <p><u>If one of the following, thank and end survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> OWN APARTMENT/HOUSE <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER <input type="radio"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE (FRIEND/FAMILY) <p><u>If one of the following, continue survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE <input type="radio"/> MOTEL/HOTEL (sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH) <input type="radio"/> MOTEL/HOTEL (not sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH) <input type="radio"/> EMERGENCY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER <input type="radio"/> TRANSITIONAL HOUSING <input type="radio"/> PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. SIDEWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FORESTS, BUS SHELTER) <input type="radio"/> VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) <input type="radio"/> MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK <input type="radio"/> ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING <input type="radio"/> OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION (SPECIFY: _____) <input type="radio"/> RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]

Screening 5

Where are you staying tonight?

If one of the following, thank and end survey

- OWN APARTMENT/HOUSE
- DECLINE TO ANSWER
- SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE (FRIEND/FAMILY)

If one of the following, continue survey

- HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE
- MOTEL/HOTEL (sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
- MOTEL/HOTEL (not sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
- EMERGENCY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER
- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
- PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. SIDEWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FORESTS, BUS SHELTER)
- VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, 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

Survey Question 1

What family members are staying with you tonight?

- NONE
- PARTNER
- OTHER ADULT (SPECIFY: _____)
- CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) UNDER AGE 18

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<input type="radio"/> Gender										
<input type="radio"/> Age										

- DECLINE TO ANSWER

Survey Question 2

How old are you [OR] what year were you born? (if unsure, ask for best estimate)

- AGE (IN YEARS): _____
- OR YEAR BORN: _____
- DON'T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

Survey Question 3

Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without Status [if yes, please follow-up to specify].

- YES (SPECIFY BELOW)
 - FIRST NATIONS
 - INUIT
 - MÉTIS
 - NON-STATUS OR HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY
- NO
- DON'T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER



<p>Survey Question 4 Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 5 How long have you been in Calgary?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> LENGTH: ____ DAYS/WEEKS/MONTHS/YEARS (Circle one) <input type="radio"/> ALWAYS BEEN HERE <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER <p><i>If length answered:</i></p> <p>Where did you come from before you came here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY: _____ <input type="radio"/> PROVINCE (in Canada): _____ <input type="radio"/> COUNTRY (not in Canada): _____ <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 6 Have you ever had any service in the Canadian military or the RCMP? (select one)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY <input type="radio"/> YES, RCMP <input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY AND RCMP <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 7 What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list] (check all that apply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> MALE <input type="radio"/> FEMALE <input type="radio"/> TRANSGENDER <input type="radio"/> OTHER RESPONSE: _____ <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 8 Do you identify as part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirited or Queer community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

Survey Question 9

9.1 How long have you been homeless most recently?

- ___ # OF YEARS / ___ # OF MONTHS / ___ # OF WEEKS / ___ # OF DAYS
- DON'T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

9.2 How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years? _____

- DON'T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

Survey Question 10

Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months? [Prompt: the DI, Alpha House, inn from the Cold, etc].

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

Survey Question 11

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

Survey Question 12

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 BENEFITS (E.G. CPP, OAS, GIS)
- CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
- OTHER SOURCE: _____
- NO INCOME
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

Appendix D – Data Tables

Figure 1

0 to 5	163
6 to 12	139
13 to 17	77
18 to 24	300
25 to 44	1218
45 to 64	1368
65+	141
Unknown	24

Figure 2

Male	2561
Female	850
Transgender	0
Unknown	19

Figure 3

Caucasian	2035
Indigenous	695
Other	539
Unknown	161

Figure 4

Shelter	1503
Transitional	1453
Systems	280
Unsheltered	194

Figure 5

	2014	2016
0 to 5	198	163
6 to 12	124	139
13 to 17	112	77
18 to 24	271	300
25 to 44	1395	1,218
45 to 64	1284	1,368
65+	122	141
Unknown	49	24

Figure 6

	2014	2016
Shelter	1766	1503
Transitional	1292	1453
Systems	315	280
Unsheltered	182	194

Figure 7

	2014	2016
Caucasian	2,010	2035
Indigenous	751	695
Other	641	539
Unknown	153	161

Figure 8

	Caucasian	Indigenous	Other	Unknown
Shelter	889	381	229	4
Transitional	947	190	300	16
Systems	138	65	2	75
Unsheltered	61	59	8	66
	Caucasian	Indigenous	Other	Unknown
Shelter	44%	55%	42%	2%
Transitional	47%	27%	56%	10%
Systems	7%	9%	0%	47%
Unsheltered	3%	8%	1%	41%

Figure 10

	0 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+	Unknown
Caucasian	32	25	40	161	692	970	115	-
Indigenous	55	54	19	86	280	193	7	1
Other	73	60	18	40	182	158	8	-
Unknown	3	-	-	13	64	47	11	23
	0 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+	Unknown
ALL	4.8%	4.1%	2.2%	8.7%	35.5%	39.9%	4.1%	0.7%
Caucasian	1.6%	1.2%	2.0%	7.9%	34.0%	47.7%	5.7%	0.0%
Indigenous	7.9%	7.8%	2.7%	12.4%	40.3%	27.8%	1.0%	0.1%
Other	13.5%	11.1%	3.3%	7.4%	33.8%	29.3%	1.5%	0.0%
Unknown	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%	39.8%	29.2%	6.8%	14.3%

Figure 11

	All	Youth
Total	3430	377
Shelter	1503	115
Transitional	1453	181
Systems	280	51
Unsheltered	194	30

Figure 12

	0-24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+	
Calgary City Census	375514	419654	309011	131382	1,235,561
PiT Count	679	1,218	1,368	141	3,406
Calgary City Census	30.4%	34.0%	25.0%	10.6%	
PiT Count	19.9%	35.8%	40.2%	4.1%	

Figure 13

	Male	Female	Transgender	Unknown	
Shelter	1,187	316	-	-	1,503
Transitional	988	465	-	-	1,453
Systems	241	39	-	-	280
Unsheltered	145	30	-	19	194
	2,561	850	-	19	3,430
	Male	Female			
Emergency Shelter	46%	37%			
Transitional Housing	39%	55%			
Systems	9%	5%			
Unsheltered	6%	4%			

Figure 14

Sources of Income		
Employment	33%	94
Informal/Self-employment	27%	78
Seniors Benefits	9%	25
Disability Benefits	8%	23
Welfare/Income Assistance	7%	19
Other Source	5%	14
Child and Family Tax Benefits	4%	12
Employment Insurance	3%	8
No income or not reported	23%	65

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Thank you to our partners for the time and resources supplied towards making the Fall 2016 Point-in-Time Count successful. Your generosity is appreciated, and we thank you for your courageous collaboration initiative. The following organizations:

- Alberta Health Services
- Ambiance Dental
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- Dental Choice Scotia
- Foresters Financial Insurance
- Genumark
- HIV Community Link
- Joy Socks
- Live Out There
- Pizza 73
- MapWorld
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- Office of Hon. Kent Hehr
- Sandman Hotel
- Safeway

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Calgary Homeless
FOUNDATION

