

CALGARY POINT-IN-TIME COUNT REPORT

2022



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts are a way of enumerating people experiencing homelessness and provide a "snapshot" of homelessness in Calgary at a specific point in time. Calgary's 2022 PiT Count was conducted on September 27, 2022, funded in part by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Calgary was one of more than 65 communities that participated in the third nationally coordinated PiT Homeless Count in Canada, in coordination with Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness.

The 2022 PiT Count found a total of 2,782 individuals experiencing some form of homelessness in Calgary. This represents a 4% decrease from 2018 and a 16% decrease from 2016. Overall, 71% of individuals experiencing homelessness were sheltered and 29% unsheltered.

When asked about why the individual lost their most recent housing, the most common reason identified (28% of respondents) was that the individual did not have enough income for housing. Other common reasons for losing housing were: conflict with spouse/partner (14%), landlord/tenant conflict (14%) and substance use issue (13%).

Of the survey respondents, 74% identified they have only been in Calgary for a period of time, compared to having always been in Calgary. The median length of the period the individuals have been in Calgary is 6 years.

It is clear that a lack of affordable housing and economic pressures play a role in the fight against homelessness. Since the last count in 2018, we have seen an increase in the most visible form of homelessness, including addiction and substance use.



BACKGROUND

One of the advantages of PiT Counts is that they attempt to reach the unsheltered homeless population, who can sometimes be missed in administrative data provided by emergency shelters and other systems or service areas. PiT Counts are also advantageous because various public facilities (e.g., emergency shelters, hospitals, correctional facilities) collect information about people experiencing homelessness in different ways and may publish these findings at different times.

PiT Counts are one-day snapshots of homelessness that capture numbers and basic demographics of people staying in emergency shelters, short-term supportive housing, remand centres, addictions treatment facilities and on the streets.

While the PiT Count cannot measure the full picture of homelessness, it can be a helpful indicator of the magnitude of homelessness on any particular day and help identify trends over time.

The PiT Count is one data point that informs future decisions made to address homelessness in Calgary by all levels of government, the Calgary Homeless Foundation and all service providers.

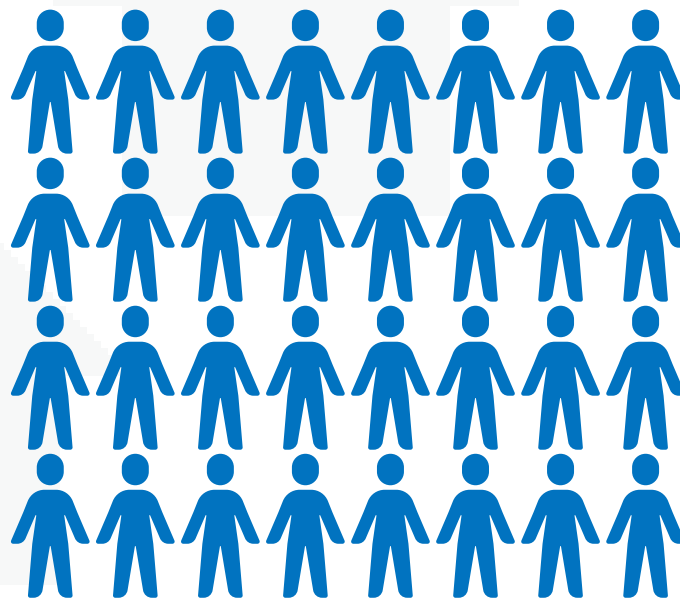


METHODOLOGY

The PiT Count was conducted on September 27, 2022. 32 teams working across the city collected data for two hours (9 – 11 p.m.) about unsheltered people, including people living in encampments or by themselves outside. Administrative data from emergency shelters and other service providers was used to calculate the sheltered population.

All demographic information (age, gender and ethnicity) was self-reported by the individuals being surveyed.

**32 Survey Teams comprised
of over 80 volunteers**





FINDINGS

During the 2022 PiT Count, 2,782 individuals experiencing homelessness were identified. This is a 4% decrease from 2018, when 2,911 individuals were identified. Since 2014, people experiencing homelessness has decrease.

People in Calgary Experiencing Homelessness

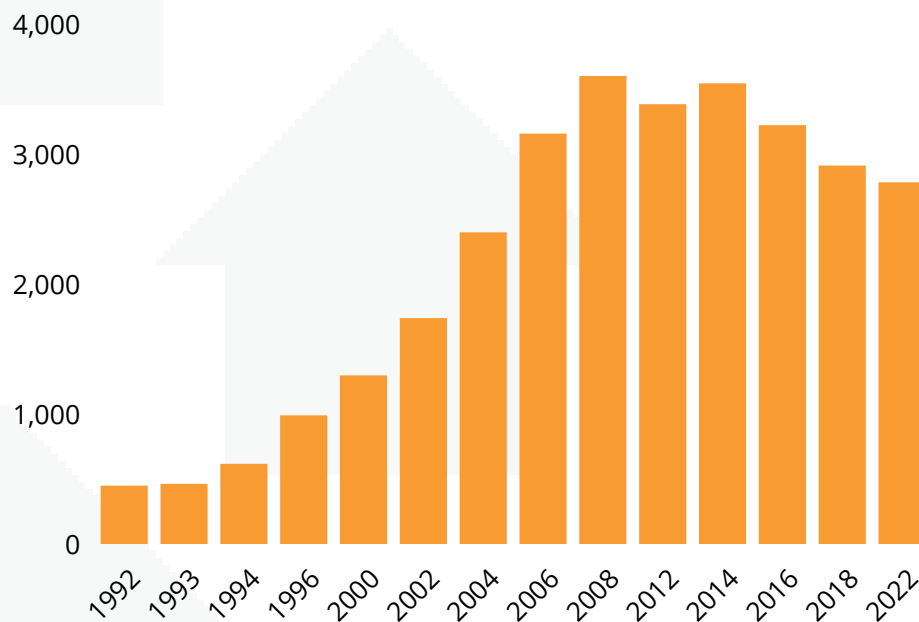


Chart 1 - Counts Over the Years

This survey was answered by 428 of the 2,782 individuals counted (15.4%). 179 (22.4%) of those unsheltered completed the survey, and 249 (12.7%) of those sheltered completed the survey.



While the most common location to find individuals experiencing homelessness is emergency shelters (39.8%), the count found an increasing number of unsheltered individuals. This group is identified in the “Outreach – City Wide” and “Encampment – Camps Across the City” rows below in Chart 2.

People Experiencing Homelessness by Location

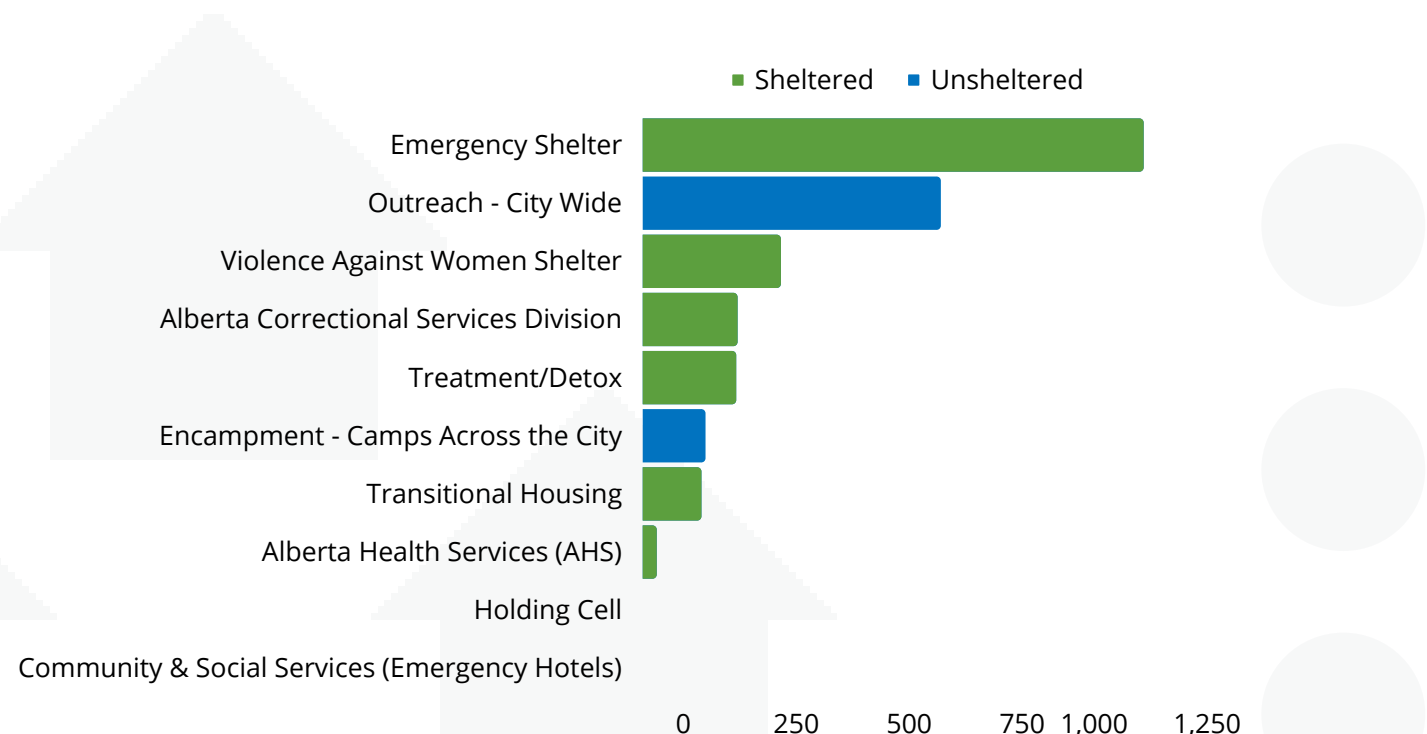


Chart 2 - Where people were enumerated (Facility Count and Survey Data)

23% of individuals experiencing homelessness have not used an emergency shelter in the past year. The most common reason cited (by 45% of those who have not used an emergency shelter) was a fear for safety. Pets were only identified by 3 individuals (4%) as a reason for not using a shelter, and no survey respondents identified that having a partner was a reason for not using a shelter within the past year.

When asked about primary system usage in the past 12 months, 42% identified having been hospitalized, 29% have identified having been in prison/jail, and 52% have interacted with police in the form of tickets, arrests, or searches.



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In 2018, 59 individuals were identified as unsheltered, accounting for 2% of the overall population of people experiencing homelessness. In 2022, there were 795 individuals, accounting for 29% of the overall population. However, the methodology changed between the two counts, leading to more settings and types of experiences being included in the unsheltered category of the 2022 count. The Calgary Homeless Foundation remains focused on outreach coordination, in an attempt to help those who are not accessing a shelter.

Sheltered Status

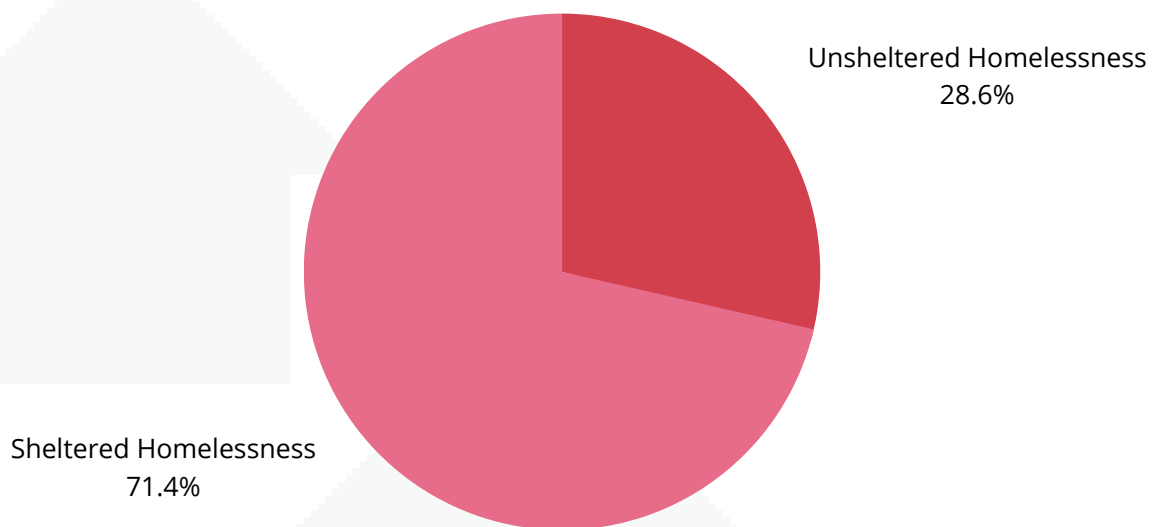


Chart 3 - Shelter Use (Facility Count and Survey Data)

One area where a decrease in the sheltered homeless population was observed was in transitional programs. Those experiencing homelessness while in a transitional program (Transitional Housing, Treatment/Detox) declined from 1,276 (44%) to 335 (12%) between 2018 and 2022. One reason for this could be that a number of programs considered transitional in 2018 have been reclassified, because they do not have a time limit for people to stay.

DEMOGRAPHICS



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Between 2018 and 2022, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness who identified as female increased from 729 (25%) to 883 (32%), whereas those identifying as male decreased from 2,129 (73%) to 1,841 (66%). Rounding out the 2022 count, less than 1% of those surveyed identified as transgender or gender diverse, and 2% did not have a known gender identity.

Gender Identity

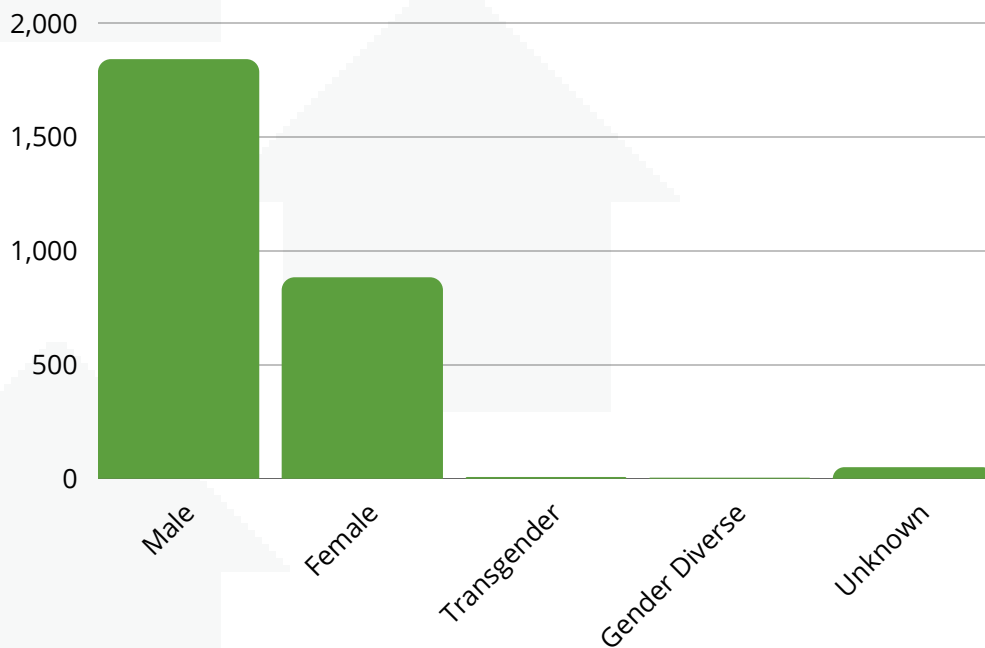


Chart 4 - Gender (Facility Count and Survey Data)



The gender identity of youth and children was relatively even between male and female, with 210 (47.5%) identifying as female and 232 (52.4%) identifying as male. For adult age groups the gender identity skewed male, with 1,286 (69.2%) identifying as male and 559 (30.1%) identifying as female.

Breakdown of Age Group by Gender Identity

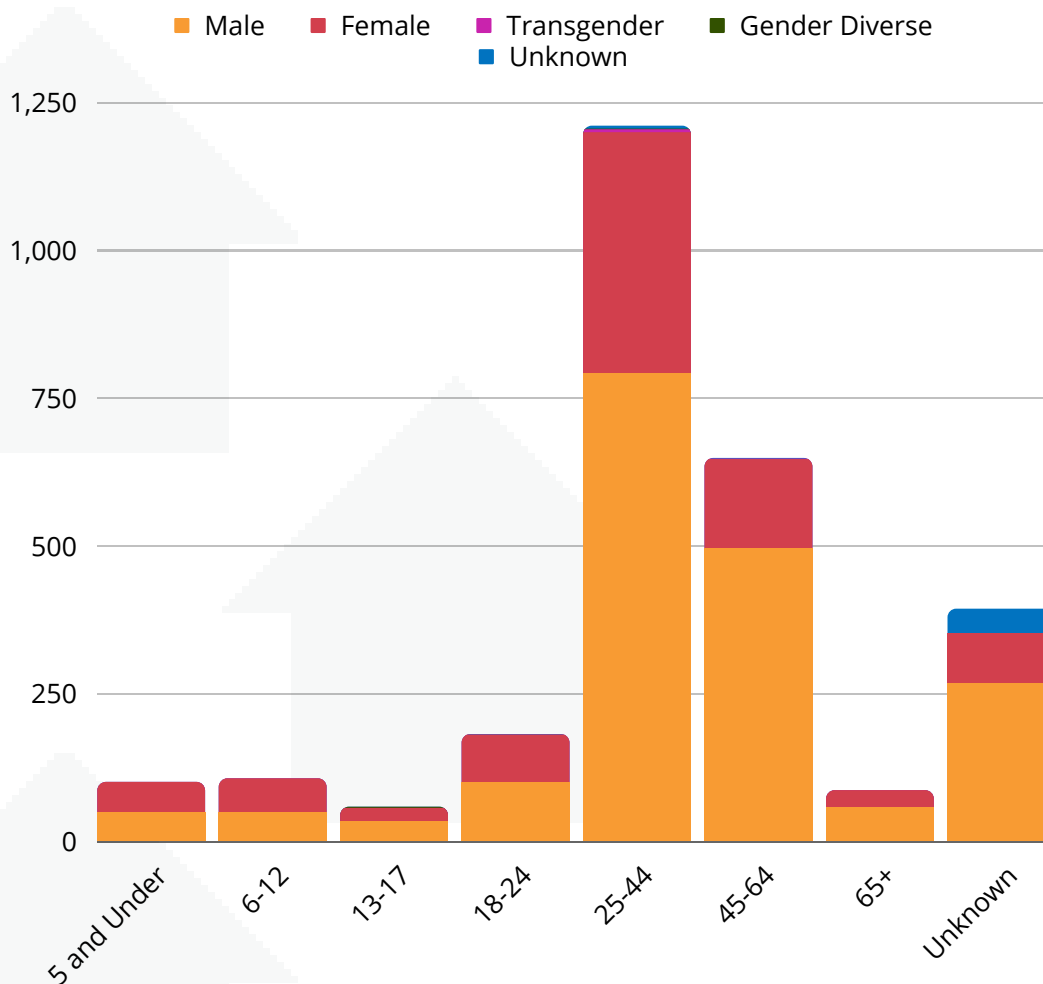


Chart 5 - Age and Gender (Facility Count and Survey Data)



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For people experiencing homelessness with a known age group, 77.8% were in an adult age group (25-44,45-64), 10% were in a youth age group (13-17,18-24), 8.6% were children and 3.6% were seniors (65+).

Age

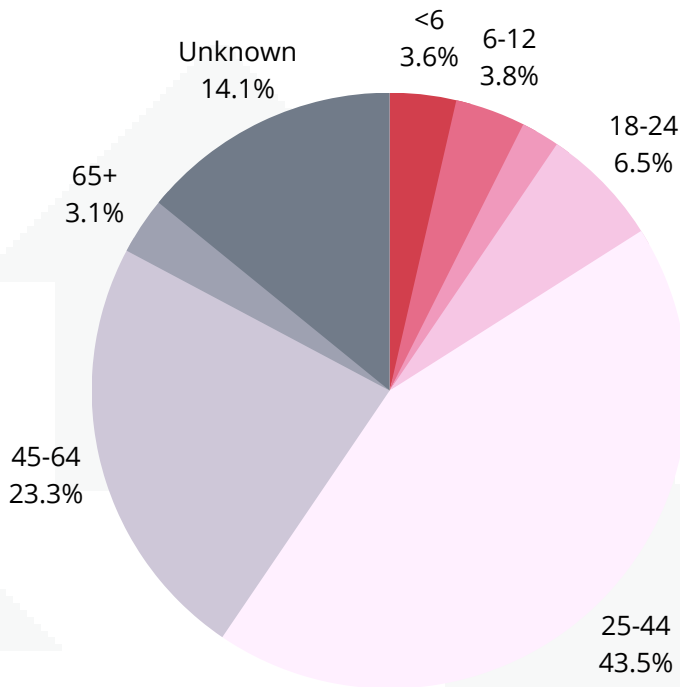


Chart 6 - Age (Facility Count and Survey Data)

A large gap emerges from comparing the median age of survey respondents (40) to what age they first experienced homelessness (28). The gap shows that the median individual in Calgary who is experiencing homelessness, had their first experience with homelessness 12 years ago. Despite first experiencing homelessness 12 years ago, they reported that they most recently lost their housing 1 year ago. This suggests that those experiencing homelessness have been experiencing it on/off since they first experienced homelessness.

40

Median age of
respondents



28

Median age they first
experienced
homelessness



The count identified a large number of individuals with an unknown ethnicity, accounting for 18.5% of the total number of individuals and household members. For those with a known ethnicity, 54.3% identified as Caucasian, 30.1% identified as Indigenous and 14.9% identified with a different ethnicity.

Overall, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness that identified as Indigenous increased from 606 (21% of the total) to 700 (25% of the total) between 2018 and 2022, while those that identified as Caucasian decreased from 1,629 (56%) to 1,231 (44%).

Ethnicity

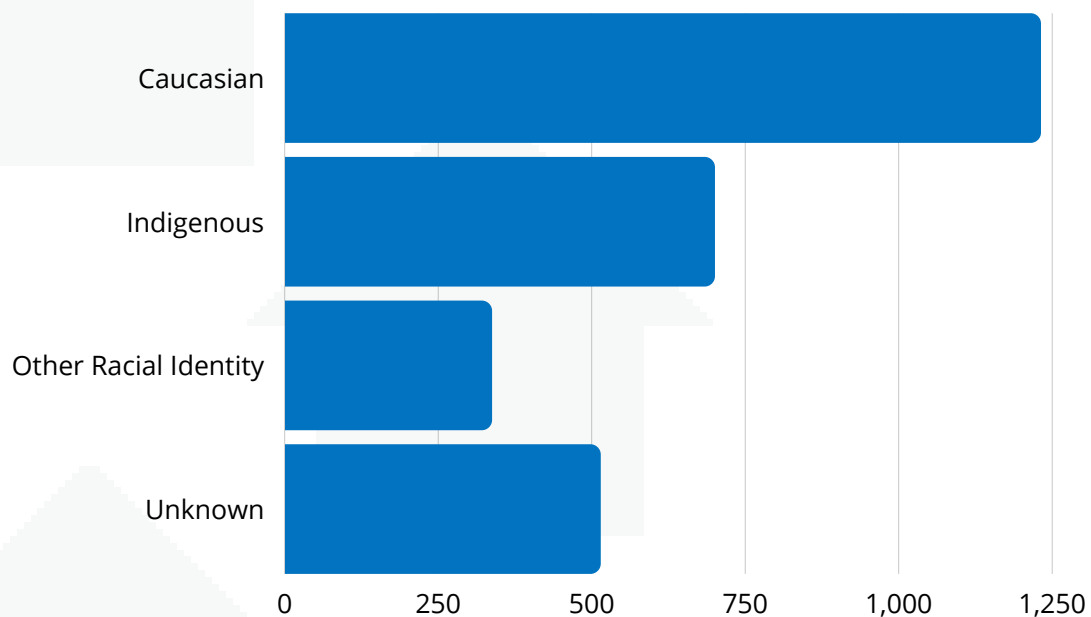


Chart 7 - Ethnicity (Facility Count and Survey Data)



Shelter Status by Ethnicity

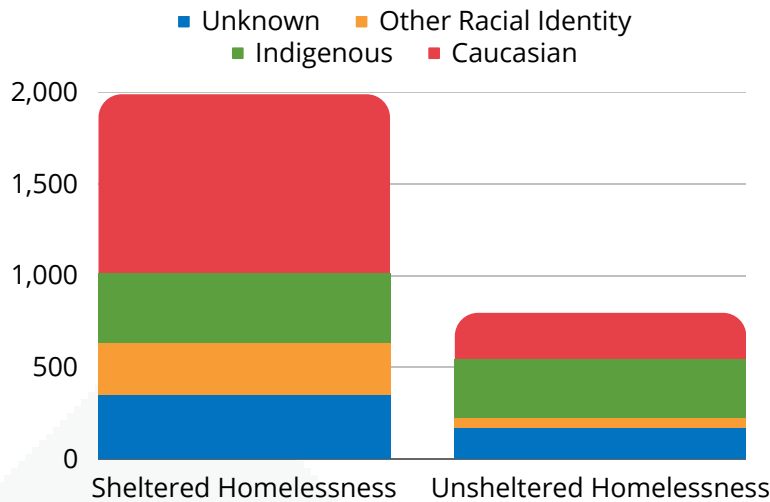


Chart 8 - Ethnicity and Shelter Status (Facility Count and Survey Data)

The ethnicity breakdown was very different for those experiencing sheltered homelessness compared to unsheltered homelessness. For those sheltered, 19.1% identified as Indigenous. For those unsheltered, 40.3% identified as Indigenous.

Program Type by Ethnicity

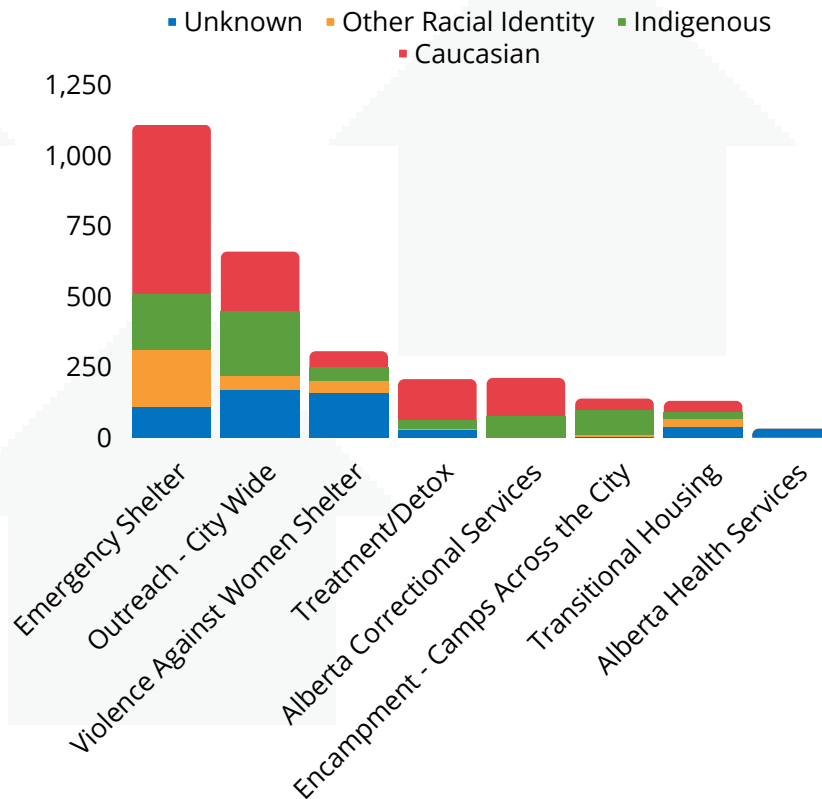


Chart 9 - Ethnicity and Program Type (Facility Count and Survey Data)

Across all locations and program types, Indigenous people were most represented in encampments, making up 65% of the overall population.



CONCLUSION

The 2022 PiT Count allows all levels of government and service providers to get a clearer picture of homelessness. The information gathered in the 2022 PiT Count will contribute towards decisions about allocation of resources — both funding and the creation of targeted programming.

Homelessness appears to be decreasing in Calgary. During the 2022 PiT Count, 2,782 individuals were found to be experiencing homelessness. This continues a trend of steady decreases in the homeless population since 2014. Specifically, it's a 4% decrease from 2018, and a 16% decrease from 2016.

As further methodological alignment occurs, more comparisons can be made over time and across communities. Counts can also point to other areas that warrant further investigation. CHF is committed to continuously looking for ways to improve the accuracy of the PiT Count and will implement the learnings from this year's PiT Count into both future planning and future efforts to enumerate people experiencing homelessness.



APPENDIX A - DETAILED METHODOLOGY





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OVERVIEW



The 2022 Calgary PiT Count enumerated people experiencing homelessness on the night of Tuesday, September 27, 2022. This included people who were staying in an emergency shelter, short-term supportive housing facilities, a hospital or correctional facility, or outdoors.

Two methods of enumeration were used. The first relied on the assistance of staff at emergency shelters, treatment facilities, short-term supportive housing facilities, and other public agencies to share their data for the night. The second method was a short survey that was administered to the unsheltered homeless population, which included people sleeping outdoors on the night of the count in vehicles, in parks, on city pathways, and in other outdoor areas. The survey allowed for the collection of more in-depth information about individuals' homelessness experience.

Prior to the PiT Count, CHF consulted with DOAP Outreach Team staff, Seniors, Community and Social Services (SCSS), Calgary Police Service (CPS) and the Government of Canada's Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS). This process helped determine the geographical areas where the survey would be administered, the composition and number of street teams, content for volunteer training, and logistics for the night of the count.





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VOLUNTEERS

To carry out the PiT Count, community volunteers were needed to help administer the surveys. A volunteer invitation was emailed to people who had previously volunteered during the 2018 PiT Count, and agencies in the Calgary's Homeless Service System of Care (CHSSC) were also invited to participate. Student volunteers were recruited from post-secondary institutions in fields like nursing and social work. The volunteer opportunity was also advertised on CHF's website and social media. Volunteers interested in a team lead position specified this on their registration form, and skilled volunteers were selected for the team lead role.

An effort was made to attract volunteers with experience in CHSSC. Volunteers were also recruited from CPS, SCSS, DOAP outreach teams, and CHF's Client Action Committee (CAC).

Volunteers were required to attend a two-hour training session the week before the count. Themes covered in this training included:

- basic information about PiT Counts
- overall safety
- an overview of how to respectfully approach people
- Indigenous awareness
- an explanation of how to download and administer the electronic survey
- information about honorariums and comfort kits.



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ENGAGING THE PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTOR

Calgary's 2022 PiT Count was made possible thanks to the support of over 80 volunteers from the community, as well as outreach workers, officers and cadets from the CPS, SCSS staff, CHF staff and many other community partners.

Outreach teams and SCSS coordinated before the count to determine which areas outside of the downtown core had encampments and needed to be surveyed on the night of the count. They noted these places so that volunteers accompanied by SCSS and outreach could administer surveys to these people on the night of the count.

FACILITY COUNT

Time Period: 9 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Contributors: Canadian software company HelpSeeker, collected data from facilities included emergency shelters, short-term transitional housing facilities, women's shelters, hospitals, and correctional facilities.

Process: Facilities participating in the count provided information to Helpseeker about all individuals staying at their facility who were experiencing homelessness. This included an age breakdown, gender and ethnicity data.



SURVEY DATA

Time Period: 9 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Survey Development: The questions sought to balance the desire to learn more nuanced information about the unique population of people experiencing homelessness and the time required to complete the survey. Participants were informed of their right to skip any question they were not comfortable with, or end the survey at any time. As the 2022 PiT Count was partially funded by the Government of Canada’s HPS, the majority of the questions were “core survey questions.” These questions were made compulsory as a funding requirement.

Contributors: Over 80 volunteers participated in the collection of survey data. This included people from front-line homeless-sector agencies, CPS, SCSS, DOAP Outreach, CAC, CPR, Calgary Parking Authority, Calgary Stampede, SAIT, The University of Calgary, Mount Royal University and Calgary Transit.

Process: All street count volunteers were required to attend a two-hour training session the week before the PiT Count. During this training session, volunteers received information about the purpose of PiT Counts, the history of Calgary’s PiT Counts, safety procedures, comfort kits and honoraria, an overview and rationale for the survey questions, and an opportunity to practice using the survey.



CONSIDERATIONS



As people experiencing homelessness are often considered a vulnerable population, a number of items must be considered when conducting the PiT Count.

Volunteers are required to attend a two hours of training, covering topics related to safety and the wellbeing of people answering the survey. Volunteers are asked to not take any photographs and to maintain the confidentiality of the people they encounter. As indicated above, the majority of Calgary's PiT Count volunteers have experience working with people experiencing homelessness. Volunteers are provided with contact information to reach immediate assistance if they encounter a person in need.

The intention is for survey questions to garner enough information to inform policies and programs, but not so much that it becomes overly invasive for the person being asked the survey question. Participants are informed that they can skip any question or stop the survey at any time.



APPENDIX B - LIST OF FACILITIES





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EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- Calgary Alpha House Society
- Awo Taan
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary
- Brenda's House
- Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre

- Fear is not Love
- Inn from the Cold
- The Mustard Seed
- The Salvation Army
- YW Calgary
- Wood's Homes

SHORT-TERM SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

- Kerby Centre
- McMan Youth, Family and
Community Services
Association
- Recovery Acres Society
- The Salvation Army

- RESET Society of Calgary
- SonShine Calgary
- Victory Foundation
- YW Calgary





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TREATMENT & DETOX



- Alcove
- Calgary Alpha House Society
- Aventa
- Fresh Start Recovery

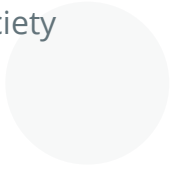
- Recovery Acres
- The Salvation Army
- Simon House
- Sunrise Addiction Services Society

SYSTEMS



- Alberta Health Services

- Alberta Correctional Services



APPENDIX C - DATA COLLECTION FORM





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FACILITY COUNT ENUMERATION FORM

1. What is your organization's name?
2. Where is your organization located?
3. What program type are you reporting information for?
4. Please provide the name of the program for which you are reporting information.
5. Please provide below your name, phone number and email address.
6. Who do you provide accommodations for?
7. What was your bed capacity during the night of the count for families?
8. What was your unit capacity for families during the night of the count?
9. How many families occupied the program on the night of the count?
10. Of these families, how many individuals were there in total?
11. What was your bed capacity during the night of the count for individuals.
12. How many individuals occupied beds in the program on the night of the count?
13. Please enter below the number of individuals staying at your facility during the night of the count by gender and age.



14. Please enter below the number of people that identify as men staying in this program during the night of the count using the following demographic characteristics.

15. Please enter below the number of people that identify as women staying in this program during the night of the count using the following demographic characteristics.

16. Please enter below the number of people that identify as transgender during the night of the count using the following demographic characteristics.

17. Please enter below the number of people that identify as gender diverse during the night of the count using the following demographic characteristics.

18. Please enter below the number of people with an unknown gender staying at your facility during the night of the count using the following demographic characteristics.

19. Please record any unusual circumstances that may have affected the count or any additional comments.

APPENDIX D - DATA TABLES

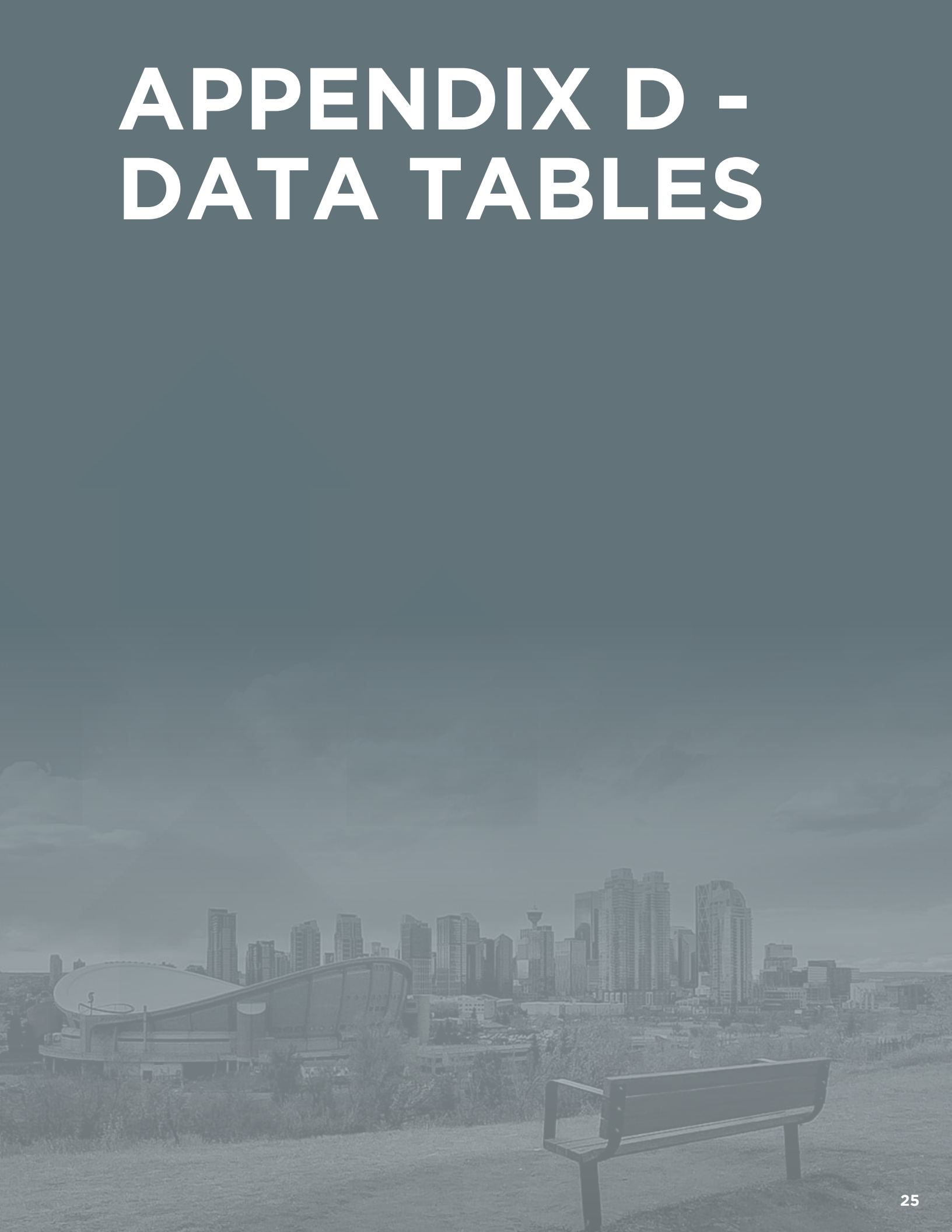




Chart 1 - Counts over the Years

Year	Counted
1992	447
1993	461
1994	615
1996	988
2000	1,296
2002	1,737
2004	2,397
2006	3,157
2008	3,601
2012	3,383
2014	3,544
2016	3,222
2018	2,911
2022	2,782

Note: two counts were taken in both 2012 and 2014. Their results have been averaged.

Chart 2 - Where people were Enumerated (Facility Count and Survey Data)

Location	Counted
Emergency Shelter	1,108
Outreach - City Wide	658
Violence Against Women Shelter	305
Alberta Correctional Services Division	209
Treatment/Detox	206
Encampment	137
Transitional Housing	129
Alberta Health Services	30
Holding Cell	0
Community & Social Services	0



Chart 3 - Shelter Use (Facility Count and Survey Data)

Shelter Status	Counted
Unsheltered	795
Sheltered	1,987

Chart 4 - Gender (Facility Count and Survey Data)

Gender	Counted
Male	1,841
Female	883
Transgender	6
Gender Diverse	3
Unknown	39

Chart 5 - Age and Gender (Facility Count and Survey Data)

Gender	5 and Under	6-12	13-17	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Unknown
Male	49	49	34	100	791	495	57	266
Female	51	57	22	80	408	151	29	85
Transgender	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0
Gender Diverse	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	42



Chart 6 - Age (Facility Count and Survey Data)

Age	Counted
Five and Under	100
6-12	106
13-17	58
18-24	181
25-44	1,210
45-64	648
65+	86
Unknown	393

Chart 7 - Ethnicity (Facility Count and Survey Data)

Ethnicity	Counted
Caucasian	1,231
Indigenous	700
Other Racial Identity	337
Unknown	514

Chart 8 - Ethnicity and Shelter Status (Facility Count and Survey Data)

Ethnicity	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Caucasian	977	254
Indigenous	380	320
Other Racial Identity	282	55
Unknown	348	166



**Chart 9 - Ethnicity and Program Type
(Facility Count and Survey Data)**

Program Type	Caucasian	Indigenous	Other Racial Identity	Unknown
Emergency Shelter	602	198	203	105
Outreach - City Wide	212	231	50	165
Violence Against Women Shelter	56	51	44	154
Treatment/Detox	145	32	4	25
Alberta Correctional Services Division	134	75	0	0
Encampment	42	89	5	1
Transitional Housing	40	24	31	34
Alberta Health Services	0	0	0	30
Holding Cell	0	0	0	0
Community & Social Services	0	0	0	0



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THANK YOU!



The Calgary Homeless Foundation would like to thank all the people who are currently experiencing homelessness who provided the information that makes this project possible. We would also like to thank the PiT Count volunteers and partners for the time they spent supporting this project.

