Spring 2018
Point-in-Time Count Report

Calgary Homeless
FOUNDATION

Canada

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Prepared by:

Alicia Kalmanovitch, Nick Falvo, Britney Ardelli, Laurel Collier, Megan Hodgins, Megan Donnelly and Joel Sinclair

Executive Summary

Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts are a way of enumerating people experiencing homelessness in any community at a specific point in time. Calgary has been conducting PiT Counts since 1992.

Calgary's 2018 PiT Count was conducted on the night of Wednesday, April 11, 2018 and was funded in part by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy. This Provincial count was a part of Everyone Counts: The 2018 Point in Time Count, Canada's Second National Homelessness Partnering Strategy Coordinated Point in Time Count.

For the third consecutive iteration, Calgary participated in a provincially-coordinated PiT Count with 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (7 Cities). 7 Cities is comprised of Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie, and Wood Buffalo. It's important to note that as Calgary and the other 7 Cities work to align methodologies, the way information is collected may vary slightly from year to year.

Over time, Calgary has adapted its methodology to better align with 7 Cities methodology — for example, we have condensed the length of street count from three hours to two hours. During the 2018 PiT Count Calgary elected to continue counting observational tally data, which is a practice that was not adopted in provincial methodology, and those differences have been noted separately in the information.

For more information on methodological changes and differences, please consult Appendix A — Detailed Methodology. Readers should note that all information found in the body of the present report represents the Provincial methodology.

As can be seen in the chart below, 2,911 people were found to be experiencing homelessness on the night of April 11, 2018. This represents a 11% per-capita decrease from 2016 and a 32% per-capita decrease since 2008.[1] Calgary also participated in the third provincially-coordinated PiT Count in partnership with the 7 Cities. Using the Calgary methodology, 3,117 people were enumerated in Calgary.

PiT Count results suggest a decrease in homelessness in Calgary since 2008 — specifically, a 32% per capita decrease between 2008 and 2018.

Homelessness per Capita in Calgary
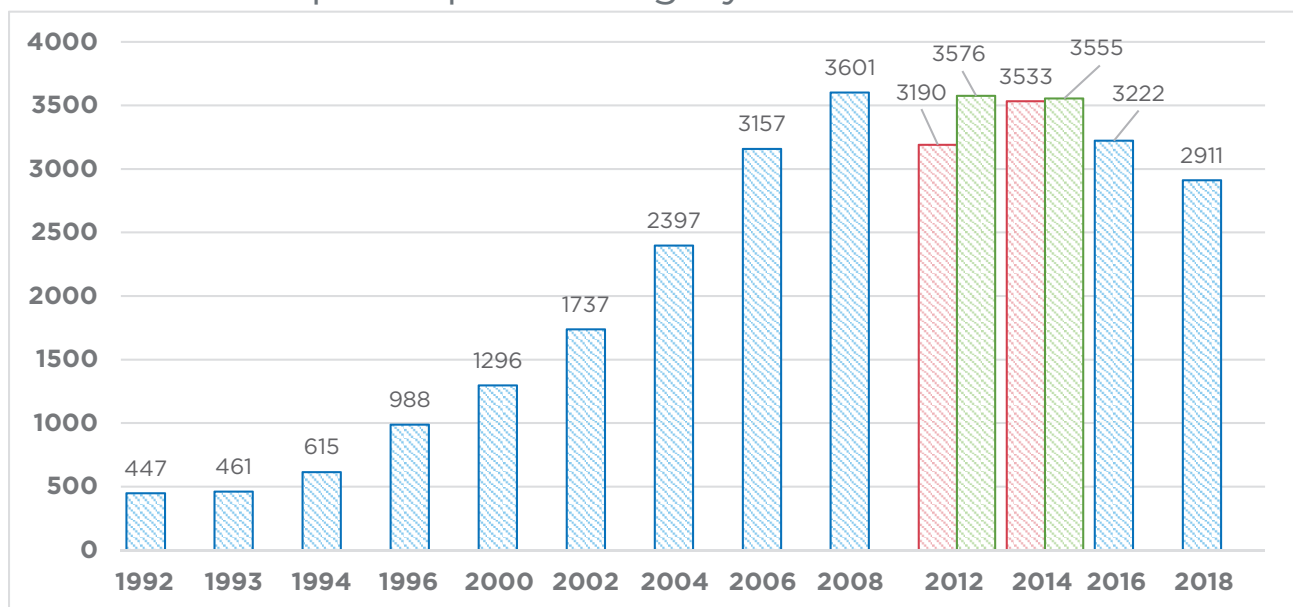
Note: There were two counts in 2012 (January and August) and two in 2014 (January and October).

Chart 1 – Counts over the Years

1 Civic Census Results, 2017

2018 Point-in-Time Count

Calgary's 2018 PiT Count occurred Wednesday, April 11, with the help of over 100 volunteers, more than 40 community agencies, and a several community partners including Calgary Community Standards (CCS), the Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership (DOAP) Encampment Team, Calgary Police Services (CPS), and others. Data gathered on the night of the count includes administrative data (records kept by facilities), survey data (people surveyed both outside and inside on the night of the count), observational tally data (people on the street who are strongly believed to be experiencing homelessness but did not complete a survey), and systems data (records from health and correctional facilities). Some people staying in shelter completed a survey and were also enumerated through the administrative data. Enumeration data gathered through surveys completed in shelter were not included in the overall PiT number, as these people's enumeration was gathered in the administrative data.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness on the Night of Calgary's PiT 2018, by location

April 2018	Number of People Experiencing Homelessness	% of Total
Total Number	2,911	100%
Emergency Sheltered	1,374	47%
Transitional Housing (including treatment and detox)	1,276	44%
Systems	202	7%
Unsheltered	59	2%

Background

PiT Counts are a way of enumerating people experiencing homelessness in a community at a specific point in time. They generally occur over a brief period of time (i.e., a few hours). Coordination of Calgary PiT Counts were led by the City of Calgary starting in 1992; and since 2012, coordination has been led by Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF). Calgary's 2018 PiT Count was part of a federally-coordinated PiT Count effort involving more than 60 communities across Canada.

One of the advantages of PiT Counts is that they attempt to reach the unsheltered homeless population who are generally missed in administrative data provided by emergency shelters and other systems or service areas. Through the use of surveys, information is garnered about this demographic of people that is not collected at any other time.

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. During the PiT Count, people who are experiencing homelessness are counted at the same time across agencies and public facilities so that one total number can be captured for that one night. PiT Counts can also highlight areas for further investigation.

PiT Counts further serve as a "community building" exercise insofar as several agencies, community partners, volunteers, and systems work together on one common project. Indeed, volunteers who are directly involved in PiT Counts have expressed that they learned more about homelessness through volunteering. The PiT Count data is also communicated to the wider community in an accessible way so that the general public can learn more about homelessness trends.

PiT Counts also have certain limitations. One is that they do not gather a representative sample of those who are surveyed. A representative sample means that the people who are surveyed as part of a relatively small sample have the same characteristics of the overall population one is studying.

Strictly speaking, a truly representative sample is difficult to attain in a PiT Count. First, in the street count portion, it would be very challenging to reach every unsheltered individual, as not every person wants to be involved in the PiT Count — so they may avoid volunteers on the night of the PiT Count or decline to answer the survey questions. Also, it would be impossible to know for certain where every single person experiencing absolute homelessness on the night of the PiT Count is physically located at all times.

Second, while conducting surveys in shelters, even if a random selection of clients were obtained it would be neither feasible nor ethical to then approach each of those specific individuals and compel them to participate in a survey. Further, research objectives must be in alignment with the operational requirements of the facility where surveys are being conducted.

A limitation of PiT Counts and other homelessness research also includes the challenge of finding people who are homeless but temporarily residing in the home of a friend, acquaintance or family member - often referred to as "hidden homeless." It is commonly believed that women, families, and youth are underrepresented in homeless counts as they are more likely to stay with friends of family.

Another limitation of PiT Counts is that the methodology may vary from year to year for a variety of reasons. For example, in Alberta, as each member of the 7 Cities works to be more methodologically aligned with one another, they may change their methodology from year to year, and this can skew the results.[2] Factors that can skew the number of people enumerated in a PiT Count include changes to the time of day of the count, changes to the time of year the count is held, the weather on the day of the count and variations from year to year pertaining to which

subpopulations are counted each year.

Calgary's 2018 PiT Count was funded in part by Employment and Social Development Canada's (ESDC)'s Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). This is Canada's second Nationally Coordinated PiT Count, and Calgary's first time participating in the national effort. Over 60 communities across Canada participated in the 2018 nationally coordinated PiT Count.

At a provincial level, Calgary collaborated with other members of the 7 Cities. The 2018 PiT Count was the third consecutive PiT Count in which the 7 Cities worked together to align methodologies. Methodological alignment allows results to be compared across Alberta cities. Turner Strategies was hired to act as the provincial consultant for the 2018 Provincially Coordinated PiT Count.

Methodology

Calgary's 2018 PiT Count used a very similar methodology to that used in previous Calgary PiT Counts. Slight variations were made to the methodology of the 2018 PiT Count to be in better alignment with the other 7 Cities across Alberta, allowing for some comparisons across the province. A detailed description of the methodology used in the 2018 PiT count can be found in Appendix A.

The final PiT Count number is comprised of four main elements, namely: 1) administrative data; 2) street data; and 3) systems data. Basic demographics such as age, gender, and Indigeneity are gathered from administrative data from shelters, treatment centres, supportive housing providers, hospitals, corrections, and other agencies. Street data was gathered via surveys, and systems data was gathered from health and corrections facilities. Surveys were conducted with both people living on the street (the unsheltered homeless population) and some people from select emergency shelters. The survey questions go beyond those found in the administrative data, helping gather additional information such as: sources of income, reason for housing loss, and age of first homelessness experience.

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2 Please see Appendix A for an explanation of the differences between Calgary's local methodology and the 7 Cities methodology.

Data Sources for the overall PiT Count number

Overall PiT Count Number

Administrative Data

Street Data

Systems Data

| Shelters | Transitional Housing and Treatment / Detox | Surveys | Health | Corrections |

What follows is additional information about the three types of data gathered:

1. **Administrative Data** - Administrative data was gathered from shelters, treatment centres, and supportive housing providers.

2. **Street Data** - Surveys were conducted with people experiencing homelessness outside on the night of the count. They were administered by trained volunteers, Calgary Police staff, DOAP Encampment staff, and Calgary Community Standards (bylaw) officers.

3. **Systems Data** – Systems data was obtained from Alberta Health Services (AHS) and provincial correctional facilities.

Some surveys were also conducted with people staying in emergency shelters.

Findings

All data cited in this report comes from either administrative (including systems data) or survey sources (including tally data).

This report will first detail administrative data, which gathers very basic information on where a person is staying (i.e. emergency shelter, transitional housing), age, gender, ethnicity, and families. The second section includes survey data from almost 500 people (though not a representative sample). The survey asks more specific information than what is provided by the administrative data. In cases where a person's information was counted in both the administrative data and the survey data, we do not "double count."

The advantage of the administrative data is that it covers more people and represents a true census of the people staying at the location in question on the night of the Pit Count (though not a true census of all people experiencing homelessness). The advantage of the survey data is that different questions are asked in the survey.

Using a very similar methodology to Calgary's 2016 PiT Count, 2,911 people were counted as experiencing homelessness the night of Wednesday April 11, 2018.

* Please note: some calculations have been rounded and may not add up to 100%.

Administrative Data

The information pertaining to all 2,911 enumerated people is represented in the following charts. In cases where a person completed a survey and was also recorded through administrative data, we do not "double count."

Where

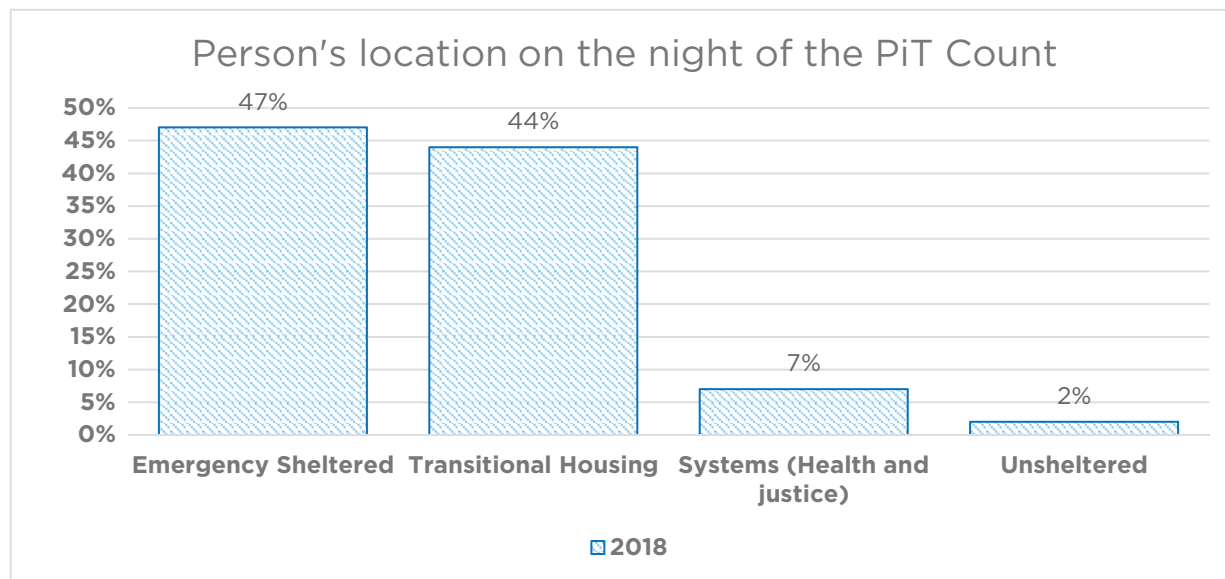Person's location on the night of the PiT Count

Chart 2 – Where People Were Enumerated

Consistent with previous PiT Counts, the vast majority of people enumerated were staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing facilities on the night of the Count.
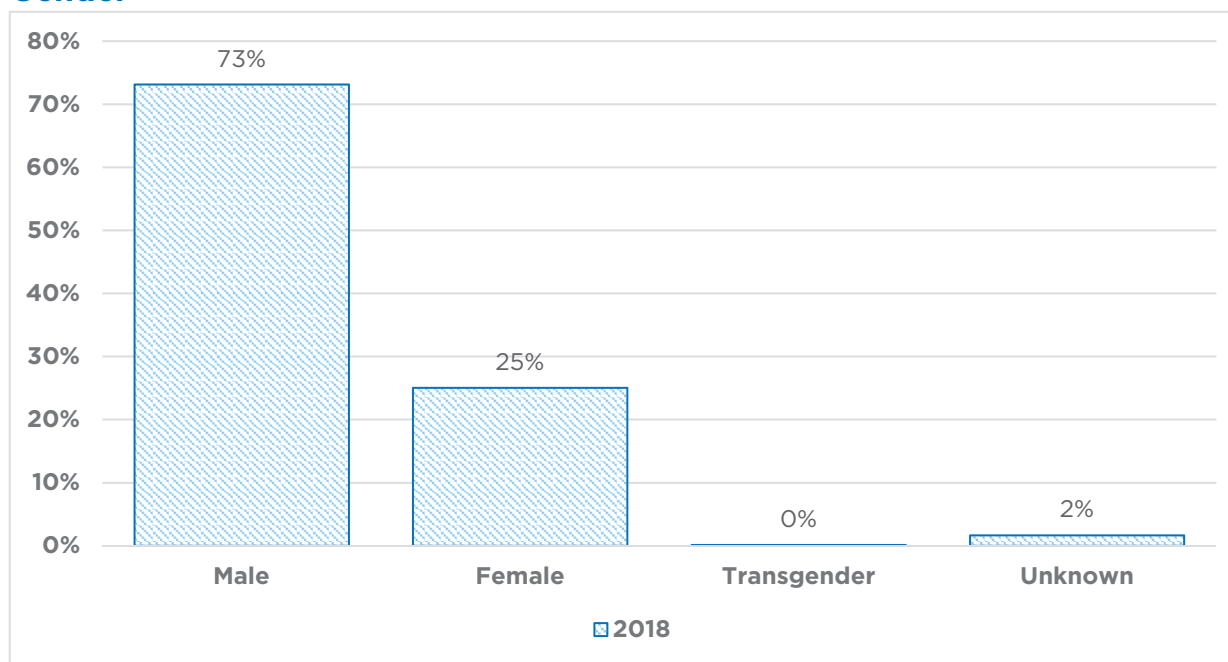
Gender

Chart 3 – Gender (Administrative Data + Systems Data)

Administrative data for gender is gathered under the broad categories of Male, Female, Transgender, and Unknown. As different agencies may have different recording practices for gender (such as just male/female), information may be different than if service users self-reported their gender. Considerably more males were found to be experiencing homelessness during this year's PiT Count. This is a consistent finding across Calgary PiT Counts and across Canadian jurisdictions.[3]

3 Klodawsky, F. (2009). *Home Spaces and Rights to the City: Thinking Social Justice for Chronically Homeless Women.* Urban geography, 30(6), 591-610..
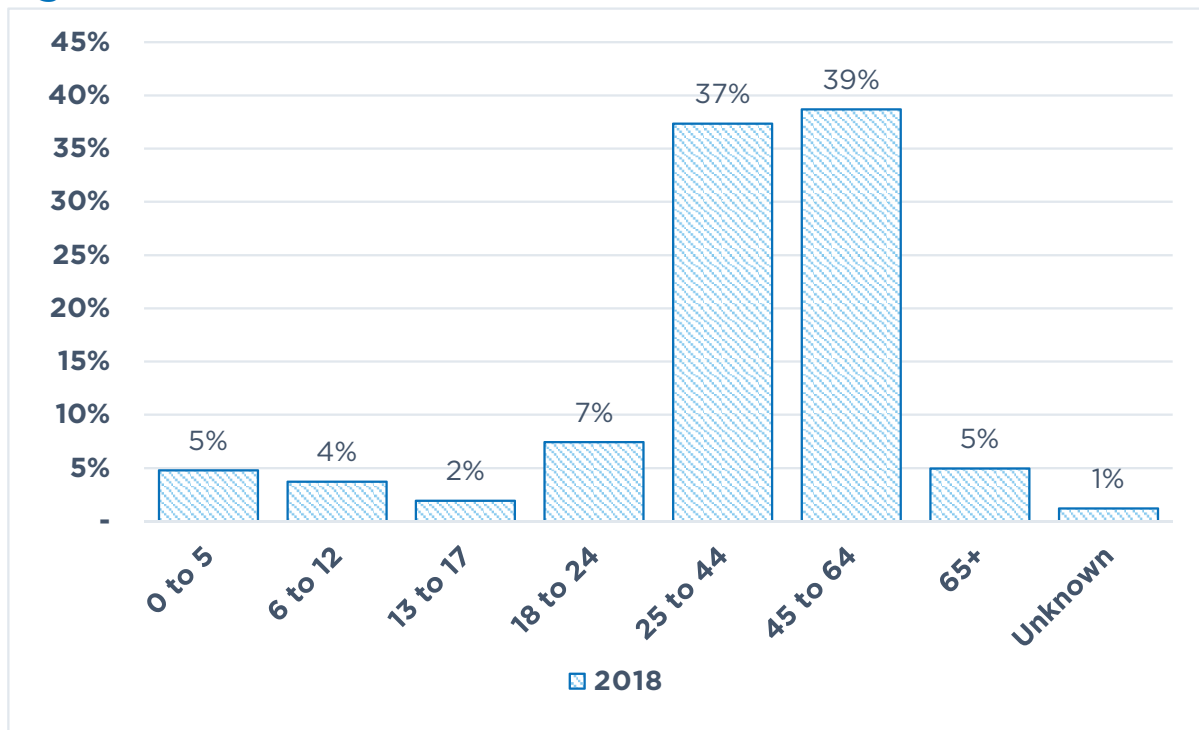
Age

Chart 4 – Age (Administrative Data + Systems Data)

Homelessness occurs across the lifespan; however, consistent with Calgary's previous PiT Counts, the majority of people enumerated were adults between the ages of 25 and 64.

Youth

Year	Youth (total)	Youth (13-17)	Young Adults (18-24)
Jan 2014	423	84	339
Oct 2014	383	112	271
2016	377	77	300
2018	272	56	216

Table 2 – Number of Youth and Young Adults Over time (Administrative Data + Systems Data)

The table above references youth (aged 13 -17) and young adults (aged 18 - 24) enumerated in Calgary PiT Counts over time. In the case of youth (aged 13 -17), we do not disaggregate based on whether or not the individual was accompanied by an adult. Members of these subgroups are found both the "youth sector" (i.e.: emergency shelter and short-term supportive housing programs that generally acommodate or provide services for people up to 24 years of age) and in the rest of Calgary's Homeless-Serving System of Care (CHSSC) (including in adult shelters). Enumerated youth and young adults outside of the youth sector are staying in all other forms of short-term accommodation captured during the PiT Count (including family shelters, domestic violence shelters, systems and health care data).

As can be seen in Table 2, the total number of youth (aged 13 -17) enumerated during Calgary's PiT Count has dropped by half since October 2014, while the total number of young adults (aged 18 - 24) enumerated during Calgary's PiT has decreased substantially over the course of the past two years. (January 2014 is the last PiT Count from which we have consistent data comparable over time.)

Ethnicity
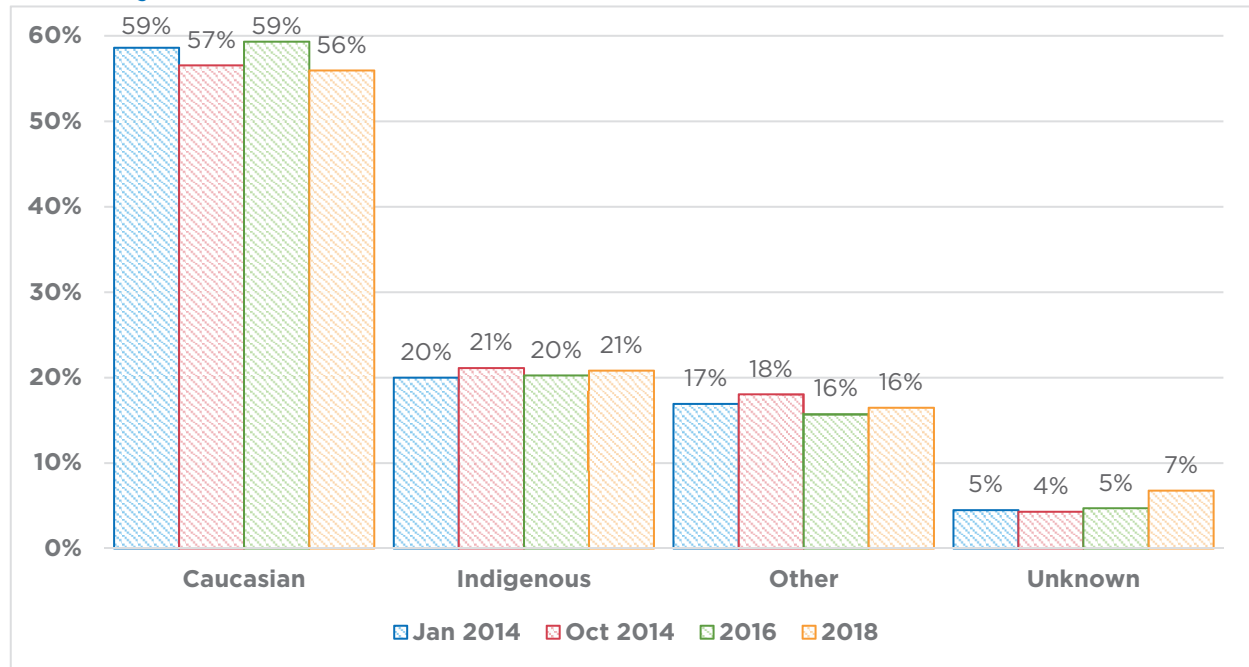
Chart 5 – Ethnicity (Administrative Data + Systems Data)

Administrative data for ethnicity is gathered under the broad categories of Caucasian, Indigenous, Other, and Unknown. Over the course of Calgary's last four PiT Counts, the only noticeable trends appear to be a slight reduction in the percentage of clients identified as Caucasian, and a rather recent jump in the percentage of clients identified as Other. While it is not entirely clear what accounts for either, it is possible that the term Caucasian is falling into disuse in CHSSC.

Families
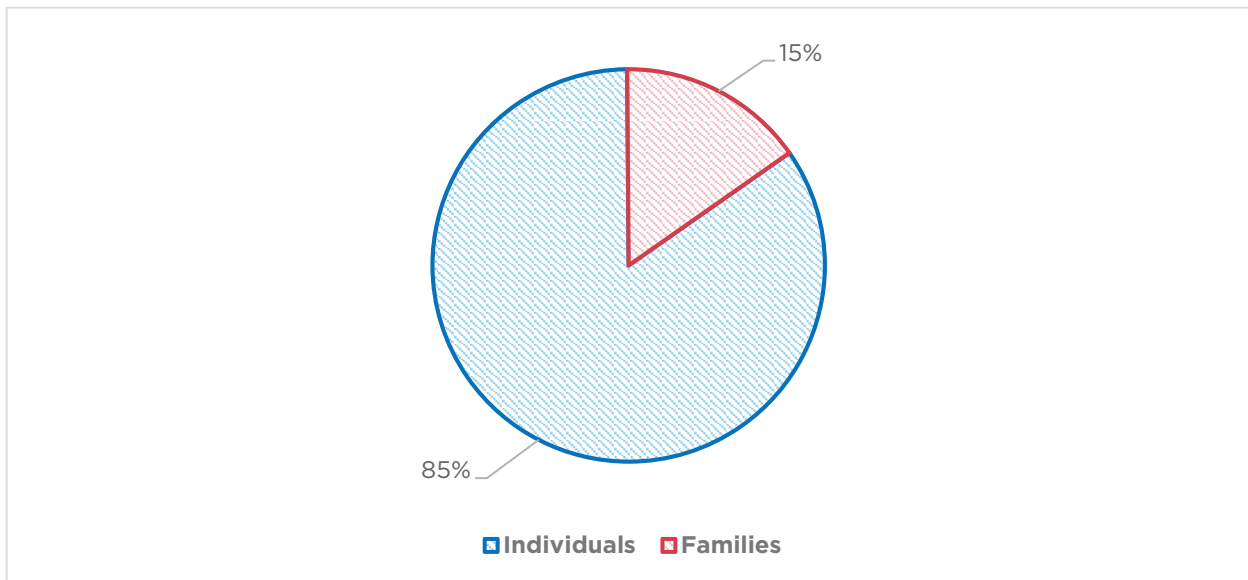
Chart 6 – Families vs. Individuals

Of the 2,911 people enumerated in the 2018 PiT Count, 480 individuals identified as being part of a family that was experiencing homelessness that night. In total, there were 180 families made up of 480 individuals. For the purposes of the PiT Count, a family was defined as any combination of a parent(s)/guardian(s) and dependent(s) staying at the same facility.

Families Staying in Family Shelters or Domestic Violence Shelters

Chart 7 – Families by Location

Of the 480 families enumerated on the night of the PiT Count, 137 families (345 family members) were staying in a domestic violence shelter, 37 families (113 family members) were staying in a shelter designated for family homelessness, and 6 families (22 family members) were staying in other accommodations such as treatment facilities and transitional hous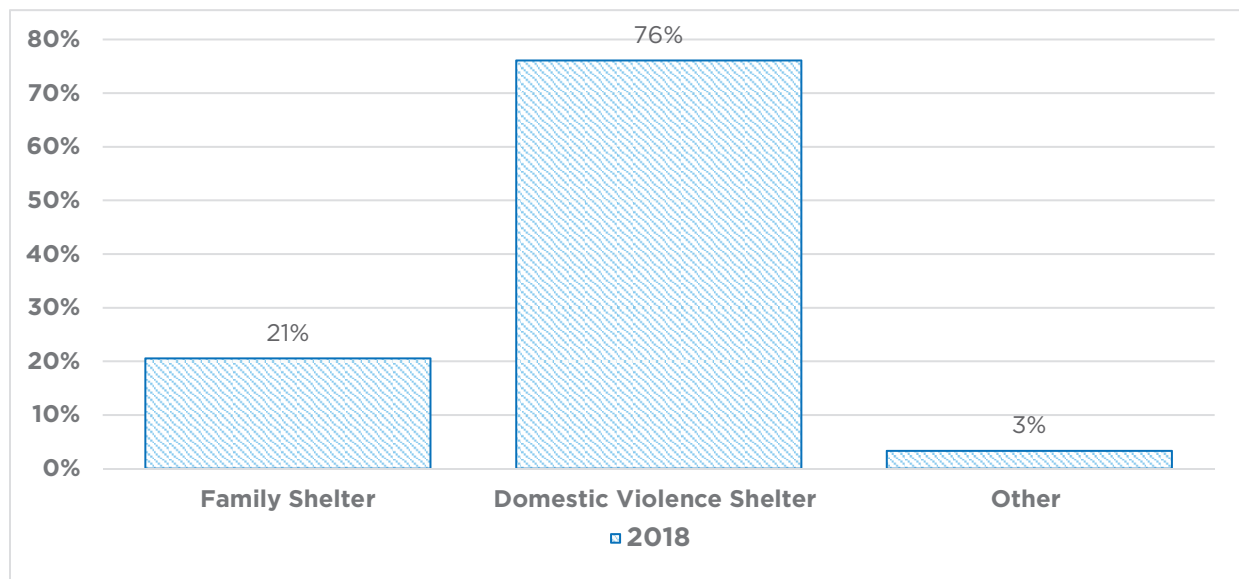ing facilities. For many years, there have been considerably more spaces for families in Calgary's domestic violence shelters than in Calgary's family shelters. Most funding for both types of shelter comes from the Government of Alberta.

As can be seen in Chart 8, since 2014, the number of families experiencing homelessness on the night of Calgary's PiT Count has seen a modest decrease.

Families Over Time
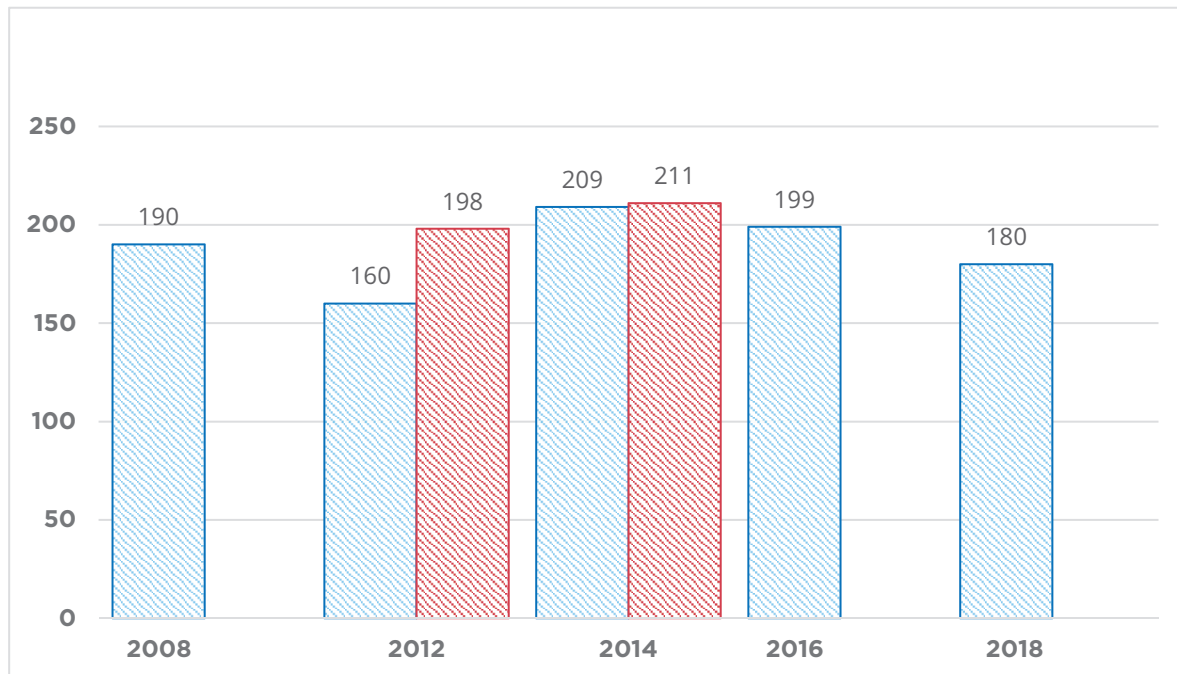
Note. There were two counts in 2012 (January and August) and two in 2014 (January and October).

Chart 8 – Number of Families Over Time

Two points are worth noting here. First, prior to 2012, Calgary PiT Counts were administered by the City of Calgary and did not report the total number of families enumerated. Second, while the 2018 PiT Count enumerated the total number of individual family members, many of our previous PiT Counts did not (making it difficult to report the total number of individuals in family units over time).

Survey Data

The following information is based on the data gathered only through surveys. Surveys were completed with people sleeping rough (i.e., outside) on the night of the PiT Count, as well as with some people in emergency shelters. In total, 498 surveys were completed, with 99 completed with people who were unsheltered, and 399 completed in emergency shelters. The survey provides the opportunity to ask questions not available through the administrative data to more fully understand peoples' experiences of homelessness. However, it is important to emphasize that the survey is not drawn from a representative sample, and findings in this section of the report should therefore be interpreted cautiously. Further investigation is required to determine if the results from the survey are valid.
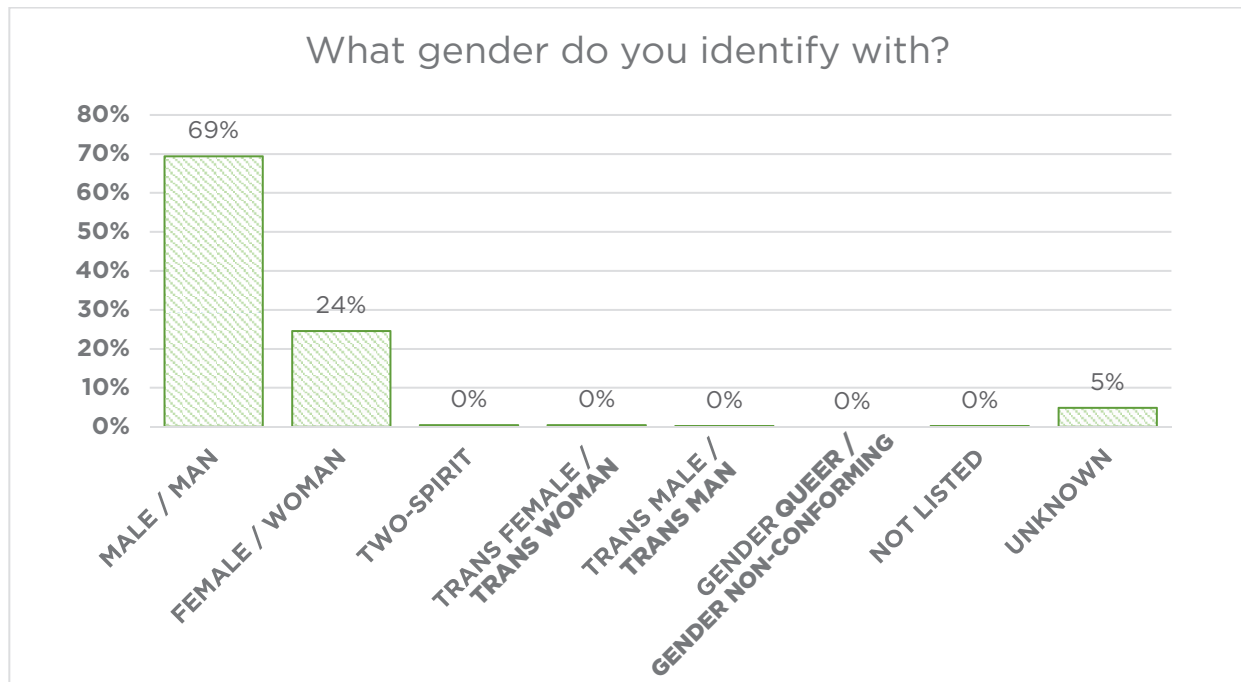
Gender

Chart 9 – Gender (Survey Data)

More options for gender were included in the PiT Count survey questionnaire this year than in previous PiT Counts. Maintaining the traditional male/female categories as the only categories available contributes to maintaining the notion that they are the only categories that exist.[4] It is also important to note that the figures reported above are self-reported and may be underreported due to stigma and concern that this information might be overheard as the survey is being administered.[5,6] The more that is understood about gender among persons experiencing homelessness in Calgary, the more service providers can provide appropriate services. It should be noted that several individuals reported a gender other than male or female.

It is well known that women are underrepresented in PiT Counts. Women are more likely to stay with friends and family (i.e., couch surfing) before entering unsheltered homelessness. Due to the increased danger of experiencing homelessness as a woman, many women will hide when they have no shelter to help avoid dangerous situations. This makes it challenging for PiT count volunteer to locate them.[7]

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4 Abramovich A, and Shelton, J (Eds.). (2017) *Where Am I Going to Go? Intersectional Approaches to Ending LGBTQ2S Youth Homelessness in Canada and the U.S.* York University, Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness
5 Ibid.
6 Ecker, J., Aubry, T., & Sylvestre, J. (2018). *A Review of the Literature on LGBTQ Adults Who Experience Homelessness.* Journal of homosexuality, 1-27.
7 Klodawsky, F. (2009). *Home Spaces and Rights to the City: Thinking Social Justice for Chronically Homeless Women.* Urban geography, 30(6), 591-610.

Sexual Orientation

How do you describe your sexual orientation?

- STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL: 79%
- GAY: 0%
- LESBIAN: 0.0%
- BISEXUAL: 2%
- TWO-SPIRIT: 1%
- QUESTIONING: 0%
- NOT LISTED: 0%
- UNKNOWN: 5%
- DID NOT ANSWER: 14%
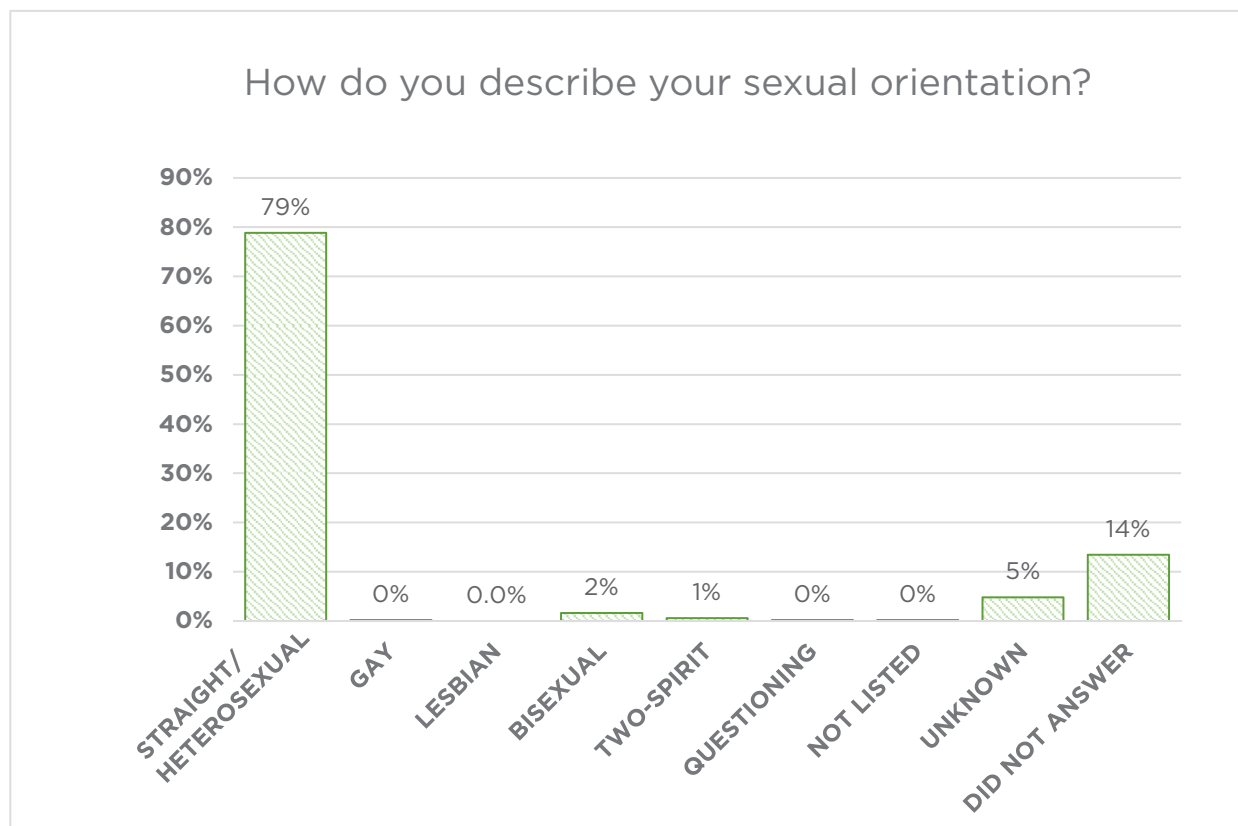
Chart 10 – Sexual Orientation (Survey Data)

The question regarding sexual orientation was modified for the 2018 PiT Count to better understand the experiences of members of the LGBTQ2S+ community. It is important to note that these numbers are self-reported and may be underreported due to stigma and concerns about having this information overheard while responding to the survey.[8,9]

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8 Abramovich A, and Shelton, J (Eds.). (2017) *Where Am I Going to Go? Intersectional Approaches to Ending LGBTQ2S Youth Homelessness in Canada and the U.S.* York University, Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

9 Ecker, J., Aubry, T., & Sylvestre, J. (2018). *A Review of the Literature on LGBTQ Adults Who Experience Homelessness.* Journal of homosexuality, 1-27.

Age
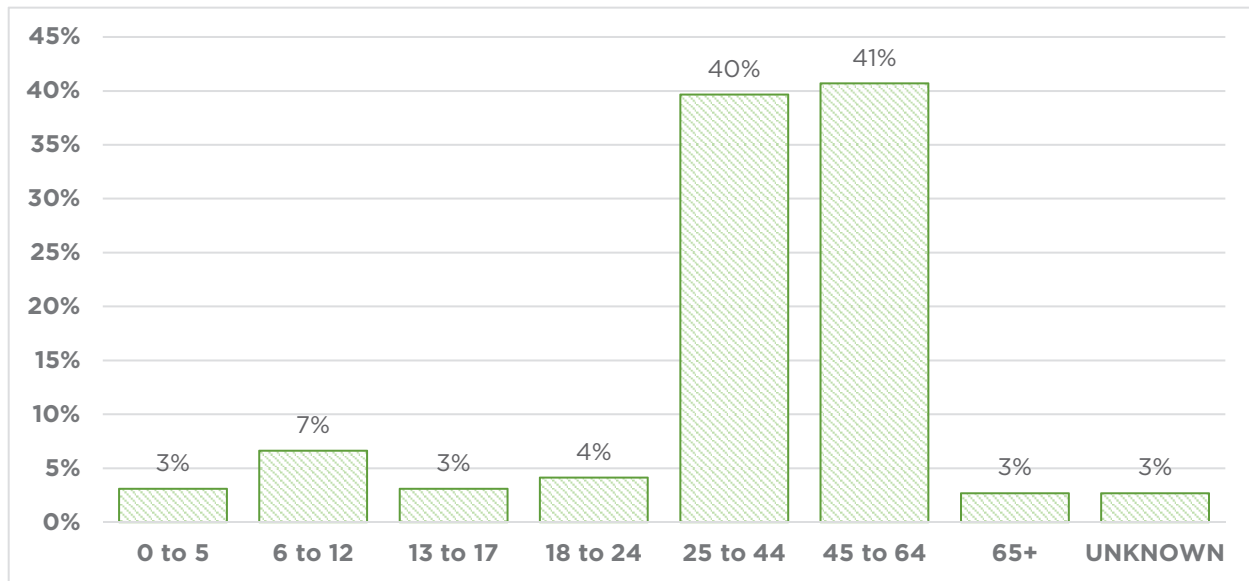
Chart 11 – Age (Survey Data)

Homelessness continues to be seen across the lifespan. It is important to note that the PiT Count survey is completed with people who are unsheltered and some people living in emergency shelters. If people are couch surfing (i.e. homeless but staying with friends and family) they would not be found and given the opportunity to complete a survey. Youth and families are thought to couch surf and may be underrepresented in these figures.

Ethnicity

Ethnic Group

28%	24%	1%	3%	44%
INDIGENOUS	WHITE	ASIAN	BLACK	DID NOT ANSWER

Chart 12 – Ethnic Group (Survey Data)

Geographic Region

35%	4%	5%	5%	0%	51%
NORTH AMERICA	ASIA	EUROPE	AFRICA	LATIN, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN	DID NOT ANSWER
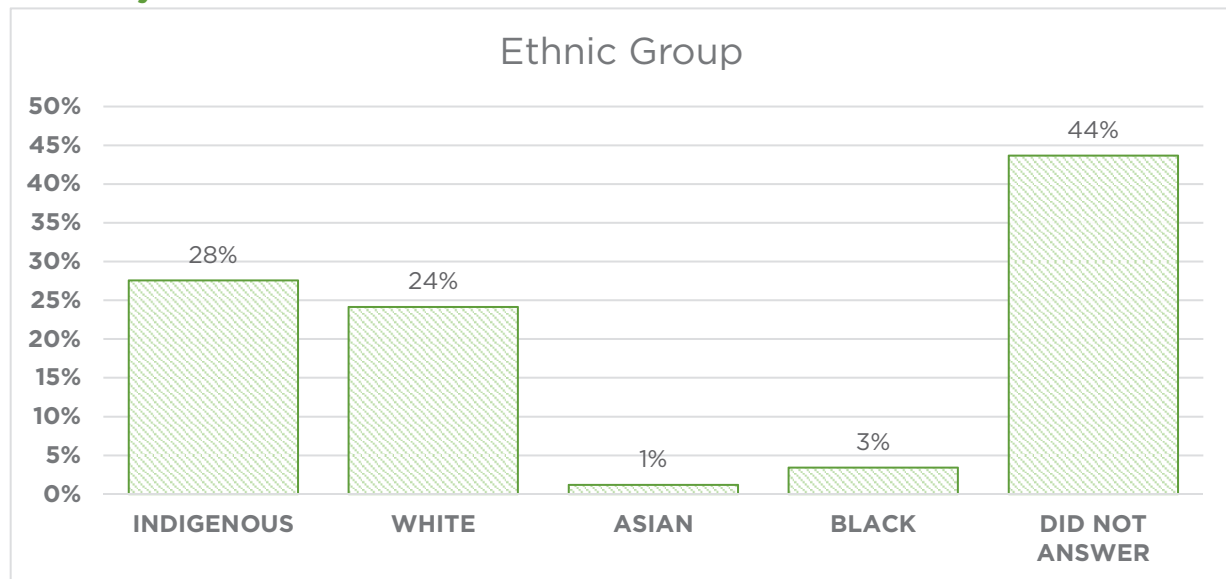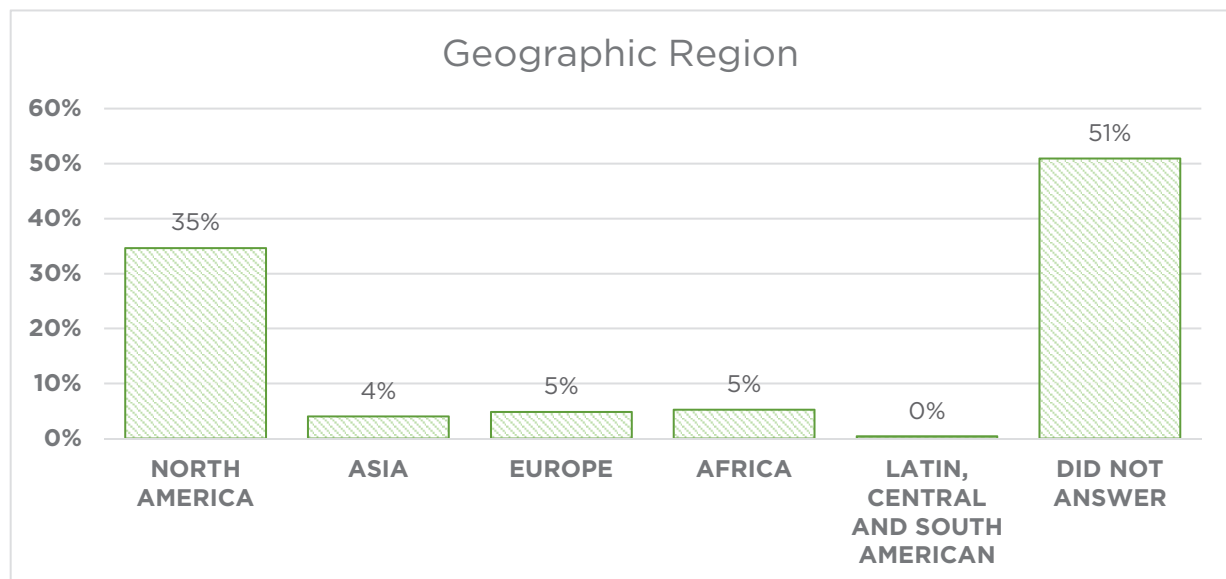
Chart 13 – Geographic Region of Origin (Survey Data)

This year marked the first time a Calgary PiT Count included a survey question regarding ethnicity. Specifically, participants were asked: "What ethnicity do you identify with?" The question was left open-ended to help identify what categories should be used in the future. Some respondents answered based on race, and some answered based on geography. In future PiT Counts, new categories may be developed. The more we learn about diversity among people experiencing homelessness in Calgary, the more we can develop services that meet peoples' needs.

Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Ancestry

Chart 14 – Indigenous Ancestry (Survey Data)

Among those surveyed during this year's PiT Count, 41% reported Indigenous ancestry. The responses for this question are considerably higher than the 20% collected from administrative data. This may be partially attributable to how data is collected in facilities, and how people identify when they access services. It may also reflect the fact that the survey data used here is not drawn from a representative sample.

Chart 15 – Indigenous Ancestry Breakdown (Survey Data)

Of the 206 people who responded 'yes' to having Indigenous ancestry, a follow-up question about ancestry was asked in order to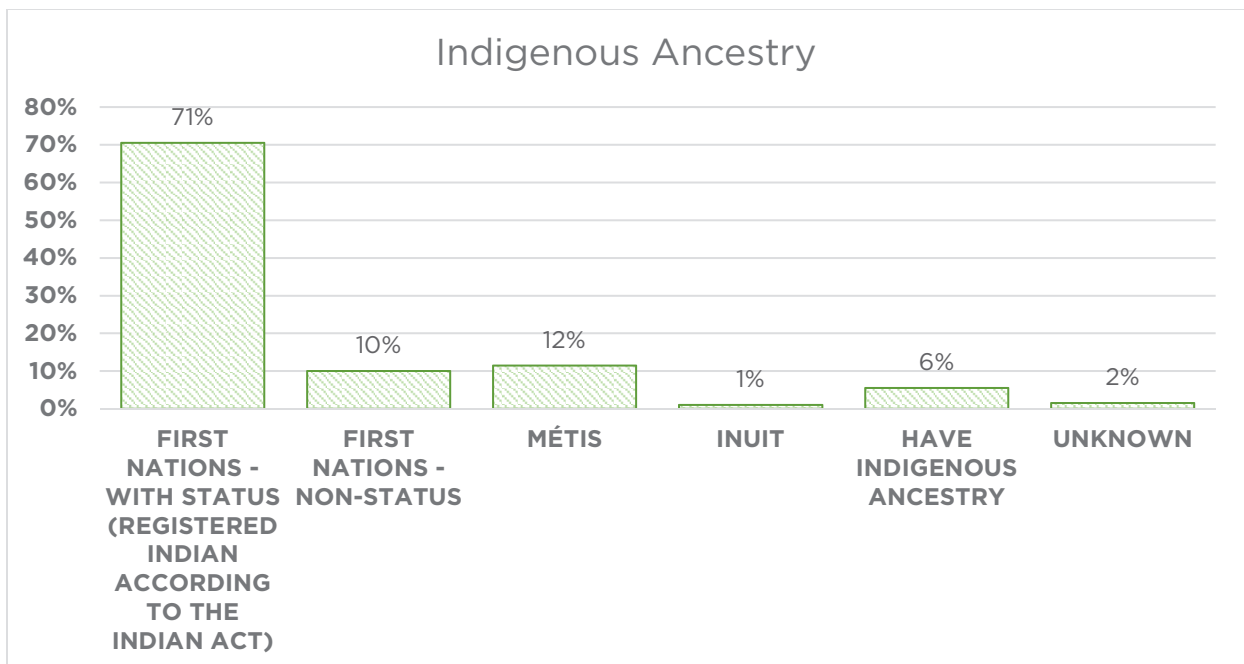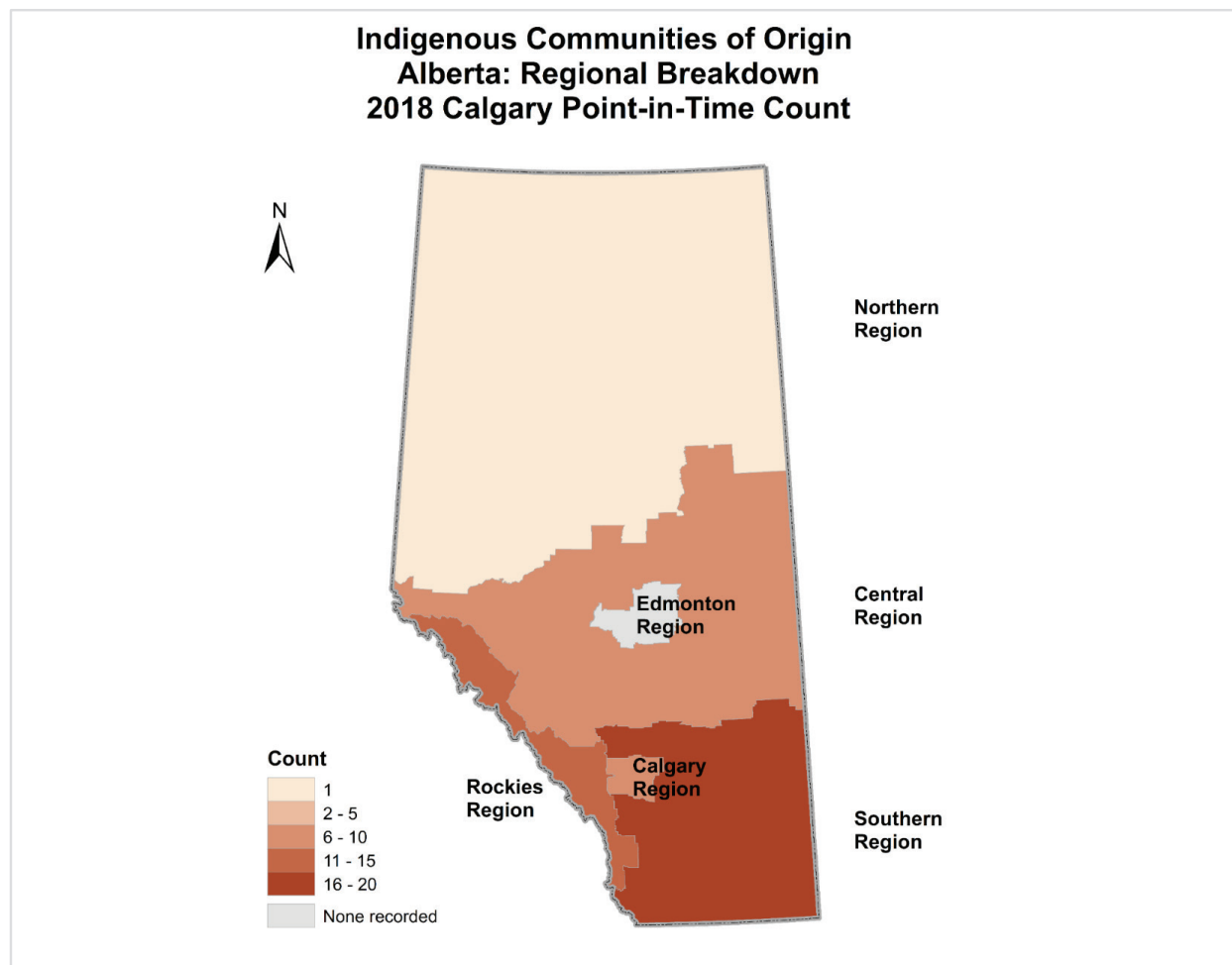 obtain more specific information. The clear majority of people who answered yes to having Indigenous ancestry identified as First Nations with Status.

Indigenous Communities of Origin

**Indigenous Communities of Origin
Alberta: Regional Breakdown
2018 Calgary Point-in-Time Count**

Northern Region

Central Region

Edmonton Region

Count
- 1
- 2 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 15
- 16 - 20
- None recorded

Rockies Region

Calgary Region

Southern Region

Map 1 – Indigenous Communities of Origin

People who identified as Indigenous were also asked with which Indigenous community they identified. The question was left open-ended. Perhaps due to the wording of the question, many people did not respond by naming a specific community, but rather the larger Indigenous group (e.g., Métis) or tribal affiliation (e.g., Cree) with which they identify. These learnings will be integrated into future year's PiT Counts to use clearer wording.

Subsequent to the survey being administered, we grouped responses into categories for the purpose of the present report. The map above — developed with assistance from Turner Strategies — shows the regions of origin of the people who responded to this question. The table below it shows the responses for people who replied out of province, and those who did not answer the question or specify a region.

Canada-wide Regions	Count
Out of Province - BC	6
Out of Province - SASK	12
Out of Province - MAN	2
Out of Province - ONT	4
Out of Province - Unknown	21
Region Unspecified	335

Table 3 –Region of Origin for Indigenous Peoples who Reported Being from Outside Alberta

Immigration Status
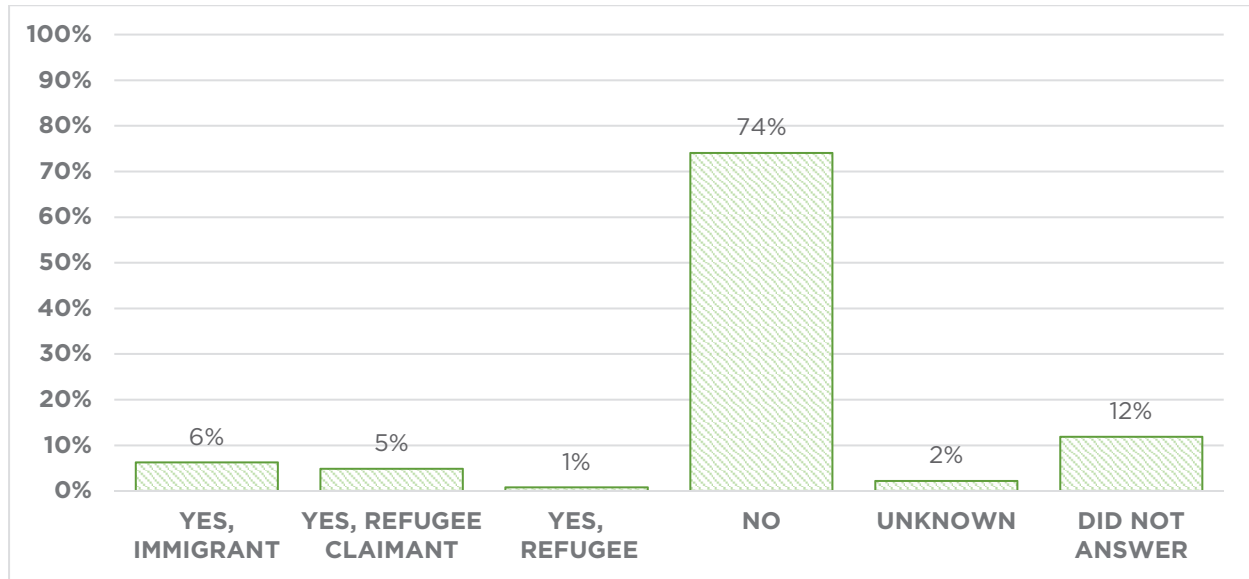
Chart 16 – Immigration Status (Survey Data)

Of those surveyed, 12% reported that they came to Canada as either an immigrant, refugee, or refugee claimant. In the 2016 Census, 29.4% of Calgary's total population reported having immigrated to Canada (Statistics Canada, 2017).

Mobility
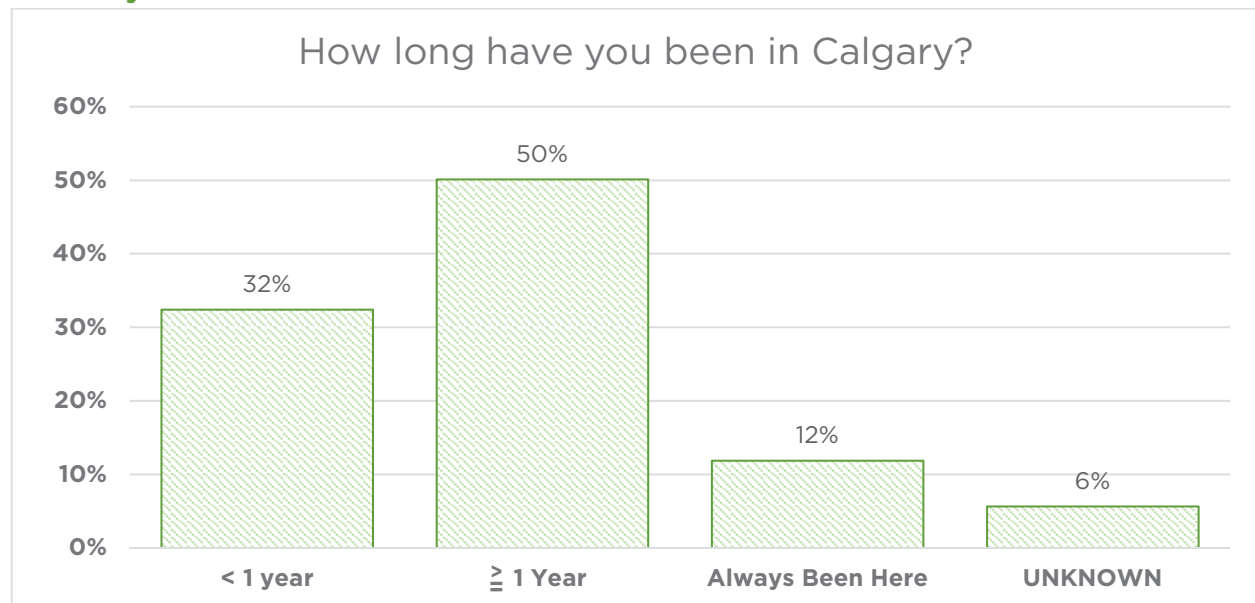
Chart 17 – Time in Calgary (Survey Data)

Among survey respondents, 32% reported that they had been living in Calgary for less than a year. By contrast, more than half of participants responded that they had been in Calgary for over a year, or had always been here.
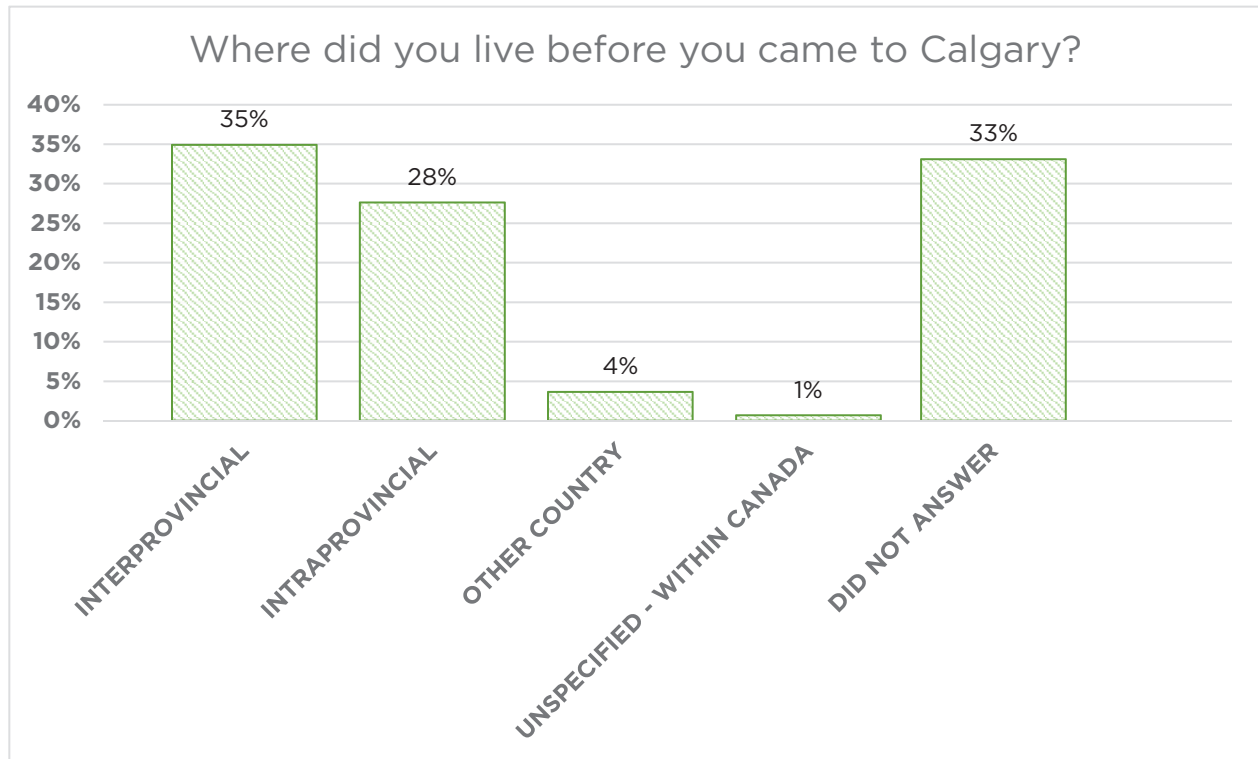
Chart 18 – Region of Residence Prior to Moving to Calgary (Survey Data)

Of the people who responded that they were not originally from Calgary, 35% had come from outside the province and 28% had come from other communities within Alberta. This question speaks to the need to identify newcomers to the city and assist in connecting them with services.

What is the main reason you came to Calgary?

Reason	Percentage
RECREATION/SHOPPING	0%
ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE	1%
HOME COMMUNITY	1%
INVOLVEMENT WITH JUSTICE SYSTEM	1%
CHANGE IN FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES	1%
TO ATTEND SCHOOL	2%
UNKNOWN	4%
FEAR FOR SAFETY	4%
TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY	6%
TO FIND HOUSING	7%
TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S)	7%
EMPLOYMENT (SECURED)	9%
TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS	9%
TO PURSUE NEW LIFE OPPORTUNITIES	10%
FAMILY MOVED HERE	14%
EMPLOYMENT (SEEKING)	24%

Chart 19 – Reason for Moving to Calgary (Survey Data)

The most common reasons cited for moving to Calgary pertain to employment (either secured employment or looking for work). Moving for family, moving to pursue new life opportunities, and moving to access services and supports were also frequently cited.

Experience of Homelessness

Number of Homeless Episodes

Episodes	Percentage
1	62%
2	7%
3	11%
More than once	9%
Unknown	9%
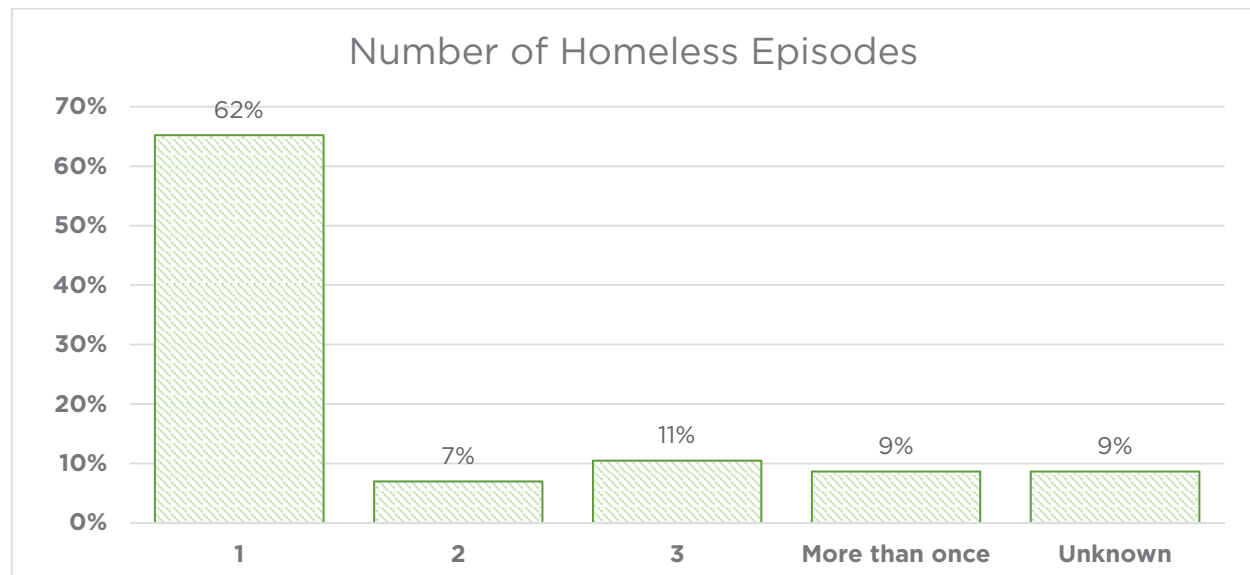
Chart 20 – Number of Homeless Episodes (Survey Data)

The majority of people (62 %) responded that their current episode of homelessness has also been their only one — put differently, most indicated that they have not been "in and out" of homelessness.

Time Spent Homeless over the Past Year

	UNKNOWN	< 180 Days	6 months to less than a year	Entire year
	7%	26%	30%	38%

Chart 21 – Time Spent Homeless Over the Past Year (Survey Data)

The majority of survey respondents reported that they had been experiencing homelessness for more than six months

Age of First Onset of Homelessness

0-5	6-12	13-17	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	UNKNOWN
2%	4%	13%	12%	32%	18%	0%	18%
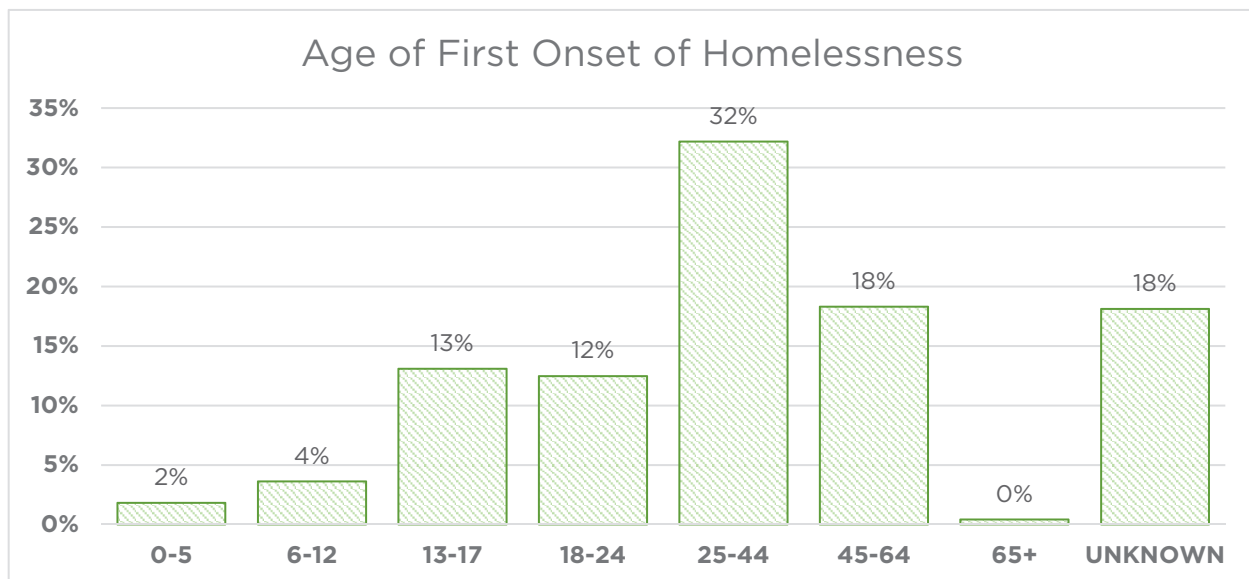
Chart 22 – Age of First Experience of Homelessness (Survey Data)

A question was included in the 2018 PiT Count which asked each respondent about their first experience of homelessness. Among respondents, 19% reported experiencing homelessness for the first time before the age of 18; 32% reported first experiencing homelessness between the ages of 25 and 44.

Reason for Housing Loss

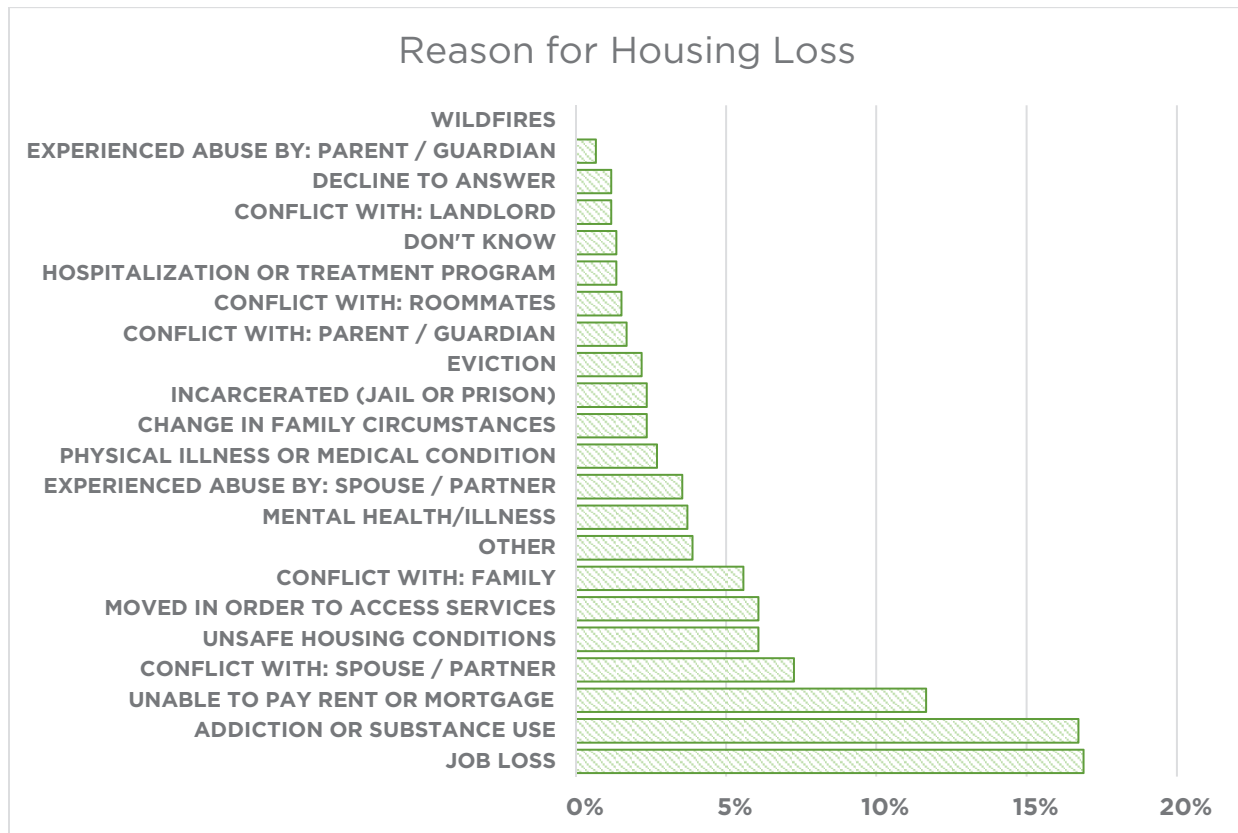| Category	Value
WILDFIRES	
EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN	
DECLINE TO ANSWER	
CONFLICT WITH: LANDLORD	
DON'T KNOW	
HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM	
CONFLICT WITH: ROOMMATES	
CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN	
EVICTION	
INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)	
CHANGE IN FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES	
PHYSICAL ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION	
EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER	
MENTAL HEALTH/ILLNESS	
OTHER	
CONFLICT WITH: FAMILY	
MOVED IN ORDER TO ACCESS SERVICES	
UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS	
CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER	
UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE	
ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	
JOB LOSS	

Chart 23 – Reason for Housing Loss (Survey Data)

Survey respondents were asked: "What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?" "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays. Respondents could give more than one answer. The most common reasons cited for housing loss were job loss, substance use, and an inability to pay for housing. These findings are consistent with research that has found that many people are staying in shelter because of the inability to pay for housing.[10]

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10   Kneebone, R. and Wilkins, M. (2016). *The Very Poor and the Affordability of Housing.* The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, 9 (27).
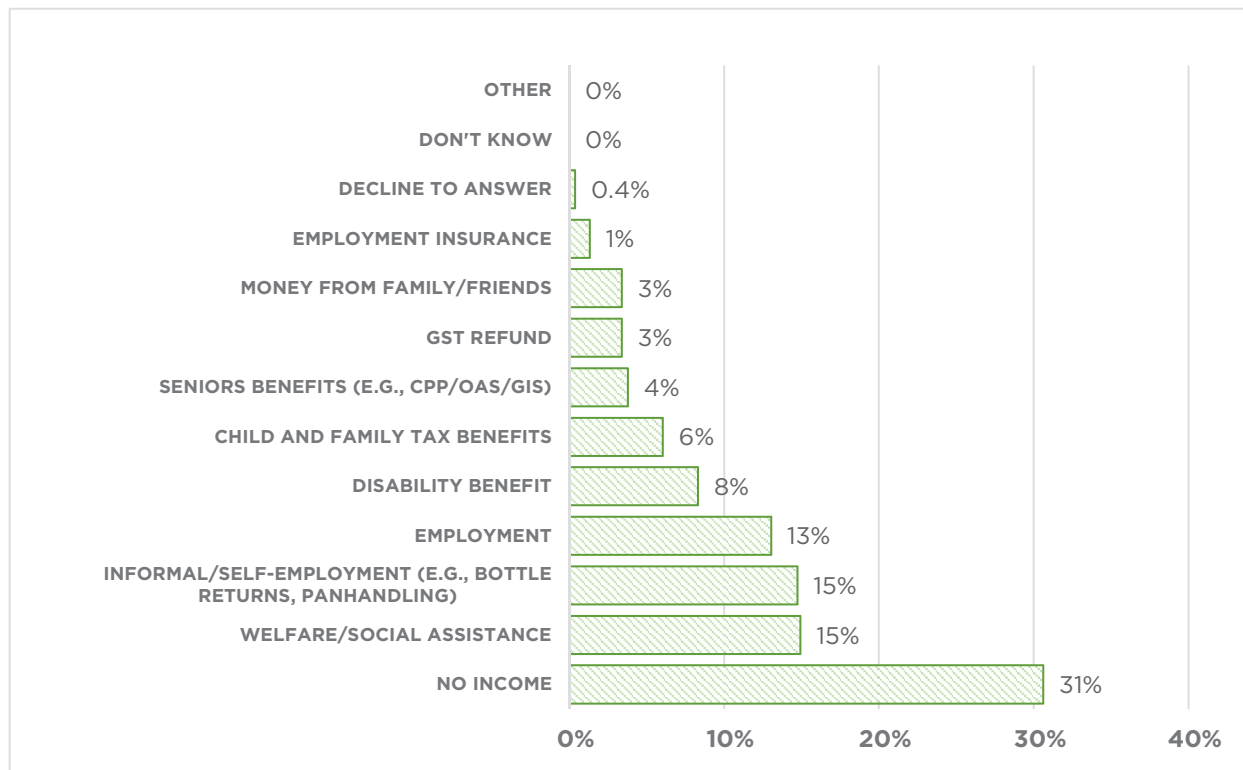
Sources of Income

Chart 24 – Sources of Income (Survey Data)

Among survey respondents, 15% reported receiving welfare or income assistance. However, across the Alberta 7 Cities, 31% of people reported receiving welfare or income assistance. A lower percentage of Calgary respondents reporting welfare/income assistance is consistent with 2016 findings.[11]

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11   It is important to remain mindful of the fact that surveys were not drawn from a representative sample, so these findings should be interpreted very cautiously. However, for more on possible reasons for less welfare/social assistance receipt among Calgary respondents, see this 2017 blog post: http://calgaryhomeless.com/info/research-blog/ten-things-know-social-assistance-alberta/

Veterans

Military or RCMP Service

Chart showing percentages for Military or RCMP Service:

- YES, MILITARY: 6%
- YES, RCMP: 1%
- NO: 78%
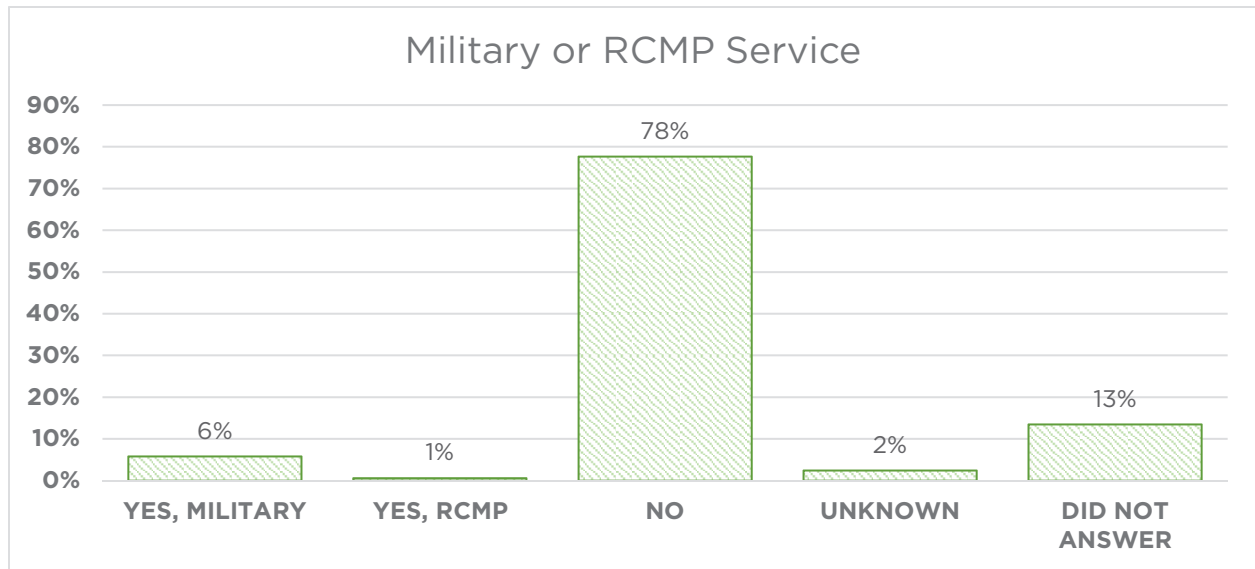- UNKNOWN: 2%
- DID NOT ANSWER: 13%

Chart 25 – Military of RCMP Service (Survey Data)

Among survey respondents, 7% reported that they had worked for the RCMP or in the Canadian Military. Both findings have implications in terms of federal support provided by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). VAC administers the RCMP (disability) pension for those RCMP members ill or injured as a result of service.[12] VAC also offers many former RCMP officers case management services.

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12   This is a disability pension for cases where an RCMP officer was hurt in the line of duty; it applies to approximately 13,000 RCMP veterans and roughly 1,000 survivors of RCMP veterans (i.e., widows and widowers).

Street Survey

What follows is a brief consideration of some key results from the street survey. This section is based on survey responses; but unlike the previous section, it excludes survey responses from shelters.
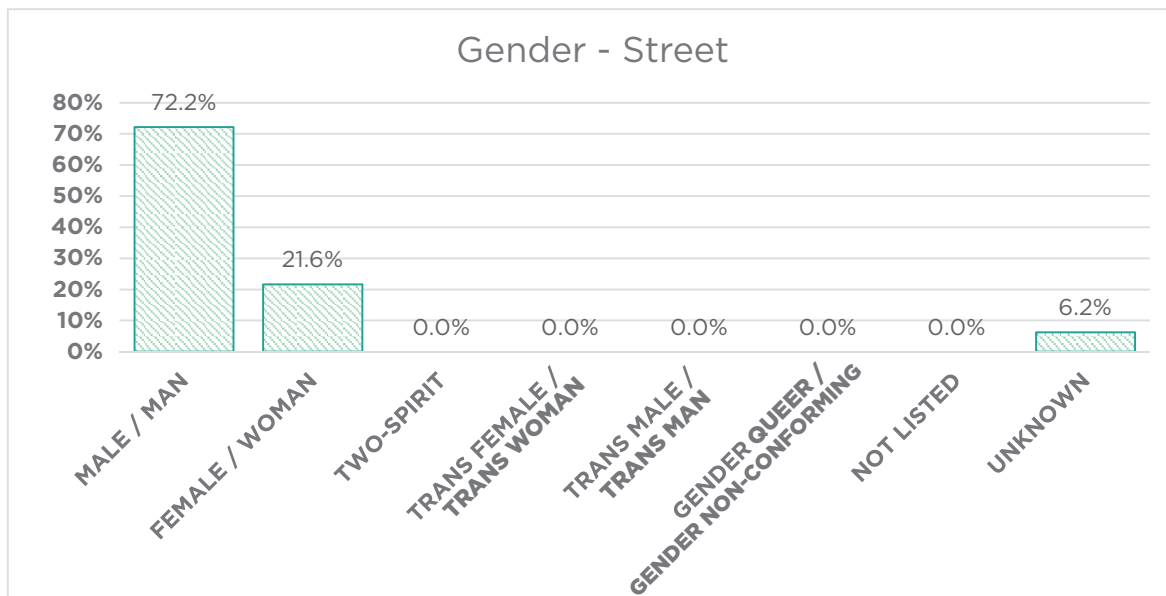
Chart 26 – Gender – Street (Surevey Data)

Gender findings in the street survey are nearly identical to those found in the administrative and systems data pull (Chart 3).

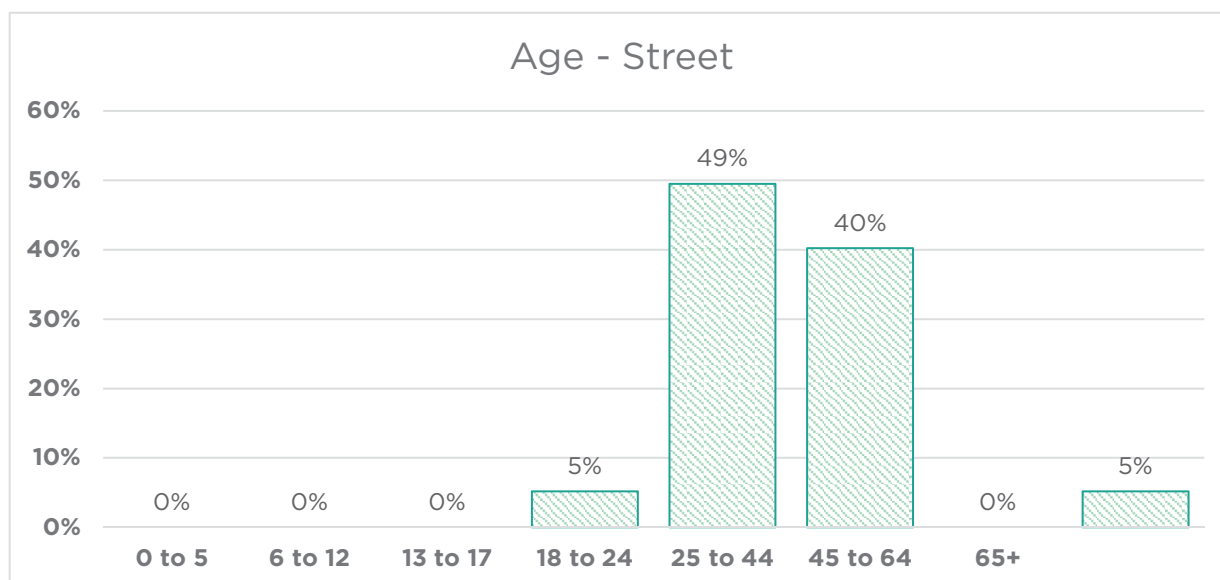*Chart 27 – Age – Street (Survey Data)*

Age results of the street survey are consistent with results from administrative data and systems data pulled as part of this year's PiT Count (see Chart 4). It is worth noting that no person over the age of 65 was identified in the street survey, suggesting that outdoor living arrangements are too harsh and unsafe for this age group.
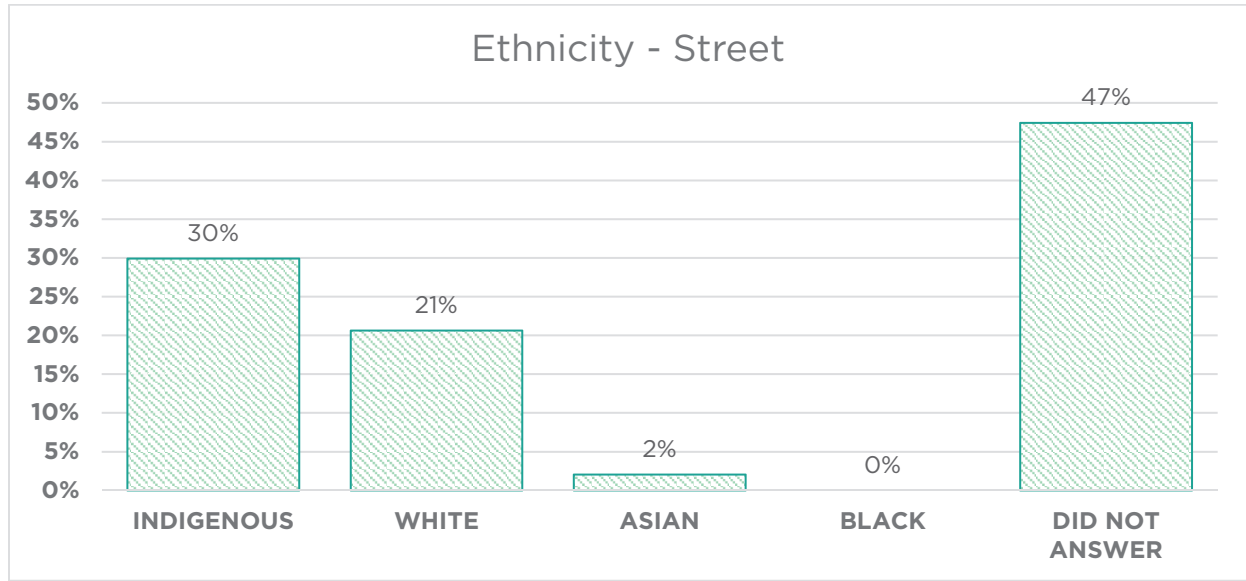
Ethnicity - Street

Ethnicity	Percentage
INDIGENOUS	30%
WHITE	21%
ASIAN	2%
BLACK	0%
DID NOT ANSWER	47%

Chart 28 – Ethnicity – Street (Survey Data)

More people in the street survey identified as Indigenous than identified as White. However, almost half of people surveyed on the street on the night of the PiT Count did not answer the ethnicity question; it is therefore very likely that far more than 30% of Calgary's outdoor homeless population is Indigenous. By contrast, in the administrative and systems data reported in Chart 5, just 20% of persons enumerated inside facilities on the night of the Count were identified as Indigenous. It is reasonable to suggest from these findings that Indigenous peoples likely comprise a much larger share of Calgary's outdoor homeless population than of its sheltered homeless population.

Time Spent Homeless Over the Past Year - Street

Category	Percentage
UNKNOWN	15%
< 180 Days	8%
6 months to less than a year	10%
Entire year	66%
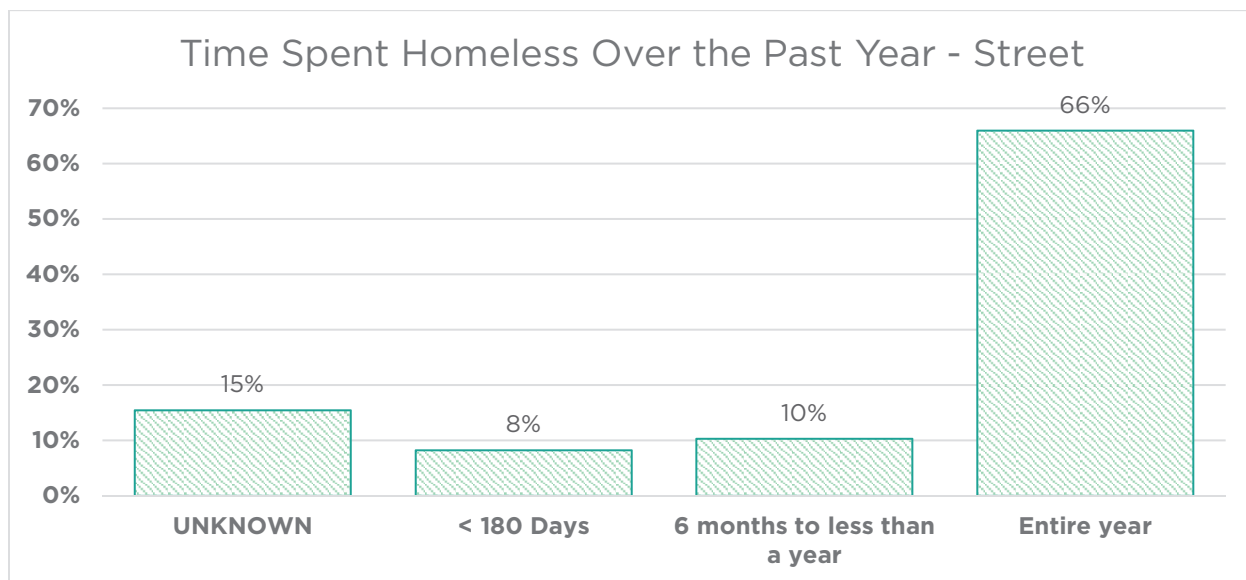
Chart 29 – Time Spent Homeless Over the Past Year – Street (Survey Data)

While we do not have administrative and system level data to compare this to, it is noteworthy that nearly two-thirds of persons surveyed outside on the night of the PiT Count reported being homeless for the entire year. By contrast, those surveyed inside shelters reported being homeless for a shorter period (see Chart 21). This suggests that a larger percentage of Calgary's outdoor homeless population experiences chronic homelessness than those who are sheltered.

Conclusion

Calgary's 2018 PiT Count was part of the third Provincially Coordinated PiT Count in Alberta, and the second Nationally Coordinated PiT Count. These types of counts allow for the creation of a more complete picture of homelessness. The information gathered in the 2018 PiT Count will contribute toward decisions pertaining to the allocation of resources — both funding and the creation of targeted programming.

Homelessness appears to be decreasing in Calgary. During the 2018 PiT count, 2,911 individuals were found to be experiencing homelessness using the Provincial methodology.[13] This represents a decrease of 32% per capita since 2008 when homelessness was at its peak. As further methodological alignment occurs, more comparisons can be made over time and across communities.

While there are methodological limitations with PiT Counts, they are the currently the best way for Calgary to attain a snapshot of homelessness on a given night. PiT Counts can also point to other areas that warrant further investigation. As Calgary's Homeless-Serving System of Care advances, other forms of enumeration may take precedent over PiT Counts as ways to enumerate people experiencing homelessness.

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 persons experiencing homelessness

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13   Using the provincial methodology, 2,911 people were found to be experiencing homelessness in Calgary on the night of this year's count.

References

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Appendices

Appendix A – Detailed 2018 Count Methodology

The 2018 Calgary PiT Count attempted to enumerate people experiencing homelessness on the night of Wednesday, April 11, 2018. 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. Some people in facilities were also surveyed. The survey allowed for the collection of more in-depth information about individuals' homelessness experience (see Appendix C for a copy of the survey).

Prior to the PiT Count, CHF consulted with staff conducting PiT Counts in 7 Cities, the provincial consultant from Turner Strategies, the DOAP Outreach Team staff, Community & Social Sservices (CSS), Calgary Police Service (CPS), the Government of Canada's Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS), and members of Calgary's Homeless-Serving System of Care (CHSSC.) This process helped determine the geographical areas where the survey would be administered (e.g., which include street zones and emergency shelters) the composition and number of street teams, the content for the volunteer training, and the logistics for the night of the count.

7 Cities Alignment

For the third consecutive iteration, Calgary participated in the Provincially Coordinated PiT Count. As Calgary and the other 7 Cities work to align methodologies, the way information is collected may vary slightly from year to year.

Calgary has adapted its methodology to better align with the 7 Cities methodology—for example, we have condensed the length of street count from three hours to two hours.

Using the Calgary methodology, 3,117 people were found to be experiencing homelessness on the night of Wednesday, April 11, 2018. Using the provincial methodology, 2,911 people were found to be experiencing homelessness. The difference in these two numbers can be attributed to two main factors: 1) health care data, and 2) the observational tally.

Health Care Data: As part of each community's PiT Count, data from health systems is gathered for any individuals staying in health care facilities on the night of the count who are believed to be homeless. During the 2018 PiT Count for the provincially aligned count, the health data was retrieved for all 7 Cities communities in the same way. However, it was later found that health providers appear to code individuals experiencing homelessness differently than they did in past counts, and the health care data that was retrieved did not represent the full picture of the number of people experiencing homelessness in health care facilities the night of the PiT Count. CHF had to subsequently work with an AHS representative to re-pull the data for Calgary in a way that more accurately captured the data. This and other learnings will be integrated into future PiT Counts to avoid these problems in alignment in the future.

The Observational Tally: The observational tally is included in some PiT Count methodologies (including Calgary's) to account for people who are very likely homeless, but have not completed a survey. Anyone who is strongly believed to be experiencing homelessness on the night of the PiT Count but who is unwilling, or unable, to complete the survey is recorded in the observational tally as "homeless." Some communities do not include the observational tally, as they do not have enough confidence that the people enumerating the survey will correctly identify people experiencing homelessness. Calgary is fortunate in that the majority of PiT Count volunteers are part of police, bylaw, or encampment, have lived experience of

homelessness, or work frontline in CHSSC. We believe that our volunteers are able to identify people experiencing homelessness with a reasonable degree of confidence. Furthermore, the volunteers conduct the surveys in groups of three to five people and are able to work as a team to determine if an individual is in fact experiencing homelessness. In fact, many of Calgary's PiT Count volunteers know the people being enumerated personally and/or professionally and are confident in being able to record them as experiencing homelessness. Calgary's PiT Count volunteers are also required to document why they believed the individual to be homeless.

Volunteers

In order to carry out this year's PiT Count, community volunteers were needed to help administer the surveys. An invitation to volunteer for the PiT Count was emailed to people who had previously been volunteers during the 2016 PiT Count, as well as to agencies in CHSSC. Student volunteers were also recruited from post-secondary institutions in fields such as nursing and social work. This volunteer opportunity was also advertised on the CHF website and through 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, CCS, 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, Indigenous awareness, an overview of how to respectfully approach people experiencing homelessness, safety, an explanation of how to download and administer the electronic survey, and information about honorariums and comfort kits.

More than 100 volunteers were recruited for the street count and 30 to administer surveys in emergency shelters.

Engaging the Public and Private Sector

Calgary's 2018 PiT Count was made possible thanks to the support of over 100 volunteers from the community, five outreach workers, 30 officers and cadets from the CPS, 10 CSS staff, over 10 CHF staff and many other community partners.

Outreach teams and CCS 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 CCS and outreach could administer surveys to these people on the night of the count. A HAWCS helicopter did a flyover of a number of greenspaces throughout the city a few days before the count to use Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR) to detect new encampment sites.

DOAP, CCS and CPS determined which areas would be visited on the night of the count and coordinated amongst themselves. Areas that were deemed too treacherous to visit at night were visited in the daytime before the count officially commenced. The following activities also supported:

- Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) patrolled the train tracks and enumerated and surveyed the people they encountered who were experiencing homelessness.

- Calgary Parking Authority security canvased downtown parking lots and parkades and included people they believed to be homeless on the observational tally.

- Calgary Transit Peace Officers tallied the number of people at the end of the train lines who they believed to be homeless.

- Calgary Stampede security tallied the number of people they encountered who they believed to be homeless.

- Alberta Parks staff canvased Fish Creek Provincial Park and tallied anyone who they believed to be homeless.

- Campus Security from the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, and SAIT tallied anyone who they believed to be homeless.

Facility Count

Time Period: 7:00 pm (Wednesday, April 11, 2018) – 12:00 am (Thursday April 12, 2018)

Contributors: Facilities included emergency shelters, short-term transitional housing facilities, women's shelters, hospitals, and correctional facilities.

Process: On the night of Wednesday, April 11, 2018, facilities participating in the count filled out an Excel spreadsheet with information about all individuals staying at their facility who were experiencing homelessness. This form included an age breakdown, gender, Indigeneity, and number of families. All forms were to be returned via email to CHF by noon on April 12, 2018.

Survey Data

Time Period: 10:00 pm (Wednesday, April 11, 2018) – 12:00 am (Thursday, April 12, 2018)

Survey Development: PiT Count surveys are created in order to gain a better understanding of homelessness. 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 2018 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. The 7 Cities decided to add two additional questions to the core survey questions to more fully understand the picture of people experiencing homelessness across Alberta. The first question that was added was a follow-up question to respondents who identify as Indigenous — they were also asked to name the Indigenous Nation to which they identify. This question was created due to conversations with Indigenous partners about the need to see where Indigenous peoples were coming from outside of the city in question. Over the years, if trends can be identified, targeted supports can be created for these communities. The second additional question pertained to identification of survey

respondents within an ethnic group.

Contributors: Over 100 volunteers participated in the collection of survey data. This included people from frontline homeless-sector agencies, CSP, CSS, 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, they received information about the purpose of PiT Counts, the history of Calgary's PiT Counts, safety procedures, comfort kits (to be discussed below) and honoraria, an overview and rationale for the survey questions, an explanation of the electronic survey, and an opportunity to practice using the survey.

When street count volunteers arrived at Calgary City Hall on the night of the PiT Count, they were asked to fill out a volunteer consent form. After a short program, volunteers found their team leader and their supplies. Each team was assigned a zone and was asked to remain in their zone for the full two hours of the street count. They were instructed to ask every person they came across if they would be willing to complete the survey. People who were not experiencing homelessness were screened out during the surveys initial questions. The 17 question survey was administered to each willing participant. Consent was obtained from each participant, and they were given an honorarium consisting of either a $5.00 coffee card or two cigarettes upon completion of the survey. Comfort kits — which included toques, gloves, ponchos, snacks, and personal hygiene items — were given to any individual who required one, regardless of whether or not they completed the survey. If people were believed to be experiencing homelessness but did not or could not consent to taking the survey, they were enumerated on an observational tally sheet (i.e., they were counted as "homeless" but not asked questions).

Surveys were also administered at five emergency shelters, namely the Calgary Drop-in and Rehab Centre, The Mustard Seed, Calgary Alpha House Society, Children's Cottage Society, and Inn from the Cold. Though responses to the survey questions are used in the present document,

people surveyed in facilities are not "counted again" toward the total roll-up number, as these individuals are captured in the administrative data provided by shelters.

Changes from the 2016 PiT Count

Based on recommendations from community partners and CHF staff following the 2016 PiT Count, a number of changes were made to this year's PIT Count in Calgary. These changes contribute to better data quality, as well as more fluid logistical processes on the night of the Count.

Specifically:

- A street zone was added to more fully encompass the downtown core.

- The street count was condensed from three hours to two hours, taking place from 10:00 pm until midnight. This revised time frame aligned with those used by 7 Cities.

- An electronic version of the survey was available which could be downloaded on volunteers' mobile devices.

- Mandatory volunteer training took place a week before the count.

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 hour training which covers 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 volunteers have experience working with persons experiencing homelessness. Volunteers are provided with contact information to reach immediate further 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.

People were offered a $5.00 Tim Hortons gift card or two cigarettes as a "thank you" for completing the survey. Anyone encountered (whether they chose to participate in the survey or not) was offered a "comfort kit". The comfort kits included socks, toques, gloves, snacks, hygiene products, and contact information for services.

Privacy is a top concern and confidentiality is maintained through the PiT Count. Names of participants are never collected, and any information that could be used to identify someone is not reported.

Appendix B – List of Facilities and Classifications

Emergency Shelters

- Calgary Alpha House Society
  - Emergency
- Awo Taan
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary
  - Avenue 15
- 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
- The Mustard Seed
- The Salvation Army
  - Centre of Hope
  - WISH
- YW Calgary
  - Mary Dover House
  - Sheriff King Home
- Wood's Homes
  - EXIT Youth Shelter

Short Term Supportive Housing

- Calgary Alpha House Society
  - Transitional
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary
  - Haven's Way
  - Toni's House
- Brenda Strafford Centre
  - Progressive Housing
  - Second Stage
- Calgary Dream Centre
- Calgary Drop-in and Rehab Centre
  - Riverfront
- Discovery House
- Inn from the Cold
  - Sundial

Short Term Supportive Housing

- Kerby Centre
- McMan
  - Hope Homes
  - Hope Homes for Aboriginal Youth
  - Rapid Re-Housing
- Recovery Acres Society
  - 1822 House
  - 1839 House
- The Salvation Army
  - Centre of Hope
  - WISH
- RESET Society of Calgary
- SonShine Society
- Victory Foundation
- YW Calgary

Treatment and Detox

- Alcove
  - Addiction Recovery for Women
- Calgary Alpha House Society
  - Detox
- Aventa
- Fresh Start Recovery
- Recovery Acres
  - 1835 House
- The Salvation Army
  - Addictions Recovery Program
- Simon House
- Sunrise Addiction Services Society

Systems

- Alberta Health Services
- Corrections

Rough Sleepers

- Calgary Transit
- Calgary Police Service
- Calgary Community Standards Services
- Canadian Pacific Railway
- Calgary Parking Authority
- DOAP Team and Encampment
- SAIT Campus Security
- University of Calgary Campus Security
- Calgary Stampede Authority
- Mount royal University Campus Security
- Fish Creek Park Warden

Surveys Were Completed At:

- On the street with trained volunteers, CPS, CCS, and the DOAP Team
- The Calgary Drop-in and Rehab Centre
- Calgary Alpha House Society
- The Mustard Seed
- Children's Cottage
- Inn from the Cold

Appendix C – Data Collection Forms

Facility Count Enumeration Form

The following form was emailed to agencies to fill out for the night of Wednesday April 11, 2018. We asked that completed forms be emailed back the following day.

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 April 11, 2018 between 10:00 pm and 1:00 am (10:00 pm on April 11 and 1:00 am the following morning, April 12). 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 the definitions associated with various cells.

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.

Ensure you are reporting on either administrative data (agency database) or client-reported information only. Do not make observational assumptions about someone's indigeneity or gender, etc. to ensure accuracy.

Please submit this form no later than noon on April 12. You will receive a confirmation email in response.

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

If you require any other information about the Point-in-Time Count, please contact Alina Turner either by telephone at (403) 827-8722 or by email at alina@turnerstrategies.org.

Short term supportive housing: Temporary housing with support to assist client movement into permanent housing.

Transitional housing: temporary shelter that can be differentiated from emergency shelters by the longer length of stay and greater intensity of support services offered to clients. Transitional housing is an intermediate step between emergency shelter and permanent housing. Support services help clients gain stability and self-sufficiency to maintain permanent housing. Stays are typically between three months and three years.

PLEASE ONLY REPORT DATA ON

- people transitioned/discharged/exited to No Fixed Address/shelter/homelessness OR
- people who were No Fixed Address/shelter/homelessness at admission.

General Information:

1. Agency Name

2. Facility Name

3. Bed/Program 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. Number of individuals in families staying in your facility

11. Singles Programs only: What is your regular bed capacity (total number of beds the organization has available for singles on any given night)?

12. Families Programs only: What is your regular unit capacity (total number of rooms the organization has available on any given night)? (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.)

13. Families Programs only: What is your regular capacity (total number of beds/spaces you have available on any given night)?

14. Description of unusual circumstances affecting the count (This could include factors such as unusually balmy or inclement weather, police activity, shelter renovations, insufficient number of beds to meet demand, and so on)

15. Additional comments about the count

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

Survey

Please note that this survey was available on a mobile app as well. All questions were the same

2018 ALBERTA PIT COUNT SURVEY

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

2018 ALBERTA PIT COUNT SURVEY - SCREENING

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

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

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

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

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

[YES: Thank and tally - Go to Page 2]   [NO: Go to B]

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

[YES: Go to Page 3]   [NO: Thank and tally – Go to Page 2]

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

2018 ALBERTA PIT COUNT SURVEY - TALLY SHEET

City: _____ Area: _____ Date: _____ Time:_____
Interviewer: _____ Contact phone #: _____

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

#	Location (e.g., building, park, nearest intersection)	Reason not Surveyed				Observed Homeless	*Observed Homelessness
		Declined*	Already Responded	Screened Out (Response to C)	Observed*		Indicators of Homelessness
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							

2018 ALBERTA PIT COUNT - SURVEY

Location/Area/Zone Code: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____ **AM/PM** **Survey Number:** _____

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

- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER – **END SURVEY**
- ☐ OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE – **END SURVEY**
- ☐ SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE
  - Can you stay there as long as you want or need to? ☐ YES ☐ NO – **END SURVEY**
  - If NO to staying indefinitely at SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE, where will you go? _____
- ☐ MOTEL/HOTEL
  - ☐ Alberta Works
  - ☐ AISH
  - ☐ Red Cross
  - ☐ Paid for by yourself or a friend/acquaintance
  - ☐ This is a temporary HOTEL/MOTEL stay, and you have a permanent residence – **END SURVEY**
- ☐ HOSPITAL, HEALTH FACILITY

- ☐ JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE
- ☐ EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER
- ☐ TREATMENT
- ☐ TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (THOSE AWAITING TREATMENT)
- ☐ TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (NOT THOSE AWAITING TREATMENT)
- ☐ PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALK, PARK, FOREST, BUS SHELTER)
- ☐ VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK)
- ☐ MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK
- ☐ ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING
- ☐ OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION
- ☐ RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]

BEGIN SURVEY

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

☐ NONE ☐ PARTNER - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___		☐ OTHER ADULT - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___ ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER							
☐ CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate gender and age for each]		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	GENDER								
	AGE								

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

☐ YEAR BORN _____   ☐ DON'T KNOW   ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

☐ AGE_____   ☐ DON'T KNOW   ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

   ☐ LENGTH _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS   ☐ DON'T KNOW   ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

   ☐ LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS -->   **Where did you live before you came here?**

   ☐ ALWAYS BEEN HERE   ☐ COMMUNITY _____ PROVINCE_____
                               OR COUNTRY_____
   ☐ DON'T KNOW   ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
   ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

    _____   ☐ DON'T KNOW   ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

☐ YES ------------------- **If** > **YES:**

☐ FIRST NATIONS (with status: Registered Indian According To The Indian Act)

☐ NO

☐ FIRST NATIONS (non- status)

☐ DON'T KNOW

☐ INUIT

☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

☐ MÉTIS

☐ HAVE INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

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

_____ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

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

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

☐ MALE / MAN

☐ TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN

☐ NOT LISTED: _____

☐ FEMALE / WOMAN

☐ TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN

☐ DON'T KNOW

☐ TWO-SPIRIT

☐ GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING

☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

☐ STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL

☐ BISEXUAL

☐ QUEER

☐ DON'T KNOW

☐ GAY

☐ TWO-SPIRIT

☐ NOT LISTED: _____

☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

☐ LESBIAN

☐ QUESTIONING

16. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

☐ PHYSICAL ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION

☐ CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER

☐ MENTAL HEALTH/ILLNESS

☐ INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)

☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE

☐ HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM

☐ JOB LOSS

☐ WILD FIRES

☐ UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE

☐ MOVED IN ORDER TO ACCESS SERVICES

☐ UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS

☐ OTHER REASON: _____

☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN

☐ DON'T KNOW

☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER

☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

☐ CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN

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

☐ EMPLOYMENT

☐ DISABILITY BENEFIT

☐ OTHER SOURCE: _____

☐ INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)

☐ SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)

☐ NO INCOME

☐ GST REFUND

☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

☐ EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

☐ CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS

☐ WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

☐ MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS

Thank you for your participation!

Appendix D – Data Tables

Chart 1 – Overall Results of Calgary PiT Counts over the Years

Year	Count	Second Count (if applicable)
1992	447	
1993	461	
1994	615	
1996	988	
2000	1,296	
2002	1,737	
2004	2,397	
2006	3,157	
2008	3,601	
2009		
2010		
2012	3,190	3,576
2014	3,533	3,555
2016	3,430	
2018	2,911	

Chart 2 – Where People Were Enumerated

Location	Number	Percentage
Emergency Sheltered	1,374	47.2%
Transitional Housing	1,276	43.8%
Systems (Health and justice)	202	6.9%
Unsheltered	59	2.0%

Chart 3 – Gender (Administrative Data)

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	2,129	73%
Female	729	25%
Transgender	Less than 5	0%
Unknown	49	2%

Chart 4 – Age (Administrative Data)

Age	Number	Percentage
0 to 5	139	5%
6 to 12	108	4%
13 to 17	56	2%
18 to 24	216	7%
25 to 44	1,087	37%
45 to 64	1,126	39%
65+	144	5%
Unknown	35	1%

Chart 5 – Ethnicity (Administrative Data)

Ethnicity	2018	2016	Oct 2014	Jan 2014
Caucasian	1,629 / 56%	2,035 / 59%	2,010 / 57%	2,070 / 59%
Indigenous	606 / 21%	695 / 20%	751 / 21%	706 / 20%
Other	479 / 16%	539 / 16%	641 / 18%	598 / 17%
Unknown	197 / 7%	161 / 5%	153 / 4%	159 / 5%

Chart 6 – Families vs. Individuals

Family Member or Single	Number	Percentage
Single	2,431	84%
Member of an enumerated family	480	16%

Chart 7 – Families by Location

Location	Number	Percentage
Family Shelter	37	21%
DV Shelter	137	76%
Transitional Housing	6	3%

Chart 8 – Number of Families Over Time

Year	Individuals	Families
2008	3,601	190
2012	3,190	160
2012	3,576	198
2014	3,533	209
2014	3,555	211
2016	3,430	199
2018	3,002	180

Chart 9 – Gender (Survey Data)

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male / Man	345	69%
Female / Woman	122	24%
Two-spirit	Under 5	0%
Trans Female / Trans Woman	Under 5	0%
Trans Male / Trans Man	Under 5	0%
Gender Queer/Gender Non-conforming	0	0%
Not Listed	Under 5	0%
Unknown	24	4.8%

Chart 10 – Sexual Orientation (Survey Data)

Sexual Orientation	Number	Percentage
Straight/ Heterosexual	392	79%
Gay	Under 5	0%
Lesbian	0	0%
Bisexual	8	2%
Two-spirit	Under 5	1%
Questioning	Under 5	0%
Not Listed	Under 5	0%
Unknown	24	5%
Did Not Answer	67	14%

Chart 11 – Age (Survey Data)

Age	Number	Percentage
0 to 5	15	3%
6 to 12	32	7%
13 to 17	15	3%
18 to 24	20	4%
25 to 44	192	40%
45 to 64	197	41%
65+	13	3%
Unknown	13	3%

Chart 12 – Ethnic Group (Survey Data)

Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage
Indigenous	137	28%
White	120	24%
Asian	6	1%
Black	17	3%
Did not answer	217	44%

Chart 13 – Geographic Region of Origin (Survey Data)

Geographic Region	Number	Percentage
North America	172	35%
Asia	20	4%
Europe	24	5%
Africa	26	5%
Latin, Central And South American	Under 5	0%
Did not answer	253	51%

Chart 14 – Indigenous Ancestry (Survey Data)

Indigenous Ancestry	Number	Percentage
Yes	206	41%
No	270	54%
Unknown	21	4%

Chart 15 – Indigenous Ancestry Breakdown (Survey Data)

Indigenous Ancestry	Number	Percentage
First Nations - with status (registered Indian according to the Indian Act)	141	71%
First Nations - non-status	20	10%
Métis	23	12%
Inuit	Under 5	1%
Have Indigenous ancestry	11	6%
Unknown	Under 5	2%

Chart 16 – Immigration Status (Survey Data)

Immigration Status	Number	Percentage
Yes, Immigrant	31	6%
Yes, Refugee Claimant	24	5%
Yes, Refugee	Under 5	1%
No	368	74%
Unknown	11	2%
Did not answer	59	12%

Chart 17 – Time in Calgary (Survey Data)

Time in Calgary	Number	Percentage
< 1 year	161	32%
>= 1 Year	249	50%
Always Been Here	59	12%
Unknown	28	6%

Chart 18 – Region of Residence Prior to Moving to Calgary

Region	Number	Percentage
Did not answer	145	29%
Interprovincial	153	31%
Intraprovincial	121	24%
Other country	16	3%
Calgary	59	12%
Unspecified - within Canada	Under 5	1%

Chart 19 – Reason for Moving to Calgary

Reason	Number	Percentage
Employment (seeking)	97	24%
Family moved here	58	14%
To pursue new life opportunities	40	10%
To access services and supports	37	9%
Employment (secured)	37	9%
To access emergency shelter(s)	30	7%
To find housing	27	7%
To visit friends/family	25	6%
Fear for safety	17	4%
Unknown	17	4%
To attend school	7	2%
Change in family circumstances	5	1%
Involvement with justice system	5	1%
Home community	5	1%
Only option available	Under 5	1%
Recreation/shopping	Under 5	0%

Chart 20 – Number of Homeless Episodes (Survey Data)

Number of Times	Number	Percentage
1	279	65%
2	30	7%
3	45	11%
More than once	37	9%
Unknown	37	9%

Chart 21 – Time Spent Homeless Over Past Year (Survey Data)

Time	Number	Percentage
Unknown	32	7%
< 180 Days	124	26%
6 months to less than a year	144	30%
Entire year	180	38%

Chart 22 – Age of First Experience of Homelessness (Survey Data)

Age	Number	Percentage
0-5	9	2%
6-12	18	4%
13-17	65	13%
18-24	62	12%
25-44	160	32%
45-64	91	18%
65+	Under 5	0%
Unknown	90	18%

Chart 23 – Reason for Housing Loss (Survey Data)

Reason	Number	Percentage
Job loss	100	17%
Addiction or substance use	99	17%
Unable to pay rent or mortgage	69	12%
Conflict with: spouse / partner	43	7%
Unsafe housing conditions	36	6%
Moved in order to access services	36	6%
Conflict with: family	33	6%
Other	23	4%
Mental health/illness	22	4%
Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner	21	4%
Physical illness or medical condition	16	3%
Change in family circumstances	14	2%
Incarcerated (jail or prison)	14	2%
Eviction	13	2%
Conflict with: parent / guardian	10	2%
Conflict with: roommates	9	2%
Hospitalization or treatment program	8	1%
Don't know	8	1%
Conflict with: landlord	7	1%
Decline to answer	7	1%
Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian	Under 5	1%
Wildfires	0	0%

Chart 24 – Sources of Income (Survey Data)

Source	Number	Percentage
No income	162	31%
Welfare/social assistance	79	15%
Informal/self-employment (e.g., bottle returns, panhandling)	78	15%
Employment	69	13%
Disability benefit	44	8%
Child and family tax benefits	32	6%
Seniors benefits (e.g., CPP/OAS/GIS)	20	4%
GST refund	18	3%
Money from family/friends	18	3%
Employment insurance	7	1%
Decline to answer	Under 5	0%
Don't know	0	0%
Other	0	0%

Chart 25 – Military of RCMP Service (Survey Data)

Type of Service	Number	Percentage
Yes, Military	29	6%
Yes, RCMP	Under 5	1%
No	386	78%
Unknown	12	2%
Did not answer	67	13%

Chart 26 – Gender – Street (Survey Data)

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male / Man	70	72.2%
Female / Woman	21	21.6%
Two-spirit	0	0%
Trans Female / Trans Woman	0	0%
Trans Male / Trans Man	0	0%
Gender Queer / Gender Non-conforming	0	0%
Not Listed	0	0%
Unknown	6	6.2%

Chart 27 – Age – Street (Survey Data)

Age	Number	Percentage
0 to 5	0	0%
6 to 12	0	0%
13 to 17	0	0%
18 to 24	5	5%
24 to 44	48	49%
45 to 64	39	40%
65+	0	0%
Unknown	5	5%

Chart 28 – Ethnicity – Street (Survey Data)

Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage
Indigenous	29	30%
White	20	21%
Asian	2	2%
Black	0	0%
Did not answer	46	47%

Chart 29 – Time Spent Homeless Over the Past Year – Street (Survey Data)

Time	Number	Percentage
Unknown	15	15%
< 180 Days	8	8%
6 months to less than a year	10	10%
Entire year	64	66%

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Calgary Homeless FOUNDATION

Rocky Mountain Plaza
Suite 1500, 615 Macleod Tr. SE
Calgary, AB T2G 4T8

403.237.6456

@ info@calgaryhomeless.com

calgaryhomeless.com