

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

FINAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 30, 2012



CONTENTS

- 1 Overview.....2
 - 1.1 Key Findings.....3
- 2 PIT Count Background4
 - 2.1 The 2012 Red Deer Point-In-Time Count4
 - 2.2 Methods.....5
 - 2.2.1. Extrapolation.....5
 - 2.2.2. Plant-Capture Method6
 - 2.2.3. Quality Assurance Process Related to Adjustments.....7
- 3 Results.....8
 - 3.1 Who is homeless?8
 - 3.1.1. Age9
 - 3.1.2. Gender9
 - 3.1.3. Family Status..... 10
 - 3.1.4. Aboriginal Status..... 10
 - 3.1.5. Veteran Status..... 11
 - 3.2 Where do Homeless People Sleep?..... 11
 - 3.2.1. Shelter Capacity..... 12
 - 3.3 How Much Time are People Spending Homeless?..... 12
 - 3.4 What Communities do Homeless People Call Home?..... 13
 - 3.5 What did Homeless People Report As Their Sources of Income?..... 13
 - 3.6 What Services do Homeless People Use? 15
 - 3.7 What Barriers do Homeless People Face? 16
 - 3.7.1. Health Problems..... 17
 - 3.8 What One Thing Could End Their Homelessness? 17
- 4 Sub-Populations..... 19
 - 4.1 Aboriginal Persons 19
 - 4.1.1. Age 19
 - 4.1.2. Gender 19
 - 4.1.3. Family Status..... 20
 - 4.1.4. Where do Aboriginal Homeless People sleep? 20
 - 4.1.5. How Much Time are Aboriginal People Spending Homeless?..... 21
 - 4.1.6. What did Aboriginal Homeless People Report As Their Sources of Income? 21
 - 4.1.7. What Services do Homeless Aboriginal People Use? 21
 - 4.1.8. What Barriers do Homeless Aboriginal People Face? 22
 - 4.1.9. Health Problems of Aboriginal Homeless People..... 22
 - 4.2 Unaccompanied Youth..... 23
 - 4.2.1. Age 23
 - 4.2.2. Gender 24
 - 4.2.3. Aboriginal Status..... 24
 - 4.2.4. Where do Homeless Youth sleep? 25
 - 4.2.5. How Much Time are Youth Spending Homeless? 25
 - 4.2.6. What did Homeless Youth Report As Their Sources of Income? 26

- 4.2.7. What Services do Homeless Youth Use? 26
- 4.2.8. What Barriers do Homeless Youth Face? 27
- 4.2.9. Health Problems 27
- 4.3 Women 27
 - 4.3.1. Age 28
 - 4.3.2. Family Status 28
 - 4.3.3. Aboriginal Status 28
 - 4.3.4. Where do Homeless Women sleep? 28
 - 4.3.5. How Much Time are Women Spending Homeless? 28
 - 4.3.6. What did Homeless Women Report As Their Sources of Income? 29
 - 4.3.7. What Services do Homeless Women Use? 29
 - 4.3.8. What Barriers do Homeless Women Face? 29
 - 4.3.9. Health Problems 29
- 4.4 Homeless Families 30
 - 4.4.1. Age 30
 - 4.4.2. Aboriginal Status 30
 - 4.4.3. Where do Homeless Families sleep? 30
 - 4.4.4. How much time are Families Spending Homeless? 30
 - 4.4.5. What did Homeless Families Report As Their Sources of Income? 30
 - 4.4.6. What Services do Homeless Families Use? 31
 - 4.4.7. What Barriers do Homeless Families Face? 31
 - 4.4.8. Health Problems 31
- 4.5 Chronically Homeless Individuals 31
 - 4.5.1. Age 31
 - 4.5.2. Gender 32
 - 4.5.3. Family Status 32
 - 4.5.4. Aboriginal Status 32
 - 4.5.5. Where do Chronically Homeless People sleep? 33
 - 4.5.6. What did Chronically Homeless People Report As Their Sources of Income? 33
 - 4.5.7. What Services do Chronically Homeless People Use? 33
 - 4.5.8. What Barriers do Chronically Homeless People Face? 34
 - 4.5.9. Health Problems of Chronically Homeless People 34

APPENDICES

- A–Surveys 35
- B–Maps 40
- C–Table of Responses 43

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Red Deer would like to thank our partnering organization, the Red Deer & District Community Foundation for their vision, support and participation in making the first Red Deer Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count possible.

Thanks to OrgCode Consulting, Inc. for planning and executing the Count, including training all volunteers, mapping and allocating volunteers across the city, developing the survey, and acting as experts and coordinators on the night of the Count. OrgCode also conducted all analysis of the survey results and wrote the preliminary and final reports.

The assistance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was instrumental to the success of the count. The RCMP provided three officers both leading up to the Count and on the night itself, as well as having additional officers on standby should any issues arise. The officers helped identify areas of the city where homeless individuals were frequently encountered. They visited the more remote parks and trails, as well as providing security to teams of enumerators in higher density areas. In addition to providing occupancy totals for the remand centre on the night of the count, officers also surveyed all occupants.

The Safe Harbour Society was responsible for recruiting additional Special Team surveyors to enumerate homeless individuals expected to be found in higher-risk areas. Safe Harbour Society also provided occupancy totals and capacity totals for the night of the Count at its Mat program, Detox program, and People's Place shelter.

We would also like to thank the 49th St. Youth Shelter and the Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter for their participation, both in allowing enumerators to access individuals staying in those shelters at the time of the Count, as well as providing accurate occupancy totals and capacity totals for the night of the Count.

Thanks to Alberta Health Services for providing information about the numbers of persons who were patients at or admitted to the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre having "No Fixed Address" on the night of October 16th.

Thanks to Potter's Hands and the Parkland Youth Homes (P.O.W.E.R. Youth Drop-In Centre), as well as the Red Deer Public Library, who allowed our enumerators access to their various facilities.

Finally, thanks to all organizations and individuals who provided support by volunteering or helping recruit volunteers. We had a total of 98 volunteers, including members of the following organizations: The Centennial Center, Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance, Safe Harbour Society, the City of Red Deer, 49th St. Youth Shelter, The Buffalo Hotel, Employment Placement & Support Services, Potter's Hands Ministries Society, Central Alberta Aids Network Society, Canadian Mental Health Association, Red Deer Housing Team, Metis Urban Housing / Wichinahin Kohopikiwan Society, Community Housing Advisory Board, Gaetz Memorial United Church, Loaves and Fishes, and the Red Deer College Social Work Program. Without the assistance and commitment of these dedicated volunteers, the 2012 PIT Homeless Count would not have been possible.

1 OVERVIEW

On October 16, 2012, the City of Red Deer and The Red Deer & District Community Foundation (RDDCF) engaged OrgCode Consulting, Inc. to conduct Red Deer's first Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count.

A total of 279 people were found to be homeless on October 16th, 2012. As is the case with any homeless count, this should be considered a minimum number of persons experiencing homelessness on that night.

Of the 279 people, 95 or 34% were sheltered, meaning that they slept in an emergency shelter, safe house, detox centre, or remand centre on the night of the count. 184 or 66% were unsheltered, meaning that they were encountered in parks, on the streets or sidewalks, at drop-in centres, or participating in meal programs during the evening of October 16.

TABLE 11: UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED HOMELESS POPULATIONS IN RED DEER (2012)

	Adults	Accompanied Children	Total
Unsheltered	183	1	184
Sheltered	80	15	95
<i>Emergency Shelters</i>	78	15	93
<i>Jails</i>	2	0	2
<i>Hospitals</i>	0	0	0
Total	263	16	279

1.1 KEY FINDINGS

279 A total of 279 persons were found experiencing homelessness on October 16, 2012.

30% 30% of respondents had been homeless for at least one year.

2/3 Two-thirds of homeless people were unsheltered – either they spent the night on the street, in parks, in alleyways, squatting, or couch surfing.

87% Shelters were operating at 87% of capacity on the night of the count, but those with space available were for specific designated sub-populations.

3 in 5 3/5 of respondents had been to the emergency room in the past year, indicating the heavy strain homelessness causes to the health care system.

56% 56% of respondents indicated they had a mental illness.

32% Women comprised 32% of the homeless population — higher than is typical in other jurisdictions.

1 in 4 Nearly 1 in 4 women (24%) who were homeless had children with them at the time of counting.

62.5% 62.5% of homeless families were fleeing domestic abuse or conflict.

Half 50% of homeless youth (aged 24 or under) were female.

1/4 One-quarter of respondents reported having a job but were unable to afford housing.

45% Almost half of homeless youth indicated that they had experienced family breakdowns, abuse or conflict.

44% Aboriginal people make up 44% of Red Deer's homeless population, despite constituting only 4.4% of Red Deer's residents as per Statistics Canada Census Data.

3X Aboriginal people are homeless for more than three times as long as non-aboriginal people. The median length of time homeless for a homeless aboriginal person in Red Deer is 300 days, compared to 90 days for a non-aboriginal individual.

2 PIT COUNT BACKGROUND

A Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count is a snapshot of homelessness that captures numbers and basic demographics of persons experiencing homelessness at a single point in time. Persons enumerated are those staying in emergency shelters, safe houses, jails and remand facilities, detox programs, and those staying outdoors in parks, on the streets, and in other public areas.

A PIT Count is the best way to get an accurate picture of the number of people who are homeless in a city like Red Deer; however, a PIT Count is not without its limitations. For instance, a PIT Count is unable to measure persons who are experiencing “hidden homelessness,” who may be couch surfing at a friend’s house, sleeping in a public wash-room, or living in a hotel room. In addition, a PIT Count relies on the ability of volunteers to find those experiencing homelessness in public areas, and may miss some who do not appear to be homeless, who are well-hidden, or who are actively avoiding being counted. For the reasons cited, although a PIT Count is a carefully executed scientific process, all PIT Counts (by their inherent limitations) undercount the homeless population. The findings from the PIT Count, therefore, should be considered the minimum number of people that were homeless on the night of October 16, 2012.

2.1 THE 2012 RED DEER POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The City of Red Deer and The Red Deer & District Community Foundation (RDDCF) engaged OrgCode Consulting, Inc. to conduct Red Deer’s first Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count on October 16, 2012. Occupancy totals were obtained from shelter providers and a comprehensive outdoor enumeration was conducted to capture the most accurate number of homeless persons possible. Surveys were also conducted at shelters, in drop-in centres, and in remand centres to obtain robust data on sheltered homeless individuals.

A total of 98 volunteers canvassed 49 outdoor areas, covering as much of the city as possible. Officers from the RCMP provided security and assistance in searching through remote and forested areas for rough sleepers. Ten special teams of professional homeless service workers enumerated high-density and forested areas.

Prior to conducting the count all volunteers attended a 90-minute training sessions and were instructed to survey everyone they encountered, allowing the questions on the survey to screen whether or not the person encountered was homeless or not. If the person was not homeless, the survey was suspended and no additional questions were asked.

The result of the approximately 6-hour survey (17:30 to 23:30) was a Point-In-Time “Raw Count” of homeless individuals encountered in areas where homeless persons have been identified in the past by professional outreach workers and the RCMP. These areas of the city were determined to be high density (4+ persons), medium density (2-3 persons) or low-density (1 person) survey areas. The final count of homeless individuals was the sum of this raw count and the results of two statistical methods used to account for: 1) the homeless individuals in the low-density areas not surveyed, and 2) the homeless individuals missed by the survey teams.

2.2 METHODS

To ensure a more accurate number, the following techniques were used to enhance the quality of the data:

- Covering as much of the geographic area in the City of Red Deer as possible
- Instructing volunteers to enumerate everyone encountered, regardless of appearance (not just those that may “look” homeless)
- Extrapolation for low-density areas
- Plant-capture technique using decoys

The majority of homeless persons found on the night of the count were found in known locations, places identified previously by staff that work in homeless programs and services as “hot spots” where many homeless people can be found and, specifically, at certain times of the day. However, the Count also identified 17 homeless persons in areas where homeless people were not expected to be found. Thus, part of the methodology used was to cover as many parts of the city as possible and to survey as many homeless persons as possible.

In homeless counts in other jurisdictions, a common limitation with engaging inexperienced volunteers as enumerators is that they tend to use their judgement in deciding whether or not to approach a person. If a person does not “appear” to be homeless, they may not be enumerated. In Red Deer, volunteers were instructed to approach everyone they encountered, so that this potential bias would be eliminated.

2.2.1. EXTRAPOLATION

The first statistical method applied to the raw count of homeless individuals was employed to account for the homeless individuals in the low-density study areas that were not selected as survey areas. This methodology assumes that homeless individuals are evenly distributed throughout the low-density areas used in this assessment. Since the low-density survey areas that were not included in the survey were randomly selected, it can be assumed that the proportion of homeless individuals found in the survey areas would be consistent with the number of homeless individuals anticipated in the low-density study areas not surveyed. Using these assumptions, the following extrapolation calculation was applied to estimate the homeless individuals in the low-density study areas not surveyed (n_{est}) using the actual number of homeless individuals counted in the low-density survey areas (n_s):

where:
$$n_{est} = \frac{n_s}{L_s} * (L_{tot} - L_s)$$

- n_{est} is an estimate (*est*) of the homeless individuals (n) in low-density study areas not surveyed
- n_s is the raw count of homeless individuals (n) in low-density areas surveyed (s)
- L_{tot} is the total (*tot*) number of low-density study areas (L)
- L_s is the number of low-density study areas (L) which were surveyed (s)
- Through this method, 4 persons were added to the count total. In total, 8 low-density areas were not surveyed, and the low-density areas that were surveyed had an average of 0.512 homeless persons per area.

2.2.2. PLANT-CAPTURE METHOD

The second statistical method, called a 'plant-capture' method, was applied to the raw count of homeless individuals to account for the homeless individuals missed by the survey teams. The reasons why homeless individuals were missed could include the assumption that a person was not homeless and therefore not approached by the survey team regardless of the instruction to stop-everyone; the survey team or subjects moving too quickly; not covering both the north-south or east-west sides of a street; etc. This plant-capture method was successfully used in New York City's and Toronto's point-in-time homeless population estimates. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the United States, where counts are a requirement for funding every two years, has suggested that this is the "gold standard" for homeless counts likely to yield the most accurate results.

The underlying assumption of this method is that the number of individuals ("plants") that were missed (not "captured") is directly proportional to the number of homeless individuals missed by the survey teams.

A total of 10 valid plants¹ were deployed throughout the survey areas (4 plants in high density areas and 6 plants in low-density areas) distributed across the City. These plants were provided instructions and training prior to being deployed into the field. They were instructed on how to act in the field, how to answer questions of surveyors and when to reveal their status as a decoy. The plants had a range of gender, appearance and age. Each was given a location where they were expected to be; some directly with their plant partner, others with visual distance of each other. All plants were located on public property. All plants were deployed to survey areas where study teams were going. If they were interviewed by the survey team ("captured"), the plants answered the questions as if they were homeless. After completing the survey and identified themselves as a decoy to the survey team, the plants signed the survey and provided the survey team his/her token (a dice) as additional confirmation of the encounter.

Important information is also gleaned from plants who do not complete the survey with study teams. Of importance is whether they saw the study team at all. "Visited; Not Counted" impacts the overall probability equation differently than "Not Visited; Not Counted" (in other words, missed altogether).

The adjustment to the raw count using the plant-capture method is calculated as the product of the probability of capturing a plant, given that the site was visited by a study team (p_{cap}), the probability of a plant was located deployed to a survey area (as opposed to located in a study area not surveyed) and sampling fraction used in the assessment (the fraction of low-density survey areas from the total number of low-density study areas).

¹ There were 10 decoys in total. Two of the decoys were encountered within minutes of deployment by a Special Survey team. The "regular" survey teams were being deployed at around the same time as these two were captured (some had already left the training site, others were still in the training site). A decision was made to redeploy these decoys, and in the second deployment they were not found. Discussions with peer reviewers suggested that the redeployment was ill-advised as there was no way in that moment of telling whether the survey area they were redeployed to was an area where a regular study team had already started or was in the process of being deployed to.

First, the probability of capturing a plant given that the site was visited (p_{cap}) is calculated using the following equations:

$$p_{cap} = \frac{X_{counted}}{X_{visited}}$$

where:

- p_{cap} is the probability of capturing a plant given that a site was visited
- $X_{counted}$ is the number of plants counted
- $X_{visited}$ is the number of plants which saw a survey team but were not surveyed (thus not counted)

Secondly, the probability that the survey area contained a plant (p_{vis}) is calculated using the following equation:

$$p_{vis} = \frac{X_{visited}}{X_{deployed}}$$

where:

- p_{vis} is the probability that the survey area contained a plant
- $X_{visited}$ is the number of plants which saw a survey team but were not surveyed (thus not counted)
- $X_{deployed}$ is the number of plants deployed

Finally, these probabilities were multiplied by the sampling fraction to calculate the final adjustment to the raw count and to account for the homeless individuals missed by the survey teams.

The sum of the plant-capture adjustments from high density areas and low-density areas are added to the extrapolated values which is added to the raw count to calculate the final point-in-time count of homeless individuals.

In total, 7 of the 10 plants were Captured; of the remaining three, 2 were Not Visited; Not Captured, and the last 1 was Visited; Not Captured. Through this method, a total of 97 persons were added to the count total.

2.2.3. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS RELATED TO ADJUSTMENTS

The approach to adjusting the raw count is a method employed by Toronto, New York, and Seattle. Most other jurisdictions that conduct Homeless Counts of the outdoor population report only the raw count. They make no efforts to reliably account for areas that they are unable to send survey teams to, nor do they make efforts to account for homeless people that may have been missed, given that a study area was included in the survey. There are a very small number of academics or other experts that have familiarity with the approach to adjusting for non-sampled areas and for making probability adjustments based upon plant-capture and probability of a study area being included.

The calculations undertaken by OrgCode were peer reviewed by two professionals intimately familiar with the methodology, having also been involved in counts and analysis in Toronto and New York. Consensus among the experts was reached in the findings for the City of Red Deer.

3 RESULTS

A total of 279 people were found to be homeless on October 16th, 2012.

Of the 279 people, 95 or 34% were sheltered, meaning that they slept in an emergency shelter, safe house, detox centre, or remand centre on the night of the count.

184 or 66% were unsheltered, meaning that they were encountered in parks, on the streets or sidewalks, at drop-in centres, or at meal programs.

Table 31: Unsheltered and Sheltered Homeless Populations in Red Deer (2012)

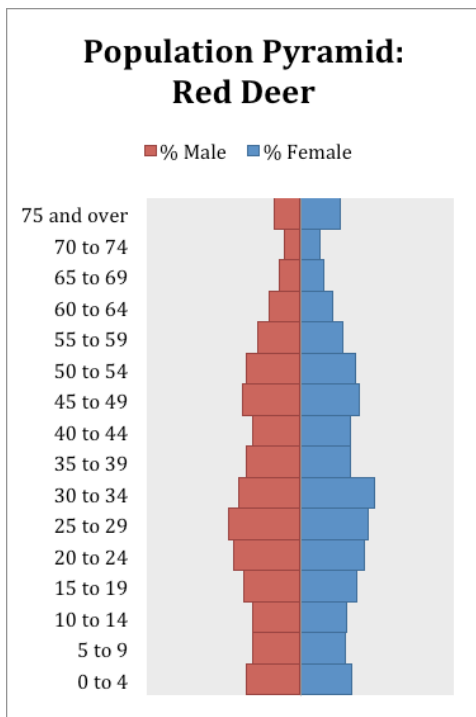
	Adults	Accompanied Children	Total
Unsheltered	183	1	184
Sheltered	80	15	95
<i>Emergency Shelters</i>	78	15	93
<i>Jails</i>	2	0	2
<i>Hospitals</i>	0	0	0
Total	263	16	279

3.1 WHO IS HOMELESS?

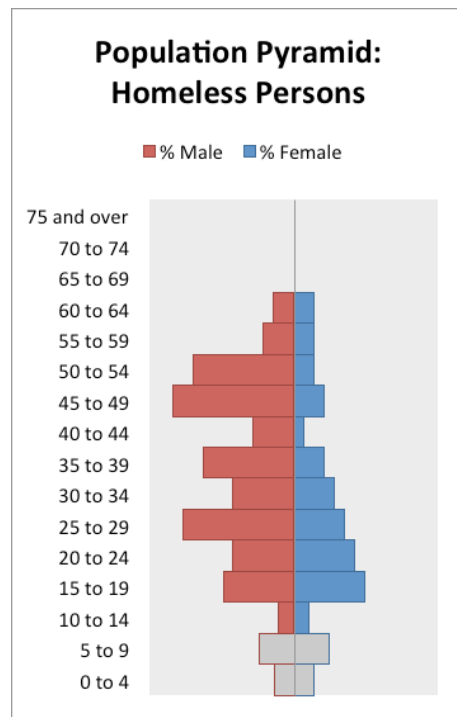
Persons experiencing homelessness can come from a range of situations, making it impossible to determine a demographic profile of a “typical” homeless person. They can be male or female of any age, from any socio-economic or ethnic background, and there are a variety of reasons why any individual would be experiencing homelessness.

3.1.1. AGE

The median age of homeless persons encountered in Red Deer was 33 and the average age was 34.5. The most common age of respondents was 29, while the most common age ranges were 15-19 and 25-29. The youngest person surveyed was 14, while the youngest child accompanying a surveyed parent was 2 years old. The oldest person surveyed was 62.



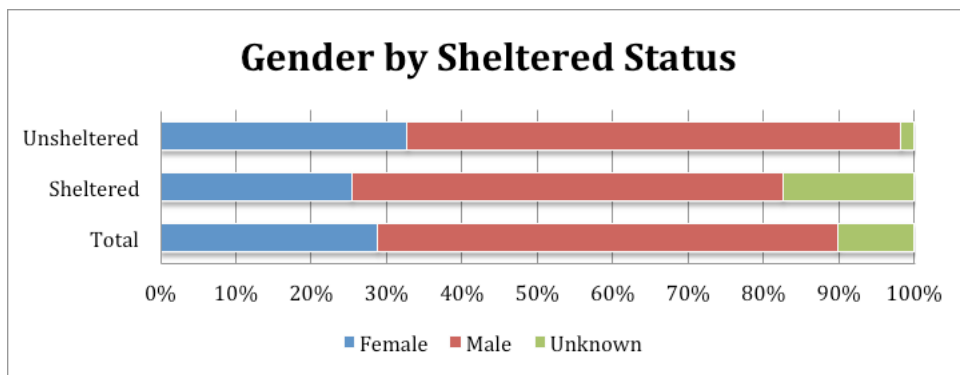
GRAPH 3-1: POPULATION PYRAMID, RED DEER (SOURCE: 2011 CENSUS)



GRAPH 3-2: POPULATION PYRAMID, HOMELESS PERSONS FOUND
NOTE: GREY BARS REPRESENT ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN. GENDERS NOT RECORDED.

3.1.2. GENDER

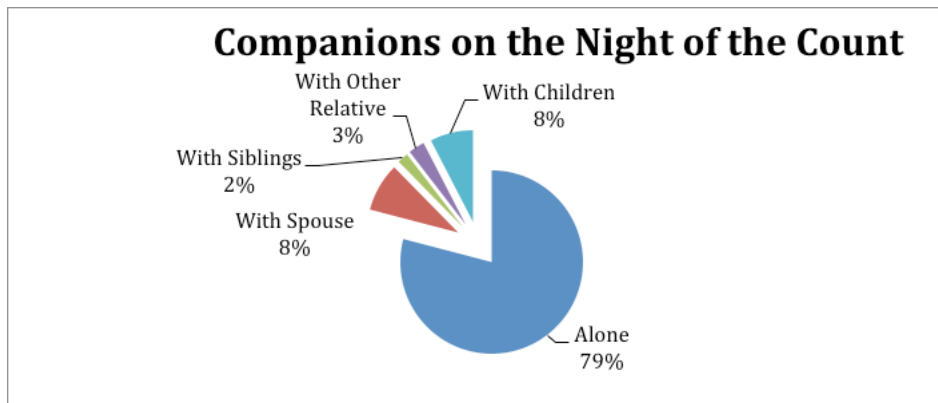
The majority of homeless persons were men, although 32% – a sizeable minority – were female. Although the proportions were similar, there were slightly more women who were unsheltered than sheltered. It is important to note that there is a 36-bed women’s shelter in Red Deer that was not full on the night of the count.



GRAPH 3-3: GENDER BY SHELTERED STATUS

3.1.3. FAMILY STATUS

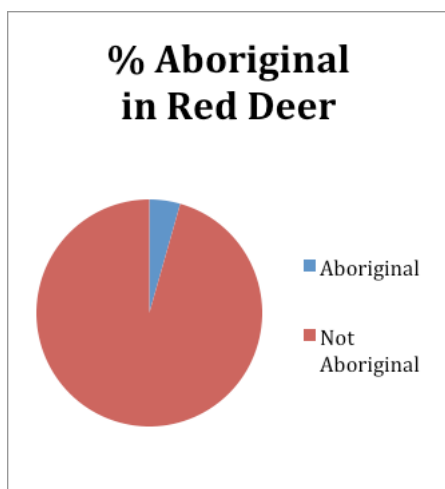
Although surveyed individuals were not specifically asked about their marital status, they were asked if they were with friends, family members, or significant others on the night of the count. Overwhelmingly, 4 out of 5 respondents were alone at the time of being surveyed, and only 8.5% reported being with a spouse. 7.6% were with children at the time of the count.



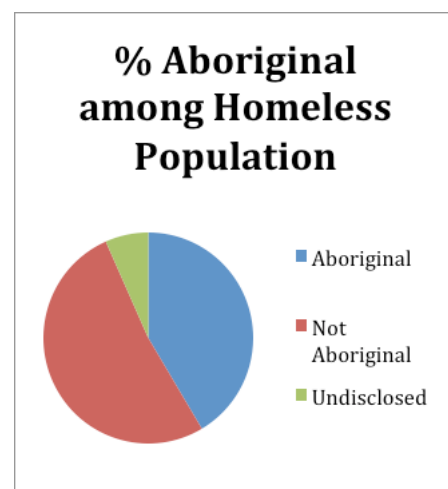
GRAPH 34: COMPANIONS ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUNT

3.1.4. ABORIGINAL STATUS

On the night of the count, homeless people were asked, "Are you an Aboriginal, Métis or Inuit person?" Respondents self-reported whether they were or were not aboriginal, or could opt not to answer the question. 44% indicated that they were Aboriginal, Métis or Inuit. This percentage is disproportionately high considering that Aboriginal persons comprise only 4.4% of Red Deer's total population.



GRAPH 3-5: ABORIGINAL POPULATION, RED DEER (SOURCE: 2006 CENSUS)



GRAPH 3-6: ABORIGINAL HOMELESS POPULATION, RED DEER

3.1.5. VETERAN STATUS

5.7% of respondents indicated that they had previously served in the Canadian Armed Forces. While this is not a very large percentage, less than 2% of Canadians are veterans, so this number is also disproportionately high.

3.2 WHERE DO HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEP?

The results of the 2012 PIT Count found that 66% of homeless people in Red Deer were unsheltered, and the remaining 34% were sheltered.

However, the highest percentage (32%) of the unsheltered homeless individuals reported that they slept in a shelter the night prior to the Count, so they are considered "Sometimes Sheltered." 25% of the unsheltered individuals reported staying with a friend the night before. 23% of unsheltered respondents reported "Sleeping Rough" – these included individuals who were in parks, on sidewalks and in alleyways, and squatting in abandoned buildings. The remainder included those sleeping in their car or spending the night in a motel.



GRAPH 3-7: WHERE DO HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEP?

Approximately 42% of unsheltered respondents reported that they disliked shelters or did not want to stay in one on the night of the count. Respondents were asked why, and their answers are reproduced below in the word cloud that measures the frequency of responses:

FIGURE 3-1: REASONS FOR DISLIKING SHELTERS



3.2.1. SHELTER CAPACITY

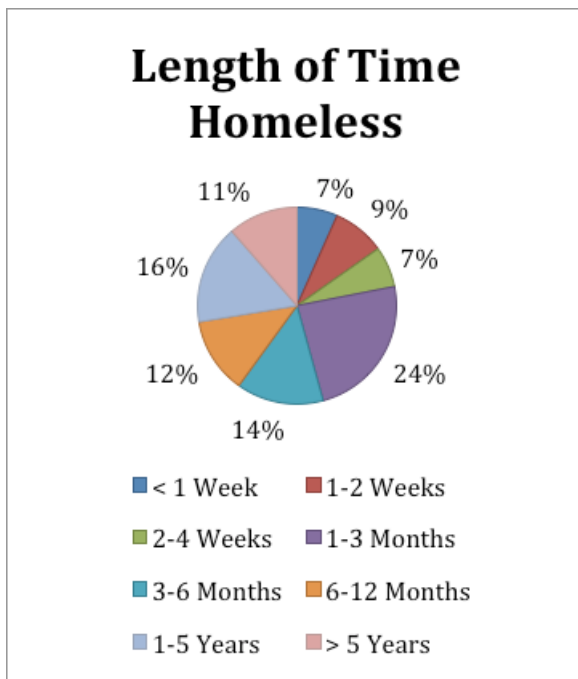
24% of unsheltered respondents reported being turned away from shelters on the night of the count. On that night, shelters in Red Deer were operating at 87% of capacity. However, all of the shelters that were not operating at capacity were serving specific designated sub-populations, such as youth or women fleeing violent situations.

TABLE 32: OCCUPANCY AND CAPACITY OF SHELTERS

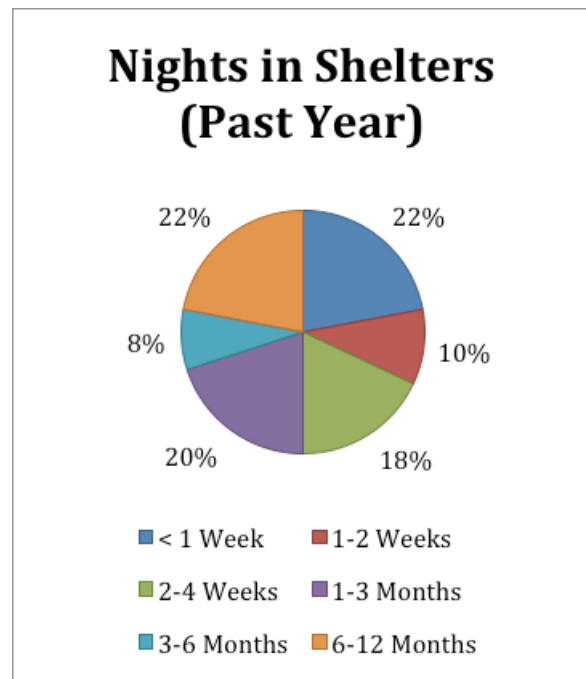
Shelter Name	Total # of Beds	# Occupied	% Occupied
Safe Harbour Society – Mats Program	20	25	125%
Safe Harbour Society – Non-Medical Detox	20	15	75%
People’s Place	23	23	100%
49 th St. Youth Shelter	8	4	50%
Central Alberta Women’s Emergency Shelter	36	26	72%
Total	107	93	87%

3.3 HOW MUCH TIME ARE PEOPLE SPENDING HOMELESS?

Most people who experience homelessness during their lifetime do so for a very short period of time – usually less than 10 days, and then are able to find a housing arrangement (which may include family or friends) and never become homeless again. Thus, analysis of homeless data over a complete year would show that most people are homeless for less than two weeks. A point in time count is a snapshot of the people who are homeless during a given time window and date, and so survey respondents are disproportionately episodic or chronically homeless persons, since they are more likely to be homeless at the time of the count.



GRAPH 3-8: LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS



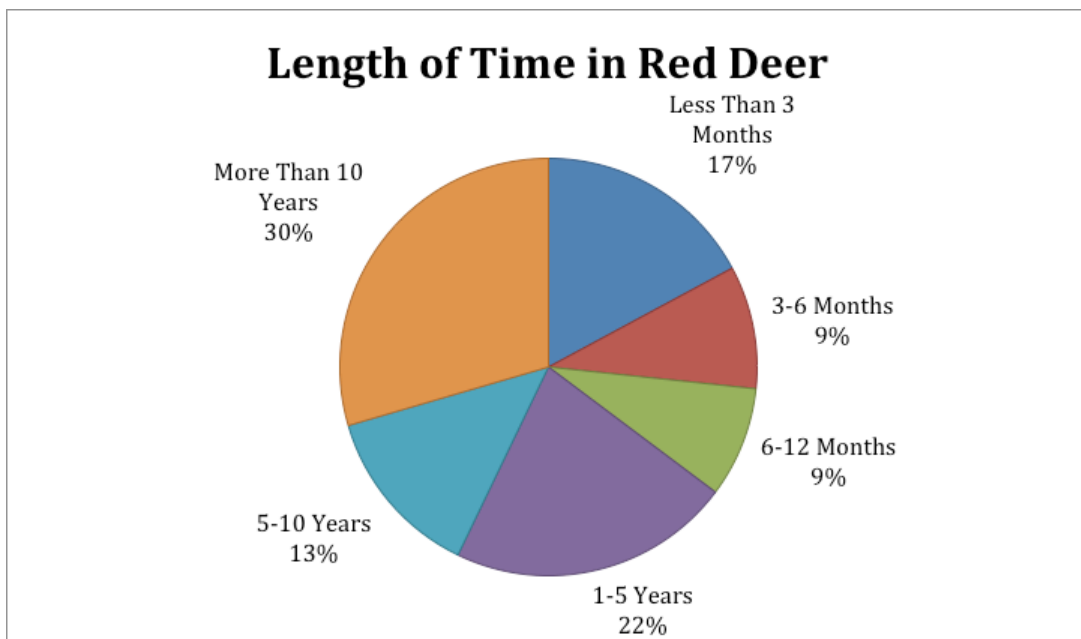
GRAPH 3-9: LENGTH OF TIME IN SHELTERS

Red Deer's 2012 PIT Count found that the majority (78%) of respondents had been homeless for more than 30 days, and that a quarter (27%) had been homeless for longer than 1 year. The median length of time one has been homeless was approximately 4 months.

In addition, those who were found in shelters were asked how often they spent the night in a shelter. The median number of nights a respondent had spent in shelters in the past year was 30.

3.4 WHAT COMMUNITIES DO HOMELESS PEOPLE CALL HOME?

The majority of homeless persons encountered call the City of Red Deer home. 62% called Red Deer their home community, and 65% reported living in Red Deer for more than 1 year. The remainder typically came from elsewhere in Alberta or, to a lesser extent, British Columbia. Only 3% were recent immigrants to Canada. See Appendix B for a map of "home" communities of respondents.



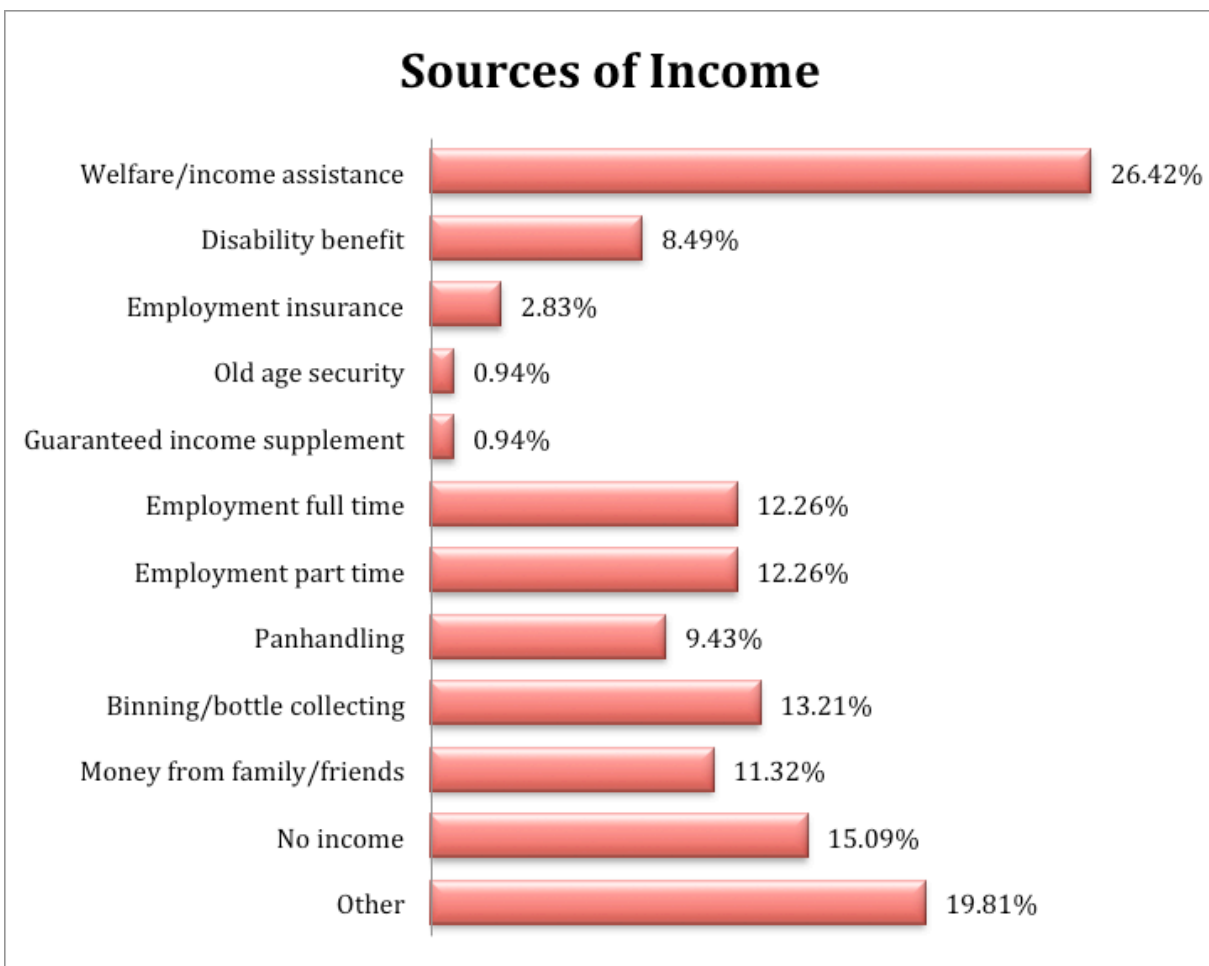
GRAPH 3-10: LENGTH OF TIME IN RED DEER

3.5 WHAT DID HOMELESS PEOPLE REPORT AS THEIR SOURCES OF INCOME?

The most common method through which homeless people obtain money is through welfare or income assistance, however, only about 1 in 4 respondents get income in this manner. The second most common response was "no income," with 15% of responses.

It is interesting to note that one-fourth of respondents – an equal proportion to those receiving income assistance – reported having either part-time or full-time employment. This evidence suggests that the cost of housing is unaffordable, even to those who have a job.

GRAPH 3-11: SOURCES OF INCOME



Other responses include: child tax benefit, selling drugs, sex work, odd jobs (informal employment), and art. A full list is reproduced in the word cloud below.

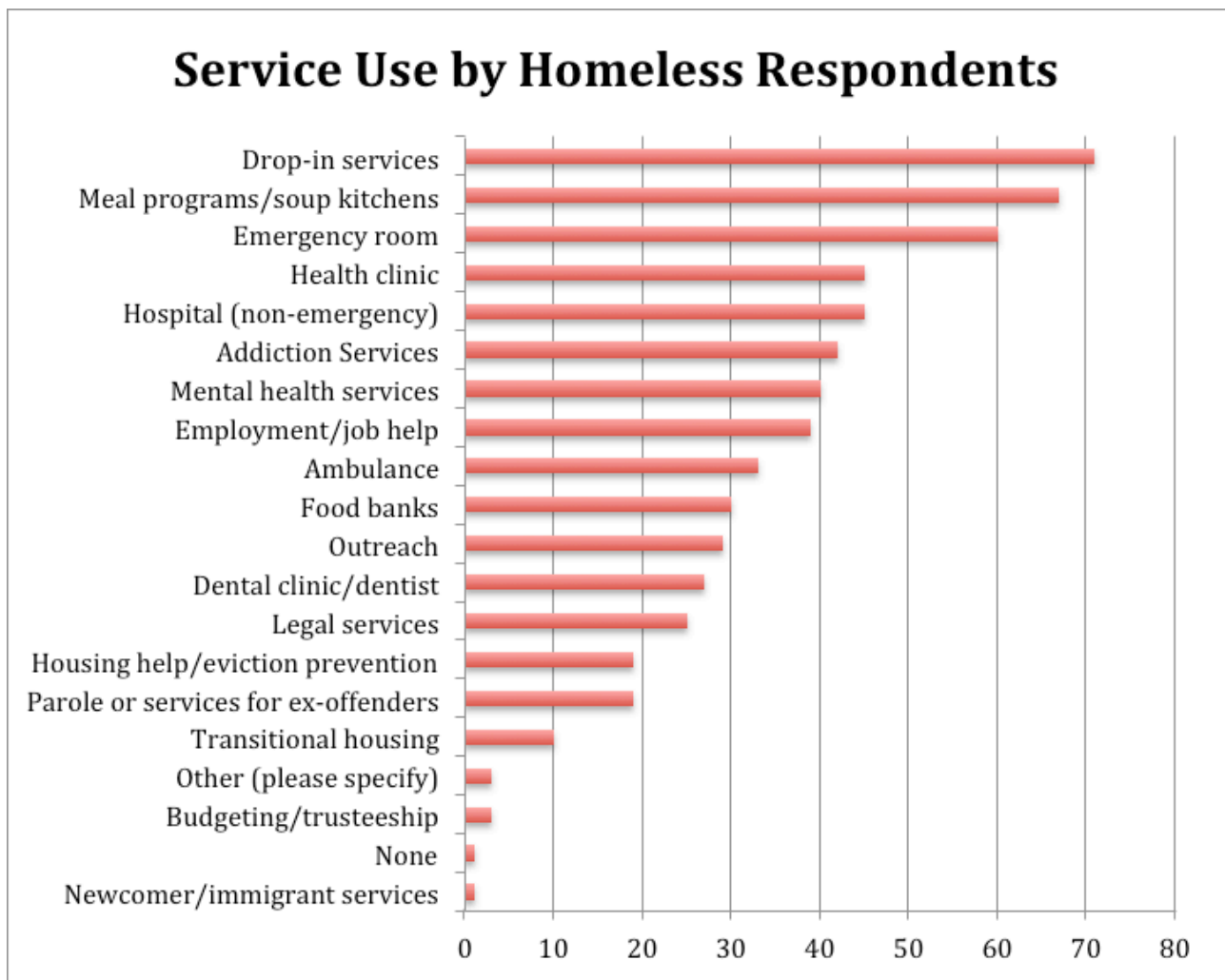


FIGURE 3-2: OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

3.6 WHAT SERVICES DO HOMELESS PEOPLE USE?

The programs and/or services most frequently used by homeless persons include drop-in services, soup kitchens, and the emergency room. These three services were used in the last year by over 60% of homeless people. The next most frequently used services – health clinics and hospitals – were each used by less than half of respondents in the past year.

GRAPH 3-12: SERVICE USE BY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS



It is interesting to note that of the top 10 services used, six were health related, including the very high-cost emergency room and ambulance services.

In contrast, only 30% of respondents had used outreach services in the past year – a service specifically aimed at helping those experiencing homelessness – and less than 20% had obtained help finding or keeping their housing.

Meal programs were among the most popular of services, while food banks were accessed by less than 1/3 of respondents.

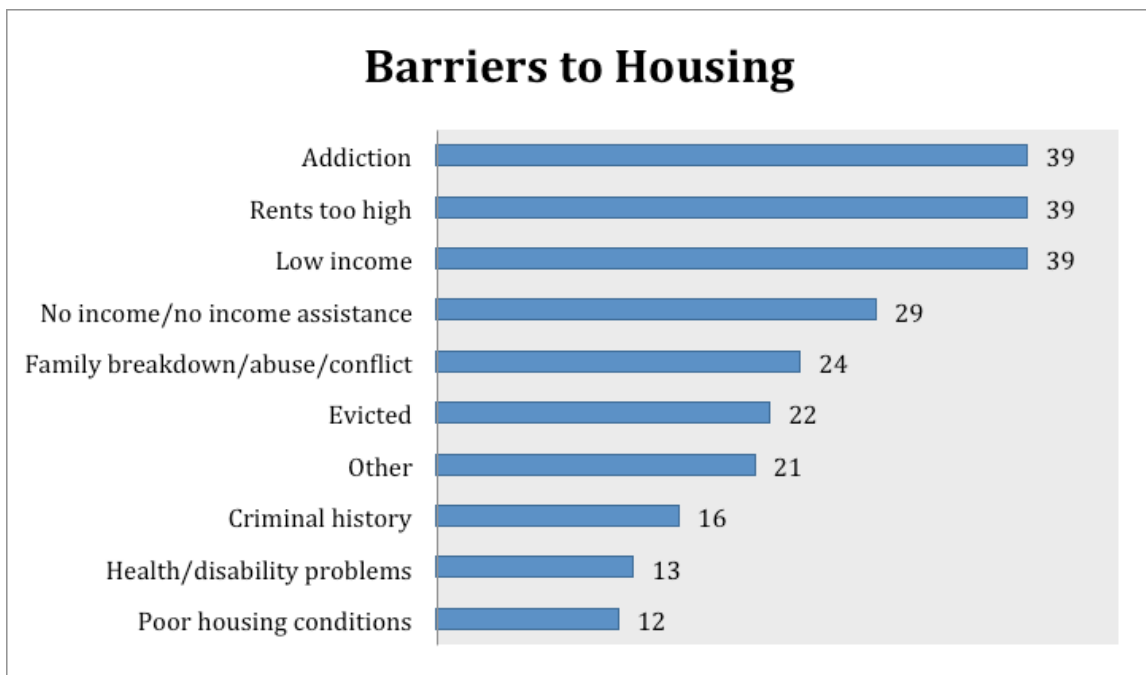
3.7 WHAT BARRIERS DO HOMELESS PEOPLE FACE?

Homeless persons face a lot of barriers preventing them from ending their homelessness and finding a suitable place to live. Respondents were asked what was keeping them from finding a permanent place to live. The most common responses were having an addiction, not having enough income, and the fact that rents were too high.

On average, respondents selected an average of two barriers to housing.

About ¼ of respondents indicated that they were homeless as a result of family breakdown, abuse, or conflict, a response that was much more common among women and youth than adult males. Of those who responded with an “other” answer, most indicated that they had difficulty paying a damage deposit as well as first and last month’s rent.

GRAPH 3-13: BARRIERS TO HOUSING



3.7.1. HEALTH PROBLEMS

Homeless persons were asked whether they had an addiction, mental illness, medical condition, and/or a physical disability. In total, over 85% of respondents indicated that they had some sort of health problem, and 60% reported having more than one problem. Nearly 3 out of every 4 respondents said that they had an addiction, and over half said they had a mental illness.

Unsheltered respondents reported having more health problems. On average, sheltered respondents reported an average of 1.8 health problems while unsheltered respondents had an average of 2.1 health problems. Twice as many unsheltered respondents reported having all four health problems as sheltered respondents.

TABLE 3-3: NUMBER OF HEALTH PROBLEMS

Number of Health Problems	Sheltered Homeless		Unsheltered Homeless		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
None	9	17%	6	11%	15	14%
One	16	31%	12	22%	28	26%
Two	10	20%	20	36%	30	28%
Three	12	24%	6	11%	18	17%
Four	5	10%	11	20%	16	15%
Multiple	27	53%	37	67%	64	60%
Total Respondents	51	100%	55	100%	107	100%

TABLE 3-4: TYPE OF HEALTH PROBLEMS

Type of Health Problems	Sheltered Homeless		Unsheltered Homeless		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Mental Illness	22	46%	33	67%	55	56%
Addiction	34	73%	39	76%	74	74%
Medical Condition	23	49%	24	50%	47	49%
Physical Disability	12	27%	18	37%	30	32%

3.8 WHAT ONE THING COULD END THEIR HOMELESSNESS?

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked, “What one thing could help you find permanent, stable housing?” This question was open-ended and as a result tends to receive a wide range of answers, from the lighthearted to the sobering. Their responses were analyzed and categorized.

Most respondents (about 1 in 4) indicated that they couldn’t afford housing. If more housing was available, if the rents were lower, or if they had enough money for first month’s rent plus a damage deposit, they wouldn’t be homeless.

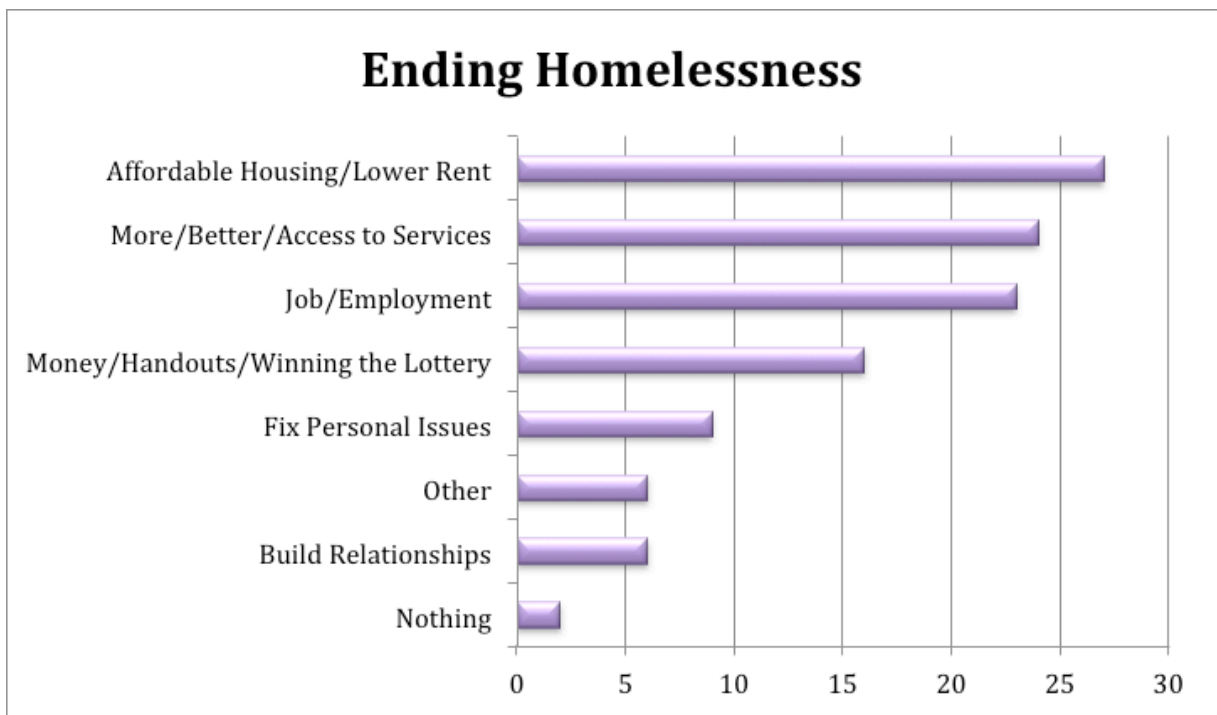
The second most common response concerned available services: these respondents indicated that they needed help finding housing, needed someone to talk to, needed mental health services, help getting on medication, or just needed a case worker.

Third most common were respondents who said that they just needed a job. It is interesting to note that far more people responded that they needed to find a job than those who just said they needed more money, or needed to win the lottery.

A minority of respondents said that they needed to address personal issues, such as becoming sober, finding religion, or to stop making bad decisions. Another minority indicated that they needed to fix existing relationships (i.e. stop fighting with a parent or spouse so that they can move back in), or create a new relationship (i.e. find someone to love and get married).

Only two respondents said that they didn't want anything or that nothing could help them.

GRAPH 3-14: WHAT ONE THING COULD END YOUR HOMELESSNESS?



4 SUB-POPULATIONS

Certain sub-populations experiencing homelessness have special or distinct needs compared to other groups, or are disproportionately represented among the homeless population. The following section explores the specific responses of several sub-populations.

4.1 ABORIGINAL PERSONS

Aboriginal persons, including Métis, Inuit, Status Indian, non-status, persons of aboriginal ancestry, and anyone else self-identifying as an aboriginal person, are disproportionately represented among the homeless population of Red Deer.

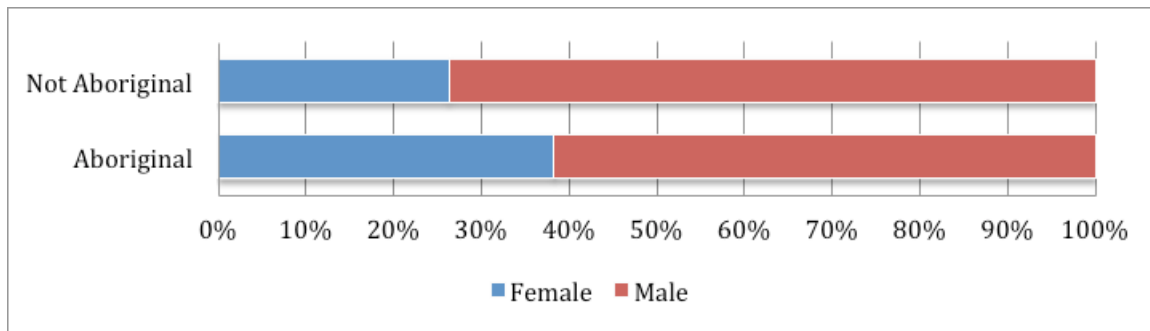
4.1.1. AGE

Homeless aboriginal persons are younger than non-aboriginal homeless persons, with an average age of 32.2 as opposed to 36.7. Aboriginal women were slightly younger, with an average age of 30.9, but non-aboriginal women were younger than aboriginal women, with an average age of 29.1.

4.1.2. GENDER

Although the majority of aboriginal homeless people are male, a much higher percentage (38%) of aboriginal women are homeless than non-aboriginal women.

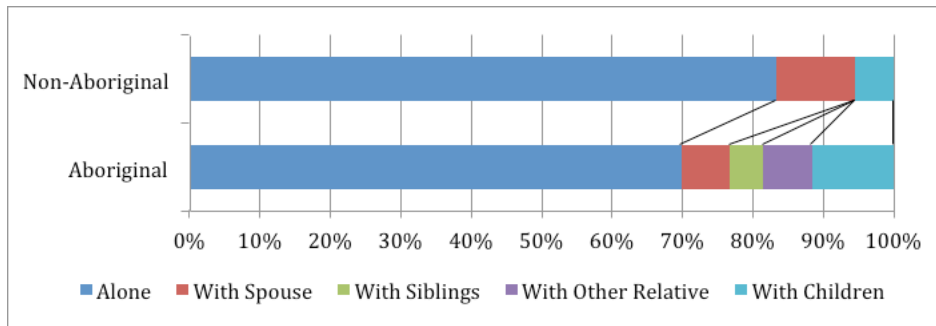
GRAPH 4-1: GENDER AND ABORIGINAL STATUS



4.1.3. FAMILY STATUS

More aboriginal persons reported being with at least one other person on the night of the count. 70% - as opposed to over 80% of non-aboriginals – reported being alone at the time. All respondents who said they were with a sibling or other relative were aboriginal.

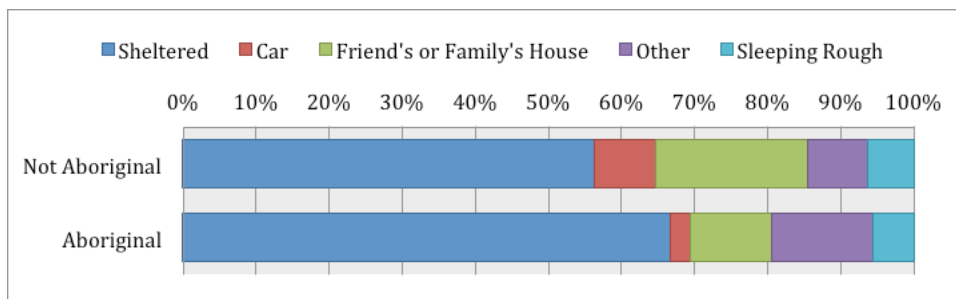
GRAPH 4-2: COMPANIONS ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUNT



4.1.4. WHERE DO ABORIGINAL HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEP?

More aboriginal homeless persons reported staying in shelters on the night of the count than non-aboriginal people. However, more non-aboriginal homeless people were able to stay with a family or friend on the night prior to count. The percentage “sleeping rough” was approximately the same.

GRAPH 4-3: WHERE DO ABORIGINAL HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEP?

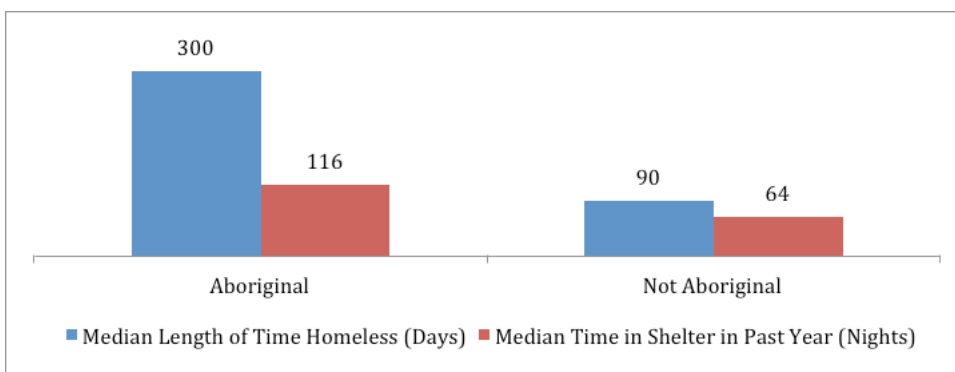


4.1.5. HOW MUCH TIME ARE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE SPENDING HOMELESS?

Aboriginal people who experience homelessness do so for longer periods of time, on average. Non-aboriginal homeless people reported staying in a shelter an average of 64 nights in the past year, while aboriginal homeless people reported an average of 116 shelter nights in the past year. However, this statistic must be considered carefully as the previous section demonstrated that homeless aboriginal individuals were more likely to stay in shelters.

Non-aboriginal people experiencing homelessness are homeless for a median of 90 days, or 3 months. In contrast, aboriginal people experiencing homelessness do so for a median of 300 days, or 10 months – more than three times as long and approaching a continuous state of homelessness.

GRAPH 4-4: AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS, ABORIGINAL VS. NON-ABORIGINAL



4.1.6. WHAT DID ABORIGINAL HOMELESS PEOPLE REPORT AS THEIR SOURCES OF INCOME?

About as many aboriginal as non-aboriginal homeless persons accessed welfare or income assistance. However, aboriginal persons were less likely to collect a pension or be employed, and were more likely to use panhandling, bottle collecting, or friends as a source of income.

4.1.7. WHAT SERVICES DO HOMELESS ABORIGINAL PEOPLE USE?

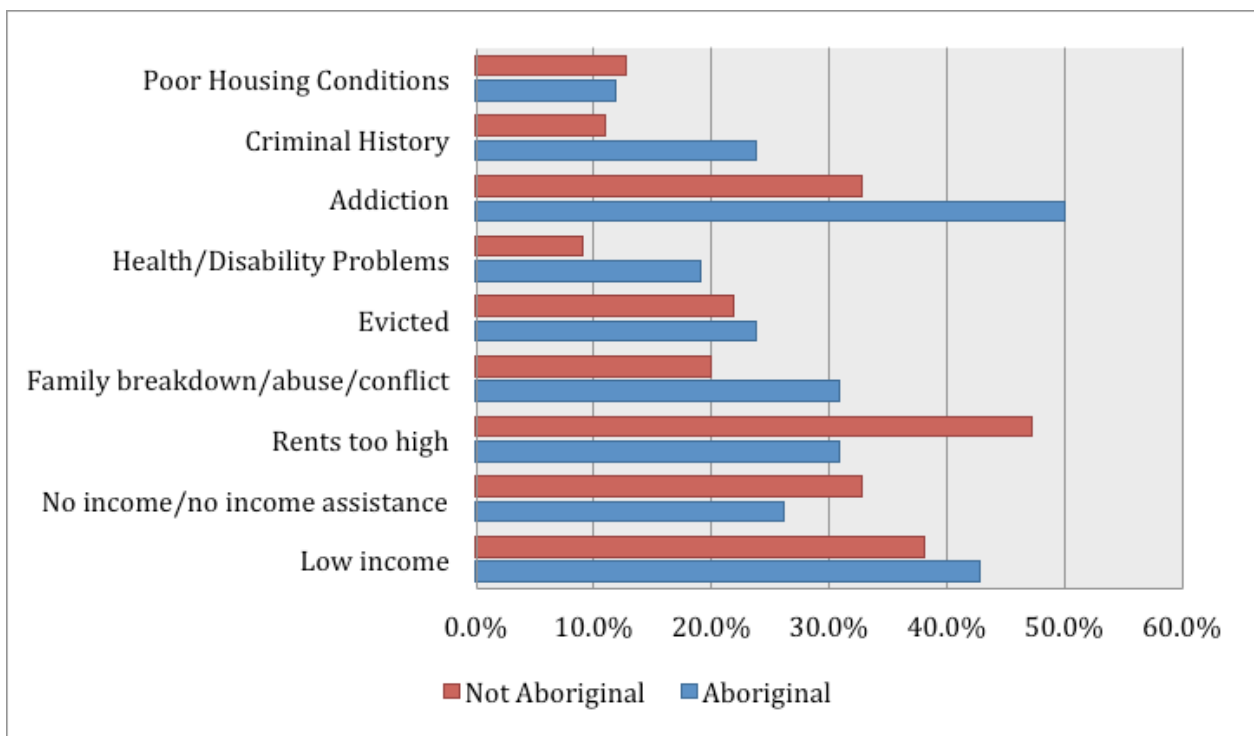
Aboriginal people exhibited similar service use patterns as non-aboriginal homeless people, with a few exceptions. Aboriginal respondents were more likely to use services for ex-offenders and were less likely to access food banks, dental services, mental health services, and transitional housing.

4.1.8. WHAT BARRIERS DO HOMELESS ABORIGINAL PEOPLE FACE?

Persons of aboriginal descent faced slightly more barriers to housing than non-aboriginal homeless people. On average, aboriginal homeless persons reported 2.4 barriers to housing while non-aboriginal persons reported 2.2 barriers.

Aboriginal people were significantly more likely to report having an addiction, criminal history, family abuse/break-down/conflict or health/disability problem as barriers to housing. They were less likely than non-aboriginal people to report that rents were too high or that they were not receiving income assistance.

GRAPH 4-5: BARRIERS TO HOUSING FACED BY ABORIGINAL HOMELESS PEOPLE



4.1.9. HEALTH PROBLEMS OF ABORIGINAL HOMELESS PEOPLE

Homeless aboriginal individuals reported having slightly more health problems than non-aboriginals, in particular, 59% had a mental illness compared to 47% of non-aboriginal homeless people having a mental illness. However, aboriginal people also reported slightly less medical conditions and addictions than their non-aboriginal counterparts.

4.2 UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

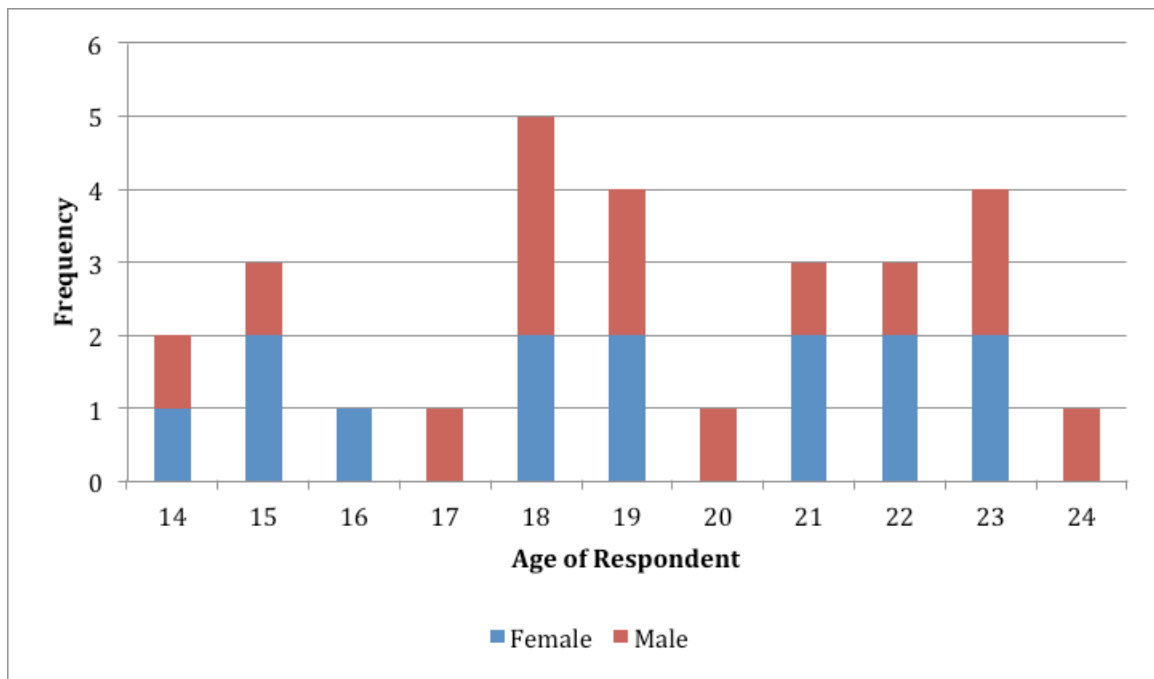
Young people are particularly vulnerable and have different needs than adults. Socially, emotionally, physically, and mentally, they are still developing, so spending time – any time – homeless can have a profound impact on a youth. Typically, youth are not as “hardened” to street life, and are therefore more likely to be taken advantage of by older homeless people, including by getting them involved in drug using or dealing, sex work, and theft.

In the following section, youth are defined as up to and including the age of 24. All the responses presented below come from unaccompanied youth, the youngest of which was 14.

4.2.1. AGE

Homeless youth were most commonly aged 18-19. The second most frequent category was ages 21-23, followed by ages 14-15.

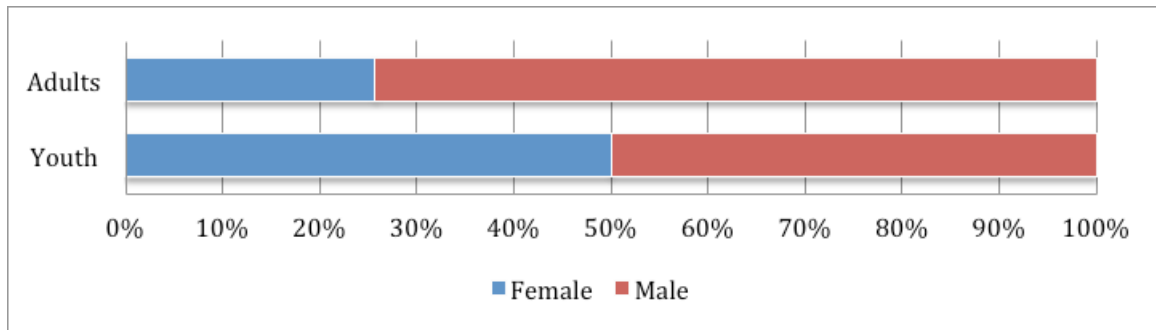
GRAPH 4-6: AGE AND GENDER OF YOUTH RESPONDENTS



4.2.2. GENDER

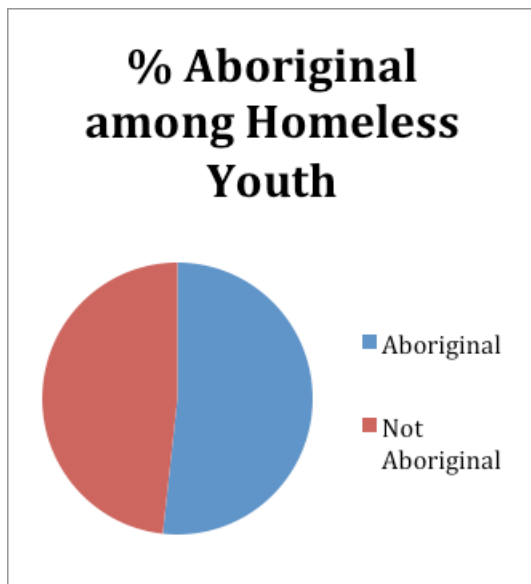
One-half of all youth were female, which is significantly higher than the 32% of all respondents who were female or the 26% of adult respondents who were female.

GRAPH 4-7: GENDER OF YOUTH RESPONDENTS VS. ADULT RESPONDENTS

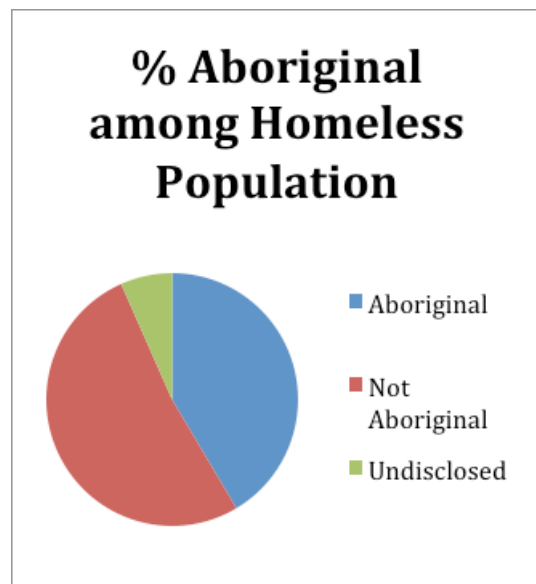


4.2.3. ABORIGINAL STATUS

Over 50% of homeless youth reported being aboriginal, which is even higher than the 44% of all homeless respondents who reported being aboriginal.



GRAPH 4-8: ABORIGINAL HOMELESS YOUTH POPULATION IN RED DEER

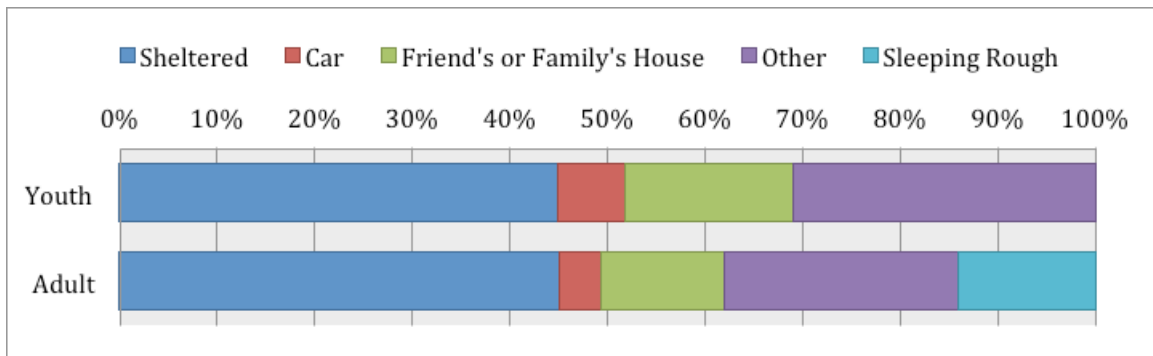


GRAPH 4-9: ABORIGINAL HOMELESS POPULATION IN RED DEER

4.2.4. WHERE DO HOMELESS YOUTH SLEEP?

About equal percentages of youth and adults accessed shelters, however no youth reported sleeping outside on the night prior to the count. More youth reported staying with a friend or family member than homeless adults.

GRAPH 4-10: WHERE DO HOMELESS YOUTH SLEEP?



4.2.5. HOW MUCH TIME ARE YOUTH SPENDING HOMELESS?

Youth spend less time homeless, on average, but the explanation may be simple – they are not old enough to have spent much time on the streets. The median length of time homeless for youth was 3 months, while for adults the median was 5.5 months.

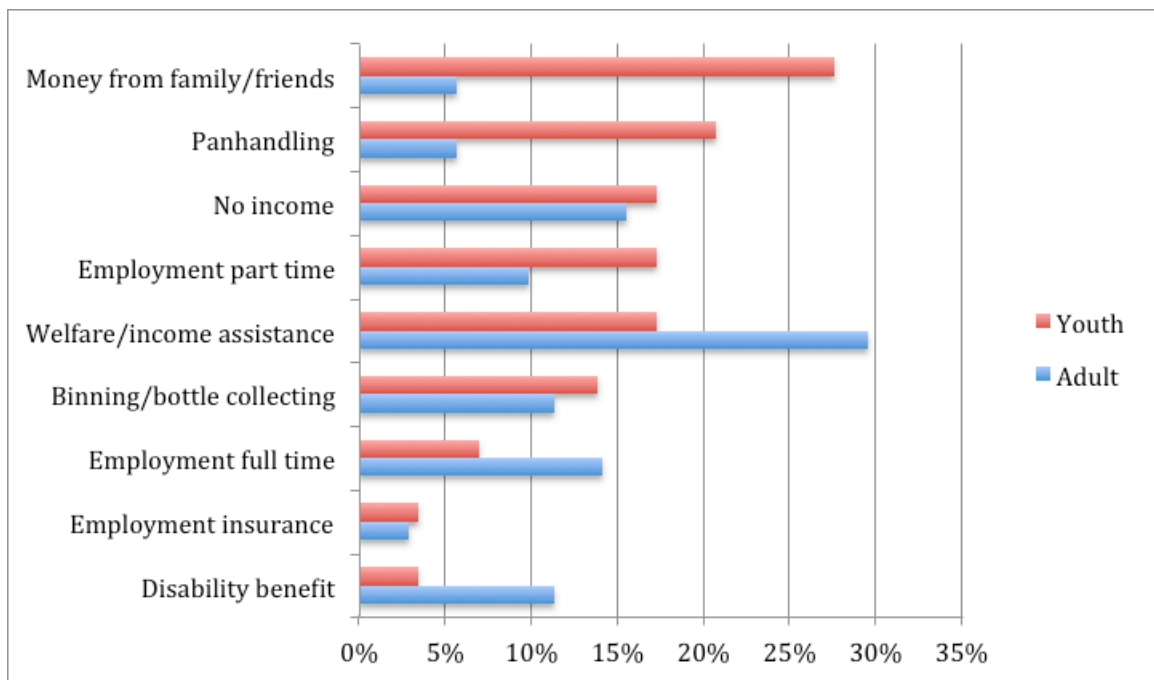
It is unclear how much time youth spend in shelters relative to adults. The average stay in a shelter for youth and adults is 86 and 87 nights, respectively, while the median stay in a shelter is 60 and 32.5 nights, respectively.

4.2.6. WHAT DID HOMELESS YOUTH REPORT AS THEIR SOURCES OF INCOME?

Homeless youth have very distinct patterns than homeless adults when considering their income. Youth are far more likely to engage in panhandling – 21% of youth compared to 6% of adults panhandle. Youth are also much more likely to get money from friends or family. This phenomenon can be explained in two ways: first, youth are more likely to be too young to get a job, so they may be dependent on adult family members for money, and second, homeless youth have stronger social ties than homeless adults, and may be more able to borrow money from friends than adults.

Youth were also more likely to be employed part-time than full-time, and were less likely to be recipients of welfare or disability benefits than adults.

GRAPH 4-11: SOURCES OF INCOME OF HOMELESS YOUTH



4.2.7. WHAT SERVICES DO HOMELESS YOUTH USE?

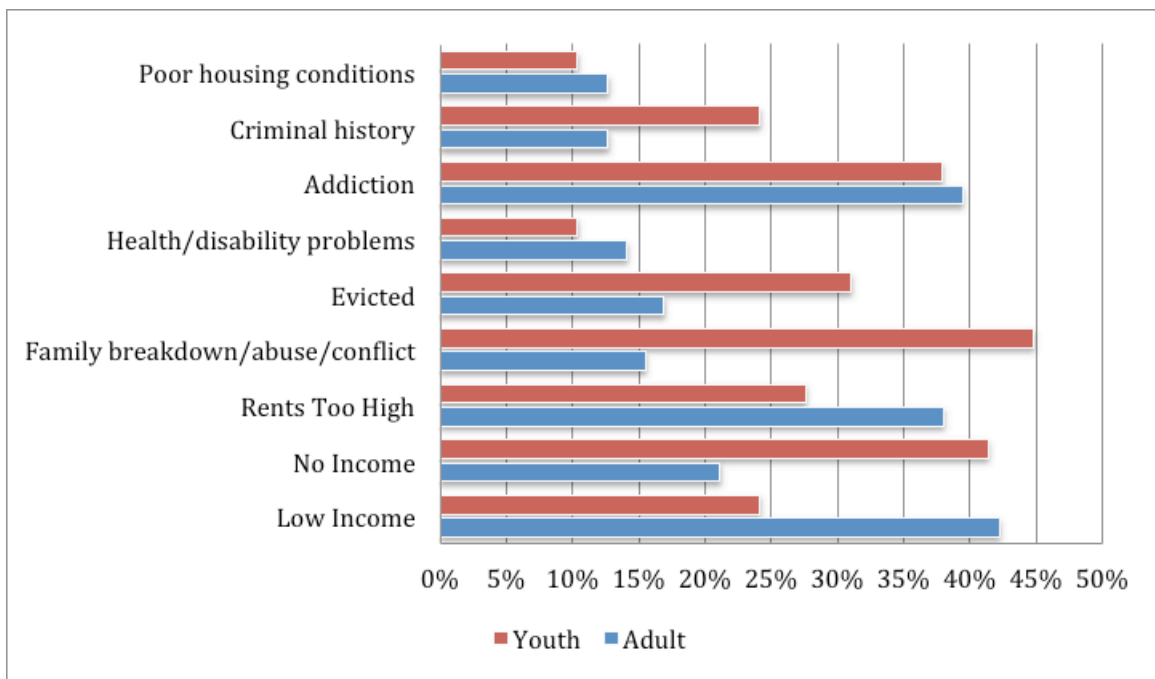
Homeless youth accessed similar services as homeless adults, however, youth were more likely to access outreach and legal services, and less likely to access housing help, health clinics, meal programs, and food banks.

4.2.8. WHAT BARRIERS DO HOMELESS YOUTH FACE?

Youth reported facing an average of 2.5 barriers to housing, while adults reported an average of 2.1 barriers. In addition, 45% of youth reported family breakdown, abuse, or conflict as a barrier to housing, compared to only 15% of homeless adults.

Homeless youth also were more likely to report that they had no income and less likely to report that their income was too low. Also, homeless youth were twice as likely to report being evicted (31% vs. 16%) as adult respondents.

GRAPH 4-12: BARRIERS TO HOUSING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH



4.2.9. HEALTH PROBLEMS

Youth reported better health than adults, with an average of 1.6 health problems compared to adults' 2.1 problems. However, more youth (55%) reported mental illnesses than adults (50%). Significantly fewer youth than adults reported having an addiction, but still more than half (59%) of youth did report addictions. 28% of homeless youth had a medical condition and 17% had a physical disability.

4.3 WOMEN

32% of homeless people counted in Red Deer on October 16th were female.

These women represent a distinct sub-population of all homeless people and have distinct needs. Of note, homeless women may be caring for young children, may be pregnant, may be engaged in sex work, or in "survival sex." Survival sex is when a woman spends a night (or more) at a man's house, exchanging sexual acts for a place to stay.

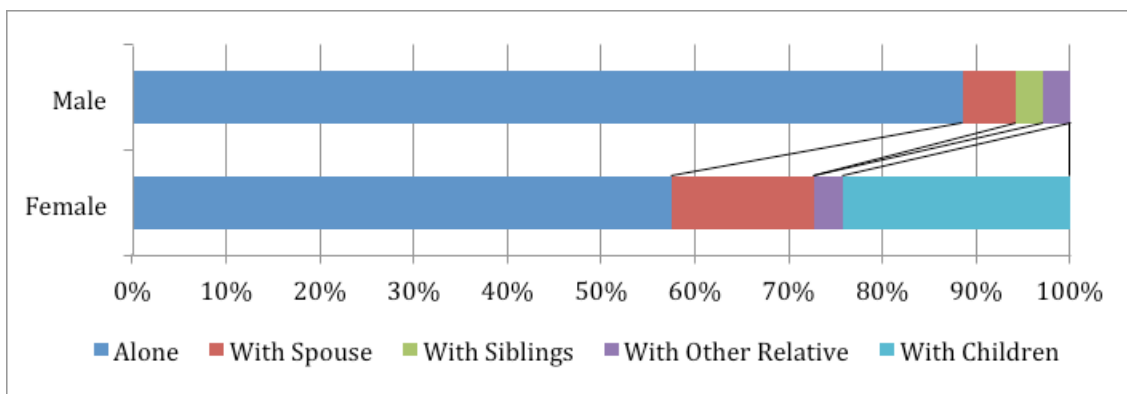
4.3.1. AGE

Homeless women tend to be younger than homeless men. Homeless women had an average age of 30.7 years whereas men had an average age of 37.1 years. See also Graph 3-2 for a distribution of female respondents' ages as compared to those of males.

4.3.2. FAMILY STATUS

Women were much more likely to be accompanied on the night of the count. Only 56% of women were alone, compared to 86% of men. Nearly 1 in 4 women were with children.

GRAPH 4-13: COMPANIONS ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUNT



4.3.3. ABORIGINAL STATUS

54.5% of homeless women were aboriginal, compared to 41% of homeless men. See also Graph 4-1 for a comparison of the genders of aboriginal and non-aboriginal respondents.

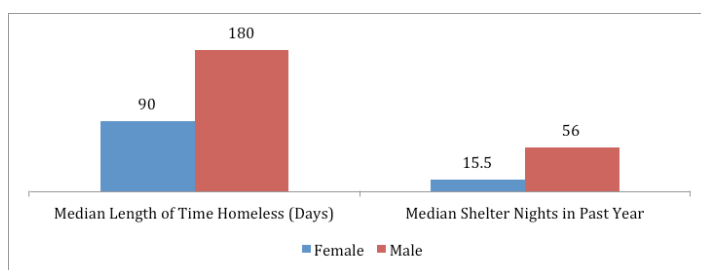
4.3.4. WHERE DO HOMELESS WOMEN SLEEP?

Similar proportions of women and men accessed shelters, however, women were much less likely to report "sleeping rough." Women were also more likely to access safe houses and transition houses.

4.3.5. HOW MUCH TIME ARE WOMEN SPENDING HOMELESS?

On average, men are homeless for twice as long as women. The median length of time homeless for women was 3 months, whereas it was 6 months for male respondents. The median stay for women in shelters was 15.5 days, and for men it was 56 days.

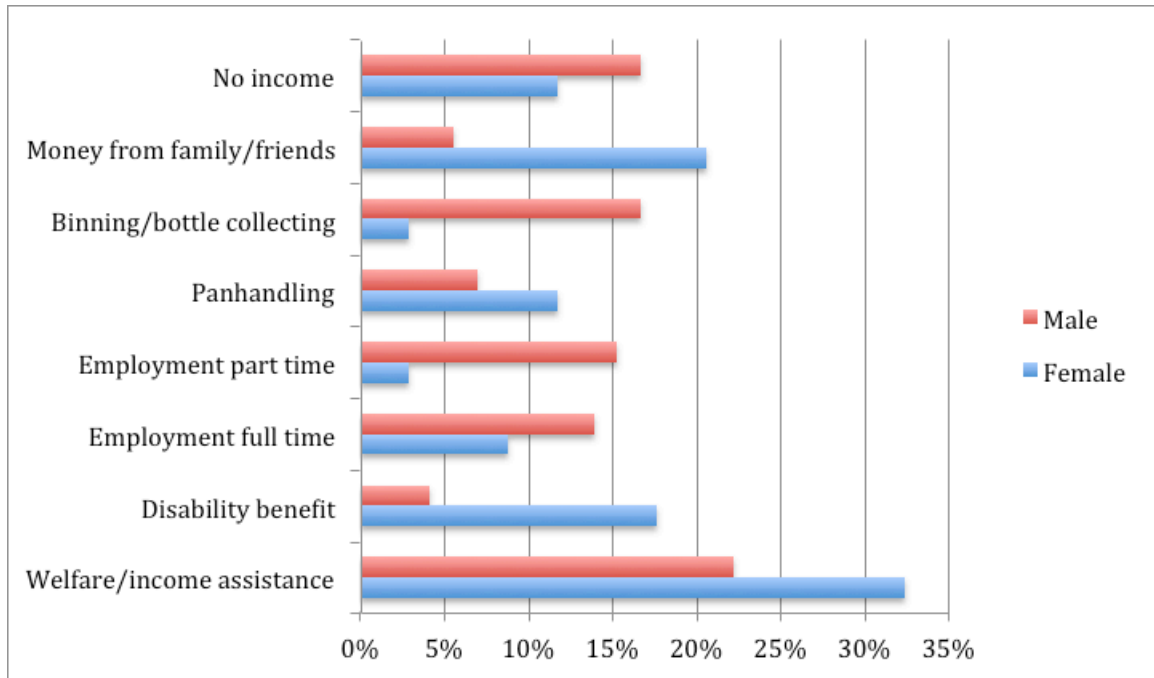
GRAPH 4-14: AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS, MALE VS. FEMALE



4.3.6. WHAT DID HOMELESS WOMEN REPORT AS THEIR SOURCES OF INCOME?

Women were much more likely to receive money from disability benefits and from friends or family. They were also more likely to engage in panhandling and to receive income assistance. Men were more likely to be employed and to engage in bottle collecting. Two women reported engaging in prostitution.

GRAPH 4-15: SOURCES OF INCOME BY GENDER



4.3.7. WHAT SERVICES DO HOMELESS WOMEN USE?

Homeless females were much more likely to access mental health services and outreach, while they were slightly less likely to use meal programs, drop-in centres, and job help. Women were more likely to use emergency and ambulance services while men were more likely to use non-emergency hospital services.

4.3.8. WHAT BARRIERS DO HOMELESS WOMEN FACE?

35% of homeless women reported family breakdown, abuse, or conflict as a barrier to housing, a figure that is twice as high as that for men. Interestingly, while women were more likely to say that their income was too low or they had no income, men were more likely to say that the rent was too high. Half as many women (9%) as men (18%) had a criminal history. On average, women reported more barriers than men.

4.3.9. HEALTH PROBLEMS

Women reported an average of 1.6 health problems, while men reported 2.0. Women reported more mental illness (59%) than men (46%), while men reported more addictions (74%) than women (56%). 17% of women had a physical disability and 26% reported a medical condition.

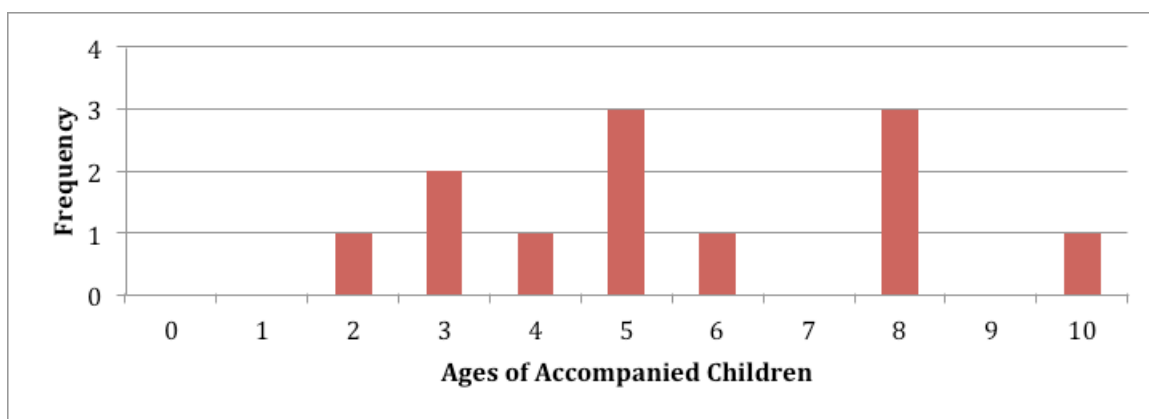
4.4 HOMELESS FAMILIES

Homeless families are defined as respondents who declared that they were with children at the time of the count. A post count, quality assurance crosscheck was conducted to ensure that the same family was not counted twice. In total, the 2012 Red Deer PIT Homeless Count found less than ten families who were experiencing homelessness, all of which were headed by a single woman. A total of 12 accompanied children were accounted for on surveys, and service providers indicated that three more children were staying in shelters; their parents were not surveyed.

4.4.1. AGE

Women with accompanied children were, on average, 30.1 years old.

GRAPH 4-16: AGES OF ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN



4.4.2. ABORIGINAL STATUS

62.5% of homeless families were led by an aboriginal woman, whereas only 44% of homeless individuals were Aboriginal.

4.4.3. WHERE DO HOMELESS FAMILIES SLEEP?

The majority of homeless families – over 85% - stayed in emergency shelters on the night of the count, while the remainder stayed with friends or family.

4.4.4. HOW MUCH TIME ARE FAMILIES SPENDING HOMELESS?

Homeless families reported being without a place of their own for a median of 22 days. The longest time any family reported being homeless was 6 months. The median amount of time these families had stayed in a shelter was 7 days in the past year (longest was 30 days). However, the Count was unable to determine where families stayed if they did not stay in shelters while homeless – there is a gap of approximately 2 weeks between the average length of time homeless and the amount of time spent in shelters.

4.4.5. WHAT DID HOMELESS FAMILIES REPORT AS THEIR SOURCES OF INCOME?

Over half of respondents indicated that they were recipients of welfare or income assistance. The second most common response was they obtained a child tax benefit. One respondent worked part time, and one other said she got money from family or friends. No homeless families reported panhandling or bottle collecting, or having full-time employment.

4.4.6. *WHAT SERVICES DO HOMELESS FAMILIES USE?*

The most common service used by homeless families was dental clinics, used by 63% of respondents. The next most popular, with only 50% of homeless families accessing them, were food banks and outreach services. Interestingly, while most homeless individuals frequented meal programs and did not use food banks, homeless families reverse that pattern. This could be because homeless families accessed food banks before becoming homeless, or perhaps because as mothers they are more concerned about food for their children, or perhaps they have access to a kitchen at a shelter or drop-in centre.

37% of respondents indicated using emergency rooms, hospitals, mental health services, or job help in the past year. All other services were used by ¼ or less of homeless families.

4.4.7. *WHAT BARRIERS DO HOMELESS FAMILIES FACE?*

62.5% of homeless families identified family breakdown, conflict, or abuse as a barrier to housing. This data suggests that these women became homeless after fleeing domestic abuse, while the other women had been single mothers for some time before becoming homeless.

The most frequently reported responses were income too low, rent too high, and no income at all. Only 1 cited poor housing conditions.

4.4.8. *HEALTH PROBLEMS*

Heads of homeless families reported far fewer health problems – an average of 0.8 problems. 38% reported having a mental illness, 13% had a disability, and 38% had a medical condition. None reported having an addiction.

4.5 **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS**

Some people stay homeless for a comparatively long time, and tend to also have more complex, co-occurring issues. After living in shelters and on the street for an extended period of time, it becomes more difficult for those individuals to return to “normal” life. These individuals, sometimes referred to as “chronically homeless,” are among the most visible, and often have the most acute needs.

Definitions of “chronically homeless” can vary. The following section describes individuals who have been homeless for one year or longer. This duration was selected to ensure a large enough sample size to obtain meaningful data. A total of 33 persons met this criterion, or 30% of all respondents.

4.5.1. *AGE*

In homeless populations it is common to see a larger concentration of persons around the age of 40-55, particularly males. This cluster represents the chronically homeless individuals who have been homeless for several years. Often they have more complex needs, with higher incidences of mental illness, substance abuse, and health problems.

Chronically homeless people had an average age of 38, compared to age 33 for short-term homeless people. In addition, average age increases with length of time homeless. Those homeless longer than 3 years had an average age of 41.

4.5.2. GENDER

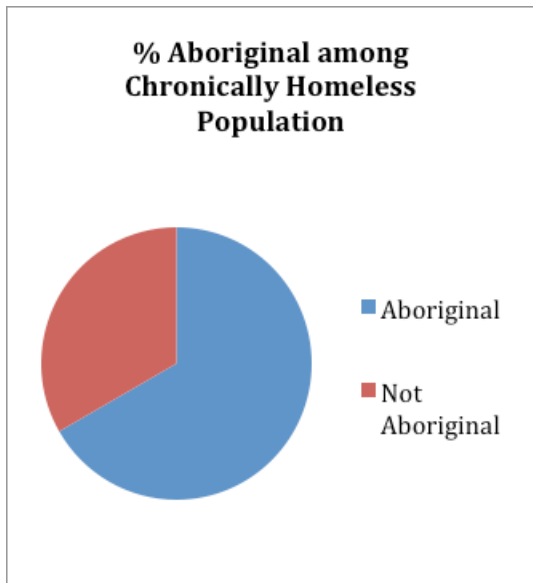
Only 21% of chronically homeless individuals were female, compared to 35% of short-term homeless persons. Similarly, 20% of female respondents were chronically homeless, compared to 35% of male respondents.

4.5.3. FAMILY STATUS

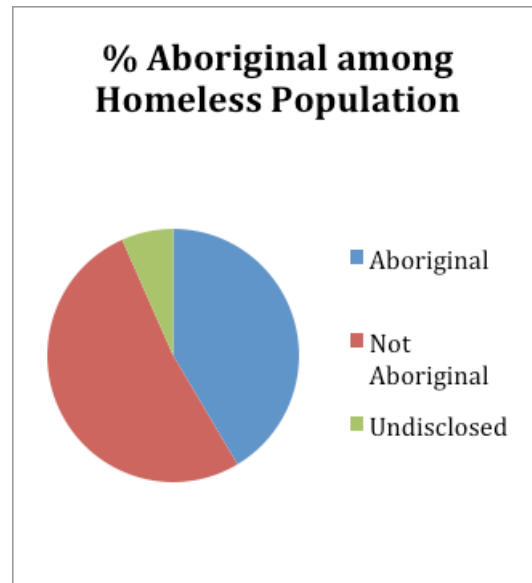
88% of chronically homeless individuals were alone on the night of the count, compared to 70% of short-term homeless people.

4.5.4. ABORIGINAL STATUS

2 in 3 chronically homeless respondents reported being Aboriginal, which is even higher than the 44% of all homeless respondents who reported being Aboriginal.



GRAPH 4-17: CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN RED DEER

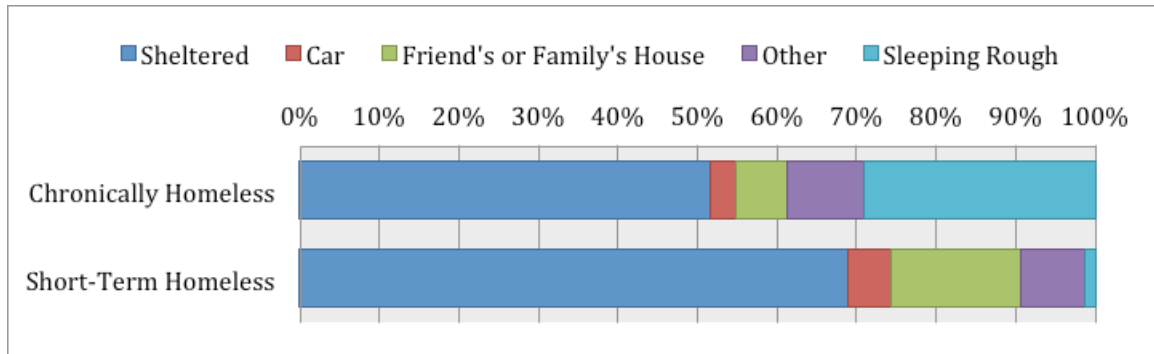


GRAPH 4-18: ABORIGINAL HOMELESS POPULATION IN RED DEER

4.5.5. WHERE DO CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEP?

Chronically homeless people were far less likely to stay in shelters on the night of the count, and were far more likely to be sleeping outdoors or in a public area. In contrast, short-term homeless people were much more likely to stay in shelters and to stay with a friend or family.

GRAPH 4-19: WHERE DO CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEP?



4.5.6. WHAT DID CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE REPORT AS THEIR SOURCES OF INCOME?

Overall, chronically homeless people reported fewer sources of income than shorter-term homeless people. Nearly 1 in 3 chronically homeless individuals reported binning or bottle collecting (as opposed to 5% of short-term homeless people), and 15% reported panhandling (versus 6%).

4.5.7. WHAT SERVICES DO CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE USE?

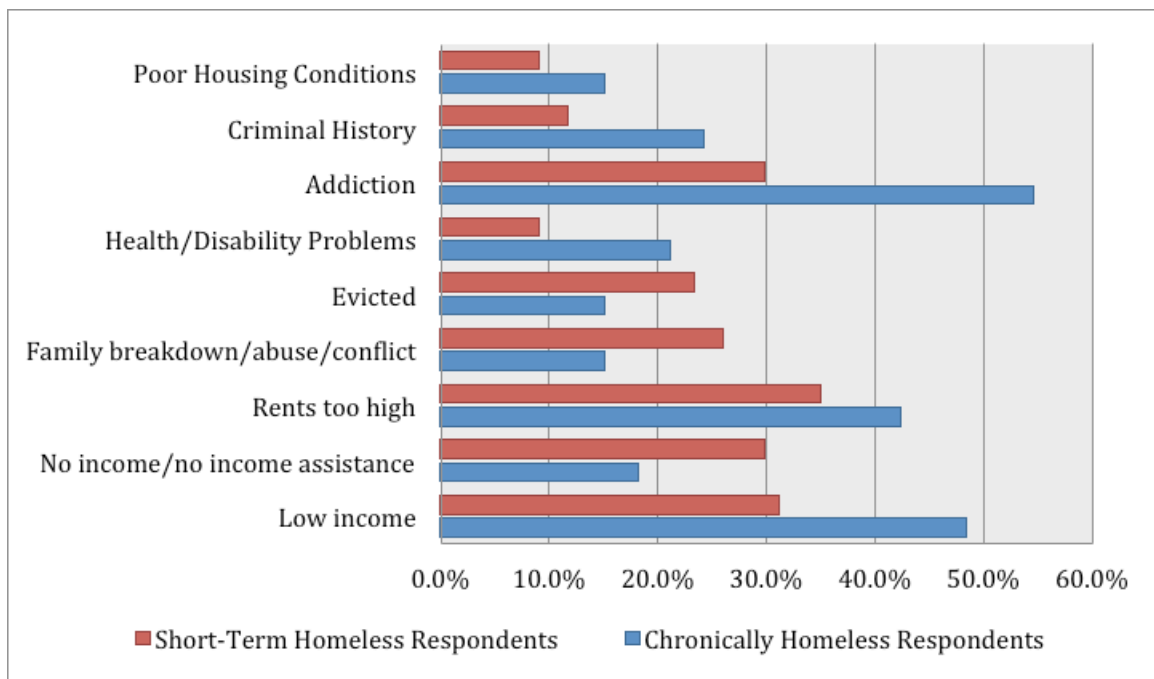
Chronically homeless respondents were more likely to use meal programs (76%), drop-in services (79%), services for ex-offenders, and various health services. However, they were also less likely to access food banks, housing help, and job help.

4.5.8. WHAT BARRIERS DO CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE FACE?

Chronically homeless people reported an average of 2.5 barriers to obtaining housing, whereas short-term homeless respondents reported only 2.1 barriers.

Chronically homeless people were much more likely to report addictions as a barrier to housing, and were also more likely to report criminal history and health problems. Interestingly, chronically homeless people typically reported that the rent was too high and their income was too low, but they did not report that they had no income.

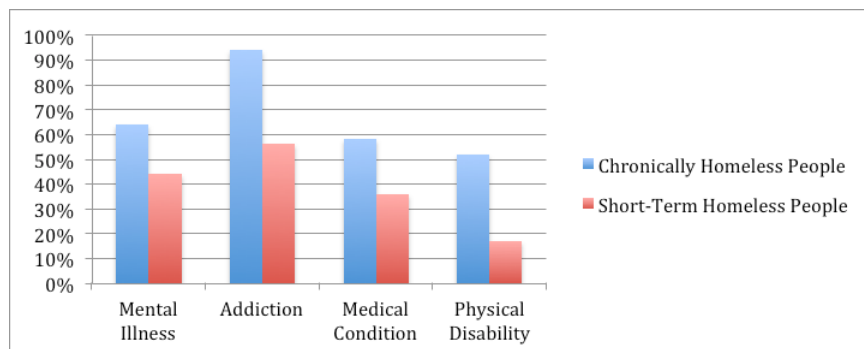
GRAPH 4-20: BARRIERS TO HOUSING FACED BY CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE



4.5.9. HEALTH PROBLEMS OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE

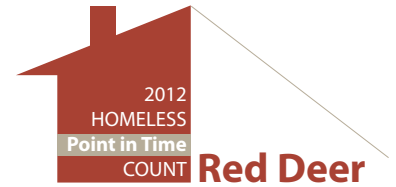
Chronically homeless people reported higher rates of health problems than short-term homeless people, including 95% reporting an addiction of some kind. Similarly, each of the other health problems each were reported by over 50% of respondents.

GRAPH 421: HEALTH PROBLEMS OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE



APPENDIX A: SURVEYS

Shelter Name
Drop-in Name
Facility Name



SHELTER SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

“Hello, my name is _____. I am a volunteer with the Red Deer Point in Time Homeless Count and we are conducting a survey today for the City of Red Deer and its partner community agencies. The survey information will be used to help people experiencing homelessness. None of your answers will be used to identify you and it will just take a minute. Would you be willing to answer a few questions for me? Thanks!”

SCREENING

a. Have you completed a survey this evening with someone wearing this identification?

yes **[END SURVEY]**

no

b. Do you have a permanent place to live?

yes **[END SURVEY]**

no

START SURVEY

- How long have you been without a permanent place to live?
 _____ days / weeks / months / years (circle one)
 no answer
- How long have you lived in Red Deer?
 _____ days / weeks / months / years (circle one)
 no answer
- How many nights, including tonight, have you stayed at a shelter in the past year?

 no answer

- What city or community do you consider “home”?

 no answer
- What is keeping you from finding a permanent place to live? (Please check all that apply)
 low income
 no income / no income assistance
 rents too high
 family breakdown / abuse / conflict
 evicted
 health /disability problems
 addiction
 criminal history
 poor housing conditions
 other (specify) _____
 no answer
- How old are you?

 no answer
- What family members are with you today?
 None
 Parent(s)
 Spouse
 Sibling(s)
 Child(ren) (specify ages) _____
 Other relative
- Observation Only**
 male
 female
 unknown
- Are you a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces?
 yes
 no
 no answer

SHELTER SURVEY

10. Are you an Aboriginal, Métis or Inuit person?

- yes
- no
- no answer

11. Are you a recent immigrant or refugee to Canada (less than 5 years)?

- yes (specify country of origin) _____
- no
- no answer

12. Where do you get your money from?

(Please check all that apply)

- welfare/income assistance
- disability benefit
- employment insurance
- old age security
- guaranteed income supplement
- employment full-time
- employment part-time
- panhandling
- binning/bottle collecting
- money from family/friends
- other (specify) _____
- no income
- no answer

13. What services have you used in the past 12 months?

(Please check all that apply)

- ambulance
- emergency room
- hospital (non-emergency)
- dental clinic/dentist
- mental health services
- addiction services
- employment/job help
- parole or services for ex-offenders
- drop-in services (Berachah Place, Safe Harbour)
- food banks
- meal programs/soup kitchens
- health clinic
- newcomer/immigrant services
- transitional housing
- housing help/eviction prevention
- outreach
- legal services
- budgeting/trusteeship
- other (specify) _____
- none
- no answer

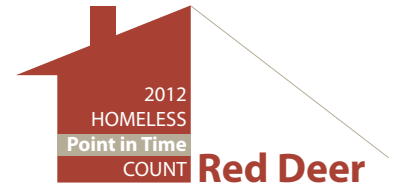
14. Do you have any of the following health problems?

	yes	no	no answer
medical condition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
physical disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
addiction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
mental illness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. What one thing would help you find permanent stable housing?

[END OF SURVEY]

MAP # _____
and/or Neighbourhoods _____



UN-SHELTERED SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

"Hello, my name is _____. I am a volunteer with the Red Deer Point in Time Homeless Count and we are conducting a survey today for the City of Red Deer and its partner community agencies. The survey information will be used to help people experiencing homelessness. None of your answers will be used to identify you and it will just take a minute. Would you be willing to answer a few questions for me? Thanks!"

OBSERVATION

- a. If person appears to be homeless and is asleep or incapable of completing survey, record the following:

_____ age _____ gender _____ location

SCREENING

- b. Have you completed a survey today with someone wearing this identification?
 yes [END SURVEY]
 no
- c. Do you have a permanent place to live?
 yes [END SURVEY]
 no

START SURVEY

1. How long have you been without a permanent place to live?
_____ days / weeks / months / years (circle one)
 no answer
2. How long have you lived in Red Deer?
_____ days / weeks / months / years (circle one)
 no answer

3. Where did you stay last night? (check only one)
- Shelter – emergency shelter
 - Shelter – safe house
 - Shelter – transition house
 - Indoor – friend or family's place
 - Indoor – squatting/abandoned building
 - Indoor – public area (washroom/ATM foyer/stairway)
 - Outdoor – no shelter (sidewalk/street)
 - Outdoor – partial shelter (alley/parking garage/bus shelter)
 - Outdoor – park (park/woods/trail/river bank)
 - Car – car/van/camper
 - Didn't sleep
 - Other (specify) _____
 - No answer

- 3.a) What is the reason you did not stay in a shelter last night? (check only one)
- stayed with a friend
 - turned away - shelter was full
 - turned away - not appropriate
 - turned away - no reason given
 - didn't know about shelters in Red Deer
 - can't get to shelter
 - dislike shelters (why) _____
 - other reason (specify) _____
 - no answer

4. What city or community do you consider "home"?

 no answer

5. What is keeping you from finding a permanent place to live? (Please check all that apply)
- low income
 - no income/no income assistance
 - rents too high
 - family breakdown/abuse/conflict
 - evicted
 - health/disability problems
 - addiction
 - criminal history
 - poor housing conditions
 - other (specify) _____
 - no answer

UN-SHELTERED SURVEY

6. How old are you?

no answer

7. What family members are with you today?

- None
- Parent(s)
- Spouse
- Sibling(s)
- Child(ren) (specify ages) _____
- Other relative

8. **Observation Only**

- male
- female
- unknown

9. Are you a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces?

- yes
- no
- no answer

10. Are you an Aboriginal, Métis or Inuit person?

- yes
- no
- no answer

11. Are you a recent immigrant or refugee to Canada (less than 5 years)?

- yes (specify country of origin) _____
- no
- no answer

12. Where do you get your money from?

(Please check all that apply)

- welfare/income assistance
- disability benefit
- employment insurance
- old age security
- guaranteed income supplement
- employment full-time
- employment part-time
- panhandling
- binning/bottle collecting
- money from family/friends
- other (specify) _____
- no income
- no answer

13. What services have you used in the past 12 months?

(Please check all that apply)

- ambulance
- emergency room
- hospital (non-emergency)
- dental clinic/dentist
- mental health services
- addiction services
- employment/job help
- parole or services for ex-offenders
- drop-in services (Berachah Place, Safe Harbour)
- food banks
- meal programs/soup kitchens
- health clinic
- newcomer/immigrant services
- transitional housing
- housing help/eviction prevention
- outreach
- legal services
- budgeting/trusteeship
- other (specify) _____
- none
- no answer

14. Do you have any of the following health problems?

	yes	no	no answer
medical condition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
physical disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
addiction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
mental illness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. What one thing would help you find permanent stable housing?

[END OF SURVEY]

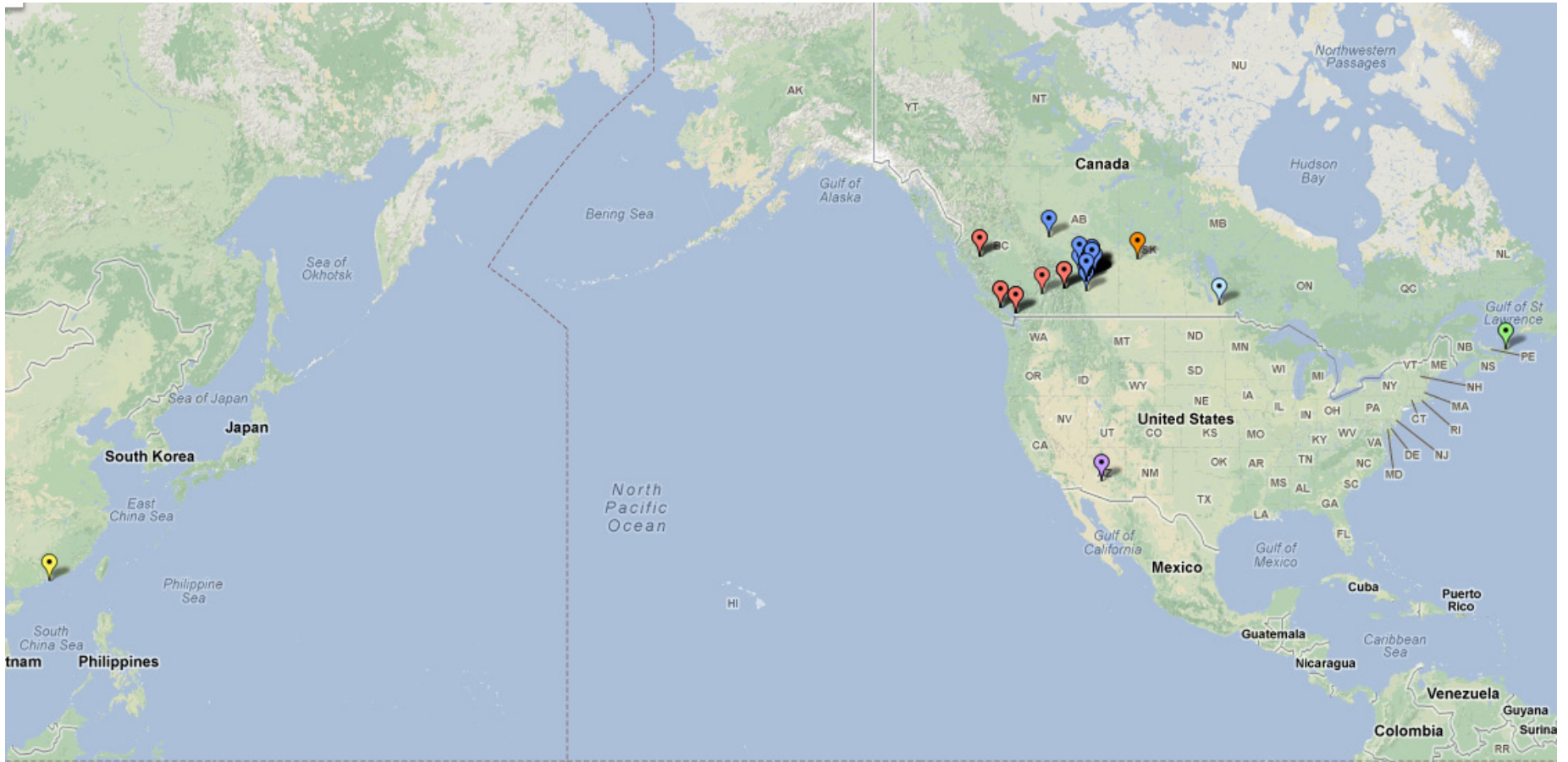
Interview Location:

Note closest intersection

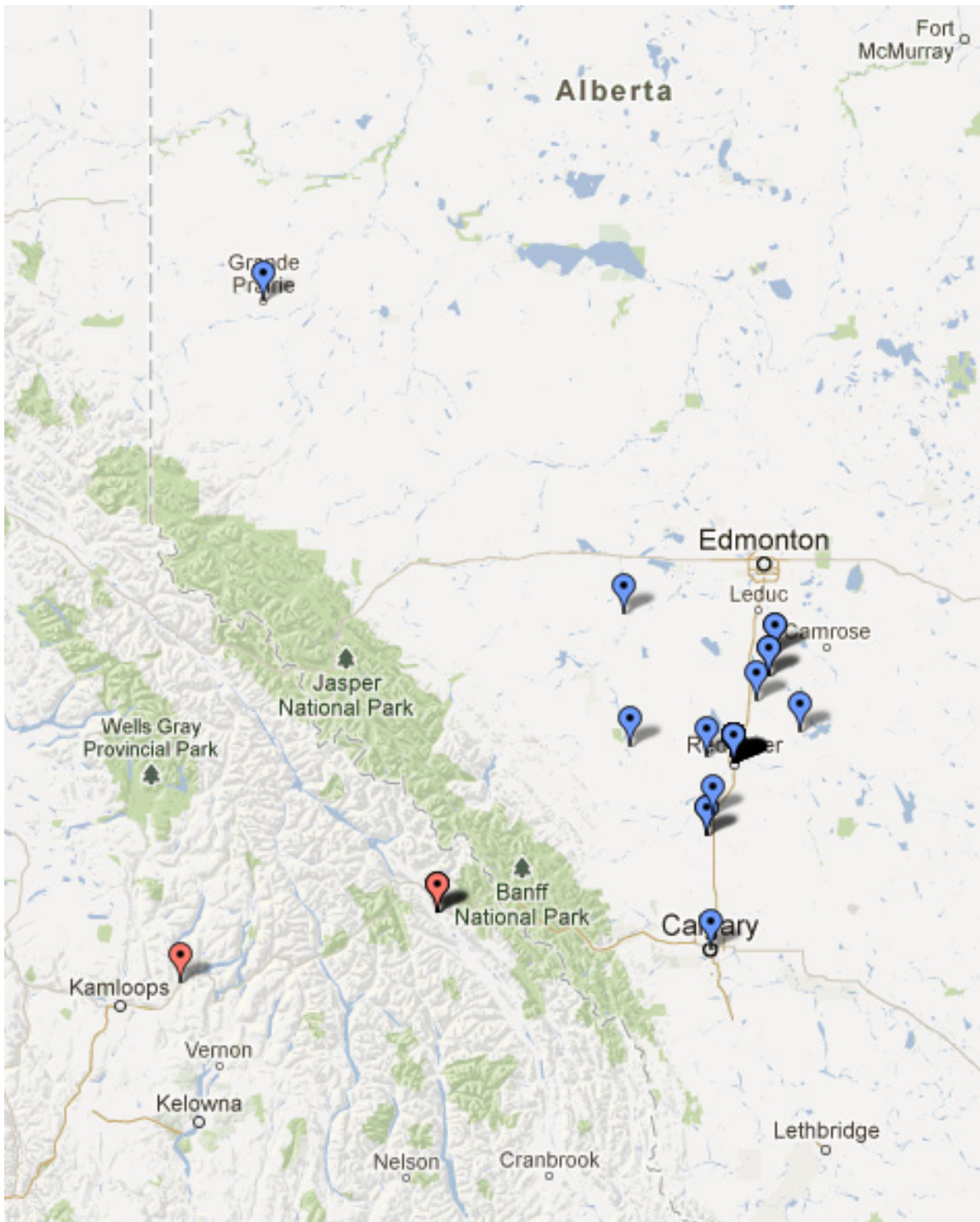
_____ and _____

APPENDIX B: MAPS
MAP OF ORIGINAL "HOME" LOCATIONS FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012



Map 1: Original "Home" Communities of Respondents (Large Map)



Map 2: Original "Home" Communities of Respondents (Zoomed)

APPENDIX C: TABLE OF RESPONSES

APPENDIX C: TABLE OF RESPONSES

	Total	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Male	Female	Aboriginal	Not Aboriginal
Sheltered or Unsheltered?	n=110			n=66	n=33	n=44	n=55
Unsheltered	58			36	18	23	31
Sheltered	51			29	15	20	24
Jail	1			1	0	1	0
How long have you been without a permanent place to live? (Days)	n=105	n=54	n=50	n=64	n=32	n=43	n=55
Mean	683.5	831.8	449.5	841.9	368.8	865.9	535.7
Median	120	180	90	180	90	300	90
How long have you lived in Red Deer? (Days)	n=105	n=54	n=50	n=64	n=32	n=43	n=55
Mean	3096	3826.7	2281.2	3279.6	2374.5	3222.7	2993.4
Median	1460	2190	912.5	1825	730	1825	1095
How many nights have you spent in a shelter in the past year? (Sheltered only)	n=43			n=28	n=15	n=19	n=24
Mean	88.1			101.4	59.8	115.9	64.4
Median	32.5			56	15.5	116	64
Where did you stay last night? (Unsheltered only)	n=55			n=37	n=17	n=24	n=31
Shelter – emergency shelter	18			13	4	8	10
Shelter – safe house	1			0	1	1	0
Shelter – transition house	3			0	2	2	1
Indoor – friend or family’s place	14			7	7	4	10
Indoor – squatting/abandoned building	1			1	0	0	1
Indoor – public area	3			2	1	3	0
Outdoor – no shelter	4			4	0	3	1
Outdoor – partial shelter	0			0	0	0	0
Outdoor – park	4			4	0	1	2
Car – car/van/camper	5			3	2	1	4
Didn’t sleep	0			0	0	0	0
Other	2			3	0	1	2

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Male	Female	Aboriginal	Not Aboriginal
What is the reason you did not stay in a shelter last night? (Unsheltered only)	n=32			n=23	n=9	n=14	n=19
Stayed with a friend	11			6	5	4	7
Turned away - shelter full	4			3	1	3	1
Turned away - not appropriate	2			2	0	1	1
Turned away - no reason given	2			1	1	0	2
Didn't know about shelters in Red Deer	0			0	0	0	0
Can't get to shelters	0			0	0	0	0
Dislike shelters	8			5	2	2	6
Other	6			6	0	4	2
What city or community do you consider "home"?	n=83	n=53	n=29	n=54	n=27	n=41	n=42
Red Deer	54	36	17	37	16	27	27
Other Alberta	13	5	8	6	7	8	6
British Columbia	11	9	2	8	2	3	7
Other Canada	3	0	3	3	0	2	1
Outside of Canada	2	1	1	2	0	1	1
What is keeping you from finding a permanent place to live?	n=103	n=54	n=42	n=63	n=32	n=42	n=55
Low income	40	24	15	24	14	18	21
No income/no income assistance	29	18	11	17	12	11	18
Rents too high	41	21	18	26	11	13	26
Family breakdown/abuse/conflict	25	10	14	11	12	13	11
Evicted	23	13	9	15	6	10	12
Health/disability problems	14	8	5	9	4	8	5
Addiction	41	23	15	26	12	21	18
Criminal history	17	13	3	12	3	10	6
Poor housing conditions	12	7	5	8	3	5	7
Other	25	14	7	15	5	7	14

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Male	Female	Aboriginal	Not Aboriginal
How old are you?	n=107	n=56	n=50	n=66	n=33	n=47	n=58
10-14	2	0	2	1	1	0	2
15-19	15	10	5	7	7	9	6
20-24	12	6	6	6	6	6	6
25-29	16	6	10	11	5	9	7
30-34	11	9	2	6	4	5	5
35-39	12	4	7	9	3	4	8
40-44	5	2	3	4	1	4	1
45-49	15	9	6	12	3	5	10
50-54	12	9	3	10	2	4	7
55-59	3	0	3	3	0	0	3
60-64	4	1	3	2	2	1	3
What family members are with you today?	n=105	n=55	n=42	n=64	n=32	n=43	n=54
None	83	46	29	56	18	30	45
Parent(s)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spouse	9	6	3	4	5	3	6
Sibling(s)	2	1	1	2	0	2	0
Other relative	3	1	2	2	1	3	0
Child(ren)	8	1	7	0	8	5	3
Gender	n=110	n=54	n=44			n=43	n=54
Male	72	36	29			25	40
Female	34	18	15			18	14
Unknown	4	0	0			0	0
Are you a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces?	n=105	n=54	n=43	n=64	n=32	n=43	n=55
Yes	6	2	3	5	0	2	3
No	99	52	40	59	32	41	52

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Male	Female	Aboriginal	Not Aboriginal
Are you an Aboriginal, Metis, or Inuit person?	n=106	n=54	n=44	n=65	n=32		
Yes	48	23	20	25	18		
No	58	31	24	40	14		
Are you a recent immigrant or refugee to Canada (less than 5 years)?	n=103	n=54	n=41	n=62	n=32	n=43	n=53
Yes	3	52	40	61	30	0	3
No	100	2	1	1	2	43	50
Where do you get your money from?	n=106	n=54	n=44	n=65	n=32	n=44	n=55
Welfare/income assistance	28	16	11	15	11	14	13
Disability benefit	9	4	4	3	5	4	4
Employment insurance	3	2	1	3	0	2	1
Old age security	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Guaranteed income supplement	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Employment full-time	13	4	7	8	3	4	7
Employment part-time	13	6	7	11	1	7	6
Panhandling	10	7	3	5	4	9	1
Binning/bottle collecting	14	8	6	12	1	9	5
Money from family/friends	12	8	3	3	7	6	5
No income	16	8	6	11	4	2	13
Other	21	12	8	13	7	9	11

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Male	Female	Aboriginal	Not Aboriginal
What services have you used in the past 12 months?	n=103	n=52	n=43	n=63	n=31	n=41	n=55
Ambulance	37	14	18	19	13	16	17
Emergency room	65	30	29	38	21	25	35
Hospital (non-emergency)	50	21	23	32	12	17	28
Dental clinic/dentist	30	14	13	16	11	7	20
Mental health services	42	20	19	21	18	15	25
Addiction Services	46	16	25	27	14	19	23
Employment/job help	42	19	19	28	10	17	22
Parole or services for ex-offenders	20	12	7	14	4	11	8
Drop-in services	76	38	32	48	21	32	39
Food banks	32	18	11	18	12	11	19
Meal programs/soup kitchens	72	38	28	48	18	29	38
Health clinic	49	22	22	28	16	18	27
Newcomer/immigrant services	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Transitional housing	10	6	4	6	2	1	9
Housing help/eviction prevention	21	11	8	12	7	8	11
Outreach	31	18	11	14	14	12	17
Legal services	26	9	15	15	8	12	13
Budgeting/trusteeship	3	3	0	2	1	0	3
None	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Other	3	2	1	2	1	0	3
Do you have any of the following health problems?	n=101	n=51	n=42	n=63	n=29	n=41	n=51
Medical condition	47	24	18	33	9	18	25
Physical disability	30	18	9	22	5	13	14
Addiction	74	39	30	50	18	32	38
Mental illness	55	33	19	32	19	26	26

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Youth (14-24)	Adult (25-54)	Senior (55+)	Chronically Homeless	Short-Term Homeless
Sheltered or Unsheltered?	n=110	n=29	n=71	n=7	n=33	n=77
Unsheltered	58	16	39	1	21	37
Sheltered	51	13	31	6	11	40
Jail	1	0	1	0	1	0
How long have you been without a permanent place to live? (Days)	n=105	n=29	n=68	n=7		
Mean	683.5	514.6	706.5	1256.3		
Median	120	90	165	90		
How long have you lived in Red Deer? (Days)	n=105	n=29	n=68	n=7	n=33	n=72
Mean	3096	1398.5	3668.7	2954.8	4820.9	2305.4
Median	1460	330	2190	1095	2555	730
How many nights have you spent in a shelter in the past year? (Sheltered only)	n=43	n=13	n=30	n=6	n=11	n=39
Mean	88.1	86.1	88.7	102.2	228.6	48.5
Median	32.5	60	32.5	45	200	22
Where did you stay last night? (Unsheltered only)	n=55	n=16	n=39	n=1	n=22	n=33
Shelter – emergency shelter	18	6	11	0	6	11
Shelter – safe house	1	0	0	1	0	1
Shelter – transition house	3	3	0	0	1	2
Indoor – friend or family's place	14	5	9	0	2	12
Indoor – squatting/abandoned building	1	0	1	0	1	0
Indoor – public area	3	0	3	0	3	0
Outdoor – no shelter	4	0	3	0	3	0
Outdoor – partial shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor – park	4	0	3	0	2	1
Car – car/van/camper	5	2	3	0	1	4
Didn't sleep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2	0	6	0	3	3

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Youth (14-24)	Adult (25-54)	Senior (55+)	Chronically Homeless	Short-Term Homeless
What is the reason you did not stay in a shelter last night? (Unsheltered only)	n=32	n=8	n=25	n=0	n=14	n=17
Stayed with a friend	11	3	8	0	2	9
Turned away - shelter full	4	0	4	0	4	0
Turned away - not appropriate	2	0	2	0	2	0
Turned away - no reason given	2	1	1	0	0	2
Didn't know about shelters in Red Deer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Can't get to shelters	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dislike shelters	8	4	4	0	3	5
Other	6	0	6	0	5	1
What city or community do you consider "home"?	n=83	n=26	n=54	n=2	n=27	n=56
Red Deer	54	13	40	1	19	35
Other Alberta	13	5	8	0	2	11
British Columbia	11	6	4	1	5	6
Other Canada	3	1	1	0	1	2
Outside of Canada	2	1	1	0	0	2
What is keeping you from finding a permanent place to live?	n=103	n=29	n=66	n=7	n=32	n=71
Low income	40	7	30	3	16	24
No income/no income assistance	29	12	15	2	6	23
Rents too high	41	8	27	6	14	27
Family breakdown/abuse/conflict	25	13	11	1	5	20
Evicted	23	9	12	2	5	18
Health/disability problems	14	3	10	1	7	7
Addiction	41	11	28	2	18	23
Criminal history	17	7	9	1	8	9
Poor housing conditions	12	3	9		5	7
Other	25	4	17	3	8	17

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Youth (14-24)	Adult (25-54)	Senior (55+)	Chronically Homeless	Short-Term Homeless
How old are you?	n=107				n=33	n=74
10-14	2				0	2
15-19	15				4	11
20-24	12				2	10
25-29	16				5	11
30-34	11				3	8
35-39	12				2	10
40-44	5				3	2
45-49	15				7	8
50-54	12				5	7
55-59	3				1	2
60-64	4				1	3
What family members are with you today?	n=105	n=29	n=68	n=7	n=33	n=72
None	83	21	54	7	29	54
Parent(s)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spouse	9	3	6	0	2	7
Sibling(s)	2	1	1	0	1	1
Other relative	3	2	1	0	1	2
Child(ren)	8	2	6	0	0	8
Gender	n=110	n=29	n=71	n=7	n=33	n=77
Male	72	14	52	5	25	47
Female	34	14	18	2	7	27
Unknown	4	1	1	0	1	3
Are you a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces?	n=105	n=29	n=68	n=7	n=33	n=72
Yes	6	0	6	0	2	4
No	99	29	62	7	31	68

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Youth (14-24)	Adult (25-54)	Senior (55+)	Chronically Homeless	Short-Term Homeless
Are you an Aboriginal, Metis, or Inuit person?	n=106	n=29	n=69	n=7	n=33	n=73
Yes	48	15	31	1	22	26
No	58	14	38	6	11	47
Are you a recent immigrant or refugee to Canada (less than 5 years)?	n=103	n=28	n=67	n=7	n=33	n=70
Yes	3	0	3	0	0	3
No	100	28	64	7	33	67
Where do you get your money from?	n=106	n=29	n=69	n=7	n=33	n=73
Welfare/income assistance	28	5	21	2	7	21
Disability benefit	9	1	8	0	3	6
Employment insurance	3	1	2	0	1	2
Old age security	1	0	0	1	0	1
Guaranteed income supplement	1	0	0	1	1	0
Employment full-time	13	2	10	0	1	12
Employment part-time	13	5	7	1	5	8
Panhandling	10	6	4	0	5	5
Binning/bottle collecting	14	4	8	2	10	4
Money from family/friends	12	8	4	0	4	8
No income	16	5	11	0	4	12
Other	21	6	13	2	6	15

Red Deer Point In Time [PIT] Homeless Count 2012

	Total	Youth (14-24)	Adult (25-54)	Senior (55+)	Chronically Homeless	Short-Term Homeless
What services have you used in the past 12 months?	n=103	n=29	n=66	n=7	n=31	n=72
Ambulance	37	9	24	4	13	24
Emergency room	65	19	41	5	22	43
Hospital (non-emergency)	50	12	33	5	14	36
Dental clinic/dentist	30	8	18	4	4	26
Mental health services	42	11	30	1	12	30
Addiction Services	46	12	30	4	14	32
Employment/job help	42	12	28	1	11	31
Parole or services for ex-offenders	20	6	14	0	9	11
Drop-in services	76	21	49	6	26	50
Food banks	32	5	23	4	8	24
Meal programs/soup kitchens	72	17	50	4	25	47
Health clinic	49	9	35	5	19	30
Newcomer/immigrant services	1	0	1	0	0	1
Transitional housing	10	3	6	1	2	8
Housing help/eviction prevention	21	2	16	3	5	16
Outreach	31	12	17	2	9	22
Legal services	26	11	14	1	7	19
Budgeting/trusteeship	3	0	3	0	1	2
None	1	0	0	1	0	1
Other	3	2	1	0	0	3
Do you have any of the following health problems?	n=101	n=27	n=66	n=6	n=32	n=69
Medical condition	47	8	38	4	19	28
Physical disability	30	5	22	3	17	13
Addiction	74	17	52	5	31	43
Mental illness	55	16	36	3	21	34