

## 2021 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count & Survey

### General FAQ

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#### 1. What is the Point-in-Time Homeless Count?

The Point in Time (PiT) Homeless Count & Survey is a coordinated event where persons experiencing homelessness are counted and asked a number of questions to get a snapshot in time of those experiencing homelessness in the community.

Traditionally, public volunteers and various partner organization staff conduct face-to-face surveys with persons experiencing homelessness in Red Deer. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and health concerns, volunteers will not be utilized this year. Instead, the Count will be conducted exclusively by professionals from local outreach teams and the homeless serving sector.

The PiT Count provides a snapshot in time of the scope of people who may be sleeping in urban encampments, in vehicles or on the street, as well as individuals or families who may be temporarily sheltered in various institutions such as hospitals, remand centres, holding cells, transitional housing facilities or emergency shelters.

#### 2. When and where will it be conducted?

The Count will take place on April 20, 2021.

The focus this year will be on emergency sheltered and transitional facilities, as well as areas frequented by those experiencing homelessness and known locations where individuals may sleep in unsheltered environments.

#### 3. What is the purpose of the PiT count?

The information from the count and survey helps us understand and effectively address homelessness and related issues. Over a series of approximately 20 questions, we ask people where they are staying, their age, if they are with family, their immigration status, Indigenous ancestry, their income, and time spent homeless. As we learn how the population changes over time and what the needs are, we can improve housing programs and support services. The count is a key part of The Community Housing & Homelessness Integrated Plan and helps measure the plan's progress.

#### 4. How is the count conducted?

Specialized teams of outreach staff and staff from the homeless-serving sector will survey people they locate in urban encampments and pre-determined areas of the city that are typically frequented by those experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, facility staff will collect data and conduct surveys (when possible) in sheltered facilities, such as emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities and COVID isolation sites for those who are currently homeless.

**5. Has Red Deer done a PiT Count in Red Deer before?**

Yes, in 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018. Results are available online at [reddeer.ca/PITcount](http://reddeer.ca/PITcount).

Note, the 2020 PiT Count was cancelled due to COVID-19.

**6. Who is involved in the PiT count?**

In coordination with The Government of Canada, The Government of Alberta, 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness and The City of Red Deer, the 2021 PiT Homeless Count & Survey relies on the efforts key community stakeholders including local outreach teams, homeless-serving agencies, RCMP, Provincial and Federal government agencies and their representatives, and people with lived experience.

Note: The 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness, which includes Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, will conduct counts at the same time using a standard set of questions.

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home and The City of Red Deer.

**7. Do you connect people to resources, shelters during the count?**

Our specialized teams have extensive knowledge of community resources and will be equipped to share information about local supports with vulnerable citizens during the count.

**8. When will the results be made available?**

Preliminary results are typically released shortly after the count. A full local report can be expected in the summer of 2021.

**9. How are the results used?**

The PiT Count is only one tool of many to collect data that allows us to identify trends and key issues related to homelessness in Red Deer, and measure progress on the Community Housing and Homelessness Plan. Shelter and program data is also critical information so that policy makers, service providers and funders can be informed in planning and making changes and decisions for housing related programs and services in Red Deer.

**For more information:**

- [www.reddeer.ca/PITCount](http://www.reddeer.ca/PITCount)
- Housing and Homeless Supports Section, Safe and Healthy Communities:: 403-342-8100