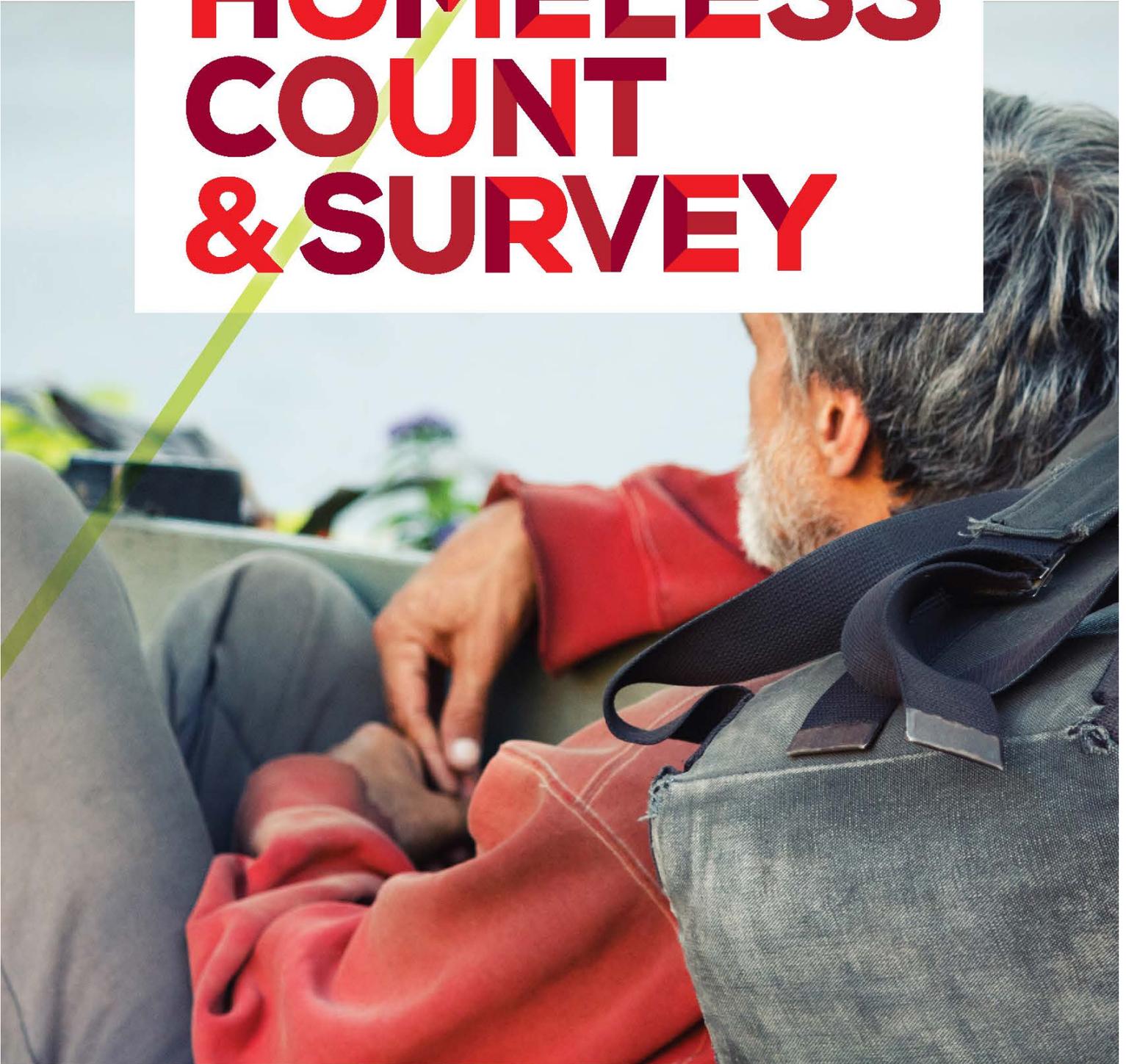


2018 POINT IN TIME  
**HOMELESS  
COUNT  
& SURVEY**



Canada 

 THE CITY OF  
Red Deer

 7 cities

## **Acknowledgments**

Red Deer's fourth bi-annual Point in Time (PiT) Homeless Count was led by The City of Red Deer in collaboration with many community partners and supporters. The 2018 PiT Count could not have happened without the participation and support of many individuals and organizations. Thank you to the individuals who participated in the survey. The results are intended to support programs and services for those experiencing homelessness. Also, a huge thank you to the over 180 volunteers who so willingly gave their time as Advisory Committee members, Command Centre volunteers, Enumerators, and set-up crew. Thanks to Dr. Alina Turner and Chantal Hansen (Turner Strategies) for coordinating the Provincial Count.

### **Partners and Supporters**

Alberta Health Services, Canadian Mental Health Association, Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter, Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society, Government of Canada, John Howard Society, Province of Alberta, Red Deer College, Red Deer County, Red Deer Native Friendship Society, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Safe Harbour Society, The City of Red Deer, The Mustard Seed, Turning Point, Youth HQ.

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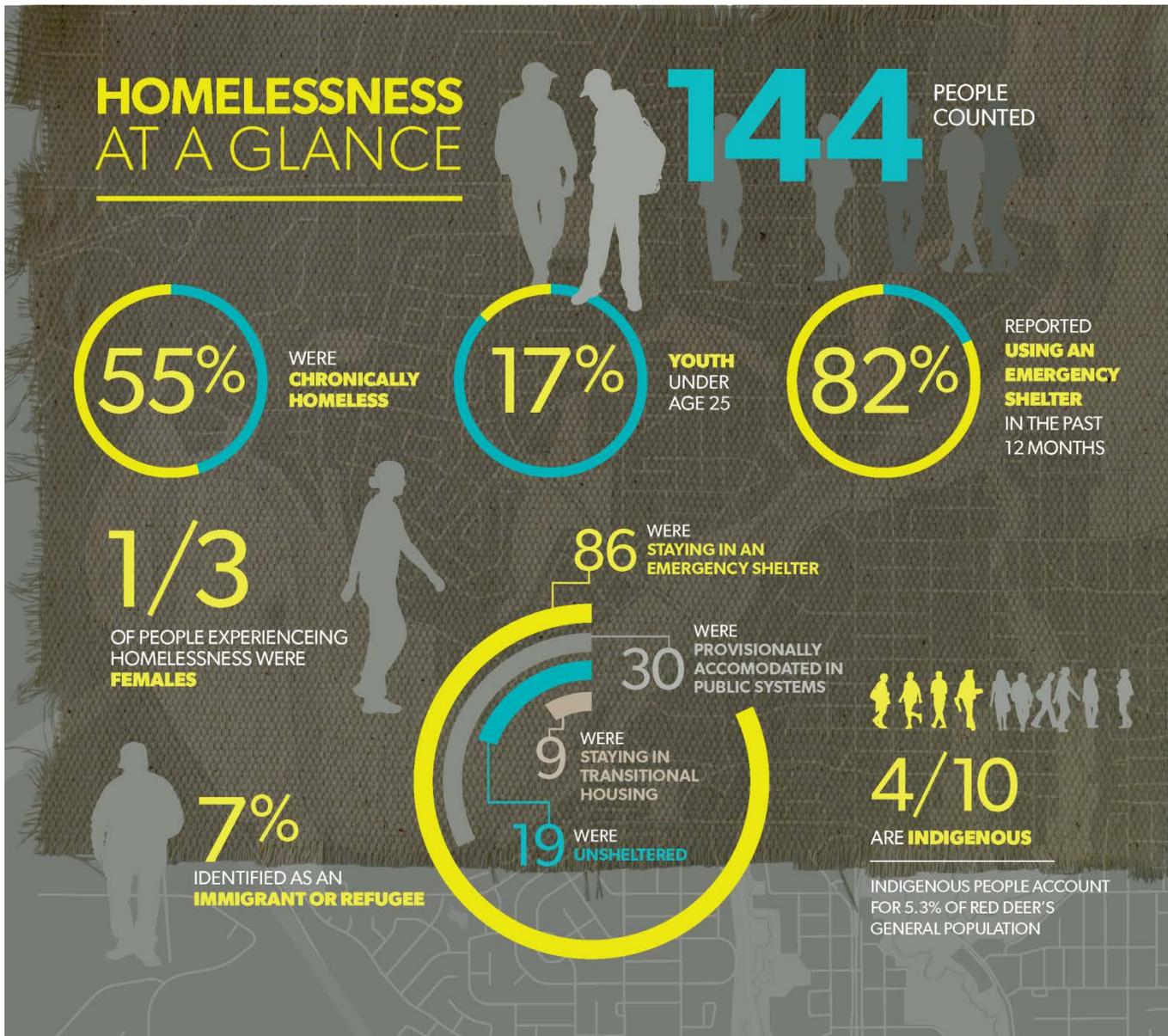
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## Executive Summary



## 1.0 Introduction

*EveryOne's Home: Red Deer's five-year plan to end homelessness 2014 to 2018* identified the importance of monitoring progress toward ending homelessness. A Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count is a strategy to help determine the extent of homelessness in a community on a given night or at a single point in time. Red Deer's bi-annual Point in Time Homeless Count is one of the data sources used to plan services and programs to address local needs appropriately, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in a community's current homelessness serving system. Furthermore, the Count provides important information about the demographics of the local homeless population, prevalence issues and raises awareness about homelessness in our community.

On April 11, 2018, The City of Red Deer worked with community partners to conduct the third Point in Time (PiT) Homeless Count. Approximately 300 volunteers and 15 organizations participated in the local count. The 2018 PiT count was also part of the 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness of Alberta's third provincially coordinated Point in Time Homeless Count. Red Deer and the rest of the six Alberta cities were part of 60 communities participating in the second national coordinated PiT Count. *Everyone Counts: (2018 Coordinated PiT Count)* which is partly sponsored through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) from the Government of Canada. Learnings from Alberta's 2014 and 2016 Counts and the national Count led by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and Canadian Observatory on Homelessness in 2016 have contributed to the momentum toward a harmonized and sound approach to a national Count. By aligning methods across Alberta's cities, the count examined trends using similar definitions. Ultimately, this helps us inform solutions to support the goal of ending homelessness in our communities.

Homelessness is a major social and public health concern in many communities across Canada. Compared with the general population, individuals experiencing homelessness often have poorer health status and a high prevalence of physical and mental health problems (Aubry et al., 2012). However, it is important to note that homelessness is not typically a permanent state of living; for most homeless individuals, it is a temporary experience (To et al., 2016). Understanding the scope and nature of homelessness is essential in developing strategies that will be effective in addressing it. Having regular, accurate data locally and provincially is key to ending homelessness. The Point in Time (PiT) Homeless Count is currently the leading source of data on those experiencing homelessness (Schneider et al., 2016). A Point in Time count is a snapshot of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night through administrative data and surveys. Using data from the 2018 Point in Time Homeless Count, this report presents the most up-to-date prevalence of homelessness in Red Deer.

### **Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (7 Cities) Coordination of the Provincial Count**

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness are the lead organizations responsible for the implementation of local plans to end homelessness in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer, and Wood Buffalo. 7 Cities coordinate local plans at a system level and align funding resources for greater impact and progress toward ending homelessness. Communities in Alberta conducted the count on April 11, 2018: the third provincially-coordinated Point-in-Time Count of homelessness to date, and the first nationally-coordinated Point-in-Time Count of homelessness using the national methodology involving Alberta. The 2018 count was moved to April to align with the second nationally coordinated homeless count. Compared to 2014 and 2016, the 2018 Count allows for more consistent collection across the province. Implementation was coordinated locally by a lead organization in each of the seven largest communities.

Local coordinators in each of Alberta's 7 Cities were assigned to lead local method development and implementation as well as to align with a method agreed upon provincially prior to the date of the count. This was facilitated by the Provincial PiT Coordinator, assigned to Dr. Alina Turner, and supported by Chantal Hansen (Turner Strategies). The Provincial PiT Coordinator was responsible for making final recommendations on aligned methods across the cities and liaised with the 7 Cities executive, Alberta government, and HPS, as appropriate.

### **Methodology Alignment**

On November 20-21, 2017, The Homelessness Partnering Strategy held an Everyone Counts: 2018 Coordinated Point in Time Count, Coordinator Training Workshop in Vancouver. The objective of this workshop was to build competencies of the PiT Count Community Coordinators to carry out their coordination leadership roles effectively. Participating communities received a package of supports including partial funding, training, and an implementation toolkit to facilitate participation in the 2018 PiT Count. As part of these efforts, all of the Designated Communities in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy were encouraged to use the Point in Time guide for their 2018 counts for a common approach (Government of Canada, 2016). 7 Cities also used its Data Committee Meetings to develop the method and data collection and analysis tools from August 2017 to June 2018. Ongoing collaboration with HPS ensured compliance with the national method and input from learnings across Canada in the Alberta approach.

Aligning with the national *Everyone Counts* in 2018 saw the following modifications to Alberta's method from previous years:

- Transitional housing scope was expanded: projects with stays up to 2 years
- Tallying observed homeless individuals was introduced
- Honoraria were used in all cities.
- Volunteer per area coverage was more consistent
- The exact timing of the count was aligned during the evening of April 11, with additional outreach at different times by different communities
- A shift to a springtime vs. fall count
- Several federal questions replaced provincial questions in the survey
- System data was obtained directly from the province on health and correctional facilities
- An online data collection tool was implemented province-wide

All cities conducted the Count on the night of Wednesday, April 11 within the bounds of 7:00 p.m. and midnight. In areas where it was unsafe to count at night, surveys were conducted either earlier that day or the following morning before 9:00 a.m. Administrative data from emergency shelters, transitional housing, and detox/treatment facilities were used to report key demographics over survey responses to enhance coverage.

The provincial government ministries provided administrative data across the province for people experiencing homelessness who were in correctional and health facilities as well as sponsored hotels that night. Some provincial facilities may serve people from outside the municipality in which they are located. To differentiate this data from the local facility administrative data, the term 'systems' data will be used in this report for this government data. While this helps give a more complete picture of homelessness in 2018, the increase in organizations reporting data presents challenges for tracking changes over time provincially and in local communities.

## 2.0 PiT Count Scope, Approach and Design

### Definitions & Scope of the Count

Regarding the scope of this count, the focus was on persons experiencing homelessness that are sheltered and unsheltered, as defined below. The scope of Red Deer's Count does not include the count of hidden homelessness (e.g. people who are "couch-surfing"). However, Red Deer included people who were observed to be homeless in their unsheltered enumeration for the first time.

The Canadian Homelessness Research Network developed a definition and typology of homelessness intended to improve understanding, measurement, and responses to homelessness in Canada by providing a common 'language' for addressing this complex problem. This initiative provided national standards in terms of the scope of the PiT count and alignment with local enumeration methods to allow for aggregate data and comparison. The City of Red Deer adapted these typologies and definitions to define the scope of who should be counted and methodological approaches that fit the unique context of our community to increase the validity and reliability of the count results.

### Broad Definitions

#### Sheltered

##### *Emergency Sheltered*

Includes those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence, including women shelters, youth and adult shelters both wet and dry.

##### *Provisionally Accommodated*

Refers to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure to return to; such as people in penal institutions, medical/mental health institutions, residential treatment programs or withdrawal management centers, children's institutions/group homes. In the context of Red Deer, this included transitional housing, motel/hotel not sponsored by Alberta Works or Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), hospital, jail, prison, remand centre.

For the purposes of this count, transitional housing, refers to housing facilities that provide services beyond basic needs and that, while not permanent, generally allow for a longer length of stay than emergency housing facilities (up to 2 years for Alberta). These facilities offer more privacy to residents than emergency housing. Transitional housing is targeted to those in need of structure, support, and skill-building to move from homelessness to housing stability, and ultimately to prevent a return to homelessness. The 7 Cities underwent a significant process to apply to the federal definition, which expanded the scope of facilities given that the length of stay in these facilities may not be limited in practice, thereby blurring the lines between long-term and short-term housing. In such cases, where people can stay as long as they like in a supportive housing environment, it is questionable whether they should be counted as homeless. In other cases, the time frame is limited to less than two years and enforced, and thus meets the definition. This issue is further complicated by the understanding that such facilities are available outside the homeless serving system – correctional halfway houses, group homes

#### Unsheltered

The unsheltered homeless includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelters or accommodation, except during extreme weather conditions. In most cases, people are staying in places that are not designed for or fit for human habitation, including the following:

- Public space, such as sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, etc.

- Private space and vacant buildings (squatting)
- Living in cars or other vehicles
- Living in garages, attics, closets or buildings not designed for habitation
- People in makeshift shelters, shacks or tents

## **PiT Homeless Count Approaches**

The methodological approach taken in the 2018 PiT Count varied significantly from the previous counts to be consistent across the seven communities. Compared to previous counts there was limited coverage of unsheltered count compared to the census approach adopted in the past. The street canvassing was limited to some selected neighbourhoods based on an agreed upon criteria. In terms of the sheltered count, the survey coverage in 2018 was expanded to include Second Stage Transitional Housing with up to 2 years term (Julietta's Place). Another major development was the inclusion of observed homelessness in encampment areas, which was reported by enumerators in parks, or hidden camping spots that would otherwise be missed by the street count. This included observational data that had never been reported on before. The next day or serviced-based counts that often take place at non-shelter services such as soup kitchens and food pantries were eliminated. Quality assurance measures such as the use of decoys were also eliminated which led to a reduced number of volunteers required for the 2018 Count, all in alignment with the national and provincial approach.

### **Sheltered Count Methodology**

The sheltered count methodology used for Red Deer involved three components: emergency shelters, short-term transitional housing facilities and public systems.

#### **Facilities Count**

Included in the facilities count were individuals or families staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence, including women shelters, youth and adult shelters. Four shelters were enumerated on the night of the count. Safe Harbour Society provided occupancy totals and capacity totals for the night of the count at People's Place Shelter and the Mat program. The 49<sup>th</sup> Street Youth Shelter and the Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter also provided access to individuals staying in those shelters and provided accurate occupancy and capacity totals and for the night of the Count.

Individuals and families in Transitional Housing programs were also surveyed: Non-Medical Detox at Safe Harbour Society, Horizon House at John Howard Society and Julietta's Place managed by Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society. Staff in the emergency shelters and transitional housing programs administered the survey in their facilities. When undertaking a voluntary survey in shelters and transitional housing programs some individuals may choose not to participate; which is why administrative data in terms of occupancy totals were used to capture the overall number of persons using emergency shelters on the night of the count. This creates a complete picture rather than just using the valid surveys. However, valid survey responses were used for the detailed analysis.

#### **Systems Count**

The provincial government ministries provided administrative data across the province for people experiencing homelessness who were in correctional and health facilities as well as sponsored hotels that night. Some provincial facilities may serve people from outside the municipality in which they are located. To differentiate this data from the local facility administrative data, the term 'systems' data will be used in this report for this government data. Red Deer's system count included data from local public systems obtained at the provincial level for the Remand Centre and those who in custody indicated Red Deer as home including Juvenile Centres across the Province. People in RCMP Holding Cells with no fixed address on the night of the count were also enumerated and surveyed

In terms of Health Facilities, Red Deer Regional Hospital data from the provincial system for those who indicated Red Deer as home, who have no fixed address (NFA) and who are imminently going to be released, but have no discharge plan that includes housing were included in the count. The cross-sectional information about the prevalence of homelessness in public systems can provide valuable information about the nature and patterns of homelessness in these institutions. Data from public systems is critical in assessing their impact on the delivery of services through the homeless serving system.

## **Unsheltered Count Methodology (Street Count)**

### **Street Coverage**

For methodological alignment, the community was zoned into 48 neighbourhoods and canvassed by a minimum of 96 volunteers on the night of the count. The criteria for selecting these areas included: enumeration of downtown and neighbourhoods around it, neighbourhoods with services for people experiencing homelessness and identified areas where people were counted previously. The volunteers systematically walked all the streets in the selected neighbourhoods and were instructed to approach anybody they meet on the streets within the count period of 9 p.m. to 11 pm. They surveyed all the people who were experiencing homelessness and consented to participate in the survey. The weather was 6 degrees Celsius on the night of the Count.

### **Known Locations Count**

This approach identified known (designated) areas or locations where people who are experiencing homelessness were often staying prior to the night of the count. The City of Red Deer engaged various stakeholders including outreach workers, RCMP, bylaw officers, parks staff and formerly homeless individuals to identify these 'designated areas.' These locations were further confirmed by a walk and drive-through which occurred prior to the count. These places included remote parks, trails and camps, under bridges, makeshift shelters and forested areas and were largely places not meant for human habitation. In all, 40 known locations were identified and assigned to 20 specialized team members. Specialized teams comprised of two outreach workers who were each provided maps of these areas to canvass. Regular volunteers were instructed not to administer their surveys in these areas. Specialized teams canvassed the known locations on April 12, 2018, the morning after the count, from 6 am to 8 am.

### **Observed Homelessness**

Red Deer included observed homelessness and asked volunteers and specialized team members to record people who appear to be homeless, but cannot complete the screening questions, on a tally sheet (Donaldson, 2017). To account for such instances specific criteria was developed and approved by 7 Cities as follows: Individuals may be considered homeless if they bedded down in an unsheltered location, and they have many belongings with them (e.g. backpacks, garbage bags, shopping cart, sleeping bag, bedrolls, etc.). However, observations were only used as a last resort since the data they provide are less reliable than those based on self-report. In addition, asking the screening questions provides the opportunity to the respondent to be screened into the survey, receive the honorarium/token, and receive information about services.

## **Survey Design and Administration**

The HPS national Point-In-Time Count survey for 2018 was employed by all seven cities via an online survey application for mobile devices: Harvest Your Data. The survey included questions on demographics and the homelessness experience. The survey was the primary source of information for Red Deer. For the 2018 Count, all aspects of the survey were identical allowing for better comparison and combinations of responses, not just provincially, but also nationally. The 2018 Homeless Count Survey can be found in the Appendix.

**Observed Homelessness:** Used by Volunteers with a Tally Sheet to record information about observed homelessness

**Introduction:** Used by volunteers to obtain consent from potential participants, explain the purpose of the count, how the results will be used and the ethical elements including confidentiality.

**Screening Questions:** Used by volunteers to determine who is eligible to participate in the survey.  
*Survey Questions* – Asked by volunteers to gather data on individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

In all, there were 3 screening questions and 17 substantive questions on each survey. The number of questions was carefully weighed to balance the need and utilization for such information and the burden of response on participants providing this information. Except for the screening questions, which varied in the context of where the survey was being administered to ensure their eligibility or inclusion within any category of the counts, Red Deer consistently administered the survey in the emergency shelters, public systems and the street counts in alignment with the national standards. Secondly, Red Deer took the questions as provided in the guidelines without any modification only inserting community name as required. The survey asked about demographic and socioeconomic information, pathways and patterns of homelessness and source of income.

### **Mobile Technology Implementation**

Harvest Your Data, online survey development cloud-based software available as an application for mobile devices, was used for data collection. The software was chosen as it had been used successfully by Edmonton for their 2016 Count, and the fact that it has been designed to work offline and to sync data over the Internet when it is convenient for the user. The Count survey was translated into the application over the course of several weeks to test flow and question skips and enabled all enumerators using a mobile device to use the same survey to ensure data collection consistency. A Direct Server Upload Service (DSUS) was purchased at an additional cost for FOIP purposes, but it was decided that names would not be collected as each City has their own community HMIS and will continue to target housing and supports via a coordinated response by agencies. Screening tools, tally sheets, and survey questions were built into the Harvest Your Data app; when paper surveys were used, responses were uploaded into the app over the following three days to ensure consistency with the electronic data collection tool.

### **Data Entry and Analysis**

Those who were staying in emergency shelters and short-term transitional housing and public systems were all included in the total counts. However, only valid surveys were included in the street counts. The determination of valid surveys was based on consent and screening questions provided in each category of the surveys as the criteria for inclusion or exclusion. Thus, those who did not consent to participate in the survey, had already participated in the survey or had a permanent residence to return to, were all excluded from the count. To be able to explore changes in the patterns of homelessness over time as it relates to the total population of Red Deer the Canadian Federal Census 2016 were used. Where appropriate, comparisons were made between different sub-populations as it relates to over-representation or under-representation in the total population of Red Deer. Descriptive statistics in the form of percentages were used to present the PiT Count data and to indicate trends between 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018 data.

### **Limitations**

A Point in Time 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,” those individuals who may be couch-surfing at a friend’s house, sleeping in a public washroom, 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 actively avoid being counted. Volunteers may encounter

people who are clearly homeless on the night of the count but were too mentally ill, cognitively impaired, or intoxicated to provide the basic information necessary to participate in the count. For these reasons, although a PiT Count is a carefully executed scientific process, all PiT Counts (by their inherent limitations) undercount the homeless population.

## **Coordination of the Count**

Conducting a Point in Time Homeless Count is a huge operation that requires well-organized coordination among the various units of government, not only at the provincial and federal government level but also at the municipal government level with community organizations and residents of the community. In this regard numerous city departments provided valuable technical support to the project. To ensure community engagement and broader stakeholder participation in the count planning and implementation process, a PiT external advisory committee was established. The membership of the external advisory group was made of not-for-profit service providers, business sector, academia, media and public services. The advisory committee worked alongside city staff to implement the 2018 PiT count.

### **PiT Count Advisory Committee**

As part the planning and coordination of the 2018 PiT Homeless Count, The City of Red Deer established a local Advisory Committee. The committee was charged with the task of providing advice and recommendations to support the implementation of the count and to help build community support for the count. The membership of the committee was drawn from cross-sector community leaders with particular insights or expertise that would help to ensure a successful PiT count. Members shared their experience and provided advice on contextualizing the national methods to meet local needs. In particular, the Advisory Committee was involved in the decision to change the time of the count for the specialized teams from the night of the count to next day count for safety reasons. They were also involved in identifying designated areas for the specialized team counts, volunteer recruitment/engagement, and approving the final methodology for the count.

### **Operational Team, Communication and Logistics**

The operational team was made of staff from several city departments: Communications and Strategic Planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and led by Social Planning. Effective engagement of the community in the counting process was crucial to the planning and successful implementation of the count. Prior to the Count, The City of Red Deer Communications department developed and implemented a communications plan. This communication tool was distributed in the media (radio and newspapers) and social media to educate and inform the public with the goal of creating public buy-in for the count and to obtain resources in support of the count, especially volunteers. The GIS department was engaged in developing the mapping for all the enumerated areas for the street count and known locations and specific spot locations for the decoys. Leading the operational team for the coordination of the count was the Social Planning department which was involved in the overall planning of the count including volunteer recruitment, training and liaison with agencies involved in the count.

### **Volunteer Recruitment & Training**

The City of Red Deer sent posters and direct messages to community organizations and community residents to volunteer for the Count. Volunteers were able to register online through the City of Red Deer, or call directly to register through a phone number that was provided. Previous volunteers whose emails were retained were also asked to register and confirm their participation in the count for this year. Red Deer College through the advisory committee membership adopted the count as part a student project and curriculum for some programs which increased the student volunteer participation. They provided information on the count and encouraged

students to become involved. Over 50% of the volunteers were from Red Deer College programs such as sociology, business, nursing and social work. In all there was a total of over 120 volunteers, including enumerators who administered surveys for the street count, people who administered the survey in facilities, and people who served at the Command Centre.

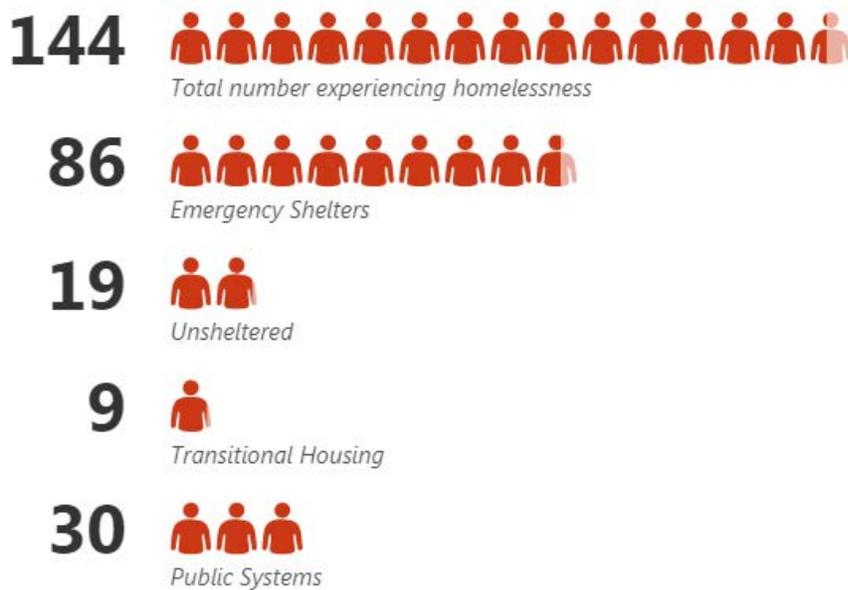
The operational team worked with shelter service providers, specialized team members, and systems staff to provide training. Four types of training were conducted: training for shelter staff and volunteers within the public systems, training for specialized team members, training of decoys for the plant-capture component, and training for regular volunteers for the street count. There were 12 different sessions lasting between 60 to 90 minutes. Subjects covered in training included safety, ethical and confidentiality issues as well as the contents of the survey.

### 3.0 Background

On April 11, 2018, The City of Red Deer, in collaboration with its community partners conducted the fourth bi-annual Point in Time Homeless Count (PiT Count). Red Deer’s 2018 PiT Count was in coordination with 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (a group of Alberta’s seven CBOs) and partially funded by the Government of Canada’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). As a part of the HPS requirements, there was an advisory group of individuals, Community Housing Advisory Board members, and staff from not-for-profit housing organizations who provided valuable support in various aspects of the Count.

In all, the number of people counted as experiencing homelessness in Red Deer was 144 in the 2018 PiT Count. This number is made up of 19 people who were unsheltered (sleeping outside in parks or on the street) and 86 people in emergency shelters. An additional 9 people who were staying in transitional housing and 30 people who were provisionally accommodated in public systems were all enumerated.

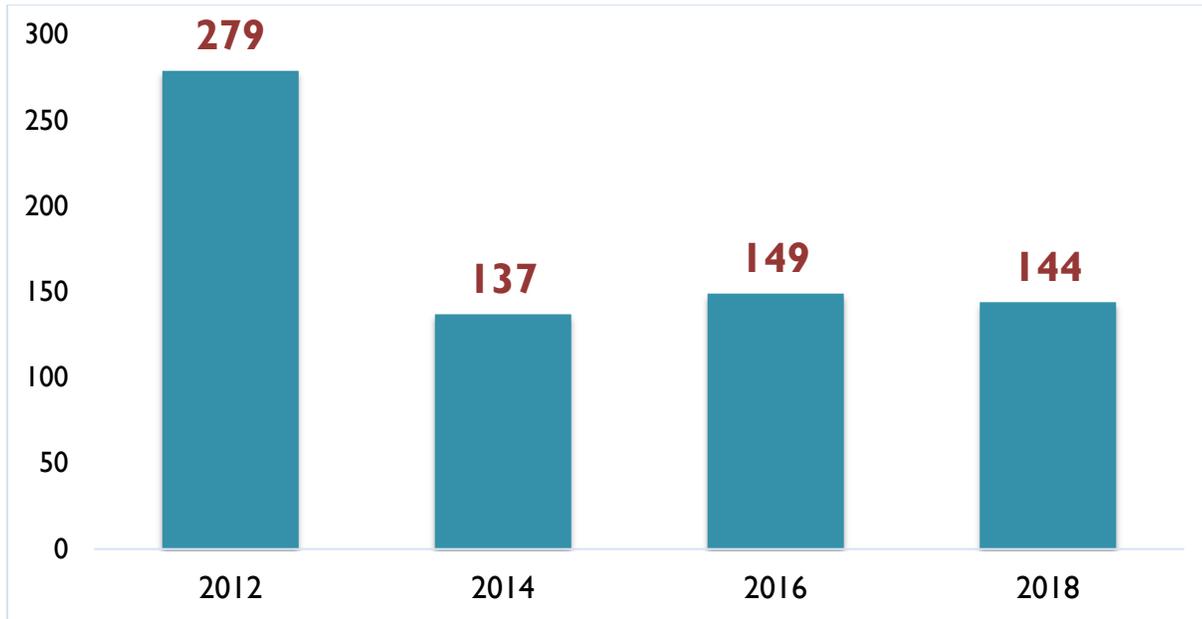
**Figure 3.1. Number of People Counted 2018**



**Source:** *The Number of People Experiencing Homelessness 2012 to 2018 Census*

The number of people counted as experiencing homelessness in Red Deer was 144 in the 2018 PiT Count. This is a reduction of 3.4% from the previous count. This trend indicates a stabilization of the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community. From 2012 to 2014, the number of people experiencing homelessness reduced from 279 to 137 and then from 149 in 2016 to 144 in 2018. While housing and supports programs have contributed to this downward trend, there have also been variations in the methodology which may also have accounted for these changes.

**Figure 3.2. Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Red Deer, 2012 to 2018 PiT Homeless Counts**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

## **Community Context Factors that Shape Housing and Homelessness**

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) defines homelessness as “the situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability to acquire it (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012). However, the pathways into homelessness are multifaceted outcomes of a complex and intricate interplay between structural factors (e.g. poverty, lack of affordable housing, discrimination), systems failures (e.g. barriers to accessing public systems such as health, social services and legal supports), and individual and relational factors (e.g. family conflict, domestic violence, trauma or mental health and addiction issues) (Gaetz et al., 2013). Thus homelessness is more than the absence of a place to live. This view signifies a paradigm shift, from the definition of homelessness in terms of the absence of permanent accommodation, with its focus on pathways out of homelessness through the acquisition and maintenance of permanent housing to a more encompassing context in which homelessness occurs (Mabhala et al., 2017).

As a result, it is important that the results of the 2018 PiT count are contextualized in the broader demographic and socioeconomic trends impacting Red Deer. According to Statistics Canada (2017), the population of Red Deer was 100,418, in 2016 which represents a change of 10.9% from 2011. Red Deer’s labour market conditions have also been characterized by reductions in the unemployment rate. At the time of the count (April 2018), the unemployment rate was 5.1% compared to 6.8% unemployment rate in October 2016 when the last PiT Count was conducted.

Similarly, according to the results of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s Rental Market Report, the apartment vacancy rate for a two-bedroom apartment in October 2016 was 13.6% and largely unchanged to (13.1%) in October 2017. Similarly, the average two-bedroom apartment rent in Red Deer was \$1,016 per month in October 2016 compared to \$1,011 in October 2017 (Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2018).

The wider social context within which homelessness occurs also has a direct impact on intervention mechanisms. There is substantial evidence that community-level factors play the biggest role in influencing

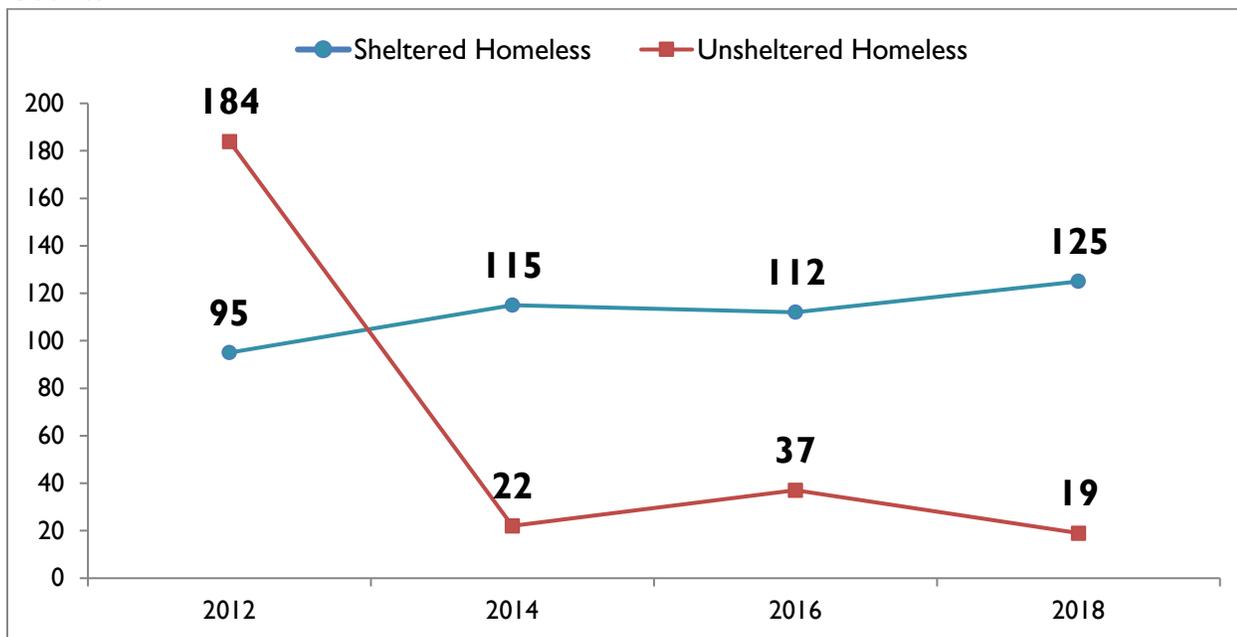
people’s ability to exit homelessness, and to achieve housing stability. In particular, being recently or currently employed, having earned income, and participating in job training are associated with a shorter duration of homelessness (Caton et al., 2005).

At the same time, individuals and families experiencing homelessness are not monolithic, they have differing life experiences may have different needs and strengths, and thus the need for different services and interventions. Critical to this is a spectrum of housing options to prevent and reduce homelessness. Red Deer’s homelessness serving system has proven to be essential to these efforts. Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, there were 261 individuals who were newly housed and support to maintain housing through the Outreach & Support Services Initiative (OSSI) grant from the Province of Alberta, and 175 individuals who were newly housed and supported to maintain housing through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) grant from the Government of Canada.

### Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations

Sheltered Homelessness refers to people who were staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and public systems on the night of the count. The sheltered population constituted most of the people (86.6% or 125) enumerated. In comparison, 115 people were reported sheltered in 2016 and 112 in 2014. In 2012, the sheltered population was 95 constituting 34% of the homeless population counted which was much lower than the unsheltered population. Figure 4.2 presents the trends between the sheltered and unsheltered homelessness in Red Deer.

**Figure 3.3. Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness in Red Deer, 2012 to 2018 PiT Homeless Counts**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

On the other hand, 19 people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count were in unsheltered situations, which include places not meant for human habitation, such as the streets, camps abandoned buildings, vehicles, or parks. This indicates a lower number of people who were unsheltered compared to the previous count of 37 in 2016. However, this number must be viewed in the context of changes, due to seasonal variation in the timing of the count, weather, changes in methodology and the number of people that have been housed

since the last count (Byrne *et al.*, 2014). Previous research has found that persons staying in unsheltered situations are often chronically homeless and most often the focus of housing first programs (Tsai *et al.*, 2014).

## **Components of the Sheltered Homeless Population**

### **Emergency Shelters**

Emergency shelters are often the first point of contact for people who become homeless and can facilitate a rapid exit out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Patterns of emergency shelter utilization are one of the best available indicators of trends in homelessness and provide an understanding of homelessness in terms of specific populations. The emergency shelter data provides information on shelter capacity (total emergency shelter beds), occupancy rate and demographic characteristics of shelter users across the community that night. The 2018 PiT Count as in previous counts included all the emergency shelters in the community: People's Place Shelter and Mat Program at Safe Harbour Society; 49<sup>th</sup> Street Youth Shelter at Youth HQ; and Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter.

The total number of people using emergency shelters increased from 77 in 2016 to 86 in 2018 an increase of 11.7%. Across Red Deer, 124 beds were available in four emergency shelters indicating an average occupancy level of 69.4%. In 2016, the average occupancy rate at Red Deer's emergency shelters was 59.7% compared to 80.6% capacity in 2014. Comparatively, in 2012, emergency shelters in Red Deer were operating at an average capacity of 87%.

Table 3.1 shows the absolute number of people who were in emergency shelters on the night of the count. The Mat Program at Safe Harbour Society reported a significant increase in the number of unique individuals at the shelter from 14 in 2016 to 23 in 2018 indicating an increase of 64.3%. The Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter had the second highest number of shelter users reporting an increase of 25 in 2016 to 30 in 2018 in terms of absolute numbers. The number of youths using shelters decreased from 7 in 2016 to 1 in 2018, an 85% decline in use by this group.

**Table 3.1. Emergency Shelter Capacity and Occupancy, 2012-2018 PiT Homeless Counts**

Emergency Shelter Facility Name	Classification of Shelter	2012		2014		2016		2018	
		Capacity <sup>1</sup>	Occupancy	Capacity	Occupancy	Capacity	Occupancy	Capacity	Occupancy
<b>People's Place</b>	Adult Dry Shelter	23	23	35	36	35	31	46	32
<b>Mat Program</b>	Adult Wet Shelter	20	25	26	23	26	14	26	23
<b>49<sup>th</sup> Street Youth Shelter</b>	Youth Shelter	8	4	8	6	8	7	12	1
<b>Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter</b>	Violence Against Women Shelter	36	26	40	27	40	25	40	30
<b>Totals</b>		107	93	129	104	129	77	124	86

Source: The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

<sup>1</sup> The capacity of the shelter facility is the total number of beds available and the occupancy is the number of people in the shelter that night at the time of the count.

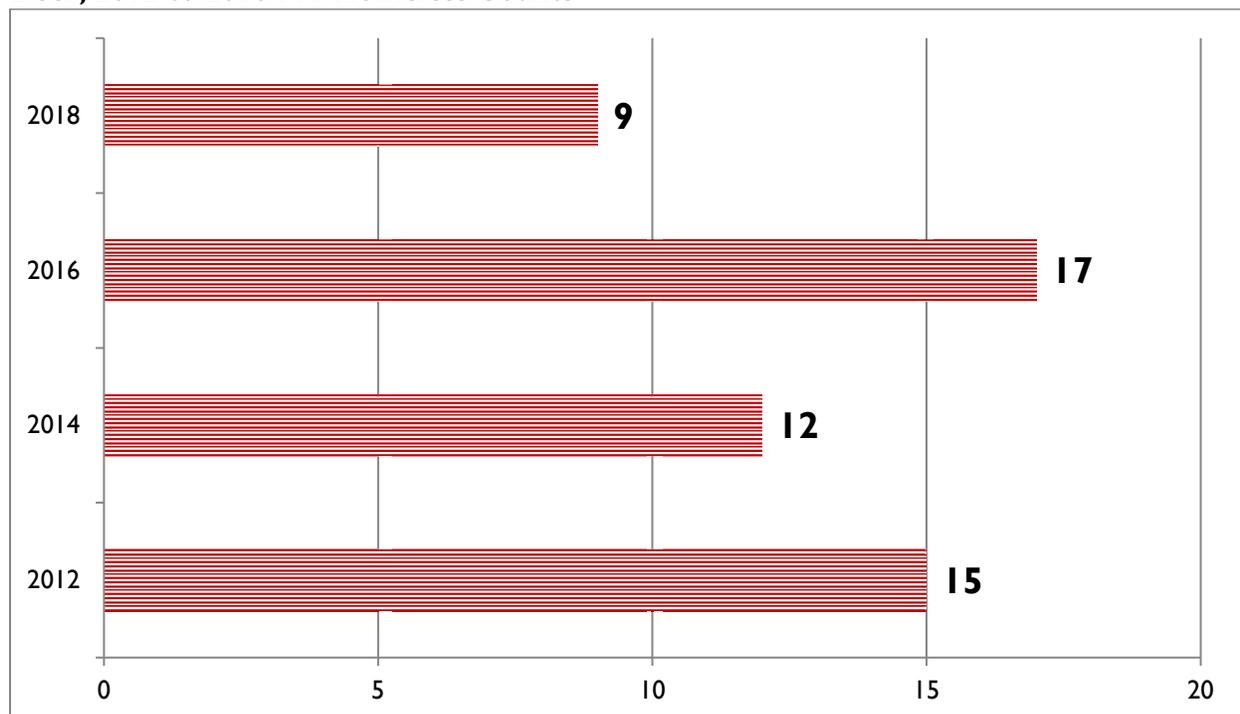
To better understand patterns of emergency shelter utilization among those experiencing homelessness, respondents were asked whether they have stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months prior to the count. Shelter stays were examined using client’s self-identification, which describes single shelter visits from the survey sample. The results indicate that on an average night in the last 12 months 82% of the experiencing homelessness used emergency shelters compared to 73% in 2016. This suggests cycling in and out of shelters, as many of those who were unsheltered also indicated using the shelter a least once in the previous year. While the results indicate a significant rate of shelter usage, shelter utilization it is also associated with positive and improved outcomes, including increased access to other supportive services to obtain stable housing.

### Transitional Housing

Transitional housing facilities provide short-term accommodation and support for people experiencing homelessness for a specified period. Even though transitional housing facilities provide longer stays than shelters, they are not permanent housing interventions. By design, transitional housing models may specify treatment prerequisites, such as adherence to mental health treatment or abstinence from alcohol or drugs, prior to gaining access to permanent housing or while in the program compared to harm reduction through Housing First. Housing tenure and stability are chief priorities of the Housing First philosophy to ending homelessness, and among its most promising outcomes.

Furthermore, a time limit is typically placed on such services. This means there can be disruptions in housing stability during relocations, a common deviation from continuous residency which may result in homelessness. That is why individuals and families in transitional housing for less than 2 years were included in this count. For the purposes of this count, Safe Harbour Society’s Medical Detox; Julietta’s Place Second Stage housing for families fleeing domestic violence, and people in Horizon House with John Howard Society were enumerated and surveyed.

**Figure 3.4. Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Transitional Housing in Red Deer, 2012 to 2018 PiT Homeless Counts**



Source: The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

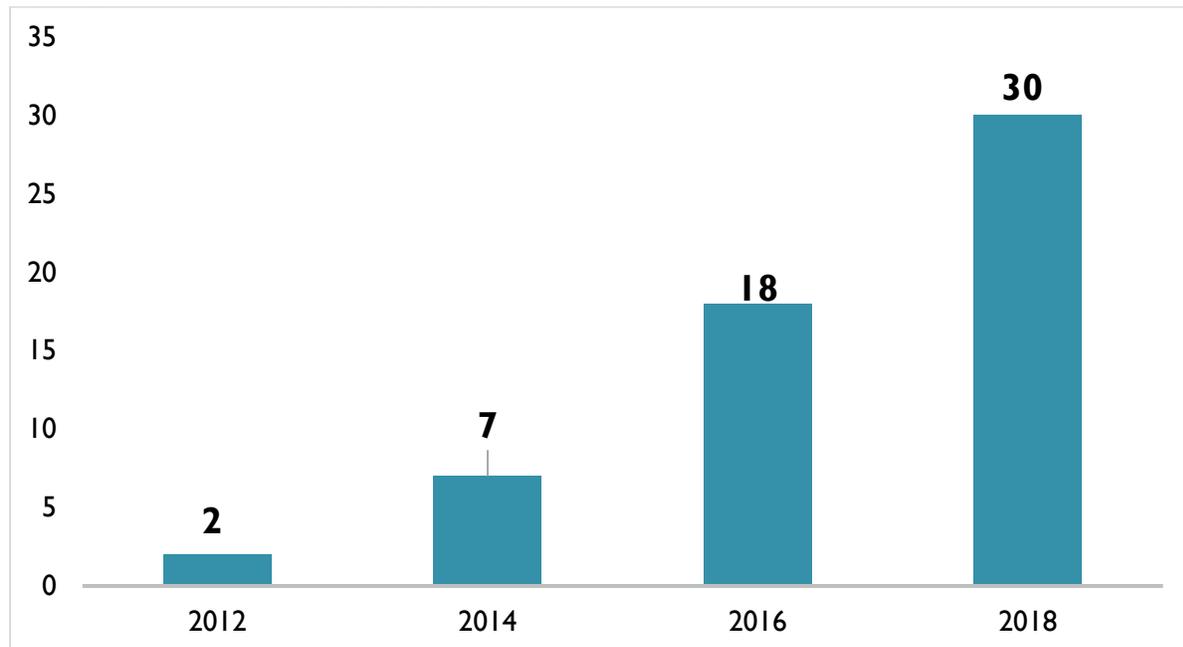
There were 9 people enumerated as experiencing homelessness in transitional housing in 2018 compared to 17 in 2016. In 2014 there were 12 people enumerated in transitional housing compared to 15 in 2012 albeit change in methodology. The type of transitional housing that is included in the scope of PiT Counts has evolved over the years. The methodology was expanded to include Julietta's Place Second Stage housing in this year's count. In previous PiT Counts of 2012 and 2014, only the Non-Medical Detox in Safe Harbour was categorized as Transitional Housing to meet this requirement. However, with the expanded definition in 2016, Horizon House from John Howard Society was added to the scope of the count.

### Public Systems

Individuals and families in the public system are at risk of homelessness or have recently become homeless after being discharged directly to no fixed address. The effects of this are not only increasing the number of those experiencing homelessness in the community, but also re-hospitalization from the health system and prolonged homelessness from correctional facilities (Forchuk *et al.*, 2008). The 2018 PiT count included data from local public systems obtained at the provincial level for the Remand Centre and Red Deer Regional Hospital—for people who have no fixed address (NFA) and who are imminently going to be released but have no discharge plan that includes housing. People in RCMP Holding Cells with no fixed address on the night were also included in the scope of the count.

All the people enumerated from the public system were from correctional facilities. In all 30 people were screened and counted as experiencing homelessness. This was the third consecutive increase in in the number enumerated from the public since 2012. In 2016, 18 people were identified as experiencing homelessness in the public system compared to 7 in 2014 and 2 in 2012. Figure 4.5 presents trends in the number of people enumerated from public systems in Red Deer's Point in Time Count.

**Figure 3.5. Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Public Systems in Red Deer, 2012 to 2018 PiT Homeless Counts**



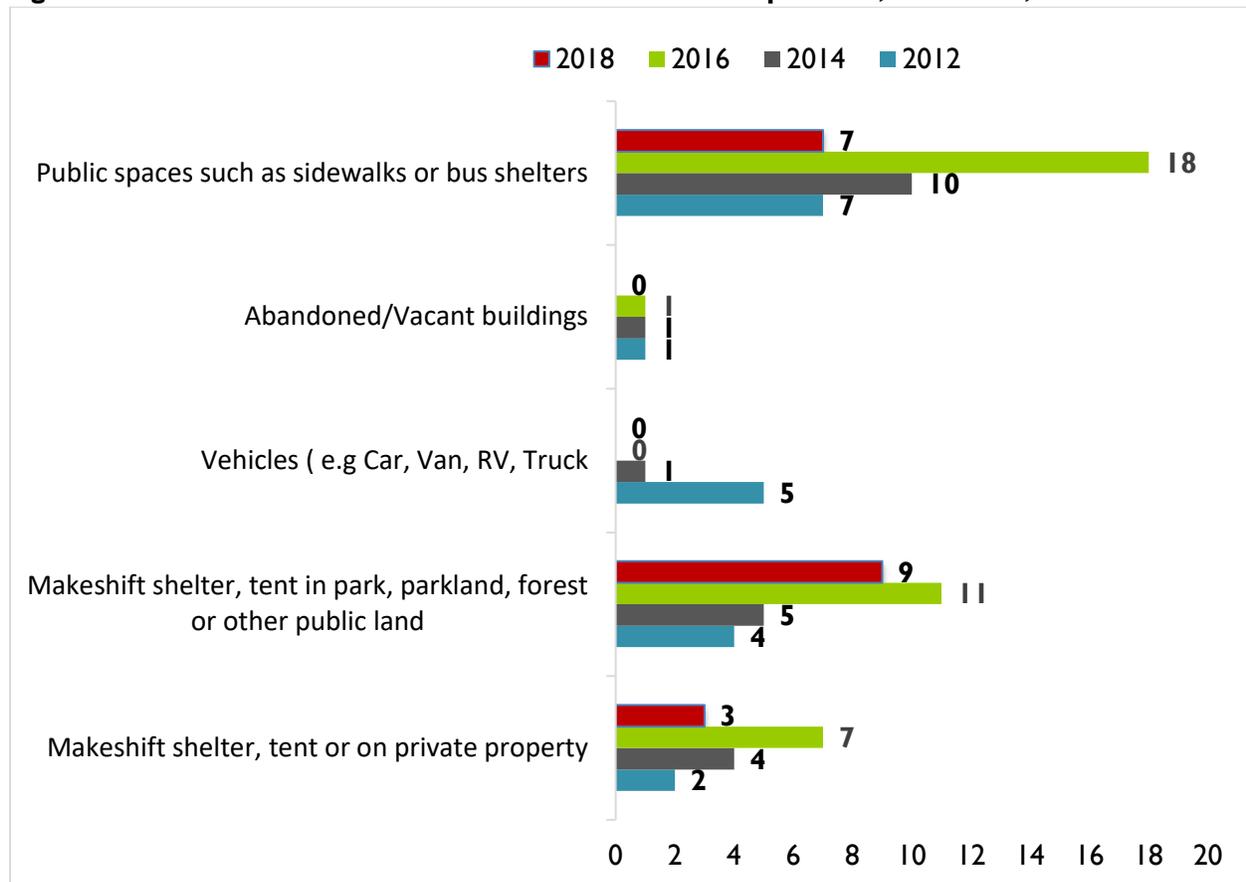
Source: The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

### Unsheltered Homeless Population

People who live in unsheltered situations have an increased risk of exposure to the elements of the weather. At the same, it can be especially difficult to enumerate them due to their transitory pattern of movement between different locations for safety. Even if they are reached most are unwilling to participate in the survey. However, this year's methodology included the observed with a set of criteria.

The unsheltered category included people in public spaces such as sidewalks or bus shelters, makeshift shelter or tent in a park, parkland, forest or other public land, vacant building, vehicles, and other places not intended for human habitation. Figure 4.6 presents the sum of those counted and the classification of these locations based on pre-determined definitions.

**Figure 3.6. Distribution of the Unsheltered Homeless Population, Red Deer, 2012 to 2018.**



Source: The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

## 4.0 Detailed Analysis of Survey Responses

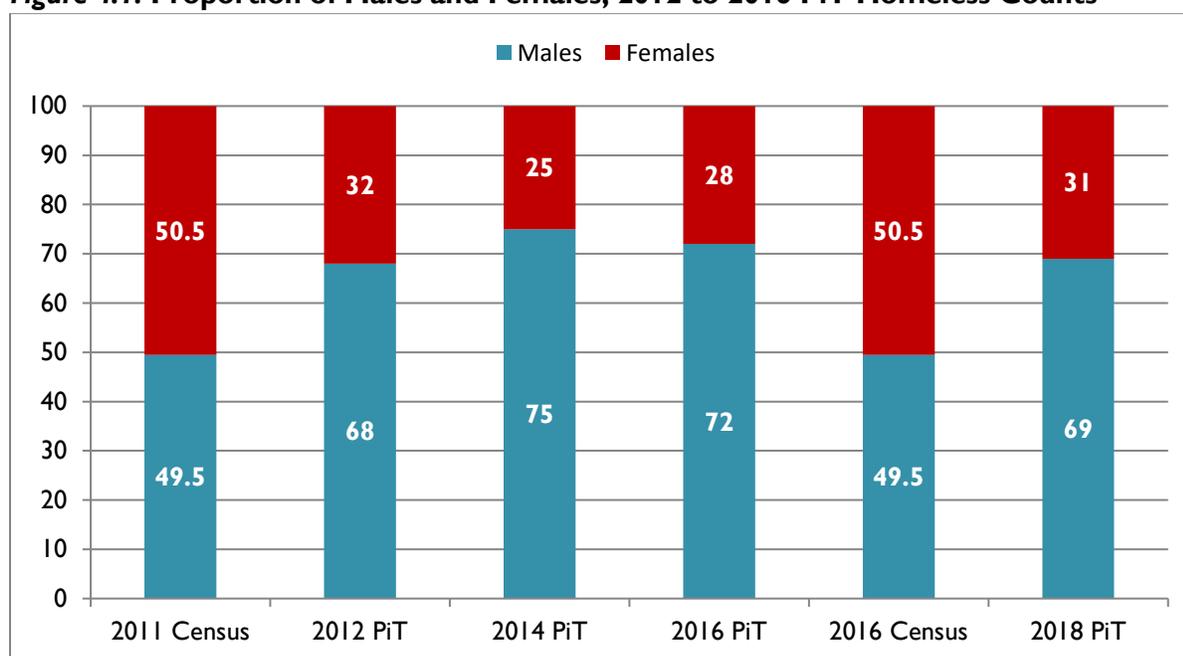
This section provides a detailed analysis of the responses from the valid surveys from the 2018 PiT Count. Overall, there were 89 valid surveys. Where appropriate and where data was available, comparative analyses were made with the previous count, the total population of Red Deer through the Federal Census or other reliable data sources such as Veteran Affairs to indicate trends and relevant literature for context.

### Demographic and Social Characteristics

#### Gender

According to Statistics Canada, the gender structure of Red Deer was 50.5% females and 49.5% in 2016 Census. **The prevalence of homelessness by gender indicates disproportionate representation of males 69% compared to females 31% in the 2018 PiT Count.** However, the percentage of females experiencing homelessness increased by 2% since the 2016 PiT Count. In 2014, females represented 25% and males 75% of those experiencing homelessness. The percentage of females in 2012 was slightly higher 32% compared to 68% males. Some of the increase may be related to the expansion of the scope of the count to include Transitional Housing for women fleeing domestic violence. Research has established that due to heightened risks of physical and sexual violence, responsibilities for accompanying children, women are much more likely than men to seek out other alternative arrangements of shelter than being homeless. Figure 5.1 shows the gender distribution of males and females from 2012 to 2018 PiT Counts.

**Figure 4.1. Proportion of Males and Females, 2012 to 2016 PiT Homeless Counts**



*Source: The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.*

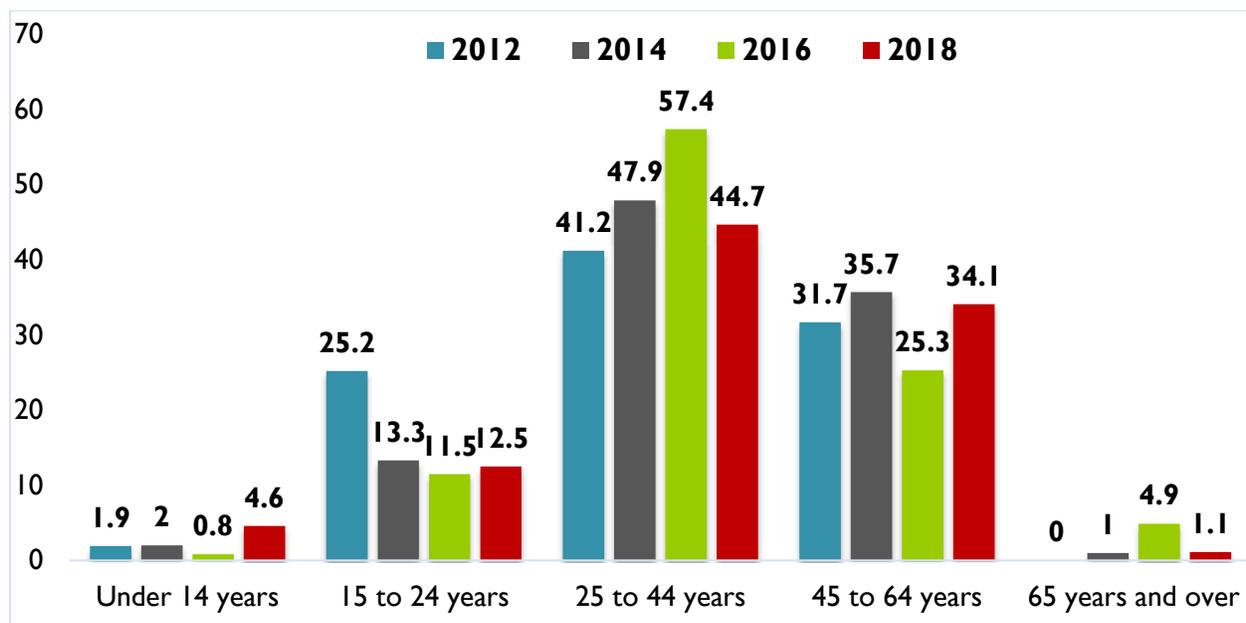
#### Age Structure of the Population

The 2016 Federal Census is used as a benchmark to assess the age structure of Red Deer's population relative to person's enumerated experiencing homelessness. In the 2016 Federal Census, the median age of Red Deer's total population was 36.1 years in 2016. **The median age of people experiencing homelessness was 37 years in 2018.** In the previous Counts, the median age of those experiencing

homelessness in 2016 was 38 years, compared to 37 in 2014, and 33 in 2012 PiT Counts. The slight decrease in the median age of those experiencing is largely due to the increase in the number of children enumerated this year compared to the previous years.

In the 2016 Federal Census, the proportion of children aged 0 to 14 years formed 18.6% of Red Deer’s total population. Persons aged 15 to 24 years represented 13% and persons within the ages of 25 to 44 years accounted for 31.1% of Red Deer’s total population. Red Deer proportion of those aged 45 to 64 years constituted 25.3%, while persons aged 65 years and over represented 12% of Red Deer’s total population. Figure 5.2 displays the age distribution of the homeless population between 2012 and 2018 PiT Homeless Counts.

**Figure 4.2. Age Distribution (Percentage) of the Homeless Population, 2012-2018 PiT Homeless Counts**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

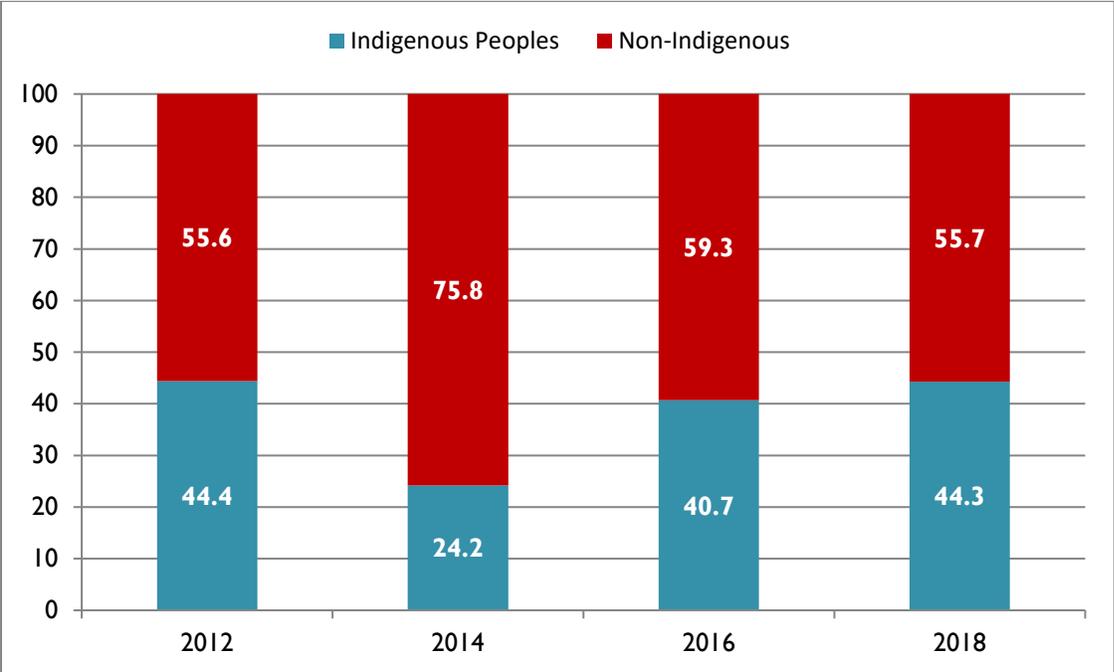
In comparison, the age-structure of persons enumerated in the PiT Count reveals some elements of disproportionality (the percentage of each age cohort in the PiT Count as compared to their percentage in Red Deer’s total population). **Persons within the ages of 25 to 44 years represent the largest proportion (44.7%) people experiencing homelessness, while those aged 65 years and over represent the lowest proportion (1.1%).** The proportion of youth 15 to 24 years is closely mirrored in the homeless population as compared to Red Deer’s total population. Federal Census is used to assess how the age composition of those experiencing homelessness relative to the total population.

### Indigenous Peoples

Respondents were asked to identify if they were Indigenous on the survey. For the purposes of this survey Indigenous Peoples includes persons who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status that is registered under the Indian Act of Canada and/or those who reported membership in a First Nation or Indian band. Aboriginal peoples of Canada are defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

In 2016 Federal Census, there were 5,185 Aboriginal people in Red Deer, making up 5.3% of the population this is just slightly higher than in the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) when it was also 5.2% of Red Deer’s total population. Based on these benchmarks, it is notable that there is an over-representation of Indigenous Peoples in Red Deer’s Point in Time Counts. In 2018, the **Indigenous Population accounted for 44.3% person enumerated experiencing homelessness**. In 2016, the Indigenous sub-population constituted 40.7% of all those surveyed. In the 2014 PiT Count, 24.2% of respondents indicated Indigenous identity, while the highest of 44.4% was reported in the 2012 PiT Count. The Aboriginal over-representation amongst the homeless population is evident in Figure 5.3.

**Figure 4.3. Indigenous Population (Percentage), 2012-2018 PiT Homeless Counts**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

The observation of overrepresentation is used to refer to two distinct concepts: (1) Disproportionality, the percentage of persons of a particular race or ethnic group in the experiencing homelessness as compared to their percentage in the total population (Mosher & Hewitt, 2018). For example, Indigenous People makeup 5.3% of the general Red Deer’s population but are 44.3% of the of those experiencing homelessness. (2) Disparity, the comparison between the rates at which person of different ethnic groups experience the same event). For example, the rate of Indigenous People experiencing homelessness is eight times higher than the rate of non-Indigenous population. Both concepts are applicable in this context which indicates the overrepresentation of the Indigenous population.

**Veteran Homelessness**

In recent years, there has been an increased focus on the plight of Armed Forces veterans who experience homelessness. Research has shown that approximately 2,950 veterans are experiencing homelessness, representing 2.2% of the homeless population in Canada. Alcohol and drug addiction are key drivers of veteran homelessness, followed by mental health challenges, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and difficulty transitioning to civilian life (Gaetz, 2016).

In the 2016 and 2018 PiT Count, the veteran question was changed to reflect the definition changes made by the Royal Canadian Legion to include RCMP officers as veteran. The new definition also includes peace officers who served in special duty areas, such as Ontario Provincial Police officers who worked in Haiti or officers on United Nations missions such as in Bosnia. The change in definition means there is limited comparability to the previous counts.

Veteran Affairs estimated that there were 649,300 veterans of which 69,300 were in Alberta as at March 2018 (Veteran Affairs Canada, 2018). At the same time, Canada's total population was estimated at 37,067,011, and that of Alberta was 4,334,025 on April 1, 2018 (Statistics Canada, 2018). This means veterans formed 1.8% of Canada's total population and 1.6% of Alberta's total population.

In the 2018 PiT Count **Veterans represented 1.2% of all those enumerated**, this is much lower than the 7% that identified as Veterans experiencing homelessness in 2016. Comparatively, in both 2012 and 2014 respondents were asked if they have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Out of the total population surveyed in 2014, 6.1% had indicated they were veterans, comparatively, in 2012, 5.7% of respondents indicated that they had previously served in the Canadian Armed Forces. While this is not a very large percentage, only 1.6% of Albertan's are veterans, so this number is also disproportionately high for Red Deer.

### **LGBTQ2S Homelessness**

The number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or two-spirited (LGBTQ2S) persons experiencing homelessness is unknown. However, large-scale data collection remains limited, which is why provincial and national measurements of LGBTQ2S have relied on what is often documented among the clients served by homeless serving agencies such as in emergency shelters, drop-in centers, outreach, and housing programs. Without an accurate picture of the situation, it is difficult to confirm crucial characteristics of the population, secure necessary increases in funding, or build a policy case for the delivery of more targeted services (Abramovich, 2016). As part of this effort, *Everyone Counts: 2018 Point-in-Time Counts* of homelessness included the LGBTQ2S status of those experiencing homelessness. The rationale for the question was to understand the size of this population and to improve housing stability outcomes for them.

On the survey, respondents were asked to identify whether they were part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or two-spirited community. **Out the total population surveyed in the 2018 PiT Count, 3.8% indicated they belong to the LGBTQ2S community**, which is lower than which is lower than the 5% indicated in 2016. Despite the size of this population and the concomitant risks, little is known about the causes, correlates, and consequences of homelessness among them (Keuroghlian et al., 2018). Much work is still needed to understand their needs and appropriate strategies to support them.

### **Immigration and Migration Patterns**

#### **Immigrants and Refugees**

The growth of the immigrant population and changes in source countries of immigration over the decades have led to greater diversification Red Deer's population's ethno-cultural characteristics. However, the needs of newcomers experiencing homelessness are often different than those who are Canadian-born. Many are adjusting to a new language and culture, lacking in social capital and/or facing unique challenges with respect to housing, employment, health and legal issues. Newcomers struggling to secure employment and housing often adopt survival strategies to navigate their new host society. Should these coping systems fail, they may feel not only an intensified loss of their home but

also anxiety, isolation and/or separation from their limited networks, culture, family and history (The Homelessness Hub, 2016).

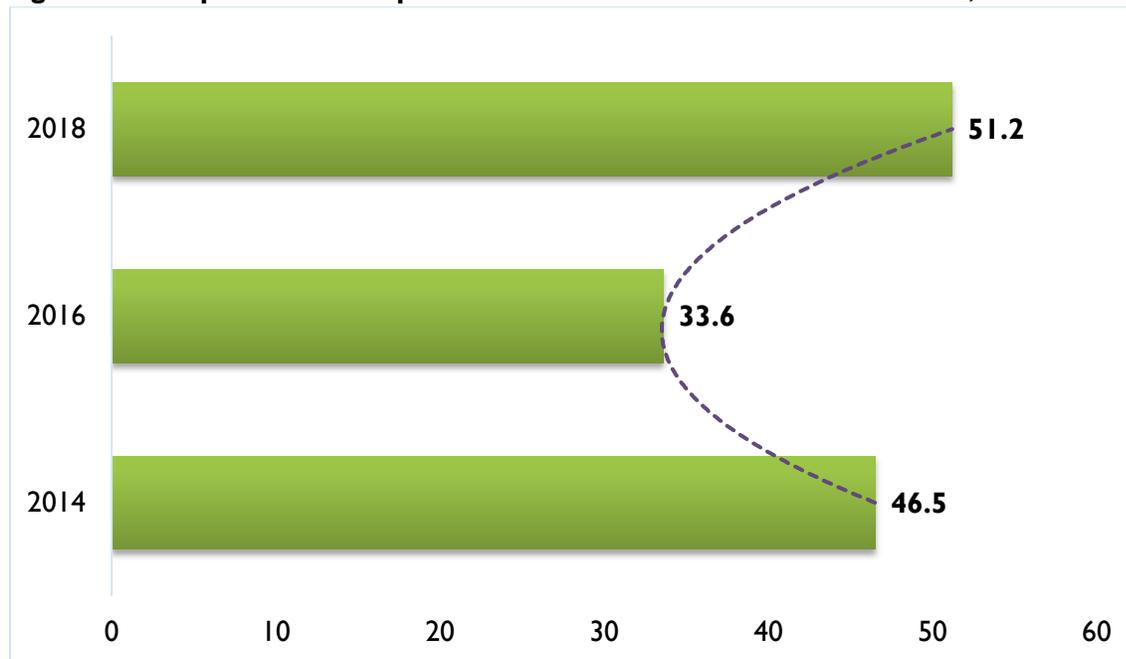
According to the 2016 Federal Census, immigrants constitute 14.9% of Red Deer's total population. Recent immigrants between 2011 and 2016 constitute 5.3% of Red Deer's total population, while Non-permanent residents accounted for 1.4%. Non-permanent residents (NPR) are persons who have been legally granted the right to live in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a temporary resident permit, along with members of their family living with them (Statistics Canada, 2017).

The Survey asked respondents whether they came to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or claimant. In total **7% of individuals surveyed indicated that they came to Red Deer as an immigrant or refugee claimant.** This indicates an upward trend from 2016 when the foreign-born population who moved to Canada recently (within past 5 years) as an immigrant or refugee constituted only 2% of those surveyed. In contrast, the 2014 PiT count data shows that 10.1% of the respondents were foreign-born. This is consistent with external immigration patterns of the general population reported in the 2011 National Household Survey which was at 10.6%. Thus they represent virtually one in ten of the total population. In the 2012 PiT count, this question was worded differently as to whether they were a recent immigrant or refugee to Canada (less than 5 years). When all immigrants are considered as a proportion of Red Deer's total population, it means, the representation of this population is much lower than in the general population. However, if it is based on most recent immigrants, then it indicates an overrepresentation of this population in Red Deer's homeless population.

### ***Mobility Patterns of People Experiencing Homelessness***

Mobility and migration patterns of homeless individuals and families are diverse and complex, whereas the reasons for the movement may not be much different from the general population. In all, **51.2% of respondents' survey indicated that they were new to the community in the last 12 months.** In 2016, 33.6% respondents indicated that they were new to Red Deer in less than a year. Comparatively, in 2014, 46.5% have been in Red Deer less than one year. Figure 5.6 shows the trends in terms of the number of people who indicated they were in the community in the last 12 months.

**Figure 4.4. Proportion of People new to Red Deer in the last 12 Months, 2014 to 2018**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

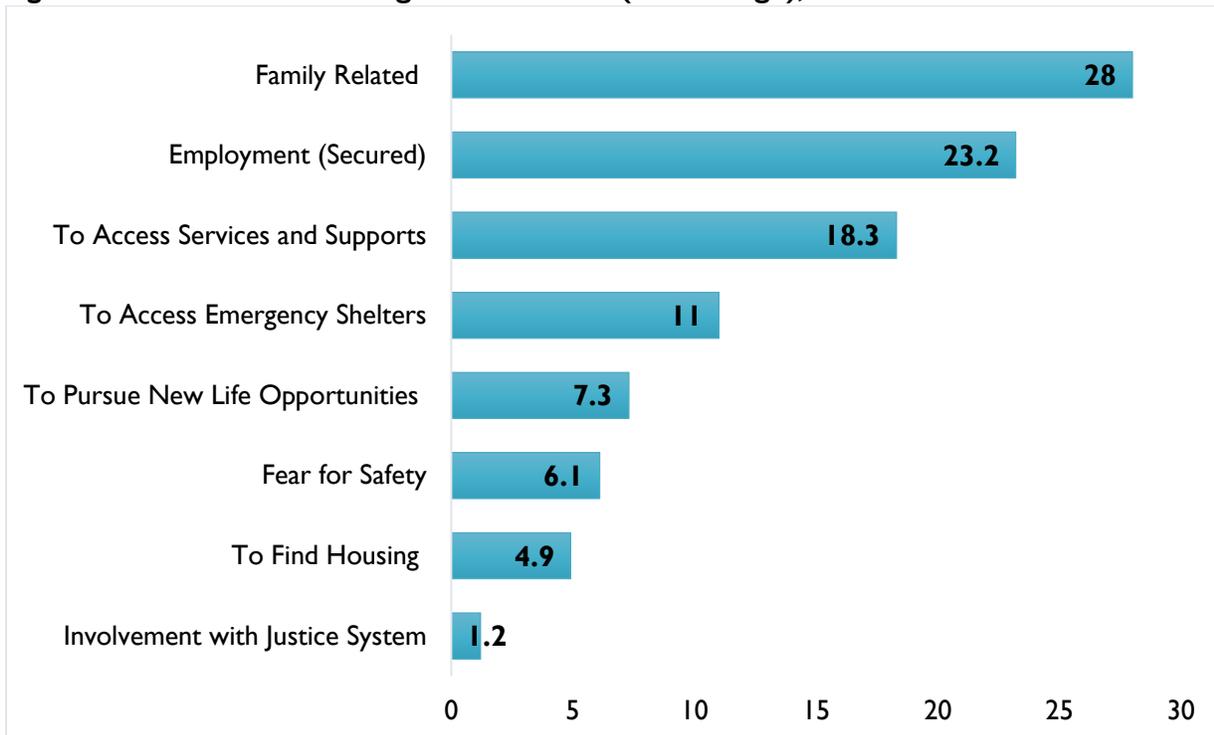
The mobility patterns among those surveyed in 2014, 2016 and 2018 PiT Counts reflect largely intra-provincial rather than inter-provincial movement. **Intra-provincial in-migrants (persons who moved from a different city within the province into the community) constituted 70.6% of the new people in the community in 2018.** In 2016, there was a slight variation in wording and positioning of questions that can limit comparability to previous counts. However, the average between the two counts of 2014 and 2016, 64.6% moved from communities in Alberta to Red Deer indicating the relative importance of intra-provincial migration among the homeless population. In 2012, the PiT count question was phrased differently. It asked: *what city or community do you consider “home”?* Out of the total respondents, 65% indicated Red Deer as home, 15.7% reported other communities in Alberta, 13.3% identified British Columbia, 3.6% other provinces and 2.4% outside Canada. Within the province of Alberta; Calgary and Edmonton were frequently cited as the communities for intra-provincial migration to Red Deer. Some have also moved from smaller communities such as Steller, Sylvan Lake and Innisfail to Red Deer.

Interprovincial in-migrants (those who moved from another province or territory into Red Deer) formed 29.4% of those who are new the community in 2018. What is significant here is that there is much higher intra- provincial reported in the homeless count mobility data. There are several potential reasons why intra-provincial migration is much more pronounced than interprovincial migration. Distances within provinces are, on average, significantly shorter than distances between provinces, as the distance is one of the main barriers to migration (Amirault et al., 2013). Out the total 29.4% the main source of inter-province migrants were British Columbia, 16.8 %, Saskatchewan 6.3% and the other 6.3% representing the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba in an equal measure.

### Reasons for Moving into Red Deer

It is often deemed that people experiencing homelessness are transient and are frequently “on the move” and the reasons are often varied. However, homeless mobility is highly spatially constrained and structured by sociocultural relations of stigmatization, economic productivity, and personal responsibility that are reflected in the operational conventions and institutional practices of transportation and social welfare systems (Jocoy & Del Casino, 2010). People experiencing homelessness move among spaces where they experience varying levels of inclusion and exclusion, thus complicating static, homogeneous characterizations that are often used to describe them (Nielson, 2015). In 2018 respondents were asked reasons for moving into Red Deer. Family-related reasons were the most common reason why people moved into Red Deer followed by employment and for access to services and supports. Figure 5.5 provides the most common reasons cited for moving to Red Deer.

**Figure 4.5. Reasons for Moving into Red Deer (Percentage), 2018 PiT Counts**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2018.

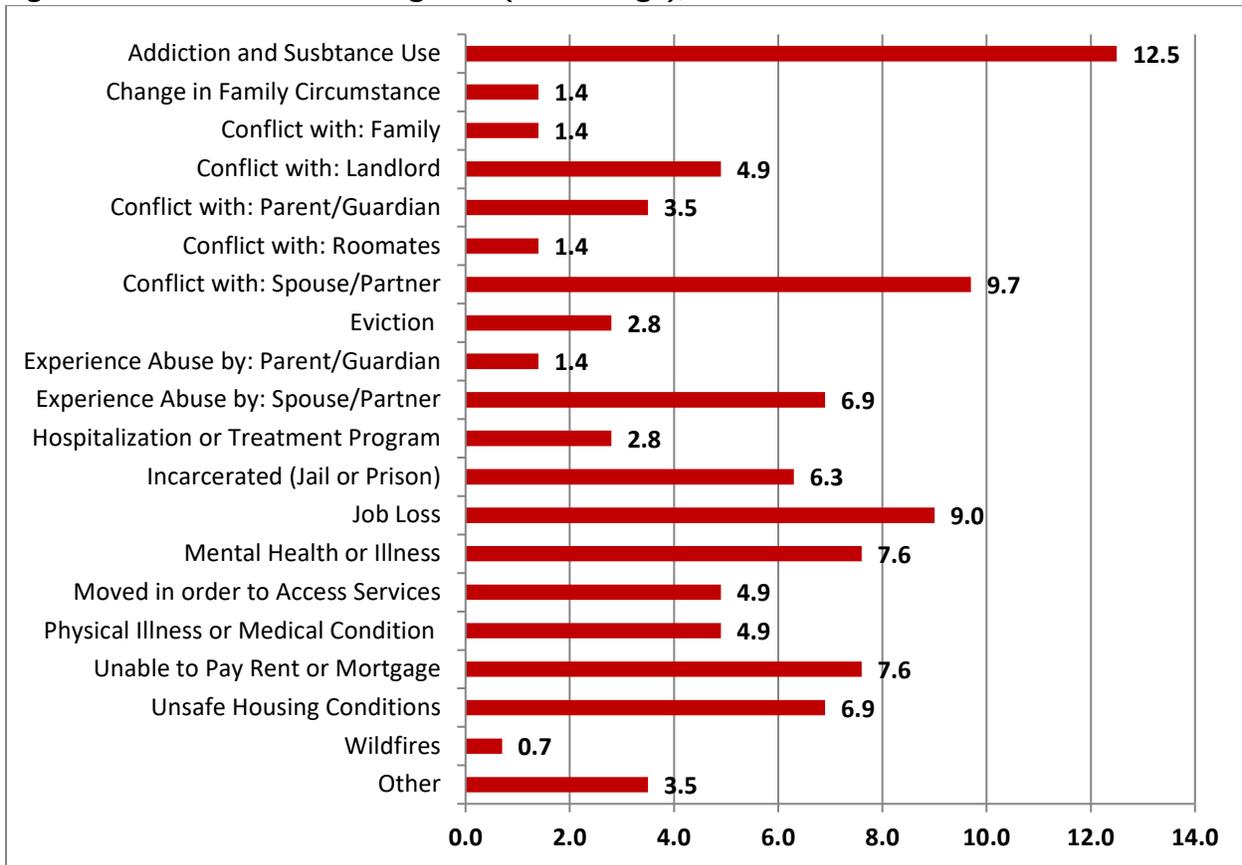
### Pathways into Homelessness, Pattern of Homelessness and Duration

Causes of homelessness are complex, and the pathways into and out of homelessness are multifaceted, including financial insecurity, relationship breakdown, and addiction, compounded by barriers to accessing services, shrinking social support networks, and complex health challenges (Woolrych et al. 2015). In the 2018 Survey respondents were asked what happened that caused them to lose their housing most recently. This question was open-ended, and respondents had the option of providing multiple responses. However, the survey pre-classified the reasons for various categories. **Addiction and substance was the most cited reason for housing loss (12.5%) followed by conflict with a spouse or partner (9.7%) and job loss (9.0%) as the three top reasons in 2018.**

In 2016, the survey asked individuals about the cause(s) of their most recent loss of housing. However, the categories provided were slightly different from the 2018 survey. The question gave respondents the option to indicate more than one reason. Illness or medical condition was the most common cause

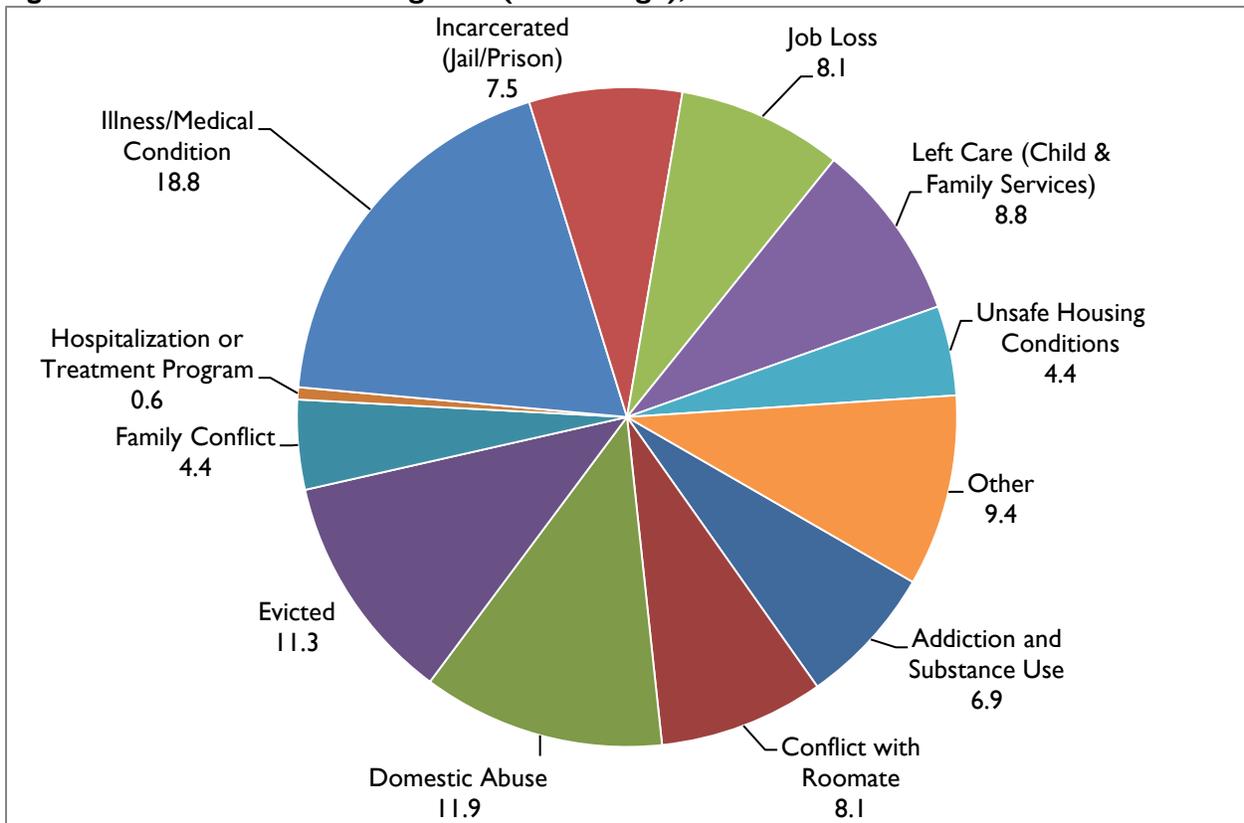
identified for loss of housing. Figure 5.6 and 5.7 indicates the reasons for the most recent loss of housing for respondents 2016 and 2018.

**Figure 4.2. Reasons for Housing Loss (Percentage), 2018 PiT Homeless Count**



Source: The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2018.

**Figure 4.7. Reasons for Housing Loss (Percentage), 2016 PiT Homeless Count**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2016.

Evictions and unsafe housing conditions were the second most frequently cited cause for being homeless. Other reasons cited as causes of housing loss included: ageism, being unable to rely on family support; having a low or fixed income and unable to pay escalating rent costs; personal crisis (e.g. family break-up or domestic violence); flooded apartment; age appropriate housing; and mental health and addictions challenges. Where the categorizations are consistent, the data shows that there was a reduction those who indicated illness and medical condition from 18.8% in 2016 to 4.9% in 2018. Addiction and substance use increased from 6.9% to 12.5% between 2016 and 2018. Job loss as a reason for the loss of housing remained stable at 8.1% in 2016 to 9.0% in 2018. For the first time in 2018, mental health and illness were separately categorized in which 7.6% of those who answered the survey indicated as the cause of loss of housing.

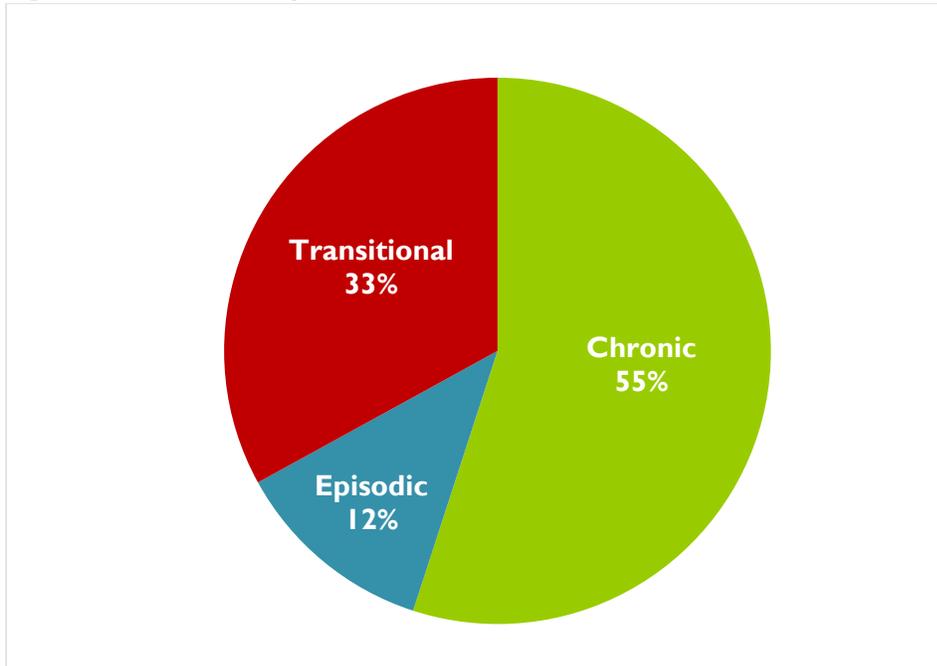
### **Patterns of Homelessness**

For the 2018 PiT Counts, homelessness duration and episodes were analyzed using the Federal Government Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) definitions for these populations as follows:

- Chronically homeless refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance abuse problems), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year (i.e., have spent more than 180 cumulative nights in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation);
- Episodically homeless refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions, who are currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year (of note, episodes are defined as periods when a person would be in a shelter or place not fit for

human habitation, and after at least 30 days, would be back in the shelter or inhabitable location).

**Figure 4.8. Chronic, Episodic and Transitional Homelessness, 2018 PiT Homeless Count**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2018.

Based on this typology of the definition of homelessness **55% were chronically homeless, 12% were episodic, and 33% were transitional** in the 2018 PiT Count. However, the previous Counts were based on the provincial framework which is not comparable.

### **Provincial Definitions**

In Alberta, the definitions for chronic and episodic homelessness differ:

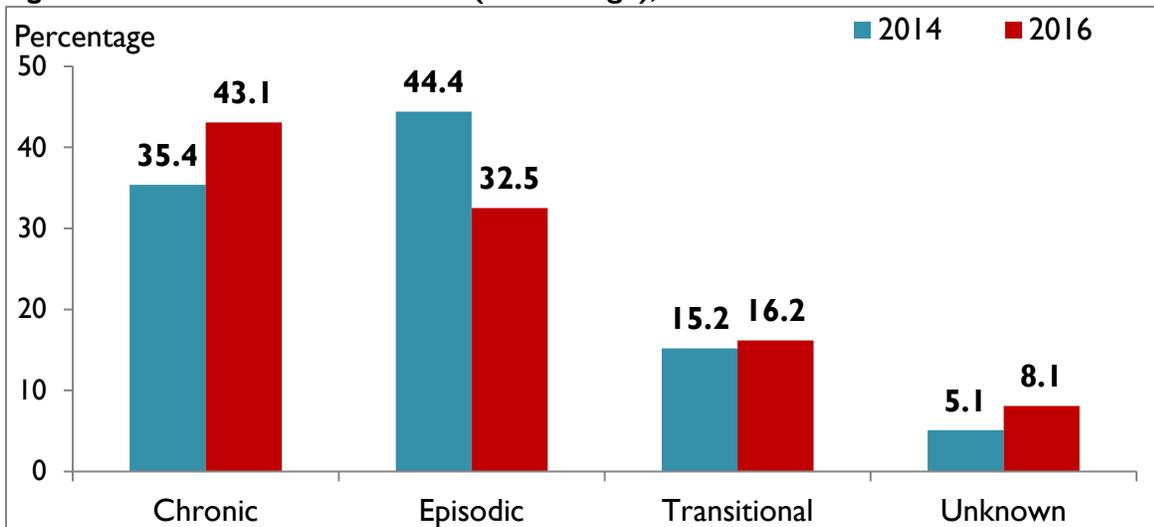
**Chronic:** Those who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. In order to be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency homeless shelter.

**Episodic:** A person who is homeless for less than a year and has fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

**Transitional:** Anyone not in the above two categories (i.e. shorter duration in homelessness or 2 or fewer episodes of homelessness)

Examining the patterns of homelessness between chronic, episodic and transitional (see Table 5.1) is important in-service delivery. This is to ensure that people receive the appropriate supports that meet their needs in terms of intensity and duration. In the 2016 PiT Counts, chronically homeless individuals and families account for 43.1% of the population compared to 35.4% in 2014. Similarly, in 2016, those experiencing episodic homelessness make up 32.5% of the homeless population compared to a much higher proportion of 44.4% reported in 2014.

**Figure 4.9. Homelessness Patterns (Percentage), 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count**



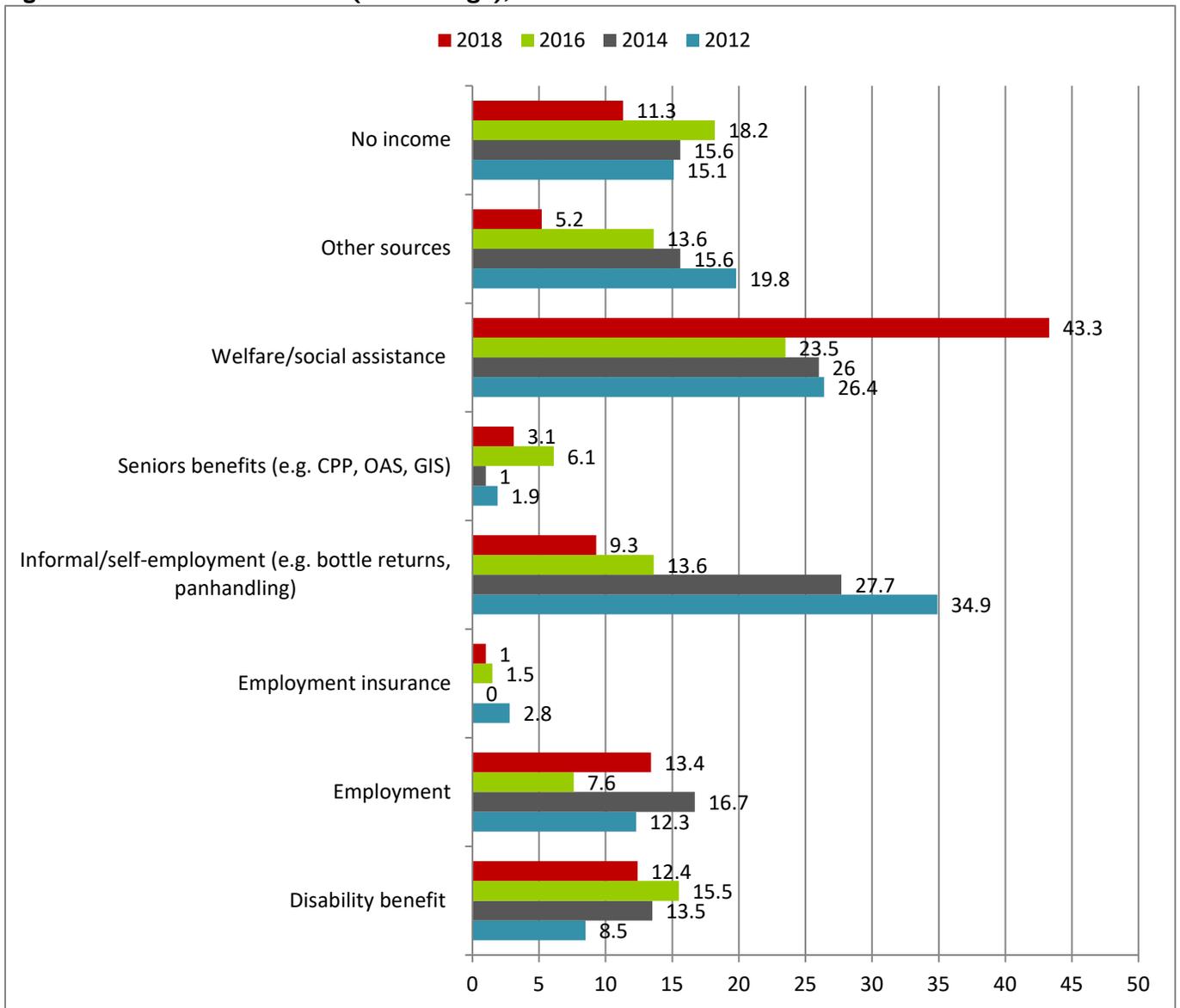
**Source:** *The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2014 and 2016.*

This reflects a complete reversal between the chronic and episodic population from the last two years. The relative proportion of the transitional homeless population remained stable at 16.3% in 2016 and 15.2% in 2014. Figure 5.8 shows the distribution of the patterns of homelessness. A sizeable percentage of the population (8.1%) indicated unknown in the 2016 count, as was the case in 2014 at 5.1%. The question for patterns of homelessness was much broader in 2012. Respondents were asked “How long have you been without a permanent place to live” without reference to the number of episodes of homelessness. Therefore, there is a limited comparison to the 2012 Count. However, the 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 2012.

#### **Source of Income**

Employment and steady income are important protective factors for physical and mental health. Apart from contributing to material benefits, stable employment has important implications for social inclusion and recovery for people who are, or have recently been, homeless and have a mental illness.

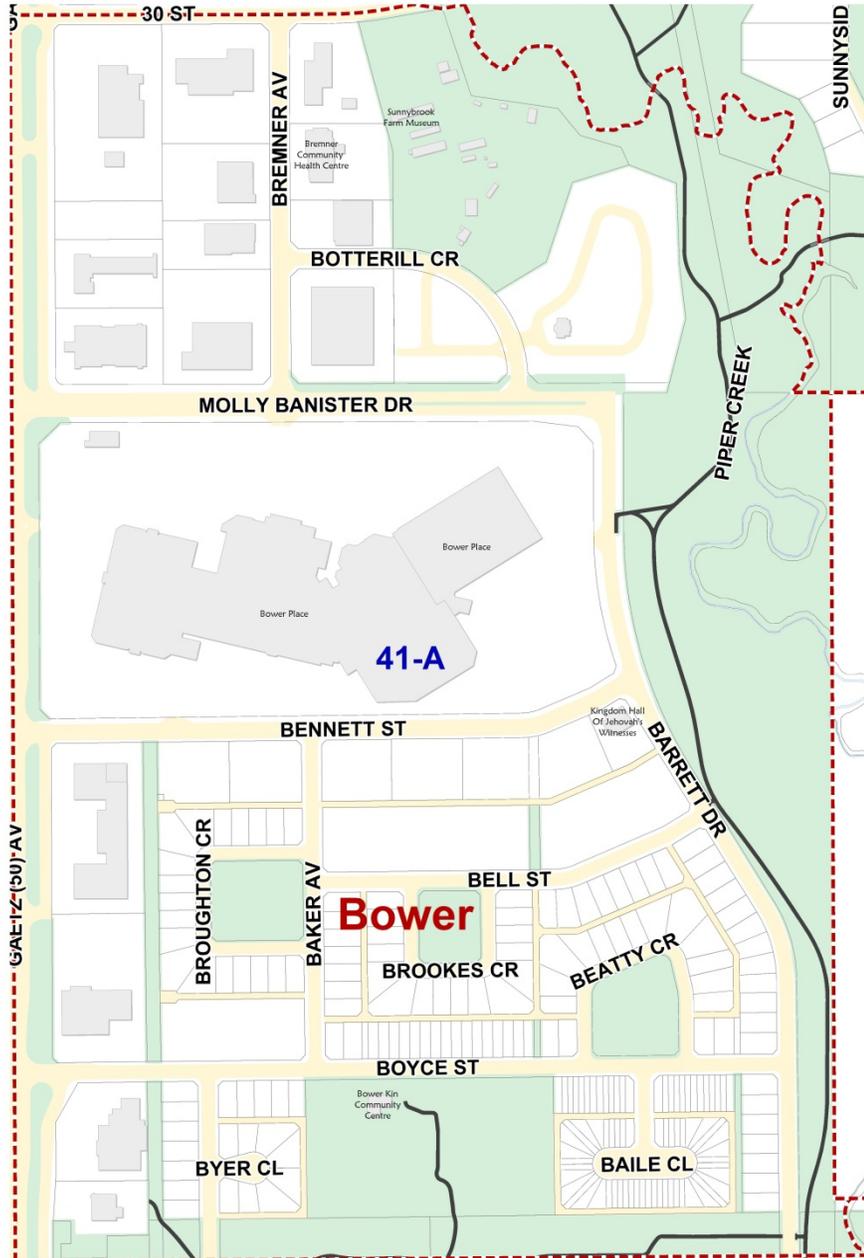
**Figure 4.3. Sources of Income (Percentage), 2012 to 2018 PiT Homeless Counts**



**Source:** The City of Red Deer, Point in Time Count, 2012 to 2018.

Employment and income also reduce reliance on emergency shelters and can facilitate exit from homelessness. Respondents were asked to identify their sources of income. The question gave respondents the option to indicate more than one income source. The survey classified the sources of income into 11 categories. The most common self-reported source for income from 2012, 2014 and 2016 Counts comes from social assistance and informal/self-employment. The distribution of the source of income is shown in Figure 5.9

# Appendix I – Community Map



Printed on 2018/04/09



## Map Number 41-A

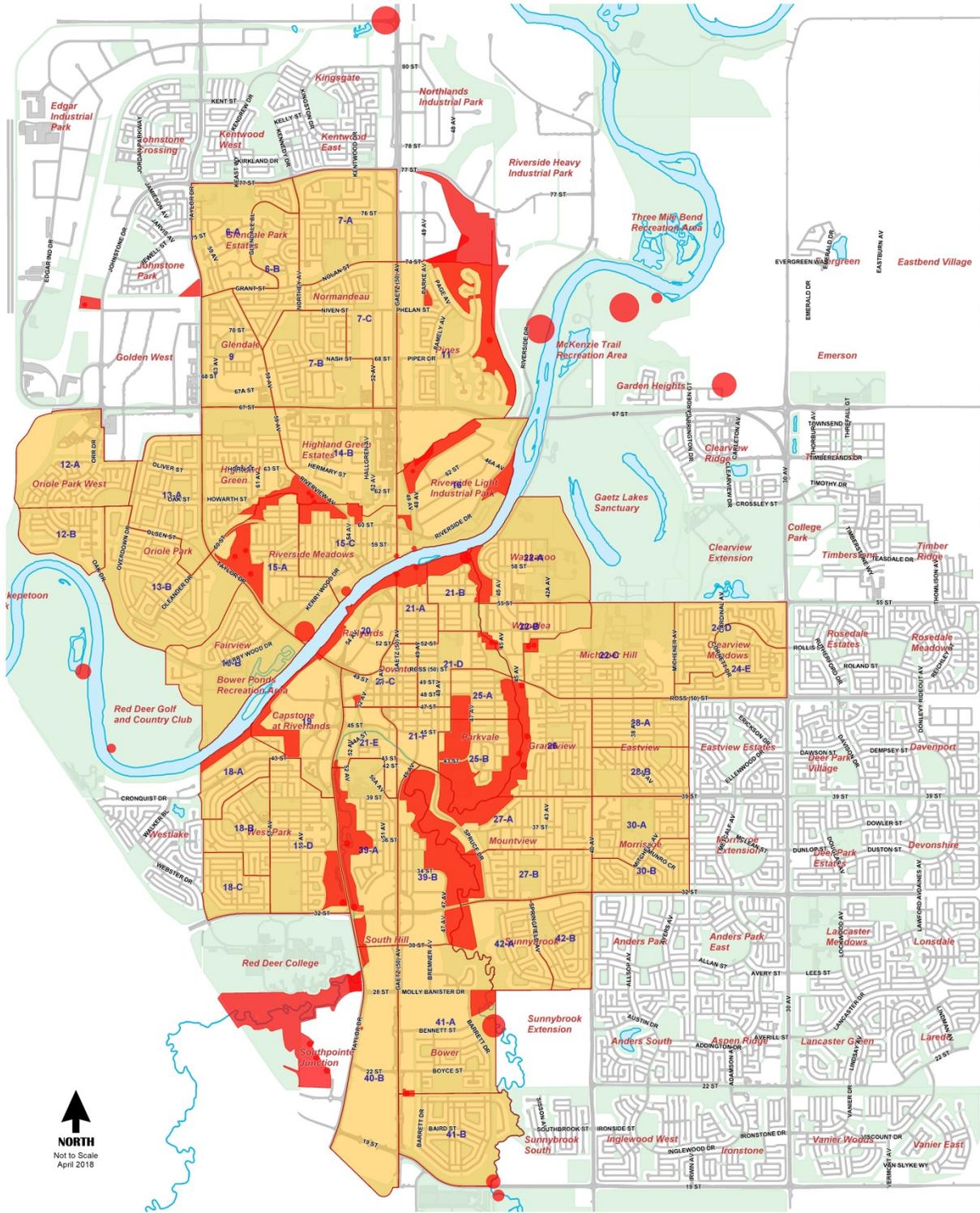
Bower



# Appendix 3 – Specialized Team Map



## Neighbourhood Overview Map



## Appendix 4 – Sheltered & Facility Survey

Read questions and scripts exactly as printed.

Record answers exactly as given; do not interpret or analyze responses.

Facility/Shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

### Observed Homelessness

**[INFORMATION ONLY - DO NOT READ TO PARTICIPANT.]** 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 are bedded down in an unsheltered location OR they have many belongings with them (e.g., backpacks, garbage bags, shopping cart, sleeping bag, bedrolls). Please also record any clarifiers so we can avoid double counting the same people with the location you observed them at (e.g., shopping cart with red sign on the side). Record this information on the Tally Sheets.

### Script – Read to Each Participant

**[PLEASE READ TO EACH PARTICIPANT.]** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a volunteer for the Red Deer Point in Time count and 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.

### Screening Questions

- A. Have you answered this survey with a person with this PiT Count button [show button]?  
[YES: Thank and record on Tally Sheet]      [NO: Go to Question B]
- B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?  
[YES: Read below, then go to Question C]      [NO: Thank and record on Tally Sheet]

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the survey. Please note that you will receive a gift card as a thank you for your participation. **[Give gift card at the end of survey, or when participant ends the survey.]**

**C. Where are you staying tonight? [Enumerator: Indicate location]**

- DECLINE TO ANSWER [END SURVEY AND MARK ON TALLY SHEET]
- OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE [END SURVEY AND MARK ON TALLY SHEET]
- SOMEONE ELSE’S PLACE [ANSWER QUESTION BELOW, END SURVEY AND MARK ON TALLY SHEET]
  - Can you stay there as long as you want or need to?  YES  NO
  - 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 AND MARK ON TALLY SHEET]
- 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 (e.g., CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK)
- MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK
- ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING
- OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION
- RESPONDENT DOESN’T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]

**Survey**

**1. What family members are staying with you tonight> [Indicate survey #'s for adults. Check all that apply.]**

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey #: _____							
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER							
<input type="checkbox"/> 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]**

- AGE \_\_\_\_\_ OR YEAR BORN \_\_\_\_\_
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

**[Read out loud] 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? [e.g., 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Mats Program, People's Place, Women's Emergency]

- YES                       NO                       DON'T KNOW                       DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. How long have you been in Red Deer? [circle either days, weeks, months]

- LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS [IF LENGTH GIVEN THEN ASK]---> **Where did you live before you came here?**
- ALWAYS BEEN HERE [GO TO Q8]                       COMMUNITY \_\_\_\_\_
- DON'T KNOW    PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_
- DECLINE TO ANSWER                                      OR COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

8. What is the main reason you came to Red Deer? [Do not read categories; select one]

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S)  | <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (seeking) | <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION/SHOPPING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS | <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (secured) | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MOVED HERE               | <input type="checkbox"/> TO ATTEND SCHOOL     | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY         | <input type="checkbox"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY      | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO FIND HOUSING                 |   |  |

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

- YES, IMMIGRANT -----> **If YES: What year did you come to Canada?**
- YES, REFUGEE----->                       YEAR OF ARRIVAL \_\_\_\_\_
- YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT----->                       DON'T KNOW
- NO [GO TO Q10]                                       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 as Black or South Asian. What ethnicity do you identify with? [Do not list categories. Note down response(s).]

\_\_\_\_\_  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.]

- |  |             |   |
|--|-------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES ----->        | <b>If</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST NATIONS (with status: Registered Indian According To The Indian Act) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No [Go to Q13]    | <b>YES:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST NATIONS (non- status)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW        |             | <input type="checkbox"/> INUIT  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |             | <input type="checkbox"/> MÉTIS  |
|  |             | <input type="checkbox"/> 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]

- |  |                             |                                     |  |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES, MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES, RCMP     |                             |                                     |  |

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

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MALE / MAN     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN        | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED:       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE / WOMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN            | _____                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT     | <input type="checkbox"/> GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW        |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

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

- |  |                                      |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> BISEXUAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> QUEER       | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GAY                   | <input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT  | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED: | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LESBIAN               | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.]

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION   | <input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH/ILLNESS                   | <input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE              | <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOB LOSS                                | <input type="checkbox"/> WILD FIRES                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE          | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED IN ORDER TO ACCESS SERVICES    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS               | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON: _____                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER  | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN        |   |

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

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT   | <input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT                   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (e.g., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING) | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (e.g., CPP/OAS/GIS) | <input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE   | <input type="checkbox"/> GST REFUND                           | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS        |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS            |  |

**Thank you for your participation!**

**[Give one gift card]**

## Appendix 5 – Unsheltered Survey

Read questions and scripts exactly as printed.

Record answers exactly as given; do not interpret or analyze responses.

Map/Location Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Observed Homelessness

**[INFORMATION ONLY - DO NOT READ TO PARTICIPANT.]** 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 are bedded down in an unsheltered location OR they have many belongings with them (e.g., backpacks, garbage bags, shopping cart, sleeping bag, bedrolls). Please also record any clarifiers so we can avoid double counting the same people with the location you observed them at (e.g., shopping cart with red sign on the side). Record this information on the Tally Sheets.

### Script – Read to Each Participant

**[PLEASE READ TO EACH PARTICIPANT.]** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m a volunteer for the Red Deer Point in Time count and 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.

### Screening Questions

**A. Have you answered this survey with a person with this PiT Count button [show button]?**  
[YES: Thank and record on Tally Sheet]      [NO: Go to Question B below]

**B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?**  
[YES: Read below, then go to Question C]      [NO: Thank and record on Tally Sheet]

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the survey. Please note that you will receive a gift card as a thank you for your participation. **[Give gift card at the end of survey, or when participant ends the survey.]**

**C. Where are you staying tonight? [OR] Where did you stay last night? [Enumerator: Indicate location; do not read/show list]**

- DECLINE TO ANSWER [END SURVEY AND MARK ON TALLY SHEET]
- OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE [END SURVEY AND MARK ON TALLY SHEET]
- SOMEONE ELSE’S PLACE [ANSWER QUESTION BELOW, END SURVEY AND MARK ON TALLY SHEET]
  - Can you stay there as long as you want or need to?  YES  NO
  - 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 AND MARK ON TALLY SHEET]
- 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 (e.g., CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK)
- MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK
- ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING
- OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION
- RESPONDENT DOESN’T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]

**Survey**

**18. What family members are staying with you tonight? [OR] What family members stayed with you last night? [Indicate survey #'s for adults. Check all that apply.]**

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey #: _____							
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER							
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate gender and age for each]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GENDER								
AGE								

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

- AGE \_\_\_\_\_ OR YEAR BORN \_\_\_\_\_
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

**[Read out loud] 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.**

**20. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?**

- AGE \_\_\_\_\_
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

21. 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

22. 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

23. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year? [e.g., 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Mats Program, People's Place, Women's Emergency]

- YES                       NO                       DON'T KNOW                       DECLINE TO ANSWER

24. How long have you been in Red Deer? [circle either days, weeks, months]

- LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS [IF LENGTH GIVEN THEN ASK]---> **Where did you live before you came here?**
- ALWAYS BEEN HERE [GO TO Q8]                       COMMUNITY \_\_\_\_\_
- DON'T KNOW    PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_
- DECLINE TO ANSWER                                      OR COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

25. What is the main reason you came to Red Deer? [Do not read categories; select one]

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S)  | <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (seeking) | <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION/SHOPPING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS | <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (secured) | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MOVED HERE               | <input type="checkbox"/> TO ATTEND SCHOOL     | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY         | <input type="checkbox"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY      | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO FIND HOUSING                 |   |  |

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

- YES, IMMIGRANT -----> **If YES: What year did you come to Canada?**
- YES, REFUGEE----->                       YEAR OF ARRIVAL \_\_\_\_\_
- YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT----->                       DON'T KNOW
- NO [GO TO Q10]                                       DECLINE TO ANSWER
- DON'T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

27. People may identify as part of an ethnic group/groups. For example, some people may identify as Black or South Asian. What ethnicity do you identify with? [Do not list categories. Note down response(s).]

- \_\_\_\_\_     DON'T KNOW     DECLINE TO ANSWER

**28. 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.]

- |  |                    |   |
|--|--------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES ----->        | <b><u>If</u></b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST NATIONS (with status: Registered Indian According To The Indian Act) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No [Go to Q13]    | <b><u>YES:</u></b> | <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST NATIONS (non- status)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW        |                    | <input type="checkbox"/> INUIT  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |                    | <input type="checkbox"/> MÉTIS  |
|  |                    | <input type="checkbox"/> HAVE INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY   |

**29. Which Indigenous nation or nations do you identify with?**

- \_\_\_\_\_  DON'T KNOW  DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

- |  |                             |                                     |  |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES, MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES, RCMP     |                             |                                     |  |

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

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MALE / MAN     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN        | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE / WOMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN            | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT     | <input type="checkbox"/> GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

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

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> BISEXUAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> QUEER             | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GAY                   | <input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT  | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LESBIAN               | <input type="checkbox"/> QUESTIONING |  |  |

**33. 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.]

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION   | <input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH/ILLNESS                   | <input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE              | <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOB LOSS                                | <input type="checkbox"/> WILD FIRES                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE          | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED IN ORDER TO ACCESS SERVICES    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS               | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON: _____                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER  | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN        |   |

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

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT   | <input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT                      | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE:<br>_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT<br>(e.g., BOTTLE RETURNS,<br>PANHANDLING) | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (e.g.,<br>CPP/OAS/GIS) | <input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE   | <input type="checkbox"/> GST REFUND                              | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE  | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX<br>BENEFITS        |   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS               |   |

**Thank you for your participation!**

**[Give one gift card]**

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