



2016

POINT IN TIME

HOMELESS COUNT

REPORT

#RDPIT



Table of Contents

- Acknowledgments.....i**
- 1.0 Executive Summary..... 1**
 - 1.1 Background..... 1
 - 1.2 PiT Count Scope, Approach and Design..... 1
 - 1.2.1 Definitions & Scope of the Count..... 1
 - 1.2.2 Methodology..... 1
 - 1.3 Summary of Key Findings..... 2
- 2.0 Introduction.....3**
 - 2.1 Alberta Cities Leading the Way 3
- 3.0 PiT Count Scope, Approach and Design4**
 - 3.1 Definitions & Scope of the Count..... 4
 - 3.1.1 Sheltered..... 4
 - 3.1.2 Unsheltered..... 4
 - 3.2 PiT Homeless Count Approaches..... 5
 - 3.3 Sheltered Count Methodology 5
 - 3.3.1 Facilities Count 5
 - 3.3.2 Systems Count..... 5
 - 3.4 Unsheltered Count Methodology (Street Count)..... 6
 - 3.4.1 Known Locations Count..... 6
 - 3.5 Survey Design and Administration..... 6
 - 3.5.1 Survey Response Rate..... 7
 - 3.6 Data Quality and Quality Assurance Methods..... 7
 - 3.6.1 Next Day or Service-Based Count 7
 - 3.6.2 The Plant-Capture Method..... 7
 - 3.7 Data Entry and Analysis..... 8
 - 3.8 Limitations 8
 - 3.9 Weather..... 8
 - 3.10 Coordination of the Count 9
 - 3.11 PiT Count Advisory Committee 9
 - 3.12 Operational Team, Communication and Logistics 9
 - 3.13 Volunteer Recruitment & Training 9
- 4.0 Count Results and Trends..... 11**
 - 4.1 Changes in Levels of Homelessness from 2014 to 2016 11
 - 4.2 Community Context..... 12
 - 4.3 Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations..... 12
 - 4.4 Components of the Sheltered Homeless Population 13
 - 4.4.1 Emergency Shelters..... 13

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| 4.4.2 | Transitional Housing..... | 14 |
| 4.4.3 | Public Systems | 15 |
| 4.4.4 | Unsheltered Homeless Population..... | 15 |
| 5.0 | Detailed Analysis of Survey Responses..... | 17 |
| 5.1 | Demographic and Social Characteristics | 17 |
| 5.1.1 | Gender..... | 17 |
| 5.1.2 | Age Structure of the Population | 17 |
| 5.1.3 | Family Homelessness..... | 18 |
| 5.1.4 | Aboriginal Identity Population..... | 19 |
| 5.1.5 | Veteran Homelessness..... | 20 |
| 5.1.6 | LGBTQ2S Homelessness..... | 20 |
| 5.1.7 | Education Level of Those Experiencing Homelessness..... | 20 |
| 5.2 | Immigration and Migration Patterns | 21 |
| 5.2.1 | Immigrants and Refugees..... | 21 |
| 5.2.2 | Regional Mobility Among the Homeless Population..... | 22 |
| 5.2.3 | Length of Stay in the Community..... | 22 |
| 5.3 | Pathways into Homelessness, Pattern of Homelessness and Duration..... | 23 |
| 5.3.1 | Pathways into Homelessness: Reasons for Loss of Housing..... | 23 |
| 5.3.2 | Patterns of Homelessness..... | 24 |
| 5.3.3 | Duration of Homelessness..... | 26 |
| 5.3.4 | Different Times Homeless in the Past 3 Years..... | 27 |
| 5.3.5 | Source of Income..... | 27 |
| 5.3.6 | Health Conditions..... | 28 |
| 5.3.7 | Barriers to Housing..... | 29 |
| 5.3.8 | Rehousing: What Will Help People Find Permanent Stable Housing..... | 30 |
| | Endnotes..... | 32 |
| | Appendix 1 – Community Map..... | 34 |
| | Appendix 2 – Neighbourhood Map..... | 35 |
| | Appendix 3 – Specialized Team Map | 36 |
| | Appendix 4 – Sheltered Survey | 37 |
| | Appendix 5 – Unsheltered Survey | 40 |
| | Appendix 6 – Hospital Survey..... | 43 |
| | Appendix 7 – Correctional Facility Survey..... | 46 |
| | Appendix 8 – Transitional Housing Survey | 49 |

Figures

| | | |
|-------------|---|----|
| Figure 4.1: | Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Red Deer, 2012 to 2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 11 |
| Figure 4.2: | Number of People Counted from Transitional Housing, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 14 |
| Figure 4.3: | Number of People Counted from Public System, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts | 15 |
| Figure 4.4: | Distribution of the Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 16 |
| Figure 5.1: | Proportion of Males and Females, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 17 |
| Figure 5.2: | Aboriginal Population, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 19 |
| Figure 5.3: | Highest Level of Education Completed, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count..... | 21 |
| Figure 5.4: | Length of Time in Red Deer, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 22 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Figure 5.5: Original Home Provinces of Those Who Moved to Red Deer, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count..... | 23 |
| Figure 5.6: Reasons for Housing Loss (Percentages), 2016 PiT Homeless Count..... | 24 |
| Figure 5.7: Homelessness Patterns, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count..... | 25 |
| Figure 5.8: Duration of Current Homelessness, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts | 26 |
| Figure 5.9: Number of Times Homeless in the Past 3 Years, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count..... | 27 |
| Figure 5.10: Sources of Income, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts | 28 |
| Figure 5.11: Barriers to Housing, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts | 30 |
| Figure 5.12: Rehousing, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts | 31 |

Tables

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 4.1: Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 13 |
| Table 4.2: Emergency Shelter Capacity and Occupancy, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts | 13 |
| Table 5.1: Age Distribution (Percentage) of the Homeless Population, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 18 |
| Table 5.2: Criteria for Categorization in Line with Provincial Definitions of Homelessness..... | 25 |
| Table 5.3: Number of Health Conditions, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts | 29 |
| Table 5.4: Type of Health Conditions, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts..... | 29 |

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Partners:

Red Deer College, Safe Harbour Society, 49th Street Youth Shelter, Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter, Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, Red Deer Remand Centre, John Howard Society, RCMP Community Response Unit (CRU), City of Red Deer Parks Bylaw Officers, Tim Hortons Downtown, and Potter's Hands Ministries Society (Soup Kitchen).

Supporters:

Canadian Mental Health Association, Turning Point, Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society, Red Deer Native Friendship Society, Safe Harbour Society, and The Mustard Seed.

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1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Background

On October 19, 2016, The City of Red Deer worked with community partners to conduct the third Point-in-Time Homeless Count. The City of Red Deer coordinates the Homeless Count as part of its work supporting *EveryOne's Home: Red Deer's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*. Approximately 300 volunteers and 15 organizations participated in the local count. It was also the second provincially-coordinated Point-in-Time Count with Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness. In 2014, Alberta was the first jurisdiction in Canada to implement measures toward a standardized Point-in-Time count methodology.

A Point-in-time count is a snapshot of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in a community on a single night. The count captures numbers and demographic information of individuals experiencing homelessness at a single point in time. This count serves two important functions: it provides a current snapshot of our overall homeless population and enables us to examine how this population changes over time. It also helps to measure progress towards ending homelessness and inform system planning and program development to support the goal of ending homelessness by 2018 in Red Deer.

1.2 PiT Count Scope, Approach and Design

1.2.1 Definitions & Scope of the Count

The scope of this count is focused on those experiencing homelessness that are sheltered and unsheltered. The scope of Red Deer's Count does not include the count of hidden homelessness (e.g., people who are "couch-surfing"). Homelessness describes the situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. For the purposes of this count homelessness was broadly defined and categorized into two major typologies in terms of the scope of the count.

Sheltered Homeless:

This includes individuals and families in the count who were identified as homeless and who stayed overnight in an emergency shelter, safe house, detox centre, or remand centre on the night of the count. It also includes those who stayed in hotels and motels paid for by the non-profit agencies and various levels of government.

Unsheltered Homeless:

This includes all homeless individuals in the count who completed a street survey, meaning that they were encountered in parks, on the streets or sidewalks, at drop-in centres, or participating in meal programs the next day after the count.

1.2.2 Methodology

The City of Red Deer adopted a census approach to the 2016 PiT Count through the sheltered and unsheltered methodology. Occupancy totals were obtained from shelter providers, transitional housing and public systems. A comprehensive outdoor enumeration was conducted with full coverage of the community and known locations. Red Deer was street zoned into 108 neighbourhoods and canvassed by 219 volunteers. As well, 42 known locations were covered by 16 'specialized teams', consisting of pairs of outreach workers, to capture the most accurate number of homeless persons possible. A next day survey was also conducted at two locations to increase the coverage.

Survey coverage in 2016 was expanded to include all units of the Red Deer Regional Hospital, Correctional Facilities (Remand Centre), and Transitional Housing with less than 2-year term (John Howard Society). There was no change in the methodology or the number of shelters covered compared to the previous count in 2014. This methodology change to expand site coverage for transitional housing and public system data resulted in an

increased scope of surveying individuals who may be experiencing homelessness. With this expanded site coverage in 2016, **the number of people counted as experiencing homelessness in Red Deer is 149** (increase of 8.8% from 2014 to 2016). Additionally, the plant-capture method was used for quality assurance.

1.3 Summary of Key Findings

| | |
|-----|---|
| 149 | The number of people counted as experiencing homelessness in Red Deer was 149. This is an increase of 8.8% from 2014 to 2016. |
| 37 | 37 of the people experiencing homelessness were unsheltered – meaning they spent the night on the street or in parks, up from 22 in the previous count of 2014. |
| 77 | 77 people were staying in an emergency shelter on the night of the count. The numbers from the emergency shelters in 2016 dropped by 19.5% from the previous count of in 2014. |
| 17 | 17 people were staying in transitional housing on the night of the count. |
| 18 | An additional 18 people were provisionally accommodated in public systems were counted. |
| 3/4 | Three quarters of people experiencing homelessness in Red Deer are male. |
| 23% | 23% of respondents were homeless youth under the age of 25. |
| 5% | Seniors above the age of 65 accounted for almost 5% of Red Deer’s homeless population. |
| 5% | Out the total population surveyed 5% indicated they belong to the LGBTQ2S community. |
| 33% | Up to a quarter of individuals surveyed lived in Red Deer less than three months before the count and overall 33% lived in Red Deer less than a year. |
| 43% | 43% were chronically homeless individuals and families compared to 35.4% in 2014. |
| 50% | 50% of respondents indicated this was their first time homeless. |
| 8% | 8% of respondents reported full time employment income – meaning that some of those experiencing homelessness were working but could not make ends meet to afford housing. |
| 71% | 71% of respondents who were unsheltered self-identified as having some form of addiction. The disproportionate number of homeless persons with addictive disorders is significant in terms of service provision and supports. |
| 7% | Veterans accounted for 7% of Red Deer’s homeless population. The data revealed a slight increase in the veteran homelessness between the 2014 and 2016 |
| 40% | Aboriginal people make up 40% of Red Deer’s homeless population, despite constituting only 5.2% of Red Deer’s residents as per Statistics Canada Census Data. |

2.0 Introduction

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 problems¹. However, it is important to note that homelessness is not typically a permanent state of living; for most homeless individuals, it is a temporary experience². 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 homelessness³. 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 2016 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, this report presents the most up-to-date prevalence of homelessness in Red Deer.

On October 19, 2016, The City of Red Deer worked with community partners to conduct the third Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count. The City of Red Deer coordinates the Homeless Count as part of its work in supporting *EveryOne's Home: Red Deer's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*. Approximately 300 volunteers and 15 organizations participated in the local count. It was also the second provincially-coordinated Point-in-Time Count with Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness. In 2014, Alberta was the first jurisdiction in Canada to implement measures toward a standardized Point-in-Time count methodology. 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.

This count serves two important functions: it provides a current snapshot of our overall homeless population and enables us to examine how this population changes over time. Point-in-Time counts can significantly increase a community's ability to take action to ending homelessness by supporting⁴:

- Improved understanding of characteristics of the local population
- System planning and program development
- Measuring progress on ending homelessness over time
- Raising public awareness about homelessness

2.1 Alberta Cities Leading the Way

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness are the lead organizations responsible for the implementation of local Plans to End Homelessness in Calgary, Edmonton, Wood Buffalo, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. The 7 Cities coordinate local plans at a systems level and align funding resources for greater impact and progress toward ending homelessness. Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness all conducted their Homeless Counts at the same time. We are working towards aligning methodology across Alberta's cities so we can examine trends over time, creating a clearer picture of homelessness across Alberta.

3.0 PiT Count Scope, Approach and Design

3.1 Definitions & Scope of the Count

Regarding the scope of this count, the focus was on those 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").

Between January 1 and April 30, 2016, 32 Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Designated Communities participated in the first national coordinated PiT count. Participating communities received a package of supports including additional funding, training, and an implementation toolkit to facilitate participation in the 2016 PiT Count⁵. As part of these efforts, all of the Designated Communities in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy were encouraged to use the Point-in-Time guide⁶ for their 2016 counts for a common approach.

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.

3.1.1 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.

3.1.2 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.

3.2 PiT Homeless Count Approaches

Based on the common approach used in both the 2014 and 2016, Red Deer adopted a complete coverage or census approach to the unsheltered count. This counting approach provided a direct and complete count of all people on the streets by canvassing the entire geographical boundaries of the city. However, there was a slight modification on the enumeration of known locations in 2016 where Specialized Teams canvassed park areas, camps and our local soup kitchen on October 20, 2016, the morning after the count, from 6 am to 8 am.

In terms of the sheltered count, the survey coverage in 2016 was expanded to include all units of the Red Deer Regional Hospital, Correctional Facilities (Remand Centre), and Transitional Housing with less than 2-year term (John Howard Society). There was no change in the methodology or the number of shelters covered compared to the previous count in 2014. Compared to the 2012 PiT homeless count there were no estimates or statistical methods applied to the raw counts obtained in 2014 and 2016.

The enumeration started at 9 pm and ended at 11 pm on the same night. Although, The City of Red Deer adopted a census approach to the count, there were no additional people enumerated outside the downtown or the designated locations. In alignment with the provincial approach only those enumerated in the downtown and designated locations zones were reported in the provincial data.

3.3 Sheltered Count Methodology

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

3.3.1 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 49th 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.

Clients in two transitional housing programs were also surveyed: Non-Medical Detox at Safe Harbour Society and Horizon House at John Howard 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.

3.3.2 Systems Count

For the first time, Provincial government ministries also provided administrative data across the province for people experiencing homelessness who were staying in health and correctional facilities. 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.

While there may be potential differences in the consistency concepts, definitions, coverage, and the data quality standards applied to each data source, the goal was to reconcile definitions and classifications to match the survey data as much as possible. However, this did not occur. A person without a fixed address was the definition used to classify those experiencing homelessness on the night of the count in these institutions.

Furthermore, the administrative data revealed the definition was not consistently used throughout these institutions.

For example, administrative data from the Province indicated that there were 20 people in the Remand Centre on the night of the count. However, our enumerators who screened and counted respondents without a fixed address who agreed to participate in the survey were only 10. The enumerators acknowledged that, although there were a total of 20 people, not all of them were without a fixed address. So, for our community report, the survey data was used instead of the administrative data.

Similarly, the administrative data from Alberta Health Services yielded only three people without a fixed address at the Red Deer Regional Hospital. At the same time, our enumerators counted eight people without a fixed address the same night. Again, our survey data was used instead of the administrative data.

While these numbers may appear relatively small, such changes are cumulative, resulting in a further shift in the number of people experiencing homelessness in the community. For a midsize city, such as Red Deer, a small shift in the population experiencing homelessness can have important implications for resources and support services.

3.4 Unsheltered Count Methodology (Street Count)

For complete coverage, the street count had three components: zoned neighbourhoods for regular volunteers, known locations for specialized teams and serviced-based counts for the next day count at our local Soup Kitchen. The street counts also included a plant-capture method for quality assurance purposes. The geographic boundaries of Red Deer were subdivided into 108 neighbourhoods with roughly between 3 and 7 km of walking area (i.e. if you walk up and down every street). There were 219 volunteer enumerators, working in teams of two, who were assigned to specific neighbourhoods and given maps and surveys (See Appendix I). The volunteers systematically walked all the streets in that neighbourhood 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.

3.4.1 Known Locations Count

This approach identified known (designated) areas or locations where people 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, 42 known locations were identified and assigned to 16 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.

3.5 Survey Design and Administration

A survey methodology was used for the PiT Homeless Count. The questionnaire was designed based on the recommended methods from the HPS National Point-in-Time Guide adapted to meet our unique local circumstances. The key components of the survey included the following:

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 five 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, duration and mitigation strategies. Information was obtained on general health with an emphasis on physical disabilities, addictions, and mental health challenges.

3.5.1 Survey Response Rate

Responding to this survey was voluntary and data was collected directly from survey respondents. Some respondents chose not to participate in the count for a variety of reasons. Some individuals may want to preserve their privacy or do not consider themselves homeless. Others may not want to participate due to past negative experiences with service providers. In the emergency shelters the response rate was 82.2%. A total of 62 people were surveyed in all the shelter facilities (People's Place, Mat Program, Youth and Women Shelters. In all, 51 eligible adults consented and participated in the survey. It is difficult to estimate a response rate for the transitional housing and public system as they were not purposely designed for people experiencing homelessness. However, 17 and 18 valid surveys were obtained from the transitional housing programs and public systems respectively.

It is difficult to estimate the response rate for the unsheltered population as the total homeless population is unknown. However, on the night of the count, volunteers approached 192 individuals who were screened, 21 had already participated in the count, 65 were not eligible to participate including the decoys, 37 agreed to participate and 69 refused to participate. Specific sections of the survey questions had different response rates. Item-by-item response rates were varied, thus the percentages were calculated only based on valid responses for each question and not on the total respondents.

3.6 Data Quality and Quality Assurance Methods

Throughout the PiT count process, every effort was made to ensure high quality results. Two aspects of Red Deer's 2012 PiT methodology were maintained to increase coverage and better data quality for 2014 and 2016 Counts. These were the next day survey and plant-capture method.

3.6.1 Next Day or Service-Based Count

Next day or serviced-based counts often take place at non-shelter services such as soup kitchens and food pantries. This approach is based on the notion that many homeless people who do not use shelters will nevertheless use other services occasionally, particularly food programs, in order to survive. This group of homeless individuals includes those living in "hidden" places such as cars, abandoned buildings, i.e., those who may not be easily found during a traditional street count. For Red Deer, this approach was used for the Soup Kitchen downtown operated by Potters Hands. At this service location, eligibility was based on the unsheltered survey and its screening questions. There were 7 people who were enumerated at the Soup Kitchen and adjustment was made to the final counts to reflect these numbers.

3.6.2 The Plant-Capture Method

The plant-capture method was successfully used in New York City's and Toronto's point-in-time homeless population estimates. The underlying assumption of this method is that the number of individuals ("plants") that were missed (not "captured") is directly proportional to the number of homeless individuals missed by the survey teams. A total of 12 valid plants (also called decoys) in pairs were deployed throughout the survey areas

for the street counts. These decoys were provided instructions and training prior to being deployed into the field. They were instructed on how to act in the field, how to answer questions from the interviewers and when to reveal their status as a decoy. The decoys had a range of gender, appearance and age. Each was given a location where they were expected to be; some directly with their plant partner, others within a visual distance of each other.

All decoys were in the streets and public places. If they were interviewed by the survey team (“captured”), the plants answered the questions as if they were homeless. After completing the survey and they identified themselves as decoys to the survey team, the decoys provided the survey team with a token (a button) as confirmation of the encounter. Ten out of the 12 decoys were captured on the night of the count. The plant-capture method was used this year only for quality assurance purposes and not as a means for statistical adjustment to the raw counts. This was done to ensure harmonization and alignment with the national standards used across the 7 Cities in Alberta. Feedback from the decoys is used to help improve future counts.

3.7 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. The City of Red Deer developed its own database for data entry based on the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) syntax developed for the 7 Cities Data Working Group. The data was then exported to SPSS through an Excel Spreadsheet for analysis.

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 and National Household Survey of 2011 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 the 2012, 2014 and 2016 data.

3.8 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 are actively avoiding 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.

3.9 Weather

The weather on October 19, 2016 during the night of the PiT Count was mostly clear, mild and dry at 3°C. In terms of historical comparisons, this was within the range of daily low temperatures from -6°C to 1°C. Similarly, in 2014, the temperature was 5°C also within historical range of 10.9°C high and 2.1°C low often recorded on this day. This temperature did not affect the street count as there were people still about on the streets and spaces available in some of the emergency shelters that night.

3.10 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 non-profit service providers, business sector, academia, media and public services. The advisory committee worked alongside city staff to implement the 2016 PiT count.

3.11 PiT Count Advisory Committee

As part the planning and coordination of the 2016 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.

3.12 Operational Team, Communication and Logistics

The operational team was made of staff from four city departments: Communications and Strategic Planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Information Technology (IT) 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 a poster. 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. The IT department developed the database for data processing and storage. 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.

3.13 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. The 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. Up to 62% of the volunteers were from Red Deer College programs such as sociology, business, nursing and social work. In all there was a total of 300 volunteers including 219 volunteer enumerators who administered surveys for the street count, 25 decoys, 17 people who administered the survey in facilities, 18 people who served at the Command Centre.

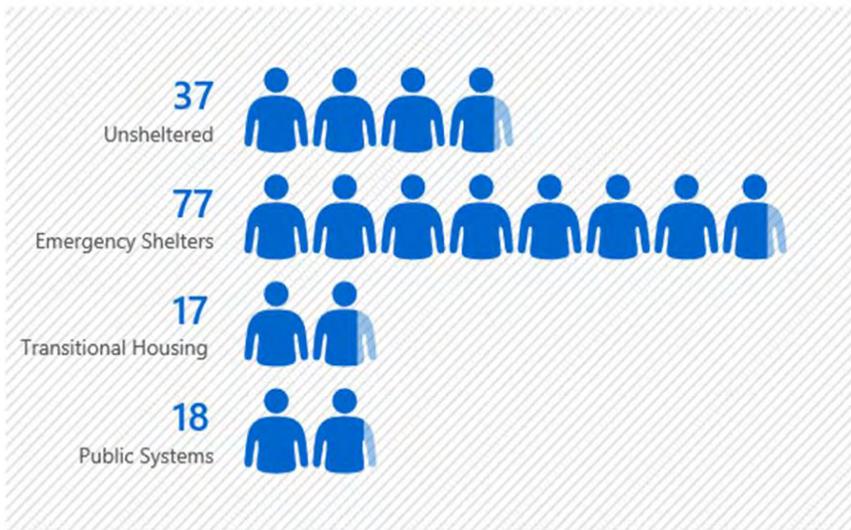
The operational team worked with shelter service providers, specialized team members, and systems staff to provide training. Four types of training were conducted: training for shelter staff and volunteers within the public systems, training for specialized team members, training of decoys for the plant-capture component, and training

for regular volunteers for the street count. There were 11 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.

4.0 Count Results and Trends

On October 19, 2016, The City of Red Deer worked with community partners to conduct the third Point-in-Time Homeless Count. A total of **149 individuals were enumerated** on the night of the count. This number includes 37 people who were unsheltered (sleeping outside in parks or on the street) and 77 people in emergency shelters. An additional 17 people who were staying in transitional housing and 18 people who were provisionally accommodated in public systems were all counted.

Number of People Counted in 2016

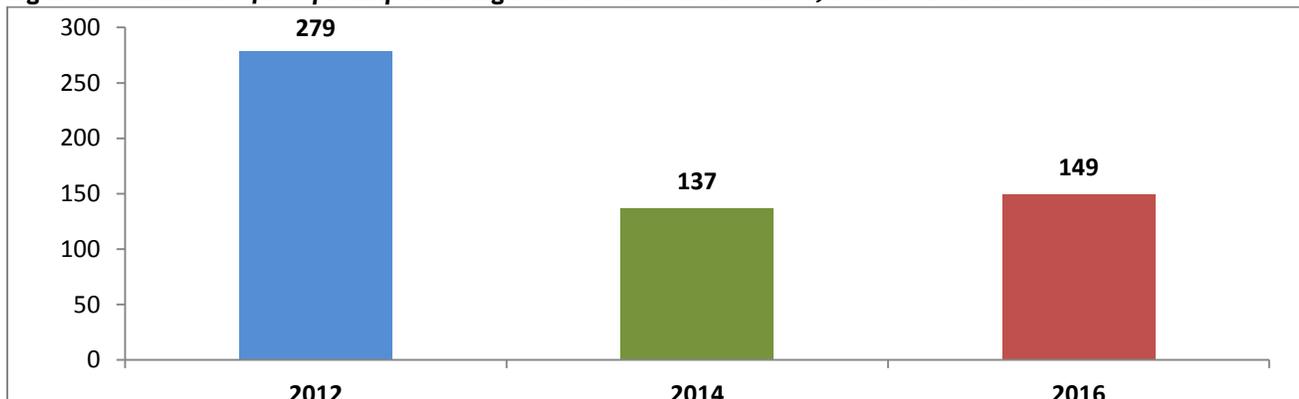


4.1 Changes in Levels of Homelessness from 2014 to 2016

Survey coverage in 2016 was expanded to include all units of the Red Deer Regional Hospital, Correctional Facilities (Remand Centre), and Transitional Housing with less than 2-year term (John Howard Society). There was no change in the number of shelters covered compared to the previous count in 2014.

This methodology change to expand site coverage for transitional housing and public system data resulted in an increased scope of surveying individuals who may be experiencing homelessness. With this expanded site coverage in 2016, the number of people counted as experiencing homelessness in Red Deer was 149, an increase of 8.8% between 2014 and 2016. Figure 4.1 shows the numbers of people experiencing homeless from 2012 to 2016.

Figure 4.1: Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Red Deer, 2012 to 2016 PiT Homeless Counts



Source: The City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

However, using data points consistent with the methodology from the 2014 count, 131 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in 2016. The number of 131 is directly comparable with the methodology used in the 2014 count and represents a decrease of 4.6% in the number of people experiencing homelessness from 2014 to 2016. Although the overall the number of people experiencing homelessness may have increased in 2016, it is still significantly less than in the 2012 Count.

To maintain comparability over time, the numbers included in this report vary slightly from those in the 7 Cities Provincial report. In terms of the total numbers, the provincial report includes 20 people from public systems, adding to the number of the street, shelter, and from transitional housing of 131 making it a total of 151 instead of 149 in our local report. It does not include any administrative data from health facilities. Red Deer's report indicates ten people from a correctional facility that were surveyed, eight from the hospital and 131 from the shelter and transitional housing making a total of 149. The Red Deer report includes survey data from health and correctional facilities.

4.2 Community Context

It is important that results of the count be contextualized in the broader demographic and socioeconomic trends impacting Red Deer. Red Deer is Alberta's third largest city with a population of 99,832⁷ in 2016. In absolute numbers, Red Deer's population fell from 100,807 in 2015 to 99,832 in 2016 indicating that the annual population growth rate slowed to 0.1%. Red Deer's labour market conditions have also been characterized by reductions in total employment and rising unemployment rate. At the time of the count, there was nearly a 3% increase in the unemployment rate in 2016 from 2014 (6.8% and 3.9%) respectively⁸. According to the results of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's October 2016 Rental Market Report, the apartment vacancy rate for a two-bedroom apartment in October 2014 was 1.8% compared to 13.6% in October 2016. Similarly, the average two-bedroom apartment rent in Red Deer was \$966 per month in October 2014 compared to \$1,016 in October 2016⁹.

Homelessness is complex and multifaceted impacting multiple systems, requiring the response of multiple agencies and systems for people to be housed and to maintain housing. As the understanding of the magnitude of this impact continues to grow, so does the scope and breadth of programs designed to address it, as identified through Red Deer System Framework for Housing & Supports¹⁰. Critical to this is the program's ability to house people and support them to remain housed. Red Deer's homelessness serving system has proven to be essential to these efforts. Between April 2015 and March 2016, there were 229 individuals who were housed or received continued support in their housing from the previous year through the Outreach & Support Services Initiative (OSSSI) grant from the Province of Alberta, and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) grant from the Government of Canada¹¹.

4.3 Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations

Broadly defined, **the sheltered population constituted most of the people (75% or 112) enumerated on the night of the 2016 PiT Count.** In comparison to 2014, the number of people that were sheltered was 115 and which constituted 84% of those experiencing homelessness. In 2012, the sheltered population was 95 constituting 34% of the homeless population counted which was much lower than unsheltered population.

Comparatively, the people living in unsheltered situations: staying at a primary nighttime location not intended for human habitation (e.g. streets, parks, cars, abandoned buildings) has seen an increase in absolute numbers and as a relative proportion of the total number of people experiencing homelessness. Of the total number of 149 people enumerated on the night, **37 were unsheltered in 2016**, up from 22 in the previous count of 2014. This constituted 25% of those enumerated in 2016 compared to 16% in 2014. Although this is relatively high, this number is still far lower than the number of unsheltered people enumerated in 2012 which was 184 and 66% as a proportion of the total number of people enumerated that year. A further breakdown of the sheltered and unsheltered population is shown in Table 4.1

Table 4.1: Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts

| Number Homeless | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Sheltered Homeless | 95 | 115 | 112 |
| Unsheltered Homeless | 184 | 22 | 37 |
| Total Homeless | 279 | 137 | 149 |

Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

4.4 Components of the Sheltered Homeless Population

The sheltered component of the count enumerated homeless individuals staying at emergency shelters, transitional housing, and those provisionally accommodated in public systems.

4.4.1 Emergency Shelters

Emergency shelters are often the first point of contact for people who become homeless and it is one of the entry points into Red Deer’s Coordinated Entry System. Emergency shelter use is the best available indicator of trends in homelessness and provides 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. As in 2014, the 2016 PiT Count included all the emergency shelters in the community: People’s Place Shelter, Mat Program at Safe Harbour Society; 49th Street Youth Shelter at the Youth and Volunteer Centre; and Central Alberta Women’s Emergency Shelter.

The numbers from the emergency shelters in 2016 dropped by 19.5% from the previous count in 2014, from 92 to 77 in 2016. This indicates that there were fewer people using shelters on the night of Count compared to 2014. In 2016, the average occupancy rate at Red Deer’s emergency shelters was 59.7% compared to 80.6% capacity in 2014, a decrease of almost 20%. Table 4.2 shows the absolute number of people who were emergency shelters on the night of the count.

Table 4.2: Emergency Shelter Capacity and Occupancy, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts

| Emergency Shelter Facility Name | Classification of Shelter | 2012 | | 2014 | | 2016 | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | | Capacity ₁₂ | Occupancy | Capacity | Occupancy | Capacity | Occupancy |
| People’s Place | Adult Dry Shelter | 23 | 23 | 35 | 36 | 35 | 31 |
| Mat Program | Adult Wet Shelter | 20 | 25 | 26 | 23 | 26 | 14 |
| 49 th Street Youth Shelter | Youth Shelter | 8 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| Central Alberta Women’s Emergency Shelter | Violence Against Women Shelter | 36 | 26 | 40 | 27 | 40 | 25 |
| Totals | | 107 | 93 | 129 | 104 | 129 | 77 |

Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Comparatively in 2012, emergency shelters in Red Deer were operating at an average capacity of 87%. Although the total number of individuals using shelters on the night of the count was down, a closer look at the statistics

reveals that shelter use has not changed significantly for the youth shelter from the 2014 levels, as it went up slightly. It should also be noted that, in the Women's Shelter the average occupancy rate remained largely stable. It was 67.5% in 2014, slightly higher than the 62.3% occupancy rate reported in 2016. Included in the total number of people in the Women's Shelter are accompanied children. In 2016, there were 16 children, while 13 children were reported in 2014, all below the age of 12 years.

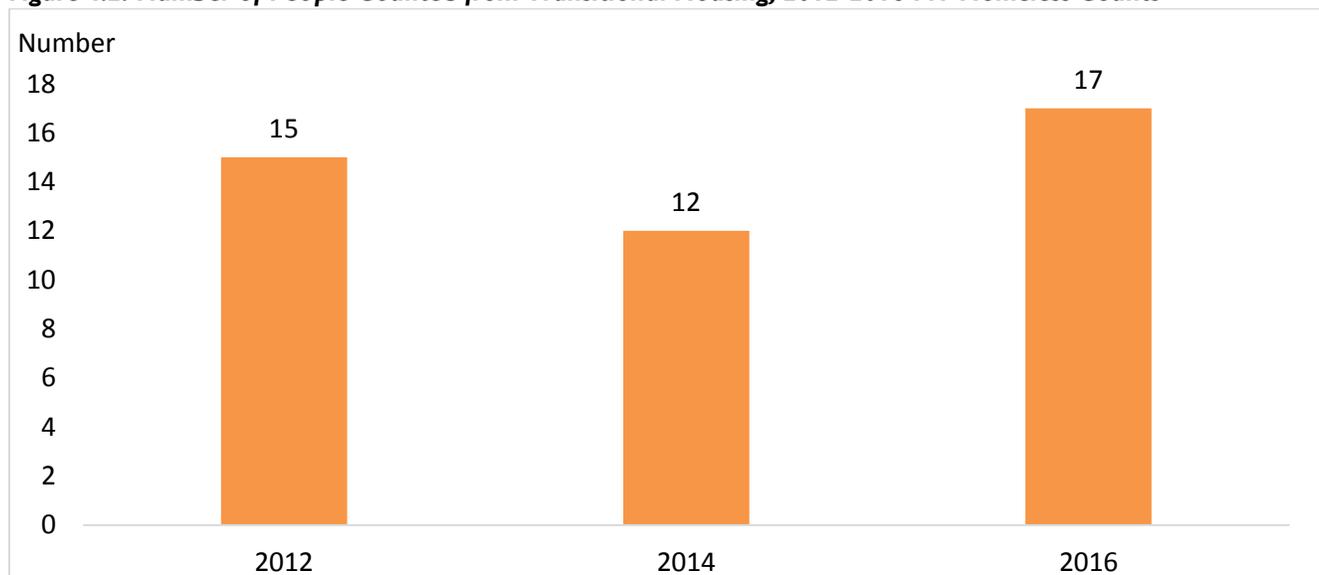
To better understand patterns of emergency shelter utilization among those experiencing homelessness, respondents were asked whether they have stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months prior to the count. Shelter stays were examined using client's self-identification, which describes single shelter visits from the survey sample. In all, 73% indicated staying in one shelter or another in the community over the year. 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.

4.4.2 Transitional Housing

Transitional housing facilities provide short-term accommodation and support for people experiencing homelessness for a specified period. Housing tenure and stability are chief priorities of the Housing First philosophy to ending homelessness, and among its most promising outcomes¹³. At the same time, 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. 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.

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. **There were 17 people enumerated as experiencing homelessness in transitional housing in 2016**, compared to 12 in 2014. The number of people in transitional housing has changed very little between 2012 and 2014, as it was 15 people.

Figure 4.2: Number of People Counted from Transitional Housing, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts



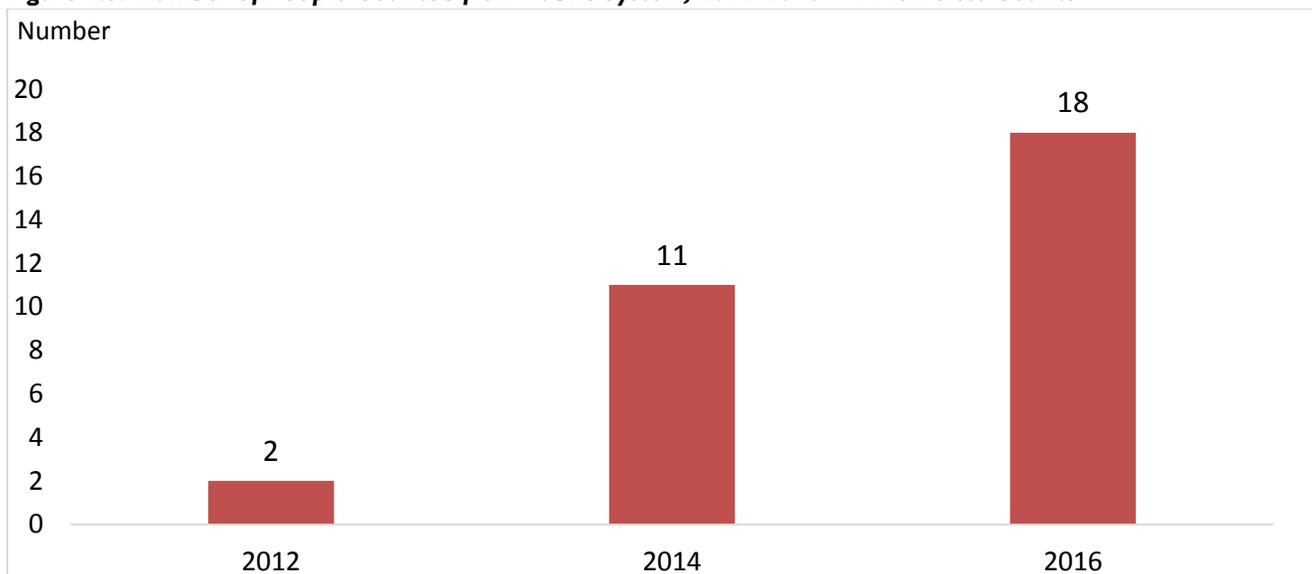
Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

4.4.3 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 facilities¹⁴. For the purposes of the PiT Homeless Count, those who were in public systems that night without any permanent place to return to were included in the count. In Red Deer, that includes the Red Deer Regional Hospital, RCMP Holding Cell, the Red Deer Remand Centre, and those staying in Emergency Motel/Hotel provided by Alberta Works or The Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH).

In 2016, **18 people were identified as experiencing homelessness in the public system**. This comprises of 8 people from the Red Deer Regional Hospital and 10 from the Remand Centre. The number from public systems increased by 7 people between 2014 and 2016, compared with 9 people between 2012 and 2014. In 2016, there were no people experiencing homelessness in the RCMP holding cell or staying in emergency hotel/motel sponsored by Alberta Works. Although these numbers are low, it is still significant as they form 12% of our total homeless population in 2016.

Figure 4.3: Number of People Counted from Public System, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts

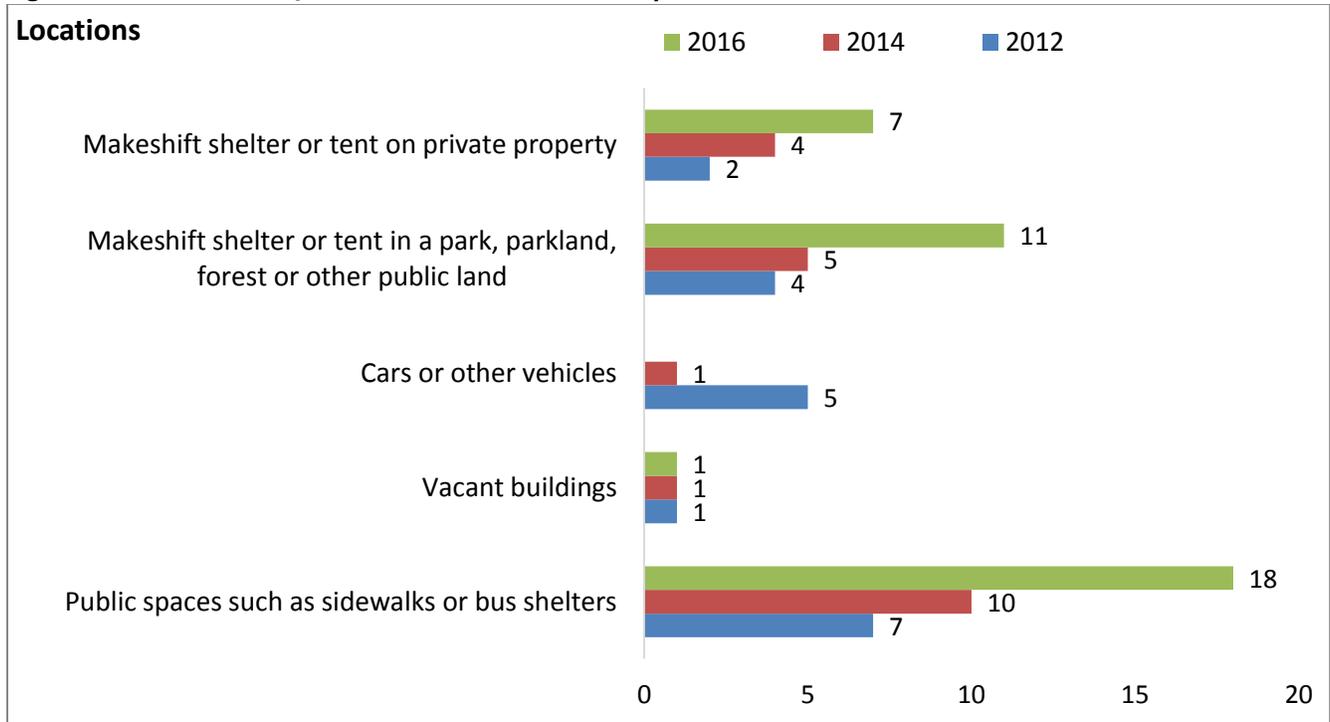


Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

4.4.4 Unsheltered Homeless Population

People who live in unsheltered situations have an increased risk of exposure to the elements of the weather.¹⁵ Surveying and understanding the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness who are in unsheltered situations helps in developing relevant and appropriate strategies to meet their needs. Enumerators were instructed to approach anyone they encountered on the streets. Enumerators obtained informed consent from respondents and asked them where they were staying on the night of the count. 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 3.3 presents the sum of those counted and the classification of these locations based on pre-determined definitions. People sleeping on the streets and makeshift shelters still make up most of the unsheltered population since 2012.

Figure 4.4: Distribution of the Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

5.0 Detailed Analysis of Survey Responses

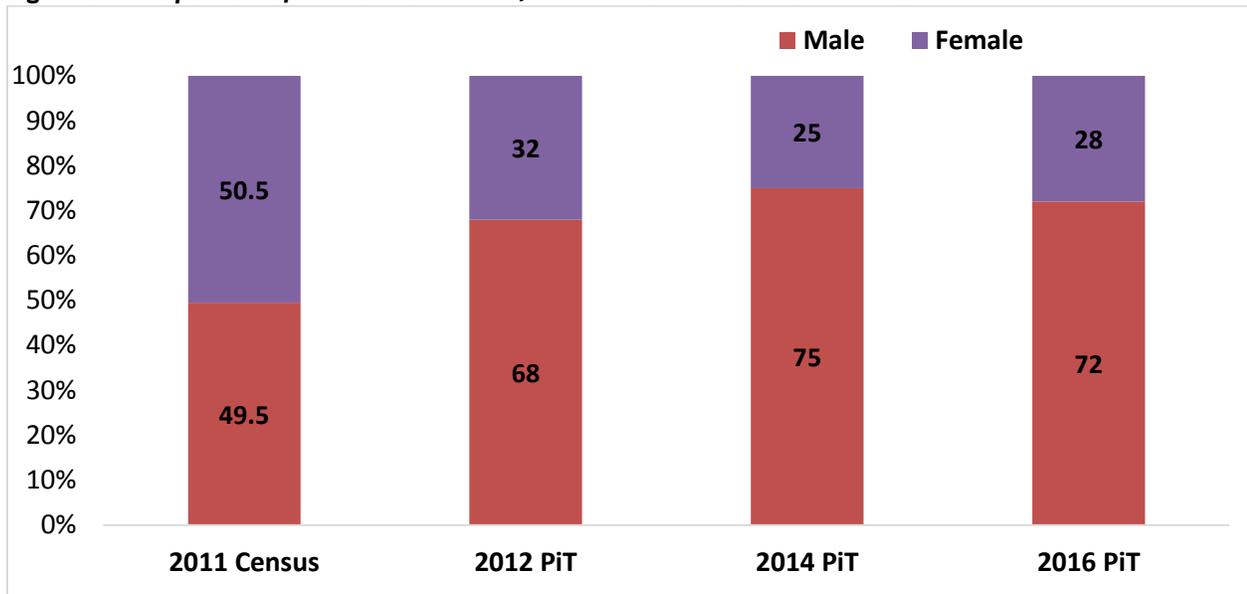
This section provides detailed analysis of the responses from the valid surveys from the 2016 PiT Count. Overall, there were 123 valid surveys. Where appropriate and where data was available, comparative analyses were made with the previous count, total population of Red Deer through the Federal Census and National Household Survey or other reliable data sources such as Veteran Affairs to indicate trends.

5.1 Demographic and Social Characteristics

5.1.1 Gender

The gender distribution of the overall homeless population is disproportionately male, 72% compared to 28% for females in 2016. This is consistent with the previous counts of 2014. In the data recorded for the 2012 count, males constituted 68% and 32% for females. The percentage of females in 2012 is slightly higher than 2014. Looking broader, the 2011 Federal Census reveals a much closer relative proportion of males (49.5%) and females (50.5%) as percentage of total population in the general population. This indicates an overrepresentation of males in the homeless counts. Figure 4.1 shows the gender distribution of males and females from 2012 to 2016 PiT Counts.

Figure 5.1: Proportion of Males and Females, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

5.1.2 Age Structure of the Population

The 2011 Census is used to assess how the age composition of those experiencing homelessness has changed over time between the three PiT Counts. Median age of the population of Red Deer in the 2011 Census was 34.7 years, while **the median age of those experiencing homelessness in 2016 was 38 years**, compared to 37 in the 2014, and 33 in 2012 PiT Counts. The youngest person surveyed in 2016 and 2012 was 14 years of age compared to 13 years in 2012. The oldest person surveyed was 84 years in 2016, compared to 65 years in 2014 compared to 62 years in 2012. Findings show diverging trends in aging patterns among the population over the past 6 years. Table 5.1 displays the age distribution of the homeless population between 2012 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts.

Table 5.1: Age Distribution (Percentage) of the Homeless Population, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts

| Age Category | 2011 Census | 2012 PiT | 2014 PiT | 2016 PiT |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 10 to 14 years | 5.7 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 0.8 |
| 15 to 19 years | 6.7 | 14.0 | 4.1 | 6.6 |
| 20 to 24 years | 8.2 | 11.2 | 9.2 | 4.9 |
| 25 to 29 years | 9.2 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 9.0 |
| 30 to 34 years | 8.0 | 10.3 | 12.2 | 18.0 |
| 35 to 39 years | 6.9 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 15.6 |
| 40 to 44 years | 6.6 | 4.7 | 8.2 | 14.8 |
| 45 to 49 years | 7.3 | 14.0 | 12.2 | 9.8 |
| 50 to 54 years | 7.7 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 9.0 |
| 55 to 59 years | 6.1 | 2.8 | 9.2 | 4.9 |
| 60 to 64 years | 4.5 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 1.6 |
| 65 years and over | 10.4 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 4.9 |

Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Among single adults from the survey in 2016, the bulk of the population is comprised of persons between the ages of 30 to 44 years of age. In contrast, in 2014, the bulk of the population was between 25 to 39 years of age. In 2012, it was a much younger between the ages of 15 to 39 years. There is no indication of progressive aging as we do not have any verification to determine whether it is the same people within these samples. However, the trends indicate a much older population of those experiencing homelessness in this count that in the previous counts.

There were a significant percentage of seniors in the 2016 count compared to the previous count. **Seniors above the age of 65 accounted for almost 5% of Red Deer’s homeless population.** Within the relatively small body of literature specific to older homeless adults, two different subgroups have been distinguished: 1) chronically homeless who become homeless in earlier life and remain homeless in old age, 2) newly homeless who have become homeless for the first time in later life (i.e., at age 50 years and older)¹⁶

In terms of the younger population, when you consider the total population enumerated including children as part of the youth, **the proportion of youth homelessness is 23.9% in 2016**, compared to 21.9% in 2014, and 37.1% in 2012. Overall the 0-24 age cohort constitutes 33.2% of Red Deer total population in the 2011 Census. The largest cohort within the homeless population in Red Deer in 2016 was 30 to 34 years of age. Comparatively, the modal age cohort between the 2014 and 2012 PiT Count was the 25-29 age group who accounted for 15% and 16.3% in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

5.1.3 Family Homelessness

For the purposes of this survey, family homelessness is defined as parents with minor children; adults with legal custody of children; a couple in which one person is pregnant; multi-generational families; part of an adult interdependent partnership. Many members of this group are women fleeing abusive domestic situations and struggling to re-establish independent homes for themselves and their children¹⁷ who may be living in sheltered or unsheltered homeless situations, including those in the public system or renting a hotel or motel on the night of the count.

The proportion of families (couples and lone parents) with at least one child at home constitutes about 60% of total families in Red Deer in the 2011 Federal Census. In the 2016 PiT Count, **there were 6 families with**

children under the age of 12. In comparison, the 2014 PiT Count reveals that there were 3% of survey respondents who reported being accompanied by children under 18 years of age. Similarly, in the 2012 PiT Count 7.6% of respondents reported having accompanied children with them. Comparatively, the numbers points to a lower prevalence of family homelessness in Red Deer.

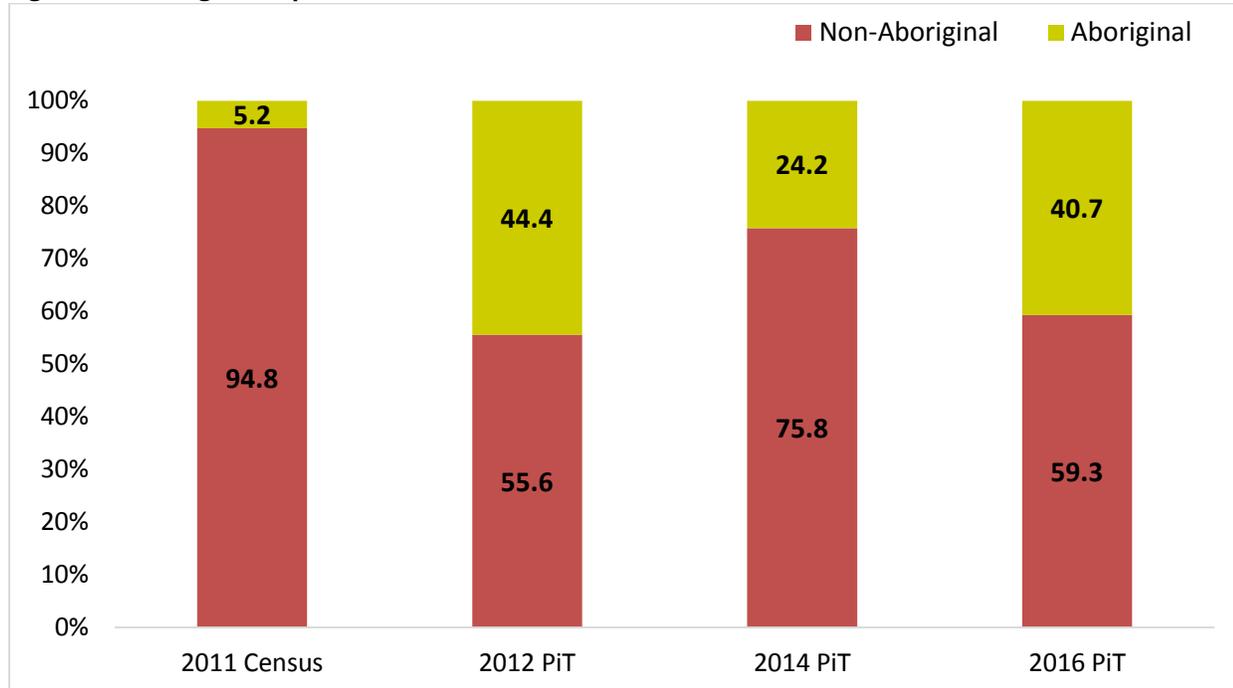
These numbers do not represent the total number of children enumerated: rather only those who accompanied survey respondents in the sample. Most of the families experiencing homelessness identified in both surveys were fleeing domestic violence. In terms of family groups, **3.3% were couples (spouse or partner) in 2016**, compared to 5.1%, in 2014 and 8.6% in 2012 Counts. In terms of broader family, 2.5% were siblings or from the extended family such as uncles in 2016, this accounted for 2.0% in 2014 and 1.9% in 2012.

5.1.4 Aboriginal Identity Population

Respondents were asked to identify if they were Aboriginal on the survey. For the purposes of this survey Aboriginal identity 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.

The Aboriginal identity population in the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) was only 5.2% of Red Deer’s total population. Based on the benchmark, it is notable that over-representation was found in every count since 2012. In 2016, **the Aboriginal sub-population constituted 40.7% of all those surveyed.** In the 2014 PiT Count, 24.2% of respondents indicated Aboriginal 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 5.2.

Figure 5.2: Aboriginal Population, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

The people who identified themselves as Aboriginal in the 2016 Count are comprised of 60% First Nations, 30% Metis, 12% Inuit and 8% Non-status. Similarly, in 2014, 8.1% identified as First Nations (Status), 4.0% as First Nations (Non-Status) and the rest 12.1% identified as Métis. There was a slight change in the way the question

was worded between 2014 and 2016. While it was not the same categories used in the 2011 National Household Survey, Métis formed the largest group of the Aboriginal sub-population in Red Deer.

Many contributing factors have been cited for the disproportionate representation of the Aboriginal population in homelessness. This situation stems from a variety of reasons including the historical dispossession of Aboriginal lands, neo-colonial practices of cultural oppression and erosion, intergenerational traumas, systemic racism, governmental policies, the current economy and housing markets¹⁸.

5.1.5 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 life¹⁹.

Veteran Affairs estimated that there were 599,200 veterans as at March 2014.²⁰ At the same time, Canada's population was estimated at 35,675,800²¹ on October 1, 2014. This means veterans formed 1.7% of Canada's total population. In the 2016 PiT Count, the veteran question was changed to reflect the definition changes made by the Royal Canadian Legion to include RCMP officers a 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.

On the night of the 2016 PiT Count, **7% of those surveyed identified as Veterans experiencing homelessness**. The data revealed a slight increase in the veteran homelessness between the 2014 and 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 1.7% of Canadians are veterans, so this number is also disproportionately high for Red Deer.

5.1.6 LGBTQ2S Homelessness

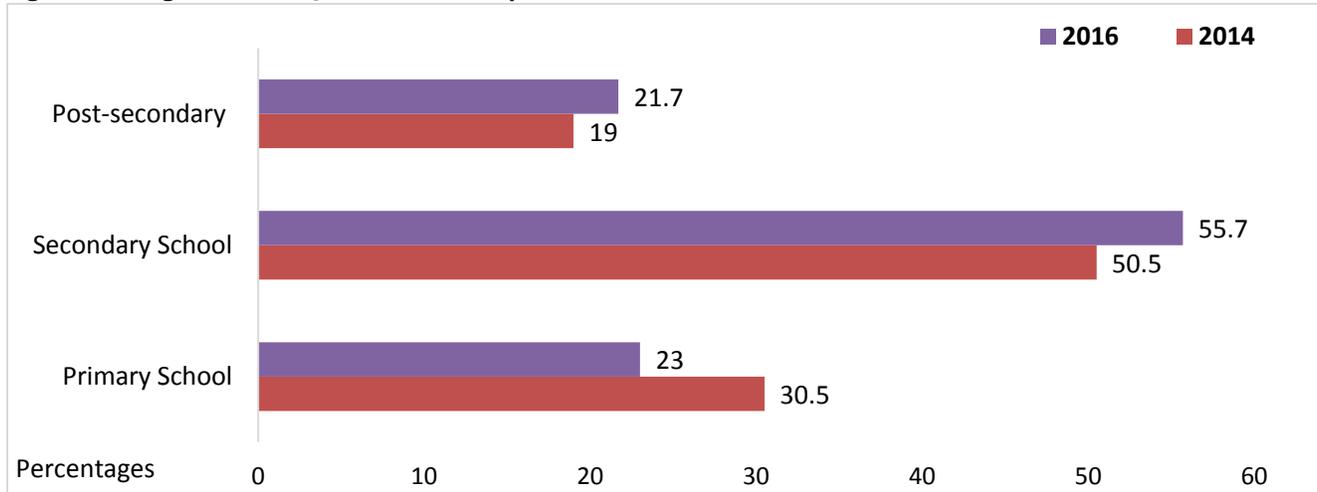
The number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or two-spirited (LGBTQ2S) persons experiencing homelessness is unknown. However, the existence of this population has been documented among the clients served by homeless serving agencies such as in emergency shelters, drop-in centers, outreach, and housing programs. As part of its focus and efforts to make information about how to work with special populations readily available, Alberta's 7 Cities included a question on 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 2016 PiT Count, **5% indicated they belong to the LGBTQ2S community**. Despite the size of this population and the concomitant risks, little is known about the causes, correlates, and consequences of homelessness among them²². Much work is still needed to understand their needs and appropriate strategies to support them.

5.1.7 Education Level of Those Experiencing Homelessness

Research has established that high school completion is linked to increasing housing stability and reduction in the risk of homelessness. Thus, lower levels of educational attainment increases risk of limited economic outcomes and more likelihood of homelessness²³. Respondents were asked the level of education they have completed based on three educational levels (primary school, secondary and post-secondary).

New data from the 2016 PiT Count shows that **23% those enumerated had primary education**. In comparison, the 2014 Count reported 30.5% of had indicated completing primary education. More than half of the population in both Counts had secondary education. In terms of post-secondary education the proportion was much higher in 2016 at 21.7% compared to 19% in 2014. This information was not obtained in the 2012 PiT Count.

Figure 5.3: Highest Level of Education Completed, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Homeless Count, 2014 and 2016.

While the same categories were not collected in the National Household Survey (NHS), the only comparable benchmark was the proportion of those with post-secondary education. In that context, NHS data revealed that among Red Deer’s total population above the age of 15 years, 50.8% had completed post-secondary level education (apprenticeship/trade, college certificate or diploma and university diploma or degree). In contrast, almost half of that proportion 21.7% and 19% of respondents from the 2016 and 2014 PiT Counts respectively, indicated they had completed post-secondary level education. This shows much lower levels of educational attainment among the homeless population compared to the general population of Red Deer. This information was not obtained in the 2012 PiT count.

5.2 Immigration and Migration Patterns

5.2.1 Immigrants and Refugees

The needs of newcomers experiencing homelessness are often different than of 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 not only feel an intensified loss of their home but also anxiety, isolation and/or separation from their limited networks, culture, family and history²⁴.

As part of the immigration information, respondents were asked whether they were born in Canada or not; and if they migrated to Canada, how long have they been in Canada. In 2016, the foreign-born population who moved to Canada recently (within past 5 years) as an **immigrant or refugee constituted only 2% of those surveyed**. This result showed a decrease in the relative proportion of sub-population. 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). In this regard, only 3% indicated there were recent immigrants. This means the current proportion is back to the 2012 levels of foreign born population experiencing homelessness.

5.2.2 Regional Mobility Among the Homeless Population

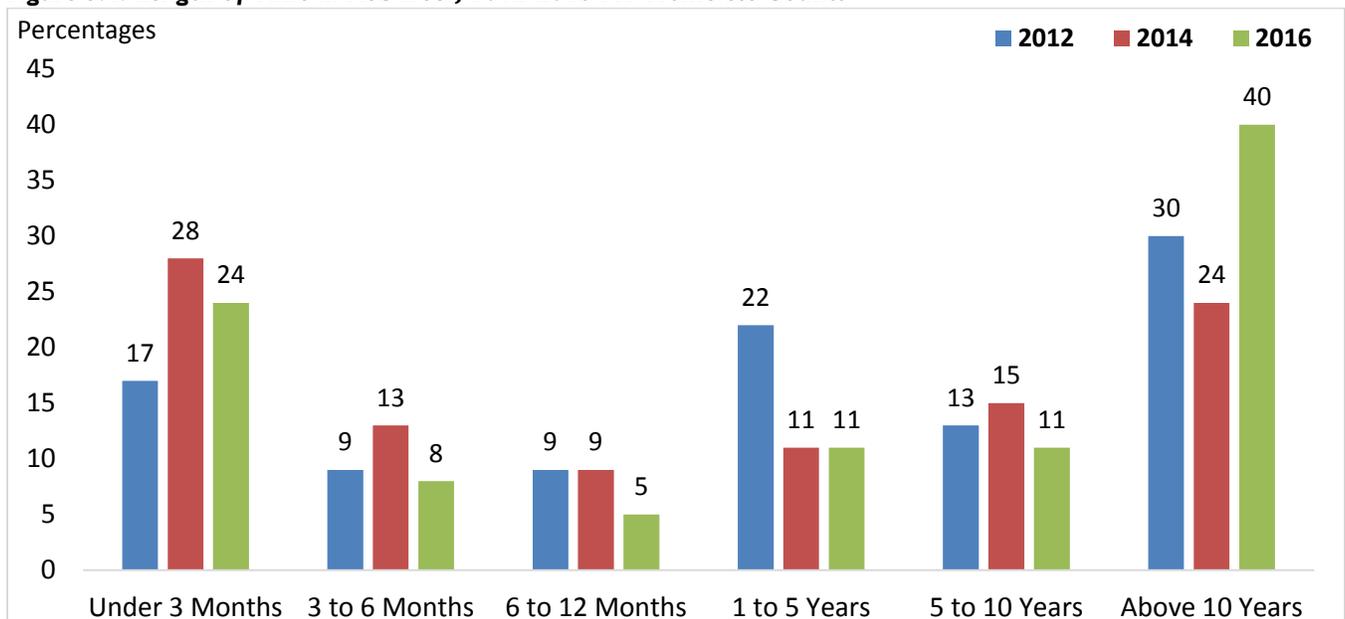
Mobility and migration patterns of homeless individuals and families are diverse and complex, whereas the reasons for the movement may not be much different from the general population. In 2016, there was a slight variation in wording and positioning of questions that can limit comparability to previous counts. Respondents were asked how long have you been in Red Deer. And if they answered in the affirmative, the length of time in Red Deer and the community in which they moved from. In 2016, 5.9% of those surveyed indicated that they have always been in Red Deer, **60.5% indicated they have been in Red Deer for more than a year**, while the rest 33.6% were new to Red Deer in less than a year.

Comparatively in 2014, Only a few (6.1%) surveyed were born in Red Deer, 46.5% have been in Red Deer less than one year and while 43.4% have been in Red Deer more than a year and the rest 4% did not indicate their length of stay in the community. In the 2012, the PiT count question was phrased different. 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. In comparison, on a yearly mobility basis, data from the National Household Survey recorded 19.2% for the total population who resided outside of Red Deer in the prior year to date of the survey.

5.2.3 Length of Stay in the Community

It is often deemed that people experiencing homelessness are transient, and are frequently “on the move” However, the data from Red Deer in terms of length of stay revealed there were more usual residents of Red Deer in our homeless population. **In 2016, up to quarter were in Red Deer less than three months before the count and overall 33% in less than a year.** This is a sharp contrast to the 2014 PiT survey that showed that nearly half of those experiencing homeless were new to our community. The 2016 Count results is consistent with the Counts of 2012 which recorded 35% those enumerated that year that were new to the community in less than a year. Figure 4.4 depicts the length of stay in the community.

Figure 5.4: Length of Time in Red Deer, 2012-2016 PiT Homeless Counts



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

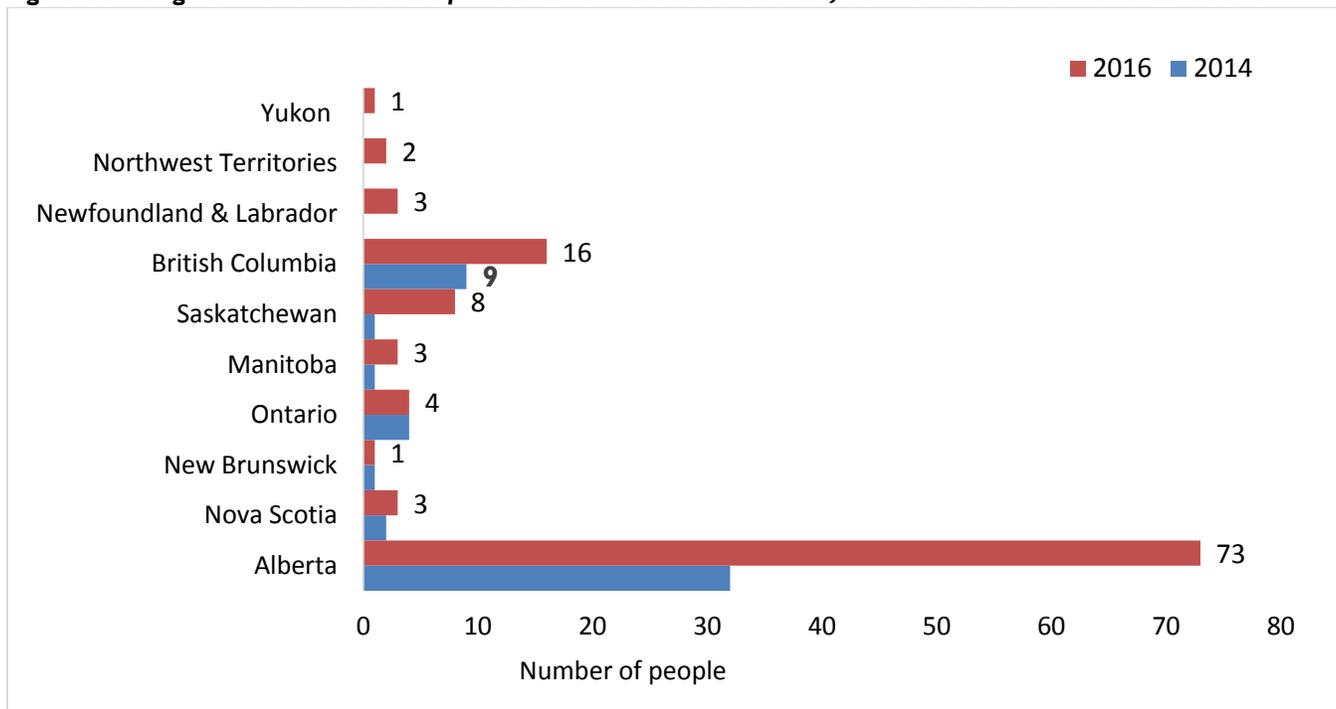
The mobility patterns among those surveyed in the 2014 and 2016 PiT Counts reflect largely intra-provincial rather than inter-provincial movement. Thus, **the patterns of movement were predominantly between communities in Alberta** rather than between Alberta and other provinces in the country. On the 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. This information was not obtained in the 2012 PiT Count. Comparatively, in the mobility status of one year in the National Household Survey (NHS) data had 74.1% for intra-provincial migrants and 25.9% for inter-provincial migrant mobility.

What is significant here is that there is much higher inter-provincial migration reported in the homeless count mobility data compared to the NHS for the whole community of Red Deer. 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 distance is one of the main barriers to migration²⁵.

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 Rocky Mountain House, Sylvan Lake and Bowden to Red Deer. In all three Counts, British Columbia was identified as the main source of inter-provincial migrants within our homeless population.

Figure 5.5: Original Home Provinces of Those Who Moved to Red Deer, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Homeless Count, 2014 and 2016.

5.3 Pathways into Homelessness, Pattern of Homelessness and Duration

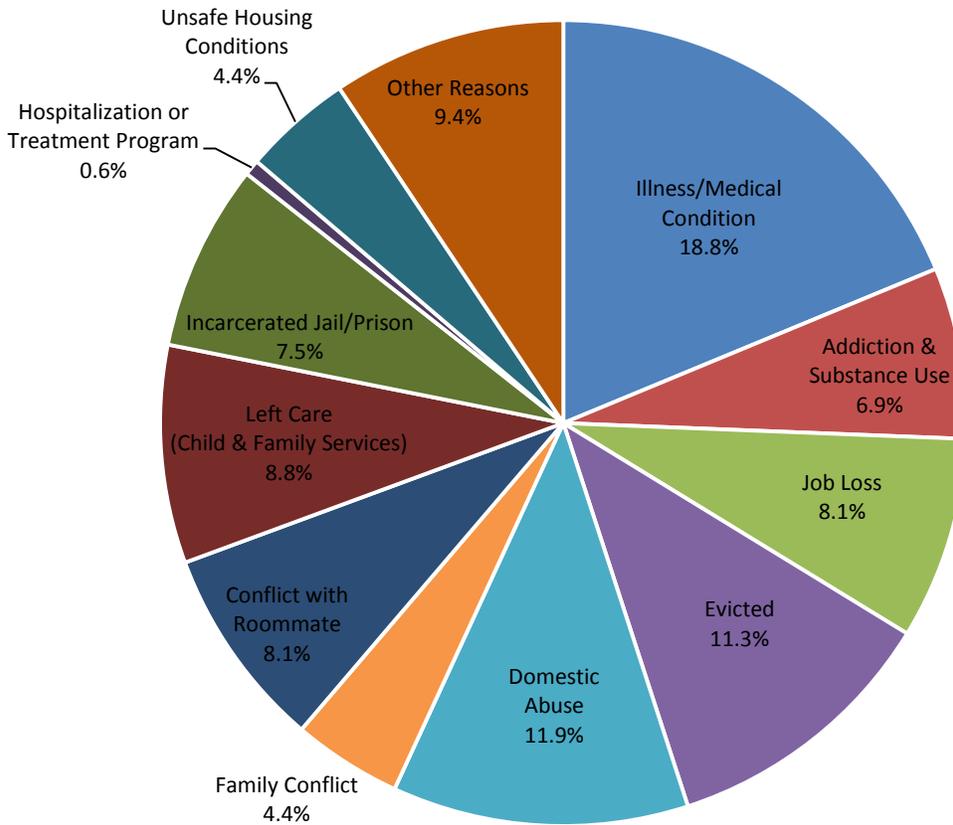
5.3.1 Pathways into Homelessness: Reasons for Loss of Housing

Causes of homelessness are complex and 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 challenges²⁶. For the first time in 2016, the survey asked individuals about the cause(s) of their most recent loss of housing. The question gave respondents the option to indicate more than one reason. The survey pre-classified the sources of reasons into 12 categories.

Given the unique circumstance and diverse pathways into homelessness, illness or medical condition was the most common cause identified for loss of housing. Evictions and unsafe housing conditions was 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.

Figure 5.6: Reasons for Housing Loss (Percentages), 2016 PiT Homeless Count



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

5.3.2 Patterns of Homelessness

Homelessness duration and episodes were analysed using the following conditions to define chronic, episodic²⁷ and transitional homelessness using available responses.

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 less episodes of homelessness)

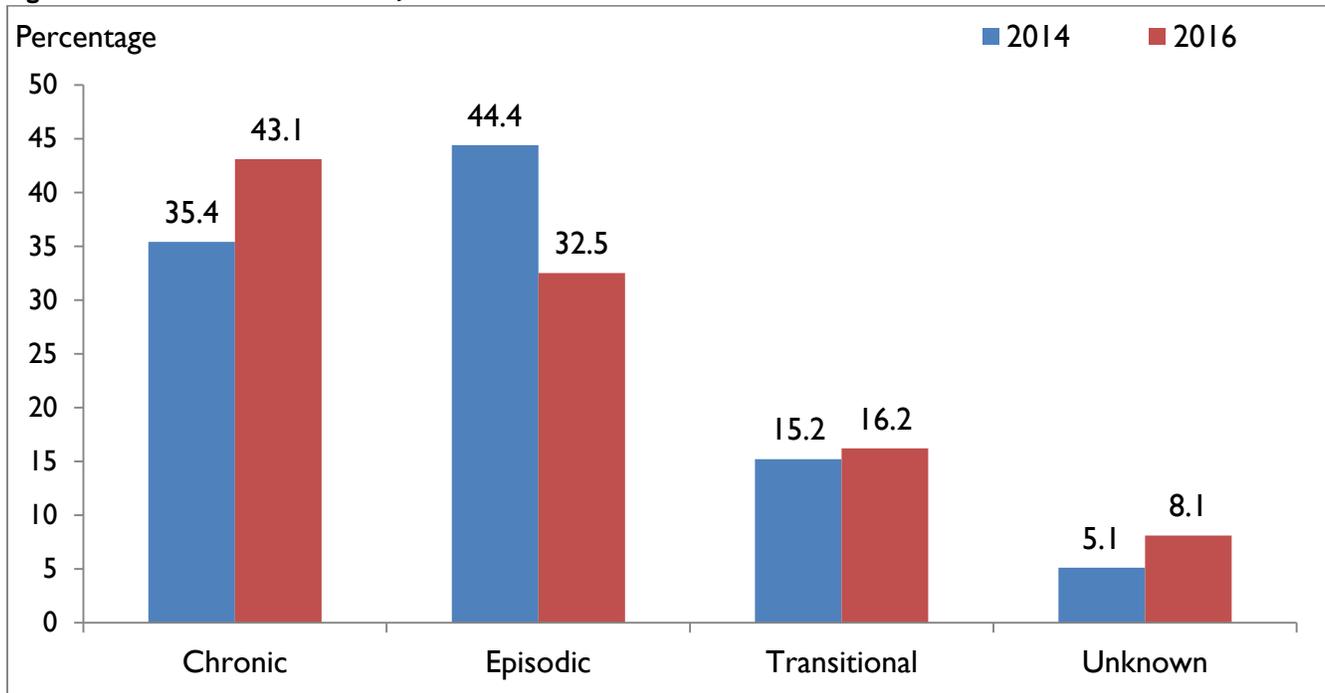
Table 5.2: Criteria for Categorization in Line with Provincial Definitions of Homelessness

| Condition | Categorization |
|---|----------------|
| Anyone with over 1 year of homelessness concurrently | Chronic |
| Anyone with more than 4 episodes of homelessness | Chronic |
| Anyone with more than 2 episodes of homelessness | Episodic |
| Anyone with 1 to 3 episodes of homelessness irrespective of duration | Episodic |
| Anyone with 1 or 2 episodes of homelessness | Transitional |
| Anyone with 1 month or less of homelessness | Transitional |
| If they do not know duration of homelessness – there is not enough information to categorize | Unknown |
| If they declined to answer duration and/or episodes – there is not enough information to categorize | Unknown |

Source: Province of Alberta and Government of Canada Definition of Homelessness

Examining the patterns of homelessness between chronic, episodic and transitional (see Table 5.2) 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. 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 5.7 shows the distribution of the patterns of homelessness.

Figure 5.7: Homelessness Patterns, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count



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

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

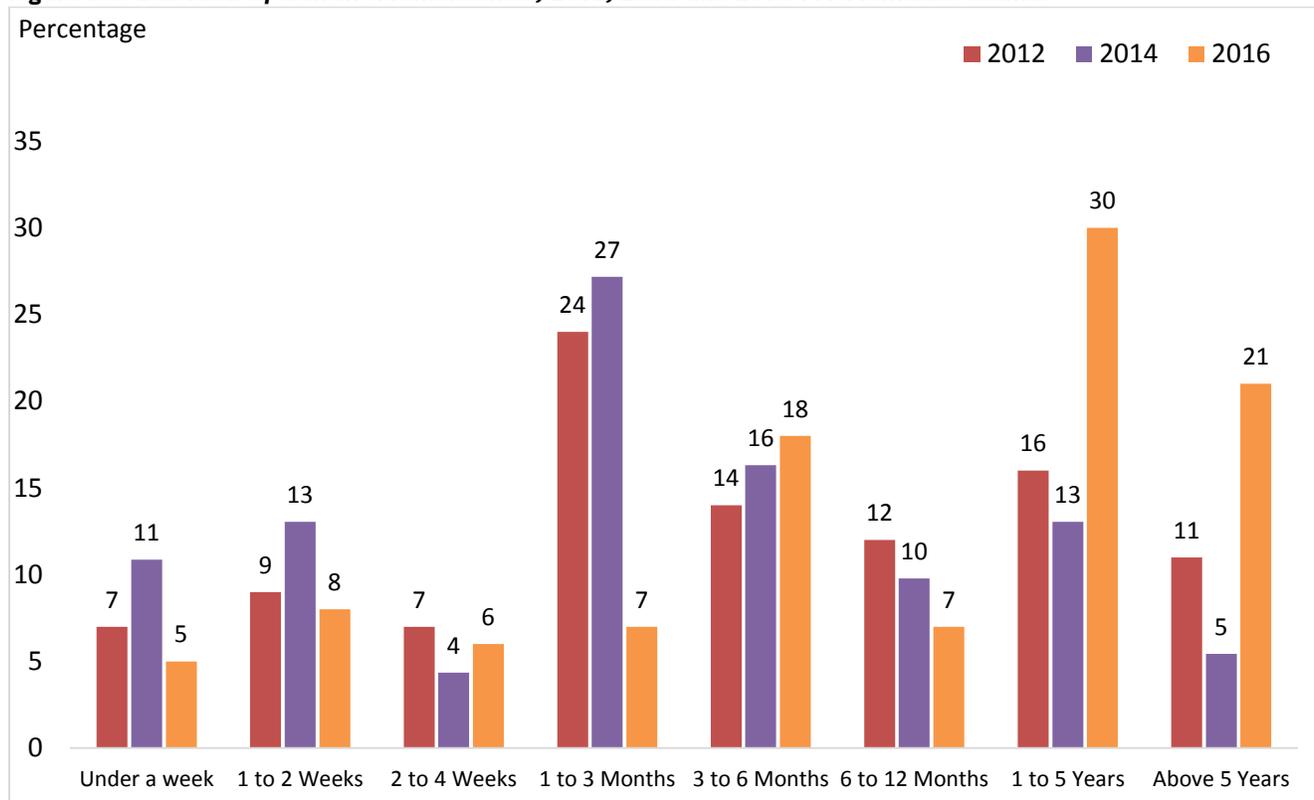
found that the majority (78%) of respondents had been homeless for more than 30 days, and that a quarter (27%) had been homeless for longer than 1 year. The median length of time one has been homeless was approximately 4 months in 2012.

5.3.3 Duration of Homelessness

Research has shown the duration of homelessness also has impacts on stable housing outcomes. The length of time people spend homeless depends in part on their personal circumstances. One of the key aspects of the Housing First philosophy is the reduction in length of time individuals and families remain homeless. The duration of homelessness can vary greatly which is why it is one of the elements considered in the classification of the various episodes²⁸ of homeless. There were slight differences in the wording and in the format of duration or length of time in homelessness between the 2012, 2014 and the 2016 PiT counts. In 2012 the respondents were asked “How long have you been without a permanent place to live?” In 2014 and 2016, the question was phrased “How long have you been homeless most recently?”

Overall, the data indicates that the majority (51%) have spent between 1 to 5 years and above 5 years in homelessness in 2016. This pattern is in sharp contrast to the previous counts. The data from the 2012 and 2014 PiT counts indicate that a substantial proportion of those who answered the survey spent a relatively short time in homelessness. In fact, 47% in 2012 and 55% in 2014 were in a homeless situation lasting from a day to 3 months as indicated in Figure 5.8. The length of a homeless spell is relatively lower between 6 months to one year in Red Deer from both sets of data. The only major variation between 2012 and 2014 is that the percentage above 5 years homeless in 2014 is half the number in 2012.

Figure 5.8: Duration of Current Homelessness, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts

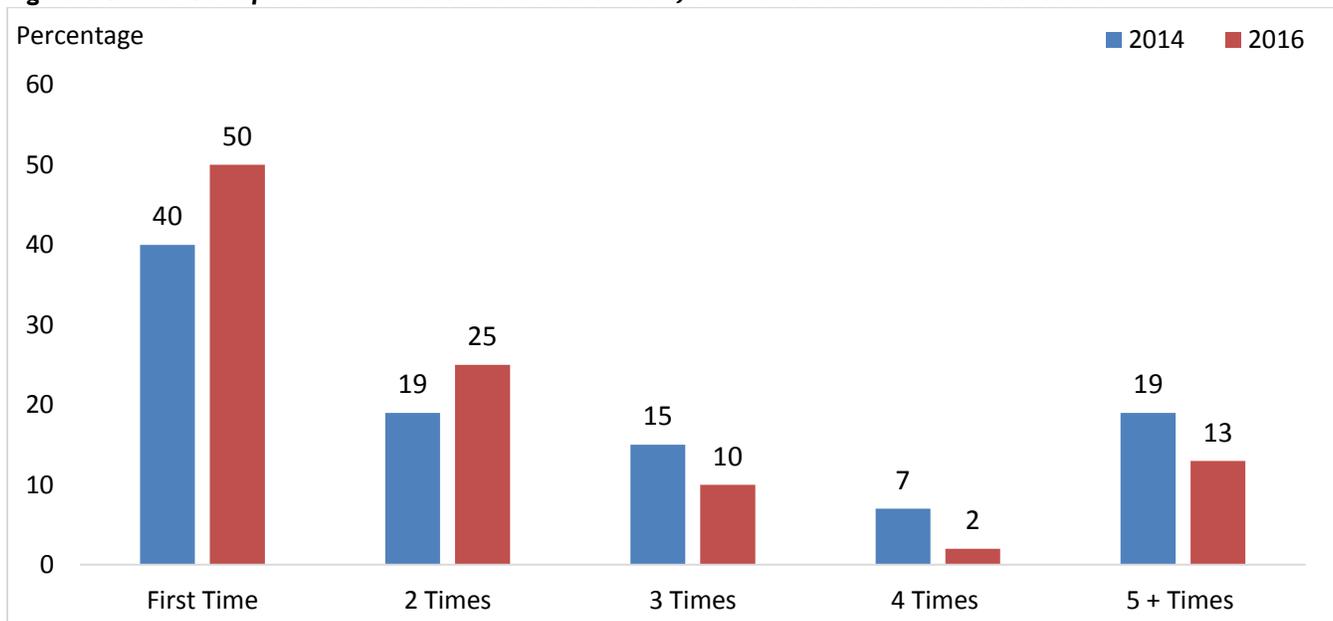


Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

5.3.4 Different Times Homeless in the Past 3 Years

Another way of understanding the pattern of homelessness is based on episodes of homelessness. That is whether people are experiencing homelessness for the first time or if it is recurrent. Recurrent homelessness is defined as one or more new episodes of homelessness occurring at any time after obtaining housing, for any length of time, subsequent to an index (i.e. first-time) homeless episode²⁹. The data from the counts in 2014 and 2016 revealed relatively high rates of self-reported first time experiencing homelessness but a much longer duration as discussed previously. **In 2016, half of the those surveyed indicated that this was their first time homeless.** This is consistent with the 2014 Count where up to 40% indicated this was their first time homeless. The proportion of recurrent homelessness varied between the two counts. People who have experienced 2 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years constituted 25% in 2016 and 19% in 2014. There were differences between those who experienced more than 3 episodes in 2016 compared 2014. This information was not obtained in the 2012 PiT count. Figure 5.9 depicts the representation of different times those surveyed were homeless in the past three years.

Figure 5.9: Number of Times Homeless in the Past 3 Years, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Count



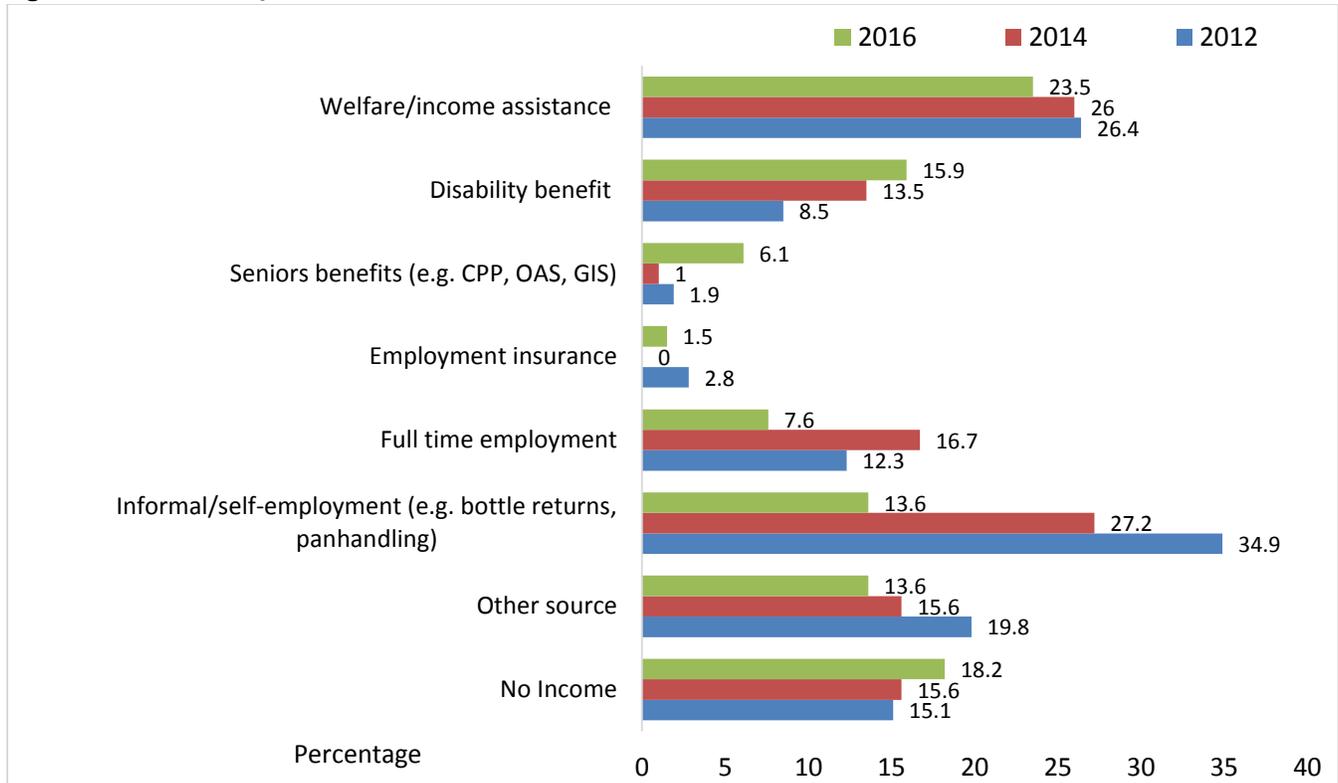
Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2014 and 2016.

5.3.5 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. Employment and income also reduces reliance on emergency shelters, and can facilitate exit from homelessness³⁰.

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 the 2012, 2014 and 2016 Counts comes from social assistance and informal/self-employment. The distribution of source of income is shown in Figure 5.10.

Figure 5.10: Sources of Income, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

What is significant is that the relative composition of the homeless sample surveyed from each count tended to determine the source of income. For example, with an increase in the proportion of seniors in the survey in 2016, the percentage of those who indicated senior’s benefits such as Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Old Age Security (OAS) increased to 3.1% in 2016 compared to 2% in 2014 and 1% in 2012.

There was a large difference in those who reported panhandling in the 2012 and 2014 counts. Similarly, in 2012, where the unsheltered population was very large, there was a much larger difference in those who reported informal activities such as panhandling compared to the 2014 and 2016 counts. Furthermore, the local economic situation may have also played a part in the source of income. In 2014, the level of unemployment documented was 3.9% compared to 6.8% in 2016. Those who reported full time employment income increased slightly from 12.3% in 2012 to 16.7% in 2014. However, this number declined 7.6% in 2016.

5.3.6 Health Conditions

Homelessness is associated with a very high prevalence of substance use and mental disorders and elevated levels of acute health service use³¹. As a result, respondents were asked to self-report their health status in terms of medical condition, physical disability, addiction and mental health. A further distinction was made between the sheltered and unsheltered population. In all the counts, unsheltered homeless individuals reported more health issues compared to the sheltered population. This is consistent with previous research that noted that individuals living on the street tend to have worse health status than shelter residents³²

People experiencing homelessness in Red Deer face significant health challenges. Among the sheltered population 29% reported four or more health conditions in 2014 compared to 13% in 2014 and 10% in 2012. The self-reported survey data also revealed a more pronounced situation among the unsheltered population. Over 44% of respondents from the unsheltered population reported four or more health problems in 2016, compared to 19% in 2014 and 20% in 2012. However, there are differences in the proportion between those

who reported 1 and 2 health conditions in the previous counts compared to 2016. Table 5.3 shows the number of self-reported health conditions between the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population surveyed.

Table 5.3: Number of Health Conditions, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts

| Number of Health Problems | Sheltered | | | Unsheltered | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|------|-------------|------|------|
| | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| None | 17 | 13 | 48 | 11 | 24 | 24 |
| One | 31 | 26 | 6 | 22 | 19 | 18 |
| Two | 19 | 25 | 5 | 36 | 5 | 9 |
| Three | 23 | 23 | 12 | 11 | 33 | 6 |
| Four | 10 | 13 | 29 | 20 | 19 | 44 |

Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Respondents were also asked to identify their health condition based on four main categories: medical condition, physical disability, addictions and mental health. The results from the three counts indicated that the homeless population are more likely to have addictive disorders than any other health status listed. The self-reported rates for addictions were 52% in 2016, 66% in 2014 and 73% in 2012 among the sheltered population. The unsheltered population had high self-reported rates of 71% in 2016, 67% in 2014 as well as 76% in 2012. **Although the types of addictions have not been reported, the disproportionate number of homeless persons with addictive disorders is significant in terms of service provision and supports.**

The prevalence of mental health was the second highest health condition reported in the surveys for both the sheltered and unsheltered population. For the sheltered population, the prevalence rates for people who reported mental health was 46% in 2012 and 2016 and 51% in 2014. Among the unsheltered population the prevalence of mental health challenges was 55% in 2016, 43% in 2014 and 67% in 2012. Again, this shows that sheltered individuals have better health status than their unsheltered counterparts. Table 5.4 shows the self-reported health status of those experiencing homelessness.

Table 5.4: Type of Health Conditions, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts

| Health Problems | Sheltered | | | Unsheltered | | |
|---------------------|-----------|------|------|-------------|------|------|
| | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Medical Condition | 49 | 45 | 44 | 50 | 57 | 52 |
| Physical Disability | 27 | 37 | 32 | 37 | 43 | 59 |
| Addictions | 73 | 66 | 52 | 76 | 67 | 71 |
| Mental Health | 46 | 51 | 46 | 67 | 43 | 55 |

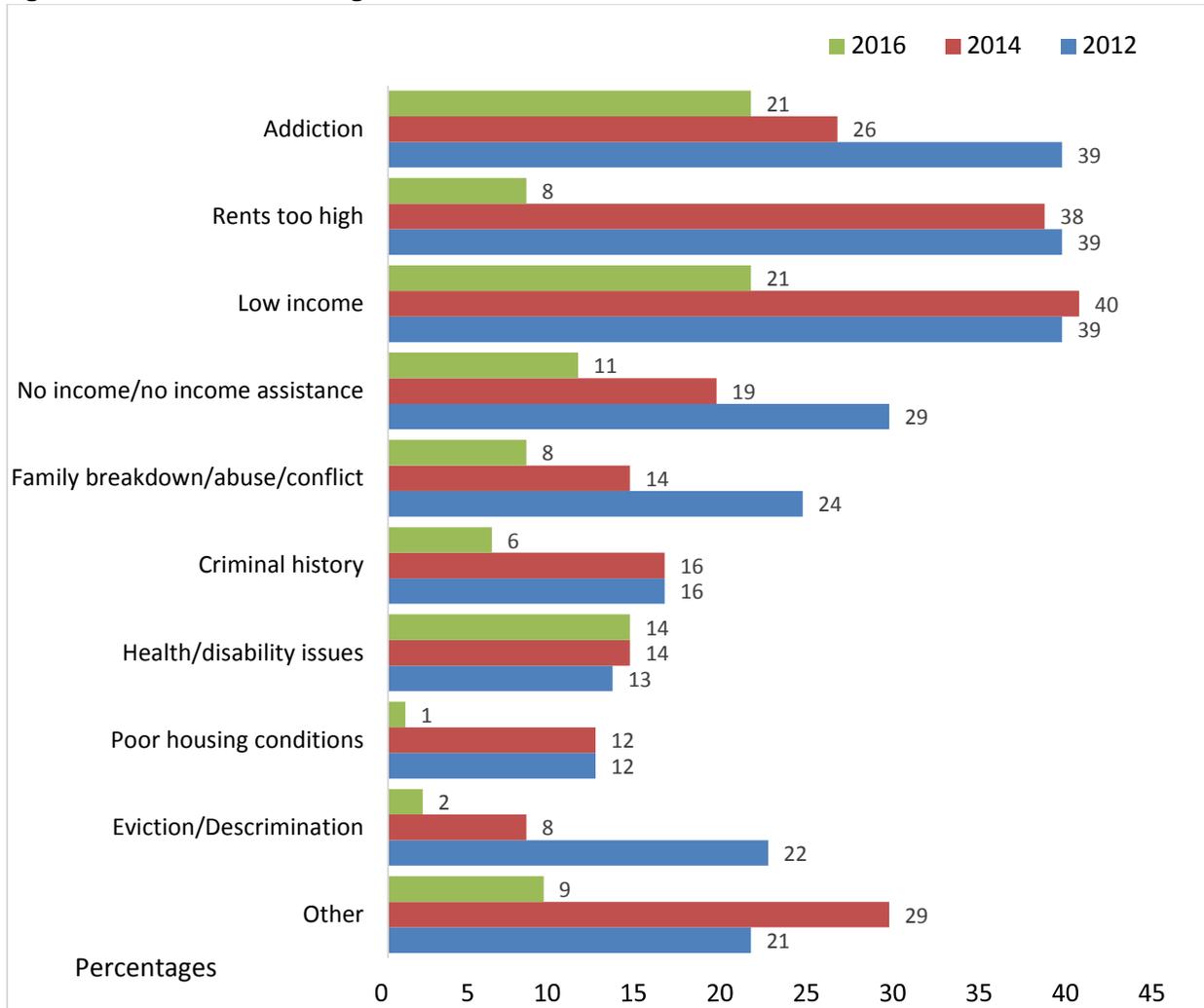
Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

5.3.7 Barriers to Housing

Homelessness is a complex phenomenon involving overlapping economic, political, social, and psychological dimensions³³. Although a growing body of research has examined various housing and support interventions designed to facilitate ending homelessness both research and policy tend to neglect the experiences and perspectives of those experiencing homelessness³⁴. People experiencing homelessness face a lot of barriers preventing them from ending their homelessness and finding a suitable place to live. Respondents were asked “What is keeping you from finding a permanent place to live?”

There has been variation in the relative contribution of each of the perceived barriers to housing among those experiencing homelessness. Some obstacles appear significant and consistent across the three counts. For example, although the number of those who reported addiction has declined to 21% in 2016 from 26% in 2014 and 39% in 2012, it is still one of the main barriers to housing stability. Comparatively, only half of those surveyed in 2016 indicated that rents were too high. This could reflect the current rental market situation in Red Deer, with much lower vacancies compared to the previous counts. Also, the number of people who identified poor housing conditions has reduced dramatically in 2016 from the two previous counts. Figure 5.11 shows the self-reported barriers to housing.

Figure 5.11: Barriers to Housing, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

5.3.8 Rehousing: What Will Help People Find Permanent Stable Housing

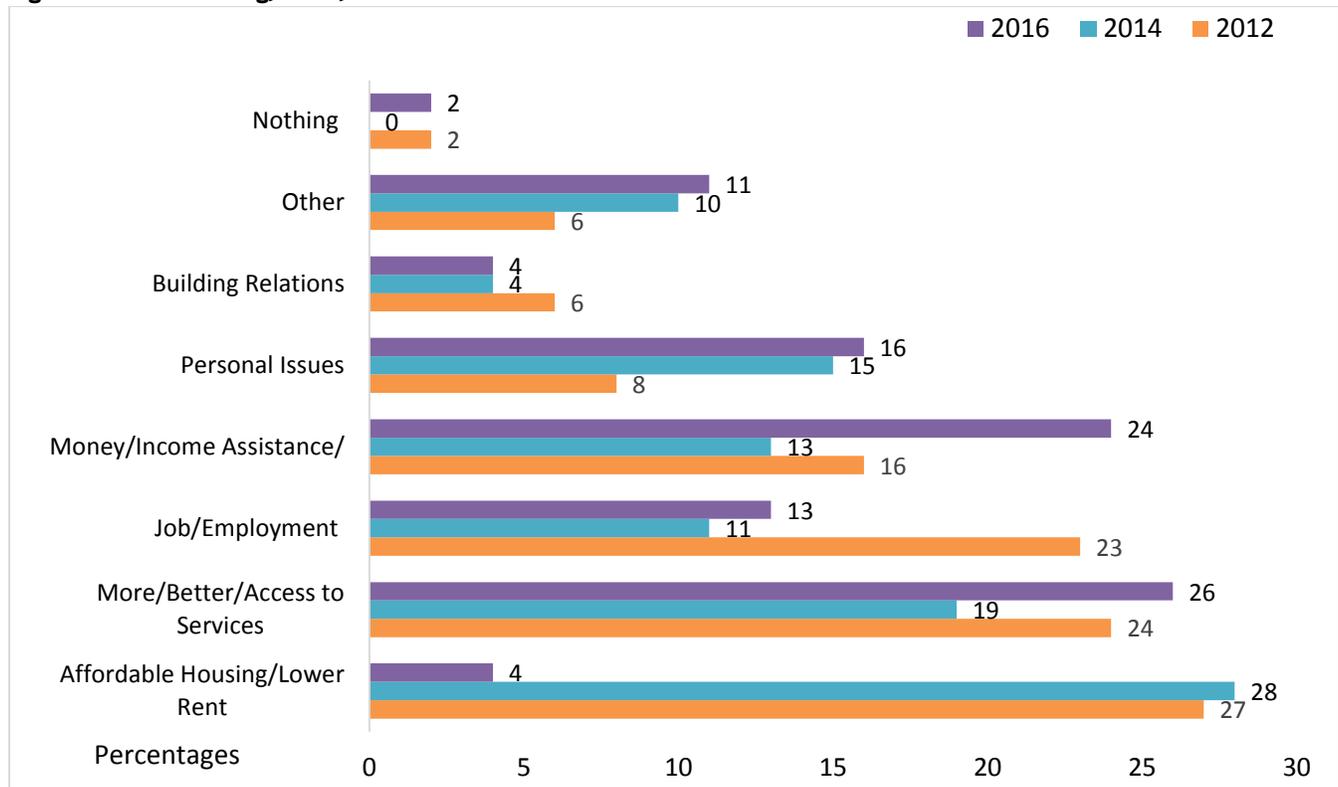
At the end of the survey, respondents were asked, “What one thing could help you find permanent, stable housing?” This question was open-ended and respondents had the option of providing multiple responses. For the purposes of comparison the categorization of responses was the same as with the previous count. Their responses were analyzed and categorized.

There were two significant findings from 2016 which were different from the previous counts. More than a quarter (26%) indicated that they needed better access to supports and services to exit homelessness. Secondly, about 24% also said they needed social assistance to afford housing. In contrast, in the

previous counts, most respondents (about 1 in 4) indicated that they couldn't afford housing. If more housing was available, if the rents were lower, or if they had enough money for first month's rent plus a damage deposit, they wouldn't be homeless. This was again the most commonly cited response as a way to improve housing stability outcomes. Housing affordability was not a major issue cited among the 2016 respondents.

The second most common response concerned available services. In the 2016 count respondents indicated they needed help with: finding housing, someone to talk to, mental health services, getting on medication, or just needed a case worker. This is also consistent with previous counts in 2012 and 2014. Figure 5.12 presents the issues respondents cited will support them exit homelessness.

Figure 5.12: Rehousing, 2012, 2014 and 2016 PiT Homeless Counts



Source: City of Red Deer, Point-in-Time Count, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

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Appendix I – Community Map



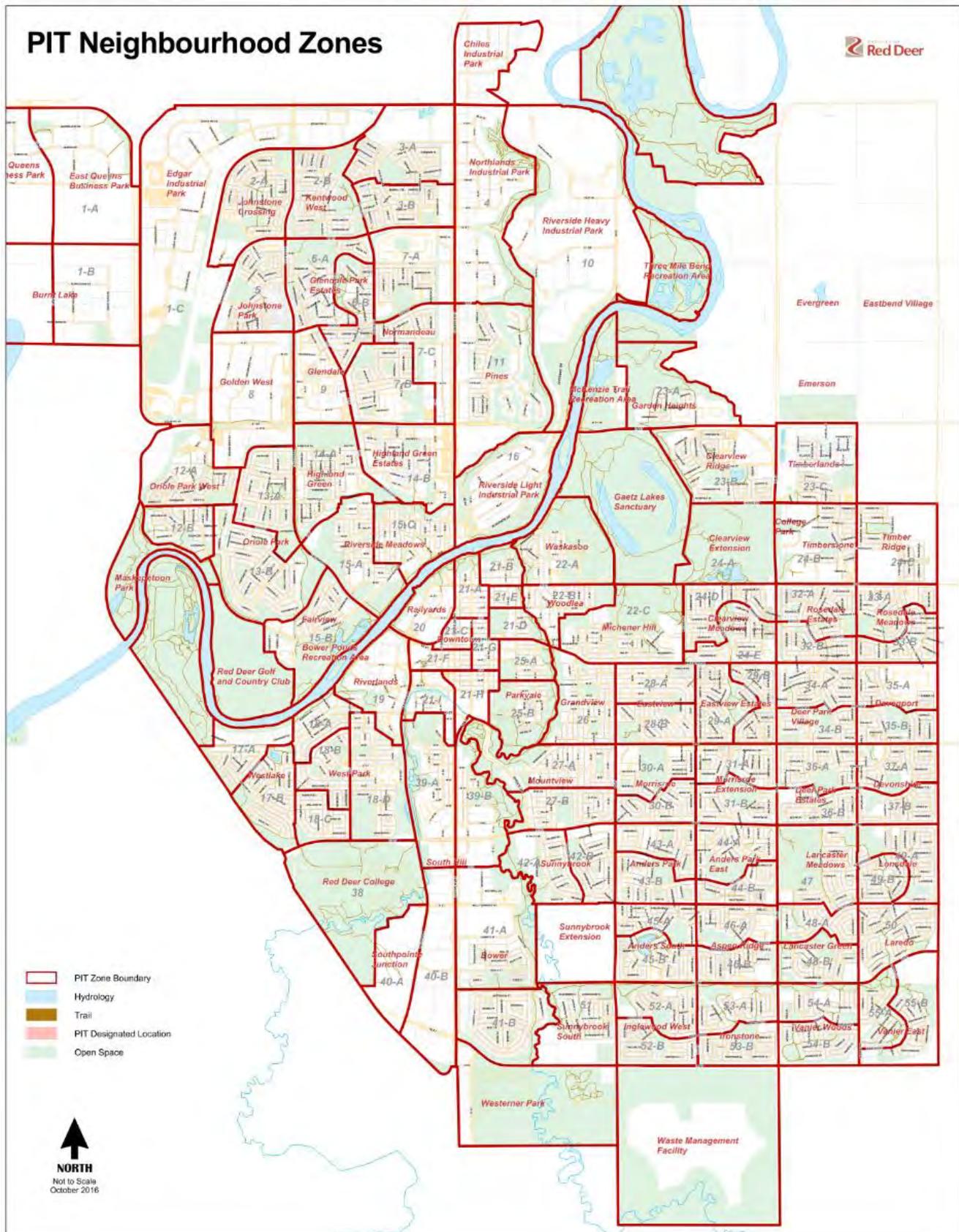
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Map Number 50

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Appendix 2 – Neighbourhood Map



Appendix 4 – Sheltered Survey



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|--------------|
| Shelter Name |
| Team Number |
| Start Time |
| End Time |

Sheltered Survey

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____, I am a volunteer with the Red Deer Point in Time Homeless Count. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and none of your answers will be used to identify you. You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.

Screening

1. Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification e.g. button]?
 - Yes **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - No
2. Are you willing to participate in this survey?
 - Yes
 - No **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
3. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
4. [If answered YES to Screening 3] What type of residence is your permanent residence?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or domestic violence shelter
 - Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/hotel (not sponsored by Alberta Works Or AISH)
 - Motel/hotel (sponsored by Alberta Works Or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know [likely homeless]
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
5. Where are you staying tonight?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 - Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/Hotel (Not Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Motel/Hotel (Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public Space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional Housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**

Survey

1. What family members are staying with you tonight?
- None
 - Partner
 - Other adult (specify: _____)
 - Child(ren)/dependent(s) under age 18

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |

Declined to answer

2. How old are you [OR] what year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]
- Age: _____ years
 - OR** year born: _____
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

3. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without Status. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]
- Yes, specify below:
 - First Nations
 - Inuit
 - Métis
 - Non-Status or have Aboriginal ancestry
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

4. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

5. How long have you been in Red Deer?
- Length: _____ # of days
 - OR** _____ # of weeks
 - OR** _____ # of months
 - OR** _____ # of years
 - Always been here
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

[If length answered:] Where did you come from before you came here?

- Community: _____
- Province (in Canada): _____
- Country (not in Canada): _____
- Declined to answer

6. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian military or the RCMP?
- Yes, Military
 - Yes, RCMP
 - Yes Military and RCMP
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

7. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list]
- Male
 - Female
 - Transgender
 - Other response: _____
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

8. Do you identify as part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer community?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

- 9.1 How long have you been homeless most recently?
- _____ # of years
 - OR** _____ # of months
 - OR** _____ # of weeks
 - OR** _____ # days
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

- 9.2 How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?
- # _____

10. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months? e.g. People's Place, Mats, Women's Shelter
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

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

- Addiction or substance use
- Conflict with roommate
- Domestic abuse
- Evicted
- Family conflict
- Hospitalization or treatment program
- Illness or medical condition
- Incarcerated (jail/prison)
- Job loss
- Left care (child and family services)
- Unsafe housing conditions
- Other reason: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

12. Where do you get your money from? [May give examples from list. Select all that apply].

- Child and family tax benefits
- Disability benefit
- Employment
- Employment insurance
- Informal/self-employment (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling)
- Seniors benefits (e.g. CPP, OAS, GIS)
- Welfare/income assistance
- Other source: _____
- No income
- Declined to answer

13. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Elementary/ Middle School
- Secondary School /High School
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

14. Do you have any of the following?

| | Yes | No | Don't know | Declined to answer |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chronic/Acute Medical Condition | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Physical Disability | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Addiction | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mental Illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own?

- Addiction
- Children
- Criminal history
- Discrimination
- Domestic violence
- Don't want housing
- Family breakdown/conflict
- Health/disability issues
- Low income
- Mental health issues
- No income assistance
- Pets
- Poor housing conditions
- Rents too high
- Other, specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

16. What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

- Specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

[End of Survey]

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

Appendix 5 – Unsheltered Survey



Map Number

Team Number

Un-Sheltered Survey

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____, I am a volunteer with the Red Deer Point in Time Homeless Count. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and none of your answers will be used to identify you. You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.

Screening

1. Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification e.g. button]?
 - Yes **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - No
2. Are you willing to participate in this survey?
 - Yes
 - No **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
3. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
4. *[If answered YES to Screening 3]* What type of residence is your permanent residence?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 - Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/Hotel (Not Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Motel/Hotel (Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public Space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional Housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
5. Where are you staying tonight?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 - Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/Hotel (Not Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Motel/Hotel (Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public Space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional Housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**

9. What family members are staying with you tonight?
- None
 - Partner
 - Other adult (specify: _____)
 - Child(ren)/dependent(s) under age 18

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |

- Declined to answer

10. How old are you [OR] what year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]
- Age: _____ years
OR year born: _____
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

11. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without Status. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]
- Yes, specify below:
 - First Nations
 - Inuit
 - Métis
 - Non-Status or have Aboriginal ancestry
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

12. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

13. How long have you been in Red Deer?
- Length: _____ # of days
OR _____ # of weeks
OR _____ # of months
OR _____ # of years
 - Always been here
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

[If length answered:] Where did you come from before you came here?

- Community: _____
- Province (in Canada): _____
- Country (not in Canada): _____
- Declined to answer

14. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian military or the RCMP?
- Yes, Military
 - Yes, RCMP
 - Yes Military and RCMP
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

15. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list]
- Male
 - Female
 - Transgender
 - Other response: _____
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

16. Do you identify as part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer community?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

- 9.2 How long have you been homeless most recently?
- _____ # of years
OR _____ # of months
OR _____ # of weeks
OR _____ # of days
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

- 9.3 How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?
- # _____

12. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months? e.g. People's Place, Mats, Women's Shelter
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

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

- Addiction or substance use
- Conflict with roommate
- Domestic abuse
- Evicted
- Family conflict
- Hospitalization or treatment program
- Illness or medical condition
- Incarcerated (jail/prison)
- Job loss
- Left care (child and family services)
- Unsafe housing conditions
- Other reason: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

18. Where do you get your money from? [May give examples from list. Select all that apply].

- Child and family tax benefits
- Disability benefit
- Employment
- Employment insurance
- Informal/self-employment (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling)
- Seniors benefits (e.g. CPP, OAS, GIS)
- Welfare/income assistance
- Other source: _____
- No income
- Declined to answer

19. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Elementary/ Middle School
- Secondary School /High School
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

20. Do you have any of the following?

| | Yes | No | Don't know | Declined to answer |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chronic/Acute Medical Condition | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Physical Disability | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Addiction | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mental Illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

21. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own?

- Addiction
- Children
- Criminal history
- Discrimination
- Domestic violence
- Don't want housing
- Family breakdown/conflict
- Health/disability issues
- Low income
- Mental health issues
- No income assistance
- Pets
- Poor housing conditions
- Rents too high
- Other, specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

22. What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

- Specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

[End of Survey]

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

Appendix 6 – Hospital Survey



| |
|---------------|
| Hospital Name |
| Team Number |
| Start Time |
| End Time |

Hospital Survey

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____, I am a volunteer with the Red Deer Point in Time Homeless Count. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and none of your answers will be used to identify you. You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.

Screening

1. Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification e.g. button]?
 - Yes **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - No
2. Are you willing to participate in this survey?
 - Yes
 - No **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
3. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
4. [If answered YES to Screening 3] What type of residence is your permanent residence?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or domestic violence shelter
 - Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/hotel (not sponsored by Alberta Works Or AISH)
 - Motel/hotel (sponsored by Alberta Works Or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know [likely homeless]
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
5. Where are you staying tonight?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 - Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/Hotel (Not Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Motel/Hotel (Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public Space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional Housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**

17. What family members are staying with you tonight?

- None
- Partner
- Other adult (specify: _____)
- Child(ren)/dependent(s) under age 18

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |

- Declined to answer

18. How old are you [OR] what year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

- Age: _____ years
OR year born: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

- Yes, specify below:
 - First Nations
 - Inuit
 - Métis
 - Non-Status or have Aboriginal ancestry
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

20. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

21. How long have you been in Red Deer?

- Length: _____ # of days
OR _____ # of weeks
OR _____ # of months
OR _____ # of years
- Always been here
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

[If length answered:] Where did you come from before you came here?

- Community: _____
- Province (in Canada): _____
- Country (not in Canada): _____
- Declined to answer

22. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian military or the RCMP?

- Yes, Military
- Yes, RCMP
- Yes Military and RCMP
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

23. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list]

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Other response: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

24. Do you identify as part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer community?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

9.3 How long have you been homeless most recently?

- _____ # of years
- OR** _____ # of months
- OR** _____ # of weeks
- OR** _____ # of days
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

9.4 How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?

- # _____

14. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months? e.g. People's Place, Mats, Women's Shelter

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

- Addiction or substance use
- Conflict with roommate
- Domestic abuse
- Evicted
- Family conflict
- Hospitalization or treatment program
- Illness or medical condition
- Incarcerated (jail/prison)
- Job loss
- Left care (child and family services)
- Unsafe housing conditions
- Other reason: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

24. Where do you get your money from? [May give examples from list. Select all that apply].

- Child and family tax benefits
- Disability benefit
- Employment
- Employment insurance
- Informal/self-employment (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling)
- Seniors benefits (e.g. CPP, OAS, GIS)
- Welfare/income assistance
- Other source: _____
- No income
- Declined to answer

25. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Elementary/ Middle School
- Secondary School /High School
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

26. Do you have any of the following?

| | Yes | No | Don't know | Declined to answer |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chronic/Acute Medical Condition | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Physical Disability | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Addiction | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mental Illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

27. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own?

- Addiction
- Children
- Criminal history
- Discrimination
- Domestic violence
- Don't want housing
- Family breakdown/conflict
- Health/disability issues
- Low income
- Mental health issues
- No income assistance
- Pets
- Poor housing conditions
- Rents too high
- Other, specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

28. What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

- Specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

[End of Survey]

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

Appendix 7 – Correctional Facility Survey



Correctional Services Facility

Team Number

Start Time

End Time

Correctional Services Survey

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____, I am a volunteer with the Red Deer Point in Time Homeless Count. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and none of your answers will be used to identify you. You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.

Screening

1. Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification e.g. button]?
 - Yes **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - No
2. Are you willing to participate in this survey?
 - Yes
 - No **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
3. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
4. [If answered YES to Screening 3] What type of residence is your permanent residence?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or domestic violence shelter
 - Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/hotel (not sponsored by Alberta Works Or AISH)
 - Motel/hotel (sponsored by Alberta Works Or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know [likely homeless]
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
5. Where are you staying tonight?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 - Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/Hotel (Not Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Motel/Hotel (Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public Space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional Housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**

25. What family members are staying with you tonight?

- None
- Partner
- Other adult (specify: _____)
- Child(ren)/dependent(s) under age 18

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |

- Declined to answer

26. How old are you [OR] what year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

- Age: _____ years
- OR** year born: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

- Yes, specify below:
 - First Nations
 - Inuit
 - Métis
 - Non-Status or have Aboriginal ancestry
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

28. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

29. How long have you been in Red Deer?

- Length: _____ # of days
- OR** _____ # of weeks
- OR** _____ # of months
- OR** _____ # of years
- Always been here
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

[If length answered:] Where did you come from before you came here?

- Community: _____
- Province (in Canada): _____
- Country (not in Canada): _____
- Declined to answer

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

- Yes, Military
- Yes, RCMP
- Yes Military and RCMP
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

31. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list]

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Other response: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

32. Do you identify as part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer community?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

9.4 How long have you been homeless most recently?

- _____ # of years
- OR** _____ # of months
- OR** _____ # of weeks
- OR** _____ # of days
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

9.5 How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?

- # _____

16. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months? e.g. People's Place, Mats, Women's Shelter

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

- Addiction or substance use
- Conflict with roommate
- Domestic abuse
- Evicted
- Family conflict
- Hospitalization or treatment program
- Illness or medical condition
- Incarcerated (jail/prison)
- Job loss
- Left care (child and family services)
- Unsafe housing conditions
- Other reason: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

30. Where do you get your money from? [May give examples from list. Select all that apply].

- Child and family tax benefits
- Disability benefit
- Employment
- Employment insurance
- Informal/self-employment (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling)
- Seniors benefits (e.g. CPP, OAS, GIS)
- Welfare/income assistance
- Other source: _____
- No income
- Declined to answer

31. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Elementary/ Middle School
- Secondary School /High School
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

32. Do you have any of the following?

| | Yes | No | Don't know | Declined to answer |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chronic/Acute Medical Condition | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Physical Disability | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Addiction | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mental Illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

33. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own?

- Addiction
- Children
- Criminal history
- Discrimination
- Domestic violence
- Don't want housing
- Family breakdown/conflict
- Health/disability issues
- Low income
- Mental health issues
- No income assistance
- Pets
- Poor housing conditions
- Rents too high
- Other, specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

34. What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

- Specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

[End of Survey]

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

Appendix 8 – Transitional Housing Survey



Transitional Housing Name

Team Number

Start Time

End Time

Transitional Housing Survey

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____, I am a volunteer with the Red Deer Point in Time Homeless Count. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and none of your answers will be used to identify you. You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.

Screening

1. Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification e.g. button]?
 - Yes **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - No
2. Are you willing to participate in this survey?
 - Yes
 - No **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
3. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
4. *[If answered YES to Screening 3]* What type of residence is your permanent residence?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or domestic violence shelter
 - Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/hotel (not sponsored by Alberta Works Or AISH)
 - Motel/hotel (sponsored by Alberta Works Or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know [likely homeless]
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
5. Where are you staying tonight?
 - Abandoned/vacant building
 - Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter
 - Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre
 - Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
 - Motel/Hotel (Not Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Motel/Hotel (Sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH)
 - Own apartment/house **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Public Space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
 - Someone else's place (friend/family) **[THANK & END SURVEY]**
 - Transitional Housing
 - Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
 - Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation (specify: _____)
 - Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)
 - Declined to answer **[THANK & END SURVEY]**

33. What family members are staying with you tonight?
- None
 - Partner
 - Other adult (specify: _____)
 - Child(ren)/dependent(s) under age 18

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |

- Declined to answer

34. How old are you [OR] what year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]
- Age: _____ years
 - OR** year born: _____
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

35. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without Status. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]
- Yes, specify below:
 - First Nations
 - Inuit
 - Métis
 - Non-Status or have Aboriginal ancestry
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

36. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

37. How long have you been in Red Deer?
- Length: _____ # of days
 - OR** _____ # of weeks
 - OR** _____ # of months
 - OR** _____ # of years
 - Always been here
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

[If length answered:] Where did you come from before you came here?

- Community: _____
- Province (in Canada): _____
- Country (not in Canada): _____
- Declined to answer

38. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian military or the RCMP?
- Yes, Military
 - Yes, RCMP
 - Yes Military and RCMP
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

39. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list]
- Male
 - Female
 - Transgender
 - Other response: _____
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

40. Do you identify as part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer community?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

- 9.5 How long have you been homeless most recently?
- _____ # of years
 - OR** _____ # of months
 - OR** _____ # of weeks
 - OR** _____ # of days
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

- 9.6 How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?
- # _____

18. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months? e.g. People's Place, Mats, Women's Shelter
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

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

- Addiction or substance use
- Conflict with roommate
- Domestic abuse
- Evicted
- Family conflict
- Hospitalization or treatment program
- Illness or medical condition
- Incarcerated (jail/prison)
- Job loss
- Left care (child and family services)
- Unsafe housing conditions
- Other reason: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

36. Where do you get your money from? [May give examples from list. Select all that apply].

- Child and family tax benefits
- Disability benefit
- Employment
- Employment insurance
- Informal/self-employment (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling)
- Seniors benefits (e.g. CPP, OAS, GIS)
- Welfare/income assistance
- Other source: _____
- No income
- Declined to answer

37. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Elementary/ Middle School
- Secondary School /High School
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

38. Do you have any of the following?

| | Yes | No | Don't know | Declined to answer |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chronic/Acute Medical Condition | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Physical Disability | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Addiction | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mental Illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

39. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own?

- Addiction
- Children
- Criminal history
- Discrimination
- Domestic violence
- Don't want housing
- Family breakdown/conflict
- Health/disability issues
- Low income
- Mental health issues
- No income assistance
- Pets
- Poor housing conditions
- Rents too high
- Other, specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

40. What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

- Specify: _____
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

[End of Survey]

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