



2016 Alberta Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness

Provincial Report

February 2017



Report Prepared by Three Hive Consulting for 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness

Table of Contents

- List of Tables 2
- Key findings 3
 - How Many?..... 3
 - Where? 4
 - Who?..... 5
- Introduction 6
 - Alberta’s 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness..... 6
 - Point-in-Time Counts: An exploration of homelessness..... 6
- Methodology 7
 - Definitions..... 8
 - Data Sources 10
 - Variation across Cities 11
 - Data Entry and Analysis..... 11
- 2016 Count Results 15
 - Homelessness Experience 16
 - Contextualizing the Findings..... 17
- 2016 Key Demographics and Characteristics..... 19
 - Gender 19
 - Age 23
 - Indigenous People 26
 - Indigenous Youth 27
 - Immigration and Migration 28
 - Chronic Homelessness 29
 - Service in the Canadian Forces and RCMP 29
 - Reasons for Loss of Housing..... 30
- Conclusion 32
- Acknowledgements 33
- Glossary 34
- References..... 36
- Appendix A: Data sources and their use 38
- Appendix B: Canadian Definition Of Homelessness 41
- Appendix C: Survey tools 42

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Canadian Definition of Homelessness Summary (2012)	9
Table 2. Breakdown of Data Sources used for the 2016 Count by City	10
Table 3. Enumerators and Coverage	11
Table 4. Breakdown of Data Sources by Variable and City	12
Table 5. Total Number of Valid Surveys by City	13
Table 6. List of Abbreviations	34
Table 7. Definitions.....	34
Table 8: All administrative and survey data collected	38
Table 9: Administrative and survey data used to determine totals in this report	39
Table 10: Administrative and survey data used to determine totals in local reports	40

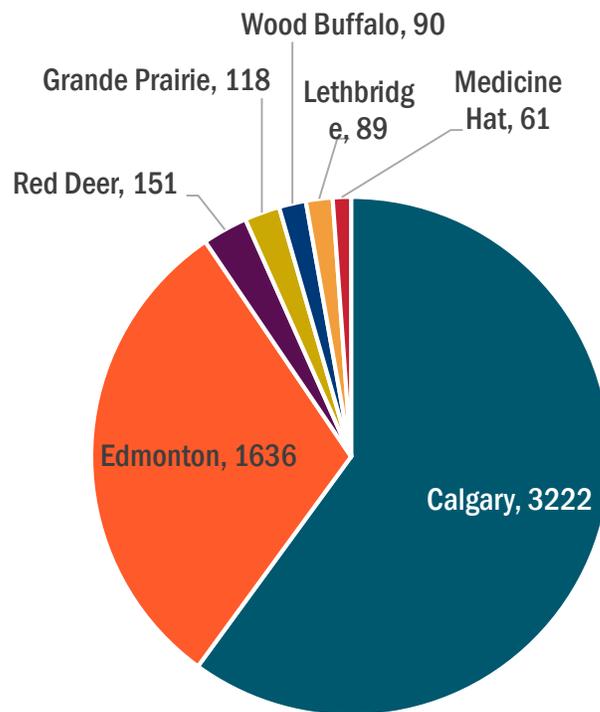
KEY FINDINGS

How Many?

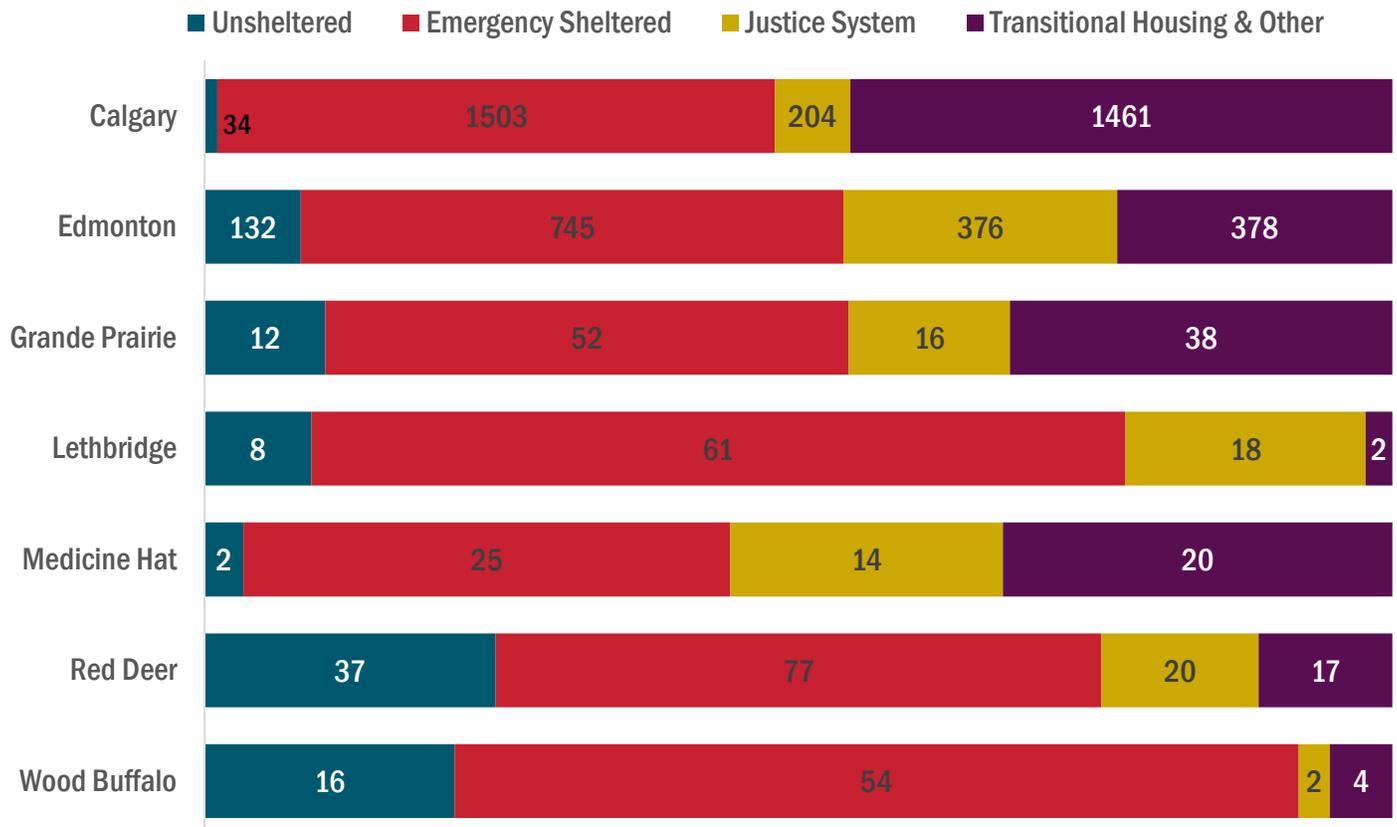
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people were counted as experiencing homelessness from the 2016 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count

2016 Homeless Count by City

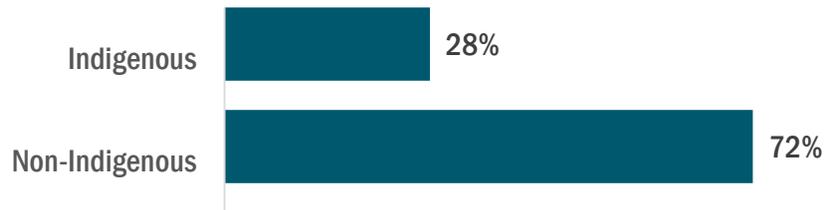


Where?

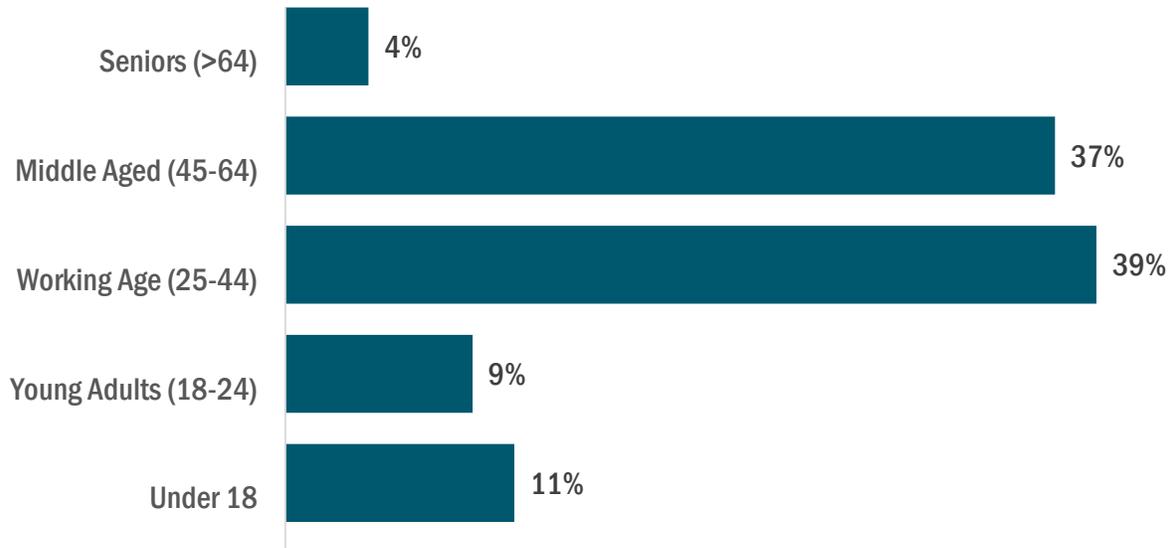


Who?

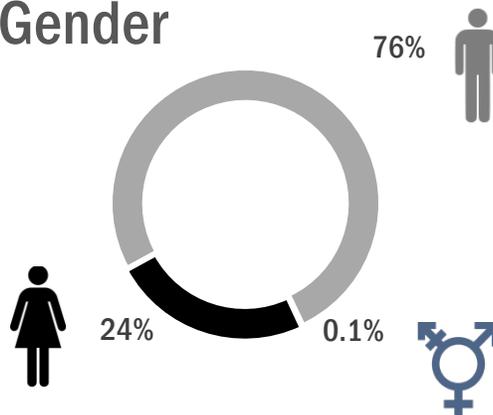
Indigenous Status



Age



Gender



INTRODUCTION

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (7 Cities) is made up of 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. 7 Cities coordinates local plans at a systems level and aligns funding resources for greater impact and progress toward ending homelessness.

The 7 Cities provides a forum for dialogue with federal and provincial representatives on housing and homelessness. The 7 Cities have long-standing histories of delivering strategic planning and service delivery in communities, along with administering and aligning funds, with accountabilities to several provincial or federal funders, including Alberta Human Services and the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Note that Human Services has since been renamed Community and Social Services, but the ministry is referred to as Human Services throughout this report as that was its name at the time of the count.

Point-in-Time Counts: An exploration of homelessness

On October 19, 2016, the 7 Cities held its second provincially-coordinated Point-in-Time Count ("Count") of homelessness, with implementation being completed locally by a lead organization in each city. 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 Homeless Partnering Strategy and Canadian Observatory on Homelessness in 2016 have contributed to momentum toward a harmonized approach to a national Count.

The 7 Cities coordinates biennial Point-in-Time Counts in order to provide a current snapshot of the overall homeless population in Alberta and to enable examination of how homelessness might change over time. Using aligned methods across the cities, trends can be identified using similar definitions. Ultimately, the information gained from Alberta's coordinated Point-in-Time Count helps to inform solutions to support the goal of ending homelessness in our communities.

The information produced during the Point-in-Time Count is utilized alongside robust administrative data from Alberta's Homeless Management Information systems, information from service providers, and research and evaluation projects to form a more complete picture of homelessness in a given community. In isolation, a Point-in-Time Count is not intended to produce an exact number of people experiencing homelessness, as not everyone will be found and some of those who are approached are not willing to participate.

Alberta's 7 Cities engages in renewed conversations about Point-in-Time Count methods year-over-year in order to produce increasingly complete information about homelessness. These conversations include sharing lessons learned from implementing new and complementary methods, including Registry Weeks and concerted outreach to engage with individuals experiencing homelessness.

METHODOLOGY

2014

In October 2014, Alberta's 7 Cities agreed to pilot the proposed national methodology as a collaborative endeavour. The 7 Cities struck a Homeless Count Working Group who met regularly over the course of six months to ensure methods aligned, as well as messaging in community and learnings were shared in real time.

The lead organizations from the participating communities led the actual Counts on the ground, conducted data entry, and provided information about local methods to a lead researcher. The cities agreed to conduct the Count in facilities (emergency shelters, short term supportive housing), systems (hospitals, jails, remand, police holding cells, Alberta Works and Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped [AISH] funded hotels), as well as on the street.

The cities adapted the proposed methods to meet their unique local circumstances. For example, the national survey has core questions that all cities needed to ask, but also allows for additional questions dependent on community interest. Each city tailored the survey accordingly, but kept the core questions to allow for comparison regionally.

Similarly, each city conducted an emergency shelter and street count at a minimum, but some communities had broader scope enumerating people in public systems, short term supportive housing, and in precarious housing situations.

The timing of the Counts varied; most cities enumerated on October 16, 2014. However, there were exceptions. Further, two cities (Edmonton and Wood Buffalo) conducted daytime street Counts, while the other five communities conducted night counts, which impacts the comparability of the results.

It is important to highlight that despite efforts to align, there were considerable challenges to comparability because of the differences in methods used.

Overview of 2016 Approach

The 2016 Point-in-Time Homeless Count built off the successes of the 2014 Count while improving consistency in methodology. The Count was conducted at the same time and the survey was the same across all cities. Compared to 2014, the 2016 Count allows for better comparison between cities but has challenges comparing across time, as changes in methodologies created some differences from the 2014 Count. The aligned methodology will allow for more comparable counts in the future.

All cities conducted a count on the night of Wednesday, October 19, 2016 within the bounds of 7 pm and midnight. In areas where it was unsafe to count at night, surveys were conducted either earlier that day or the following morning before 9 am. This report focuses on core survey questions. Local reports include different information that is locally relevant.

The cities increased methodological similarity across the province since the 2014 Count and agreed to conduct the Count on the street and in facilities accommodating the homeless (emergency shelters, short term supportive housing and hotels used as emergency shelters). The methodology, however, was very different from 2008 to 2016 and comparing these years is not suitable. The Point-in Time Count numbers from 2014 are presented in this report; however, the methodological differences should be considered when interpreting the data.

For the first time, provincial government ministries also provided administrative data across the province for people experiencing homelessness who were institutionalized. This information is available for correctional facilities, but health facility data has not been reported due to discrepancies in the data.

When available, administrative data from Justice and Solicitor General, Human Services, emergency shelters and transitional housing replaced survey responses. This resulted in a more accurate breakdown of where individuals planned on staying on the night of the Count, as well as gender and age data.

Moving from separate to aligned methodologies presents challenges for tracking changes over time in local communities, which is one of the major goals of a Point-in-Time Count. In order to maintain comparability locally, cities may exclude data used in this report or include additional data in their local reports. As such, the numbers reported by cities locally may not match exactly those presented here. Examples of additional data included in some cities are: a) counts of the hidden homeless, b) an extended street count conducted the following day, or; c) use of tally sheets to count sleeping or non-responsive individuals d) use of local Health data. A table with all possible sources of data is presented in Appendix A.

The following information summarizes the methodological approaches taken across the seven cities, including the definitions that informed inclusion in the Count, and differences in methodology or context that may have caused variation between cities. An overview of the data entry process and analytic methodologies applied to the data is also presented.

Definitions

Consistent with the 2014 process, the 2016 Alberta Point-in-Time Count included individuals and families in alignment with the Canadian Definition of Homelessness (2012). Notably, the definition was applied more consistently in 2016 across Alberta than in 2014 allowing for greater comparability and discussion. Using this established typology aids in maintaining consistent classification of individuals experiencing homelessness across various locations and utilizing the same language to describe the population. Table 1 summarizes the Canadian Definition of Homelessness and locations used to determine which category an individual and their family are included. The full Canadian Definition of Homelessness (2012) can be found in Appendix B.

Table 1. Canadian Definition of Homelessness Summary (2012)

Category	Definition	Locations
Unsheltered	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public space (e.g., sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter) • Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck) • Makeshift shelter, tent or shack • Abandoned/vacant building • Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation
Emergency Sheltered	People who, because they cannot secure permanent housing, are accessing emergency shelter and system supports, generally provided at no cost or minimal cost to the user. Such accommodation represents an institutional response to homelessness provided by government, non-profit, faith based organizations and/or volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency or domestic violence shelter • Motel/hotel sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH
Provisionally Accommodated	Situations in which people who are technically homeless and without permanent shelter, access accommodation that offers no prospect of permanence. Those who are provisionally accommodated may be accessing temporary housing provided by government or the non-profit sector, or may have independently made arrangements for short-term accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional housing • Motel/hotel not sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH • Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre

Data Sources

There were three main sources of data used for the 2016 Point-in-Time Homeless Count: 1) surveys, 2) administrative data, and 3) systems-level data such as administrative data from correctional facilities or government sponsored hotels. The use or combination of these sources varied for each city depending on what was available. Table 2 summarizes the data sources used to create the total count of individuals experiencing homelessness in Alberta. Note that for the demographics presented later in this report, surveys were utilized in place of administrative data.

Table 2. Breakdown of Data Sources used for the 2016 Count by City

	Calgary	Edmonton	Red Deer	Grande Prairie	Wood Buffalo	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Total
Survey	54	140	131	14	88	71	45	544
Administrative	2974	1065	N/A	88	N/A	N/A	N/A	4127
Systems	194	431	20	16	2	18	16	697
Total	3222	1636	151	118	90	89	61	5367

Survey Data

The 2016 Homeless Count Survey was employed by all seven cities. The survey included questions on demographics and the homelessness experience. The survey was the primary source of information for Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Red Deer, and Wood Buffalo. For the 2016 Count, all aspects of the survey were identical allowing for better comparison and combinations of responses. The 2016 Homeless Count Survey can be found in Appendix C.

Administrative Data

Administrative data was included in the Count for Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie. This data refers to administrative records from emergency shelters, transitional housing, and other provisional accommodations on October 19th. Administrative data is data that is recorded upon a person’s entry into shelter or transitional housing/provisional accommodation, at which point the individual is asked about their gender, age, and in some cases observed ethnicity. Including administrative data was imperative for the Count in these cities as it captured a large proportion of the population experiencing homelessness.

Systems Data

For the 2016 Count, systems data was included when available. Systems data refers to data provided by provincial government ministries. The Justice & Solicitor General’s Office provided Count data from correctional facilities and was available for all seven cities. Human Services provided Count data from Hotels/Motels sponsored by Alberta Works or Assured Income for Severely Handicapped (AISH). Edmonton and Medicine Hat were the only cities that had individuals stay at sponsored Hotels/Motels the night of the Count. Alberta Health Services (AHS) data was provided provincially and, in some cases, locally; due to large discrepancies between these numbers, the results are not included in this report. Work has already begun to ensure that results for 2018 will be consistent across the province.

Variation across Cities

Enumerators

Each city covered the entire downtown area and selected additional areas, where people experiencing homelessness were likely to be present. The total number of enumerators, as well as specific areas targeted for enumeration, varied by city - details are available in local reports. Some cities, like Calgary, had assistance from the police service and by-law officers, while other cities relied solely on volunteers. It is important to note that fewer enumerators may not equate to less coverage, rather it helps to consider the types of enumerators and areas covered for each city when interpreting the overall Count and corresponding population characteristics.

Table 3. Enumerators and Coverage

	Calgary	Edmonton	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	Wood Buffalo
Time on October 19	7am-3pm 10pm-12am	7-10pm	7-11pm	6-8am 6-10pm	7-10pm	9pm to 12am	7-11pm
Time on October 20	-	5-9am*	-		-	12am to 8am	-*
Number of Enumerators	135	127	60	165	48	219	34

*Edmonton and Wood Buffalo also conducted counts throughout the day on October 20, the results of which are not included in this report.

Data Entry and Analysis

For 2016, a uniform data entry tool was created using Survey Monkey - an online survey development cloud-based software. Four of the cities submitted all of their data via Survey Monkey while three of the cities submitted data in Excel following a similar format. Although there were a few minor differences, the cleaning of surveys and merging of data was possible.

Administrative and systems data was also submitted in Excel allowing for uniform cleaning and use. The majority of administrative and systems data included counts stratified by gender, age, and Indigenous status. For some administrative data Indigenous status was presented as Indigenous versus Non-Indigenous, while for others it was broken down by Indigenous group. Age categories were adjusted across the cities to create identical groupings ideal for analysis.

When available, administrative and/or systems data replaced survey data categorized from the same location for the overall Count, age, gender, and Indigenous status. For example, if emergency shelter administrative data was available, it would replace any surveys where individuals reported that they were going to stay at an emergency shelter on the night of the 19th. Administrative data is likely to capture more individuals and in turn better represent the homeless population. The availability and use of administrative and/or systems data varied across the cities. One limitation is that administrative data may not always represent the same population as the survey responses.

For specific demographics and characteristics presented in this report, such as immigration/migration, reasons for homelessness, and sources of income, survey data was used exclusively. The survey included more in-depth questions about demographics and homeless patterns so it was used in place of administrative or systems data.

There was no duplication during analysis. For example, when administrative data was used for the overall Count, age, and gender, we removed the survey data representing the same population or location. Likewise, we did the same when utilizing survey data instead of administrative data. The goal was to present the most robust sample for both the Count and survey characteristics while making sure that no duplication occurred.

Table 4. Breakdown of Data Sources by Variable and City

	Administrative, Systems, and Survey Data	Administrative and Survey Data	Systems and Survey Data	Survey Only
Calgary Edmonton	Count, Location, Gender, Age, Indigenous Status,			Dependent Children, Immigration/Migration, Chronic Homelessness, Service in Canadian Forces/RCMP, Reason(s) for Loss of Housing, Income Sources
Grande Prairie	Count, Location, Gender, Age, Indigenous Status	Dependent Children		Immigration/Migration, Chronic Homelessness, Service in Canadian Forces/RCMP, Reason(s) for Loss of Housing, Income Sources
Red Deer Wood Buffalo Lethbridge Medicine Hat			Count, Location, Gender, Age, Indigenous Status	Dependent Children, Immigration/Migration, Chronic Homelessness, Service in Canadian Forces/RCMP, Reason(s) for Loss of Housing, Income Sources

Screening Questions

One of the main methodological recommendations that came from the 2014 report was to align inclusion and exclusion criteria and ensure that definitions regarding who “counts” as homeless remained consistent across all cities. For the most part this was successful for the 2016 Count. One limitation that occurred for 2016 was the number of surveys that were missing responses to the survey screening questions. There were five screening questions required for each survey. Cities that utilized the Survey Monkey data entry tool were unable to enter data once an individual reported having previously answered the survey (to avoid duplication), or said they were unwilling to participate. Survey Monkey also automatically concluded the survey when an individual reported having a permanent residence that was their own apartment/house or someone else’s place (friend/family) - meaning that the individual was not experiencing homelessness as defined by the Canadian Definition of Homelessness (2012). See Appendix C for the full survey including the five screening questions.

Survey Samples

Across the cities, enumerators were asked to approach all people on the street, in emergency shelters or transitional housing to participate, and apply the five screening questions to determine inclusion. The aim was to survey as many people as possible. If they had accompanying minor dependents with them, the survey was only administered to the parent though the minors are included in the breakdown of age as under 18 in the survey analysis.

Administrative data, used by the larger urban centres, captures all sheltered individuals for the facilities - or 100% coverage. For the unsheltered homeless we are unable to capture all individuals during the street count. We do not know how many people we are missing when counting the unsheltered homeless population so the estimates could be biased or inaccurate. At this time, the survey methodology used for the 2016 Count is the best estimate available. Table 5 presents the total number of valid surveys. Valid surveys refer to surveys that met inclusion criteria in the screening questions. For Edmonton, Calgary and Grande Prairie not all valid surveys were utilized in the Count due to the use of administrative data, but all surveys were used to determine specific demographics and homelessness characteristics.

Table 5. Total Number of Valid Surveys by City

	Total Valid Surveys
Calgary	296
Edmonton	579
Red Deer	131
Grande Prairie	76
Wood Buffalo	88
Lethbridge	71
Medicine Hat	45
Total	1277

Complementing the Survey with Administrative Data

For Edmonton, Calgary, and Grande Prairie a large amount of demographic data came from administrative data sources. In particular, administrative data included gender, age group, and in some cases Indigenous status. Rather than just using the significantly smaller sample sizes exclusively from the survey, administrative data was included for some demographics to provide a larger sample. The analytic strategy for including administrative data was the same as the overall Count in that precaution was taken to not duplicate individuals. For example, if emergency shelter administrative data was utilized for Calgary, Edmonton, or Grande Prairie, surveys in which the respondent reported staying at an emergency shelter were excluded. It is important to note that administrative data was not matched with survey data, it replaced it entirely for analysis on gender, age and Indigenous status.

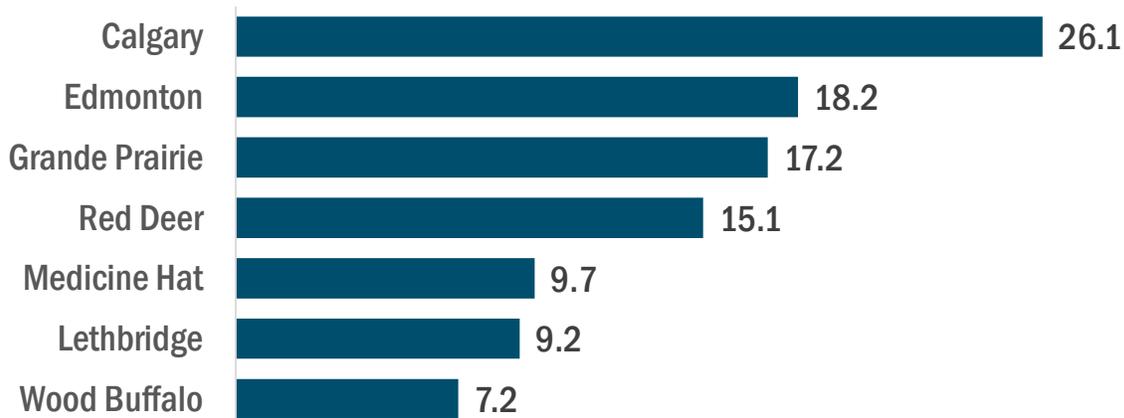
For demographics that were not available in administrative data, survey data was used exclusively across all cities.

In the 2014 report Calgary was the only city to supplement key demographic information using administrative data. In 2016, administrative data was utilized for the key demographics (gender, age group, and Indigenous status) whenever available. The additional administrative data from facilities adds greater strength to the sample being used to describe the larger Alberta population experiencing homelessness.

2016 COUNT RESULTS

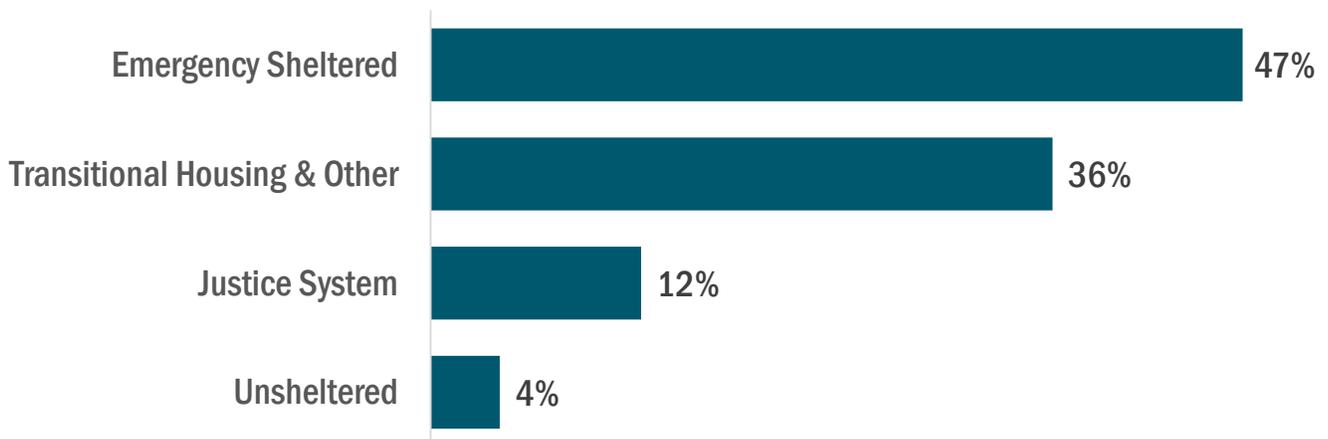
The majority of the 2016 Point-in-Time Homeless Count came from Alberta's major urban centres. Calgary and Edmonton account for 84% of the population of the 7 Cities, but made up 90% of the population counted as experiencing homelessness. The remaining five cities made up 10%: 151 from Red Deer, 118 from Grande Prairie, 90 from Wood Buffalo, 89 from Lethbridge, and 61 from Medicine Hat. Per capita, Calgary was at 26.1 per 10,000 followed by Edmonton at 18.2 per 10,000. The most recent available population data was obtained from Alberta Municipal Affairs [1].

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Per 10,000 Population



Almost half of the population counted as experiencing homelessness were reported to have stayed at an emergency shelter (47%), followed by transitional housing (36%), within a justice system facility (12%), or unsheltered (4%). The remaining 1% of the counted homeless population did not report where they were staying.

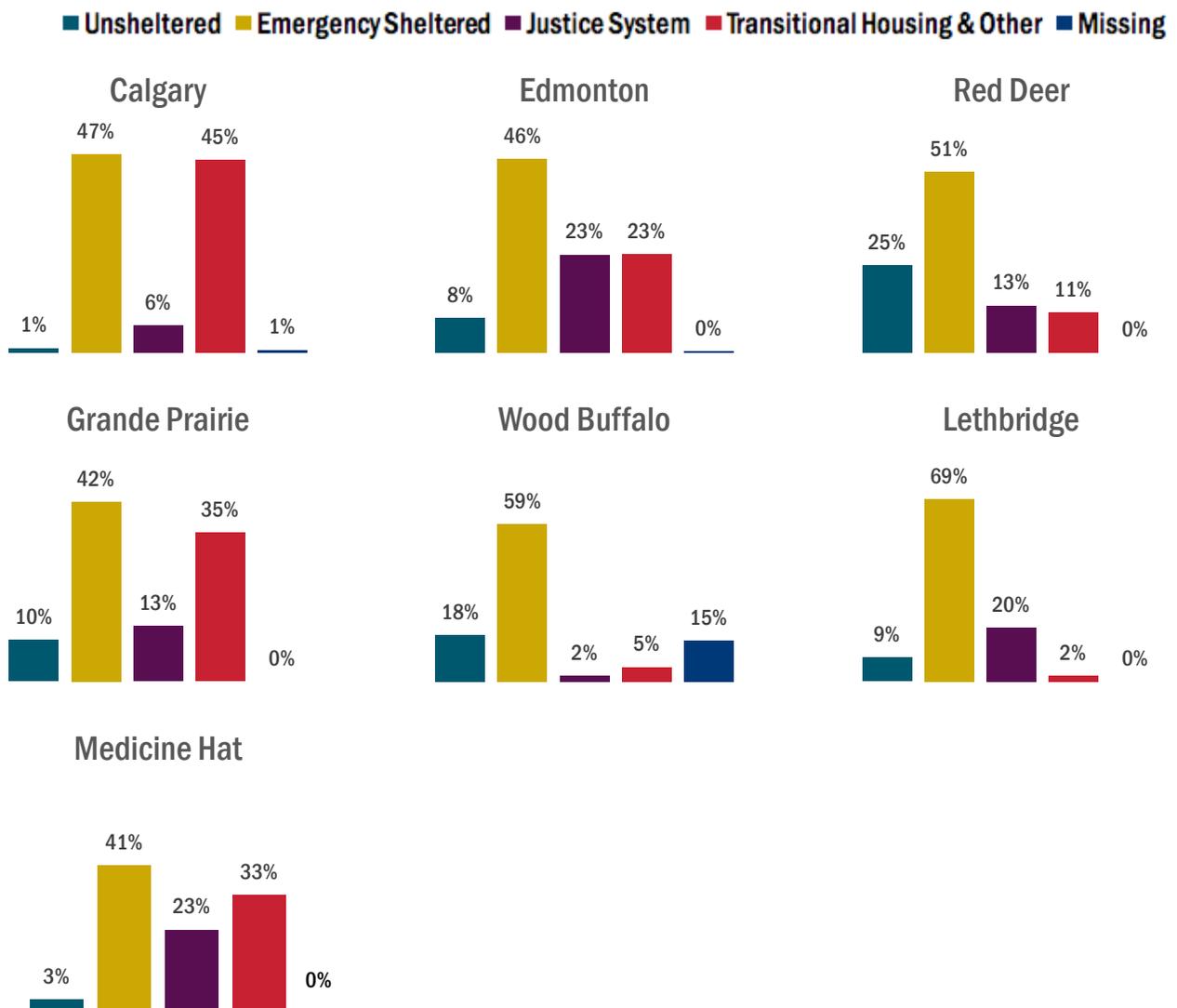
Sheltered Status of Homeless Population



Homelessness Experience

Across all cities the majority of enumerated individuals stayed in emergency shelters. Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, and Medicine Hat had a large proportion stay in transitional housing or other types of provisional accommodation such as motel or hotels. Data from Justice and Solicitor General provided information on the home communities for individuals held in a correctional facility without fixed address (NFA). The proportion of homeless individuals located in a correctional facility ranged from 2% in Wood Buffalo to 23% in Edmonton and Medicine Hat.

Locations that the Population Experiencing Homelessness Reported Staying the Night (2016)

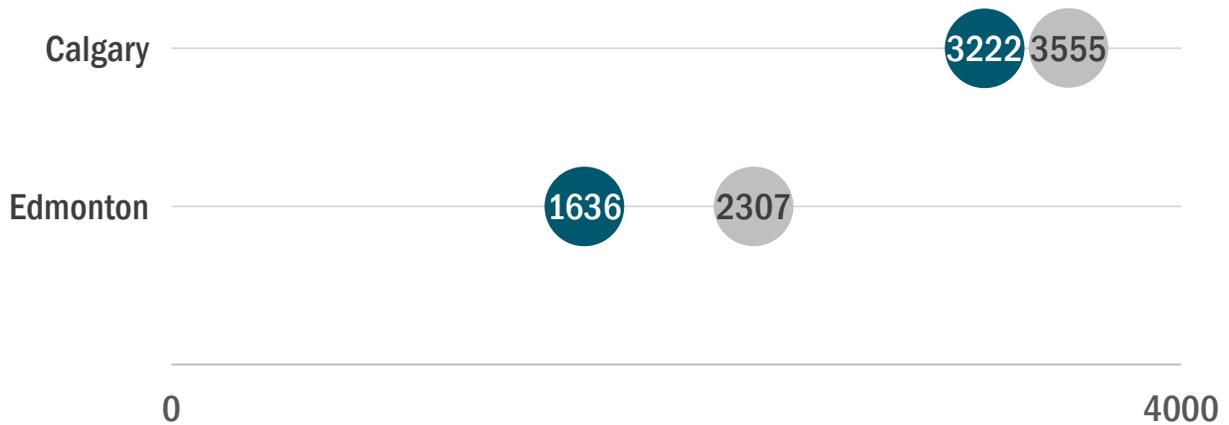


Contextualizing the Findings

Changes over Time

Methodological changes were made in order to compare across cities for 2016. This means that different variables and in some cases data sources were utilized for this Count (see Appendix A for details of what is included). In more than one city comparisons across time were limited and inaccurate. All cities saw a decrease since 2014 but should be interpreted with caution due to the methodological changes.

The Homeless Count in both major urban cities decreased from 2014 to 2016



The Homeless Count in the smaller cities decreased in all but one city from 2014 to 2016



Population Growth

Despite an economic slowdown, Alberta's population continues to increase faster than anywhere else in the country. Alberta's population was 4,108,283 in 2014 and grew to 4,252,879 in 2016 - a 3.5% increase (down from 5.9% in the previous two years) [2]. With the possible exception of Wood Buffalo, all cities are experiencing population growth at various levels; however, it is difficult to compare rates as some cities complete censuses more frequently than others.

Alberta's population growth is often felt to be in part related to the economic opportunities. However, since the 2014 Count Alberta has experienced a decrease in oil prices and an upward trend in the unemployment rate. In October 2016, Alberta's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.5%, up from 4.5% two years earlier. In contrast, the national unemployment rate was 7.0% in October 2016 [3]. There has been an increase in unemployment across all seven cities, with the rate ranging from 6.2% in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat to 10.0% in Calgary - one of the highest of any major Canadian cities [3]. Wood Buffalo also has a relatively high unemployment rate of 9.1% up from 4.9% in October of 2014.

Housing Affordability

The average apartment vacancy rate in Alberta's urban centres was 8.1% in October 2016, up dramatically from 2.1% in October 2014 [3]. The vacancy rate rose in all seven cities and reached 17.8% in Wood Buffalo. Despite this, the level of average rent decreased only 2.9% across Alberta's urban centres over two years, having increased 14.7% between 2012 and 2014, and four cities saw no decrease at all. Rents in Wood Buffalo decreased by about 31% from October 2014 to October 2016, but continue to be the highest in the province. Housing affordability is only measured every five years and the latest data available are from the 2011 National Household Survey [4], where 24% of all Albertans and 39% of renters were experiencing housing affordability challenges (paying more than 30% of their income for shelter).

2016 Wildfire

During the early days of May 2016 a wildfire spread through the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. On May 3rd over 88,000 residents were evacuated from Fort McMurray and displaced throughout Alberta, Canada and the world [5]. Over 2400 structures were destroyed in the fire, the majority of which were residential areas. Many homeless patrons were supported by agencies serving the homeless, as well as evacuated by city buses during evacuation. The only noted fatalities of the event occurred during a vehicle collision on Highway 881 which resulted in two deaths. The impact of the fire on the homeless population of Fort McMurray has yet to be seen. There is the possibility that some have not returned and have chosen to stay in another city. There is also an influx of support from Red Cross which has resulted in some individuals and families being supported by the Red Cross in hotels - this was still in place during the 2016 Count and may have resulted in a lower count.

2016 KEY DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The following section presents the 2016 findings on key demographics and characteristics. Gender, Age, and Indigenous status information represents data from surveys, administrative data, and systems data. The remaining characteristics presented are obtained from survey data only.

Gender

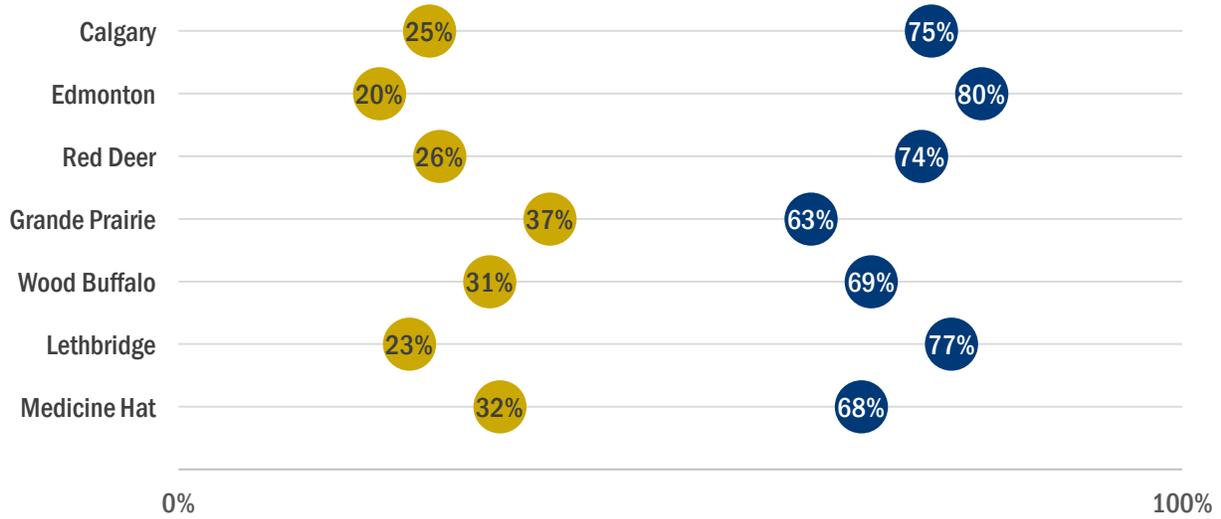
Males were more prevalent in the homeless population than females across all cities for 2014 and 2016. Edmonton had the highest proportion of men at 80% in 2016, while Grande Prairie had the lowest at 63%. With regards to changes in gender proportions over time, males decreased in Calgary, Grande Prairie, Wood Buffalo and slightly in Red Deer, while the proportion increased in Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

Consistent with previous years, women continue to be significantly underrepresented in the Count as compared to the general population, in spite of the fact that poverty affects more women than men. Women are more likely to be part of the hidden homeless population - tapping into stronger social networks to couch surf or double up. They have greater motivation to avoid rough sleeping and emergency shelter because of the very high rates of physical and sexual violence against women experiencing homelessness and the likelihood of losing custody of their children. Women may also choose to stay in a problematic relationship in order to avoid the aforementioned dangers.

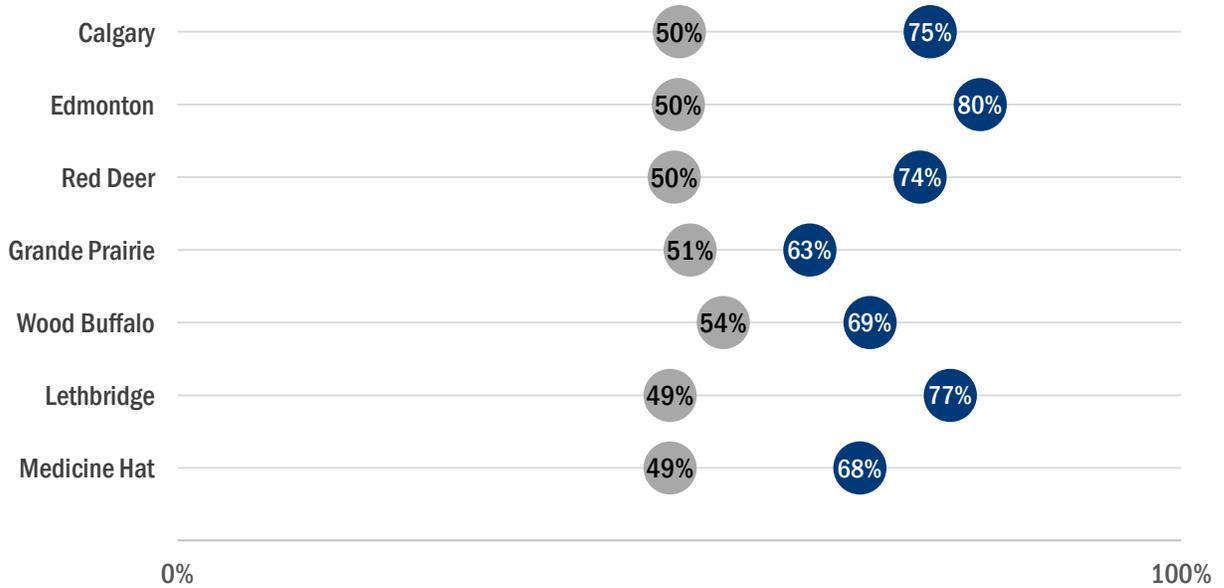
Transgender individuals made up less than 1% of the total Alberta homeless population, a total of four individuals province wide, though most administrative data sources did not report this category.

The following statistics were created using a combination of administrative, survey, and systems data and the general population data is from the 2011 NHS report [4].

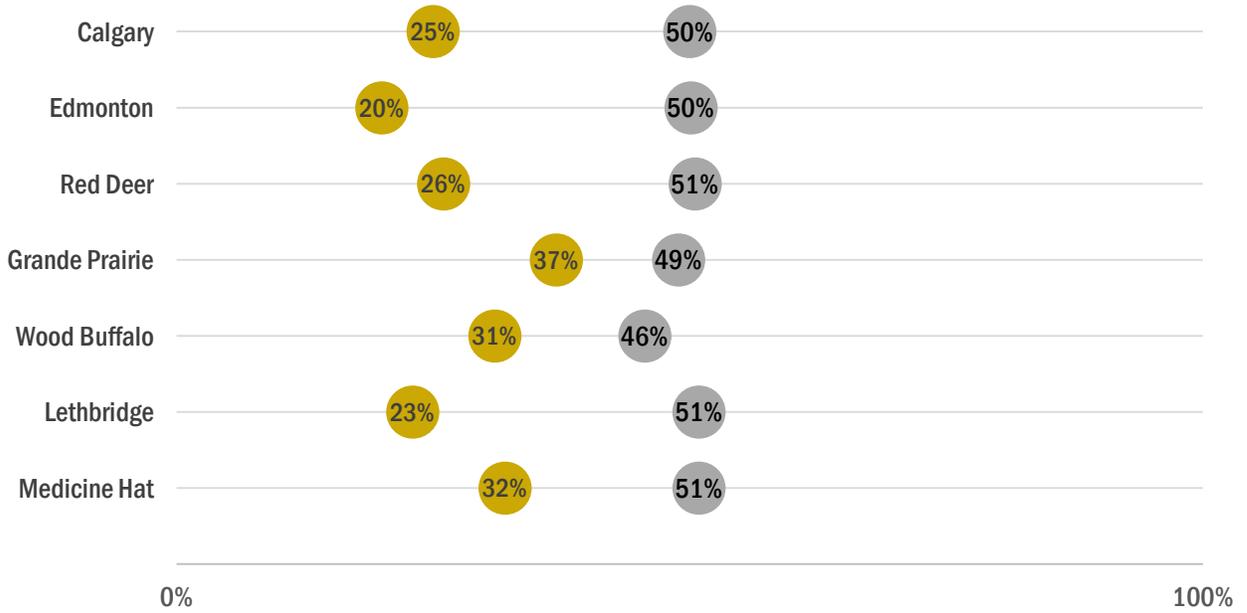
Across all cities there were more **Males** than **Females** in the 2016 Count



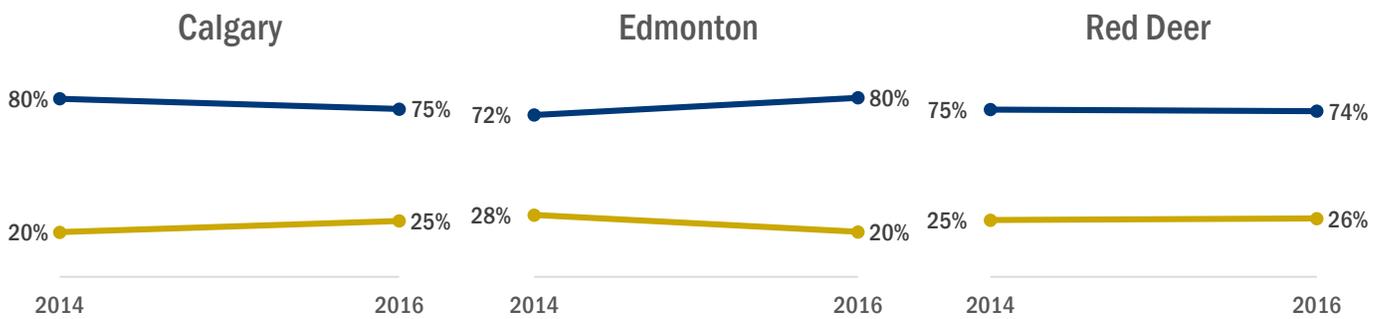
The proportion of males was higher in the **2016 Count** of individuals experiencing homelessness than in the **General Population**



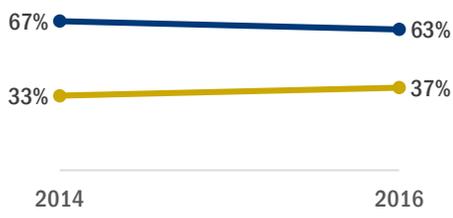
The proportion of females was lower in the **2016 Count** of individuals experiencing homelessness than in the General Population



The Change in The Proportion of **Males** and **Females** from 2014 To 2016



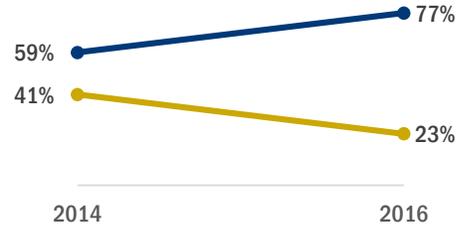
Grande Prairie



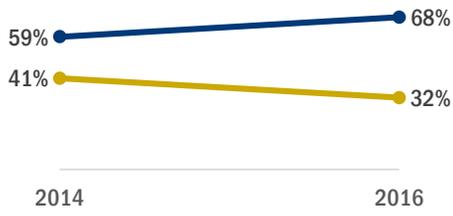
Wood Buffalo



Lethbridge



Medicine Hat

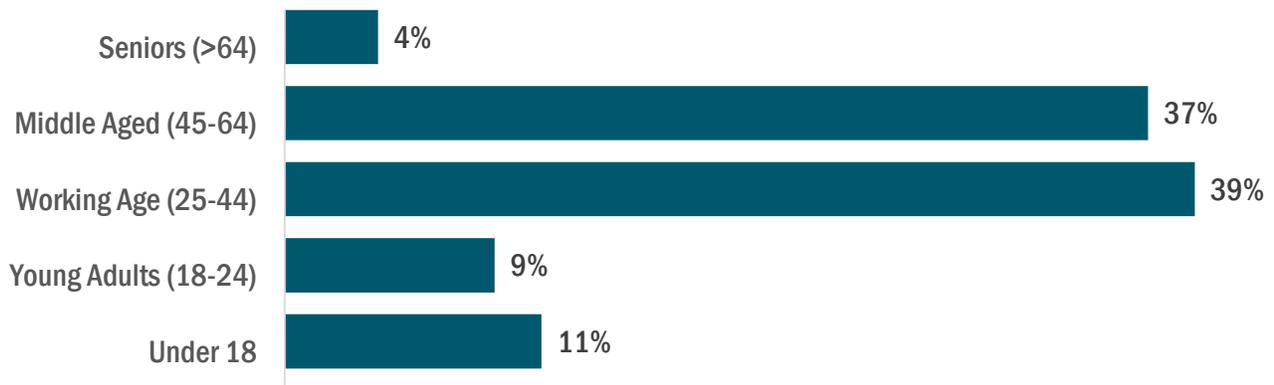


Age

The largest age group experiencing homelessness was working age adults (25-44 years) at 39%, followed by middle aged (45-64 years) at 37%. Children under 18 (independent and dependent) made up 11% of the population, followed by the young adults (18-24 years of age) at 9%. Seniors, age 65 years and over made up 4% of those counted. At the individual community level, proportion sizes varied.

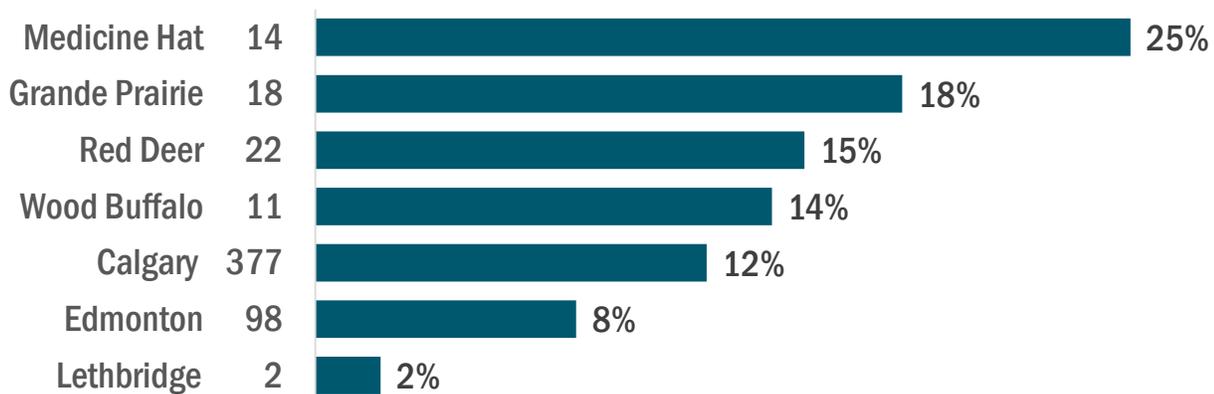
Age is presented using administrative, survey and systems data. Age groups were not the same across all cities or years, so categories had to be collapsed to allow for comparability. The resulting categories are not comparable with 2014 data with the exception of Seniors and Youth.

2016 Age Groups Experiencing Homelessness Across Alberta



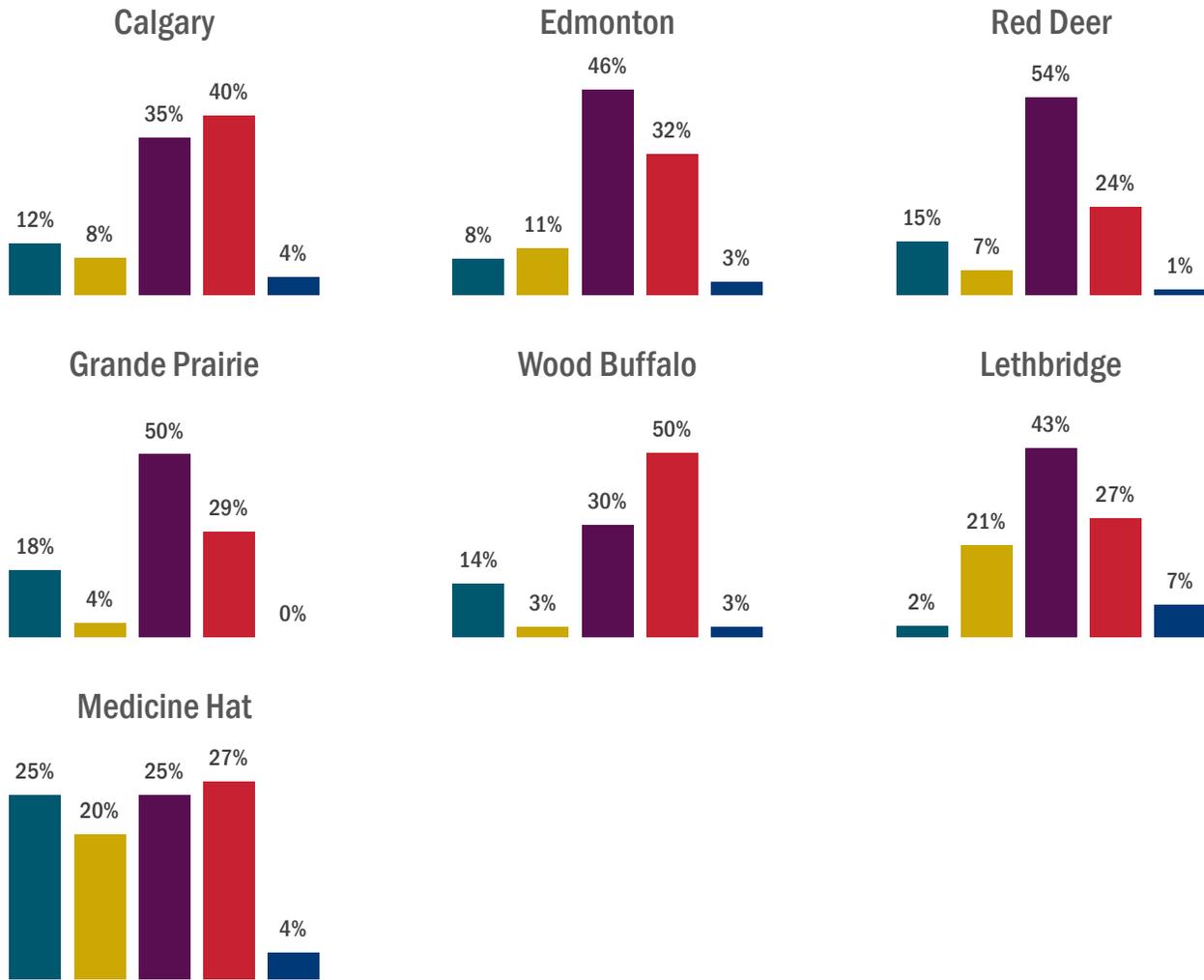
The graph below presents the total number of children or youth under 18 and independent youth (18-24). These figures include survey data (self-report or children or youth reported by their caregivers/parents) and administrative data. This is followed by the proportion of children or youth (under 18) from all individuals experiencing homelessness by city.

Number and Proportion of Enumerated Individuals Under 18 Years of Age (Including Dependents)



Age Group Proportions by City

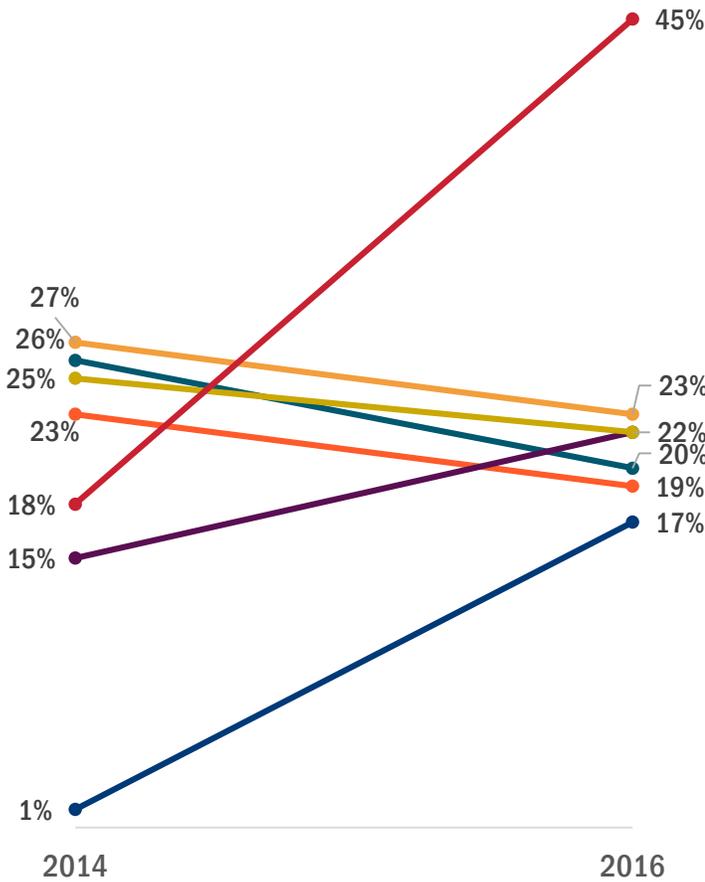
■ Under 18 ■ Young Adults (18-24) ■ Working Age (25-44) ■ Middle Aged (45-64) ■ Seniors (>64)



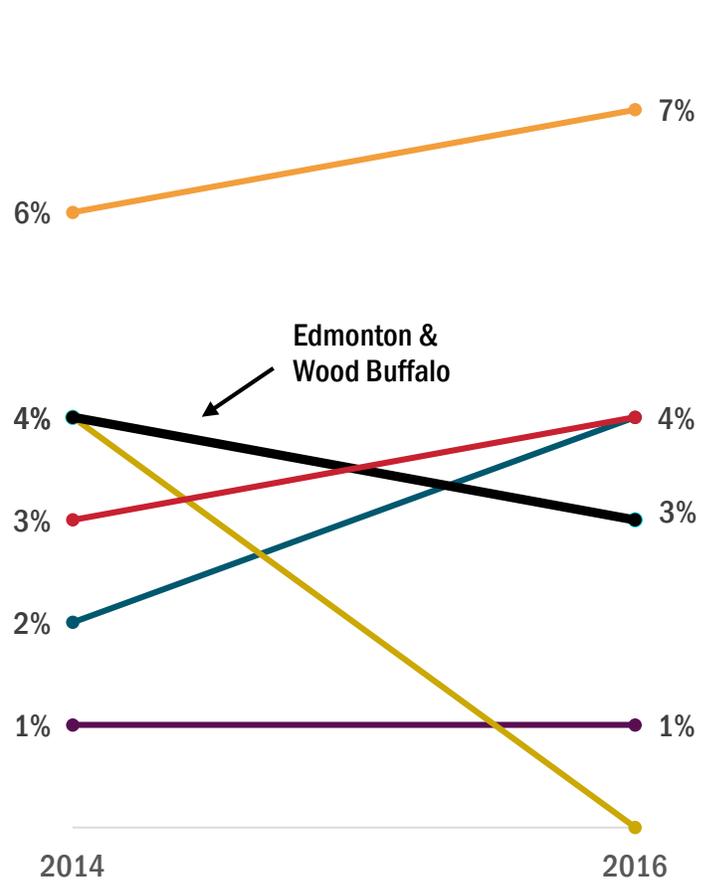
Changes in Youth (up to 24 years, including dependents) and Seniors (over 64 years from 2014 to 2016

● Calgary
 ● Edmonton
 ● Red Deer
 ● Grande Prairie
 ● Wood Buffalo
 ● Lethbridge
 ● Medicine Hat

Change in the proportion of Youth (up to 24 years of age, including dependents) experiencing homelessness by City



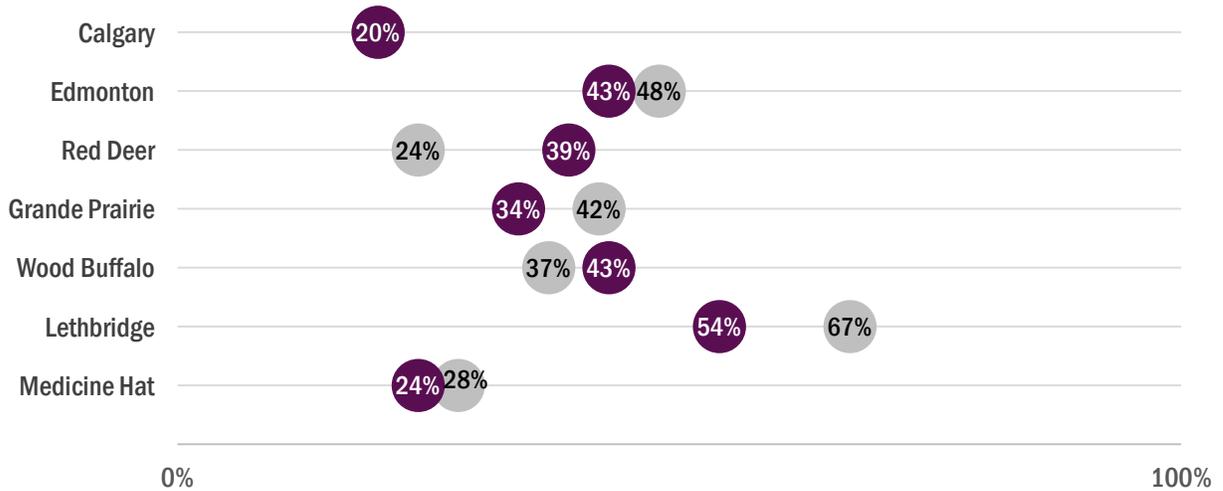
Change in the proportion of Seniors (over 64 years of age) experiencing homelessness by City



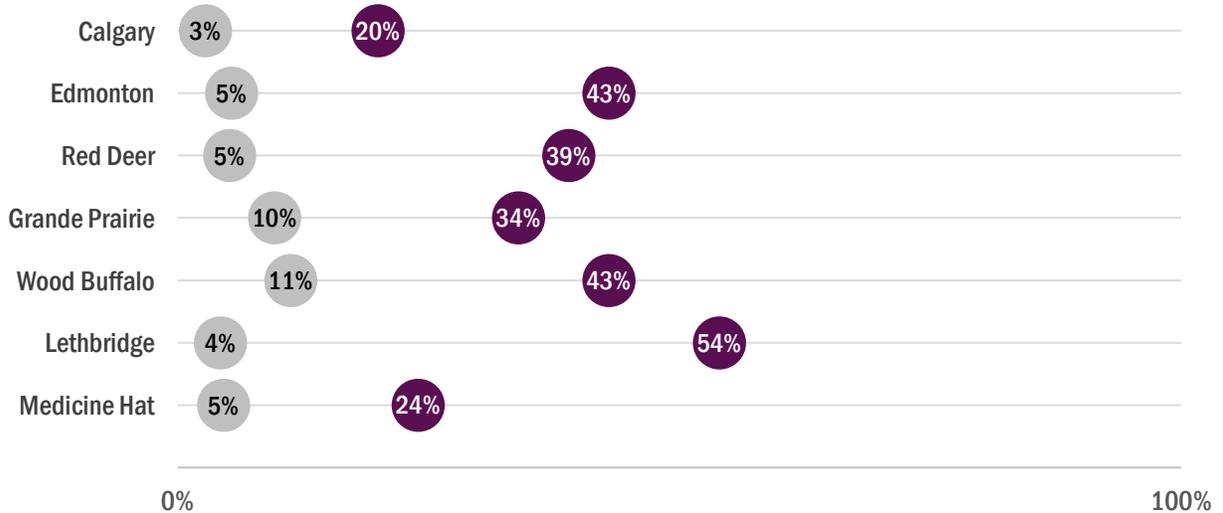
Indigenous People

People identifying as Indigenous continue to be overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness. Across Alberta, people who identify as Indigenous make up 28% of those counted while making up only 4% of the general population. Looking at Indigenous people as a percent of the total enumerated, the proportion decreased from 2014 to 2016 with the exception of Red Deer and Wood Buffalo. Indigenous information for 2016 was obtained from survey, administrative and systems data while the General Population was taken from the NHS 2011 report [4]. Note that Calgary's figure was 20% in both 2014 and 2016.

Indigenous People As A Percent Of The Total Enumerated From 2014 To 2016



Proportion of Indigenous People in the General Population Compared to the Indigenous Proportion Enumerated in 2016

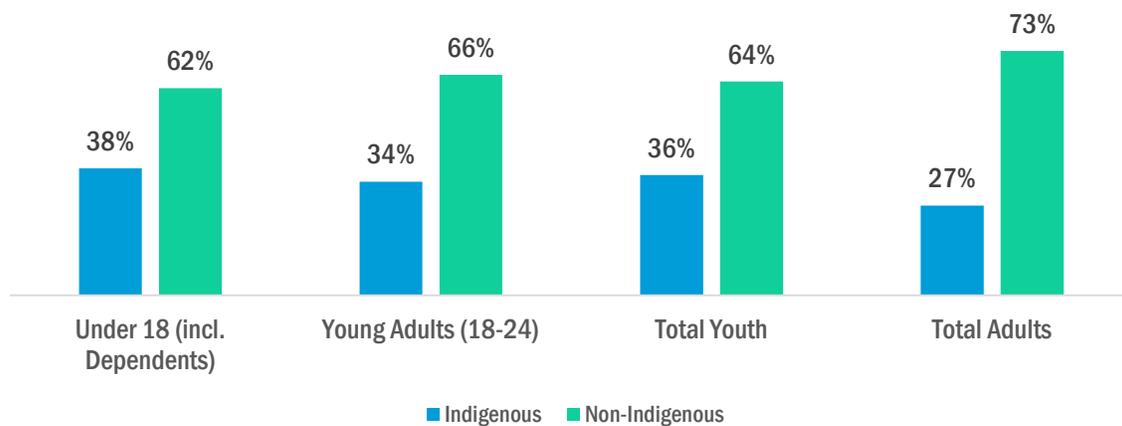


Indigenous Youth

Of the enumerated youth under the age of 18, both independent and dependent, 38% self-reported as being Indigenous. Among the young adults, ages 18-24, 34% self-identified as Indigenous. Combining all youth, under the age of 25, 36% self-reported as Indigenous, a significantly higher share than among adults.

These proportions are calculated from all children, youth, and young adults under the age of 25 in administrative, survey and systems data. For dependent children Indigenous status was assumed to be the same as the parent/caregiver.

Indigenous Youth as a Percent of Total Enumerated Youth in Alberta

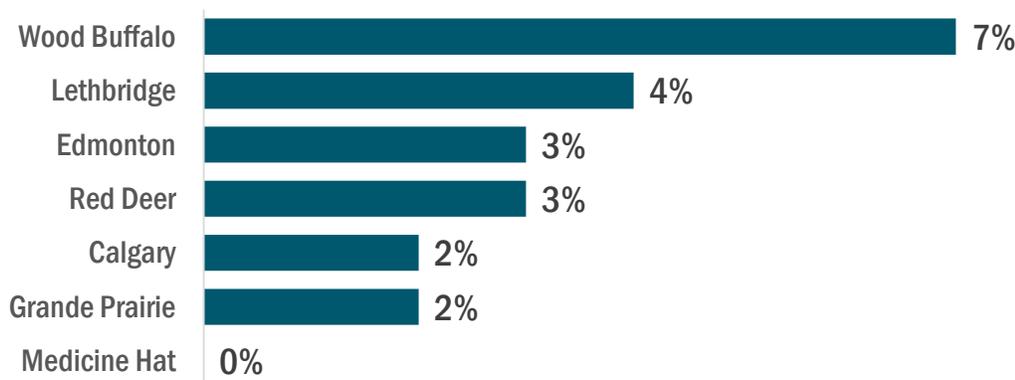


Immigration and Migration

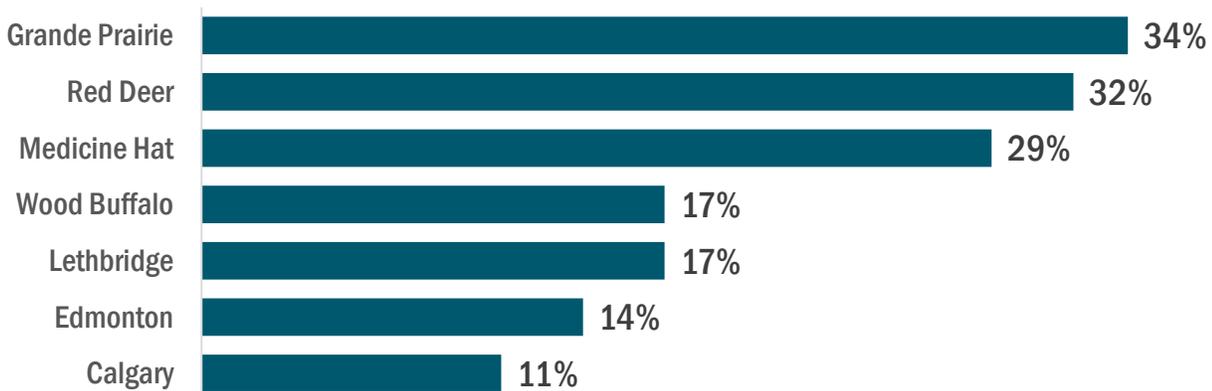
Survey responses were used to calculate the immigration and migration rates. Wood Buffalo had the largest proportion of people who immigrated to Canada within the last five years at 7%. The other cities ranges from 0% in Medicine Hat to 4% in Lethbridge.

Migration is defined as individuals who moved to their respective city in the past year. Migration was highest among the homeless population in Grande Prairie, where 34% reported arriving in the past year. The city with the lowest share of recent arrivals within their homeless population in 2016 was Calgary at 11%.

Immigrants (Moved To Canada In The Last 5 Years) As A Percent Of The Total Enumerated In 2016



Migrants (New To The City In The Past Year) As A Percent Of The Total Enumerated In 2016



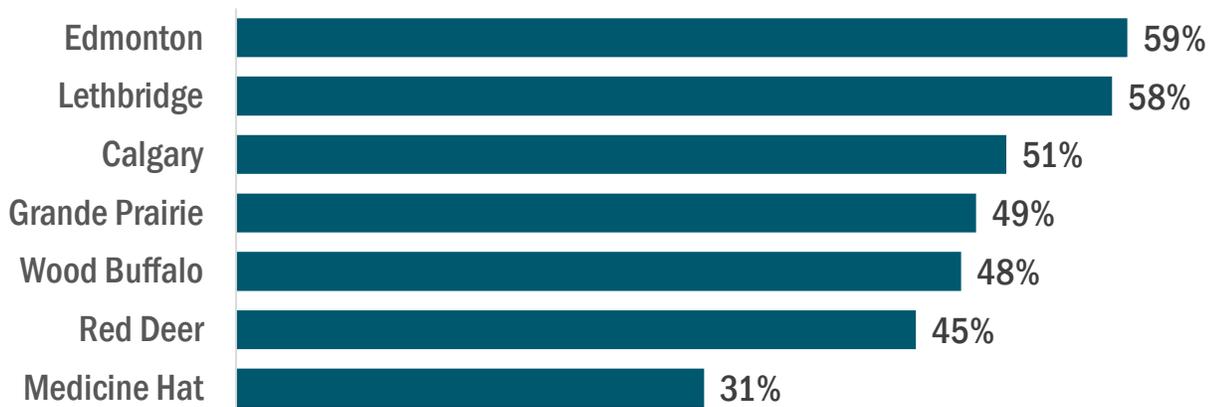
Chronic Homelessness

Chronic homelessness is defined as having at least one of the following conditions:

- Current episode of homelessness is one year or more
- Four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years

Chronic homelessness was calculated using survey data responses exclusively as this information was not available in administrative data. In cities where surveys were not available for many people staying in shelter or transitional housing (primarily Edmonton and Calgary), the unsheltered are over-represented in the survey sample. Since rough sleepers are more likely to experience chronic homelessness, the degree of chronicity may be overstated in these cities. It is also important to keep in mind that this is the share of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness on a given night; when measured over time, the share experiencing chronic homelessness is much smaller, since there are many people who become homeless for a short period and then are rehoused.

Proportion of Homeless Populations Experiencing Chronic Homelessness



Service in the Canadian Forces and RCMP

In 2016, the survey asked if an individual had served in the Canadian military or the RCMP. The number of responses by city ranged from 1 to 35. Due to the small number of responses, data will not be presented at the city level.

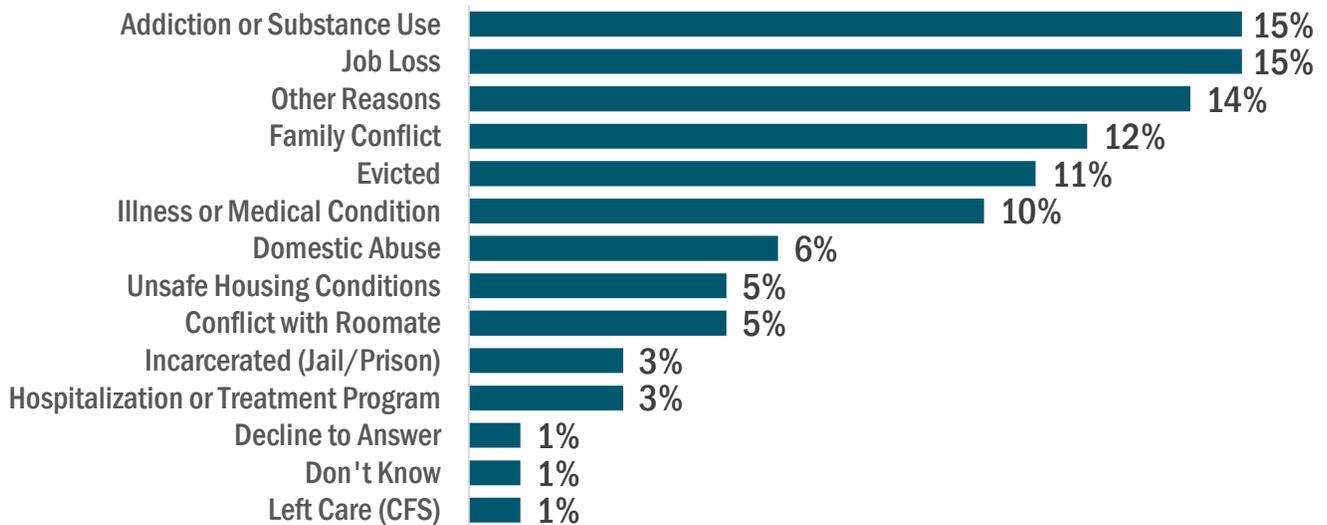
Combining survey responses across all cities it was found that 73 out of 1197 (6%) individuals self-reported as having served in the Canadian military and/or the RCMP.

Reasons for Loss of Housing

The 2016 survey asked individuals about the cause(s) of their most recent loss of housing. In many cases there were multiple reasons. Looking at all cities combined, the most common reasons were addiction or substance use, job loss, "other" reasons, family conflict, eviction or illness. When specified, "other" reasons included loss of loved ones, mental health, trauma and many more. For Wood Buffalo the majority of "other" responses had to do with the 2016 wildfire.

This question was asked as spelled out by the federal government's Homeless Partnering Strategy and the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, however 7 Cities believes there are several major flaws with it and that the reported results should be interpreted with caution. Firstly, no options around housing unaffordability or insufficient benefit levels were given, despite these often being cited as the largest contributors to homelessness in other studies. Secondly, the option "Addiction or Substance Use" is listed separately from "Illness or Medical Condition", despite addiction being widely recognized as a mental illness. As noted above, mental health and trauma were frequently recorded in the "Other" category by volunteers, when these likely should have been coded "Illness or Medical Condition", which further reduced responses in this category. Lastly, an individual's reasons for entering homelessness can be quite complex and difficult to capture in a checkbox survey question administered by a stranger on a dark street late at night. This would likely be better approached in a more fulsome way over the course of many interactions during which trust can be built and layers of a person's history can be explored in a safe way.

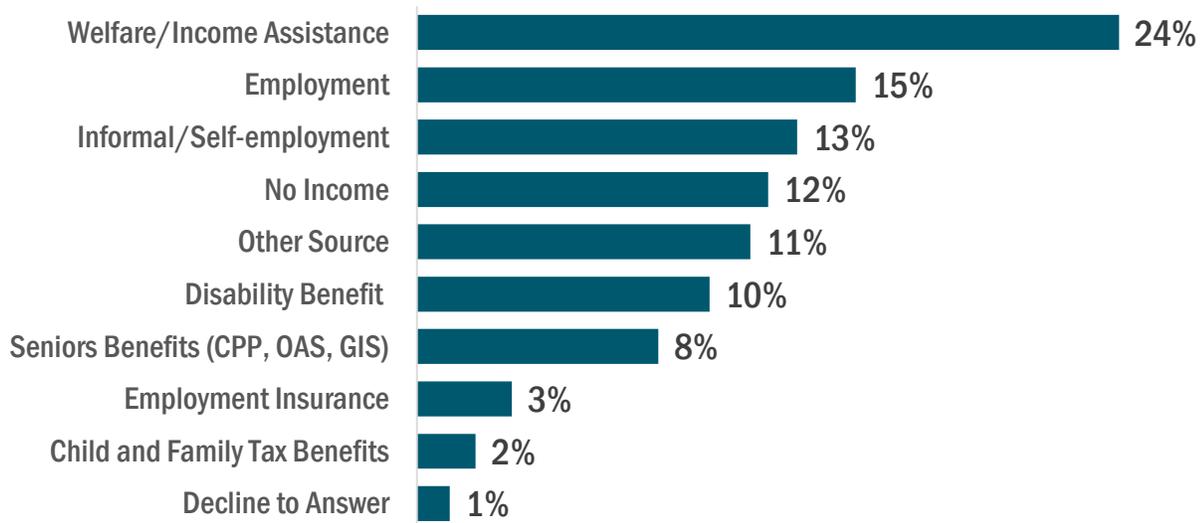
Reason(s) for Most Recent Loss of Housing among Albertans Experiencing Homelessness in 2016



Income Sources

The 2016 survey asked individuals about their main source or sources of income. Looking at Alberta as a whole, the most common sources were welfare or income assistance, formal employment, and informal employment or self-employment (such as returning bottles or panhandling).

Source(s) Of Income Among Albertans Experiencing Homelessness In 2016



CONCLUSION

Alberta's 2016 Point-in-Time Count was a collaborative effort undertaken by members of Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness. Efforts to align Count methods across the 7 Cities have resulted in more complete, comparable information about homelessness in the province and will continue in preparation for the next Count in 2018. In 2014, Alberta was the first jurisdiction to implement measures towards a more standardized methodology, leading the way for the 2016 National Point-in-Time Count managed by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Now, learning from both Albertan and national perspectives will contribute to broader improvements and partnerships in 2018.

Coordinating a Point-in-Time Count across several different cities is a significant undertaking, requiring considerable investments of time and thought from all involved. Methodological decisions were discussed in the months leading up to Alberta's 2016 Count through weekly phone calls between representatives from each 7 Cities member organization. Additional calls were held to discuss implementation on the night of the Point-in-Time Count, covering a broad range of topics such as the role of enforcement services, appropriate use of agency staff, best practices for volunteer training and pairing survey administration with outreach opportunities. Conversations were also held with Provincial authorities to gain access to central administrative data. Once the Point-in-Time Count was completed, 7 Cities members continued to discuss alignment for approaches to data analysis, communication and reporting.

In addition to collaborating on the Point-in-Time Count, 7 Cities members and the Province of Alberta work together on a regular basis to identify and address issues affecting homelessness, Housing First program implementation and measurement. As a result of frequent conversations, a culture of learning and debate has emerged, laying the groundwork for continuous progress towards ending homelessness.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the many volunteers, municipal and service agency staff who offered their time and expertise in conducting the Point-in-Time Count.

Many thanks to the Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services (formerly Human Services) and the Government of Canada's Homeless Partnering Strategy for their support of the drive to end homelessness in Alberta and of this effort, in particular. Thanks especially to David French, Cindy Paziuk and Lisa Sittler at Community and Social Services; Kevin Wipf and Kathy Murphy at the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General; and Shireen Surood, Sandy Patterson and Carla McLean at Alberta Health Services for their work in sharing administrative data.

Samantha LaRose and Kristy Madsen at Three Hive Consulting did a lot of work in preparing this report, as did the members of the 7 Cities Data Working group who coordinated efforts across the province: Casandra Baillargeon, Robbie Brydon, Rachel Campbell, Tiffany Carriere, Joanne Cave, Shauna Cox, Franklin Kutuadu, Carol Lind, Forrest McGregor, Kaitlyn Morin, Vlessy Sanchez, Madison Smith, Chanel Twiss and Chayla Van Koughnett.

A final thanks to all those who participated in the Count - this information forms one major part of the planning and work to end your experience of homelessness. If you are asked where you are spending the night again two years from now, may you be able to answer "Own apartment/house".

Table 6. List of Abbreviations

AHS	Alberta Health Services
AW	Alberta Works
AISH	Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped
CFS	Child and Family Services
NFA	No Fixed Address
NHS	National Household Survey
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Table 7. Definitions

Term	Definition
Adult	An individual 18 years of age or older (where noted, this may include youth between the ages of 18-24).
<i>Caregivers</i>	Individuals indicating that their own dependent children would be staying with them on the night of the Count.
<i>Dependent Children</i>	Individuals less than 18 years of age who a caregiver indicated would be staying with them on the night of the Count.
<i>Emergency Shelters</i>	Overnight accommodation for individuals who have no permanent address.
<i>Homeless Count</i>	The total number of individuals approached who reported not having a permanent place to stay on the night of Count day plus the total number of individuals staying at a shelter on the previous night. Both figures also include the number of children staying with an adult caregiver on the night of the Count.
<i>Human Services</i>	Alberta Human Services was the name of the ministry at the time of the Count, and is reflected as such throughout the report. In January 2017, the ministry was renamed Community and Social Services.
<i>Independent Youth</i>	Individuals less than 18 years of age who were unaccompanied by an adult caregiver when counted.
<i>Interim Housing</i>	Similar to Short-Term Supportive Housing, but with a goal of stays lasting less than 30 days while finding permanent housing and connected to a Housing First team.
<i>Indigenous</i>	A respondent was classified as “Indigenous” if they identified as First Nations, Métis, non-status or as having Aboriginal ancestry.

<i>Sheltered Homeless</i>	Homeless individuals counted at a shelter or in a hotel (funded by the province) on an emergency basis on the night prior to Count day.
<i>Short-Term Supportive Housing</i>	Temporary housing with support to assist client movement into permanent housing.
<i>Unsheltered Homeless</i>	Homeless individuals counted in the Street Count (at an agency or service, on a walking route, at a bottle depot, or by outreach teams and mobile vans). Individuals enumerated in this category may be staying in motels/hotels on their own, or sleeping in a car, a tent or outside.
<i>Veteran</i>	an individual that has previously served with the Canadian military or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
<i>Youth</i>	An individual 18-24 years of age.

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APPENDIX A: DATA SOURCES AND THEIR USE

Three tables are presented below: Table A1 shows all data collected; Table A2 shows only those fields included for the total tally in this report; Table A3 shows fields included in local reports. Data may have been excluded for one of three reasons: 1) Survey data is excluded if administrative data is available for the same population; 2) Some data were included locally but not included in this report (e.g., day count, hidden homeless, tally sheet); 3) Discrepancies between data sources that were unable to be resolved led to the exclusion of health facility data from this report. In the data source column, “day” and “night” are only noted when data from October 20 is excluded from this report, but is included in one or more local reports.

Table 8: All administrative and survey data collected

Category	Sub-Category	Data Source	Calgary	Edmonton	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	Wood Buffalo
Unsheltered	Unsheltered	Survey, night	34	132	12	8	2	37	16
	Unsheltered	Survey, day	-	242	-	-	-	-	4
	Unsheltered	Tally sheet	140	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Sheltered	Shelter, all	Admin	1503	690	51	-	-	-	-
	Shelter, adults	Survey, night	387	331	35	61	22	77	47
	Shelter, children	Survey, night	-	19	-	-	12	-	5
	Shelter	Survey, day	-	110	-	-	-	-	9
	Human Services hotels	Admin	0	55	0	0	2	0	0
	Human Services hotels	Survey	0	24	-	-	-	-	1
Justice and Health Systems*	Prov. corrections facilities	Admin	194	376	16	18	14	20	2
	Municipal holding cells	Admin	10	0	2	-	-	-	-
	Municipal holding cells	Survey, day	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
	Health facilities	Admin	68	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hospital, jail, remand	Survey	-	8	-	-	-	18	8
Transitional Housing & Other	Transitional housing	Admin	1461	375	35	-	-	-	-
	Transitional housing	Survey	-	179	18	2	9	17	4
	Motel / hotel	Survey, night	0	3	2	-	-	-	1
	Motel / hotel	Survey, day	0	13	-	-	-	-	-
	Hidden homeless	Survey	-	216	9	-	-	-	10
Unknown	No permanent residence	Survey, night	20	5	0	0	0	0	14
	No permanent residence	Survey, day	-	9	-	-	-	-	0

- Indicates this source was not collected.

* Alberta Health Services (AHS) data was provided provincially and, in some cases, locally; due to large discrepancies between these numbers, the results are not included in this report. Work has already begun to ensure that results for 2018 will be consistent across the province.

Table 9: Administrative and survey data used to determine totals in this report

Category	Sub-category	Data source	Calgary	Edmonton	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	Wood Buffalo
Unsheltered	Unsheltered	Survey, night	34	132	12	8	2	37	16
Emergency Sheltered	Shelter, all	Admin	1503	690	51	-	-	-	-
	Shelter, adults	Survey, night	-	-	-	61	22	77	47
	Shelter, children	Survey, night	-	-	-	-	12	-	5
	Human Services hotels	Admin	0	55	0	0	2	0	0
	Human Services hotels	Survey	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Justice System	Prov. corrections facilities	Admin	194	376	16	18	14	20	2
	Municipal holding cells	Admin	10	0	2	-	-	-	-
Transitional Housing & Other	Transitional housing	Admin	1461	375	35	-	-	-	-
	Transitional housing	Survey	-	-	-	2	9	17	4
	Motel / hotel	Survey, night	0	3	2	-	-	-	1
Unknown	No permanent residence	Survey, night	20	5	0	0	0	0	14
Total			3222	1636	118	89	61	151	90

- Indicates this source was not used in calculating the total.

Table 10: Administrative and survey data used to determine totals in local reports

Category	Sub-category	Data source	Calgary	Edmonton	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Red Deer	Wood Buffalo
Unsheltered	Unsheltered	Survey, night	34	132	12	8	2	37	16
	Unsheltered	Survey, day	-	242	-	-	-	-	4
	Unsheltered	Tally sheet	140	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Sheltered	Shelter, all	Admin	1503	690	51	-	-	-	-
	Shelter, adults	Survey, night	-	-	-	61	22	77	47
	Shelter, children	Survey, night	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Shelter	Survey, day	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
	Human Services hotels	Admin	0	55	0	0	-	0	0
	Human Services hotels	Survey	0	-	-	-	-	-	1
Justice and Health Systems*	Prov. corrections facilities	Admin	194	-	16	18	-	-	-
	Municipal holding cells	Admin	10	0	2	-	-	-	-
	Municipal holding cells	Survey, day	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
	Health facilities	Admin	68	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hospital, jail, remand	Survey	-	8	-	-	-	18	8
Transitional Housing & Other	Transitional housing	Admin	1461	375	35	-	-	-	-
	Transitional housing	Survey	-	-	-	2	9	17	4
	Motel / hotel	Survey, night	0	3	2	-	-	-	1
	Motel / hotel	Survey, day	0	13	-	-	-	-	-
	Hidden homeless	Survey	-	216	-	-	-	-	10
Unknown	No permanent residence	Survey, night	20	5	0	0	0	0	14
	No permanent residence	Survey, day	-	9	-	-	-	-	0
Total			3430	1752	118	89	33	149	114

- Indicates this source was not used in calculating the total.

APPENDIX B: CANADIAN DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

TYOLOGY

OPERATIONAL CATEGORY	LIVING SITUATION	GENERIC DEFINITION
1 UNSHELTERED	1.1 People living in public or private spaces without consent or contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public space, such as sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, etc. Private space and vacant buildings (squatting)
	1.2 People living in places not intended for permanent human habitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in cars or other vehicles Living in garages, attics, closets or buildings not designed for habitation People in makeshift shelters, shacks or tents
2 EMERGENCY SHELTERED	2.1 Emergency overnight shelters for people who are homeless	These facilities are designed to meet the immediate needs of people who are homeless. Such short-term emergency shelters may target specific sub-populations, including women, families, youth or Aboriginal persons, for instance.
	2.2 Shelters for individuals/families impacted by family violence	These shelters typically have minimal eligibility criteria, offer shared sleeping facilities and amenities, and often expect clients to leave in the morning. They may or may not offer food, clothing or other services. Some emergency shelters allow people to stay on an ongoing basis while others are short term and are set up to respond to special circumstances, such as extreme weather.
	2.3 Emergency shelter for people fleeing a natural disaster or destruction of accommodation due to fires, floods, etc.	
3 PROVISIONALLY ACCOMMODATED	3.1 Interim Housing for people who are homeless	Interim housing is a systems-supported form of housing that is meant to bridge the gap between unsheltered homelessness or emergency accommodation and permanent housing.
	3.2 People living temporarily with others, but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing	Often referred to as 'couch surfers' or the 'hidden homeless', this describes people who stay with friends, family, or even strangers.
	3.3 People accessing short term, temporary rental accommodations without security of tenure	In some cases people who are homeless make temporary rental arrangements, such as staying in motels, hostels, rooming houses, etc.
	3.4 People in institutional care who lack permanent housing arrangements	People who may transition into homelessness upon release from: Penal institutions; Medical / mental health institutions; Residential treatment programs or withdrawal management centers; Children's institutions / group homes.
	3.5 Accommodation / reception centers for recently arrived immigrants and refugees	Prior to securing their own housing, recently arrived immigrants and refugees may be temporarily housed while receiving settlement support and orientation to life in Canada.
4 AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS	4.1 People at imminent risk of homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those whose employment is precarious Those experiencing sudden unemployment Households facing eviction Housing with transitional supports about to be discontinued People with severe and persistent mental illness, active addictions, substance use, and / or behavioural issues Breakdown in family relations People facing, or living in direct fear, of violence / abuse
	4.2 Individuals and families who are precariously housed	Those who face challenges that may or may not leave them homeless in the immediate or near future. CMHC defines a household as being in core housing need if its housing: "falls below at least one of the adequacy, affordability or suitability standards and would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three housing standards)."

For a more detailed typology of the Canadian Definition of Homelessness, go to: www.homelesshub.ca/CHRHomelessDefinition

APPENDIX C: SURVEY TOOLS

2016 Alberta Homeless Count Survey – Master

Please conform to this sequence of questions.

Core Screening Questions
<p>Screening 1 Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification e.g., button]?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES (<i>Thank and end survey</i>) <input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Screening 2 Are you willing to participate in this survey?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO (<i>Thank and end survey</i>)
<p>Screening 3 Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Screening 4 <i>[If answered YES to Screening 3]</i> What type of residence is your permanent residence?</p> <p><u>If one of the following, thank and end survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> OWN APARTMENT/HOUSE <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER <p><u>Add this to above or below category, depending on local criteria. Do NOT report to 7 Cities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE (FRIEND/FAMILY) <p><u>If one of the following, continue survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE <input type="radio"/> MOTEL/HOTEL (sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH) <input type="radio"/> MOTEL/HOTEL (not sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH) <input type="radio"/> EMERGENCY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER <input type="radio"/> TRANSITIONAL HOUSING <input type="radio"/> PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. SIDEWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FORESTS, BUS SHELTER) <input type="radio"/> VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) <input type="radio"/> MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK <input type="radio"/> ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING <input type="radio"/> OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION (SPECIFY: _____) <input type="radio"/> RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]
<p>Screening 5 Where are you staying tonight?</p> <p><u>If one of the following, thank and end survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> OWN APARTMENT/HOUSE <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER <p><u>Add this to above or below category, depending on local criteria. Do NOT report to 7 Cities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE (FRIEND/FAMILY) <p><u>If one of the following, continue survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE <input type="radio"/> MOTEL/HOTEL (sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH) <input type="radio"/> MOTEL/HOTEL (not sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH) <input type="radio"/> EMERGENCY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
- PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. SIDEWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FORESTS, BUS SHELTER)
- VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK)
- MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK
- ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING
- OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION (SPECIFY: _____)
- RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]

Survey Questions

Survey Question 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
<input type="radio"/> Gender										
Age										

- DECLINE TO ANSWER

Survey Question 2

How old are you [OR] what year were you born? (if unsure, ask for best estimate)

- AGE (IN YEARS): _____
- OR YEAR BORN: _____
- DON'T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

Survey Question 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
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

Survey Question 4

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

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

Survey Question 5

How long have you been in [NAME OF COMMUNITY]?

- LENGTH: ____ DAYS/WEEKS/MONTHS/YEARS (Circle one)
- ALWAYS BEEN HERE
- DON'T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

If length answered:

Where did you come from before you came here?

- COMMUNITY: _____
- PROVINCE (in Canada): _____
- COUNTRY (not in Canada): _____

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 6</p> <p>Have you ever had any service in the Canadian military or the RCMP?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY <input type="radio"/> YES, RCMP <input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY AND RCMP <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 7</p> <p>What gender do you identify with? [Do not read list]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> MALE <input type="radio"/> FEMALE <input type="radio"/> TRANSGENDER <input type="radio"/> OTHER RESPONSE: _____ <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 8</p> <p>Do you identify as part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirited or Queer community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 9</p> <p>9.1 How long have you been homeless most recently?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> ___ # OF YEARS / ___ # OF MONTHS / ___ # OF WEEKS / ___ # OF DAYS <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER <p>9.2 How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years? _____</p>
<p>Survey Question 10</p> <p>Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the last 12 months? [Prompt: give local examples].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 11</p> <p>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.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION <input type="radio"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE <input type="radio"/> JOB LOSS <input type="radio"/> EVICTED <input type="radio"/> DOMESTIC ABUSE <input type="radio"/> FAMILY CONFLICT <input type="radio"/> CONFLICT WITH ROOMMATE <input type="radio"/> LEFT CARE (CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES) <input type="radio"/> INCARCERATED (JAIL/PRISON) <input type="radio"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM <input type="radio"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS <input type="radio"/> OTHER REASON: _____ <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<p>Survey Question 12</p>

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

- EMPLOYMENT
- INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G. BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)
- EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
- WELFARE/INCOME ASSISTANCE
- DISABILITY BENEFIT
- SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G. CPP, OAS, GIS)
- CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
- OTHER SOURCE: _____
- NO INCOME
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

2014 Homeless Count Survey – Medicine Hat

Note: Some of these questions were unique to Medicine Hat and not asked across all cities.

Interviewer Name: _____ Time of Interview: _____

Location: _____

Q1. Have you already answered this survey with a person with this identification: yes (end survey now) no

Q2. Do you have a permanent residence that you stayed at or could have stayed at last night (including rent or own residence, roommate, college residence, staying temporarily in Medicine Hat but have a residence in another community)? yes (end survey now) no

Q3. Where are you staying tonight?

- Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre Cars or other vehicles Vacant Buildings
(end survey now)
- Someone else's place—couch on a temporary basis Public space, such as sidewalks, squares, parks, bus shelter Emergency Shelter, Domestic violence shelter, Transitional housing
(end survey now)
- Makeshift shelters, shacks or tent Garages, attics, closets or buildings not designed for habitation
- Other: _____

Q4. Please describe where you are staying (Street & Ave or nearest landmark) _____

Q5. How long have you been homeless most recently?

- _____ # years or _____ # months or _____ # days
 Don't know No answer

Q6. How many times have you been homeless in the past 3 years ?

- 1-3 times 4-10 times 10+ times Don't know No answer

Q7. What do you think is a barrier that is preventing you from finding or maintaining a place of your own?

- Low income No income assistance Rent's too high Poor housing conditions
 Domestic Violence Health issues Mental health issues Addiction Family breakdown
 Criminal history Pets Children Discrimination Other: _____

Q8. Do you want to have long term and stable housing?

- Yes No Don't know Declined to answer

Q9. Which of the following do you identify with?

- Female Male Transgender/Transsexual Other (specify) _____ No answer

Q10. How old are you/ what is your year of birth?

- _____ years OR _____ year of birth Don't know No answer

Q11. Would you identify as being Aboriginal, including First Nations, Metis, and/or Inuit?

- Yes No Don't know No answer

Q12. What family members are with you today?

- None Parent(s) Spouse/Partner Sibling(s) Child(ren) Other (Specify) _____

Q13. Do you have dependents (children) who are staying in the same place as you tonight?

- Yes No Don't know No answer

Q14. How long have you been in Canada?

- Born in Canada _____ # years or _____ # months Don't know No answer

Q15. What is your country of origin?

- _____ Don't know Declined to answer

Q16. If not born in Canada- are you a:

- Canadian Citizen Permanent Resident Refugee Claimant Temporary Foreign Worker
 International Student Other: _____ Don't know No answer

Q17. How long have you been in Medicine Hat?

- Born here _____ # years or _____ # months Don't know Declined to answer

Q18. If you are new to the community, where were you living prior to coming here?

- _____ (community name, province/territory) Don't know No answer

Q19. Have you ever had any military service in the Canadian Forces?

- Yes No Don't know No answer

Q20. If yes, how many are under 18?

- _____ (# of children under 18) Already counted with other parent Don't know No answer

Q21. Where do you get your money from?

- Income Support/AB Works AISH Employment Insurance Disability benefit
 Full time employment Part time or casual employment Panhandling
 Binning/ bottle collecting Money from family/ friends No income
 Other: _____ No answer

Q22. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Primary School Secondary School Postsecondary Don't know No answer

Q23. Do you identify as part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirited, or Queer community?

- Yes No Don't know No answer