

POINT
INTIME **2014**
homeless
count



REPORT

Released February 5, 2015



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Acknowledgements

The 2014 Red Deer Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count was organized by the City of Red Deer in collaboration with community partners and could not have been completed without the participation and support of many individuals and organizations.

We would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, volunteers and others who helped organize and implement the count. Without the assistance and commitment of these dedicated volunteers, the PIT Homeless Count would not have been possible. In particular we would like to thank:

- The Advisory Committee who provided guidance, direction and insight throughout the Point in Time Count planning process.
- The organizations who provided assistance in administering the sheltered survey to individuals staying in their facilities on the night of the count – Safe Harbour Society, 49th Street Youth Shelter, Central Alberta Women’s Emergency Shelter, Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (Unit 34, Unit 36 and Emergency Department).
- Specialized Team members from the following agencies: Canadian Mental Health Association, Central Alberta AIDS Network Society, Central Alberta Women’s Outreach Society, Red Deer Native Friendship Society, and Safe Harbour Society for lending their expertise to surveying individuals in designated areas.
- All 216 volunteers who gave so generously their time as enumerators, decoys and command centre staff.
- Red Deer College for their tremendous support in recruiting student volunteers for the night of the count and providing an educational opportunity for their students.
- The RCMP Community Response Unit (CRU) for their support in identifying designated areas to survey, administering the survey in correctional facilities and ensuring the safety of volunteers on the night of the count.
- City of Red Deer Parks Bylaw Officer for their support in identifying designated areas to survey and providing safety training to volunteers.
- The agencies who helped administer the next day survey to individuals who were unsheltered at Potter’s Hands and Cosmos Group of Companies.
- Alberta Human Services for providing shelter data for comparison purposes with the Point in Time Homeless Count results.
- Alberta Works for providing data on emergency benefits for hotels issued to individuals on the night of the count.

- All City of Red Deer staff that assisted with the count and provided assistance with planning, organizing, data analysis, and mapping including staff in Social Planning and Information Technology Services.
- Tim Hortons for donating refreshments for volunteers on the night of the count and the following businesses for donating items for the volunteer prizes – Central Alberta Co-op, Real Canadian Superstore, Save on Foods, and Red Deer College.

The City of Red Deer is very grateful to everyone who responded to the survey, especially the homeless individuals who took the time to discuss their situation. The count would not have been possible without their participation.

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I.0 Executive Summary

I.1 Background

On October 16, 2014 the City of Red Deer worked with community partners to conduct the second Point in Time Homeless Count in Red Deer. This count is part of a broader initiative led by the 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness in collaboration with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness to develop a harmonized approach to homeless counts nationally and provincially. Up to 238 enumerators and volunteers and 10 organizations participated in the local count. A Point-in-time count is a snapshot of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in a community on a single night. The count captured numbers and demographic information of persons 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 homeless and inform system planning and program development to support the goal of ending homeless by 2018 in Red Deer.

I.2 Definitions

Homelessness describes the situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it (Canadian Homelessness Research Network, 2012)¹. For the purposes of this count homeless was broadly defined and categorized into two major typologies in terms of the scope of the count.

1.2.1 Sheltered homeless 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. It also includes those who stayed in hotels and motels paid for by the non-profit agencies and various levels of government.

1.2.2 Unsheltered homeless 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 Canadian Homelessness Research Network (2012) *Canadian Definition of Homelessness*. Homeless Hub: www.homelesshub.ca/CHRNhomelessdefinition/

I.3 Methodology

The City of Red Deer adopted a census approach to the PIT Count of 2014 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 100 neighbourhoods and canvassed by 200 volunteers, and 10 known locations covered by 10 '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. Additionally, the plant and capture method was used for quality assurance.

I.4 Changes to Methodology

One significant change in the methodology of the 2014 PIT count compared to the PIT count of 2012 was that no statistical measures (extrapolation or plant and capture methods) were applied to the raw counts obtained from the 2014 counts. There were also no observed individuals included in the street count. This was to ensure consistent methodology and comparison of counts across Alberta communities.

I.5 Key Findings

A total of 137 people were enumerated on the night of the count. Of those counted 67% were in emergency shelter and 9% were in a short-term housing facility. A further 16% (22) were enumerated during the street count and confirmed they were sleeping rough (in parks, on the street, etc.). A further 8% were sheltered in a public system (Hospital, Alberta Works).

Table 1: Summary Results of 2014 PIT Homeless Count

Homeless Population	Total Number	Percentage of total
Total number of homeless enumerated	137	100
Street Count	22	16%
Confirmed Rough Sleepers	22	16%
Facilities Count	115	84%
Emergency Shelter	92	67%
Short-Term Supportive Housing	12	9%
Public Systems	11	8%

Summary of Key Findings

137 A total of 137 people were found experiencing homelessness on October 16, 2014. This result shows a decrease of 51% between 2012 and 2014.

42% Approximately 42% of respondents have been homeless for less than one year.

22 22 of people experiencing homelessness were unsheltered – meaning they spent the night on the street or in parks.

80.6% Shelters were operating at 80.6% of capacity on the night of the count, but those with space available were for specific designated sub-populations.

8 8 people were enumerated at the Red Deer Regional Hospital without any permanent place to return to.

3/4 Three quarters of people experiencing homelessness in Red Deer are male.

46.5% 46.5% of those experiencing homelessness are new to the community and have lived in Red Deer less than one year.

13 The youngest person surveyed was 13 years old and the oldest person surveyed was 65 years old. The media age was 37 years.

15% 15% of respondents were homeless youth under the age of 25.

10% 10% of the homeless population are immigrants to Canada.

40% 40% of respondents indicated this was their first time homeless.

16.7% 16.7% 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.

Half 50% of respondents indicated they had a mental health condition.

35% 35% of women experiencing homelessness reported family breakdown, abuse or conflict as a barrier to housing, a figure that is twice as high as that for men.

24% Aboriginal people make up 24% of Red Deer's homeless population, despite constituting only 5.2% of Red Deer's residents as per Statistics Canada Census Data.

2X Aboriginal people are homeless for nearly 2X times as long as non-Aboriginal people. The average length of time homeless for a homeless Aboriginal person in Red Deer is 628 days, compared to 335 days for non-Aboriginals.

2.0 Introduction

On October 16, 2014, The City of Red Deer worked with community partners to conduct the first ever provincial Point-in-Time Homeless Count. Up to 238 volunteers and 10 organizations participated in the local count. A Point-in-time count is a snapshot of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in a community on a single night through a survey. The survey captured numbers, demographic and socioeconomic information of persons experiencing homelessness on that particular night.

While this is the second time The City of Red Deer conducted the PIT homeless Count. The 2014 PIT homeless count was part of a broader initiative led by the 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness in collaboration with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness to develop a harmonized approach to homeless counts nationally. Alberta was the first jurisdiction to implement measures towards a more standardized methodology, leading the way in Canada. Though the counts across Alberta are becoming more aligned, this is the first time this effort has been undertaken and future counts will improve from ongoing learnings.

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. Counts can significantly increase a community's ability to take action to ending homelessness by supporting²:

- 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

By aligning methods across Alberta's cities, we can examine trends using the same definitions. Ultimately, this helps inform solutions to support the goal of ending homelessness in our communities. The Alberta 7 Cities worked together in partnership with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness to test the draft national methodology for standardizing homeless point in time counts across Canada. The draft guidelines also adopted the definitions and typology of homeless developed by the Canadian Homelessness Research Network. The guidelines also provided methodology and approaches, organization of the count, mandatory survey questions as well as screening questions for inclusion or exclusion from the count.

² Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2014). Canadian Point-in-Time Count: Methodology & Toolkit – A Guide for Participating Communities.

2.1 Definitions & Scope of the Count

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 the scope of the count that will lead to an alignment of local enumeration methods and allow for aggregate data and comparison. The City of Red Deer adopted these typology and definitions to define the scope of who is counted in the PIT homeless and methodological approaches that fit the unique context of our community to increase the validity and reliability of the count results. For the purposes of these counts, those experiencing homelessness were largely categorized into two major categories: sheltered and unsheltered with sub-definitions as identified below.

2.1.1 Sheltered

Emergency Sheltered, including 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.

2.1.2 Unsheltered

This 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.

2.2 PIT Homeless Count Approaches and Methodology

The City of Red Deer adopted a complete coverage or census approach. This counting approach provided a direct and complete count of all people on the streets by canvassing the entire geographical boundaries of the city, facilities that provided emergency shelter, short-term transitional housing for the homeless as well as those in the public system. Compared to the 2012 PIT homeless count there were no estimates or statistical methods applied to the raw counts

obtained in 2014. Except for the service-based count, the emergency and short term-transitional housing count, public systems and street count were all conducted simultaneously to reduce double counting. The enumeration started at 10:00pm and ended at 12:00am on the same night.

2.3 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.

2.3.1 Facilities Count

By the definition stated above any individual or family 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 were included in the count. 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 its Mat program and People's Place shelter and its transitional housing program (Non-Medical Detox).

The 49th Street Youth Shelter and the Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter also provided access to individuals staying in those shelters at the time of the Count, as well as providing accurate occupancy totals and capacity totals for the night of the Count. Volunteers were assigned to emergency shelters unless a shelter wanted their own staff to administer the survey. Note that undertaking a voluntary survey in shelters will mean that some will choose not to participate; that 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, to create a more complete picture rather than just using the valid surveys. However, valid survey responses were used for the detailed analysis.

2.3.2 Systems Count

Red Deer also obtained numbers of homeless people who were provisionally accommodated in the hospital, jails, or holding cells during the night of the count. At the Red Deer Regional Hospital, staff and volunteers administered the surveys to those who consented and who indicated they "do not have any permanent housing or fixed address to return to" when discharged. RCMP Officers surveyed holding cell and jail occupants on the night of the count. Further, those in temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels) paid for by any level of government or non-profit were also included. For this aspect, administrative data was obtained from Alberta Works on the number of people in this situation on the night of the count and were included in the total counts, although surveys were not administered to them.

2.4 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. The street counts also included a plant and capture method for data quality and quality assurance purposes. The geographic boundaries of Red Deer were subdivided into 100 neighbourhoods with roughly between 3 and 7 km of walking area (i.e. if you walk up and down every street). 200 volunteer enumerators, working in teams of two, were assigned to specific neighbourhoods and given maps and surveys (See Appendix 1). 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 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 am. They surveyed all the people who were homeless and consented to participate in the survey.

2.4.1 Known Locations Count

This approach identified known (designated) areas or locations where homeless people 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 former 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. Largely places not meant for human habitation. In all, 10 known locations were identified and assigned to 20 specialized team members. Specialized teams comprised of two outreach workers were each provided maps of these areas to canvass and regular volunteers were instructed not to administer their surveys in these areas (Sample Map provided in Appendix 2)

2.5 Survey Design and Administration

Two survey instruments were used for the 2014 PIT homeless count which covered sheltered and unsheltered aspects of the count. The survey instruments had three content components: **introduction and consent**, which outlined introduction of volunteer interviews, the purpose of the count, how the results will be used and ethical elements including consent and confidentiality; **screening questions** to determine eligibility for the count; **and data elements**, 9 data elements that were mandatory for participating in a national count. The minimum mandatory data set included the following:

- Gender, Age, Ethnicity
- Migration and Immigration
- Homelessness History and
- Veteran Status.

The City of Red Deer added 6 other elements covering

- Family Status, Income and Employment, Education,
- Health Condition, Barriers to Housing and Rehousing (See Appendix 3 for surveys).

In all there were 17 questions on each survey. The number of questions was carefully weighed to balance our need and utilization for such information and the burden of response³ 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.

2.6 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 from 2014 homeless counts. These were the next day survey or serviced-based counts and plant-capture.

2.6.1 Next Day or Service-Based

The next day or serviced-base counts took 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 people includes those living in "hidden" places such as cars, abandoned buildings, i.e., those who may not be easily found during a traditional street count⁴. For Red Deer, this approach was adopted with two predetermined locations: The Soup Kitchen downtown operated by Potters Hands and Cosmos bottle and recycling depot on 74 Street in north Red Deer operated by Cosmos Group of Companies. Two specialized team members and volunteers conducted interviews at these locations. At the Soup Kitchen and Cosmos Bottle Depot eligibility was based on the unsheltered survey and its screening questions. There were no eligible homeless individuals enumerated at Cosmos Bottle Depot. However, there were 5 people who were enumerated at the Soup Kitchen and adjustment was made to the final counts to reflect these numbers.

³ The response burden imposed (length of interview, difficulty of subject matter, timing and interview periodicity); the subject's nature and sensitivity, questionnaire length and complexity; questionnaire language and respondents' cultural backgrounds.

⁴ <https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/Guide-for-Counting-Unsheltered-Homeless-Persons.pdf>

2.6.2 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 14 valid plants in pairs were deployed throughout the survey areas for the street counts. These plants were provided instructions and training prior to being deployed into the field. They were instructed on how to act in the field, how to answer questions from the interviewers and when to reveal their status as a decoy. The plants had a range of gender, appearance and age. Each was given a location where they were expected to be; some directly with their plant partner, others within visual distance of each other.

All plants were located 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 a decoy to the survey team, the plants signed the survey and provided the survey team his/her token (a dice) as additional confirmation of the encounter. However, the plant and 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 will be used to help improve future counts.

2.7 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, except in one case. In the street count, one survey was administered to a couple, in this case both individuals were included in the count despite only one valid survey being completed. 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 working group of researchers by Homeward Trust in Edmonton. 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 and 2014 PIT count data.

2.8 Survey Response Rate

The sheltered homeless response rate for the 2014 Point in Time Count was 78.8% excluding children and those in the public system (Alberta works) that were not surveyed. Responding to this survey is voluntary and data was collected directly from survey respondents. A total of 99 people were surveyed in all the shelter facilities (Peoples Place, Mat Program, Youth and Women Shelters, transitional housing (detox facility) and the public system (Hospital). In all, 78 eligible adults consented and participated in the survey.

It is difficult to estimate the response rate⁵ for the unsheltered population as the total homeless population is unknown. However, on the night of the count, volunteers approached 118 individuals who were screened, 15 had already participated in the count, 14 were not eligible to participate, 51 agreed to participate and 38 refused to participate. There were 21 valid surveys from the unsheltered counts. One survey was administered to a couple, making the response rate for unsheltered from those enumerated 21 out of 22. Specific sub-parts 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.

2.9 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. For these reasons, although a PIT Count is a carefully executed scientific process, all PIT Counts (by their inherent limitations) undercount the homeless population.

There was also a reported police “sting” operation underway during the same night as the count, which may have impacted the number of people enumerated as some may have been picked up by the police or have gone into hiding. There were 127 people in the Red Deer Remand Centre which officers were not able to survey that night. A number of service providers have also expressed some reservation about the total count numbers. Their concern was that the numbers

⁵The response rate of a survey is a measure of how many people approached who are eligible to participate and those who actually completed the survey (expressed as a percentage from 0% to 100%).

from the count underestimate the number of homeless and are not consistent with their agency numbers of people experiencing homeless who are seeking services from their agencies.

2.10 Weather

The weather on the 16 of October 2014 during the Point in Time Count was mostly clear, mild and dry at 5° degree Celsius. In terms of historical comparisons, this was within the range of 10.9° degrees Celsius high and 2.1° degree Celsius 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.

2.11 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. The City of Red Deer provided the overall project management to implement the 2014 PIT count instead of engaging an external consulting firm as done in the previous count of 2012. 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 2014 PIT count.

2.12 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 count 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 overall planning of the count including volunteer recruitment, training and liaison with agencies involved in the count.

2.13 Volunteer Recruitment & Training

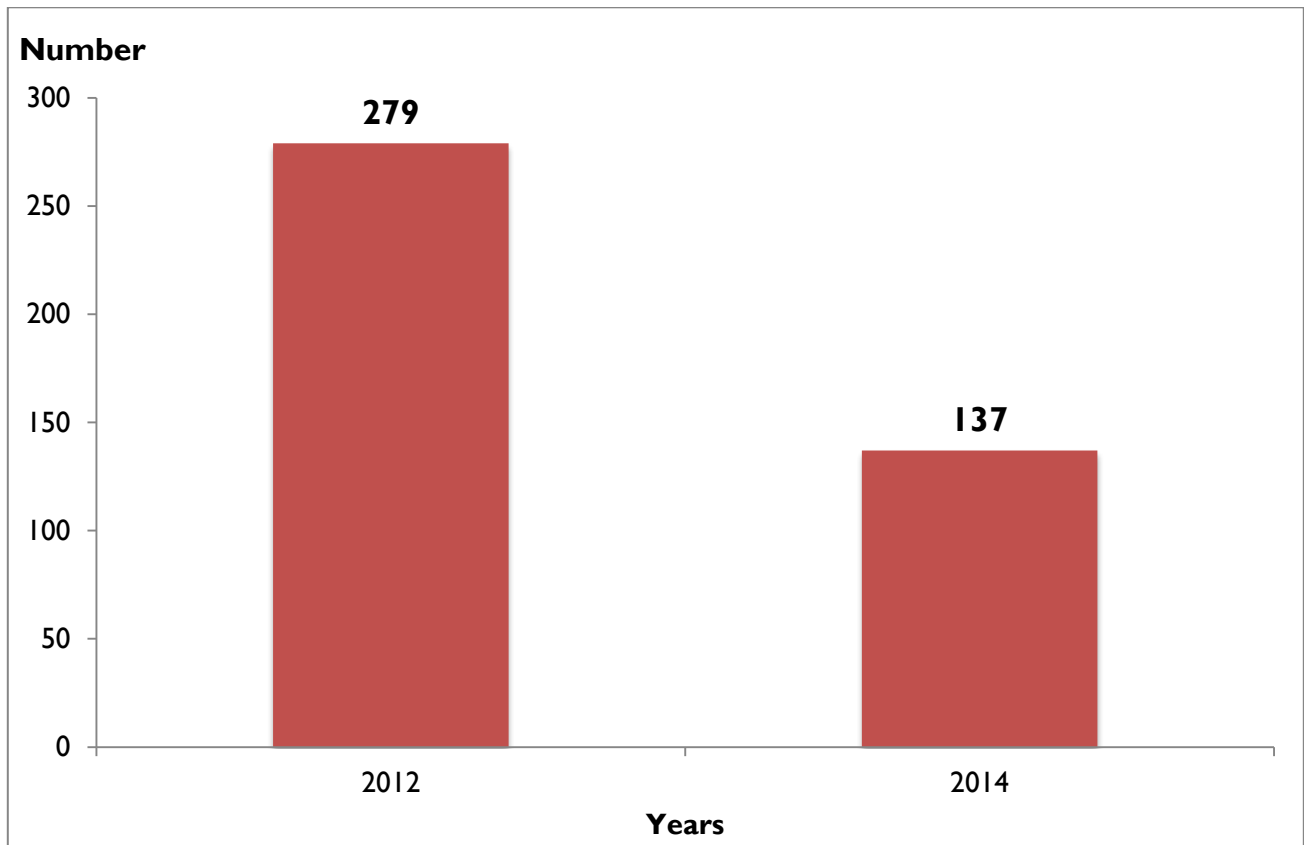
The City of Red Deer sent posters and direct messages to community organizations and community residents to volunteer for the Count. Volunteers were able to register online through the City of Red Deer, or call directly to register through a phone number that was provided. Previous volunteers whose emails 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 of their curriculum for some programs which increased the student volunteer participation. They provided information on the count and encouraged students to become involved. Up to 70% of the volunteers were from Red Deer College programs such as sociology, business, nursing and social work. In all there were a total of 238 volunteers - 156 volunteer enumerators administered surveys for the street count, 16 volunteer enumerators administered surveys in the shelters and hospital, 30 decoys, 14 command centre volunteers and 22 specialized team members.

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 and capture component, and training for regular volunteers for the street count. There were 8 different sessions lasting between 60 to 90 minutes. Subjects covered in the training included safety, ethical and confidential issues as well as the contents of the survey.

3.0 Count Results and Trends

On October 16, 2014, 137 people were enumerated as experiencing homelessness in the Point in Time Homeless Count. This number is almost half the number recorded in 2012 of 279. At the same time comparing the 2014 and 2012 counts should be done with caution as the methodology used changed: plant and capture and extrapolation methods⁶ were applied to the raw counts in 2012 to account for under-coverage. These estimates invariably made the numbers higher, and were not undertaken this time. This was done to ensure standardization and harmonization of the count methodology across the 7 Cities. Despite the change in methodology, the comprehensive approach to the count and the efforts driving the Plan to End Homelessness has also impacted these figures reflecting an accurate picture of the state of homelessness in our community.

Figure 3.1: Number of those experiencing homeless in Red Deer, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



⁶ The PIT homeless count was designed to conduct a complete count of the population. Inevitably, however, some people experiencing homelessness will not be enumerated (under-coverage) while others, usually less numerous, could be enumerated more than once (over-coverage). The plant and capture and extrapolation methods were used to make adjustments for under-coverage in the 2012 counts (see Red Deer PIT 2012 Final Report). However, the 2014 counts were not adjusted for under-coverage or over-coverage.

The result shows a decrease of 51% between 2012 and 2014. This decrease is largely due to reduction in unsheltered homeless population albeit change in methodology with estimates, but also change in real numbers. Even without the estimate, one comparable measure between the two counts is unsheltered valid surveys. In 2012, the unsheltered valid surveys from the raw counts were 58 compared to 21 in 2014 count, thus even without the estimates the numbers will be relatively lower.

Furthermore, despite increases in total adult emergency shelter spaces in the community by 27.8%⁷ from 2012, the emergency shelter occupancy only increased from 78 in 2012 to 92 or 17.9% in 2014. Additionally, increases in public system numbers from 2 in 2012 to 11 in 2014 were partly offset by larger reduction in unsheltered numbers. While this points to overall reduction in the homeless population it also means a general reduction in rough sleepers compared to the previous count.

Above all, it is important that results of the count be contextualized in the broader economic trends impacting Red Deer. The city is experiencing population growth year over year: in 2014 there were 1,476 new residents added to the population reaching almost a total of 100,000⁸. This is in part related to the economic opportunities presented by the community. Natural resources and energy sectors generated economic growth in various regions of the province including Red Deer. Red Deer also had one of Canada's lowest unemployment rates at 3.9% as at October 2014⁹ which is attracting more people into the community.

3.1 Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness

In the 2014 PIT homeless count, a total of 137 people were enumerated on the night of the count. 115 or 84% were sheltered, meaning they were in an emergency shelter, in a short-term housing facility and in the public system (Hospital and Alberta Works). Another 22 or 16% were unsheltered, meaning they were enumerated during the street count and confirmed they were sleeping rough (in parks, on the street, etc.)

Comparatively in the 2012 PIT homeless count out of the total of 279 people, 95 or 34% were sheltered, meaning that they slept in an emergency shelter, safe house, detox centre, or remand centre on the night of the count. A further 184 or 66% were unsheltered, meaning that they were encountered in parks, on the streets or sidewalks, at drop-in centres, or participating in meal programs during the evening of October 16 as shown in Table 3.1.

⁷ Emergency Shelter Spaces- Peoples Place from 23 in 2012 to 35 in 2014, Mat Program from 20 in 2012 to 26 in 2014 and Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter from 36 in 2012 to 40 in 2014.

⁸ Red Deer Municipal Census (2014) <http://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/city-government/city-departments/2014-Census-Results---Official-Report.pdf>

⁹Statistics Canada (2014) <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/71-001-x/71-001-x2014010-eng.pdf>

Figure 3.2: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2014 and 2012 PIT Homeless Counts

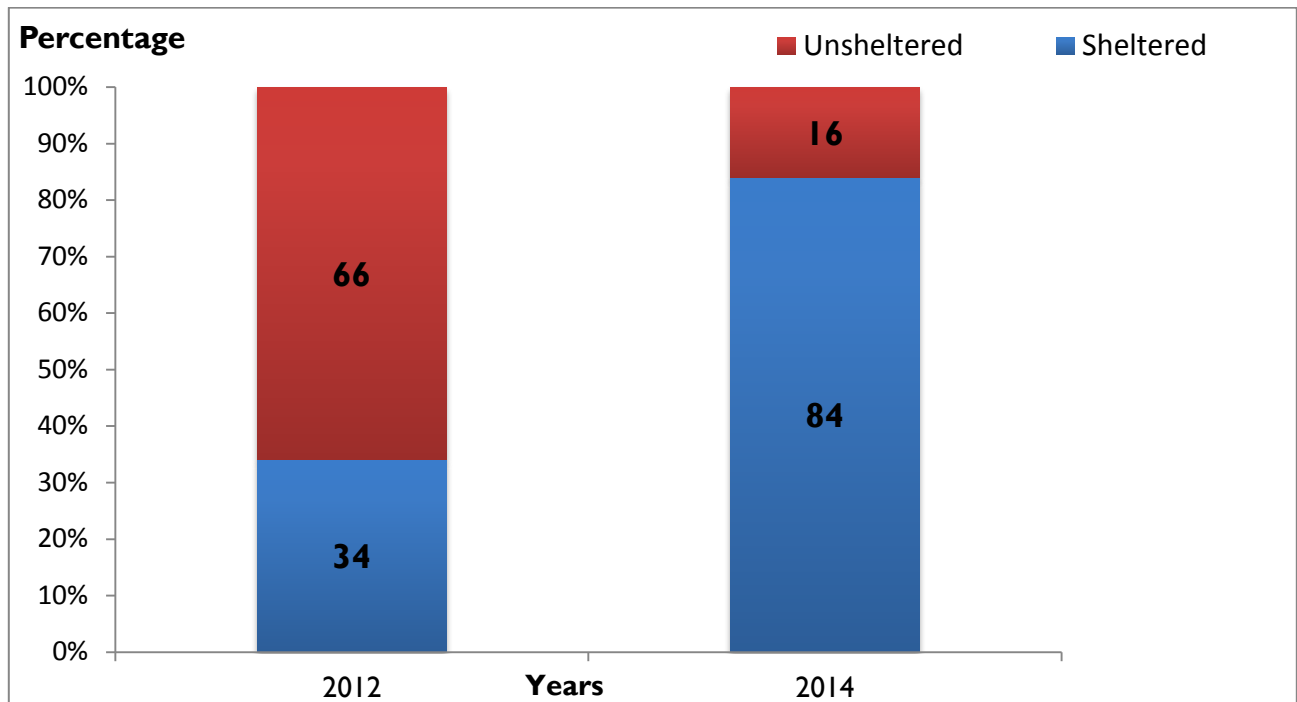


Table 3.1: Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2014 and 2012 PIT Homeless Counts

Homeless Category	Adults		Accompanied children		Total Homeless	
	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012
Sheltered						
Emergency Shelters	79	63	13	15	92	78
Short-Term Housing Facility	12	15			12	15
Hospital	8	0			8	0
Jail	0	2			0	2
Alberta Works	2	0	1		3	0
Unsheltered	22	183		1	22	184
Totals	123	263	14	16	137	279

3.2 Sheltered Homeless Population

3.2.1 Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing

Emergency shelters and short-term transitional housing will always play a role in addressing the needs of homeless Albertans. Emergency shelters are often the first point of contact for people who become homeless, so shelters are at the forefront in the shift from managing homelessness to ending it¹⁰. On October 16, 2014, emergency shelters and transitional housing in Red Deer were operating at 80.6% of capacity.

Table 3.2: Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Capacity and Occupancy, 2014 PIT Homeless Count

Facility Name	Classification	# Capacity	# Occupancy	% Occupancy
People's Place	Emergency Shelter	35	36	102.9
Mat Program	Emergency Shelter	26	23	88.5
Non-Medical Detox	Transitional Beds	20	12	60
49 th Street Youth Shelter	Emergency Shelter	8	6	75
Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter	Emergency Shelter	40	27*	67.5
Totals		129	104	80.6

*The 27 from the Women shelter were 14 adults and 13 children.

The shelter occupancy data reveals that People's Place, the only adult shelter which requires sobriety, was full that night although there were no turnaways reported. The Mat Program which is a wet shelter also reported as high as 88.5% occupancy for that night with a lower percentage for the other facilities as shown in Table 3.2.

Comparatively in 2012, on the night of the count, emergency shelters in Red Deer were operating at 87% of capacity. However, all of the shelters that were not operating at capacity were serving specific sub-populations, such as youth or women: non-female, non-youth individuals experiencing homelessness would have found all the shelters full and would have been turned away. Both data

¹⁰ Ending Homelessness in Alberta: Together we're making it happen (2013)
http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual_report_to_Minister_2010-11.pdf

sets suggest a higher utilization of shelter on the night of the count except for the youth and women shelters.

Table 3.3: Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Capacity and Occupancy, 2012 PIT Homeless Count

Facility Name	Classification	# Capacity	# Occupancy	% Occupancy
People's Place	Emergency Shelter	23	23	100%
Mat Program	Emergency Shelter	20	25	125%
Non-Medical Detox	Transitional Beds	20	15	75%
49 th Street Youth Shelter	Emergency Shelter	8	4	50%
Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter	Emergency Shelter	36	26	72%
Totals		107	93	87%

3.2.2 Public Systems

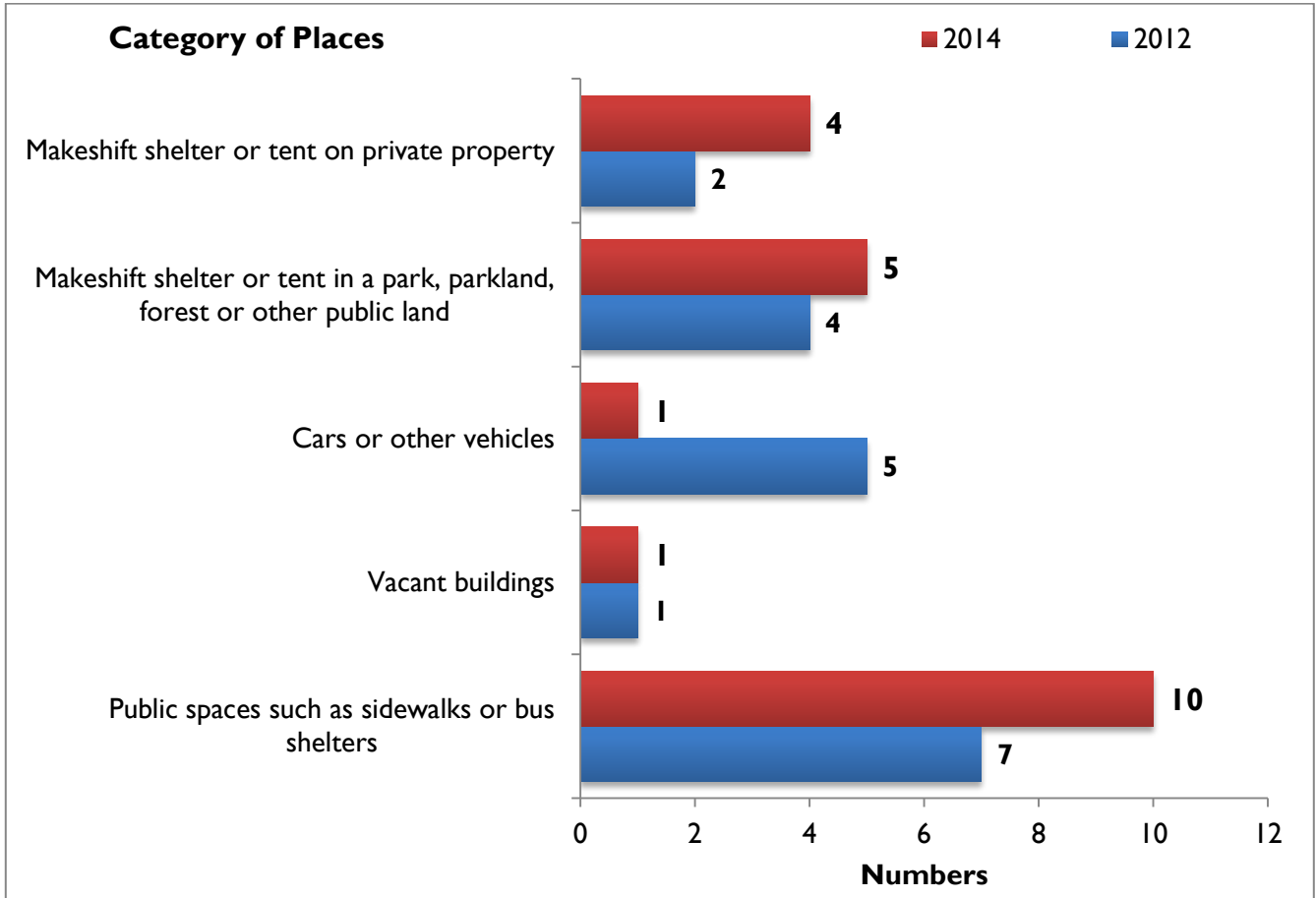
Individuals and families in the public system are at risk of homelessness or have become recently homeless after being discharged without a permanent place to return to. For the purposes of the PIT homeless count those who were in public systems that particular night without any permanent place to return to were included in the count. In 2014, there were 11 people enumerated from the Red Deer Regional Hospital and Alberta Works. Comparatively, there were 2 people enumerated as homeless in the RCMP holding cell in 2012. Although these numbers are low, it is still significant as they form 8% of our total homeless population in 2014.

3.3 Unsheltered Homeless Population

As part of the screening process in the unsheltered survey, respondents were asked to identify where they were staying on the night of the count. Below is the distribution of their responses based on a total of 21 surveys. Half (10) the respondents indicated public spaces such as sidewalks or bus shelters. A further (5), identified a makeshift shelter or tent in a park, parkland, forest or other public land. Another (4), indicated makeshift shelter or tent on private property. One person each indicated vacant buildings and cars or other vehicles as shown in Figure 3.4. While this is a relatively small sample it shows that the majority of the unsheltered population reside in public spaces such as sidewalks or parks or forested areas. On the other hand less people were

using vacant buildings and vehicles as a form of shelter when homeless, or did not identify it on this survey.

Figure 3.3: Distribution of the Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



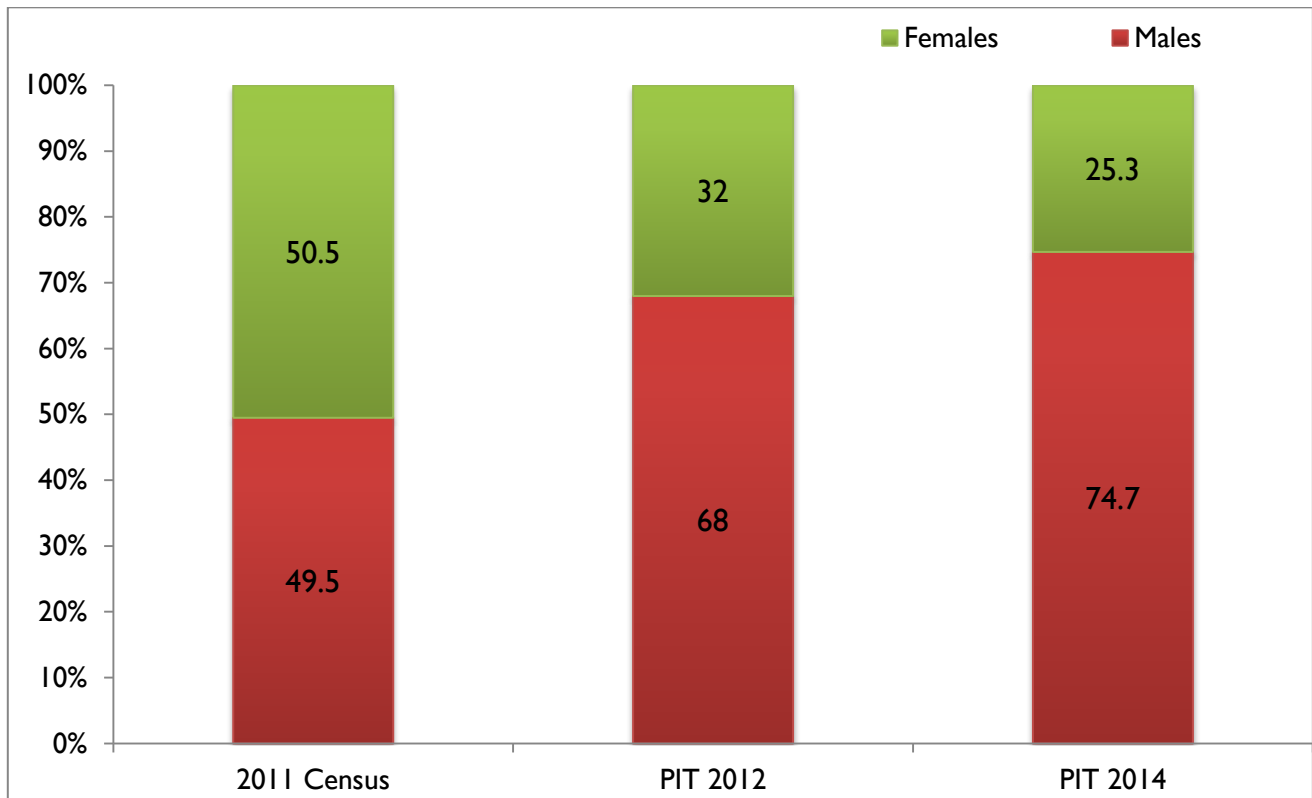
4.0 Detailed Analysis of Survey Responses

This section provides detailed analysis of the responses from the valid surveys from the 2014 PIT count. Overall, there were 99 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.

4.1 Gender

Men represented almost three quarters (74.7%) of the homeless population identified in the 2014 PIT count survey, while females accounted for 25.3% of the total homeless population, continuing a male majority that has held over from the previous count. 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 proportion of 49.5% for males and 50.5% females as percentage of total population. As a result, the overall share of males depicts an overrepresentation of males in Red Deer's homeless population. Figure 4.1 shows the gender distribution of males and females in the 2014 PIT count.

Figure 4.1: Proportion of Males and Females, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



4.2 Age

Median age of the population of Red Deer in the 2011 Census was 34.7 years, while the median age in the 2014 PIT count was 37 years compared to 33 years in 2012 PIT count. The youngest person surveyed in 2014 was 13 years compared to 14 years in 2012. The oldest person surveyed was 65 years in 2014 compared to 62 years in 2012. From the survey responses the youth under 25 years of age constitute 15.2% of the total homeless population in 2014 compared to 27.1% in 2011 and overall 20.6% of Red Deer's total population (those between the ages of 10-24).

Table 4.1: Age Distribution (Percentage) of the Homeless Population in 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts

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

However, when you consider the total population enumerated including children as part of the youth (Unsheltered, Sheltered and Public Systems), the proportion of youth homeless will be 21.9%¹¹ in 2014, and 37.1% in 2012, while 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 belonged to the 25-29 years age group who accounted for 15% and 16.3% in 2012 and 2014 respectively. There are relatively a small percentage of seniors who are homeless only a percentage point in 2014, none at all in 2012, given that they represent 10.5% of Red Deer's total population. Overall, a large proportion of Red Deer's homeless population is between the ages of 20-60 years, and more narrowly predominantly within the ages of 30-55 years.

4.3 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 children¹² 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 (couple and lone parents) with at least on child at home constitutes about 60% of total families in Red Deer in the 2011 Federal Census. 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, these two numbers points to 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, 5.1% were couples (spouse or partner) and while 2.0% were siblings from the PIT Count in 2014. In the 2012, couples constituted 8.6% of the while siblings were 1.9%.

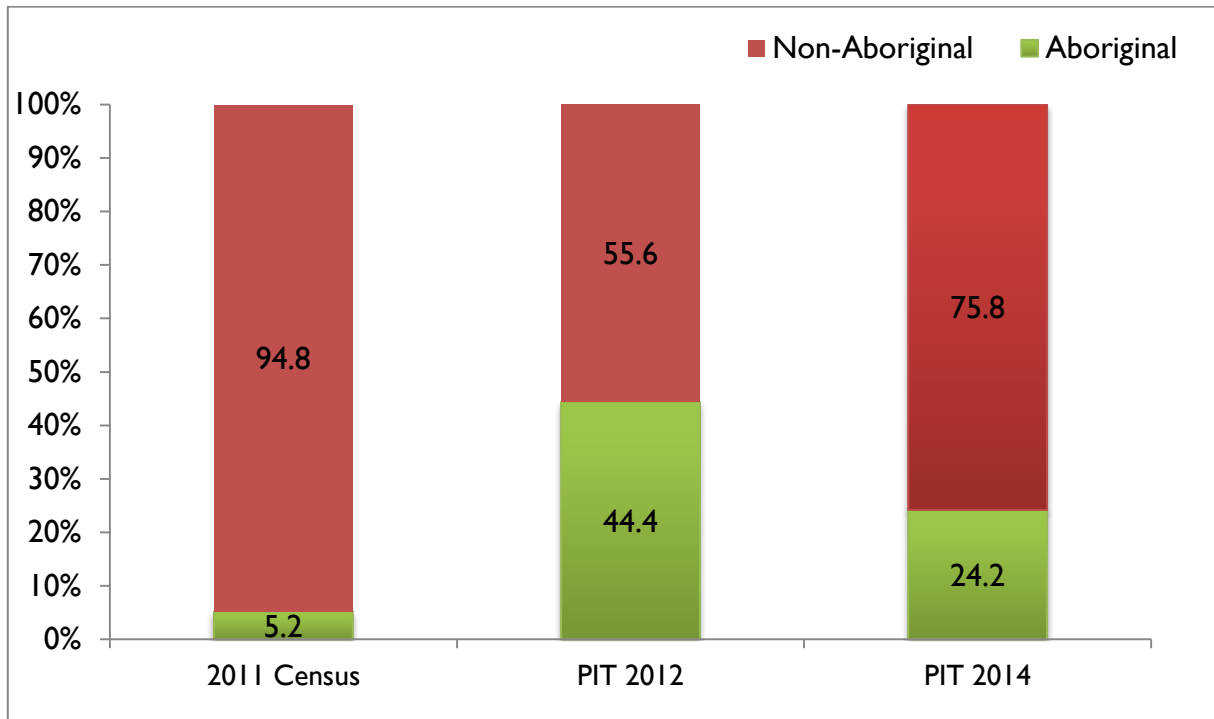
¹¹ Total number of youth enumerated in the count was 30 including accompanying minors (15 in the valid surveys and 14 accompanying minors and 1 from administrative data. If you add the 15 to the total valid surveys (99) that will give a valid sample total of 114 making the youth proportion 26.3%. However, over the total enumeration of 137 then the youth proportion will be 21.9% of those under the age of 25 years.

¹² Government of Alberta: (2014) <http://humanservices.alberta.ca/homelessness/14630.html>

4.4 Aboriginal Identity

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.

Figure 4.2: Aboriginal Population in 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts

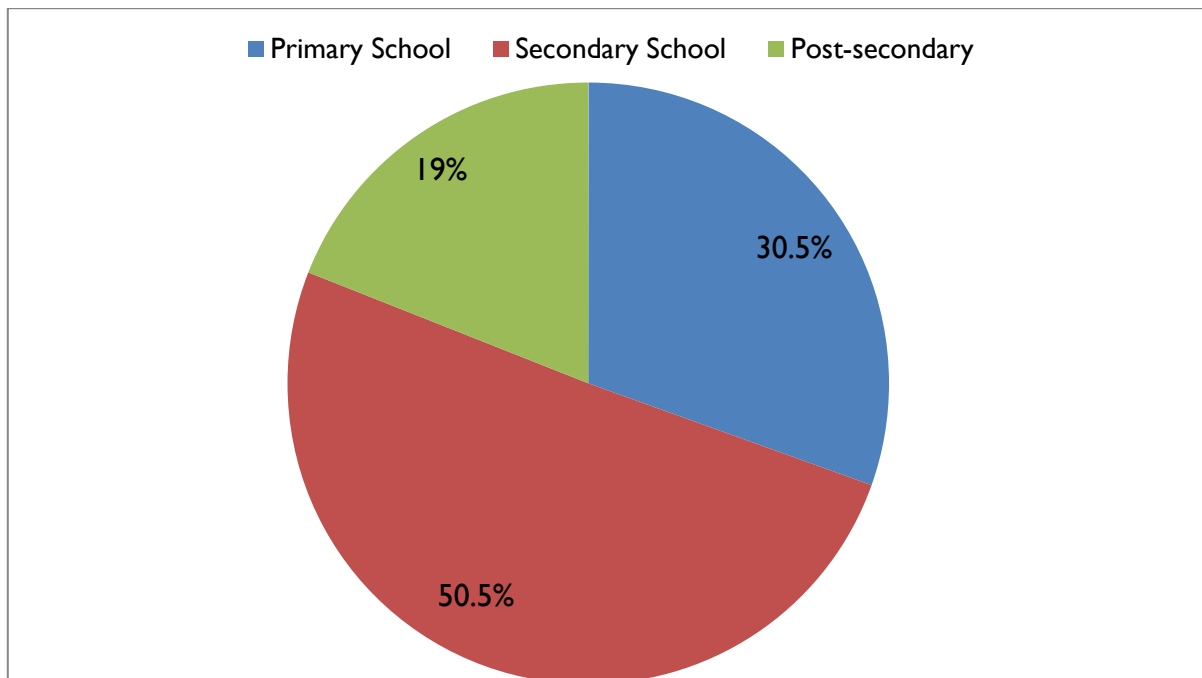


In the 2014 PIT Count, 24.2% of respondents indicated Aboriginal identity, almost half the percentage reported in 2012 PIT Count of 44.4%. In comparison, the Aboriginal identity population in the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) was only 5.2% of Red Deer's total population. In this context the results show there is an over-representation of the Aboriginal population in Red Deer's homeless population. Even though, the Aboriginal identity population have seen their numbers grow faster in terms of population growth than the non-Aboriginal population in Red Deer (the Aboriginal population increased by 27.5% between 2006 and 2011 in the National Household Survey). The Aboriginal over-representation amongst the homeless population is evident in Figure 4.2. Of the people who identified themselves as Aboriginals, 8.1% identified as First Nations (Status), 4.0% as First Nations (Non-Status) and the rest 12.1% identified as Métis. While it was not the same categories used in the 2011 (National Household Survey), the Métis formed the largest group from these two data sets.

4.5 Education

Research has established high school completion is linked to increasing housing stability and reduction in the risk of homeless. Thus, lower levels of educational attainment increases risk of limited economic outcomes and more likelihood of homelessness¹³. Respondents were asked the level of education they have completed based on three educational levels (primary school, secondary and post-secondary). Almost a third reported having primary school education: 30.5%, reported primary school education, 50.5% reported secondary school education and 19% reported post-secondary education as shown in Figure 4.3. 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 half (50.8%) had completed post-secondary level education (apprenticeship/trade, college certificate or diploma and university diploma or degree) relative to the 19% reported by respondents from the 2014 PIT count. 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.

Figure 4.3: Highest Level of Education Completed, 2014 PIT Homeless Count



¹³ Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness (2011): Profiles of Risk: Education: Homelessness and High School Completion. http://www.icphusa.org/PDF/reports/ICPH_FamiliesAtRisk_No.2_Education.pdf

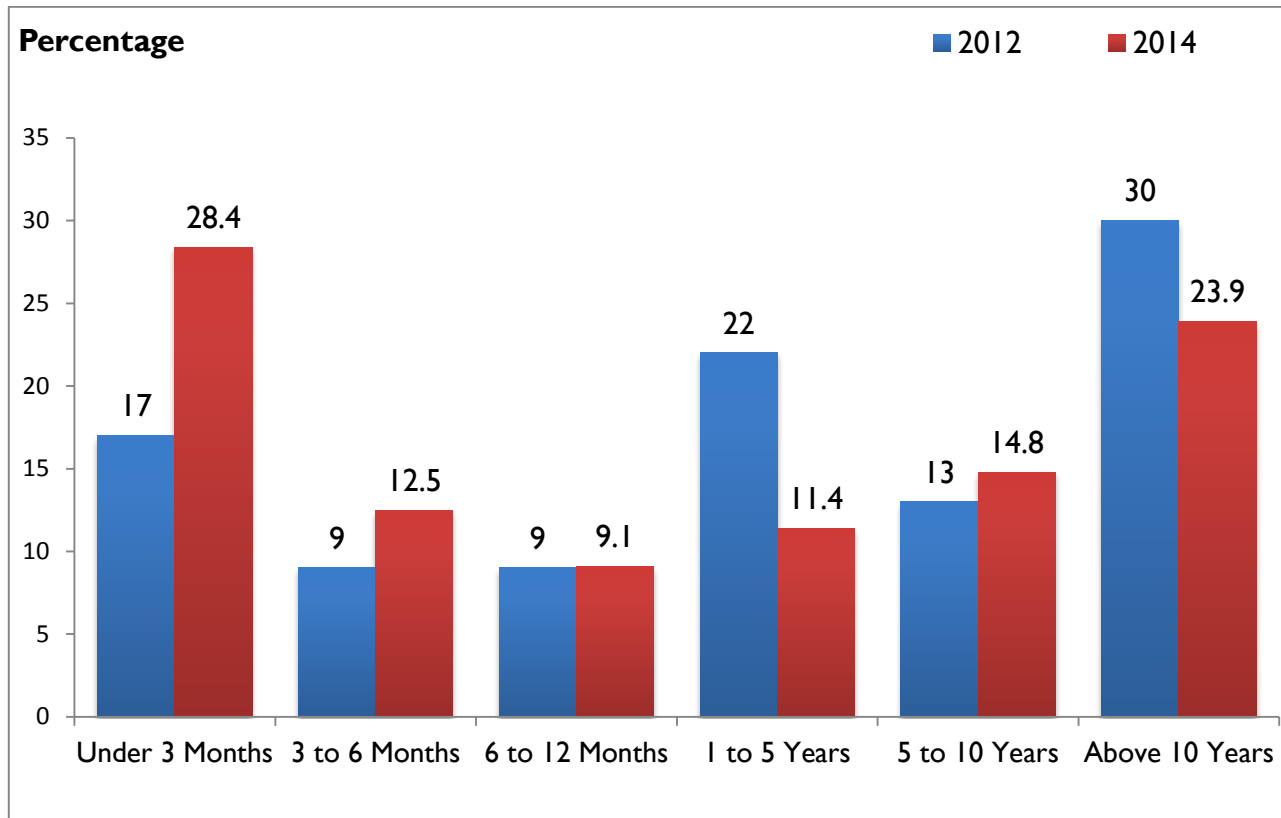
4.6 Mobility and Migration Patterns

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. As part of the migration 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. The 2014 PIT count data shows that 10.1% of the respondents were foreign-born. This is fairly 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. In the 2014 PIT count, the immigrants were also asked how long they have lived in Canada, it ranged from 3 years to 43 years with the average being 18.5 years. A further breakdown of immigrants and their length of stay in Canada indicates that only one person has been here between 1-3 years, three between 4 to 9 years and six people have been here 10 years and above.

Respondents were asked how long they have been in Red Deer, this was to gauge whether they were new to Red Deer or not. 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 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. Comparatively, there is some variation in terms of the length of stay in the community with the 2012 PIT count, the number of people in Red Deer less than three months prior to the count almost doubled in 2014 compared to 2012, which is most significant in terms of time in the community. The rest of the months seemed fairly stable. However, there were also variations between 1 to 5 years and 10 and years above in the two counts as shown in Figure 4.4.

The 2014 PIT survey shows that nearly half of those experiencing homeless are new to our community which invariably increases existing client load compared to if we were only serving those already in the community. There has been some perception and anecdotal evidence corroborating these mobility patterns; however, there have not been any systematic process of validating these assumptions until now. Nonetheless, data was not obtained on expressed motivations or reasons for the movement, so one cannot correlate the patterns of movement and expressed reasons for movement whether it be employment seeking or for access to services in our community or for any other reason for that matter. What is abundantly clear from this data is 46.5% of the homeless surveyed are new to Red Deer within the last year.

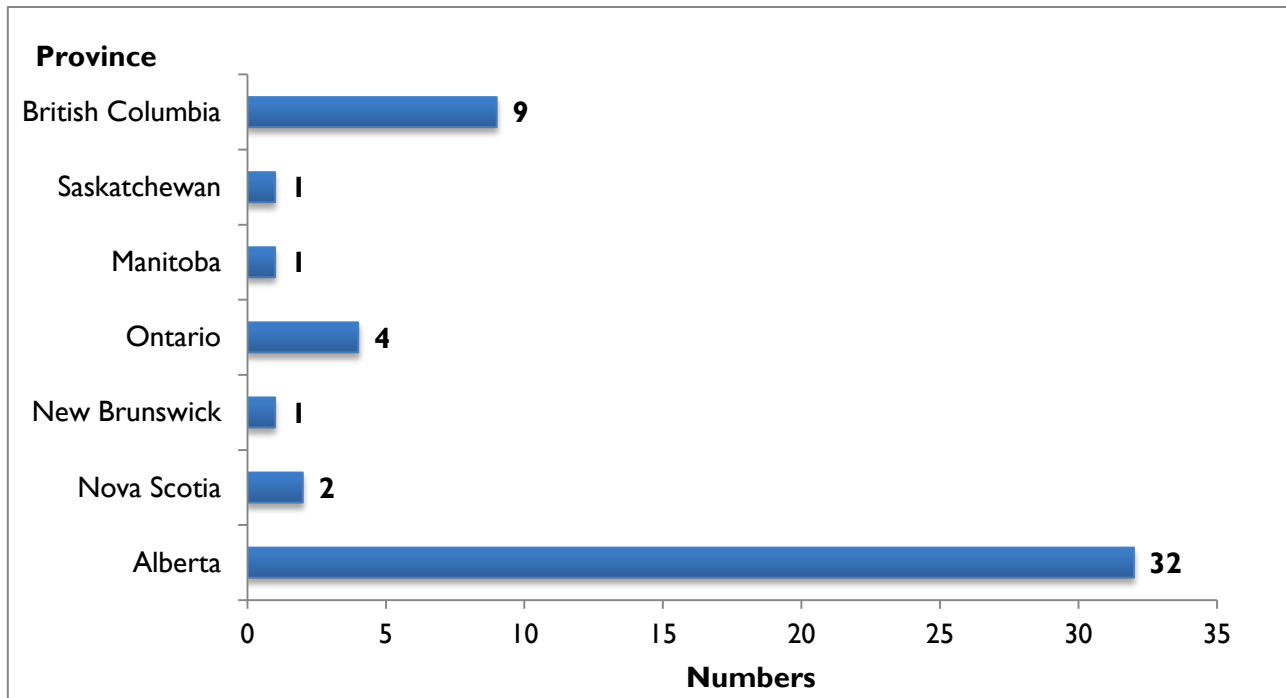
Figure 4.4: Length of Time in Red Deer, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



The mobility patterns among those surveyed in the 2014 PIT count reflects largely intra-provincial 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. Out of the total number of people who responded to this question, the majority 32 (64%) were from Alberta-intra-provincial migrants and 18 (36%) inter-provincial migrants. Comparatively, in the mobility status of one year in 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.

In the 2012, PIT count the question was phrased differently. It asked: *what city or community do you consider "home"?* Out of the total respondents, 65% indicated Red Deer as home, 15.7% reported other communities in Alberta, 13.3% identified British Columbia, 3.6% other provinces and 2.4% outside Canada. Both the 2012 and 2014 PIT counts identified British Columbia as the main source of inter-provincial migrants within our homeless population (see Figure 4.5). 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 Vermillion, Taber and Manning to Red Deer.

Figure 4.5: Mobility Patterns of the Homeless Population, 2014 PIT Homeless Count



4.7 Veteran Status

Increasing homelessness among veterans has become a major concern in Canada. The number of people experiencing homelessness identified by Veterans Affairs Canada has skyrocketed over the last five years, jumping from just 35 in 2009-2010 to 236 last year (Bergeron-Oliver, 2014).¹⁴ Veteran Affairs estimated that 599,200 were veterans as at March 2014¹⁵. At the same time, Canada's population was estimated at 35,675,800¹⁶ on October 1, 2014. This means veterans formed 1.7% of Canada's total population.

Both in 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.

¹⁴ [Annie Bergeron-Oliver \(2014\) http://www.ipolitics.ca/2014/06/30/the-number-of-homeless-veterans-in-canada-is-soaring](http://www.ipolitics.ca/2014/06/30/the-number-of-homeless-veterans-in-canada-is-soaring)

¹⁵ Estimated Veteran Population as of March 2014*599,200 <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/news/general-statistics>

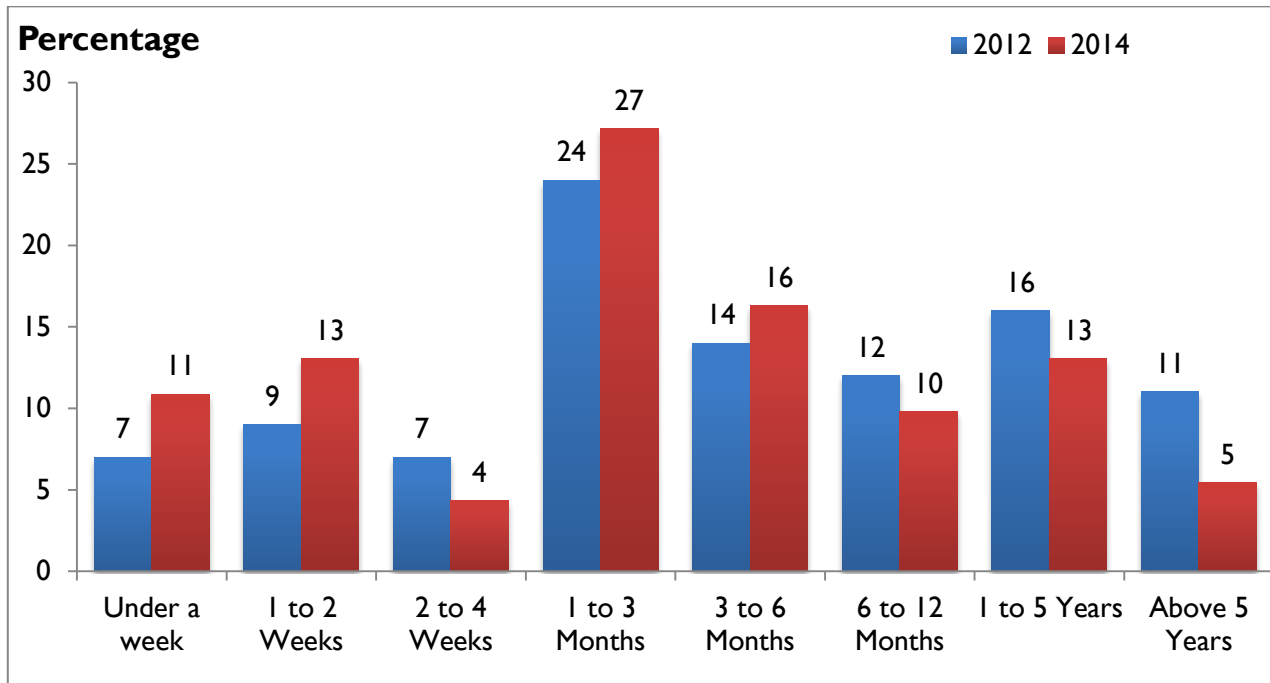
¹⁶ Statistics Canada, 2014: Canada's population was estimated at 35,675,800 on October 1, 2014, up 135,400 (+0.4%) from July 1, 2014, according to preliminary population estimates, which are now available for the third quarter by province and territory. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141217/dq141217d-eng.pdf>

4.8 Duration of Homelessness

There were slight differences in the wording and in the format of duration or length of time in homelessness between the 2012 and the 2014 PIT counts. In 2012 the respondents were asked “how long have you been without a permanent place to live? In 2014, the question was phrased *how long have you been homeless most recently?* 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 and that is why it is one of the elements considered in the classification of the various episodes¹⁷ of homeless. Research has also shown the duration of homelessness also has impacts on stable housing outcomes.

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 4.6. The length of a homeless spell is relatively lower between 6 months to year in Red Deer from both sets of data. The only major variation between 2012 and 2014 is that the percentage above 5 years in 2014 is half the number in 2014. Efforts at addressing more chronic homeless in Red Deer may have contributed to the decline in this value.

Figure 4.6: Duration of Current Homelessness, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts

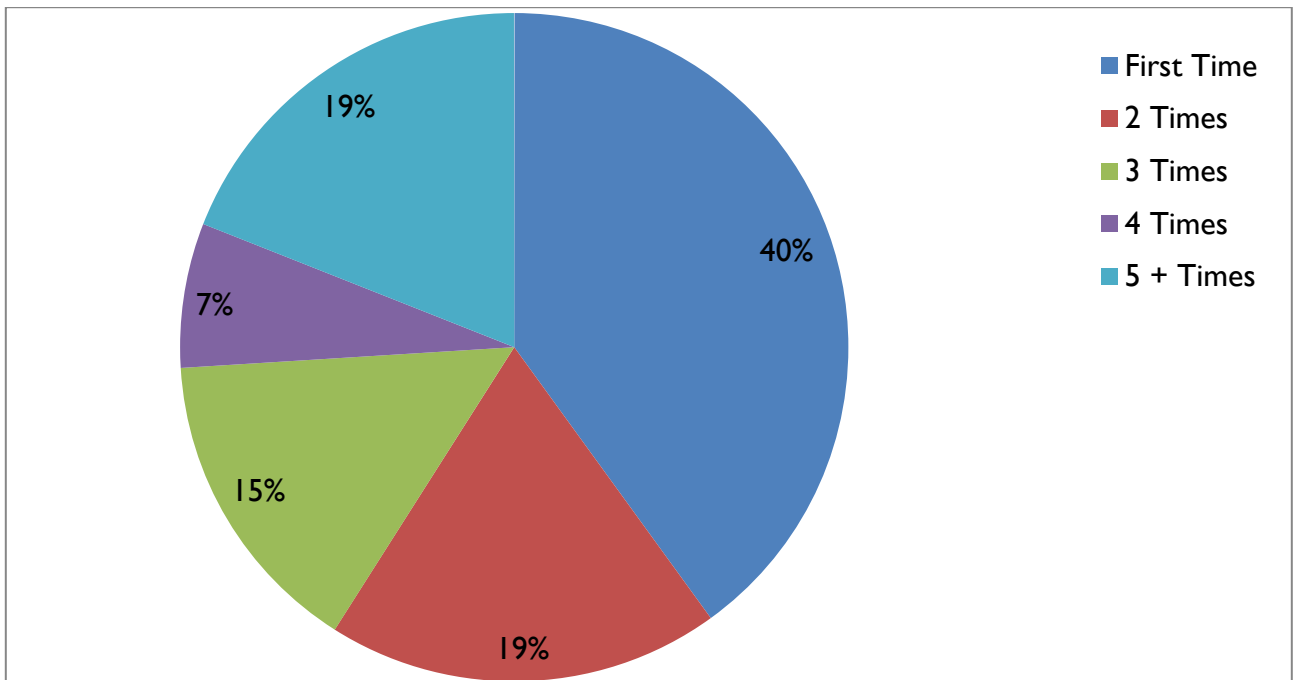


¹⁷ Episodes are defined as periods when a person would be in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation, and after at least 30 days, would be back in the shelter or inhabitable location.

4.9 Different Times Homeless in the Past 3 Years

To be able to understand and gauge episodes of being homeless, respondents were asked how many different times they have been homeless in the past 3 years (i.e. in and out of homelessness). Out of the total number of people who responded (85) 34 representing 40% indicated that this was their first time homeless, those who have experienced 2 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years constituted 19% of the total, 3 episodes were 15% while 4 episodes were 7%. Finally, those who were homeless and have experienced five or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years represented 19% as well. Based on the period of episodes, Red Deer has a large proportion of its homeless population experiencing short term homelessness (transitional and episodic homelessness) compared to chronic homelessness. This is consistent with the previous count of 2012, where the majority (69%) of those surveyed were experiencing short term homelessness and the rest 31% were experiencing chronic homelessness. Figure 4.7 depicts the representation of different times those surveyed were homeless in the past three years.

Figure 4.7: Episodes of Homelessness in the Past 3 Years, 2014 PIT Homeless Count



4.10 Patterns of Homelessness

Homelessness duration and episodes was analysed using the following conditions to define chronic¹⁸, episodic 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 homeless or 2 or less episodes of homelessness)

Criteria for Categorization in line with Provincial Definitions of Homelessness

Condition	Categorize
Anyone over 1 year current	Chronic
Anyone more than 4 episodes	Chronic
For estimated count - anything over 1 to 3 category	Chronic
More than 2 episodes	Episodic
For estimated count - 1 to 3 is episodic (with or without duration data)	Episodic
1 or 2 instances of homelessness (actual # not estimated)	Transitional
1 month or less homeless	Transitional
If they do not know duration - unknown if there is not enough instances data to categorize	Unknown
Declined to answer duration - unknown if there is not enough instances data to categorize	Unknown

A cross tabulation of the length of time in the community and pattern of homelessness shows that the transitionally homeless, who constitute 15.2% of the homeless population are more likely to have spent less time in the community. For example, 9.1% of the total homeless population have been in Red Deer less than a year and none of them were born in Red Deer. In other words, the longer they have been in the community the more likely they are to be episodic or chronically homeless as show in Table 4.2.

¹⁸ Alberta Government (2014): <http://humanservices.alberta.ca/homelessness/14630.html>

Table 4.2 Homelessness Patterns and Time Spent in Community, 2014 PIT Homeless Count

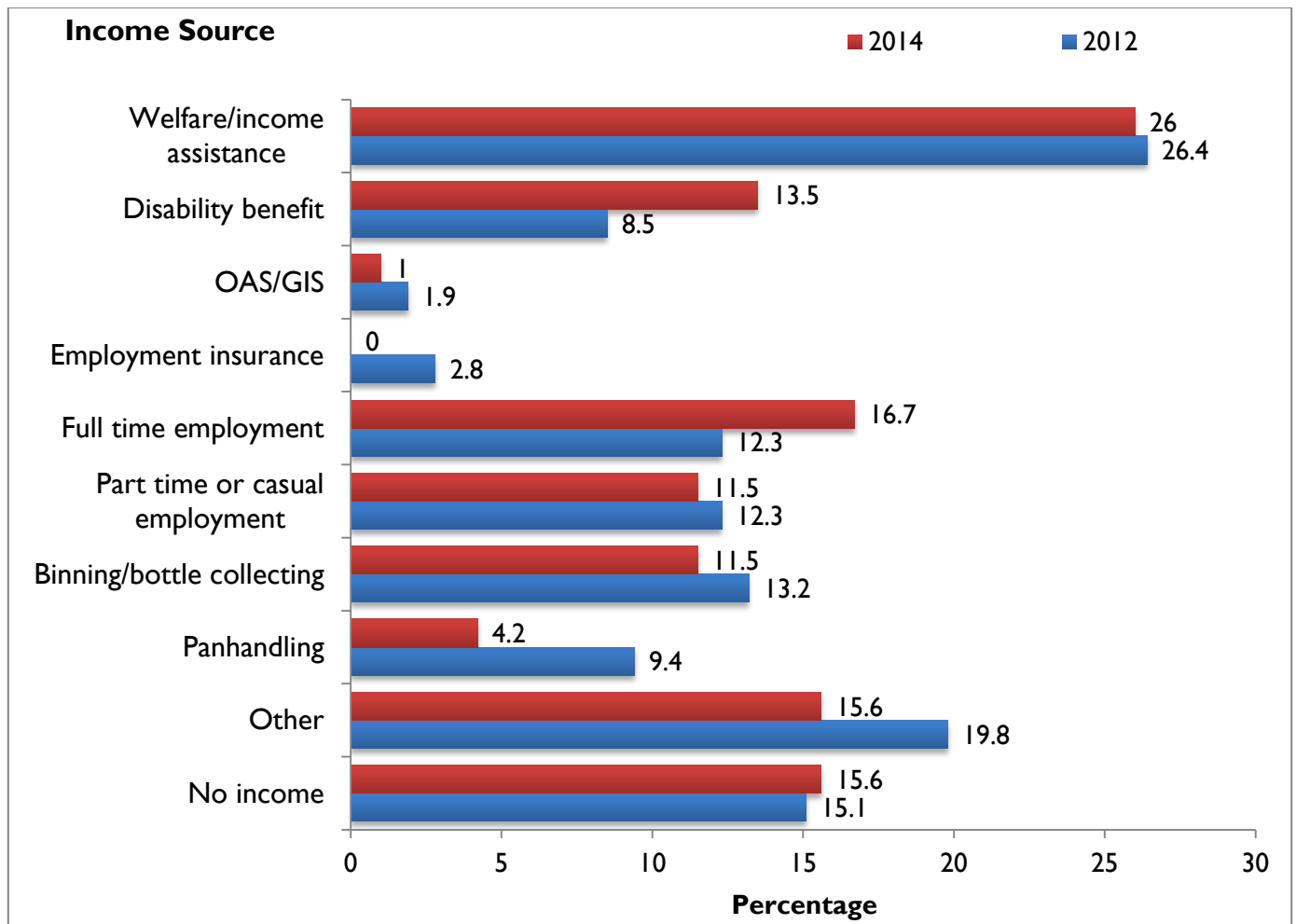
	Born in Community	< 1 Month	1 Month to 1 Year	1 Year to 5 Years	5+ Years	Unknown	Total Number	Total Percentage
Chronic	4.0%	0.0%	12.1%	1.0%	18.2%	0.0%	35	35.4%
Episodic	1.0%	1.0%	21.2%	6.1%	12.1%	3.0%	44	44.4%
Transitional	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	15	15.2%
Unknown	1.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	5	5.1%
Total	6	1	44	10	34	4	99	100%

Episodic homeless persons formed the largest proportion of Red Deer’s homeless population with 44.4%, half of them having spent less than 1 year in Red Deer and the proportion that have stayed in the community 5 years and longer was 12.1%. The chronic homeless who represent 35.4% of Red Deer homeless population reported the longest stay in the community, 4 out of 6 were born in Red Deer and more than half have been in the community 5 years and over. What is significant is that whether chronic, episodic or transitional, approximately 42% of the homeless population have been homeless less than a year in our community.

4.11 Source of Income

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 and the 2014 count was welfare and income assistance representing 26% of all respondents. This was followed by those without income which averaged about 15% of all respondents in the two counts.

Figure 4.8: Sources of Income, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



Those who reported full time employment income increased slightly from 12.3 % in 2012 to 16.7% in 2014. It invariably means that some of those experiencing homelessness were working but could not make ends meet to afford housing. Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Old Age Security (OAS), were the lowest income sources identified by the respondents, this is not surprising because only 1% of respondents in the survey were seniors (65 years and above). There was a large difference in those who reported panhandling in the 2012 and 2014 counts. Other sources of income reported were child tax benefit, child support, sex trade and stealing. The distribution of source of income is shown in Figure 4.8

4.12 Health Condition

Respondents were asked to self-report their health status or conditions in terms of medical condition, physical disability, addiction and mental health. In 2012 and 2014 up to 85% of all respondents in both counts reported some health conditions. Similarly in both counts, unsheltered homeless individual 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 residents¹⁹

Table 4.3 Number of Health Conditions, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts

Number of Health Problems	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Totals	
	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014
	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	17	13	11	24	14	15
One	31	26	22	19	26	24
Two	19	25	36	5	28	21
Three	23	23	11	33	17	26
Four	10	13	20	19	15	14

There are two differences in the total percentage in the number of health problems reported between 2012 and 2014 in those who reported 2 and 3 different health conditions. In 2012, 28% of all respondents reported 2 health conditions, this decreased to 21% in 2014. Similarly, in 2012, 17% of all respondents reported three health problems, this increased to 26% in 2014. There was not much variation between those who did not report any health condition and those who reported four.

¹⁹ Hwang (2001): Homelessness and health
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC80688/pdf/20010123s00027p229.pdf>

Respondents were also asked to identify their health condition based on four main categories: medical condition, physical disability, addictions and mental health. Compared with all other health conditions the rates reported for addictions have been relatively higher in the 2012 and 2014 counts and among both sheltered and unsheltered populations, 74% and 66% respectively. 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.

Table 4.4: Type of Health Conditions, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts

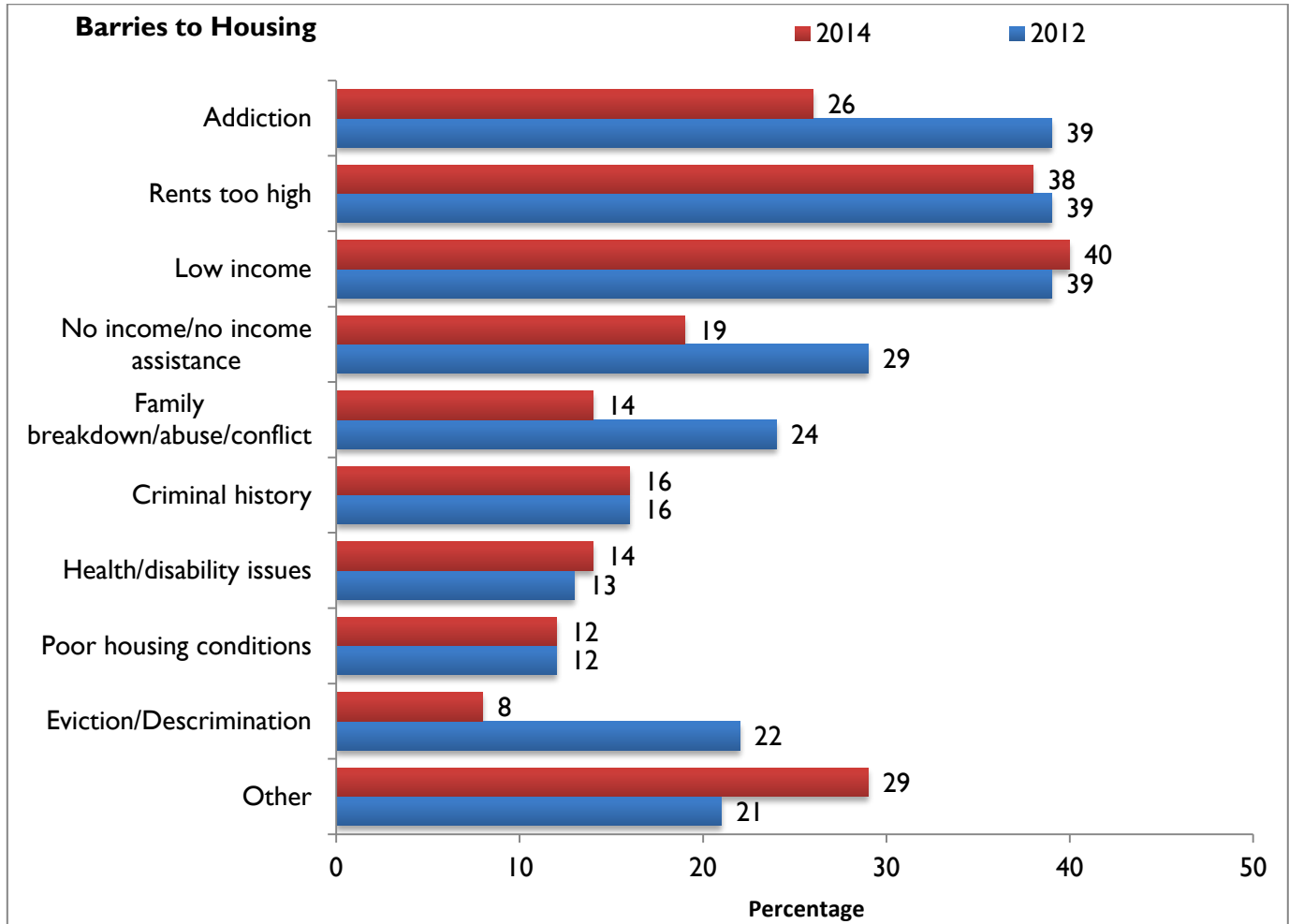
Health Problems	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Totals	
	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Medical Condition	49	45	50	57	49	47
Physical Disability	27	37	37	43	32	39
Addictions	73	66	76	67	74	66
Mental Health	46	51	67	43	56	50

The prevalence of mental health was the second highest health condition reported in the surveys. In 2012, 56% of respondents indicated some form of mental health. Although, there was a slight decline in the percentage to 50% in 2014, however, there are still 1 in 2 people experiencing homelessness who cite a mental health issues. This is still significant in the context of their risk of homelessness and housing stability. In the order of magnitude, physical disability was the least reported by respondents at 32% in 2012 and a much higher percentage of 39% in 2014. These values are still lower than the 49% in 2012 and 47% in 2014 for medical conditions.

4.13 Barriers to Housing

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 was keeping them from finding a permanent place to live*”. The most common responses were; not having enough income and the fact that rents were too high. Although the number of those who reported addiction declined from 39% in 2012 to 26% in 2014 it is still one of the main barriers to housing stability. As in previous counts most of the respondents identified at least two barriers to housing.

Figure 4.9: Barriers to Housing, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



4.14 Rehousing: What will help find permanent stable housing

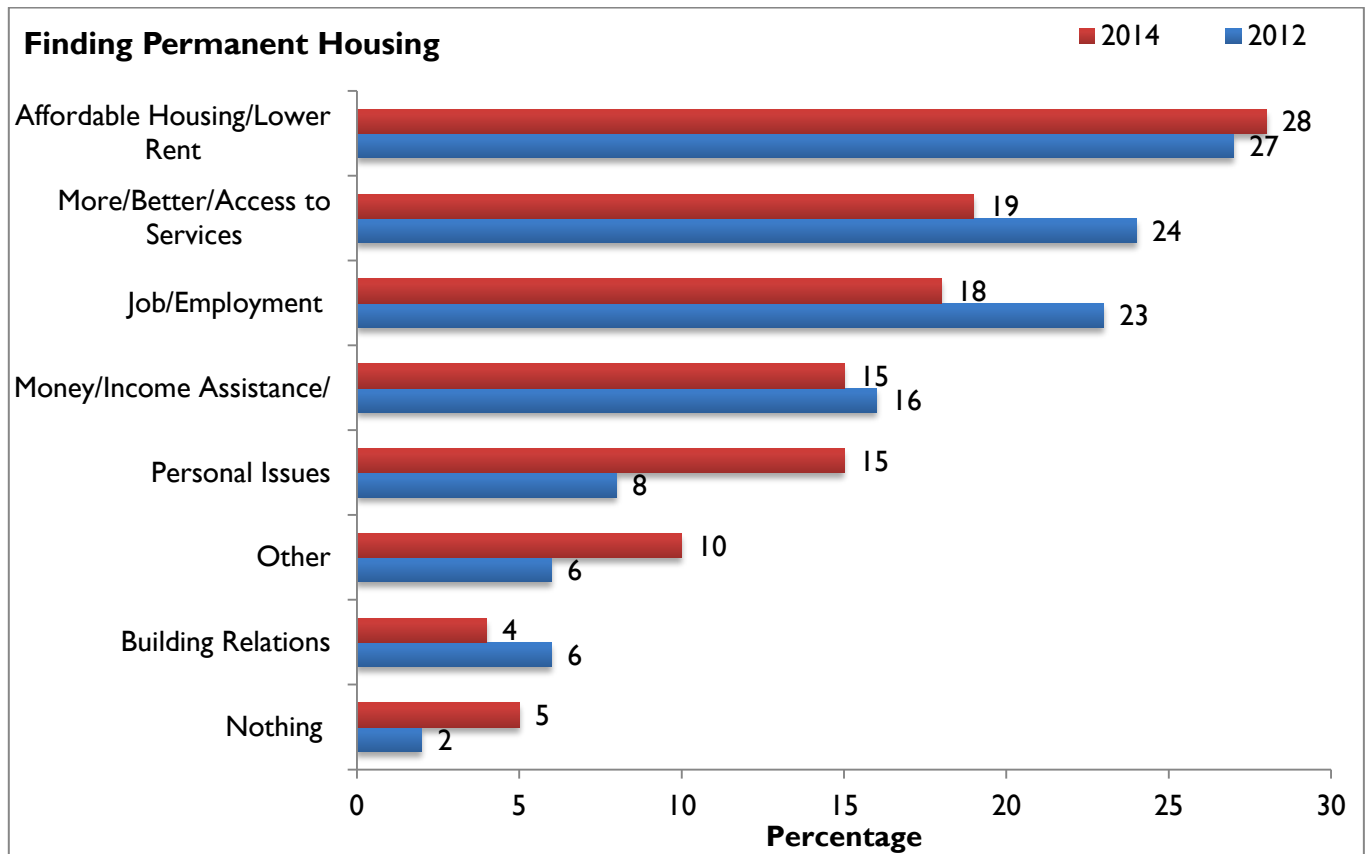
At the end of the survey, respondents were asked, “What one thing could help you find permanent, stable housing?” This question was open-ended and respondents had the option of providing multiple responses. For the purposes of comparison the categorization of responses was the same as with the previous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

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 is again the most commonly cited response as a way to improve housing stability outcomes.

The second most common response concerned available services: these respondents indicated that they needed help finding housing, needed someone to talk to, needed mental health services, help getting on medication, or just needed a case worker. This is also consistent with both counts in 2012 and 2014.

The third most common response was respondents who said that they just needed a job. It is interesting to note that far more people responded that they needed to find a job than those who just said they needed more money, or needed to win the lottery or in the case of 2014 waiting for a miracle to happen. “Having a steady income”, “finding a job”, and “improving one's job skills” were all rated more frequently compared to personal issues or building relations. That does not mean these other issues are not important.

Figure 4.10: Rehousing, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



A minority of respondents said that they needed to address personal issues, such as becoming sober, finding religion, or to stop making bad decisions. Having a need for some form of substance abuse treatment service was identified as important by a significant number of people who mentioned personal issues that they want to deal with. Another minority indicated that they needed to fix existing relationships (i.e. stop fighting with a parent or spouse so that they can move back in), or create a new relationship (i.e. find someone to love and get married). Only two respondents in 2012 and 5 in 2014 said they didn't want anything or that nothing could help them get housing.

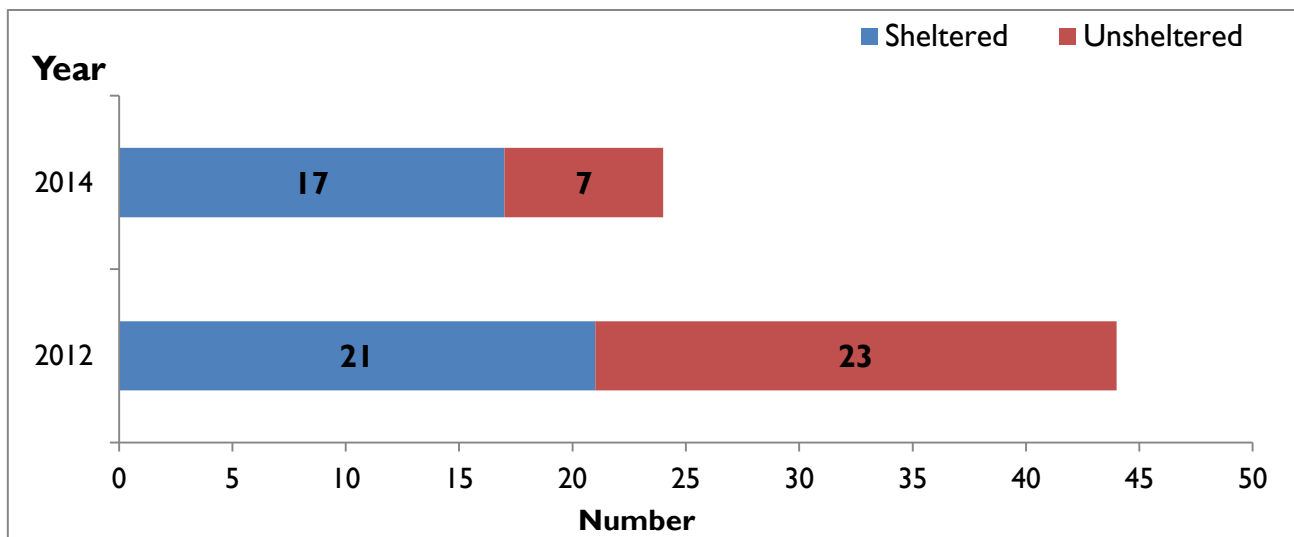
5.0 Sub-Populations

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

5.1 Aboriginal Identity Population

The proportion of Aboriginal persons within the population experiencing homelessness has ranged from a high of 44.4% in 2012 to a low of 24% in 2014, showing an overall declining trend. However this sub-population is still disproportionately represented among those experiencing homelessness in Red Deer compared to Red Deer's total population (5.2%). In the 2012 count, the unsheltered homeless Aboriginal identity population was just slightly higher 21 people compared to 23 in the sheltered population. In the 2014 count, the reverse occurred where the Aboriginal identity population was significantly higher among the sheltered homeless population (7 to 17) compared to the unsheltered as depicted in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Sheltered and Unsheltered Aboriginal Identity Population, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



5.1.1 Age

In the 2011 National Household Survey, Aboriginal identity population was younger than the non-Aboriginal population. The median age for the Aboriginal identity population was 27.7 years compared to the non-Aboriginal population of 34.7 years. In the 2012 PIT count, Aboriginal persons experiencing homelessness were much younger than non-Aboriginal homeless persons, with an average age of 32.2 years for Aboriginal population compared to 36.7 years for non-Aboriginal population. In the 2014 PIT count, the gap became much closer, 37 years for Aboriginal persons and 38.6 years for non-Aboriginal persons. The gap is much closer because ages of

children were not included in both counts as compared to the National Household Survey. But it still reflects the trend that the Aboriginal sub-population experiencing homelessness is younger than the non-Aboriginal sub-population.

Table 5.1 presents the age categories and the number of Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness in each age cohort.

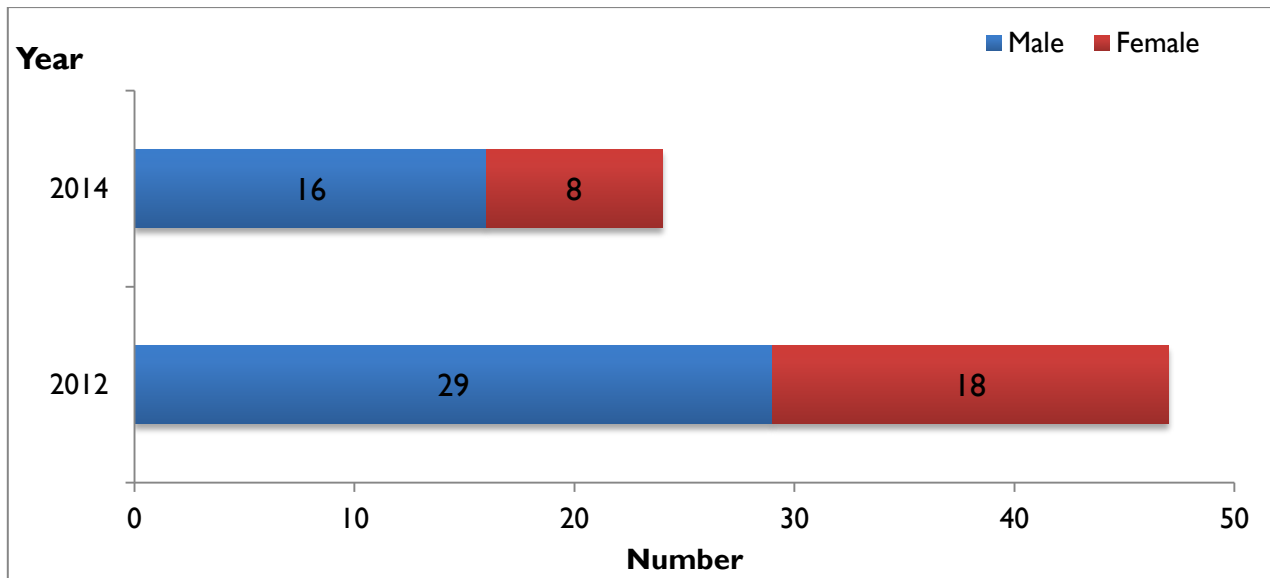
Table 5.1: Age of Aboriginal Population, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts

Age category	2012	2014
	Number	Number
15 to 19 years	9	0
20 to 24 years	6	3
25 to 29 years	9	5
30 to 34 years	5	4
35 to 39 years	4	1
40 to 44 years	4	3
45 to 49 years	5	3
50 years and above	5	4
Totals	47	24

5.1.2 Gender and Family Status

Males formed the majority of those experiencing homeless in the Aboriginal sub-population. One-half of Aboriginal people in the survey were males in the 2014 count and a much higher percentage of 61.7% in the 2012 count. The main difference between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in terms of those experiencing homelessness is a much higher percentage of Aboriginal women compared to non-Aboriginal women. In the 2012 count, it constituted 38% of the Aboriginal population experiencing homelessness compared to 26% for non-Aboriginal. In the 2014 count, Aboriginal women formed 50% of the Aboriginal sub-population experiencing homelessness compared to 22.7% for the non-Aboriginal. Figure 5.2 shows the number of males and females experiencing homeless in the Aboriginal sub-population. All three families who responded to 2014 PIT count survey identified themselves as Aboriginals.

Figure 5.2: Number of Males and Females in the Aboriginal Sub-population, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



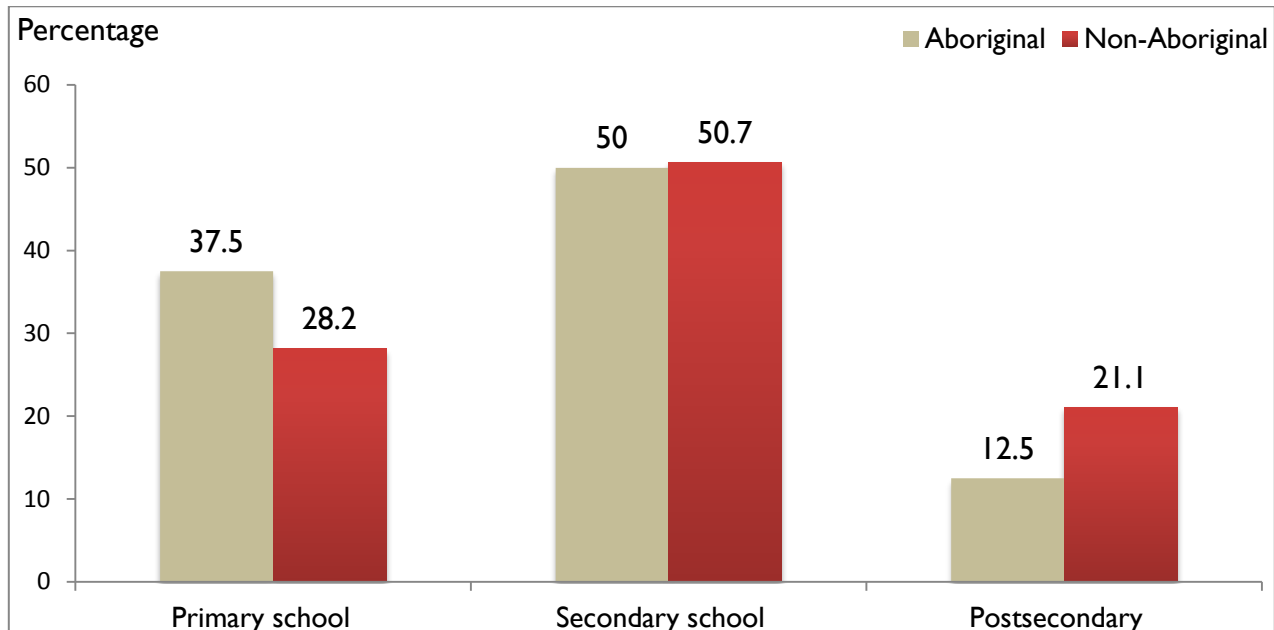
5.1.3 Migration Patterns and Veteran Status

Out of a total of six respondents who indicated they were born in Red Deer in the 2014 PIT count, four of them indicated Aboriginal identity. In terms of the length of stay in the community, 10 out of those who indicated Aboriginal identity have been in Red Deer less than a year, only one person between a year and 5 years, and the rest, 9 have been in Red Deer a five years and longer. The average time they have spent in the community was approximately 15 years. Up to 80% of Aboriginal persons experiencing homelessness who moved into Red Deer are from communities in Alberta and British Columbia. Some of the communities include Penticton, Revelstoke, and Victoria. One veteran was identified in the Aboriginal sub-population.

5.1.4 Education

In the 2014 PIT count, out of the total (24) that reported an Aboriginal identity on the survey, 37.5% had identified completing primary school education compared to 28.2% for the non-Aboriginal population. Half of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents indicated that they have completed secondary school education. The main difference between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in educational attainment lies in post-secondary qualifications. The proportion of Aboriginal people with a post-secondary as their highest level of educational attainment was 12.5%. In comparison, 22.1% of non-Aboriginal people had a post-secondary school education as their highest qualification. Figure 5.3 shows the educational level attainment for the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness.

Figure 5.3: Educational Level Completed in 2014 PIT Homeless Count



5.1.5 Duration in Homelessness and Patterns of Homelessness

Aboriginal people who experience homelessness do so for longer periods of time than non-Aboriginals. In the 2012 PIT count, Aboriginal people spent an average of 865 days in homelessness compared to 535 days for non-Aboriginals. Similarly, in the 2014 PIT count, Aboriginals spent an average of 628 days in homelessness compared to 335 days for non-Aboriginals. Comparatively in terms of patterns of homelessness, more Aboriginal people tend to be more chronic and episodic compared to the non-Aboriginals who are more often transitional homeless. Using just the length of stay in homelessness to classify for transitional, episodic and chronic homeless, out of the total (22) Aboriginal persons who responded to this question, 9 described as experiencing chronic homelessness, 6 episodic and 7 as experiencing transitional homelessness.

5.1.6 Sources of Income

About as many Aboriginal as non-Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness accessed welfare or income assistance, both in the 2012 and 2014 PIT counts. In the 2012 count, Aboriginal persons were less likely to collect a pension or be employed, and were more likely to use panhandling, bottle collecting, or friends as a source of income. In comparison, in the 2014 counts, Aboriginals were more likely to report full-time and part-time employment as their source of income and their proportion was just marginally lower than non-Aboriginals in this category as their source of income. The percentage of Aboriginals that reported binning/bottle collecting was relatively higher in the 2012 than in the 2014 PIT counts. None of Aboriginal persons experiencing homelessness reported panhandling as source income in the 2014 PIT count.

5.1.7 Health Condition of Aboriginal People Experiencing Homelessness

In the 2012, Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness reported having slightly more health problems than non-Aboriginals; in particular, 59% had a mental illness compared to 47% of non-Aboriginal. However, Aboriginal people also reported slightly less medical conditions and addictions than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. In 2014, Aboriginal respondents who indicated a medical condition constituted 45.5% compared to 50.7% for non-Aboriginals. In terms of physical disability 33.3% of Aboriginal respondents reported some form of physical disability compared to 42.2% for non-Aboriginals. A much higher percentage of Aboriginals reported addictions (77.2%) compared to 67.6% for the non-Aboriginals. For mental health 45.5% of Aboriginals indicated some form of mental health issues compared to 53.5% for non-Aboriginals. This means that more Aboriginals reported addictions in 2014 than in 2012 and the trend with medical conditions is the same as the previous count.

5.1.8 Barriers to Housing and Rehousing Aboriginals Experiencing Homelessness

Both in the 2012 and 2014 PIT count, persons of Aboriginal identity faced slightly more barriers to housing than non-Aboriginals. On average, Aboriginal persons experiencing homelessness reported more barriers to housing than non-Aboriginal persons. Apart from the general barriers, Aboriginal people were significantly more likely to report having an addiction, criminal history, family abuse/breakdown/conflict or health/disability problem as barriers to housing. They were less likely than non-Aboriginal people to report that rents were too high or that they were not receiving income assistance. One other barrier reported in the 2014 PIT count by respondents was the issue of discrimination in the process of obtaining housing.

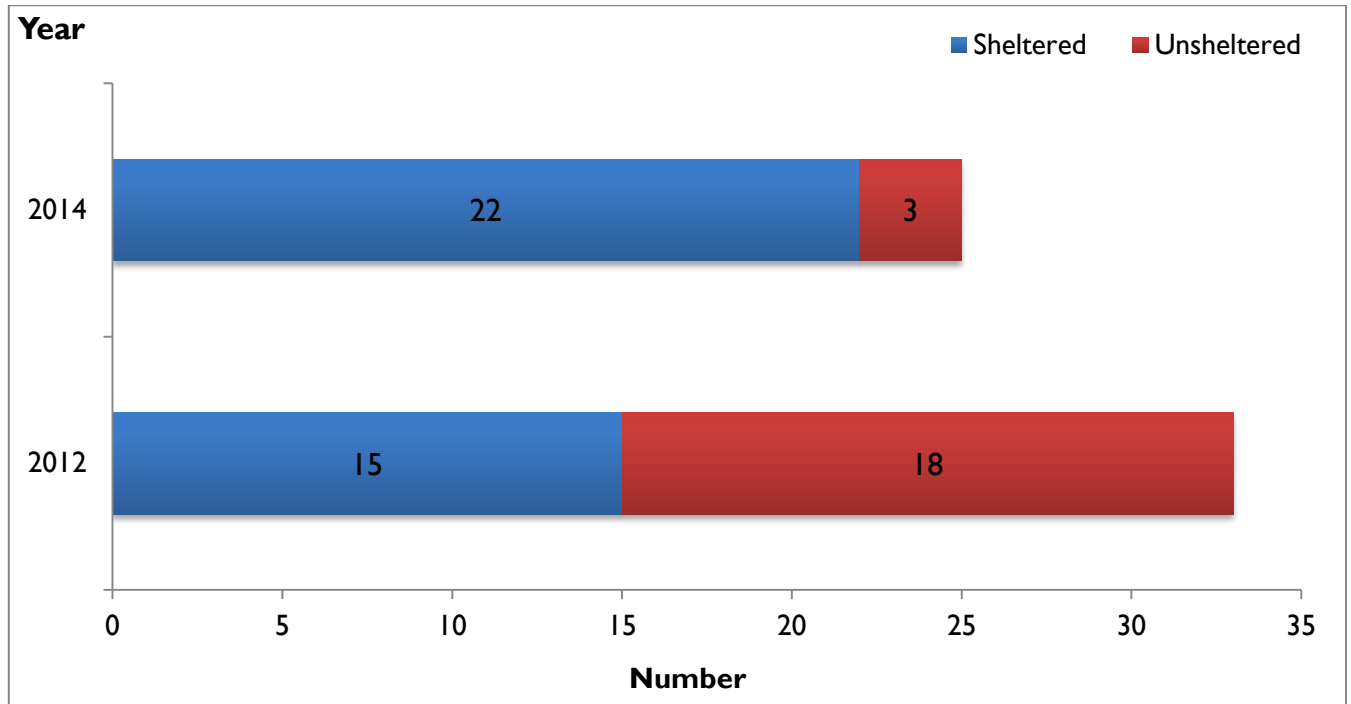
When asked about what can be done to help rehouse Aboriginal people who are experiencing homelessness, almost two thirds indicated low income housing, subsidy and financial assistance for rent. Another half of the population also indicated treatment for addiction to maintain sobriety and more mental health services.

5.2 Unaccompanied Youth

Young people are particularly vulnerable and have different needs than adults. Socially, emotionally, physically, and mentally they are still developing, so spending time – any time – homeless can have a profound impact on a youth. Typically, youth are not as “hardened” to street life, and are therefore more likely to be taken advantage of by older homeless people, including getting them involved in drug use or dealing, sex work, and theft. In the following section, youth are defined as up to and including the age of 24. All the responses presented below come from unaccompanied youth, the youngest of which was 14 years of age in 2012 and 13 years of age in 2014.

In 2012 more youth were encountered on the streets than in any sheltered category. In 2014, more youth were in shelters as shown in Figure 5.3

Figure 5.4: Sheltered and Unsheltered Youth, 2012 and 2014 PIT Count



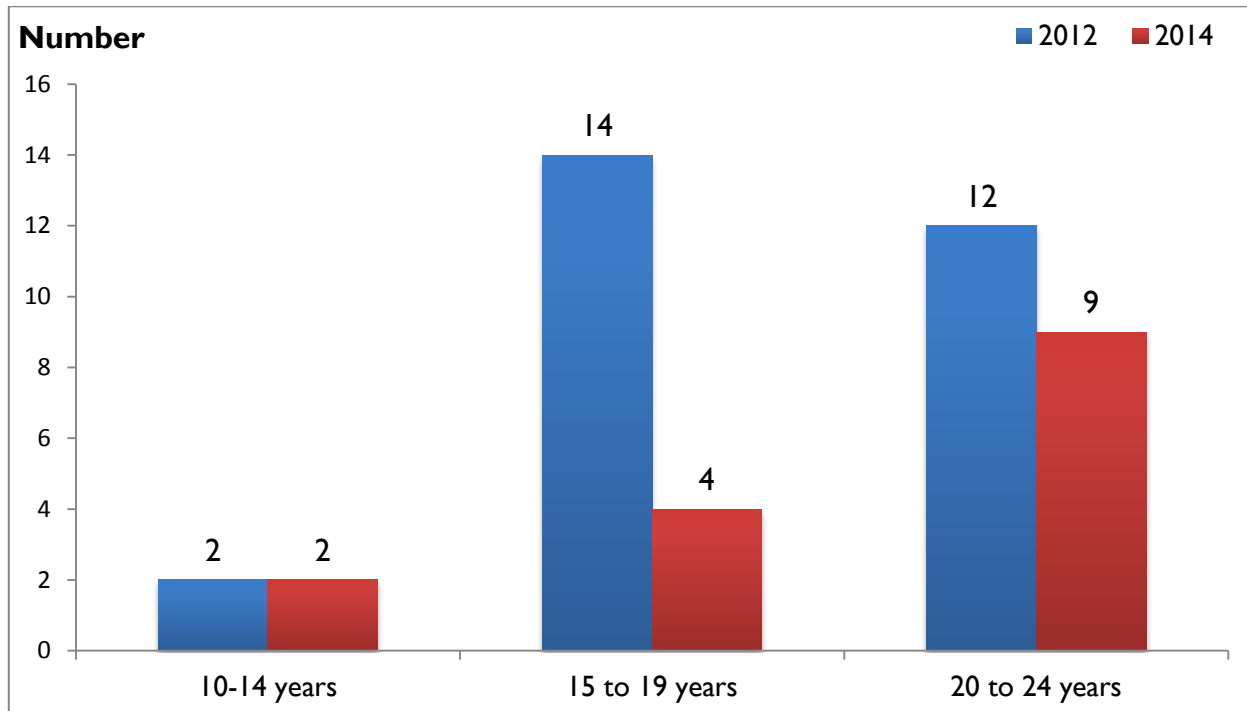
5.2.1 Gender

In 2012, One-half of all youth were female, which is significantly higher than the 32% of all respondents who were female or the 26% of adult respondents who were female. In the 2014 count, out of a total 15 youth surveyed 10 were males and 5 were females. The proportion of females in the youth is much higher than the overall total females in the total of females enumerated in the 2014 PIT count of 25%.

5.2.2 Age

In the 2012 PIT count, most youth experiencing homeless were within the ages of 15 to 19 years. The second most frequent category was ages 20 to 24 years, followed by ages 10 to 14 years. In the 2014, count majority of the youth surveyed were within the ages of the 20 to 24 years, 9 out of the total of 15 youth were within this category. This is shift can be associated with immigration figures which indicate that there was a huge rise in those who moved into our community since the last count. The 2012 and 2014 PIT also shows a much lower number of youth between the ages of 10 to 14 years experiencing homelessness in our community. Much of the between 2012 and 2014 occurred among those within the ages of 15 to 19 years of age.

Figure 5.5: Age of Youth Respondents, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless



5.2.3 Aboriginal Status of the Youth

In 2012, over 50% of homeless youth reported being Aboriginal, which is even higher than the 44% of all homeless respondents who reported being Aboriginal. However, in the 2014 count only 3 out of the total 14 representing 20% indicated Aboriginal identity. This figure is lower than the overall Aboriginal representation within the population experiencing homeless at 24%.

5.2.4 Migration, Duration and Pattern of Homelessness of the Youth

In the 2014 PIT count, out of the total survey (15) two were born in Red Deer, 5 have moved into the community less than six months, and the other 9 have been here more than a year. Those moved into the community cited, Brandon Manitoba, Trail British Columbia and smaller communities in Alberta.

In both the 2012 and 2014 count youth spend less time homeless, on average, but the explanation may be simple – they are not old enough to have spent much time on the streets. Based on the pattern of homelessness in 2014, out of a total youth of 15 only 3 can be described as experiencing chronic homelessness, 2 episodic and 9 transitional, one person did not respond to this question. A different approach was used in 2012 so these numbers are not comparable.

5.2.5 Sources of Income for Youth

Homeless youth have very distinct patterns than homeless adults when considering their income. In the 2012 count, the youth are far more likely to engage in panhandling – 21% of youth compared to 6% of adults panhandle. Youth are also much more likely to get money from friends or family. This phenomenon can be explained in two ways: first, youth are more likely to be too young to get a job, so they may be dependent on adult family members for money, and second, homeless youth have stronger social ties than homeless adults, and may be more able to borrow money from friends more easily than adults.

In the 2014 count, youth were also more likely to be employed part-time than full-time; a third (33%) indicated they were working full-time or part time as source of income. Another third indicated that they were receiving welfare or income assistance. This a complete departure from the previous count where the youth were less likely to be recipients of welfare or disability benefits than adults. Another variation from the previous count is that, none of the youth indicated binning or panhandling.

5.2.6 Health Conditions of the Youth

In the 2012 count, the youth reported better health conditions than adults, with an average of 1.6 health problems compared to 2.1 health problems reported by adults. However, more youth (55%) reported mental illnesses than adults (50%). Significantly fewer youth than adults reported having an addiction, but still more than half (59%) of youth did report addictions. 28% of homeless youth had a medical condition and 17% had a physical disability.

A similar pattern emerged in the 2014 count, where the youth reported much better health status than adults. Out of the total surveyed only one indicated a medical condition and 3 indicate some form of physical disabilities. Addictions and mental illness were more prevalent among the youth population experiencing homeless. Nine out of a total of 15 reported an addiction and an equal proportion reported the presence of mental health illness.

5.2.7 Barriers to housing and Rehousing for Youth

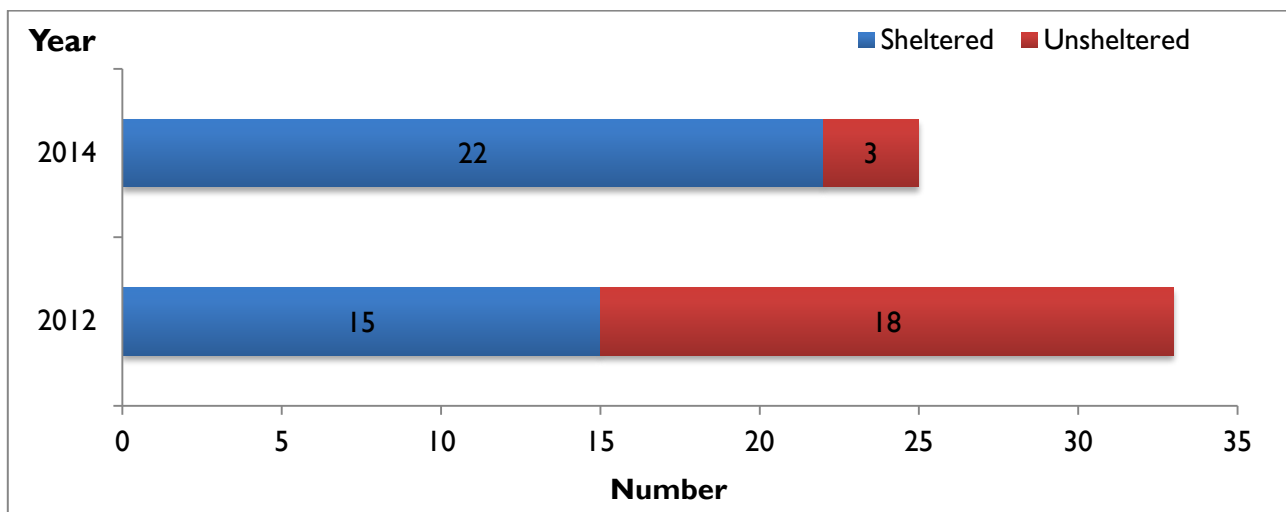
In the 2012 count, youth reported facing an average of 2.5 barriers to housing, while adults reported an average of 2.1 barriers. In addition, 45% of youth reported family breakdown, abuse, or conflict as a barrier to housing, compared to only 15% of homeless adults. Homeless youth also were more likely to report that they had no income and less likely to report that their income was too low. Also, homeless youth were twice as likely to report being evicted (31% vs. 16%) as adult respondents.

In the 2014 count, most of the youth indicated a least 2 barriers. Prominent among them were low income, rents too high and mental health and addictions. This is followed by other reasons including probationary issues. On what can be done to get them housed, the youth cited lower rents, support with mental health and addictions, caseworker to find them a place to stay.

5.3 Females

Females represent a distinct sub-population of all people experiencing homelessness and have distinct needs. Of note, homeless women may be caring for young children, may be pregnant and may be engaged in sex work. In the 2012 PIT count, 32% of people experiencing homelessness were female. In the 2014 PIT count, females formed 25% of those experiencing homelessness. In the 2012 count, similar proportions of women and men accessed shelters; however, women were much less likely to report “sleeping rough.” Women were also more likely to access safe houses and transition houses. In the 2014 count, the majority women were encountered in sheltered situations either at the shelters or public systems, only 3 were on the streets.

Figure 5.6: Sheltered and Unsheltered Females, 2012 and 2014 PIT Homeless Counts



5.3.1 Age and Family Status

Homeless women tend to be younger than homeless men. In the 2012 PIT count, homeless women had an average age of 30.7 years whereas men had an average age of 37.1 years. A similar pattern emerged in the 2014 counts; all the females in the survey had an average age of 34 years compared to 39 years for males. In the 2012 count, nearly 1 in 4 women were with children. In the 2014 count, out of the total number of women surveyed on the night of the count 3 had accompanied children.

5.3.2 Aboriginal Status

In the 2012 count, 54.5% of women experiencing homelessness were Aboriginal, compared to 41% of homeless men for a comparison of the genders of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents. In the 2014 count, there were 8 Aboriginal women compared to 17 non-Aboriginal women in the total count.

5.3.3 Duration and Pattern of Homelessness

On average, men are homeless for twice as long as women. The median length of time spent homeless for women was 3 months, whereas it was 6 months for male respondents. In the 2014 PIT count, the median was two and half months for women and up to a year for men. Most of the women in the 2014 count reported that this was their first time experiencing homelessness. More women tend to be transitional and episodic homeless and less chronic compared to their male counterparts who are more likely to be episodic and chronic in terms of the pattern of homelessness.

5.3.4 Sources of Income

In the 2012 count, women were much more likely to receive money from disability benefits and from friends or family. They were also more likely to engage in panhandling and to receive income assistance. Men were more likely to be employed and to engage in bottle collecting. Two women reported engaging in prostitution.

In the 2014 count, women frequently cited welfare and income assistance as their main source of income. This was followed by binning/bottle collecting and then disability benefits. On the reverse their male counterparts reported welfare and income as their main source of income followed by part-time or casual employment. Other sources of income reported were child tax benefit and prostitution.

5.3.5 Health Condition

In the 2012 count, women reported an average of 1.6 health problems, while men reported 2.0. Women reported more mental illness (59%) than men (46%), while men reported more addictions (74%) than women (56%). 17% of women had a physical disability and 26% reported a medical condition. In the 2014 count, almost half of the females reported a medical condition, 37.4% reported some form of physical disability, 56.5% reported addictions and 60.8% reported mental illness.

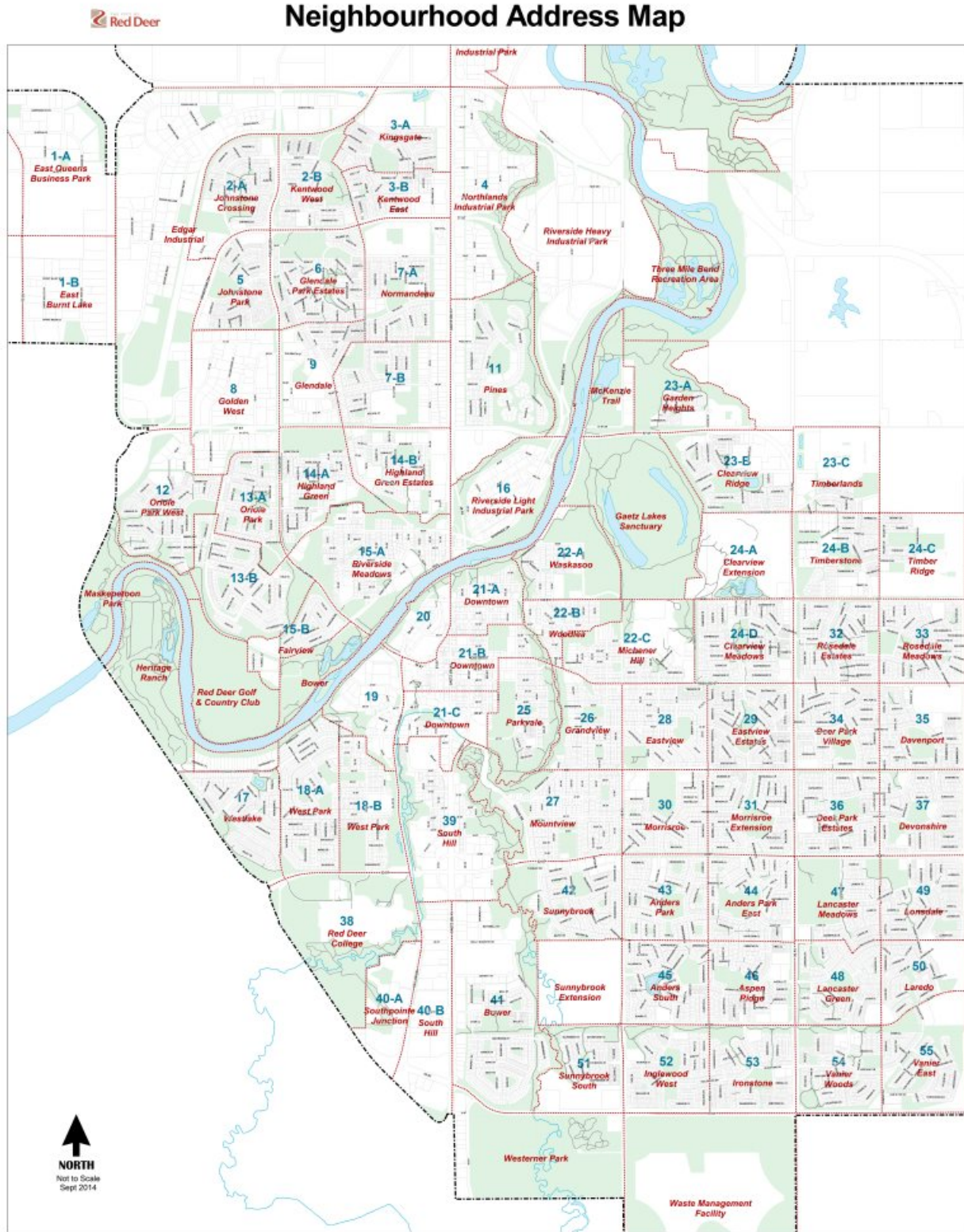
5.3.6 Barriers and Rehousing for Females

In the 2014 count, 35% of women experiencing homelessness reported family breakdown, abuse, or conflict as a barrier to housing, a figure that is twice as high as that for men. Interestingly, while women were more likely to say that their income was too low or they had no income, men were more likely to say that the rent was too high. Half as many women (9%) as men (18%) had a criminal history. On average, women reported more barriers than men.

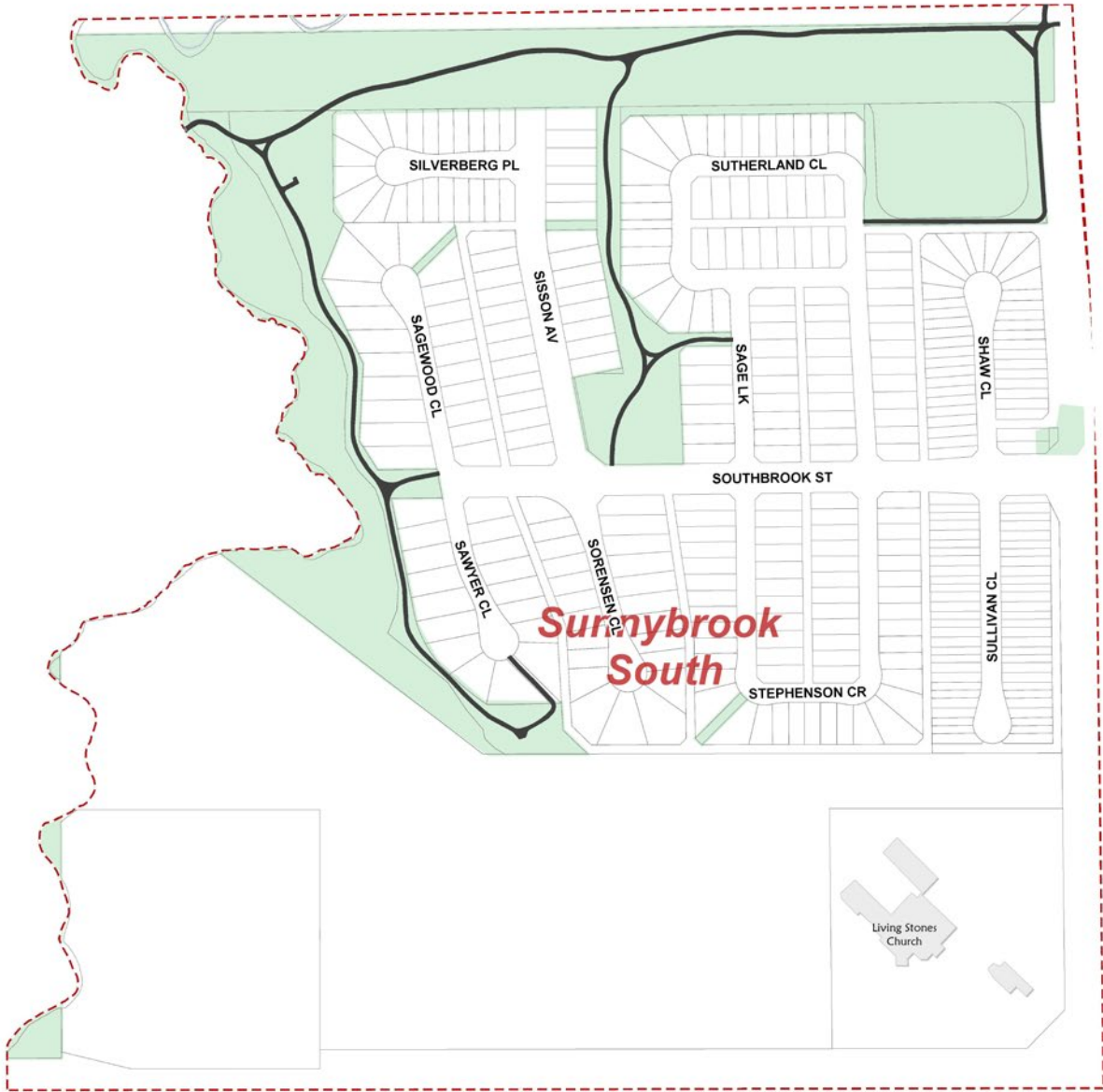
In the 2014 count, both females and males rated low income as the most common barrier to accessing housing, twice the number of males compared to females cited rents as too high. More males cited mental health as barrier compared to females. While females are more likely to cite

discrimination, their male counterparts cited poor housing conditions as a barrier to housing. On what can be done to help end homelessness, the females recommended the following: low income housing, addiction treatment, increase financial assistance for housing and lower rent.

Appendix I – Community Map



Appendix 2 – Neighbourhood Map

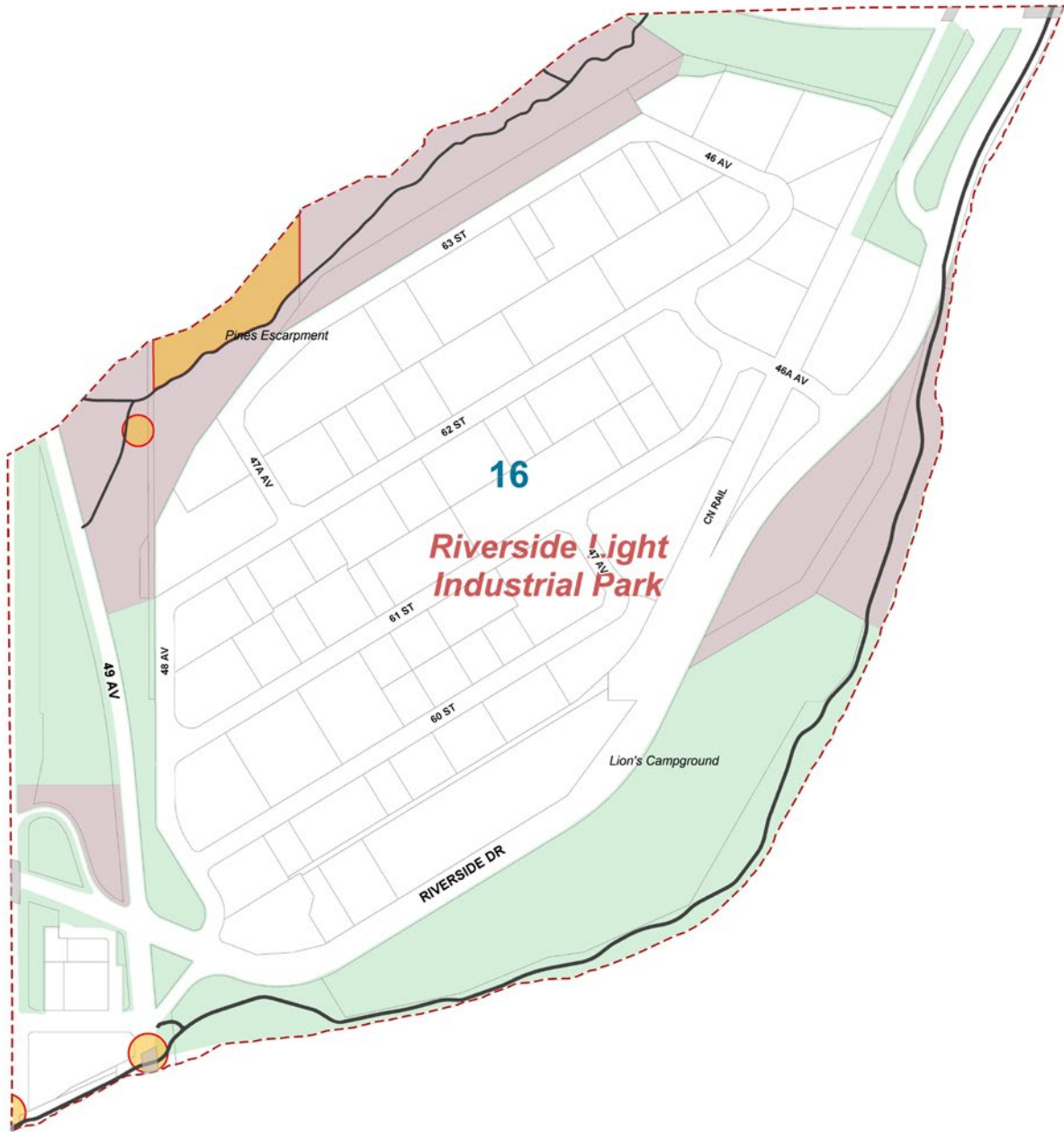


Printed on 2014/10/07

Map Number 51

Sunnybrook South

Appendix 3 – Specialized Team Map



Printed on 2014/10/14

Map Number 16

Riverside Light Industrial Park

Appendix 4 – Sheltered Survey

Shelter Name

Team Number

INTRODUCTION & CONSENT

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

a. Do you give consent to participate in this survey?

- Yes
- No [END SURVEY]

Thanks!”

SCREENING

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

- Yes [END SURVEY]
- No

c. Do you have a permanent place to live?

- Yes [END SURVEY]
- No

d. Are you staying in this emergency shelter tonight?

- Yes
- No [END SURVEY]

Important Note:

Please know that we will have to share what you tell us in the following circumstances: if you disclose information about plans to harm yourself or others, information concerning any unknown emotional, physical or sexual abuse of children, or information about any other criminal activities not already known to authorities. In these cases, the enumerator is required to report this information to the appropriate authorities.

We will also use data to raise awareness about homelessness, but without any identifiable information, in media, presentations, publications, reports, etc. Data will be stored and locked for seven years.

SURVEY

1. Which of the following do you identify with? (select all that apply)

- Female
- Male
- Transgender/transsexual
- Other (specify: _____)
- Declined to answer

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

- _____ years OR _____ year of birth
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

3. Would you identify as being Aboriginal, including: First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit?

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

4. If you self-identify as Aboriginal which group do you belong to?

- First Nations (Status)
- First Nations (Non-Status)
- Métis
- Inuit
- Other (specify: _____)
- Don't know

5. How long have you been in Canada?

- Born in Canada
- _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

6. How long have you been in Red Deer?

- Born in Red Deer
- _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

- _____ community name, province/territory
OR _____ country
- Born in Red Deer
- _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

- Yes
- No
- Declined to answer

9. How long have you been homeless most recently?

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

10. How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years (i.e. in and out of homelessness)?

- First time homeless
- If more than one, _____ # of times
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

11. What family members are with today?

- None
- Parent(s)
- Spouse/partner
- Sibling(s)
- Child(ren)
- Other (specify: _____)
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

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

13. Where do you get your money from?

- Welfare/income assistance
- Disability benefit
- Employment insurance
- OAS/GIS
- Full time employment
- Part time or casual employment
- Panhandling
- Binning/bottle collecting
- Money from family/friends
- Other (specify: _____)
- No income
- Declined to answer

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

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

15. 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"/>

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

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

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

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

[END OF SURVEY]

Shelter Name	
Team Number	

Appendix 5 – Unsheltered Survey

Map Number

Team Number

INTRODUCTION & CONSENT

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

a. Do you give consent to participate in this survey?

- Yes
- No **[END SURVEY]**

Thanks!”

SCREENING

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

- Yes **[END SURVEY]**
- No

c. Do you have a permanent place to live?

- Yes **[END SURVEY]**
- No

d. Where are you staying tonight?

- Public space such as sidewalks or bus shelter
- Vacant buildings
- Cars or other vehicles
- Garages, attics, closets or buildings not designed for habitation
- Makeshift shelter or tent in a park, parkland, forest or other public land
- Makeshift shelter or tent on private property
- Emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter, transitional housing **[END SURVEY]**
- Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre **[END SURVEY]**
- Own apartment/house **[END SURVEY]**
- Someone else's place **[END SURVEY]**
- Declined to answer **[END SURVEY]**

Important Note:

Please know that we will have to share what you tell us in the following circumstances: if you disclose information about plans to harm yourself or others, information concerning any unknown emotional, physical or sexual abuse of children, or information about any other criminal activities not already known to authorities. In these cases, the enumerator is required to report this information to the appropriate authorities. We will also use data to raise awareness about homelessness, but without any identifiable information, in media, presentations, publications, reports. etc. Data will be stored and locked for seven years.

SURVEY

1. Which of the following do you identify with? (select all that apply)

- Female
- Male
- Transgender/transsexual
- Other (specify: _____)
- Declined to answer

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

- _____ years OR _____ year of birth
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

3. Would you identify as being Aboriginal, including: First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit?

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

4. If you self-identify as Aboriginal which group do you belong to?

- First Nations (Status)yes
- First Nations (Non-Status)
- Métis
- Inuit
- Other (specify: _____)
- Don't know

5. How long have you been in Canada?

- Born in Canada
- _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

6. How long have you been in Red Deer?

- Born in Red Deer
- _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

- _____ community name, province/territory OR _____ country
- Born in Red Deer
- _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

- Yes
- No
- Declined to answer

9. How long have you been homeless most recently?

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

10. How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years (i.e. in and out of homelessness)?

- First time homeless
- If more than one, _____ # of times
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

11. What family members are with today?

- None
- Parent(s)
- Spouse/partner
- Sibling(s)
- Child(ren)
- Other (specify: _____)
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

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

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

13. Where do you get your money from?

- Welfare/income assistance
- Disability benefit
- Employment insurance
- OAS/GIS
- Full time employment
- Part time or casual employment
- Panhandling
- Binning/bottle collecting
- Money from family/friends
- Other (specify: _____)
- No income
- Declined to answer

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

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

15. 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"/>

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

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

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

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

[End of Survey]

Map Number	
Team Number	

Appendix 6 – Hospital Survey

Hospital Name

Team Number

INTRODUCTION & CONSENT

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

a. Do you give consent to participate in this survey?

- Yes
 No [END SURVEY]

Thanks!”

SCREENING

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

- Yes [END SURVEY]
 No

c. Do you have a permanent place to live?

- Yes [END SURVEY]
 No

d. Are you staying in the hospital tonight?

- Yes
 No [END SURVEY]

Important Note:

Please know that we will have to share what you tell us in the following circumstances: if you disclose information about plans to harm yourself or others, information concerning any unknown emotional, physical or sexual abuse of children, or information about any other criminal activities not already known to authorities. In these cases, the enumerator is required to report this information to the appropriate authorities.

We will also use data to raise awareness about homelessness, but without any identifiable information, in media, presentations, publications, reports, etc. Data will be stored and locked for seven years.

SURVEY

1. Which of the following do you identify with? (select all that apply)
 - Female
 - Male
 - Transgender/transsexual
 - Other (specify: _____)
 - Declined to answer
2. How old are you/what is your year of birth?
 - _____ years OR _____ year of birth
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
3. Would you identify as being Aboriginal, including: First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
4. If you self-identify as Aboriginal which group do you belong to?
 - First Nations (Status)
 - First Nations (Non-Status)
 - Métis
 - Inuit
 - Other (specify: _____)
 - Don't know
5. How long have you been in Canada?
 - Born in Canada
 - _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
6. How long have you been in Red Deer?
 - Born in Red Deer
 - _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
7. If you are new to the community, where were you living prior to coming here?
 - _____ community name, province/territory OR _____ country
 - Born in Red Deer
 - _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
8. Are you a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Declined to answer
9. How long have you been homeless most recently?
 - _____ # of years OR _____ # of months OR _____ # days
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
10. How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years (i.e. in and out of homelessness)?
 - First time homeless
 - If more than one, _____ # of times
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
11. What family members are with today?
 - None
 - Parent(s)
 - Spouse/partner
 - Sibling(s)
 - Child(ren)
 - Other (specify: _____)
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
12. Do you have dependents (children) who are staying in the same place as you tonight?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

13. Where do you get your money from?

- Welfare/income assistance
- Disability benefit
- Employment insurance
- OAS/GIS
- Full time employment
- Part time or casual employment
- Panhandling
- Binning/bottle collecting
- Money from family/friends
- Other (specify: _____)
- No income
- Declined to answer

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

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

15. 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"/>

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

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

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

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

[End of Survey]

Hospital Name	
Team Number	

Appendix 7 – Correctional Facility Survey

Facility Name	
Team Number	

INTRODUCTION & CONSENT

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

- a. Do you give consent to participate in this survey?
- Yes
 - No [END SURVEY]

Thanks!”

SCREENING

- b. Have you completed a survey today with someone wearing this identification?
- Yes [END SURVEY]
 - No
- c. Do you have a permanent place to live?
- Yes [END SURVEY]
 - No
- d. Are you staying in a correctional facility tonight?
- Yes
 - No [END SURVEY]

Important Note:

Please know that we will have to share what you tell us in the following circumstances: if you disclose information about plans to harm yourself or others, information concerning any unknown emotional, physical or sexual abuse of children, or information about any other criminal activities not already known to authorities. In these cases, the enumerator is required to report this information to the appropriate authorities.

We will also use data to raise awareness about homelessness, but without any identifiable information, in media, presentations, publications, reports, etc. Data will be stored and locked for seven years.

SURVEY

1. Which of the following do you identify with? (select all that apply)
 - Female
 - Male
 - Transgender/transsexual
 - Other (specify: _____)
 - Declined to answer
2. How old are you/what is your year of birth?
 - _____ years OR _____ year of birth
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
3. Would you identify as being Aboriginal, including: First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
4. If you self-identify as Aboriginal which group do you belong to?
 - First Nations (Status)
 - First Nations (Non-Status)
 - Métis
 - Inuit
 - Other (specify: _____)
 - Don't know
5. How long have you been in Canada?
 - Born in Canada
 - _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
6. How long have you been in Red Deer?
 - Born in Red Deer
 - _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
7. If you are new to the community, where were you living prior to coming here?
 - _____ community name, province/territory
OR _____ country
 - Born in Red Deer
 - _____ #of years OR _____ # of months
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
8. Are you a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Declined to answer
9. How long have you been homeless most recently?
 - _____ # of years
OR _____ # of months
OR _____ # days
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
10. How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years (i.e. in and out of homelessness)?
 - First time homeless
 - If more than one, _____ # of times
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
11. What family members are with today?
 - None
 - Parent(s)
 - Spouse/partner
 - Sibling(s)
 - Child(ren)
 - Other (specify: _____)
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer
12. Do you have dependents (children) who are staying in the same place as you tonight?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Declined to answer

13. Where do you get your money from?

- Welfare/income assistance
- Disability benefit
- Employment insurance
- OAS/GIS
- Full time employment
- Part time or casual employment
- Panhandling
- Binning/bottle collecting
- Money from family/friends
- Other (specify: _____)
- No income
- Declined to answer

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

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Post-Secondary
- Don't know
- Declined to answer

15. 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"/>

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

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

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

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

[End of Survey]

Facility Name	
Team Number	