

## Fast Facts #03

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### The 2008 Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary

The City of Calgary has conducted a point-in-time census or 'count' of homeless persons every two years in mid-May since 1992. The ninth biennial count was held on 2008 May 14. Aggregate data on the total number of homeless people believed to be living in Calgary that night is provided below. This is followed by three tables. The first presents key findings from the 2008 count. The second shows a breakdown of the number of homeless people who were enumerated at facilities, counted by service agencies, and estimated to be living on the streets on the night of the count. The final table provides a similar breakdown shown for the 2006 and 2008 counts together, to enable a comparison between years.

These facts are drawn from the *Biennial Count of Homeless Persons: 2008 May 14* (City of Calgary, 2008) and the *Results of the 2006 Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary: Enumerated in Emergency and Transitional Facilities, by Service Agencies, and On the Streets – 2006 May 10* (City of Calgary, 2006). The full 2008 report and a summary of the findings, as well as past count reports, are available on The City of Calgary website at [www.calgary.ca/affordablehousing](http://www.calgary.ca/affordablehousing) (click on the link to 'Research on Affordable Housing and Homelessness' and then select the page for 'Biennial Count of Homeless Persons').

The research findings provide a snapshot of the number of people in Calgary who are likely to be experiencing homelessness *on any given night*. On 2008 May 14, that number was **4,060**, an increase of 18% since 2006. Trend data show that the growth in homelessness in the city has previously been at or above 30% between biennial counts.

<b>BIENNIAL COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN CALGARY – 2008 MAY 14</b>	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE BELIEVED TO BE LIVING IN CALGARY ON THE NIGHT OF 2008 MAY 14</b>	<b>4,060</b>
<b>GROWTH RATE (PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE 2006 COUNT)</b>	<b>18.2%</b>

## Fast Facts on the 2008 Count of Homeless Persons

### BIENNIAL COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN CALGARY – 2008 MAY 14

#### 2008 COUNT – LOCATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

- A TOTAL OF **4,060** PEOPLE WERE BELIEVED TO BE **ABSOLUTELY HOMELESS** IN CALGARY ON 2008 MAY 14.
- OF THESE 4,060 PEOPLE, **3,195 (79%)** WERE COUNTED IN **FACILITIES**, **296 (7%)** WERE ENUMERATED BY **SERVICE AGENCIES**, AND **569 (14%)** WERE ESTIMATED TO BE LIVING **ON THE STREETS**.
- AMONG THE 100 HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH COUNTED IN YOUTH FACILITIES, **26 (26%)** HAD **CHILD WELFARE STATUS** AND **74 (74%)** DID NOT.
- A TOTAL OF **197 HOMELESS FAMILIES** WERE ENUMERATED ON 2008 MAY 14 AND ALL WERE COUNTED BY FACILITIES. ALTHOUGH SERVICE AGENCIES COUNTED A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL YOUTH, NONE OF THEM WERE IN FAMILY GROUPS.
- OF THE 197 **FAMILIES COUNTED BY FACILITIES**, **162 (82%)** WERE IN RESIDENCE, **5 (3%)** HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BUT HAD NOT YET MOVED IN, AND **30 (15%)** WERE REFUSED SHELTER.
- AMONG ALL 197 HOMELESS FAMILIES, **190 (96%)** WERE **FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**. OF THESE, **155 (82%)** WERE STAYING IN FACILITIES, **5 (3%)** HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BUT HAD NOT YET MOVED IN, AND **30 (16%)** WERE REFUSED SHELTER.

#### 2008 COUNT – INDIVIDUAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

- AMONG ALL **3,491** PEOPLE ENUMERATED (3,195 IN FACILITIES AND 296 BY SERVICE AGENCIES), **2,721 (78%)** WERE **MALE** AND **770 (22%)** WERE **FEMALE**.
- AMONG ALL 3,491 PEOPLE ENUMERATED, **2,183 (62%)** WERE OBSERVED TO BE **CAUCASIAN**, **527 (15%)** WERE OBSERVED TO BE **ABORIGINAL**, **371 (11%)** WERE OBSERVED TO BELONG TO A **VISIBLE MINORITY** GROUP, AND THE POPULATION GROUP OF **410** PEOPLE (**12%**) COULD NOT BE DETERMINED.
- AMONG ALL 3,491 PEOPLE ENUMERATED, **1,511 (43%)** WERE **WORKING-AGED ADULTS** (AGED 25-44), **1,014 (29%)** WERE **MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS** (AGED 45 TO 64), AND **327 (9%)** WERE **YOUNG ADULTS** (AGED 18 TO 24).
- AS WELL, **384 (11%)** WERE **CHILDREN AND YOUTH** (AGED 17 OR YOUNGER), **65 (2%)** WERE **SENIORS** (AGED 65 OR OLDER), AND THE AGE GROUP OF **190** PEOPLE (**5%**) AT THE CALGARY REMAND CENTRE COULD NOT BE DETERMINED.
- AMONG ALL 3,491 HOMELESS PEOPLE WHO WERE **ENUMERATED**, A TOTAL OF **1,535 (44%)** WERE **CAUCASIAN MALES AGED 25 TO 64**.

<b>BIENNIAL COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN CALGARY – 2008 MAY 14</b>	
<b>HOMELESS PEOPLE ENUMERATED BY 61 <u>FACILITIES</u></b>	<b>3,195</b>
<b>GROWTH RATE</b> (PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE 2006 COUNT)	<b>13.2%</b>
PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO <i>EMERGENCY</i> BEDS	1,512
PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO <i>TRANSITIONAL</i> BEDS	1,683
<b>HOMELESS PEOPLE ENUMERATED BY 11 <u>SERVICE AGENCIES</u></b>	<b>296</b>
<b>GROWTH RATE</b> (PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE 2006 COUNT)	<b>60.9%</b>
ALBERTA WORKS – INCOME SUPPORT CONTACT CENTRE <i>(HOMELESS PEOPLE SEEKING EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS)</i>	0
CALGARY AND AREA CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES – SOCIAL SERVICES RESPONSE TEAM <i>(EMERGENCY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES)</i>	0
CALGARY HEALTH REGION <i>(HOMELESS PEOPLE SEEKING TREATMENT AT ALL FOUR HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND THE SHELDON CHUMIR URGENT CARE CENTRE)</i>	7
CALGARY POLICE SERVICE – ARREST PROCESSING UNIT <i>(PEOPLE IN CUSTODY WITH NO FIXED DISCHARGE ADDRESS)</i>	10
CALGARY REMAND CENTRE <i>(PEOPLE IN CUSTODY WITH NO FIXED DISCHARGE ADDRESS)</i>	190
CALGARY TRANSIT – REMOTE LRT STATIONS <i>(HOMELESS PEOPLE SURVEYED BY TRANSIT SECURITY STAFF)</i>	64
CALGARY YOUNG OFFENDER CENTRE <i>(YOUTH IN CUSTODY WITH NO FIXED DISCHARGE ADDRESS)</i>	25
<b>HOMELESS PEOPLE ESTIMATED TO BE LIVING <u>ON THE STREETS</u></b>	<b>569</b>
<b>GROWTH RATE</b> (PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE 2006 COUNT)	<b>14.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE BELIEVED TO BE LIVING IN CALGARY ON THE NIGHT OF 2008 MAY 14</b>	<b>4,060</b>
<b>GROWTH RATE</b> (PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE 2006 COUNT)	<b>18.2%</b>

## Comparing the 2006 and 2008 Count Findings

<b>BIENNIAL COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN CALGARY</b>					
<b>PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>2006</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>
FACILITIES	51		61		19.6%
SERVICE AGENCIES	9		11		22.2%
<b>TOTAL – PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>72</b>		<b>20.0%</b>
<b>HOMELESS PEOPLE ENUMERATED IN FACILITIES</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>PERCENT OF 2006 TOTAL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>PERCENT OF 2008 TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>
PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO <i>EMERGENCY</i> BEDS	1,383	40.3%	1,512	37.2%	9.3%
PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO <i>TRANSITIONAL</i> BEDS	1,440	41.9%	1,683	41.5%	16.9%
<b>TOTAL – PEOPLE COUNTED IN FACILITIES</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>3,195</b>	<b>78.7%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>
<b>HOMELESS PEOPLE ENUMERATED BY SERVICE AGENCIES</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>PERCENT OF 2006 TOTAL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>PERCENT OF 2008 TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>
PEOPLE SERVED (OR OBSERVED) BY SERVICE AGENCIES	184	5.4%	296	7.3%	60.9%
<b>TOTAL – PEOPLE COUNTED BY SERVICES</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>60.9%</b>
<b>STREET HOMELESSNESS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>PERCENT OF 2006 TOTAL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>PERCENT OF 2008 TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>
PEOPLE LIVING ON THE STREETS (ENUMERATED IN 2006; ESTIMATED IN 2008)	429	12.5%	569	14.0%	32.6%
<b>TOTAL – PEOPLE ON THE STREETS</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>32.6%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL – ALL HOMELESS PEOPLE BELIEVED TO BE LIVING IN CALGARY ON THE NIGHT OF THE BIENNIAL COUNT</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>

## References

City of Calgary. 2008. *Biennial Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary: 2008 May 14*. Calgary: City of Calgary, Community and Neighbourhood Services, Social Research Unit.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2006. *Results of the 2006 Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary: Enumerated in Emergency and Transitional Facilities, by Service Agencies, and On the Streets – 2006 May 10*. Calgary: City of Calgary, Community and Neighbourhood Services, Policy and Planning Division.