

2018 Point-in-Time Homeless Count

Everyone Counts

A Snapshot of Homelessness in Fort McMurray



Acknowledgements

The following agencies were instrumental in completing the 2018 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Fort McMurray. We gratefully acknowledge and thank them for their contributions.

7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness	Harvest Your Data	Peter Pond Mall
Alberta Health Services	HIV North Society	Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Alberta Community and Social Services	Homelessness Initiative Strategic Committee (HISC)	The Salvation Army of Fort McMurray
CARE Wood Buffalo	Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)	Support Through Housing Team (STHT)
Centre of Hope Fort McMurray	McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association	Turner Strategies
Choices Association of Fort McMurray	North East Alberta FASD Network (NEAFAN)	Waypoints
Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) for Communities	NorthLife Fellowship Baptist Church Soup Kitchen	Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation
Family Christian Centre	Pastew Place	Wood Buffalo RCMP Detachment
Fuse Social	Detoxification Centre	Wood Buffalo Wellness Society
		YMCA of Northern Alberta

Thank you to all volunteers

The 2018 Point-in-Time Homeless Count also relied on the goodwill of 96 volunteers and staff from various agencies who donated 630 volunteer hours from April 11-12. A significant amount of time was also invested by Municipal staff and supporting agencies in planning and logistics. Thank you for your continued support, involvement and hard work.

Thank you to all those who were surveyed

Without the contributions of those experiencing homelessness, we cannot move the needle on ending homelessness. We are grateful for the many people who were willing to be surveyed in the hope that their responses will provide quality data to inform evidence-based planning and programming. Thank you.

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Everyone Counts



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

KEY FINDINGS

- * **66%** were age **30** to **59** years.
- * **9%** came to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.
- * **6%** have experience in the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP.
- * **41%** were found in an emergency shelter and 25% in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing unit.
- * **60%** were considered chronically homeless because they had been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.



200 people
were identified as
homeless.



The highest
self-identified gender
demographic was
male at **60%**.



46%
self-identified as
Indigenous or
having Indigenous
ancestry.



31%
said they had
no income.



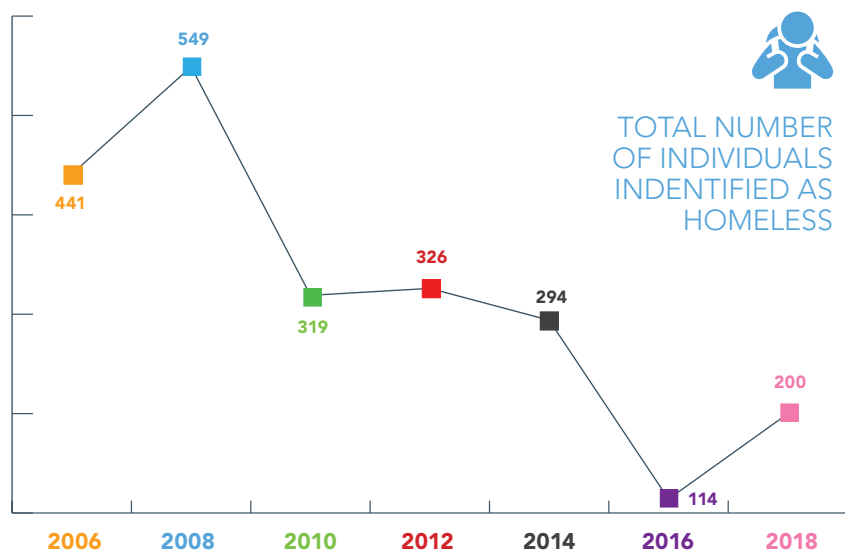
81%
had stayed in
an emergency
shelter in the past
12 months.



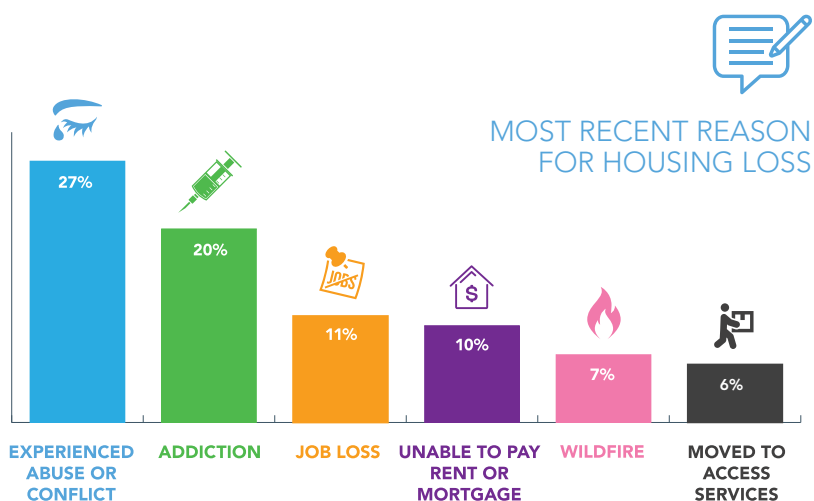
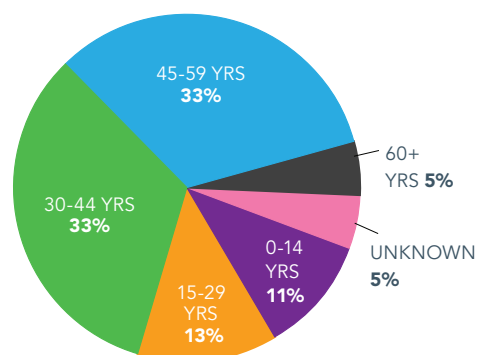
48% moved to
Fort McMurray because
they had secured or
were seeking
employment.

In 2018, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo was contracted to carry out a Point-in-Time (PIT) count in Fort McMurray in partnership with the 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Red Deer and Fort McMurray). This Count was funded by the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

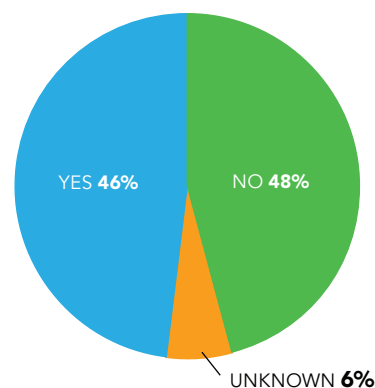
The 2018 PIT Count was conducted on the streets in Fort McMurray on April 11, 2018, from 7 to 11 p.m. An additional count was completed via surveys in facilities serving the homeless population on the evening of April 11 and during the day on April 12.



AGE RANGES OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS



DO YOU IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS?



As a part of the grant agreement with the Homelessness Partnership Strategy, the final data will be submitted to the Government of Canada and will be reported as a part of the national statistics.

PIT Count results will be used as one of the key indicators in evaluating the progress of the Municipality's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness: The Right Thing to Do, analyzing trends locally and provincially, and helping to most effectively align funding resources.

Glossary

UNSHELTERED HOMELESS

- Also known as “absolute homeless”.
- Living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation such as sidewalks, alleys, stairwells, sleeping in cars, makeshift tents, abandoned buildings, etc.

EMERGENCY SHELTERED

- Those accessing emergency shelter and system supports, generally provided at no cost or minimal cost to the user, or staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless or shelters for those impacted by family violence.
- For example, Marshall House, Salvation Army MAT Program, Salvation Army Men’s Shelter, Stepping Stones Youth Shelter, Unity House, etc.

PROVISIONALLY ACCOMMODATED

- Those who are technically homeless and without permanent shelter accessing accommodation with no prospect of permanence.
- For example, treatment centres, temporary housing provided by government or the non-profit sector, short-term accommodation.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- A systems-supported form of housing that is meant to bridge the gap between unsheltered homelessness or emergency accommodation and permanent housing.
- For example, Waypoints Second Stage Housing, Centennial House, etc.

HIDDEN HOMELESS

- Individuals who may be living in a situation that is generally temporary, they often do not pay rent for these spaces, the duration of stay may be unsustainable in the long term, and they often do not use many of the available services for the homeless population.
- For example, couch surfing, staying with friends or family.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

- Stably housed in a permanent or long-term housing situation.
- For example, paying rent/mortgage, living in a home paid for by an employer, etc.

HOMELESS

- An individual or family without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate means and ability of acquiring it.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

- Continuously homeless for one year or more, or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.
- Must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as living on the street and/or in an emergency shelter.

EPISODIC HOMELESSNESS

- Homeless for less than a year and has had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Introduction

According to the federal Advisory Committee on Homelessness¹, the economic cost of homelessness is high, with some estimates putting the related public spending on health, social and judicial services at more than \$7 billion annually. The human and societal costs are yet to be fully understood.

At least 235,000 Canadians, including 35,000 to 40,000 young people, experience homelessness annually, and on any given night, 35,000 are homeless as reported by the Homeless Hub (a web-based research library and information centre with more than 30,000 resources).² Historically, the study says, individuals experiencing homelessness in Canada were older, single men, but the population has become notably more diverse. More women, families and youth are experiencing homelessness than in the past.

Homelessness affects a broad cross-section of the population; preventing and reducing it is a massive undertaking that requires data to fully understand and address the issues. Different communities use varying methods to assess, monitor and evaluate homelessness across regions; one such measure is a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count.

A PIT Count is a one-day snapshot of homelessness in a community. There is increasing collaboration in conducting counts. In 2018, for the third time, counts were coordinated provincially among the members of Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness; for the first time, there was coordination to some extent nationally, using the same methodology.

A PLAN FOR ALBERTA: ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN 10 YEARS

In March 2009, the Province released "A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years," which recognized the growing challenge of homelessness and the need to move towards a Housing First philosophy.

The Housing First model is a client-centered approach that deems housing as a basic right in society and removes all pre-conditions to being housed. The concept is that the first and primary need for an individual experiencing homelessness is to obtain stable housing and then other issues can be addressed.

¹ Employment and Social Development Canada (2018): Advisory Committee on Homelessness – Final Report

² Stephen Gaetz, Erin DeJ, Tim Richter and Tanya Gulliver, & Melanie Redman (2016): *The State of Homelessness in Canada 2016*. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

7 CITIES ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (7 Cities) is made up of regional lead organizations responsible for the implementation of local Plans to End Homelessness in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Local plans are coordinated at a systems level and funding resources are aligned for greater impact and progress towards ending homelessness.

7 Cities provides a forum for dialogue with federal and provincial representatives involved with housing and homelessness. Each city has a long-standing history of delivering strategic planning and services, along with administering and managing funds. They are accountable to several provincial and federal funders, including Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Federal Ministry of Employment and Social Development Canada.

The cities serve as local systems and integration leads, funders and performance managers, and knowledge leaders and innovators.

COMMUNITY PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo receives funding from Employment and Social Development Canada and the Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services to support homelessness initiatives. The funds are administered through the Municipality's Community Investment Program, and distributed to non-profit organizations and community groups whose goals and objectives align with the Council-approved 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness 2010-2020, Heading Home: The Right Thing to Do. The Housing First strategy, at its core, emphasizes a collaborative, multi-support system with five goals.



HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

The Homelessness Initiatives Strategic Committee (HISC), established in 2000, stewards the local Community Plan on Homelessness (CPH). Its members are community leaders and stakeholders who advocate for ending homelessness in the Municipality, focusing on strategic planning, funding, communication, research and improvements in practice. HISC reviews project proposals submitted under CPH to ensure that identified priorities are addressed, and then makes recommendations to Council regarding funding allocations.

The 2018 Count was the second Nationally coordinated count, whereas the first was in 2016 and saw 32 communities partake across the country.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

The Municipality conducted its first PIT Count in the Urban Service Area of Fort McMurray in 2003; there have been biannual counts since 2006. These counts help the Municipality to:

- Monitor and measure changes in homeless population demographics.
- Track CPH progress and success.
- Undertake evidence-based planning and programming.
- Advocate for data-driven and community-appropriate solutions.
- Increase awareness and education about the lives of people experiencing homelessness.
- Understand the unique and complex lives and circumstances that contribute to homelessness.
- Explore the community context, and increase community involvement in implementing effective solutions.

Methodology

OVERVIEW

Building on the success of the 2014 and 2016 coordinated counts, the 7 Cities aligned methodology standards provincially and nationally for 2018. This was done to create consistency across the province and, where possible, on a national level when measuring homelessness in communities.

Date and Time

All cities conducted the coordinated count on the same night between 7:00 p.m. and midnight. Counts did occur outside of the timeframe, but the data collected is only used in the local reports and not the provincial report.

To build on intervention planning, judicial and health services facilities collected data from across Alberta on April 11 from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. on April 12.

Location

All cities conducted a street count in their downtown area and canvassed known locations that the homeless frequent. The areas were chosen locally by working with organizations that provide outreach services and programming targeted toward the homeless population.

Judicial and health services facilities within a 50-kilometre radius of each city participated. For the local report, facility (shelters, transitional housing, etc.) counts were only conducted in Fort McMurray.

Mandatory Requirements

All cities participating in the coordinated count were required, at a minimum, to enumerate the core populations.

1. Unsheltered homelessness: includes people who are sleeping in places unfit for human habitation, such as streets, alleys, parks, transit stations, abandoned buildings, vehicles, ravines and other outdoor locations that the homeless frequent.
2. Sheltered homelessness: includes people sleeping in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, transitional shelters and those who receive hotel/motel vouchers from supporting agencies, in lieu of shelter beds. It does not include people who have security of tenure (more than two years), who are in Housing First programs or in subsidized housing.

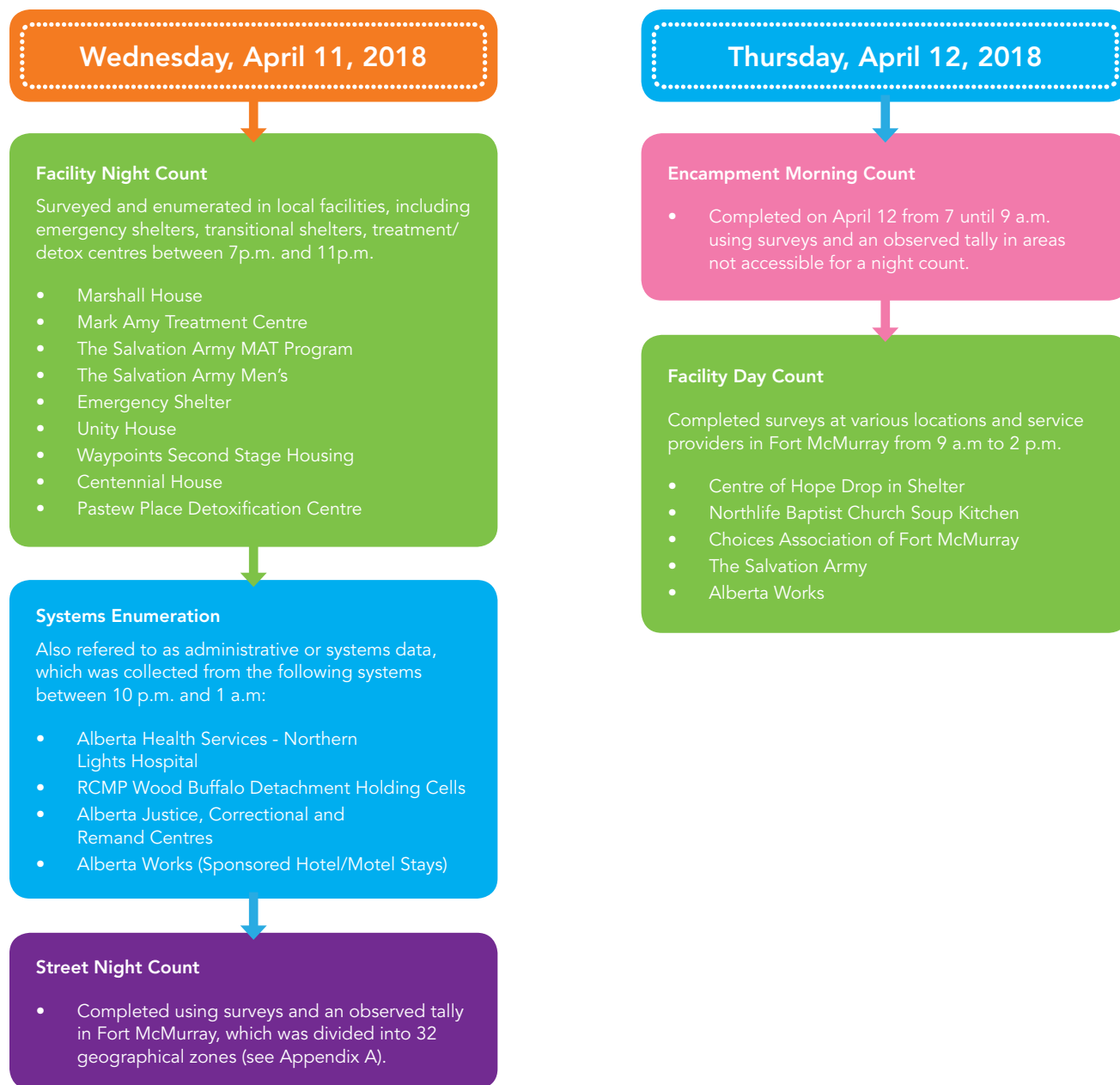
The core populations in Alberta are both enumerated and surveyed using coordinated count methods.

- a. Enumerate: This is intended to identify how many people in a community experience homelessness in shelters and on the streets in a given timeframe.
- b. Survey: This gives the community information on the demographics, characteristics and needs of their homeless population.

Systems enumeration using provincial data from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General was also included in the results.

2018 PIT COUNT ENUMERATION

As part of the coordinated effort, all cities conducted a count on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, between 7 p.m. and midnight. Although all communities used the same methodology components, each had variations in their timelines outside of that designated window due to community needs and facility availability. The Municipality proceeded as follows.



METHODOLOGY COMPARISON

To ensure that 7 Cities findings could be compared, only the federal methodology was included in the provincial report. The Municipality followed a similar methodology from previous counts in its local report to ensure data could be compared from year to year.

Figure 1: Federal and Municipal Methodology Comparison

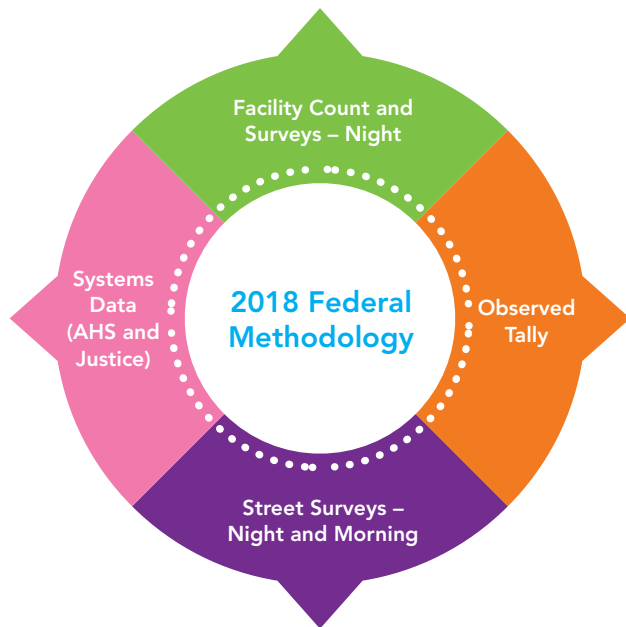
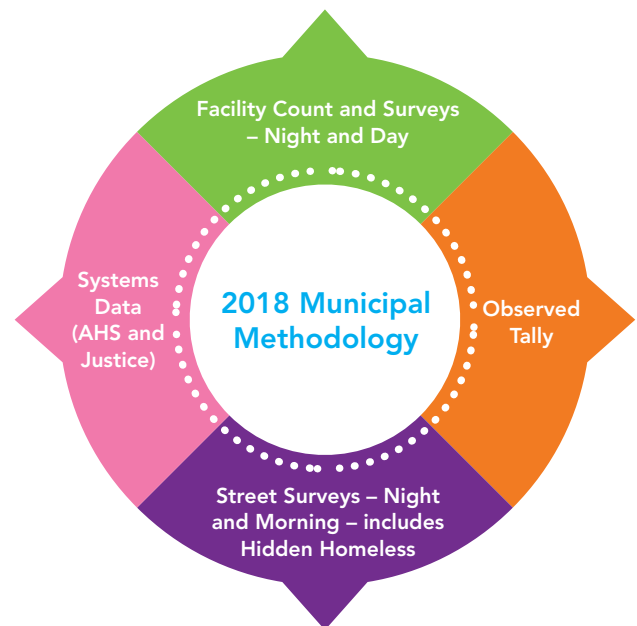


Figure 1 (federal and municipal methodologies) shows that when using the federal methodology (to the left of page), the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness during the 2018 PIT Count is found by including all data collected on night of April 11 and the morning of April 12. This data includes street and facility surveys, facility counts, systems data pulls and the observed tally of those sleeping in encampment.

The municipal methodology is similar, with the variations mostly due to those who identified as being part of the “hidden homeless” population during the survey and anyone counted during the next day on April 12. See bolded areas within Figure 1 and Figure 2.



When using the federal methodology for the count, the total number of individuals in Fort McMurray experiencing homelessness is 190, but when following the municipal methodology, the total number increased by 10 unique individuals, making the total 200.

Figure 2: Distribution of Those Experiencing Homelessness – 2018

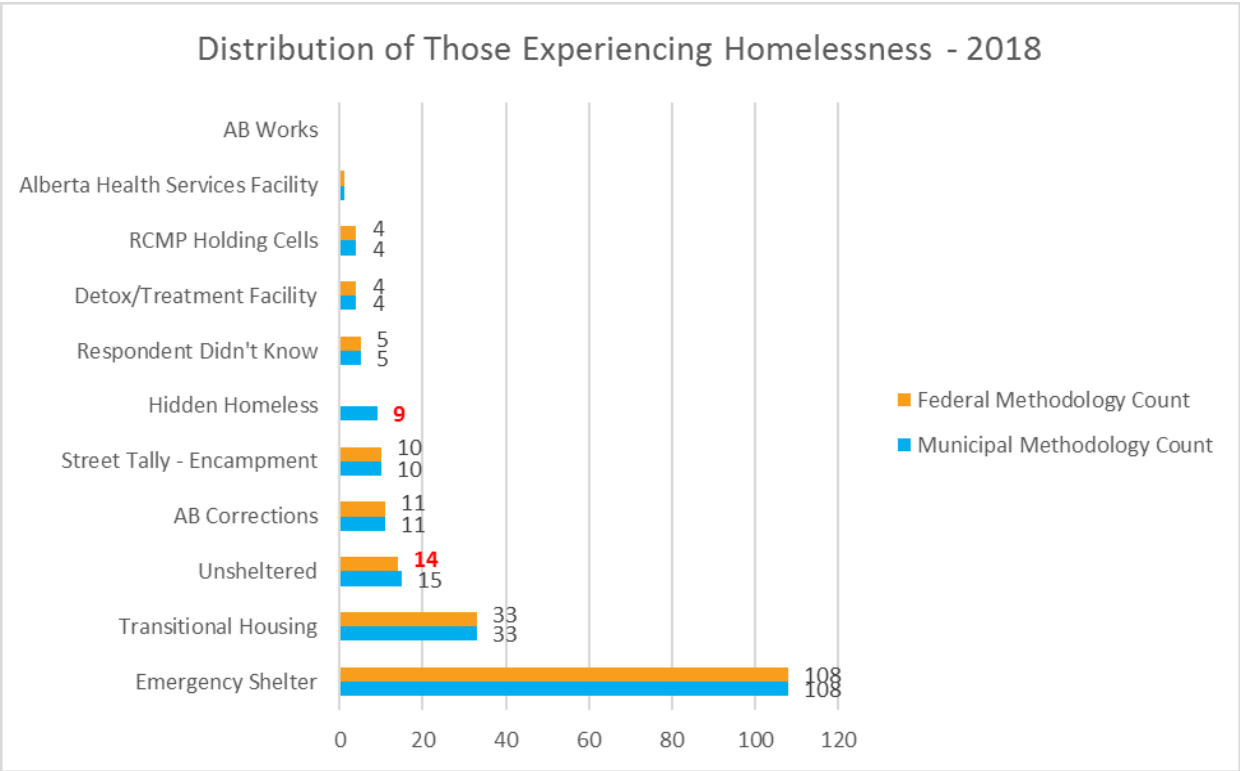


Figure 2 shows the distribution of where people experiencing homelessness were found on the night of the count and compares the numbers using both the federal and municipal methodology. It is important to note that any value of three or lower was removed to preserve anonymity of those individuals enumerated.

The graph also shows where the variations are when comparing the two methodologies, i.e., the federal methodology did not include nine individuals who were identified as being in the hidden homeless population or the one unsheltered individual who was counted on April 12 during the Facility Day Count. Both variations are highlighted in figure 2 in red, bold writing.

Figure 3: Methodology Distribution Fort McMurray and Alberta – 2018

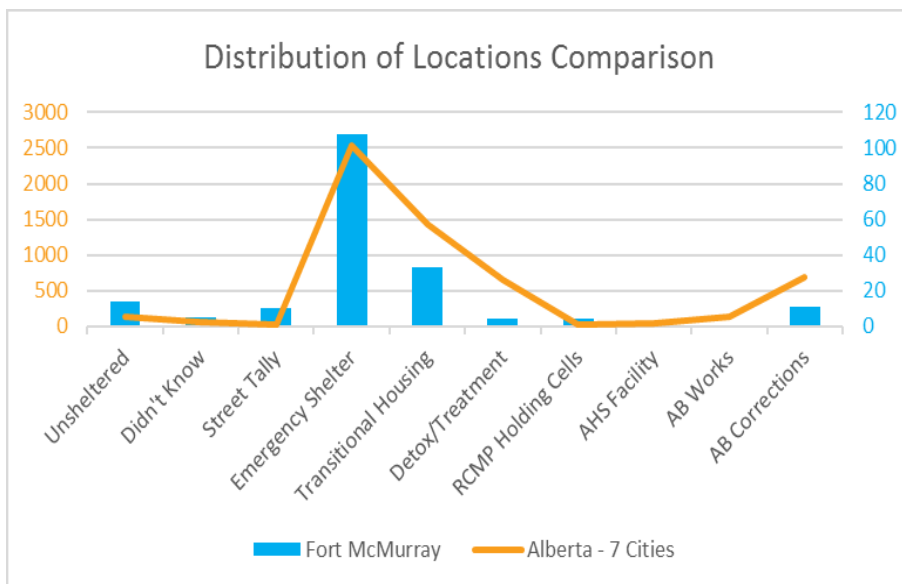


Figure 3 compares the municipal methodology used in Fort McMurray and the federal methodology used across Alberta (the 7 Cities) with the distribution of where people experiencing homelessness were found during the 2018 PIT Count.

STREET NIGHT COUNT

The Fort McMurray street count took place on April 11 between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. in predetermined locations. See Appendix A.

Volunteers had earlier participated in a mandatory three-hour training session covering topics from survey tactics to safety requirements. Before they were deployed, each volunteer group was assigned a lead, given enumeration tools and canvassing zone maps.

All zones were categorized and zones that fit the following categories required additional support.

Difficult to Access at Night

- A location with little to no light, in rough terrain or a secluded area away from public view, etc. Volunteers/staff in these areas conducted counts before 9:00 a.m. on April 12.

Requires Knowledgeable Volunteer/Staff

- A high-traffic area that may require support of an expert. These areas were assigned to either an experienced team lead or a full group of expert volunteers dependent upon on the characteristics of the location.

Inaccessible

- A location that was inaccessible for safety reasons but is known to be an area frequented by the homeless population, such as hard-to-reach or forested/bush areas. Direct surveying was avoided in these spots and volunteers surveyed in the surrounding area.

FACILITY NIGHT COUNT

The facility night count took place on April 11 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the sheltered locations. Emergency and domestic violence shelters, transitional housing facilities, and treatment/detox centres were included.

Enumeration was conducted using completed surveys as well as collecting the total number of individuals in each facility.

- **Total population in each facility:** Administrative data (or the total number of individuals in a facility) was collected using Facility Administration Data sheet (see Appendix B). This captured general information about the individuals in the facility from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on April 11 as well as:
 - Basic demographic information such as age, gender and Indigenous identity.
 - Inventory of bed capacity and programs.
 - Children who were staying overnight as dependents, who were included as individuals.
- **Sample population in each facility:** Volunteers and/or staff surveyed willing individuals on April 11 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

To create consistency, facility usage was categorized according to the federal definition of facilities as listed:

- **Emergency sheltered:** Including, but not limited to emergency shelters and domestic violence shelters.
- **Provisionally accommodated:** Including, but not limited to detox/treatment centres and transitional housing facilities.

Of the individuals identified as homeless, 66 percent were staying in an emergency or transitional facility and 9 percent were staying in a facility counted through the systems data.

SYSTEMS ENUMERATION

Systems data refers to information provided by provincial government ministries, calculating the number of people staying in health and justice facilities, and hotels funded by Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services. The systems enumeration was conducted during the night of April 11. Alberta-wide Systems locations recorded the number of individuals who stayed with them from 10 p.m. on April 11 to 1 a.m. on April 12.

Alberta-wide Systems locations were categorized as provisionally accommodated, which includes, but is not limited to motels/hotels sponsored by Alberta Works or Alberta Insurance for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), Alberta Health Services (AHS) hospitals or other health facilities, prisons or remand centres and RCMP holding cells (local).

Justice Enumeration

The Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General (JSG) provided data from correctional facilities for the 7 Cities. Not all cities have a corrections facility located within their limits so a radius of 50 kilometers was used.

Individuals (typically referred to as “records” in the JSG system) were counted if they provided at least one of the following: No fixed address, shelter address or shelter postal code from Fort McMurray. The electronic count is further refined based on a manual review of addresses and postal codes.

JSG categorizes individuals based on shelter addresses or postal codes of the individual, rather than facility location.

Community and Social Services

Alberta Community and Social Services provided data from hotels/motels sponsored by Alberta Works or AISH as applicable.

Records were counted if they have no fixed address.

Alberta Health Services Administration Data

Administrative data was collected from Alberta Health Services institutions for all 7 Cities.

Records are counted if they had at least one of the following: no fixed address, shelter address or shelter postal code. Individuals were assigned to a city based on facility location. This means that individuals in health facilities located outside of the 7 Cities were not counted.

An individual would be counted in the 2018 PIT Count if they were identified as homeless using the above method of identification and they met at least one of the following criteria.

- Visited the ER between 10:00 p.m. on April 11 and 9:00 a.m. on April 12.
- Visited the ER between 10:00 p.m. on March 11 and 10:00 p.m. on April 11, but not yet discharged by 9:00 a.m. on April 12.
- Visited the ER between 10:00 p.m. on March 11 and 10:00 p.m. on April 11, admitted as an inpatient but not yet discharged by 9:00 a.m. on April 12.

The Alberta Health Services Data Repository for Reporting (AHSDRR) was used to identify individuals who are experiencing homelessness (no fixed address) in Fort McMurray.

Facility Usage Data Analysis

Figures 4 and 5 show the age and ethnicity breakdown of individuals experiencing homelessness as enumerated through the facilities count. The following two figures express the demographics of individuals staying overnight in an emergency shelter, transitional housing facility or detox centre on the night of April 11. It is important to note that children and youth living as dependents in transitional housing units are included.

Figure 4: Facility Usage – Age³

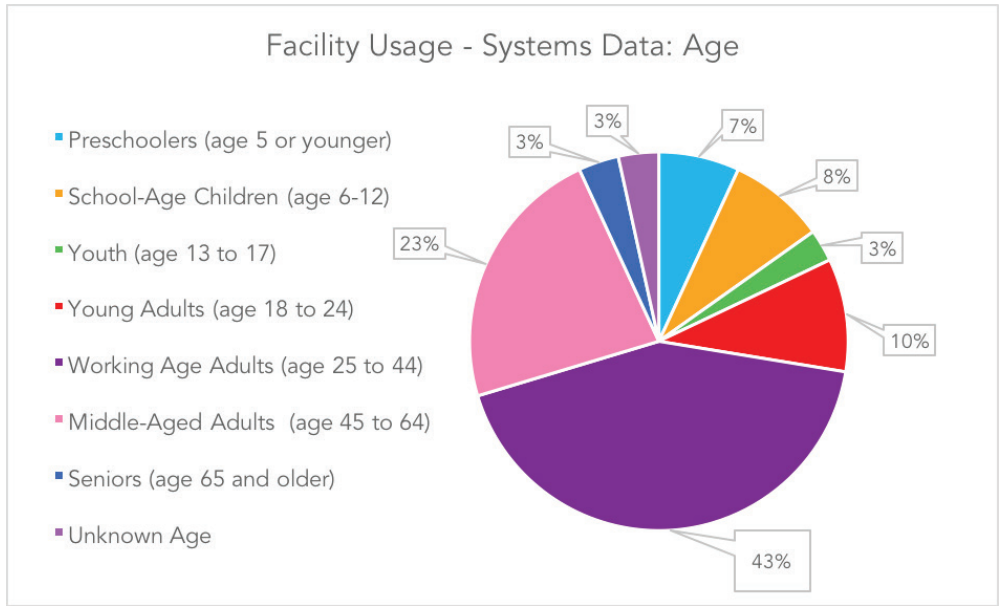
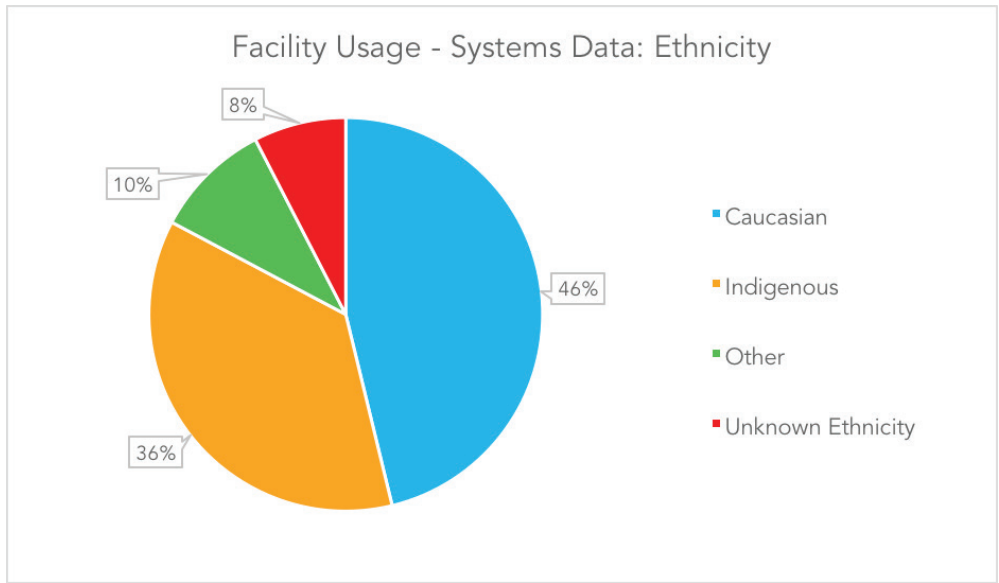


Figure 5: Facility Usage – Ethnicity



³ In Figures 4 and 5, unknown age and unknown ethnicity indicate the facility was unable to capture the age or ethnicity of the individual using their facility.

SURVEY

The Script

Survey teams were given a prepared script to follow during each encounter. It was designed to be as brief as possible while still being clear about its purpose. Ethically, it was important that respondents understood how the information collected will be used, that it would remain confidential and not reported at an individual level that could possibly identify anyone in particular.

Sample Script: "Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the Fort McMurray Point-in-Time (PIT) Count survey. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness.

The survey takes a few minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary, and your name will not be recorded to ensure confidentiality. Please note that you can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time. Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada, and will help with research to improve services."

Screening Questions

The screening questions were developed to ensure that only those who met the definition of homelessness, as defined within the context of the count, completed the count survey.

- Screening question A: Have you answered this survey with a person with this identifier?⁴
- Screening question B: Are you willing to participate in the survey?
- Screening question C: Where are you staying tonight?

Survey Questions

The questions were developed in consultation with experts, community members and people with lived experience. They cover topics such as age, gender, Indigenous identity, veteran status and reason for housing loss. There were four types of standard queries so that information could be effectively compared across communities: Core Questions, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) Questions, Indigenous Homelessness Questions and Local Questions. This consistency allowed for greater comparability between communities and for successful counts. Communities participating in the coordinated count were required to ask all 14 Core Questions, as written.

⁴ Identifier for the PIT Count was a lapel pin that said, "Everyone Counts" and was worn by volunteer enumerators.

DATA ANALYSIS

The Enumeration – Data Analysis

The enumeration results represent the total number of people who stayed in sheltered and unsheltered locations on the night of the count, as well as those identified in the systems count. A structured process that was decided beforehand by the 7 Cities was followed when analyzing the data and eliminating duplicate information (e.g., if a respondent somehow participated twice). This is often referred to as data cleaning. It is important to note that all

data collected using the federal methodology was analyzed by a research group contracted by the 7 Cities to ensure consistency across the province.

At a local level, municipal methodology was applied to ensure some of the data would be comparable to previous local counts. It is important to follow the municipal methodology when using the count as a method for measuring the progress of the homelessness population in the Urban Service Area of Fort McMurray.

Figure 6: Data Analysis Methodology



LIMITATIONS

Survey results and administrative data from the count, data from local, provincial and federal homeless data management systems, and information from service providers, all work in tandem to create a more complete picture of homelessness. A PIT Count on its own is not intended to yield an exact number of people experiencing homelessness as not all potential respondents will be found in unsheltered areas during the survey and some who are approached decline to participate. It is not a precise figure, but represents the minimum number of people who were experiencing homelessness on the night of the count.

It can be challenging to locate what is often referred to as the hidden homeless – those who are not living on streets, in public facilities or are chronically couch surfing. Although the municipal PIT Count methodology aims to include that population, enumerators may not be able to reach areas where those individuals might be found.

It is important to note that only the Urban Service Area of Fort McMurray was included in the 2018 PIT Count and no rural hamlets were involved.

Children and youth who live as dependents were included in the 2018 PIT Count due to including the total number of individuals who are staying overnight in transitional and emergency shelters as opposed to just using survey data, as was done in previous years. While individuals who completed the survey in 2018 provided some information about the dependents staying with them that night, not all information was asked about each child or youth living as a dependent. In this regard, children and youth data is only partially included in the figures within this report.

Small samples of identifying data (less than three self-reporting) were not used in order to preserve the anonymity of individuals answering surveys (i.e., transgender, certain ethnicities, etc.).

All charts, totals, percentages and comparisons were rounded to the closest full number in all data sets, so numbers may not always add up as expected.

Due to federal reporting requirements, a provincial and local report will be produced from the 2018 data. The numbers may deviate slightly because of the differences in methodologies as discussed previously. All comparison charts are aligned as best as possible, but it is important to note that there may be variations.

In aligning with the coordinated count between the 7 Cities, the date for the count is decided upon collectively and the count takes place regardless of the weather conditions. The night of April 11 saw a low of -15 degrees in Fort McMurray, which is 10 degrees lower than the historical average for that day. The low temperatures often encourage people to find warm places to spend the night in a variety of forms and may therefore not be enumerated.

Survey Results and Interpretations

Based on the federal methodology, 190 people were found to be homeless during the 2018 PIT Count in Fort McMurray. However, this particular methodology does not include anyone who might be identified as hidden homeless or couch surfing, or those who were enumerated after 9 a.m. on April 12.

Based on the Municipal methodology, 200 people were found to be homeless during the 2018 PIT Count in Fort McMurray, including those surveyed on the street, as well as in facilities such as emergency shelters, transitional housing units, detoxification facilities and systems administration data. The total increased by 86 compared with 2016, but there were 94 fewer individuals than in 2014; indicating numbers have been steadily declining since 2008.

Based on the municipal methodology, Figure 7 shows the total number of individuals who have identified as experiencing homelessness through the biannual PIT Counts since 2006.

Comparisons from 2014-2018 are complicated by the effects of the May 2016 Horse River wildfire. The impact of the fire on the homeless population is not completely understood and documented. Individuals who were experiencing homelessness also lost possessions as well as temporary structures used for housing and are dealing with psychosocial repercussions that have yet to be fully determined. Moreover, the Canadian Red Cross and other organizations offered financial assistance and temporary housing post-fire to many residents, including those experiencing homelessness. All these factors likely affected the 2016 PIT Count, possibly resulting in misleading data.

As outlined in the following figure, there are a variety of reasons that quite possibly contributed to the increase in number of homelessness between 2016 and 2018. Determinant causes cannot be attributed with absolute certainty, but there are several factors that potentially played a role.

Figure 7: Total Number of Homeless Individuals by Year in Fort McMurray

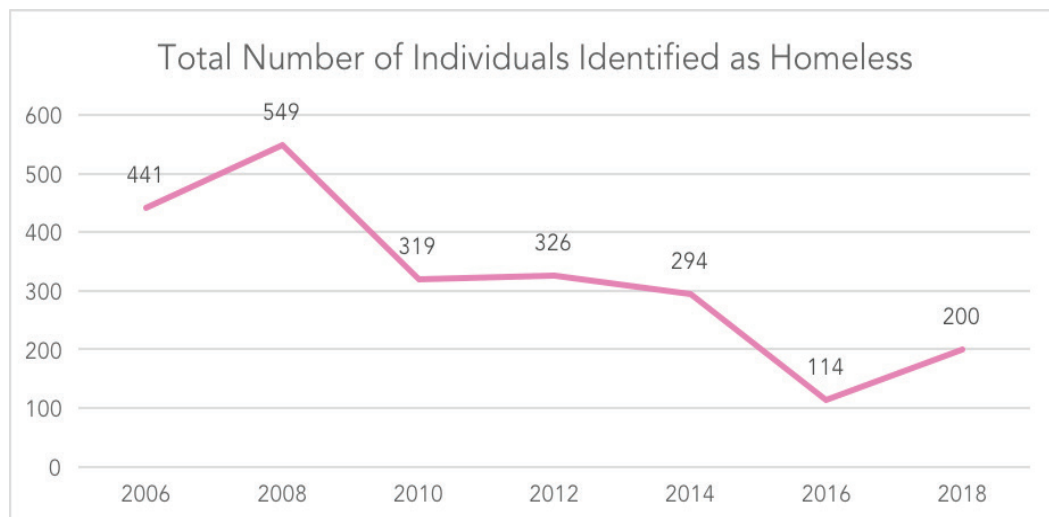


Figure 8: Methodology Comparison

Methodology Comparison				
Factors	2016 114 Identified as Homeless	2018 200 Identified as Homeless	Variation	Net Difference
General Methodology	Data collected from emergency shelters and detox facility was based solely on survey responses.	Data collected from emergency shelters and detox facility was based on survey responses and facility enumeration.	2016 only used survey results and 2018 combined both survey results and facility enumeration.	An additional 49 individuals in shelters and detox facilities were counted in 2018.
	Data was collected from one transitional housing facility and was based solely on survey responses.	Data was collected from two transitional housing facilities and was based on survey responses and facility enumeration.	An additional transitional housing facility collected surveys; both facilities included facility enumeration in 2018.	An additional 12 adults in transitional housing facilities were counted in 2018.
	Children and youth housed as dependents in transitional housing facilities or emergency shelters were not included.	Children and youth who were housed as dependents in transitional housing facilities or emergency shelters were included.	Dependents were included in 2018 but not in 2016.	An additional 26 children and youth under age 17 in emergency shelters and transitional housing as dependents were counted in 2018.
	14 geographic zones in Fort McMurray.	32 smaller geographic zones in Fort McMurray.	An additional 18 geographic regions in 2018.	Cannot determine if there is a numerical impact on total.
Time of Year	Completed in October.	Completed in April.	Change in season.	Cannot determine if there is a numerical impact on total.
Weather	Low of -4 degrees Celsius.	Low of -15 degrees Celsius.	Temperature variation.	Cannot determine if there is a numerical impact on total.
Systems Data	Wood Buffalo RCMP holding cell surveys were completed; no AHS or AB Works data was collected.	Wood Buffalo RCMP holding cells were enumerated locally while AB Corrections, AHS and AB Works data was collected provincially.	Administrative Data was included in 2018 across the province, whereas in 2016 it was not.	An additional five individuals were enumerated through the systems count in 2018.
Wildfire	Count was conducted five months after residents were allowed to return following evacuation during the wildfire.	The 2018 Count took place almost two years after the community could return after evacuation.	Timing may have influenced the numbers as the Red Cross funded hotels and housed many people after the fire.	Cannot determine if there is a numerical impact on total.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The following findings take a closer look at the demographics and characteristics of individuals who completed the PIT survey in 2018. Data is based solely on survey responses from the individuals who completed PIT Count surveys, either on the streets or in a facility.

Respondents were not required to reply to all questions. Those that were unanswered are labelled as “no answer provided.” When participants did not know the answer to a query, the response was recorded as “unknown.” For example, if respondents did not know or could not recall how many times they experienced homelessness in the past year, “unknown” was cited. In situations where feasible, “no answer provided” was removed from the figure.

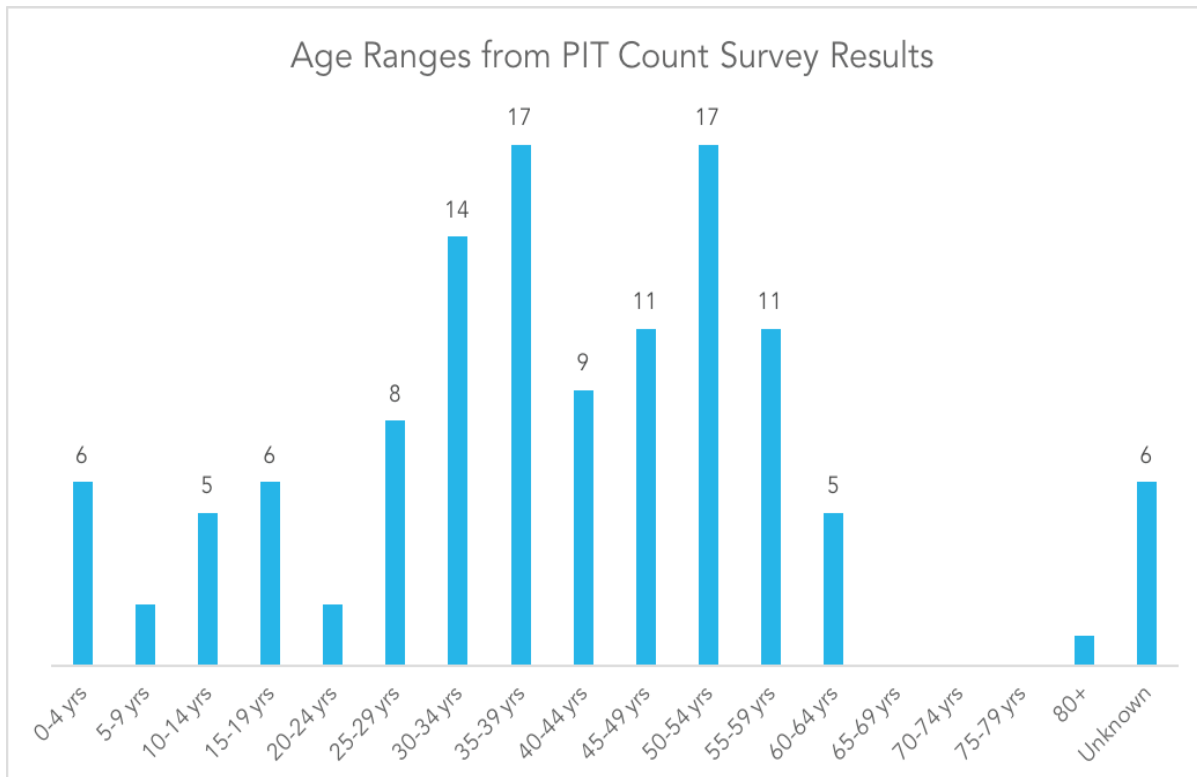
Age

Figure 9 shows the age breakdown of the 2018 Count survey results. Children and youth who are living as dependents in emergency shelters or transitional housing situations are shown on this figure, but it is important to note that no children or youth under the age of 19 were identified through the 2018 Count as living in an unsheltered location.

At 14 percent, individuals aged 35 to 39 years and 50 to 54 years account for the highest-percentage age ranges.

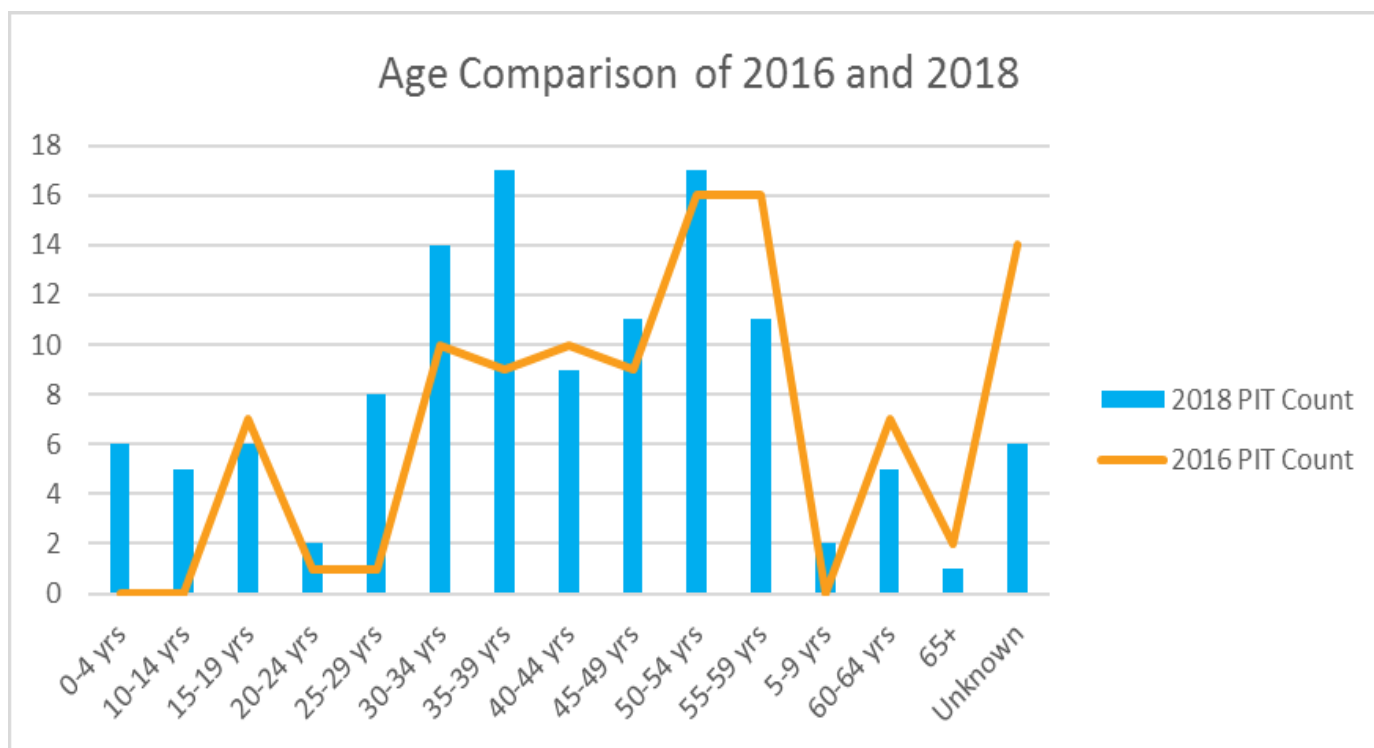
When comparing the 2016 Count to the 2018 Count, there is a clear variation in a few select age ranges as shown in Figure 10.

Figure 9: Age Ranges of Survey Respondents⁵



⁵ Totals of less than 3 survey respondents were removed from the Figure 10 to preserve anonymity.

Figure 10: Age Range Comparison of Survey Respondents



As shown in Figure 10, the number of individuals who fall within the age range of 30 to 39 has almost doubled since 2016 and the number of individuals who fall within the age range of 25 to 29 has more than tripled.

The number of individuals who fall within the age range of 0 to 14 has also increased since the 2016 Count, but it is expected this number is attributed to counting anyone living as a dependent in transitional housing and emergency shelters, whereas in 2016, those individuals were excluded from the total number due to the methodology used during that count.

It is interesting to note that individuals between the ages of 31 and 54 have been the majority age range since the first PIT Count in 2003.

Gender and Sexual Orientation

It is interesting to note that the number of individuals who self-identified as female increased by 12 percent since 2016 while those who self-identified as male decreased.

Individuals who self-identified as being part of the LGBTQ2S⁶ community has increased by four percent since the 2016 Count.

Figure 12 shows the self-identifying sexual orientation breakdown of the 2018 Count survey results.

Figure 11: Gender of Survey Respondents

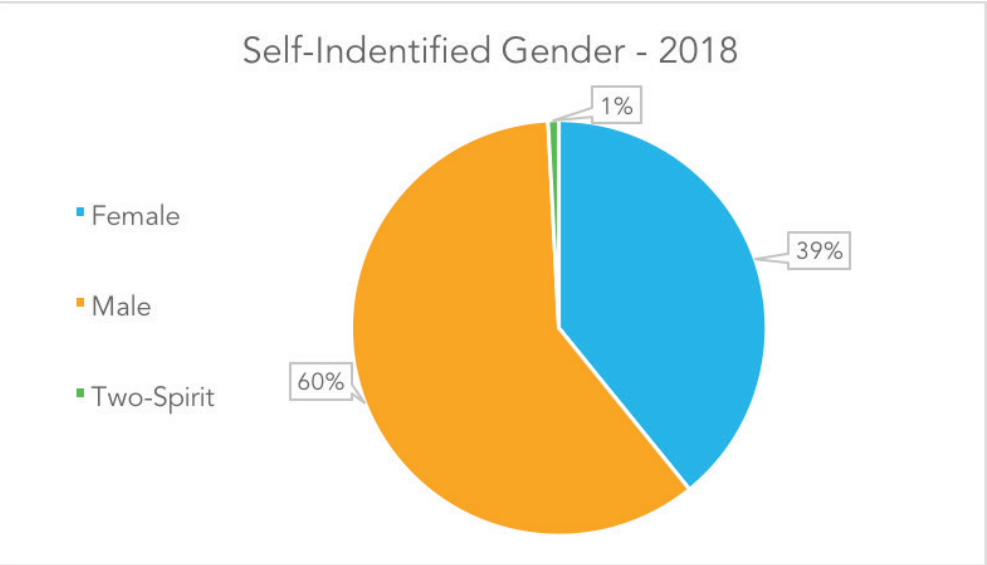
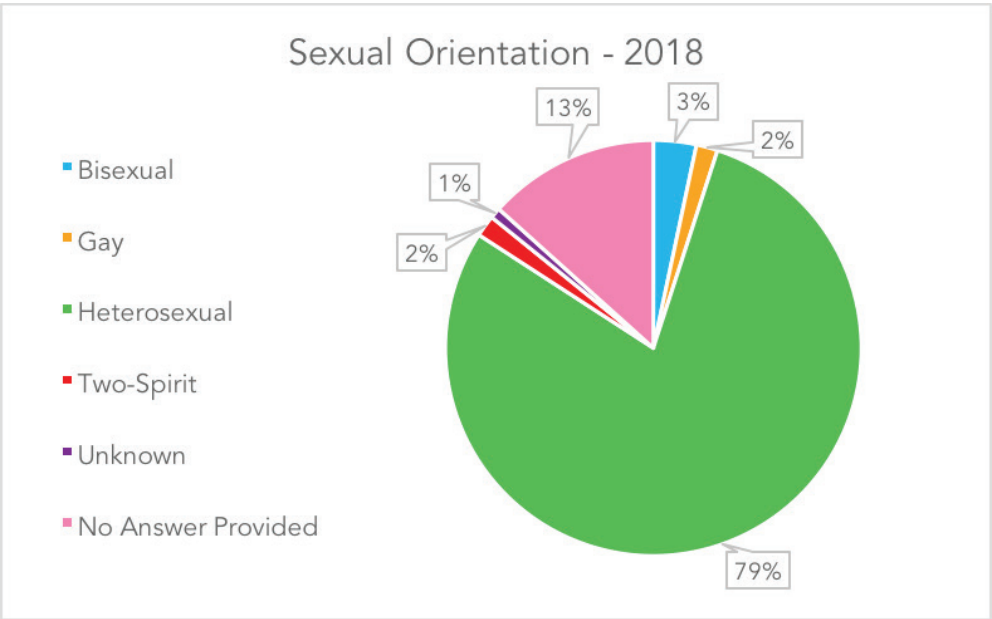


Figure 12: Sexual Orientation of Survey Respondents



⁶ Refers to individuals who have a gender identity or sexual orientation that differs from the heterosexual cisgender majority (gender identity matches their sex at birth), including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two Spirit, queer, questioning and other groups.

Ethnicity

The information within Figure 13 and 14 is derived from an open-ended question that asked about the ethnicity with which respondents identified. Since the data collected encompasses both racial identity and geographic region with which participants identified, two distinct charts had to be created to provide a breakdown and a direct comparison cannot be made with specific ethnicities.

Figure 13: Geographic Region of Survey Respondents

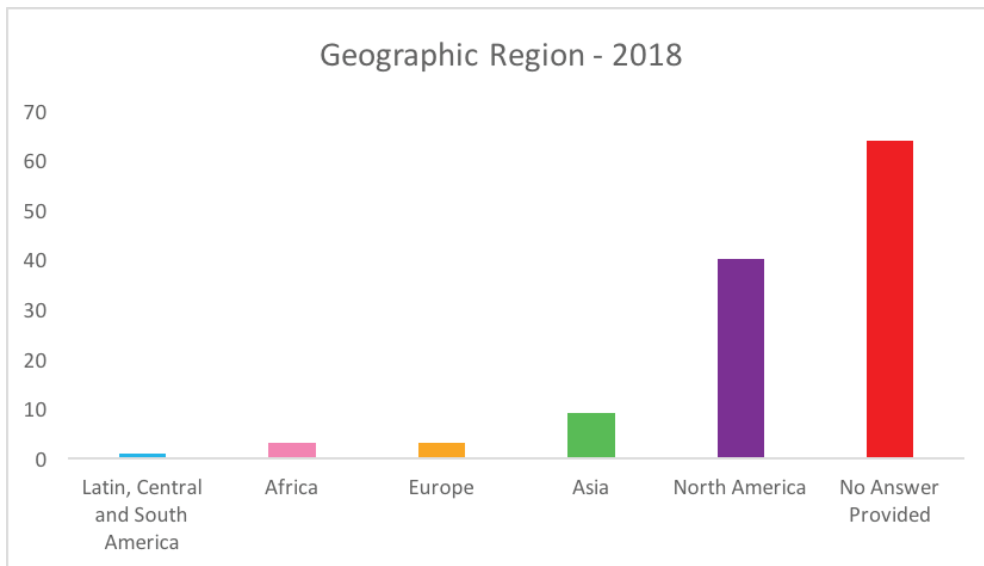
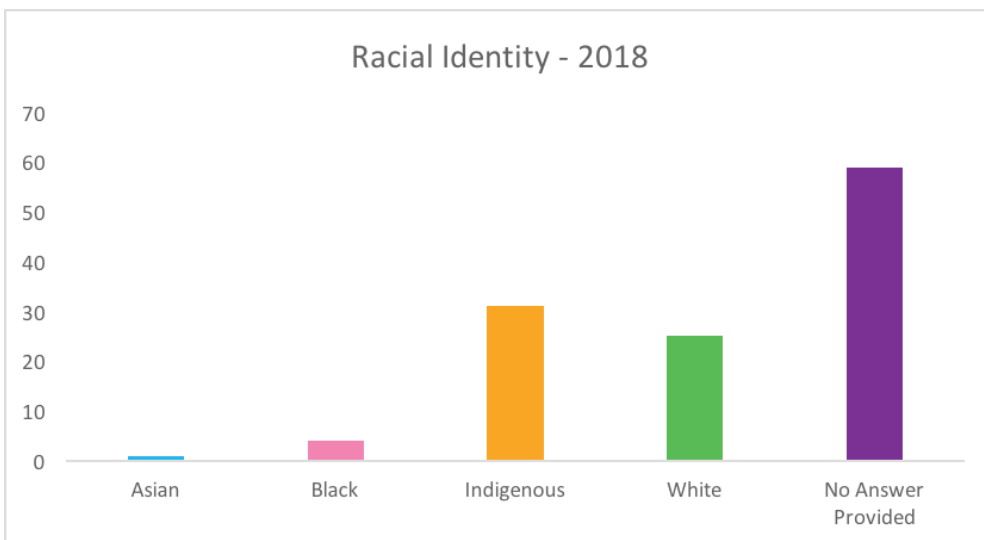


Figure 14: Racial Identity of Survey Respondents



Indigenous Identities

Individuals who self-identified as Indigenous have increased three percent since 2016.

Figure 16 shows the breakdown of those who self-identified as Indigenous or being of Indigenous ancestry from the 2018 Count results.

Figure 15: Indigenous Identities (Self-Identified) of Survey Respondents

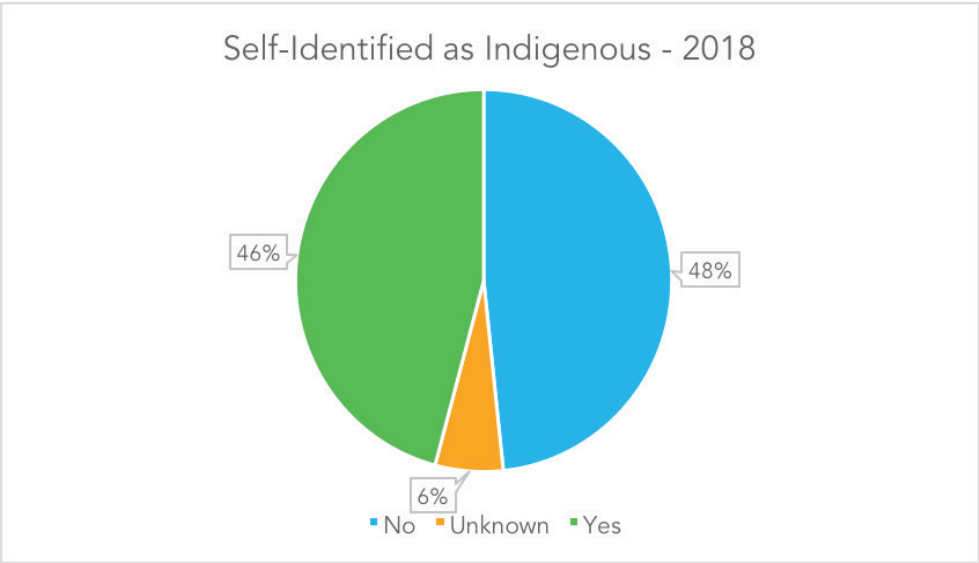
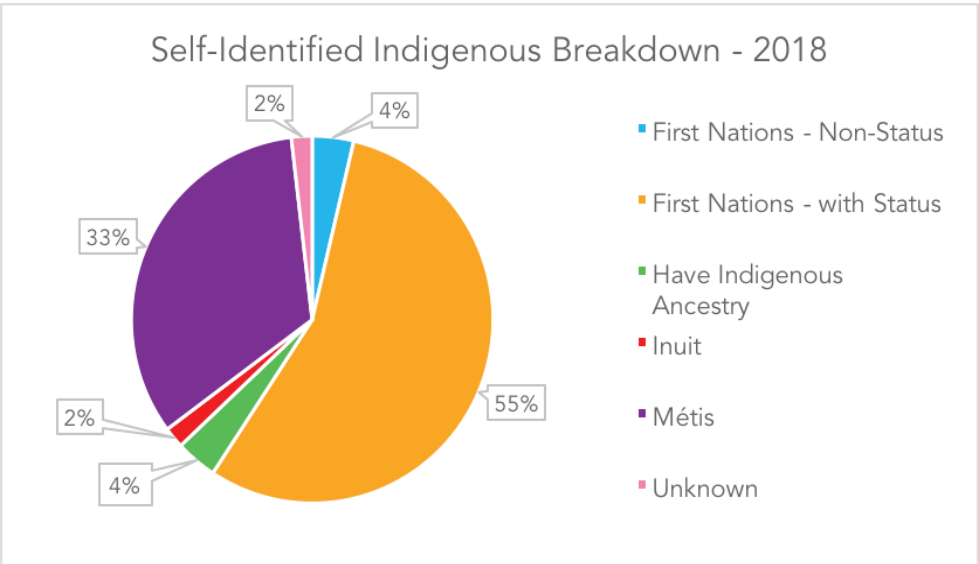


Figure 16: Indigenous Identities (Self-Identified) Breakdown of Survey Respondents

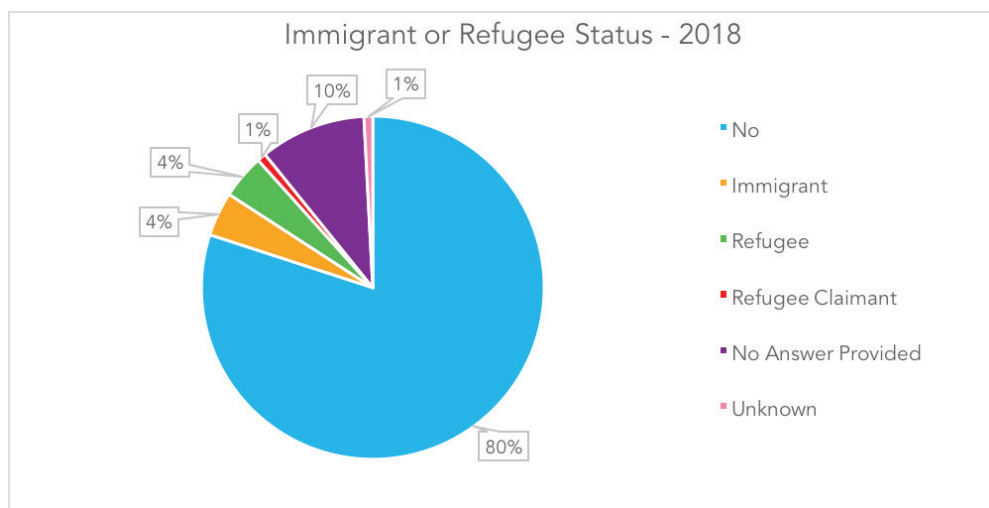


Immigrant or Refugee Status

Individuals who said they came to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant increased four percent since 2016.

It should be noted that the 2016 Count specifically asked, “did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past five years?” Whereas the 2018 Count asked, “did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee claimant?” and did not specify if it was within the last five years.

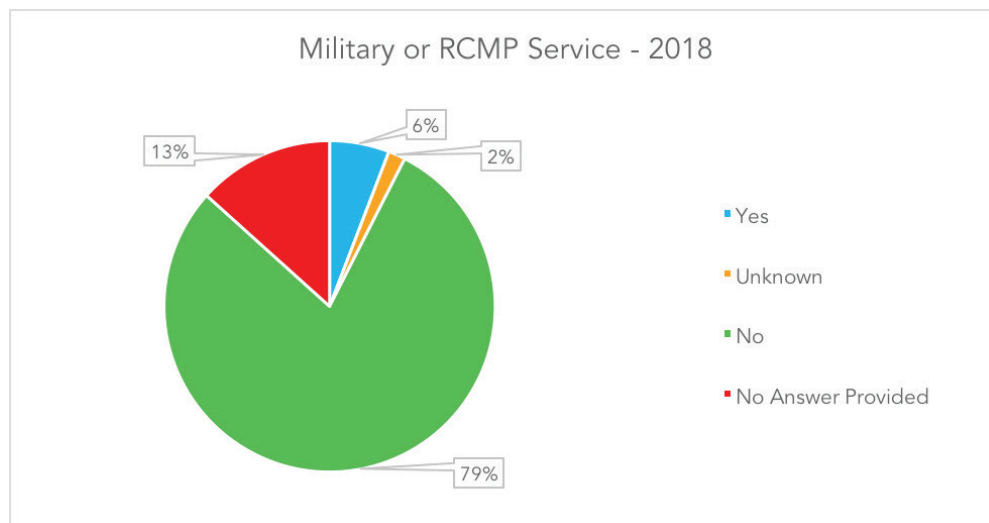
Figure 17: Immigrant or Refugee Status of Survey Respondents



Military or RCMP Service

Figure 18 shows that six percent of respondents have had experience in the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP, an increase of four percent from 2016 and two percent from 2014.

Figure 18: Canadian Military or RCMP Experience of Survey Respondents



HOMELESSNESS EXPERIENCES

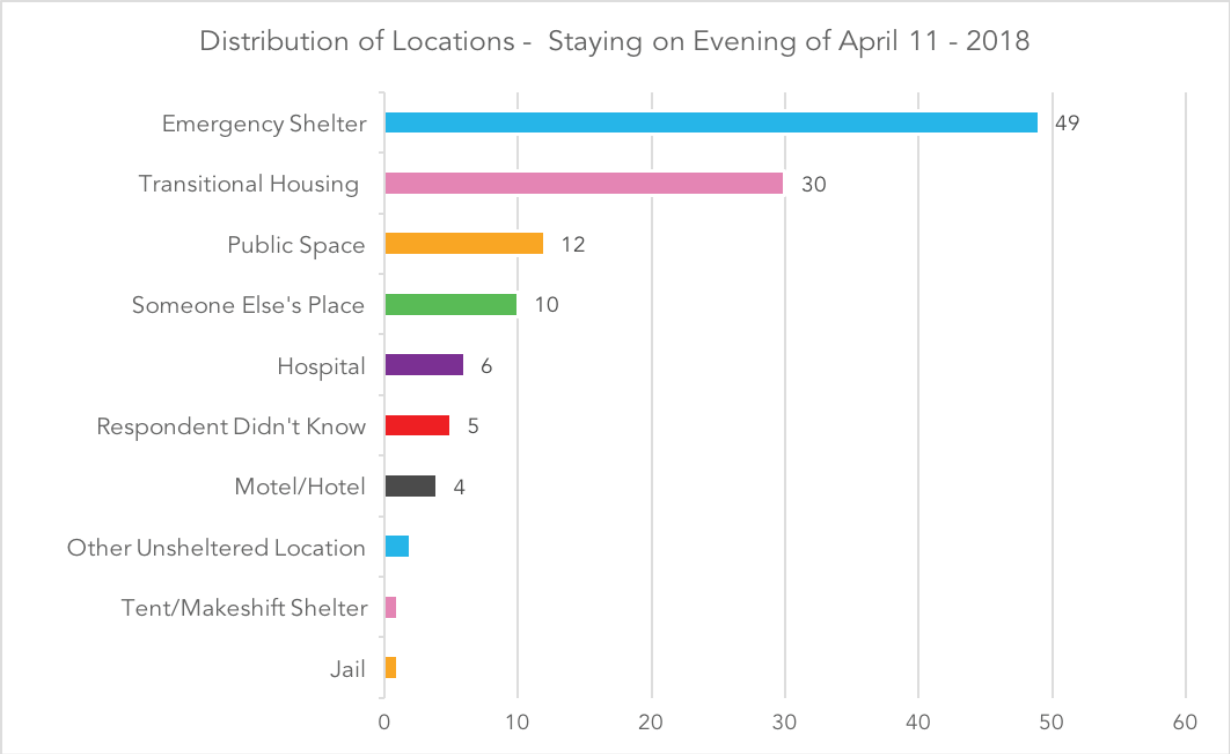
The following findings focus on the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on the evening of the count. The findings highlight source of income, locations found and cause of homelessness of those individuals who completed the PIT Count in 2018. This data is based solely on survey responses from the individuals who completed PIT Count surveys, either on the streets or in a facility.

Respondents were not required to reply to all questions. Those that were unanswered are labelled

as “no answer provided.” When participants did not know the answer to a query, the response was recorded as “unknown.” For example, if respondents did not know or could not recall how many times they experienced homelessness in the past year, “unknown” was recorded.

The results in Figure 19 are based solely on survey findings and do not include any systems data. Therefore, the results will not match numbers in Figures 2 or 3. Data is compiled based on the location survey respondents were staying on the evening of April 11.

Figure 19: Distribution of Locations of Survey Respondents



Length of Time Homeless

To align with the federal definition of chronic homelessness (i.e., current episode of homelessness is one year or more; or have had at least 180 cumulative days homeless), the PIT Count survey asked questions based on the last year.

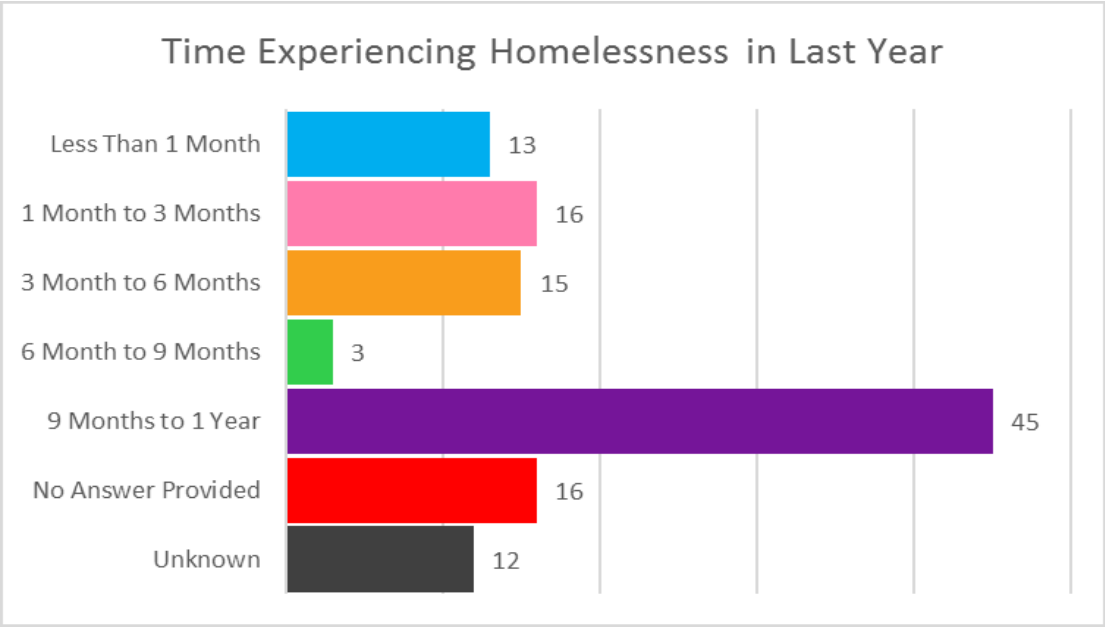
The following figure looks at the length of time an individual indicated they were homeless over the last year from the date of the PIT Count.

It is important to note that in Figure 20, it shows that 45 clients indicated they have been homeless for nine months to one year, but out of those 45, many have been homeless for the full 365 days in the last year.

Based on the provincial definition of chronic and episodic homelessness, which are also used locally, 60 percent of respondents were chronically homeless, and 40 percent were episodically homeless.

Due to the changes in methodology since the 2016 Count, a conclusive comparison cannot be made when looking at time experiencing homelessness and the chronic and episodic population over the years.

Figure 20: Length of Time Homelessness was Experienced (in last year) by Survey Respondents



Cause of Housing Breakdown

When answering survey questions about the cause of the most recent housing loss, survey respondents were encouraged to select all that applied.

Both conflict and domestic abuse could include with a spouse, family member, parent, roommate or landlord.

Physical illness or medical condition and change in family circumstances each represent less than one percent of the data set in Figure 21, but was rounded up to one percentage each.

Figure 22 highlights the reasons for housing loss from the 2016 and 2018 PIT Counts where comparable.

If survey respondents gave a reason not indicated in Figure 22 in either 2016 or 2018, they would be categorized in the “other” category. Due to the change in methodology and the way the questions were asked, not all data was able to be included in this figure. For this reason, any data in the “other” category was removed, as was anyone who declined to answer or did not know the reason for most recent housing loss.

Figure 21: Cause of Housing Loss

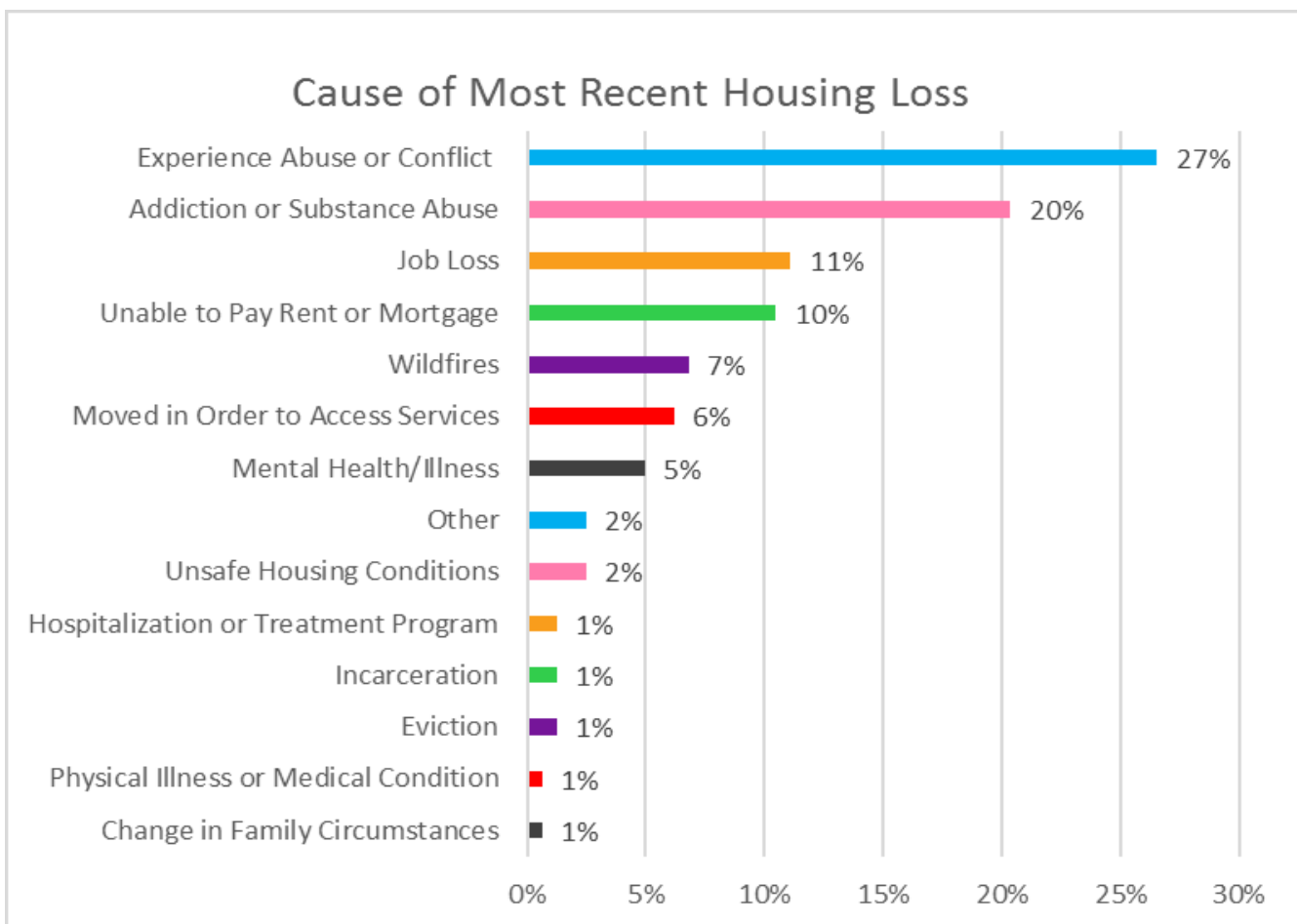
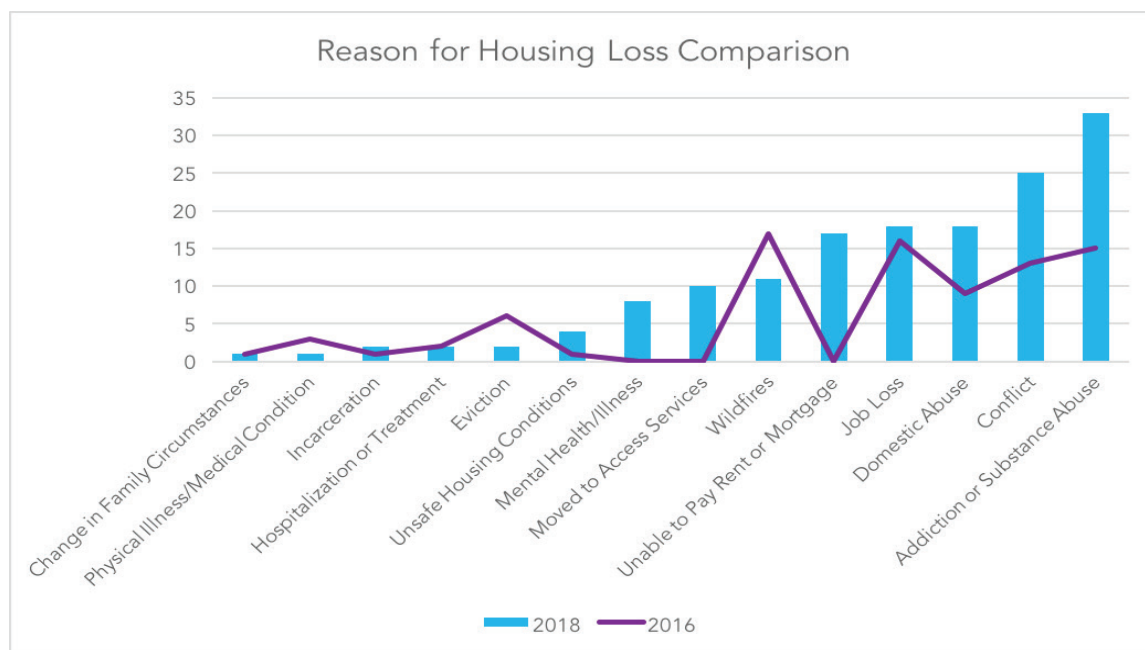


Figure 22: Reason for Most Recent Housing Loss Comparison



When comparing 2016 to 2018, the following can be noted:

- Five percent stated the reason for most recent housing loss was due to mental health, six percent stated it was because of the ability to access services and 10 percent stated they were unable to pay rent or mortgage. Mental health, access to housing and unable to rent were not asked during the 2016 PIT Count.
- Eviction as the reason for housing loss has decreased by four percent since the 2016 PIT Count.
- Those who are currently experiencing homelessness because of a wildfire (e.g., the 2016 Horse River Wildfire or another Canadian wildfire) has decreased by seven percent.
- Conflict as the reason for most recent housing loss has increased by five percent and both domestic abuse and addiction/substance abuse as reasons have doubled since the 2016 PIT Count.

Based on natural disaster research, the effects of events such as wildfires can be seen for years following. Points C and D that were noted from Figure 22 may directly correlate when looking at the timeframe since the 2016 Horse River Wildfire. Psychosocial recovery does not happen overnight, and the community may currently be in the reconstruction phase of disaster.⁷ Statistics show that mental health morbidity continues to be prevalent even after three to five years in the disaster affected community.⁸ This research seems to specifically support the data in Figure 22.

When looking at the increases in the reason for housing loss from the 2018 PIT Count results, it can be noted that the survey respondents are seeing different housing breakdowns since 2016. These include, but are not limited to increase in conflict, domestic abuse, and addiction and/or substance abuse, which may be attributed to it being only two years post-natural disaster.

⁷ https://www.crhnet.ca/sites/default/files/WEDNESDAY_C_Paul_Supporting%20Community%20Psychosocial.pdf

⁸ Suresh Bada Math, Maria Christine Nirmala, Sydney Moirangthem, and Neveen C. Kumar (2015): *Disaster Management: Mental Health Perspective*.

Experience in Fort McMurray

Respondents may have provided a numerical time frame, but have always lived in the community. For example, they may have said 40 years, but are 40 years old. Meaning “always been here” may be higher than Figure 23 is showing.

The majority of individuals experiencing homelessness (52 percent) have lived in Fort McMurray for five years or less. However, 28 percent are made up of long term residents who have lived in Fort McMurray for their whole lives or 30 years or more.

Figure 23: Length of Time in Fort McMurray

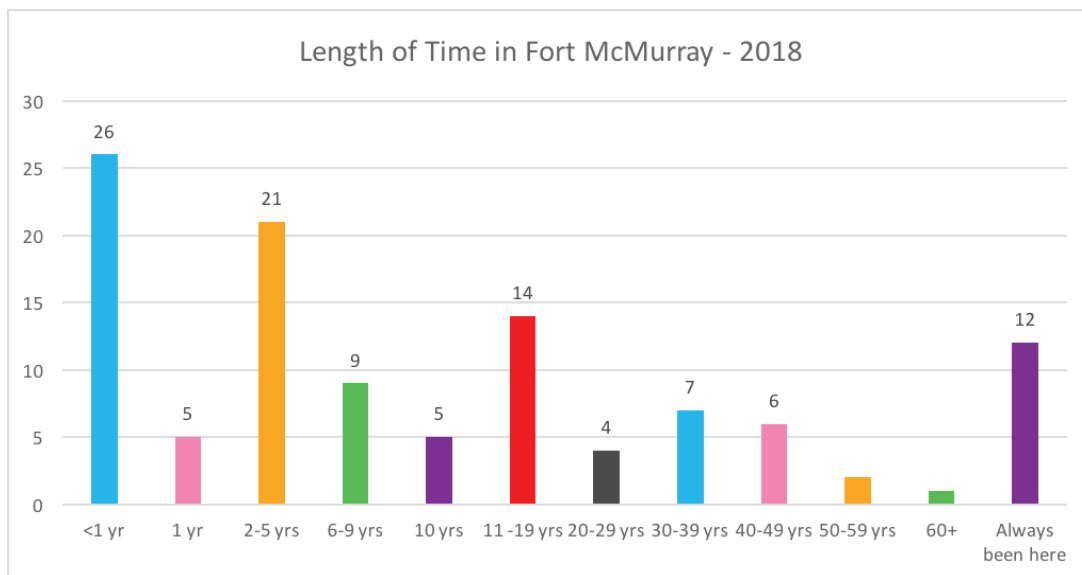
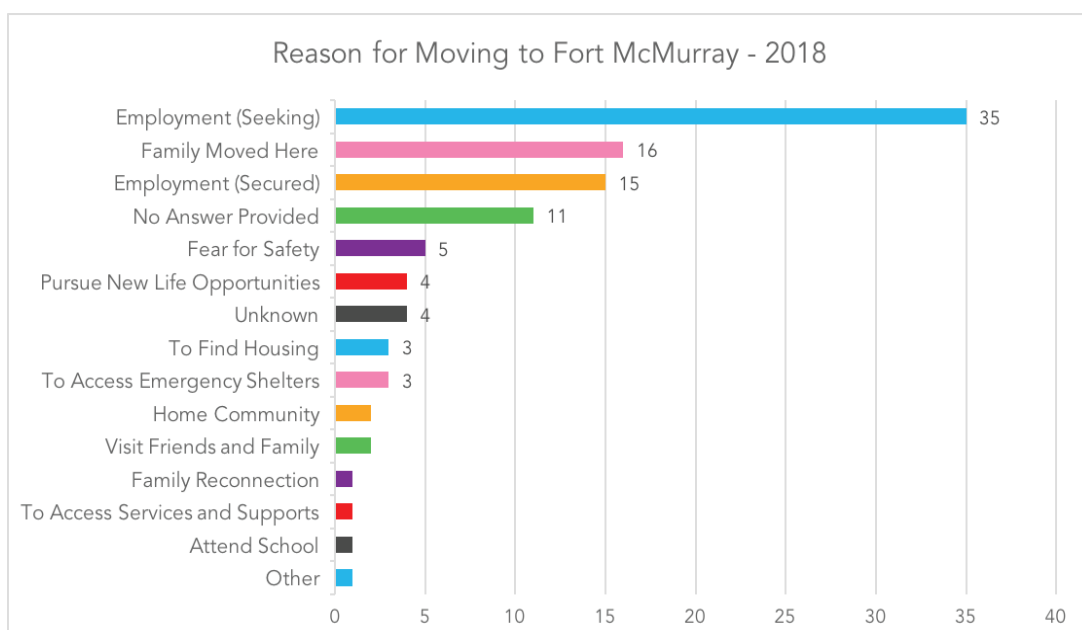


Figure 24: Reason for Moving to Fort McMurray



Sources of Income

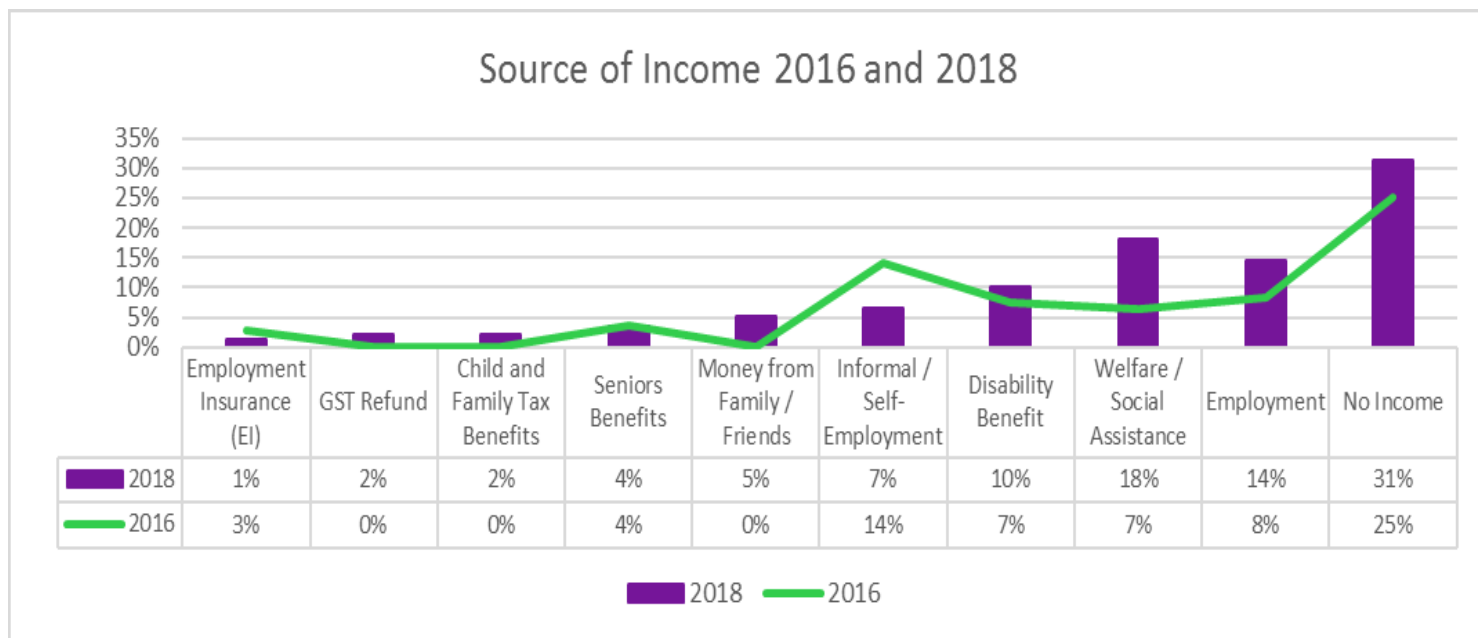
Note that “self-employed” can include, but is not limited to bottle returns, panhandling, etc. “GST refund” and “money from family and friends” were not survey options in 2016; for that reason, any survey that stated “other” was excluded from Figure 25. Welfare/Social Assistance and Disability Benefit each represent a rounded number of seven percent on the data set in Figure 25, but actual percentages vary slightly on the graph.

In relation to the sources of income individuals experiencing homelessness stated they obtain, the

2018 PIT Count results saw an increase of six percent of those who receive their income from employment and a seven percent decrease in those who are self-employed.

There was also a six percent increase in those who receive no income and a 11 percent increase in those on welfare and/or social assistance. This may be an indicator of the economic downturn when looking at the fact that the economic impacts associated with the wildfire are not expected to dissipate until 2021.⁹

Figure 25: Sources of Income of Survey Respondents



33%
of survey
respondents stated
they moved to
Fort McMurray
to find work.

15%
claimed the move
was because their
family moved.

14%
stated they moved
for a job they had
already secured
before moving to
Fort McMurray.

⁹ The Conference Board of Canada: Moving Forward. The Economic Impact of Rebuilding the Wood Buffalo Region's Economy (2017).

Conclusion

The PIT Count is a valuable tool that is used as one of the methods of measurement when looking at the progress in ending chronic homelessness within the community. It provides data on the specific population in question and asks targeted questions with the expectation that the results work to influence systems planning and decision making.

Like many other enumeration models, there are limitations locally and across Alberta, so it is recommended that other local contextual data is investigated and considered in systems planning.

It was expected that the number of people experiencing homelessness would be higher in 2018 likely due to atypical challenges in 2016. The community will move forward with the 2018 figure, understanding that it should be considered the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in the Urban Service Area of Fort McMurray.

It is encouraging to note that since the Municipality adopted its Community Plan on Homelessness in 2009, the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness has dropped, due in part to frontline staff tackling the issues and implementing a client-centered approach to housing.

It is important to point out that because of the nature of the community, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness can significantly fluctuate on a regular basis, from season to season and even day to day.

Homelessness is not a cut and dry issue with any one cause or influencing factor. The people who experience homelessness face many challenges every day. Thanks to its cornerstone supports and services, the community has made significant changes to homelessness and the way it is viewed. With continued backing from the community at large, HISC, the agencies involved with the Community Plan on Homelessness, federal and provincial government bodies, and the 7 Cities, the Municipality looks forward to joint partnerships and initiatives that will continue to advance the efforts to ending chronic homelessness in the community.

In 2008, the PIT Count peaked at a record high of 549 individuals identified as homeless.

In the 10 years since, the overall number of people experiencing homelessness in the Urban Service Area of Fort McMurray has decreased by 64 percent.

Appendices

APPENDIX A – GEOGRAPHIC ZONES

Geographic Zones

Timberlea areas identified and assigned zones – 2 Zones:



Thickwood areas identified and assigned zones – 1 Zone:



Downtown Fort McMurray areas identified and assigned zones – 29 Zones:



Gregoire areas identified and assigned zones – 1 Zone:



APPENDIX B – FACILITY ADMINISTRATION DATA SHEET

Facility Administration Data sheet – Example

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo 2018 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT Facilities Count

Please fill out the following form based on your records of people staying overnight in your facility on the night of April 11, 2018 between 10:00 pm and 1:00 am (10:00 pm on April 11 and 1:00 am the following morning, April 12). For questions 8-13, please fill out only the fields relevant to your facility. If your facility serves both families and single individuals, please record the information in the section for facilities serving families. Note that definitions are listed under Table 1.

If your program operates more than one type of bed (i.e. emergency shelter beds as well as transitional beds) in one facility, please submit one form for each type of program.

Ensure you are reporting on either administrative data (agency database) or client-reported information only. Do not make observational assumptions about someone's Indigeneity of gender, etc. to ensure accuracy.

Please submit this form no later than noon on April 12. You will receive a confirmation email in response.

If you have any questions about how to complete this form, please contact:

Cait Evans either by telephone at (780) 215 -8492 or by email at caitlyn.evans@rmwb.ca

General Information:

- 1 Agency Name:
- 2 Facility Name:
- 3 Bed Type:
- 4 Date:
- 5 Time:
- 6 Data Source:
- 7 Contact information of the person who collected the data:

Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Organization operating the facility
Name of the building/location/facility
Shelter Type

Caucasian	C
Indigenous	I
Other*	O
Unknown Ethnicity	U

* *Other Ethnicity*: includes all known ethnicities except Caucasian and Aboriginal (e.g. Chinese, Ethiopian, Latino)

Table 1. Observed Gender, Ethnicity, and Age Group																	
Gender	Male				Female				Transgender/Transsexual				Unknown Gender				
Observed Ethnicity	Caucasian	Indigenous	Other	Unknown Ethnicity	Caucasian	Indigenous	Other	Unknown Ethnicity	Caucasian	Indigenous	Other	Unknown Ethnicity	Caucasian	Indigenous	Other	Unknown Ethnicity	Totals
Preschoolers (age 5 or younger)																	
School-Age Children (age 6-12)																	
Youth (age 13 to 17)																	
Young Adults (age 18 to 24)																	
Working Age Adults (age 25 to 44)																	
Middle-Aged Adults (age 45 to 64)																	
Seniors (age 65 and older)																	
Unknown Age ⁶																	
Totals																	

***Definition: Children are individuals sheltered in facilities designated for families, staying with a family member/guardian, regardless of age*

****Definition: Youth are individuals sheltered in facilities designated for youth, regardless of age. Some communities may use the term "unaccompanied youth".*

Families	
Number of families staying in your facility:	
Number of individuals in families staying in your facility:	

****Definition: for the purposes of this form, a family is any combination of a parent(s)/guardian(s) and dependent(s) staying at the same facility. For example, an 18-year-old mother and her child; 2 parents and 2 children; a grandparent, parent and child all staying together.

Capacity Information:

Singles Programs only:	What is your regular bed capacity (total number of beds the organization has available for singles on any given night)?
-------------------------------	---

Family Programs only:	What is your regular unit capacity (total number of rooms the organization has available)?
------------------------------	--

Additional Information:

Please record any **unusual circumstances** that may have affected the count

Table 2. Description of Unusual Circumstances Affecting the Count

If you have any **additional comments** about the count, please provide them below. We value your input.

Table 3. Additional Comments about the Count

Thank you for participating in the Count. Your support is essential for the success of this project.

APPENDIX C – 2018 POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY

2018 Fort McMurray PIT Homeless Count – Script and Screening Questions

2018 Fort McMurray PIT COUNT SURVEY

The following Screening, Tally and Survey pages are also found in the Harvest Your Data App.

2018 FORT MCMURRAY PIT COUNT SURVEY - SCREENING

INFORMATION ONLY - DO NOT READ TO PARTICIPANT. OBSERVED HOMELESSNESS: For those who DECLINE or are OBSERVED only, but who are clearly homeless, please also indicate the reason you believe they are homeless. The criteria for including someone as observed homeless should be clearly identified. For example, individuals may be considered homeless if they bedded down in an unsheltered location OR they have many belongings with them (e.g., backpacks, garbage bags, shopping cart, sleeping bag, bedrolls, etc.). Please also record any clarifiers so we can avoid double counting the same people with the location you observed them at, for instance, shopping cart with red sign on the side.

SCRIPT - PLEASE READ TO PARTICIPANT: Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the Regional Municipality Point in Time (PiT) Count survey. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness.

The survey takes a few minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary, and your name will not be recorded to ensure confidentiality. Please note that you can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time. Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada, and will help with research to improve services.

SCREENING QUESTIONS

A. Have you answered this survey with a person wearing this with this (identifier)?

- a. If the respondent has responded already, thank them for their time and end the survey immediately.
- b. If the respondent says "no, I have not", say: "okay, would you be interested in a tobacco tie or bus ticket?" the move to Question B.

B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

- a. [YES: continue to survey]
- b. [NO: Thank and tally]
 - i. If the respondent says "yes", say, "Thank you. Please know that while your personal information and answers are anonymous, 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."

2018 Fort McMurray PIT Homeless Count
– Tally sheet (Paper Copy)

2018 FORT MCMURRAY PIT COUNT SURVEY - TALLY SHEET

City: _____ Zone: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
Interviewer: _____ Contact phone #: _____

Instructions: For those who are **not surveyed**, please fill in the sheet below indicating the reason. For those who DECLINE or are OBSERVED only, but who are clearly homeless, please also indicate the reason you believe they are homeless (e.g., asleep outside with belongings).

#	Location (e.g., building, park, nearest intersection)	Reason not Surveyed				Observed Homeless	*Observed Homelessness
		Declined*	Already Responded	Screened Out (Response to C)	Observed*		Indicators of Homelessness
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							

2018 Fort McMurray PIT Homeless Count – Survey

2018 FORT MCMURRAY PIT COUNT - SURVEY

Location/Area/Zone Code: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM Survey Number: _____

C. Where are you staying tonight? [Surveyor: Indicate overnight location]

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER – END SURVEY | <input type="checkbox"/> JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE – END SURVEY | <input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE
- Can you stay there as long as you want or need to? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
-If NO to staying indefinitely at SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE, where will you go?
_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> TREATMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (THOSE AWAITING TREATMENT) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (NOT THOSE AWAITING TREATMENT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MOTEL/HOTEL
<input type="checkbox"/> Alberta Works
<input type="checkbox"/> AISH
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Cross
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid for by yourself or a friend/acquaintance
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a temporary HOTEL/MOTEL stay, and you have a permanent residence – END SURVEY | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALK, PARK, FOREST, BUS SHELTER) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL, HEALTH FACILITY | |

BEGIN SURVEY

1. What family members are staying with you tonight? [Indicate survey numbers for adults. Check all that apply]

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

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

- ☐ AGE _____ OR YEAR BORN _____ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

→ For the next questions, "homelessness" means any time when you have been without a secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others.

3. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

- ☐ AGE _____ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4. In total, how much time have you been homeless over the PAST YEAR? [Best estimate, circle either days, weeks, months]

- ☐ LENGTH _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. In total, how many different times have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? [Best estimate.]

- ☐ NUMBER OF TIMES _____ [Includes this time] ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year? [Give local examples of homeless shelters]

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

7. How long have you been in (community name)? [circle either days, weeks, months]

- ☐ LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS _____

Where did you live before you came here?

- ☐ ALWAYS BEEN HERE ☐ COMMUNITY _____
- ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ PROVINCE _____
- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER ☐ OR COUNTRY _____
- ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

- 8. What is the main reason you came to (community name)? [Do not read categories; select one]**
- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (seeking) | <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION/SHOPPING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS | <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (secured) | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MOVED HERE | <input type="checkbox"/> TO ATTEND SCHOOL | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY | <input type="checkbox"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO FIND HOUSING | | |

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

- | | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES, IMMIGRANT ----- | If YES: | How long have you been in Canada? |
| -----> | | <input type="checkbox"/> How long have you been in Canada? (Year of arrival) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES, REFUGEE----- | | YEAR _____ |
| -----> | | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT---- | | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| -----> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER | | |

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

- _____ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

12. Which Indigenous nation or nations do you identify with?

- _____ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your participation!



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**