



HOW MANY?

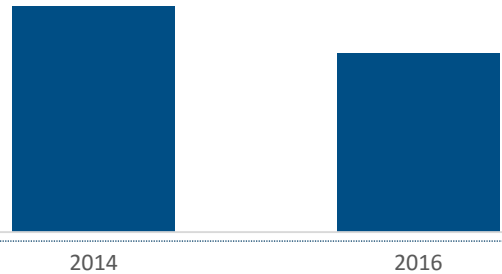
127

people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Grande Prairie

50% of these are chronically homeless

23% decrease

in the number of people counted experiencing homelessness from 2014 to 2016



WHERE?



9%
unsheltered



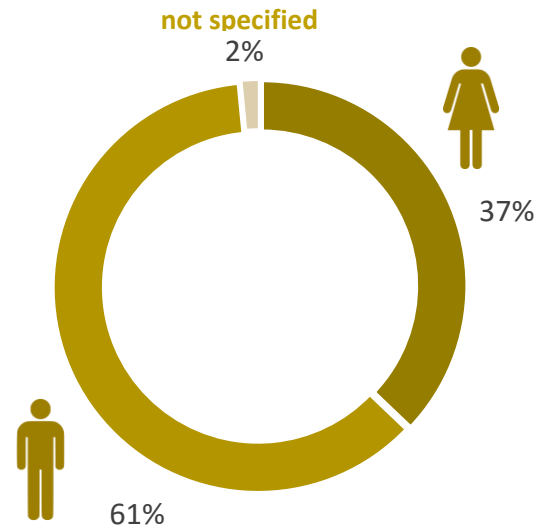
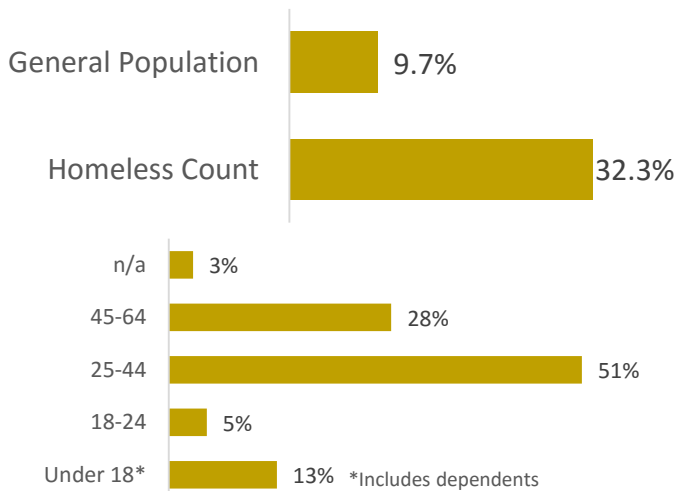
40%
emergency sheltered



50%
provisionally accommodated

WHO?

Indigenous Identity



Overview

Introduction

On October 19, 2016, Grande Prairie conducted its fifth Point in Time Count of homelessness. The Count occurs once every two years and increases understanding of how many of those living in Grande Prairie are experiencing homelessness. The City of Grande Prairie coordinates the Count as part of our work supporting Grande Prairie's Five Year Plan to End Homelessness. This was Grande Prairie's most comprehensive Count to date, and the first year offering survey respondents the opportunity to receive follow-up support from Housing First programs and/or the Street Outreach Team.

Grande Prairie's Point in Time Count serves two important functions: it provides a current snapshot of our overall homeless population, and shows how this population changes over time. Ultimately, this informs solutions to ending homelessness in our community.

Alberta's Cities Leading the Way

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness all conducted Homeless Counts during the same period. In addition, these communities agreed upon common methodology so the results would provide a much clearer picture of homelessness in Alberta.

Methods

Grande Prairie's Homeless Count occurred between 7 and 10pm on October 19th. Surveys were conducted on the streets, in parks, and at numerous agencies serving people experiencing homelessness. Data was also provided locally by shelters, the RCMP, residential addiction treatment centres and transitional housing providers.

New This Year

- This was Grande Prairie's first year including individuals residing in transitional housing, residential treatment centres, someone else's place, municipal holding cells and Provincial corrections. Including individuals residing in these places, who have a clear history of homelessness, gives us a better understanding of homelessness in our city than ever before.
- This year's Homeless Count would not have been possible without the support of local Shelters, Housing Providers, Housing First service providers, volunteers, the Street Outreach team and the Count steering committee, which included lived experience with homelessness.

Successful Methods from Previous Counts

- Volunteers did not count based on what they assumed about someone – they approached everyone encountered on the night of the Count to discuss the Point in Time Count.
- To avoid double-counting, volunteers asked individuals if they had already completed the survey. Administrative data was used rather than survey data to count individuals staying in shelters, transitional housing, residential treatment, municipal holding cells and Provincial corrections.

Historical Comparability

Grande Prairie increased the scope of the Count significantly in 2016, and the numbers shared in this report include the full picture created by including additional Count locations. Although the 2016 Count included more people in more types of housing situations than in any previous year, Grande Prairie still shows a 23% reduction in homelessness between 2014 and 2016. Finally, the numbers in this report vary slightly from those in the 7 Cities report: individuals who had no permanent residence and were staying with someone else are included; those enumerated at the hospital are not included, pending more complete information.

Characteristics

| Characteristic | # | % |
|---|----|-----|
| Gender | | |
| Male | 78 | 61% |
| Female | 47 | 37% |
| Not specified | 2 | 2% |
| Indigenous | | |
| First Nations | 32 | 25% |
| Metis | 3 | 2% |
| Inuit | 2 | 2% |
| Non-status | 4 | 3% |
| Not specified | 28 | 22% |
| Age Groups (years) | | |
| 0-17 | 17 | 13% |
| 18-24 | 6 | 5% |
| 25-30 | 16 | 13% |
| 31-44 | 49 | 37% |
| 45-54 | 23 | 20% |
| 55-64 | 12 | 9% |
| 65+ | 0 | 0% |
| Adult or independent youth, age unknown | 4 | 3% |
| Recent (within past 5 years) immigrant or refugee | 1 | 1% |
| Identify with Lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer community | 4 | 5% |
| Canadian Military or RCMP | 3 | 5% |
| Dependent children | 18 | 14% |

* The denominators used to calculate the proportions vary across the above characteristics due to sample availability.

Broader Trends

Population Growth

It is important that results of the count must be contextualized in the broader economic trends impacting Grande Prairie, in addition to the increase in Count scope. The city continues to experience population growth, increasing 24.5% from 2011 to 2015.

Unemployment

Unemployment has increased somewhat from 4.8% in 2014 to 5.6% in 2016.

Housing Affordability

The vacancy rates increased from 1.2% in 2014 to 10.4% in 2015, the average rental costs grew by about 0.3% (\$3) for a 1 bedroom and 0.8% (\$7) for a bachelor suite, according to CMHC (October 2015). Over 17% of Grande Prairie residents are experiencing housing affordability challenges and about 1 in 10 are in low income according to Statistics Canada (2011).

Indigenous people over-represented

The over-representation of Indigenous people remains an ongoing concern. While 9.7% of Grande Prairie's general population self-identified as Indigenous, 32.3% of those surveyed in the homeless count self-identified as Indigenous.

| Socioeconomic Indicators | Most recent | Comparator Year |
|--|---|---|
| Unemployment [1] | 5.6% (2016) | 4.8% (2014) |
| Population growth [2] | 68,566 (2015) | 55,032 (2011) |
| Housing Affordability [3] (% of owner households spending 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs) | 17.5% (2011) | - |
| Rental vacancy rates [4] (Vacancy and Availability Rates (%) in Privately Initiated Rental Apartment Structures of Three Units and Over) | 10.4% (Oct 2015) | 1.2% (Oct 2014) |
| Rental costs [4] | \$990 (1 bed) \$848 (Bach) (Oct 2015) | \$987 (1 bed) \$831 (Bach) (Oct 2014) |
| Low Income [3] (% of persons in households in low income based on LIM-AT) | 10.3% (2011) | - |
| Indigenous People [3] (% of population self-identify as Indigenous) | 9.7% (2011) | - |
| Immigrants [3] (% of population who was foreign-born) | 6.6% (2011) | - |

References

References:

- [1] Statistics Canada (2016). Labour Force Characteristics, unadjusted, by economic region (3 month moving average)(Alberta, British Columbia). Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/lfss05f-eng.htm>
- [2] City of Grande Prairie (2015). Population Analysis: Here We Grow Again! Retrieved from: <http://www.cityofgp.com/index.aspx?page=1081>
- [3] Statistics Canada (2015). **NHS Profile, Grande Prairie, CY, Alberta, 2011**. Retrieved from: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4819012&Data=Count&SearchText=&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>
- [4] CMHC (2015). CMHC Rental Market Survey. Rental Market Statistics – Grande Prairie. Retrieved from the Housing Market Information Portal: <https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmiportal/en/#Profile/3920/3/Grande%20Prairie>.