

# **2015 Homeless Youth Needs Assessment**

## **City of Grande Prairie, Alberta**

*City of Grande Prairie Homeless Initiatives*  
*Department of Community Social Development*  
*Initial Report May 2015*  
*Final Report October 2015*



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## Introduction

The Alberta government's *A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 years* states that Albertans from specialized groups, including homeless youth, are dealing with particularly challenging issues and require targeted responses to be rehoused. To address the need for a specialized response, a Youth Plan, *Supporting Healthy and Successful Transitions to Adulthood: A Plan to Prevent and Reduce Youth Homelessness* is being rolled out across the province.

Grande Prairie's *5 Year Plan to End Homelessness: 2015-2019* has also identified youth as a priority group needing specialized support and housing options. The following youth-specific strategies are outlined in this plan:

- ✚ Work with the youth emergency shelter acting as Sunrise House, Pregnant and Parenting Teen program and other youth serving agencies, along with potential property owners or developers, to partner on a location for housing and to identify housing and support needs.
- ✚ Provide funding for a Youth Needs Assessment to identify needs of youth experiencing homelessness.
- ✚ Recruit housing partners and develop partnership agreements.
- ✚ Provide housing supports for youth leaving care, shelters.
- ✚ Educate City planners and developers on the need for increased rental housing stock, particularly 3 or more bedrooms for families.

For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the City of Grande Prairie received an additional allocation of \$100,000 under the Outreach and Support Services Initiatives Grant to provide support to address youth homelessness. A youth project will be identified and implemented in a manner that responds to Grande Prairie's unique needs and that follows through on the strategies identified in Grande Prairie's 5 Year Plan. Under Alberta's *Plan to Prevent and Reduce Youth Homelessness*, Grande Prairie will also work towards the following shared outcomes:

- ✚ Increased housing stability for youth through rehousing or family reunification.
- ✚ Prevention of youth homelessness through education and enhanced family supports.
- ✚ Increased resiliency in homeless youth and youth at risk of becoming homeless.
- ✚ Healthy transitions to adulthood.

The first step taken towards achieving shared outcomes and implementing youth-specific strategies in Grande Prairie was the completion of a Youth Needs Assessment (Youth Survey). By basing actions in local context, we can ensure that Grande Prairie's Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CABH) and community recommendations for a youth project are aligned with youth voices. With a limited amount of funding ear-marked to support youth experiencing homelessness, funding must be used effectively and in alignment with what youth report as being needed. Information gained from the Youth Survey provides a snapshot of youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Grande Prairie. The Youth Survey also provides baseline information to aid in context-specific goal-setting, program development, outcome measurement and making comparisons over time.

## Methodology

A Youth Needs Assessor, Erica Deveau, was contracted to develop and conduct a Youth Needs Assessment Survey over a 4-6 week time period in early 2015. In total, 100 surveys were distributed to youth between the ages of 14-24 years of age. The response rate was 76%.

- 76 surveys were returned
- 12 youth verbally declined to complete the survey
- 12 surveys were not accounted for

An initial draft of the Youth Survey was shared with local Youth Serving Agencies for feedback on the value of the survey questions, age appropriate language and desired data collection. Next, the survey was shared with a sample of youth who gave further feedback for final changes.

Multiple choice and open-end response questions were used to gain better understanding of how many youth in our community are experiencing homelessness or have a history of homelessness. The survey also engaged the views of youth in regards to what they see as barriers to being successfully housed, supports for helping them achieve greater success and how these supports might vary between the age groups. The survey asked a total of 38 questions and took approximately 10 minutes to complete if all questions were answered. If a youth had not experienced homelessness, they were not required to complete questions 14 through 25.

Data collection using the finalized survey took place during a four week period. During this time, as many youth as possible who had potentially experienced homelessness, or who might have been at risk of homelessness were engaged directly. The Youth Needs Assessor engaged directly with youth at pre-identified sites, where all youth present were invited to participate. Once at the site, no preclusion was given based on assumptions of who would be most appropriate to be involved. If the youth agreed to participate, the Assessor would offer to go through the survey with them, or let the youth take the survey and complete it on their own. A second method of data collection was to distribute surveys to agencies where staff could make the youth aware of the opportunity to participate. Youth and workers who had trusting relationships were able to work together to complete the surveys and return them to the Assessor at a later date. A third method was to take the survey to groups of youth and have the youth complete the survey during a pre-planned project or event at an agency site.

The sites chosen for data collection were locations where it was most likely to find youth fitting the desired demographics:

- Tabono Centre, strengths-based learning for youth. Operated by the John Howard Society.
- Rotary House, emergency shelter.
- Odyssey House, domestic violence emergency shelter for women and children.

- Sunrise House, Youth Emergency Shelter Society.
- The Society for Support to Pregnant and Parenting Teens.
- The Salvation Army, Soup Kitchen.
- Eastlink Centre, aquatics and athletics facility located adjacent to St. Joseph and Charles Spencer High Schools.
- Grande Prairie Public Library.
- Suicide Prevention Resource Centre, Breakfast Club.
- The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre.
- On the street, through Outreach Teams operated by HIV North and Accredited Supportive Living Society.

Responses from the survey were organized and analyzed using Excel to generate basic descriptive statistics along with qualitative themes. One of the completed surveys was also developed into case study format to help ground the survey data in a specific context for the benefit of researchers and readers. An overview of the survey results are presented in this report.

#### *CASE STUDY: Chantal*

Last night Chantal slept on the stairs in a high density, low cost Grande Prairie apartment building known for low maintenance standards. Chantal is originally from a nearby First Nation Reserve community, but has called Grande Prairie home for the last four years. She tells us that she became homeless after the end of an abusive relationship. She also tells us that she has lived in homes where she was sexually exploited, subjected to violence and where she didn't know "where else to go".

Not knowing where else to go is a theme in Chantal's life: During the past two years in Grande Prairie, she has had difficulty settling in, sleeping at shelters and in vehicles... More recently, she has been staying in abandoned buildings, stairwells and on the street. The longest that Chantal has been homeless is 6 months at a time. When asked whether she has tried to obtain housing, she says "I don't know how".

Chantal dropped out of school at grade 10 and has a child in the care of Child and Family Services. She is open about the fact that she has abused drugs/alcohol - she has been told this by others and has received treatment for substance abuse. She has also been hospitalized for mental health reasons, but has not received mental health treatment outside of the hospital. Chantal is currently unemployed and not looking for work. Having a criminal record, living with addictions, coming from a traumatic past and coping with untreated mental health issues make it difficult to imagine holding down a job. It is the middle of April 2015 now. Chantal is somewhere between 18 and 24 years old.

Where can Chantal go?

## Findings

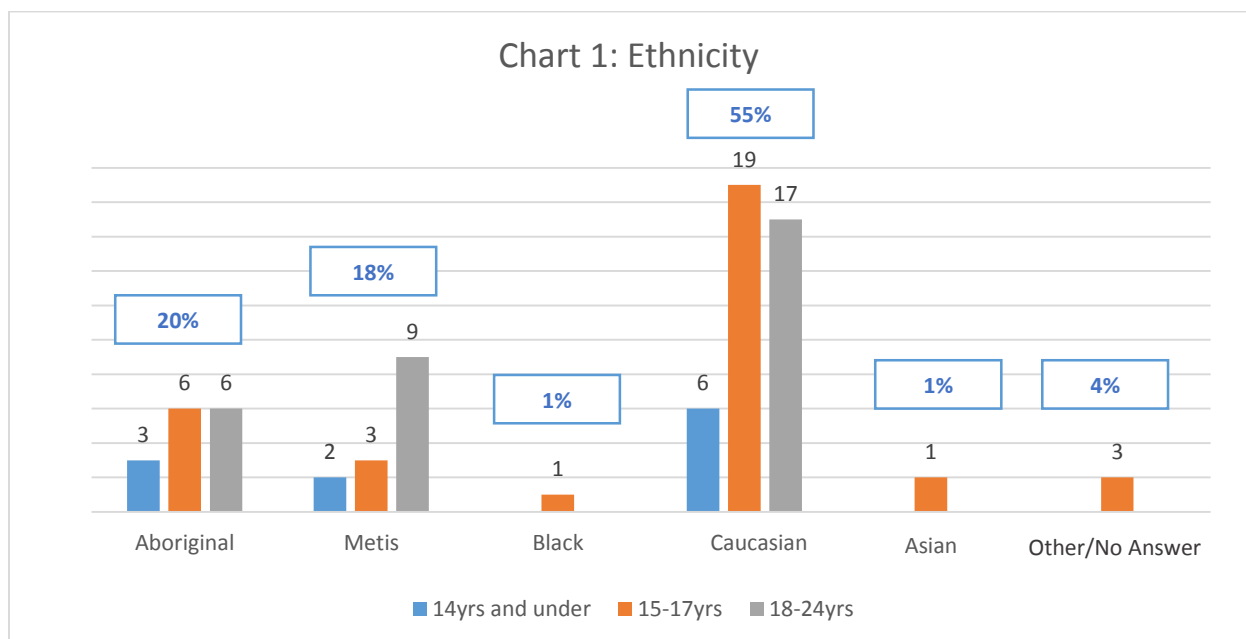
### Demographics

Youth respondents were placed into three categories:

- ✚ 14 yrs and under: 13.1% of respondents (n=10)
- ✚ 15-17 yrs: 42.1% of respondents (n=32)
- ✚ 18-24 yrs: 40.7% of respondents (n=31)
- ✚ *Three respondents did not select a category for age.*

All respondents reported currently living in the Grande Prairie area. When asked what brought them to Grande Prairie, 23 of the respondents (30%) reported being born and raised in Grande Prairie. Other responses included, family, work, treatment, being kicked out, fleeing an abusive relationship, and a need for change.

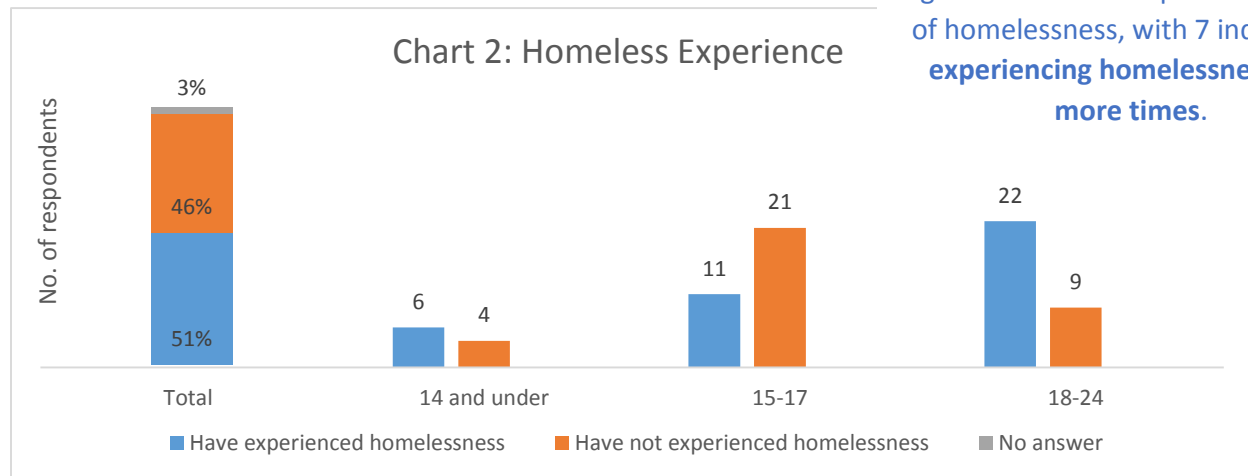
In terms of gender, 61% of respondents identified as female, 34% as male and 5% chose not to answer. Chart 1 outlines how respondents identified themselves in terms of ethnicity. Note: respondents were able to select as many options as needed to describe themselves.



## Experiences with Homelessness

Respondents were asked to indicate their current or past experiences with homelessness. Chart 2 shows the breakdown of experiences by age. Of the 76 respondents, 39 (51%) reported experiencing homelessness.

Youth aged 18-24 reported the highest number of repeated episodes of homelessness, with 7 individuals experiencing homelessness 5 or more times.



When asked to elaborate on their experiences, respondents who had been homeless provided a complex and vivid picture of their lives in Grande Prairie (See Chart 2.1 and Chart 2.2).

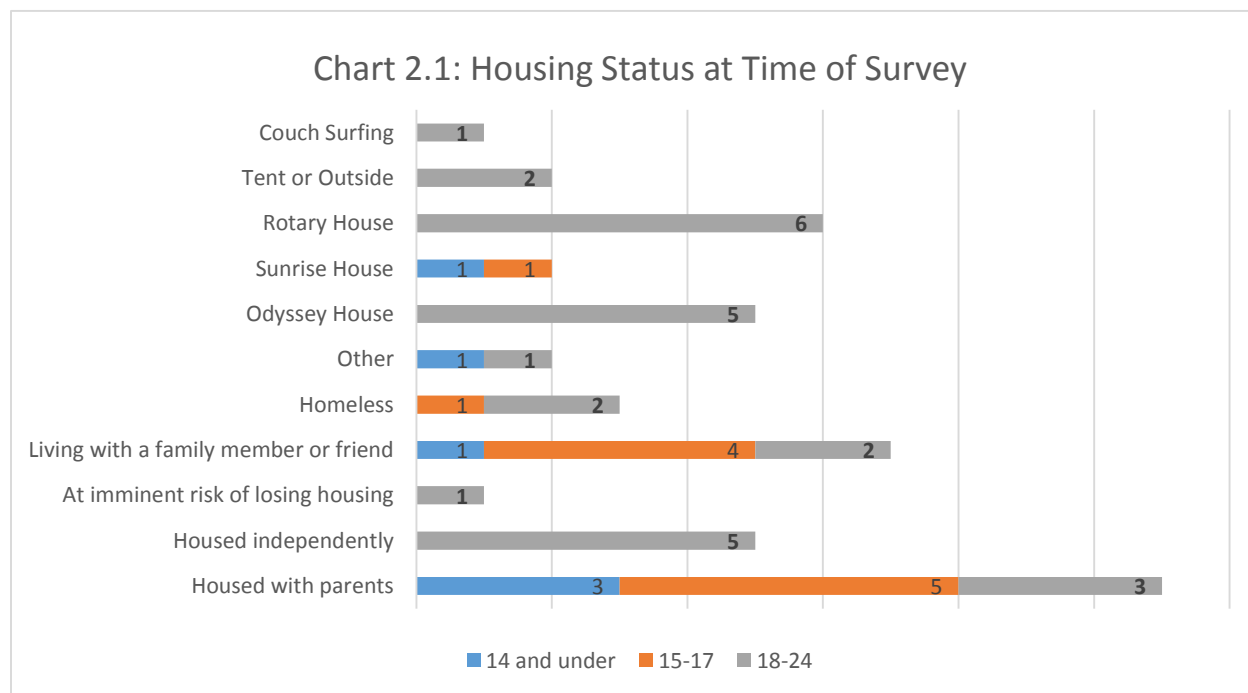
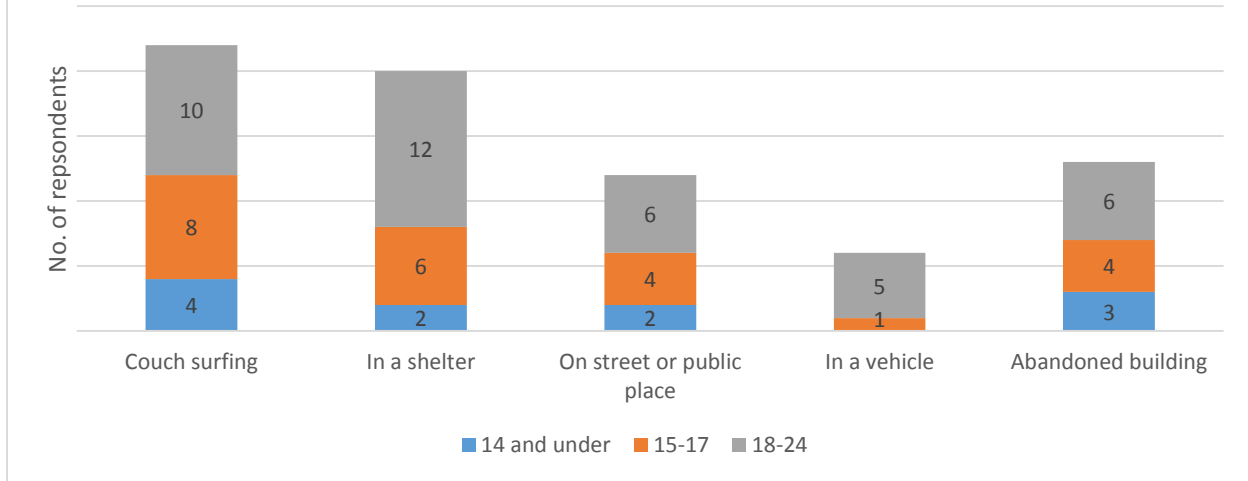


Chart 2.2: Housing Status During Past Two Years

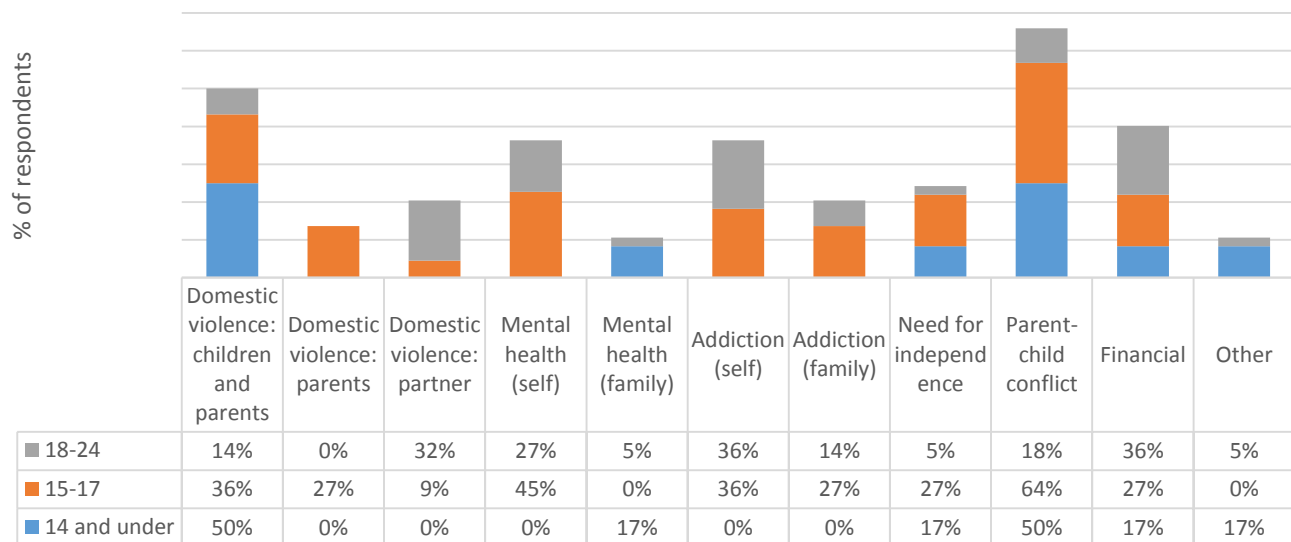


Youth who had experienced homelessness reported being homeless for an average of 1 year at a time (median of 7.5 months), with the minimum time being 1 week and the maximum being 4 years.

### Factors Contributing to Homelessness

In addition to asking about current and past housing status, the survey also asked youth who had experienced homelessness to indicate which factors (presented as a list) might have contributed to their experience. Respondents were able to select as many options as necessary to describe their personal situation. Chart 3 (below) shows a breakdown of youth perceptions of the factors contributing to their experiences of homelessness.

Chart 3: Factors Contributing to Homelessness





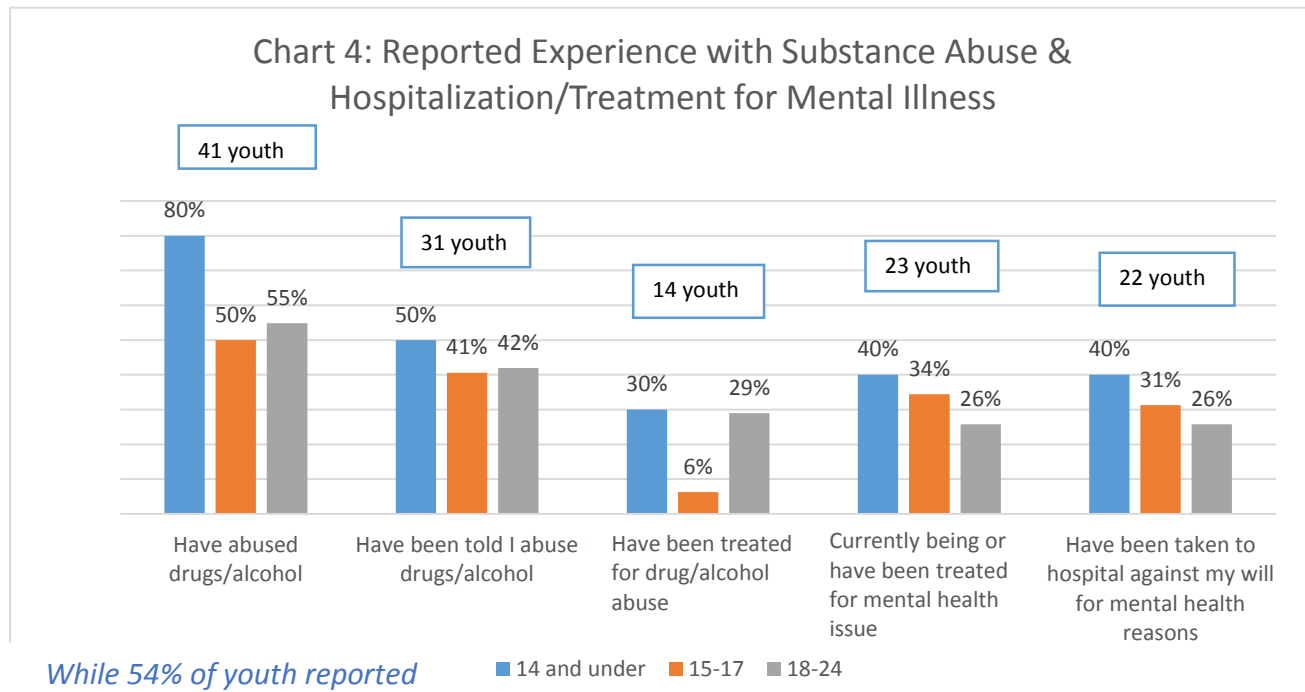
Half of youth aged 14 and under reported violence and conflict between themselves and their parents as primary factors contributing to homelessness. As youth get older, contributing factors appear to transition from family conflict to a variety of issues including personal mental health and addiction, finances, and violence between self and a partner.

When the responses indicated in Chart 3 are grouped by themes of Violence, Mental Health, Addiction, Finances and Other, we see the following:

- 49% of youth who have experienced homelessness reported Violence as a contributing factor
- 33% reported Addiction as a contributing factor
- 31% reported Mental Health as a contributing factor
- 31% reported Finances as a contributing factor
- 18% reported Other contributors

### Mental Health and Addiction

Chart 4 provides insight into the levels of addiction and mental health issues experienced by youth respondents. Overall, 54% of youth respondents reported having abused drugs/alcohol, 18% had received treatment for substance abuse, 29% have been taken to the hospital against their will for mental health reasons and 30% had or were currently receiving treatment for a mental health. Respondents were able to select as many options as needed to accurately describe their experiences.



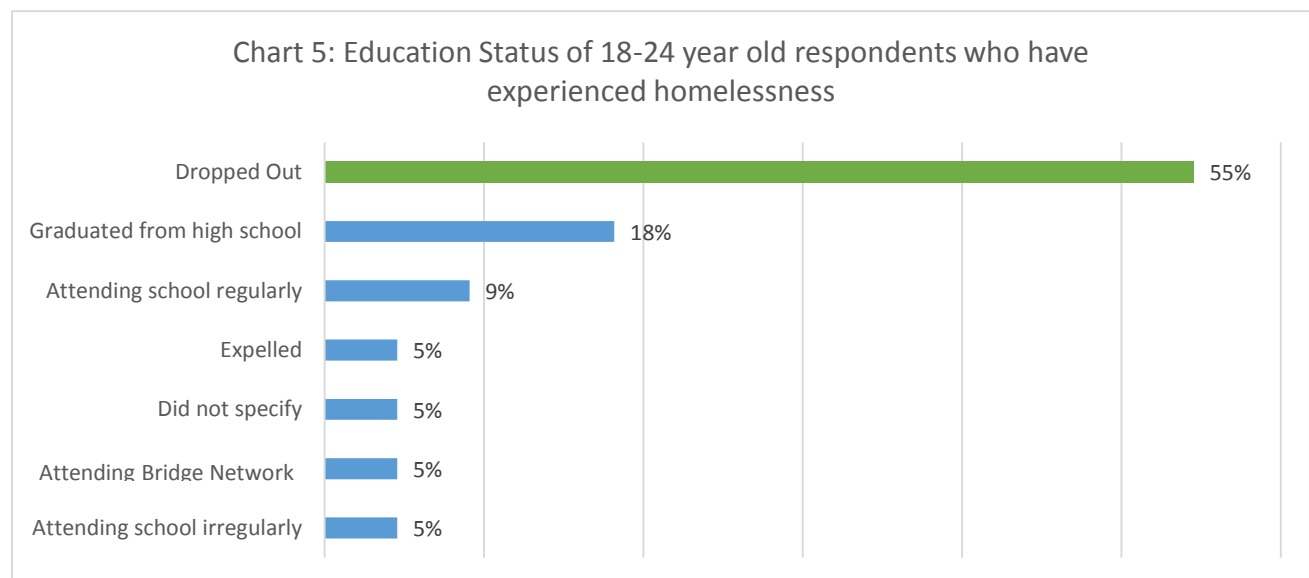
*While 54% of youth reported abusing drugs or alcohol, only 41% reported having someone intervene and only 18% reported receiving treatment.*

## Education

Respondents were asked to indicate their current education status, as well as their highest level of achievement if they had finished, dropped out, or been expelled. Results are shown in Table 1: Education (below). Respondents were able to select as many categories as needed to fully describe their education experience.

TABLE 1: EDUCATION	Youth who have experienced homelessness	Youth who have not experienced homelessness	Total
Attending school regularly	9	21	30
Graduated from high school	4	4	8
Attended postsecondary	0	2	2
Expelled	2	0	2
Home schooled	0	3	3
Attending school irregularly	2	3	5
Dropped Out	17	1	18
Attending alternative school	10	10	20
<i>St. John Bosco</i>	1	0	1
<i>The Bridge Network</i>	8	5	13
<i>Tabono Centre</i>	0	4	4

Youth respondents aged 18-24 who reported experiencing homelessness provided a particularly useful insight into education, as shown by Chart 5. Of youth aged 18-24 who had experienced homelessness and who had dropped out of school, 5 (42%) had reached grade 10, 4 (33%) had reached grade 11, 1 had reached grade 7 and 1 had reached grade 9.



## Employment

The majority of youth respondents (44) were not employed when the survey was conducted. A breakdown of reported employment status is provided in Table 2: Employment (below), organized by age group, with an additional column containing the only responses of youth who have experienced homelessness. Youth were able to select as many options as needed to describe their employment.

<b>Table 2: EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>14 and under</b>	<b>15-17</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(Homeless)</b>
<b>Full time</b>	0	1	3	4	2
<b>Part time</b>	1	10	3	14	3
<b>Part time, looking for full time</b>	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Seasonal/sporadic (including day labour)</b>	0	1	1	2	2
<b>Not employed, looking for work</b>	3	7	10	21	13
<b>Not employed, in school</b>	5	10	8	23	12
<b>Not employed, unable to work</b>	0	2	4	6	4
<b>Not employed, not looking for work</b>	0	4	5	9	6

## Income

Youth respondents were asked to select all income sources that applied to their financial situation from a list of options. The responses are summarized in Table 3: Income, organized by age group, with an additional column containing only the responses of youth who have experienced homelessness.

<b>Table 3: INCOME</b>	<b>14 and under</b>	<b>15-17</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(Homeless)</b>
<b>Income from employment</b>	1	12	7	20	5
<b>Employment insurance</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Worker's compensation</b>	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Social assistance</b>	0	1	10	11	9
<b>Child tax</b>	0	4	10	14	7
<b>Child support</b>	0	0	2	2	1
<b>Alimony or other spousal support</b>	0	1	0	1	1
<b>Supported independent living</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>No income</b>	4	14	9	27	18
<b>Other</b>	4	4	7	16	9

## Pregnancy and Parenting

Table 4: Pregnancy and Children indicates the numbers and proportion of youth respondents who were pregnant, had or were caring for a child/children\*, or had a child in the care of Child and Family Services (CFS)\* (\*asked only of youth who had experienced homelessness):

Table 4: PREGNANCY & CHILDREN	14 and under	15-17	18-24	Proportion of total
Pregnant	0	0	5	7%
Not sure/Don't know if pregnant	1	1	1	4%
Currently parenting*	0	5	9	36%
Child(ren) in CFS care*	0	0	5	13%

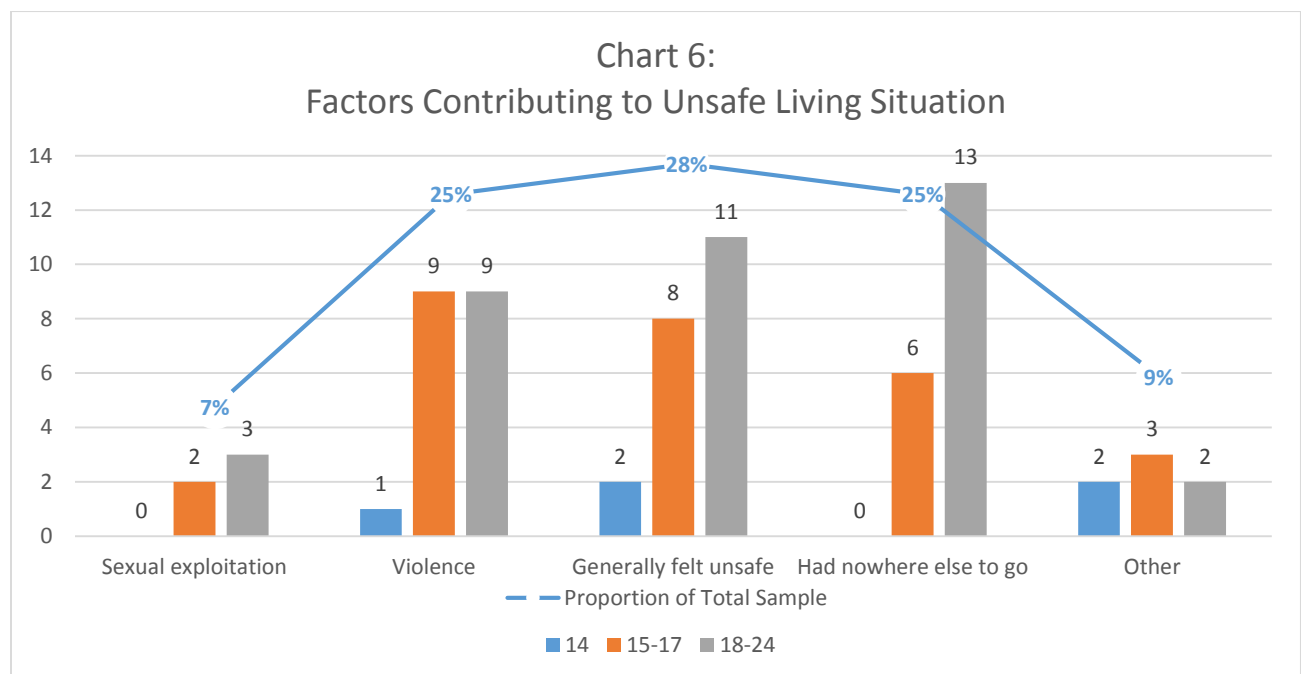
\*asked only of youth who indicated having experienced homelessness.

### Experiences in Housing

Youth respondents were asked about any previous experience trying to gain housing. Only one respondent aged 14 and under indicated that they had tried to obtain housing, the remainder indicating that they were too young to obtain housing. The points below summarize the responses for older youth:

- **15-17 year olds:** 12 respondents had tried to obtain housing. Challenges encountered when trying to obtain housing included finances (n=11), being too young (n=17), having no references (n=5), and lack of a co-signer (n=4).
- **18-24 year olds:** 24 respondents had tried to obtain housing. Challenges encountered included finances (n=16), being too young (n=5), having no references (n=8), and lack of a co-signer (n=9).

When asked whether they had stayed in a living situation in which they were at risk, respondents reported the following (see Chart 6 below):



The survey also asked respondents who had been housed what had helped them to be successful. Many spoke of perseverance: “I had the drive to get what was needed done”, “keeping clean and staying on track” and “my children and sobriety”. When asked what they

felt did not work, respondents wrote that they had, “broke my sobriety, too much stress”, “didn’t like being alone all the time at home”, “[having to] pay damage deposit and rent all at the same time and [then] being fined for late rent”, “no housing available”. Some of the respondents were successful while having roommates while others were not. Finally, some youth reported that they were not successful because they had lost a job or did not have enough income to cover all costs.

*“[Youth need] someone who doesn’t care what background they’re from – [someone] who will care about them as a person”*

### Youth Opinions

When asked their opinion on what would help youth in general become successfully housed, respondents gave a variety of answers in open-ended format. Emergent themes are listed below in Table 5: Opinions. Keywords from quotes are also included in Table 5, along with a count indicating the prevalence of each theme in survey responses.

<b>Table 5: OPINIONS</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Keywords: In your opinion, what do youth need to be successfully housed?</b>
	<i>General support</i>	<b>13</b>	Structure, Positive supports, Motivation, Care, Encouragement, Help, Confidence, Life skills, Someone to talk to
	<i>Adequate income and financial stability</i>	<b>11</b>	Stability, Plan, Income, Money, Sharing of bills, Work, Financial
	<i>Employment and job stability</i>	<b>9</b>	Job, Work, Stable Job, Good Job
	<i>Basic needs met in a safe and positive housing environment</i>	<b>7</b>	Food, Clothing, Help with housework, Near to bus, Shelter, Non-violent, Safe, Good environment, Good roommates
	<i>Housing supports</i>	<b>5</b>	Cheaper rent, Good credit, Reduced mortgage, Not group homes, Co-signor, Backup
	<i>Family support</i>	<b>5</b>	Parents, Normal lifestyles, Counseling, Mediation, Good people, Love
	<i>Agency and/or government support</i>	<b>5</b>	Help, Government, Workers, Structural guidance, Resource centres
	<i>Help to address addictions</i>	<b>4</b>	Sobriety support, Bad influences, Deal with, Quit drinking
	<i>Good mental health and decision-making skills</i>	<b>4</b>	Stable, No stress, Mature, Peer pressure, Follow your heart
	<i>Education</i>	<b>3</b>	School, Diploma

## Conclusion

By following through on the youth-specific strategies outlined in Grande Prairie's 5 Year Plan to End Homelessness, we hope to increase housing availability, suitability, affordability and related supports for youth who are at risk of homelessness.

In light of the evidence provided by the Youth Needs Assessment Survey, our strategies can be refined to better serve youth in our city. For example, when working with agencies, developers and property owners, we can look at innovative housing systems for youth that do not echo the system of care, and that can accommodate diverse needs such as mental health support or child-friendly spaces. When recruiting new housing partners, we can provide education to them about the issues facing youth in our community and in other communities. Finally, we can develop partnership agreements with property owners and managers that reflect the needs of youth and ensure that barriers such as lack of credit or references, or having children are not entrenched.

The Youth Needs Assessment Survey also identified two gaps that require follow-up to learn more:

1. Once homeless, it appears that youth are not re-directed into stable housing in a timely manner, remaining homeless for long periods or becoming chronically homeless.
2. It appears as though a high number of youth who abuse substances may not be receiving treatment or support for managing substance abuse.

Youth respondents sent another clear message through the survey: help needs to be hands-on, caring and individualized. Youth need assistance to navigate housing, finances, families, health, education, the structure of agency and government support and the social world in general. Areas of support, derived from the survey, that could be provided by a specialized youth support worker include:

1. Developing life skills, including household management; social, emotional and relationship skills.
2. Identifying, treating and managing mental health and addictions issues.
3. Completing high school; continuing on to further training and education or stable employment.
4. Navigating through family dysfunction, violence, substance abuse and sexual exploitation.
5. Referrals for families to counseling, mediation and other services.
6. Finding safe, appropriate housing in a timely manner.
7. Transitioning out of care, or out of unsafe living situations into independent living.
8. Accessing youth-specific or regular financial and social housing supports: income and rent support, social support (co-signer, tenancy reference).
9. Understanding and navigating the local system of agency support: knowing that it is possible to get help, and knowing where to get help.

## Recommendations

**Support:** Provide personalized support to youth who are navigating the path to housing.

- Provide funding for a new Youth Navigator position, enabling the devotion of staff time and resources to providing hands-on assistance to youth in a youth-focused capacity.
- Ensure that all Outreach Navigators receive ongoing training and support so that they can connect youth to local resources in an effective and creative manner.
- Build a system of trust between youth and outreach workers through non-judgmental, youth-focused services.
- Provide individualized support for youth struggling with mental health and addiction issues; include advocacy, community networking and resources.

**Housing:** Ensure timely access to financial supports including first month rent and damage deposit assistance, financial planning and short-term loans.

- Should youth housing be developed, ensure that life skills programming is readily accessible. Although a supportive living situation is not what all youth are looking for, any housing options should support youth during the transition to adulthood.
- Ensure that youth resources are accessible.
- Ensure youth have access to landlord-tenant conflict resolution services.
- Provide hands-on support throughout the period of contact.

**Intervention and Prevention:** Keep youth from experiencing homelessness and support their journey toward a stable adult life through early intervention and swift provision of networked services.

- Ensure youth programs are easily accessible and interconnected: include walk-ins and appointments, community referrals and follow-up programs.
- Ensure a “no wrong door” approach to service delivery and support.
- Consult with mental health and addictions treatment agencies to learn more about how services are offered, and work together towards ensuring that more youth in need of treatment and/or support, receive treatment and/or support.
- Provide preventative consultation and support to youth aging out of care or discharged from institutions.
- Develop an early intervention program: include school outreach or curriculum aimed at students who are in grades 7 - 9.

**Research and Evaluation:** Create an evidence-based Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness for Grande Prairie.

- Produce an in-depth Youth Plan and community asset map focused on youth and youth perspectives.
- Conduct an environmental scan and literature review for innovative and best practices.
- Ensure that youth stakeholders, community and municipal agencies and developers/property managers are involved in development, implementation, utilization and evaluation of the Youth Plan.

## Appendix: Youth Needs Assessment Survey

### Grande Prairie Homeless Initiative

#### Youth Needs Assessment

The City of Grande Prairie is offering this survey to youth aged 15-24 that are experiencing or at risk of becoming homeless. The point of this survey is to understand the housing and support needs of the youth 15-24 in our community. Please know that the information collected will be used for statistical purposes only. No personal information will be collected and any information that is shared will be kept anonymous and confidential. If there are questions that you are uncomfortable answering please leave them blank. If there is a concern for the safety of the individual that is doing the survey, these concerns will be reported to the proper authority.

1. **Would you be interested in participating?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. **In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?**

- 
3. **What age group best describes you**

☐ 14 and under ☐ 15-17 Years ☐ 18-24 Years

4. **Do you identify as:**

**Gender:** ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Transgendered ☐ Don't Know ☐ Chose not to answer

5. **Do you identify as:** ☐ Aboriginal ☐ Metis ☐ Black or African American ☐ Asian

☐ White/Caucasian ☐ Filipino ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC**

6. **Do you currently live in the City of Grande Prairie or area?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. **If no, where is your home community?**

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **What brought you to Grande Prairie?**

\_\_\_\_\_

9. **How long have you been in Grande Prairie?**

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **Have you ever been in jail, arrested, or accused of a crime or criminal activity (even if it was not true)?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

11. **Have you been convicted of a criminal offense?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

12. **Are you currently in the care of Child and Family Services?** ☐ Yes ☐ No



13. Formerly in the care of Child and Family Services? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Homelessness questions**

For this survey we are identifying "homelessness" as people who sleep in warming centers, homeless shelters, Couch surfing, in abandoned buildings, parking garages, or other places not meant for humans to live in.

14. Have you ever experienced homelessness? ☐ Yes ☐ No *\*if no skip to question 25*

15. How many times have you experienced Homelessness ☐ 1-3 ☐ 3-5 ☐ 5+

16. is this the first time you have been homeless? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. How long have you been without stable housing? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Where did you sleep last night? -  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. Was this a safe location? ☐ Yes ☐ No

20. in the past 2 years have you or your family experienced, or currently are experiencing  
(Check all that apply)

	<u>Previously</u>		<u>Currently</u>		N/A
	Myself	My family	Myself	My family	
Couch Surfing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In a shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
On street/Public Place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In a vehicle/Camper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abandoned Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**21. Housing Status**

☐ Housed with parents

☐ Housed independently

☐ Housed group home

☐ At imminent risk of losing their housing

☐ Living with a family member or friend

☐ Living in a shelter (Odyssey House \_\_\_\_ Sunrise House \_\_\_\_ Rotary House \_\_\_\_)

☐ Homeless (Vehicle\_\_\_\_ Tent/outside \_\_\_\_ Couch Surfing \_\_\_\_)

☐ Other, Please explain:

---

**22. Are you currently parenting a child/ren or providing care for a child/ren?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

**23. Do you have a child/ren in the care of a family member or Child and Family Services?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**24. Are you experiencing homelessness as a result of:** (Please check all that apply)

☐ Violence between youth and parent

☐ Addiction (Self)

☐ Domestic violence between parents

☐ Addiction (family member)

☐ Domestic violence with a partner

☐ Need to be independent

☐ Mental health of self

☐ Parent/ Child conflict

☐ Mental health of family member

☐ financial reasons

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **SCHOOL/ EMPLOYMENT**

#### **25. School Status**

☐ Attending school regularly

☐ attending school irregularly

☐ Graduated from high school

☐ Obtained GED

☐ Attended College or University

☐ Dropped out

☐ Expelled *\*if dropped out or expelled what was the last grade completed?*

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☐ Home schooled

☐ Alternate School (☐ Bosco ☐ Bridge ☐ Tabono)

#### **26. What is your employment status?**

☐ Full-time

☐ Part-time

☐ Part-time, looking for full-time

☐ Seasonal/sporadic (including day labor)

☐ Not employed, looking for work

☐ Not employed, in school

☐ Not employed, unable to work

☐ Not employed, not looking for work

**27. What is your income source right now?**

- ☐ Earned income
- ☐ Employment insurance
- ☐ Worker's compensation
- ☐ Social Assistance
- ☐ Child Tax
- ☐ Child support
- ☐ Alimony or other spousal support
- ☐ Supported Independent Living (SIL)
- ☐ No income
- ☐ Other source

**HEALTH**

**28. Are you pregnant?**

☐ No      ☐ Yes      ☐ don't know      ☐ N/A

**Medical conditions/Mental health/Addictions**

**29. in your opinion:**

Have you ever abused drug/alcohol?.....☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you been told you abuse drugs or alcohol?.....☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse?.....☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you currently or have you ever received treatment for mental health issues? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Previous housing experience**

**30. Have you tried to obtain housing?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

**31. What were some of the challenges?**

- ☐ Financial      ☐ Too young      ☐ No references      ☐ No co-signor
- ☐ Other, please explain

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**32. Have you stayed in a living situation in which you: (check all that apply)**

☐ Were sexually exploited      ☐ that was violent      ☐ Unsafe      ☐ Nowhere to go

☐ Other:

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33. If you have been housed in your own home what were some reasons you were successful?

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34. What did not work?

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35. In your opinion what do youth need to be successfully housed in a stable home? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Supports**

36. Is there a person/outreach worker that you trust? ☐ Yes ☐ No

37. If yes, where do they work?

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38. In an emergency do you have friends or family that you could stay with for a short period of time? ☐ Yes ☐ No

## References

City of Grande Prairie. (2015). *Ending Homelessness: Grande Prairie's Five Year Plan to End Homelessness*. Grande Prairie.

Province of Alberta . (2015). *Supporting Healthy and Successful Transitions to Adulthood: A Plan to Prevent and Reduce Youth Homelessness*. Alberta.

The Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness. (2008). *A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 years*. Alberta.