



SEPTEMBER 26TH & 27TH, 2022

Point-in-Time Report 2022



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2022 Count Summary

On September 26th and 27th, 2022, Grande Prairie participated in its bi-annual Point in Time (PiT) Count to capture information on the City's current homeless population. Initiatives like the PiT Count provide important data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the implementation of the 2021–23 Homelessness Strategy for Grande Prairie. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness both in Alberta and

Canada, as it is conducted in partnership with Infrastructure Canada (formerly, "Employment and Social Development Canada") and the **7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness**. The 7 Cities (Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Wood Buffalo) have been working together for over two decades with a common vision to end homelessness in Alberta.

Key Findings

The numbers reported for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and institutional settings are reflective of the true number of people who stayed in these settings on the days of September 26th and 27th of the PiT Count. The accurate number of homeless individuals who stayed in unsheltered

locations and at someone else's place is likely higher than the numbers reported here. A 44% increase was seen in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in comparison with the 2018 PiT Count.

At least
328

individuals experienced homelessness in Grande Prairie on the days of September 26th and 27th, 2022.

167



Emergency Shelters

167 individuals stayed in an emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter or in a hotel/motel for emergency accommodation.

42



Unsheltered

At least 42 individuals stayed in an unsheltered location, such as a public park, bus shelter, a tent, or a car.

37



Transitional Housing

37 individuals stayed in transitional housing for people who would have been or who would otherwise be homeless.

11



Someone Else's Place

At least 11 individuals stayed at a friend's, family member's, or stranger's place temporarily because they didn't have a place of their own.

71



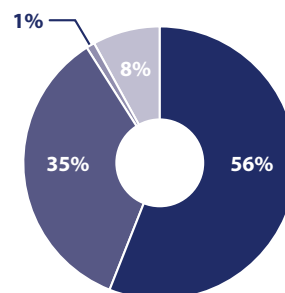
Institutional Setting

71 individuals stayed in institutional settings with no permanent home to return to. This includes correctional facilities, halfway houses, addictions treatment, health, and mental health programs.

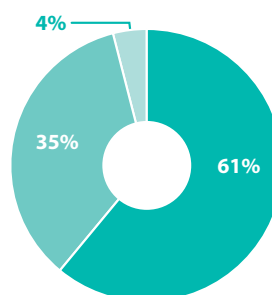
WHO WAS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ON SEPTEMBER 26TH AND 27TH, 2022?

(Sample size 77 individuals surveyed)

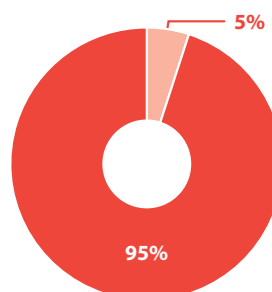
Gender	
Men	56%
Women	35%
Two-spirit	1%
Gender Unknown	8%



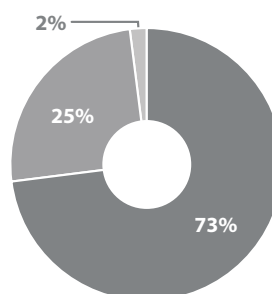
Ancestry	
Indigenous Identity	61%
Non-Indigenous	35%
Indigenous Identity Unknown	4%



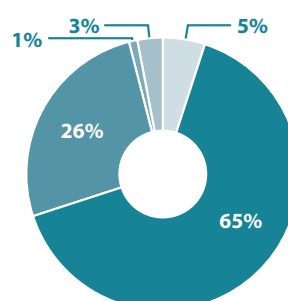
Served in the Canadian Military or RCMP	
Military or RCMP Veteran	5%
Non-Veterans	95%



Time experienced in homelessness over the past 12 months	
Chronic Homelessness (6+ months/past year)	73%
Homelessness (less than 6 months/past year)	25%
Unknown	2%



Age	
Young Adults (20 to 24)	5%
Adults (25 to 44)	65%
Older Adults (45 to 64)	26%
Seniors (65+)	1%
Unknown Age	3%



Introduction

On September 26th and 27th, 2022, Grande Prairie participated in a PiT Count to capture information on the City's current homeless population. A PiT Count is a community effort, undertaken to gather detailed information on the homeless population in a community. It involves combining data gathered from administrative sources, volunteer observations, and survey responses to generate a comprehensive overview of homeless on a specific date or "point-in-time". During the count, individuals experiencing homelessness are surveyed to gather valuable information from those with lived experience. If needed, individuals experiencing homelessness are also provided with information about available supports in the community.

Grande Prairie's PiT Count serves two important functions: it provides a current snapshot of the city's homeless population, and it potentially reveals shifts in how homelessness may be changing over time. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PiT Count that would have occurred in 2020 was cancelled, and an administrative count was in its place. An administrative count relies solely on data from community organizations serving the homeless population through public systems, whereas a PiT Count incorporates surveying individuals experiencing homelessness and makes an attempt to count and capture information directly from the individuals experiencing homelessness during the days of the PiT Count.

Housing and Homelessness in Grande Prairie

In 2009, Grande Prairie began to approach homelessness from a Housing First perspective where programming has been established to help prevent and end homelessness. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Grande Prairie can access supports through the Grande Prairie and Area Community Compass system and Level 3 Navigators. This provides a coordinated access hub that connects individuals with housing, financial supports, and case management to help them find and maintain the appropriate housing. In addition, individuals who are at risk for homelessness, but are not currently homeless, are able to access housing loss prevention supports.

Between April 1, 2009, and December 31, 2022, there were 2062 individuals enrolled in the Housing First program in Grande Prairie. In 2022, there were 160 individuals enrolled in the program.

Further information about the City's focus areas as it pertains to housing and homelessness can be found in the City of Grande Prairie's [*Homelessness Strategy for Grande Prairie 2021–2023*](#).

Broader Trends

Population Growth: Grande Prairie is a growing city with a culturally diverse population of 64,141 residents, according to the latest national census data.¹ In addition, the rural regions surrounding Grande Prairie are home to over 171,000 residents.² With a large natural resources sector, Grande Prairie is a service hub for both Northwestern Alberta and Northeastern British Columbia.

The Grande Prairie region (as defined by its Census Division) is expected to have the strongest population growth in the province, apart from the Edmonton-Calgary corridor. Based on the Government of Alberta population projections, the Grande Prairie region's population is expected to grow at an average of 1.52% annually, or 23.8% from 2019 to 2046. This population growth vastly outpaces province-wide population growth projections, for which

Alberta is projected to increase in population by only an average of 1.39% annually, or 14.3% from 2019 to 2046.³ Grande Prairie's high rate of projected population growth is reflected by the fact that 6,149 residents have lived in the City for less than two years. The transient nature of this working-age population indicates that community belonging and accessing available support networks could be a key issue over the coming years.⁴

Unemployment Rates: When Alberta entered a recession in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it saw a peak unemployment rate of 15.3% in May 2020.⁵ However, Alberta is now forecasted to lead the way in terms of economic growth when compared to other provinces.⁶ As of December 2022, the unemployment rate in Alberta is 5.6%.⁷

ALBERTA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (2022)

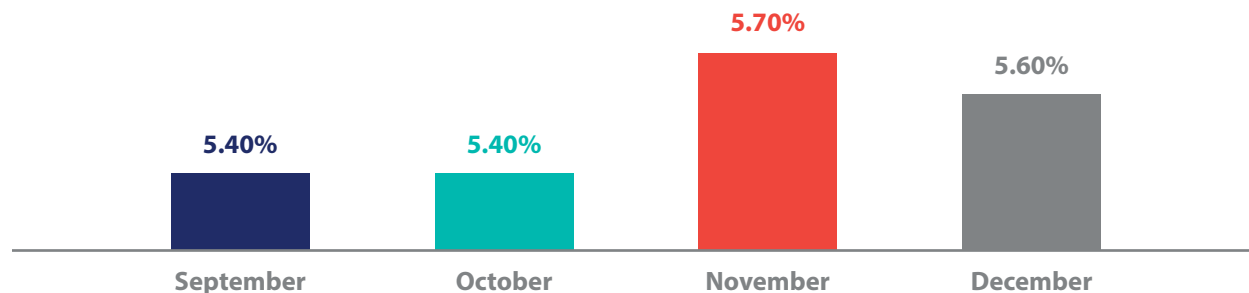


Figure 1: Alberta Unemployment Rate (2022)⁸

¹ Statistics Canada. 2021 Census of Population

² The City of Grande Prairie. 2020 Economic Profile

³ Treasury Board and Finance (Government of Alberta). Population Projections Alberta and Census Divisions, 2020–2046. Online: open.alberta.ca/dataset/90a09f08-c52c-43bd-b48a-fda5187273b9/resource/bb7c6ef6-ade5-4def-ae55-ef1fd5d4e563/download/2020-2046-alberta-population-projections.pdf

⁴ City of Grande Prairie. City of Grande Prairie 2018 Census Results

⁵ Alberta Government, Economic Dashboard. (Accessed July 20, 2022)

⁶ TD Bank, Provincial Economic Forecast, June 2022

⁷ Alberta Government, Economic Dashboard. (Accessed March 2, 2023)

Cost of Living: Canada's inflation rate is currently at a 39-year high, spurring one of the most rapid increases in the cost of living since the early 1980s.⁹ The cost of living also varies depending upon one's location in Canada. The City of Grande Prairie is a member of the Alberta Living Wage Network, which strives to raise awareness that earners in a family should be able to bring home wages that reflect the actual cost of living in their community. The Alberta Living Wage Network defines Living Wage, as "the hourly wage a worker needs to earn to cover their basic expenses with their community."¹⁰

For 2022, Grande Prairie's Living Wage was calculated to be \$19.65/hour reflecting the need for Employers to pay above the current minimum wage of \$15.00/hour to help their employees maintain financial security.¹¹

Drug Poisoning: Grande Prairie has regularly reported a high rate of accidental drug poisoning deaths since 2016. There have been 237 drug poisoning deaths in Grande Prairie between January 2016 and November 2022, with the highest number of deaths occurring in 2021 with 51 deaths. The 2022 data does not include December (this information is not currently available).

DRUG POISONING DEATHS BY YEAR (COUNT)

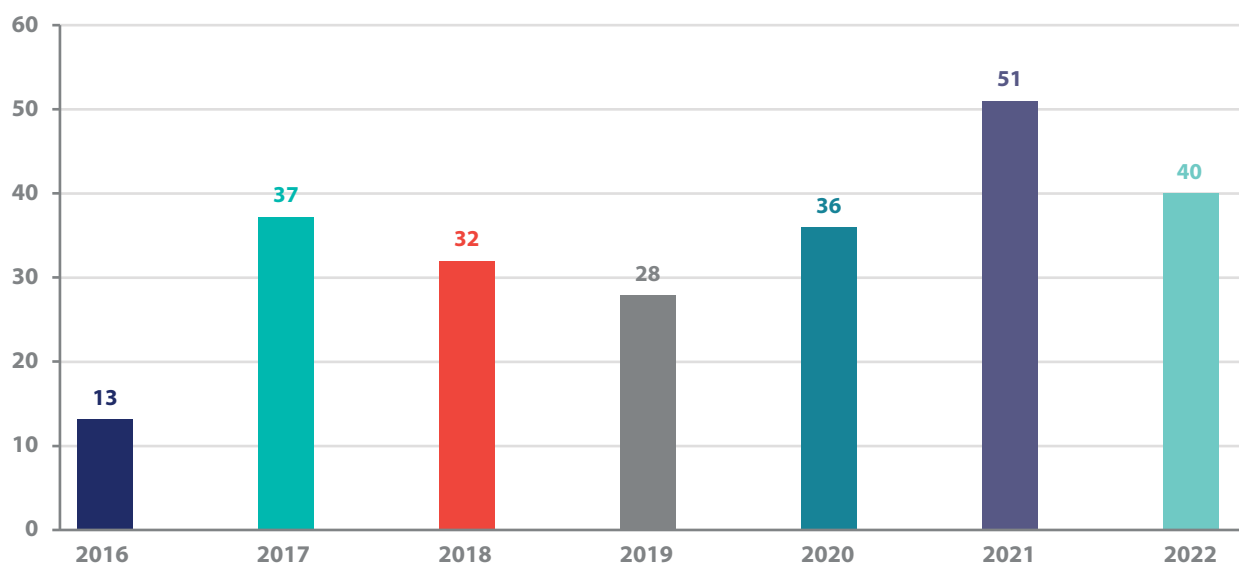


Figure 2: Grande Prairie Drug Poisoning Deaths by Year (Count)¹²

There were 40 drug poisoning deaths in Grande Prairie from January to November 2022.¹³ In addition to opioids, multiple substances often contribute to drug poisoning deaths. This may be a result of an individual using

multiple substances including opioids, or through the contamination of non-opioid drugs with opioids such as fentanyl.¹⁴

⁸ *Ibid*

⁹ CBC News, Inflation rises again, to new 39-year high of 8.1%. (July 20, 2022). [cbc.ca/news/business/canada-inflation-rate-1.6526060](https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canada-inflation-rate-1.6526060)

¹⁰ *Living-Wage-Report-2022.pdf* (livingwagealberta.ca)

¹¹ *Ibid*

¹² Government of Alberta, *Alberta Substance Use Surveillance System* (Accessed March 2, 2022)

¹³ *Ibid*

¹⁴ *Ibid*

Glossary / Definitions

Homelessness: “Describes the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household’s financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural, or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination. Most individuals do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, unhealthy, unsafe, stressful, and distressing.” (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2012)¹⁵

Chronic Homelessness: “Refers to individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness and who meet at least one of the following criteria: they have been homeless for at least 6 months (180 days) over the past 3 years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months (546 days).” (Reaching Home, 2022)¹⁶

Episodic Homelessness: Includes individuals who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. (Human Services, 2012)¹⁷

Sheltered: Includes individuals who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for individuals who are homeless and emergency shelters for individuals affected by domestic violence. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)¹⁸

Unsheltered: Includes individuals who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings,

stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)¹⁹

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes individuals who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/ second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).²⁰ This also includes individuals staying with family or friends because they have no other options, which is sometimes referred to as **Hidden Homelessness** (Homeless Hub, 2021).²¹

At Risk of Homelessness: Includes individuals who are having trouble maintaining their housing and have no alternatives for obtaining subsequent housing. Circumstances may include eviction, loss of income, unaffordable increase in the cost of housing, discharge from an institution without subsequent housing in place, irreparable damage, or deterioration to residences, and fleeing from family violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).²² At-risk individuals were not included in Grande Prairie’s Count due to the difficulty in producing an accurate number.

Housing First: Housing First is a philosophical approach to homelessness and housing. Adopting a Housing First approach means that permanent housing is provided along with needed support services. Support services may include intensive medical, psychiatric, and case management services including life skills training, landlord liaison assistance and addictions counselling. Addressing these needs through support services helps individuals

¹⁵ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Retrieved from Homeless Hub: homelesshub.ca/homelessdefinition

¹⁶ Reaching Homes. (2022) infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/directives-eng.html

¹⁷ Human Services. (2012). Definition of Homelessness. Retrieved from Alberta Human Services: humanservices.alberta.ca/homelessness/14630.html

¹⁸ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Retrieved from Homeless Hub: homelesshub.ca/homelessdefinition

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Retrieved from Homeless Hub: homelesshub.ca/homelessdefinition

²¹ homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/hidden-homelessness

²² Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Retrieved from Homeless Hub: homelesshub.ca/homelessdefinition

maintain their housing over the long term (*Human Services, 2012*).²³ Alberta's 7 Cities, along with many other Canadian cities, have adopted a Housing First approach to ending homelessness.

Youth: Individuals captured in the PiT Count who are 18–24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under

age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the PiT Count who identified as First Nations, Métis, Inuit or as having Indigenous ancestry have been categorized as Indigenous.

Methodology

Grande Prairie's 2022 PiT Count was conducted according to Federal standards and similar to previous PiT Counts with one significant change in methodology: rather than conducting the street count survey at night, the 2022 PiT

Count was held during the daytime and over the course of two days. The first day involved the street count, survey, and collection of administrative data, while the second day was the encampment count.

Table #1: Where did we count individuals in 2022?

Location	Overnight Location	Data Source
Odyssey House – Shelter	Domestic Violence Shelter	*HelpSeeker Technologies
Rising Above – Treatment	Treatment	*HelpSeeker Technologies
Wapiti House – Cot Program	Emergency Shelter	Wapiti House
Wapiti House – Intox Mat Program	Emergency Shelter	Wapiti House
Wapiti House – Saint Lawrence Centre Overflow	Emergency Shelter	Wapiti House
Wapiti House – Transitional Housing	Transitional Housing	Wapiti House
Northern Addictions Centre	Treatment	*HelpSeeker Technologies
Sunrise House – Youth Emergency Shelter	Emergency Shelter	Sunrise House
Alberta Correctional Services Holding Cells	Correctional Services	*HelpSeeker Technologies
Grande Prairie Regional Hospital	Alberta Health Services	*HelpSeeker Technologies
Emergency Hotels	Community & Social Services	Street Count
Sheltered & Unsheltered Individuals	Varied Locations	Street Count
Encampment Count	Encampments	Encampment Count

***HelpSeeker Technologies** was hired to obtain administrative data for the 7 Cities

²⁴ Human Services. (2012). Definition of Homelessness. Retrieved from Alberta Human Services: humanservices.alberta.ca/homelessness/14630.html

Data Sources

Three main sources of data were used for Grande Prairie's 2022 PiT Count:

1. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNT

Administrative data is the basic information that organizations routinely and systematically gather from the individuals that they support and service.

While the City has information sharing agreements with some agencies in Grande Prairie (such as the emergency shelters), the administrative count collected data from agencies that do not have an information sharing agreement in place with the City of Grande Prairie. For these agencies, the data collection medium for the administrative count was prepared by HelpSeeker Technologies. Specifically, HelpSeeker Technologies collected data from the correctional and healthcare facilities, substance use treatment centers, and domestic violence shelter in the community.

It is important to note that the information provided by the provincial government, institutions and agencies was primarily limited to the number of individuals in their facilities with no fixed address on the day of September 26th. These institutions provided very little demographic information. Therefore, the demographic information highlighted in this report is predominantly from the information collected during the street count survey on the day of September 26th.

2. STREET COUNT SURVEY

The street count survey was conducted by employees from the City of Grande Prairie and staff from community partners and agencies (i.e., Centerpoint Facilitation Inc., Northreach Society, the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, Wapiti House, and Sunrise House). This process involved surveying individuals in-person by asking a series of questions that are designed to ensure that all relevant data is captured. Surveyors carried tablets and entered respondent information into the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS Lite). Alternatively, they were also able to use paper surveys and analog tally sheets, if needed. Although the survey explored a wide range of topics in relation to homelessness through core questions (i.e., sleeping location) and optional questions (i.e., sexual orientation), at times only core questions were answered in consideration of the survey respondents' time and willingness to engage in the survey.

3. ENCAMPMENT COUNT

The City of Grande Prairie's Mobile Outreach Team currently tracks and reports the locations of encampments and the interaction of individuals occupying encampments throughout the community. However, on the morning of September 27th, volunteers from the Grande Prairie Technical Search and Rescue Team conducted an encampment scan in heavily vegetated areas to tally any existing encampments.

Street & Encampment Coverage Zones

The street count's coverage area was predominantly within the downtown core but spanned between 116th Avenue (north) to 84th Avenue (south), and 108th Street (west) and 92nd Street (east).

The coverage area was determined through a series of consultations with the City's Enforcement Services who provided insight about the areas where individuals experiencing homelessness prefer to congregate.

Similarly, a map of the city was cross-referenced with the City's Mobile Outreach Team's encampment tracker to find and predict encampment areas.

As a result, thirty-two (32) designated survey areas and ten (10) encampment areas were identified with additional coverage within and around the area of the Community Kitchen.

Surveyors

In consideration of the possible risk to public safety, the decision was made to use individuals who already had a familiarity with the housing and homelessness sector. Therefore, the recent PiT Count did not recruit volunteers from members of the public. Instead, surveyors were City of Grande Prairie employees from the Community Social Development, Housing and Homeless Initiatives, Mobile Outreach Team, and Technical Search and Rescue. Surveyors also included staff from community partners and agencies including Centerpoint Facilitation, Northreach Society, the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, Wapiti House, and Sunrise House.

Survey Questions: The survey questions were similar to initial intake assessments that housing and support services providers conduct with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Prior to the PiT Count, input regarding the survey questions was requested from the City's newly welcomed Indigenous Relations Advisor as well as Indigenous staff working specifically in the housing and homelessness sector. This was done to ensure that approaches and engagement styles with surveyed Indigenous individuals experiencing homelessness were both culturally sensitive and inclusive.

Data Entry & Analysis

To provide a close estimate of the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the community, the following data was either included or excluded:

INCLUDED

1. Surveys that completed at least sixty (60) percent of the questions.
2. Survey responses from individuals experiencing sheltered, unsheltered, and/or hidden homelessness.
3. Administrative count of individuals experiencing homelessness gathered through HelpSeeker Technologies and community partners.
4. Administrative data collected on youth from Sunrise House and Odyssey House.

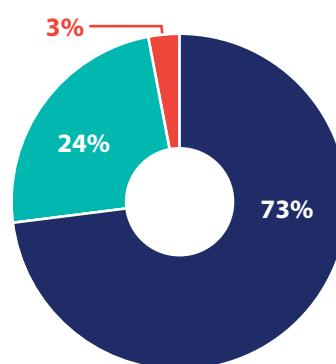
EXCLUDED

1. Incomplete survey responses with less than sixty (60) percent of answered survey questions.
2. Survey responses from individuals who are permanently and securely housed.
3. Observed individuals who were not able to participate in the survey.
4. Youth under the age of 18 were not included in the street count survey.

Developing the Count Number Using Administrative and Survey Data

The results for the PiT Count were compiled by combining the following counts to arrive at a total:

- Administrative Count: 240 individuals (73%)
- Street Count Survey: 77 individuals completed surveys (24%)
- Encampment Count: 11 individuals were counted or observed (3%)



LIMITATIONS

PIT COUNT METHOD

A PiT Count is not intended to produce a complete picture of homelessness in the community. Rather, the PiT Count produces an indication of the nature of homelessness in a specific place at a particular point in time.

COMPARABILITY

It can be difficult to fully compare the results of one PiT Count with another conducted in a different year due to changes in methodology. However, some of the changes have been outlined in Table #3 on page 14. Thus, these changes should be taken into consideration when making comparisons.

DOUBLE COUNTING

It is impossible to completely prevent double counting when it comes to the street count. However, the use of administrative data helps to ensure that individuals staying in shelters or provisional accommodations are not counted twice, as all survey participants were asked where they were sleeping that night and whether they had already completed the survey. Double counting was further controlled by instructing teams to only cover their assigned routes for a limited timeframe of 3 hours.

COUNTING UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS

It is difficult to ensure that all individuals experiencing homelessness are found during a PiT Count. Unsheltered individuals may be inhabiting secluded, covered areas making them difficult to find. In addition, individuals experiencing homelessness may not want to be found or may be suspicious of volunteers and deliberately avoid them. However, coverage zones were thoughtfully planned with the support of the City's Mobile Outreach Team and the Planning Committee members who have extensive experience in supporting individuals experiencing homelessness to ensure the appropriate areas were covered.

COUNTING INDIVIDUALS STAYING WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS

Individuals staying with family or friends may be referred to as "couch surfers" and are considered to be provisionally accommodated. Yet, since they lack permanent accommodation, they are a part of the "hidden homeless" population. Capturing an accurate number for this population is difficult, and numbers are likely to be underreported as individuals staying with family or friends do not generally access homeless supports or services, nor do they congregate at designated PiT Count locations.

SURVEY RESPONSES

All survey responses were self-reported and not otherwise verified, and whether certain responses were recorded would have been left up to the discretion of the surveyors. There is the possibility that surveyor bias may have affected the reliability of some survey responses.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Administrative data from provincial institutions and some local organizations was collected and reported by HelpSeeker Technologies, while the remaining administrative data was shared directly by the organization to the City due to existing information sharing agreements.

RESPONSE RATE/ REPRESENTATIVENESS

The total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Grande Prairie during the PiT Count is an estimate. The PiT Count only provides a snapshot and is not a definitive measure. Anyone under the age of 18 is not able to be surveyed. Thus, the survey data underrepresents the homeless youth population.

PiT Count Results

A blend of the 2022 PiT Count administrative data, street count survey results, and encampment numbers were used to arrive at the total number of homeless individuals counted. However, the street count survey data based on the responses of 77 individuals was used to generate an understanding of the key demographics and population trends. As indicated in Table #2, since the first PiT Count in 2006, our homeless population has increased by 83%.

THE PIT COUNT

On September 26th and 27th, 2022, there were at least 328 individuals experiencing homelessness in Grande Prairie. These individuals represent 0.51% of the total population of Grande Prairie (64,141). Since the first PiT Count in 2006, Our homeless population has increased by 83%.

Table #2: PiT Count Totals, 2006–2022

2006	179
2008	122
2012	200
2014	166
2016	127
2018	228
2022	328

Changes in the PiT Count methodology between 2006 and 2022 indicate that year-over-year comparisons must be reviewed in context and used with caution. An overview of the shifts in methodology affecting the PiT Count total is provided in the table below.

Table #3: PiT Count Significant Changes in Methodology: 2006–2022

Year	Count	Date	Time	Hours	Notes
2006	179	June 29	8:00 a.m. – 7 p.m.	11	Summer Count. 11-hour count.
2008	122	Dec. 11	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	4	Winter Count.
2012	200	Sept. 13	Various		24-hour Count.
2014	166	Oct. 23	Street: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Shelters: 4 p.m. – 12 a.m.	4 8	First Count in collaboration with 7 Cities. Inconsistent use of admin and survey data.
2016	127	Oct. 19	7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	3	Broadened scope to include provisionally accommodated individuals.
2018	228	April 11	7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	3	Moved from fall to spring count to align with national Point in Time Count. Received and included admin data from Alberta Health Services for the first time.
2022	328	Sept. 26 Sept. 27	During the day of the 26 th and the morning of the 27 th	9	Conducted over two days, approximately 9 hours. Demographic data only analyzed from the 77 surveys.

Homeless Typology

When placed into categories based on shelter type in 2022, 10% of individuals, were unsheltered, 3% were in encampments, 51% were in emergency shelters, and 36% were provisionally sheltered.

Table #4: The Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness at the Time of the PiT Count

Overnight Location	Data Source	Count
Unsheltered (excluding encampments) – Surveyed	Number of unsheltered responses – Street Count	31
Unsheltered (excluding encampments) – Observed	Number of observed homeless from tally – Street Count	0
Encampments – Surveyed	Number of encampment responses – Street Count	3
Encampments – Observed	Number of observed homeless from tally – Street Count	8
Emergency Shelters and Extreme Weather Shelters	Systems Data from Wapiti House and Sunrise House	124
Domestic Violence Shelters	Systems Data collected by HelpSeeker	43
Hotels/Motels or Staying with Family/Friends	Survey Responses - Street Count	11
Transitional Housing	Systems Data from Wapiti House	37
Systems (Health or Corrections)	Systems Data collected by HelpSeeker	71
Total:		328

Youth Homelessness

By combining administrative data from both the domestic violence shelter (Odyssey House) and youth emergency shelter (Sunrise House), 23 youth (7%) from the ages of 0 to 24 were either reported to be experiencing homelessness with family members (13 individuals or 4%), or residing in the youth emergency shelter (10 individuals or 3%).

In contrast, the street count survey potentially underrepresents youth homelessness in the community, as homeless youth under the age of 18 cannot be surveyed.

Family Homelessness

According to administrative data provided by the domestic violence shelter (Odyssey House), 15 families comprised of 43 individuals (13%) were tallied as experiencing homelessness during the PIT Count.

During the street count survey, 2 of the 77 respondents had one dependent each.

Survey Results

The administrative count did not contain demographic information. Therefore, the demographic data is from the 2022 Street Count Survey which was limited to a 77-person

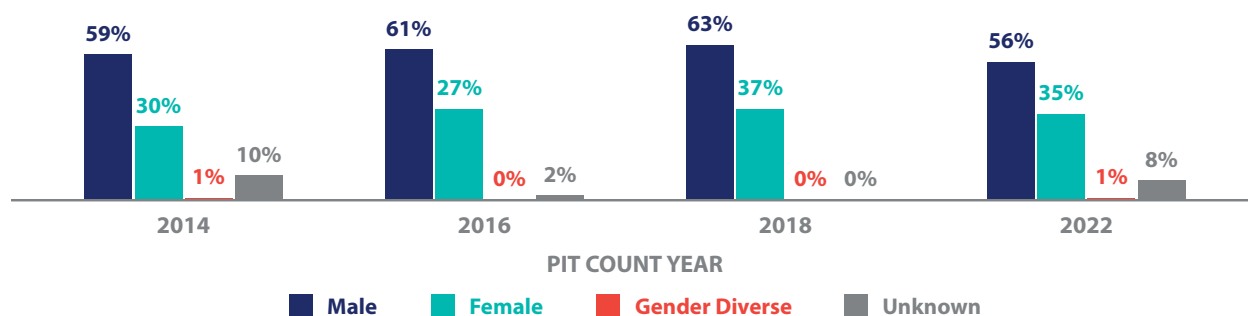
sample size. When analyzing comparative data, please consider the limitations described on page 13.

GENDER

Overall, 56% of individuals counted in 2022 identified as male, 35% as female, 1% as gender diverse, and 8% were unknown or not reported.

See Chart 1 for a comparison between 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2022 Count data. The methodology used in previous years did not always include gender diverse individuals.

CHART 1: GENDER COMPARISON (2014, 2016, 2018 & 2022)



AGE

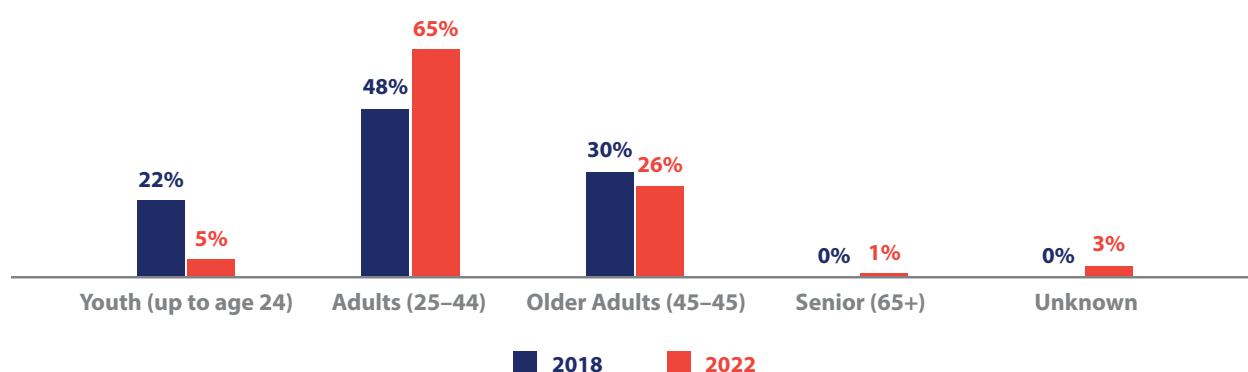
Of the 77 individuals surveyed in 2022, the largest group was between the ages of 25-44 (65%), followed by ages 45-64 (26%), youth up to age 24 (5%), unknown age (3%), and seniors 65+ (1%), as shown below in Chart 2.

Please note that youth under the age of 18 years cannot be surveyed. Therefore, the 2022 PiT Count is likely underreporting the percentage of homeless youth in

the community in comparison with 2018, when more demographic data was collected through the administrative count. For additional information regarding youth, please see the section on Youth Homelessness (page 15).

The data indicates a 17% increase in adults (ages 25 to 44) and a 4% decrease in older adults (45 to 64) experiencing homelessness since 2018.

CHART 2: AGE COMPARISON (PERCENTAGE)

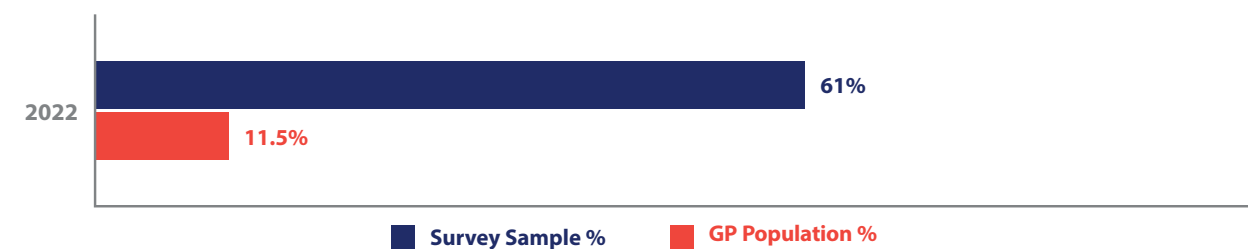


INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

Indigenous homelessness in the City of Grande Prairie is highly disproportionate when compared with the Statistics Canada Census 2021 data where out of a population of 64,141 individuals living in Grande Prairie, 7,370 (11.5 %) identify as Indigenous.²⁴

For the 2022 PiT Count survey, 61% of individuals experiencing homelessness identified as Indigenous indicating an increase of 9% when compared with the previous PiT Count. In 2018, the PiT Count survey found that 52% of respondents identified as Indigenous.

CHART 3: INDIGENOUS IDENTITY, SURVEY COMPARED TO GENERAL POPULATION (%)



²⁴ Statistics Canada. 2021 Census of Population.

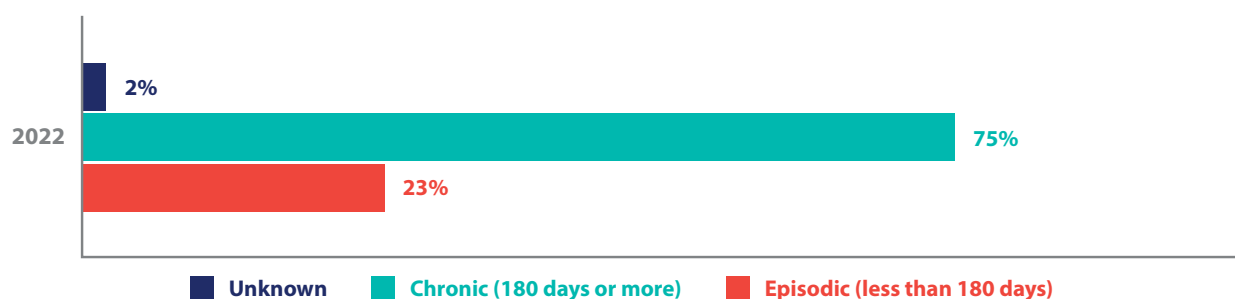
CHRONICITY

Chronic homelessness is a situation where an individual has been experiencing homelessness for more than 180 days in a row.

In contrast, episodic homelessness in this document means that an individual has been homeless for less than 180 days in a row.

75% of individuals surveyed in 2022 reported experiencing chronic homelessness where they had been homeless for more than 180 days in the past year, while 23% reported experiencing episodic homelessness. For 2% of individuals surveyed, it was unknown how long they had been experiencing homelessness.

CHART 4: CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



SHELTER TYPE / SLEEPING LOCATION

As shown in Table 5, most individuals surveyed indicated that they would be spending the night in an unsheltered location (40%), followed closely by an emergency shelter (38%), then encampments (4%).

In addition, 18% of surveyed individuals were provisionally housed in either hotels/motels, transitional housing, a treatment facility, or staying with others.

Table #5: Overnight location/ Sleeping Location (Number of Surveyed Individuals)

Unsheltered	31
Emergency Shelter	29
Encampments	3
Hotel/Motel	2
Transitional Housing	2
Staying with others	9
Treatment Centers	1
Total # of Individuals Surveyed	77

EMERGENCY SHELTER USE

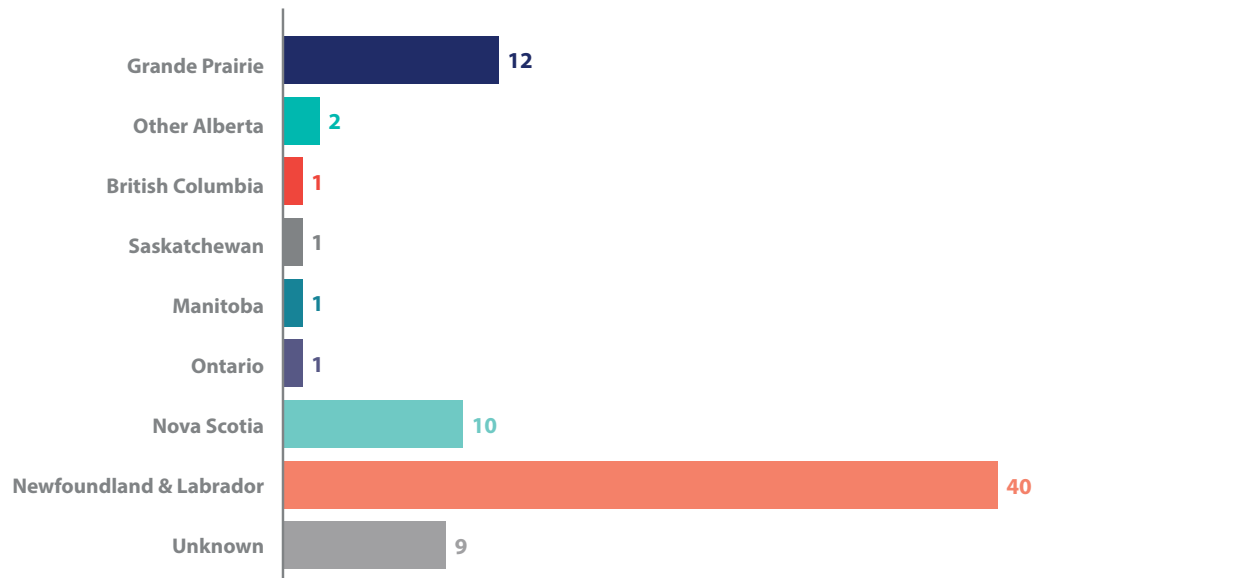
38% of individuals surveyed had stayed in an emergency shelter within the past 12 months, while 62% of individuals surveyed reported that they had not.

PLACE OF ORIGIN

Chart 5 provides an overview of whether individuals surveyed were originally from Grande Prairie, and if not,

where they resided prior to Grande Prairie (all locations reported were within Canada).

CHART 5: PLACE OF ORIGIN



AGE FIRST HOMELESS

As shown in Chart 6, 44% of individuals surveyed reported experiencing homelessness for the first time as a youth between the ages of 9 to 24. 39% of individuals surveyed has experienced homelessness for the first time between

the ages of 25 to 44, while 12% of individuals surveyed experienced homelessness for the first time as an older adult between the ages of 45 to 71. 5% of respondents did not know or declined to answer the question.

CHART 6: AGE FIRST HOMELESS (NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS)

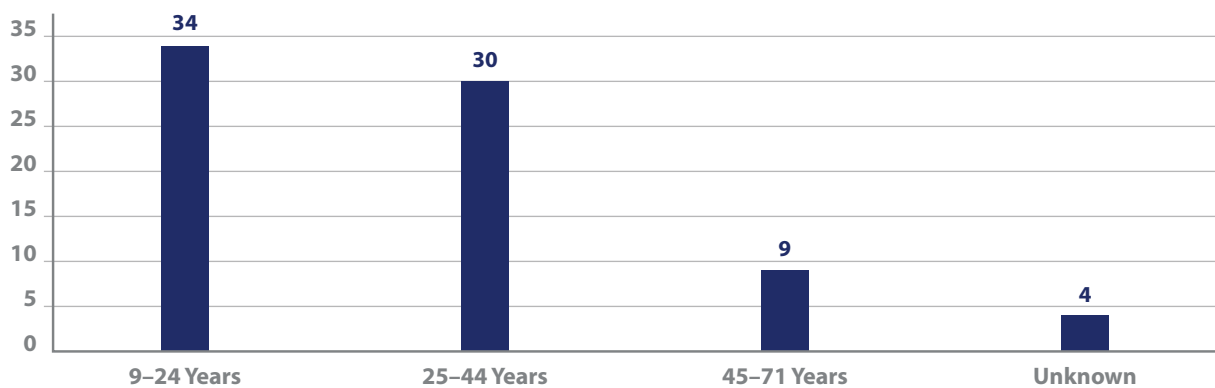


CHART 7: INDIVIDUALS IN FOSTER CARE OR YOUTH GROUP HOME AS A CHILD/YOUTH

FOSTER CARE

Individuals who completed the 2022 PIT Count survey were asked if they were ever in foster care or a youth group home, as a child or youth. 27% of individuals (21) indicated that they had been either in foster care or a youth group home as a child.

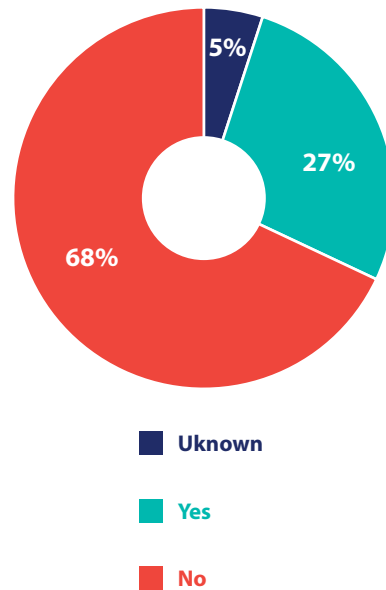
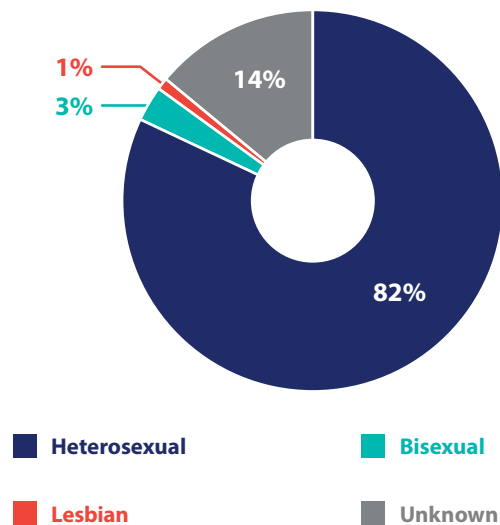


CHART 8: SEXUAL ORIENTATION

2SLGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

When asked to describe their sexual orientation, 82% of individuals surveyed indicated that they were heterosexual, whereas 3% of individuals are bisexual and 1% indicated they were a lesbian. 14% of individuals declined to answer and/or an answer was not collected. This is a very sensitive subject for members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and the numbers are likely underreported or incorrect.



VETERANS

5% of individuals surveyed indicated that they had previously served in the Canadian Military or RCMP.

CHART 9: MILITARY OR RCMP VETERANS



REASONS FOR HOUSING LOSS

Individuals who answered the 2022 PiT Count survey were asked to identify what caused them to lose their housing most recently. Many individuals reported more than one reason for housing loss. An overview of responses is provided in Chart #10. Most of the individuals (23%)

reported issues with landlords/tenant conflicts, while 14% reported low income or not enough money to pay rent. It is also important to note that family breakdown and conflicts with family makes up 24%.

CHART 10: REASONS FOR HOUSING LOSS

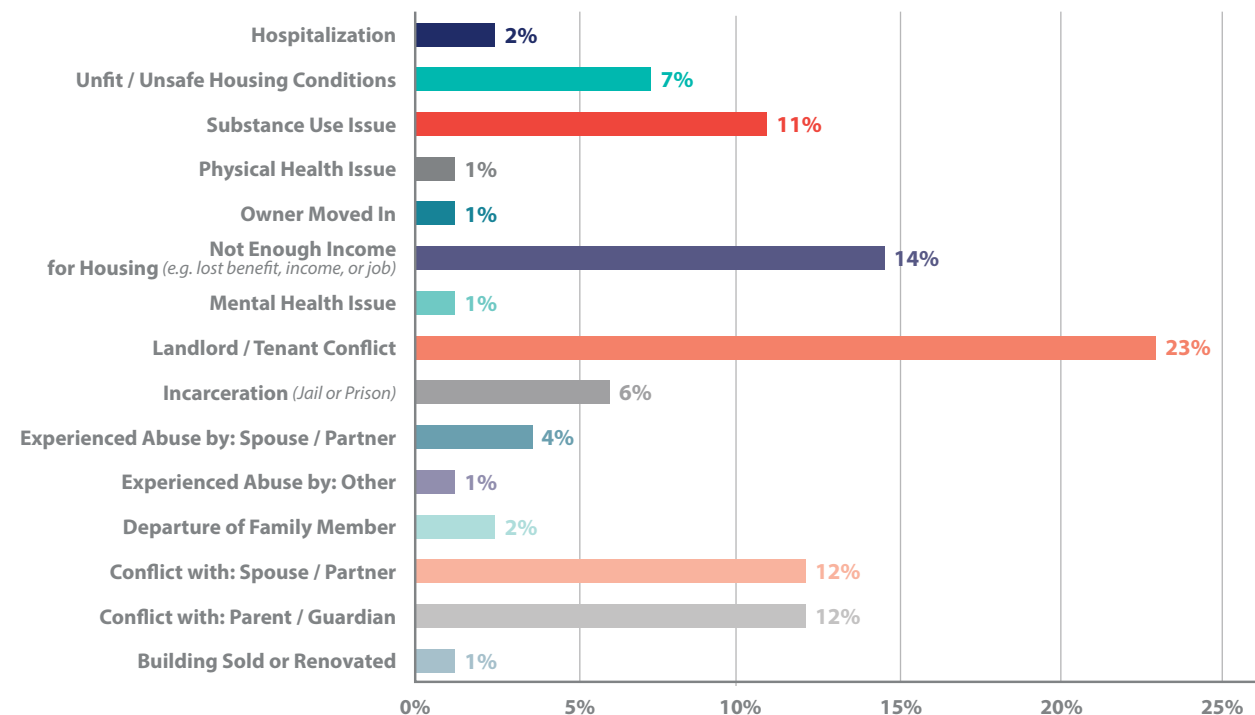
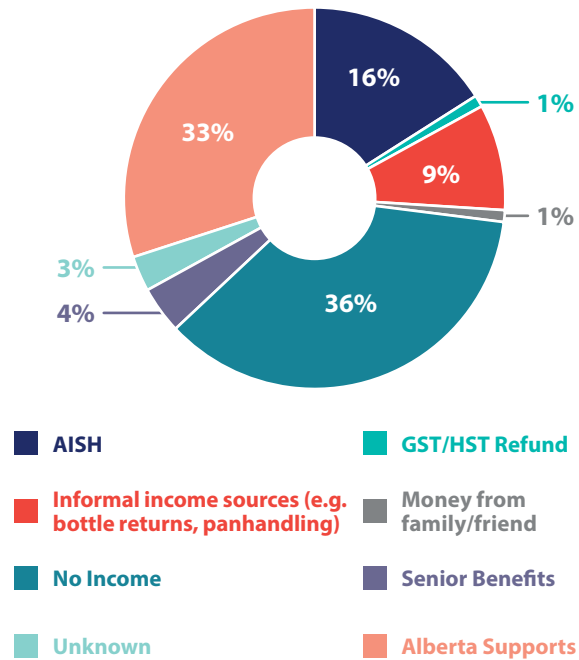


CHART 11: SOURCE OF INCOME

SOURCES OF INCOME

Individuals who completed the survey were asked where they obtained their money (income). Responses for 2022 PiT Count are illustrated in Chart #11. Twenty-three individuals (30%) of the survey respondents reported that they had welfare/social assistance income through Alberta Supports.

When compared to 2018, PiT Count data, two changes stand out: an increase in the proportion of individuals receiving Assured Income Severely Handicapped (12% in 2018 to 16% in 2022) and an increase in the proportion of individuals with no income (12% in 2018 to 36% in 2022).

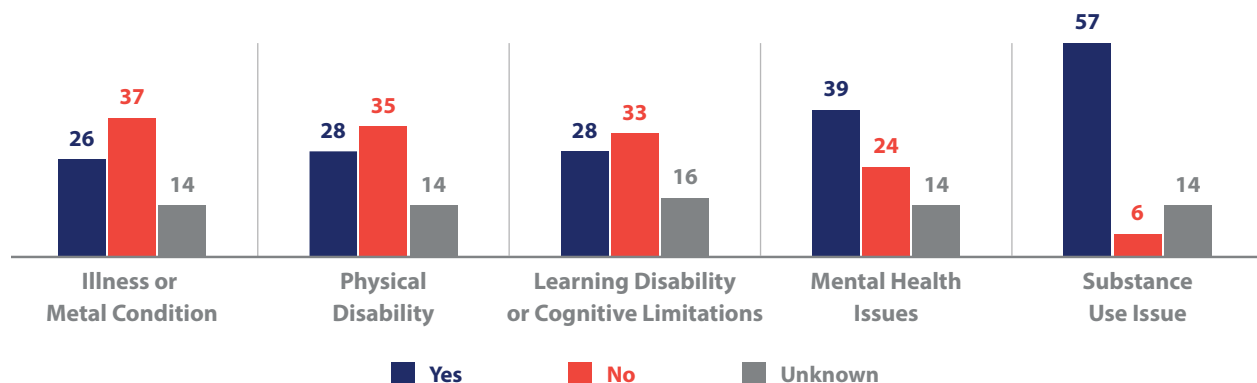


HEALTH CHALLENGES

Of the 77 individuals surveyed, fifty-one (51) individuals reported two or more health challenges.

- 34% of individuals (26) indicated that they have an illness or medical condition,
- 36% of individuals (28) indicated that they have a physical disability,
- 36% of individuals (28) indicated that they have a learning disability or cognitive limitations,
- 51% of individuals (39) indicated that they have mental health issues, and
- 74% of individuals (57) indicated that they have substance use issues.

CHART 12: NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WITH HEALTH CHALLENGES (#SELF-REPORTED)



Conclusion

Grande Prairie's PiT Count Planning Committee was essential in ensuring that Grande Prairie's 2022 PiT Count responded to and reflected local issues. Collaboration with Alberta's 7 Cities and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy were also important for producing a count that could be reported as part of both provincial and national counts. Grande Prairie's 2022 PiT Count found at least 328 individuals experiencing homelessness on the days of September 26th and 27th, 2022, our highest count to date.

In addition to confirming a community feeling that there are many individuals experiencing homelessness in the city, the results from the 2022 PiT Count are an indication that a strong focus needs to be on chronic, youth, and Indigenous homelessness. Moving toward 2024, we will continue developing a unique and community-specific approach to understanding homelessness, including a focus on youth and hidden homelessness.

Acknowledgements

Grande Prairie's 2022 PiT Count benefited from the participation of a PiT Count Planning Committee. Local organizations also contributed by providing advice, administrative data, survey locations and staff to cover routes designated for specialized survey teams.

Local organizations involved in the Count included:

Emergency Shelters

- Odyssey House Women's Emergency Shelter
- Wapiti House Emergency Shelter
- Sunrise House Youth Emergency Shelter

Health, Residential Treatment, Justice, Transitional Housing

- Northern Addictions Centre
- Grande Prairie Regional Hospital
- Alberta Correctional Services Division
- Rising Above

Homeless Initiatives Service Providers

- Centerpoint Facilitation Inc.
- Northreach Society

Other Contributors

- Grande Prairie PACT Team (Police and Crisis Team – on call support)
- Grande Prairie Technical Search and Rescue

PiT Count Planning Committee Members

- Grande Prairie Friendship Centre
- Northreach Society
- Sunrise House Youth Emergency Shelter
- City of Grande Prairie Mobile Outreach Team
- Centerpoint Facilitation Inc.

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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7. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant (i.e. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada)?

<input type="radio"/> YES, IMMIGRANT -----> <input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE-----> <input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT-----> <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	If YES: How long have you been in Canada? <input type="radio"/> LENGTH: _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS YEARS OR DATE: ____/____/____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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8. How long have you been in (community name)?

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS <input type="radio"/> ALWAYS BEEN HERE <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	Where did you live before you came here? <input type="radio"/> CITY: _____ PROVINCE/TERRITORY/COUNTRY: _____ <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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9. 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		

10. Do you identify with any of the racial identities listed below? [Show or Read list. Select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> ARAB (e.g., Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)	<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-AFRO-CARIBBEAN OR AFRO-LATINX (e.g., Jamaican, Haitian, Afro-Brazilian)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-EAST (e.g., Chinese, Korean, Japanese)	<input type="checkbox"/> LATIN AMERICAN (e.g., Brazilian, Mexican, Chilean, Cuban)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN- SOUTH-EAST (e.g., Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)	<input type="checkbox"/> WHITE (e.g., European, French, Ukrainian, Euro-Latinx)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-SOUTH OR INDO-CARIBBEAN (e.g., Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED (PLEASE SPECIFY): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-WEST (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)	<input type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS ONLY
<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-CANADIAN/AMERICAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-AFRICAN (e.g., Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

11. Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have North American Indigenous ancestry? [If yes, please specify]

<input type="radio"/> YES, FIRST NATIONS (with status: Registered Indian according to the Indian Act)	<input type="radio"/> YES, INUIT	<input type="radio"/> NO
<input type="radio"/> YES, FIRST NATIONS (non-status)	<input type="radio"/> YES, MÉTIS	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
	<input type="radio"/> YES, INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

_____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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13. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP?

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

<input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY	<input type="radio"/> BOTH MILITARY AND RCMP	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> YES, RCMP	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home? [Note: This question applies specifically to child welfare programs.]

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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15. Do you identify as having any of the following health challenges at this time:

Illness Or Medical Condition [e.g., diabetes, arthritis, TB, HIV]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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Physical Disability [e.g. an issue with mobility, dexterity, capacity]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
Learning Disability Or Cognitive Limitations [e.g. ADHD, dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, brain injury]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
Mental Health Issue [e.g. depression, PTSD, bipolar disorder]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
Substance Use Issue [e.g. alcohol, opiates]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

<input type="radio"/> MAN	<input type="radio"/> TRANS WOMAN	<input type="radio"/> NOT LISTED: _____
<input type="radio"/> WOMAN	<input type="radio"/> TRANS MAN	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="radio"/> NON-BINARY (GENDERQUEER)	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

<input type="radio"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> BISEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> ASEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> NOT LISTED: _____
<input type="radio"/> GAY	<input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="radio"/> QUESTIONING	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> LESBIAN	<input type="radio"/> PANSEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> QUEER	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

18. 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. Follow up for the reason if the respondent says "eviction" or that they "chose to leave".]

A: HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES	B: INTERPERSONAL AND FAMILY ISSUES	C: HEALTH OR CORRECTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT ENOUGH INCOME FOR HOUSING	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> JOB/INCOME LOSS	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> UNFIT/UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: OTHER (_____)	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING SOLD OR RENNOVATED	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
<input type="checkbox"/> OWNER MOVED IN	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATION (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD/TENANT CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: OTHER (_____)	
<input type="checkbox"/> COMPLAINT (E.G. PETS/NOISE/DAMAGE)	<input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTURE OF FAMILY MEMBER	
<input type="checkbox"/> LEFT THE COMMUNITY/RELOCATED		
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> WILDFIRES		
<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED IN ORDER TO ACCESS SERVICES		
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW		<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

18a. Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

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

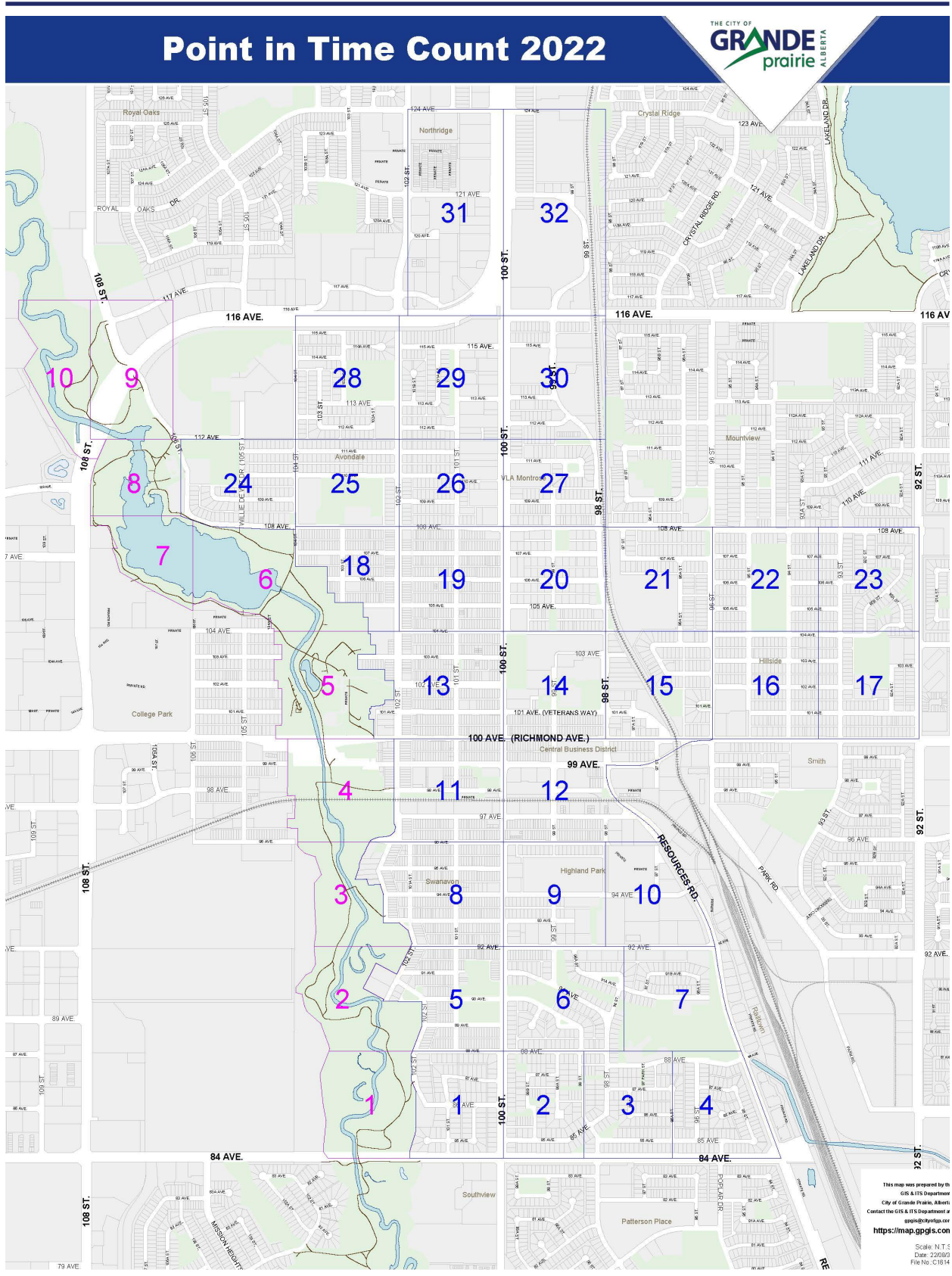
18b. How long ago did that happen (that you lost your housing most recently)? (Best estimate)

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

19. What are your sources of income? [Reminder that this survey is anonymous. Read list and check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT DISABILITY BENEFIT [e.g., AISH, CPP DISABILITY]	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-GOVERNMENT DISABILITY BENEFIT [e.g., employer]	<input type="checkbox"/> GST REFUND
<input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL EMPLOYMENT (E.G. CONTRACT WORK)	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G. CPP/OAS/GIS)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER MONEY FROM A SERVICE AGENCY
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL INCOME SOURCES (E.G. BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE [Alberta Works]	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS	<input type="checkbox"/> VETERAN/VAC BENEFITS	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME
<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE		<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

Appendix B: Count Locations





CITYOFGP.COM/PITCOUNT

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the Government of Canada.

