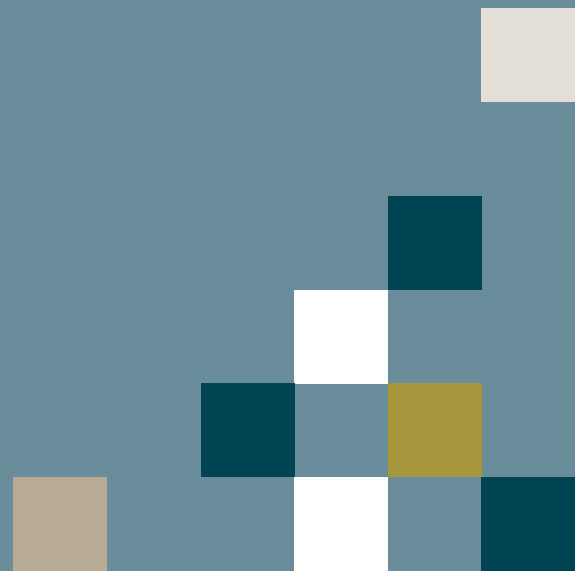




2024 POINT IN TIME

HOMELESS COUNT REPORT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our gratitude to the individuals who shared their experiences through the survey. Their input is vital to shaping services and supports for people experiencing homelessness in our community, and we deeply value their contributions.

The 2024 Point in Time Count would not have been possible without the support and participation of our partner agencies and supporting organizations. We thank them for their time, commitment, and collaboration.

- Alberta Health Services
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter
- John Howard Society of Red Deer
- Recovery Alberta – Street Connect
- Red Deer County
- Red Deer Native Friendship Society
- Red Deer Polytechnic Social Work Diploma Program
- Safe Harbour Society
- Shining Mountains Living Community Services
- The Mustard Seed
- The Outreach Centre
- Turning Point
- YMCA of Northern Alberta
- Youth HQ

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count and Survey is a coordinated approach to gather a snapshot of homelessness in communities across Canada. The initiative provides critical data to inform local strategies, services, and policy decisions aimed at addressing homelessness. It also plays a key role in building a clearer, more comprehensive national understanding of homelessness—helping inform action at all levels of government.

This report summarizes the scope, methodology, results and findings of Red Deer's 2024 PiT Count, coordinated by The City of Red Deer on October 10, 2024, in collaboration with community partners.

In total, 747 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in Red Deer—an increase of 224% compared to the 2022 count of 334. This includes individuals staying in emergency shelters or transitional facilities, sleeping outside, or temporarily housed in public institutions such as hospitals or correctional facilities.

Of the 747 individuals counted, 283 participated in a voluntary survey, providing insights into their experiences.

Key findings from the 2024 PiT Count include:

- Chronic homelessness continues to rise in Red Deer. Over the past three years, 57.2% of survey respondents reported being homeless for at least half of that time. Chronic homelessness has steadily increased in the last 10 years, now accounting for 84% of all individuals surveyed.
- Financial instability and housing affordability are the leading causes of housing loss, and the most significant barriers to accessing new housing in Red Deer.

- Approximately one-third of recent arrivals to Red Deer reported being relocated involuntarily. Of the 38 individuals who moved to Red Deer in the past year, 13 said the move was not their choice. They indicated they were dropped off by social services from another community, including by police, social workers, or ambulances.
- Those sleeping outside and not in the shelter system report higher acuity illnesses, higher rates of mental health challenges, and a greater number of interactions with justice and health systems.

The next Point-in-Time Count will take place in 2025, with a full survey planned for 2027. The City of Red Deer will continue working alongside community partners to address the root causes of homelessness and support evidence-based solutions that promote dignity, safety, and housing stability for all residents.



BACKGROUND

Point-In-Time Homelessness Count

A Point-in-Time Homeless Count (PiT Count) is a strategy to help determine the extent of homelessness in a community on a given night or at a single point in time. Red Deer's Point-in-Time Homeless Count is one of several data sources used to plan services and programs to address local needs appropriately, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in a community's current homelessness serving system. In the past, The City of Red Deer conducted a PiT Count biennially. As of 2024, PiT Counts will be completed annually, with the survey being administered every three years.

Local Coordination

The Red Deer Point-in-Time Count was coordinated by The City of Red Deer as part of the Government of Canada's Reaching Home requirements. The methodology for the Count was approved by The City's Housing & Homelessness Integration Committee (HHIC). Local agencies were engaged in the planning process and participated in mandatory training.

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count was held on October 10, 2024.

- Staff from shelter and transitional facilities supported enumeration and survey engagement with guests on a voluntary basis.
- Unsheltered enumeration and surveying were carried out primarily by teams of agency staff working in the housing and homelessness supports sector, with some focusing specifically on engaging encampment residents and others conducting the street count.
- Red Deer Polytechnic students in the Social Work program were newly engaged this year as PiT Count volunteers.

Scope & Methodology

Scope

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count included enumeration and surveying of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. It did not include an investigation of hidden homelessness.

The Count was conducted within the geographical boundaries of Red Deer with one exception. Gasoline Alley in Red Deer County was included upon the request of the local Assertive Outreach Team due to their knowledge of known encampments in the area.

Those who identify as residents of Red Deer who were sleeping outside of the city boundary on the night of the Count, whether sheltered or unsheltered, were not counted.

Key Terms

Sheltered homelessness
The state of being reliant on temporary housing, either emergency sheltered (staying within an overnight or short stay shelter), or those who are provisionally accommodated (within a system-based location such as a hospital, jail, prison, or remand center).
Unsheltered homelessness
The state of lacking housing and not accessing emergency shelters or accommodation, such as rough sleeping, living in vehicles, and those in encampments.
Hidden homelessness
The state of lacking permanent, appropriate housing and not being engaged in the housing system. This form of homelessness includes “couch-surfing,” engaging in survival sex, or being housed in inadequate or inappropriate housing.

Sheltered Count Methodology

The sheltered count included two parts: a facilities count and a systems count.

- The facilities count recorded people staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities. All Red Deer shelters and transitional housing facilities participated.
- The systems count included people staying in publicly funded institutions, such as hospitals, jails, and the remand centre with no fixed address.

Participating facilities completed an administrative form the morning after the count which indicated the number and demographics of stayers for the night. Those staying were invited to complete the PiT survey on a voluntary basis.

Facilities Participating in PiT Count

Shelter & Transitional Facilities	
Overnight Shelter (Safe Harbour Society)	Julietta's Place (The Outreach Centre)
The Mustard Seed Shelter (The Mustard Seed)	Medically Supported Detox (Safe Harbour Society)
49 th Street Youth Shelter (Youth HQ)	Horizon House (John Howard Society)
Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter (CAWES)	

Unsheltered Count Methodology

The Red Deer unsheltered enumeration was carried out through the day and into the late evening by local agency staff and Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) Social Work program students who volunteered their time.

There were two team types:

- **Encampment enumerators** were agency and outreach staff who had familiarity and strong relationships with many encampment residents and knew the locations well. They were dedicated to engaging encampment residents during daylight hours.
- **Street enumerators** worked in small teams of two to four people consisting of agency staff and RDP students wherever possible to complete intercept surveys. Rather than canvassing the entire city, teams were assigned specific neighbourhoods where people experiencing homelessness are typically known to be. Neighbourhood selection was informed by staff experience and city data. The count ended late evening once all priority neighbourhoods were covered.

All unsheltered participants were asked screening questions to determine if they met the eligibility for inclusion in the 'unsheltered' category. Those who appeared to be homeless but were not approached due to sleeping or potential safety risk were counted as "observed homeless" but not interviewed at the enumerator's discretion.

Public Systems Count Methodology

Data from the health and justice systems were accessed for the public systems count.

Survey Tool & Administration

The core survey questions used for the PiT Count were mandated federally, with additional questions provided by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.

The survey began with screening questions to determine eligibility for inclusion. If an individual indicated that they were sleeping in their home or in another suitable location that night, they were not counted or surveyed.

Eligible individuals participated in a short 4–8 minute survey and received a \$10 gift card in appreciation of their time and contributions.

Surveyors were trained in advance and could use either paper or a tablet. Most submitted surveys electronically, making data available to City staff right away. Paper surveys were entered manually after the count.

Limitations & Considerations

The 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count offers valuable insights into homelessness in our community; however, it is important to recognize its limitations. This section outlines key factors that may influence the interpretation of results. These considerations help ensure the data is used thoughtfully and in conjunction with other sources to support informed, responsive planning.

Snapshot in Time

- The results of the Count provide a snapshot of homelessness at a specific point in time. This data alone does not capture the full scope or context of homelessness. A more complete understanding requires examining this data alongside other sources such as shelter usage, by-name lists, and lived experience input.

Limitation in Capturing Hidden Homelessness & Inadequate Housing

- The methodology does not account for people experiencing hidden homelessness, including those staying temporarily with others, couch surfing, or relying on informal or unstable arrangements such as survival sex in exchange for shelter.
- Individuals living in substandard or unsafe housing such as overcrowded units, condemned buildings, or homes in severe disrepair, are also not captured in the Count. Because these individuals are not accessing emergency shelters or visibly unsheltered, they are unlikely to be identified by enumeration teams.

Survey Limitations

- The core survey questions are standardized by the federal government. While the local team was permitted to adjust the order of questions,

the content remained fixed. In 2024, the survey was delivered using internal software rather than the federal platform to foster a more natural and comfortable experience for participants.

- Survey participation is voluntary. Individuals may decline to take part, choose to withdraw consent, or skip specific questions. While this limits the completeness of data, the responses collected provide meaningful insights that help inform local programs and services.

Timing Consideration – GST Refund Distribution

- The timing of the 2024 Count was selected with careful consideration of provincial and federal benefit and income support schedules. However, the issuance of the federal GST rebate the day prior to the Count was inadvertently overlooked. This may have influenced the visibility and location of individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly those in encampments, with potential impacts to enumeration.

Experience of Enumerators

- In 2024, enumeration teams were primarily composed of trained staff from local agencies with experience working with individuals experiencing homelessness, including in both street-level and encampment settings. This approach, adopted post-COVID in 2022, replaced earlier methods that relied more heavily on community volunteers.
- Enhancements in 2024 included the addition of Red Deer Polytechnic Social Work students, who brought additional capacity to the teams. This shift in methodology reflects ongoing efforts to improve data collection practices by leveraging skilled personnel and incorporating learnings from previous counts.

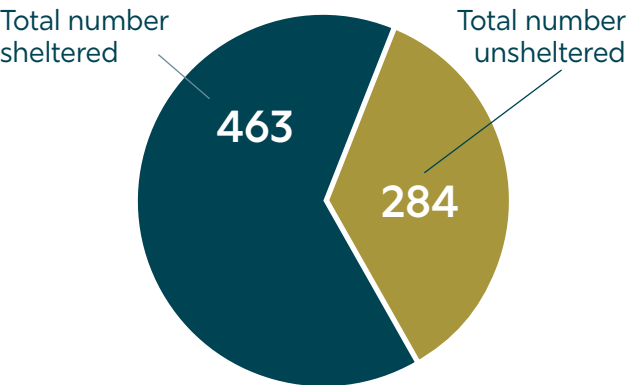
Final Count

The final Point in Time Count total is made up of those who spent October 10, 2024, in a shelter or transitional location, who were provisionally accommodated in a system-based facility, or were seen and enumerated by the unsheltered enumeration team, whether they were surveyed or not.

The total number of people counted as experiencing homelessness in 2024 in Red Deer was 747 , a 235% increase from the count in 2022 (334). This confirms community observations that the number of people experiencing homelessness is increasing significantly.

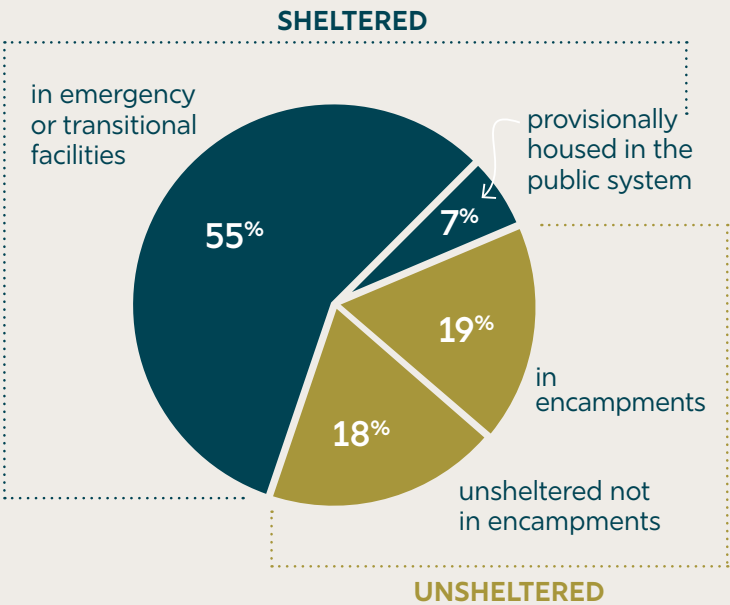
Number of Individuals Counted in 2024	
Total number sheltered	463
Total number unsheltered	284
Total number enumerated	747

SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED

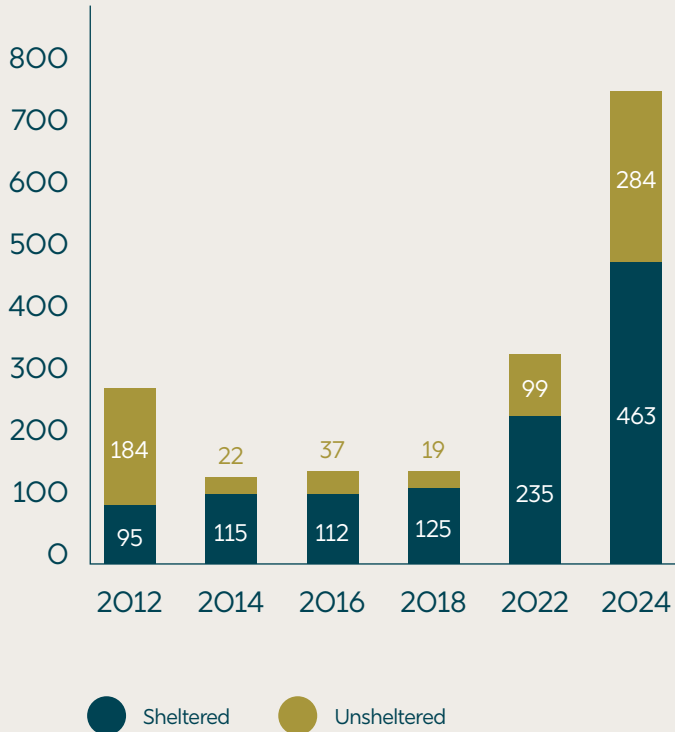


2024 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT RESULTS

PLACE OF STAY ON NIGHT OF COUNT



SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED COUNT OVER TIME



- The 2024 Count identified 463 individuals who had some form of provisional shelter (emergency shelters, transitional locations, or provisional accommodations through public systems) on the night of the Count. This is a 197% increase in sheltered homelessness compared to 2022 (235 individuals), highlighting the increasing pressure on emergency and transitional facilities and Health and Justice systems.
- The number of people sleeping outside has seen a 287% increase from 2022, with 284 individuals being identified as unsheltered in 2024 compared to 99 individuals in 2022.

Summary of Survey Responses

The survey data reflects responses from individuals experiencing homelessness who chose to participate, both in sheltered and unsheltered settings. Surveys were offered in shelters by trained shelter staff, and in unsheltered locations by experienced enumerators.

Not all individuals included in the overall Count completed a survey. Participation was voluntary and did not impact whether someone was included in the total PiT Count. As a result, the number of surveys collected is lower than the total number of individuals enumerated.

Respondent Demographics

Gender

According to the 2021 Census, Red Deer's general population was 50.6% female and 49.4% male¹. In contrast, among the 2024 PiT Count **survey respondents 62.1% identified as male, 37.5% female, and 0.4% non-binary.**

0.4% non-binary

37.5% women

62.1% men

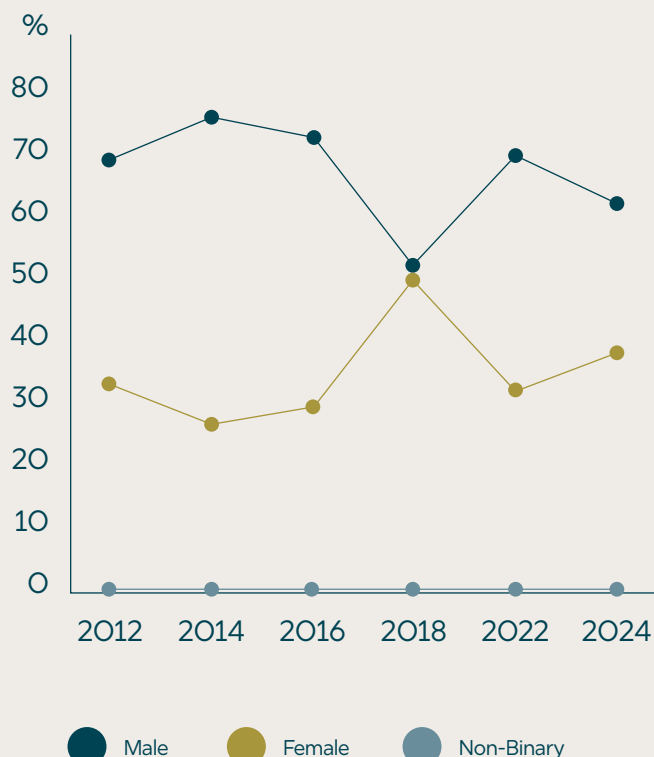


Males have been overrepresented, except in the 2018 Count. However, this proportion has declined by 6.9% since 2022 and 12.9% since 2014.

This does not conclusively prove that men experience homelessness at higher rates. Research shows that women are more likely to experience hidden homelessness and are less likely to seek out homelessness services, relying on relationships and often staying in unsafe or precarious situations, such as with abusive partners or engaging in survival sex to avoid unsheltered homelessness². Hence, females experiencing housing precarity are less likely to be captured in the Count.

(see Figure: “Gender Distribution Over Time”)

GENDER DISTRIBUTION OVER TIME



¹ Statistics Canada, 2021. Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population

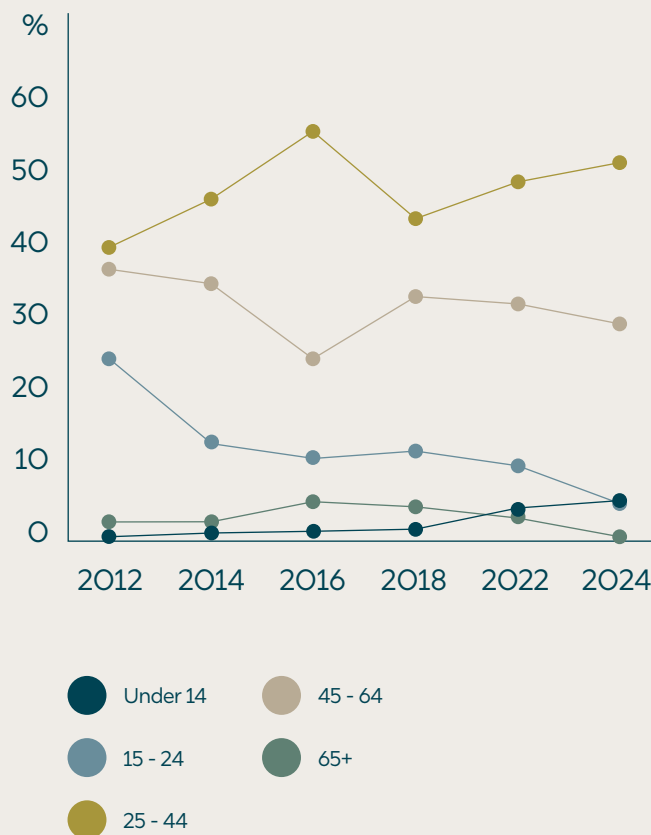
² Schwan, K. et al. (2020). The State of Women's Housing Need & Homelessness in Canada: Key Findings

Age

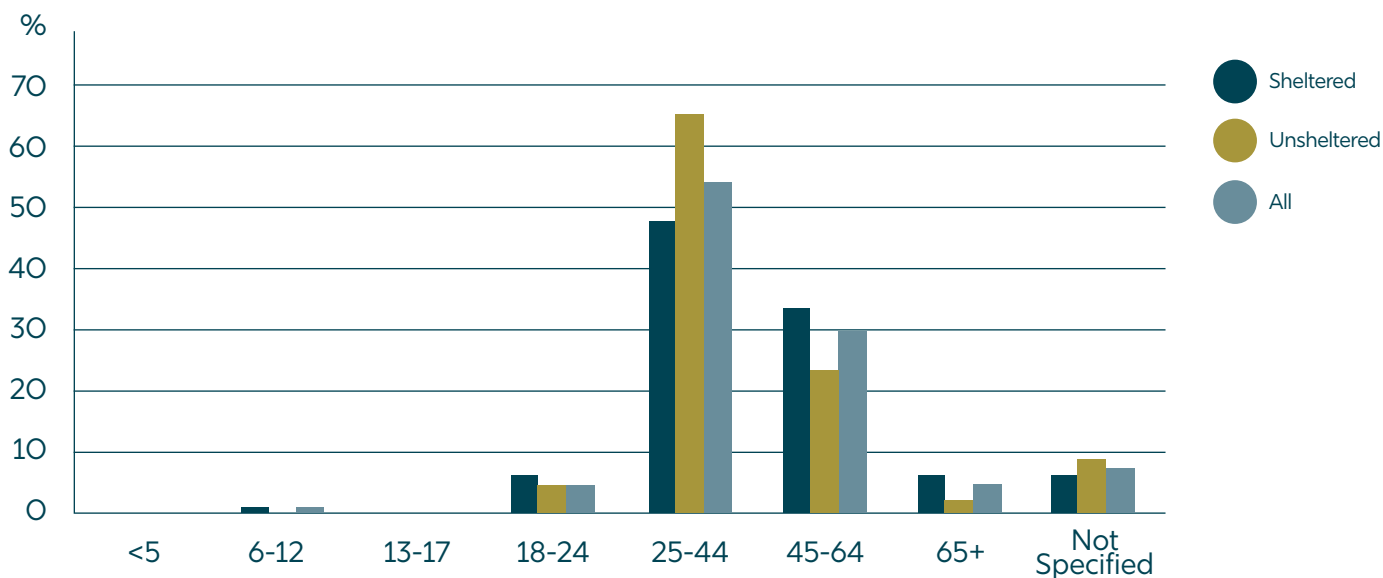
The median age of individuals experiencing homelessness in the 2024 PiT Count was 40 years, comparable to Red Deer's general population median of 38 years³.

- The largest age group of survey respondents was 25 to 44 years (54.1%), followed by 45 to 64 years (29.7%).
- Survey responses indicate that individuals aged 25–44 were more likely to be unsheltered (65%), while those aged 45 and older were more often using shelters (39.4%).
- Youth homelessness has decreased compared to previous Counts. Only 5% of respondents were between 15 and 24 years, down from 10.3% in 2022, and no respondents were under 14 (down from 3.2%). This does not mean that children are not experiencing homelessness in Red Deer; 2.1% of adult respondents reported having child dependents with them on the night of the Count, with a median age of 8 years for those children. Administrative data shows that 30 youths were in shelter on the night of the count.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OVER TIME



AGE DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

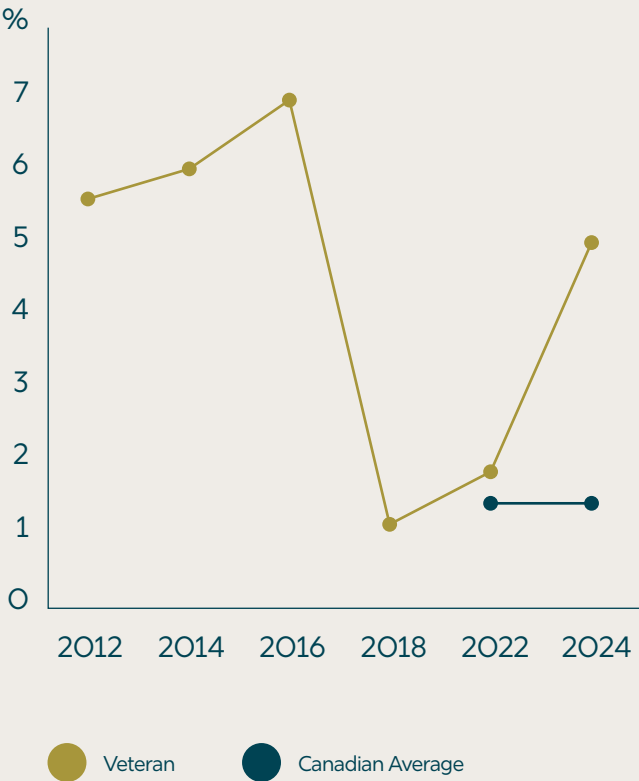


Veteran Respondents

Veterans made up 5.1% of survey respondents in the 2024 PiT Count, 2.7 times higher than the 2022 Count. In this context, “veteran” refers to someone who has served in the Canadian Military, RCMP, or both. While the percentage is lower than the 7.0% reported in 2016, it represents a notable increase compared to both the 2018 (1.2%) and 2022 (1.9%) Counts.

According to the 2021 Census⁴, veterans comprise approximately 1.5% of the Canadian population. Percentages from previous years have not been included for comparison due to inconsistencies in data collection.

VETERAN % OVER TIME



⁴ Ibid.

Race & Ethnicity

Indigenous Respondents

Survey respondents were asked if they identified as Indigenous: First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or having Indigenous ancestry.

While Census data⁵ shows that only 5.3% of Red Deer's population is Indigenous, 31.6% of individuals experiencing homelessness in the 2024 PiT Count identified as Indigenous, nearly six times higher than the general population.

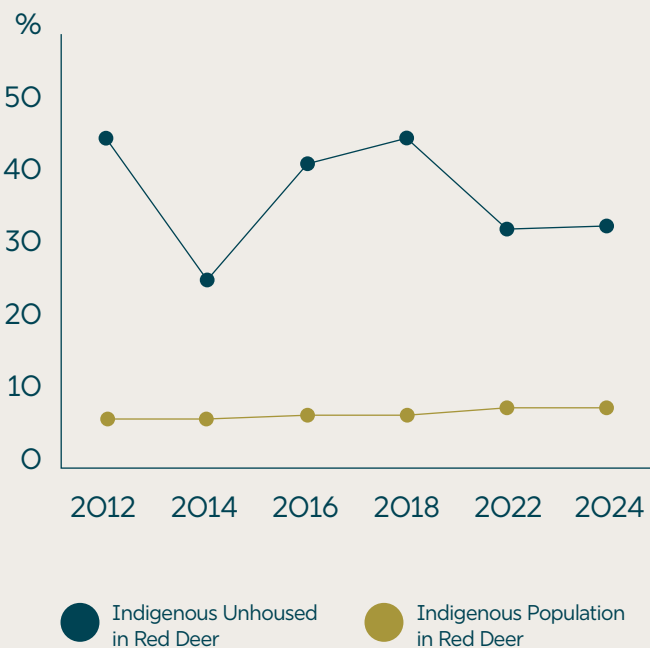
This over-representation has been consistent across all PiT Counts, fluctuating from a high of 44.4% in 2012 to a low of 24.2% in 2014. The 2024 rate (31.6%) is nearly unchanged from 2022 (31.4%), reinforcing the ongoing and disproportionate impact of homelessness on Indigenous peoples. Of those that identified as Indigenous, most identified as First Nations (68.5%), followed by Metis (25.9%). Inuit and Indigenous Ancestry made up the remaining 3.7% and 1.9% of this group, respectively.

Immigrant Respondents

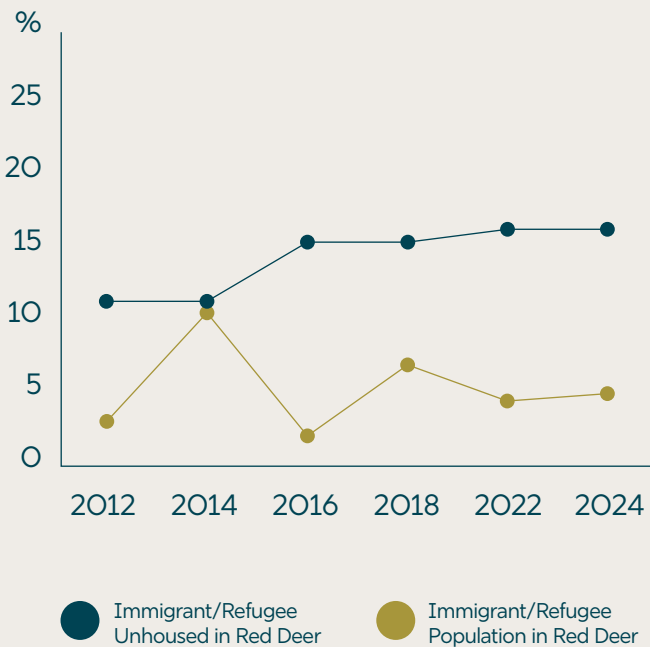
In the 2024 PiT Count, 5.1% of survey respondents indicated that they had immigrated to Canada, representing an increase of 0.6% since 2022.

According to the 2021 Census⁶, 23% of the total Canadian population is made up of immigrants/refugees. In Red Deer, Immigrants account for 16.9% of the total population.

INDIGENOUS % OVER TIME



IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE % OVER TIME



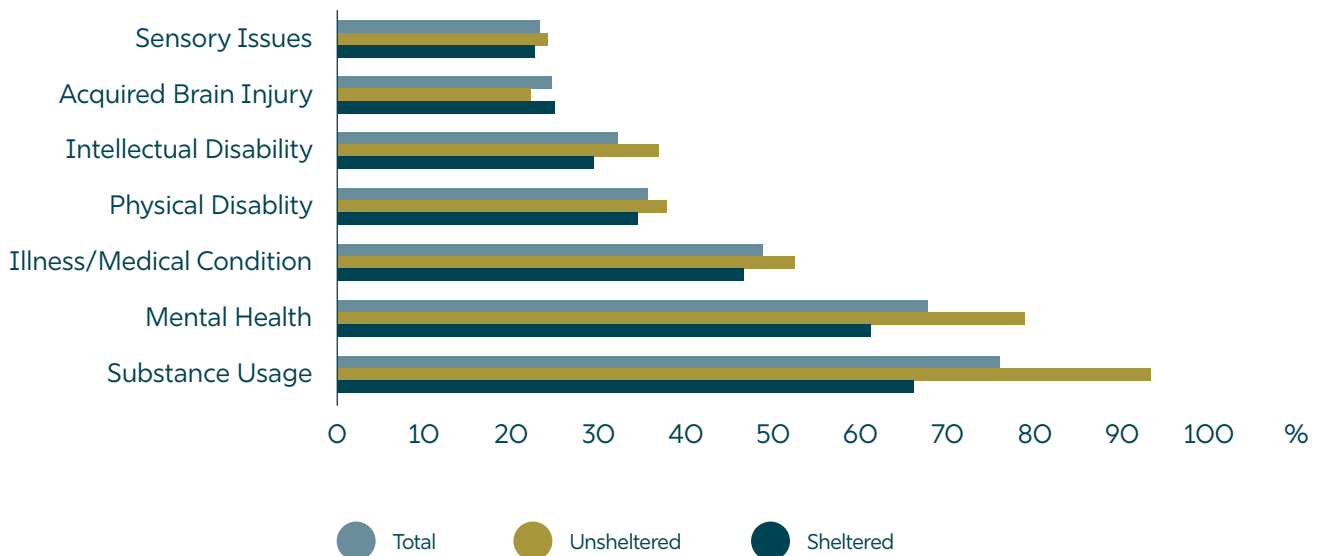
Health & Health Services

When respondents were asked to self-identify if they experienced any health conditions, the most reported current conditions were related to substance use (76.0%), mental health (67.5%), physical health (35.7%) and intellectual disabilities (32.2%).

- Unsheltered survey respondents reported higher levels of negative health outcomes than did those staying in shelter across most health condition categories.
- 93.2% of unsheltered respondents expressed difficulties with substance use, compared to 66.1% of sheltered respondents.
- Unsheltered respondents were 17.5% more likely to report having difficulties with mental health than sheltered respondents.



HEALTH CONDITIONS BY % (TOTAL, UNSHELTERED, SHELTERED)



Systems Interactions

Survey respondents were asked if they had interactions public systems in the past year.

Health System:

- 56.9% of respondents reported visiting an emergency room in the past year, and 31.1% had been hospitalized.
- Health systems interactions were relatively similar between sheltered and unsheltered respondents on the night of the Count.

Justice System:

- Half of all respondents (50.2%) had interacted with police in the past year, including experiences such as arrests, searches and ticketing.
- There was a notable disparity between sheltered and unsheltered respondents in their recent interactions with the justice system. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to have had recent interactions with police (69.9% vs. 38.9%) and to have been in

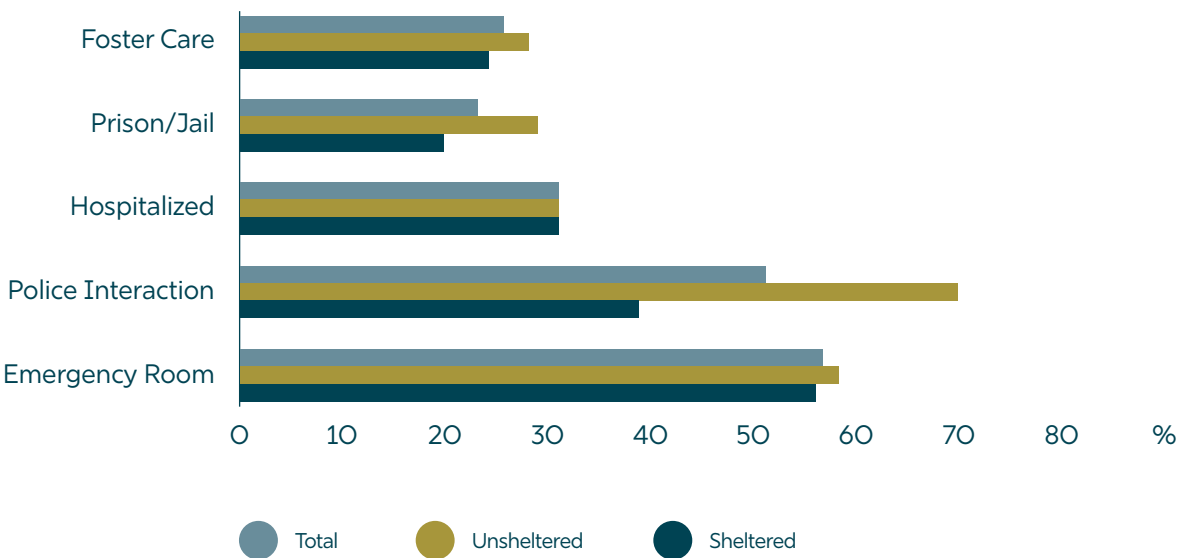
prison or jail in the past year (29.1% vs. 20.0%), indicating a possible connection between higher police contact and recent incarceration within this group.

Foster Care System:

25.8% of survey respondents reported that they had been in foster care at some point in their lives.

- Unsheltered respondents were slightly more likely to indicate foster care involvement (28.2%) compared to those who were sheltered (24.4%).
- A significant discrepancy existed in foster care experience between non-Indigenous survey respondents (17.6%) and Indigenous survey respondents (45.9%).
- Respondents with foster care experience were asked whether they felt that Child Protection Services (CPS) was helpful in their transition to independence after leaving care. 93.3% of those who responded indicated that CPS had not been helpful in supporting their transition.

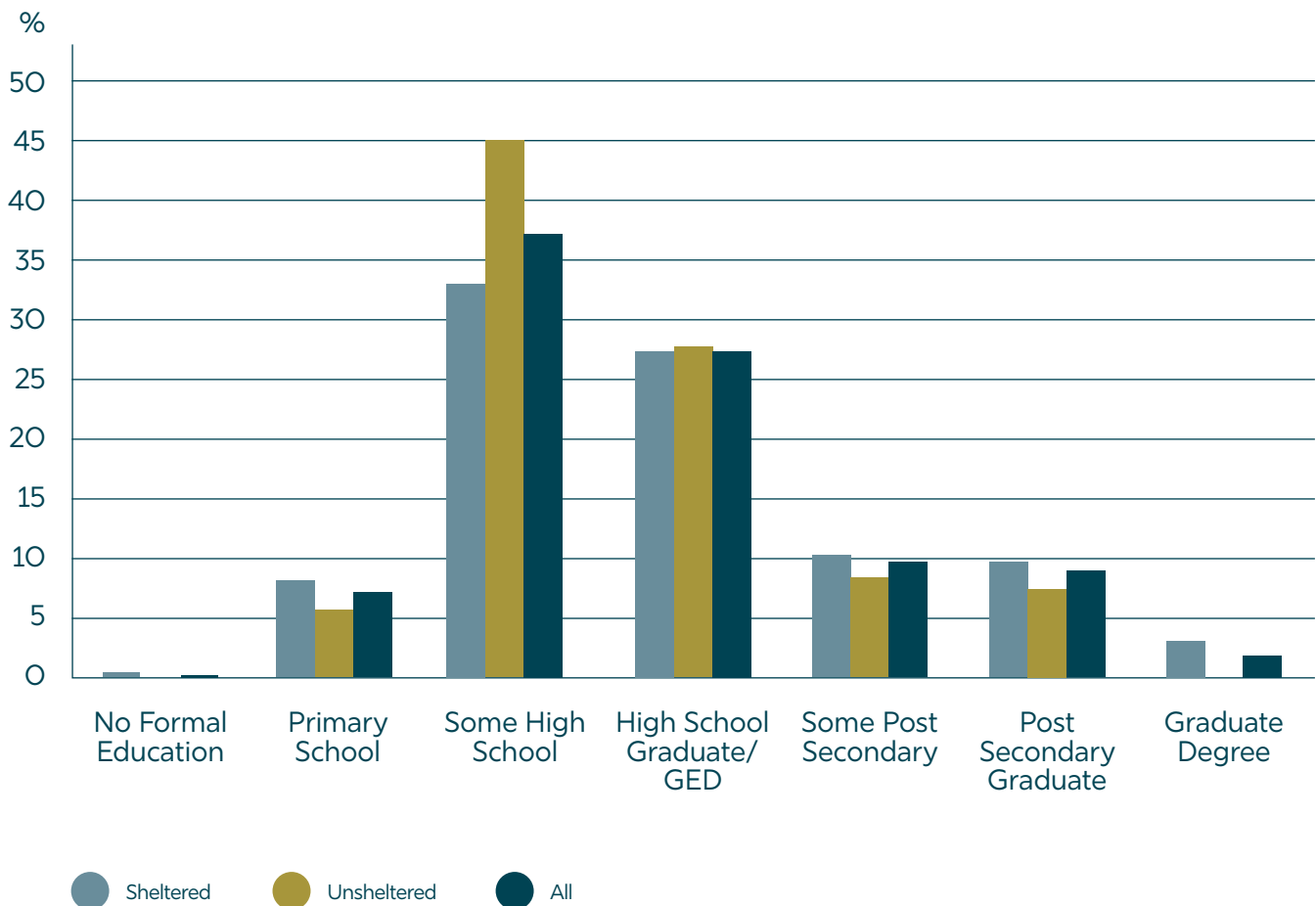
SYSTEMS INTERACTIONS (SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED)



Education

Respondents were asked about their highest level of education. Only 1.0% reported no formal education. The largest groups had some high school (37.8%) or had completed high school or a GED (27.9%). Educational attainment was generally similar between sheltered and unsheltered individuals.

EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED



Income

Income Status

About one third (32.9%) of respondents indicated that they had no source of income. An additional 3.9% of survey respondents did not indicate their income status. The remaining 63.2% of respondents had at least one form of income. Of those who reported having no income, 40.8% were unsheltered and 28.3% were shelter users on the night of the Count. The survey allowed for respondents to select as many different income sources as were relevant. As a result, percentage totals are greater than 100%.

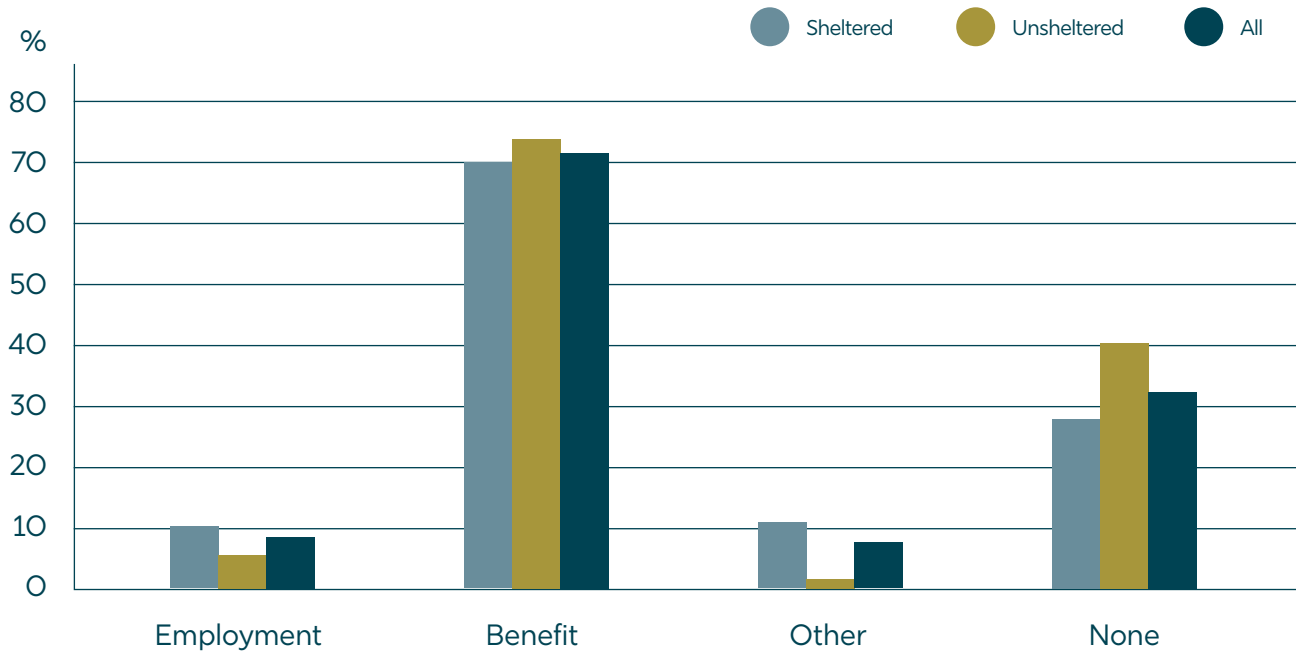
- When asked about their source of income, 72% indicated that they were receiving at least one benefit. These benefits include provincial Income Support (29.7% receiving non-medical Income Support and 14.8% receiving medical Income Support), disability benefits (15.2%), and senior's benefits (7.1%). Tax benefits were also noted sources of income, with 2.5% receiving Child and Family Tax benefits, and 3.2% receiving a GST refund.

Income Source

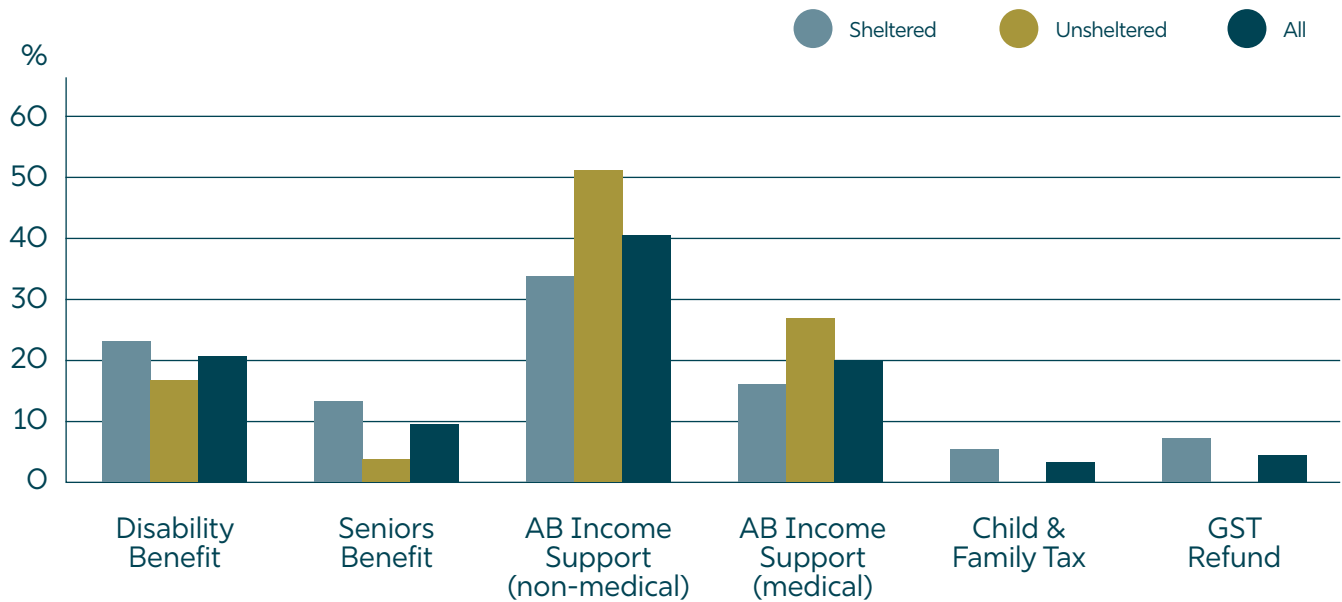
The top four sources of income reported were: Alberta non-medical income support (29.7%), Disability benefits (15.2%), Alberta medical income support (14.8%), Seniors' benefits (7.1%).

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, visuals in this section show rates as a percentage of those indicating income from that source, not as a percentage of all survey respondents. Additionally, totals may be greater than 100% as multiple income sources could be selected.

INCOME SOURCES (SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED)

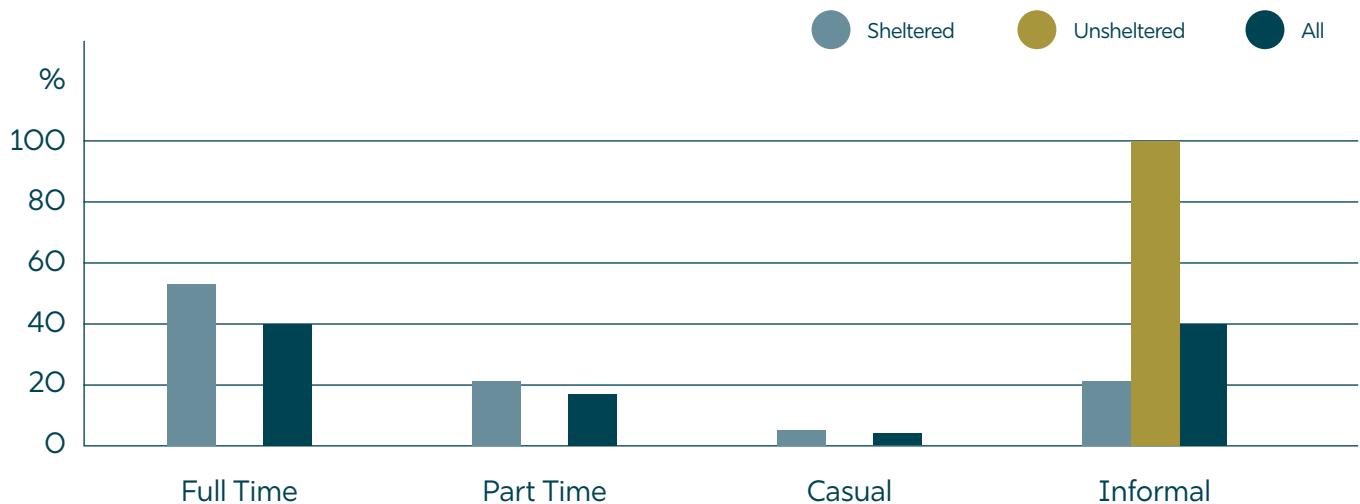


BENEFIT TYPE FOR THOSE WITH BENEFIT INCOME (SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED)



- Income from a form of employment was reported by 8.8% of all respondents. This included full-time work (3.5%), part-time work (1.4%), casual employment (0.4%), and informal income sources (3.5%), which could include panhandling, bottle return, or sex work, among others.

EMPLOYMENT TYPE FOR THOSE WITH EMPLOYMENT INCOME (SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED)





While questions regarding income source have not been consistent across past PiT Count surveys, some general observations can be made. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, more respondents have reported having no income, and while the number indicating they are receiving government benefits has increased, reports of employment-related income has declined. As respondents could select multiple sources, some totals are greater than 100%.

Experience of Homelessness

History of Homelessness

The median age of first experiencing homelessness was 18 years old. However, this varied significantly between sheltered and unsheltered respondents. Those staying in shelters reported a median age of 25 at their first experience, while those who were unsheltered first experienced homelessness at a much younger median age of 15, a 10-year difference.

Most respondents have spent the entirety of the past year without a home. In the past 3 years, 57.2% of respondents have spent half or more of their time homeless. This is consistent with findings showing that “chronic” homelessness has been increasing significantly (see figure “2024 Homeless Type”).

Pattern of Homelessness

Most survey respondents (83.7%) were experiencing chronic homelessness, while 13.9% and 2.4% were experiencing episodic and transitional homelessness, respectively.

To determine the pattern of homelessness experienced by 2024 PiT Count participants, the following federal definitions were used.

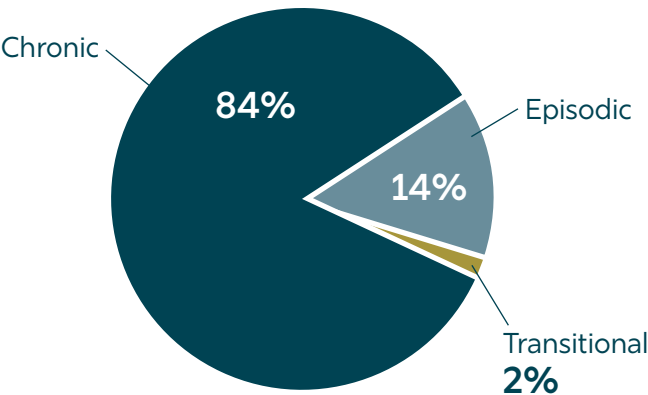
Chronic homelessness refers to individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness AND meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have experienced a total of at least six months (180 days) of homelessness over the past year
- Have recurrent experiences of homelessness over the past three years, with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months (546 days).

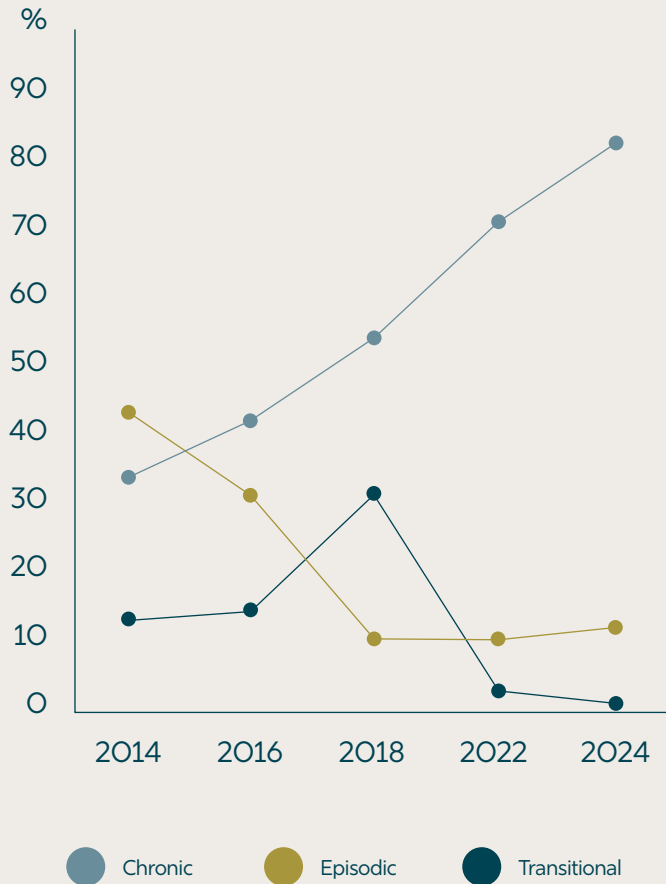
Episodic Homelessness refers to individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness and have been homeless for less than a year and have experienced fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past year. “Episodes” are defined as periods when a person would be in a shelter or a place not fit for human habitation, and, after at least 30 days, would be back in the shelter or inhabitable location.

Transitional Homelessness refers to individuals who are currently experiencing short-term homelessness, usually less than a month, and not on a recurring basis, as with episodic.

2024 HOMELESS TYPE



HOMELESS TYPE OVER TIME



The proportion of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness has risen significantly since the 2014 PiT Count. Meanwhile, episodic and transitional homelessness have declined, as more people remain unhoused for longer periods with fewer instances of being temporarily housed outside of the emergency shelter system. (see figure “Homelessness Type Over Time”).

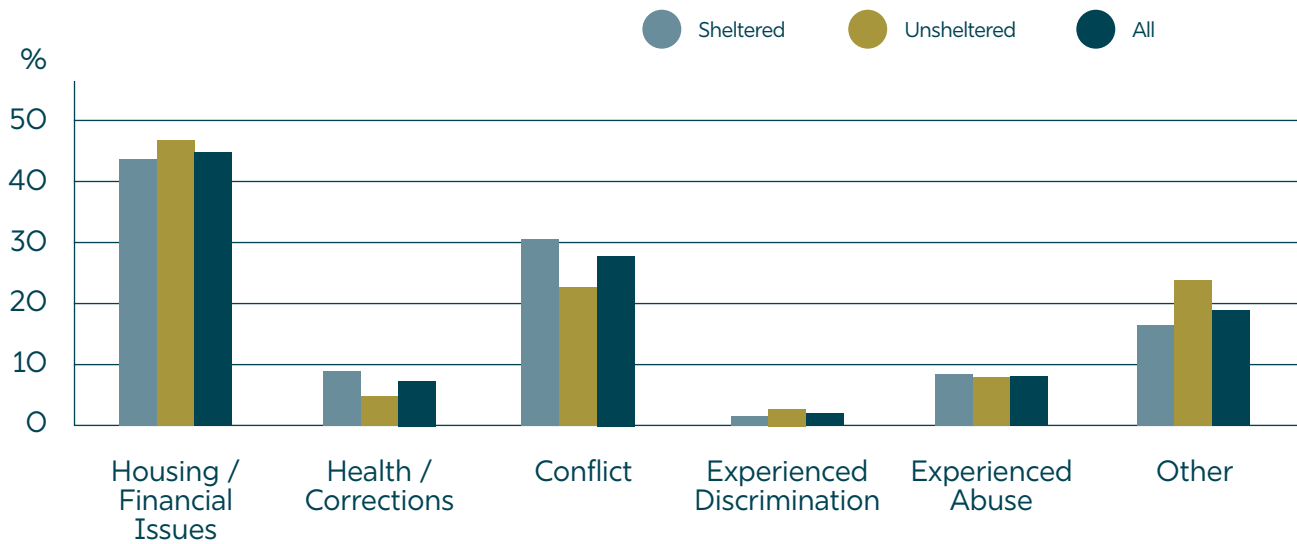
Reasons for Housing Loss

When asked to identify the reasons that had caused their current experience of homelessness, **14.5% of survey respondents selected more than one reason for their most recent reason for their housing loss.** As respondents could select multiple reasons, the totals below may be greater than 100% throughout this section.

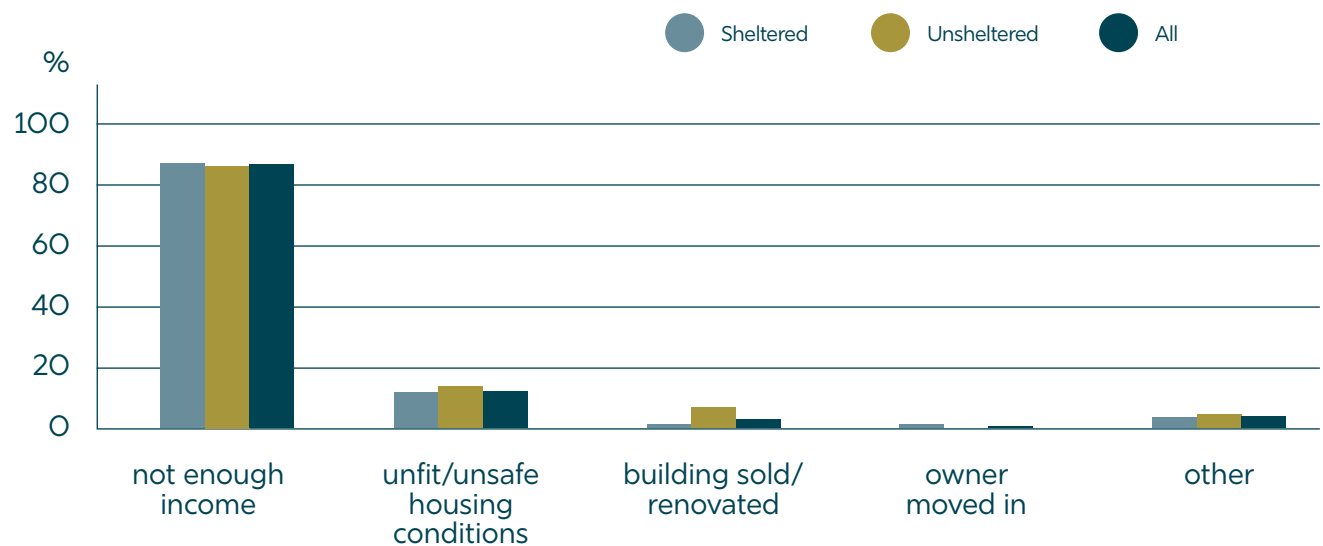
The most frequently cited reason for becoming homeless was related to housing or financial issues, selected by 43.8% of all respondents. When further broken down, of those who identified housing/financial issues, 86.6% reported did not having enough income to afford housing. An additional 12.6% noted that their home was unfit or unsafe, and 3.4% had to leave after the building was sold or undergoing renovations. Nearly half of all respondents (44.5%) reported that their most recent housing loss was related to an eviction.

Following housing and financial issues, the second most reported reason for experiencing homelessness was conflict, which was reported by 27.2% of all respondents. Of these respondents, 36.8% reported conflict with a spouse or partner, 21.1% with a parent/guardian, and 17.1% with a landlord. While the proportion of those who experienced the various housing or financial issues were similar between those sheltered and those unsheltered individuals on the night of the count, those who were unsheltered were more likely to have experienced conflict with a spouse/partner or parent/guardian. Those staying in a shelter were less likely to have had conflict with a parent/guardian and more likely to have had conflict with a landlord.

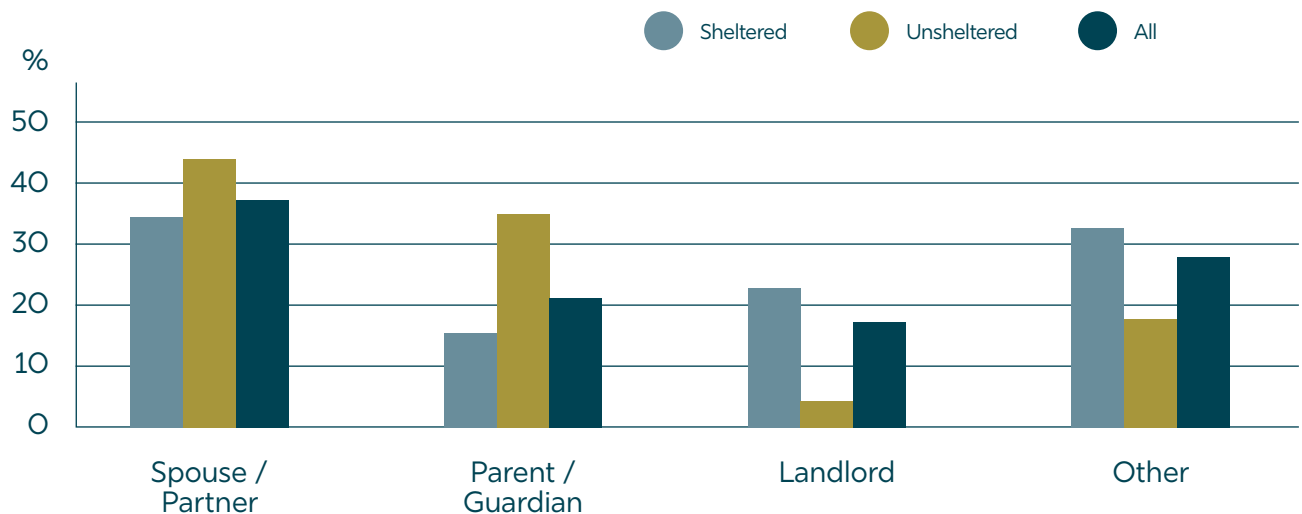
REASON(S) FOR BECOMING HOMELESS (SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED)



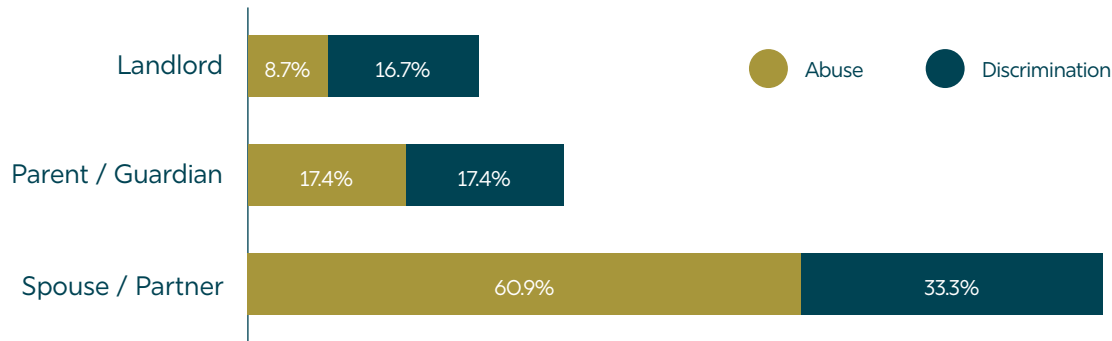
SPECIFIC REASON(S) FOR HOUSING LOSS FOR THOSE CITING HOUSING/FINANCIAL ISSUES (SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED)



CONFLICT SOURCE FOR THOSE LOSING HOUSING DUE TO CONFLICT (SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED)



ABUSE OR DISCRIMINATION PERPETRATORS



Others responded that their reason for homelessness was the result of experiencing either abuse (8.1%) or discrimination (2.2%). Of those experiencing abuse, 60.9% were abused by a spouse/partner, 17.4% by a parent/guardian, and 8.7% by a landlord. Among those experiencing discrimination (2.1% of all respondents), these rates were 33.3% by spouse/partner, 50% by parent/guardian, and 16.7% by landlord.

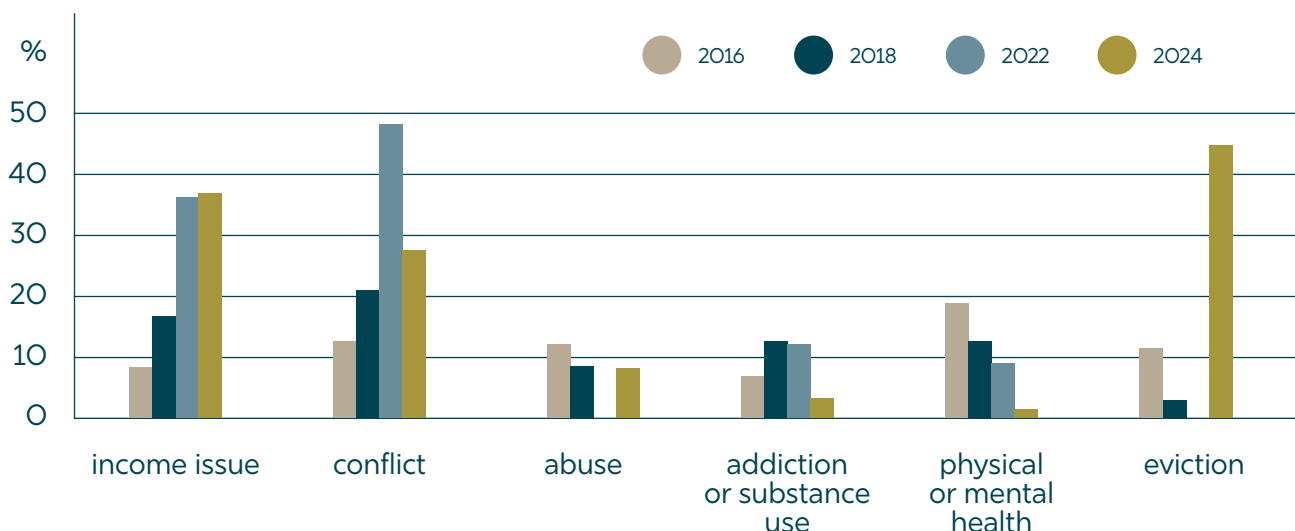
Finally, some respondents noted that their experience of homelessness could be attributed to a physical health issue or disability (1.4%), a mental health issue (2.8%), substance use (3.2%), or as the result of incarceration (2.1%).

While questions related to reasons for housing loss have not been asked consistently across PiT

Counts, making direct comparisons over time difficult, some trends are evident when responses are grouped by category.

- Lack of sufficient income rose significantly from 16.6% in 2018 to 36.0% in 2022, and held steady in 2024 (36.4%).
- Eviction-related homelessness, not measured in 2022, showed a sharp increase in 2024 (44.5%) compared to 2.8% in 2018.
- Reasons related to abuse, health, and substance use have remained relatively stable or declined overall.

REASON FOR HOUSING LOSS OVER TIME



Shelter Use

The most cited reasons that unsheltered respondents indicated for not using the shelter system were fear (40.8%), pests (28.2%), and the shelters being crowded (19.4%).

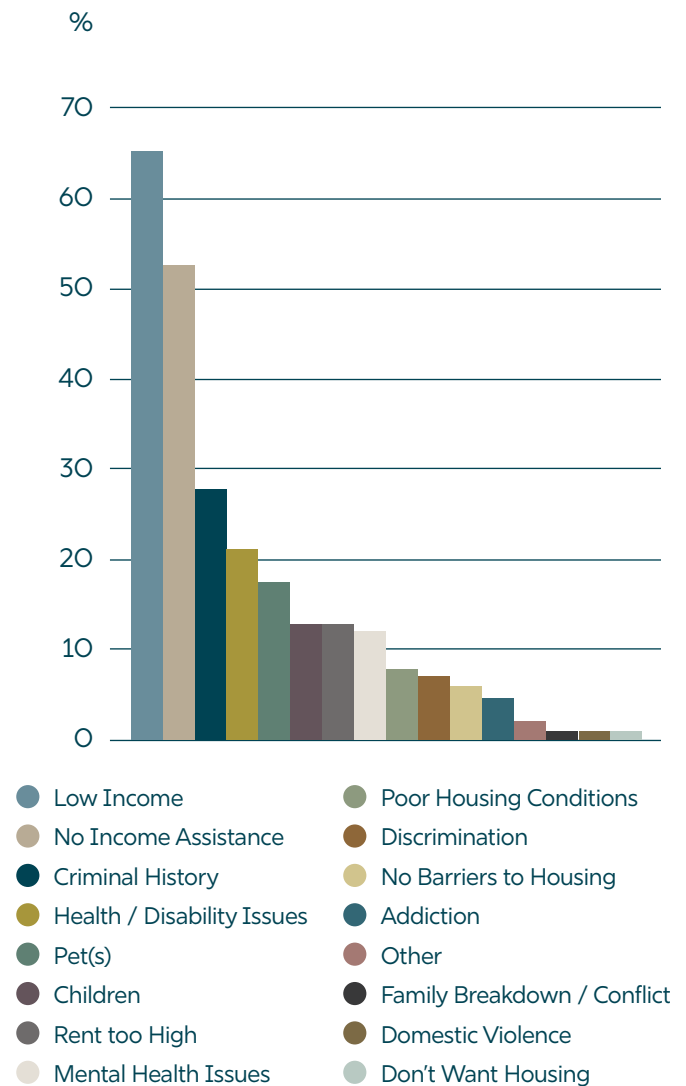
Barriers to Housing

Respondents were asked to indicate which barriers prevent them from finding housing. Multiple options could be selected, therefore totals may be greater than 100%. The top three responses indicated by survey respondents were:

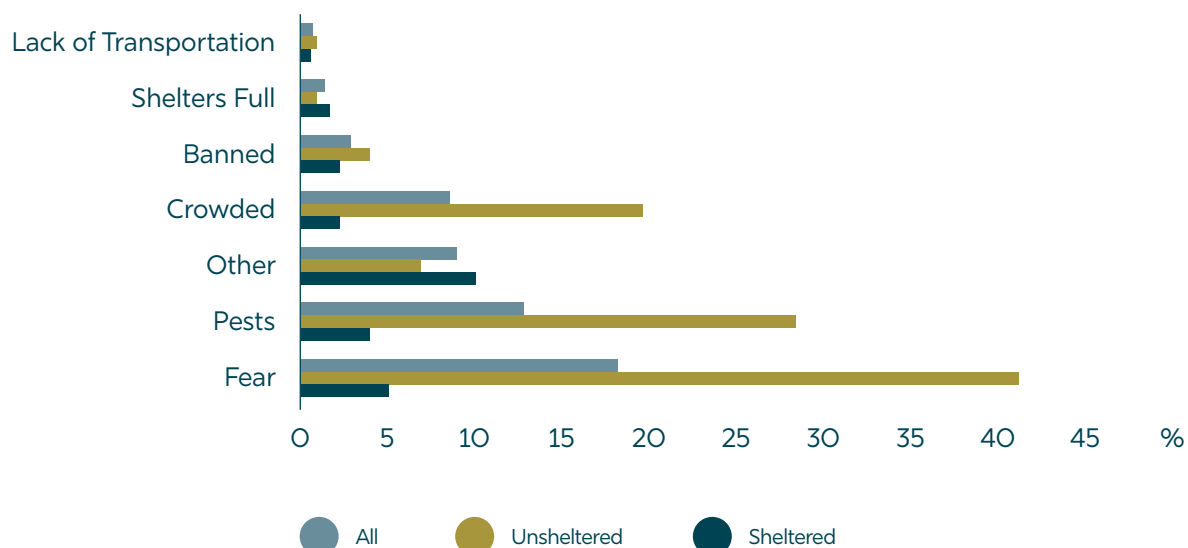
- Income related. Having a low income was indicated by 64.3% of respondents, and rent being too high was selected by 51.9%.
- Mental health issues was a barrier to finding housing for 17.3% of respondents.
- Having a criminal history was a barrier for 12.7% of respondents.

While this information has not been consistently collected over time, financial barriers (rent to high, low income, no income/income assistance) have consistently been the most common barriers to regaining housing.

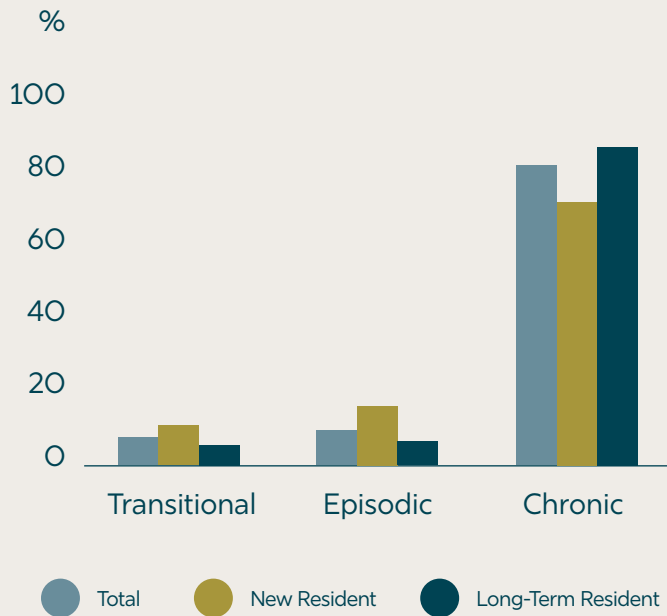
BARRIERS TO HOUSING



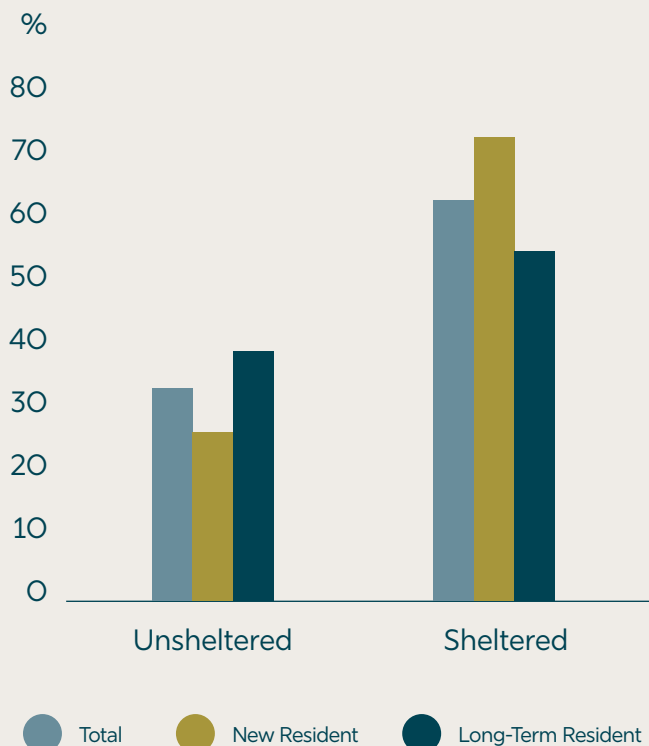
REASON(S) FOR NOT USING SHELTER



HOMELESSNESS TYPE (LONG-TERM VS. NEWER RED DEER RESIDENTS)



PLACE OF STAY (LONG-TERM VS. NEWER RED DEER RESIDENTS)



Migration

In 2024, survey participants were asked to share additional information regarding their length of residency in Red Deer, migration and related experiences in comparison to previous PiT Counts.

Of the 38 individuals (13.4%) who indicated that they had moved to Red Deer in the past year, 13 said the move was not their choice. They indicated they were dropped off by a social service from another community, including by police, social workers, or ambulance.

For comparative purposes, “long-term residents” were defined as those living in Red Deer for 10 or more years and accounted for 61.2% of survey respondents, while “new residents” were defined as those living in Red Deer for less than 10 years accounted for 38.8%.

Survey responses highlighted the following comparisons between the experiences of long-term and new residents.

- Long-term residents were more likely to experience chronic homelessness (87.8%) compared to new residents (72.6%).
- New residents were approximately twice as likely to fall into the episodic (16.4% vs. 6.5%) and transitional (11.0% vs. 5.7%) categories, indicating more recent or intermittent experiences of homelessness.
- New residents were more likely to use emergency shelters (72.0%) than long-term residents (54.4%).
- Nearly half of all long-term residents became homeless due to financial issues (48.1%). This was 10.1% higher than new residents.
- New residents more frequently reported leaving health or justice systems (9.0% vs. 5.7%) and were also more likely to cite abuse (11.0% vs. 6.3%) or discrimination (3.0% vs. 1.9%).

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