

# Prince George Point-in-Time Homeless Count Report 2021

Community Partners Addressing Homelessness



**Acknowledgements:**

This Point-in-Time Homeless Count could not have been completed without the many organizations, community partners and service agencies who provided invaluable support throughout the process. A special thank-you is extended to the agencies, volunteers and survey respondents.

**Prepared by:**

Lynn Florey, Kerry Pateman, and Ashley Thandi

**Funded by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.**

*The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.*

Canada 

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SECTION 2: PURPOSE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SECTION 3: METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Outdoor Surveying</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Training</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Data Collection</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SECTION 3: SURVEY RESULTS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Respondent Demographics</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Respondents Age and Gender</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Respondents Age and Indigenous Status</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Respondent's Age When They First Became Homeless</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Places Stayed</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Reason for Housing Loss</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Income and Homelessness</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Challenges Finding Housing</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Acquired Brain Injury</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Current Health Challenges</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Need for Services</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>APPENDIX: Screening Tool and Survey Instrument</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>2021 PiT Homeless Count SCREENING TOOL</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>2021 Prince George PiT SURVEY Prince George PiT SURVEY</b>	<b>29</b>

## REFLECTIVE PREFACE

2021 is the third time that Prince George has participated in the National Point-in-Time Homeless Count and as with all communities engaging in PiT counts, the COVID-19 pandemic presented a significant set of circumstances to overcome. As there are only two sets of data to compare, it should be cautioned that results and data should be reviewed with this consideration in mind. The basic methodology has not changed from the 2016 count to the 2018 count and on through the 2020/21 count. Training is still required for those participating in surveying respondents. The questions posed on the 2021 PiT Count survey remain the same as previous count questions with just a few minor adjustments. In particular, we determined that some comparative data could now be accessed to ascertain:

- 1) What impact the pandemic had had on the vulnerable population.
- 2) What trends or issues may have developed or can be identified through comparative analysis.

A long-term commitment to the National counts will increase the accuracy of both data and conclusions as time progresses. As a comparative narrative, we, along with other communities, continue to review how to read and refine data. As a result, commentary should be considered more in terms of identifying trends, identifying gaps in data collection and refining the methodology.

This most recent Point-in-Time Homeless Count (PiT) took place on the evening of March 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This was actually a year later than originally planned. The PiT count is designed to take place every two years with the first occurring in 2016, the second in 2018 and the third would have been 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant problems in 2020 that could not practically be overcome.

Prince George, as a participating community, has always targeted the month of April for counts to coincide with the later part of winter and to enable comparisons to previous counts to be more equitable. Work on the 2020 PiT count was well under way by the beginning of the year 2020 and our community was preparing the volunteer training activities when the issues around the pandemic became obvious and major restrictions were implemented. This meant that we initially delayed all activities but with the expectation that it would be a temporary delay. However, it quickly became obvious that this was more serious and would continue much longer than initially thought. After much consultation, it was determined that the best option was to delay for one whole year and to target March 2021 instead. This was also deemed the most appropriate course of action as it would still allow for comparative data to previous counts given that the time of year would still be consistent throughout this and previous counts and would further contribute to maintaining the integrity of the data collected..

However, even before we reached March 2021, the COVID pandemic was still a significant issue with vaccines only just becoming available. Social distancing, masks and increased hygiene were still essential. In addition to these factors, many homeless servicing agencies had been required to adapt provision of services; meal drop in centers could only provide take-out meals, capacity numbers in services were reduced, the targeted survey group were more dispersed across the downtown. We were also still in the predicament where we could not ethically use volunteers from the community on street counts as we had in the past.

In the period leading up to the PIT count date, there were multiple meetings with government, agencies, community etc. in order to explore alternative ways of still delivering the count. Governmental contacts assisted greatly with options that could be considered and would be supported, including even a further delay. It was felt that if the community was confident it could still achieve surveys at approximately similar numbers to past counts, there was value to moving ahead with adaptations to the methodology. For instance, using agency outreach workers in place of volunteers. This was discussed with the key community stakeholders who all agreed they felt the numbers necessary could still be achieved and while there was no guarantee anyone could give, the decision was made to move forward with the March 2021 date.

Areas to be considered included a noticeable agency operational and service reduction in particular. This, in turn, created a potential for an impact on the PT count as a result of COVID health and safety restrictions in comparison to previous years. This impact ranged, for example, from double occupancy rooms required to operate as single occupancy rooms; drop in services and meals could no longer be offered in house and had to quickly convert to a “take-out” system and many community agency services had to rapidly adapt internally to changing operational circumstances. Cleaning and disinfecting premises, and health monitoring of clients by staff. All these adaptations had to be developed and implemented rapidly and as the COVID pandemic progressed, additional operational adaptations were implemented; masks and PPE equipment, sanitizing and social distancing. The emergency COVID funding provided by the Government were of enormous assistance in this regard.

Following multiple community stakeholder meetings where strategizing took place, key agencies agreed to take part in the count and to complete surveys with clients where possible. Outreach Workers were ready and willing to complete outdoor surveys and BC Housing, who had provided many of the isolation units as the pandemic progressed were more than happy to provide their data as well. This in turn gave a strong level of confidence that the numbers required to ensure integrity of the data could be maintained.

Training had to be modified for the outreach workers and delivered through a web video link and all participating agencies had resources (surveys, participation gifts, enumeration forms etc.) delivered directly to them and picked up by appointment.

The completion of the count showed that close to the past numbers was achieved and analysis of the data provided a high level of confidence in its validity with previous counts.

It is still very tempting, however, for many readers to look for the one figure – that of how many homeless we have in our community. However, this figure will always be an under-representation of the real numbers due to a variety of factors. There are hidden homeless in every community. These can be individuals that may be patients in hospitals, incarcerated, staying temporarily with friends or family, or just simply declining to take part in the Point in Time survey.

In general, there has been relative consistency in the statistics over time. The numbers reflect the reality that each count indicates neither a noticeable increase, nor decrease in the population group surveyed. Where slight differences have occurred, there has been a rationale to explain the difference; for instance, a gender based agency unable to participate in a count was highlighted in male versus female respondents.

Overwhelmingly, in both the 2016 and 2018 counts, government sources were the major income reported amongst respondents and affordable housing was the highest barrier to finding housing. This was also reflected

in the 2021 count and should be no surprise as there has been little to no change in social income/benefits. Affordable housing has also not been invested in to any significant degree and it is important to recognize that the term “affordable” is open to interpretation. In very recent times, significant multi-housing units have been developed in the downtown core, but they are far from affordable units for anyone on social income, low income assistance, those in broken family groups, paying supports, laid off, undergoing mental and physical disabilities. However, “affordable” only plays a role if it includes those that call the downtown home and are trying to maintain housing within the less than \$400 per month allowance that the government assumes is sufficient for one to afford both shelter and living expenses. \*Note; post-secondary students are also often in this category.

Many of these groups make up the homeless population we struggle to count and there are no data we have or collect that recognizes these sectors within a “Point in Time Count”.

All research also indicates that a variety of downtown living should be supported with additional services. The new units approved through the City of Prince George do not provide rent alone for a one bedroomed home for less than approximately \$700-\$800 per month rent. We do feel it is important at this time to recognize the efforts made by BC housing to develop “the right housing” for the vulnerable, one with wraparound services appropriate for moving onward and upward for our vulnerable.

Given the similarity in responses to ongoing National counts, we see little significant change over time and would tentatively draw the conclusion that while homelessness does not appear to be increasing, it is not decreasing either. We are starting to see more confidence in reporting why people become homeless and more importantly, the age at which they become homeless. This may in turn, lead us to better target and plan resources and services. The 2021 Count data continue to indicate these circumstances. It could be suggested that more resources and efforts be placed on preventing entry into homelessness rather than focusing primarily on the exit strategies.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On March 18, 2021 Prince George took part in a nationally coordinated effort, led by the Government of Canada’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy, to measure homelessness in Canada. The Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count was conducted in partnership with the Community Partners Addressing Homelessness and community stakeholders.

It should be noted that participation in the national PiT Count was voluntary for communities. Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, communities were able to adapt the methodology, and to delay the Count from 2020 to 2021. The PiT counts are considered by many to be a critical starting point to establishing a national picture of Homelessness across Canada and they allow communities to engage in comparative studies based on national standards. This in turn, strengthens and broadens homelessness data for the future.

Over a period of 12 hours agency staff surveyed individuals in 7 agencies, including shelters, transitional housing facilities and a drop-in centre. From 6:00 pm to 1:00 am, outreach workers surveyed individuals in outdoor locations, such as sidewalks and other public places.

Also, to accurately get a number of those absolutely homeless 9 organizations, including emergency shelter, transitional housing and institutional facilities, provided enumeration data. It further provides an opportunity to assess how other funded Reaching Home Programs and priorities are potentially impacting the issue of homelessness over a period of time.

The PiT count, in and of itself, offers a “snapshot” of homelessness in Prince George on a particular date. The data results are limited from a number of perspectives; for instance, our community has a population base of approximately 80,000 and limited services/resources. Should one or two agencies be unable to participate in the PiT count, it can make a noticeable change in numbers and responses. The COVID-19 pandemic affected how and where people were surveyed and by whom. It should never be considered as exact given that there are “hidden” homeless that were not able to be surveyed as many are staying short term with acquaintances, friends or family. The Prince George PiT count has always been focused on the most populated area of homelessness and vulnerable which is our downtown core, where the vast majority of our social service agencies are located.

**Some of the key findings include:**

- A minimum of 163 individuals were experiencing absolute homeless the night of March 18, 2021, including those responding by survey they stayed outdoors (16) and the enumeration data for emergency shelters (147 - using shelter stay information data)
- Outreach workers observed 57 people outdoors that they identified as likely homeless.
- An additional 134 individuals were staying in transitional housing (using transitional housing enumeration data)
- 2 were provided as staying in hospital with no fixed address

**2021 Survey key findings:**

- 16 of 122 respondents (13%) stayed outdoors unsheltered in a public space
- 87 of 122 respondents (71%) stayed in emergency shelters
- 68% identified as being of indigenous descent
- 57% of 122 respondents identified as male, 40% as female
- Ages ranged from 18 to 74
- 63% of respondents are between the ages of 25-49, 23% aged 50-64, 10% under 25, 4% older than 65
- Almost half of the respondents (48%) had previously been in foster care and/or group homes
- 82% of the respondents are Chronically homeless (homeless for 6 months or more of the past year)
- 4% had served in the Canadian military or RCMP
- When asked the age they first became homeless, 25% indicated under 18, 10% after the age of 54, while the median age was 27

## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

This report provides the background, the methodology and a summary of the data of the 2021 Prince George Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count. This is Prince George's fourth Homeless Count and it is the third one that has been conducted as part of a national coordinated initiative of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

This third coordinated Point-in-Time Count was conducted by the Community Partners Addressing Homeless (CPAH), through a Federal Government initiative under Employment and Social Development Canada. All 61 Designated Communities were invited to participate. It was originally required that the Count be held within March or April of 2020, but then postponed several times as the COVID pandemic continued to progress. At the writing of this report, the pandemic is now into its' fourth wave and amongst the vulnerable population is still at serious levels.

The PiT count was intended to recognize that if communities across Canada were to use similar methods and similar questions in a PiT count that is conducted around the same time of year, a national picture of homelessness could emerge. Having a greater number of communities conducting the count in the same way at the same time would contribute to a broader picture of homelessness across Canada. This could then be a benchmark against which progress in reducing homelessness can be measured. This goal has not changed to date and is, in fact, giving us some opportunities to now consider trends and/or changes.

Conducting a Homeless Count is both time consuming and complex; it requires careful and effective planning and a regimented implementation. In Prince George, CPAH has taken on the task of conducting a Homeless Count on two previous occasions, 2008 and 2010, which were not at that time part of any broader national picture and the data from those counts are not included in the National efforts.

CPAH is a long established community group of more than 45 volunteer agencies and government representatives that have been active for two decades and have developed an intimate understanding of the homeless sector in Prince George and the issues associated with it. The previous local based counts were conducted at the direction of the community and with minimal resources to support the count.

## **SECTION 2: PURPOSE**

The PiT Count has two purposes:

1. A count of people experiencing absolute homelessness – identify how many people are experiencing homelessness in shelters and on the street at a given time. Over several years, these counts can be used by the community to track progress in addressing and reducing homelessness.
2. A survey of the homeless population – through the survey, gives the community information on the demographics and service needs of their homeless population. This information can be used to target community resources to where they are most needed.



## SECTION 3: METHODOLOGY

Prior to the PiT counts, communities conducted counts through very diverse and community specific ways. The PiT Count Methodology is intended to standardize the basic elements of the count across communities, with some ability to adapt to local needs. Recognizing the need to balance methodological rigor and community flexibility, the PiT Count approach included Core Standards for the methodology consistent across communities, while allowing flexibility for the approach to be tailored to each community's local context. In addition to the Core Standards, the approach also included recommended standards, based on effective practices used by communities in Canada. For more information on the PiT count standard methodology please access the Guide "*GUIDE TO POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS IN CANADA*" and the "*PiT Count Toolkit*" both of which are available through the Employment and Social Development Canada website.

PiT counts were required to be conducted within March or April 2020, and be conducted within a 24-hour period. Core questions had to be included in the survey and the data results were to be uploaded with a Final Community Report to the government for Provincial alignment.

It continued to be recognized that the pandemic was still far from abating a year later than the original plan for March/April 2020. There were several communities all in the same predicament of when and how to hold the PiT count safely and still maintain the core integrity of the data collected. There were numerous conversations and strategizing with government bodies and community stakeholders. We needed to know that we could still reach previous count participant numbers and determine how we would conduct outdoor surveys without being able to access volunteers – the mandatory training was not feasible under health restrictions and many services had been forced to adapt service delivery. For instance, meals could no longer be served indoors for clients and rooms could not be shared.

Count coordinators took direction from the CPAH and key stakeholders and it was decided that the count would be conducted on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with the following provisions.

- No volunteers from the community were recruited. Instead, agencies provided their outreach workers to complete both counts in agencies and also complete outdoor counts where possible.
- All participating stakeholders were contacted and asked to provide an estimate of how many clients they felt they could survey in house. Appropriate resources were then assembled and delivered to each one.
- All completed in house counts and surveys were also collected directly.
- Training regarding the survey completion was presented as a web video that each outreach worker was required to access.
- These adaptations allowed us to complete the count and still maintain all health and safety requirements

The Count Advisory Committee agreed on the time of the outdoor – unsheltered count which took place from 6:00 pm to 1:00am on March 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. In addition, it was agreed that we would survey in 'drop in' facilities for a period of 12 hours. Shelters and transitional housing facilities could survey at any point on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Surveys were conducted by staff at the participating facilities and agencies.

## Outdoor Surveying

In previous counts, mapping of outdoor areas had been completed based on the direct knowledge of agencies and outreach workers. Volunteers, who had received the mandatory training would then be assigned various areas to conduct surveys. As was noted earlier, this year saw only trained outreach workers completing outdoor surveys based on their experience working with the client base and direct knowledge of routes and habits of clients.

Honorariums were still provided and consisted of candy bars and bus tickets. We had a total of 6 outdoor surveyors operating in teams of two.

## Training

Due to the pandemic, face to face training was not feasible. Instead, a modified web-link training video, along with instructions and directions, was developed and each participating agency was sent the link with requirements to acknowledge receipt.

## Data Collection

To collect information about individuals experiencing homelessness, the 2021 Point-in-Time Homeless Count used three methods. Tally sheets, survey data and systems enumeration.

**Survey Data.** The survey consisted of an introductory screening script, 15 core questions from Reaching Home, and additional questions suggested by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH). The screening questions were used to determine if the individual had previously taken the survey, was willing to participate, and if they were eligible to complete the survey (if they had no permanent home). The Screening sheet and the Survey are attached as an Appendix.

A total of 122 surveys were completed and screened in for data collection.

<b>March 18, 2021 PiT Count – Location of survey completion</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<b>122 surveys completed</b>
<b><i>Shelters / Transitional Housing</i></b>	98 total
AWAC Shelter and housing	22
ASAP Men and Women’s Shelter	44
Ketso Yoh Men’s Shelter	15
PGNFC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave Temp Shelter	4
Northern John Howard Society	3
T’se Koo	10
<b><i>Other Unsheltered locations (includes Drop-in)</i></b>	25 total
New Hope Society	7
Various outdoor/street locations	18

Table 1 Location of Data Collection

**Tally Sheets.** Outreach workers surveying in unsheltered locations used tally sheets to record individuals that were observed but did not participate in the survey. They reported the reason the person was not surveyed

(whether they declined, already responded, or were observed only). For individuals that were observed as homeless, outreach workers indicated the reasons why they perceived the individual as homeless.

Tally sheets were optional as a means of identifying homeless individuals. Since we had outreach workers conducting the outdoor surveys, and noting the information on tally sheets, we are comfortable that the assessment of those noted on the tally sheets as “Observed Homeless” is a number that we can use with some confidence. Some of those shown as homeless on the tally sheets may have later gone into a shelter or to a ‘home’. We cautiously report that 57 individuals were observed as Homeless.

**Systems Enumeration Data.** Overnight stay numbers were collected from sheltered locations where homeless individuals may be residing, including emergency and temporary shelters, extreme weather shelters, transitional housing and institutions. For this count, all shelters provided data, and some transitional housing facilities. Information was collected from the organizations regarding the total number of clients staying there the night of the count. The Enumeration Data form used and the organizations that responded are available upon request.

The Enumeration systems data results gathered the following:

<b>Enumerations Systems data – stays for night of March 18, 2021</b>		
<b>Type of facility</b>	<b>Occupants Adults and Unaccompanied Youth 19 +</b>	<b>Occupants Unaccompanied Youth 15-18</b>
Shelter (including temporary)	109	5
EWR	33	
<b>TOTAL Shelter and EWR</b>	<b>147</b>	
Transitional Housing	131	3
<b>TOTAL Transitional housing</b>	<b>134</b>	
<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Adults No Fixed Address</b>	
<b>UHNBC Total</b>	2	

Table 2 Enumeration Systems data

## SECTION 3: SURVEY RESULTS

### Respondent Demographics

The median age of respondents of the 2021 Point-in-Time Homeless Count was 40 years old. The age range of respondents was from 18 to 74 and 10 respondents were over the age of 60.

<b>Variable</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Age</b>	(n=120)	(n=144)	(n=205)
Under 25	10 %	7 %	11 %
25 - 44	51 %	48 %	41 %
45 - 64	35 %	43 %	43 %
65+	4 %	2 %	5 %
<b>Gender Identity</b>	(n=120)	(n=144)	(n=205)
Man	57 %	46 %	56 %
Woman	40 %	51 %	44 %
Two-spirit	1 %	2 %	
Non-binary (genderqueer)	1 %		
<b>Indigenous Identity</b>	(n=122)	(n=140)	(n=205)
First Nations	44 %	62 %	52 %
Metis	20 %	14 %	9 %
Indigenous Ancestry	4 %	4 %	7 %
Non-Indigenous	30 %	20 %	29 %
Don't Know	2%		
<b>Race</b>	(n=109)		
Arab	1 %		
Black – African	1 %		
Latin American	2 %		
White	41 %		
Identify as Indigenous Only	39 %		
Other	5 %		
Don't Know/Decline to Answer	12 %		

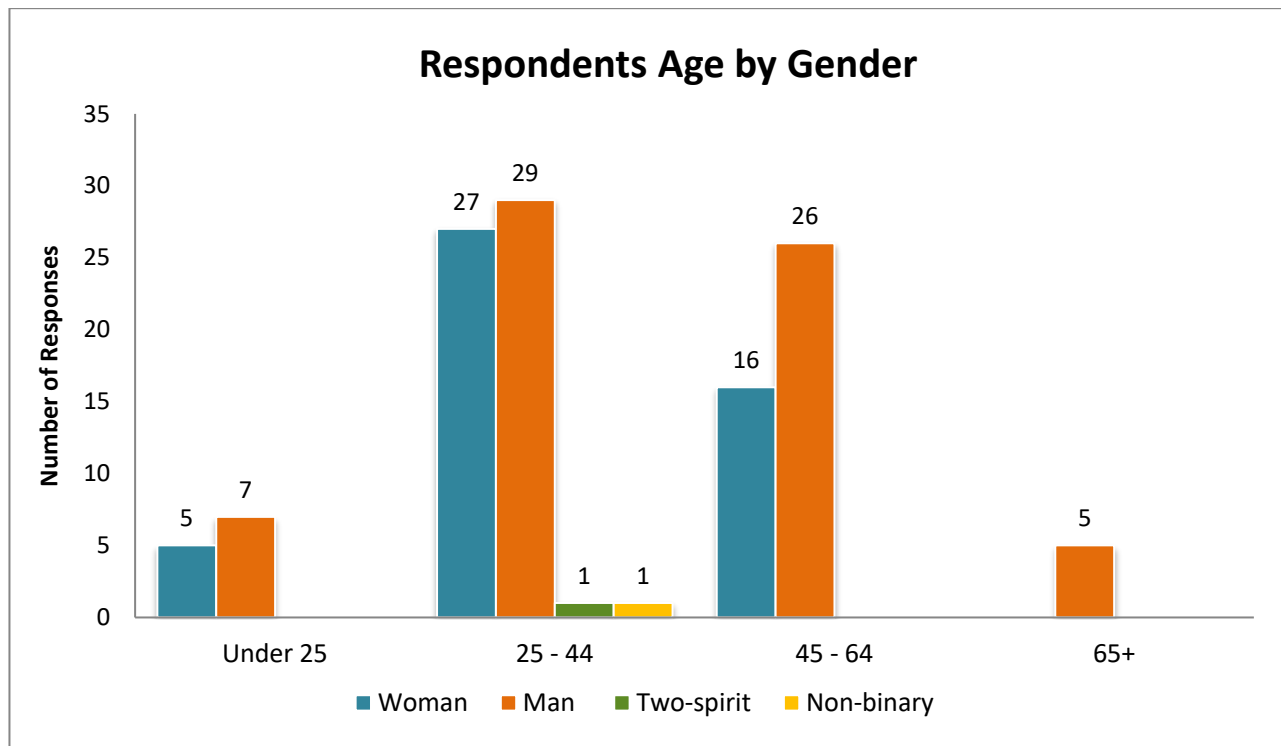
Table 3 Respondent Demographics

## Respondents Age and Gender

When gender was cross-referenced with age the following was noted:

Age	Woman	Man	Two-spirit	Non-binary
Under 25	5	7		
25 - 44	27	29	1	1
45 - 64	16	26		
65+		5		

Table 4 Respondents Age by Gender 2021

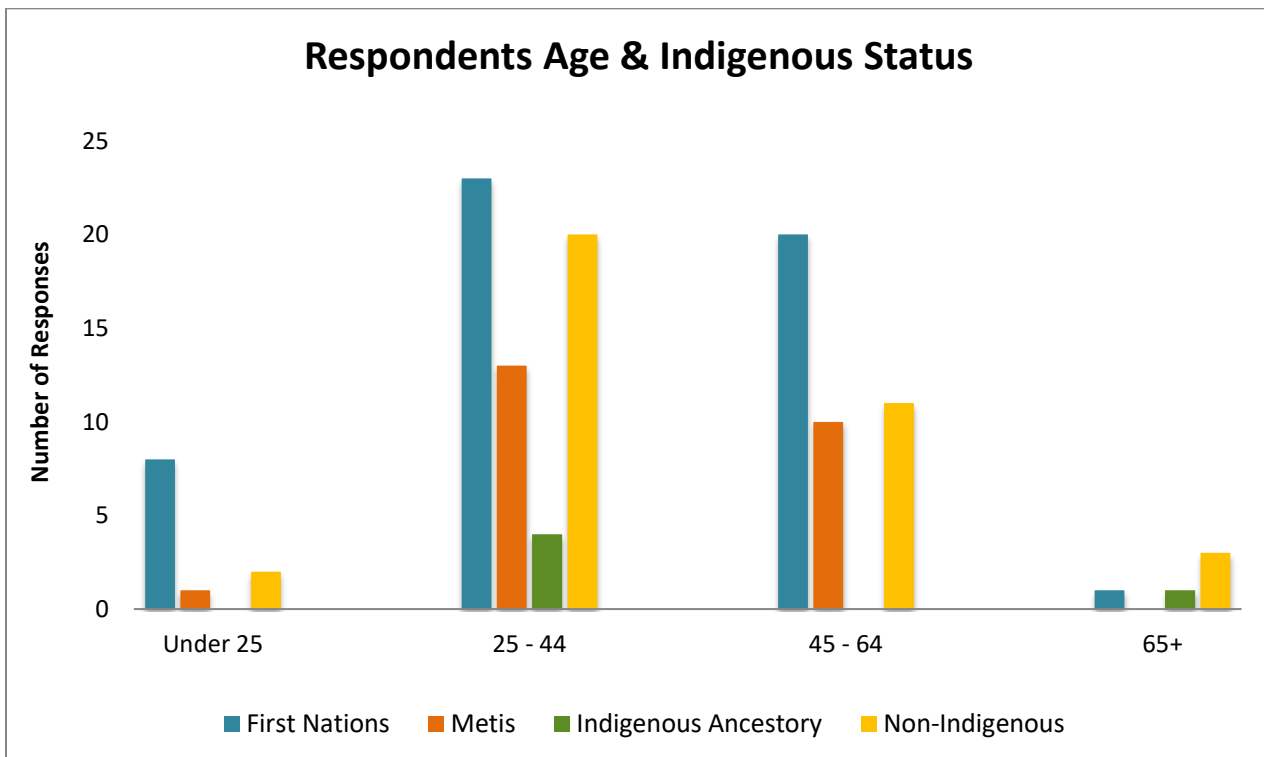


## Respondents Age and Indigenous Status

When age was cross-referenced with Indigenous status, the following was noted:

Age	First Nations	Metis	Indigenous Ancestry	Non-Indigenous
Under 25	8	1		2
25 - 44	23	13	4	20
45 - 64	20	10		11
65+	1		1	3

Table 5 Respondents Age and Indigenous Identity 2021

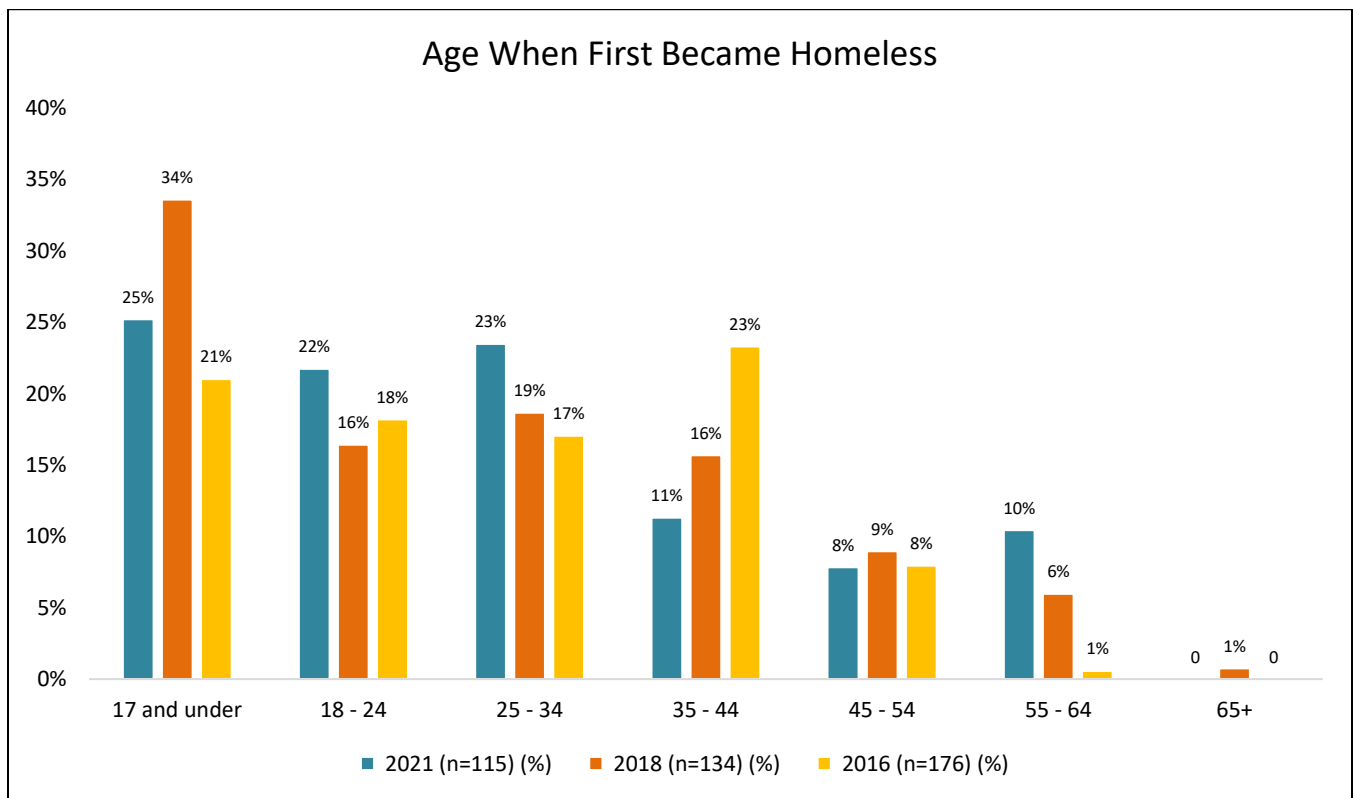


## Respondent's Age When They First Became Homeless

In 2021, a total of 115 respondents responded to the question, “How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?” The median age that respondents surveyed first became homeless was 27.5 years old. Table 5 provides a summary of the responses given along with a comparison of previous PiT count responses.

Age First Homeless	2021	2018	2016
17 and under	25%	34%	21%
18 - 24	22%	16%	18%
25 - 34	23%	19%	17%
35 - 44	11%	16%	23%
45 - 54	8%	9%	8%
55 - 64	10%	6%	1%
65+	0	1%	0
Total Respondents	115	134	176

Table 6 Age When First Homeless

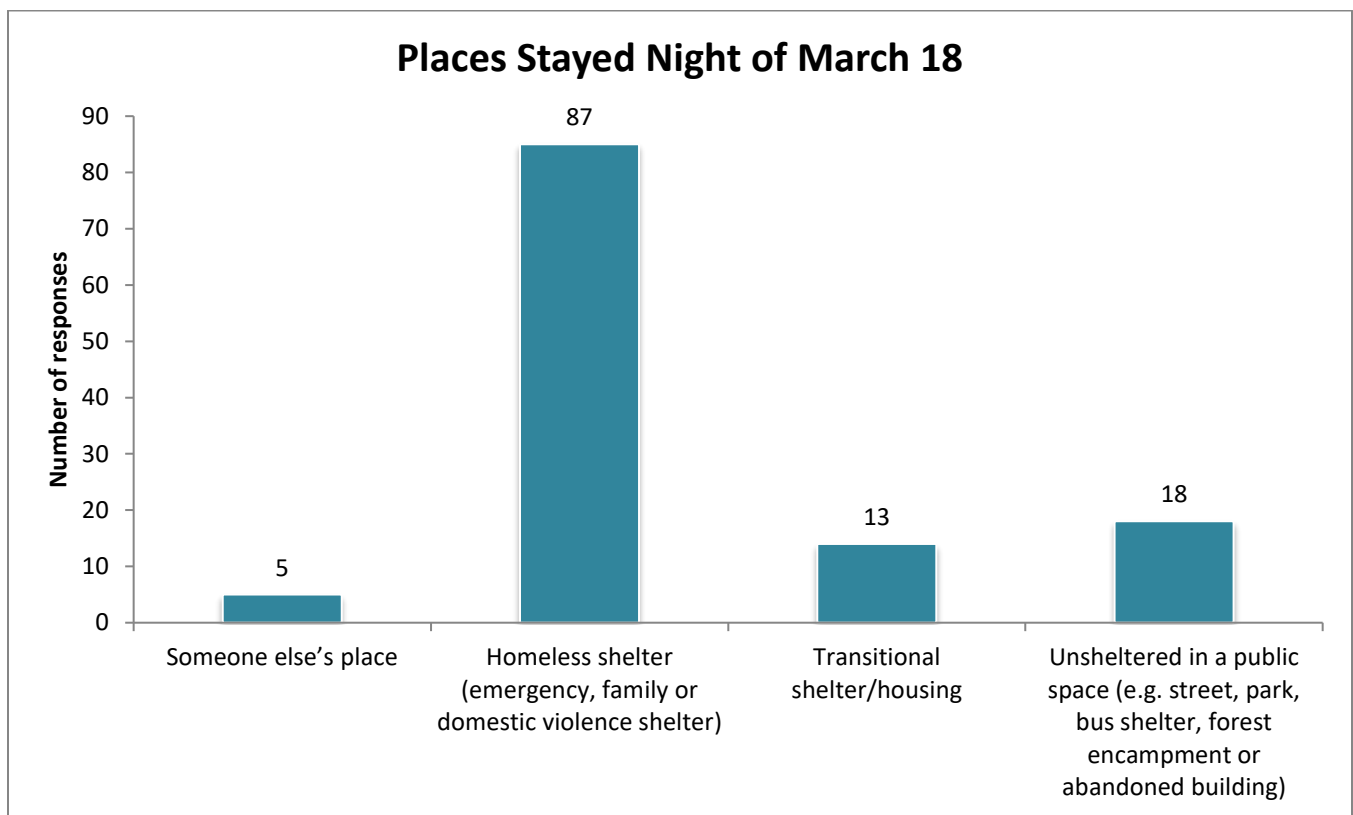


## Places Stayed

Respondents to the PiT survey reported a variety of locations that they were spending the night of March 18, 2021.

Place Stayed Night of March 18	Number	Percent
Someone else's place	5	4%
Homeless shelter (emergency, family or domestic violence shelter)	87	71%
Transitional shelter/housing	14	11%
Unsheltered in a public space (e.g. street, park, bus shelter, forest encampment or abandoned building)	16	13%
Total	122	

Table 7 Places Stayed Night of March 18





### **Emergency Shelter Within The Past Year**

Respondents were asked if they had stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year. 106 respondents indicated they had stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year and 16 indicated that they had not stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year.

Those that responded they had not, were asked to indicate the main reasons they had for not staying in an emergency shelter within the past year. Each respondent was able to indicate more than one reason.

For this 2021 PiT Count, and the 2018 PiT Count, the main reasons for not staying in a shelter were consistent, with 'Fear for safety' being the number one mentioned reason.

#### **Main reasons for not staying in shelter:**

- Fear for safety
- Turned away (banned)
- Preferred to stay elsewhere – friends, family,
- Bedbugs and other pests
- Theft of goods
- Turned away (shelters full)

Where a respondent noted they had been turned away as they were banned, this is almost always as a result of past behaviour or violent incidences.

## General Characteristics

<b>Variable</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b><i>Family members with them</i></b>	(n = 122)	(n = 139)	(n = 200)
Yes	4%	20%	16%
<b><i>Came to Canada as an immigrant or refugee</i></b>	(n = 122)	(n = 126)	(n = 201)
Yes, immigrant	2%	2%	2%
<b><i>Service in the Canadian Military or RCMP</i></b>	(n = 122)	(n = 138)	(n = 205)
Yes	4%	3%	5%
<b><i>Previously been in foster care and/or group home</i></b>	(n = 122)	(n = 139)	(n = 199)
Yes	48%	45%	41%
<b><i>Stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year</i></b>	(n = 122)	(n = 146)	(n = 200)
Yes	87%	80%	80%
<b><i>Length of time homeless in the past year</i></b>	(n = 122)	(n = 129)	(n = 190)
0 -2 months	8%	15%	15%
3 - 5 months	5%	10%	13%
6+ months (Chronically Homeless)	82%	74%	64%
Don't Know/ Decline to Answer	5%	1%	8%
<b><i>Moved to Prince George in the past year</i></b>	(n=120)	(n=143)	(n=201)
Yes	8%	15%	28%

Table 8 General Characteristics

## How long in Prince George

Survey respondents were asked how long they have been in Prince George, a total of 120 responses were received.

Length of time in Prince George	2021 responses (%)	2018 responses (%)
More than a year	65%	66%
Always been here	26%	17%
Less than a year	8%	15%

Table 9 How Long In Prince George

Whilst we ask this question, we must also recognize the ethics of the question. In Canada, every individual has the right to live and reside in any province and any community they wish, regardless of origin, status, gender, religion, sexual orientation etc., and further, be entitled to benefits of every individual in that specific community. As a Northern capital of the top two thirds of the province, we are fortunate to have multiple services available. Our local service agencies are called to respond regardless of where someone has come from.

Respondents were asked where they had lived before they came to Prince George:

Moved to Prince George from	(n = 85)
Northern BC	40
Interior BC	3
Lower mainland and Vancouver Island	11
Alberta	16
Rest of Canada	6
Other, city not specified, don't know	6

Table 10 Lived prior to coming to Prince George

## Reason for Housing Loss

Respondents were asked the question, “What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?” Table 11 provides a summary of the reasons chosen by respondents. It should be noted that the categories were slightly different for each PiT count. Respondents were able to choose more than one reason for housing loss.

Reason for Housing Loss	2021 responses (n=184)	2018 responses (n=181)	2016 responses (n=244)
<b>HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES</b>			
Not enough income /unable to pay rent	34 (18%)	36 (20%)	20 (8%)
Landlord/tenant conflict	15 (8%)	9 (5%)	10 (4%)
Unfit/unsafe housing condition	11 (6%)	21 (12%)	18 (7%)
Building sold or renovated	6 (3%)		
Experienced discrimination	5 (3%)		
Complaint (e.g. pets/noise/damage)	4 (2%)	2 (1%)	
Job Loss		13 (7%)	30 (12%)
<b>INTERPERSONAL AND FAMILY ISSUES</b>			
Experienced Conflict (spouse / partner /family / other)	21 (11%)	24 (13%)	65 (27%)
Experienced abuse (spouse / partner / parent / other)	4 (2%)	9 (5%)	24 (10%)
Departure of family member	3 (2%)	5 (3%)	
Chose to be independent		2 (1%)	
Left the community	4 (2%)		
<b>HEALTH OR CORRECTIONS</b>			
Substance use issue	25 (14%)	32 (18%)	39 (16%)
Mental health issue	12 (7%)		14 (6%)
Physical health issue	8 (4%)	13 (7%)	14 (6%)
Transition from/to health facility (hospitalization/treatment program)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	1(0%)
Transition from criminal justice system			
Incarceration (jail or prison)	4 (2%)		12 (5%)
Other	13 (7%)	13 (7%)	8 (3%)
Don't know/ no answer / decline to answer	13 (7%)		13 (5%)

Table 11 Reason for Housing L Location of Data Collection

Respondents were asked the question, “Was your most recent housing loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic?”.

<b>Housing Loss Due to COVID (n= 122)</b>	<b>Responses (n=122)</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	12	10
No	107	88
Don't Know	2	2
Decline to Answer	1	1

Table 12 Housing Loss Due to COVID

Respondents were asked the question, “How long ago was your most recent housing loss?”.

<b>Length of Time since most recent housing loss</b>	<b>Responses (n = 114)</b>
0 -2 months	16
6+ months	80
3 - 5 months	4
Don't Know	11
Decline to answer	3

Table 13 Most recent Housing Loss

## Income and Homelessness

Homeless count respondents were asked, “What are your sources of income?” Each respondent was able to indicate more than one source.

Sources of Income	2021 responses (n = 168)	2018 responses (n = 172)	2016 responses (n= 205)
Disability benefit	65 (39%)	41 (24%)	45 (22%)
Welfare/social assistance	46 (27%)	71 (41%)	100 (49%)
Gst/hst refund	13 (8%)	10 (6%)	
Seniors benefits (e.g. Cpp/oas/gis)	8 (5%)	8 (5%)	14 (7%)
Money from family/friends	8 (5%)		2 (1%)
No income	6 (4%)	8 (5%)	
Employment insurance	5 (3%)	3 (2%)	7 (3%)
Employment (part time, full time and casual)	4 (2%)	4 (2%)	16 (8%)
Informal income sources (e.g. Bottle returns, panhandling)	2 (1%)	18 (10%)	13 (6%)
Other money from an organization	2 (1%)		3 (1%)
Other source	4 (2%)	10 (6%)	1 (0%)
Veteran/vac benefits	2 (1%)		
Child and family tax benefits	1 (1%)		2 (1%)
Decline to answer	2 (1%)		

Table 14 Sources of Income

## Challenges Finding Housing

Survey respondents were asked what challenges or problems they experience when trying to find housing. Each respondent was able to indicate more than one answer.

All responses are shown in Table 15. The top four challenges for both 2021 and 2018 were the same and are indicated in Table 16 below.

Challenges with finding housing	2021 responses (n = 301)	2018 responses (n = 478)	2016 responses (n= 386)
Rents too high	73	95	88
Low income	56	77	100
Discrimination	27	50	13
Addiction	27	52	49
Mental health issues	17	29	24
Health/disability issues	16	26	26
Poor housing conditions	13	34	21
Family breakdown, conflict	13	26	11
Criminal history	9	20	10
No income assistance	7	24	24
Domestic violence	2	11	4
Pets	2	12	5
Children	1	8	1
Other	29	14	11
None of the above	5		
Decline to answer	4		

Table 15 Challenges Finding Housing

Challenges with finding housing TOP 4	2021 responses (n = 301)	2018 responses (n = 137)	2016 responses (n= 386)
Rents too high	73 (24%)	95 (20%)	88 (23%)
Low income	56 (19%)	77 (16%)	100 (26%)
Discrimination	27 (9%)	50 (10%)	13 (3%)
Addiction	27 (9%)	52 (11%)	49 (13%)

Table 16 Top Challenges Finding Housing

High rents and low incomes have consistently been the major factor preventing access to safe and affordable housing. Government benefits have remained at unrealistic low levels for years, while rents and the cost of living continue to rise. This situation results in vulnerable individuals sharing accommodation which is unsafe, unhealthy and far from adequate to house more than one person. There is a growing recognition that more

housing is essential in almost all communities across Canada, but this housing has to be designated and designed for those on benefits etc. We often hear the term “affordable”, but it is critical that it be acknowledged that it is not affordable for the disadvantaged but rather, seems to actively attract the middle class, for whom it is most likely affordable.

Prince George has been fortunate to see BC Housing engaging in efforts to address appropriate, affordable housing with the necessary wrap round services, but these types of projects are expensive and slow to come to fruition.

The housing crisis, in turn, creates a domino effect on service agencies – particularly meal drop in centres and hamper donations. Funding for these agencies rarely increases, however, it should be noted that there has been a significant influx of government emergency COVID funds which have likely saved many critical services from closing during the pandemic.



### Acquired Brain Injury

In 2021, the community agreed to ask the question “Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth?” This question is also being asked of all of the BC communities completing homeless counts.

Acquired brain injury after birth	(n = 122)
Yes	30
No	58
Don't Know	11
Decline to Answer	1

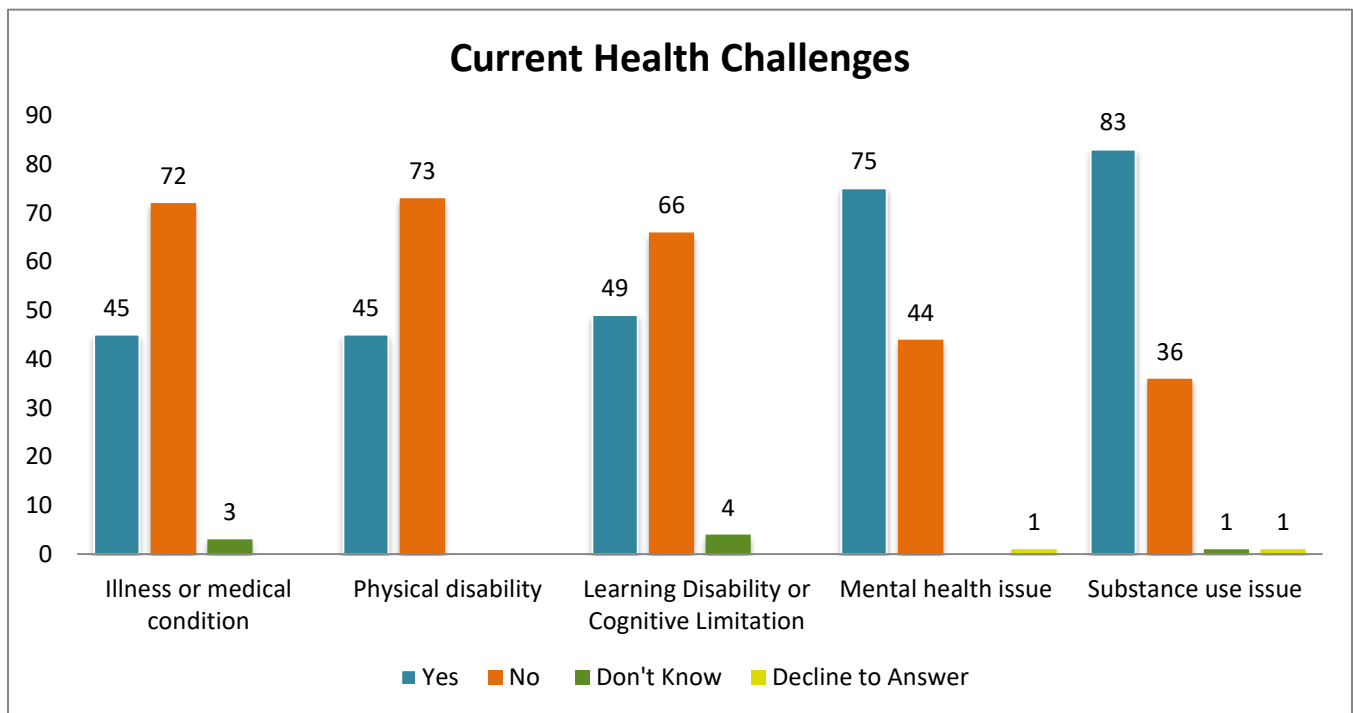
Table 17 Acquired Brain Injury

### Current Health Challenges

Survey respondents were asked to identify if they were having any of the health challenges noted in the table below. This is the first PIT count that we have asked this particular question.

Health Challenges	Yes	No	Don't Know	Decline to Answer
Illness or medical condition	45	72	3	
Physical disability	45	73		
Learning Disability or Cognitive Limitation	49	66	4	
Mental health issue	75	44		1
Substance use issue	83	36	1	1

Table 18 Health Challenges



## Need for Services

Respondents commented on their need for various services in Prince George. Each respondent was asked if they had a need for services related to services listed below. They were able to indicate the need for one or more service; the top 3 were consistent with those identified in 2018:

- Need for services related to Addiction or Substance Use (57 responses)
- Need for services related to Mental Health (46 responses)
- Need for services related to Serious or Ongoing Medical Condition (31 responses)

Services Required	2021 responses (n = 203)	2018 responses (n = 294)	2016 responses (n= 436)
Addiction or substance use	57 (28%)	84 (29%)	115 (26%)
Mental health	46 (23%)	67 (23%)	50 (11%)
Serious/ongoing medical condition	31 (15%)	51 (17%)	79 (18%)
Learning disability	24 (12%)	30 (10%)	41 (9%)
Physical disability	23 (11%)	42 (14%)	69 (16%)
Brain injury	21 (10%)	19 (6%)	49 (11%)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)			29 (7%)
Pregnancy	1 (0%)	1 (0%)	4 (1%)

Table 19 Need for Services

The responses here are very clear there is a distinct indication (over a six year span) that we are not meeting the critical physical and mental health needs of our vulnerable population.

## **APPENDIX: Screening Tool and Survey Instrument**

## 2021 – PiT Homeless Count SCREENING TOOL

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am helping Community Partners Addressing Homelessness (or your agency name). We are conducting a short survey, with those that might be experiencing housing difficulties. This will be used to determine local needs for programs and services.

Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across the province and Canada, and will help with research to improve services. It takes about 10 minutes to complete.

- **Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.**
- **You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.**

**A. Have you answered this survey with a person with this BUTTON?**

[YES: Thank them]                      [NO: Go to B]

**B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?**

[YES: Go to C]                              [NO: Thank]

**C. EVENING surveys March 18<sup>th</sup> Where are you staying tonight?**

**MORNING surveys March 19<sup>th</sup> Were did you stay last night?**

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER b. OWN APARTMENT / HOUSE	}	<b>If answer a or b [THANK &amp; END SURVEY]</b>
c. SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE d. MOTEL/HOTEL (SELF-FUNDED) e. HOSPITAL f. TREATMENT CENTRE g. JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE	}	If answer any of these (c to g) then ASK <b>c1. Do you have access to a permanent residence (home) where you can safely stay as long as you want?</b> a. Yes [THANK & END] b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) [BEGIN SURVEY] c. Don't Know [BEGIN SURVEY] if answered don't know indicate a probable location on the survey d. Decline to answer [THANK & END]
h. HOMELESS SHELTER (EMERGENCY, FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER) i. HOTEL/MOTEL (FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM) j. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING k. UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. STREET, PARK, BUS SHELTER, FOREST OR ABANDONED BUILDING) l. ENCAMPMENT (eg Group of tents, makeshift shelters or other long term outdoor settlement) m. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK, BOAT) n. UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION ____ (b. - m.)	}	<b>If answer any of these [BEGIN SURVEY]</b>

**2021 Prince George PiT SURVEY**

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
 Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

**From SCREENING SHEET**

**C. MORNING March 19<sup>th</sup> surveys - Where did you stay last night?**  
**EVENING March 18<sup>th</sup> surveys – Where are you staying tonight?**

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER b. OWN APARTMENT / HOUSE	}	<b>[THANK &amp; END SURVEY]</b>
c. SOMEONE ELSE’S PLACE d. MOTEL/HOTEL (SELF-FUNDED) e. HOSPITAL f. TREATMENT CENTRE g. JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE	}	<b>C1. Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want?</b> a. Yes <b>[THANK &amp; END]</b> b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) <b>[BEGIN SURVEY]</b> c. Don’t Know <b>[BEGIN SURVEY]</b> d. Decline to answer <b>[THANK &amp; END]</b>
h. HOMELESS SHELTER (EMERGENCY, FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER) i. HOTEL/MOTEL (FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM) j. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING k. UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. STREET, PARK, BUS SHELTER, FOREST OR ABANDONED BUILDING) l. ENCAMPMENT (eg Group of tents, makeshift shelters or other long term outdoor settlement) m. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK, BOAT) n. UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION _____ (b. - m.)	}	<b>[BEGIN SURVEY]</b>

**BEGIN SURVEY**

➔ For this survey, “homelessness” means any time when you have been without a permanent and secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others without having your own permanent housing (e.g. couch surfing).

**1. Did you have any family members or anyone else who stayed with you last night? (OR is staying with you tonight?)** [Indicate survey number for partners. Check all that apply]

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

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

<input type="radio"/> AGE _____ OR YEAR BORN _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

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

<input type="radio"/> AGE _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

**4. In total, for how *much time* have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? (the last 12 months)**  
 [Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.]

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS   WEEKS   MONTHS	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

5. Have you stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year? For example, ASAP shelter, Ketso Yoh, AWAC shelter

YES
  NO
  DON'T KNOW
  DECLINE TO ANSWER

→ 5b (COH) If not, what are the main reasons? [Do not read categories; select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> TURNED AWAY (SHELTERS ARE FULL)	<input type="checkbox"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> TURNED AWAY (BANNED)	<input type="checkbox"/> BED BUGS & OTHER PESTS	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> LACK OF TRANSPORTATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CROWDED	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. 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	<b>If YES: How long have you been in Canada?</b> <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
--	--

7. How long have you been in Prince George?

LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS
  ALWAYS BEEN HERE
  DON'T KNOW
  DECLINE TO ANSWER

↗ Where did you live before you came here?
  CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ | PROVINCE/TERRITORY/COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DECLINE TO ANSWER

8a. Do you identify as Indigenous, this includes First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have North American Indigenous ancestry? [If yes, please specify]

YES, FIRST NATIONS
  YES, MÉTIS
  NO
  DECLINE TO ANSWER  
 YES, INUIT
  YES, INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY
  DON'T KNOW

8b. In addition to your response to the question above, what racial groups do you identify with?

[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

9. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP?

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

YES, MILITARY
  BOTH MILITARY AND RCMP
  DON'T KNOW  
 YES, RCMP
  NO
  DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

YES
  NO
  DON'T KNOW
  DECLINE TO ANSWER

**11. 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
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

**12. (COH) Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, overdose, a stroke or brain tumor)**

YES                                       NO                                       DON'T KNOW                                       DECLINE TO ANSWER

**13. What gender do you identify with? [Show list or read 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

**14. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? [Show list or read 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

**15a. 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".]

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

**15b. Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

YES                                       NO                                       DON'T KNOW                                       DECLINE TO ANSWER

**15c. How long ago was your most recent housing loss?**

LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS                                       DON'T KNOW                                       DECLINE TO ANSWER

**16. 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"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT [Name of PROV. DISABILITY BENEFIT]	<input type="checkbox"/> GST/HST 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 [Prov. Benefit]	<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"/> DON'T KNOW
		<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

**17. (COH) What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing?**  
[Select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> LOW INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCRIMINATION
<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> RENTS TOO HIGH	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> PETS	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

**18. (COH) I'm going to read a list of services that you may or may not need. Let me know which of these apply to you. Do you have a need for services related to:** [Read categories, select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> SERIOUS/ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL DISABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREGNANCY
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> LEARNING DISABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ( <i>Counselling, treatment, etc.</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAIN INJURY	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

*Thank you for participating!*

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**