

2014

Edmonton

Point-in-Time

Homeless

Count

Acknowledgements

The 2014 Edmonton Homeless Count was organized by Homeward Trust under the direction of the Homeless Count Committee.

This highly collaborative endeavor would not have been possible without the dedicated support of a wide range of individuals and groups.

Homeward Trust would like to thank the Homeless Count Committee, the numerous agencies that took part in the count, and the nearly 300 committed volunteers and Base Site coordinators who donated their time to complete the 11th Edmonton Homeless Count.

We would also like to thank the people involved in the Volunteer Training Sessions on October 2nd and October 6th at the Stanley A. Milner Library. This includes Constables Darren Wasmuth and Chris Lucas of the Edmonton Police Service, and a Catholic Social Services volunteer who shared her personal experience with homelessness. A huge thanks goes to the Stanley A. Milner Library staff for their help with the sessions.

Thanks also go to Homeward Trust's partners and to the agencies and facilities that provided space for Base Site locations to coordinate and organize volunteers on Count day.

Homeward Trust is very grateful to everyone who participated in the count, especially the homeless individuals who took the time to discuss their situation. This study would not have been possible without their participation.

HOMELESS COUNT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joseph Ahorro, Information Sharing Strategy Office, Government of Alberta
Sergeant Ray Akbar, Edmonton Police Service
Jacqueline Bass, Catholic Social Services
Cecilia Blasetti, Boyle McCauley Health Centre
Norma Chitrena, Homeless Support Program Delivery, Government of Alberta
Marian Enow, Edmonton Public Library
Jenny Getzinger, Service Canada, Government of Canada
Ed Jones, City of Edmonton
Larisa Kreider, City of Edmonton
Marg Milicevic, Native Counselling Services of Alberta
Howard Seivright, Service Canada, Government of Canada
Jane Slessor, Boyle Street Community Services
Gerald Sseguya, Catholic Social Services

The following Homeward Trust staff were involved with the planning and execution of the 2014 Homeless Count:

Alex Abboud, Director of Communications and Fund Development
Kyla Fisher, Homeless Count Project Assistant
Naomi Gordon, Planning and Engagement Coordinator
Deborah Harmacy, Homeless Count Volunteer Coordinator
Rebecca Isbister, Communications and Planning Assistant
Susan McGee, Chief Executive Officer
Giri Puligandla, Director of Planning and Research
Robin Way, Homeless Count Project Coordinator

ABOUT HOMEWARD TRUST

Homeward Trust is a community-based, comprehensive housing organization that provides leadership and resources towards ending homelessness in Edmonton. Our mandate is fulfilled by leading initiatives and programs, engaging community stakeholders and partners, conducting research, creating awareness, and funding housing and support projects.

Between 2001 and 2014, we have disbursed over \$200 million in funds for 90 capital and over 250 support projects. During the same period, we have been able to leverage those funds to attract an additional \$146 million in funds from other groups and created over 1700 new housing units.

Homeward Trust is one of several community-based organizations in Alberta working with the Government of Alberta to implement strategies set out in the province's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Homeward Trust embraces the Housing First philosophy and principle - that every person has the right to a safe, secure home. This practice is at the core of both the municipal and provincial 10 year plans to end homelessness, and the Housing First Support Program. In this program, the focus is on ending homelessness by providing permanent housing and follow-up support.

From the Housing First Support Program's inception in April 2009 to November 2014, over 3500 individuals have been housed and provided support to help them achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

To learn more visit: www.homewardtrust.ca

List of Figures and Tables	i
Key Findings	ii
Definitions of Terms	iv
Section 1: Counts, Trends and Locations	1
Homelessness Down Slightly	1
Where are People Staying?	2
Homelessness by Area	3
Section 2: Who Experiences Homelessness?	5
Aboriginal People	5
Gender	6
Children and Youth	7
Seniors and Street Seniors	7
Families	8
New to Edmonton	8
Income Source and Employment	9
Military Veterans	9
Immigrant / Canadian-born	10
Chronically and Episodically Homeless	10
Characteristics Not Studied in this Report	10
Section 3: Economic and Policy Context	11
Rent is Up; Homeless Numbers are Flat	11
Housing First and Homelessness	12
Shelter Occupancy Rates	12
Turnaway Rates	14
Section 4: Methodology	15
Homeless Counts	15
Street Count	15
Shelter Count	16
Volunteer Preparation and Training	16
Institution Discharges and Sheltered Homeless Data	16
Methodological Changes	17
Provincial Comparisons	18
Appendix 1: Data Tables	19
Projections	19
Bivariate Data Tables	20
Appendix 2: Street Count and Survey Locations	27
Street Count Survey	27
List of Count Locations	29

FIGURES

Figure 1: Homeless Count	1
Figure 2: Increase in Shelter Usage	2
Figure 3: Location of Individuals in Street Count	4
Figure 4: Aboriginal Overrepresentation in Homeless Population	5
Figure 5: Gender by Age and Ethnicity	6
Figure 6: Income Sources, by Age	9
Figure 7: Homelessness and Cost of Housing	11
Figure 8: Housing First and Homelessness	12
Figure 9: Turnaway Rates	14
Figure 10: Example Street Count Survey	27
Figure 11: Addictions Treatment Facility Survey	28

TABLES

Table 1: Where Did You Stay Last Night?	3
Table 2: Gender	6
Table 3: Age	7
Table 4: Family Size by Shelter Status	8
Table 5: Time in Edmonton	8
Table 6: Immigrant / Canadian-born	10
Table 7: Shelter Occupancy	13
Table 8: Methodological Comparison of Edmonton and Calgary's Homeless Counts	18
Table 9: Projections	19
Table 10: Time in Edmonton	21
Table 11: Ethnicity	21
Table 12: Shelter Status	22
Table 13: Gender	23
Table 14: Veteran	24
Table 15: Immigrant	25
Table 16: Number of Dependents	26

The 2014 Homeless Count included both a Street Count and a Shelter Count. Staff members and volunteers of shelters enumerated the number of homeless individuals staying in shelters and short-term housing facilities on the night of October 15th. In the Street Count the following day, volunteers approached all individuals along predetermined walking routes and at individual locations, such as bottle depots, transit stations and service agencies. About 300 volunteer enumerators and the staff of numerous agencies participated in the Count, covering 138 sites and zones.

The total number of people counted who were experiencing homelessness in Edmonton for the night of October 15th was 2,307. However, more shelters, addictions treatment facilities and transitional housing units were included this year than in 2012. Using a comparable methodology, the total was down by 3% from two years earlier. While overall homeless numbers have stabilized in the last two years, the trend toward decreasing rough sleepers has continued. The corollary to this is an increase in shelter usage. Shelters participating in the Count were at 86% of funded capacity, up from 83% two years earlier.

This year's survey also includes an additional question in the Street Count that allows us to get a much more detailed picture of where people are staying when they have nowhere else to turn. Among those reporting no permanent residence, 425 had spent the previous night sleeping rough, most of whom stayed in public spaces or in makeshift shelters or tents.

Aboriginal people in Edmonton are 9 times more likely than the overall population to be experiencing homelessness. Further, Aboriginal individuals who are homeless are more likely to be sleeping rough or provisionally accommodated (in a motel, hotel or couchsurfing), whereas non-Aboriginal people are more likely to be in a shelter or short-term housing.

There were at least 335 children under the age of 18 without a home on the night of the Count, an increase of 20% from 2012. In 2014, most children were dependants staying with family, either in the Street and Shelter Counts or in hotels sponsored by Human Services. Children experiencing homelessness are even more likely to be Aboriginal than adults, as 69% of children were staying with Aboriginal parents or caregivers. One third of children without homes have been in Edmonton for six months or less, while nearly half have been here more than five years.

The survey counted 26 independent youth under the age of 18 and a further 214 youth aged 18-24. Given that the survey only covered about two-thirds of shelter users, this likely understates the true number by approximately 100. The 45-54 age group is the largest of any in the Count, significantly exceeding their share of the overall population in Edmonton. However, that share reduces sharply for those over 55 and drastically for those over 65.

Homeless individuals have a diverse set of income sources: 27% work, either part-time or full-time, and 42% receive income from the provincial government. Though youth are equally likely as older adults to be employed, they are much less likely to access provincial government income supports. As such, there are a large number of youth who reported having no income at all.

Average rent in Edmonton increased by about 6% each of the last two years. This is the third time there have been rent increases of 5% or more since the Homeless Count began in 1999. The first two each led to large increases in the number of people counted, but the present one has not yet. It may be that the rising cost of rent has not yet had its full social impact or it may be that the Housing First programs commenced in 2009 have provided a "shock absorber" for the system. The Housing First program, launched in 2009, has helped more than 3,500 people — including 900 children — to find homes in the last five years. These are mostly chronically homeless individuals or families with children.

This year, efforts were made to align the count methodology among Alberta's 7 Cities - Calgary Homeless Foundation, City of Grande Prairie, City of Lethbridge, Homeward Trust Edmonton, Medicine Hat Community Housing Society, City of Red Deer, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo - moved to align the questions they asked on surveys and the date that they conducted Homeless Point-In-Time Counts, in an effort to make numbers more comparable. Edmonton is most frequently compared to Calgary; however, there are some significant differences in methodology between the two cities, the two biggest of which are:

- 1) Edmonton conducts an extensive day Count following the nighttime shelter Count, which includes a broader definition of homelessness, including those temporarily staying with friends or in a motel who do not have a permanent place of their own.
- 2) Calgary includes people held in hospitals or corrections facilities who have no fixed address.

A full explanation of Homeless Count methodology and adjustments from past years is included in Section 4.

Definitions of Terms

Adults: Individuals 18 years of age or older.

Caregivers: Individuals indicating that their own dependent children would be staying with them on the night of the count.

Dependent Children: Individuals less than 18 years of age, whom a caregiver indicated would be staying with them on the night of the count.

Discharges: Individuals who had been discharged from an institution (e.g., hospital, treatment centre or corrections facility) on count day and who had no permanent residence.

Emergency Shelters: Overnight accommodation for individuals who have no permanent address.

Homeless Count: The total number of individuals approached who reported not having a permanent place to stay on the night of count day plus the total number of individuals staying at a shelter on the previous night. Both figures also include the number of children staying with an adult caregiver on the night of the count.

Independent Youth: Individuals less than 18 years of age who were unaccompanied by an adult caregiver when counted.

Interim Housing: Similar to Short-Term Supportive Housing, but with a goal of stays lasting less than 30 days while finding permanent housing and connected to a Housing First team.

Occupancy Rate: The ratio of the number of individuals registered in a shelter to the total number of available spaces at that shelter.

Operational Capacity: The total number of available spaces in an emergency shelter or short-term housing facility.

Provisionally Accommodated: Couch surfing, staying at someone else's place, hotel/motel, or addictions treatment facility.

Sheltered Homeless: Homeless individuals counted at an emergency shelter in a hotel (funded by the province) on an emergency basis in short-term supportive housing, or interim housing on the night prior to count day.

Short-Term Supportive Housing: Temporary housing with support to assist client movement into permanent housing.

Turnaways: Individuals not provided with a bed in an emergency shelter because of ineligibility, client behaviour, or because no spaces were available that night.

Turnaway Rate: The ratio of the number of turnaways to the operational capacity of emergency shelters and short-term housing facilities.

Unsheltered Homeless: Homeless individuals counted in the Street Count (at an agency or service, on a walking route, at a bottle depot, or by outreach teams and mobile vans). Individuals enumerated in this category may be couch-surfing, staying with friends or family, in motels/hotels on their own, or sleeping in a car, a tent or outside¹.

¹ The term "Absolute Homeless", used in the 2010 Edmonton Homeless Count, was changed to "Unsheltered Homeless" in 2012. The term and its definition were modified in 2012 to better reflect their operationalization in survey instruments, which remains consistent between 2010 and 2012.

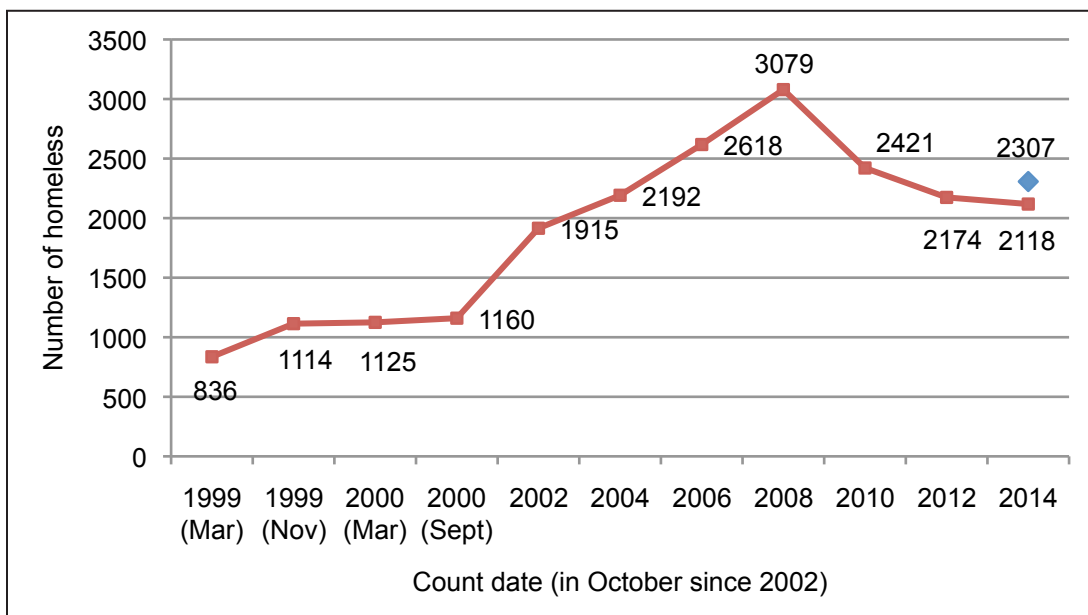
2,307

Homelessness Down Slightly

The total number of people experiencing homelessness counted in Edmonton for the night of October 15th was **2,307**¹. However, given changes in methodology and inclusion of more shelters, addictions treatment facilities and transitional housing units than in 2012, a comparable methodology (more details are provided in Section 4), puts the total down by 3% from two years earlier.

Since 2008 when the highest Homeless Count numbers were recorded, the total has decreased by 31%. Taking into consideration the growth in the city's population over that time frame, now only 1 in 410 Edmontonians is homeless as opposed to 1 in 240 in 2008². This number is still too high, but it is progress on the road to ending homelessness.

Figure 1: Homeless Count



Note: The blue dot represents an increase in the total counted, including facilities new to the Count for 2014.

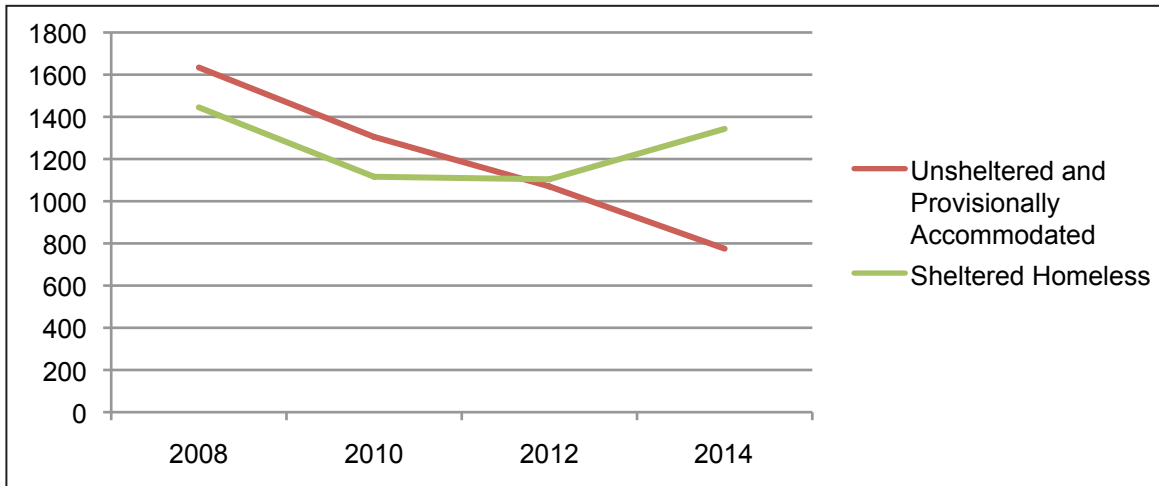
¹ This is a revision from the preliminary report based on additional information and data cleaning.

² City of Edmonton (2014). Population History. Accessed December 19, 2014 from: www.edmonton.ca/city_government/facts_figures/population-history.aspx

Where are People Staying?

While overall homeless numbers have stabilized in the last two years, the trend toward decreasing rough sleepers has continued. The corollary to this is an increase in shelter usage. Figure 2 shows the trend in sheltered and unsheltered homeless numbers since the peak in 2008, accounting for the change in methodology in 2012³.

Figure 2: Increase in Shelter Usage



Notes: Detox facility listed as “sheltered” for comparison to 2012. Estimate

For the first time this year, Homeward Trust Edmonton is using the Canadian Definition of Homelessness (CHRN 2012) to analyze results. This will separate the former category of “Unsheltered” into Unsheltered and Provisionally Accommodated. Unsheltered includes all those who are “sleeping rough”, either in open air or in places not designed for permanent human habitation (vehicles, tents, makeshift shelters, etc.). Provisionally accommodated includes those who are staying in motels/hotels or are temporarily staying with friends or family, but have no long-term arrangement. The sheltered category includes those in emergency shelters, short-term or interim housing or in hotels sponsored by the Ministry of Human Services under Alberta Works or Alberta Income for the Severely Handicapped.

³ Prior to 2012, individuals encountered on the street who stayed they were staying in a shelter were considered part of the Unsheltered population and subtracted from the Shelter Count. To approximate this effect, the number of shelter stayers interviewed in the 2014 Street Count was moved from Unsheltered to Sheltered for 2008 and 2010. While not an exact figure, this produces a good picture of the actual trend in the balance between Sheltered and Unsheltered / Provisionally Accommodated. This has no effect on the total number of homeless people.

This year's survey also includes an additional question in the Street Count that allows us to get a much more detailed picture of where people are staying when they have nowhere else to turn. Among those who said they had no permanent residence, 425 had spent the previous night without shelter (Table 1)⁴.

Table 1: Where Did You Stay Last Night?

Category	Accommodation on October 15	Adults ⁺	Children	Total
Unsheltered	Hospital, jail, remand (released October 16)	27	0	425
	Public spaces	157	2	
	Makeshift shelter / tent	176	3	
	Car or vehicle	39	2	
	Vacant buildings or buildings not designed for habitation	15	0	
	Not specified	4	0	
Provisionally Accommodated	Someone else's place	254	41	471
	Hotel / motel	44	23	
	Addictions treatment facility	109	0	
Sheltered	Emergency shelter	746	28	1411
	Human Services-sponsored hotel*	95	167	
	Short-term supportive housing	313	43	
	Interim housing	19	0	
Total		1998	309	2307

+ Includes independent youth

* Estimate based on Human Services data

Homelessness by Area

The map on the following page shows the regions where the Street Count was conducted. Darker regions indicate areas where volunteers encountered more people experiencing homelessness⁵. This map represents only the Street Count and does not include number from the Shelter Count. A map showing the specific locations where the Count was conducted and a list of those locations is presented in Appendix 2.

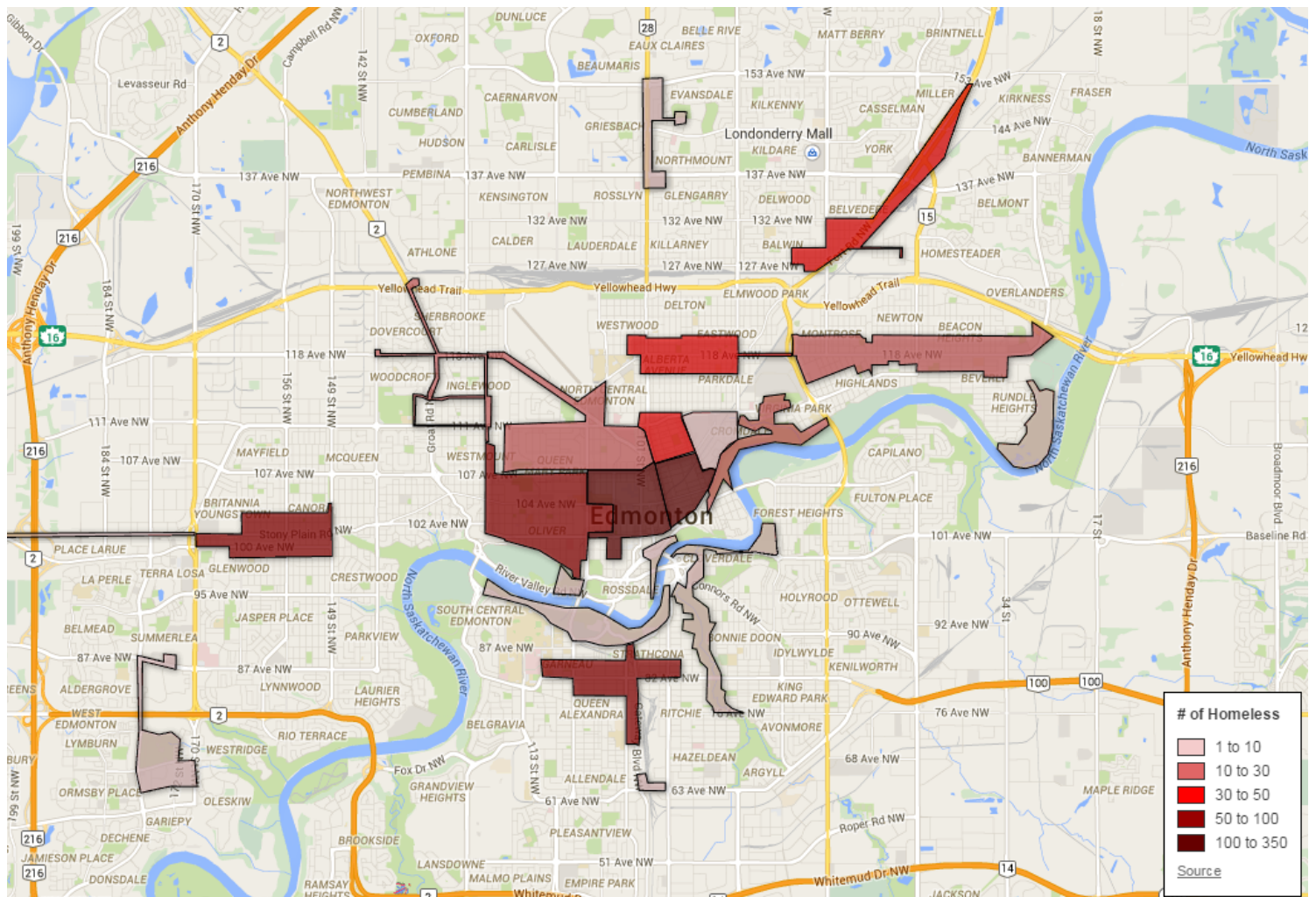
While relatively few people were found in the city's parks, another indicator of where people are staying comes from the City's counts of campsites in parklands. In October, staff counted 118 campsites, most of which they removed⁶. The most camps were found in Dawson, Kinnard, Mill Creek, Louise McKinney, Rundle and Victoria parks.

4 Hospital discharges, treatment facilities and all of the shelter categories are reported by facilities as part of the shelter count. All other categories are reported by individuals in the street count.

5 Note: this is the area where the conversation took place and does not necessarily represent where the person stayed the previous night.

6 Only one of which was confirmed active at the end of the month. City of Edmonton (mimeo). Homeless on Parkland 2014.

Figure 3: Location of Individuals in Street Count

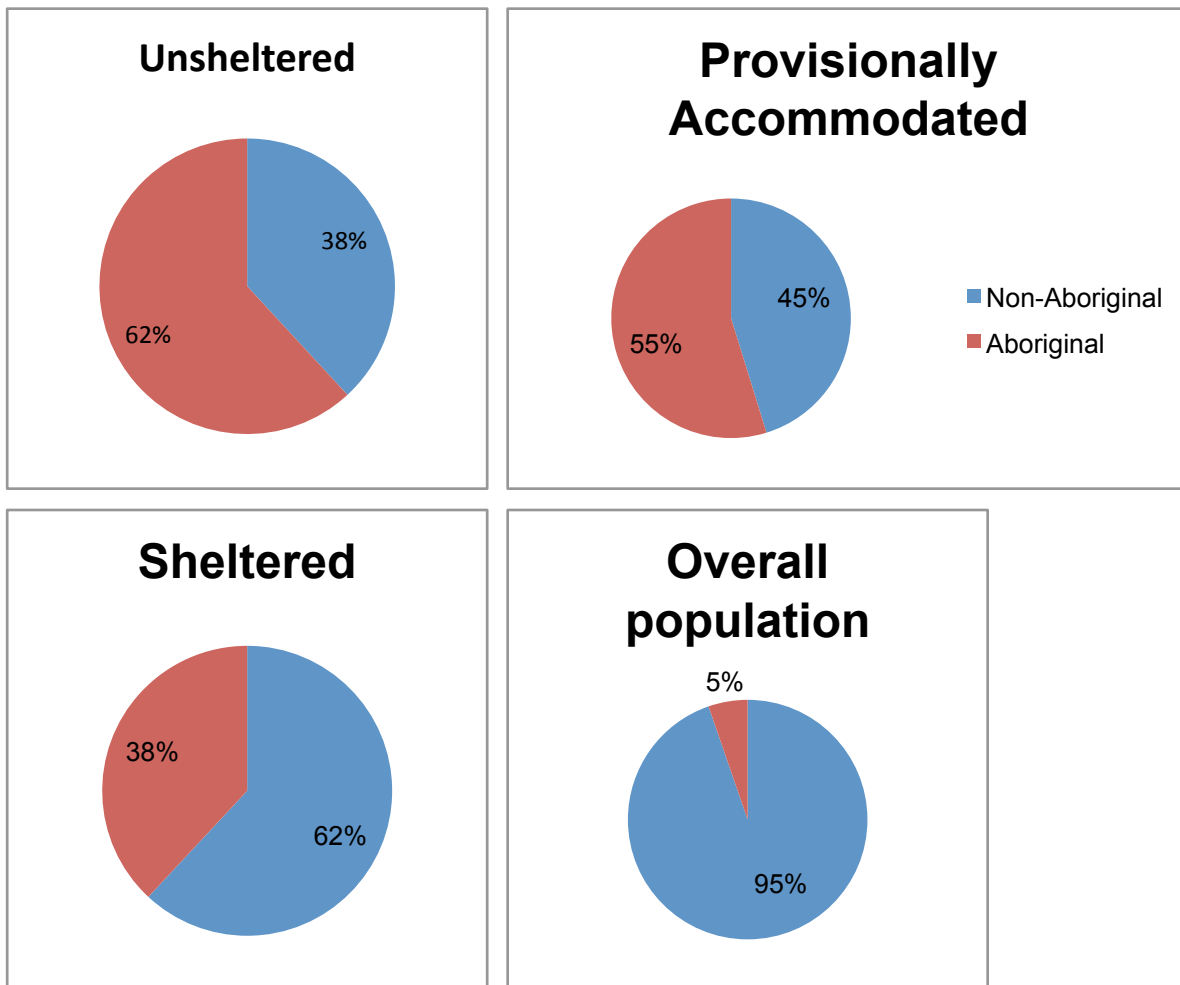


Map created using Google Maps Data

Aboriginal People

Aboriginal people in Edmonton are 9 times more likely than the overall population to be experiencing homelessness. Homeless Count 2014 shows that 46% of people experiencing homelessness in Edmonton identify as Aboriginal, compared to just over 5% in the city's overall population². Further, those who are homeless are more likely to be sleeping rough or provisionally accommodated (in a motel, hotel or couchsurfing), while non-Aboriginal people are more likely to be in a shelter or short-term housing.

Figure 4: Aboriginal Overrepresentation in Homeless Population



¹ Overall population always refers to the entire population in the city of Edmonton. All population percentage calculations in this section use projections to estimate the effect of missing information, which primarily accounts for people covered in the shelter count who were not surveyed (see Appendix 1 for details).

² Overall population figures from Statistics Canada (2013). Edmonton, CY, Alberta (Code 4811061) 2011 National Household Survey. www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E

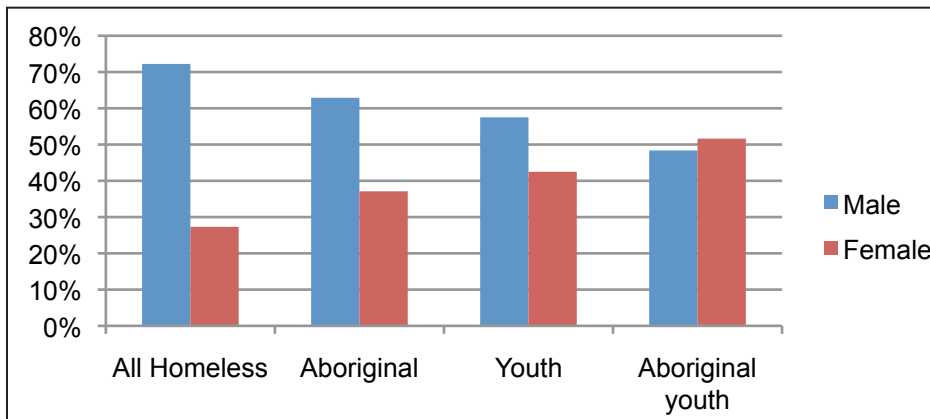
Gender

Table 2: Gender

	Female	Male	Transgender
Unsheltered	23%	76%	<1%
Provisionally Accom.	40%	60%	0%
Sheltered	25%	74%	<1%
Overall	27%	72%	<1%

The share of female respondents is up slightly from 2012, moving from 25% to 27%. While the majority of homeless individuals are still men, this varies significantly across groups. Women comprise 40% of the provisionally accommodated population (Table 2) and are overrepresented among Aboriginal people and among youth. Indeed, women are fully half of the Aboriginal youth population (Figure 5). When we look at the opposite population, non-Aboriginal adults (age 25 and over), men account for 84% of this population.

Figure 5: Gender by Age and Ethnicity



Children and Youth

Children and youth account for approximately 29% of the homeless population, a number very comparable to their share of the overall population (Table 3). In other words, young people in Edmonton are just about as likely to be homeless as adults.

There were at least 335 children under the age of 18 without a home on the night of the Count, an increase of 20% (56) from 2012. In 2014, most children were dependants staying with family, either in the Street and Shelter Counts (142) or sponsored by Human Services (approximately 167)³. The survey counted 240 independent youth, aged 24 or less, of whom 26 were under the age of 18. Given that the survey only covered about two-thirds of shelter users, this youth figure likely understates the true number by about 100 (see Appendix 1 for projections).

Seniors and Street Seniors

Many Canadians – and government programs – consider 65 to be the age at which one is considered to be a senior citizen. For the chronically homeless, simply surviving to age 65 is quite the feat. The typical Canadian will have another 16 years to live at this point, but a Canadian living in a shelter or rooming house will have only 6 years⁴. These numbers are far worse for those sleeping rough: one British study found a difference of 20 years in life expectancy between the Sheltered and Unsheltered homeless⁵.

Between the negative effect of mortality and the positive effect of income supports for Canadians over 65, the representation of seniors in the Homeless Count is quite small. It may be more appropriate to consider people experiencing homelessness to be seniors at the age of 55 in shelters and 45 on the street. The 45-54 age group is the largest in the Count, significantly exceeding their share of the overall population in Edmonton. However, that share reduces sharply for those over 55 and drastically for those over 65 (Table 3).

Table 3: Age

Age	2012 Count	2014 Count	Overall Population ⁶
<18	13%	15%	20%
18-24	9%	13%	11%
25-30	10%	7%	9%
31-44	26%	23%	22%
45-54	25%	25%	15%
55-64	14%	13%	11%
65+	3%	4%	12%

³ Numbers for the night of October 15 were unavailable, so this a single night estimate based on the number of families in hotels on a similar night and the average number of children per family for the month of October.

⁴ Tjepkema, M and Wilkins, R. (2011). Remaining life expectancy at age 25 and probability of survival to age 75, by socio-economic status and Aboriginal ancestry. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-003-X.

⁵ Shaw, M. et al. (1999). Life chances in Britain by housing wealth and for the homeless and vulnerably housed. Environment and Planning, 31, p. 2239-2248.

⁶ Statistics Canada (2013). Ibid.

Families

Half of all families included in the Homeless Count were in hotels sponsored by Human Services and did not participate in the survey. The 142 children identified in the Street and Shelter Counts were accompanied by 87 parents. The breakdown by family size is shown below, along with where those families stayed. Most were in shelters or couchsurfing and a small number were sleeping rough.

Table 4: Family Size by Shelter Status

Number of Children	Where did you stay last night?			Percent of Families
	Unsheltered	Provisionally Accom.	Sheltered	
1	2	23	23	55%
2	1	8	15	28%
3	1	2	6	10%
4	0	3	3	7%

Looking at the characteristics of families experiencing homelessness, some striking trends emerge⁷. One third of children without homes have been in Edmonton for six months or less, while nearly half have been here more than five years (see Table 5 below). This is larger than the homeless adult population and far larger than the overall population. Some families arriving in Edmonton are clearly struggling to find accommodation.

One other notable factor emerges, in that children experiencing homeless are more likely to be Aboriginal than adults, as 69% of children were staying with Aboriginal parents or caregivers.

New to Edmonton

There is significant anecdotal evidence to suggest that people arrive in the city without a job or an apartment and wind up at shelters until they get themselves on their feet – or fail to. The Homeless Count data verify that this is, indeed, part of the challenge, but certainly not the whole picture. Those in Edmonton for less than a year are three times more likely to be homeless than long-term residents. Among those experiencing homelessness, this group is also half as likely to be unsheltered as people who have been in the city for more than five year. Still, recent arrivals make up only one in six of the homeless population.

Table 5: Time in Edmonton

	Homeless children	Homeless adults	Overall population
Less than 6 months	35%	12%	-
Less than 1 year*	39%	16%	5%
Less than 3 years*	53%	24%	-
Less than 5 years*	55%	30%	19%

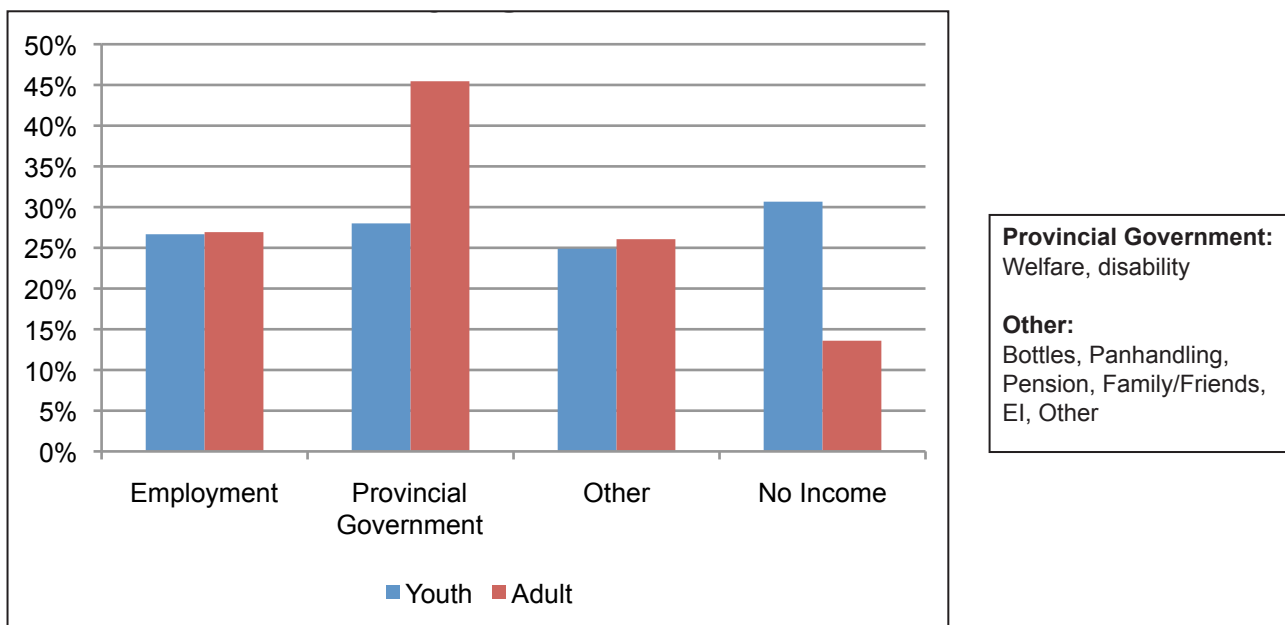
*Cumulative figures

⁷ Based on the characteristics of their parent or caregiver, since enumerators did not interview children directly.

Income Source and Employment

Individuals experiencing homelessness have a diverse set of income sources: 27% work, either part-time or full-time, and 42% receive income from the provincial government, through either social assistance or disability benefits⁸. However, 16% of homeless individuals reported having no income at all. Many others receive a pension, collect bottles or rely on family and friends. Though youth are equally likely to be employed or receive other income, they are much less likely to access provincial government income supports than older adults. As such, there are a large number of youth who reported no income at all.

Figure 6: Income Sources, by Age



Note: Numbers do not add to 100%, as some individuals have more than one source of income.

Military Veterans

Approximately 6% of those covered in the Homeless Count reported having served in the armed forces. Veterans were notably overrepresented among individuals sleeping rough, comprising 10% of that group. The survey did not ask what level of involvement respondents had in the Canadian Forces (e.g., regular or reserve) or whether they were entitled to any sort of benefit; only one respondent identified the Armed Forces as an income source in the “other” section of that question (though it is possible that other pension or disability payments originated from Veterans Affairs).

⁸ Some respondents receiving CPP Disability benefits may be included in the provincial government category, as the question offered only one disability option as a response.

Immigrant / Canadian-born

Those born outside of Canada are under-represented in Edmonton’s homeless population, even when controlling for the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people. The same applies for more recent immigrants, those arriving in the last five years. Table 6 shows the proportion of the homeless population who are from these two groups. Scenario B presents a comparator controlling for the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness⁹.

Table 6: Immigrant / Canadian-born

	Homeless	Scenario B	Overall population¹⁰
Born Outside Canada	10%	18%	26%
Recent Immigrant (<5 years)	2%	4%	6%

Chronically and Episodically Homeless

Frequently in analyses, Homeward Trust considers whether people are chronically or episodically homeless. These calculations are based on the number of episodes of homelessness over the past three years and the duration of homelessness. Due to an error in drafting, the 2014 Count did not include a question on duration. As such, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the presence of chronically homeless individuals. However, two other data points exist: At the Homeless Connect event in Edmonton two days after the Count, 65% of homeless participants said they had not had a permanent residence in at least one year. This compares to the other six Alberta cities that conducted a Count in October, who had 37% of respondents identify their current spell of homelessness as lasting at least one year. The Count did include a question on episodic homelessness, though, and 16% of individuals identified having been homeless at least 4 separate times in the past 3 years¹¹. It is likely that a number of these individuals were also chronically homeless.

Characteristics Not Studied in this Report

Given the lack of consistency in interpreting the terms “Caucasian” and “visible minority”, Homeward Trust Edmonton will cease reporting on these categories as of the present report.

⁹ Because almost all Aboriginal people are Canadian-born, the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people skews immigrant numbers relative to Canadian-born non-Aboriginal people. Scenario B calculates what the figure would be if Aboriginal representation among the homeless was equal to their share of the overall population in Edmonton (5.3%).

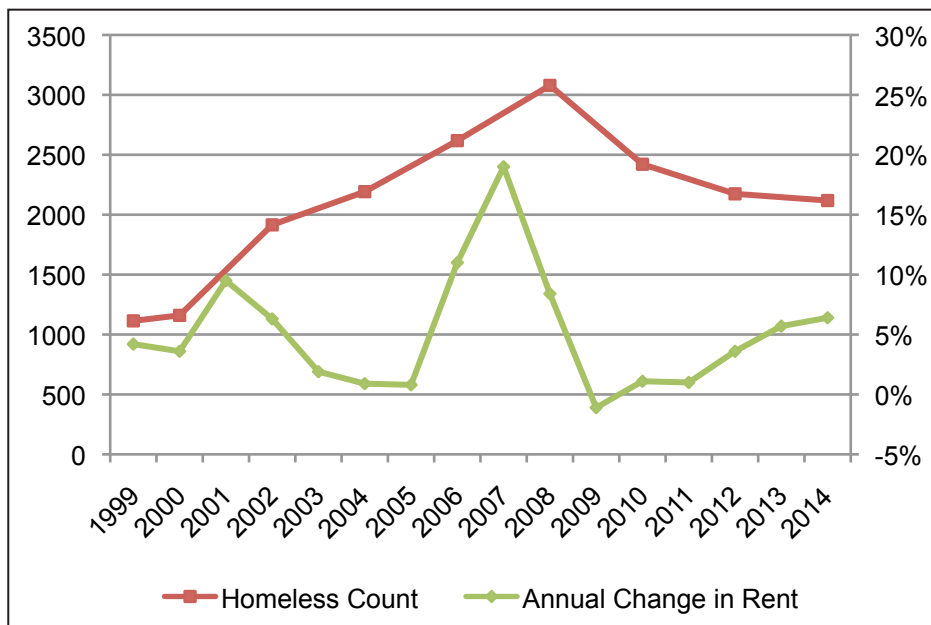
¹⁰ Statistics Canada (2013). Ibid.

¹¹ This includes responses that indicate an unspecified number of multiple spells such as “lots”.

Rent is Up; Homeless Numbers are Flat

Average rent in Edmonton increased by about 6% each of the last two years. This is the third time there have been rent increases of 5% or more since the Homeless Count began in 1999. The first two each led to large increases in the number of people counted, but the present one has not yet. There are many possible reasons for this, including that the rising cost of rent has not yet had its full social impact or that the Housing First programs commenced in 2009 have provided a “shock absorber” for the system.

Figure 7: Homelessness and Cost of Housing



Source: CMHC (2014) October annual change in average rent (total), apartment/row, Edmonton.

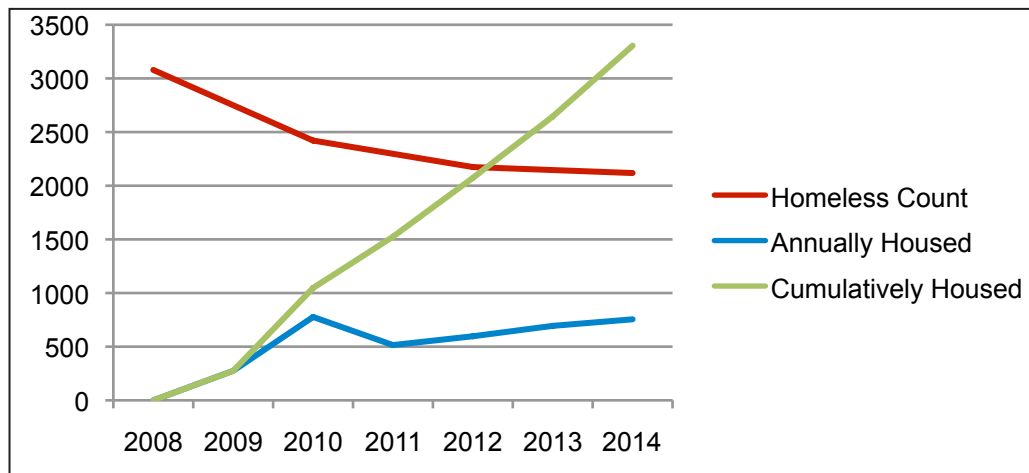
Although the time series is too short to make definitive conclusions, there is a strong link between the change in rent and the number of Homeless Counted in the city. Taking an average of rent changes where necessary, the correlation coefficient linking the two is 0.53. This tends to move in the opposite direction from the rate of low-income in the province: When the economy booms, it helps pull some low-income workers out of poverty. However, an increase in income for the average person and an influx of workers from outside puts pressure on the housing market, which can make it more difficult for people at the margins to find or keep a roof over their heads. The ability to manage the cost of housing is a much broader problem, though, as 42% of renters in Edmonton fail to meet the national criterion for affordable housing (spending less than 30% of household income on shelter)¹. Half of these spend more than 50% of their income on shelter.

¹ Statistics Canada (2013). NHS Focus on Geography Series – Edmonton. www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/fogs-spg/Pages/FOG.cfm?lang=E&level=4&GeoCode=4811061

Housing First and Homelessness

The Housing First program, launched in 2009, has helped more than 3,300 people – including 900 children – to find homes in the last five years. These are mostly chronically homeless individuals or families with children.

Figure 8: Housing First and Homelessness



The commencement of the program coincided with large declines in the Homeless Count totals. The reduced impact between 2012 and 2014 may suggest that increased pressures on the housing market are creating conditions where the same level of service is only enough to hold numbers constant, instead of continued reductions. The recent dramatic reduction in the price of oil may eventually lead to a softening in the rental market, which would provide a good test for this theory. Whether rental prices abate or not, improvement is needed; the status quo will not end homeless by 2019, as the city and province set out to do in their 10-year plans.

Shelter Occupancy Rates

The increase in the overall Shelter Count is reflected in increased shelter occupancy rates: shelters participating in the Count were at 86% of funded capacity. At five of the additions facilities, clients were not counted if they otherwise had a permanent residence. These facilities are not included in the occupancy calculations because the total number of homeless clients is a fraction of the total number of clients.

Table 7: Shelter Occupancy

	Oct 15 Total	2014 Capacity	Occupancy Rate	2012 Occupancy Rate	2010 Occupancy Rate
All Shelters	1188²	1386	86%	83%	77%
Emergency Shelters	766	877	87%	80%	-
Catholic Social Services Safe House	7	8	88%	75%	88%
George Spady Shelter	56	60	93%	105%	95%
Hope Mission Youth Shelter	47	60	78%	77%	97%
Hope Mission Women's Shelter	43	70	61%	89%	61%
Hope Mission Men's	159	200	80%	84%	63%
Hope Mission Herb Jamieson Centre	245	250	98%	81%	76%
Hope Mission Intox	73	70	104%	103%	100%
LaSalle	7	11	64% ³	100%	100%
Lurana Shelter	22	32	69%	53%	44%
SAGE Seniors Safe House	11	7	157%	89%	86%
Women In Need I	16	25	64%	29%	110%
Women In Need II ^o	-	-	-	35%	90%
Women In Need III ^o	-	-	-	58%	60%
Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre	62	66	94%	-	61%
YESS Nexus	18	18	100%	71%	89%
Interim Housing	19	23	83%	85%	-
E4C Crossroads	9	10	90%	40%	56%
George Spady George's House*	4	4	100%	-	-
John Howard Society Satellite House	3	6	50%	100%	-
YMCA Interim Housing	3	3	100%	100%	-
Short-Term Supportive Housing	356	436	82%	91%	-
E4C Elizabeth House	18	24	75%	96%	92%
John Howard Society Nova House*	19	20	95%	-	-
Salvation Army ARC Shelter total	140	148	95%	94%	69%
Urban Manor	69	75	92%	84%	99%
Valeda House (Catholic Social Services)	10	18	56%	67%	100%
YESS Graham's House*	4	8	50%	-	-
YESS Shanoa's House*	7	8	88%	80%	80%
Bent Arrow Kokomish House*	6	6	100%	-	-
Bent Arrow Iskwew House*	5	4	125%	-	-
Bent Arrow Oranda House*	9	8	113%	-	-
John Howard Society Loft House*	5	6	83%	-	-
Hope Mission SHIFT*	10	12	83%	-	-
Wings of Providence*	54	99	55%	-	-
Addictions Treatment Facilities	-	-	-	-	-
George Spady Detox*	25	27	93%	96%	-
Hope Mission Wellspring*	22	23	96%	-	-
Henwood*	19	-	-	-	-
Jellinek Society*	13	-	-	-	-
McDougall House*	0	-	-	-	-
Our House Addiction Recovery*	1	-	-	-	-
Recovery Acres*	29	-	-	-	-

^o Closed during Count. Included in comparator numbers.

* New facility. Included in comparator numbers

* Not included in 2012 Count. Not included in comparator numbers. Note: Wings of Providence was included up to 2008 as an emergency shelter

- Previously counted under emergency shelter

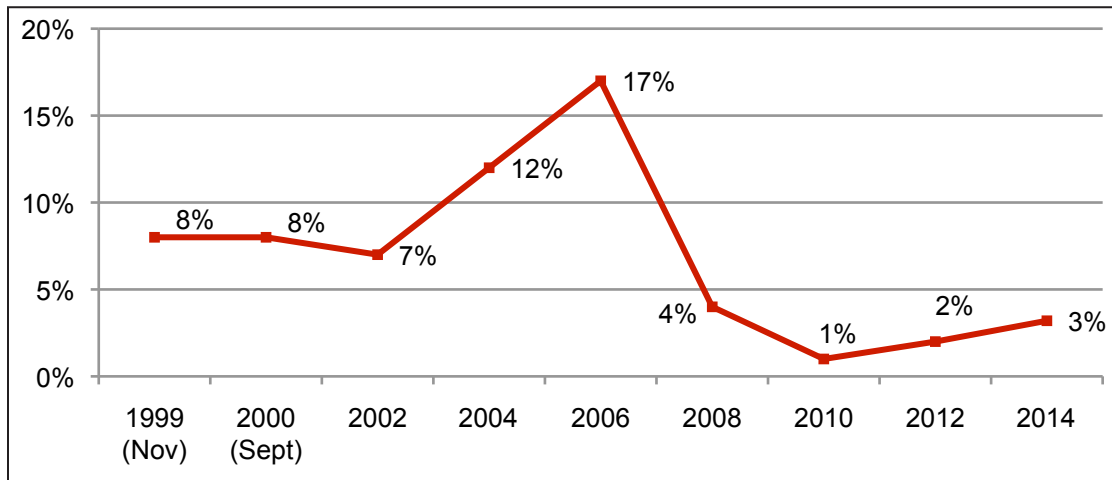
2 Treatment facilities for which capacity numbers were not available (-) are not included in Oct 15 Total.

3 LaSalle calculates capacity based on families, not total number of people. As such, the 8 dependent children present on October 15 are not included here (though children are included for all other facilities).

Turnaway Rates

On the night of the Count, 42 individuals were turned away from shelters because the facility was full, the client did not meet the entrance criteria, or because of inappropriate client behaviour. This number has been below 5% since a large expansion in shelter capacity between 2006 and 2008, but it is up notably in the last four years, likely reflecting an increase in shelter occupancy, as noted above. Individuals turned away from a shelter are not included in the Shelter Count since they may have been included in the Street Count.

Figure 9: Turnaway Rates



Homeless Counts

The 2014 Homeless Count was conducted on the night of October 15th, and on October 16th between 5:00 am and 10:00 pm. Every Count since 2002 has taken place in October, eliminating any possible seasonal fluctuation in homelessness from the Count. The weather on the 16th was clear with temperatures in the city centre ranging throughout the Count hours from a low of 1 degree overnight to a high of 13 degrees, with minimal wind and no precipitation.

A Street Count and a Shelter Count were used to capture as many homeless individuals as possible from as wide a range of circumstances as feasible. Twenty-six medical students from the University of Alberta helped to conduct the shelter survey at four of the largest emergency shelters and over 250 volunteer enumerators participated in the Street Count, covering 12 base sites, 16 outreach zones and 72 walking routes and single locations.

The 2014 Count was organized by Homeward Trust Edmonton under the direction of the Homeless Count Committee. Analytical suggestions and feedback were provided by Homeward Trust's Research Committee.

Street Count

The Street Count involved approaching all individuals along predetermined walking routes and at individual sites, such as bottle depots, transit stations and service agencies. By approaching every individual and counting throughout the day, Edmonton has a more comprehensive Street Count than communities who count overnight and also captures the "hidden homeless". Despite this, the total is still an undercount as enumerators do not reach or find every person on the streets (see Section 1).

As in 2012, several agencies volunteered had their own staff conduct surveys on site over the course of the entire day (as opposed to having volunteer enumerators drop by throughout the day) and Homeward Trust collaborated with a range of Outreach Teams and Mobile Van services in the city that are in daily contact with homeless individuals in the River Valley, ravines, and the outskirts of Edmonton.

To avoid double counting and to determine homelessness status, each individual encountered by enumerators was asked three qualifying questions. The first question asks if the individual had already been asked about their housing situation that day (volunteers all wore reflective vests to identify them). The next two questions were "Do you have a permanent residence that you stayed at or could have stayed at last night?" and "Where did you stay last night?" Those who did not have a permanent residence and did not stay at their own apartment were considered homeless¹.

Those who reported staying at a shelter the previous night were not counted in the total, but their demographic information was used in calculations. Homeless individuals were further asked whether they had children under the age of 18 years old staying with them that evening and these children were included in the total Homeless Count. Appendix 2 shows a copy of the survey form and also lists the base sites and single locations where volunteer enumerators were assigned for recent Street Counts.

¹ If one question was not answered and the other indicated homelessness, then that individual was considered homeless.

Shelter Count

Staff members of shelters enumerated the number of homeless staying at their shelters and short-term housing facilities on the night of October 15th, 2014. Staff and volunteers conducted surveys between 7 and 10 pm, covering about half of those staying in shelters. Only those indicating they planned to stay at the shelter overnight were included in the demographic analysis; the total Count was based exclusively on the total number of individuals who stayed overnight. An additional 228 people who stayed in shelters or short-term housing were surveyed the following day during the Street Count.

Volunteer Preparation and Training

Volunteer registration was conducted online via a new Edmonton Homeless Count website (**homelesscount.ca**). Although no prior experience was required of volunteer enumerators, effort was made to recruit from agency staff, volunteers with previous experience with the Count or vulnerable populations, and those familiar with conducting research and survey methodology.

All volunteer enumerators who participated in the event received a Volunteer Information Package that provided information on the Homeless Count, including frequently asked questions, as well as instructions for filling out the survey form, a volunteer job description outlining expectations, and media and emergency contact information. The City of Edmonton provided identifying vests. Volunteers were required to attend a mandatory training session on either October 2nd or October 6th, where they received a brief safety presentation from Edmonton Police Services, as well as detailed instructions on completing the survey form. Additionally, a speaker with lived experience shared insight with the enumerators into her personal experience of homelessness, and the Count Coordinator provided an overview of what enumerators could expect on Count Day and the logistical details of locations and times for each volunteer shift. For those volunteers unavailable to attend training, Base Site Coordinators provided information and instruction on safety and survey methodology on the day of the Count. Base Site Coordinators managed the volunteer enumerators at each base site and were recruited from either those with previous experience with the Homeless Count, or participating agency staff. Coordinators were also on hand for post-Count debrief with volunteer enumerators upon request.

Institution Discharges and Sheltered Homeless Data

As in previous Counts, correctional services and hospitals were asked to report on the number of individuals discharged on Count day with no fixed address and Human Services was asked for a count of clients and dependants staying in sponsored hotels. With this year's move to collective provincial data reporting, some of the processes did not work as smoothly in the first year of operation, so hospital discharges were received and included, but not data from corrections services. Human Services was able to provide only an estimate of the number of families staying on a single day and then family size data for the entire month, which was used to produce estimates of the number of adults and children staying in hotels on the night of October 15th.

As has been the practice in previous Counts, shelter staff were asked to note the number of individuals turned away from the shelter because of ineligibility, client behaviour, or because no spaces were available that night. Turnaway data are not included in the Homeless Count, as individuals may have stayed at another shelter or been counted on the streets the following day.

Methodological Changes

This year's survey was expanded to cover more areas of information. Most existing questions were maintained to keep comparability over time, but the wording on a few questions changed slightly to improve clarity.

New questions were added asking about income source, previous military service, duration of residency in Edmonton, country of birth for immigrants and specific Aboriginal group (First Nations status and non-status, Inuit and Métis). For the first time this year, Homeward Trust Edmonton asked "Where did you stay last night?", as well as "Do you have a permanent residence?" To align with practice in the rest of the province, both questions were used to screen for homelessness². This additional data led to a net increase of 12 individuals against the previous methodology: 34 individuals who did not answer the permanent residence question stayed at an unsheltered or provisionally accommodated location; these people would not have been counted as homeless in 2012. On the other hand, 22 individuals who said they had no permanent residence also reported staying at their own apartment or house the previous night and they would have been considered homeless in 2012. In any chart or graph in this document that compares 2014 to prior years, the definition relies exclusively on the permanent residence question and ignores the results of "Where did you stay last night?"

This year, all volunteers wore reflective City of Edmonton vests to identify themselves, so the screening question asked if they had completed the survey with a person with the same identification. Since the focus of the Street Count was on the prior night, the permanent residence question also shifted slightly from "Do you have a permanent residence to return to tonight?" to "Do you have a permanent residence you could have stayed at last night?" In 2014, the transition to completely self-reported characteristics was completed, eliminating observation of gender and providing transgender as a multiple choice option. The question about accompanying children under the age of 18 was divided into two parts to improve clarity.

Participating shelters and facilities are listed in Table 7. There was some expansion of facilities covered between 2012 and 2014. Several addictions treatment facilities participated for the first time this year and used an abbreviated version of the survey to capture key demographic information. For these facilities, clients were only considered homeless (Provisionally Accommodated) if they had no fixed address at the time of admission. One facility closed permanently and one was under renovation during the night of the Count; one facility was new between 2012 and 2014. These three facilities were included in comparisons between 2012 and 2014, while the other facilities newly counted were not. In Figure 1, the difference of 189 between the 2014 total and the comparator figure is due primarily to the expansion of shelters covered (177) and partly to the change in methodology (12).

One facility (George Spady Detox) previously included as an emergency shelter was reclassified to an addictions treatment facility; in comparisons with 2012, it is considered in the Sheltered category instead of Provisionally Accommodated. Two facilities were re-classified out of the emergency shelter category into short-term supportive housing. For the Street Count, two new walking routes were added this year in priority areas and three bottle depots previously counted were not covered. One bottle depot that moved locations between Counts was still included.

² I.e., a response of non-homelessness on either question counts a person as not homeless.

Provincial Comparisons

This year, Alberta's 7 Cities moved to align the questions they asked on surveys and the date they conducted Counts, in an effort to make numbers more comparable. Edmonton is most frequently compared to Calgary and there are still some significant differences in methodology between the two cities. A summary of major differences and similarities is outlined in Table 8, but the two biggest differences are:

1. Edmonton conducts an extensive Count during the day, with a broader definition of homelessness, including those temporarily staying with friends or in a motel who do not have a permanent place of their own.
2. Calgary includes people held in hospitals or corrections facilities who have no fixed address.

Table 8: Methodological Comparison of Edmonton and Calgary's Homeless Counts

	Edmonton	Calgary
Count Timing	Shelter Count night before, Street Count the following day	Shelter Count and Street Count simultaneous
Definition of homelessness	Includes people who stayed at someone else's place, and in hotel/motel who do not otherwise have another residence	Does not include people who stayed at someone else's place, or in hotel/motel (with the exception of families using Alberta Works shelter vouchers)
Systems facility inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes those discharged from remand or hospital to NFA on the day of the Count - Includes short term/interim housing facilities, and addictions treatment programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes all NFA identified in AHS hospital/emergency, Arrest and Processing, Remand, Calgary Young Offender Centre. - Includes short term/interim housing facilities, and addictions treatment programs.
Scope of Street Count	About 300 volunteers (plus agency staff) covering parks, walking routes, bottle depots, drop-in centres and transit stations in the city. Approach all, approximately 4,000 people.	Counts of people rough sleeping conducted by the three universities in Calgary, Calgary Transit, Stampede grounds, Calgary Parking Authority, and one provincial park (Fish Creek).

Projections

To account for missing data, primarily from people staying in shelters who were not surveyed, Homeward Trust has projected the. All data available was used, but some sources did not collect full information (i.e., the treatment facility survey had only gender, ethnicity and age and hospital discharges had gender and age), so the total number of responses varies. Shelter responses are used to project treatment facility characteristics, as they are more alike than the rest of the provisionally accommodated category. Dependent children (309) are excluded in all cases, except for age.

Table 9: Projections

		Count	% All	% Valid	Projection	% Proj
Gender	Female	414	27%	27%	545	27%
	Male	1095	71%	72%	1444	72%
	Trans	7	<1%	<1%	10	<1%
	Blank/DK	30	2%			
	# Valid	1516				
Ethnicity	Aboriginal	710	46%	48%	934	47%
	Non-Aboriginal	768	50%	52%	1065	53%
	Blank/DK	52	3%			
	# Valid	1478				
Age	0-17	335	18%	19%	345	15%
	18-24	214	12%	12%	295	13%
	25-30	134	7%	7%	166	7%
	31-44	419	23%	23%	530	23%
	45-54	426	23%	24%	570	25%
	55-64	212	11%	12%	310	13%
	65+	62	3%	3%	91	4%
	Blank/DK	53	3%			
	# Valid	1635				

Table 9: Projections (Continued)

New to Edmonton	< 1 year	217	15%	16%	323	16%
	>= 1 year	1155	79%	84%	1676	84%
	Blank/DK	96	7%			
	# Valid	1372				
Military Service	Veteran	93	6%	7%	127	6%
	Non-Vet	1305	89%	93%	1871	94%
	Blank/DK	70	5%			
	# Valid	1398				
Country of Birth	Immigrant	136	9%	10%	210	11%
	Canadian-born	1255	85%	90%	1788	89%
	Blank/DK	77	5%			
	# Valid	1391				

DK = Don't Know

Bivariate Data Tables

These tables list all possible combinations of two of the major categories examined in this report – Ethnicity, Shelter Status, Gender, Military Service, Immigration Status, Number of Dependants, New to Edmonton and Age (Income Source is not included because it allowed multiple responses). If you are interested in knowing how many Aboriginal Veterans or Unsheltered Immigrants were counted or any other combination of two of those characteristics, then this is the section for you.

The numbers here are the raw Count, not projections, so represent only those surveyed (1530 adults and independent youth). All of those surveyed in addictions treatment facilities are recorded as “Blank/DK” for any question other than ethnicity, age, gender and number of dependants. Any cell containing a value of three or less is suppressed for privacy reasons. Percentages can be calculated vertically, horizontally or as a share of total responses (including or excluding non-responses), according to the user’s purpose.

The section heading applies to the left hand column and the table heading applies to the top row. In the table below, the left hand column indicates how long respondents have been in Edmonton (more than 5 years, less than 6 months, 6 months to 1 year, 1-3 years or 3-5 years) and the top row indicates the respondents’ age range. For instance, there were 55 respondents aged 31-44 who had been in Edmonton less than 6 months. Homeward trust is working with Maureen Engel, a researcher in Humanities Computing at the University of Alberta, to produce customizable graphs on a public website, allowing individuals to easily create visualizations of these data.

Table 10: Time in Edmonton

<i>Age</i>	0-17	18-24	25-30	31-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Blank/DK	Total
>5 yr	18	123	60	247	285	158	50	18	959
<6 mo	-	29	29	55	30	5	-	5	159
<1 yr	-	8	8	15	15	11	-	-	58
<3 yr	-	21	10	33	33	12	4	-	115
<5 yr	-	12	7	19	24	14	-	-	81
Blank/DK	-	17	18	46	36	9	-	28	158
Total	26	210	132	415	423	209	62	53	1530

DK = Don't Know

Table 11: Ethnicity

<i>Shelter</i>	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Provisionally Accommodated	Total
Non-Aboriginal	145	467	156	768
Aboriginal	235	287	189	711
Blank/DK	22	14	15	51
Total	402	768	360	1530

<i>Gender</i>	Female	Male	Transgender	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Aboriginal	139	620	-	6	768
Aboriginal	258	443	4	6	711
Blank/DK	5	28	-	18	51
Total	402	1091	7	30	1530

<i>Veteran</i>	Non-Veteran	Veteran	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Aboriginal	656	45	67	768
Aboriginal	639	45	27	711
Blank/DK	11	-	37	51
Total	1306	93	131	1530

<i># Dependants</i>	0	1	2	3	4+	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Aboriginal	714	17	6	-	-	27	768
Aboriginal	636	29	17	7	-	19	711
Blank/DK	47	-	-	-	-	-	51
Total	1397	48	23	9	6	47	1530

<i>Time in Edm.</i>	>5 yr	<6 mo	<1 yr	<3 yr	<5 yr	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Aboriginal	468	94	33	61	43	69	768
Aboriginal	481	64	25	52	36	53	711
Blank/DK	10	-	-	-	-	36	51
Total	959	159	58	115	81	158	1530

<i>Age</i>	0-17	18-24	25-30	31-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Aboriginal	5	100	52	190	215	143	44	19	768
Aboriginal	21	102	79	210	201	64	18	16	711
Blank/DK	-	8	-	15	7	-	-	18	51
Total	26	210	132	415	423	209	62	53	1530

Table 12: Shelter Status

<i>Gender</i>	Female	Male	Transgender	Blank/DK	Total
Unsheltered	90	293	-	16	402
Sheltered	190	565	4	9	768
Prov. Accom.	122	233	-	5	360
Total	402	1091	7	30	1530

<i>Veteran</i>	Non-Veteran	Veteran	Blank/DK	Total
Unsheltered	340	37	25	402
Sheltered	709	40	19	768
Prov. Accom.	257	16	87	360
Total	1306	93	131	1530

<i>Immigrant</i>	Canadian-Born	Immigrant	Blank/DK	Total
Unsheltered	360	13	29	402
Sheltered	643	97	28	768
Prov. Accom.	252	27	81	360
Total	1255	137	138	1530

<i># Dependants</i>	0	1	2	3	4+	Blank/DK	Total
Unsheltered	383	-	-	-	-	15	402
Sheltered	698	23	14	6	-	24	768
Prov. Accom.	316	23	8	-	-	8	360
Total	1397	48	23	9	6	47	1530

Sheltered	698	23	14	6	-	24	768
Prov. Accom.	316	23	8	-	-	8	360
Total	1397	48	23	9	6	47	1530

<i>Time in Edm.</i>	>5 yr	<6 mo	< 1 yr	<3 yr	<5 yr	Blank/DK	Total
Unsheltered	282	25	10	24	22	39	402
Sheltered	488	94	35	75	46	30	768
Prov. Accom.	189	40	13	16	13	89	360
Total	959	159	58	115	81	158	1530

<i>Age</i>	0-17	18-24	25-30	31-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Blank/DK	Total
Unsheltered	4	36	30	129	129	31	12	31	402
Sheltered	11	119	59	174	210	140	40	15	768
Prov. Accom.	11	55	43	112	84	38	10	7	360
Total	26	210	132	415	423	209	62	53	1530

DK = Don't Know

Table 13: Gender

<i>Veteran</i>	Non-Veteran	Veteran	Blank/DK	Total
Female	375	9	18	402
Male	915	82	94	1091
Transgender	6	-	-	7
Blank/DK	10	-	19	30
Total	1306	93	131	1530

<i>Immigrant</i>	Canadian-Born	Immigrant	Blank/DK	Total
Female	355	32	15	402
Male	883	104	104	1091
Transgender	6	-	-	7
Blank/DK	11	-	18	30
Total	1255	137	138	1530

<i># Dependants</i>	0	1	2	3	4+	Blank/DK	Total
Female	329	40	13	7	5	8	402
Male	1033	8	9	-	-	38	1091
Transgender	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Blank/DK	28	-	-	-	-	-	30
Total	1397	48	23	9	6	47	1530

<i>Time in Edm.</i>	>5 yr	<6 mo	< 1 yr	<3 yr	<5 yr	Blank/DK	Total
Female	254	47	16	31	24	30	402
Male	694	108	42	82	55	110	1091
Transgender	4	-	-	-	-	-	7
Blank/DK	7	-	-	-	-	18	30
Total	959	159	58	115	81	158	1530

<i>Age</i>	0-17	18-24	25-30	31-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Blank/DK	Total
Female	13	83	43	123	83	32	13	12	402
Male	13	124	87	285	335	174	47	26	1091
Transgender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Prov. Accom.	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	15	30
Total	26	210	132	415	423	209	62	53	1530

DK = Don't Know

Table 14: Veteran

<i>Immigrant</i>	Canadian-Born	Immigrant	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Veteran	1150	121	35	1306
Veteran	80	10	-	93
Blank/DK	25	6	100	131
Total	1255	137	138	1530

<i># Dependants</i>	0	1	2	3	4+	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Veteran	1184	44	23	8	5	42	1306
Veteran	87	-	-	-	-	4	93
Blank/DK	126	-	-	-	-	-	131
Total	1397	48	23	9	6	47	1530

<i>Time in Edm.</i>	>5 yr	<6 mo	< 1 yr	<3 yr	<5 yr	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Veteran	874	145	55	105	75	52	1306
Veteran	65	10	-	9	4	-	93
Blank/DK	20	4	-	-	-	104	131
Total	959	159	58	115	81	158	1530

<i>Age</i>	0-17	18-24	25-30	31-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Blank/DK	Total
Non-Veteran	25	188	113	353	362	183	56	26	1306
Veteran	-	7	-	23	32	20	4	5	93
Blank/DK	-	15	17	39	29	6	-	22	131
Total	26	210	132	415	423	209	62	53	1530

DK = Don't Know

Table 15: Immigrant

# Dependants	0	1	2	3	4+	Blank/DK	Total
Canadian-Born	1147	38	20	7	4	39	1255
Immigrant	114	8	-	-	-	8	137
Blank/DK	136	-	-	-	-	-	138
Total	1397	48	23	9	6	47	1530

Time in Edm.	>5 yr	<6 mo	< 1 yr	<3 yr	<5 yr	Blank/DK	Total
Canadian-Born	878	117	48	90	70	52	1255
Immigrant	58	37	8	24	7	-	137
Blank/DK	23	5	-	-	4	103	138
Total	959	159	58	115	81	158	1530

Age	0-17	18-24	25-30	31-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Blank/DK	Total
Canadian-Born	25	178	101	333	361	185	48	24	1255
Immigrant	-	15	14	40	34	13	13	7	137
Blank/DK	-	17	17	42	28	11	-	22	138
Total	26	210	132	415	423	209	62	53	1530

DK = Don't Know

Table 16: Number of Dependants

<i>Time in Edm.</i>	>5 yr	<6 mo	< 1 yr	<3 yr	<5 yr	Blank/DK	Total
0	899	122	53	98	74	151	1397
1	20	12	-	6	-	5	48
2	10	9	-	-	-	-	23
3	-	4	-	-	-	-	9
4+	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Blank/DK	25	10	-	5	4	-	47
Total	959	159	58	115	81	158	1530

<i>Age</i>	0-17	18-24	25-30	31-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Blank/DK	Total
0	22	185	110	369	406	197	60	48	1397
1	4	16	6	17	-	-	-	-	48
2	-	-	7	11	-	-	-	-	23
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
4+	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	6
Blank/DK	-	4	5	12	12	9	-	-	47
Total	26	210	132	415	423	209	62	53	1530

DK = Don't Know

Street Count Survey

Three survey forms were used. The Street Count survey is shown below. The Shelter survey is not shown, but it is mostly the same: The first four questions of the Street Count survey are replaced by “Q1. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?” and “Q2. Are you staying at this shelter tonight?” Also, instead of Location, the initial text field is Shelter. The much briefer Addictions Treatment Facility is shown following the Street Count survey.

Figure 10: Example Street Count Survey

Hello my name is _____. I am a volunteer working with the Homeless Count. We are doing a survey and it will take a few minutes. The survey findings will be used to help people experiencing homelessness. You can end the survey at any time. We will combine your information with others so that you will not be identifiable. Can I ask you a few questions?

Location:		Time of Interview:	
Q1. Have you answered this survey with a person with this identification? Yes (End Survey) <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>		Q2. Do you have a permanent residence that you stayed at or could have stayed at last night? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	
Q3. Where did you stay last night?			
Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre <input type="radio"/> (End Survey)	Your own apartment/house <input type="radio"/> (End Survey)	Emergency Shelter, Domestic violence shelter, Transitional Housing <input type="radio"/> Someone else's place—couch surfing on temporary basis <input type="radio"/> Hotel/ Motel <input type="radio"/>	Public spaces such as sidewalks or bus shelters <input type="radio"/> Cars or other vehicles <input type="radio"/>
Makeshift shelter/tent in a park, parkland, forest or other public property <input type="radio"/>	Makeshift shelter/ tent on private property <input type="radio"/>		
Garages, attics, closets or buildings not designed for habitation <input type="radio"/>	Vacant Buildings <input type="radio"/>		
Q4. Please describe where you stayed last night (Street & Ave or nearest landmark)		Q5. How old are you? (Age or Year of Birth) Age YOB	
Q6. Which of the following do you identify with? Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Transgender/ Transsexual <input type="radio"/>		Q7. How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years? # of times	
Q8. Do you have dependents (children) who stayed in the same place as you last night? Yes <input type="radio"/> No (go to Q10) <input type="radio"/>		Q9. How many of your dependent children are under the age of 18?	

Figure 10: Example Street Count Survey (Continued)

		OAS/GIS <input type="radio"/>	Panhandling <input type="radio"/>	No Income <input type="radio"/>
		Full Time <input type="radio"/>	Binning/Bottle <input type="radio"/>	
		Employment <input type="radio"/>	Collecting <input type="radio"/>	No Answer <input type="radio"/>
		Part Time / <input type="radio"/>	Family/friends <input type="radio"/>	Other:
		Casual <input type="radio"/>		
		Employment <input type="radio"/>		
Q11. Have you ever had any military services in Canadian Forces? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>			Q12. How long have you been in Edmonton? # of Months <input type="text"/> # of Years <input type="text"/>	
Q13. Would you self-identify as being Aboriginal, including First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> (go to Q15)		Q14. Which group do you belong to? First Nations (Status) <input type="radio"/> Inuit <input type="radio"/> Métis <input type="radio"/> First Nations (Non-Status) <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/>		
Q15. What is your country of birth? Canada <input type="radio"/> Other: <input type="text"/> (go to Q17)		Q16. How many years have you lived in Canada? <input type="text"/>		
Q17. Do you consider yourself to be part of a visible minority? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>				

Figure 11: Addictions Treatment Facility Survey

<u>Question 1</u>	<u>Question 2a</u> (only if "Yes" in Q1)	<u>Question 2b</u> (only if "No" in Q1)	<u>Question 3</u>
Discharged/released/left on Oct 16, 2014?	Discharged/released to No Fixed Address or shelter?	No Fixed Address or homeless at admission?	Gender?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (go to Question 2a) <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to Question 2b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (go to Question 3) <input type="checkbox"/> No (End Survey) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown (go to Question 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (go to Question 3) <input type="checkbox"/> No (End survey) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown (go to Question 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<u>Question 4</u>	<u>Question 5</u>	<u>Question 6</u> If "Yes" (Aboriginal) in Question 5, do not ask this question.	
Age (2 digits) or Year of Birth (4 digits 19XX)?	Self-identify as Aboriginal? (END SURVEY FOR ABORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS)	Part of a visible minority? (END SURVEY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS)	
Age or YOB: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (End survey) <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to Question 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know (go to Question 6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (non-Caucasian, non-Aboriginal) <input type="checkbox"/> No (Caucasian or Aboriginal) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	

List of Count Locations

Agencies and Individual Sites

Alberta Works Argyll
Alberta Works City Centre
Alberta Works Northgate
Amity House
Bissell Centre Drop In (West)
Bissell Centre Intake (East)
Boyle McCauley Health Centre
Boyle Street Community Services
Candora Society
Catholic Social Services
Central Lions Seniors Centre
Christian Care Centre
Edmonton Inner City Housing
Edmonton John Howard Society
Herb Jamieson Centre
Hope Mission Main Building
iHuman
Jasper Place Health & Wellness Centre
Kindred House
Labour Ready 118 Ave
Labour Ready 63 Ave
Marian Centre
Milner Library
Mosaic Centre
Mustard Seed
Native Counselling Services of Alberta
NCSA Cunningham Place
Old Strathcona Youth Society
Operation Friendship Seniors Society
Prime Staffing
Rock Lutheran Inner City Breakfast
Strathcona Baptist Church
Terra Centre
The Neighbour Centre
West Edmonton Mall Transit Centre
YMCA Downtown Housing

Bottle Depots

Bottle King
Callingwood
Candora
Centennial
City Centre
Clareview
Fort Road
Quasar
Strathcona
University

LRT Stations

Clareview
Belvedere
Coliseum
Stadium
Churchill
Central
Bay/Enterprise Square
Corona
Grandin/Government Centre
University Health Sciences/Jubilee
Southgate
Century Park

Thank you!

Homeward Trust Edmonton would like to thank the following Sponsors.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Brazilian Canadian Coffee

Christensen Developments

City of Edmonton Transportation Department

Cobs Bakery, Crestwood location

Native Counselling Services of Alberta

PriceWaterhouseCoopers Canada Foundation

Qualico

Save-on Foods, Strathcona location

Second Cup, Stanley A. Milner location

Stanley A. Milner Library, Edmonton Public Library

Staples

Supreme Basics Office Products

Upper Crust Café and Caterers

Thank you!

Thank you to the following organizations for allowing us to use their offices as Base Sites for the Homeless Count volunteers. Without your support we would not have been able to mobilize volunteers across the city.

Boyle Street Community Services

Candora Society

Catholic Social Services

Central Lions Recreation Centre

Edmonton Inner City Housing Society

Hope Mission Herb Jamieson Centre

Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre

Mosaic Centre

Native Counselling Services of Alberta, Head Office

Native Counselling Services of Alberta, Cunningham Place

Old Strathcona Youth Society

Strathcona Baptist Church



homeward trust
edmonton

opening doors. building hope.