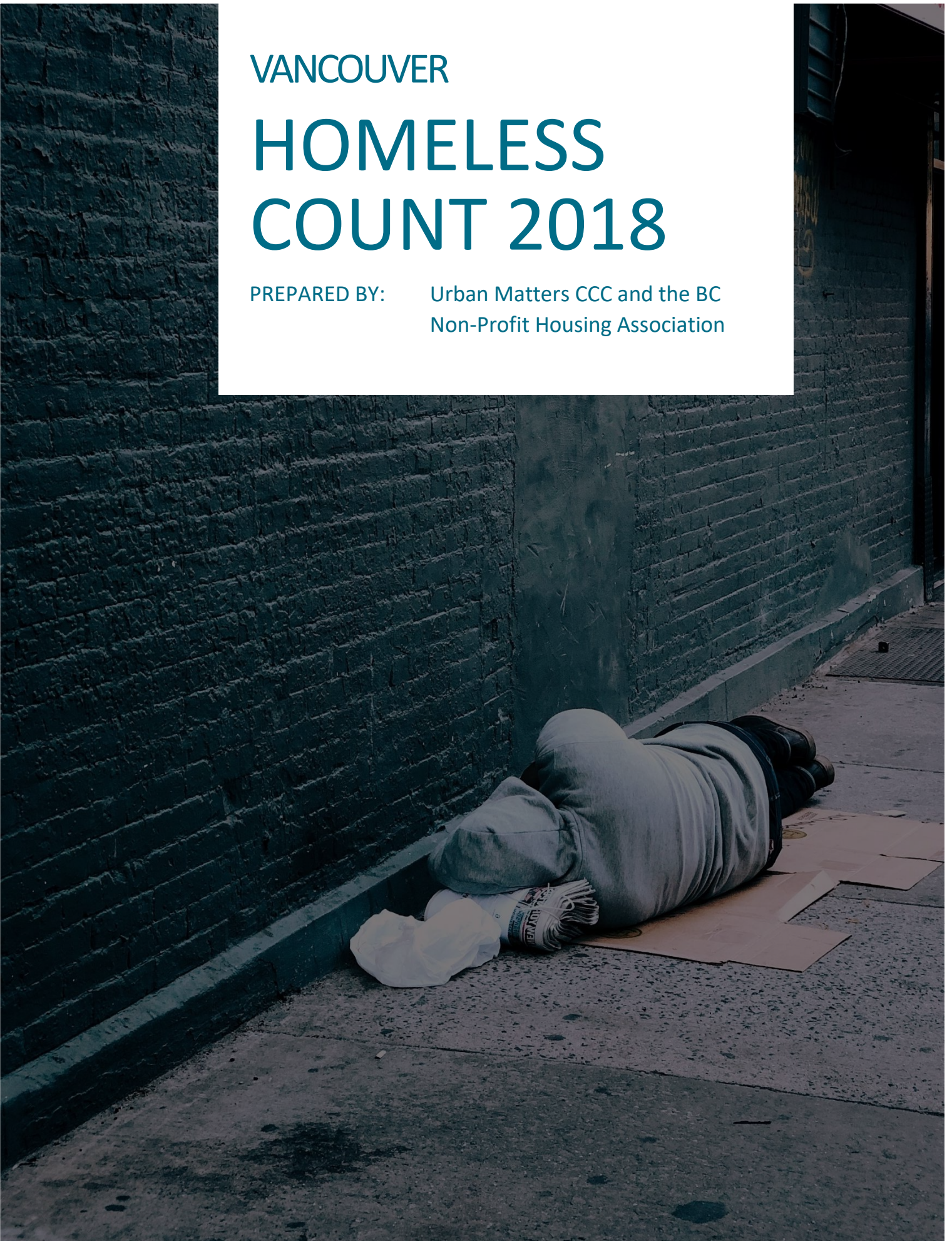


VANCOUVER

# HOMELESS COUNT 2018

PREPARED BY: Urban Matters CCC and the BC  
Non-Profit Housing Association



July 26, 2018

Prepared for the City of Vancouver by Urban  
Matters CCC and the BC Non-Profit Housing  
Association



## Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 Partners



The Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee (AHSC) was also an integral partner in the Count

# Introduction by the City of Vancouver

## CONTEXT

Homelessness in Vancouver is a humanitarian crisis that reflects a trend seen across the region, province, country, and continent. Long thought to be an urban issue, homelessness is also increasing in sub-urban and rural communities. Poverty and a lack of housing that is affordable for those living on low incomes are two of the most significant contributors to homelessness. Traumatic personal events and serious health issues also contribute to homelessness, particularly when they intersect with individual poverty and a lack of supports. The persistence of deep poverty, without sufficient relief through government assistance, has meant some people remain homeless for years. The stark overrepresentation of Indigenous people in homelessness in Vancouver and across the country highlights the impacts of colonialism and intergenerational trauma experienced by many Indigenous peoples. Homelessness is made worse in Vancouver by the rising rents, low vacancy rates, and loss due to disrepair or displacement from renovation of affordable old Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels and rooming houses. Until replacement affordable, dignified housing is found, the loss of this stock, the last resort before homelessness for many people, creates a hole at the bottom end of the affordable housing spectrum. Stigma and discrimination directed towards people who are homeless, such as assumptions that the poverty keeping people from securing a home is their own fault, compound the challenge of addressing the issue through systemic efforts.

## 2018 HOMELESS COUNT

As the following report by Urban Matters documents, the City of Vancouver's 2018 point-in-time homeless count found 2,181 people homeless in Vancouver on March 14, 2018, with 1,522 people sheltered and 659 on the street. While the total number represents only a 2% increase from last year, it is nonetheless the highest number since the first regional homeless count in 2005, signaling a continuing and growing concern about the welfare of Vancouver residents who are marginalized and about how we respond to homelessness in our city.

The report highlights that people who identify as Indigenous continue to be vastly overrepresented in homelessness in Vancouver. In 2018, the City's collaboration with Lu'ma Native Housing Society and the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee on a coordinated count provided opportunities to explore new methods of engagement and to learn from our partners. For a comprehensive analysis of Aboriginal/Indigenous homelessness, please refer to the report on [Aboriginal Homelessness – 2018 Count in Metro Vancouver](http://infocusconsulting.ca/aboriginal-homelessness-resources/aboriginal-homeless-counts/in Metro Vancouver)<sup>1</sup>.

The count also shows that approximately one-half of respondents had been homeless for less than one year. This statistic points to the fluidity of homelessness. The fact that someone becomes homeless does not necessarily mean they will continue to be. The support people find to access social and supportive housing is vital to ensure that pathways out of homelessness are available to all.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://infocusconsulting.ca/aboriginal-homelessness-resources/aboriginal-homeless-counts/>

## RESPONSES TO HOMELESSNESS

As part of its ongoing efforts to provide housing, shelter and supports to residents who are homeless, the City has partnered with the Province and private and non-profit partners on a variety of responses.<sup>2</sup>

### Homeless Outreach

Working through the provincial Homeless Outreach Program, the City's homeless outreach team assists individuals to secure income, health, housing and other support services. Over the 2017 year, the outreach team supported 4,000 individuals to access a range of services, including supporting 850 individuals to secure or find housing.

### Emergency Shelters and Warming Centres

Since 2009, the City has opened temporary winter shelters during the coldest, wettest months of the year to provide emergency shelter and services, including housing, to people who would otherwise be on the street. Over the 2017/2018 winter, the City, in partnership with BC Housing and non-profit shelter operators, opened 300 temporary shelter beds. As an extra life-saving measure, additional warming centres opened in City-run facilities on the coldest nights.

### Addressing Indigenous Homelessness

As a City of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver has an urgent and crucial priority to make a concerted effort to address the disproportionate impact of homelessness on the urban Indigenous community. The City is working in collaboration with Indigenous partners such as the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) and other urban Indigenous agencies to identify and implement effective and culturally appropriate responses to Indigenous homelessness. The City will continue to engage with these partners in order to develop a 10-year strategy that identifies short and long-term goals, targets, and sites for Indigenous housing and wellness in the region, including identifying specific targets for Vancouver.

### Protecting and Improving SRO Hotels

As the housing of last resort before homelessness, Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels play a critical role in Vancouver's low income housing stock, housing over 7,000 tenants. The City's Single Room Accommodation (SRA) By-Law and SRO replacement strategies have helped mitigate the impact of the loss of SROs. In 2017 the City approved the development of 342 homes renting at income assistance rates, and between 2015 and 2017 the City approved livability upgrades to 391 SRO homes. These actions demonstrate how the City is meeting the Housing Vancouver strategy 10-year goal of converting and replacing 2,000 SRO rooms with high quality self-contained affordable homes for low-income single renters.

### Opening Temporary Modular Housing

In September 2017, the provincial government announced funding for 2,000 temporary modular homes across BC to be provided for people who are homeless, with 600 to be delivered in Vancouver. The City and Province are more than two-thirds towards the creation of the 600 temporary modular homes in

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<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the Housing Vancouver strategy documents for more detailed information on the City's responses to homelessness: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/housing-vancouver-strategy.aspx>

Vancouver, with approximately 560 homes on nine different sites in various stages of the development process, with 155 homes already tenanted.

### **Poverty Reduction**

Poverty is one of the major underlying causes of homelessness. As a result, poverty reduction is a large part of homelessness prevention. The City is working with Vancity and community groups to co-develop the Vancouver Poverty Reduction Plan, a key action under the Healthy City Strategy. A Poverty Action Advisory Committee has been convened and community engagement sessions conducted to better understand the daily challenges faced by Vancouver residents and how the City can respond in ways that increase social equity and reduce poverty. Occurring at the same time as provincial and federal processes on poverty reduction, this process represents an opportunity for the City to influence and coordinate with other levels of government.

### **Supporting Non-Profits through Homelessness Services Grants**

The City's Homelessness Services Grants support the important work of non-profit partners in delivering City priorities to address homelessness. Since 2011, the City has awarded an annual operating grant to Streethome Foundation, with a 2018 grant of \$150,000. Since 2009, the City's Homelessness Action Week Grant program has supported numerous non-profit societies to raise awareness about homelessness and provide direct support to people experiencing homelessness. In 2018, a total of \$46,000 was awarded to sixteen organizations. As well, this year an additional \$20,000 has been allocated to support non-profits welcoming tenants of temporary modular housing into their new neighbourhoods, with a total of \$12,000 awarded to four organizations to date.

### **Addressing Stigma**

Since 2013, the City has supported people with lived experience of homelessness to share their personal stories and educate the public, in particular students in secondary and post-secondary institutions. Between November 2017 and March 2018, people with lived experience presented in 12 secondary and university classrooms to nearly 300 students and teachers. These presentations provide opportunities to challenge myths and stereotypes about homelessness, raise awareness, and build empathy and understanding.

## **FINAL REMARKS**

The moral imperative to house Vancouver's most vulnerable citizens is reflected in the current conversations at the federal level of government regarding housing as a human right.<sup>3</sup> Solutions to homelessness can only be accomplished through a concerted effort and commitment by all levels of government. Both federal and provincial governments have offered more funding over the coming years. A sustained level of investment, including in operating subsidies, will make homes affordable for people living at the lowest income levels and help address the homelessness crisis.

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<sup>3</sup> "Discussion Paper: A Human Rights-Based Approach to Housing," National Housing Strategy, Government of Canada (2018) <https://www.placetocallhome.ca/pdfs/NHS-Human-Rights-Approach-to-Housing-en.pdf>

## Acknowledgements

*Urban Matters and BCNPHA wish to thank the many individuals and agencies that made the Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 possible.*

*First and foremost, the Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 would not have been possible without the enthusiastic efforts of the nearly 500 volunteers who gave so generously of their time, both as volunteer interviewers and in supporting all aspects of the project<sup>4</sup>. We would also like to thank the staff of emergency shelters, detox facilities, safe houses and transition houses and the many agencies across the city that participated in this year's count.*

*We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to Lu'ma Native Housing Society, the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee, and Infocus Consulting with whom we liaised over the course of the count to align approaches between the 2018 Aboriginal Homeless Count and the Vancouver Homeless Count 2018. We also sincerely thank elders, Lorelei Hawkins and Nora Hanuse, for presenting at the training sessions and training volunteers on how to offer tobacco ties.*

*City of Vancouver staff Jennifer Hales and Ethel Whitty were instrumental in planning and conducting the count and producing this report. Thanks also goes to all the homeless outreach teams who gave input on the maps, and City staff Aly Lane for her work creating the maps; to City outreach staff Mary Ellen Glover and Louise van Duuren and UGM outreach staff Ralph Ruhs, Andrea Wiens, Luke Gruenhage and AJ Jansen for presenting at the volunteer training sessions; and to Esfer Morales, Cecilia Ledesma, Tarra Shepherd, Bindy Grewal, Ricky Grewal, Salima Myrfield, Lidia McLeod, Diana Jeliaskova, and Kim Lu for their invaluable administration and other support.*

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*We would also like to thank Margaret Eberle, who consulted on the City of Vancouver Homeless Counts from 2010 to 2013, and who laid the groundwork for the counts to follow.*

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<sup>4</sup> 487 volunteers attended training.

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# 1 Key Findings

- Homelessness is at its highest level in Vancouver since the Count began, and is up 2% over 2017
- 2018 saw the second-highest number of sheltered individuals (1,522) after 2017 (1,601).<sup>5</sup>
- 51 children (under 19, accompanied by a parent or guardian) were counted as homeless; they were primarily sheltered, though 2 were unsheltered.
- Indigenous individuals are significantly over-represented in the homeless population. Forty percent (40%) of respondents identifies as Indigenous; 46% of unsheltered respondents identify as Indigenous and 35% of sheltered respondents identify as Indigenous. Based on the 2016 Census, in the City of Vancouver in the 2016 Census individuals identifying as Indigenous or Aboriginal only accounted for 2.2% of the total population
- Men represent three-quarters (75%) of the total homeless population-higher on the streets (78%), and lower in shelters (72%). Women represent 24% of the population, but may be undercounted<sup>6</sup>
- Seniors (55 and older) represent 21% of the total respondents, while youth and children (under 25 years of age) represent 9% of respondents
- 54% of respondents have two or more health conditions, while 17% have no health conditions. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have no health conditions than unsheltered respondents (19% and 13%, respectively), but both were equally likely to have two or more health conditions (54% of each group of respondents)
- 40% of respondents indicated having a medical condition/illness, 34% a physical disability, and 39% a mental health issue
- Addictions are a major health issue for the homeless: 35% report no addiction, 28% report an addiction to cigarettes, 25% opioids, 23% methamphetamines, 22% alcohol, and 20% marijuana
- Welfare and disability benefits were the most commonly reported income sources (38% and 29% respectively). Thirteen (13%) of respondents were employed full or part-time
- Most respondents (78%) had been in Vancouver for more than a year, while 15% had been in the city for less than 6 months
- Nearly a third of respondents (51%) had been homeless for up to 1 year, while nearly half (49%) had been homeless for more than a year
- 7% of respondents reported they had served in the Canadian Forces or RCMP
- Indigenous Profile:
  - 32% of Indigenous respondents identified as women, compared with 19% of non-Indigenous respondents

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<sup>5</sup> In 2017, during the Count, Extreme Weather Response shelters were open and all shelters were at capacity contributing in part to the greater number of people who were sheltered that year.

<sup>6</sup> Previous Homeless Count reports and community agencies have stated that women tend to be part of the hidden homeless population, often staying with families and friends or in unsafe situations rather than stay on the streets or access services for the homeless. As such, they are likely to be undercounted using a Point in Time count methodology.

- Most (76%) Indigenous respondents were adults aged 25-54, while 10% were seniors (55+), and 14% were youth, while 67% of non-Indigenous were adults, 25% seniors, and 8% youth
- Indigenous people were overrepresented on the street, with 51% of the Indigenous respondents unsheltered compared to 40% of the non-Indigenous respondents
- Gender Profile
  - Women were more likely to be sheltered than men (61% and 53% respectively)
  - 53% of women identified as Indigenous, compared with 35% of men
  - 55% of women on the street identified as Indigenous
- Age Profile:
  - 54% of youth identified as male, 41% as female and 4% as another gender
  - 75% of adults identified as male, 24% as female and 1% as another gender
  - 84% of seniors identified as male, 16% as female and 1% as another gender
  - 28% of youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, or questioning, compared with 10% of adults (aged 25-54) and 5% of seniors (55 or older)
  - 46% of youth identified as Indigenous, compared with 43% of adults (25-54) and 28% of seniors (55 or older)
  - 60% of youth self-report a mental health issue compared to 41% of adults and 24% of seniors
- Trends
  - 2018 had the highest proportion of Indigenous respondents of all homeless count years (40%)
  - The proportion of men (75%) to women (24%) was comparable to previous years
  - The proportion of respondents 55 or older was 20.6%, second only to 2017 (21.1%)
  - Individuals with 2 or more health concerns have been the largest of the three groups in since 2008; however, only in 2010, 2011, 2016, and 2018 did this group represent half or more
  - Individuals who have been homeless for less than a year (i.e. recently homeless) represent 51% of the total homeless population, down from 61% in 2016

## 2 Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 that was commissioned by the City of Vancouver to better understand the characteristics of Vancouver's homeless population in 2018 and trends in Vancouver since 2005. The findings provide an estimate of Vancouver's homeless population *on one day* (March 14, 2018). The homeless count is a 'point-in-time' count that provides a snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness in a 24-hour period. It should also be noted that the point-in-time count conducted each year is typically an undercount and represents only those individuals actually interviewed during the 24-hour period. Despite this, the homeless count represents a sound method for collecting data on homelessness at this single point in time.

### 2.1 CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The first count of the homeless population in Metro Vancouver (then the Greater Vancouver Regional District) was conducted in 2002, and was called the Research Project on Homelessness in Greater Vancouver. Since then, Metro Vancouver has conducted a count across the region every three years, with the most recent homeless count in Metro Vancouver taking place in 2017. Since 2010, the City of Vancouver has conducted its own homeless counts every year where a regional count is not taking place.

This year, the Vancouver Homeless Count was conducted concurrently with two federally-funded regional counts: an Aboriginal/Indigenous-focused homeless count conducted by Lu'ma Native Housing Society and the Aboriginal Homeless Steering Committee, and the Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity's 2018 Youth Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver. The City and its consultants endeavoured to coordinate these three counts, and in particular to align the Aboriginal/Indigenous Homeless Count and the City's Homeless Count methodologically.

### 2.2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the count is to provide:

- an updated enumeration of homeless persons in Vancouver;
- a demographic profile of those enumerated on the day of the count; and,
- an analysis of trends in homelessness since 2005.

### 2.3 DEFINITIONS

**Homelessness** - The 2018 City of Vancouver Homeless Count uses the same definition of homelessness used in previous City and regional homeless counts. Someone was considered homeless for the purpose of this count if:

- they did not have a place of their own where they could expect to stay for more than 30 days and if they did not pay rent.

This included people who are:

- without physical shelter – staying on the street, in alleys, doorways, parkades, vehicles, on beaches, in parks and in other public locations;

- temporarily accommodated in emergency shelters, detox facilities, safe houses or transition houses for men, youth, women and their children;
- staying at someone else's place (friend or family) where they did not pay rent (i.e. couch surfing); or
- in hospitals or jails and had no fixed address.

For example, someone who stayed in a garage would be considered homeless if they did not pay rent, even if they considered the garage to be their home. Emergency shelters are not considered permanent housing, thus shelter clients are included in the homeless population. Someone who stayed at a friend's place where they did not pay rent (i.e. couch surfer) is also considered homeless as they do not have security of tenure. Individuals paying rent in a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) building are not considered homeless.

**Unsheltered homeless** - People who had no physical shelter and stayed outside, on the street, in doorways, parkades, parks and on beaches and in other public locations, as well as people who stayed at a someone's place where they did not pay rent (couch surfing).

**Sheltered homeless** – People who stayed in an emergency shelter, safe house, transition house, or detox facility as well as people with No Fixed Address (NFA) staying overnight in hospitals or jails.

**Children** - Young people under the age of 19 who were accompanied by a parent during the count.

**Youth** - Young people aged 16-25 who were not accompanied by a parent during the count.

**Seniors** - People aged 55 years and older.

**Temporary Winter Response Shelters** - Winter Response Shelters are temporary low-barrier winter shelters operating in Vancouver from approximately November to April each winter. They are a partnership between the City of Vancouver, the Province (BC Housing) and a non-profit shelter operator. These shelters typically operate on a 24/7 model, with meals and outreach services.

**Year-round Shelters** - Permanent shelters funded by BC Housing and others, open year-round. Most offer 24/7 service, meals and other services including case management.

**Extreme Weather Response (Shelter) (EWR)** - EWR shelters provide extra overnight shelter spaces during periods of extreme weather. They are dependent on volunteers and have limited support services. No EWR shelters operated on the night of the homeless count in 2018.

## 2.4 METHODS

The Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 used the same methodology as past City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver regional homeless counts to ensure comparability. It measured homelessness from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and consisted of two components to enumerate (1) the sheltered homeless and (2) the unsheltered homeless. For each component there was a questionnaire including screening questions and survey questions.

### Screening Questions

Volunteers began by asking respondents three screening questions designed to avoid double counting the same individual. Screening questions for the sheltered homeless ensured they were staying in a

shelter that night, and eliminated those who had already been interviewed. Individuals who paid rent *and* were staying in a shelter were counted and interviewed, as they have historically always been counted through the shelter totals (either provided by BC Housing, or directly from shelters through shelter statistics forms). Screening questions for the unsheltered homeless eliminate those who had already been interviewed or paid rent. Individuals who stayed in a shelter, safe house, transition house or facility but had not completed a survey in the shelter were interviewed and categorized as part of the sheltered count.

## 2.5 TOBACCO TIES<sup>7</sup>

For the first time both the Aboriginal Count and the Vancouver Count employed a new participation icebreaker - tobacco ties were provided instead of cigarettes. In the Aboriginal community tobacco is considered a sacred medicine.

Within Aboriginal communities, tobacco is used as an offering to the person conducting the ceremony or as an offering to the Creator. It is also used as a form of reciprocity, if you receive something you also give something.<sup>8</sup> In this case, the tobacco ties were used as a welcome in exchange for one's time filling out a survey.

Leading up to the Count, the Aboriginal community mobilized and produced 5,000 ties for the count in Vancouver. This process involved all Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee organizations, elders and families, and was unifying and empowering for the community. This was a remarkable achievement considering the logistics involved and the two-month timeline for production.

## 2.6 SURVEY QUESTIONS

Following the screening questions, the survey questions for both the sheltered and unsheltered components included a number of key variables from previous years and a several additional questions that have been added since the first City of Vancouver Homeless Count in 2010.

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<sup>7</sup> This section is taken from the 2018 Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Homeless Count Report, which can be found at <http://infocusconsulting.ca/aboriginal-homelessness-resources/aboriginal-homeless-counts/>

<sup>8</sup> More information can be found here: <http://traditionalnativehealing.com/tobacco-prayer-ties>

## 2.7 NEW THIS YEAR

New survey questions this year include:<sup>9</sup>

- Greater specificity about Indigenous identity (2017 Metro Count, 2018 City of Vancouver Count): this includes identifying whether an individual is First Nations, Inuit, Metis, not listed or chose not to specify details about their Indigenous identity; and
- Additional specificity about addictions issues. Individuals who self-reported they had an addiction were invited to share, if willing, the substances they used, i.e. cigarettes, alcohol, opioids, methamphetamines, cocaine, marijuana or another drug not listed.

## 2.8 ENUMERATING THE SHELTERED HOMELESS

The sheltered component of the count enumerated individuals who were homeless staying at emergency shelters, transition houses, detox facilities and safe houses overnight on March 13/14. These individuals are referred to as the 'sheltered homeless'. Three approaches were used to gather information for this group:

1. Staff at transition houses, safe houses and detox facilities staff and four emergency shelters, undertook the sheltered survey with clients.
2. Volunteers conducted the questionnaire in the remaining 25 emergency shelters that were open on the night of the count, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Included in this group are the temporary winter shelters and year-round shelters.<sup>10</sup>
3. Vancouver Coastal Health, Providence Health Care and the Vancouver Police Department provided anonymous information on individuals staying in their facilities on count night who have No Fixed Address (NFA).

In addition, each shelter, transition house, safe house and detox facility was asked to complete a shelter statistics form providing the total number of occupants and turnaways on count night. This form served as a cross check against the surveys, and helped ensure that all shelter clients were enumerated in the total count of individuals who were homeless, including people who were missed by the survey or who refused to participate.

On the evening of March 13<sup>th</sup>, interviewers obtained consent from guests staying in shelters and other facilities to proceed with the questionnaire. Individuals staying at these locations were asked a series of screening questions to determine if they were screened in, and if so, then interviewers proceeded with the rest of the survey.

This year, as in past years, interviews were conducted in all Vancouver emergency shelters, including those funded directly by BC Housing. Prior to 2013, interviews for the homeless count did not occur in BC Housing funded shelters. Instead, analysis of those shelter guests was based solely on a data package provided by BC Housing. When interviews are conducted in all shelters, the BC Housing data package is used to cross-check survey data and to ensure there are no anomalous findings. This is the approach used by Metro Vancouver in 2014 and 2017 and the City of Vancouver in 2013, 2015 and 2016.

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<sup>9</sup>Included in brackets is the first year these questions were included in the City of Vancouver Count; footnotes indicate when Metro Vancouver may have included them in previous years.

<sup>10</sup>No Extreme Weather Shelters (EWRs) were open on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## 2.9 ENUMERATING THE UNSHELTERED HOMELESS

The unsheltered count took place in the daytime hours on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Trained volunteers interviewed people who were homeless at pre-identified locations such as meal programs, drop-in centres, some social services offices, parks, alleys and public spaces.

In addition, staff of some service agencies completed the survey with their clients on count day (e.g. organizations that preferred to have their staff fill out surveys, rather than have volunteers enter the space). People found in the daytime who stayed overnight outside without a physical shelter or who stayed at someone else's place without paying rent are referred to as the 'unsheltered homeless'. People who indicated they had stayed in emergency accommodation the night before were asked to complete the unsheltered survey if they also indicated they had not completed a shelter survey. The responses from these individuals were then recategorized as "sheltered" responses. This was done in order to better capture the demographic information of all individuals who had accessed shelters.

In advance of the count, the City's Homelessness Services Department, in consultation with outreach staff and others knowledgeable about where people who are homeless may be found, created a series of maps marking known homeless locations to guide volunteers in their assigned area.

Beginning early in the morning on March 14<sup>th</sup>, volunteers approached people in their assigned areas to request an interview. An individual who agreed to participate in an interview was asked a series of screening questions. If the individual, or respondent, qualified for the survey, i.e. was "screened in", the volunteer proceeded to conduct the rest of the survey with the respondent.

In addition, some agencies in frequent contact with people who stay at someone else's place where they do not pay rent were asked to complete interviews with these individuals on count day.

## 2.10 VOLUNTEER AND COUNT COORDINATION

The City of Vancouver recruited skilled outreach workers, social service personnel, people with relevant experience, including participation in previous counts, and other motivated individuals as volunteer surveyors. All volunteers were required to attend training. This helped ensure that surveys would be completed as accurately as possible and that volunteers felt adequately prepared for their shift, both in terms of safety and their ability to approach individuals respectfully to request an interview.

A Shelter Count Coordinator was responsible for the sheltered portion of the count, while for the unsheltered portion of the count, there were four Area Coordinators, each responsible for one of four areas of the city. The Shelter Coordinator and Area Coordinators managed training registration, assigned route locations and shifts, coordinated volunteers on count night/day, and were responsible for ensuring that all materials were collected and returned to the City. The Aboriginal/Indigenous Count Coordinator worked closely with this team to ensure that there was no overlap between routes assigned to Indigenous volunteers and City of Vancouver volunteers, and to support overall methodological alignment.

On the night of the shelter count (March 13<sup>th</sup>), shelter volunteers went to their assigned shelters, where they picked up count packages containing the questionnaires and other materials, and conducted interviews with shelter guests, with support from shelter staff. Interview packages were returned to shelter staff for safe storage overnight, and the following day were returned to the City.

During the day of the unsheltered/street count (March 14<sup>th</sup>), each Area Coordinator managed an Area Station in his/her area of the city. Volunteers signed in to their designated Area Station where they picked up their interview package, proceeded in pairs to complete their assigned route, and returned completed interview packages. Area Coordinators managed logistics, answered questions, and responded to last-minute emergencies or changes.

## 2.11 NEW THIS YEAR

For the first time in 2018, during the City's Homeless Count, two other counts were occurring: a youth-focused count and an Aboriginal/Indigenous-focused count. The youth count used an adapted approach, relying on anonymized service data from youth-serving organizations across Metro Vancouver, and was regional in approach. The Aboriginal/Indigenous Count was also regional, but had significant geographic overlap with the City of Vancouver and occurred on the same day as the City of Vancouver count (March 14).

In order to ensure complementary approaches between the City of Vancouver and Aboriginal/Indigenous counts, the City and its consultants worked closely with Lu'ma Native Housing Society, the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee, and their consultants from Infocus Management Consulting. This work included a collaborative review of survey questions, cooperation on the division of survey routes between Indigenous and City volunteers, cooperation on a new approach to ice-breakers using tobacco ties instead of cigarettes, and the inclusion of Indigenous elders in the City of Vancouver training sessions. All volunteers were trained in the same manner to ensure a common approach to all aspects of the homeless counts. All survey data was entered by the same data entry company, and final data was shared between organizations, with collaboration on the release of reports.

## 2.12 LIMITATIONS

***All homeless counts underestimate the number of people who are homeless at any one time. The Vancouver count is no different. It did not enumerate every person who was homeless in the city on March 14, 2018.***

Although every effort was made to enumerate all people who were homeless, it was not possible to assign volunteers to all parts of the city for an entire day or interview all people experiencing homelessness; some parts of the city were missed, some people did not wish to be identified, and some were not possible to find. For example, this method does not count all people who are staying at someone else's place, as they are, by their very nature, hidden. This group is only included in the count if on the day of the count they visited a place where they could be identified and counted.

It should also be noted that a point-in-time count, such as this, does not reflect the number of people who move in and out of homelessness over a longer period of time, for example, one year. However, the point-in-time approach is consistent with past counts and allows for comparisons between years.

People who refuse to be interviewed are not included in the reported number of homeless people found on the day of the count, as their wish to not be counted needs to be respected, and additionally these people may decide to participate later in the day (and would therefore be double counted) or they may not, in fact, be homeless. If they are homeless, then they are missed, emphasizing that the count is an undercount. That being said, the count provides the best available information on the size, composition and trends in the homeless population in Vancouver.

Shelter response rates for 2018 align with the response rates from Metro Vancouver counts historically. Table 1 shows the response rate for the shelter survey in 2018 (58%). Shelter response rates for Metro Vancouver have a wide range, from 84% in 2008, to 51% in 2011, to 59% in 2014. In 2015 the shelter response rate for the City of Vancouver Homeless Count was 54% and in 2016 the response rate was 53%. This year a small number of individuals who stayed in shelters the night before but were not interviewed were interviewed on the street.

*Table 1: Shelter Survey Response Rates and Total Sheltered Homeless*

	Number	Percent
Survey respondents	791	58%
Survey non-respondents	566	42%
<b>Total Surveyed</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>100%</b>
Not asked (NFAs and children)	165	
<b>Total Sheltered</b>	<b>1,522</b>	

There are several reasons for low shelter response rates each year. Typically, volunteers are in the shelter for a two-hour shift. Depending on the shelter, a shift can start as early as 5:00pm and end as late as 10:00pm. Because of this limited window for interviews, volunteers miss any shelter clients who arrive after the volunteer shift is completed. If staff are unable to conduct an interview with these clients later, then at least they will be counted through the shelter statistics form, even though they will not contribute survey responses to the data set. Similarly, shelter clients who refuse to be interviewed will be counted through the shelter statistics form, but will not contribute to the full data set.

## 2.13 REPORT ORGANIZATION

Section 3 examines the total number of people identified as homeless for all years the count has been conducted, the breakdown between sheltered and unsheltered type of homelessness, and overall changes to the homeless population in Vancouver between 2005 and 2018. Section 4 describes the demographics and characteristics of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless and the homeless population as a whole in 2018. Section 5 discusses trends in the characteristics of the homeless population since 2005. A list of shelters is provided in Appendix: Shelters on page 42. The unsheltered and sheltered surveys are included in Appendix: Surveys beginning on page 43.

### 3 Change in Vancouver's Counted Homeless Population

Figure 1 and Table 2 illustrate the trend in the number of sheltered, unsheltered, and total homeless individuals identified by the homeless count over time. Interpretation of such trends must take in to account a variety of contextual factors. First, as the count does not capture all of the homeless individuals in Vancouver, it is likely that some portion of the fluctuations may be due to increasing or decreasing response rates, rather than increasing or decreasing numbers of homeless individuals – these differences could be driven by chance, methodological changes, or other contextual factors that may have caused a higher or lower proportion of homeless individuals to be surveyed. Rather than seeking to draw information from the slight variations from year to year (including the variations between sheltered and unsheltered between 2017 and 2018, which can in part be explained by extreme-weather responses), the overall trends can be taken to indicate a likely increase in the homeless population in Vancouver since 2005, complemented by an increase in count effectiveness. Additionally, the steep increase in sheltered homeless, coupled with a decrease in unsheltered homeless between 2008 and 2011 can be connected to an actual increase in shelter capacity, providing a place for those who were previously unsheltered.

Figure 1: Vancouver Homeless Population Trends 2005 to 2018

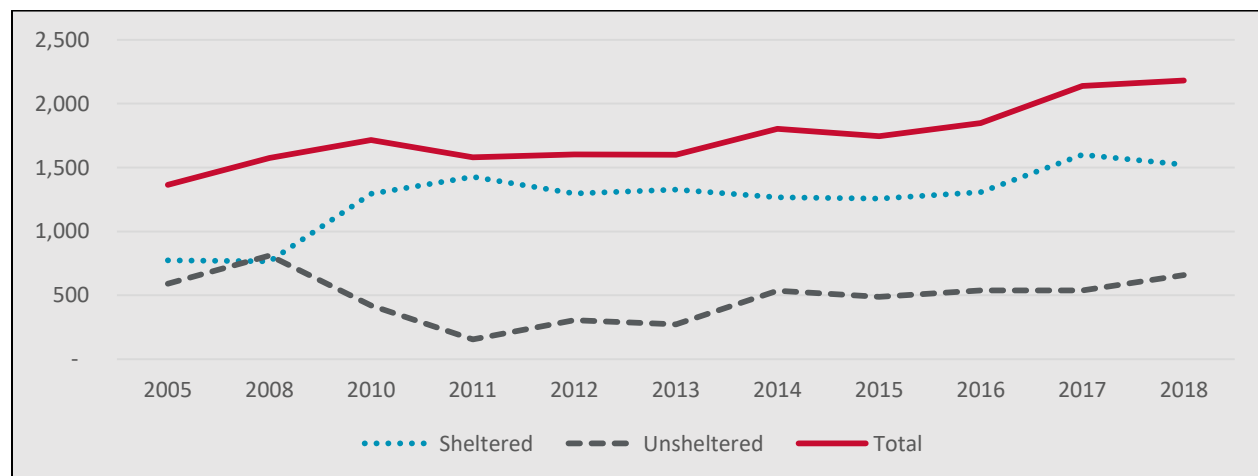


Table 2: Vancouver Homeless Population Trends 2005 to 2018

	2005	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change 2005-2018	
												#	%
Sheltered	773	765	1,294	1,427	1,296	1,327	1,267	1,258	1,308	1,601	1,522	749	97%
Unsheltered	591	811	421	154	306	273	536	488	539	537	659	68	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>1,746</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>2,138</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>60%</b>

Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of homeless individuals in terms of their sheltered and unsheltered status between 2005 and 2018. Between 2011 and 2013 a relatively high proportion of homeless respondents in Vancouver were sheltered (90% in 2011, 81% in 2012 and 83% in 2013). This declined somewhat in 2014, where 70% of homeless respondents were sheltered. Between 2014 and 2016 the proportion of homeless respondents who were sheltered and unsheltered remained stable, only fluctuating between 1% and 2% annually. In 2017 there was a slight increase in the proportion of homeless individuals who were sheltered and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of unsheltered homeless individuals. In 2018, the proportion of sheltered to unsheltered homeless individuals was on par with that of 2016 figures, despite a larger number of homeless individuals counted in 2018.

As shown in Table 3, the period between 2005 and 2018 shows an increase of 60% in homeless individuals counted (817 individuals). The sheltered homeless counted grew by 97% (749 individuals) and the number of unsheltered individuals counted grew by 12% (68 individuals). Between 2010 and 2018, the total number of homeless individuals counted in Vancouver increased by 27% (466 individuals).

Figure 2: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Population Trends 2005 to 2018

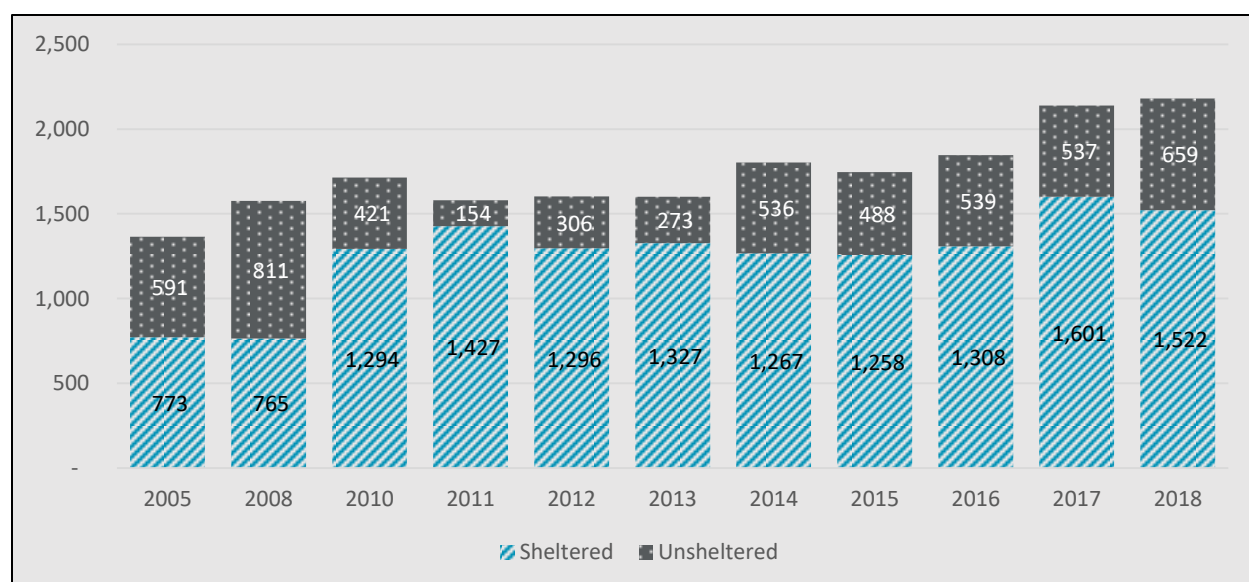


Table 3: Change in Homeless by Time Period

	Change 2005-2010		Change 2010-2014		Change 2014-2018		Change 2005-2018		Change 2010-2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered	521	67%	(27)	-2%	255	20%	749	97%	228	18%
Unsheltered	(170)	-29%	115	27%	123	23%	68	12%	238	57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>27%</b>

## 4 Demographics and Characteristics of Vancouver's Homeless Population

This section presents the demographics and characteristics of the 2,181 individuals identified by the count in 2018. The total homeless population organized by sheltered and unsheltered individuals are described in the following dimensions:

- Indigenous/Aboriginal identity
- Gender identity
- Age
- Health concerns
- Sources of income
- Length of time in Vancouver
- Living in Vancouver when became homeless
- Place of residence prior to Vancouver
- Duration of homelessness
- Military service
- Shelter stays in the last 12 months

### 4.1 SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN VANCOUVER

Of the 2,181 homeless individuals counted in 2018, 70% were sheltered and 30% were unsheltered (Table 4). The majority of the individuals were adults or unaccompanied youth (2,099 or 96% of the total). Fifty-one accompanied children (under 19 years of age, with a parent or guardian) were counted. Of these children, 31 were staying in a shelter, 15 were staying in transition houses, 3 had no fixed address, and 2 did not have any form of shelter.

Table 4: Sheltered and Unsheltered Individuals

	Adults and Youth		Children		No Answer	Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	#	%
Sheltered	1,473	70%	49	96%	0	1,522	70%
Shelters	1,299	62%	31	61%	0	1,330	61%
Transition Houses	31	1%	15	29%	0	46	2%
Detox Centres	15	1%	0	0%	0	15	1%
Safe Houses	12	1%	0	0%	0	12	1%
No Fixed Address	116	6%	3	6%	0	119	5%
Unsheltered Homeless	626	30%	2	4%	31	659	30%
<b>Total Homeless</b>	<b>2,099</b>		<b>51</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.1 Indigenous/Aboriginal Identity

In total 561 individuals surveyed identify as being Indigenous, representing a total of 40% of those who answered the question (Table 5). A higher proportion of unsheltered individuals identified as

Indigenous/Aboriginal (46%) than did sheltered individuals (35%). According to the 2016 Census, 2.2% of Vancouver residents in private households identified as Aboriginal – the differences between the proportions of individuals of Indigenous/Aboriginal identity amongst the overall population and the homeless population demonstrate the substantial overrepresentation of individuals of Indigenous/Aboriginal identity in the homeless population. For additional information on the Aboriginal/Indigenous homeless population in Vancouver please refer to page 22.

Table 5: Indigenous/Aboriginal Identity

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous	273	35%	288	46%	561	40%
First Nations	188	24%	197	31%	385	27%
Inuit	4	1%	7	1%	11	1%
Metis	50	6%	55	9%	105	7%
Not listed	21	3%	12	2%	33	2%
Yes, but left unspecified	10	1%	17	3%	27	2%
No	504	65%	342	54%	846	60%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	745		29		774	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.2 Gender Identity

The majority of respondents identified as men (75%), while 24% identified as women.<sup>11</sup> One per cent of individuals reported another gender identity (Table 6). Men represented a greater proportion of unsheltered respondents (78%) than sheltered respondents (72%). Conversely, women represented a higher proportion of sheltered respondents (26%) than unsheltered (21%). For additional detail regarding gender in the homeless count please see section 4.2.2 Gender Profile, page 25.

Table 6: Gender Identity

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	566	72%	498	78%	1,064	75%
Woman/Female	206	26%	132	21%	338	24%
Another Gender Identity	9	1%	7	1%	16	1%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	741		22		763	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

<sup>11</sup> Previous Homeless Count reports and community agencies have stated that women tend to be part of the hidden homeless population, often staying with families and friends or in unsafe situations rather than stay on the streets or access services for the homeless. As such, they are likely to be undercounted using a Point in Time count methodology.

In total, 24 individuals (2% of the respondents who answered the question), identified as transgender (Table 7). Of these individuals, 18 were sheltered and 6 were unsheltered.

Table 7: Individuals Identifying as Transgender

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	18	2%	6	1%	24	2%
No	744	98%	599	99%	1343	98%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	762	100%	605	100%	1367	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	760		54		814	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.3 Age

Table 8 illustrates that 48% of homeless individuals counted on March 14 were between the ages of 35 and 54 years, with the 35-44 age cohort representing 23% of the survey respondents and the 45-54 age cohort representing 25% of the survey respondents.

Young adults (age 25-34) represented a higher proportion of the unsheltered respondents (25%) than the sheltered respondents (19%). Seniors aged 55 and older represented a higher proportion of the sheltered respondents (22%) than the unsheltered respondents (19%). In total, 290 individuals, representing 21% of homeless respondents, were aged 55 or older. For additional information regarding the various age groups please see section 4.2.3 Youth/Adult/Seniors Profile, page 26.

Table 8: Age

	Sheltered		Unsheltered Total		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 19 Years	4	1%	2	0%	6	0%
19-24 Years	61	8%	58	9%	119	8%
25-34 Years	149	19%	158	25%	307	22%
35-44 Years	179	23%	148	24%	327	23%
45-54 Years	213	27%	144	23%	357	25%
55-64 Years	125	16%	89	14%	214	15%
65-74 Years	42	5%	25	4%	67	5%
75+ Years	5	1%	4	1%	9	1%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	744		31		775	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.4 Health Concerns

Survey respondents were asked whether they had a health concern including medical condition or illness, physical disability, addiction issue, and/or mental health issue. As with all information in the survey, respondents' information was self-reported and all questions were self-interpreted with the help of volunteers. Medical condition may refer to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, and physical disabilities may refer to an impairment affecting mobility. While volunteers may have provided examples of a type of health concern, these types of health concerns were not defined for respondents, and respondents may have interpreted the categories differently. Please view the surveys in Appendix: Surveys on page 43 for the exact form of the questions related to health.

In addition to asking about the presence of an addiction issue, in 2018 for the first time, in such cases where an individual indicated an addiction issue, volunteers were directed to ask the respondent if they would be willing to specify the substances that applied, including alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, opioids, or another substance.

Table 9 illustrates that 29% of respondents reported a single health concern, while 25% reported two health concerns, 18% three, and 10% four. Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents indicated no health concerns. Sheltered respondents were noticeably more likely to indicate no health concerns than unsheltered respondents (19% to 13%) and were less likely to report one or four health concerns (27% to 33%, and 9% to 12% respectively). Sheltered respondents reported two and three health concerns at comparable rates to unsheltered respondents.

Table 9: Incidence of Health Concerns<sup>12,13</sup>

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Health Concerns	151	19%	83	13%	234	17%
One Health Concern	210	27%	201	33%	411	29%
Two Health Concerns	203	26%	153	25%	356	25%
Three Health Concerns	145	19%	108	18%	253	18%
Four Health Concerns	74	9%	71	12%	145	10%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	739		43		1,025	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

<sup>12</sup> Includes medical condition or illness, physical disability, mental health issue, addiction issue.

<sup>13</sup> Included are all respondents who provided at least one answer across the 4 questions regarding health concerns (for example, a respondent who indicated a medical condition/illness, but declined to indicate the presence or lack of the other 3 health concerns would be included in the "one health concern" category, and an individual who indicated no medical condition/illness and declined to indicate the presence or lack of another health concern would be included in "no health concerns". As a result, the only individuals who appear in the "don't know / no answer / unclear" category are those who indicated "don't know", provided no answer, or were unclear for all 4 health related questions, or those who were counted in shelters, but did not complete a survey).

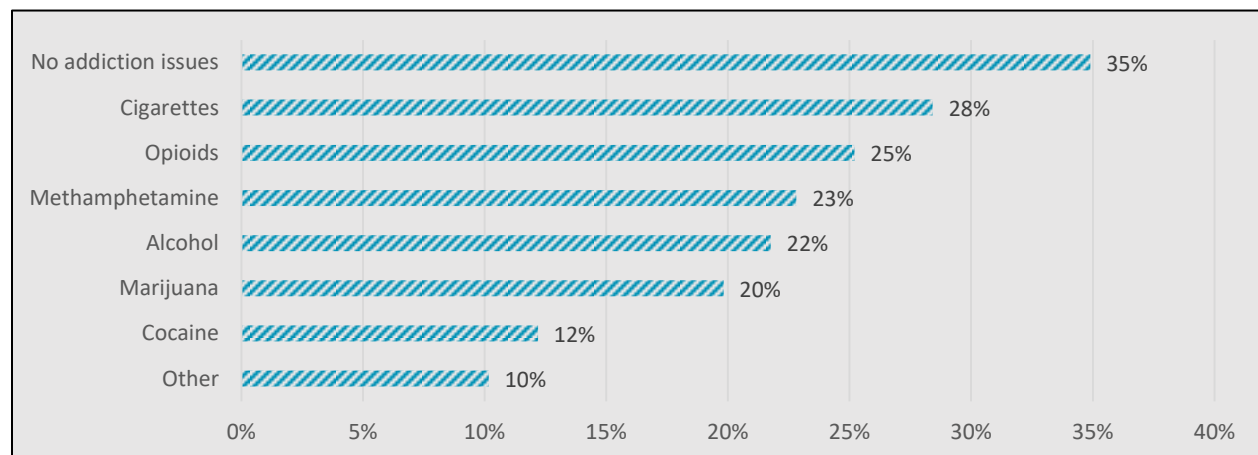
Table 10 presents the prevalence of medical condition/illness, physical disability and mental health issues among the sheltered and unsheltered homeless respondents. Of these three health concerns, the most commonly reported health concern was medical condition/illness (40%), followed by a mental health issue (39%) and physical disability (34%). Mental health issues were more commonly reported among unsheltered respondents than among sheltered, and medical conditions/illnesses and physical disabilities were more commonly reported among sheltered than among unsheltered respondents.

Table 10: Types of Health Conditions<sup>14,15</sup>

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Medical Condition/Illness	332	42%	232	38%	564	40%
Physical Disability	283	36%	195	32%	478	34%
Mental Health Issue	294	38%	256	42%	550	39%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>100%</b>

This year, respondents who reported an addiction issue were asked if they would be willing to specify the substances that applied. Figure 3 illustrates the substances individuals reported being addicted to. The most common substance addiction reported was to cigarettes (28%) followed by opioids (25%), methamphetamine (23%), alcohol (22%), marijuana (20%), cocaine (12%), and other substances (10%).<sup>16</sup>

Figure 3: Types of Addiction Issues<sup>17</sup>



<sup>14</sup> Addictions are reported on in detail within this section and so are omitted here.

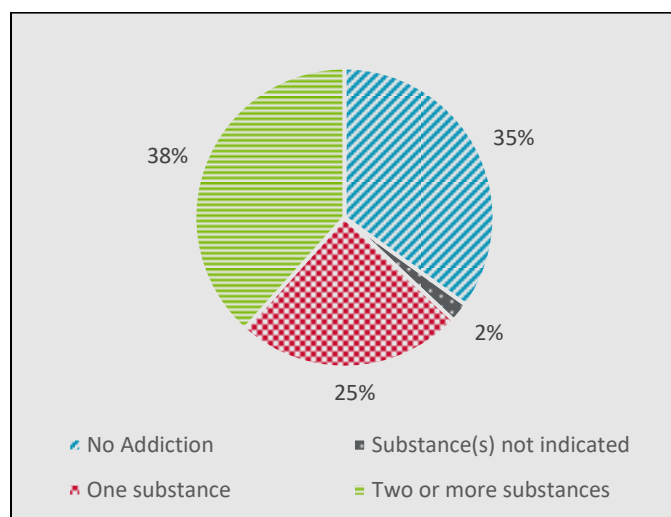
<sup>15</sup> The number of responses was based on the number of respondents who provided at minimum one valid response to one of the 4 health related questions.

<sup>16</sup> Responses of "other" included substances (including those otherwise listed, sometimes by other names), as well as non-substance addictions (gambling, etc.)

<sup>17</sup> Proportions were calculated as follows: "No addiction issue" is the proportion of respondents who indicated they had no addiction issue, of all those who gave a clear answer to the addictions question; all proportions related to a specific substance were calculated as the number of individuals who both indicated an addiction issue and selected that specific substance, as a proportion of all those who answered the addiction question clearly.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of individuals addicted to substances, with 35% reporting no addiction, 25% reporting an addiction to one substance, and 38% reporting an addiction to two or more substances.

Figure 4: Number of substances



#### 4.1.5 Sources of Income

Survey respondents were asked to indicate all current sources of income (Table 11 and Figure 5). The most prevalent among all sources of income was welfare/income assistance (38%), followed by disability benefits (29%), and part-time or casual employment (13%). A greater proportion of unsheltered homeless individuals reported receiving welfare/income assistance (43%) than sheltered homeless individuals (35%). Conversely, 31% of sheltered homeless individuals received disability benefits while 26% of unsheltered homeless individuals received disability benefits.

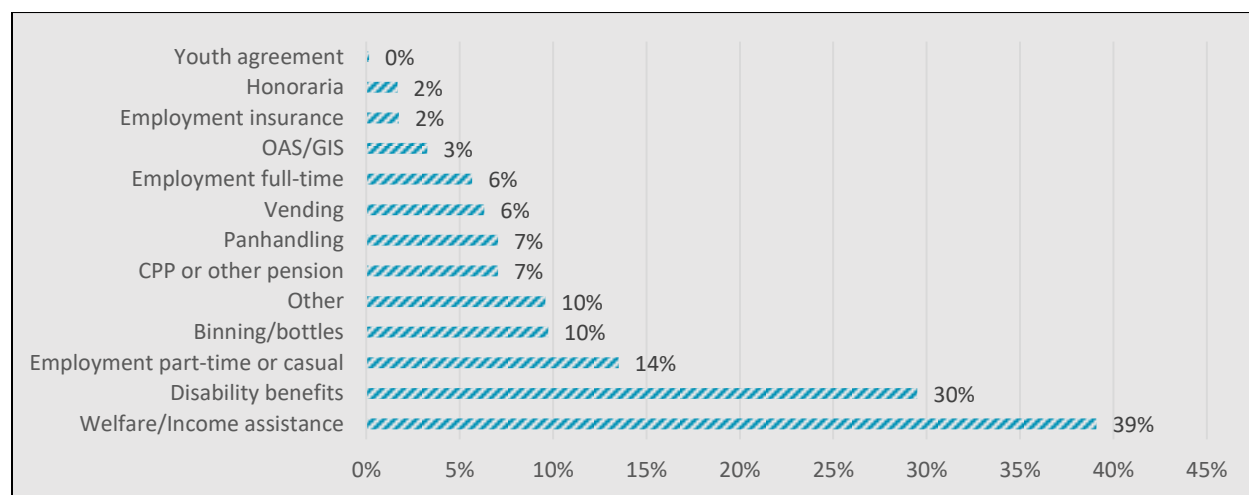
A higher proportion of sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents reported receiving part-time or casual income, and the same was the case with full-time employment. Eighteen percent (18%) of sheltered respondents reported receiving part-time or casual employment income, and 7% reported receiving full-time employment income, compared to 8% and 4% respectively for unsheltered respondents. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported receiving CPP or other pension benefits than the unsheltered population (9% vs. 5% respectively).

Conversely, a higher proportion of unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents reported income from binning and bottle collecting (14% vs. 6%), panhandling (12% vs. 3%), and vending (9% vs. 4%). Eight percent (8%) of homeless respondents reported having no income source.

Table 11: Income Sources<sup>18</sup>

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Welfare/income assistance	271	35%	267	44%	538	39%
Disability benefits	242	32%	164	27%	406	30%
Employment part-time or casual	137	18%	49	8%	186	14%
Binning/bottles	46	6%	88	14%	134	10%
Other	48	6%	84	14%	132	10%
Panhandling	23	3%	74	12%	97	7%
CPP or other pension	67	9%	30	5%	97	7%
Vending	33	4%	54	9%	87	6%
Employment full-time	56	7%	22	4%	78	6%
OAS/GIS	32	4%	13	2%	45	3%
Employment insurance	19	2%	5	1%	24	2%
Honoraria	11	1%	12	2%	23	2%
Youth agreement	2	0%	-	0%	2	0%
No income <sup>19</sup>	66	9%	53	9%	119	9%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>100%</b>
No answer / unclear / don't know	758		47		805	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

Figure 5: Income Sources



<sup>18</sup> Note that numbers will not add up to "Response" totals or "Total" as some respondents reported multiple income sources

<sup>19</sup> "No income" includes only those who selected the option "No income" – in some few cases those who selected this option also indicated an income source. 26 individuals indicated "no income" as well as another income source.

While the majority of homeless individuals indicated that they have one income source (63%), almost one-third of the population (29%) reported having multiple income sources (Table 12). A greater proportion of unsheltered individuals indicated that they have multiple sources of income (31%) than sheltered individuals (27%).

Table 12: Number of Income Sources

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
One Income Source Identified	501	66%	381	62%	882	64%
Multiple Income Sources Identified	206	27%	195	32%	401	29%
No Income Sources Identified <sup>20</sup>	57	7%	36	6%	93	7%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	758		47		805	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.6 Length of Time in Vancouver

Table 13 illustrates that the majority of respondents indicated that they had been living in Vancouver for more than 1 year (78%). The remaining respondents indicated that they had been living in Vancouver for less than 6 months (15%) or between 6 months and 1 year (8%). A greater proportion of unsheltered homeless individuals had been living in Vancouver for more than a year (84%) than the sheltered population (72%).

Table 13: Length of Time in Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
less than 6 months	149	20%	53	9%	202	15%
6 months to 1 year	60	8%	46	7%	106	8%
more than 1 year <sup>21</sup>	549	72%	518	84%	1,067	78%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	764		42		806	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

<sup>20</sup> As some respondents selected both “No Income” as well as an income source, this number is different from “No Income” in Table 11. In this table “no income sources identified” is equal to the total who answered “no income” and selected no other income source.

<sup>21</sup> This figure includes 230 individuals who indicated they have always lived in Vancouver (98 sheltered, 132 unsheltered).

#### 4.1.7 Living in Vancouver When Became Homeless

Table 14 illustrates that the majority of respondents last had a home of their own in Vancouver (79%). The remaining respondents indicated that their last home was in another location than Vancouver (21%). The proportion of respondents who last had a home of their own in Vancouver was essentially equal across sheltered and unsheltered respondents.

Table 14: Where Living Most Recent Time Became Homeless

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Vancouver	515	79%	419	80%	934	79%
Elsewhere	137	21%	108	20%	245	21%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	870		132		1,002	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.8 Place of Residence Prior to Vancouver

Table 15 shows where respondents were living prior to their arrival in Vancouver. Fifteen percent (15%) indicated that they had been living elsewhere in Metro Vancouver, 27% elsewhere in British Columbia, 48% from elsewhere in Canada, and 11% from outside of Canada. However, as noted above, only 21% of respondents became homeless prior to moving to Vancouver. This table shows the previous home of all individuals, whether they became homeless in Vancouver (the majority), or elsewhere.

Table 15: Where arrivals are from

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Elsewhere in Metro Vancouver	106	17%	60	13%	<b>166</b>	15%
Rest of BC	144	23%	144	32%	<b>288</b>	27%
Rest of Canada	297	47%	218	48%	<b>515</b>	48%
Outside of Canada	83	13%	31	7%	<b>114</b>	11%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear / always in Vancouver	892		206		1,098	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.9 Duration of Homelessness

Table 16 shows the duration of homelessness for individuals who were sheltered and unsheltered, and for the total population. Fifty-two percent (52%) of all respondents reported having been homeless for less than a year, 31% reported becoming homeless within the last six months, while 21% reported having been homeless between 6 months and one year. Variation is evident between sheltered and unsheltered respondent groups, with unsheltered respondents reported having been homeless for longer than sheltered respondents. Of unsheltered respondents, 79% reported being homeless for over 6 months, compared to 62% of sheltered respondents. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of unsheltered respondents reported having been homeless for between 1 and 5 years, and 18% reported being homeless for over 5 years (as compared to 11% of sheltered respondents).

Table 16: Length of Time Homeless

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
up to 6 months <sup>22</sup>	287	38%	128	21%	415	31%
more than 6 months, up to one year	151	20%	133	22%	284	21%
more than 1 year, up to 5 years	235	31%	234	39%	469	34%
more than 5 years, up to 10 years	48	6%	59	10%	107	8%
more than 10 years	34	5%	51	8%	85	6%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't Know/No Answer/Unclear	767		54		821	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.10 Military Service

Table 17 details the prevalence of veterans among the homeless population. In 2018 a total of 102 people (7%) who responded to the survey said they had served in the Canadian Forces. An equal proportion of the unsheltered population has served in the Canadian Forces as the sheltered population (7%). One percent (1%) of the overall population served in the armed forces of another country.

Table 17: Military service in the Canadian Forces

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Service in Canadian Forces (including RCMP)	58	7%	44	7%	102	7%
No	712	92%	561	92%	1,273	92%
Other Armed Forces	6	1%	3	0%	9	1%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	746		51		797	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.1.11 Shelter Stay in the Last 12 Months

Table 18 illustrates the number of unsheltered individuals who stayed in a shelter in the 12 months prior to the count. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of respondents indicated that they had stayed in a shelter and 42% indicated that they had not.

<sup>22</sup> Includes two respondents who indicated they had been homeless for zero days.

Table 18: Shelter stays in the 12 months prior to the 2018 Homeless Count

	Unsheltered	
	#	%
No	207	42%
Yes	289	58%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	163	
<b>Total</b>	<b>659</b>	

## 4.2 PROFILES

### 4.2.1 Indigenous/Aboriginal Profile

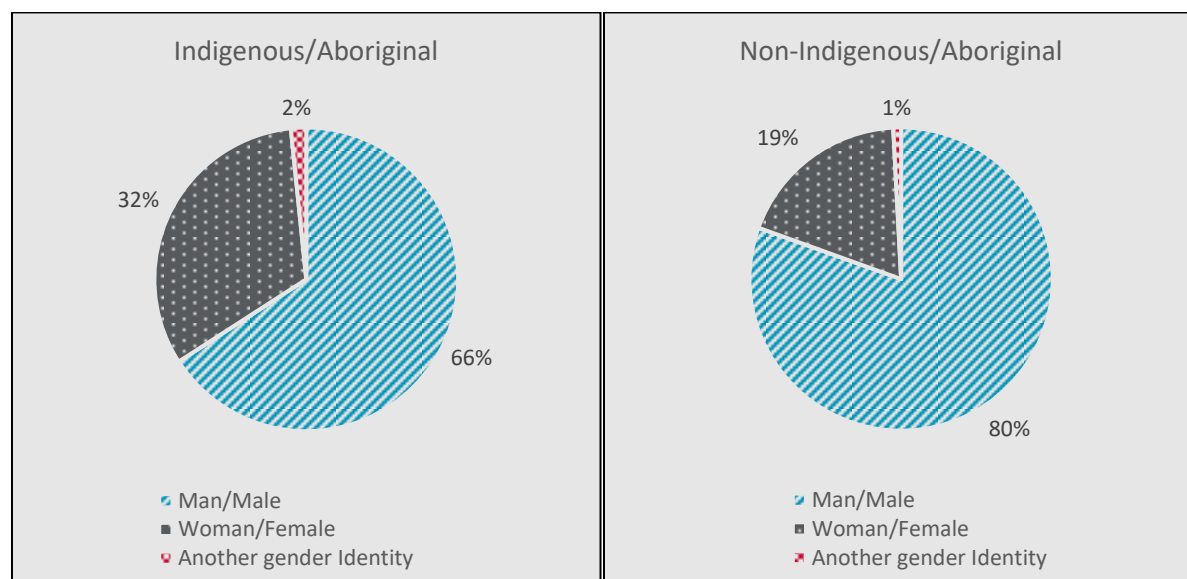
For additional introductory information on Indigenous/Aboriginal identity, please see section 4.1.1 on page 12.

Of the homeless individuals who reported Indigenous identity, 66% identified as men and 32% as women (Non-Indigenous respondents who were sheltered were equally likely to be women as non-indigenous unsheltered respondents (19% and 18% respectively). However, sheltered Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents were more likely to be women than unsheltered, Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents (40% to 25%).

Table 19 and Figure 6). Two percent (2%) reported another gender identity. Female Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents were a much higher proportion of sheltered individuals (40%) than unsheltered (25%). Conversely, men represented a higher proportion of unsheltered Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents (74%) than sheltered (58%).

Women represented a far higher proportion of Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents (32%) than of Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents (19%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Gender of Indigenous/Aboriginal and Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal Respondents



Non-Indigenous respondents who were sheltered were equally likely to be women as non-indigenous unsheltered respondents (19% and 18% respectively). However, sheltered Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents were more likely to be women than unsheltered, Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents (40% to 25%).

Table 19: Indigenous/Aboriginal Profile - Gender

	Indigenous/Aboriginal						Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal					
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	155	58%	210	74%	365	66%	402	80%	275	81%	677	80%
Woman/Female	108	40%	72	25%	180	32%	97	19%	60	18%	157	19%
Another gender Identity	6	2%	3	1%	9	2%	3	1%	4	1%	7	1%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>100%</b>
No answer/unclear	4		3		7		2		3		5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>		<b>288</b>		<b>561</b>		<b>504</b>		<b>342</b>		<b>846</b>	

Table 20 illustrates that the majority of Indigenous/ Aboriginal respondents were between the ages of 25 to 54 (76%). Ten percent were under the age of 25 and 14% were aged 55 and older. An equal proportion (10%) of sheltered and unsheltered Indigenous homeless individuals were youth (under 25). Of the remaining 90% of the sheltered and unsheltered Indigenous homeless respondents (all 24 and over), a higher proportion of sheltered respondents were seniors (17%) than unsheltered (11%).

As compared to non-Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents, a substantially smaller proportion of Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents were seniors, with similar proportions of youth.

Figure 7: Age of Indigenous/Aboriginal and Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal Respondents

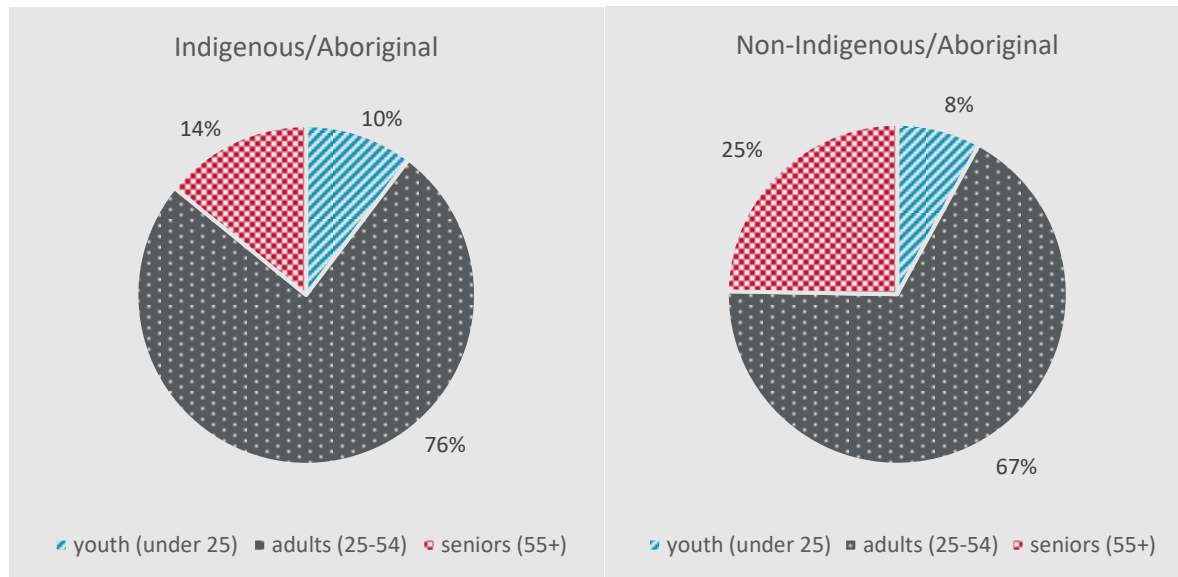


Table 20: Indigenous/Aboriginal Profile - Age

	Indigenous/Aboriginal						Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal					
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (under 25)	28	10%	29	10%	57	10%	37	7%	29	9%	66	8%
Adults (25-54)	196	72%	221	79%	417	76%	338	68%	220	66%	558	67%
Seniors (55+)	47	17%	31	11%	78	14%	122	25%	83	25%	205	25%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>100%</b>
No response/ unclear	2		7		9		7		10		17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>		<b>288</b>		<b>561</b>		<b>504</b>		<b>342</b>		<b>846</b>	

#### 4.2.2 Gender Profile

For additional introductory information on gender, please see section 4.1.2 on page 13.

The majority of both women and men were sheltered (61% and 53% respectively), with a higher proportion of women being sheltered than men (Table 21).

Table 21: Gender by Sheltered/Unsheltered

	Women		Men		Another Gender Identity		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered	206	61%	566	53%	9	56%	781	55%
Unsheltered	132	39%	498	47%	7	44%	637	45%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>100%</b>

The majority of men (65%) indicated that they identified as not Indigenous while the majority of women (53%) and those with another gender identity (56%) did identify as Indigenous (Table 22).

Table 22: Gender by Indigenous/Not Indigenous

	Women		Men		Another Gender Identity		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous	180	53%	365	35%	9	56%	554	40%
Not Indigenous	157	47%	677	65%	7	44%	841	60%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 23 illustrates that the majority of both women and men were between the ages of 25 and 54 (71% and 70% respectively). There were a greater proportion of females aged 25 or under than men (15% and 6% respectively) and a greater proportion of men aged 55 and older than women (23% and 14% respectively).

Table 23: Gender by Age

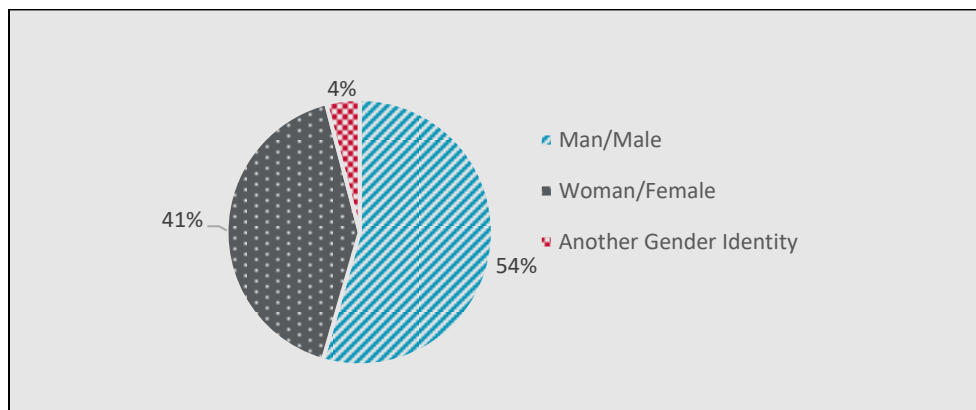
	Women		Men		Another Gender Identity		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (<25)	51	15%	67	6%	5	31%	123	9%
Adults (25-54)	234	71%	738	70%	9	56%	981	70%
Seniors (>55)	45	14%	242	23%	2	13%	289	21%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,393</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4.2.3 Youth/Adult/Seniors Profile

For additional introductory information please see section 4.1.3 on page 14.

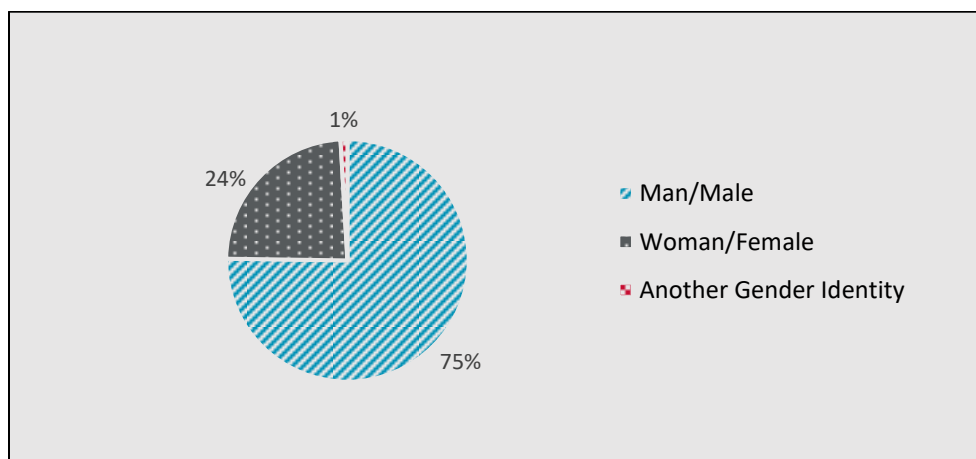
Of the youth respondents aged 25 and younger, 54% were male and 41% were female (Figure 8). Four percent (4%) identified as another gender, the largest proportion of the three age cohorts.

Figure 8: Youth Profile-Gender



Of the adult respondents between the ages of 25 and 54, 75% were men and 24% were female (Figure 9). Only 1% identified as another gender.

Figure 9: Adult Profile-Gender



Of the senior respondents aged 55 and older, 84% were men and 16% were female (Figure 10). Only 1% identified as another gender. The age profile tables illustrate that the older the age cohort, the more likely the respondent is to be male rather than female.

Figure 10: Seniors Profile-Gender

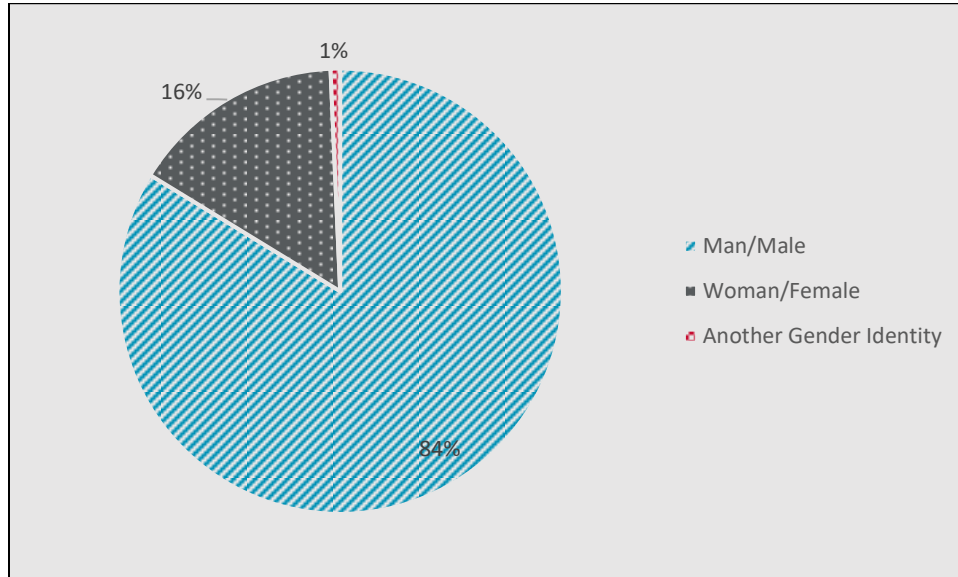


Table 24 illustrates that the majority of both sheltered and unsheltered youth are male (51% and 58% respectively), however women make up a larger proportion of sheltered youth (46%) than unsheltered (37%). Of youth respondents, 4% had another gender identity. Across age categories women made up a larger proportion of sheltered respondents than unsheltered. While this difference is most notable in the youth category (46% vs 37%), it is also substantial across adult and senior populations. The proportion of men in each age category, as compared to the female proportion, increased substantially with the age categories, increasing from 54% of youth to 75% of adults, to 84% of seniors.

Table 24: Age Profile - Gender

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth						
Man/Male	32	51%	35	58%	67	54%
Woman/Female	29	46%	22	37%	51	41%
Another Gender Identity	2	3%	3	5%	5	4%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100%</b>
No response/unclear	2		0		2	
Adult						
Man/Male	388	72%	350	79%	738	75%
Woman/Female	143	27%	91	20%	234	24%
Another Gender Identity	6	1%	3	1%	9	1%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>100%</b>
No response/unclear	4		6		10	
Senior						
Man/Male	140	81%	102	87%	242	84%
Woman/Female	31	18%	14	12%	45	16%
Another Gender Identity	1	1%	1	1%	2	1%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>100%</b>
No response/unclear	0		1		1	
No response/unclear (sum)	750		38		788	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

As indicated in Table 25, Indigenous/Aboriginal people are overrepresented in homeless respondents across age categories. Furthermore, Indigenous/Aboriginal people represent a higher proportion of youths (46%) and adults (43%) than seniors (28%).

Table 25: Indigenous vs. Non-Indigenous

	Youth (<25)		Adult (25-54)		Senior (55+)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous/Aboriginal	57	46%	417	43%	78	28%
Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal	66	54%	558	57%	205	72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 26 illustrates respondent's sexual orientation by age category. Youths were most likely to identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, or questioning at 28%. Adults were substantially less likely to identify in the same way, with 10% identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, or questioning. Finally, seniors were even less likely to identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, or questioning, with only 5% of seniors identifying in this way.

A higher proportion of sheltered youths identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, or questioning (30%) than un

sheltered youths (26%). Similarly, 11% of sheltered adults identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, or questioning, compared to 10% of unsheltered adults. In the case of seniors however, those identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, or questioning represented 4% of the sheltered population, and 7% of the unsheltered.

Table 26: Age Profile - Sexual Orientation

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth						
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Queer or Questioning	19	30%	15	26%	34	28%
Not Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Queer or Questioning	45	70%	38	67%	83	69%
Identify in Another Way	0	0%	4	7%	4	3%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>100%</b>
No response/unclear	1		3		4	
Adult						
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Queer or Questioning	54	11%	43	10%	97	10%
Not Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Queer or Questioning	450	88%	375	88%	825	88%
Identify in Another Way	7	1%	6	1%	13	1%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>100%</b>
No response/unclear	30		26		56	
Senior						
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Queer or Questioning	7	4%	7	7%	14	5%
Not Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Queer or Questioning	158	95%	99	93%	257	94%
Identify in Another Way	1	1%	1	1%	2	1%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>100%</b>
No response/unclear	6		11		17	
No response/unclear (sum)	781		71		852	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>		<b>659</b>		<b>2,181</b>	

#### 4.2.4 Health Concerns Profile<sup>23</sup>

For additional or more general information on health, please see section 4.1.4, on page 15.

Slightly lower proportions of sheltered and unsheltered male respondents indicated a medical condition or illness, physical disability, or mental health issue than respondents generally. A higher proportion of women on the other hand indicated a medical condition or illness, physical disability, and/or mental health issue than respondents generally. While 40% of all respondents indicated having a medical condition or illness, 46% of female respondents indicated the same. Similarly, while 34% of all respondents indicated a physical disability, 37% of female respondents indicated the same, and finally, while 39% of all respondents indicated a mental health issue, 42% of women indicated having a mental health issue as well. While the same comparison cannot be presented here in detail for those with another gender identity (for privacy reasons), it can be said that a substantially higher proportion of these individuals identified a medical condition or illness, a physical disability, or a mental health issue, as compared to the general homeless population. This difference was most pronounced with regard to mental health issues.

Table 27: Health Concerns by Gender Identity<sup>24</sup>

		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	Medical Condition or Illness	226	40%	169	35%	395	38%
	Physical Disability	192	34%	152	32%	344	33%
	Mental Health Issue	205	36%	188	39%	393	38%
	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>562</b>		<b>479</b>		<b>1,041</b>	
Woman/Female	Medical Condition or Illness	97	47%	56	45%	153	46%
	Physical Disability	85	41%	38	30%	123	37%
	Mental Health Issue	79	39%	58	46%	137	42%
	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>205</b>		<b>125</b>		<b>330</b>	
Another Gender Identity	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>16</b>	
No Answer	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>12</b>	
All Gender Identities	Medical Condition or Illness	332	42%	232	38%	564	40%
	Physical Disability	283	36%	195	32%	478	34%
	Mental Health Issue	294	38%	256	42%	550	39%
	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>783</b>		<b>616</b>		<b>1,399</b>	

<sup>23</sup> Addictions are not included in this section, as there is strong variability in what respondents defined as addiction. This analysis is conducted in greater depth in the health section above for unsheltered and sheltered respondents, but was not included for specific demographic profiles.

<sup>24</sup> As with previous health related tables, the “respondents” referred to here are all those, of the relevant category, who provided a valid response to at least one of the health related questions.

A lower proportion of youth indicated a medical condition or illness than respondents generally (34% to 40%), and a far lower proportion of youth indicated a physical disability than respondents generally (19% to 34%). When it came to mental health, a substantially higher proportion of youth indicated a mental health issue than respondents generally, 60% as compared to 39%. Interestingly, while a lower proportion of sheltered adults and seniors reported mental health issues than unsheltered adults and seniors, the opposite was the case with youth (65% of sheltered youth reported a mental health issue, compared to 54% of unsheltered youth).

The proportion of adults with medical conditions, physical disabilities, and/or mental health issues was quite similar to the proportions seen amongst respondents generally. This is unsurprising in part due to the number of adult respondents.

A substantially higher proportion of senior respondents indicated medical conditions or illnesses, and/or physical disabilities than respondents generally (47% to 40% in the case of medical condition or illness, and 44% to 34% in the case of physical disability). However, a lower proportion of seniors indicated a mental health issue than respondents generally (24% to 39%).

Table 28: Health Concerns by Age Group<sup>25</sup>

		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (0-24)	Medical Condition or Illness	26	40%	16	28%	42	34%
	Physical Disability	14	22%	9	16%	23	19%
	Mental Health Issue	42	65%	31	54%	73	60%
	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>57</b>		<b>122</b>	
Adults (25-54)	Medical Condition or Illness	213	40%	166	38%	379	39%
	Physical Disability	188	35%	136	31%	324	33%
	Mental Health Issue	208	39%	190	44%	398	41%
	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>537</b>		<b>434</b>		<b>971</b>	
Seniors (55+)	Medical Condition or Illness	89	52%	47	41%	136	47%
	Physical Disability	77	45%	48	41%	125	44%
	Mental Health Issue	39	23%	31	27%	70	24%
	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>171</b>		<b>116</b>		<b>287</b>	
No Answer	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>19</b>	
All Ages	Medical Condition or Illness	332	42%	232	38%	564	40%
	Physical Disability	283	36%	195	32%	478	34%
	Mental Health Issue	294	38%	256	42%	550	39%
	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>783</b>		<b>616</b>		<b>1,399</b>	

<sup>25</sup> As with previous health related tables, the “respondents” referred to here are all those, of the relevant category, who provided a valid response to at least one of the health related questions.

### 4.3 THE UNSHELTERED HOMELESS

For the unsheltered homeless only, individuals were asked where they stayed the previous night. Of the 659 respondents, 62% stayed outside and 19% of the unsheltered homeless spent the night at someone else's place where they did not pay rent and had no security of tenure (Table 29).

*Table 29: Where the unsheltered homeless stayed the night of the count*

	#	%
Outside	406	62%
In a makeshift shelter or tent	48	7%
In a vehicle	29	4%
On a boat-not paying moorage	1	0%
Abandoned/vacant building	2	0%
Someone else's place	125	19%
Parent or guardian's house (25 years or older)	6	1%
Other	42	6%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>100%</b>

Unsheltered respondents who did not stay at a shelter the night of the count were asked in the questionnaire for their reasons (Table 30). Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents indicated reasons not listed for not staying in a shelter – these included a preference for sleeping outdoors, shelter rules, and not being able to access a shelter because of an accompanying partner or pet. After this reason, the next most common reason was a dislike for shelters (19%). Twelve percent (12%) of respondents indicated they did not feel safe, 10% were able to stay with a friend, while 4% indicated the presence of bedbugs or pests as their reasons, and 4% indicated multiple reasons. Less than 1% indicated they had stayed in a safe house/transition house, a hospital, a detox, or a jail. Finally, 13% indicated they had been turned away from a shelter.

*Table 30: Reasons for not staying in a shelter*

	#	%
Able to stay with friend	59	11%
Dislike	108	19%
Don't feel safe	69	12%
Turned away	71	13%
Bedbugs/pests	22	4%
Stayed in a safe house/transition house/hospital/jail/detox	2	0%
Other reasons	203	36%
Multiple reasons	25	5%
<b>Respondents</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>100%</b>
Don't know / no answer / unclear	66	
<b>Total</b>	<b>659</b>	

## 5 Homelessness Trends 2005 – 2018

### 5.1 INDIGENOUS/ABORIGINAL IDENTITY

Table 31 shows the results of the Indigenous/Aboriginal identity question for 2005 to 2018. The proportion of Indigenous/Aboriginal people among respondents has been at least 31% since 2005. In 2018, however, the proportion of respondents identifying as Aboriginal was 40%, the highest proportion among all years.<sup>26</sup>

Table 31: Indigenous/Aboriginal Identity trends

	2005		2008		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous/Aboriginal Identity	352	35%	456	38%	448	36%	268	31%	362	32%	369	30%	415	36%	342	32%	420	38%	448	39%	561	40%
Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal Identity	658	65%	749	62%	805	64%	594	69%	768	68%	876	70%	738	64%	731	68%	692	62%	705	61%	846	60%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>100%</b>
No Answer	281		167		291		290		204		189		53		40		64		68		43	
<b>Total Surveyed</b>	<b>1,291</b>		<b>1,372</b>		<b>1,544</b>		<b>1,152</b>		<b>1,334</b>		<b>1,434</b>		<b>1,206</b>		<b>1,113</b>		<b>1,176</b>		<b>1,221</b>		<b>1,450</b>	

<sup>26</sup> In 2018 the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee conducted its own Homeless Count, using volunteers from the Aboriginal/Indigenous community. This may have had an impact both on absolute numbers of Aboriginal/Indigenous individuals, as volunteers were better able to reach and interview them.

## 5.2 GENDER

Men continue to comprise the majority of homeless respondents, 75% in 2018 (Table 32). Women have tended to comprise between 22- 27% of respondents, 24% in 2018. In 2018 individuals reporting another gender identity represented 1% of the respondents, or 16 individuals. Fluctuations in the proportions gender identities over time have stayed within a relatively narrow band, and changes in the proportions within the respondents may not match changes in the homeless population as a whole.

Table 32: Gender trends in the homeless population

	2005		2008		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	928	73%	948	72%	1155	78%	901	73%	960	73%	1017	73%	907	76%	1057	74%	868	76%	902	76%	1,064	75%
Woman /Female	330	26%	348	27%	333	22%	327	27%	347	26%	361	26%	282	24%	356	25%	266	23%	263	22%	338	24%
Transgender <sup>27</sup>	8	1%	15	1%	n/a	n/a	5	0%	6	0%	7	1%	7	1%	15	1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Another Gender Identity	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	1%	9	1%	19	0%	16	1%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>100%</b>
No Answer	25		61		21		264		21		40		10		310		33		37		32	
<b>Total Surveyed</b>	<b>1,291</b>		<b>1,372</b>		<b>1,509</b>		<b>1,497</b>		<b>1,334</b>		<b>1,425</b>		<b>1,206</b>		<b>1,746</b>		<b>1,176</b>		<b>1,221</b>		<b>1,450</b>	

<sup>27</sup> The form of the relevant questions on the count have changed since 2005. In 2015 the form of the question changed, and again in 2016.

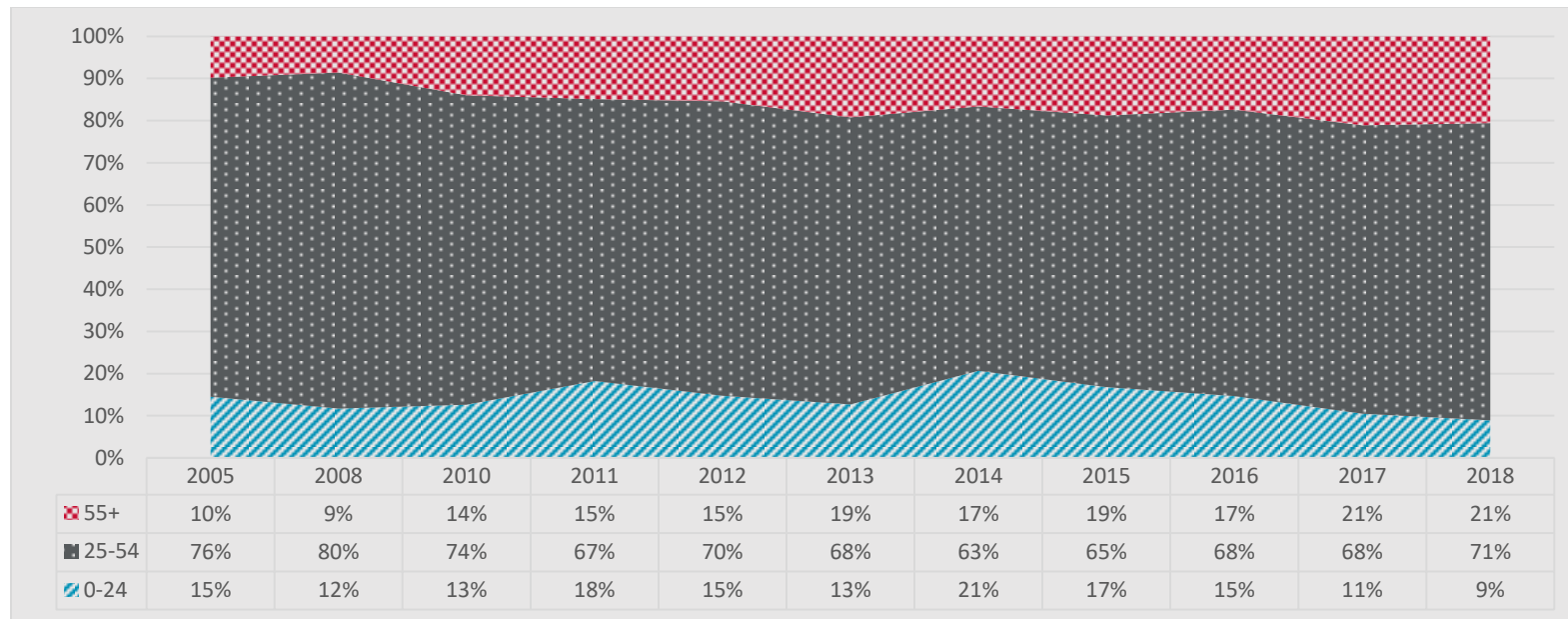
## 5.3 AGE

The various age groups have represented fluctuating proportions of the homeless count respondents over time. Since 2005, without exception, the middle age groups (25-34, 35-44, and 45-54) have remained the 3 largest groups. In 2018 22% of respondents were 25-34 years of age, 23% 35-44, and 25% 45-54. While the highest proportion of respondents aged 25-34 was recorded in 2005 (22.1%), this age group has remained fairly stable, increasing slightly over time to 21.8% in 2018. Since 2011 each of the other two adult age groups (35-44 and 45-54) have remained fairly stable (with the exception of the 34-44 group in 2014), 35-44 around 24% and 45-54 around 24%/25%. The three groups taken together are represent a lower proportion of respondents than in any of 2005, 2008, or 2010, but are at their highest point since. The seniors age group (55+) has increased substantially as a proportion of respondents, from 10% in 2005 and 9% in 2008 to 21% in each of 2017 and 2018. This growth has been seen in both the 55-64 age group (growing from 7.9% in 2005 to 15.2% in 2018) as well as the 65+ age group (growing from 1.9% in 2005 to 5.4% in 2018). Finally, the children and youth age group (under 19 and those 19 to 24) has seen substantial fluctuation over time, although ultimately having declined over time from 15% in 2005 and 12% in 2008 to 11% in 2017 and 9% in 2018. Generally, the count is less successful in finding youth who tend to couch surf and avoid services, thus remaining hidden. As with all of the data within produced by the count, the causes of the fluctuations can be hard to identify, and may be due in full or in part to methodological changes.

Table 33: Age groups trends

	2005		2008		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017*		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 19 Years	30	2.4%	19	1.4%	25	1.7%	44	4.2%	57	4.3%	36	2.6%	93	7.5%	59	5.0%	44	3.8%	14	1.2%	6	0.4%
19-24 Years	149	12.1%	135	10.3%	159	10.9%	146	14.0%	137	10.4%	139	10.1%	162	13.1%	140	11.8%	127	10.9%	108	9.3%	119	8.5%
25-34 Years	273	22.1%	258	19.7%	264	18.1%	197	18.9%	267	20.2%	256	18.6%	224	18.1%	228	19.3%	229	19.6%	235	20.3%	307	21.8%
35-44 Years	402	32.6%	425	32.4%	363	24.9%	251	24.1%	316	24.0%	358	26.0%	251	20.3%	250	21.1%	280	24.0%	280	24.2%	327	23.3%
45-54 Years	260	21.1%	361	27.5%	445	30.5%	250	24.0%	339	25.7%	324	23.5%	300	24.3%	285	24.1%	285	24.4%	276	23.9%	357	25.4%
55-64 Years	98	7.9%	95	7.2%	163	11.2%	122	11.7%	163	12.4%	195	14.2%	162	13.1%	164	13.9%	149	12.7%	175	15.1%	214	15.2%
65+ Years	23	1.9%	19	1.4%	41	2.8%	33	3.2%	40	3.0%	69	5.0%	43	3.5%	58	4.9%	55	4.7%	69	6.0%	76	5.4%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>100%</b>
No Answer	56		60		84		114		45		48		14		20		39		64		44	
<b>Total Surveyed</b>	<b>1,291</b>		<b>1,372</b>		<b>1,544</b>		<b>1,157</b>		<b>1,364</b>		<b>1,425</b>		<b>1,249</b>		<b>1,204</b>		<b>1,208</b>		<b>1,221</b>		<b>1,450</b>	

Figure 11: Age over time



## 5.4 HEALTH

Table 34 and Table 35 show the incidence and types of health concerns amongst the homeless population over time. The 2018 survey results show that a high proportion of individuals (83%) have one or more health concerns. Over half of the population (54%) have 2 or more health concerns. Individuals with 2 or more health concerns have been the largest of the three groups in since 2008; however, only in 2010, 2011, 2016, and 2018 did this group represent half or more of the homeless population. The proportion of the homeless population in 2018 with no health concerns represents only 17% of homeless individuals and has historically fluctuated from a high of 29% (2008). The proportion of the population with one health concern is also up to 29%, from 2016, though this figure tends to fluctuate over time.

Table 34: Incidence of health concerns trends<sup>28</sup>

	2005		2008		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No health concerns	263	26%	369	29%	277	21%	55	10%	156	17%	179	16%	237	22%	207	19%	241	21%	205	17%	234	17%
One health concern	396	39%	329	26%	415	32%	208	38%	290	32%	289	26%	358	33%	397	36%	307	27%	365	31%	411	29%
2 or more health concerns	349	35%	556	44%	622	47%	289	52%	451	50%	636	58%	481	45%	489	45%	576	51%	604	51%	754	54%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>100%</b>
Not stated	283		118		230		605		437		321		130		20		52		47		51	
<b>Total surveyed</b>	<b>1,291</b>		<b>1,372</b>		<b>1,544</b>		<b>1,157</b>		<b>1,334</b>		<b>1,425</b>		<b>1,206</b>		<b>1,113</b>		<b>1,176</b>		<b>1,221</b>		<b>1,450</b>	

<sup>28</sup> Summary of health concerns includes all respondents who clearly responded yes or no to 1 or more of each of the four health concerns. Only individuals who did not respond to any part of the question at all are considered 'not stated.'

Table 35 shows trends in specific types of health concerns. In 2018, addiction/substance use represents the health concern reported most often, by 62% of the homeless population, representing a higher proportion of the homeless population among all years prior except 2013 (63%). An addiction or substance use issue is typically the most highly reported health concern. In 2018, 40% of the homeless population reported a medical condition/illness. The proportion of individuals reporting a medical condition has ranged from 30% (2011) to 46% (2015). In 2018 physical disabilities were reported by 34% of the homeless population, putting this year near the high end of the historical range of 25% (2011) to 35% (2015). Mental health issues were reported by 39% of the population, down from the peak in 2013 (46%).

Table 35: Type of health concerns trends<sup>29</sup>

	2008		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Addiction/substance use	643	51%	721	55%	344	56%	532	59%	694	63%	519	48%	632	58%	603	53%	636	54%	870	62%
Physical disability	324	26%	368	28%	157	25%	265	30%	375	34%	302	28%	386	35%	345	31%	365	31%	478	34%
Medical concern/illness	495	39%	503	38%	186	30%	325	36%	469	42%	439	41%	508	46%	479	42%	492	42%	564	40%
Mental health issue	354	28%	471	36%	251	41%	361	40%	512	46%	361	34%	459	42%	450	40%	455	39%	550	39%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>1,254</b>		<b>1,314</b>		<b>n/a</b>		<b>897</b>		<b>1,104</b>		<b>1,076</b>		<b>1,093</b>		<b>1,131</b>		<b>1,174</b>		<b>1,399</b>	
Not stated	118		230		n/a		437		321		130		20		45		47		51	
<b>Total surveyed</b>	<b>1,372</b>		<b>1,544</b>		<b>1,157</b>		<b>1,334</b>		<b>1,425</b>		<b>1,206</b>		<b>1,113</b>		<b>1,176</b>		<b>1,221</b>		<b>1,450</b>	

<sup>29</sup> An important change made in 2016 is that only self-reported health conditions were counted, while in the past volunteers had been asked to mark down unreported but perceived health conditions. Surveyors' perceptions of a homeless individual's health were not reported in 2016. While perceptions offer an opportunity to offset under-reporting of health conditions, observations are limited and volunteers are not trained as health practitioners and therefore are not in the position to assess a person's health.

## 5.5 INCOME

Table 36 shows the results for income sources between 2008 and 2018. This year saw a continued decline of individuals reporting income assistance or welfare as a source of income, from a peak of 47% in 2010 to 39% in 2018. A higher proportion of individuals are claiming some form of disability benefit (30%) than any other count year. Employment insurance in 2018 (2%) is up as a source of income from 2014 (1%). OAS, GIS and CPP are also a source of income for a greater proportion of the population this year (10%) than the period of 2008-2017, with the exception of 2014 and 2017. Full-time employment is a source of income for 6% of respondents, and part-time/casual employment provided 14% of respondents with income. Two-hundred and sixty (260) respondents indicated they earned income through some form of employment (full-time, part-time or casual) – this proportion is down compared to 2015, 2016, and 2017. Nine percent (9%) of the homeless population reports no source of income, down from 2015 and 2016 (14% and 12% respectively). Thirty-five percent (26%) of respondents reported an ‘other’ form of income such as binning, panhandling, or sex work, as a source of income, up from 20% in 2016, but down from 2008 (49%), 2011 (50%), and most recently down almost 10% from 2017 when 35% indicated an other income source.

Table 36: Income source trends

	2008		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Government transfers</b>																				
Income assistance or welfare	533	43%	632	47%	286	44%	339	41%	381	38%	459	41%	403	37%	398	35%	467	40%	539	39%
Disability benefit	258	21%	286	21%	132	20%	176	21%	239	24%	218	20%	282	26%	301	27%	329	28%	406	30%
Employment Insurance	13	1%	35	3%	17	3%	16	2%	15	2%	15	1%	24	2%	31	3%	15	1%	24	2%
OAS GIS and CPP	4	0%	48	4%	28	4%	38	5%	56	6%	89	8%	67	6%	77	7%	132	11%	114	8%
<b>Other sources</b>																		0%		0%
Part-Time Employment	163	13%	151	11%	97	15%	96	12%	135	14%	59	5%	229	21%	257	23%	277	23%	186	14%
Full Time Employment	79	6%		0%							191	17%							78	6%
No income	83	7%	130	10%	71	11%	135	16%	157	16%	107	10%	150	14%	136	12%	103	9%	119	9%
Other	611	49%	409	30%	329	50%	160	19%	148	15%	120	11%	227	21%	231	20%	413	35%	351	26%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>1,242</b>		<b>1,344</b>		<b>655</b>		<b>834</b>		<b>999</b>		<b>1,107</b>		<b>1,084</b>		<b>1,130</b>		<b>1,179</b>		<b>1,376</b>	
Not stated	130		200		506		500		426		99		29		46		42		74	
<b>Total surveyed</b>	<b>1,372</b>		<b>1,544</b>		<b>1,157</b>		<b>1,334</b>		<b>1,425</b>		<b>1,206</b>		<b>1,113</b>		<b>1,176</b>		<b>1,221</b>		<b>1,450</b>	

## 5.6 DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

The 2018 survey results show that a significant proportion of the homeless population (49%) have been homeless for a year or more (Table 37). However, individuals who have been homeless for less than a year (i.e. recently homeless) represent 51% of the total homeless population, down from 61% in 2016. The proportion of individuals reported to be newly homeless (less than 1 month) is the smallest group in the homeless population (6%), also down from 2016 (15%). Individuals reporting being homeless for between 1 month and 6 months has been proportionally high in recent years (34% in 2013, 33% in 2014, 30% in 2015), and has declined in 2018 to 24%, comparable to 2005-2011. The proportion of individuals reporting being homeless for 6 months to under 1 year is higher than any year in the past (21%).

Table 37: Duration of homelessness

	2005		2008		2010		2011		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017*		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 month	253	24%	145	12%	177	13%	145	12%	76	10%	180	16%	114	11%	174	15%	83	7%	86	6%
1 month to 6 months	271	26%	319	27%	371	28%	319	27%	268	34%	365	33%	325	30%	311	27%	275	23%	329	24%
6 months to under 1 year	134	13%	152	13%	173	13%	152	13%	93	12%	91	8%	148	14%	212	19%	175	15%	284	21%
1 year or more	376	36%	585	49%	595	45%	585	49%	363	45%	473	43%	483	45%	437	39%	655	55%	661	49%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>1034</b>		<b>1201</b>		<b>1316</b>		<b>1201</b>		<b>800</b>		<b>1109</b>		<b>1070</b>		<b>1,134</b>		<b>1,188</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>100%</b>
Not stated	257		171		228				52		97		43		42		33		90	
<b>Total surveyed</b>	<b>1291</b>		<b>1372</b>		<b>1544</b>				<b>852</b>		<b>1206</b>		<b>1,113</b>		<b>1,176</b>		<b>1,221</b>		<b>1,450</b>	

## 5.7 WHERE THE UNSHELTERED HOMELESS STAYED

As in previous years, most of the street homeless slept outside or in a car/garage/public building (74%) overnight on March 13, 2018 (Table 38). Twenty percent (20%) stayed at someone else's place, comparable to most years except 2013 (32%) and 2014 (34%). Six percent (6%) reported staying at 'other' places, lower than 2005 (12%), but up from 2014 (2%). Examples of other locations include drop-in centres, fast food restaurants, hostel/hotel, or not sleeping.

Table 38: Where unsheltered homeless stayed trends

	2005		2008		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Combined outside and car/garage and public bldg	411	70%	548	71%	284	69%	49	33%	205	69%	180	66%	339	64%	338	69%	385	71%	344	64%	486 <sup>30</sup>	74%
Someone else's place	111	19%	129	17%	101	25%	69	47%	74	25%	87	32%	181	34%	123	25%	123	23%	118	22%	131	20%
Other	69	12%	90	12%	24	6%	29	20%	17	6%	6	2%	13	2%	27	6%	31	6%	72	13%	42	6%
<b>Total surveyed</b>	<b>591</b>		<b>767</b>		<b>409</b>		<b>147</b>		<b>296</b>		<b>273</b>		<b>533</b>		<b>488</b>		<b>539</b>		<b>534</b>		<b>659</b>	

<sup>30</sup> Includes categories outside, in a makeshift shelter or tent, in a vehicle, on a boat – not paying moorage, and abandoned/vacant building.

## Appendix: Shelters

Directions Youth Detox	Detox
PLEA Community Services Youth Detox	Detox
Salvation Army Harbour Light Detox	Detox
Vancouver Detox (VCH)	Detox
Aboriginal Youth Safehouse (Urban Native Youth Association)	Safe House
Directions Youth Haven	Safe House
Directions Youth Safehouse	Safe House
Aboriginal Shelter (VAFCS)	Shelter
Catholic Charities Men's Hostel	Shelter
Commercial Temporary Shelter (Raincity Housing)	Shelter
Covenant House Vancouver	Shelter
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Emergency Shelter	Shelter
Directions Youth Services Temporary Shelter	Shelter
First Baptist Church Tuesday Shelter Program	Shelter
First United Church Community Ministry Society Shelter	Shelter
Gathering Place Temporary Shelter	Shelter
Hornby Temporary Shelter (Raincity Housing)	Shelter
Lookout - Al Mitchel (AMP)	Shelter
Lookout Yukon	Shelter
Metson / 1060 Howe Temporary Shelter (Community Builders)	Shelter
New Fountain Shelter (PHS)	Shelter
Powell Place Women's Shelter (Bloom Group)	Shelter
Raincity Triage Emergency Shelter	Shelter
Salvation Army Harbour Light Anchor of Hope Temporary Shelter	Shelter
Salvation Army Harbour Light Beacon	Shelter
Salvation Army Harbour Light Chapel Temporary Shelter	Shelter
Salvation Army Harbour Light Crosswalk	Shelter
Salvation Army Harbour Light Haven	Shelter
Salvation Army Harbour Light Sutherland Temporary Shelter	Shelter
Salvation Army Belkin House Emergency Shelter	Shelter
Salvation Army Belkin House, Downtown Community Court	Shelter
Sister Space Temporary Shelter (Atira)	Shelter
Springhouse Shelter (Bloom Group)	Shelter
Union Gospel Mission	Shelter
Vi Fineday	Shelter
Anderson Lodge Healing Centre for Women (Circle of Eagles)	Transition House
Anderson Lodge - with Women in Corrections Services Canada	Transition House
Helping Spirit Lodge	Transition House
Kate Booth House (Salvation Army)	Transition House
Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter	Transition House

# Appendix: Surveys



## HOMELESS COUNT 2018 UNSHeltered SURVEY

INTERVIEWER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nearest INTERSECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

### START HERE: SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Have you already answered this survey today or last night?  
☐ Yes.....END  
☐ No.....GO TO 2  
☐ No answer.....END
2. Do you currently have a place where you pay monthly rent?  
☐ Yes.....GO TO 3  
☐ No.....GO TO 3  
☐ No answer.....GO TO 3
3. Where did you stay last night?  
☐ Outside.....GO TO 4  
☐ In a makeshift shelter or tent.....GO TO 4  
☐ In a vehicle.....GO TO 4  
☐ On a boat ☐ paying moorage.....END  
☐ not paying moorage.....GO TO 4
3. Continued:  
☐ Abandoned/vacant building.....GO TO 4  
☐ Someone else's or a friend's place.....GO TO 4  
☐ Parent's or guardian's house:  
☐ If youth under 25.....END  
☐ If 25 years or older.....GO TO 4  
☐ Detox (Facility name:.....).....GO TO 4  
☐ Shelter (Shelter name:.....).....GO TO 4  
☐ Safe house/transition house.....GO TO 4  
☐ Hospital (Facility name:.....).....GO TO 4  
☐ Jail/prison (Facility name:.....).....GO TO 4  
☐ Recovery house.....END  
☐ Own place inside where you pay rent  
     Specify:.....END  
☐ Other: Specify:.....GO TO 4  
☐ No answer.....END

### SURVEY QUESTIONS

4. How long have you been without a place of your own?  
 \_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_ Weeks \_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_ Years
  5. What is your age or year of birth?  
 \_\_\_\_ Age / \_\_\_\_ Year
  6. What is your gender?  
☐ Man  
☐ Woman  
☐ Another gender identity \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Don't know / No answer
  7. Do you identify as transgender?  
☐ Yes ☐ No  
 If yes, how do you self-describe your gender?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Don't know / No answer
  8. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status.  
☐ Yes – please specify (check one)  
☐ First Nations \_\_\_\_\_ (specify if known)  
☐ Inuit  
☐ Métis  
☐ Not listed (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ No ☐ Don't know / No answer
  9. If answered "YES" to Q2: You said you have a place where you pay rent. Why did you not stay there last night? *(Check all that apply)*  
☐ Did not feel safe ☐ Don't know  
☐ Place in disrepair; not maintained ☐ No answer  
☐ I was out last night, but normally stay at my own place  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  10. If you did NOT stay in a shelter last night, what is the MAIN reason why? *(Check only ONE)*  
☐ Able to stay with a friend (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Dislike (reason) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Don't feel safe (reason) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Turned away (reason) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Bedbugs/pests (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Stayed in safe house/transition house/hospital/jail/detox  
☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Don't know / No answer
  11. Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months?  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know / No answer
  12. How long have you lived in this city *(say city name)*?  
 \_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_ Weeks \_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_ Years [GO TO 13]  
☐ Always lived in here [GO TO 14]  
☐ I do not live in this city. I live in \_\_\_\_\_ [GO TO 14]
  13. Where were you living before living in this city?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  14. Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer or questioning?  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know / No answer  
☐ I identify in another way: \_\_\_\_\_
  15. Do you have the following health concerns? *(Read list) (Check all that apply)*
- |                             | YES                      | NO                       | NO ANSWER                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Medical Condition / Illness | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Disability         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mental Health Issue         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Addiction Issue             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- If yes to addiction, and willing to specify, check all substances that apply: (show list)  
☐ Alcohol ☐ Cigarettes ☐ Marijuana ☐ Cocaine  
☐ Methamphetamine ☐ Opioids  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
16. What are your sources of income? *(Check all that apply)*  
☐ Welfare / Income Assistance  
☐ Disability Benefit  
☐ Old Age Security / Guaranteed Income Supplement  
☐ CPP or other pension  
☐ Employment Insurance  
☐ Employment / job full-time  
☐ Employment / job part-time or casual  
☐ No Income ☐ Panhandling  
☐ Binning / bottles ☐ Vending  
☐ Honoraria ☐ Youth agreement  
☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Don't know / No answer
  17. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? *(Includes army, navy, air force, RCMP)*  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Other Armed Forces (e.g. US)  
☐ Don't know / No answer

END OF SURVEY - THANK YOU!



## HOMELESS COUNT 2018 SHELTERED SURVEY

INTERVIEWER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SHELTER/FACILITY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### START HERE: SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Will you be sleeping in this shelter tonight?  
☐ Yes [GO TO 2] ☐ No [END] ☐ No Answer [END]
2. Have you already completed a shelter survey tonight?  
☐ Yes [END] ☐ No [GO TO 3] ☐ No Answer [END]
3. Do you currently have a place where you pay monthly rent?  
☐ Yes.....GO TO 4  
☐ No.....GO TO 4  
☐ No answer.....GO TO 4

### SURVEY QUESTIONS

4. How long have you been without a place of your own?  
\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_ Weeks \_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_ Years
5. What is your age or year of birth?  
\_\_\_\_ Age / \_\_\_\_ Year
6. What is your gender?  
☐ Man  
☐ Woman  
☐ Another gender identity \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ No answer
7. Do you identify as transgender?  
☐ Yes ☐ No  
If yes, how do you self-describe your gender?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Don't know / No answer
8. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status.  
☐ Yes – please specify (check one)  
☐ First Nations \_\_\_\_\_ (specify if known)  
☐ Inuit  
☐ Métis  
☐ Not listed (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ No ☐ Don't know / No answer
9. If answered "YES" to Q3: You said you have a place where you pay rent. Why did you not stay there last night? *(Check all that apply)*  
☐ Did not feel safe ☐ Don't know  
☐ Place in disrepair; not maintained ☐ No answer  
☐ I was out last night, but normally stay at my own place  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
10. How long have you lived in the city of Vancouver?  
\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_ Weeks \_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_ Years [GO TO 11]  
☐ Always lived in here [GO TO 12]  
☐ I do not live in Vancouver. I live in \_\_\_\_\_ [GO TO 12]
11. Where were you living before living in Vancouver?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer or questioning?  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know / No answer  
☐ I identify in another way: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Do you have the following health concerns? (Read list)  
*(Check all that apply)*
- |                            | YES                      | NO                       | NO ANSWER                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Medical Condition /Illness | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Disability        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mental Health Issue        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Addiction Issue            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- If yes to addiction, and willing to specify, check all substances that apply: (show list)  
☐ Alcohol ☐ Cigarettes ☐ Marijuana ☐ Cocaine  
☐ Methamphetamine ☐ Opioids  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
14. What are your sources of income?  
*(Check all that apply)*  
☐ Welfare / Income Assistance  
☐ Disability Benefit  
☐ Old Age Security / Guaranteed Income Supplement  
☐ CPP or other pension  
☐ Employment Insurance  
☐ Employment / job full-time  
☐ Employment / job part-time or casual  
☐ No Income ☐ Panhandling  
☐ Binning / bottles ☐ Vending  
☐ Honoraria ☐ Youth agreement  
☐ Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ Don't know / No answer
15. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? *(Includes army, navy, air force, RCMP)*  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Other Armed Forces (e.g. US)  
☐ Don't know / No answer

END OF SURVEY – THANK YOU!