

Prince George Point-in-Time Homeless Count Community Report 2016

Community Partners Addressing Homelessness



Acknowledgements

This Point-in-Time Homeless Count could not have been completed without the many organizations, community partners and service agencies who provided invaluable support throughout the process. A special thank-you is extended to all of the volunteers and survey participants. This project was funded by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy through the United Way of Northern BC.

Prepared by:

Kerry Pateman, Ashley Thandi and Lynn Florey

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Section 1: Introduction	3
Section 2: Background	3
Purpose:.....	4
Section 3: Methodology	4
Outdoor Surveying.....	5
Training.....	5
Section 3: Findings.....	7
Respondent Demographics	7
Respondents Age and Gender	8
Respondents Age and Aboriginal Status	9
Places Stayed Last Night	10
General Characteristics.....	11
Income and Homelessness	12
Reason for Housing Loss.....	13
Reason for being homeless the first time	15
Respondent’s age when they first became homeless.....	17
Permanent Housing.....	18
What is keeping you from finding a place of your own?.....	19
Services.....	21
APPENDICES.....	22
Appendix A: Open-Ended Responses	23
Appendix B: Survey Instrument.....	25

Executive Summary

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

It should be noted that participation in the national PiT Count was voluntary for communities. However, it was considered by many to be a critical starting point to establishing a national picture of Homelessness across Canada and would further, allow communities to engage in comparative studies based on national standards. This in turn, strengthens and broadens homelessness data for the future.

Over a period of 24 hours volunteers and staff surveyed individuals in 12 agencies, including shelters, transitional housing facilities and drop-in centres. From 6 am to 8 am 30 volunteers were involved in the outdoor count, surveying individuals in unsheltered locations, such as sidewalks, parks and other public places.

The count offers a "snapshot" of homelessness in Prince George on a single night. Some of the key findings from the 205 surveys completed include:

- 41 of 205 respondents (21%) stayed outdoors the night prior
- 71 of 205 respondents (35%) stayed in emergency shelters the night prior
- 118 (58%) were absolutely homeless, either unsheltered or emergency sheltered
- 56% of respondents were male, 44% female (in previous homeless counts males were over 64% of the respondents)
- 69% identified as being of aboriginal descent
- 5% had served in the Canadian military or RCMP
- Most respondents (90%) indicate they do want to get into permanent housing.
- 90% of individuals surveyed did not have a permanent residence to return to
- 29% moved to Prince George in the past year
- Less than half respondents (41%) had previously been in foster care and/or group homes.
- 131 of the respondents are Chronically homeless (homeless for 6 months or more of the past year)
- 85 of the respondents are Episodically homeless (homeless 3 or more times in the past year)
- The most commonly identified reason for housing loss most recently was addiction or substance abuse
- The most common identified reason for first becoming homeless was issues surrounding family such as a family breakdown, and family conflict or violence

Section 1: Introduction

This report provides the background, the methodology and a summary of the data of the 2016 Prince George Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count. This is Prince George's third Homeless Count, although it is the first one that has been conducted as part of a national coordinated initiative of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

This coordinated Point-in-Time Count is a Federal Government initiative under Employment and Social Development Canada. All 61 HPS Designated Communities were invited to participate. It was required that the Count be held within the first 4 months of 2016.

It was recognized that if communities across Canada were to use similar methods and similar questions in a PiT count that is conducted around the same time of year, a national picture of homelessness could emerge. Having a greater number of communities conducting the count in the same way at the same time would contribute to a broader picture of homelessness across Canada. This could then be a benchmark against which progress in reducing homelessness can be measured.

Conducting a Homeless Count is both time consuming and complex; it requires careful and effective planning and a regimented implementation. In Prince George, the *Community Partners Addressing Homelessness (CPAH)* has taken on the task of conducting a Homeless Count on two previous occasions, 2008 and 2010. CPAH is a long established community group of more than 45 volunteer agencies and government representatives that has been active for over a decade and has developed an intimate understanding of the homeless sector in Prince George and the issues associated with it. The previous counts were conducted at the direction of the community and with little resources to support the count.

The invitation to participate in a first count coordinated across Canada was welcomed by CPAH. Many communities, including Prince George, had struggled in the past to develop surveys and to conduct a homeless count without adequate resources. Participation in this National Count included access to a common methodology, set Core questions and standards, and funding. There was support and training available to all participating communities.

Section 2: Background

Prince George has conducted two Homeless Counts in the past, the first was held May 25 - 26, 2008, followed by a count held May 16 - 17, 2010. Both counts were conducted by CPAH over a 24 hour period. CPAH was first established in response to the Federal Government's `Supporting Community Partners Initiative` (SCPI), now known as the Homelessness Partnership Initiative (HPI). Initially, conducting homeless counts was not a key focus of the Federal agenda; however, over time, both the subsequent Federal Governments and the designated communities began to recognize the value of conducting homeless counts.

Purpose:

The PiT Count has two purposes:

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

Section 3: Methodology

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

http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/communities/homelessness/point_in_time.shtml

In addition, it was a requirement that the PiT counts be conducted within the first four months of 2016, and be conducted within a 24 hour period. Core questions had to be included in the survey and the data results were to be uploaded to the government through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) program.

United Way of Northern BC, the Community Entity for the designated HPS funding in Prince George, took direction from the Community Advisory Board, Community Partners Addressing Homelessness, and contracted a coordinator to complete the project. The CPAH provided direction and advice, as did a Count Committee. Representation on the Count Committee included municipal government, service agencies, and the aboriginal sector.

It was decided that the count would be conducted in a 24 hr period from 6 am April 18 to 6 am April 19th. The Count Committee agreed on the time of the outdoor – unsheltered count which took place from 6 am to 8 am on April 18th. In addition, it was agreed that we would survey in 'drop in' facilities for a period of time during the day. Shelters and transitional housing facilities could survey at any point in the 24 hr period. Surveys were conducted by volunteers and staff at the Firepit Cultural Drop-in facility during the morning. St Vincent De Paul conducted surveys during their lunch, afternoon drop in time and at the evening sandwich line. Additionally, surveys were conducted in a number of shelters, service agencies and outdoor locations. A complete overview of how many respondents completed the survey at which location is shown below in Table 1.

Location or Agency	# of respondents (n=205)
Fire Pit	42
ASAP Shelter	40
Various outdoor/street locations	32
AWAC	27
Ketso Yoh	21
St. Vincent de Paul	18
Reconnect	7
NH Detox Unit	6
PG New Hope Society	5
Elizabeth Fry	4
Phoenix Transition	3

Table 1 Location of data collection

Outdoor Surveying

Outdoor surveying was completed by 27 volunteers, all of whom showed up at Count Headquarters by 5:45 am and checked in. The volunteers were paired in teams of two, with one of the team being someone familiar with the homeless populations. Each team was provided with a map of their area, along with a backpack each – one contained some ‘rescue’ items, a clipboard, pens, pencils, surveys, screening tool, and instructions. The other backpack contained a second clipboard and some gift bags – honoraria. They were advised to call if there were any issues, to call if they needed more supplies and to check back in by 8 am. If they returned early, they were offered another area. We covered any potential emergency situations by having an on-call outreach worker at Headquarters that could attend if needed. We also had a direct line to the RCMP in case of emergency.

We had a total of 20 ‘areas’ mapped and ready for surveyors. Of these 20 areas – 15 were identified as priority, with the others ready in case we had enough volunteers. While we trained sufficient volunteers we knew that some people just don’t show up.

10 teams were covering downtown areas where surveyors walked streets, lanes, plazas, bottle depot and vacant lots. An additional 5 areas that were deemed a priority, were large parks that are within walking distance of the various services in the downtown. The extra 5 areas were further away from the downtown and were not surveyed.

Training

Volunteers were required to attend a mandatory 2-hour training session prior to participating in the Count. Two training session times were offered to volunteers of the general public and those participating from service provider agencies. There was a wide range of topics covered in these training sessions including; basic information regarding the PIT Count and the role it would play in addressing homelessness in our community, volunteers role and responsibilities, volunteer safety and what was expected on the day of the count from volunteers and from count coordinators. A large portion of the training sessions were focused on understanding

the screening and survey questions. Each volunteer was given a sample survey to take home and review. In this section of the training volunteers reviewed the screening questions, tally sheets and survey questions and were asked to pair up and do a mock one-on-one survey exercise. The purpose of the mock surveying was to ensure that each volunteer thoroughly understood the survey questions that they would be asking and to allow them to have the opportunity to consult with a count coordinator if they had any questions.

Training was offered approximately a week and a half before the Count. There were two evenings of training. A last minute training session was held 2 days before the count for some individuals who were not able to make either evening session. We trained over 55 persons including those who would conduct surveys in agencies.

Section 3: Findings

Respondent Demographics

The median age of respondents of the 2016 Point-in-Time Homeless Count was 44 years old. The age range of respondents was from 17 to 74.

- There were 205 people who responded when they were asked to specify their gender with the majority being male (56%) and falling between the ages of 25-64 years (48%).
- When compared to their male counterparts, 43% of respondents were female with the majority falling between the ages of 18-54 (35%).
- The majority of respondents, 141 individuals (69%), identified themselves as being of Aboriginal descent.
- There were a significantly higher number of aboriginal respondents (141 or 69%) than non-aboriginal respondents (59 or 29%)
- Aboriginal homeless count respondents identified themselves as being from many communities. The five most common locations: Lake Babine Nation (15 respondents), Saik'uz First Nation (12 respondents), Nak'azdli (8 respondents), Takla Lake First Nation (7 respondents) and McLeod Lake (5 respondents). Please find a complete list of areas in the Appendix.

Variable	# of respondents	%
Age	(n = 205)	
17 years and under	6	2.92
18-24	16	7.80
25-34	37	18.04
35-44	47	22.92
45-54	44	21.46
55-64	44	21.46
65-74	9	4.39
Gender	(n=205)	
Male	115	56.10
Female	89	43.41
Aboriginal Indicator	(n=205)	
First Nations	106	51.71
Metis	19	9.27
Non-Status / Have Aboriginal Ancestry	15	7.32
Inuit	1	0.49
Not Aboriginal	59	28.78
Service in the Canadian Military	(n=205)	
Veteran	10	4.88
Not a Veteran	191	93.17

Table 2 Respondent Demographics

Respondents Age and Gender

When gender was cross-referenced with age the following trend emerged from the data:

- Male respondents were slightly older than female respondents (Figure 2)

Age	Female	Male
17 years and under	2	4
18-24	11	5
25-34	17	20
35-44	24	23
45-54	21	23
55-64	11	33
65-74	2	7

Table 3 Respondents Age and Gender

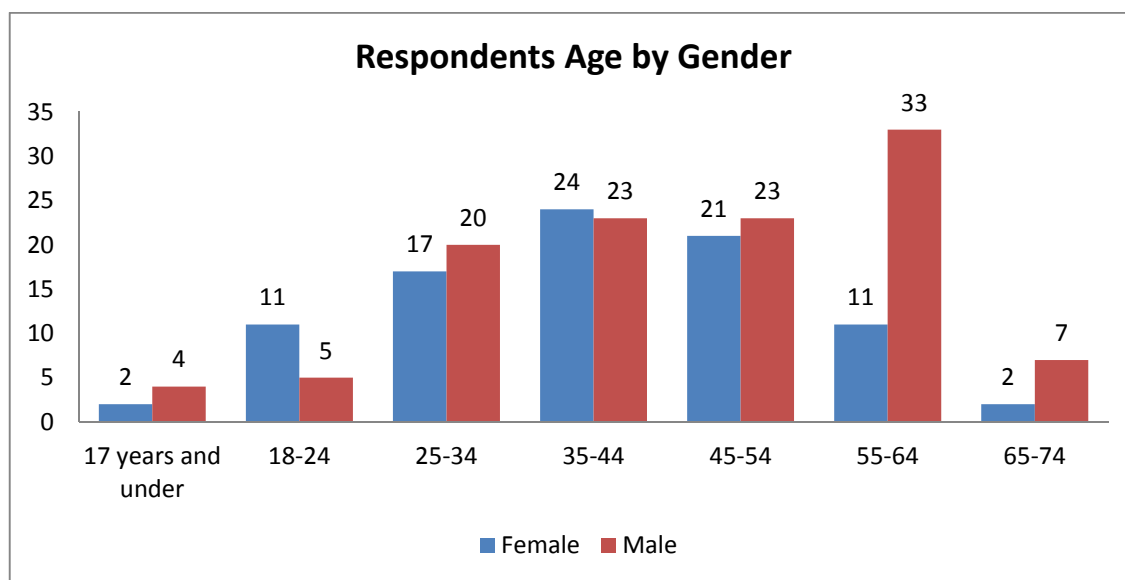


Figure 1 Respondents Age and Gender

Respondents Age and Aboriginal Status

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

- The number of non-aboriginal respondents in the 55+ age groups became more equal in numbers to aboriginal respondents (Figure 3)

Age	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
17 years and under	5	1
18-24	13	2
25-34	24	13
35-44	35	11
45-54	36	8
55-64	24	19
65-74	4	5

Table 4 Respondents Age and Aboriginal Status

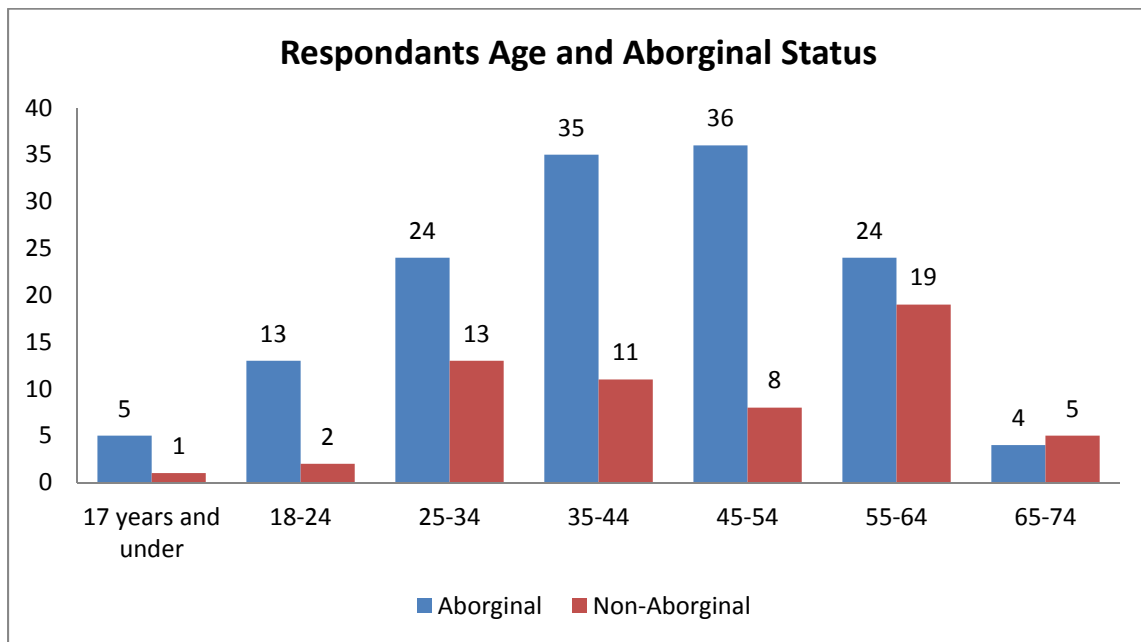


Figure 2 Respondents Age and Aboriginal Status

Places Stayed Last Night

Participants of the homeless count reported a variety of locations that they had stayed the previous night. A total of 205 participants responded to the question, “Where did you stay last night?” The majority of the homeless people in Prince George who participated in the survey slept indoors the night prior, while 41 people (20%) reported having stayed outside (Table 5). The most commonly indicated overnight sleeping locations include:

- Emergency shelter (71 respondents or 35%)
- Outdoors - parks, bus shelters, sidewalks, tents, abandoned vehicle (41 respondents or 20%)
- Transitional Housing (39 respondents or 19%)

Places Stayed In	# of respondents (n=205)	%
Emergency Shelter	71	34.63
Outdoors	41	20
Transitional Housing	39	19
Someone Else's Place	21	10.2
Own Apartment House	18	8.78
Motel/Hotel	7	3.14
Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre	3	1.46
Respondents doesn't know (likely homeless)	5	2.43

Table 5 Places Stayed Last Night

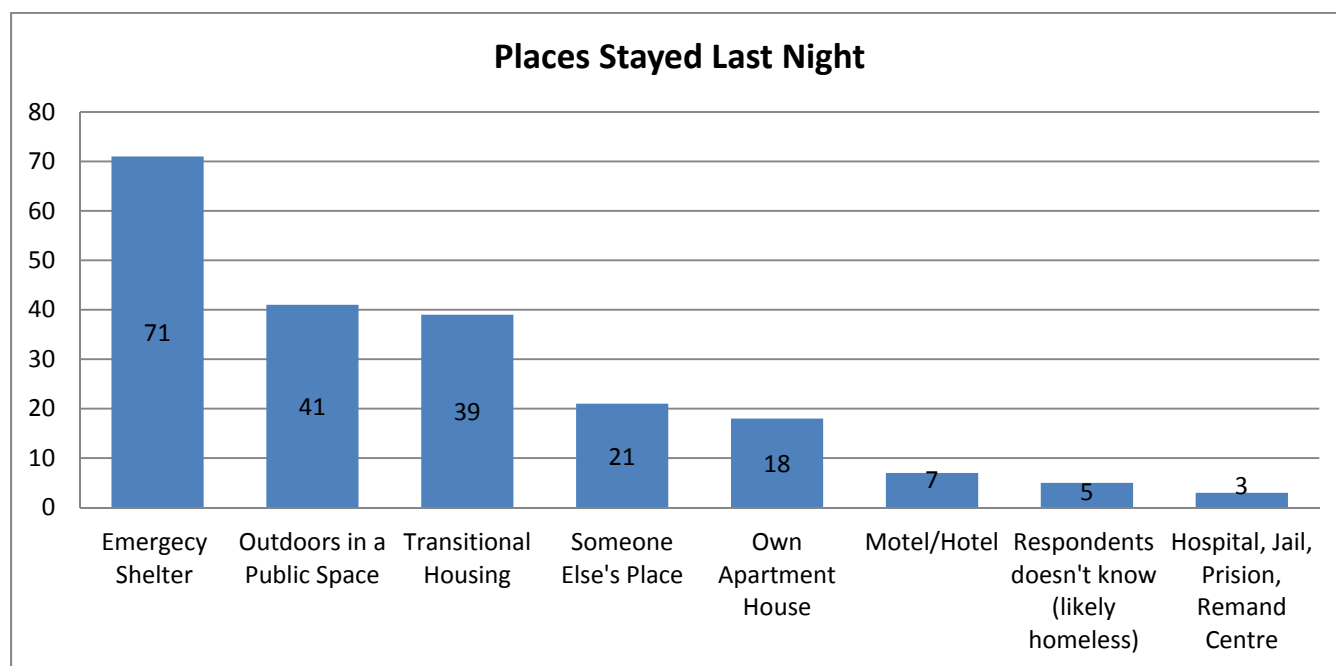


Figure 3 Places Stayed Last Night

General Characteristics

A fairly high number of respondents had moved to Prince George within the last year (28%).

- Of those, the majority identified themselves as moving to Prince George from elsewhere in British Columbia (93.1%), most frequently from northern communities (43.1 %).
- Only 16 were from southern BC or Vancouver Island and 4 from out of the province. Please find a complete list of locations in the Appendix.
- A total of 85 participants stated that they had previously been in foster care and/or a group home.
- Chronic homeless (homeless more than 6 months in past year) 131 respondents
- Episodic homeless (homeless 3 or more times in past year) 85 respondents

Variable	# of respondents	%
Family members with them	(n = 200)	
Yes	32	15.61
No	168	81.95
Come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee	(n = 201)	
Yes	2	0.98
No	199	97.07
Previously been in foster care and/or group home (Current numbers of those in foster care not available)	(n=199)	
Yes	85	41.46
No	114	55.61
Emergency shelter stays in the past year	(n=200)	
Yes	164	80.00
No	36	17.56
Moved to Prince George in the past year	(n= 201)	
Yes	58	28.29
No	143	69.76
Length of time homeless in the past year	(n=188)	
- 0 - 2 Months	30	14.63
- 3 - 5 Months	27	13.17
- 6+ Months (Chronically Homeless)	131	63.90
Number of times homeless in the past year	(n= 190)	
- 1 Time	81	39.51
- 2 Times	24	11.71
- 3+ Times (Episodically Homeless)	85	41.46

Table 6 Respondents General Characteristics

Income and Homelessness

Homeless count participants were asked, “Where do you get your money from?” Each participant was able to indicate more than one source. The three most common sources of income were:

- Welfare/income assistance (100 responses)
- Disability benefit (45 responses)
- Employment (16 responses)

Source of Income	# of respondents (n = 178)
Welfare / Income Assistance	100
Disability Benefit	45
Employment	16
Seniors Benefits (e.g., CPP/OAS/GIS)	14
Informal / Self-Employment (e.g., Bottle Returns, Panhandling)	13
Employment Insurance	7
Child And Family Tax Benefits	2
Money From Family / Friends	2
From First Nation Band	1
Social Worker	1
Ministry of Children and Family Development	1
Widows Pension	1
Other, not listed	0

Table 7 Respondents Sources of Income

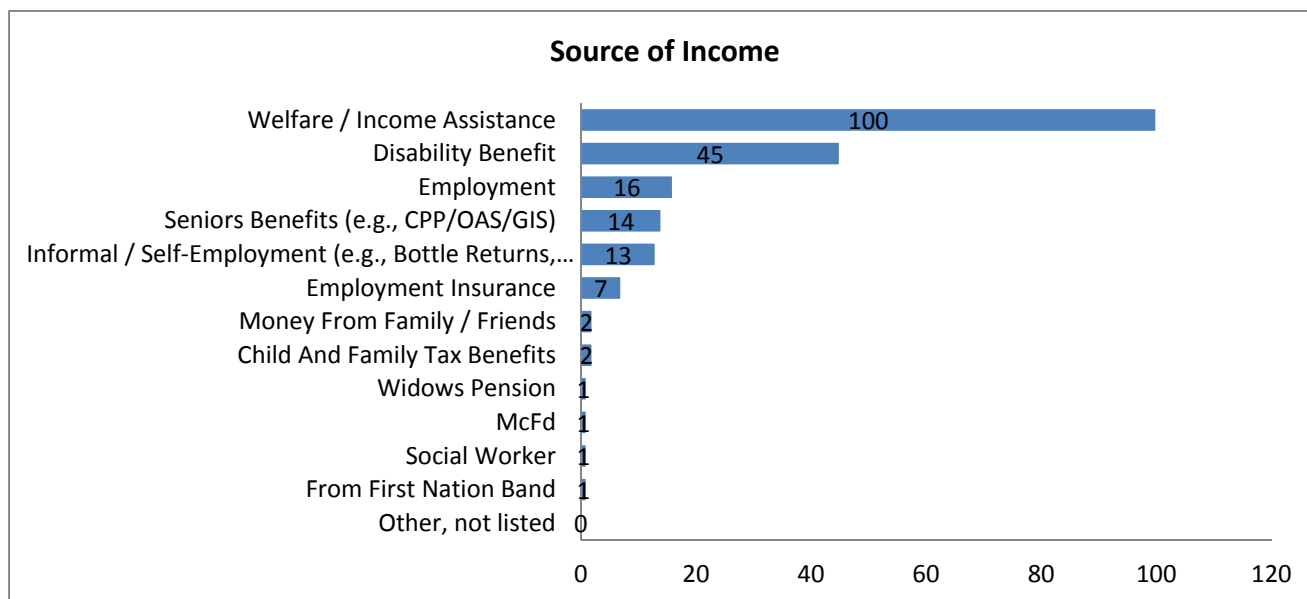


Figure 4 Respondents Sources of Income

Reason for Housing Loss

Respondents were asked, “What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently”? Table 8 provides a summary of the reasons chosen by respondents. Respondents were able to choose more than one reason for housing loss. The three most commonly reported responses were:

- Addiction or substance use (39 responses)
- Job loss (30 responses)
- Eviction (unable to pay rent, 30 responses)

Reason for housing loss	# of respondents (n=205)
Addiction or Substance Use	39
Job Loss	30
Evicted: Unable to Pay Rent	30
Evicted: Other Reason	27
Domestic Abuse: Spouse or Partner	20
Unsafe Housing Conditions	18
Family Conflict: Spouse or Partner	16
Illness or Medical Condition	14
Family Conflict: Parent or Guardian	12
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	12
Domestic Abuse: Parent or Guardian	4
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	4
Relocating	3
Left Care (Child Protection)/(Prov. Term)	1
Don't Know	12
Unclear / Blank Response	12
Decline to Answer	1

Table 8 Respondents Reason for Housing Loss

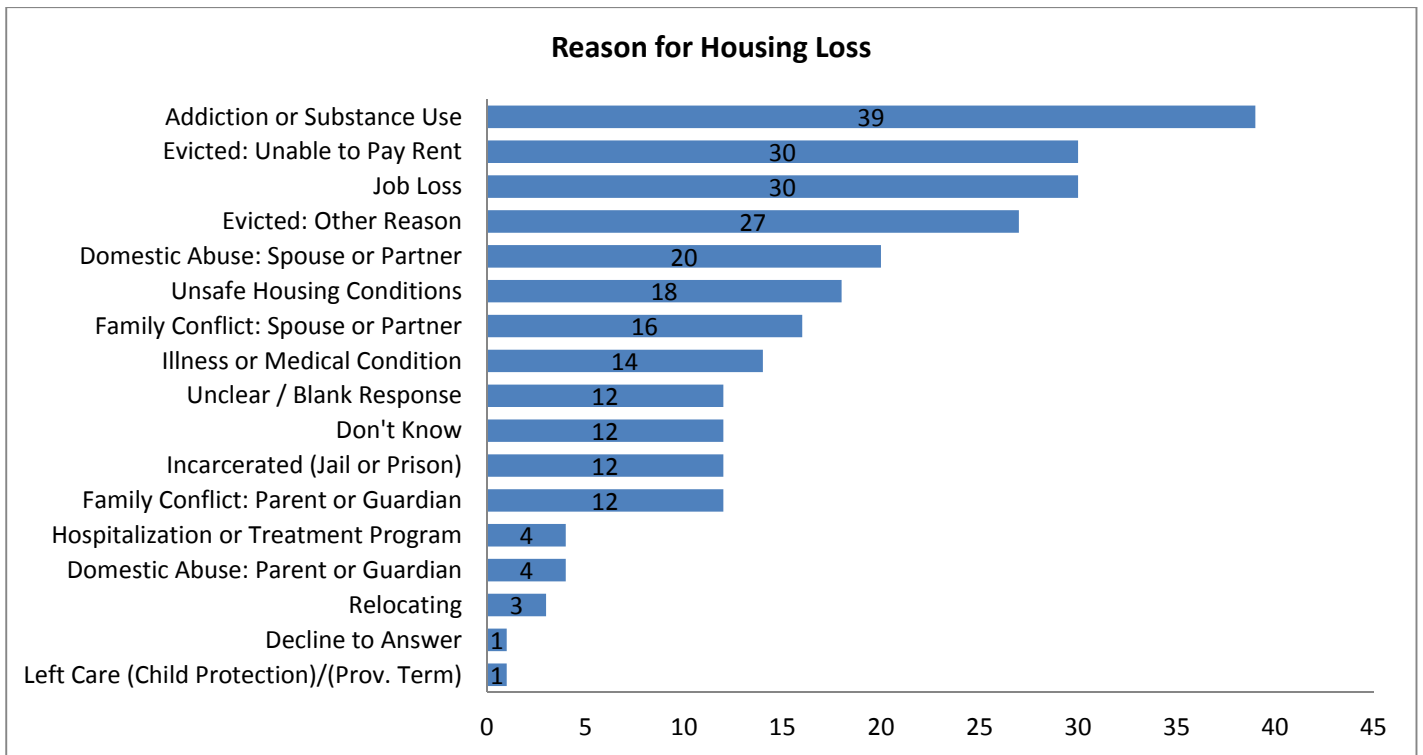


Figure 5 Respondents Reason for Housing Loss

Reason for being homeless the first time

Participants were asked to indicate what led them to being homeless the first time. Each participant was able to indicate more than one reason. The three most common responses were:

- Relationship/family breakdown (65 responses)
- Problematic drug or substance abuse (43 responses)
- Employment problems (unemployment/being fired, 38 responses)

Reason for becoming homeless the first time	# of respondents (n=205)
Relationship/family breakdown or conflict	65
Problematic drug or substance abuse	43
Employment problems (unemployment/being fired)	38
Domestic/family violence or abuse	22
Eviction/asked to leave by landlord	19
Going to jail	17
Poor housing conditions (bedbugs mold unsafe housing etc.)	16
Heath/medical-issues	14
Mental health issues	14
DON'T KNOW	12
Transition state care (foster home group home residential care or kin care)	11
No money	7
Other	5
Transition from criminal justice system (prison remand youth centre)	4
Problematic gambling	2
Rent was too high	2
Transition from health facility (mental health/addictions)	2
Natural disaster or fire	1

Table 9 Respondents reason for being homeless the first time

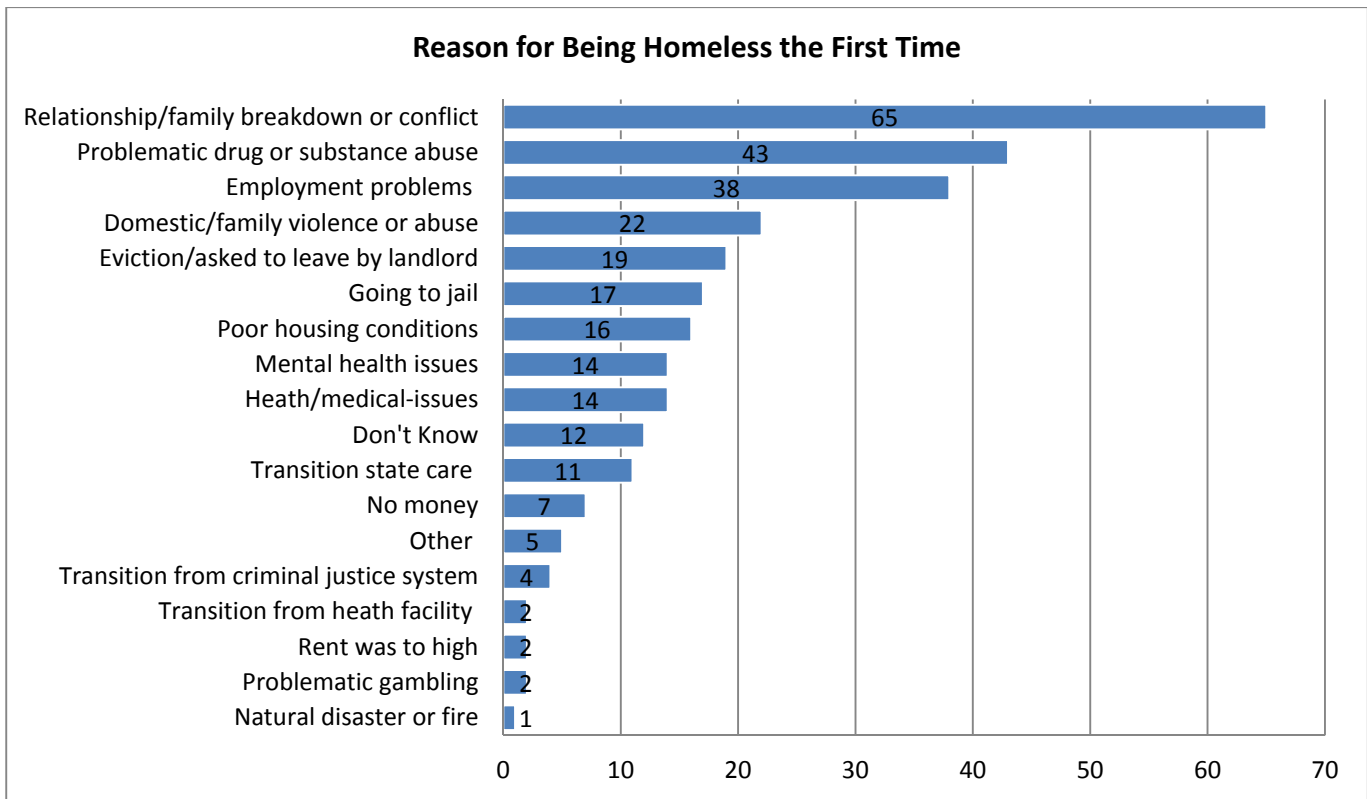


Figure 6 Respondents reason for being homeless the first time

Respondent's age when they first became homeless

A total of 176 participants responded to the question, "How old were you when you first became homeless in your life"? The median age that respondents surveyed first become homeless was 30 years old; Table 10 provides a summary of the responses given.

Age	# of respondents (n=176)
17 years and under	37
18-24 years	32
25-34 years	30
35-44 years	41
45-54 years	21
55-64 years	14
65-74 years	1

Table 10 Respondents age when they first became homeless

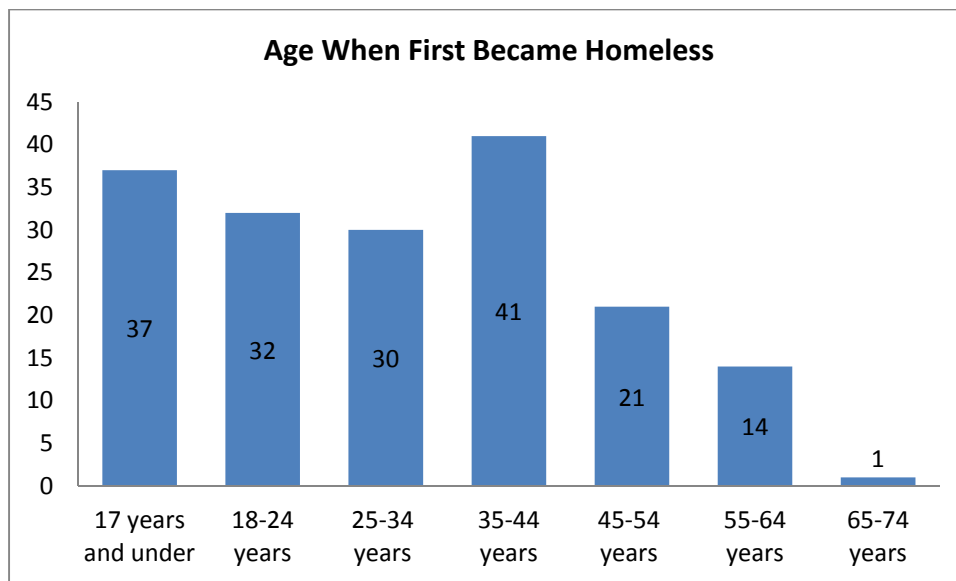


Figure 7 Respondents age when they first became homeless

Permanent Housing

A total of 184 participants responded yes to the question, “Do you want to get into permanent housing?” From those 184 participants, 146 participants indicated what would help them get into permanent housing (Table 11).

Help find permanent housing	# of respondents (n=146)	%
Financial (e.g. job with good pay)	63	43.15
Housing (e.g. lower rent, accessible housing options)	41	28.02
Supports and Services (life skills, advocate, etc.)	27	18.49
Substance abuse support/treatment	9	6.16
Other	4	2.73

Table 11 What will help respondents find permanent stable housing

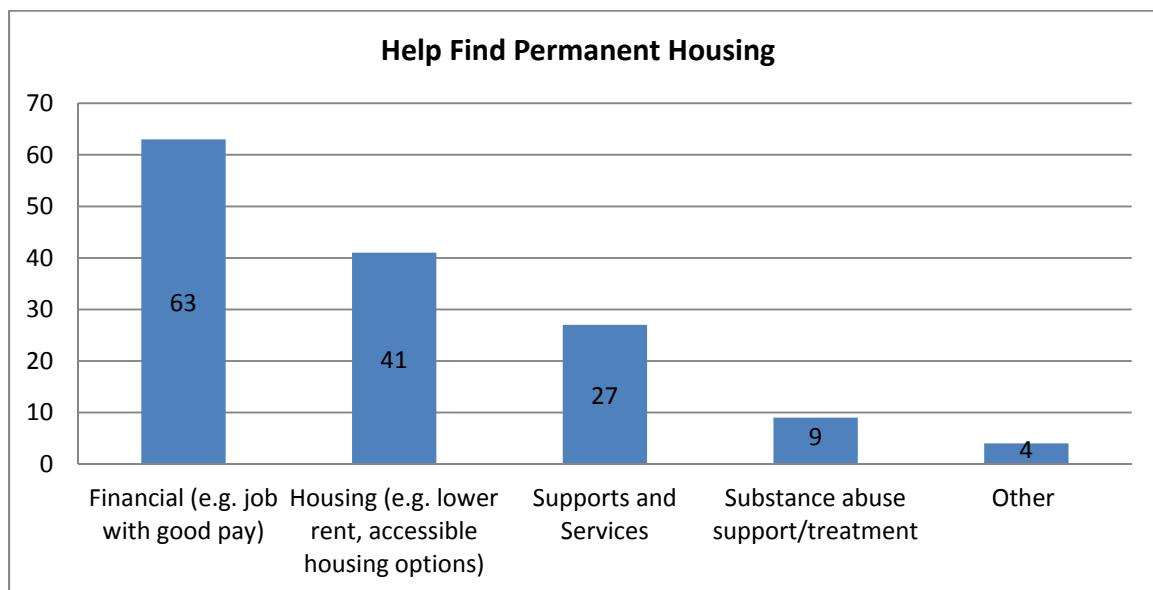


Figure 8 what will help respondents find permanent stable housing

What is keeping you from finding a place of your own?

Homeless count respondents were asked to indicate what they thought was keeping them from finding a place of their own. Each participant was able to indicate more than one reason; Table 13 reflects the responses to this question. The three most common reasons keeping participants from finding a place of their own were:

- Low Income (100 responses)
- Rents too high (88 respondents)
- Addiction (49 respondents)

<i>Reasons unable to find a place</i>	<i># of respondents (n=205)</i>
Low Income	100
Rents Too High	88
Addiction	49
Health / Disability Issues	26
No Income Assistance	24
Mental Health Issues	24
Poor Housing Conditions	21
Discrimination	13
Family Breakdown / Conflict	11
Criminal History	10
Pets	5
Domestic Violence	4
Cannot Find A Job	4
Lack Of Good References	3
Children	1
Too Young	1
Social Worker	1
Lack Of Life skills	1

Table 11 What is keeping respondents from finding a place of their own

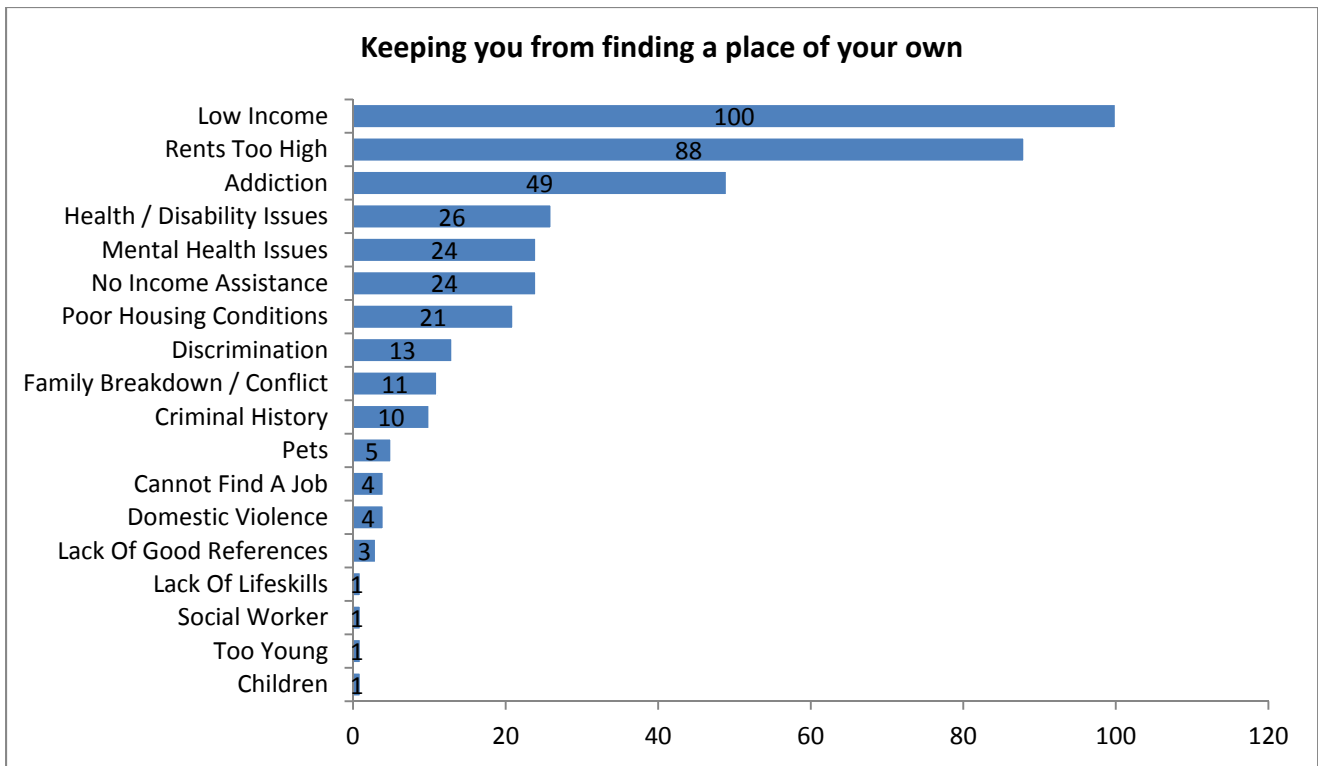


Figure 9 What is keeping respondents from finding a place of their own

Services

A total of 163 participants (79.5%) commented on their need for various services in Prince George. Each participant was able to indicate one or more service that they may have a need for; the following trends emerged from the data:

- The need for more addiction or substance use services (115 responses)
- Serious or ongoing medical condition (79 responses)
- Physical Disability (69 responses)

<i>Need for services</i>	<i># of respondents (n=163)</i>
Addiction Or Substance Use	115
Serious or Ongoing Medical Condition	79
Physical Disability	69
Mental Health	50
Brain Injury	49
Learning Disability	41
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	29
Pregnancy (If Respondent Is Female)	4

Table 12 Services needed by respondents

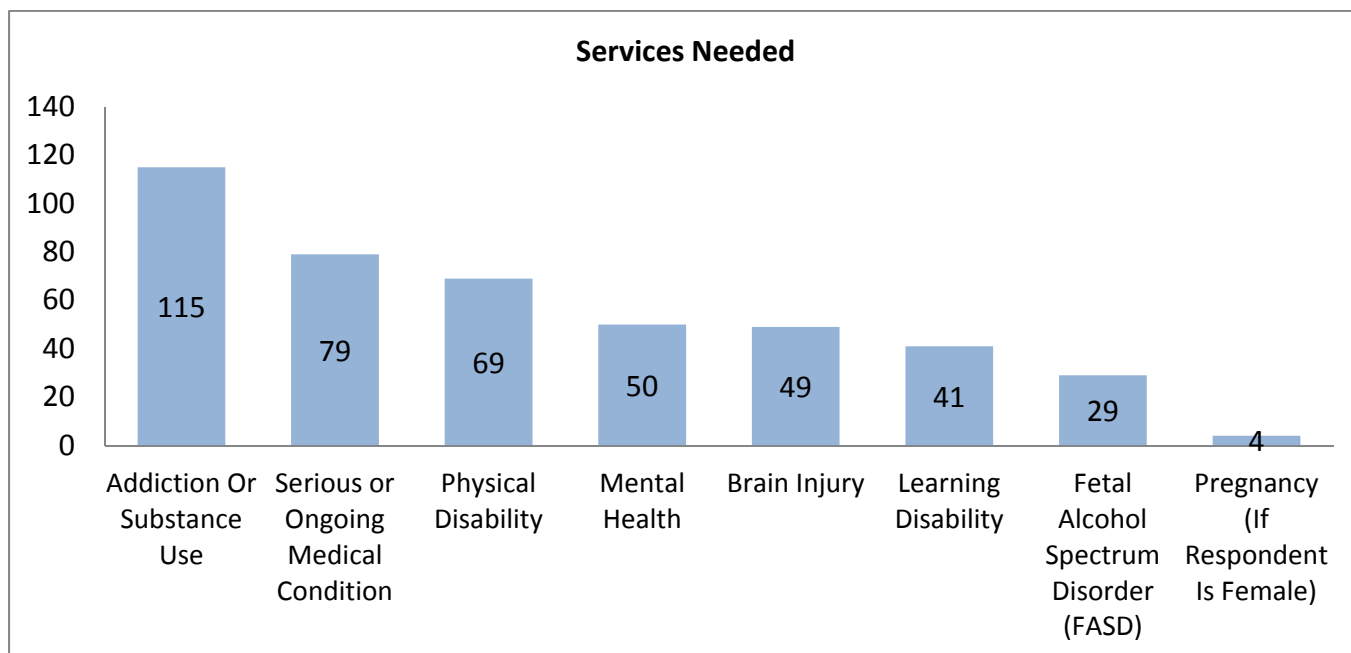


Figure 10 Services needed by respondents

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Open-Ended Responses

Table A.1 “If you moved to Prince George in the last year, where were you living prior to coming here”?

<i>Moved to PG in the past year from...</i>	<i>n = 45</i>
Vancouver	8
Fort St. John	4
Vanderhoof	4
Dawson Creek	2
Fort St. James	2
McLeod Lake	2
Surrey	2
Terrace	2
Grande Prairie	1
Slave Lake	1
Whitefish Lake	1
Chilliwack	1
Duncan	1
Kamloops	1
Lake Babine Nation	1
Langley	1
Nanaimo	1
Port Coquitlam	1
Quesnel	1
Saik'uz First Nation	1
Smithers	1
Takla Lake First Nation	1
Tl'azt'en Nation	1
Valemount	1
Williams Lake	1
Ontario	1
Edson	1

Table A.2 “Which Aboriginal community are you from?”

Aboriginal Community	n = 95
Lake Babine Nation	15
Saik'uz First Nation	12
Nak'azdli	8
Takla Lake First Nation	7
McLeod Lake	5
Gitanmaax	4
Moricetown	4
Tahltan	3
Tl'azt'en Nation	3
Tsay Keh Dene	3
Blueberry River First Nations	2
Cheslatta Carrier Nation	2
Kispiox	2
Kwadacha	2
Lheidli T'enneh	2
Sawridge	2
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	2
Whitefish Lake	2
Burns Lake	1
Enoch Cree Nation #440	1
Fishing Lake First Nation	1
Hagwilget Village	1
Iskut	1
Keeseekoose	1
Muskeg Lake	1
Nadleh Whuten	1
Nazko	1
Sechelt	1
Stellat'en First Nation	1
Stone	1
Ulkatcho	1
West Moberly First Nations	1
Westbank First Nation	1

Appendix B: Survey Instrument

SURVEY NUMBER:

PRINCE GEORGE HOMELESS COUNT SURVEY

Location: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM
 Interviewer: _____ Contact #: _____

NOTE ANSWERS FROM SCREENING QUESTIONS

C. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?

a. YES b. NO c. DON'T KNOW d. DECLINE TO ANSWER

D. Where did you stay last night?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>b. <i>*OWN APARTMENT/HOUSE</i></p> <p>c. <i>*SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE (FRIEND OR FAMILY)</i></p> <p>d. <i>*MOTEL/HOTEL</i></p> <p>e. <i>*HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE</i></p> <p>f. EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER</p> <p>g. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING</p> <p><i>*ASK FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS for b to e</i></p> | <p>h. PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FORESTS, BUS SHELTER)</p> <p>i. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK)</p> <p>j. MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK</p> <p>k. ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING</p> <p>l. OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION (SPECIFY) _____</p> <p>m. RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]</p> |
|---|---|

BEGIN SURVEY

1. What family members are with you? [Indicate survey numbers for adults]

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE		<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey #: _____								
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER								
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate age for child/dependent]										
GENDER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AGE										

2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate] If born after April 18, 2000, thank them and end survey.

AGE _____ **OR** YEAR BORN _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

3. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read categories]

MALE TRANSGENDER DON'T KNOW
 FEMALE OTHER RESPONSE _____ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]

<input type="radio"/> YES -----> <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	If YES: <input type="radio"/> FIRST NATIONS <input type="radio"/> INUIT <input type="radio"/> MÉTIS <input type="radio"/> NON-STATUS / HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY
---	---

→ 4B. IF YES: Which Aboriginal community are you from?

COMMUNITY /RESERVE NAME _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?

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

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

6. Did you move to Prince George in the past year?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> YES | <input type="radio"/> NO | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|

→ 6B. If you moved to Prince George in the last year, where were you living prior to coming here?

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY NAME _____ | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="radio"/> AND PROVINCE _____ | | |
| <input type="radio"/> OR COUNTRY _____ | | |

7. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> YES | <input type="radio"/> NO | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|

8. Over the past year, how much of the time have you been homeless? [Best estimate.]

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS | IF UNSURE: <input type="radio"/> 0-2 MONTHS |
| <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> 3-5 MONTHS |
| <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER | <input type="radio"/> 6-12 MONTHS |

9. Over the past year, how many different times have you experienced homelessness?

[Includes this time. Best estimate.]

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> NUMBER OF TIMES _____ | IF UNSURE: <input type="radio"/> 1 TIME [current episode] |
| <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> 2 TIMES |
| <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER | <input type="radio"/> 3 OR MORE TIMES |

→ 9B. How old were you when you first became homeless in your life?

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

→ 9C. (Local1) What led you to being homeless the first time? (Do not read list, select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Relationship/family breakdown or conflict | <input type="radio"/> Problematic gambling |
| <input type="radio"/> Transition from criminal justice system (prison, remand, youth centre) | <input type="radio"/> Problematic drug or substance abuse |
| <input type="radio"/> Going to jail | <input type="radio"/> Transition state care (foster home, group home, residential care or kin care) |
| <input type="radio"/> Going to residential treatment/hospital | <input type="radio"/> Transition from health facility (mental health/addictions) |
| <input type="radio"/> Eviction/asked to leave by landlord | <input type="radio"/> Poor housing conditions (bedbugs, mould, unsafe housing, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> Domestic/family violence or abuse | <input type="radio"/> Natural disaster or fire |
| <input type="radio"/> Employment problems (unemployment, being fired) | <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): |
| <input type="radio"/> Mental health issues | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW |
| <input type="radio"/> Health/medical-issues | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

Other reason/Notes:

10. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> YES | <input type="radio"/> NO | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|

11. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Select all that apply. Can make notes and check the appropriate boxes after survey completed.]

“Housing” does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: SPOUSE OR PARTNER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: PARENT OR GUARDIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOB LOSS | <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EVICTED: UNABLE TO PAY RENT | <input type="checkbox"/> LEFT CARE (CHILD PROTECTION)/(PROV. TERM) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EVICTED: OTHER REASON | <input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC ABUSE: SPOUSE OR PARTNER | <input type="checkbox"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC ABUSE: PARENT OR GUARDIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| <u>Other reason/Notes:</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

12. Where do you get your money from? [May provide examples. Select all that apply]

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING) | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/INCOME ASSISTANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

13. (C3) Have you ever been in foster care and/or group home?

- YES NO DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. (C7) I'm going to read a list of services that you may or may not need. Let me know which of these apply to you. Do you have a need for services related to... [Read categories, select all that apply]

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERIOUS OR ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION | <input type="checkbox"/> BRAIN INJURY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL DISABILITY | <input type="checkbox"/> FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEARNING DISABILITY | <input type="checkbox"/> PREGNANCY (IF RESPONDENT IS FEMALE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE | <input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL ILLNESS | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

15. (C8) Do you want to get into permanent housing?

- YES NO DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

16. (C9) What would help you find permanent, stable housing? [if need more room – write on back of sheet]

- _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

17. (C10) What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? [Select all that apply]

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

Thank you for participating!

ADDITIONAL NOTES

