

Better Data for Ending Homelessness: Lessons from the Winnipeg Street Census

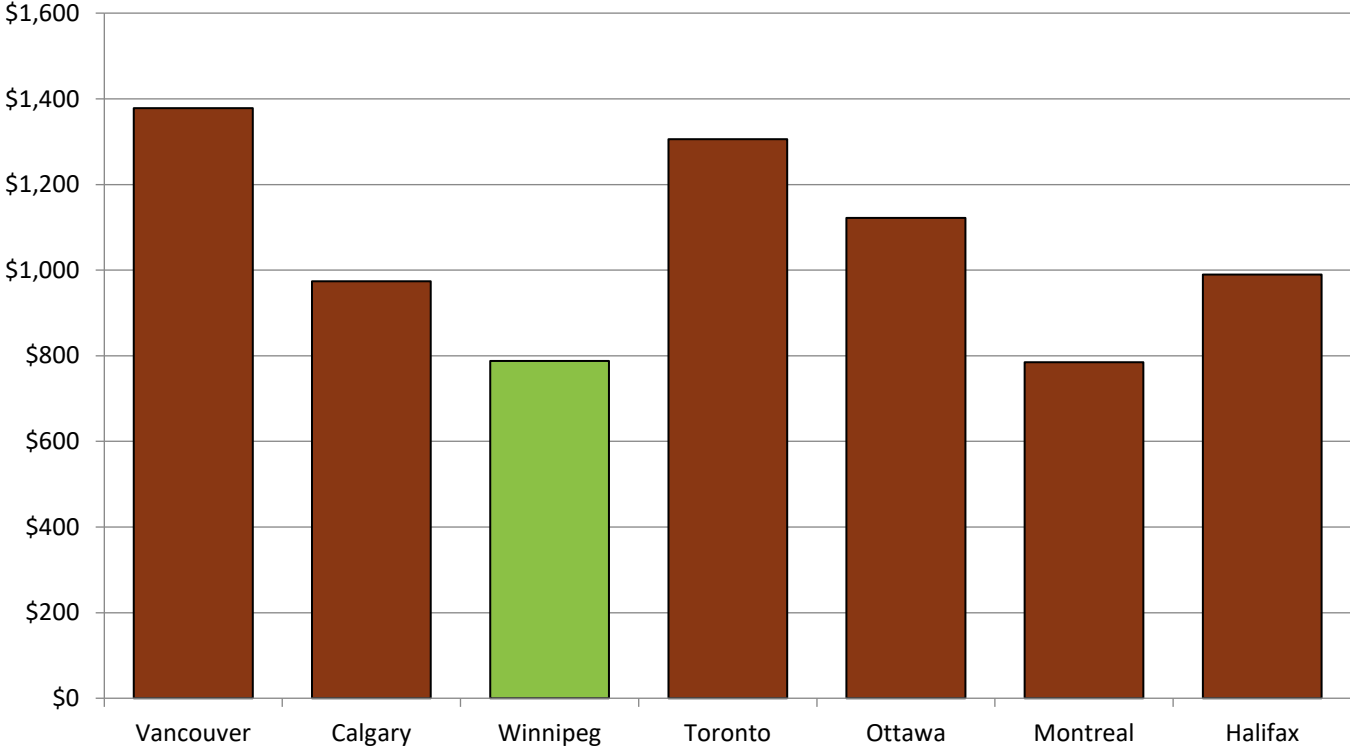


Winnipeg



Comparing Rent in Select Canadian Cities

Average rent bachelor units, Select CMAs, 2023



Access to Affordable Housing in Winnipeg

Figure 3 Households in lowest income quintile have limited rental options



Sources: CMHC, Statistics Canada

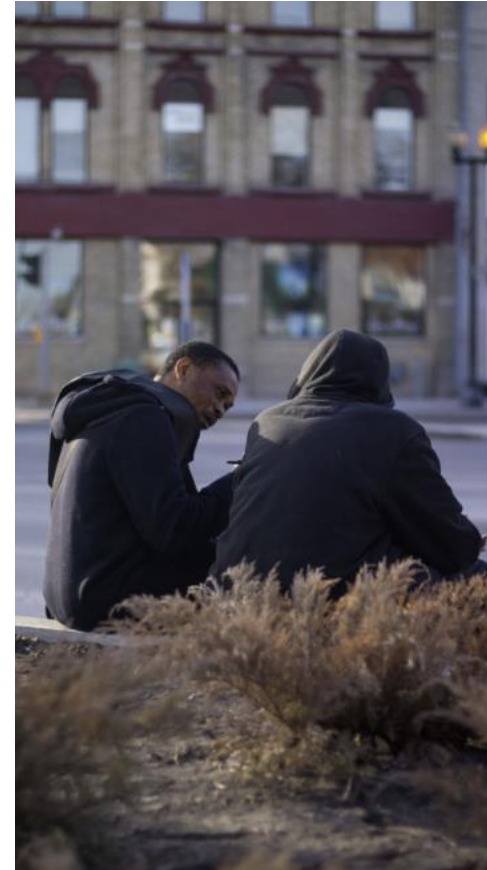
Methodology

- End Homelessness Winnipeg and Social Planning Council of Winnipeg collaborated with 22 community partners to plan and implement the Street Census
- Formed four working groups and a steering committee
- An Elder and those with lived/living experience participated
- Used the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness' definition of homelessness
- Data sources:
 - 21-question survey
 - Administrative data from shelters, transitional housing, and health facilities



Limitations

- Unreliable estimate of hidden homelessness.
- Our methodology did not capture seasonal variations.
- Incomplete data from some government departments.
- We might have missed people outside downtown Winnipeg where homelessness is less visible.
- Some organizations could not participate as they were stretched.
- Duplication due to using multiple data sources.
- Challenges with volunteer recruitment and training.

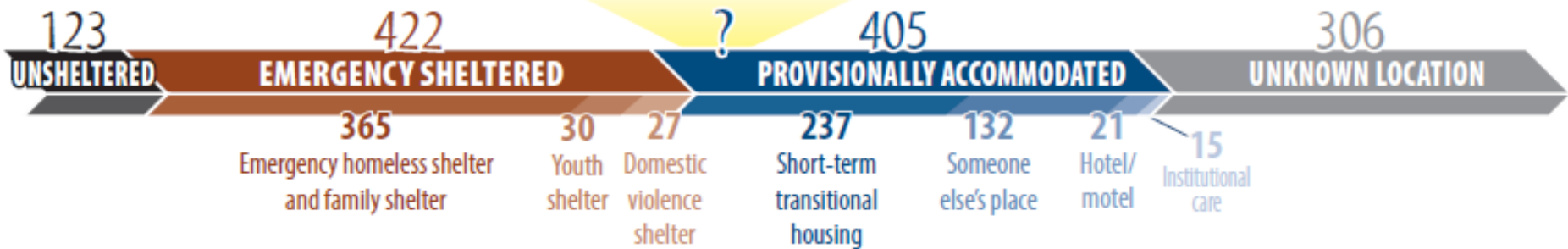


Findings

Figure 1: Where People Stayed

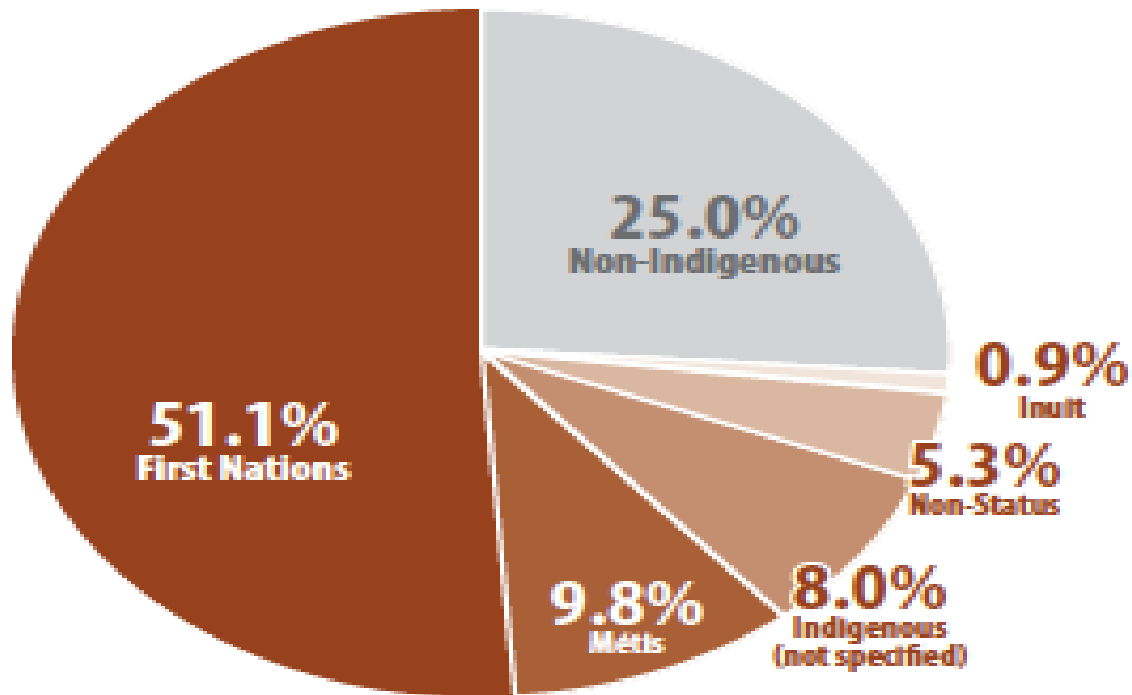
On May 24 and 25, 2022, the Street Census reached **1,256** people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg.

Many more are experiencing homelessness but were not surveyed.



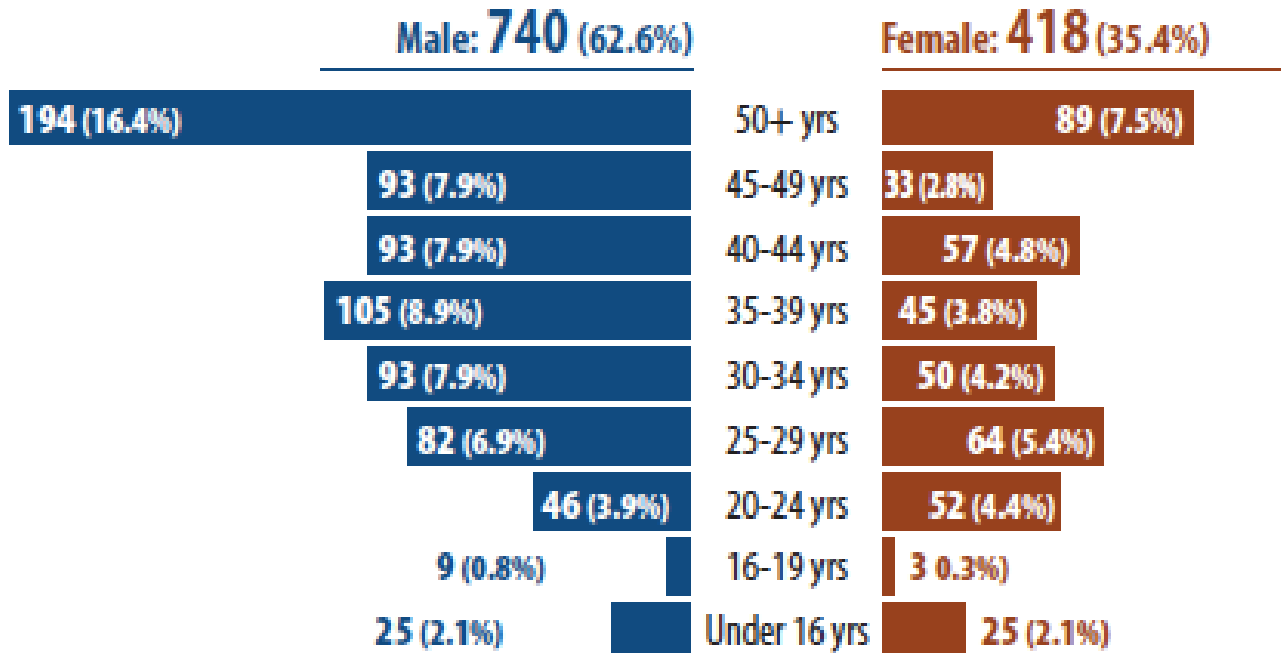
Findings Continued

Figure 3: Indigenous Status and Identities of People Experiencing Homelessness



Findings Continued

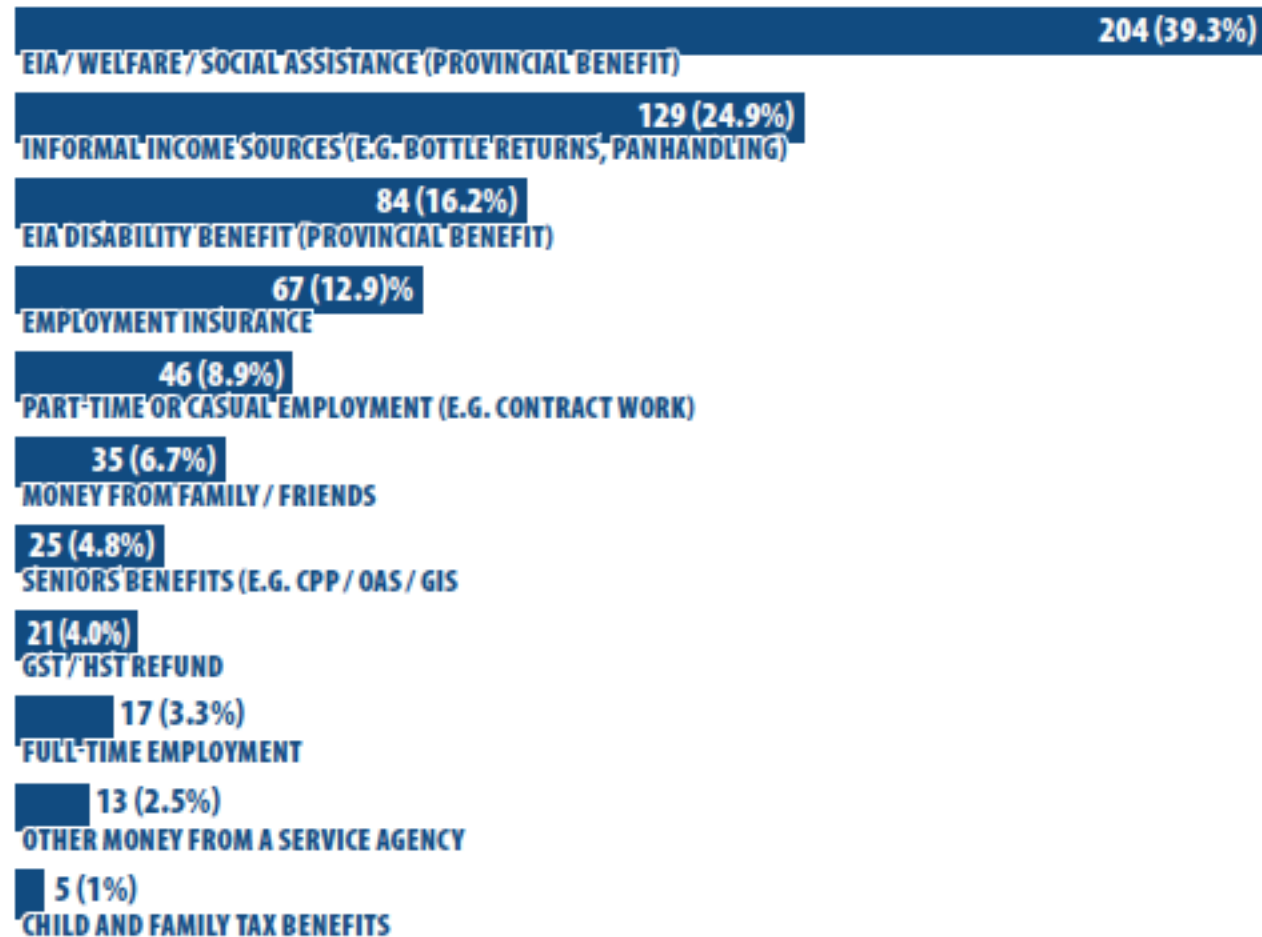
Figure 2: Age and Gender



Findings Continued

Figure 4: Income

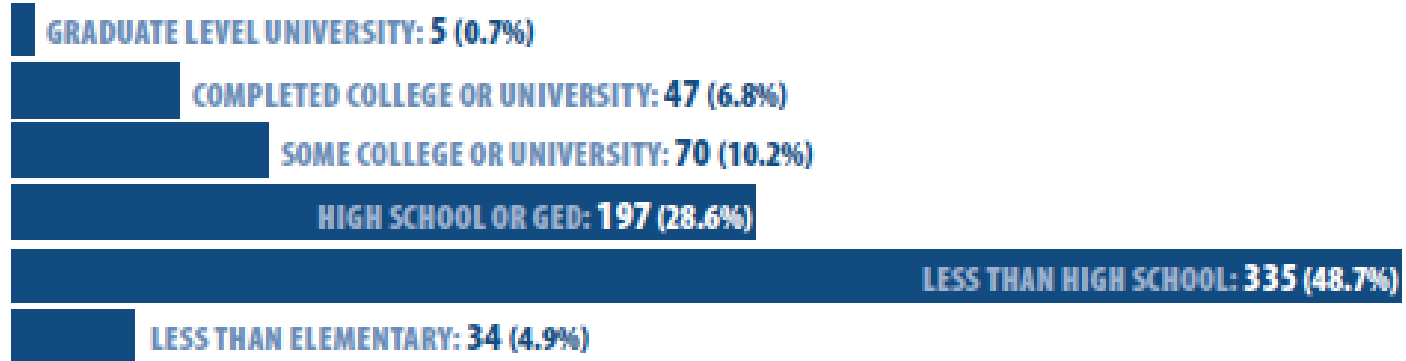
Sources of Income (respondents could choose more than one)



Findings Continued

Figure 5: Education

Highest Level of Education



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Findings Continued

Figure 6: Spent Time in CFS Care

Spent Time in CFS Care



Spent Time in CFS Care

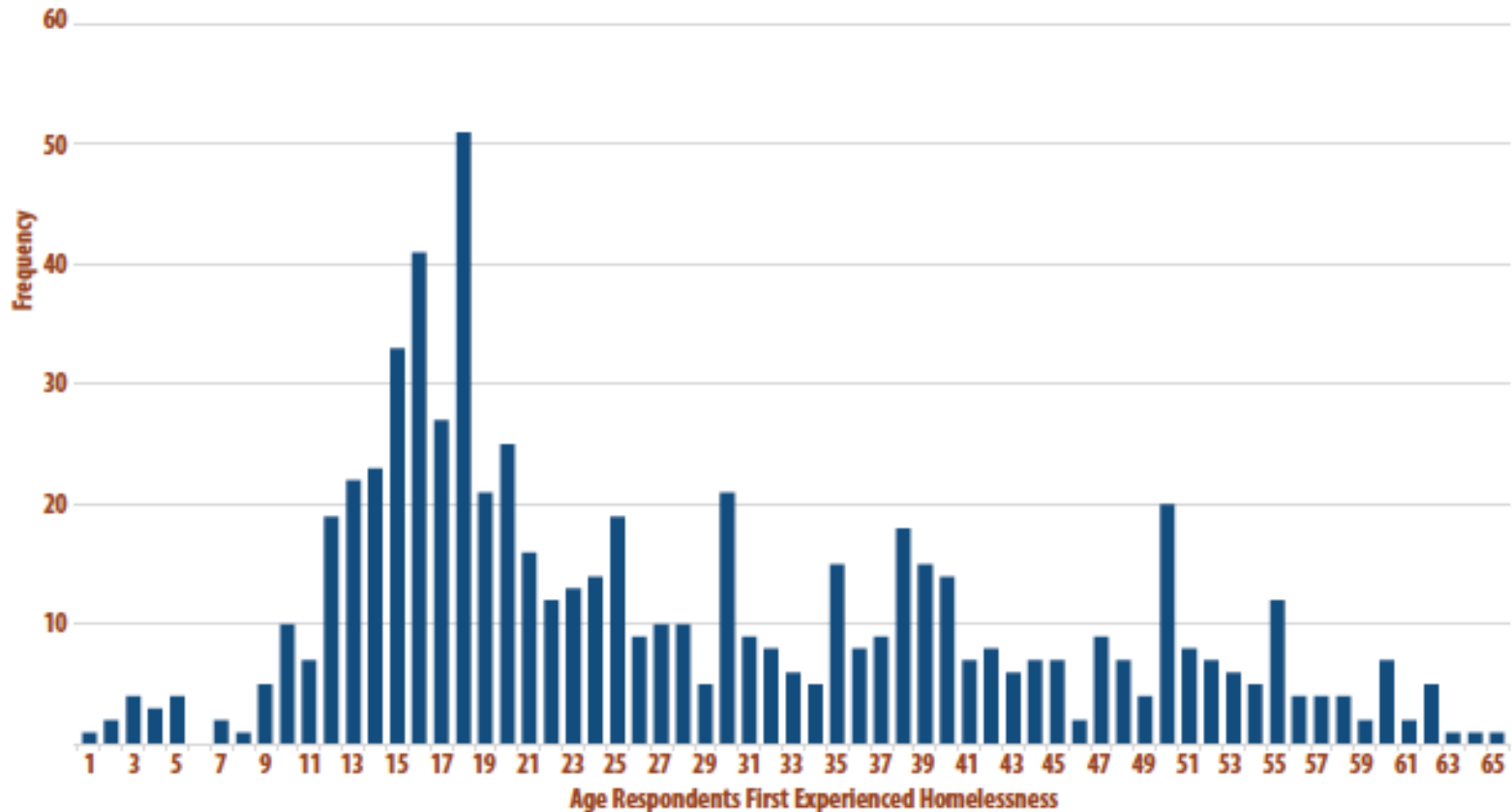


Spent Time in CFS Care



Findings Continued

Figure 7: Age Respondents First Experienced Homelessness



Findings Continued

Table 5: Causes of Housing Loss (Most Recent Time)

	Frequency	Percentage
Not Enough Income for Housing	175	29.2%
Mental Health Issue	38	6.3%
Physical Health Issue	20	3.3%
Substance Use Issue	110	18.3%
Conflict with: Partner, Friend, Family, CFS, other	153	25.5%
Conflict with: Roommate, Landlord / Complaint / Building Sold, Renovation	104	17.3%
Experienced Abuse By: Partner, Family	16	2.7%
Experienced Discrimination/Intergenerational Effects of Residential School	9	1.5%
Unsafe Housing	46	7.7%
Incarceration	36	6.0%
Left the Community/ Relocated/My Choice/ End of Lease	36	6.0%
Pandemic	15	2.5%
Hospitalization / Treatment program	10	1.7%

Recommendations

Systems change

- Provide settlement services to Indigenous people who transition to Winnipeg.
- Reduce state apprehension and provide transitional supports for youth exiting CFS care.
- Support youth to stay in school longer.
- Increase EIA (social welfare), index it to inflation, and remove barriers.
- Increase access to mental health and addictions supports.

Recommendations

Housing supply

- Increase the social housing supply by 1,000 rent-geared-to-income units annually for at least 10 years.
- Protect existing social housing to ensure no loss of rent-geared-to-income units due to disrepair, lack of subsidies, or the sale of properties.
- Increase and stabilize funding to ensure all social housing tenants have access to comprehensive supports with a minimum ratio of 1 support worker per 100 units.
- Enhance security of tenure by limiting exemptions to rent regulations, limiting above-guideline rent increases, disallowing rent discounts, enhancing compensation for no-fault evictions, and ensuring evictions occur as a last resort.

Thank you!

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