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



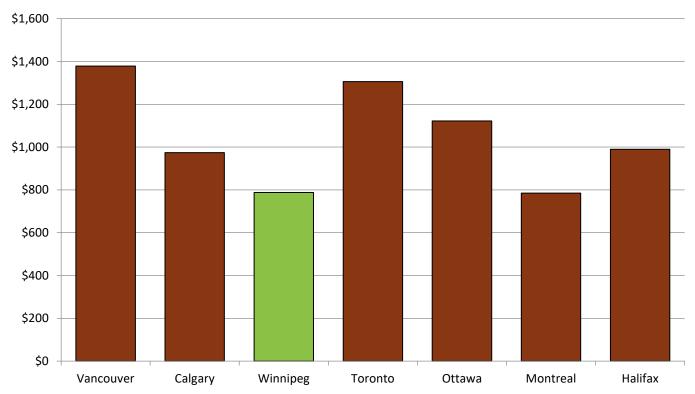


Winnipeg



Comparing Rent in Select Canadian Cities

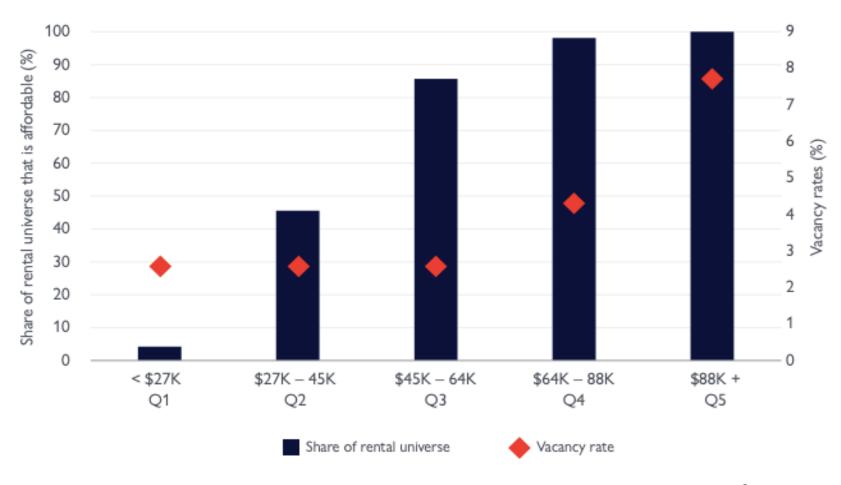
Average rent bachelor units, Select CMAs, 2023





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.

123 Unsheltered	422 EMERGENCY SHELTE	RED	?	40. Provisional	5 LY ACCOMMO	DATED	306 UNKNOWN LOCATION	
	365 Emergency homeless shelter and family shelter		27 Domestic violence shelter	237 Short-term transitional housing	Someone else's place	21 Hotel/ motel	15 Institutional care	



Figure 3: Indigenous Status and Identities of People Experiencing Homelessness

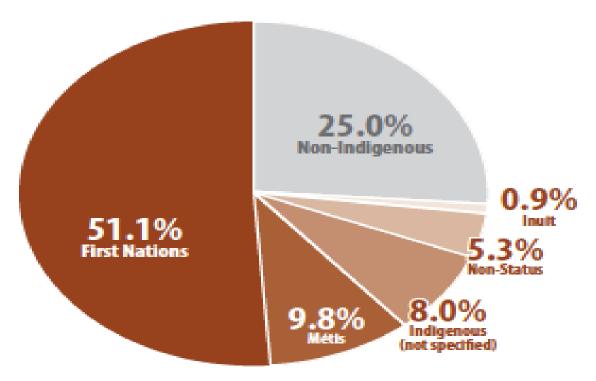




Figure 2: Age and Gender

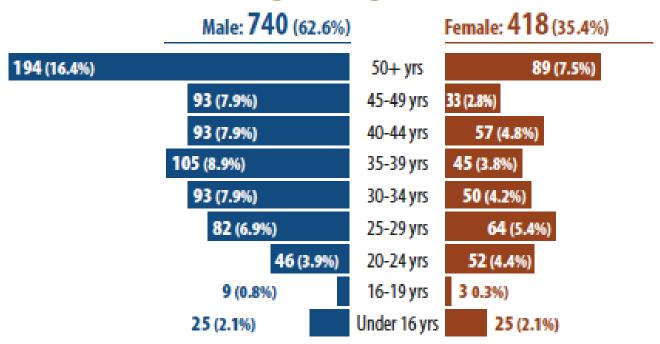




Figure 4: Income

CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS

Sources of Income (respondents could choose more than one)

EIA/WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (PROVINCIAL BENEFIT) INFORMAL INCOME SOURCES (E.G. BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING) 84 (16.2%) EIA DISABILITY BENEFIT (PROVINCIAL BENEFIT) 67 (12.9)% EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE 46 (8.9%) PARTITIME OR CASUAL EMPLOYMENT (E.G. CONTRACT WORK) 35 (6.7%) MONEY FROM FAMILY / FRIENDS 25 (4.8%) SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G. CPP / OAS / GIS /HST REFUND 17 (3.3%) FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT 13 (2.5%) OTHER MONEY FROM A SERVICE AGENCY



204 (39.3%)

Figure 5: Education

Highest Level of Education

GRADUATE LEVEL UNIVERSITY: 5 (0.7%)

COMPLETED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY: 47 (6.8%)

SOME COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY: 70 (10.2%)

HIGH SCHOOL OR GED: 197 (28.6%)

LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL: 335 (48.7%)

LESS THAN ELEMENTARY: 34 (4.9%)

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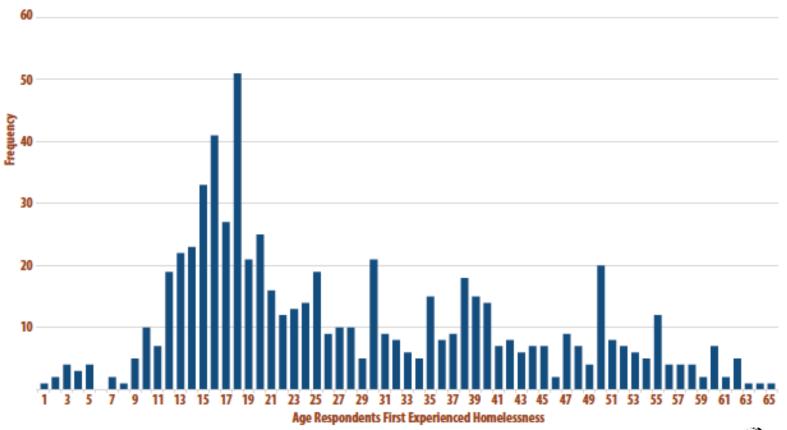
Figure 6: Spent Time in CFS Care

Spent Time in CFS Care

NON-YOUTH (AGE 30+)	46.0%	
YOUTH		64.4%
Spent Time in CFS Care		
NON-INDIGENOUS 24.7%		
INDIGENOUS		54.8%
Spent Time in CFS Care		
MALE	46.0%	
FEMALE		56.2%



Figure 7: Age Respondents First Experienced Homelessness



WINNIPEG STREET CENSUS 2022
We matter.
We count.

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%

We matter. We count.

Recommendations

Systems change

Provide settlement services to Indigenous people where	าด
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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