

Everyone counts 2020-2022 – Findings from the Nationally Coordinated Point-in-Time Counts

Infrastructure Canada
November 8, 2022



Point-in-Time Counts

A PiT count of homelessness has two primary purposes:

- An enumeration or count of people experiencing absolute homelessness within a community in shelters and on the streets on a given night.
- A survey that provides the community information on the demographics and service needs of people affected by homelessness

Uses of the PiT Count data in the community

- Capture an understanding of homelessness including those who are not accessing services.
- Identify populations that may benefit from targeted services.
- Target community resources to where they are most needed



Data

2016: 32 communities
2018: 61 communities
2020-22: 72 communities



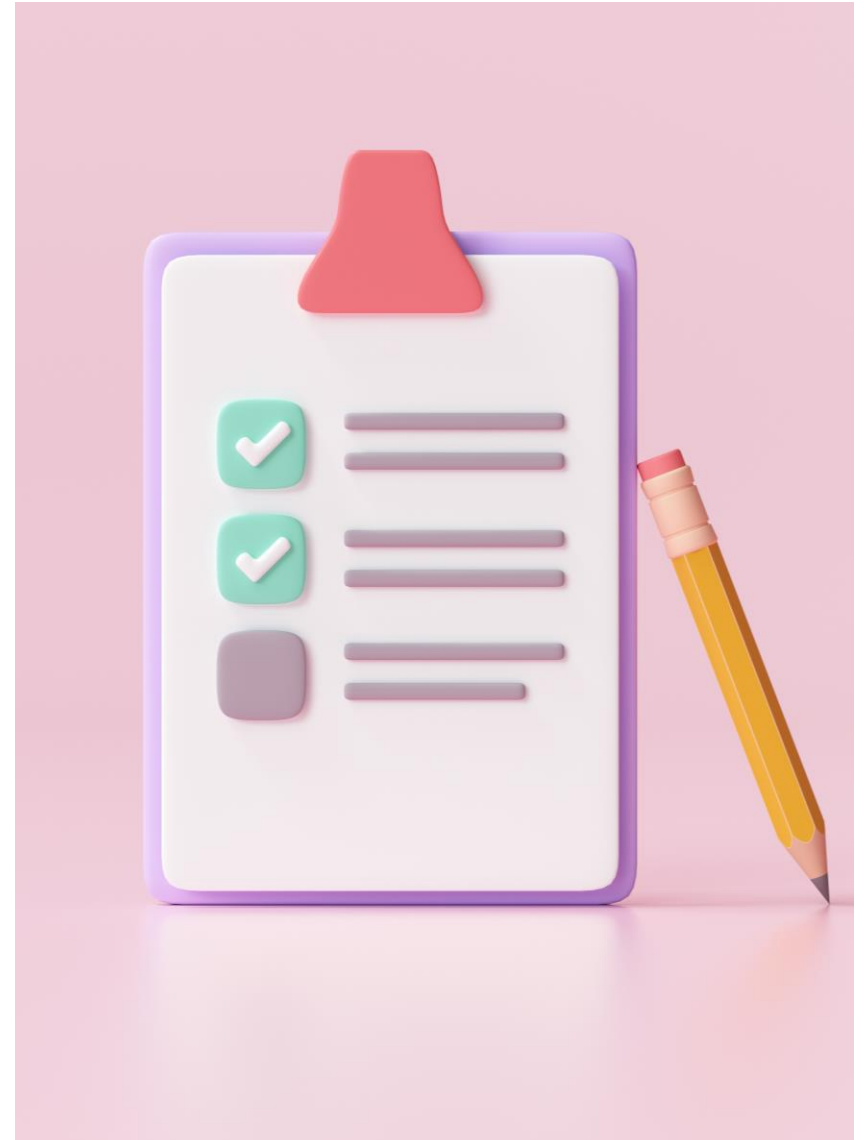
Enumeration findings

- The 2020-2022 PiT Counts enumerated over 40,000 people experiencing homelessness across 72 communities.
- Compared to previous counts in 2018, this represented a 20% increase, with unsheltered homelessness increasing by 88%.

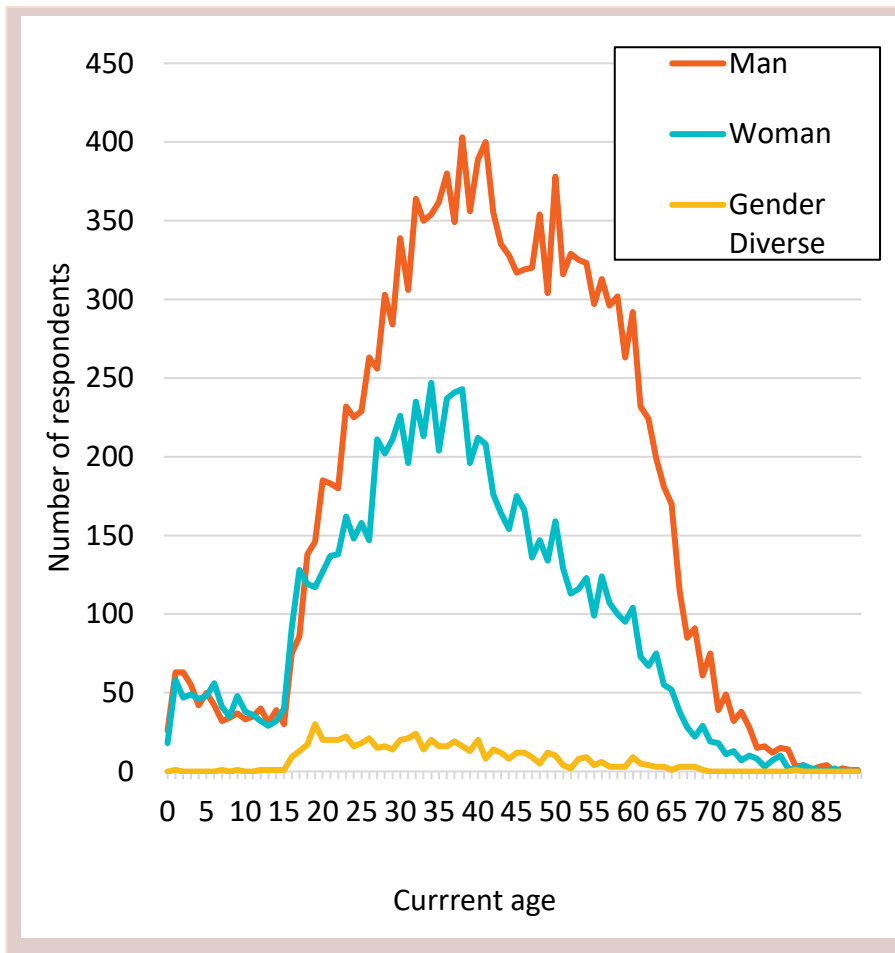
Timeline of the count	Change in proportion of			
	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Transitional housing	Overall enumeration
Pre-pandemic	56%	7%	-5%	18%
Mid-pandemic	75%	-1%	9%	8%
Late-pandemic	125%	57%	-19%	38%
Overall	88%	14%	-11%	20%

- The overall rate of homelessness across all participating communities was **13 people experiencing homelessness for every 10,000 in population.**
 - Western and Northern regions: 17 per 10,000 people
 - Central region: 12 per 10,000 people
 - Eastern region: 12 per 10,000 people

PiT Count Survey Results



Age and gender



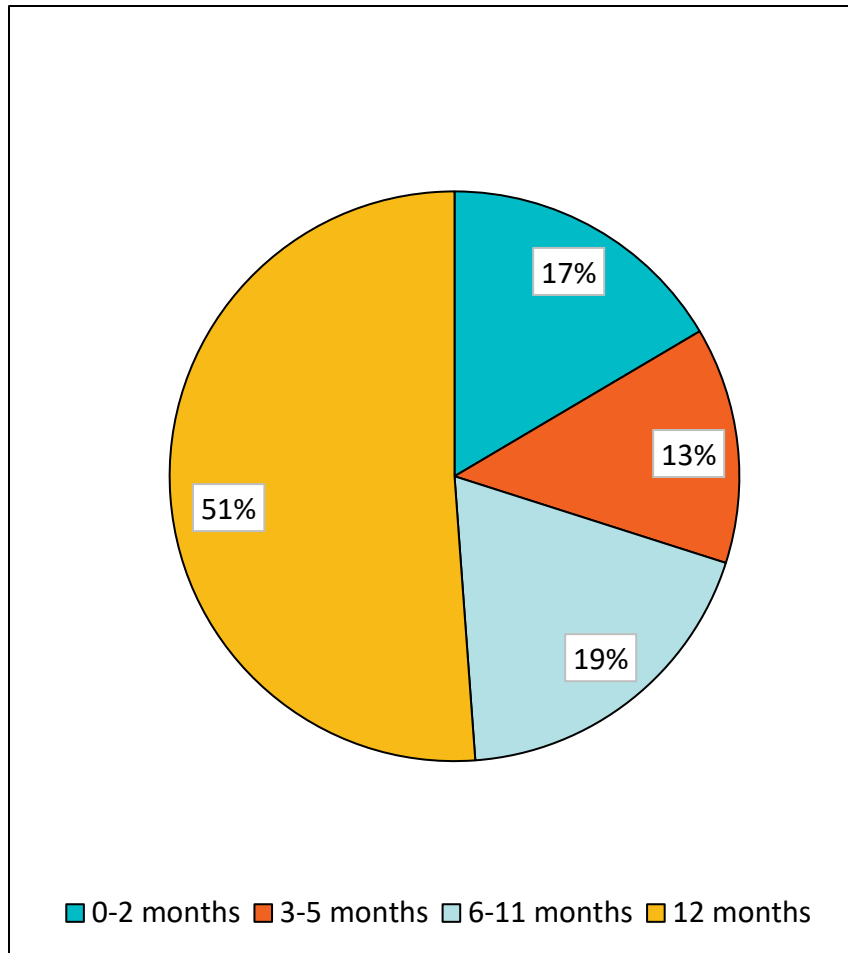
In the 2020-22 PiT Count surveys

55% were Adults aged 25-49

63% identified as men
35% identified as women
3% identified as gender diverse

Men were older than women and gender diverse respondents

Duration of homelessness

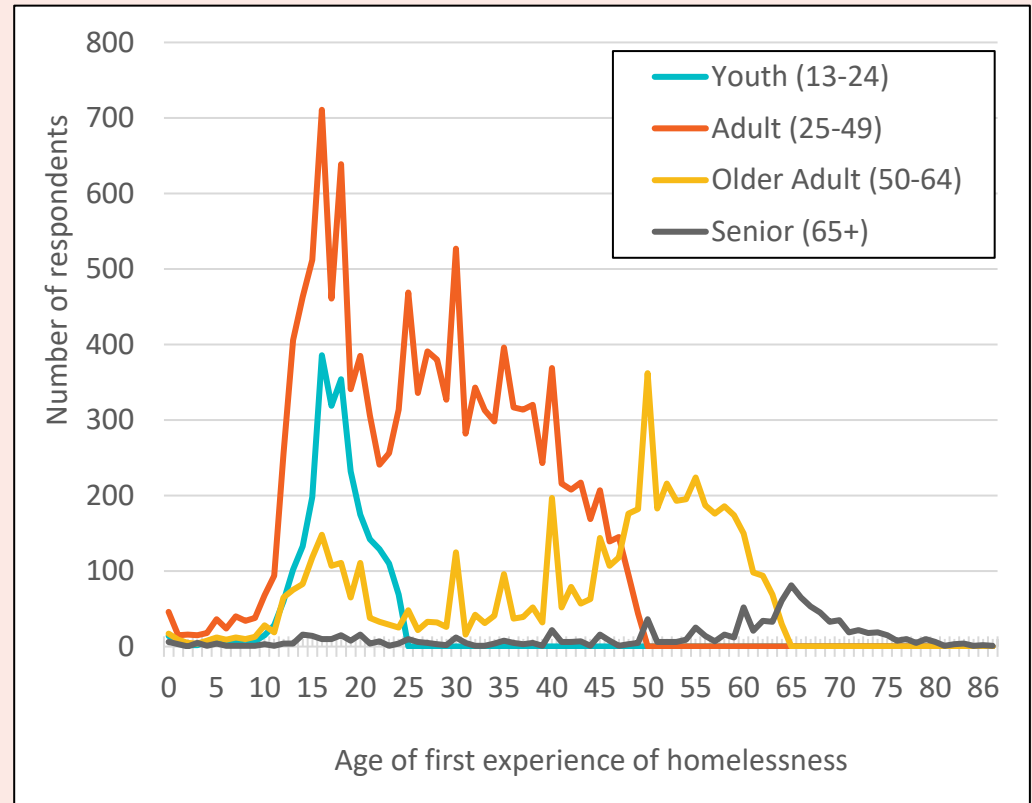


- **Over two-thirds (70%)** of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for a total of 6 or more months over the past year
 - An **increase from the 60%** seen in the 2018 counts
- **Highest in unsheltered locations (83%)**
- Regionally:
 - Western and Northern – 75%
 - Central – 63%
 - Eastern – 68%

Age of first experience of homelessness

44% of people report experiencing homelessness for the **first time under the age of 25**

- Early experiences of homelessness may have longer term impacts
 - Peak during teen years across almost all age groups
- Respondents who experienced homelessness at a younger age had higher rates of experiencing homelessness durations of 6 months or more in the past year.



Reasons for housing loss

Reasons for housing loss vary by age

Youth (aged 13-24)

- Conflict with parent/guardian (30%)
- Not enough income (24%)
- Substance use issue (17%)

Adults (aged 25-49)

- Not enough income (28%)
- Substance use issue (21%)
- Conflict with spouse/partner (16%)

Older Adults (aged 50-64)

- Not enough income (30%)
- Landlord-tenant conflict (16%)
- Substance use issue (14%)

Seniors (aged 65 and over)

- Not enough income (32%)
- Landlord-tenant conflict (16%)
- Unsafe housing condition (12%)

- Not enough income was reported most often as a reason for housing loss.
 - reported by 28% of respondents
- Substance use issues was the next most cited reason.
 - Reported by 18% of respondents for each

Other differences were found for particular populations

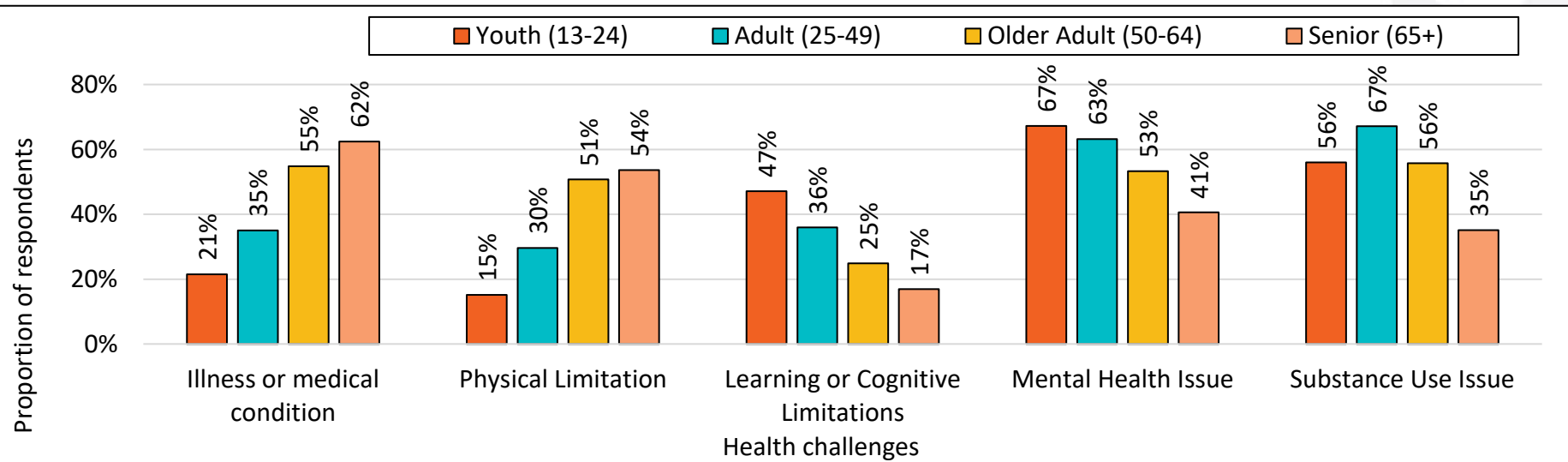
- Women were more likely (13%) to report abuse by a partner compared to men (2%)
- 2SLGBTQI+ respondents cited mental health issues (15%) or having a conflict with a parent or guardian (12%) more often than non-2SLGBTQI+ respondents (9% and 7% respectively)

COVID-19

- In order to study how the COVID-19 Pandemic contributed to an individual's experience of homelessness, a follow-up question was added to the PiT Count survey.
- **12% of respondents attributed their recent housing loss to COVID-19.**
 - This rate stayed relatively stable between the mid-pandemic (12%) and late pandemic (14%) periods.
- **Almost half (43%)** of those who attributed COVID-19 as a reason for housing loss **also reported financial reasons (not having enough income)** as another contributing factor.
 - Whereas this was true of 26% of their counterparts.

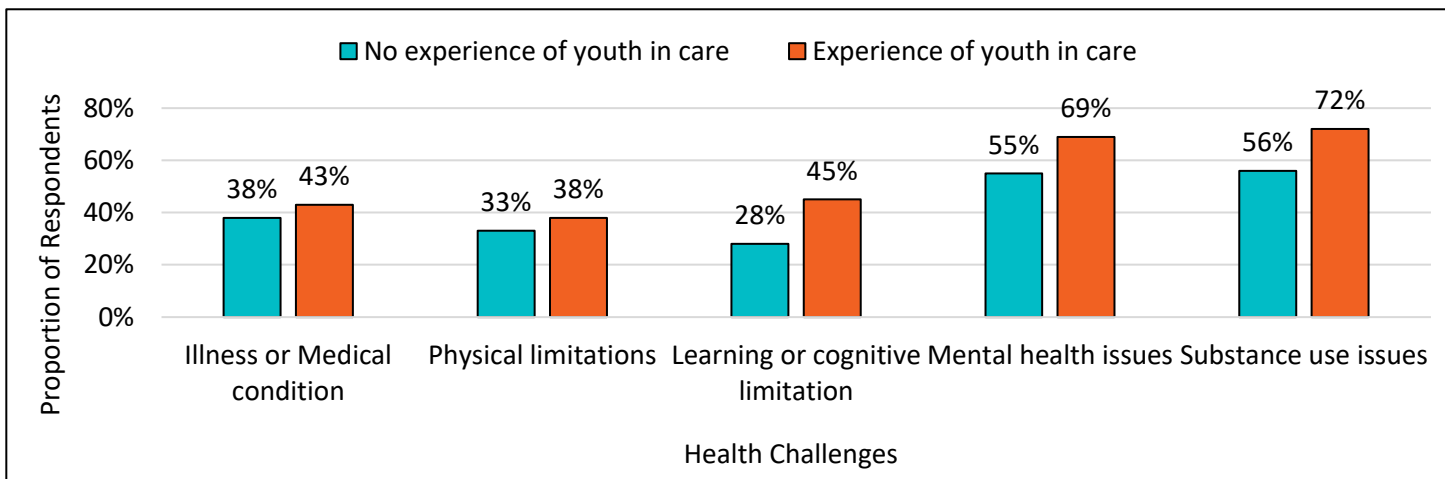
Current health challenges

- Current health challenges was collected for the first time during the 2020-2022 PiT Counts
- A significant majority (85%) of respondents reported having at least one health challenge
 - 18% reporting 1 health challenge
 - 67% reporting 2 or more health challenges
- Substance use issues (61%) and mental health issues (60%) were the most prevalent response among all respondents



Experiences of youth in care

- Provides the opportunity to study how past experience of being in foster care, a youth group home, or other child welfare program may contribute to experiences of homelessness
- **31% of respondents reported having been a youth in care**
 - Rates were highest among those spending the night in unsheltered locations (38%), in systems (39%), or who were experiencing hidden homelessness (39%).
- Respondent with experiences of youth in care were nearly twice as likely to report experiencing homelessness before the age of 25 (64%). In comparison, those without an experience as a youth in care represented 34%.



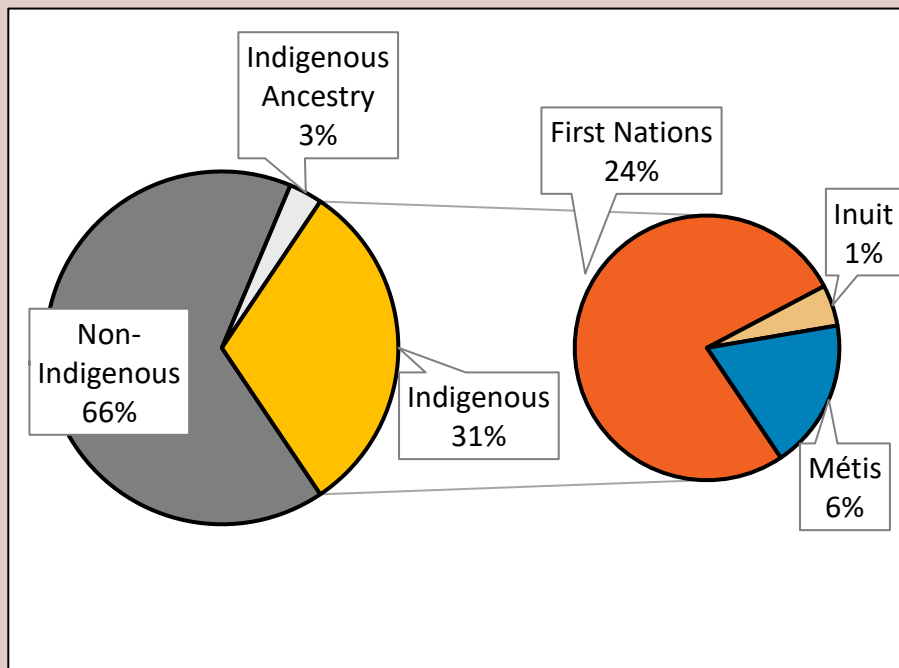
Higher rates of for all health challenges among those with experiences of youth in care

2SLGBTQI+

- Members of this groups are **overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness**
 - **13%** of all survey respondents identified as 2SLGBTQI+
 - Compared to **4%** of the Canadian population identified as 2SLGBTQI+*
- **Over a quarter (26%)** of youth identified as 2SLGBTQI+
 - More likely to report experiencing homelessness for the first time before the age of 18 (59%) compared to 50% for non-2SLGBTQI+.

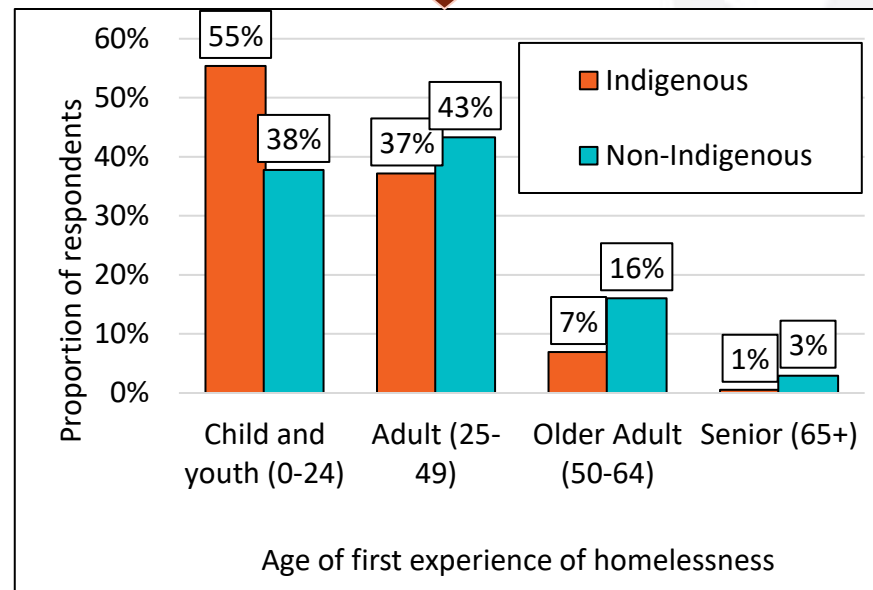
Indigenous Identity

Nearly 1 in 3 (31%) identified as Indigenous, compared to 5% of the general population.



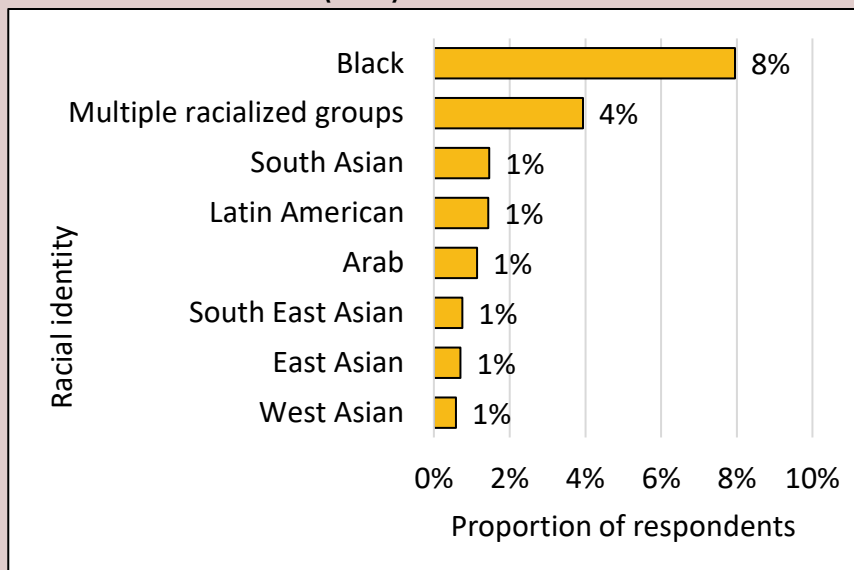
Indigenous respondents were **twice as likely to report having experiences of being a youth in care** (51% compared to 22% for non-Indigenous respondents)

Majority (55%) of Indigenous respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time before the age of 25



Other key findings

- **~20% of respondents identified as a member of a racialized group.**
 - Those who identified as Black represented (8%) of all respondents, double the percentage seen in the 2021 Census (4%)



- **29% of respondents identified as a recent newcomer (in the past 5 years). Most were in central Canada (Ontario or Quebec) and 40% identified as refugee claimants.**
- **Veterans are overrepresented among those who are experiencing homelessness**
 - Approximately 5% of respondents reported serving in the Canadian Army, Air Force, Navy or in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
 - 1.5% of the Canadian population identified as veterans in the 2021 Census

In conclusion,

- Results from the counts show that there has been an increase in:
 - The number of people experiencing homelessness
 - The rate of chronic homelessness
- Addressing data gaps: Health conditions, experiences of youth in care and racial identity
- Everyone Counts 2020-2022: Final report – Publication expected for late fall 2023

Overrepresentation among respondents identifying as:

- Indigenous
- Veteran
- 2SLGBTQI+
- Black

For additional information:

- [Everyone Counts 2020-2022: Preliminary Highlights Report](#)
- [National Shelter Study 2021 Update](#)

Thank you

For any questions, please feel free to contact me :

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