



National Homelessness Data

National Shelter Data 2005-2016 Point-in-Time Count 2018

Annie Duchesne & Patrick Hunter

Employment and Social Development Canada

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference

Edmonton, AB | Nov 5, 2019

National data sources



National Data Products

Shelter Capacity Report

- Estimated capacity across emergency shelters, violence against women shelters, and transitional housing

National Shelter Study

- Estimate of the number of emergency shelter users and their demographics.

Community Progress Indicators

- Community-level reports including shelter data, PiT counts, and contextual information.

Point-in-Time Counts

- Point-in-Time estimates of homelessness in participating communities, with survey data.



National Shelter Study

- The National Shelter Study is based on anonymous information from **3.1 million shelter stays** that occurred at over 215 of the 400 emergency shelters across Canada since 2005
- In 2016, the sample included most of the largest shelters in Canada, covering **70%** of the total emergency shelter beds in the country
- The study uses a stratified cluster sample of emergency shelters to ensure accurate estimates of the number and characteristics of shelter users
- The sample is based on emergency homeless shelters and does not include Violence Against Women shelters and transitional housing
- The study methodology takes into account people who use more than one shelter

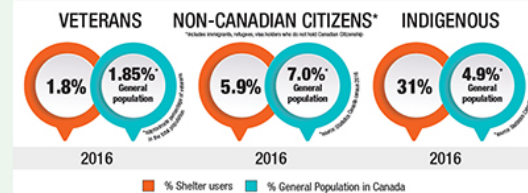
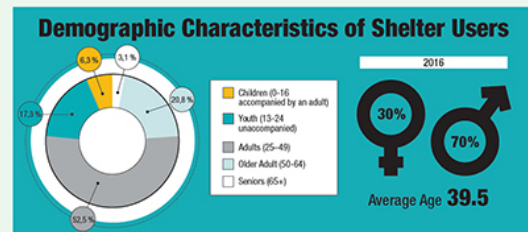


Highlights from the National Shelter Study were published this summer. The report and associated infographic are available on the Reaching Home website.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL SHELTER STUDY

2005-2016

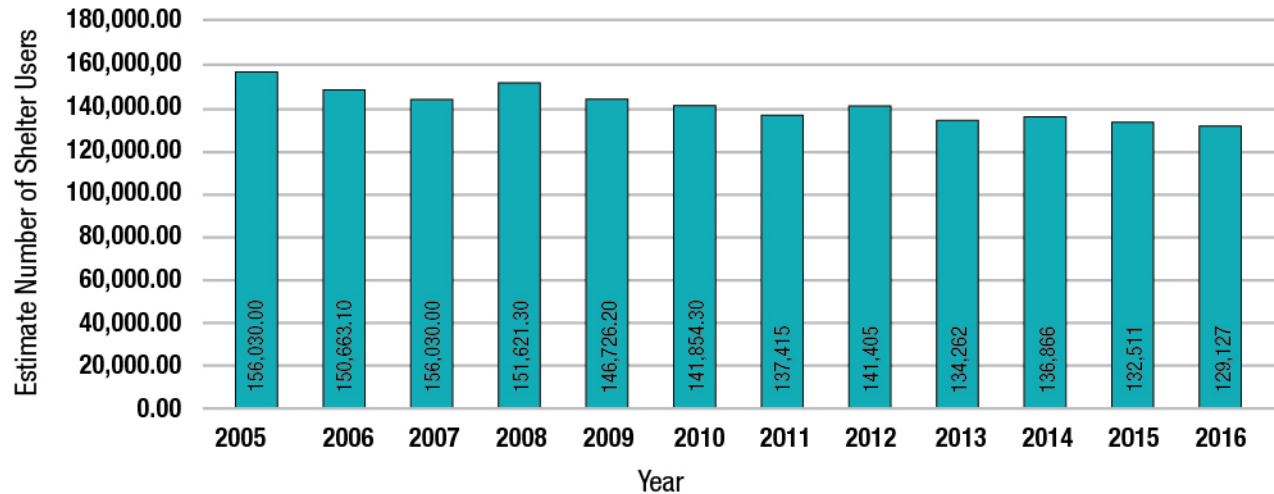
The National Shelter Study 2005-2016 is an ongoing analysis of homelessness trends in Canada. In 2016, the estimated number of emergency shelter users was at its lowest in the past 12 years.



The National Shelter Study Highlights Report is available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/publications-bulletins.html>

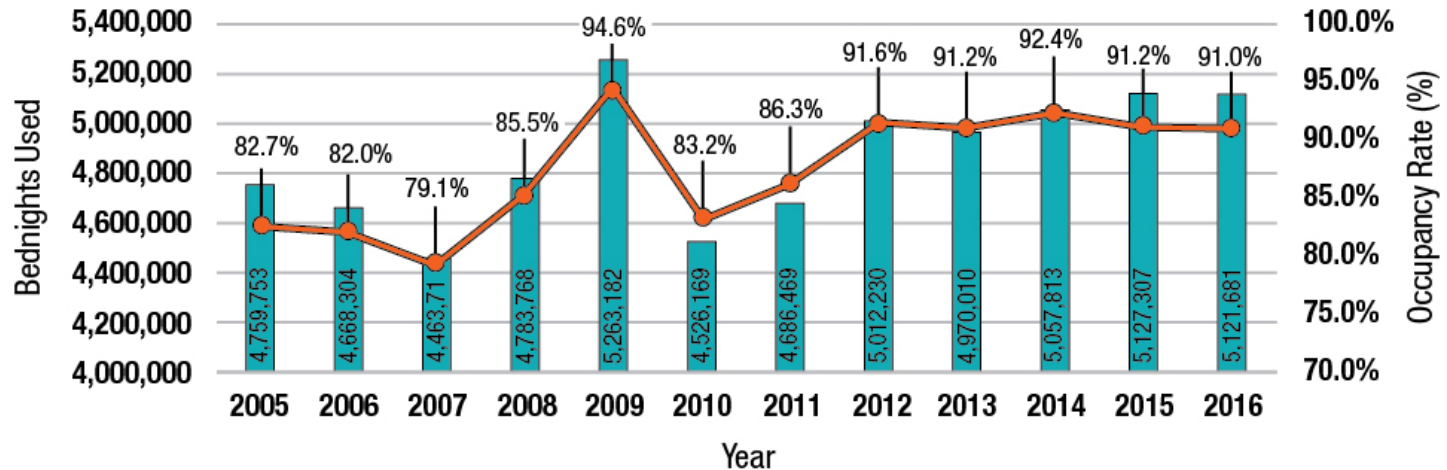
Emergency Shelter Use in Canada

- An estimated **129,000** people experienced homelessness at an emergency shelter in Canada in 2016
- This represents a decrease of about **17%** from 2005.
- On an average night in 2016, just over 14,000 Canadians slept in an emergency shelter.



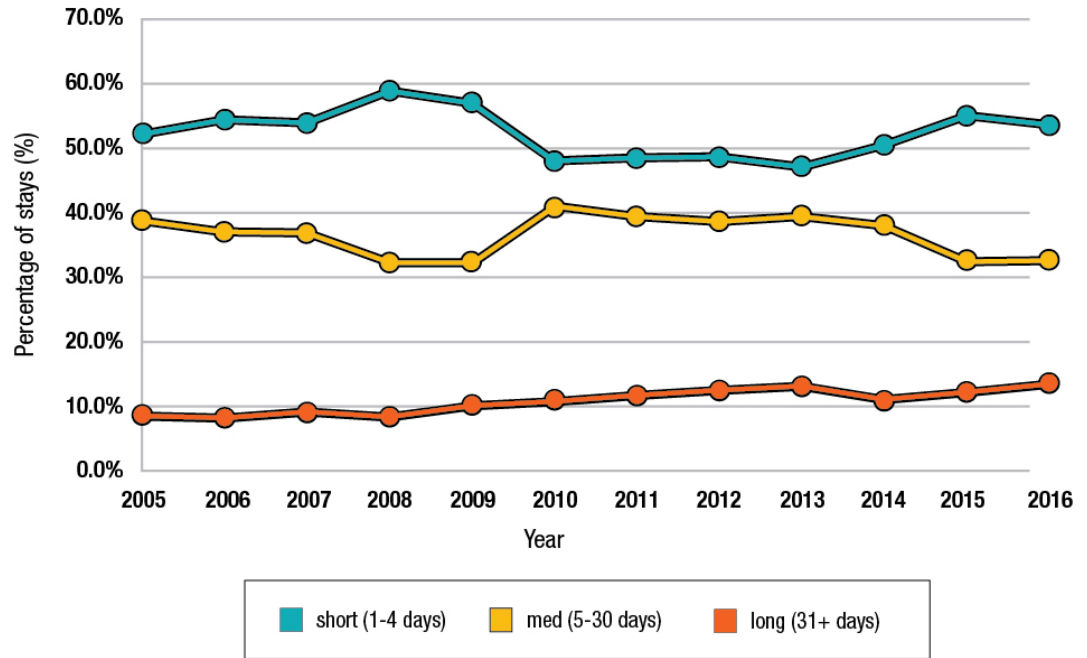
Shelter System Use

- There are just over **15,400** emergency shelter beds distributed in **400** emergency shelters across Canada.
- Shelter use in Canada remains high with the occupancy rate hitting over **90%**.
- While the overall number of emergency shelter beds in Canada is similar in 2005 and 2016 (15,774 beds in 2005, 15,413 beds in 2016), demand for shelter beds has increased overall during the same period.

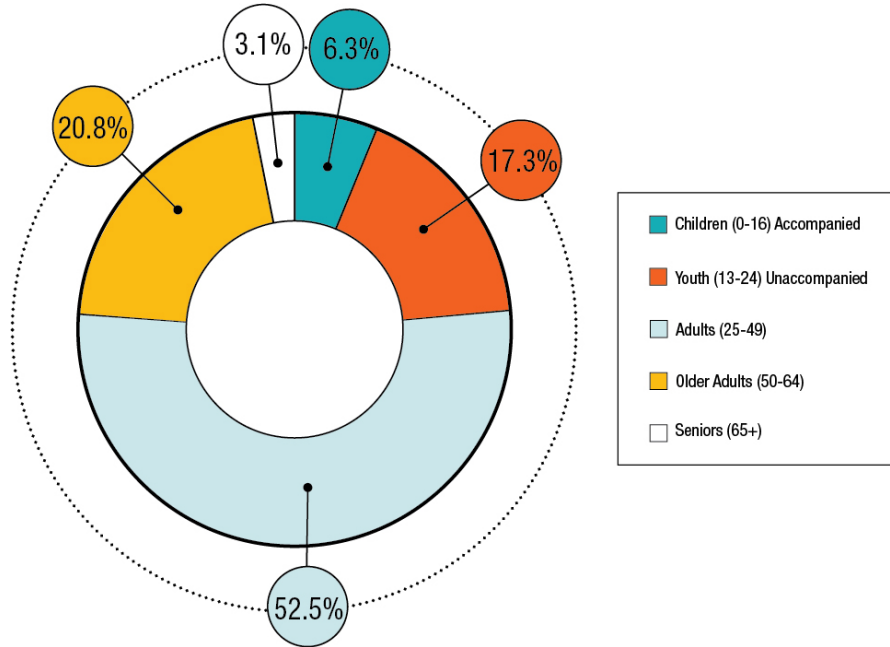


Shelter stay duration

- The majority of shelter stays in a given year are short (1-4 days).
- Long stays (30+ days) have increased slowly and steadily over time starting at 9% of all stays in 2005 to 14% of stays in 2016. This increase in longer stays contributes to the increase in demand for bednights.



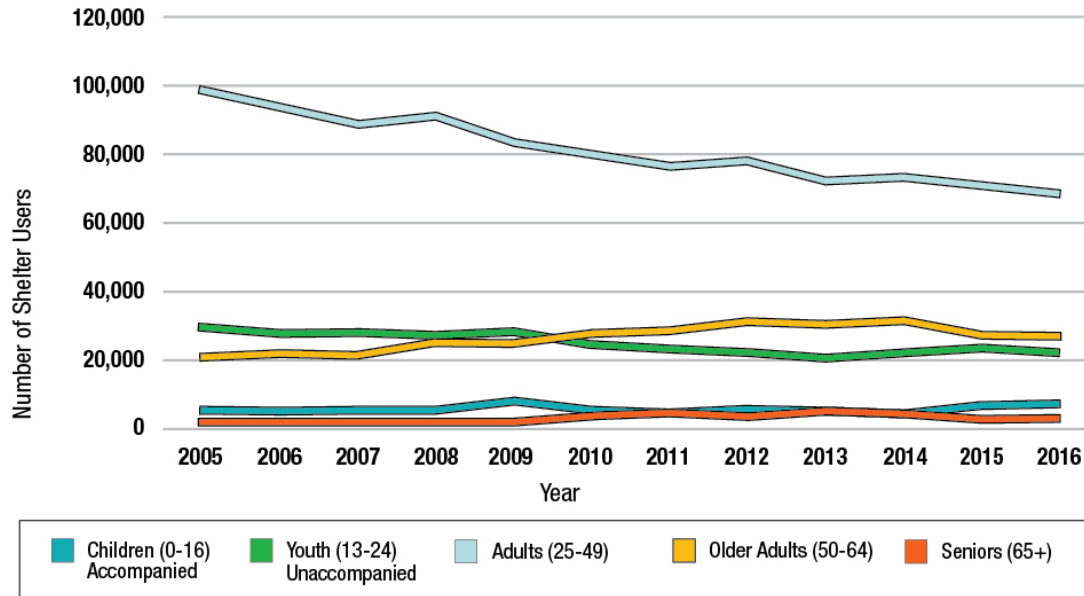
Shelter Use by Age Group



- The majority of shelter users are adults (aged 25-49), followed by older adults (aged 50-64) and youth
- Age distribution among shelter users have not changed much since the last National Shelter Study



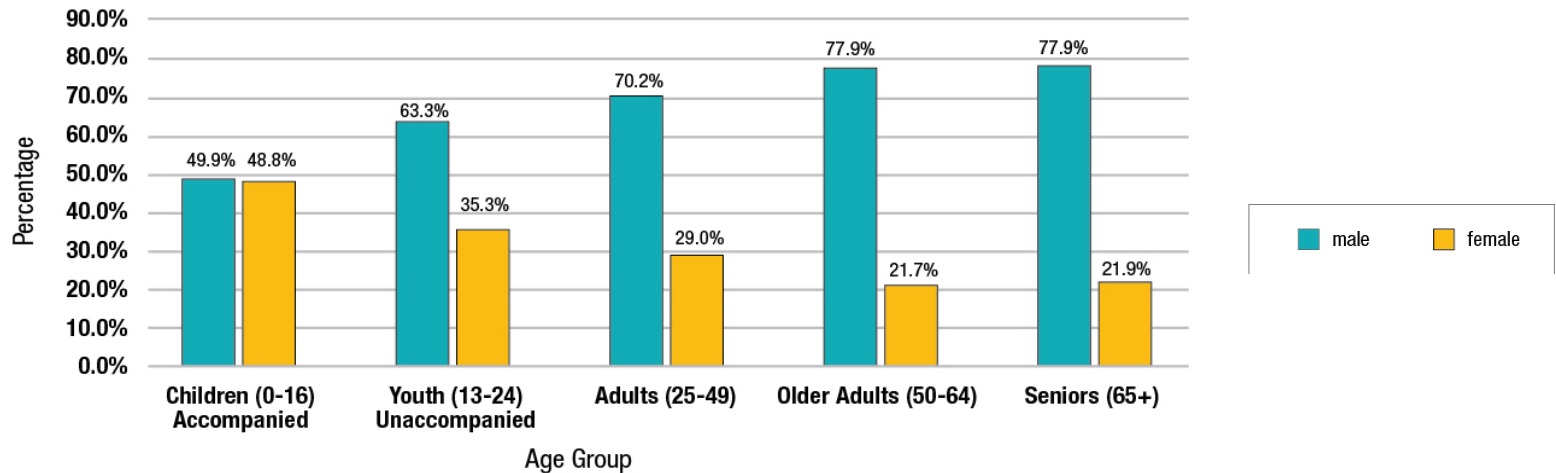
Shelter Use by Age Group



- The number of shelter users in the adult age group **dropped 30%** between 2005 and 2016, which accounts for much of the overall decrease in shelter users over the study period.
- General trends in shelter use by older adults (aged 50-64) and seniors (aged 65+) continue to increase.
- The number of children using shelters **increased 35%** from 5,998 in 2005 to 8,124 in 2016.

Shelter Use by Gender

- In 2016, **69.5%** of shelter users were male and **29.7%** were female. This has not changed considerably between 2005-2016
- The proportion of male shelter users increases with age



Shelter Use: Indigenous Peoples

- Indigenous Peoples continue to be overrepresented in Canada's emergency shelters
- While Indigenous Peoples represent about **5%** of the Canadian population, the percentage of shelter users reporting Indigenous ancestry is approximately **31%**
- Indigenous shelter use varies widely by region, from less than 5% in some suburban communities to over 90% in many northern communities. In each of the communities where data are available, Indigenous Peoples are over-represented in homeless shelters compared to the overall population



Shelter Use: Veterans

- Shelter use by Veterans was first collected in 2014
- In 2016, **1.8%** of shelter users—an estimated 2,400 people—reported having served in the military
- This is down from nearly 3,000 (**2.2%**) in 2014



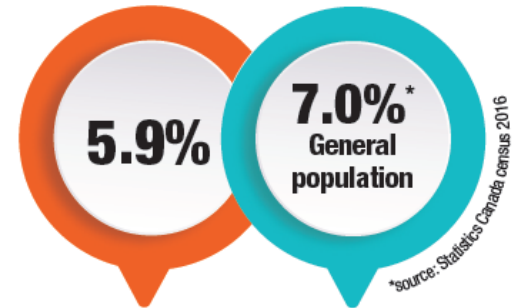
Shelter Use: Immigrants, Refugees and Temporary Residents

- In 2016, over 7,600, or **5.9%**, of shelter users reported that they were not Canadian citizens. This includes: permanent residents or immigrants, refugees & temporary residents (student, work or visitor visa)
- Compared to 2014 , the number of permanent residents or immigrants using shelters remained stable while the number of refugees increased by almost 900.
- Regardless, non-Canadian citizens continue to be underrepresented in the shelter system.

Note that data from immigrant/refugee shelters are not included in this analysis

NON-CANADIAN CITIZENS*

*includes immigrants, refugees, visa holders who do not hold Canadian Citizenship



2016

Still to come...

- The full NSS report is expected to be released this winter. It will include additional details such as:
 - Age group profiles
 - Rates of homelessness over time
 - An expanded section focusing on youth homelessness
 - And more!



Everyone Counts 2018



PIT COUNT 2016

32 Participating Communities



**North &
West: 11**

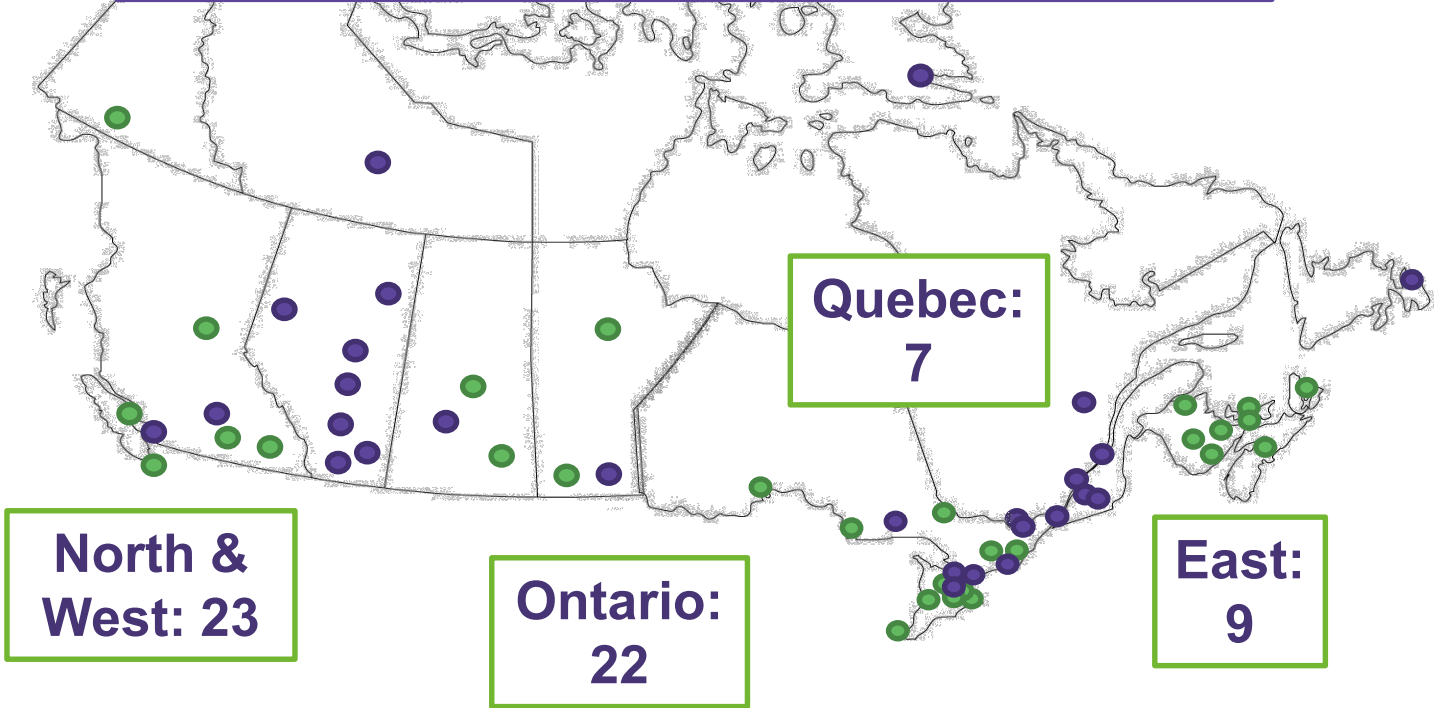
**Ontario:
13**

**East:
8**



PIT COUNT 2018

61+ Participating Communities

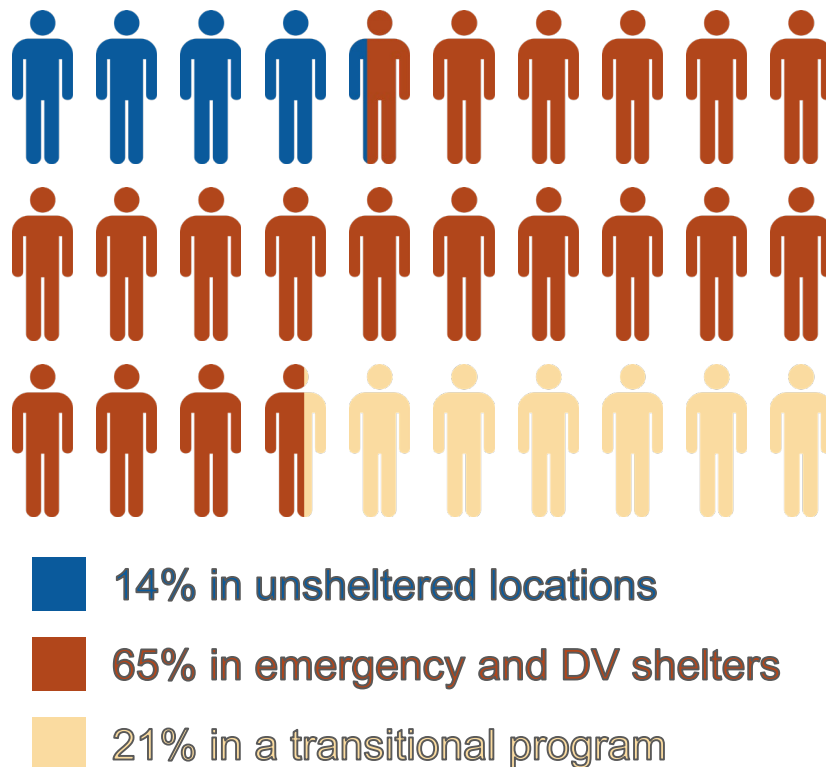


Enumeration

On a given night **25,222** people across 61 communities were experiencing absolute homelessness in shelters or unsheltered locations.

An additional **6,789** people were in a transitional program.

Over the communities that also conducted a count in 2016, there was a 14% increase.



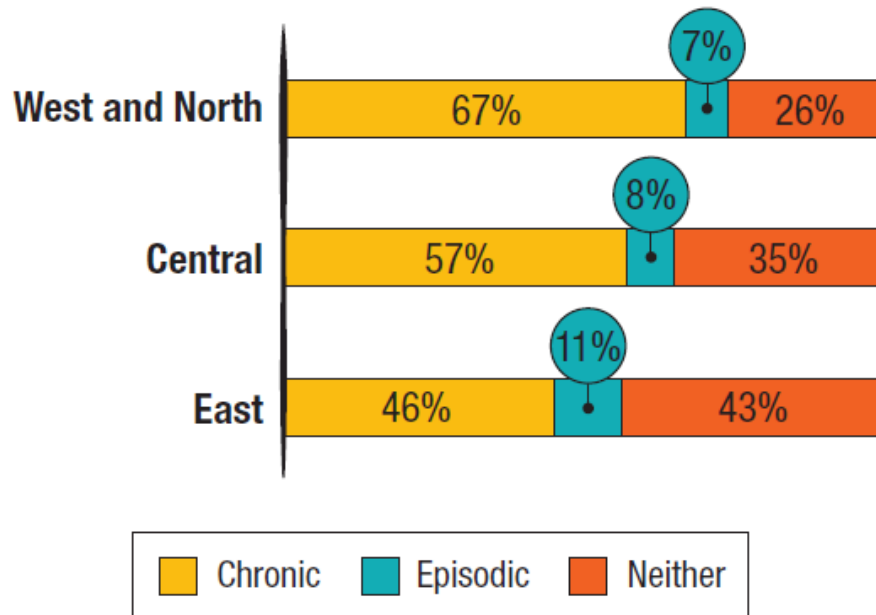
Chronic and Episodic Homelessness

To measure chronic and episodic homelessness*, respondents were asked how long they were homeless over the past year and how many times.

Chronic: 60% of those surveyed reported experiencing 6 or more months of homelessness.

Episodic: 8% had been homeless for less than 6 months, but had experienced 3 or more episodes distinct episodes of homelessness.

Neither: 32% did not meet either criterion, although some may become chronic or episodic over time.

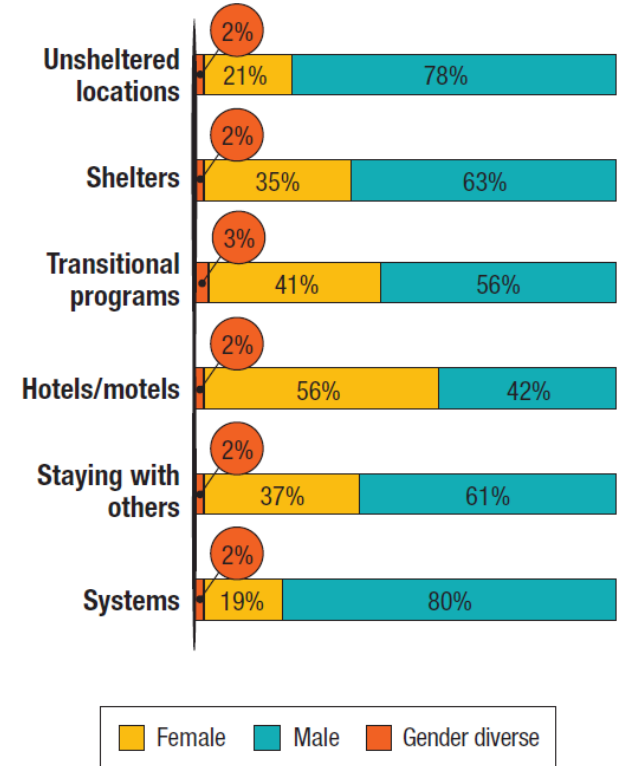
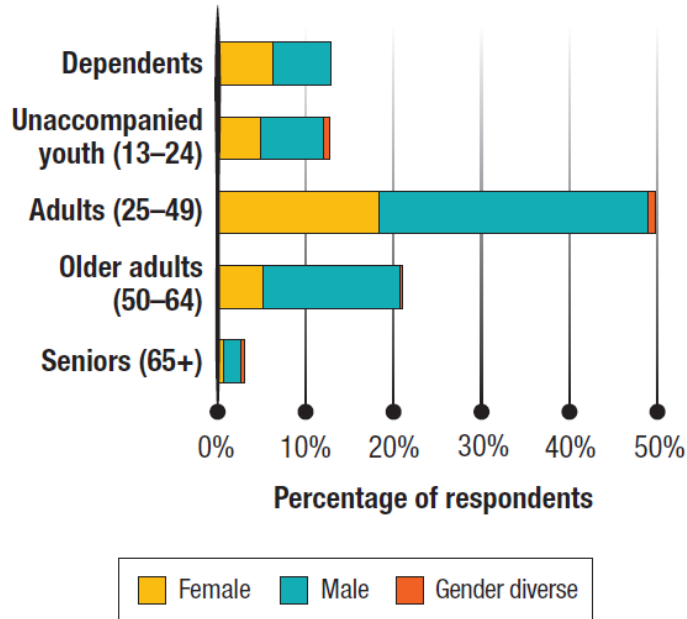


*The definitions of chronic and episodic homelessness have been revised under Reaching Home.

Age & Gender Identity

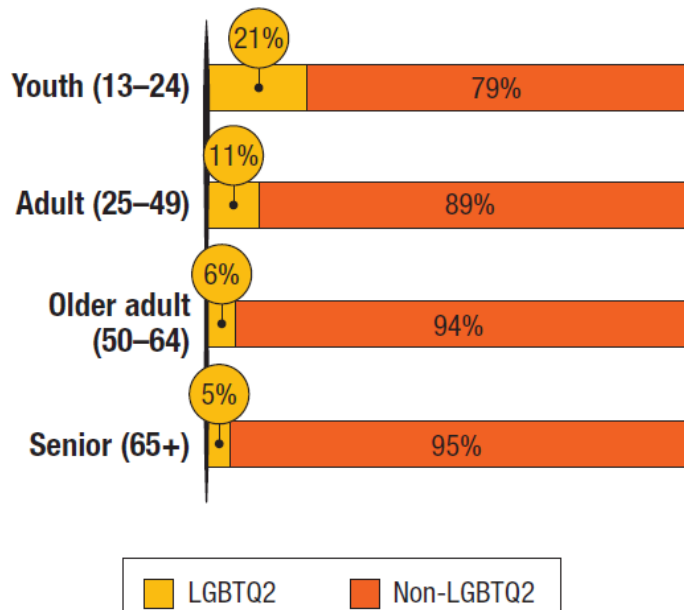
Males become increasingly overrepresented with age, accounting for 56% of youth, 61% of adults, and over 70% of older adults and seniors.

Transgender or Gender Expansive responses were most common among youth, accounting for 4% of responses.



Gender and Sexual Identity

LGBTQ2 responses were more common among youth.



Respondents were asked about their sexual identity, or orientation. 10% of respondents identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, pansexual, two-spirit, queer, questioning, or provided another response not listed on the survey.

These responses were given by 21% of youth and became less frequent with age, accounting for 10% of responses from adults, 5% of older adults, and 4% of seniors.

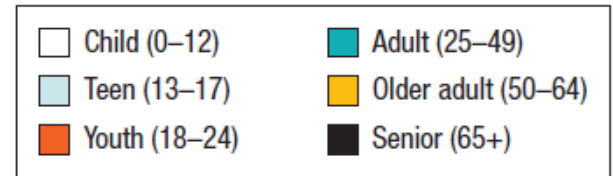
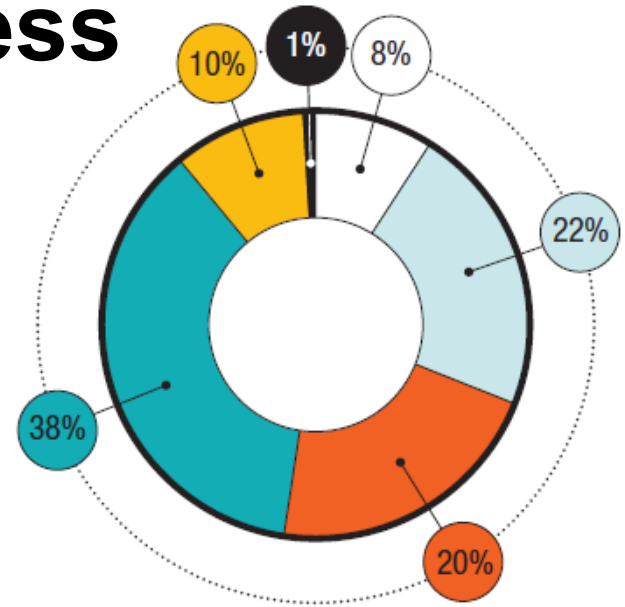


Age of First Homelessness

Half of all respondents first experienced homelessness under the age of 25. This percentage was still high among older adults and seniors, with 25% first experiencing homelessness before 25.

This highlights the need to intervene early to address homelessness among families and youth.

Nevertheless, 38% of seniors first experienced homelessness as a senior.

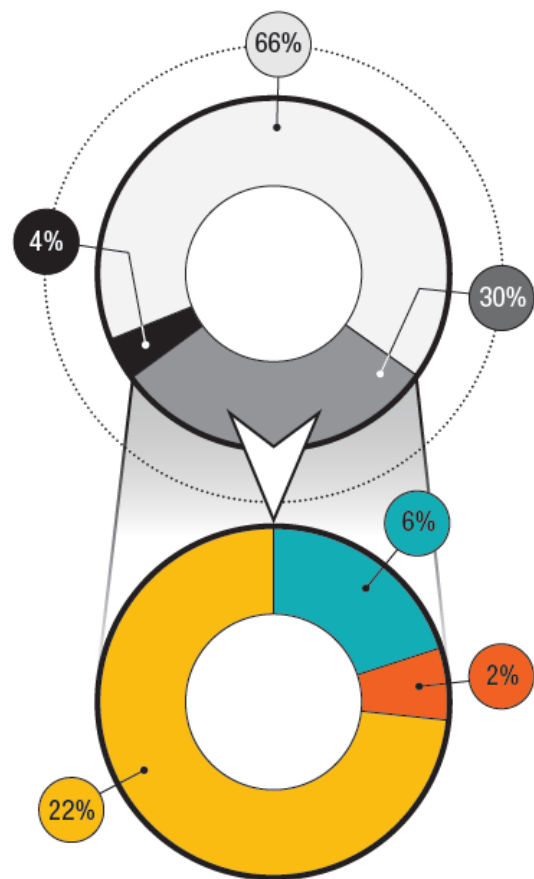


Indigenous Identity

One in three respondents identified as Indigenous, with the majority identifying as First Nations. The percentage of Indigenous respondents was higher in unsheltered locations (42%) and among those who were staying with others (47%).

A higher proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit respondents were adults, with a smaller proportion identifying as older adults and seniors. No differences were seen in the proportion of youth.

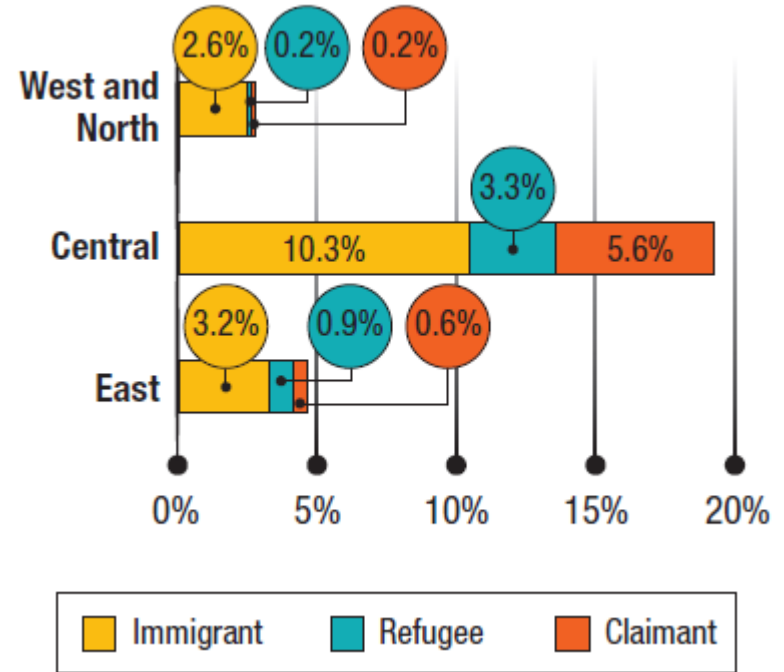
Indigenous respondents were more likely to identify as female, particularly for First Nations (40%) and Inuit (42%) compared to 32% among non-Indigenous respondents.



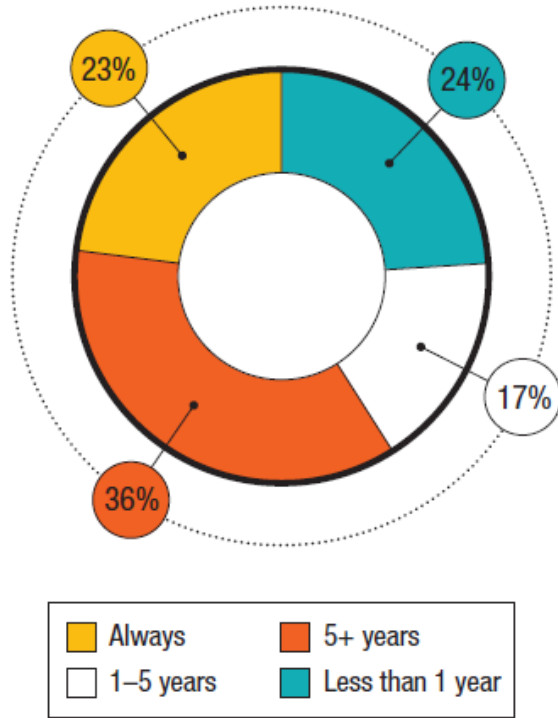
Newcomers

14% of respondents identified having come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant. In contrast, 20% of the general population have been a permanent resident. This suggests that newcomers are *less* likely to experience homelessness.

Most respondents who identified as having come to Canada as a newcomer came 5 or more years previously. Respondents who came more recently are more likely to identify as refugee claimants.



Migration



The majority (59%) of respondents have either always been in the community or came to the community more than five years ago. Nearly a quarter (24%) came less than a year ago.

Respondents were asked where they were previously. Most indicated that they had come from elsewhere within the province or territory (63%) or from elsewhere within Canada (27%). Fewer came internationally (11%).

Everyone Counts

Coming in 2020

- A full report is expected in early 2020. It will include:
 - Changes between 2016 and 2018
 - Findings by community type and region
 - Patterns of homelessness experienced by different populations (e.g. Indigenous peoples, youth, families, veterans)
 - Migration between communities and across provinces and territories
 - Reasons for housing loss and sources of income
 - And more!
- The next count will take place over March and April 2020. Some changes include:
 - Identified health challenges
 - Experience in child welfare, including foster care or youth group home
 - More information on homelessness trajectories



Thank you

Questions? Comments

hpsr@hrsdcc-rhdcc.gc.ca

VERS UN CHEZ-SOI | **REACHING HOME**
LA STRATÉGIE CANADIENNE DE LUTTE CONTRE L'ITINÉRANCE | CANADA'S HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY



Point-in-Time Count 2018 Highlights

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/reports/highlights-2018-point-in-time-count.html>

National Shelter Study 2005-2016

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/reports-shelter-2016.html>

