

NOW AND TOMORROW EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING WE DO



HPS PiT Count 2016 Overview of Results

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National Conference on Ending Homelessness
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Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
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Canada

2 2016 HPS PiT Count

First Count: January 16
Last Count: April 25

32 Participating Communities
2000+ Volunteers
250+ Shelters and Transitional facilities
350+ Community Partners

West: 11

Ontario: 13

East: 8



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3 2016 HPS PiT Count

A Common Approach: Core Questions

- A common “Core” methodology was developed with a working group of communities and researchers with relevant expertise.
- It includes Core Screening and Survey Questions, which communities could build on to meet local priorities.
- The Core Questions address the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| ➤ Permanent residence | ➤ Newcomer status /5 years |
| ➤ Overnight location | ➤ Recent arrivals /year |
| ➤ Family members | ➤ Length of time /year |
| ➤ Age | ➤ Number of episodes /year |
| ➤ Gender | ➤ Shelter use |
| ➤ Indigenous identity | ➤ Reasons for housing loss |
| ➤ Veteran status | ➤ Income sources |



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A Common Approach: Core Populations

- The Core Populations of the count included people staying in unsheltered locations, in shelters and transitional facilities.
- Communities could opt to survey people experiencing homelessness in health and corrections systems, and people experiencing “hidden” homelessness.

Unsheltered (Core)

Sleeping rough on the street, in parks, camps, vehicles or abandoned buildings

Sheltered (Core)

Emergency shelters, VAW shelters, or hotel vouchers in lieu of a shelter bed

Transitional (Core)

Transitional facilities, providing longer stays intended to transition the client to permanent housing.

Systems (Optional)

Corrections: prisons, jails, detention centres with no fixed address

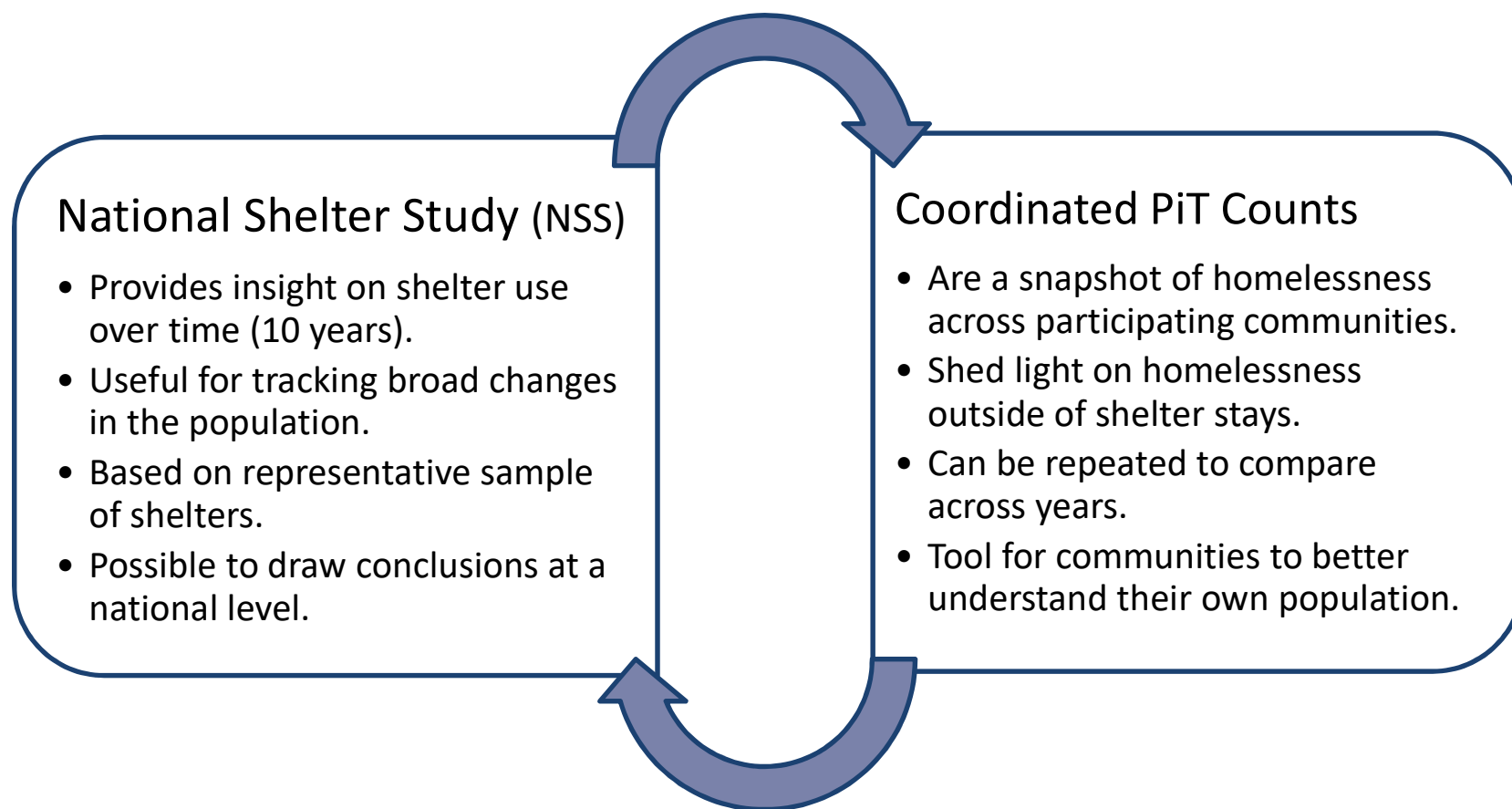
Health: hospitals, detox, other treatment facilities with no fixed address

Hidden (Optional)

Staying with someone else because the person is without a place of his or her own



Compliments National Shelter Study



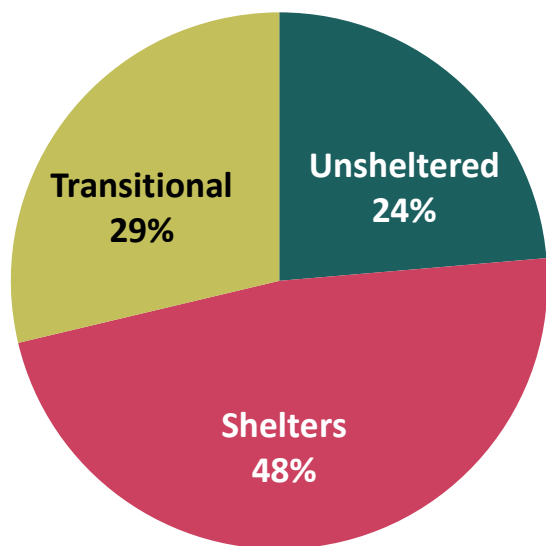
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Enumeration & Survey Respondents

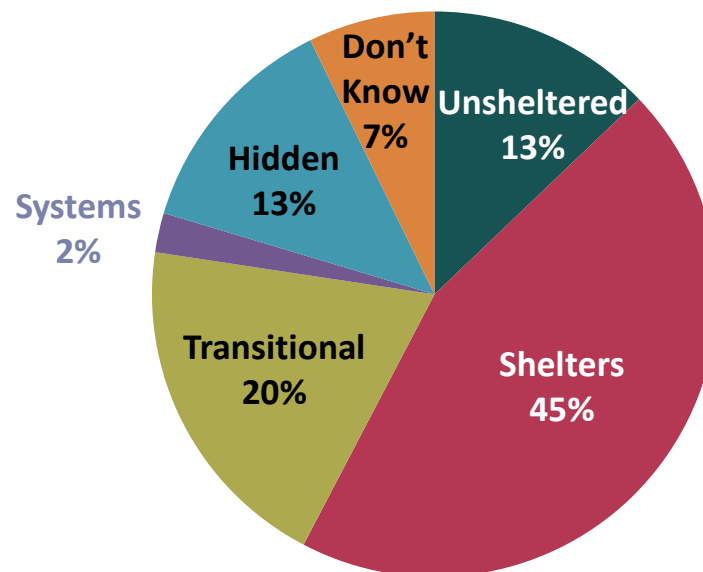
Across the 32 participating communities, **5,954 people were identified as experiencing homelessness** among the Core Populations.

4,579 people completed the survey among the “Core” and “Optional” populations.

Core Enumeration



Survey Respondents



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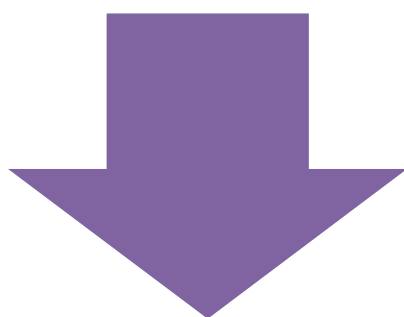
Chronic and Episodic Homelessness

56.7%	Chronic	6+ months / past year
9.0%	Episodic	3+ episodes / past year & < 6 months / past year
34.3%	Temporary	< 6 months & < 3 episodes



Chronically homeless were more likely to:

- be in unsheltered locations, hidden homelessness or transitional facilities
- be male
- identify as Indigenous



Chronically homeless were less likely to:

- be in shelters or systems
- be youth



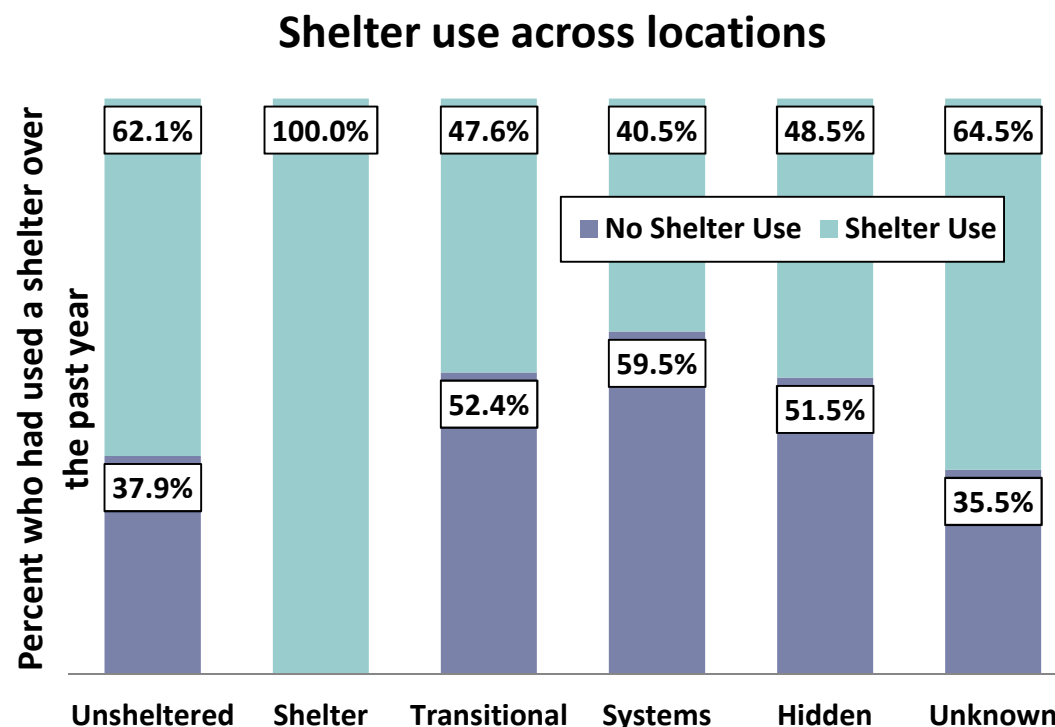
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Non-shelter users

25.5% of respondents had not used a shelter in the past year

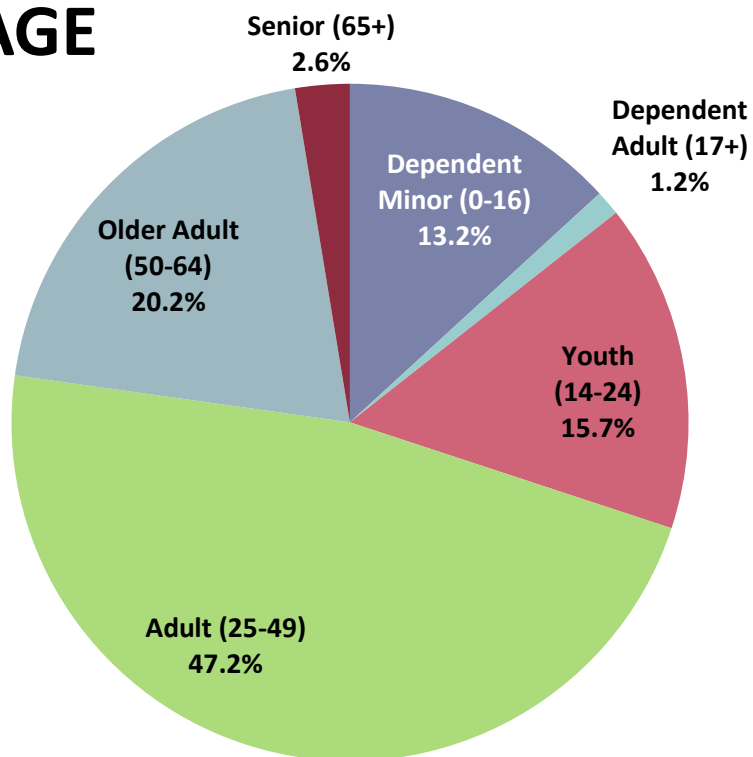
This was true even among those who had been homeless for several (3+) months:

- over one third (36%) of those surveyed in unsheltered locations had not used a shelter
- nearly half (46%) of those experiencing hidden homelessness had not used a shelter

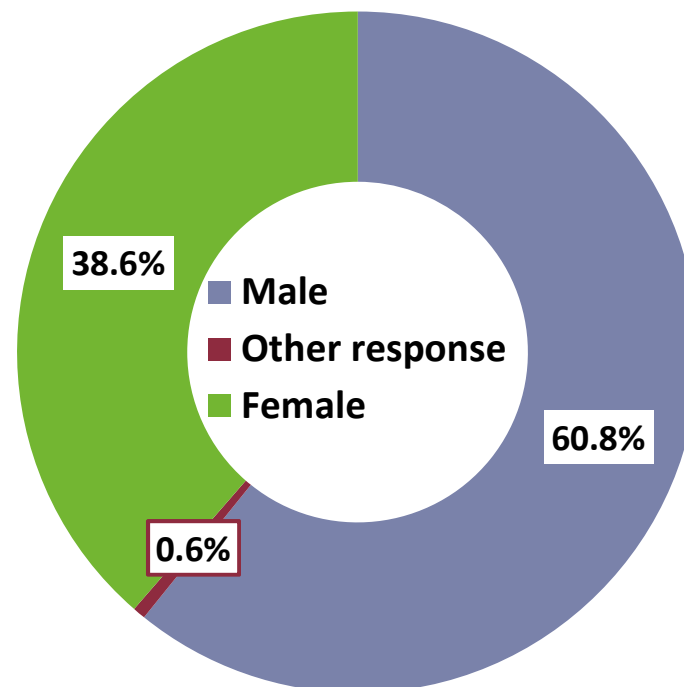


Demographics: Age and Gender

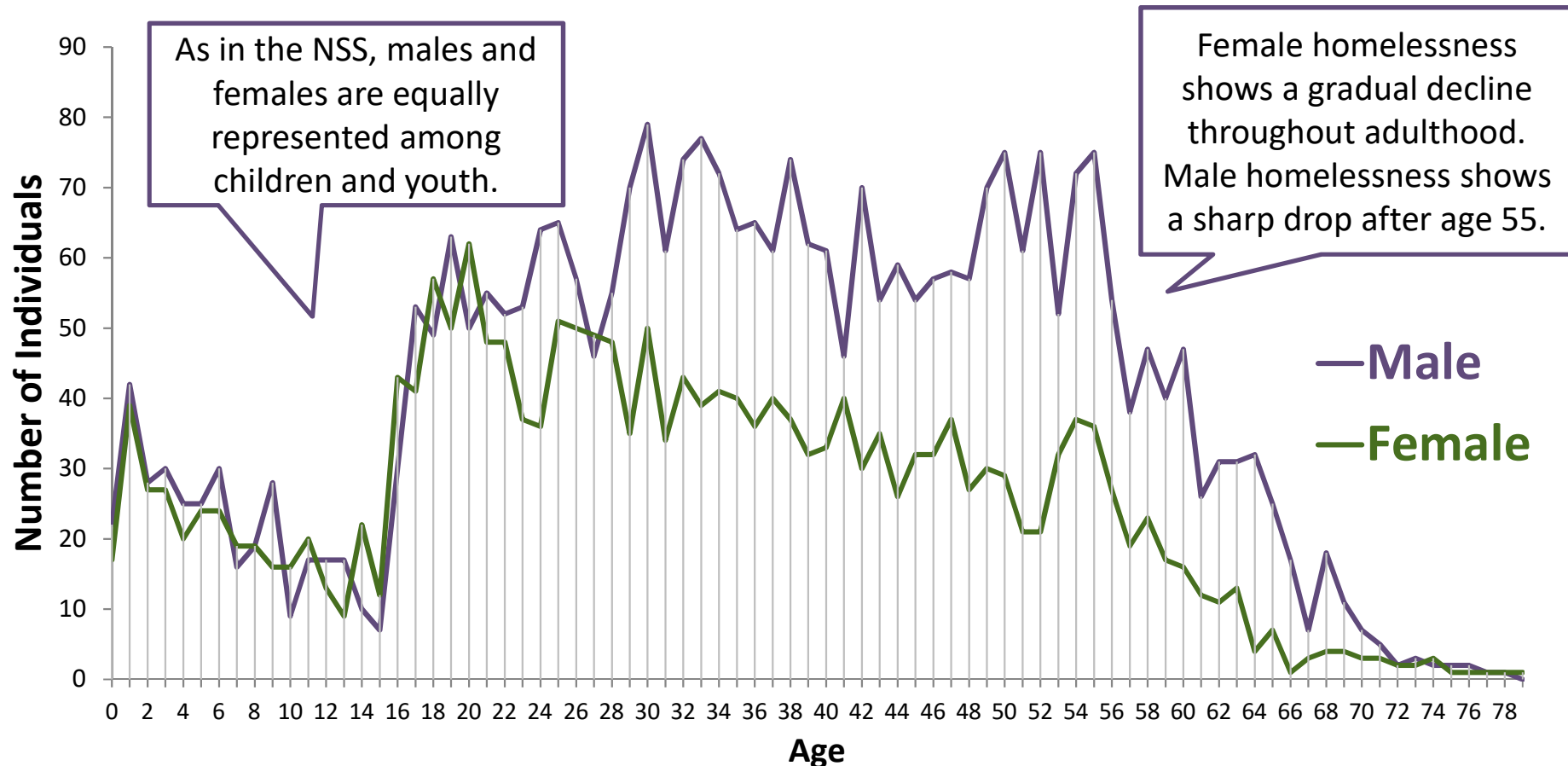
AGE



GENDER



Demographics: Age and Gender



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Age and Contributing Factors

Youth (14-24)

34% Conflict with Parent/Guardian

18% Addictions or Substance Use

12% Evicted (non-financial)

12% Unsafe Housing

11% Evicted (unable to pay rent)

Adult (25-49)

24% Addictions or Substance Use

16% Evicted (unable to pay rent)

14% Evicted (non-financial)

13% Abuse by Partner/Spouse

13% Conflict with Partner/Spouse

Older Adult (50-64)

20% Evicted (unable to pay rent)

20% Evicted (non-financial)

17% Addictions or Substance Use

16% Job Loss

14% Unsafe Housing

Seniors (65+)

24% Evicted (unable to pay rent)

15% Illness / Medical Condition

14% Evicted (non-financial)

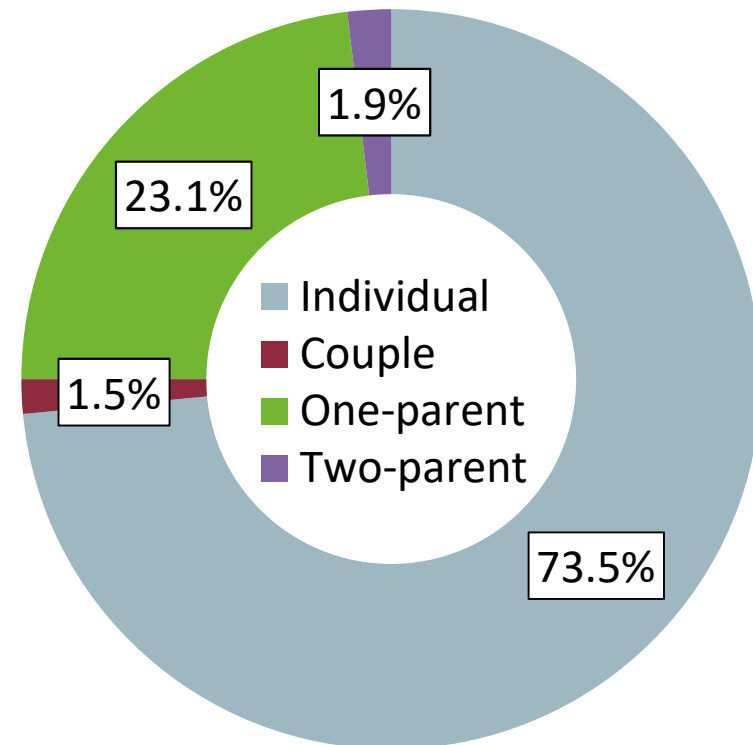
11% Job Loss

10% Addictions or Substance Use



Populations: Families & Dependents

- **Nearly 450 families were identified with a total of 772 dependents.** Most were single parent and female led.
- The proportion of families with dependents (40%) is higher than seen in other PiT Counts, with the closest being Toronto at 14% of respondents.
- Nearly 80% were in shelters or transitional facilities.
- **Less than a quarter (23.0%) of respondents with dependents indicated that they received income from child and family tax benefits.**

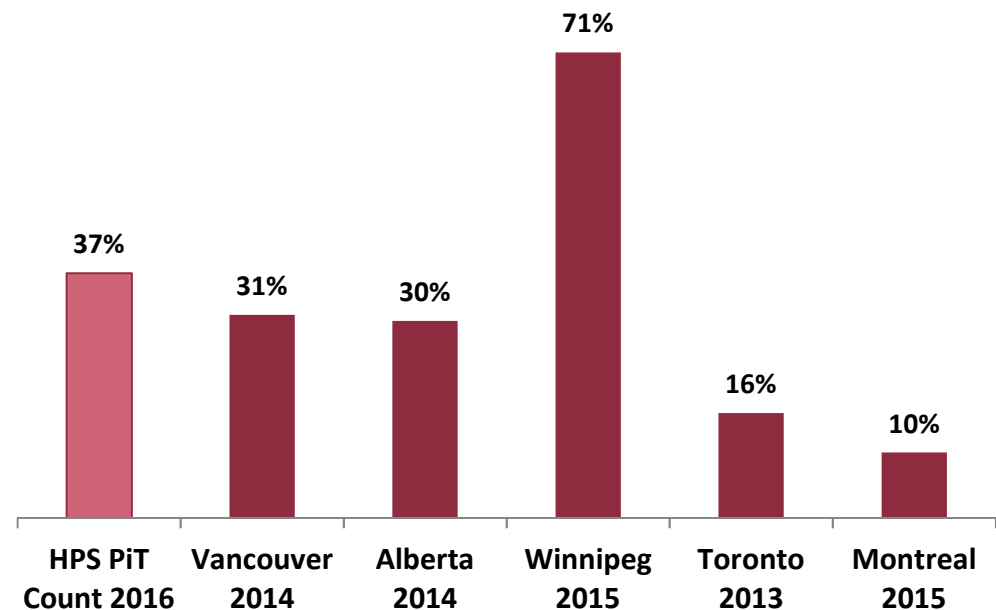


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Populations: Indigenous identity

- **People identifying as Aboriginal or Indigenous accounted for 37% of respondents.** This varied by community from 7% to 97%. The majority identified as First Nations (24% of all respondents).
- In contrast, 4.3 % of respondents in the 2011 census identified as Indigenous.
- Indigenous respondents reported longer periods of homelessness and over more episodes. They were **more likely to experience chronic homelessness** (62% vs. 51%) and **3 or more episodes of homelessness** (39% vs. 25%).

Indigenous identity across PiT Counts

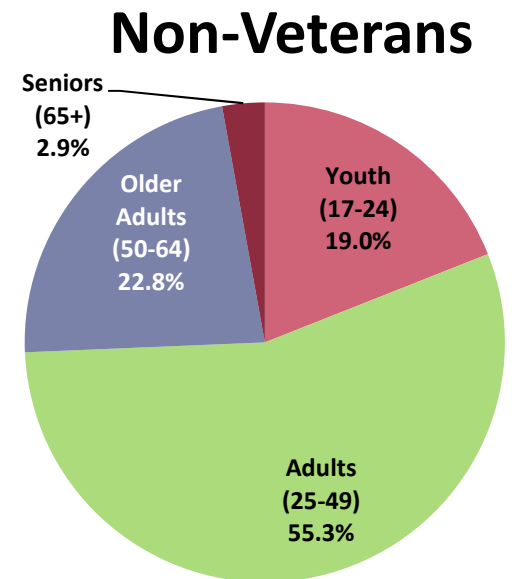
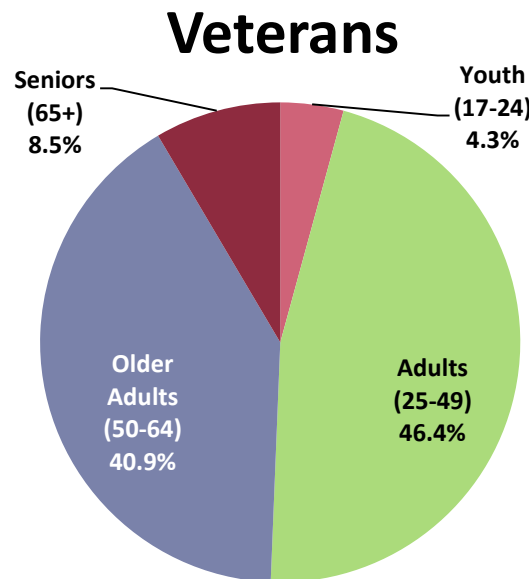


Populations: Veterans

4.7% of respondents indicated that they were a Veteran of the Canadian Military, while less than 1% indicated that they were a Veteran of the RCMP. The proportion of all Veterans varied by community from 0% to 12.8%.

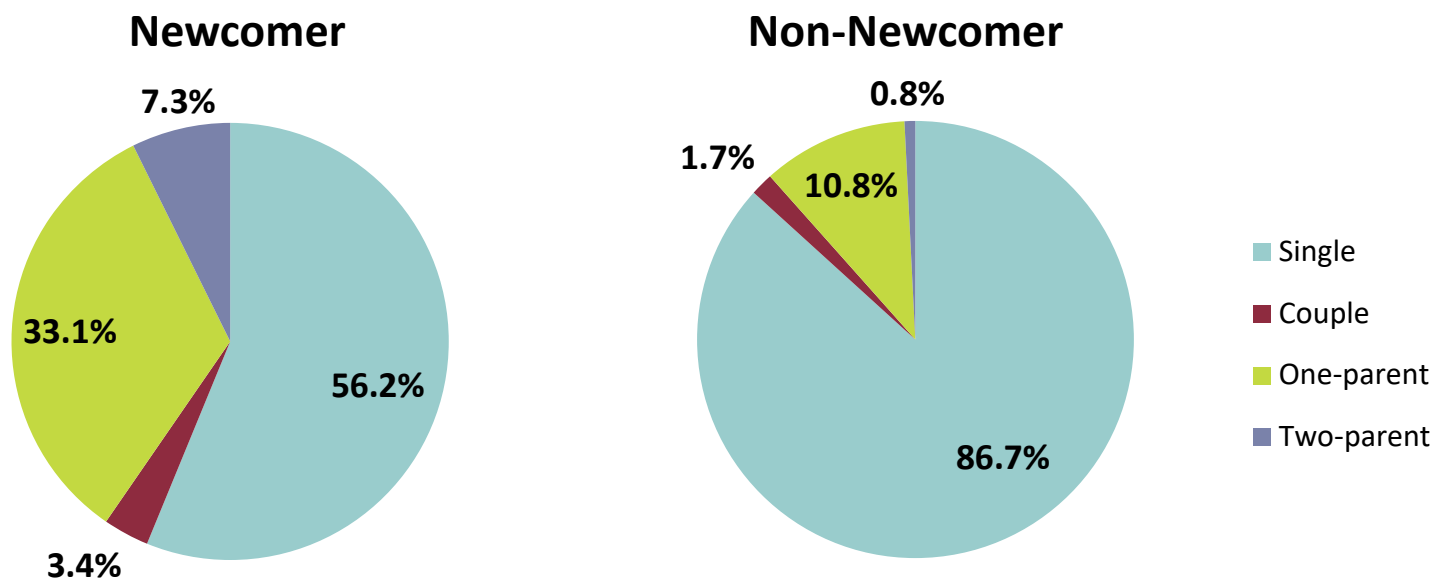
Veterans were more likely to:

- be in shelters or in unsheltered locations
- be older males
- have used a shelter in the past 12 months
- be experiencing **chronic homelessness**



Populations: Newcomers

- **3.9% of respondents identified as a refugee or immigrant who came to Canada within the past 5 years.** The proportion of homeless newcomers varied from 0% to 16% across communities. The proportion in the general population is similar (3.7%).
- **Newcomers were more likely to experience family homelessness** (40.4% vs. 12.5%).
- Newcomer women were more likely to cite domestic abuse as a contributing factor (40% vs. 23%).



Summary of Preliminary Findings

- On any particular day, over 50% of the homeless population has been experiencing **chronic homelessness**.
- Approximately 25% would not have been captured in shelter data over the past year.
- Homelessness spikes in the mid-to-late teens, dropping off for women in the mid-20s and men in the 50s.
- **Seniors and older adults** are more likely to cite financial factors for their most recent housing loss.
- **Indigenous** respondents are nearly 9x overrepresented among the homeless population.
- **Veterans** are overrepresented in the homeless population by a factor of 2. Half of the Veterans respondents were older adults or seniors.
- **Newcomers** represented nearly 4% of respondents. They were over 3 times as likely to be homeless as a family.



Updating Core Survey Changes

In order to address data needs and improve the quality of questions for 2018, the HPS is has worked with the National PiT Count Working Group to update the Core Questions to capture the following information:

- Age of first homeless experience.
- LGTBQ identity
- Whether respondents came to Canada as a refugees or immigrants, and how long they have been in Canada.
- How long respondents have been in the community and where they came from.

Also: a recommended set of follow-up screening questions to screen in people experiencing hidden homelessness.



Thank you!

Questions? Comments?

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