



Everyone Counts 2024
Point-in-Time Homelessness Count
Brandon, Manitoba

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Everyone Counts 2024

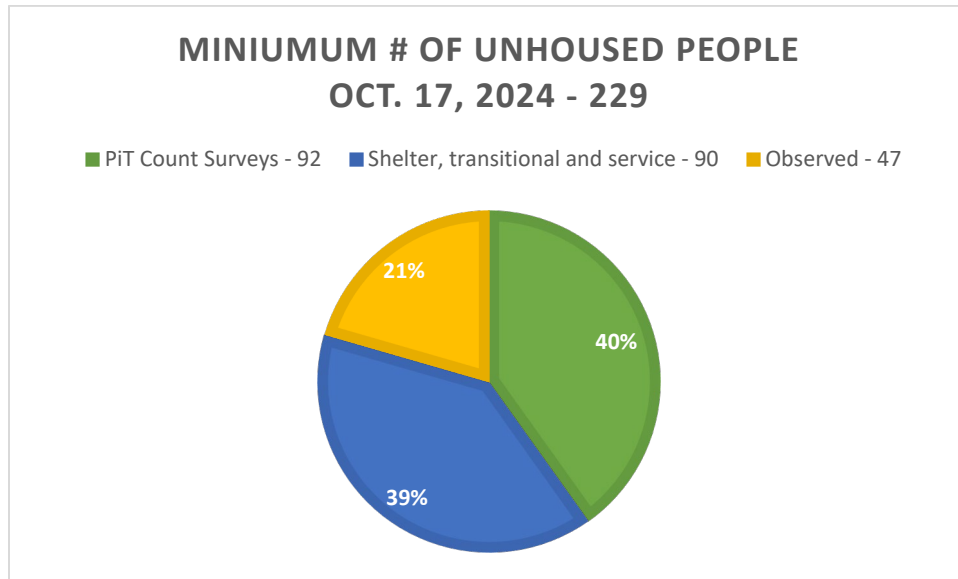


FIGURE 1 - MINIMUM # OF UNHOUSED PEOPLE

The minimum number of unsheltered people in Brandon on October, 17, 2024 was 229. This is based on shelter, transitional housing and service data (90), PIT Count surveys (92), and observed homelessness (47).

Observed homelessness included people who briefly spoke with volunteers and indicated they were unsheltered, but did not want to participate in the survey; were observed with their worldly belongings but did not want to be approached or were not approached out of respect (sleeping or otherwise not able to communicate); and a few people who indicated they were staying at encampments.

Please note that the Point-in-Time Homelessness count measures the minimum number of unsheltered people. If unsheltered people were not present in the survey grid or in a participating shelter, they would not be included in the count.

Acknowledgements

Everyone Counts 2024 took place on unceded Treaty 2 Territory, the land of the Dakota, Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Assiniboine and Dene peoples, and the Homelands of the Red River Métis.

Homelessness, Infrastructure and Communities Canada funded the 2024 Brandon Point-in-Time Count and the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation hired a coordinator to oversee its planning and execution. Collaboration with community partners and support from individuals, organizations, and businesses was integral to the success of the count.

We especially acknowledge and thank the unhoused people of Brandon who graciously consented to share their stories with us, and the many volunteers who listened. Thank you also to all those who made the Princess Park event a success – community partners with information tables and resources, businesses that provided snacks, hot food and warm beverages, as well as Indigenous Knowledge Keepers who offered a prayer, smudged and drummed.

Executive summary

People who experience homelessness are not distinct or separate from the rest of the population. In fact, the line between being housed and unhoused is quite fluid. In general, the pathways into and out of homelessness are neither linear nor uniform. Individuals and families who experience homelessness may not share much in common with each other, aside from the fact that they are extremely vulnerable and lack adequate housing, income and the necessary supports to ensure they stay housed. The causes of homelessness reflect an intricate interplay between structural factors, systems failures and individual circumstances. Homelessness is usually the result of the cumulative impact of a number of factors, rather than a single cause.

What Are the Causes of Homelessness?

For the 2024 iteration of the Point-in-Time Homelessness Count, jurisdictions receiving funds for Reaching Home (Homelessness, Infrastructure and Communities Canada) were asked to carry out the count in a 24-hour period on a date of their choosing between October 1 and November 30. The Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation organized the Brandon count beginning October 17 and overnight to October 18.

On the rise again

Based on Brandon's previous Point-in-Time Homelessness Counts from 2016 to 2024, homelessness in Brandon is on the rise again after seeming progress. ([See Figure 2, page 9.](#)) On the face of it, one could state that the fallout from the pandemic influenced this turnabout. Analyzing the effects from the worldwide shutdown are outside the scope of this reports; however, it's evident that there have been pressures on systems that care for the most vulnerable. The pandemic and shutdown negatively influenced people's mental health and physical health worldwide. Resources for mental health, for example, are under extreme pressure as Canadians continue to grapple with personal, social and financial consequences.

Studies from 2024 are not immediately accessible, if there are any, but these create a picture of the realities Canadians and people around the world are facing down.

[*A look at Canada's economy and society three years after the start of the pandemic - Statistics Canada*](#)

[*COVID-decade-understanding-long-term-societal-impacts-COVID-19.pdf*](#)

[*Rising prices and the impact on the most financially vulnerable: A profile of those in the bottom family income quintile, Statistic Canada, 2023*](#)

It's reasonable to conclude that any extra pressures on sector workers and resources can only create a situation where the already-vulnerable become even more vulnerable, and those in precarious situations are tipped over that line from housed to unhoused.

Indigenous people

Year in, year out, Indigenous people are overrepresented in the unhoused population. This continues to be the case. Indigenous people have always stated that in order for them to move forward from past policies aimed at eradicating and/or assimilating them, a great deal of healing needs to take place. More culturally appropriate healing services, as well as dedicated housing, needs to be developed.

While numbers, by percentage, are lower in 2024 than in previous year, the count is higher overall. Unhoused non-Indigenous people may be higher in number due to consequences of the pandemic. The Indigenous population makes up 14 per cent of the Brandon population, while the percentage of Indigenous people who are unhoused is 63.

Cost of living/income

The quote at the beginning of this section speaks eloquently about the many, many individual stories. For every unhoused person there is a very personal and complex story unique to them. However, the nexus between income and cost of living is a strong commonality. If for any reason, a person is not employed, and they are dependent on employment insurance or social assistance, the cost of rent or food cannot be met – especially in our current economy. Some don't even have access to those meagre funds. Workers in these sectors, as well as unhoused people, have vision, ideas, and plans. All that's missing is robust investment. It's an old and worn cliché by now that band-aid solution cost more in the long run than investing with a vision to ensure basic human rights are met.

The needs noted in the 2021 PiT Count report remain: more sustainable and affordable housing options, including supported housing, low-income and affordable housing, co-op housing, bachelor suites, and one-bedrooms. As well, more financial and housing options for families with multiple dependents and those with pets

Age and health

Another nexus that has implications for housing needs is the one between age and health. Of survey respondents who were between the ages of 46 and 67, all but three indicated they were living with one or several physical or mental health issues. Of those, 15 had been to the emergency room or hospitalized, or both. This data suggests that supported housing is already an unmet need in Brandon. Also, these particular numbers for the age/health nexus don't include those younger than 45 or younger but, since the total indicated here does not reflect the total number of unhoused people experiencing physical or mental health issues, the need for supported housing is likely much higher.

Chronic homelessness

The data suggests that, at the very least, one third of survey respondents are experiencing chronic homelessness. (*See Figures 8 to 10.*) Overwhelmingly, those who consented to answering survey questions definitely want permanent housing. They state that help is needed. Even with a job, rents are too high. They need space and time to heal. References are not always easy to come by. They need advocates and help to communicate with landlords.

On a personal note, a conversation I frequently had with workers in the service sector was about the resilience and strength of unhoused people. More than one survey respondent spoke about survival, just surviving. To repeat: “People who experience homelessness are not distinct or separate from the rest of the population.” Educating the population at large about the realities of homelessness might be an avenue to bring more people together to work on eradicating homelessness – much like truth and reconciliation efforts in Brandon.

Existing work

Brandon is graced with sector workers who are undivided in their attention to the need of its most vulnerable citizens. Thanks to their efforts, a new safe space, called Franny’s Place, is opening, focused on Indigenous women, two-spirit, and gender-diverse people at risk of harm. The new transitional housing space is intended to help them escape violence, build relationships and heal. The Community Health and Housing Association is working on a planned 16 units of supportive family housing. Brandon’s John Howard society is building a 24-unit transitional housing space with the aim to help people transition out of incarceration or homelessness.

Brandon, the people of Brandon, know how to do this work and are dedicated to it – however, two of these projects require more funding to bring them to completion. And many more housing projects are urgently needed.

A note on future PiT Counts

In future years, BNRC should plan to hold its PiT Count later within the allocated two-month period. This year, the overnight warming centre, operated by the Brandon Friendship Centre, opened shortly after our count. They have seen up to 80 people coming in overnight. However, as this is only the second year the overnight warming centre opened, thanks to one-time provincial funding, there’s no guarantee this will be repeated in future years. Meanwhile, the Samaritan House Safe and Warm Shelter reported that as weather turned colder it has had to turn people away. Nevertheless, a count in mid-November would likely yield a fuller snapshot.

Encampments can be included in the future by enlisting the help of the City of Brandon’s housing and wellness staff and a community cadet. This staff routinely interacts with people living in encampments and this would be a simple solution to ensure encampments are fully a part of the count.

In future, the federal government should ensure HIFIS bugs and glitches are resolved well in advance of the Oct. 1 start date of the national PiT Count period. This would allow the PiT Count Coordinator to spend more time with the HIFIS coordinator to gain the necessary familiarity with the requirements of the system and ensure that the survey is fully compliant with data entry needs.

While the Brandon Regional Health Centre and Prairie Mountain Health were included in all communications with services and shelters related to the PiT Count, more one-on-one relationship-building needs to be done well in advance. This would allow for a more comprehensive involvement. For the Brandon Correction Centre, communication with the John Howard Society took place. We were told that the data we were looking for would not be forthcoming by Justice. In future, direct communication with the appropriate people directly working for Justice might create a pathway to collecting the desired data.

Key findings

- ❖ The minimum number of unhoused people in Brandon on October, 17, 2024 was 229. This is based on emergency shelter and service data (46), transitional housing (44), PiT Count surveys (92), and observed homelessness (47).
- ❖ The minimum number of unhoused Indigenous people is 88, not including transitional housing and observed homelessness data. The number of survey respondents who identified as Indigenous, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit was 62 and in shelter but unsurveyed (22). In addition, service agencies identified 4.
- ❖ Survey respondents ranged in age from 18 to 67.
- ❖ The average age people first became homeless was 30 years old, the youngest was 2 and oldest 67.
- ❖ The average number of days respondents experienced homelessness over the past year was 211, the shortest was 1 day and longest was 366 days.
- ❖ 46 of the 92 survey respondents have experienced the child welfare system, either in foster care or a youth group home. 29 noted that child protection services had not been helpful in helping them transition to independence, while 9 stated it had.
- ❖ 6 respondents were either a refugee, immigrant, asylum claimant or arrived to Canada on a study permit.
- ❖ 6 respondents served in the Canadian military or RCMP.
- ❖ Of the 92 survey respondents, 77 moved to Brandon from elsewhere and have been in the city between 14 days and 42 years, for an average of 10 and a half years.
- ❖ For the 83 respondents who addressed what challenges or problems they experience when trying to find housing, the top five are: rents are too high (48), low income (33), discrimination, (22), addiction (19), and mental health issues (18). Additionally, 20 people noted that they had been banned/blacklisted by a landlord or property manager.
- ❖ Regarding experiencing addiction in their lifetime, 71 respondents replied, yes. The predominant substances are or were: alcohol, methamphetamine, and crack cocaine.

Past and present

	2024	2021 (pandemic)	2018	2016
Unhoused surveyed	92	68	70	146
Observed homelessness	47	7	7	25
Shelter, transitional, and service data	90 Shelter/service – 46 Transitional - 44	54	44	
Minimum number of unhoused people	229	129	121	206 (from 2018 report)
Minimum number of unhoused Indigenous people	87 – 63%	51 – 75.1%	62 – 81%	
Age range of survey respondents	18 to 67	18 to over 65	18 to 58	
Average age	41.28	Between 30 and 49	37	
Average age first experienced homelessness	30 2 to 67	Between 30 and 49 9 to 52	25 7 to 51	
Average number of days people experienced homelessness in the past year	211	233	178	
Experience in foster care or group homes	46 of 92 50%	31 of 68 46%	33 of 70 47%	
Refugee, immigrant, asylum claimant or arrived to Canada on a study permit.	6	1	n/a	
Military or RCMP	6	1	6	
Moved from elsewhere	77 of 92	48 of 68	62 of 70	
Addiction	71 of 92		66 of 70	

FIGURE 2 - PAST AND PRESENT

A note about the pandemic

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was declared. The World Health Organization ended the global emergency in May, 2023.

This reality skews the PiT Count numbers from 2021, and this should be kept in mind when comparing data. During the pandemic, Brandon, like capitals and regional hubs across Canada, saw an influx of people migrating to larger centres. While the PiT count might have seen increased numbers, a magnet event could not be held due to pandemic restrictions. The highest number of surveys were administered at this year's event at Princess Park, as well as at identified "hot spots" where unhoused people gather.

Additionally, 33 of 77 survey respondents have been in Brandon 3 years or less, possibly indicating pandemic-related movement. Meanwhile, 28 of 78 respondents have experienced homelessness for less than a year and a half in the past three years.

The pandemic has also had an increasing impact on the cost of living, causing a precarious environment for many.

Methodology

Resources available online courtesy of the [Homelessness Learning Hub](#) were relied on for the planning, preparation and implementation of Brandon's Everyone Counts 2024 – such as the *Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada*, the *Point-in-Time Toolkit* and *PiT-Kit 2024*. These documents, as well as the multitude of embedded documents, provided the core standards, detailed guidance and the necessary materials to successfully carry of the count.

The PiT Count is intended to provide a snapshot of homelessness in a community. To collect information on the characteristics of the community's unhoused population, volunteers conduct surveys, with participant consent. Over time, PiT Counts can be used to track changes in homelessness in the community and measure progress towards elimination.

Everyone Counts 2024 included the following components:

- Volunteer teams of two surveyed people on a grid between Brandon's 1st Street and 15th Street and between Pacific Avenue and MacTavish Avenue. "Hot spots," such as Helping Hands and Samaritan House during their meal and food hamper times, two core area bars, the library etc., were identified in advance with the help of BNRC's Ask Auntie coordinator, who runs a daytime drop-in centre (Blue Door) within the grid. This took place between 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- A magnet event was held at Princess Park, within the identified grid, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Volunteers surveyed people during the event. Services agencies had tables at the event, providing information and resources. Public Health offered vaccinations.
- Three shelter locations provided overnight counts, as did a service agency open the following morning.

- We also staged a headquarters location for volunteers

Survey participants and others who were drawn to the Princess Park event were provided a bag of healthy snack, courtesy of Sobeys South. In addition, those who completed the survey received a coupon for a coffee and muffin at Chez Angela's, valued at \$5. We served 250 smokies, as well as 200 servings of stew and bannock at Princess Park. Additionally, hot coffee and hot chocolate, as well as water, were available throughout the afternoon and evening.

To guard against duplication each volunteer wore a tag and safety sashes to create recognizable uniformity. Each volunteer ensured they asked potential participants if they had encountered other volunteers and if they had already participated. Those encountered by volunteers and consented wore green wrist bands which could be easily shown if they were approached repeatedly. Shelter staff also noted, in their enumeration, who had encountered a volunteer during the daytime count.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that those who shelter in encampments in Brandon now go to great lengths to remain as invisible as possible, outside the core area of our focus. Out of respect for privacy, no attempts were made to search these out. In future, new methods to respectfully engage this particular demographic could be considered. See the section on encampments for further details.

The Everyone Count 2024 survey consisted of the core questions from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) core survey, screening questions to identify provisionally homeless (i.e. hidden homelessness/couch surfing), selected questions from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH), and local questions focused on addictions, personal health and housing availability by day of the week (Appendix A).

A press release went out to 23 media contacts in September, and the information was widely picked up. BNRC staff, as well as shelter spokespeople and Brandon's mayor all had quotes on the importance of the count in the release. We also disseminated the information via the BNRC's social media platforms. As October 17 approached, posters were widely circulated throughout the downtown area, as well as left at key service providers. (Appendix X) Word of mouth also accelerated during the final countdown.

Volunteer recruitment included:

- Use of BNRC social media to engage the public
- A contact list of previous volunteers
- The contact list of shelters and service providers
- Mass emails to relevant professors and instructors at Brandon University and Assiniboine College

The week prior to the event, a volunteer-training evening took place, which utilized resources provided by the Homelessness Learning Hub, as well as a presentation on downtown safety by a downtown community constable with the Brandon Police Service.

Volunteers were provided with:

- Information about what is a point-in-time count
- Information on respectful and safe engagement
- A detailed description of the events of the day and their role
- Survey questions, followed by a discussion

Volunteers signed a confidentiality agreement and a liability waiver.

We also held a volunteer appreciation event where we shared information from this report. A representative from MLA for Brandon East Glen Simard's office attended. Simard, who is also Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations, dropped in on the event. He noted that the provincial government acknowledges the excellent work being done in Brandon. In fact, the province invested substantially in Franny's Place, an extension of Chelsea's House that opened earlier in the year.

Why come to Brandon?

A welcoming community, Brandon is the second largest city in Manitoba, and serves as a hub for the southwestern region of the province. The city's population in the 2021 Census was 51,313, up from just below 49,000 in the 2016 census – with 14 per cent of its citizenry Indigenous.

Brandon is a growing city: between 1996 and 2021, Brandon grew by 33 per cent or by almost 13,000 residents. This population growth can be largely attributed to a rise in newcomers to Brandon. In 2021, Brandon's population included 20 per cent immigrant or non-permanent residents. Fourteen per cent of Brandon's citizenry is Indigenous. (*City of Brandon, Housing Needs Report, July 2023*).

Of those surveyed, only 11 replied they had always been here. Seventy respondents indicated length of time. Twenty-nine people came to Brandon over the past three years, as compared to 26 who came to Brandon from three to 42 years ago. These numbers seem to indicate that the pandemic did affect homelessness in the city, a point commonly discussed amongst people who work in the social services sector.

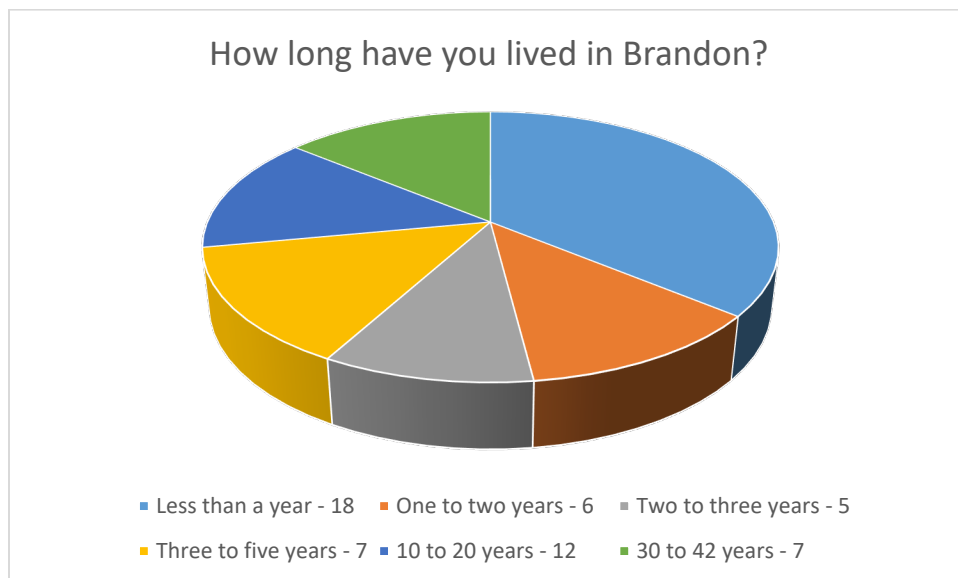


FIGURE 3 - HOW LONG IN BRANDON

Responses to the survey question, What is the main reasons you came to Brandon? elicited many varied responses.



FIGURE 4 - WHY COME TO BRANDON

Reasons in the “other” category include: Child and Family Services, for a fresh start, for a funeral, got ditched and dumped here and just didn’t leave, just passing through, legal issues, looking for opportunity, marriage, medical, more resources and support, opportunities, reintegration, rolled van and stayed, someone passed away, through corrections, to build a life, to get clean, to live on my own, to live with mother, to work on recovery.

Homelessness in Brandon

Where to spend the night?

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) describes homelessness as “a range of housing and shelter circumstances, with people being without any shelter at one end, and being insecurely housed at the other”. For many, homelessness is “a fluid experience, where one’s shelter circumstances and options may shift and change quite dramatically and frequently.”

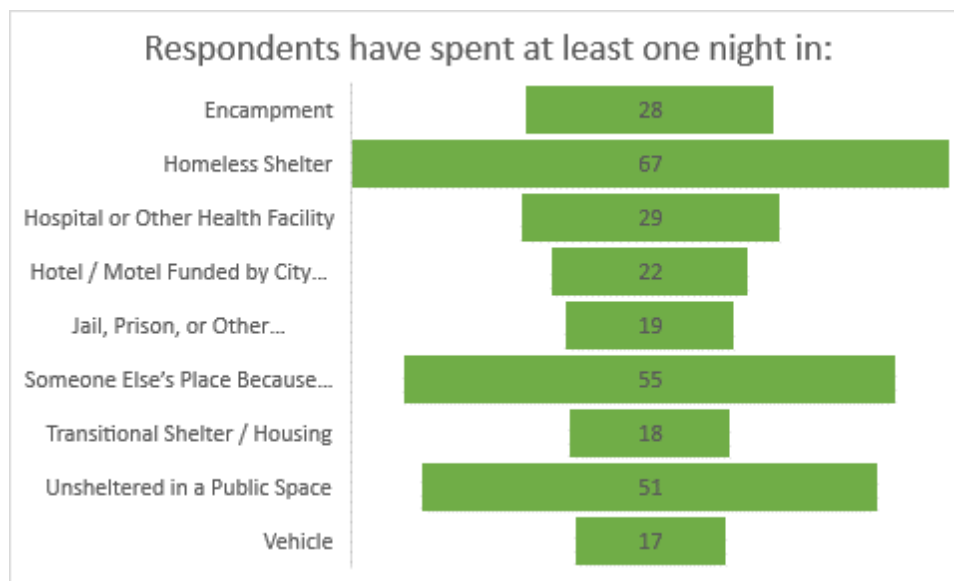


FIGURE 5 - WHERE RESPONDENTS SPEND THE NIGHT

The above graphic illustrates the changeability of circumstances from night to night for some. Each of the 92 participants were asked to identify each location where they’d spent at least one night in the past year. Many of the 87 who answered identified more than one location.

Unhoused citizens predominantly overnight in shelters, someone else's place, or unsheltered in a public place.

- 15 respondents only overnighted at a homeless shelter
- 19 respondents have never stayed at a shelter, overnighting instead at unsheltered locations in a public space, at someone else’s place or at an encampment
- 53 respondents overnighted at several different locations
- Only five of 41 people who overnighted at the Samaritan House Safe and Warm Shelter had encountered PiT Count volunteers during the day.

Additionally, seven respondents replied to the question about why they had not stayed at a homeless shelter in the past year. Two replied because of bed bugs or other pests, one replied

fear of safety, and one replied turned away or banned. Of the three that responded “other,” one replied because of a pet, two replied because they preferred staying with friends or family, or not to spend the night at a shelter at all.

Encampments

As previously stated, we did not search out encampments. However, we met with the City of Brandon’s Community Housing and Wellness Programmer. Community Housing and Wellness keeps track of instances when they respond to the presence of encampments. Taking a people-centric approach, encampments are managed on a case-by case-basis, ensuring safety and working with unhoused citizens to fulfill their needs. While some of the recorded instances may be duplicates due to a change in location, these figures demonstrate there has been a rise in number of encampments in the city. Encampments exist year-round.

2021	25
2022	40
2023	40
2024	73

Finding shelter

Note that more than half of those surveyed declined to answer the question: Is there a day of the week you most struggle to find shelter? Also note that the numbers in this chart are deceptive – numerous people checked off more than one day, but our data collection system only allowed for one answer. Those who answered more than one day tended to answer most days or weekend days. As well, handwritten notes accompanied a few surveys, such as: in winter, it’s the same every night, every day it’s a struggle to find somewhere to live or sleep, every day is a struggle.

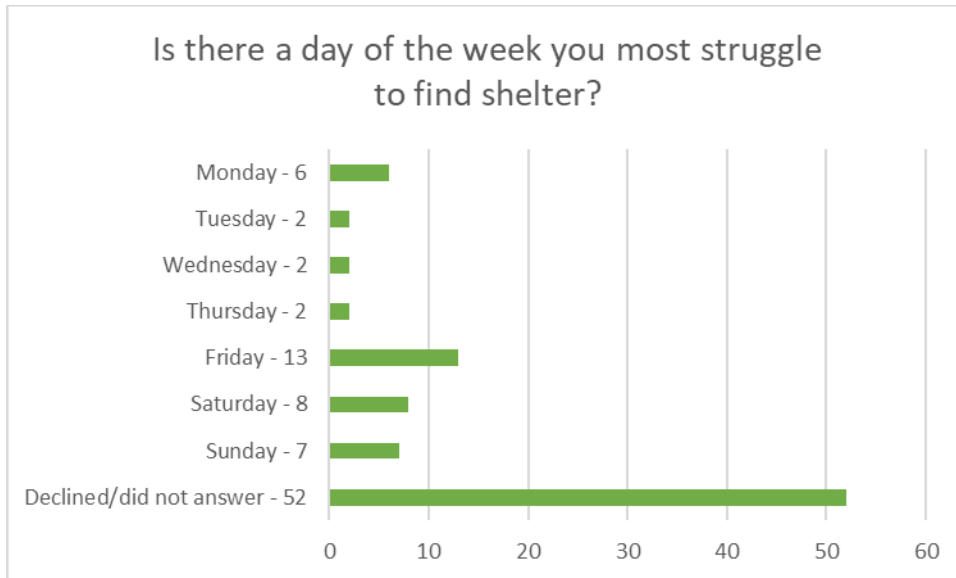


FIGURE 6 - STRUGGLE TO FIND SHELTER, DAY OF THE WEEK

What are the basics?

Overwhelmingly, the respondents do want permanent housing – 80 (or 87 per cent of 92 surveyed).

Of the 87 people who responded six said no and one person did not know.

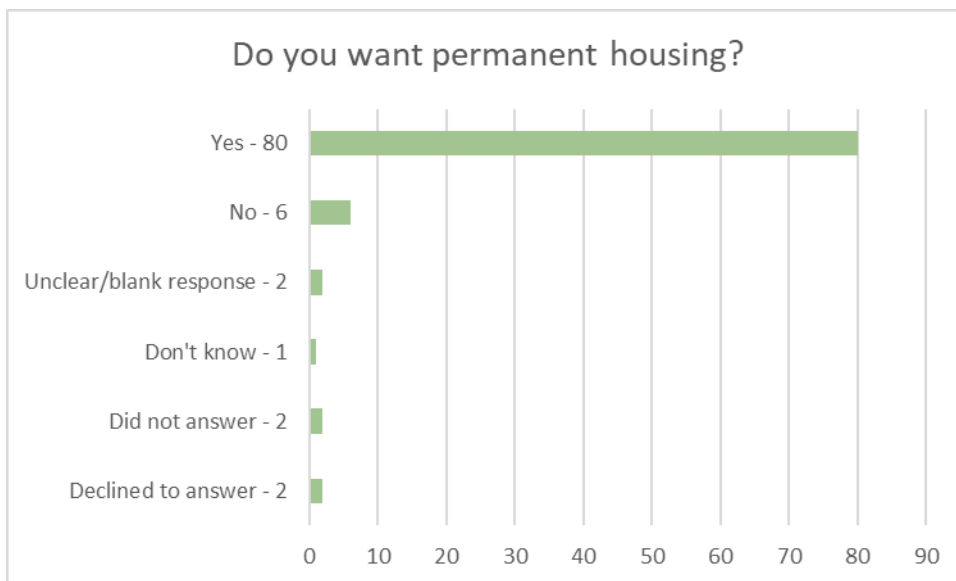


FIGURE 7 - WANT PERMANENT HOUSING

We asked participants how much time they had experienced homelessness over the past year. Of the 92 participants, 76 answered this question.

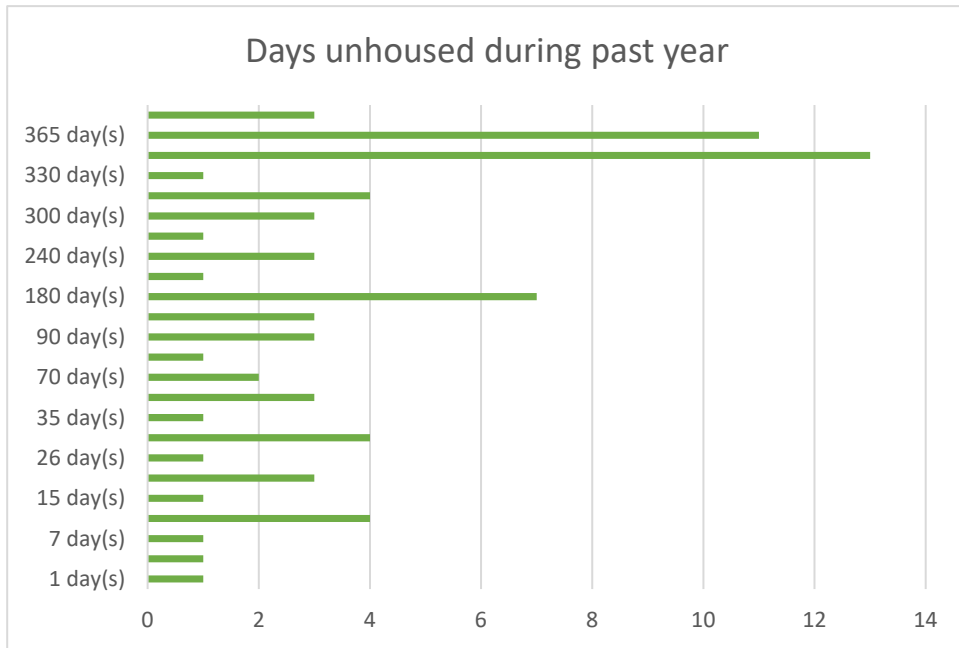


FIGURE 8 - DAYS UNHOUSED - PAST YEAR

We asked the same question for a period of three years. Response options, in terms of time were “less than half” and “about half or more.” “Don’t know” was also an option. Seventy-seven of 92 offered a reply.

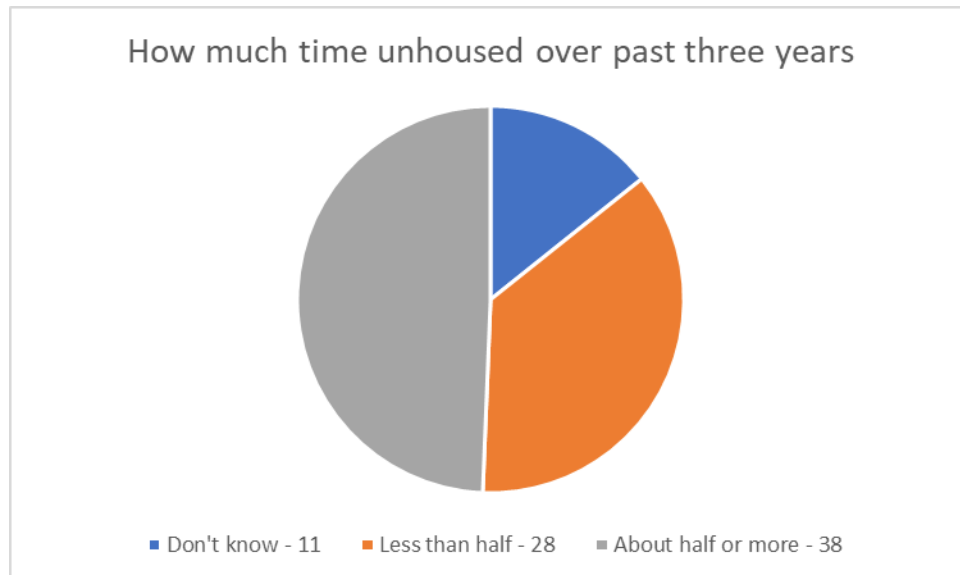


FIGURE 9 - DAYS UNHOUSED - PAST THREE YEARS

We also asked about a best estimate on how many different times homelessness was experienced over the past year. Sixty-five people answered. Of those, we removed high numbers, such as 365, as this would indicate that they had been unhoused or mostly unhoused throughout the past year, leaving 63 respondents. The data suggests that, at the very least, one third of survey respondents are experiencing chronic homelessness.

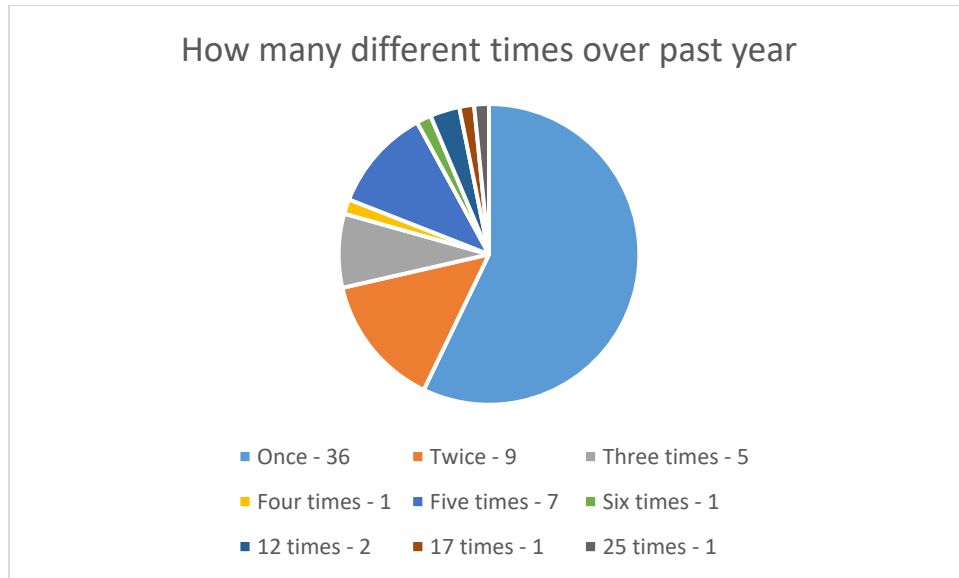


FIGURE 10 - UNHOUSED - HOW MANY DIFFERENT TIMES - PAST YEAR

When asked if their most recent housing loss was related to an eviction, 77 participants replied.

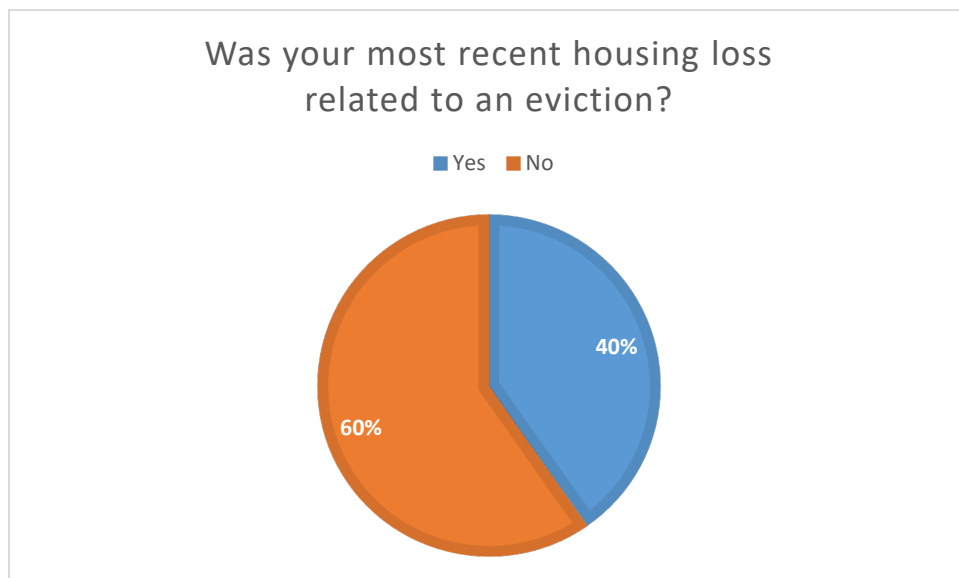


FIGURE 11 - EVICTIONS

We asked what specifically caused most recent housing loss – 75 participants replied. Along with the reason listed below, 18 of the 92 participants indicated they had been banned or blacklisted by a landlord or property manager in Brandon.

Allowed visitor in transitional housing	1	Never had stable housing	1
Assault	1	Job loss	7
Brother passed away	1	Landlord	5
Came for work, but don't have education or experience	1	Left community/relocated	3
Complaint (e.g. noise / damage)	1	Moved to boyfriend's house	
Conflict with sister	1	Not enough income for housing (e.g. rental increase, loss of benefit, income or job)	3
Death of father	1	Owner moved in	1
Death or departure of family member	2	Parent/guardian, abuse/conflict	6
Didn't go home	1	Physical health/disability	6
Eviction	4	Spouse/partner, abuse/conflict	14
Fire	2	Substance use issue	14
Friends	1	Unable to pay rent/mortgage	9
Hospitalization or treatment program	3	Unfit/unsafe housing conditions	9
Incarceration (jail or prison)	2	Did not answer	17

FIGURE 12 - MOST RECENT HOUSING LOSS - REASONS

Indigenous people and homelessness

Indigenous people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) from all over Manitoba come to Brandon. Of 92 survey respondents, 62 are Indigenous – or 67 per cent. An additional 26 Indigenous unsurveyed unhoused people used the shelter and services during the 24 hours of the PiT count. Thirty-three locations were identified as home communities by respondents, most of them in Manitoba from north to south, from west to east.

Originating communities are: Birdtail Sioux (4), Camperville (1), Chemawawin Cree Nation (1), Cote First Nation 366, SK (2), Cross Lake (1), Cross Lake First Nation (1), Dakota Plains (1), Grand Rapids (1), Iqaluit (2), Keeseekoowenin (4), Lake Manitoba (1), Lake St. Martin (1), Long Plain (2), Manto Sipi Cree Nation (1), Mathias Colomb (1), Mississauga, ON (1), Moose Lake (2), Muskowekwan, SK (1), Nelson House (1), Opaskwayak Cree Nation (3), Pasqua First Nation #79, SK (1), Pine Creek (1), Rainy River First Nations, ON (1), Rolling River (1), Roseau River (1), Anishinabe First Nation Government (1), Sandy Bay (2), Sapatoweyak Cree Nation (4), Sioux

Valley Dakota Nation (3), Swan Lake (1), Swan River (2), The Pas (1), Wanless (1), and Waywayseecappo First Nation Treaty Four – 1874 (4).

[Michele - Google Maps](#) *not pictured: Mississauga, ON and Iqaluit, NU

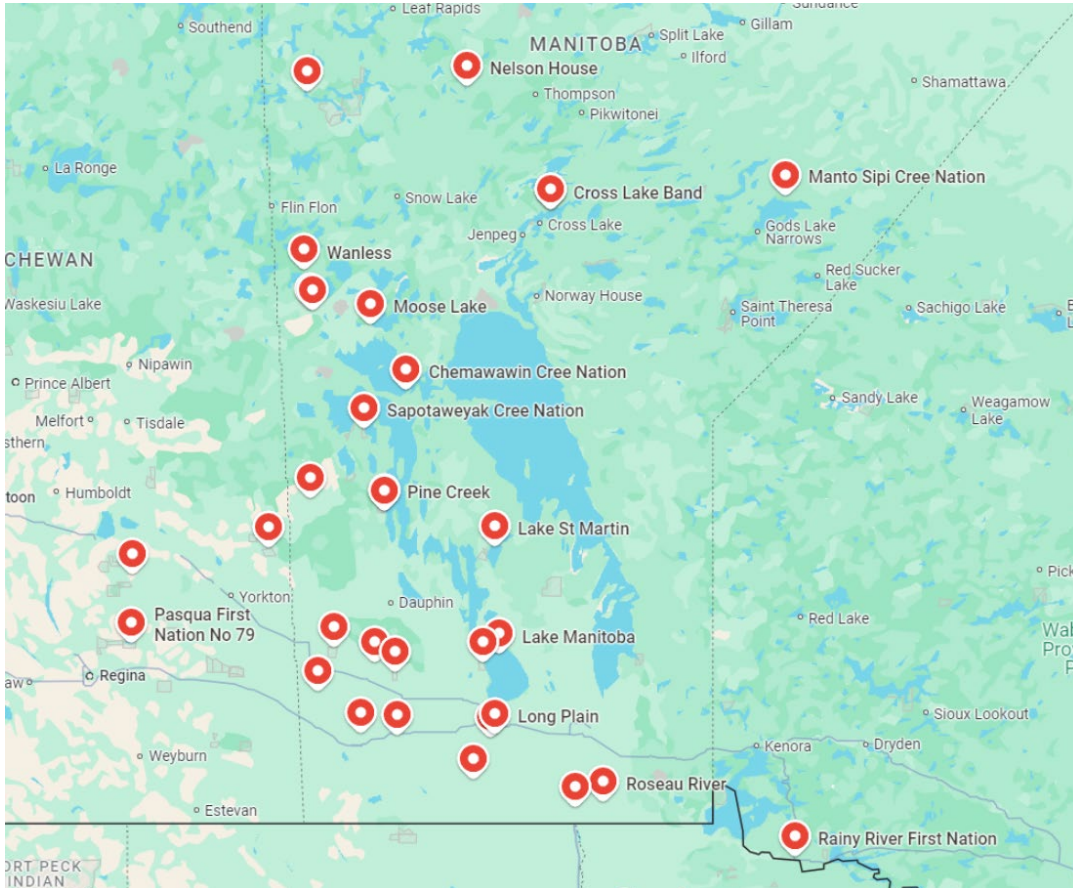


FIGURE 13 - HOME RESERVE/COMMUNITY - INDIGENOUS

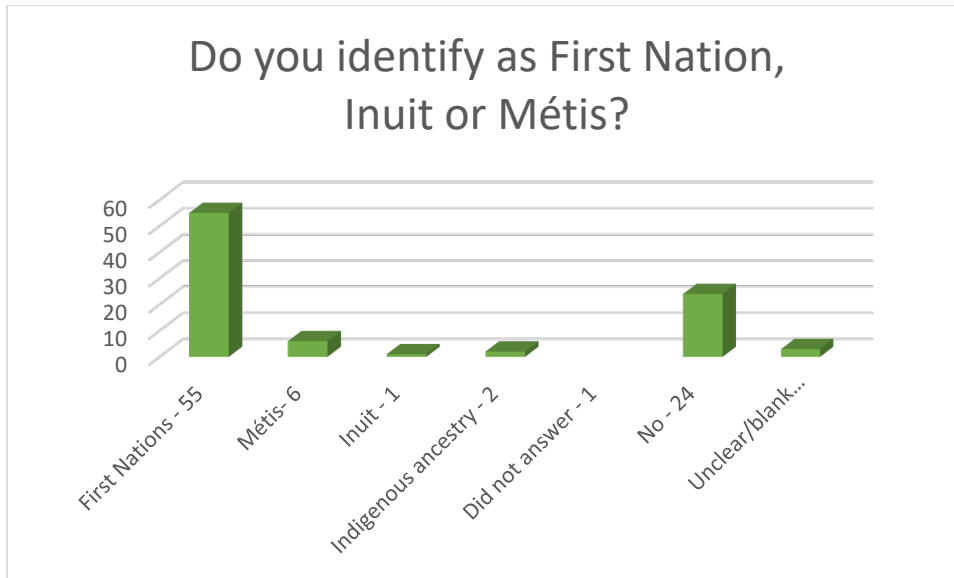


FIGURE 14 - INDIGENOUS - IDENTITY

Fifty-five of 62 (89 per cent) Indigenous respondents are First Nations, one is Inuk, and six are Métis. Additionally, two people have Indigenous ancestry.

A core question in the survey, whether or not as a child or youth the respondent lived in foster care or group homes, demonstrates that a high number of unhoused Indigenous people did. Of 46 who lived in care or group homes, only five were non-Indigenous.

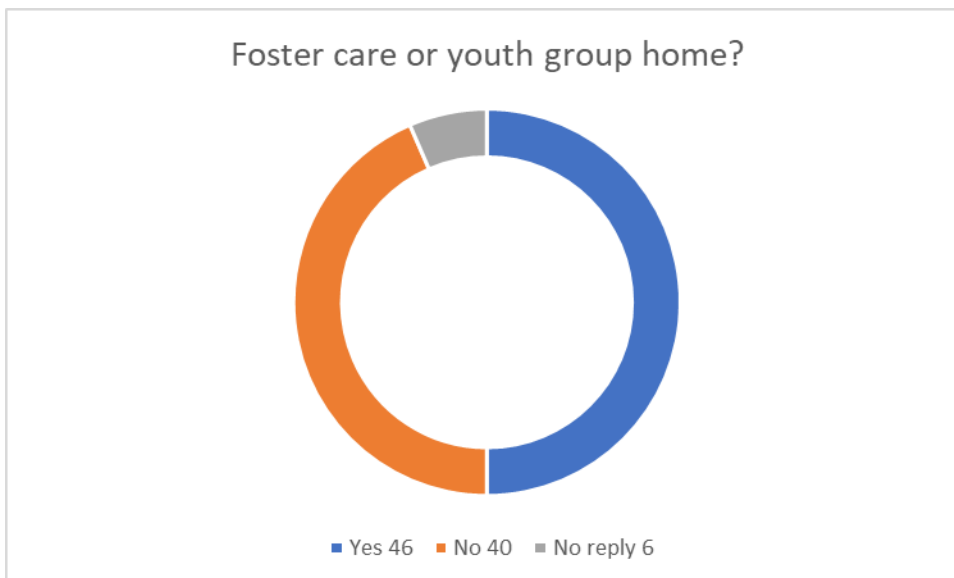


FIGURE 15 - FOSTER CARE/GROUP HOME

Thirty-one of the 46 who answered, were also able to specify how long after leaving they began experiencing homelessness. Replies ranged from 0 days to 21, 900 – or zero days to 60 years. The average was 12 years and the median was seven years.

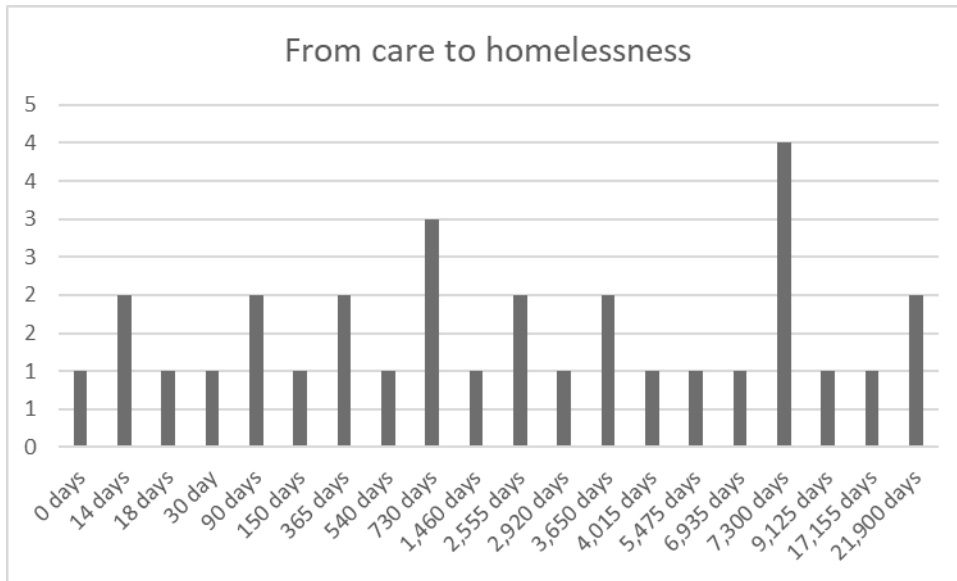


FIGURE 16 - CARE TO HOMELESSNESS - TIME

Finally, when asked if child protection services was helpful in the transition to independence 40 of 46 responded. Overwhelmingly, the answer was no.

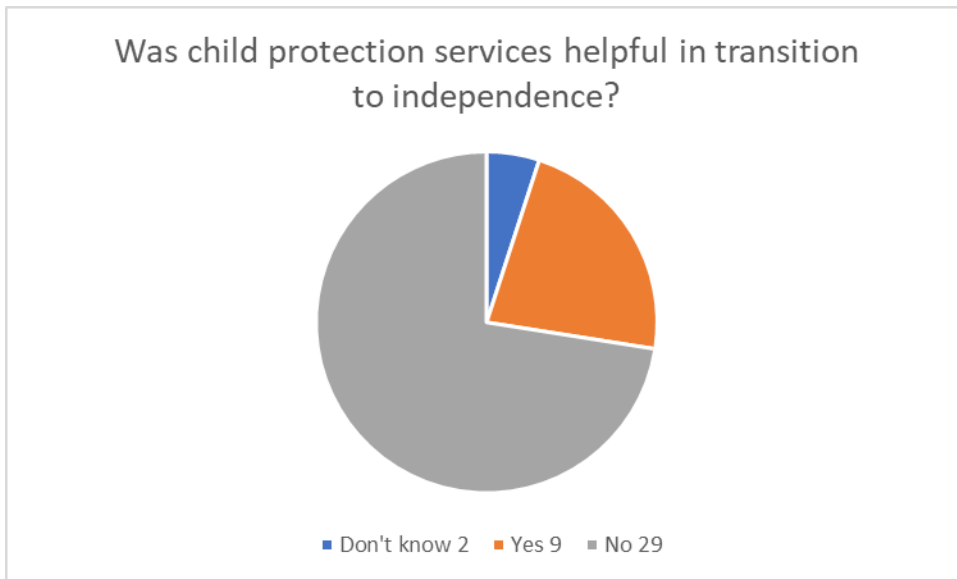


FIGURE 17 - PREPAREDNESS FOR INDEPENDENCE

The above data confirms that a high number of Indigenous people who were removed from their families, as well as unprepared by the child welfare system for independence, experience negative housing outcomes.

Newcomers and homelessness

The newcomer population figured in this year’s PiT Count. While in 2021 one person disclosed they were an immigrant and in 2018 none appear to have disclosed, this year six participants responded they were either an immigrant, refugee, asylum claimant, or came to Canada through another process.

Asylum claimant	1
Immigrant	3
Refugee	1
Study permit	1

Brandon’s population is comprised of 20 per cent immigrant or non-permanent residents. (*City of Brandon Housing Needs Report, July 2023*). This data, that 7 per cent of respondents are newcomers, suggests that the risk of homelessness can affect any demographic in the current environment. In 2021, only one newcomer was reported, while none were in previous years.

Military or RCMP

Six people noted they had served in the Canadian military or RCMP. This is an identical number to 2018; however, in 2021 only one respondent disclosed having served in the military.

Family and others

Forty survey participants indicated a child/dependent (14), a partner (14) or another adult, which could include family (12) were staying with them.

Barriers to housing

Of the top barriers to housing experienced by 84 of the 92 respondents, the most cited were that rents are too high, while income is too low.

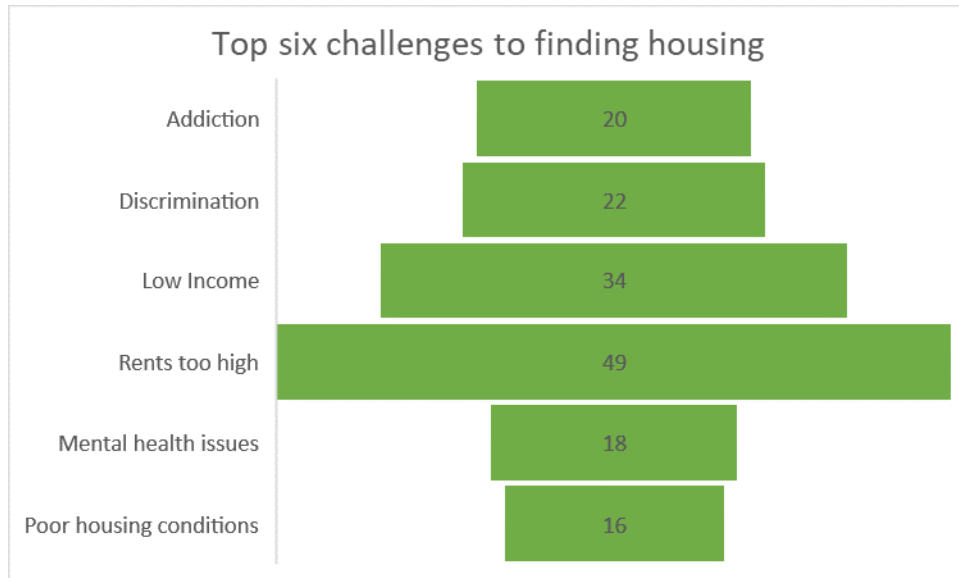


FIGURE 18 - TOP SIX CHALLENGES TO HOUSING

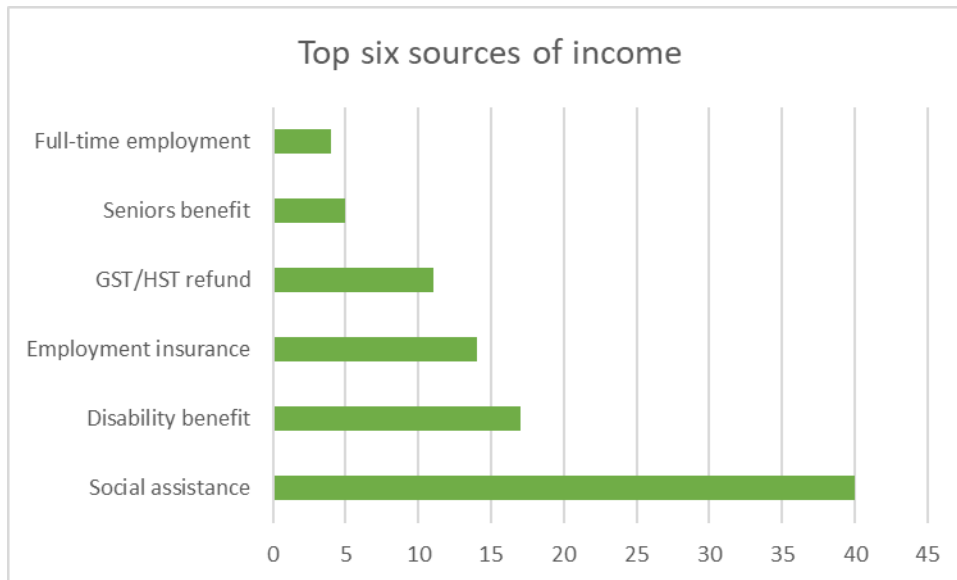
All challenges and problems noted:

Addiction	20	Never rented	1
Children	6	No help	1
Criminal history	10	No housing	2
Discrimination	22	No income assistance	14
Domestic violence	11	Not able to get reference	2
Don't want housing	1	Pet(s)	9
Family breakdown / conflict	11	Poor housing conditions	16
Having a safe place	1	Pushing forward	1
Health / disability issues	15	Rents to high	49
Low income	34	Needs assistance	1
Mental health issues	18	The cops	1
Stubborn	1		

FIGURE 19 - ALL CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS

Income

Seventy-nine of the respondents shared their sources of income.



Other sources of income included: casual employment (2), child and family tax benefits, informal income sources, such as bottle returns, panhandling, sex work (5), money from family / friends (4), other money from a service agency (1), and part-time employment (2). Respondents had the could choose as many options as applied.

FIGURE 20 - TOP SIX SOURCES OF INCOME

Health

A high number of people indicated they live with one or several physical or mental health issues. 95 per cent of respondents answered this question. 36 per cent live with an illness or medical condition, 32 per cent experience physical mobility issues, 32 per cent live with learning, intellectual/developmental or cognitive function issues, 13 per cent live with an acquired brain injury, 48 per cent live with mental health issues, 53 per cent with substance-use issues, and 23 per cent experience issues with their sense, such as blindness or deafness.

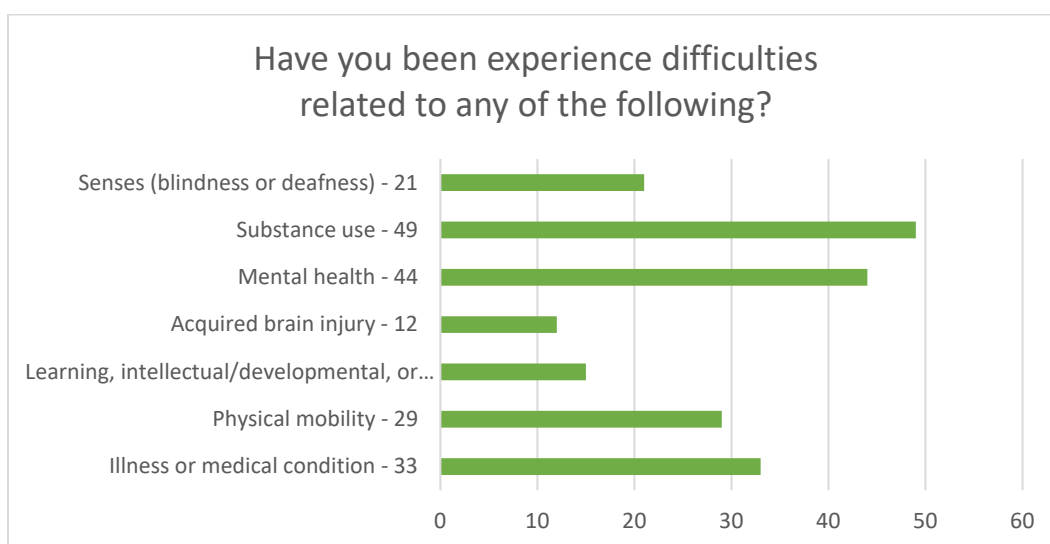


FIGURE 21 - GENERAL WELL-BEING

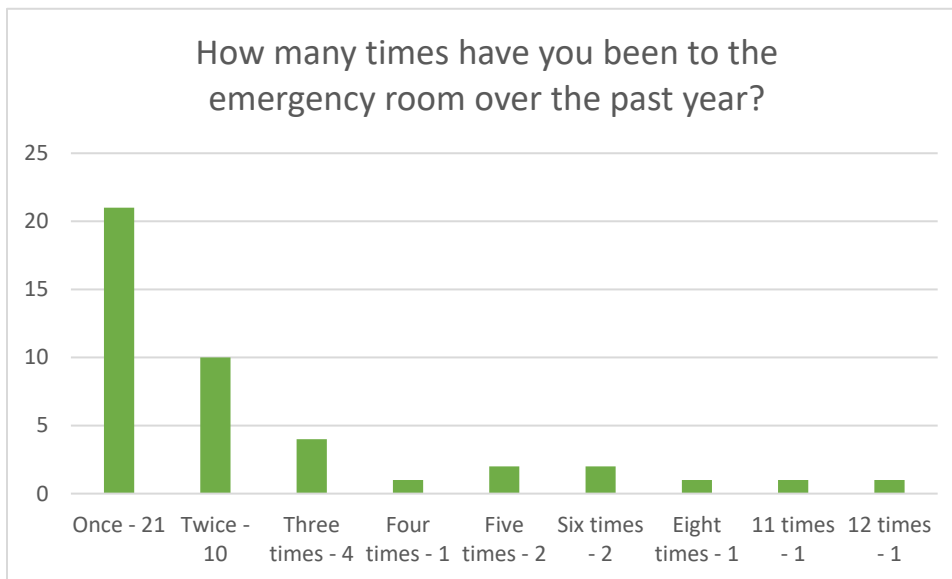
Addictions

We added a more specific local question to the survey: Have you ever experienced addiction in your lifetime? We then asked respondents, if they were comfortable doing so, to share which substance or substances they had been addicted to. Of 92 participants, 71 responded with a yes. Substances listed, in order of dominance: alcohol, methamphetamine, cocaine, crack cocaine, tobacco, marijuana, heroin, morphine, ketamine, benzodiazepines, pain killers, solvents and other household substances, ketamine.

However, some noted that they were no longer experiencing issues with substance use.

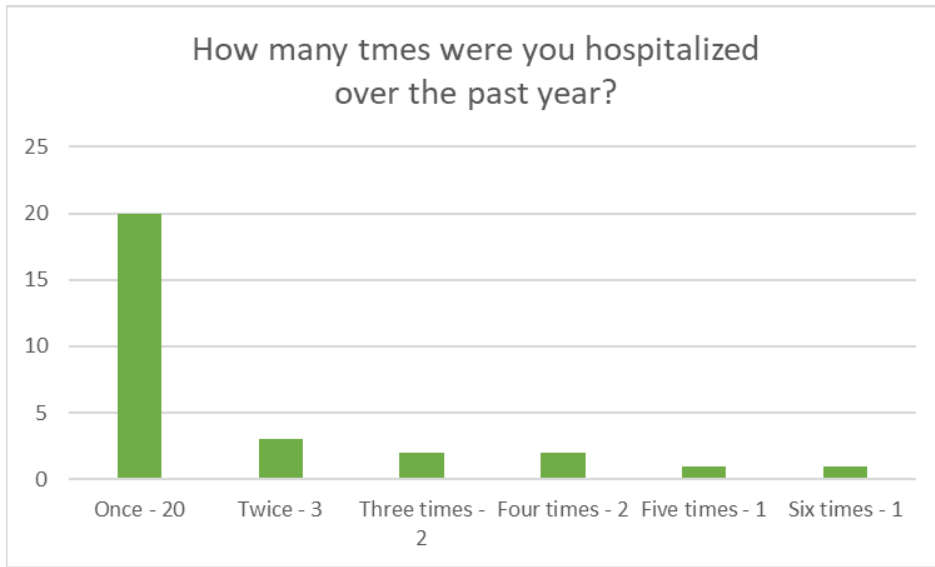
Systems (health, justice)

While we didn't manage to engage with the Brandon Regional Health Centre or the Brandon Correctional Centre, a series of four questions sought to understand the respondents' engagement with those systems.



Forty-three people reported how often they had been to the emergency room over the past year.

FIGURE 22- EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

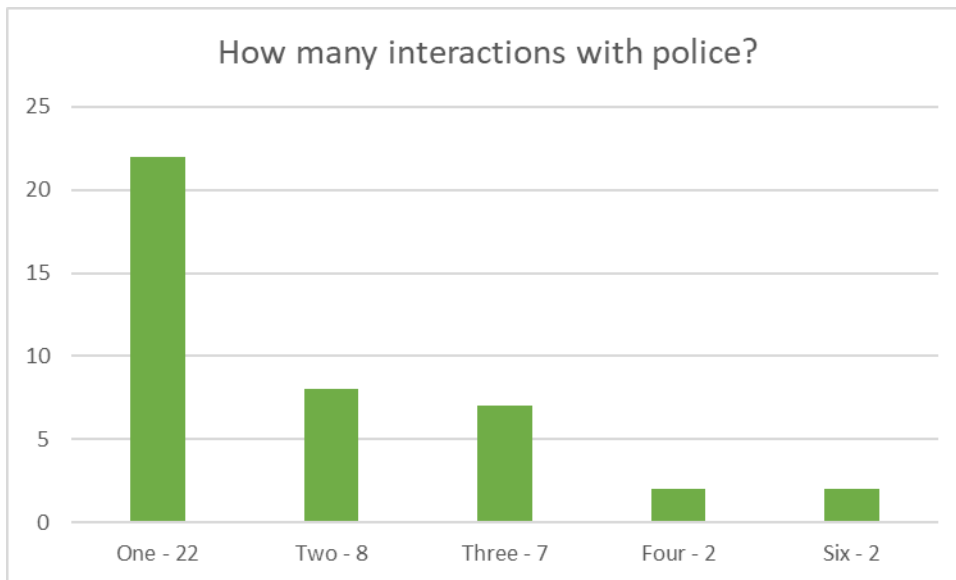


Twenty-nine people reported being hospitalized over the past year.

Hospital stays varied in length from one day to 90 days, with the average length of stay being 10 days.

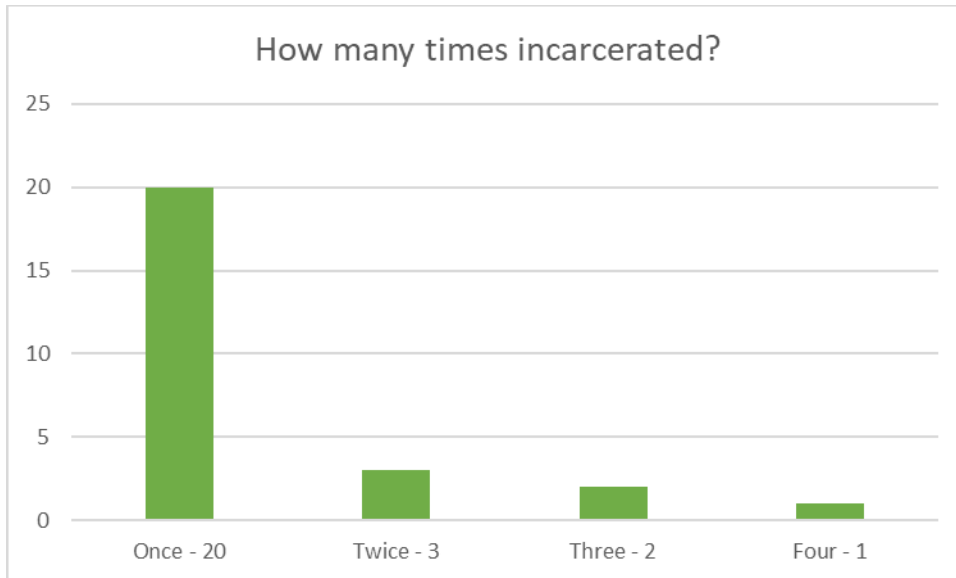
However, 14 reported a hospital stay of 3 days.

FIGURE 23 - HOSPITAL STAYS



Forty-one people reported interactions with police over the past year.

FIGURE 24 - POLICE INTERACTIONS



Twenty-seven people reported being to prison/jail over the past year, with 26 reporting number of times.

Average length of stay – 66 days

Minimum – One day

Maximum – 270 days

FIGURE 25 - INCARCERATION

More demographics

Racial identity

While 62 people noted their indigeneity, 27 of the remaining 30 surveyed responded to a question about racial identity.

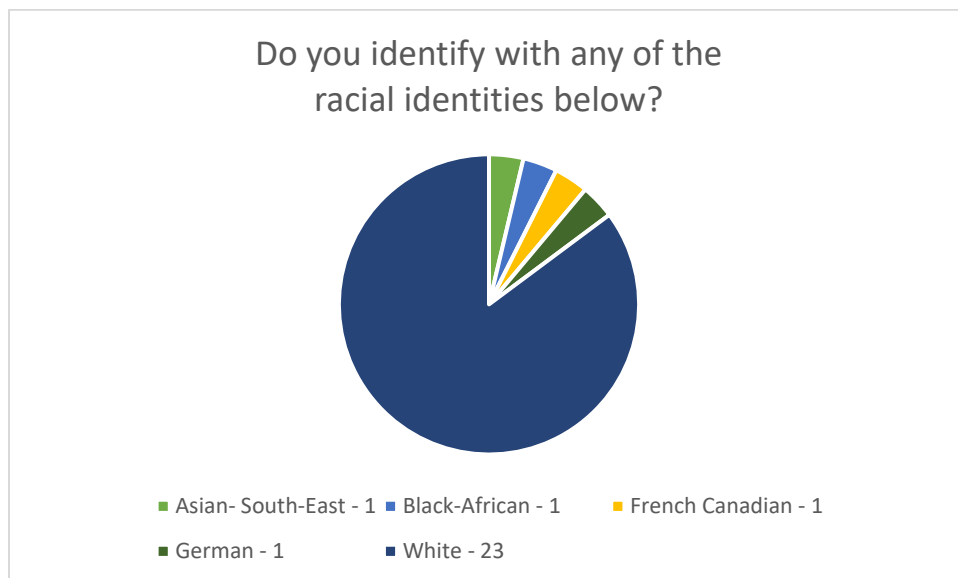


FIGURE 26 - RACIAL IDENTITY

Age

Eighty-eight of participants responded with their current age. Survey respondents ranged in age from 18 to 67, with distribution quite even through the ages.

A closer look at age, as relates to health, indicated that all but three of respondents who were over 46 to 67 years of age also were experiencing one or more of the health indicators – several physical or mental health issues – as noted in [Figure 21](#).

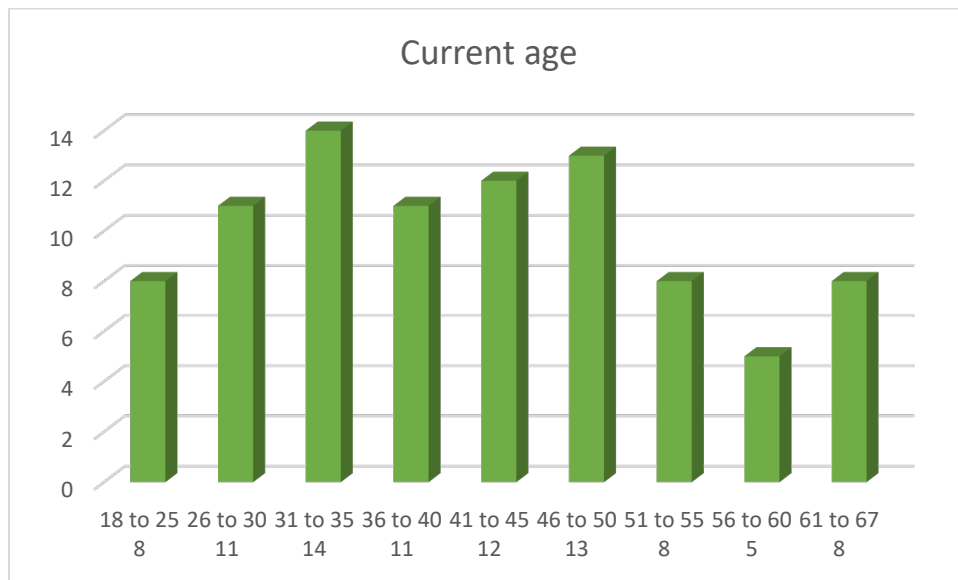


FIGURE 27 – AGE – PRESENT

Eighty-four responded with the age at which they first experience homelessness. The average age people first became homeless was 30 years old, the youngest was 2 and oldest 67.

Note: The two most prominent ages were 17 (seven people) and 30 (six people). All other were fairly evenly distributed.

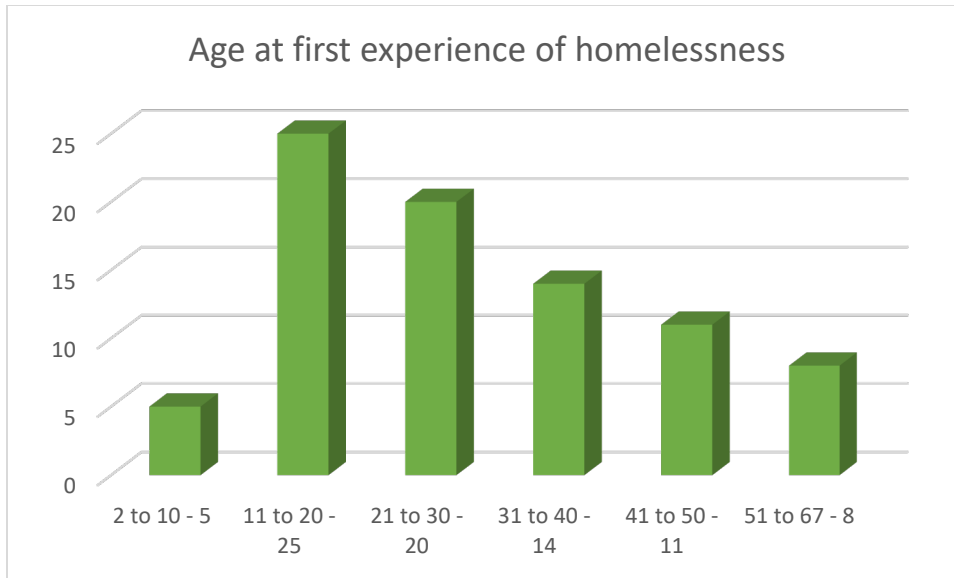


FIGURE 28 - AGE - FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Gender and sexuality

Of the 92 respondents, 88 shared their gender. We surveyed 47 men and 36 women, along with one transgender woman and four two-spirit individuals. In 2018, there were 48 men and 31 women surveyed, along with two two-spirit individuals. In 2021 there were 31 men, 30 women and one two-spirit or transgender individual. There are slight fluctuations from survey year to survey year, with men representing 53 per cent of the respondents who answered this question this year, 46 per cent in 2021, and 59 per cent in 2018.

This year, 83 respondents shared their sexuality – with 87 per cent identifying as heterosexual, 8 per cent as bisexual, 2 per cent as two-spirit and 2 per cent as gay/lesbian. Those numbers have stayed relatively stable since 2018, when 90 per cent identified as heterosexual and 10 per cent identified as either bisexual or two-spirit.

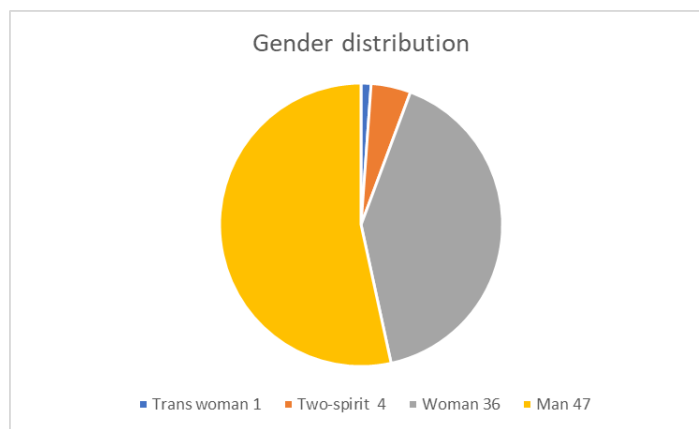


FIGURE 29 - GENDER

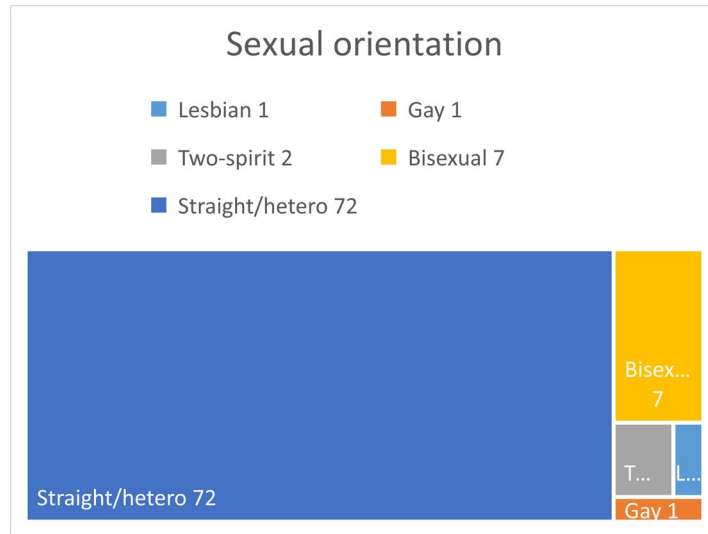


FIGURE 30 - SEXUALITY

Education

The survey also asks about the highest level of education – 88 of 92 participants responded.

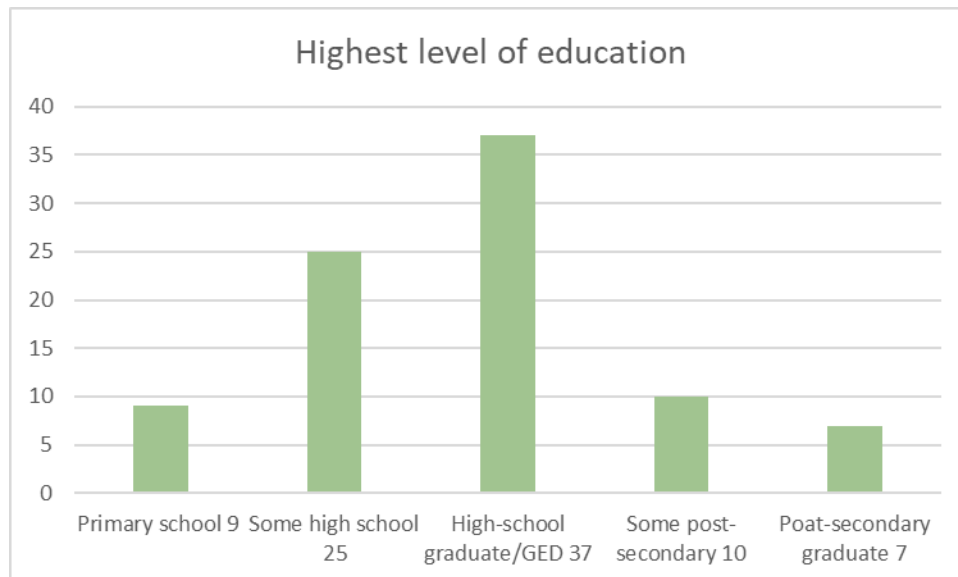


FIGURE 31 - EDUCATION

As educational outcomes are linked to the social environment, it bears noting that seven of the nine surveyed who stated their highest level of education was primary school are Indigenous. Similarly, of the 25 who have some high school, 21 are Indigenous. Fourteen of those 21 experienced the foster-care or group-home system.

Three of those surveyed with some post-secondary are Indigenous, while five of the seven post-secondary graduates are Indigenous. All indicated they had been experiencing difficulties with

one or several of the following: serious or ongoing medical condition, physical disability, learning disability, addiction or substance use, mental health, brain injury or sense (seeing or hearing).

Language

The language in which people felt most able to express themselves was overwhelming English, at 92 per cent of those surveyed. Four per cent declined to answer or answered unclearly. However, three per cent (or three people) stated their preferred language is Cree.

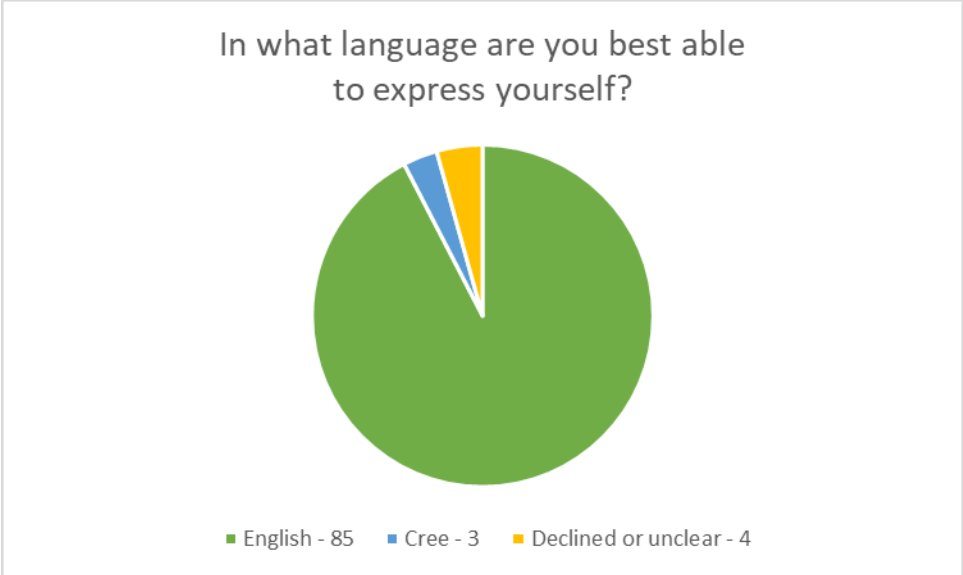


FIGURE 32 - LANGUAGE

Appendix – Materials

The following pages include surveys, communication materials and volunteer materials that were used for Everyone Counts 2024.



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Brandon joins fourth national coordinated Point-in-Time Homelessness Count

Brandon, Manitoba, September 5, 2024 – This fall, Brandon will take part in a coordinated national effort to measure homelessness by gathering data that will also enable local agencies and government to refine their approaches to funding programs and services devoted to unhoused citizens.

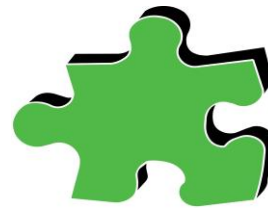
The Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC) has led Brandon’s participation in the nationally coordinated Point-in-Time Homeless Count (PiT Count) since its inception in 2016. In fact, it’s right here in Brandon that BNRC staff, along with Brandon University researchers, helped develop the original survey questions to increase the depth of information collected during the count.

On October 17, BNRC will lead its fourth count – Everyone Counts 2024 – coordinating with shelters, other service providers, as well as volunteers from the community, over a period of 24 hours. Our PiT Count will provide a snapshot of homelessness, indicating the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in our community and helping to improve our understanding of the needs and circumstances of those affected. The survey will provide us with key data on gender, age, ethnicity, veteran status and more. With solid data, funding is more accessible. Counts also allow us to measure progress towards our ultimate goal: ending homelessness in Brandon.

Results from the PiT Count will be made publicly available.

The Brandon PiT Count has received support from Reaching Home, Government of Canada’s Homelessness Strategy (Homelessness, Infrastructure and Communities Canada). Many communities across the country participate and this coordinated effort helps us to create a picture of homelessness in Canada.

-30-



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CORPORATION

Quotes

“An effort of this kind largely depends on volunteers, in this case approximately 70 volunteers from the social and health sectors, as well as from the wider public. I’ll soon be launching a social media campaign seeking the public’s participation. Those who immediately feel the call to register as a volunteer can go directly to the BNRC webpage, where we have a dedicated link. We all have a part to play when it comes to basic human rights for all.”

Michele LeTourneau, PiT Count Coordinator, Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation

“On behalf of Brandon City Council, I am very pleased that the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation is once again leading Brandon’s participation in the annual Point-in-Time Count. This initiative is a crucial step in addressing homelessness in our community. Homelessness is a growing issue, and Brandon, along with other regional urban areas, is significantly affected. This initiative is not just about numbers; it’s about our neighbors, friends, and family members who need our support. Brandon City Council is committed to working with all levels of government, including Indigenous communities, social and health sectors, and private businesses, to ensure that everyone in our community has a safe and stable place to call home.”

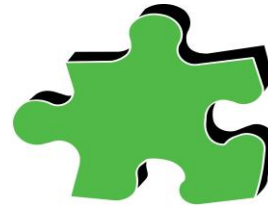
Jeff Fawcett, Mayor, City of Brandon

“As the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation embarks on its strategic planning journey, we are strengthening our mandate around advocating for clients experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Point-in-Time (PiT) Count provides pertinent information about the lay of the land. We are incredibly thrilled to partner with Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, formerly Infrastructure Canada, in administering Reaching Home funds and we are also blessed to be a part of a collaborative community with partners having all hands on deck for a successful PiT Count. As an organization, a community and, by extension, a city, we will use this information to continue being a voice for the vulnerable population of Brandon. We strive to continue negotiating funding and programming into our community to empower and uplift our residents. As we all know, “Everyone Counts,” and data amplifies our voice and our asks.”

Rushana Newman, Executive Director, Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation

“The PiT Count is an important tool for service providers like the Safe and Warm Shelter to hear what the needs of the vulnerable community members are. This information allows us to continue to advocate for appropriate supports and to provide much needed resources.”

Heather Bolech, Safe and Warm Shelter Manager, Samaritan House Ministries



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“The PiT Count is a very important tool to assist and inform funders on where the vulnerable population stay and where housing is needed. It also helps other organizations and funders to see where the real needs are and where we are lacking. The Pit Count also gives the unhoused people a place to voice their opinions and thoughts.”

Florence Halcrow, Ask Auntie and Blue Door Coordinator, Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation

“The PiT Count is an opportunity to hear directly from our unhoused neighbours, to understand what resources are needed and what barriers to housing need to be addressed. The information collected is valuable and will be used along with the data from the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) database for community planning and advocacy.”

Rebecca Anhalt, Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Coordinator, Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation

Media Participation

Ensuring the safety and anonymity of participants is our utmost priority. Media will not be invited to accompany PiT Count volunteers.

The Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, as a non-profit organization, strives through advocacy, capacity building, provision of knowledge and sustainable funding from various sources to challenge and empower all citizens of the neighbourhood.

<https://bnrc.ca> and <https://bnrc.ca/everyone-counts-2024/>

For more information:

[Everyone Counts 2020-2022 – Results from the Third Nationally Coordinated Point-in-Time Counts of Homelessness in Canada](#)

[Past Brandon PiT Count reports](#)

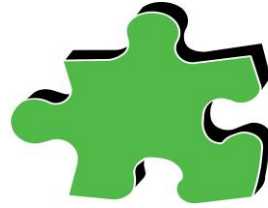
[Everyone Counts: Coordinated Point-in-Time Counts in Canada](#)

[Homelessness Learning Hub: Point-in-Time Counts](#)

[The Canadian Definition of Homelessness](#)

Contact information:

Michele LeTourneau, PiT Count Coordinator
204-730-9421 - pitcount@bnrc.ca



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Volunteer Registration Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Cell Number: _____ Other Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____



I have lived experience of homelessness: Yes No Decline to Answer

Languages fluently spoken, read and written :

English French Other _____

Age: 18+

16-17 (must be accompanied by parent or guardian)

Under 16 (not eligible to participate)

Have you previously participated in a Point-in-Time Count?

Yes No

Do you have experience working with individuals that are homeless or experience in a relevant field (e.g. Social work, health, research, child and youth work)?

Yes No

If yes please explain.

Are you interested in being a team leader?

Yes No

Team Leaders take on additional responsibilities regarding the safety and coordination of a small group of volunteers. Ideally, team leaders will be experienced in working with a homeless or street-involved population, or a group of a similar composition.

Other Skills (please select all that apply)

- Research Interviewing Counseling
 Leadership Volunteer Management Data Entry
 Graphic Design Writing/Editing

Are you interested in follow-up volunteer activities with Everyone Counts 2024? This could include data entry, volunteer recognition, promotional events etc.

- Yes No

The majority of people will be assigned to unsheltered surveys. Some people will be assigned to work at headquarters or to conduct surveys at service locations. Please indicate your preference:

- Unsheltered surveys Service locations Headquarters No Preference

If you selected unsheltered surveys: Are you able to stand/walk for up to **THREE** hours?

- Yes No

Do you have a medical condition or disability that you feel is important for us to be aware of? If so, please indicate here or call 204-730-9421 to discuss your ability to participate in Everyone Counts 2024.

Are you attending the count with a friend/family member? Yes No

Please list full names and phone numbers:

In the event of an emergency, please contact:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

Affiliated Agency (if applicable):



VOLUNTEER WAIVER

EVERYONE COUNTS 2024 – BRANDON, MB

**ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS
AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

**BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WAIVE CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO
SUE**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

INITIAL HERE:

TO: Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and any individual, corporation, association, institution, or organization that is associated with **Everyone Counts 2024** as an organizer, promoter, sponsor or advertiser and the respective agents, officials, officers and employees of all of the aforesaid; (hereafter all collectively referred to as the “Event Partners”)

ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

By signing below, I warrant that I am fit to safely participate in any and all activities I am involved in during the course of **Everyone Counts 2024** (hereafter referred to as the “Event”). I am aware that my participation and involvement in the Event may expose me to some unexpected and high level risks, dangers or hazards, including risk of personal injury, property damage and loss resulting therefrom. Such risks, dangers and hazards, given the nature of the Event, may be outside of the scope of an expected or reasonable level of risk that a volunteer may be subject to in the course of participating in an event. By signing below, I freely and fully agree to assume any and all of these risks, dangers and hazards, even if caused by the negligence of the Event Partners, including the failure of the Event Partners to protect and safeguard me from the risks, dangers and hazards and the possibility of any personal injury, death, property damage and loss resulting therefrom.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY

In consideration of the Event Partners permitting me to participate in the Event, by signing below I hereby release, waive and forever discharge the Event Partners of and from any and all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, actions and causes of action, whether in law or equity, in

respect of injury, death, loss or damage to my person or property that I may suffer, or that any other person, entity or representative may suffer resulting therefrom, however caused, arising directly or indirectly by reason of my participation in the Event, whether prior to, during or subsequent to the Event, and notwithstanding that same may have been contributed to or caused by the negligence of any of the Event Partners.

I agree to hold and save harmless and to indemnify the Event Partners from and against any and all liability incurred by any or all of them arising as a result of, or in any way connected with, my participation in the Event.

This assumption of risks, release, waiver and indemnity shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of the Manitoba and any litigation in respect thereof shall be brought solely within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the Manitoba.

FURTHER VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- I acknowledge that as a volunteer, I am not covered under any Workers' Compensation Plan.
- I agree to carry out my assigned volunteer tasks in a reasonable and safe manner.
- The personal information on this form will only be collected and shared under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). The purpose of collecting this information includes: determining eligibility for volunteer opportunities, programs, services, and recognition, to facilitate the Event registration process, to administer and evaluate volunteers and programs, statistical purposes and to activate the Volunteer Accident Insurance coverage. This information may be shared with other volunteers and personnel of the Event Partners only insofar as it is necessary to plan and implement **Everyone Counts 2024** If you have any questions regarding the collection of information, please contact **Michele LeTourneau, PiT Count Coordinator, Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, pitcount@bnrc.ca**

INITIAL HERE:

By signing below, I acknowledge having read, understood and agreed to the above assumption of risks, release, waiver, indemnity and acknowledgements. I further agree that everything I have agreed to contained herein shall bind my estate and personal representatives.

Date dd/mm/yyyy

Name of Volunteer (please print)

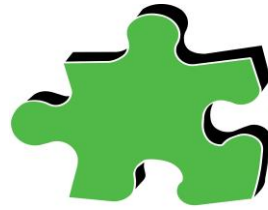
Signature of Volunteer

Name of Guardian (if less than 18)

Signature of Legal Guardian

Name of Witness (please print)

Witness (signature)



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RENEWAL
CORPORATION

OATH OF CONFIDENTIALITY

As a volunteer with **Everyone Counts 2024** I understand my role and responsibilities are a valuable part of the work of **Everyone Counts 2024** (hereafter referred to as the “Event”), and I agree to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability. While participating in the event, I may meet individuals – including survey participants and other volunteers - who wish to remain anonymous.

This is to certify that I, _____ as a volunteer with the Event, understand that any information (written, verbal or other form) obtained during the performance of my duties must remain confidential. This includes all information about team members, staff and survey participants, as well as any other information otherwise marked or known to be confidential.

Accordingly, I agree not to disclose any confidential information acquired during my volunteer service with the event, to any third party – including media - either during my service with the Event or after my service with the Event has ended. This is in recognition of the difficult situations individuals experiencing homelessness face, and also demonstrates respect for those who support them on a day-to-day basis.

I agree to refrain from posting/sharing to social media platforms photos of survey participants, other volunteers, survey materials and all survey locations. I agree to uphold participant confidentiality in all use of social media during and after the count.

Unless authorized in the course of my volunteer duties, I will not make public statements to the media, expressly or implied, on behalf of the event about any individual I encounter during my volunteer activities.

I understand that any unauthorized release or carelessness in the handling of this confidential information is considered a breach of the duty to maintain confidentiality. I further understand that any breach of the duty to maintain confidentiality could be grounds for immediate dismissal from this Event and future **Everyone Counts 2024** and/or possible liability in any legal action arising from such a breach.

I understand that a breach of confidentiality is warranted only where a survey participant poses immediate and serious harm to themselves or others or I encounter a youth under the age of sixteen. I will immediately notify my team Leader and/or headquarters if these issues should arise.

I understand that this undertaking survives the termination of my volunteer relationship with **Everyone Counts 2024**. The laws of **Manitoba**, Canada, shall govern this Agreement and its validity, construction and effect.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, fully understand and accept the responsibilities set above relating to personal, confidential and/or proprietary information.

Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Name of Volunteer (please print)

Signature of Volunteer

Name of Guardian (if less than 18)

Signature of Legal Guardian

Name of Witness (please print)

Witness (signature)



RESOURCE FAIR!

THURSDAY, OCT 17, 2024

PRAYER & SMUDGE | HOT FOOD & DRINKS | SERVICES & SUPPLIES

WE ARE CONDUCTING SURVEYS WITH PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE A PLACE TO CALL HOME. HELP US CHANGE BRANDON'S HOUSING FUTURE



PRINCESS PARK
2:00 to 8:00 p.m.
*** Free****



ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17
11 AM TO 11 PM

IF YOU SEE THIS TAG
ON ONE OF OUR
VOLUNTEERS:



*We are conducting
surveys with people
who do not have a
place to call home.*

*Help us change
Brandon's housing
future.*



**GOOD FOOD!
HOT DRINKS!
SUPPLIES!
SERVICES!**



Everyone Counts 2024

17
OCT 2024

PRINCESS PARK
BRANDON, MB
FROM 2:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

ONE
SNACK
BAG

Everyone Counts 2024

17
OCT 2024

PRINCESS PARK
BRANDON, MB
FROM 2:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

ONE
SNACK
BAG

Everyone Counts 2024

17
OCT 2024

PRINCESS PARK
BRANDON, MB
FROM 2:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

ONE
SNACK
BAG

Everyone Counts 2024

17
OCT 2024

PRINCESS PARK
BRANDON, MB
FROM 2:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

ONE
SNACK
BAG



EVERYONE COUNTS 2024

Survey Volunteer

Please join the
Brandon Neighbourhood
Renewal Corporation
in celebrating you
for helping create a successful
Point-in-Time Homelessness Count



EVERYONE COUNTS 2024
VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION

DECEMBER 12 | 3PM

BEEP GARAGE, BNRC, 440 ROSSER AVE

Point-in-Time Count Survey Sample Consent Script

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the **Brandon housing needs and homelessness survey**.

Have you answered a survey with a person with this ID? [YES] / [NO]

(If YES – reminder of the Princess Park event with smudging, drumming, food and resources – between 2 and 8.)

If NO:

We are conducting a survey so we can better understand the history and needs of people who are experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.

- This survey is for people experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness throughout our community and in other communities across the country.
- **Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.**
- This survey asks about personal experiences. You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the survey at any time**.
- We expect that the survey will **take 10-20 minutes to complete**. **As a thank you for your time, we're offering this bag of snack** as a token of appreciation.
- **Your responses will be confidential and anonymous.** (*Insert information about how any paper surveys will be kept secure*). All of the anonymous survey responses will be grouped together to contribute to our understanding of homelessness in the community. They're also shared with our (*provincial and*) federal partners to contribute to the understanding of homelessness across (*the province and*) the country.
- Results will **help develop programs and services** that prevent and end homelessness.
- Your decision of whether to participate in this survey, and the answers you provide **will not impact the services you are offered** or receive in the community.
- If you require supports at any time during the survey, please let us know.

Are you willing to participate in the survey? [YES] / [NO]

UNSHELTERED ENUMERATION AND SURVEY SCREENING TOOL

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the **Brandon housing needs and homelessness survey**.

A. Have you answered a survey with a person with this tag?

[YES: Thank and end survey]

[NO: Continue script to B]

B. We are conducting a survey so we can better understand the history and needs of people who are experiencing homelessness.

- **Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.**
- This survey asks about personal experiences. You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the survey at any time**.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada, and will help develop programs and services that can help prevent and end homelessness here in Brandon.
- If you require supports at any time, please let us know.

Are you willing to participate in the survey?

[YES: Go to C]

[NO: Thank and record on tally sheet, if applicable]

C. Where are you staying tonight?

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER b. OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE	c. SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE d. MOTEL/HOTEL e. HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE	f. EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER g. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING h. PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALK, PARK, FOREST, BUS SHELTER) i. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) j. MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK k. ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING l. OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION m. RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]
Thank and end survey	Follow-up question (C1)	Skip to survey question

C. 1. Follow-up Question: Can you stay there as long as you want or is this a temporary situation?

a) As long as they want (THANK AND END SURVEY)	d) Decline to Answer (THANK AND END SURVEY)
b) Temporary (GO TO C2)	
c) Don't Know (GO TO C2)	

C. 2. Follow-up Question: Do you have a house or apartment you can safely return to?

e) Yes (THANK AND END SURVEY)	h) Decline to Answer (THANK AND END SURVEY)
f) No (BEGIN SURVEY)	
g) Don't Know (BEGIN SURVEY)	

UNSHELTERED SURVEY [OVERNIGHT]

Location: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM
 Interviewer: _____ Contact #: _____
 Survey # : _____

BEGIN SURVEY

1. Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> HOMELESS SHELTER (E.G. EMERGENCY, FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER, WARMING CENTRE, DROP-IN) <input type="radio"/> HOTEL / MOTEL FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM <input type="radio"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER / HOUSING <input type="radio"/> UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. STREET, PARK, BUS SHELTER, FOREST OR ABANDONED BUILDING) <input type="radio"/> ENCAMPMENT (E.G. GROUP OF TENTS, MAKESHIFT SHELTERS OR OTHER LONG-TERM SETTLEMENT) <input type="radio"/> VEHICLE (E.G. CAR, RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV), TRUCK, BOAT) <input type="radio"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE BECAUSE YOU HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO <input type="radio"/> HOSPITAL OR OTHER HEALTH FACILITY <input type="radio"/> JAIL, PRISON, OR OTHER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY 	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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1a. If not, what are the main reasons? [Do not read categories; select all that apply]

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> TURNED AWAY (SHELTERS ARE FULL) <input type="radio"/> TURNED AWAY (BANNED) <input type="radio"/> LACK OF TRANSPORTATION <input type="radio"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY <input type="radio"/> BED BUGS & OTHER PESTS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> PREFER TO STAY WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY <input type="radio"/> PET(S) <input type="radio"/> OTHER: _____ <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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2. What family members are staying with you tonight? [Indicate survey numbers for adults. Check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate gender and age for each]	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER								
GENDER	AGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
AGE									

3. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

<input type="radio"/> AGE _____ OR YEAR BORN _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

➔ For the next questions, “homelessness” means any time when you have been without a secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others.

4. In total, **how much time** have you been homeless over the PAST YEAR? [Best estimate.]

LENGTH _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

a. In the past 3 years?

LENGTH _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

b. In total, **how many different times** have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? [Best estimate.]

NUMBER OF TIMES _____ [Includes this time] DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. How old were you the first time you experienced homeless?

AGE _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant?

<input type="radio"/> YES, IMMIGRANT -----> <input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE-----> <input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT-----> <input type="radio"/> YES, TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER <input type="radio"/> YES, OTHER WORK PERMIT <input type="radio"/> YES, STUDY PERMIT <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	If YES: 06b How long have you been in Canada? <input type="radio"/> LENGTH: _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS YEARS OR DATE: ____/____/____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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06c Are you a Canadian Citizen?

<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> If NO: <input type="radio"/> NO -----> <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<input type="radio"/> PERMANENT RESIDENT <input type="radio"/> INTERNATIONAL STUDENT <input type="radio"/> REFUGEE CLAIMANT <input type="radio"/> OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____ <input type="radio"/> TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER
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7. How long have you been in Brandon?

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS -----> <input type="radio"/> ALWAYS BEEN HERE <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	07b Where did you live before you came here? <input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY _____ PROVINCE _____ OR COUNTRY _____ <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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What is the main reason you came to Brandon? [Do not read categories; select one]

<input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S) <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MOVED HERE <input type="checkbox"/> TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY <input type="checkbox"/> TO FIND HOUSING <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (SEEKING) <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (SECURED)	<input type="checkbox"/> ENVIROMENTAL DISPLACEMENT (Flooding, fire, lack of clean drinking water, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> TO ATTEND SCHOOL <input type="checkbox"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION/SHOPPING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ASNWER
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8. Do you identify as Indigenous, or do you have Indigenous ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]

<input type="radio"/> YES ----->	If YES:	<input type="radio"/> FIRST NATIONS (with or without status)
<input type="radio"/> NO		<input type="radio"/> INUIT
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW		<input type="radio"/> MÉTIS
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER		<input type="radio"/> HAVE INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

8b Which Indigenous community are you from?

<input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY /RESERVE NAME _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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8c In addition to your response in the question above, do you identify with any of the racial identities below? [Do not list categories. Select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> ABORIGINAL OR INDIGENOUS	<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK OR AFRICAN CANADIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> ARAB	<input type="checkbox"/> FILIPINO
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN (E.G., CHINESE, KOREAN, JAPANESE, ETC.)	<input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC OR LATIN AMERICAN
<input type="checkbox"/> SOUTH-EAST ASIAN (E.G., VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIAN, MALAYSIAN, LAOTIAN, ETC.)	<input type="checkbox"/> WHITE (E.G., EUROPEAN-CANADIAN)
<input type="checkbox"/> SOUTH ASIAN (E.G., EAST INDIAN, PAKISTANI, SRI LANKAN, ETC.)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> WEST ASIAN (E.G., IRANIAN, AFGHAN, ETC.)	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

9. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?

[Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

<input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="radio"/> YES, RCMP			

10. Have you ever been in foster care and/or group home?

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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→ 10b Approximately how long after leaving foster care/group home did you become homeless?

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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→ 10c Do you feel that Child Protection Services was helpful in transitioning you to independence after leaving foster care/group home?

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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11. Have you been experiencing difficulties related to any of the following? [Select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> SERIOUS OR ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAIN INJURY
<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL DISABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> SENSES (<i>seeing or hearing</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/> LEARNING DISABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH (<i>Counselling, treatment, etc.</i>)	

12. What gender do you identify with? [Show list.]

<input type="radio"/> MALE / MAN	<input type="radio"/> TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN	<input type="radio"/> NOT LISTED: _____
<input type="radio"/> FEMALE / WOMAN	<input type="radio"/> TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="radio"/> GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

13. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? [Show list.]

<input type="radio"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> BISEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> QUEER	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> GAY	<input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="radio"/> NOT LISTED: _____	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="radio"/> LESBIAN	<input type="radio"/> QUESTIONING		

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

<input type="checkbox"/> ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER
<input type="checkbox"/> JOB LOSS	<input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
<input type="checkbox"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON _____
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

a. Was your most recent housing loss related to an eviction?

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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b. Conflict with other – Specify

c. Experience abuse by other - Specify

d. Experience discrimination by – Specify

e. Other – Specify

15. What are your sources of income? [Read list and check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME
<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> GST REFUND	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS	
	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS	

C01 What is the highest level of education you completed?

<input type="checkbox"/> PRIMARY SCHOOL	<input type="checkbox"/> SOME POST SECONDARY	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> SOME HIGH SCHOOL	<input type="checkbox"/> POST SECONDARY GRADUATE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE/GED	<input type="checkbox"/> GRADUATE DEGREE (E.G., MASTERS, Ph.D.)	

C02 In the past year (12 months) have you: [Ask respondents to give their best estimate]

BEEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM	Y ___ N ___	# _____	Times
BEEN HOSPITALIZED	Y ___ N ___	# _____	Times
→DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT HOSPITALIZED		_____	Days Total
INTERACTED WITH POLICE (Tickets, arrests, searches)	Y ___ N ___	# _____	Times
BEEN TO PRISON/JAIL	Y ___ N ___	# _____	Times
→DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT IN PRISON/JAIL		_____	Days Total

C03, Do you want to get into permanent housing?

- YES NO DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

C04 What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOW INCOME | <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES | <input type="checkbox"/> DISCRIMINATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME ASSISTANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENTS TOO HIGH | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY | <input type="checkbox"/> NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> PETS | <input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

C05 In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?

- ENGLISH NO PREFERENCE DON'T KNOW
 FRENCH NEITHER (please specify) DECLINE TO ANSWER

C06 What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

- _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

C07 Have you ever been banned/blacklisted by a landlord or property management company in Brandon?

- YES NO DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

C08, Have you experienced addiction during your lifetime

- YES NO DECLINE TO ANSWER

➔ **C08a If yes, would you be comfortable sharing what substance or substances you have been addicted to?**

C09 Is there a day of the week that you struggle more than others to find shelter?

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday |

UNSHELTERED TALLY SHEET

Area: _____ Time: _____ to _____ Surveyor: _____ Contact phone #: _____

Instructions: To record *observed homelessness*, please take note of those who decline to or are unable to respond, but who may be experiencing homelessness in the table below. Please also indicate the reason you believe they are experiencing homelessness (e.g., alseep outside with belongings).

	Location	Encampment? (Y/N)	Reason not surveyed (select one)		Indicators of Homelessness (e.g., alseep outside with belongings)
			Declined	Unable	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					

