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**SNAPSHOT OF  
HOMELESSNESS IN REGINA**  
Preliminary Findings for the 2021  
Point-in-Time Count

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Canada

## BACKGROUND

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Flow Community Projects (Project Lead) and community partners organized Regina's 3<sup>rd</sup> Point-in-Time (PiT) Count of Homelessness, finding 488 individuals experiencing homelessness. A Point-in-Time (PiT) Count is a strategy to help determine the extent of homelessness in a community on a given night, or at a single point in time. The 2021 Regina PiT-Count is supported through the Government of Canada's Reaching Home program as administered in Regina by Namerind Housing Corporation.

The 2021 PiT-Count was comprised of three components. The first two components, a Street Count and a Sheltered Count, took place on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 from 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. During the Street Count, over 115 volunteers from the Regina community participated, taking to the streets in Survey Teams of 2-3 individuals, offering an anonymous housing survey to anyone they saw. Along with offering the survey, the Street Count Survey Teams utilized Tally Sheets to enumerate individuals who were experiencing homelessness but were not surveyed (sleeping under benches, encampments, declined to be surveyed but disclosed homelessness, etc.).

For the Sheltered Count, the same survey was offered by staff to individuals staying in their respective facilities. In addition to the survey, participating shelter agencies were asked to provide Administrative Facility Data (capacity, occupancy rates & non-person identifiable demographics) to the PiT-Count Project Lead.

The third component, a Magnet Event, was hosted at the mamaweyatitan Centre from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the following day, on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. The event included a free chili and buns luncheon (food provided and prepared by the Regina Food Bank), a COVID-19 vaccine clinic (SHA, Four Directions), and a services fair (multiple agencies). The same PiT-Count Survey utilized during the Street Count the night before was offered to individuals at the Magnet Event, with one difference being survey participants were asked where they stayed the night before, to align data for the PiT-Count date of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

In order to avoid survey duplication, survey participants were asked to provide a unique identifier of the first initials of their first and last names in addition to the last two digits of their year of birth (Example: John Smith, 1987 = J.S. 87).

PiT-Count Surveys were entered by PiT-Count Advisory Team Members in the weeks that followed the PiT-Count. Once entered, the PiT-Count data (raw survey data, administrative facility data, and tally sheet data) was subsequently sent to a third party, HelpSeeker Technologies, for further data verification and analysis.

From these sources, this document includes preliminary 2021 PiT-Count findings.

The full PiT-Count Report is scheduled to be released in late January/early February, 2022.

## SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

Among the 488 individuals enumerated on September 22nd 2021:

- 78 were observed to be experiencing homelessness through the street count, but did not complete a survey
- 99 were identified to be experiencing sheltered homelessness. This information was retrieved from observable facility data captured through enumeration forms completed by housing facilities within the community
- 171 indicated that they were provisionally accommodated (85 survey respondents noting they were staying at someone else’s place, and 86 individuals accounted for through transitional shelter/housing facility enumeration forms)
- 71 reported to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness, with the large majority staying in a public space while a few individuals reported to be staying in a vehicle.
- 20 individuals were enumerated through public systems data (e.g., hospital, detox, jail)
- 3 individuals were reported to be staying in a hotel/motel
- 46 were unsure of where they were staying the night of the Count

**Table 1. Where did people stay?**

Where did People Stay?	(2018) Number of People	2018 (%)	(2021) Number of People	2021 (%)
Homeless Shelter (Emergency, Family, Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women Shelter)	91	31.8%	99	20.3%
Transitional Shelter / Housing	81	28.3%	86	17.6%
Someone Else's Place	85	29.7%	85	17.4%
Unsheltered in a Public Space (e.g. Street, Park, Bus Shelter, Forest or Abandoned Building)	6	2.1%	68	13.9%
Unsure	19	6.6%	46	9.4%
Public Systems (Hospital, Detox, Jail, Prison, etc.)	3	1.0%	20	4.1%
Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck, Boat)	0	0%	3	0.6%
Motel / Hotel	1	0.3%	3	0.6%
Observed Experiencing Homelessness (Tally Sheet)	N/A	N/A	78	16.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 2. Key Demographics.**

Key Demographics	(2018) Number of Respondents	2018 % (n = # of responses)	(2021) Number of Respondents	2021 % (n = # of responses)
Male	71	47.3% (n = 150)	142	51.4% (n=276)
Female	76	50.7% (n = 150)	124	44.9% (n=276)
Canadian Military	7	4.7% (n=149)	8	3.4% (n=233)
Indigenous	118	80% (n= 148)	191	81.3% (n=235)
Immigrant/Refugee	6	4.3% (n = 141)	5	2.3% (n=217)
Youth (24 and Under)*	43	27.7% (n=155)	78	27.1% (n=288)
Adults (25-64)	112	72.3% (n=155)	205	71.2% (n=288)
Seniors (65+)	0	0% (n=155)	5	1.7% (n=288)
Non Surveyed Dependent Children				
<i>Male</i>	27	50.9% (n= 53)	18	37.5% (n=48)
<i>Female</i>	26	49.1% (n= 53)	25	52.1% (n=48)
First Experienced Homelessness (24 and Under)	119	76.8% (n=155)	138	56.8% (n=243)
Experienced Homelessness for 6+ Months in Past Year	61	47.3% (n= 129)	138	63.3% (n=218)
Respondents Reporting Barriers to Finding Permanent Housing	125	80% (n = 155)	202	98.5% (n=205)

\*Includes the 48 non-surveyed dependent children (37 of whom are under the age of 15, and 11 from ages 15-24)

**Insights:**

- Proportions for majority of demographics listed in the Table 2 remain fairly similar across 2018 and 2021
- Higher percentage of males enumerated than females during this Count
- We also observe a greater percentage of female dependents than male dependents
- Decrease in proportion of individuals who reported first experiencing homelessness at the age of 24 or younger (76.8% in 2018 compared to 56.8% in 2021)
- An increase in the proportion of people who have experienced homelessness for 6 or more months in the past year (47.3% in 2018 compared to 63.3% in 2021)

**Table 3. Top 5 Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss.**

<b>Top 5 Top 5 Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss (2018)</b>	<b>N (2018)</b>	<b>2018 % (Out of 139)</b>	<b>Top 5 Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss (2021)</b>	<b>N (2021)</b>	<b>2021 % (Out of 201)</b>
Addiction or Substance Abuse	41	29.4%	Not Enough Income For Housing	92	45.8%
Family Conflict: Spouse or Partner	30	21.5%	Conflict: Spouse/Partner	40	19.9%
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	29	20.8%	Substance Use issue	37	18.4%
Experienced Abuse: Spouse or Partner	27	19.4%	Unsafe Housing Conditions	34	16.9%
Job Loss	21	15.1%	Landlord Tenant Conflict	26	12.9%

**Insights:**

- Substance Use issues, financial issues, and conflict with a spouse or partner continue to remain among the top 5 reasons for most recent housing loss
- New reasons among the top 5 in the 2021 Count include *Unsafe Housing Conditions* as well as *Landlord Tenant Conflict*.

**Table 4. Top 5 Barriers to Finding Permanent Housing**

<b>Top 5 Barriers to Finding Permanent Housing (2018)</b>	<b>N (2018)</b>	<b>2018 % (Out of 125)</b>	<b>Top 5 Barriers to Finding Permanent Housing (2021)</b>	<b>N (2021)</b>	<b>2021 % (Out of 202)</b>
Rents Too High	77	61.6%	Rents Too High	106	52.5%
Low Income	74	59.2%	Low Income	98	48.5%
Addiction or Substance Abuse	48	38.4%	No Income Assistance	84	41.6%
No Income Assistance	43	34.4%	Addiction	73	36.1%
Poor Housing Conditions	39	31.2%	Poor Housing Conditions	65	32.2%

**Insights:**

- The top 5 barriers to finding permanent housing remain unchanged from the 2018 Count compared to the 2021 Count. Financial barriers are still the most cited barrier to finding permanent housing, alongside struggles with addiction and poor housing conditions.

**Table 5. Housing Loss Due to Pandemic.**

<b>Housing Loss Due to Pandemic</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>% (Out of 218)</b>
No	164	75.2%
Yes	54	24.8%

Insight:

- Majority of survey respondents to this question reported that they did not lose their housing due to the pandemic, although about 25% (n=54) did report that their housing loss was due to the pandemic. That is almost the equivalent to every 1 in 4 survey respondents.

**Table 6. Top 5 Sources of Income.**

Top 5 Sources of Income	N	% (Out of 174)
Welfare/ Social Assistance	93	53.4%
Informal Sources of Income (bottle returns, etc.)	53	30.5%
Disability benefit	20	11.5%
GST/HST Refund	14	11.5%
Part-Time Employment	10	8.0%

Insights:

- The majority of respondents who reported having a source of income, indicated that they receive welfare/social assistance.
  - Among the 93 respondents who indicated receiving social assistance, 81 further reported the type of social assistance received:
    - 63% reported receiving Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS), while 37% reported receiving Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID).
- Among those with a reported answer, 17.5% (n=37) of survey respondents indicated that they receive no income whatsoever.

Additional Insights:

- Top source of income for survey respondents was **Welfare/Social Assistance**, the top Reason for most recent housing loss was **Not Enough Income for Housing**, and the biggest barrier to finding permanent housing for survey respondents was **Rents Too High**, followed by **Low Income**.

**What's Next?**

A full pit-count report, with more in-depth data analysis and insights along with contextual research, will be released in early 2022.